



A moment of Zen in one Moraga man's backyard
... read on Page D6

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planet pivots



Photos Cynthia Brian

Pale pink roses imbue solace in warm weather.

By Cynthia Brian

“I should like to enjoy this summer flower by flower as if it were to be the last one for me.”
– Andre Gide

Summertime and the living is easy! Or is it?

This year will be a year like no other highlighted by the frightening health pandemic and sorrowful civil unrest. As the economy slowly reopens, people are clamoring to shop, dine, socialize, get haircuts, and have their teeth cleaned. The

line of masked individuals waiting outside reopened stores for their turn to enter is a testament to the yearning to gather. Protesters fill the streets across the country demanding needed national changes. It’s time to listen, re-evaluate, and educate ourselves. Connecting with the natural world is one prescription for finding healing and balance.

While I was researching grants to assist the literacy charity, Be the Star You Are! (www.BetheStarYouAre.org) financially survive during this crisis, I marveled at a constant question: How have you pivoted? At first, I had no idea what that question meant. What did we have to do to pivot? Where were we supposed to pivot to? After many Zoom conferences, meetings, webinars, and phone meetings, I finally understood.

But how can pivoting apply to gardening? The entire world is experiencing chaos. People who have spent minimal time with nature, who have never thought of growing anything, have become interested in planting and protecting. I’ve had emails from individuals from many walks of life who want to get their hands in the dirt as they are sheltering at home. As they decide to pivot, nature is a salve. When times are stressful, gardens become a refuge. Shoveling, digging, pruning, planting, and watching seedlings grow into something to admire or eat are therapeutic endeavors.

Whether you decide to grow a few herbs on a windowsill, tomatoes on a balcony, or an abundance of your favorite vegetables, flowers, and fruit in a large garden, there is nothing better than a summer of flavor and colors grown in your personal paradise. When you pivot to your garden, you’ll slow

down a bit and feel appreciation. Research consistently indicates that being around growing plants benefits you physically, psychologically and emotionally. You’ll decompress, gain more muscle mass, increase aerobic endurance, reduce stress and experience more joy.

Summer has always been my most favorite season because of the delightful warm weather and bountiful baskets of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs that I harvest from my orchard and potager. The plethora of glorious blooms constantly changes keeping my elation peaked. Unlike most people, I prefer not to travel in the summer months to other destinations. Instead, the beauty of my backyard becomes the playground for family and friends where we barbecue, engage in lawn games, watch the flamboyant sunsets, and wander the grounds watching the parade of wildlife.

Flowering plants are hummingbird, bee, and butterfly magnets while the seeds attract the birds. Agastache, echinacea, hollyhock and roses enchant for months. In my orchard, the loquats, mulberries, tangelos, citrus and plums are ripe. The birds, deer, turkeys, squirrels and I skirmish for our fair share. Soon apricots, prunes and peaches will be ready for harvesting and the wrangling will begin again. I adore these encounters with nature. There is abundance for all.

My field of chamomile is richly fragrant and the petals when plucked and dried will make a comforting tea. The seeds from nigella (love in the mist) have scattered throughout the orchard creating a sea of blue. Bumblebees race from star-shaped blossom to blossom grabbing the sweet nectar.
... continued on Page D15

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	5	\$1,188,000	\$2,700,000
MORAGA	4	\$690,000	\$1,820,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,325,000	\$2,113,500

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

- 3682 Happy Valley Road, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 3317 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-04-20
 1074 Leland Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-04-20
 3989 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2554 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 05-08-20
 3760 Sundale Road #3762, \$1,188,000, 4 Bdrms, 2375 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-07-20,
 Previous Sale: \$947,000, 04-11-14
 3411 Woodview Drive, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 05-12-20,
 Previous Sale: \$975,000, 06-02-16

