

# Lamorinda residents participate in 24-hour global conversation about climate change

By Kara Navolio

Local climate leaders hosted events throughout the area Nov. 20-21 as part of a global event called "24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action." The first ever global discussion about climate change was organized by The Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit headed by former Vice President Al Gore.

Co-chairs of the Bay Area Chapter of Climate Reality, Wei-Tai Kwok and Steve Richard, reported that there

were 100 presentations in the Bay Area, hosted by some of the 700 chapter members. Globally, in those 24 hours there were over 1,700 presentations in 80 countries and all 50 states. Richard hosted a discussion with fellow Climate Reality volunteer Nancy Hu at the Lafayette Library while Kwok spoke to the AP Environmental Science class at Las Lomas High School. Kwok also held two events at his Lafayette home where he shared the steps he has taken to electrify his entire home and eliminate the need for



Photo provided

Climate Reality Project volunteers organized 1,700 worldwide climate conversations on Nov 20-21, including four in Lamorinda, like this one at the all-electric home of Wei-Tai Kwok.

carbon-producing gas appliances. He and his wife recently did this in a 45-day project that cost about \$50,000 and included replacing all fossil fuel burning appliances like the HVAC system, water heater, fireplace and cook top.

Richard, a 20-year Lafayette resident, is now retired and dedicates his time to climate advocacy. "My involvement started as a family affair," Richard said. "We saw the movie 'An Inconvenient Truth' with our two sons. That inspired us to take on a project to cut our family's carbon footprint by half. It took us about five years to accomplish this. When a friend and I wanted to share what we did with others we set up a website, and that turned into Sustainable Lafayette." In 2015 he became a Climate Reality Project volunteer. Many of the Bay Area members, like him, were taught by Al Gore at trainings taking place twice per year across the U.S. However, it's not a requirement for membership in the Bay Area Chapter. Now he focuses much of his time on petitioning local governing bodies to make policy changes.

Lafayette resident Linda Flower and Moraga resident Dean Mayer, also trained Climate Reality volunteers, held a presentation and discussion at the Walnut Creek Library, which drew over 50 people. Flower, a former high school

science teacher, reviewed much of the science behind climate change and some of the effects we've seen increasing over the past 20 years like extreme heat waves, droughts, ocean levels rising, and extended fire seasons. But the pair also talked of the changes people are making and hope for the future. For example, in California 62% of new energy capacity came from solar and wind. Flower has been focusing her efforts on making people aware of their choices on their PG&E bill to use more clean energy. Residents of Lafayette and Moraga will see on their bills that part of their energy already comes from Marin Clean Energy, thanks to the cities adopting this 'light green' plan. Flower notes that MCE gets 63% of their energy from clean, renewable sources compared to PG&E, which only gets 33% from renewable sources. However, Lamorinda residents can do more. "There's an option on your bill to go 'deep green,'" said Flower. "This means you get 100% of your electricity from MCE. It's still billed through PG&E and nothing else changes. The average customer would only see about a \$5 per month increase." The easy switch takes only a phone call.

Mayer focused his discussion on what each of us can do to help make a difference.

Transportation is the number one polluter, not just cars, but also the transportation of goods. "In California it's one area where emissions are still increasing," said Mayer. "One thing we can all do is shut our cars off when we are waiting in line to pick up kids. It's estimated that unnecessary idling of cars generates 30 million tons of carbon dioxide each year. If we could eliminate unnecessary idling it would be the equivalent of taking 5 million vehicles off the road." He also suggested each person do their part to reduce their use of plastics, which are made from fossil fuels. "Scientists predict that by 2050 plastics in the ocean will outweigh fish," Mayer pointed out. "It's time to stop calling it climate change and start calling it a climate emergency." He also urges everyone to look at your investments. Are you supporting companies that invest in fossil fuels? Lastly, he says, "Vote! Vote for candidates with an environmental platform, at all levels from President to local leaders."

