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"Under the Marquee" events are one way Orinda Theatre owner Derek Zemrak keeps revenue and interest flowing.

Photo Derek Zemrak

County move to level Orange not a respite for Orinda businesses

By Sora O'Doherty

Even though Contra Costa County loosened COVID-19 controls on businesses, owners in the city of Orinda weren't celebrating. And the move to the California orange tier was quickly toned down with additional restrictions as Contra Costa County's COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have shown a marked increase each day since moving to the orange tier.

Some of the hardest hit businesses are gyms and dry cleaners. Tristan Tool, owner of In Forma gym in Orinda Village, said the fitness industry has

been hit very hard. The gym was closed down for almost seven months. The gym reopened about three weeks ago, when it was allowed to have 10% occupancy. Now allowed up to 25% occupancy, Tool says it doesn't matter. "People are afraid to come back in," he said, "and they won't return until there is a vaccine." But Tool has invested a lot in the business since he bought it in June of 2019, so he's all in, hoping for a return to normal.

Jami Edgell, the General Manager of Anytime Fitness in Theatre Square said that the change to orange has helped a little bit, but volume remains pretty low. The gym reopened as soon as they were

allowed, on Sept. 30. She is maintaining a positive outlook and believes that it will be a great opportunity once people are aware that the gym is open.

Derek Zemrak, owner of the Orinda Theatre is not planning to reopen the theatre for general business anytime soon. "It's not worth it," he said. "We want to be safe and there's no need to rush." Zemrak is grateful for the successful GoFundMe campaign for the theatre which provided funds to sustain the business until March.

... continued on Page A7

Lafayette honors Veterans



Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette Rotarians raise the first of the many United States flags Nov. 6 that fly downtown to honor all veterans, in what they hope will become a new tradition for the city.

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette Rotarians have started a new tradition that they hope will continue for years to come, as downtown Lafayette businesses proudly fly the United States flag to mark Veterans Day.

When Rotarian Mary Lou Till first approached the city council a few weeks ago, it was with the request that the Rotarians be allowed to fly their flags on the city-owned Plaza. After consultation with the city attorney, the council advised her that the city would not permit it, but from that conversation came a suggestion by Mayor Mike Anderson that perhaps they could get businesses to display the flags on private properties instead.

And that is how a group of Rotarians, fueled by Johnny's Donuts came to be assembled on a recent blustery November day in the McCaulou's parking lot as they started the process of hanging all the flags from the Safeway/Wholefoods parking lots to La Fiesta Square, The Mercantile, and the CVS and Trader Joe's parking lot.

Till gives special appreciation to Steve Cortese, Joan Bruzzone, Diablo Foods, Bill Eames, Trader Joe's, Bank of the West, The Wayside Inn, and Richard Whitmore for their help, along with Ace Hardware who was an integral partner in providing flag poles and hardware.

Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, is always marked in the United States on Nov. 11 to commemorate the armistice signed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, at the end of the First World War. The day honors all of those who have served the country.

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Creating a cozy home environment during turbulent times - Page D1





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Business comings and goings in Lafayette amid the pandemic



Photo Pippa Fisher

Lace and Bustle, a bridal store located in the Clocktower opposite Postino's, will be closing before Thanksgiving.

By Pippa Fisher

After eight months of varying levels of restrictions and closures in the area, Lafayette is

starting to see some businesses shutting down and, perhaps more surprisingly, still others opening. One of the first casualties

was Big O Cheese Steak, early in the pandemic. According to the Chamber of Commerce, other businesses now shuttered include Back to the Table, Sugi, Lemon, Jos A. Bank and Myara. Jennifer Perlmutter closed her original Lafayette gallery but retains her larger pop-up gallery. Others businesses such as Pappillon Gourmet Coffees have changed hands, and are still open for business under new ownership.

Lace and Bustle, Lafayette's bridal shop located in the Clocktower, will be closing its doors permanently the weekend before Thanksgiving, but the store's owner Victoria Hansen, while acknowledging the difficult times that all small business owners are facing, says the decision to close has more to do with her changing priorities. Hansen says she has de-

cid to spend more time with family, explaining that her baby was just 6 months old at the start of the shutdown in the spring.

"It was a blessing to have the three months of closure, to have the time away from the hustle and bustle and to spend it with my baby," says Hansen, noting that the moments of reflection allowed her to see more clearly what her priorities were. "Life is short." But the news is not all bad. Even as some shoppers change their habits in favor of online retail, new ventures are appearing including Reasonable Books (see story in the Oct. 28 issue of Lamorinda Weekly), Lemonade Piercing, The Main Kitchen, Emerson Grace Design, Germinate Kitchen, and Out of the Cave Foods.

And even as many holiday faires will not be taking

place this year, some are turning to the 'pop-up' model as a short-term solution for both the vendors and the empty storefronts (see related story about the Holiday Gift Collective below).

For Semira Moslem, owner of Sparkles & Joy – a weekly, curated ethnic foods, subscription-based delivery business – launching during a pandemic was a smart thing to do. "There is a strong appetite for this right now," she says.

Moslem says she identified a greater need to deliver food to customers as people were avoiding eating out and she says that any kinks she has encountered so far have been related more to the challenges of a start up, for example with hiring staff for the once-a-week deliveries.