MORAGA

- 263 Calle La Mesa, \$1,491,000, 5 Bdrms, 2653 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 05-06-20,
 Previous Sale: \$367,000, 08-01-87
 232 Calle La Mesa, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-08-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,475,000, 11-27-17
 1248 Larch Avenue, \$1,820,000, 5 Bdrms, 3392 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-08-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,510,000, 01-05-09
 102 Miramonte Drive, \$690,000, 2 Bdrms, 1302 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 05-15-20,
 Previous Sale: \$453,000, 05-04-04

ORINDA

- 169 Ardith Drive, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-12-20,
 Previous Sale: \$268,000, 05-01-87
 10 Ardor Drive, \$1,557,000, 3 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 05-11-20,
 Previous Sale: \$975,000, 03-01-18
 2 Jack Tree Knolls, \$1,558,000, 10 Bdrms, 5332 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 05-08-20
 103 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-15-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 04-24-14
 539 The Glade, \$1,550,000, 2 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 05-14-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 03-26-18
 312 Village View Court, \$1,786,500, 2 Bdrms, 2167 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 05-11-20,
 Previous Sale: \$920,000, 05-23-02
 73 Windy Creek Way, \$2,113,500, 4 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 05-12-20,
 Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15

The Spring Market Has Arrived - Custom Home Just Listed



1581 Huston Rd, Lafayette



Listed at \$1,750,000

.

An entertainer’s dream, this 3,220 square foot Lafayette home has it all. No expense was spared with this custom built 4 bedroom 3.5 bathroom craftsman style home. The chef’s kitchen complete with Sub-Zero refrigerator, Wolf stove and oversized island opens to a large dining room and family room with vaulted ceilings. Outdoor entertaining areas include a covered California Room and expansive flat yard area. The flexible floor plan boasts 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms on the main level and 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom plus bonus living space on the lower level, perfect for a home office or In-law unit. The four car garage offers flexibility for future workshop or bonus room addition, all centrally located within walking distance to one of Lafayette’s favorite commercial shopping centers. 3D Walkthrough available on 1581Huston.com



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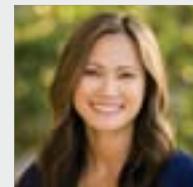
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One local gardener's awakening



Photo provided

By Mike Bernhardt

In the beginning: dark, damp soil.

A small, black plastic pot of hope. Nothing seems to be growing but my own impatience.

A few evenings later, the dirt has begun to mound and rise, swelled by a pushing from below. In the morning a white nub has appeared below the broken surface of the soil. By evening the protuberance has thickened, a loop of pale white rope tinged with green. The next morning a head is crowning, something large and thick and green dragged up out of the dirt. By the end of that same day, the head has revealed itself, the stalk straightening and hoisting up the bean from which this miracle was born.

Another day and leaves unfurl like the wings of a newborn butterfly, the bean split into drying halves that hang limp from the stem. A week later and the plant is over six inches tall with broad, heart-shaped leaves, and between them: another nub, green and tender, the beginning of a vine.

Once planted in the ground it will reach for its support pole and then, finding it, wrap itself counterclockwise—always counterclockwise—and upward, sprouting leaves and flowers and bean pods and clinging to everything it touches. It will grow over six feet long, topping the pole, still reaching skyward until, finding nothing to hold, it will collapse gently onto its neighbor and they will wrap themselves together in a season-long embrace. In two months, I'll be picking beans and steaming them for dinner.

Until now, I hadn't paid close attention to how seeds grow. My life for the last few years has centered on travel and so I usually buy plants, put them in the ground, and set my drip irrigation system. ... continued on Page D8

FOUND!

rustic home on 1-acre lost valley lot



12

Snow Court

OFFERED AT: \$1,095,000

12 Snow Court, Orinda, CA

3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | 1,421 sq ft | .98 acres

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This park-like setting has a huge outdoor space, privacy, and features a fruit tree orchard, a detached red barn and a surprising wood structure under the oak trees (potential home office?).

In consideration of the current climate, showing by appointment only.



