



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

## Creating a cozy home environment during turbulent times



**By Amanda Eck**

As we enter the home stretch of 2020 I am sure you, like me, are so ready for it to be over. I have decided to finish off the year strong, full of hope, joy, and determination to be present with a grateful heart. That gratefulness starts within us and pours over into our homes. Here are some tips for creating a home full of beauty, hope and a dash of coziness.

**1) Bring the outdoors in.** Nature is a healing balm to the soul and bringing in flowers, plants and greenery can immediately lift our spirits. One of my go-to's is Seeded Eucalyptus. Trader Joe's always has them on hand. I also love to grab my clippers and head outside for some fun branches.

**2) Switch up your pillows.** Pillows are a great way to change things up in your home and add interest. In the fall and winter months I love to use warm tones and bring in texture with velvets and nubby linens. If you struggle with pillow combinations, my friend Danielle Oakey from Danielle Oakey Shop (<https://www.danielleoakeyshop.com>) has a beautiful custom pillow line with photos of perfect pairings. All her pillows are made here in California. I love supporting small businesses like hers.

**3) Candlelight.** With the days getting shorter and darkness hitting us by 5 p.m., instead of turning on all the lights, light some candles. I love the warm glow of candlelight in the evenings. And if it's a yummy cozy scent, it's a double bonus. I buy candles all through the year and stash them in my closet (my husband would call it hoarding, but I prefer to say I am prepared).

... continued on Page D4

Photos provided



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GLOBAL LUXURY

**Recent Sales in 2020****Sales Pending**

**37 Oak Rd, Orinda**  
**Offered at \$2,299,950**  
Representing  
Sellers and Buyers



**371 Calle La Montana, Moraga,**  
**Offered at \$1,250,000**  
Representing Buyers



**1295 Shakespeare Dr, Concord**  
**Offered at \$629,000**  
Representing Seller

**Represented Sellers**

1 Aghalee Rd, Orinda  
234 El Toyonal Rd, Orinda  
15 Candlestick Rd, Orinda  
34 La Cuesta Rd, Orinda  
9 La Fond Ln, Orinda  
14 Berkeley Ave, Orinda  
1571 1st Ave, Walnut Creek  
42 Knox Dr, Lafayette  
5316 Woodgrove Ct, Con.  
70 Coral Dr, Orinda  
59 Canyon Green Way, SR  
112 Spring Rd, Orinda  
10 Rheem Blvd, Orinda  
25 Longridge Rd, Orinda  
807 Paseo Roble Ct, WC

**Represented Buyers**

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9 La Fond Ln, Orinda  
516 Estancia Ct, San Ramon  
21 Greenwood Ct, Orinda



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**Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	4	\$735,000	\$1,330,000
MORAGA	5	\$345,000	\$1,750,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,275,000	\$2,371,500

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**

2 Shreve Lane, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 09-10-20  
592 Silverado Drive, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 1430 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 09-08-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 04-06-15  
3744 Sundale Road, \$735,000, 2 Bdrms, 771 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 09-08-20,  
Previous Sale: \$749,000, 08-14-19  
3239 Sweet Drive, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1179 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 09-09-20

**MORAGA**

73 Miramonte Drive, \$555,000, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-08-20,  
Previous Sale: \$285,000, 01-29-02  
108 Miramonte Drive, \$675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1134 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 09-18-20,  
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 06-11-18  
651 Moraga Road #1, \$345,000, 1 Bdrms, 669 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 09-14-20,  
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 09-03-04  
651 Moraga Road #15, \$620,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 09-18-20,  
Previous Sale: \$333,000, 02-04-10  
439 Stonefield Place, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2557 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 09-10-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 10-06-17

**ORINDA**

737 Miner Road, \$2,295,000, 5 Bdrms, 4088 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 09-18-20,  
Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 05-21-15  
2 Moraga Viax, \$1,565,000, 4 Bdrms, 2471 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 09-10-20  
3 Soule Road, \$1,535,000, 4 Bdrms, 2551 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 09-18-20,  
Previous Sale: \$351,000, 10-01-87  
37 Stanton Avenue, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1589 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 09-11-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,033,000, 04-28-06  
10 Washington Lane, \$1,938,500, 3 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 09-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$405,000, 05-01-88  
16 Wild Lilac Way, \$2,254,500, 4 Bdrms, 3512 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 09-10-20,  
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15  
52 Windy Creek Way, \$2,371,500, 4 Bdrms, 4149 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 09-11-20,  
Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15