... continued on Page A3

Local artisans 'pop up' in Lafayette for eco-friendly holiday shopping



Photo Pippa Fisher

Hollie Lucas-Alcalay stands by her homegrown products at the new pop-up Holiday Gift Collective store.

By Pippa Fisher

Following Lafayette's successful art gallery 'pop-up' model, and solving several problems in one go, comes another pop-up to the downtown – this one just in time for the holidays.

The Holiday Gift Collective, featuring seven local, all female artisans, has popped up next to Sideboard on Plaza Way, filling the otherwise empty, recently vacated space that was formerly the gift shop Lemon. They opened on Nov. 1 and will be there through the end of the holiday season.

"We are thrilled to be here," says Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, owner of Hollie's Homegrown, who runs a small organic farm in Mor-

aga, specializing in growing culinary and medicinal herbs, teas, and creating bath and body products.

Lucas-Alcalay, who will be familiar to many in the area from the Moraga Farmers' Market, explains that they are grateful to the city for allowing this solution, saying that they wouldn't otherwise have been able to find a space for their holiday sales, especially now that the Hacienda Holiday Faire is not taking place in person this year.

"We were desperate to find somewhere to sell during COVID," says Lucas-Alcalay, describing this temporary location as a "win-win."

The entrepreneurs all share a desire to encourage

the community to shop locally and, featuring a variety of eco-friendly and ethically sourced products, the green businesses hope to work together to fight climate change providing customers a chance to support the local community while reducing their carbon footprint.

The Holiday Gift Collective offers a range of home goods, jewelry, gourmet foods, and more. Additionally they plan to feature rotating local guest artisans each week.

Located at 3539 Plaza Way they are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through the end of the holiday season.

For more details go to: www.instagram.com/holidaygiftcollective/

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Close race for Lafayette council seats

By Pippa Fisher

A tight race for the top three city council positions saw only a few hundred votes between incumbent Cam Burks, Carl Anduri, and Gina Dawson.

As of Nov. 6, Burks (8,964 votes) led the way with

28.56% of the votes, very closely followed by Anduri (8,881 votes) with 28.29% – a difference of only 83 votes. Dawson (8,312 votes) came in with 26.48%. Together they edged out Farschad Farzan (5,232 votes) who garnered 16.67% of the votes.

Final results will be certified Dec. 3.

Business comings and goings in Lafayette amid the pandemic

... continued from Page A2

In fact Sparkles & Joy is hoping to expand beyond just the Lamorinda area into Walnut Creek. However, she notes they have lost several customers. “In asking for feedback with regards to cancellations, they have stated economic hardship for their families.”

Despite Hansen’s personal

decision to close her bridal business, she reflects on how humbled and honored she has been to help customers find their wedding dress over the years.

“Now more than ever the emphasis should be on shopping local, to support small businesses,” says Hansen.

Further details on Sparkles & Joy can be found at www.sparklesandjoy.com/

High School district to ‘de-densify’ campuses in January

By Sophie Braccini

The Acalanes Union High School District confirmed that it will reopen classrooms for all students on a hybrid model this January, unless the pandemic worsens. The district will follow the safety protocols mandated by the state and recommended by the district public health department. In order to make sure that the social distancing between students, and between students and staff is maintained, only half of the students will be allowed at any given time on sites – called “de-densifying” the campuses.

John Nickerson, AUHSD superintendent, at the Nov. 4 board meeting detailed the measures that have already been set in place and will intensify as more and more students are invited to return to school. The first is the everyday passive pre-screening protocol that requires everyone to respond to a series of questions each day they plan to go to school. This system that banks on people’s sense of responsibility gives a green light or red light depending on the answers to basic health questions such as temperature or exposure to a sick person. Flashing that daily green light on a phone will be required to have access to the high schools.

The superintendent reiterated that masks covering mouth and nose would be required at all times. He detailed how classrooms will be

reconfigured for social distancing, how staff would be protected with plexiglass partitions, and how bathrooms had been modified to restrict the number of people inside at one point. Nickerson also described the improvement to the HVAC systems that had been conducted over the summer in the four high school campuses. MERV 13 filtration systems found in hospitals were installed, as well as Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization devices.

Students will be asked to clean their desks and touched surfaces as they move from one classroom to the next. Nickerson explained that additional custodians were being hired to completely sanitize the schools once daily, but that the help of students will be needed during the day.

Each school will have a team in charge of contact tracing. If a student or staff member is found positive for COVID-19, they will be quarantined for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or positive testing. The team will contact the people with whom the infected person spent more than 15 minutes in close contact over a 24-hour period. These people will have to quarantine for 15 days. The identity of the infected person will remain confidential. Board member Dr. Christopher Severson, who works with COVID patients, will be discussing with health authorities ways to refine the tracing protocol for the high school district.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Design Review Commission and Planning Commission Special Joint Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Zoom Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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The world has been through so much this year. May this holiday season be filled with love, hope, and joy, through your friends and family and may you be thankful for all that you have been blessed with. I am grateful for all of the love and support from all of you! My takeaway from the last 10 months is this:

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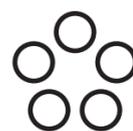
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Body-worn cameras – an MPD staple for over five years