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One local gardener's awakening

... continued from Page D6

While I'm away somewhere vegetables pop out, ready to pluck and eat on my return. But like all Californians, I've been cloistered at home for months along with my family, and I don't know when I'll be able to travel again. I'm longing for the newness of places I've never been.

Yet, newness is all around me: the spider skittering across my patio with an enormous egg sac; the constant squawks, growls and honks of the blue herons that nest in a hundred-foot-tall eucalyptus down the street; the heady aroma of compost, fungi and microorganisms in the freshly turned soil of my vegetable beds.

Wild radish, four feet tall, billows with flowers of white, pink, and pale yellow for hundreds of yards along a paved path near my home. I've walked that path for over 20 years; how is it that I'd never noticed those prolific blooms until now? I startled a crow on the sidewalk and as it exploded into the air, I thrilled to an unexpected shrok-shrok-shrok

from its wings, like a muffled hand saw enthusiastically cutting wood.

Unlike the beans, my basil seedlings are growing very slowly. They took the same time to germinate but have hardly changed in weeks. Are they ill, or are they secretive, preferring for now to let their roots do the growing, out of my view?

I don't know what the future holds, for them or for me. While I wait, I'm delighting in the present. The laughter of the Amazon driver who said, "You made my week!" simply because I smiled and said good morning; the rush of a crow's wings; sounds as memorable to me as the haunting call to prayer I once heard sung by a quavering old man in Chefchaouen, Morocco.

When I can travel again, I hope I'll continue to be enthralled not just by what's exotic, but also by what's right in front of me.

Mike Bernhardt lives in Moraga with his wife, Yvonne, their two cats and, for now, their Class of 2020 son.

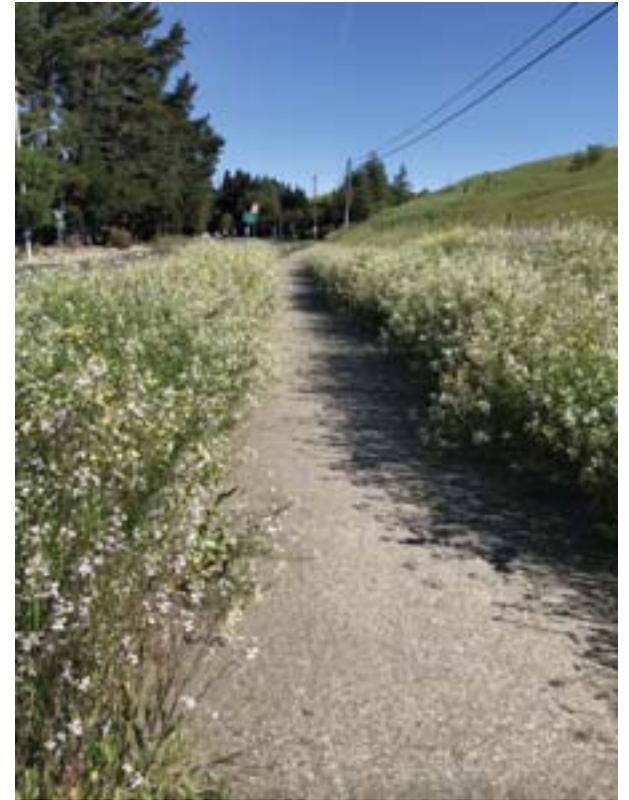


Photo provided

perfection in CANDLELIGHT ESTATES

PENDING



14

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OFFERED AT: \$2,195,000

14 Candlelight Lane, Lafayette, CA

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14CandlelightLane.com



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The Olsen Team continues to help people buy and sell homes in a way that is smart and safe. We have dramatically changed our business to reduce in-person showings and interaction, while still creating a safe path to success for buyers, sellers and renters. Virtual showings for every property through Matterport 3D scans are listed below.