**LAMORINDA**

999 OAK HILL RD., #100  
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549  
O: 925.284.1400 F: 925.284.1411

**WALNUT CREEK**

1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596  
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**DANVILLE**

100 RAILROAD AVE., #A  
DANVILLE, CA 94523  
O: 925.800.3510 F: 925.800.3520

**BRENTWOOD**

60 EAGLE ROCK WAY, #B  
BRENTWOOD, CA 94513  
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DRE# 01917597

CHRISTINA LINEZO



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DRE# 01964989

JOHN FONDNAZIO



925.817.9053  
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JULIE DEL SANTO  
BROKER/OWNER



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DRE# 01290985

LISA TICHENOR



925.285.1093  
DRE# 01478540

MATT McLEOD



925.464.6500  
DRE# 01310057

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HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500

2 CASA VIEJA, ORINDA

\$2,900,000



CHRISTINA LINEZO 415.425.3085

80 LARK PLACE, ALAMO

\$5,950,000



J. DEL SANTO/ B. HURLBUT 925.383.5500

1207 WOODBOROUGH DR. LAFAYETTE

\$1,650,000



SMITH HOMES TEAM 925.998.1914

23 GREENTREE CT., LAFAYETTE

\$1,649,000



TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851

1024 VIA NUEVA, LAFAYETTE

\$2,354,650



MATT McLEOD 925.464.6500

3683 HAPPY VALLEY RD., LAFAYETTE

\$3,750,000



J. DEL SANTO/ K. BRICKMAN 925.818.5500

1832 JOSEPH DRIVE, MORAGA

\$1,649,000



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JANE SMITH



925.998.1914  
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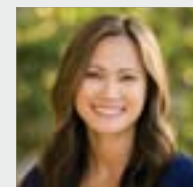
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3 BR | 2 BA  
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## Creating a cozy home



... continued from Page D1

**4) Cozy throws.** Nothing encourages a good snuggle more than a fuzzy blanket. I love to lay them over the arm of the sofa or chair and at the foot of the bed. Morning coffee or afternoon tea with a big chunky throw is my kind of heaven.

**5) Music.** Music, hands down, is the best mood lifter (next to caffeine). We like Spotify, or Pandora so we can create a cozy playlist. But my latest favorite is "Calmed by Nature" on YouTube. It's not only beautiful, peaceful music but also has beautiful images to watch while you listen. We turn that on first thing in the morning to help us get our day started. Go check it out; you won't be disappointed. [www.youtube.com/channel/UCJuMbdKSMThk2RpALASyXVQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJuMbdKSMThk2RpALASyXVQ)

Well friends I hope you take some of these ideas and implement them into your home. Sending you lots of love and peace and let's finish 2020 strong!



As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.

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**Dave Schurhoff**

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[dave.schurhoff@compass.com](mailto:dave.schurhoff@compass.com)  
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**Leslie Lomond**

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[leslie.lomond@compass.com](mailto:leslie.lomond@compass.com)  
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925.550.2130  
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[mary.staten@compass.com](mailto:mary.staten@compass.com)  
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Wilder



**4 BD + Casita | 5.5 BA | 3338 SF | .33AC | \$2,495,000**

- • Meditanean meets California living in this gorgeous Wilder home! Against the backdrop of hillside views comes this quintessential indoor/outdoor living home. This cul de sac home showcases unrivaled attention to detail and features an open floor plan, soaring ceilings, fabulous outdoor entertaining spaces, solar panels and two Tesla back up batteries. The separate casita is perfect for home office, au pair, gym or guests.



