



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D12

Feng Shui

Use fun layers to enhance your home this fall



Photo provided

By Michele Duffy

Fall seems like a logical time for adding layers, and what better place than our front entrances to receive additional adornment during the fall and winter holiday season with gourds, heirloom pumpkins and colorful mums. The harvest theme this time of year generally lingers through Thanksgiving, adding not only curb appeal but a festive energy that can help differentiate your home from others on your street.

While it is considered excellent Feng Shui to celebrate seasonal cheer, don't overdo the décor; work hard to avoid clutter and consider

the effectiveness of a few well placed design details for creating a home in tune with the seasons. Feng Shui is integrally aligned with our intention so we must be mindful, practice reverence, and make careful adjustments, moving things around to create subtle shifts in the improvement of Qi flow in the home. With perhaps more family in the home than usual right now, trust your intuition and lean in to create a home that works for you and invite a connection with the elements in nature.

Many of those who are inspired by the beauty of Feng Shui celebrate the harvest symbolism of fall and the prosperity of a strong harvest. Soy candles take off the chill in the air, a toasty fire frames family movie time, and warmer foods, beverages and baking enhanced with herbs like cinnamon, turmeric, ginger, and cardamom set the tone. Make it your weekly challenge to try a new dish to get your creative juices going and beat the menu doldrums. Fall may also nudge you toward a more tidy home, cleaning out closets or the garage on cooler days, and trading out light summer linens, throws and blankets for fuzzier, warmer varieties.

Color can also amp up the warmth as fall turns colder if you choose ginger, reds, tangerines, and neutral browns. Seasonal symbolism aligns your home to receiving the benefits of a good harvest with, for example, a whimsical pumpkin throw like the one used in a teenager's room of a Lafayette client. These adjustments bring strength and comfort into a space.

To locate the Bagua area associated with Fall/Metal, stand in the front entrance door looking into the home and note the middle right area, aptly named the "Children, Completion & Joy" Bagua area. The front entrance door is the most significant portal to your home and the first of the Three Pillars or "power" areas of the

home (the second pillar is the master bed, and the third is the stove). Extra attention, mindfulness, attention to curb appeal, and revisiting or tidying up is always recommended around the front door. If you sweep near the front door be sure to use mindful intention that you are making room for new possibilities (versus sweeping good luck away). The Water element sits along the front door wall, in the middle area location of Career/Life Journey. The single most powerful adjustment for the first pillar is a Feng Shui water feature (fountain), specifically, with the fountain water flow bubbling upward. This lifts and buoys the Qi for the entire home and provides the necessary flow of nourishment for all Bagua areas throughout the home, and water forcefully activates Careers for the household. You can also attract vibrant Qi toward the front entrance or front yard with seasonal layers like pumpkins and gourds on a front-facing mailbox.

If your front entrance door sits below the road or if your front door faces a steep uphill climb such as a mountain, the Feng Shui of placing a weathervane on the home's roof lifts the house Qi and counters some of the difficult Qi. This is especially important if the front door is below the road and also the backyard is steep, downhill, and falling away from the home. The weathervane we choose can also correspond to igniting Feng Shui in a Bagua yard area, like the example of a fire Red Cardinal in the wisdom area (door wall to the left).

Homes above the road have a higher vibration, improved natural light, and in general, are preferred. Placing flags in the front yard will further raise the home Qi and colorful greenery framing but not overwhelming the front yard and door entrance, and splendid outdoor lighting also add practical Feng Shui layers.

... continued on Page D4



Lafayette ~ 1055 Los Arabis Lane
SF 2,679 | BD 4 | BA 3 | Car Gar 2 | Detached appx 500 SF Cottage with Full Bath and Fireplace | Work Studio | \$1,950,000 ~ Large, private corner lot .61 acre, coveted location, updates throughout, two master suites, open floorplan.