839 Augusta Drive, Moraga | Available Now
Offered at \$1,195,000
3 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 2,142 Sq. ft.
3D tour at www.839AugustaDr.com



133 Donna Maria Way, Orinda | Available Now
Offered at \$1,500,000
3+ Bed | 2 Bath | 2,285 Sq. ft. / .24 Acres
3D tour at www.DonnaMariaWay.com



1176 Alta Mesa, Moraga | Coming Soon
Offered at \$1,250,000
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2,785 Sq. ft.
3D tour at www.1176AltaMesa.com



651 Augusta Drive, Moraga | Pending with 4 Offers
Offered at \$1,295,000



3390 Orchard Valley Lane, Lafayette | Now Pending
Offered at \$1,295,000 Buyer Rep



105 Devin Drive, Moraga | Just Sold
Offered at \$1,610,000 Buyer Rep



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BEST KEPT SECRET | 21 GREENWOOD CT, ORINDA | 5BD | 3 BA | 2308 SQFT | .56 ACRE | \$1,650,000



COUNTRY CLUB NEIGHBORHOOD | 15 LINDA VISTA, ORINDA | 4 BD | 2 BA | 1948 SQFT | .21 ACRE | \$1,435,000



COUNTRY CLUB NEIGHBORHOOD | 21 LOS ARBOLES, ORINDA | 4 BD | 3.5 BA | 3736 SQFT | .68 ACRE | \$1,725,000



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2020 Lamorinda Sales

1024 Timothy Lane, Lafayette



PENDING, offered at \$1,999,000 (seller)

3357 Springhill Road, Lafayette



PENDING, offered at \$1,845,000 (buyer)

14 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda



PENDING, offered at \$1,575,000 (seller)

824 Solana Drive, Lafayette



SOLD for \$1,900,000 (buyer)

66 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda



SOLD for \$1,505,000 (seller)

4 Huff Court, Moraga



SOLD for \$1,325,000 (buyer)

104 Brookline Street, Moraga



SOLD for \$1,200,000 (buyer)



Terri Bates Walker | DRE 01330081
510.282.4420 | terri@terribateswalker.com
terribateswalker.com

1435 Camino Peral, Moraga



SOLD for \$660,000 (seller)



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

Photos Cynthia Brian

PIVOT for stress relief to your garden sanctuary.

PREVENT grubs (the larvae of June bugs) by treating your lawn with an organic granular treatment to get rid of larvae. Raccoons, skunks, and moles enjoy grubs as a source of protein.

BOND with children or a partner by planting edibles you will enjoy together.

DRESS for the dirt by donning gloves, sunscreen, hat and an apron. If you are doing heavy weeding, wearing overalls is a win.

DRY three to five sprigs of blue hydrangeas for a long-lasting summer arrangement.

COLLECT the white blossoms of chamomile for a soothing tea.

PLANT Lilliputian miniature roses in a container for a movable dash of color.

PICK a basket of mulberries if you are lucky enough to have a tree.

GROW citrus to maintain a constant supply of vitamin C. Dwarf varieties of lemons, limes, tangerines, tangelos, oranges and grapefruit are available to be grown in half barrels.

PREVENT fires by removing debris, dead branches and refuse from around your home and yard.

CUT all tall grass and keep lawns and shrubs watered.

SAVE rose petals to make bath balms and rose water splashes.

SUCCESSION planting is the key to a plentiful supply of summer greens including lettuces, arugula, beets, carrots and radishes. Sow your favorite seeds every three weeks as you consume.

CHECK yourself for ticks after every outdoor excursion. (To date, I've removed three!)

ADD hydrogen peroxide to fountains to purify the water without harming the birds.

MAINTAIN social distancing and wear a mask when you leave your home.

TAKE care of Mother Earth.

BE SAFE on Independence Day.

Happy gardening. Happy growing.
Have a flowerful Fourth of July!



Miniature roses flanked by African daisies (osteospermum)



Mulberries are tasty treats for people, birds, squirrels, and deer.