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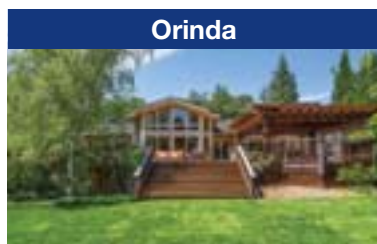
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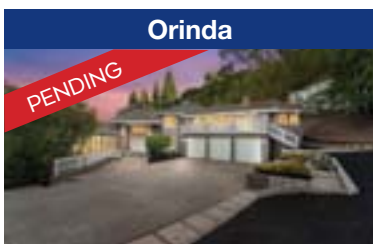
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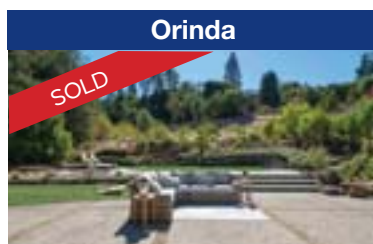
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**20 Hacienda Circle \$3,825,000**  
 Grand spacious Craftsmen with steel frame construction.  
 Melanie Snow /Laura Abrams  
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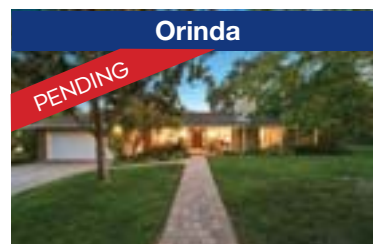
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 5beds/4baths, 4672 sq ft  
 Majestic Sanctuary  
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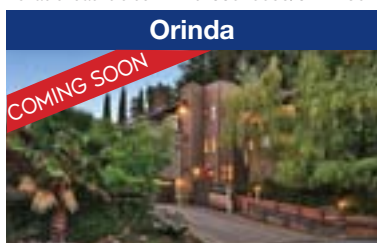
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**59 Martha Rd. \$2,225,000**  
 Spectacular property! Rare 1.48-acre level lot  
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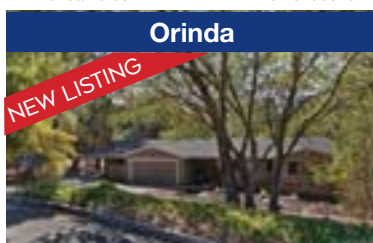
**Orinda**

**1146 Nogales \$2,195,000**  
 4 BD/4BA on almost ¾ acre lot  
 Truly lovely country estate  
 Nancy Booth / Soraya Golesorkhi  
 925-212-8867/ 925-808-8390  
 vimeo.com/469244826 Lic#01341390/01771736



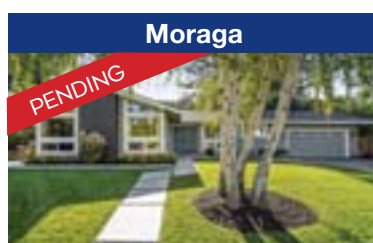
**Orinda**

**19 Candlestick \$1,700,000**  
 4 Bd/ 3.5 BA. Super sophisticated with view! Contemporary design  
 Laura Abrams  
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 Lic#01272382



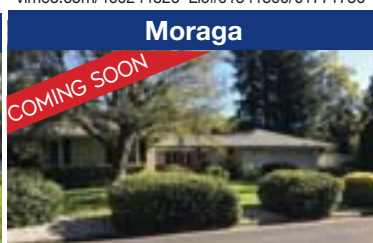
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**10 Chelton Court \$1,079,000**  
 3BR/2.5BA. Del Rey rancher.  
 Room to roam/expand on 0.49-acre parcel.  
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**Moraga**

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 4/2 on a cul-de-sac.  
 Updated single-story contemporary  
 Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405  
 www.126brookfield.com Lic #01373412



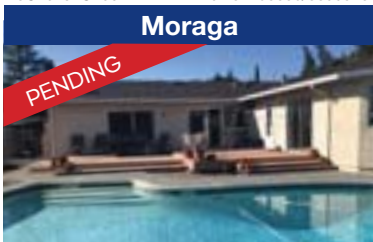
**Moraga**

**212 Sheila Court \$1,475,000**  
 4 bed, 2 bath. Single-story home on a cul-de-sac with gorgeous, resort-like pool.  
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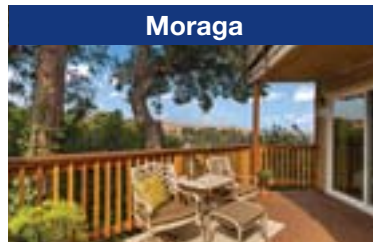
**Moraga**

**3736 Campolindo Dr. \$1,295,000**  
 Moraga gem with convenient location  
 Yan Heim  
 510-499-4709  
 3736campolindo.com Lic #01965925