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Department has used body-worn cameras since February 2015 to record enforcement and other contacts with the public, as well as using them during criminal investigations. BWCs have become a vital tool in providing transparency of any law enforcement agency that uses them – something the American public has come to demand with their own recordings of police activity in recent

years. According to a 2017 report from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, “The past several years have witnessed significant growth in the number of police agencies using body-worn cameras. It has been reported that over one-third of the 18,000 or so law enforcement agencies in the United States have begun using this technology.” The report adds that “BWCs were seen as a remedy for resolving issues of community trust and a way to increase

police accountability.” In an Oct. 28 staff report to the town council, MPD Chief Jon King stated, “While body-worn cameras do not tell the complete story of what happens during an incident, they do provide important information that can be used in both criminal and administrative investigations.” MPD’s current system is outdated and has experienced software and hardware problems for the past two years. Continual glitches have made the current sys-

tem ineffectual and bothersome. After researching replacement systems, MPD found that Axon cameras and backup equipment are best suited for the town’s needs. Axon, Inc. is the largest provider of BWCs in the U.S. and throughout the world. The Axon Body 3 unit, which is what MPD would like to purchase to replace the old system, comes with a feature that reduces motion blur during recording. This means, according to Axon, clearer evidence during

playback with a near photographic level of detail. The Axon Body 3 will allow you to “see truth in the moment.” The town council unanimously approved Axon’s proposed 5-year services and purchasing agreement which includes new cameras, docking stations, software, secure cloud storage and related hardware for a total maximum cost of \$62,874.04 payable over 5 years. The Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget includes \$20,500 for Police Department Equipment Replacement for this purchase.

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Sustainable Moraga – take up the challenge

By Vera Kochan

Accepting a Climate Action Plan in 2014, the town of Moraga committed to do its part to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Land use and transportation projects have seen a Moraga Walk/Bike Plan to address safety and education; participation in the Lamorinda School Bus Program that is geared to transport 1,500 students round-trip from home to school; projects to promote non-vehicular travel such as sidewalks, bike lanes and crosswalks; the installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations; and a 2015 ordinance allowing residents to keep small animals and certain types of livestock for food production. Another effort, residential and commercial energy use, saw the town adopt CALGreen building standards in 2016, requiring new construction to meet energy efficient standards. In 2017, Moraga enrolled in Marin Clean Energy in order to give residents and businesses an opportunity to select renewable energy options. Solid waste (in the form of food waste) is part of an organics collection program implemented at the town’s offices, and recycling receptacles are provided at all events held on town property. In 2015, the town adopted the Model Water Ef-

ficient Landscape Ordinance requiring new developments to conserve water, and as of 2016, all construction projects must treat storm water runoff on site. Day-to-day town operations have also been affected by the CAP. HVAC upgrades have been made to the town offices; park facilities contain recycled benches and trash cans; water fountains and water bottle refilling stations discourage single-use plastic bottles; an Integrated Pest Management program reduces/eliminates the use of dangerous pesticides while Bay-friendly planting is used on town property; and almost all of the town’s streets use energy efficient lighting. Representatives from Sustainable Contra Costa (www.sustainablecoco.org) gave the town council a presentation during the Oct. 28 meeting asking Moraga to become a sponsor and issuing a Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge to its residents. The town council agreed to sponsor at the \$1,500 level for the FY 2020-21. The funds will come out of the Planning Department’s consulting budget. Sustainable Contra Costa President/CEO Tina Neuhausel and Community Organizer Colleen Noland encourage residents to join the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge (www.cleanercon-tracosta.org) in making Moraga even more sustainable for years to come. In order to join the challenge, residents

can go to the website and enroll as a household, business or team. SCOCO is currently working on a Moraga landing page, but in the meantime all participant efforts can be seen at the county level. User information is completely private and the best part of all, incentive prizes are rewarded. The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge began in 2019, sponsored not only by the county but by the cities of Walnut Creek, San Pablo and Antioch. Neuhausel estimates programs much like this one currently involve approximately 20 cities nationwide. Noland added, “There is the need to create a cleaner, healthier and more resilient community for tomorrow.” SCOCO’s goal is to use the challenge to help residents and businesses to realize the many cost-cutting actions to save water and energy. A sampling of several things citizens can do on the challenge include: telecommuting, choosing green electricity, eating lower down the carbon chain, taking shorter showers, recycling, composting, adjusting the thermostat, line drying clothes and turning off lights in an unoccupied room. Besides giving tips to residents, SCOCO has been involved in numerous presentations to schools and local organizations in an effort to spread the word for a more sustainable planet.



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2020 Moraga Town Council election results posted

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council race had five candidates vying for three available positions in the Nov. 3 election. As of early results posted on Nov. 6, top vote-getter was Renata Sos with 5,518 votes (26.76%). Sos, an incumbent, was appointed to the Moraga Town Council in 2018. She

has also served as the town’s planning commissioner. David Stromberg garnered the second highest number of votes with 5,447 (26.42%). Stromberg has served two years on Moraga’s Design Review Board along with three years on the Planning Commission, including two years as its current chairperson. Teresa Onoda filled the

last position available with 4,705 votes (22.82%). Onoda has previously served on the Moraga Town Council between 2014-18 and was mayor in 2017. Kendall Langan received 3,928 votes (19.05%) followed by Ursula Schilling with 1,020 votes (4.95%). Final results will be certified Dec. 3.