Orinda ~ 111 Tappan Lane
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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	7	\$659,000	\$2,245,000
MORAGA	4	\$530,000	\$1,710,000
ORINDA	13	\$1,154,000	\$2,915,000

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

- 1173 Bacon Way, \$1,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 1558 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 09-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$818,000, 08-19-19
- 874 Las Trampas Road, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1566 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 09-18-20,
Previous Sale: \$184,000, 02-10-12
- 2 Leeward Glen Road, \$2,245,000, 5 Bdrms, 3285 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 09-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,900,000, 08-07-17
- 3242 Marlene Drive, \$659,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 09-09-20,
Previous Sale: \$435,000, 07-16-13
- 12 Moss Lane, \$1,060,000, 2 Bdrms, 1559 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 09-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$537,000, 11-04-04
- 3235 Mt Diablo Court #101, \$1,875,000, 2 Bdrms, 2112 SqFt, 2019 YrBl, 09-10-20
- 209 Seclusion Valley Way, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3902 SqFt, 2019 YrBl, 09-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$3,400,000, 08-16-16

MORAGA

- 122 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,145,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 09-18-20
- 119 Ascot Court #7, \$530,000, 3 Bdrms, 1320 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 09-09-20,
Previous Sale: \$530,000, 08-26-20
- 118 La Quinta Street, \$1,710,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1981 YrBl, 09-15-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 04-10-19
- 52 Lynwood Place, \$922,000, 4 Bdrms, 2275 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 09-08-20

ORINDA

- 182 Ardith Court, \$2,718,500, 5 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 09-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 03-09-06
- 33 Bates Boulevard, \$2,915,000, 4 Bdrms, 3321 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 09-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,320,000, 04-11-17
- 10 Bonita Lane, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2995 SqFt, 1936 YrBl, 09-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 12-20-04
- 112 Canon Drive, \$2,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 3863 SqFt, 1999 YrBl, 09-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 08-22-12
- 23 Coffee Berry Lane, \$2,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3512 SqFt, 2017 YrBl, 09-15-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,272,500, 02-13-18
- 70 Coral Drive, \$1,154,000, 3 Bdrms, 1419 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 09-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$570,000, 04-18-00
- 84 Davis Road, \$1,615,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 09-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,261,500, 01-26-18
- 43 El Toyonal, \$1,160,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1928 YrBl, 09-18-20
- 325 El Toyonal, \$1,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 2544 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 09-17-20
- 113 Fiesta Circle, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 09-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$742,500, 04-16-12
- 9 Kittiwake Road, \$1,300,000, 2 Bdrms, 1564 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 09-14-20
- 38 Linda Vista, \$1,691,000, 4 Bdrms, 2842 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 09-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 01-22-10
- 2 Lucille Way, \$1,395,000, 3 Bdrms, 1938 SqFt, 1992 YrBl, 09-15-20

Spectacular Lafayette Home



3217 Acalanes Ave

Stunning remodeled home with high ceilings, open floor plan and on a large level lot. This 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home is finished to the highest standards with exceptional attention to detail and design. The kitchen has all new appliances, designer lighting and an oversized island. The master retreat has a walk-in closet, access to patio and generous bathroom with large shower, free standing tub, double vanity on a beautiful carrara marble floor. The great room has vaulted ceilings, wide plank wood floors and opens to a beautiful level backyard with ample patio area for entertaining, level lawn and room for a pool. Conveniently located to Lafayette's award winning schools, freeway, and downtown.

Price \$1,898,000



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132 Greenbriar, Moraga

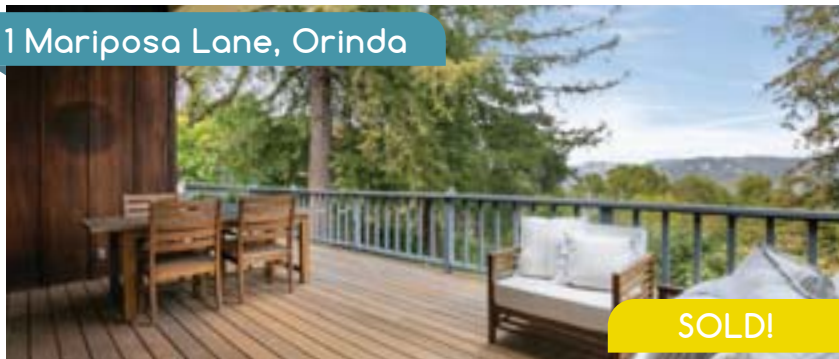


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Feng Shui

Use fun layers to enhance your home this fall



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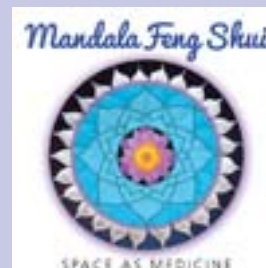
The path to the front door should be a meandering one, versus a straight path with rushing Qi. Always try to make sure to clear away vegetation so that the front door is prominent and visible from the street and that lighting is overhead or flanking the front door, as well as path lighting that lights the way to the door. If the front door is not visible from the street, include a well-placed 'welcome' sign or directional arrows signs to direct Qi, foot traffic and opportunities through gates toward the front door.