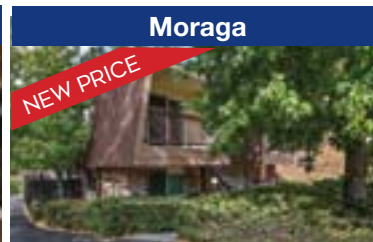
**Moraga**

**371 Calle La Montana \$1,250,000**  
 Entertainer's dream home w/ pool  
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**Moraga**

**1965 Ascot Dr., #3 \$539,000**  
 2BR/2BA  
 Level-in single-level with views!  
 Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte  
 925-324-6246/925-708-1396  
 1965AscotDr3.com Lic #01480008/00959101



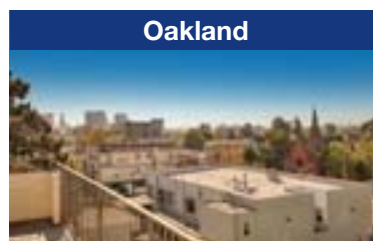
**Moraga**

**142 Ascot Dr #3 \$499,000**  
 2 Bd/2 BA  
 Fabulously updated cozy condo  
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 6 BD/2BA. Large yard, peaceful location.  
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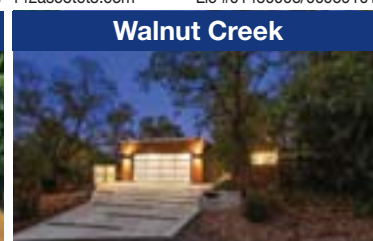
**Oakland**

**2933 McClure St \$795,000**  
 3 Bd/2 BA. Elevator takes you to this Penthouse Condo great with views!  
 Tom Stack 925-878-9964  
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 Poet's Corner Beauty!  
 5 bed/2 bath 1,727sf  
 Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832  
 507masefield.com Lic #01878803



**Walnut Creek**

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Melanie  
Snow

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4,523 SF | 4 BR | 3 BA

\$3,195,000



Elegant, custom built home, perfectly situated on a half-acre, exhibiting expert craftsmanship.



Features a 600-sf detached guest cottage with a kitchen and full bath. Formal living, dining room, and master bedroom on the ground floor, with 3 bedrooms up. An enormous playroom to hangout and watch movies or play a round of pool and then head outside to enjoy the serene beauty of the outdoors.



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**I'm forever grateful  
to my buyers, sellers  
and partners.**

**But more importantly,  
I'm hopeful that we, as  
a community, find ways  
to come out of 2020 as  
a stronger and healthier  
Lamorinda.**

**Wishing you and your families a  
happy Thanksgiving!**

**- Amy**



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**LAFAYETTE HOME SWEET HOME** Remodeled Burton Valley charmer with flat yard. Sold for \$1,675,000. Represented buyers.

Now is a good time to start preparing your home for the spring 2021 market. Contact me so we can make a plan to reach your real estate goals in the new year.

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*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian*

## As the leaves turn



Photos Cynthia Brian

**Liquid amber leaves and fruit are a kaleidoscope of shades.**

### By Cynthia Brian

*“A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

It's only 5:15 in the evening and the darkness of night has arrived. I've been out in the garden prepping the soil as the sun sets and the moon rises. Normally by this time of the year, I would have had all my spring bulbs and perennials planted and my lawn reseeded. But we have had no rain and the daytime temperatures are still too warm to guarantee any success with these normal autumn chores.

My clay soil is clod dry and needs amending. I originally bought several bags of nutrient-rich soil, but soon realized that my garden required a truckload. I had 10 yards of a high nutrient amendment comprised of compost, green waste, rice hulls, and chicken manure delivered to replenish the earth before planting. Although it will take me some time to add this fertility to my soil, my lawn, trees, established and new plants will be thanking me. Also, shoveling manure is a natural stress reliever during these difficult days.