Town Council Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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Canyon Road Bridge closure scheduled for next week



Photo provided

The 2017 installation of the temporary Canyon Road Bridge

By Vera Kochan

Phase 1 of the new Canyon Road Bridge project is almost complete. "We have been looking forward to this moment for years," stated Moraga Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus. "The opening of Phase 1 (marked by the

opening of the inbound lane of Canyon Road Bridge and removal of the temporary bridge) turns the corner on this complex, multi-year disaster recovery project, and I'm incredibly proud of the town's efforts that have enabled us to deliver this phase of this project on

schedule and on budget." In order to ensure the safety of the public and workers, the entire bridge (both new and existing temporary spans) will be closed to all traffic from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 16-18, with the exception of emergency vehicles. During this time removal of the temporary, one-lane, truss bridge will occur. It is anticipated that the bridge should be open to traffic outside of those hours. Commuters, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling in the area should be aware of construction activities and comply with all traffic control and construction signage. The town will provide the public with updates on its website (www.moraga.ca.us) and through social media outlets. For additional information, contact Moraga Project Manager Sharon Chan at schan@moraga.ca.us or call (925) 888-7028.



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Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Special Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Residents invited to Workshop on building height and design in downtown areas

By Sora O'Doherty

As part of the continuing effort to complete a Downtown Precise Plan, there will be a joint Zoom meeting Nov. 19 of the city council, the Orinda planning commission, city staff and Opticos Design, the consultant team preparing objective design standards.

In drafting the plan, the city hopes to be able to have different standards for the different areas of Orinda's downtown. These areas are known as character areas, and the workshop will discuss whether the areas should have differing standards for things such as building heights and design standards. Fol-

lowing a discussion on potential changes to allowable building heights and changes to building design standards in these character areas, the meeting will then go to breakout rooms to allow participants to share their thoughts in a smaller group setting.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Although registration is optional, all attendees are requested to RSVP in order to allow staff to estimate the number of participants. The Zoom meeting link will then be available on the Downtown Precise Plan page at least one week prior to the workshop:

<http://cityoforinda.org/445/Downtown-Precise-Plan>.

To RSVP, use the link, <https://forms.gle/ZxiHGwMEsuW4pqA99>

Incumbents and taxes win the day in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Current mayor Darlene Gee and former mayor Inga Miller staved off a challenge from attorney Latika Malkani, but by a slim margin of nearly 700 votes. As of Nov. 6, with 6,437 votes, Gee took 34.65% of the votes cast, as Miller took 34.52% with 6,414 votes. Malkani came in at 30.83% with 5,727 votes.

In addition, Orinda voted for a one-cent sales tax by a majority of 59.35%. That tax rise will be joined by a

county-wide sales tax of one-half-cent that passed with 58.26% of the vote. Neither tax measure required a super-majority vote. In other results, Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan was elected with a decisive 69.94% of the votes cast and State Senator Steve Glazer received 67.89% of the votes.

Semi-official results were updated Nov. 6 with 100% of precincts reported. The vote tally was earlier than previous years owing to the very large number of ballots cast early in the election.

Halloween remembrance



Orinda residents placed signs and flowers around the fountain at Orinda Crossroads Park in memory of those who died in a shooting at a local Airbnb rental on Halloween last year. - S. O'Doherty

Artify Orinda hopes to beautify utilities in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Inspired by utility boxes in Lafayette and Walnut Creek, Maggie Bosco, a member of the Lamorinda Arts Council and curator of the Orinda Library Gallery, has embarked upon a project, which she shared with the Orinda City Council on Oct. 14, to bring art to Orinda's utility boxes, pipes and so on.

Bosco particularly likes local scenes, like the view of Mt. Diablo painted on a utility box on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Walnut Creek. Lafayette's utility boxes host whimsical pictures painted by students. At Moraga Commons park in Moraga, a wrapped box was painted by a high school student. The box in Moraga Commons cost \$1,500 and was financed by a private citizen, Bosco said.

Some boxes in Orinda belong to the city, others to other utilities. Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble suggested to Bosco that the project start with boxes owned by the city. Bosco noted that the project will not be seeking funds from the city, but instead will look for grants and donations.

The first step in the project was to have some proof of concept works completed. Bill Carmel painted the first proof of concept at Mash Gas Station. Carmel took four days to paint the work, which has the theme of Rocky the Squirrel and Andy the Hummer. He used outdoor paint, varnish and an anti-graffiti sealer. Bosco suggested that perhaps Orinda might have a theme of hidden animals.



Photo provided

Artist Kath Balamuth and Maggie Boscoe, chairperson for the Artify Orinda project. The painting, which depicts the San Pablo Dam Reservoir with a border of Ceanothus, is located across from CVS by the mail box near 59 Moraga Way. Stop by and enjoy, and look for six animals in the painting.

The second proof of concept, by Kath Balamuth, is a view of San Pablo Reservoir with a border of ceanothus blooms. Placed on back of Big Belly waste receptacle next to a mail box on Moraga Way near the Mash Petroleum building, the work has six hidden animals. Antonio Arroyo installed the art on the back of the big belly.