A field of chamomile.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planet pivots

... continued from Page D1

Roses mixed with osteospermum (African daisy) will provide continuous blooms into the fall with frequent deadheading. Lovely on the shrub, the blue hydrangeas are almost as stunning in a dried arrangement. An intriguing plant is arum italicum, also known as Italian Lords and Ladies. In late spring, the creamy-white flower is cupped at the base of the plant resembling its relative, Jack-in-the-Pulpit. In mid-summer, striking red-orange berries rise in a columnar formation where the foliage has died back. This tuberous perennial plant self-sows and can become invasive if your yard is small. If you have a woodland area where bergenia, heuchera or hellebores thrive, it is quite stunning. Beware, all parts of the plant are



Cynthia Brian adheres to "Never leave home without it!"

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia 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 StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*, and *Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers* at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

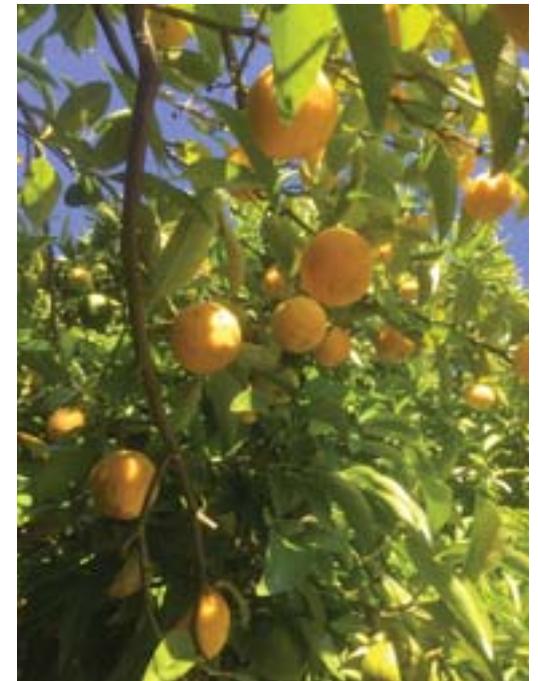
poisonous. Don't let it grow in your vegetable patch!

This summer is destined to be unusual. I plan on adhering to COVID-19 directives to shelter-in-place while refraining from attending large gatherings or even small ones. I'm working from home, wearing a mask and gloves whenever I venture out, constantly maintaining a minimal six feet distance between others, and am continuing to sanitize everything. Hopefully, we won't go back to what was considered normal in the past and instead take better care and be more aware, of one another and the health of our planet.

This year I am happy and grateful to enjoy the summer flower by flower. My planet pivot is to play in my personal garden paradise.

What's your planet pivot?

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay strong. Wash your hands. Cover your face!



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14 Los Dedos Road
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21 Los Arboles
Large 3736 sqft 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on private cul-de-sac w/ easy access to commute, top schools, & recreation. **\$1,725,000**

ORINDA



21 Greenwood Court
Charming renovated 5 bed/ 3 bath home on private .56 acre parcel including detached studio w/ separate entrance. **\$1,650,000**

ORINDA



294 Orchard Road
Spacious 4 bed/ 3 bath on .46 acres w/ solar heated pool, spa & outdoor kitchen in highly sought after location. **\$1,595,000**

ORINDA



73 La Espiral
Sophisticated 4 bed/ 3 baths home sits on a lush .64 acre knoll top parcel offering an abundance of light & picturesque views. **\$1,595,000**

ORINDA



15 Linda Vista
Beautifully maintained home with 4 bed/ 2 bath w/ spectacular sunset views across the Orinda Country Club & beyond. **\$1,435,000**

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44 Prado Way
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LAFAYETTE



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LAFAYETTE



1982 Reliez Valley Road
Dream home boasting 4 bed/ 4.5 bath on 1.12 acres with amazing gardens, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen, and views. **\$2,880,000**

LAFAYETTE



1010 Woodbury Road 301
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