In each of the Three Pillars there is a dominant Yin or Yang characteristic, and the first

pillar at the front door is a decidedly Yang Qi area, with lots of movement to generate enough Qi flow to feed the entire home. Hanging a gentle Woodstock metal windchime from the eaves of the house, or a red hummingbird feeder in a nearby tree, all 'activate' the Front Door Yang Qi. If you enter home through a side or garage door try to at least use the front door as often as possible.

Listen to your home. Move, update, adjust, create, add layers, find joy, peace, repeat. Warm up your heart up at home and this fall, and make memories to last a lifetime.

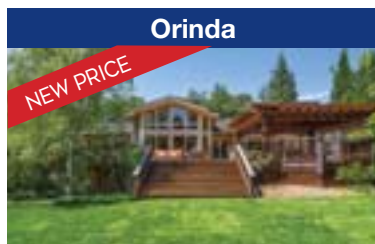
Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2020 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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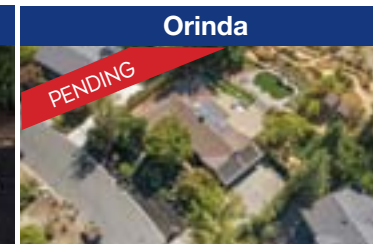
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20 Hacienda Circle \$3,825,000
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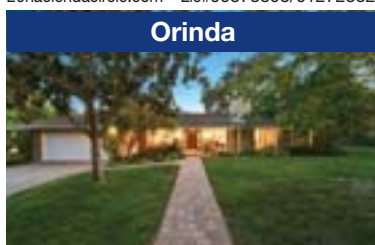
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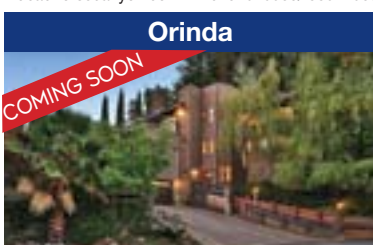
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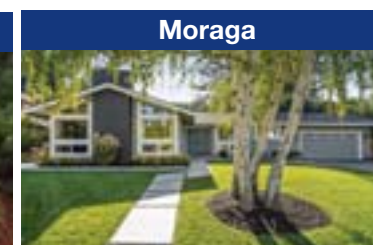
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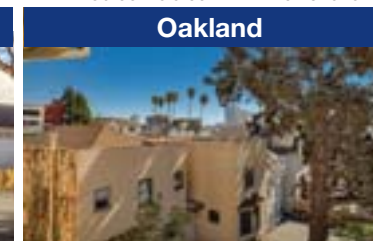
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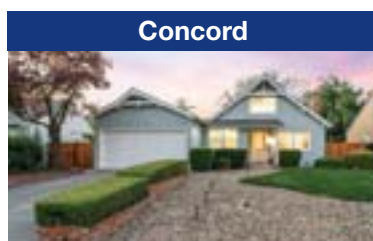
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1112 Chiltern Dr. \$899,000
 3 Bd/2.5 BA
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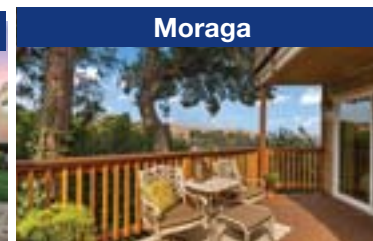
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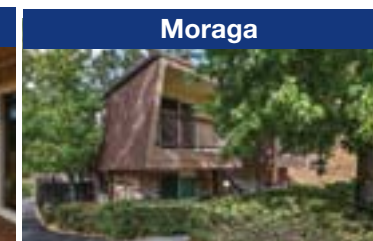
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DIAMOND