Artify Orinda is also working with CVS to add art to three wood panels on the side of the shop. Bosco says that the owners of CVS are excited about having some art, and that the parties are negotiating a contract. Three Orinda artists, Lois Meade, Kath Ballamuth and Judy

Fine, have already volunteered. All artists have donated their time and effort. Bosco would like to be able to pay the artists, noting that in Berkeley artists were paid between \$200 and \$500 for their work.

Council member Inga Miller asked about legal aspect of art of public buildings, and Planning Director Drummond Buckley told the council that staff is working on a roadmap for future projects, with the intent to come back, possibly on Nov. 10 (after press time), with a policy for the city council to consider.

Donations to Artify Orinda may be made by mail to Lamorinda Arts Council, Box 121 Orinda 94563. Please put Artify Orinda in the memo on checks. To donate online, go to the Lamorinda Arts Council's website and put Artify Orinda in the comment box. <https://lamorindaarts.org/donate/>

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County move to level orange not a respite for Orinda businesses

... continued from Psge A1

Zemrak is doing private family rentals of the theatre, limited to 25 people, with a number of health precautions in place, such as temperature checks and special seat covers. While the weather is good, he's been holding Under the Marquee events on Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 10 p.m., with drinks and/or food from Cine Cuvee. In addition, he's renting the marquee for private messages at a rate of \$75 for two days, which can be longer if there isn't another purchaser in the wings. Zemrak's other business, Republic of Cake, continues to do very well during the pandemic, increasing its wholesale sales to Diablo Foods.

Chris Berryhill, who with her husband owns Morrison's Jewelry in the Theatre District says that the pandemic has been really difficult on all businesses. The shop was completely closed for two months, but since reopening business has been steadily getting better, she said. She is concerned about the trend of internet shopping. "If people

keep buying online," she said, "there won't be any local stores left."

Orinda has a number of cleaners, which used to be kept busy by people who were going to work every day and then attending social events, but that has all changed due to the pandemic. Fashion Cleaners in the Village is really struggling, and Jose Acer of Orinda Cleaners in the Theatre District says they are only able to remain open by taking second jobs outside the shop.

Photographer Scott McCue says his business is largely unaffected by the pandemic, because he got out of the wedding photography business years ago. He does mostly portraits and artwork for books now. Orinda Village Antiques owner Susan Leech says that her business is down owing to the fear factor among older people. She is open by appointment, and has even done one of her tea parties outdoors. Although the shop does not have an online presence, she is willing to do more tea parties in the style of sidewalk cafes.

Hilton House, the con-

signment shop in the Village, was only closed for two weeks. Considered an essential business because they hold people's valuables and make payments, the shop has actually enjoyed an influx of items, as people spending more time at home are both clearing things out and also making purchases to refresh their home environment. In addition, the shop has a robust website with over 10,000 followers on Instagram, according to owner Cindy Hilton.

Most Orinda restaurants are hanging on, many relying on take-out and delivery only. Taverna Pelligrino, which was Orinda's restaurant of the year in 2019, is closed during the pandemic. Casa Orinda, the county's oldest restaurant, boasts on its web page that it is open, sort of. The restaurant has added a large outdoor tented dining area, and also does take-out.

Businesses that rely on appointments, such as Rick Hudson Estate Liquidations, are far less affected by the pandemic.

Under the new restrictions, select high-risk activi-

ties must be modified. Outdoor bars are prohibited, except where allowed under restaurant guidance with drinks as part of a meal.

Indoor dining allowed at a maximum of 25% occupancy or 100 people, whichever is fewer (down from 50% occupancy and 200 people). Indoor movie theaters can operate at a maximum 25% of occupancy or 100 people, whichever is

fewer (down from 50% occupancy or 200 people). Religious services indoors allowed at a maximum 25% occupancy or 100 people, whichever is fewer (down from 50% occupancy or 200 people). However, Orinda businesses seem unable to even come close to the lower numbers, let alone the higher.

More information on the county's website, <https://cchealth.org>

ReCHIC boutique raises money for Orinda Theatre

ReCHIC, a boutique consignment shop in the Village on Orinda Way, is selling Orinda Theatre-themed gift merchandise. Half of the proceeds from these items will go to the Orinda Theatre. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, ReCHIC will also schedule private shopping appointments on Tuesdays, Thursdays, evenings and weekends, and offers local delivery, national shipping, and curbside pickup. For more information, visit <https://shoprechic.com>



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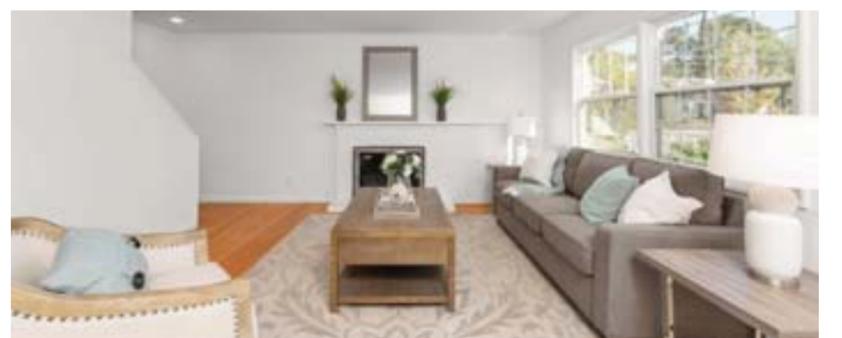


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Incumbents breeze in Lamorinda fire district elections

By Nick Marnell

Unlike in the U.S. presidential race, there was no drawn out, nail-biting drama in the Nov. 3 election of Lamorinda fire agency directors, with one race redefining the term “landslide.”