As the world turns the leaves on our deciduous trees to reds, ambers and golds, this is a perfect opportunity to replenish your mulch and enrich your soil. If your garden is small, you can buy bags of amendments at your garden center or hardware store, but if you have a large property as I do, it is best to order a truckload. Most bags of mulch or compost are comprised of one to three cubic feet. Truckloads are sold by the yard. One cubic yard is 27 cubic feet making a truckload massively less expensive, although more wheelbarrow and muscle intensive. A variety of mixtures are available including aged wood fines, grape compost, sandy loam, red lava, and fir bark. All will help loosen clay soils and all will provide moisture retention, erosion control, and fertilization to landscapes before winter arrives. Be aware that when used in containers, runoff may cause stains.

I consider these special soils to be the best friends in my garden. As with building a house, the strength of the foundation of your garden will ultimately determine the success of your plantings.

... continued on Page D15



21 Hidden Valley Road, Lafayette



**4 bd | 3 ba | 3679 sqft | .48 acre | \$2,899,000**

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*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian*

## As the leaves turn

... continued from Page D12

Besides spreading this mulch throughout my property, my plan is to mow my lawn, water it deeply, scatter lawn seed, and cover with a layer of this rich amendment. By adding these nutrients now, my garden will be ready for a winter nap and re-emerge in spring in full glory.

The changing of the colors of autumn leaves is later this year than any previous year. My trees usually begin their transformation in October, but this year, I began witnessing the stunning procession in November. The deep reds we witness are a result of an increase in the sugar content while the yellows are a diminishment of chlorophyll due to the sunny days of autumn combined with the cooler evening temperatures. Most people believe it is the changing of seasons that cause the leaves to turn. Although the chilly nights do deserve some credit for the rapid foliage change, the true reason that the leaves change color is dependent on species and environment. Japanese maples, dogwoods, liquid ambers, and some species of crepe myrtle appear flaming while redbud, ginkgo, birch, apple, wisteria, and larch shimmer in yellows and gold. Oaks change to russet, Chinese pistache herald pumpkin orange hues.

My personal favorite is to watch the veins on the leaves of my grape vines change from deep greens to multi-hued magnificence. Also, Boston ivy and Virginia creeper offer dazzling autumn shades.

... continued on next Page



Adorn a wall or fence with climbing Boston ivy, a fall stunner.

## Cynthia Brian's Digging Deep Gardening Guide for November



Ten yards of soil amendments arrive to enrich the landscape.

**BUY** soil amendments by the bag or by the yard to enrich your soil before winter rains.

**VISIT** your local nursery to choose shrubs, trees, and bushes with colorful deciduous leaves that you want to showcase in your garden.

**DEADHEAD** rose blooms to encourage a couple more budding flourishes before January pruning.

**DIVIDE** daylilies, bearded iris, and plant spring-blooming bulbs. My daffodils are already sprouting!

**PRUNE** dead branches from small trees and call an arborist to check larger specimens.

**FERTILIZE** roses, citrus and begonias.

**RAKE** leaves into a compost pile or bin.



A hay bale loaded with gourds, pumpkins, and colorful leaves welcomes autumn.

**RESEED** tired lawns.

**HARVEST** apples.

**ADD** shredded newspaper to your compost pile. The zinc in the ink adds nutrients and the paper will decompose.

**ROOT** winter crop seedlings. I planted Brussel sprouts, Swiss chard, sugar snap peas, and kale and sowed seeds of arugula, greens and lettuce.

**THROW** seeds of a cover crop over vegetable gardens to restock nutrients for next season. Vetch, clover, mustard, beans, and peas are excellent choices.

**MAINTAIN** fire precautions around the perimeter of your property and home as fire season is still with us.

**PREPARE** your birdhouses for overwintering feathered friends.

Happy Growing. Happy Gardening.



Wisteria vine turns yellow and burnt umber.

... continued from Page D14

They secrete calcium carbonate which creates an adhesive pad that allows them to attach to walls. If you wander the creeks or hillsides, beware of poison oak as it is one of the most gloriously colored vines of autumn melding crimson, sienna and scarlet. As the days grow shorter and the nights linger longer, the biochemical process paints nature's landscape with a sunset palette. Cut a few branches from your favorite specimens to create indoor autumn displays. I also dry Japanese maple and liquid amber leaves and add them to my fall potpourri mixes.

As leaves fall to the ground, rake them into your compost pile. The decomposition replenishes the nutrients in your soil. Dispose of diseased or bug-infested leaves, such as those that have peach leaf curl, rust or aphids.