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5 bd | 3 ba | 2367 sqft | .38 acre | \$1,499,000

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568 Merriewood, Lafayette \$2,150,000 Pending



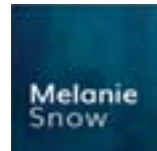
4 Haven Ct, Moraga \$1,850,000 Pending 6 days



3175 Surmont, Lafayette \$1,895,000 Pending



915 Matthews Ct, Walnut Creek \$2,200,000 Pending



Melanie Snow CAL BRE #00878893
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Melanie was everything we could hope for in a sellers agent. She was always available, knowledgeable, and on top of things. Our house sold in a few days with multiple offers. We can fully recommend Melanie as the consummate professional who gets the job done. - M. Baker, Google ★★★★★ 7.15.2020



870 Corcoran Ct, Benicia | List Price: \$689,000



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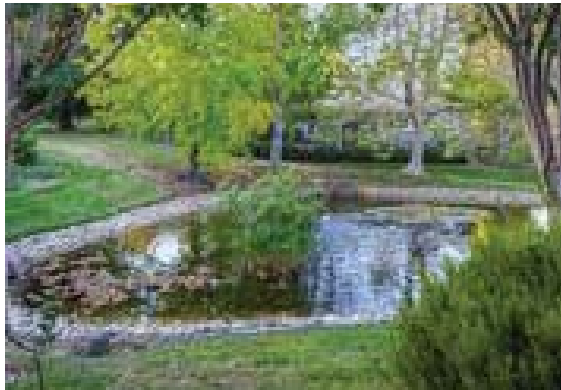
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

Nature's Halloween



Photos Cynthia Brian

Carve pumpkins and bake bread with ghoulish faces.

By Cynthia Brian

"Listen to them—the children of the night. What music they make!" ~ Bram Stoker

During this season, life is about the kids. This is a time of magic, wonder, and things that go bump in the night. Halloween has always been a favorite holiday for most children in the United States but this year, Halloween, the way it has been celebrated for decades, is canceled.

No random trick-or-treating, no gatherings, no haunted parties.

Since school has been online, kids yearn to get together to socialize with a bit of raucous fun – and candy. With COVID-19 isolation, this year's Halloween is going to be different ... very, very different.

For weeks families have been brainstorming innovative ideas to provide a safe, yet enjoyable experience for their children. Although most everyone has probably decided how to celebrate, I'd like to add a bit of nature to the mixture.

When I was raising my two

children, Halloween was always a major event, but not in the way that most kids participate. Every year our family would join with two other families to enjoy a full weekend of scary festivities in a circa 1900 Victorian in the middle of an isolated mountain forest that had been in the family of our friend for over 80 years. The drive to get to our destination was on a bumpy, winding, pot-holed road, with gnarled trees that jutted out of nowhere and deep canyons that could be perilous to the amateurish driver. The ride alone was frightening!

The house had no electricity (unless we used a generator) and the water was pumped from the creek. We always began our adventure with a hike to pick wildflowers and gather feathers, branches, colored leaves, and grasses to make decorations. Sometimes, we'd saddle the horses on the property to carry our bounty,

... continued on Page D14

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

Nature's Halloween



An alley of pumpkins invites trick-or-treaters into the garden.

... continued from Page D12

The landscape boasted a big vegetable garden that enthralled the kids. “What do you want for dinner?” we’d ask. Each child would grab a basket to pick their favorite vegetables. The fun began with the children helping to prepare our evening meal. On Halloween, we’d start the day picking apples in the orchard. We’d take the apples to the barn where we’d press them into apple cider, saving some to make apple pies. We would also play a fun game, Bobbing for Apples, giving prizes to the winner. (Not a recommended activity during this pandemic!)

Next was the pumpkin carving. Each person was given a pumpkin to carve or decorate. We saved seeds for roasting and some for planting in the spring. Again, the kids would go to the vegetable garden to pick their favorite vegetables. We’d craft with our found nature treasures and decorate the “haunted house.” Everyone would get dressed in their home-made costumes, followed by our Halloween feast.

Of course, the best was yet to come. The kids, all decked out in their Halloween regalia, couldn’t wait.

Trick-or-treating!