The closest contest occurred in Moraga-Orinda Fire District Division 2, where incumbent John Jex held off San Ramon Valley firefighter Nathan Smith. Jex won with 55% of the vote, though a flip of only 166 votes would have given the seat to Smith.

The challenger reflected on his campaign. “While I am disappointed in the ultimate outcome, I am proud of all we

achieved during our campaign. Most importantly, I believe our work together illuminated how critical fire suppression is to achieving fire prevention,” Smith said. “I believe this enhanced awareness will serve the MOFD better in the future.”

Because the election results were not yet official, Jex declined to comment.

In a race that could safely be called no contest, Division 5 incumbent Craig Jorgens defeated challenger Sharon Girdlestone, a local business owner, who ran an on-again, off-again campaign. Jorgens garnered an astounding 84% of the vote, giving him a clear mandate to press his district fire prevention efforts.

“I want to thank all the

people of Orinda who supported me and my efforts to make Orinda more Firewise,” Jorgens said. “I hope MOFD will continue to make our district even safer by spending more of its \$29 million annual budget on fuel (flammable material) removal.”

Girdlestone took full responsibility for her lackluster showing. “Thank you to everyone who supported me in this election. Especially MOFD,” she said. “I would love to be able to say I campaigned and fought for a spot on the board, but due to personal reasons and family obligations, I was not able to fully accomplish my goal or commit to a campaign.”

The County Board of Supervisors doubles as the Contra

Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors, and both incumbents running for re-election won easily, none easier than District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen, who ran unopposed.

Supervisor Federal Glover of District 5 soundly defeated Contra Costa County Assessor

Gus Kramer, whose trial for misconduct over alleged sexual and racist comments he made to staff members ended in a hung jury Nov. 5. Glover hauled in 66% of the vote.

All election results reported in this article are unofficial, as of Nov. 6.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



ConFire and Local 1230 raise cancer awareness with pink fire engine



Photos Nick Marnell

The Brown family, from left, AJ, Finley and Cooper, at the Nov. 5 Project Pink Wheels ceremony



Moraga's Finley Brown, cancer survivor, signs her name to the ConFire pink engine

By Nick Marnell

Is that really a pink fire engine that has been roaming the streets of Contra Costa County since the end of October?

As cancer is a leading cause of death among current and retired firefighters, and impacts many local residents, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, in conjunction with United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230, unveiled Project Pink Wheels, a program to show support for all cancer warriors – current, recovered and those no longer with us.

“We wanted to bring awareness to the scourge of cancer that has affected so many in our area,” district spokesman Steve Hill said.

The pink engine, which is not used in district operations,

can be requested to transport patients to their first or final cancer treatment. When these events are scheduled again, Project Pink Wheels will be available for public health fairs, community festivals, parades, cancer events and other special requests. The pink engine also acts as a rolling memorial to recognize the names of local cancer warriors.

Pink is typically the color associated with breast cancer, but the goal of Project Pink Wheels is to include all types of cancer.

Any resident of Lafayette, Moraga or Orinda who has been affected by cancer may request Project Pink Wheels transportation, a special appearance, or to sign their name to the engine. Contact Capt. Chris Leimpeter at contracostapink@yahoo.com.

MOFD ordinance punishes electric utilities for work during high fire danger

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board unanimously passed an ordinance Oct. 21 requiring an electric utility that performs fire safety, mitigation or prevention work within the district during periods of high fire danger to notify MOFD within 48 hours of the scheduled activity. The ordinance is similar to one passed by the San Ramon Valley Fire Prevention District earlier this year.

Given the substantial risk of wildfires, the MOFD ordinance also disallows an electric utility like the Pacific Gas and

Electric Company to perform scheduled, non-emergency work that requires the deployment of a safety and infrastructure protection team within the district when the National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for the work area.

“The work could lead to an ignition and cause a wildfire to start,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker told his board. “If PG&E determines that this work merits deployment of an SIPT, the district believes it should be informed of that fact.”

The district crafted its ordinance pursuant to Senate Bill

901, which requires utilities to move away from private contractors that provide fire and safety services to “highly skilled personnel in collaboration with public fire agencies.” Also, Assembly Bill 2380 states that “firefighting and fire protection services are a municipal function and a public good to be provided by public agencies and their employees.”

In addition, a Contra Costa County grand jury, in its 2020 report on wildfire preparedness, recommended that county cities and fire boards consider mechanisms such as the San Ramon Valley Fire or-

dinance “that enable the fire district or fire department to recover labor and equipment costs from PG&E for overseeing electrical utility work that presents a high fire risk.”