As the growing season comes to an end, collect the seedpods from companion flowers to attract beneficial insects for next season's plantings including dill, caraway, anise, alyssum, marigolds, calendulas, sunflowers, zinnias, hollyhock and nasturtium. Dry them on cookie sheets or in plain brown paper bags providing plenty of air circulation. Store in paper bags, labeling with name and date. You'll be ready to plant the seeds next spring. The goal is to attract beneficial insects, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds and keep them alive and healthy.

To crank up the curb appeal to your home, include colorful containers of mums or design an autumn arrangement of gourds and pumpkins at your front entrance. Thanksgiving is fast approaching and even if we won't be hosting our normal festivities, our neighbors will enjoy the picture-perfect personality.

Discover your nature friends and applaud them as masterpieces.



This home oozes curbside appeal with a walkway flanked by containers of yellow mums and neatly clipped shrubs.



**Cynthia Brian**

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](http://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](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

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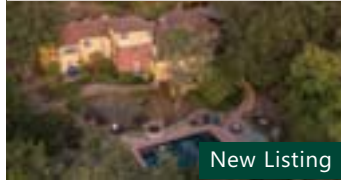


### 10 La Punta

Gated estate on secluded cul-de-sac w/ views of San Pablo reservoir, San Francisco Bay, & the mountains of Marin.

**\$6,250,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 33 Dias Dorados

Lovingly restored Spanish-Mediterranean 6 bed/ 6 bath/ 2 half bath home w/ guesthouse on 1.67 gated acres.

**\$4,350,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 32 Heather Lane

Well maintained 6 bed/ 4.5 bath home w/ separate apartment & private bonus in-law suite on .80 acre knoll.

**\$1,699,000**

## ORINDA



Lot

### 46 Tarry Lane

Great opportunity to built your dream home in desirable Sleepy Hollow neighborhood. All plans approved.

**\$1,249,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 26 Las Palomas

Impeccably maintained 4 bed/ 2 bath home including bonus room below garage, gazebo, brick patio & beautiful views.

**\$1,245,000**

## ORINDA



Lot

### 20 Oak Court

One of Orinda's last near-acre VIEW properties that is ready to build on & is in a mature neighborhood. Great views!

**\$875,000**

## ORINDA



New Lease

### 387 Camino Sobrante

Pristine Modern 5 bed/ 3 bath/ 2 half bath Farmhouse in heart of Orinda Country Club on over .5 acres.

**\$12,000/ Monthly**

## MORAGA



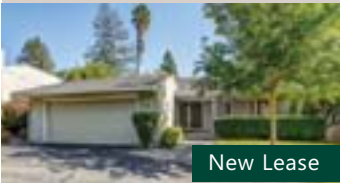
New Listing

### 1396 Camino Peral

Updated 3 bed/ 2.5 bath 1440 sqft townhome, close to parks, top rated schools, shopping, brewery & more.

**\$835,000**

## MORAGA



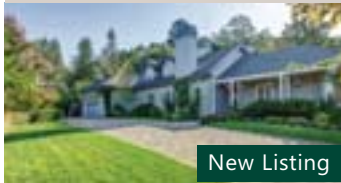
New Lease

### 175 Cypress Point Way

Single level 2 bed + office/ 2 bath. Washer & dryer included. Rent includes Moraga Country Club facilities.

**\$4,300/Monthly**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 21 Hidden Valley Road

Custom 4 bed/ 3 bath 3679 sqft home on .48 acres minutes from commute, BART, shopping, & top rated schools.

**\$2,899,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3696 Happy Valley Road

Private gated 6 bed/ 6.5 bath 5500 sqft custom home including chef's kitchen, guest house, & pool on flat .85 acres.

**\$2,695,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3177 Stanwood Lane

Stunning 5 bed/ 3 bath remodel in desirable Lafayette. Close to top schools, downtown, freeway & BART.

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## LAFAYETTE



### 1004 Woodbury Road 301

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## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 1470 Sunset Loop

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**\$1,549,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 1000 Dewing Avenue #307

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**\$1,185,000**

## MARTINEZ



### 114 Stonehurst Court

Gorgeous Alhambra Valley 5 bed/ 3.5 bath 5550 sqft home w/ pool, spa, outdoor kitchen & 360 degree views of Mt. Diablo.

**\$2,695,000**

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