All the lights would be extinguished except for lanterns and candles. Darkness dropped with the haunting sounds of the night and a bit of help from the hidden boombox. One parent corralled the kids on the porch as the rest of the costumed parents hid behind doors of the house with bags of candy. On “go,” the kids ran door to door knocking, shouting “trick-or-treat.” An adult would jump out with a trick and fill their Halloween bag. After all the treats were distributed, like all kids, the trading and negotiating for candy began.

And, after the youngsters were totally exhausted, (and probably on a



Bedeck your yard with a bale of hay and big, bright pumpkins.

Photos Cynthia Brian

sugar high), we adults would celebrate Halloween, too.

The fond memories of these sacred Halloween traditions can be easily translated to our current situation with COVID-19 to ensure a safe and memorable Halloween. This year Halloween is on a Saturday. Make a weekend of it!

If you have a pod of people that you are already socializing with because you are all social distancing, one family could host the Halloween party. Or, make the Halloween event virtual to include more people.

- Plan and prepare a meal together.
- Dress in costume.
- Buy a few bales of hay to create a maze. (The hay can be used in the garden afterward as top dressing.)
- Carve or paint pumpkins.
- Save seeds for roasting and spring planting.
- Bake bread with menacing faces.
- Make a candy shoot out of PVC to send candy from one person to another yard.
- How about a slingshot to catapult candy across the street to your friends?
- For those with gardens, employ the kids to pick vegetables and fruits that are festive and fun. For example, guavas are self-harvesting now, so if someone has a guava tree, try a new recipe.
- Add a tiny pumpkin to an autumn floral bouquet.
- Have a nature scavenger hunt followed by a mask making shindig with found elements: feathers, bark, twigs, flowers, acorns, pebbles, leaves, and more.
- Press apples to make a brew of witch cider.
- Visit a pumpkin patch with social distancing.
- Howl at the moon with the coyotes!
- Hoot with the owls.

... continued on Page D15



A bucket of guavas with more self-harvesting on the ground.

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Adults can hide in closets, bathrooms, or behind any doors. Just make sure to have the treats and a few tricks! Make sure to include the spooky tunes.

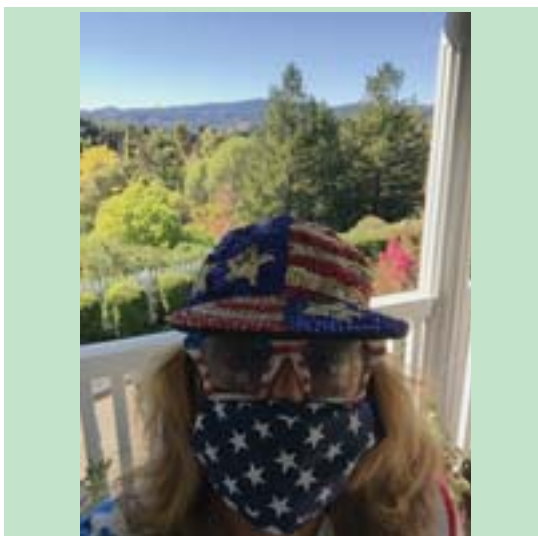
Finally, don't forget the candy swap. Whether it is in person or virtual, swapping candy is an age-old tradition that every kid adores. Don't forget the toothbrushes!

Wearing a mask is always appropriate on Halloween and this year it takes on special meaning. Be creative and safe. Make masks!

Shake your broomsticks. A ghoulish, ghostly midnight jamboree may be right outside in Mother Nature at the witching hour. It's time for some hocus pocus.

Have a secure and joyful nature's Halloween.

Happy gardening. Happy growing. Make sure to VOTE!



Cynthia Brian's costume encourages voting!

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 and receive extra freebies, 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



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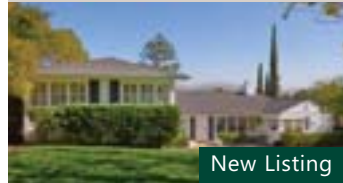
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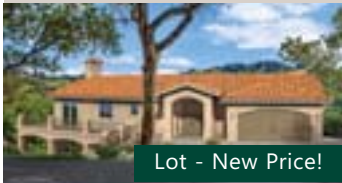
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