A violation of the MOFD ordinance is an infraction, subject to a \$130 fine for the first offense, \$700 for the second offense within one year, and \$1,300 for the third and subsequent offenses within one year. “Our experience with PG&E has been, when it comes to things like notifications, if we ask, it just doesn’t have the force of an ordinance,” Winnacker said.

PG&E sued San Ramon

Valley Fire over its electric utility ordinance but a Superior Court judge dismissed the suit on a procedural issue, finding that the company failed to timely publish a legal notice of its action against the fire district in a local newspaper.

MOFD counsel said that defending its ordinance may result in extra legal fees to the district. “The law is not completely settled in this area, so there is always a risk,” Jonathan Holtzman said.

A PG&E spokesman said the company had not seen the MOFD ordinance and could not comment on it.

Public Safety

Emergency response:

Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820

Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 18 - Oct. 31

Alarms	42
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	82
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subject	10
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	84
Patrol Req./Security Check	50
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	28
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	12
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Lucas Cir.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr. Police Department	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3600 Block Boyer Cir.	
Reckless Driving	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Moraga Blvd./Monroe Ave.	

Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Camino Diablo/Stanley Blvd.	
3900 Block S Peardale Dr.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.	

Stolen Vehicle Recovery	
Wb Sr 24 Central Lafayette/ Morag a	
Tc - Property Damage	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.	
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Brook St./Hough Ave.	
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	

Other criminal activity	
Assault W/ Deadly Weapon	
Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.	
Commercial Burglary	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Stuart St.	

Forgery	
3500 Block Eagle Point Rd.	
Fraud Credit Card	
10 Block Eleven (2)	
Fraud False Pretenses	
1200 Block Laurel Ln.	
700 Block Los Palos Manor	
Identity Theft	
1100 Block Crescenta Ct.	

Petty Theft	
1000 Block Lorinda Ln.	
10 Block Chapel Dr.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft Other	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	

Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	

Disturbance-fight	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Disturbing The Peace	
500 Block Merriewood	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.	

Loud Music	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Noise	
10 Block Amanda Ln.	
3500 Block Brook St.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Crescenta Ct./Sierra Vista Way	
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Loud Party	
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
3500 Block Rowe Pl. (2)	
Carlyle Terrace/Sweet Dr.	
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Echo Springs Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.	
Public Nuisance	

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
10 Block Eleven	
3200 Block Palomares St.	
2Nd St./Moraga Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
1000 Block Dewing Ave.	

Vandalism	
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.	
900 Block 1St St.	
700 Block Glenside Dr. (2)	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	

Other	
Battery	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Covid19 Violation	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Harassment	
100 Block Peaceful Ln.	
3500 Block Brook St.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	

Threats	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Trespass	
3400 Block School St. (2)	

Unwanted Guest	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.	
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Violation Restraining Order	
1000 Block Miller Dr.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 20 - Nov. 2

Alarms	20
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	29
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	55
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Supplemental Report	10
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
Starbucks	
Dui Misd	
Wandel Dr./Larch Ave.	

Excessive Speed	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Campolino Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (4)	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.	
Ascott/Moraga Rd.	
Country Club Dr./Deager	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	

Petty Theft From Vehicle	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
Not Available	
Reckless Driving	
10 Block Sanders Ranch Rd.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	

Tc - Property Damage	
Buckingham Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Seven Eleven	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	

Other criminal activity	
Extortion	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Petty Theft	
10 Block Gloria Ct.	
800 Block Camino Ricardo	

Rape	
St Marys College	
Shoplift	
No House Number	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	
200 Block N Sandringham	

Loud Music	
800 Block Country Club Dr.	
Not Available	
Canyon Club Brewery	
Loud Noise	
Not Available	
90 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)	

Loud Party	
Rancho Laguna Park	
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.	
83-00 Block Miramonte Dr.	
10 Block Kimberly Dr.	
90 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	

Public Nuisance	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Vandalism	
200 Block Paseo Bernal	

Other	
Indecent Exposure	
Starbucks	
Mentally Ill Commit	
90 Block Shuey Dr.	
Violation Custody Order	
50 Block Miramonte Dr.	

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 18 - Oct. 24

Alarms	12
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	18
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	26
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	2
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	3
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
100 Block Las Vegas Rd.	
10 Block Via Floreado	
Reckless Driving	
Orinda Community Center	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Vehicle Theft	
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.	

Other criminal activity	
Commercial Burglary	
90 Block Grassy Hill Way	
Grand Theft	
300 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block La Encinal	
300 Block Dalewood Dr.	

Petty Theft	
10 Block Castle Crest Rd., Ala.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Loud Music	
Sleepy Hollow Swim And Tennis (2)	

Loud Party	
100 Block Overhill Rd.	
30 Block Descanso Dr.	
Vandalism	
Unocal Station And Food Mart	
Nuisance to the Community	
Loud Party	
La Espiral/Las Vegas Rd.	