On Nov. 23, Kwok gave his 100th presentation since becoming a Climate Reality volunteer. "I have found (since beginning in 2013) that a lot of people care; it gives me hope that we will solve this problem in this generation."

For more information visit: [climateralityproject.org](http://climateralityproject.org).

## Ware Designs

Fine Jewelry since 1977

Expanding our Services with

Two Goldsmiths

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing

All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.

**\$5 off Watch Battery**

Reg \$15, Now \$10

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 1/15/20. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office  
283-2988 [www.waredesigns.com](http://www.waredesigns.com) Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

Mary H. Smith D.D.S.

A Professional Corporation  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry



Taking care of all dental needs for you and your family.

Emphasizing cosmetic dentistry with implants, and Invisalign. Nitrous oxide is available.

Consultations are complementary.

Dentistry with Excellence.

96 Davis Road, Suite 5 Orinda, 925.254.0824

## Cinderella at Town Hall Theatre for the holiday, an idiosyncratic fairytale



Photo Jay Yamada

Cinderella production four: Pictured: Henry Halkyard and Lindsay Kathryn Ford in "Cinderella: A Fairytale."

By Sophie Braccini

Humor, charm and wacky energy characterize the Brothers Grimm fairy tale staged by Town Hall Theatre this December. No damsel in distress, but a lovely young woman standing for herself. No prince rescuing the desperate, but a young man in search of authenticity and love. No fairy godmother, but the power of nature symbolized by birds giving those who understand it strength, and those who neglect it punishment. And above all a dynamic and super fun group of actors who give it all to make this play a very witty and memorable production. Disney it is not.

"Cinderella: A Fairytale," devised by Sally Cookson and Adam Peck, takes on the bias that Ella (Cinder-Ella) is not just a sweet and innocent girl, she has knowledge – of birds and the natural world – and power. She can be astute, she challenges the hardship that

has fallen upon to her; in essence, she is a fighter. This adaptation slightly warps the other characters as well, creating subtle discrepancies between memories we all have of the tale and what is presented here. This provides for tremendous amusement opportunities. Instead of two stepsisters you get a stepsister and a stepbrother; instead of a heroic prince you get a somewhat nerdy and awkward bird watcher.

These twists are played for maximum effect through Clive Worsley's direction. Worsley previously served as the artistic director at Town Hall and left in 2013 to direct the education program at Cal Shakes. He says that his return as the play's director was a treat and he added that he particularly loved that the main character uses her own power to transform herself, which is more fitting to our times. He also saw in that play an appeal to recognize and respect the power of nature.

Worsley mentioned that he had requested Dennis Markam to be in the cast. The mature and very versatile actor, who plays both the father and stepmother, is indeed at his best. Many newcomers were cast in the play with great acumen: Lyndsay Kathryn Ford as Ella is lovely, strong, full of youthful energy, and has an excellent voice to carry the charming tunes that are interspersed in the play; Henry Halkyard as the prince lets out a spontaneity in wackiness and awkwardness that works very well; Sarah-Jean Bartky is a completely hilarious and over-the-top stepsister, and she is very well matched by Marshall Scott who plays the stepbrother, sometimes a bully, and sometimes vulnerable and touching; Mikah Kavita as the queen is indeed magnificent and royal. The charming ensemble of the birds is played by five young actors ages 10-17 who never miss a beat. They flutter around the stage, sing, dance, and act with excellent professionalism.

Now be prepared, there is an element of cruelty in the original story alongside the whimsical reference to birds and nature, and the Cookson and Peck adaptation is true to that as well. Yet Markham's superb acting and having him cast as both the father and stepmother creates the distance that makes the cruelty more funny than shocking.

"Cinderella: A Fairytale" runs through Dec. 21 at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St. in Lafayette. For tickets and information, visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com)



Bay Area  
Drainage, Inc.

Have You Checked Your  
Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

A General Engineering Contractor  
Locally owned and Operated  
Contractor LIC # 762208

925•377•9209



visit our website

[www.bayareadrainage.com](http://www.bayareadrainage.com)