Other	
Covid19 Violation	
600 Block Blk Moraga Way	
Threats	
20 Block Irwin Way	

Trespass	
Orinda Country Club	
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way	

Letters to the editor

Working together

The "Rheem Triangle" in Moraga has been renovated by the Moraga Garden Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Moraga Park Foundation, and Town staff. Darlene Haffner and Jessica Fleming spearheaded the beautification project for the Garden Club, John Haffner mobilized the Kiwanians, Kyle Salvin and Ruben Ochoa of the Public Works Department did invaluable work, and the Park Foundation provided the necessary funding. With the old vegetation gone, the new plants at the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard will make that highly visible piece of public land look better than it ever has. This was an excellent example of cooperative volunteerism that is so important in a small town like Moraga. Congratulations to all.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

Congrats to new council

I want to congratulate David Stromberg, Teresa Onoda and Renata Sos for their successful campaigns to be elected to the Moraga Town Council. I supported the three of them. I feel they bring the best understanding of the Town's current issues and would be the best at navigating through future challenges the Town will be facing. I also want to thank Ursula Schillings and Kendall Langan for running for the Council. Even though I did not support them I know it takes a lot of time and personal commitment to run for public office. We all are lucky to reside in the town of Moraga where so many want to be involved. If you are not currently involved in a Service Club or volunteering in some way to continue to make Moraga this special place to live, please find a way to get involved. It is incredible rewarding.

Barry Behr
Moraga

To Moraga voters

Thank you voters of Moraga for electing me to the Moraga Town Council. I am honored that you have reposed your trust and confidence in me to be your voice in the governance of our Town. I am humbled by the number of you who endorsed my candidacy and worked tirelessly for my election without having previously known me.

With my service on the Moraga Planning Commission and the Board of the Moraga Community Foundation, I have demonstrated my unwavering commitment to our Town. Protecting our open space from further intrusion and the risk of wildfire. Promoting smart and managed growth that favors new development in the Town's core areas. Supporting our existing businesses and adopting measures to streamline our administrative processes in order to attract new businesses to Moraga. Securing charitable donations to provide COVID-19 testing free of charge for our residents and staff at Moraga senior care facilities and to replace the bathroom building at the Moraga Commons with ADA-compliant facilities and an upgraded water fountain.

I commit to being open and making myself available to you. To listen to your thoughts and concerns and bring them to the Town Council. To make fiscally disciplined decisions to address our infrastructure needs and tackle our unfunded liabilities. You may not always agree with my votes on the Council, but I promise you that my decisions will be based on my objective analysis and assessment of all available information and my consideration of competing viewpoints within the context of what is in the best interests of Moraga.

Very truly yours,
David Stromberg
Moraga

Lamorinda AVA Virtual Wine Tasting event a prelude to tasting room opening

Submitted by
Amy Schofield

One of America's newest Agriculture Viticultural Areas (AVA), Lamorinda, will host a virtual wine tasting in collaboration with the Orinda Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m. Nov. 19. The virtual tasting is open to the public and highlights award-winning local wines, both red and white, from local producers including Thal Vineyards, Los Arabis Vineyards, Raisin d'Etire Vineyards, Deer Hill Vineyards, and Meadow View Wineries.

Thomas D'Amato, president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce says, "The Orinda Chamber of Commerce is always looking for fun member events that highlight the diversity of our member organizations. COVID has encouraged the

Chamber to think creatively on how to bring many of our in-person activities online. We are fortunate to live in the Lamorinda AVA region and so a virtual wine tasting event highlighting local wines was a natural choice."

"Lamorinda has a rich history in wine making with the first grapes grown in the region over 150 years ago," says president of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, Daniel Howsepian. "Lamorinda has continued to foster the growth of micro wineries and quality wines. Growing grapes in urban areas has seen many growers adopt a more environmentally conscious approach to grape growing and wine making with a focus on minimal intervention and water conservation practices. We are proud to showcase our wines and thankful that we don't need to

go to Napa for good wine!"

The Lamorinda Wine Growers Association announced that the Lamorinda AVA Wine Center was approved by the Lafayette Planning Commission and should open in 2021 in the former location of Napa Auto Parts on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. The LWGA considers this a crucial step in highlighting the quality and availability of local wines. The facility will contain a winery and a public tasting room.

Tasting wineries at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce virtual tasting are bonded members of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association. Membership is open to growers, makers, and supporters. Attendees to the tasting event will have the option to purchase additional wines at a discount after the event.

Tickets to the virtual wine tasting are limited and are available to purchase via Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/orinda-chamber-of-commerce-virtual-wine-tasting-tickets-126370725241

Youth Ink 2021 submissions accepted starting Dec. 1

Submitted by
Erika Rosenberg

The Orinda Junior Women's Club announced the new prompt for Youth Ink 2021, the annual creative writing contest open to all middle school students who live in or attend school in Orinda: Hope. Entrants do not have to adhere to the prompt, and imagination and creativity are encouraged. The club hopes this contest gives young adolescents the opportunity to experience literary arts and enjoy the creative writing

process. Impressive cash prizes of \$250 for first place, \$125 for second place, \$75 for third place, and gift certificates for 10 honorable mentions will be awarded. Youth Ink 2021 submissions will be accepted via email from Dec. 1 through Feb. 26 in order to be considered for an award. Full entry details will be on the Youth Ink 2021 submission forms, available through Orinda Intermediate School, several local private middle schools, the Orinda Public Library, and online by Dec. 1 at www.orindajuniors.org.

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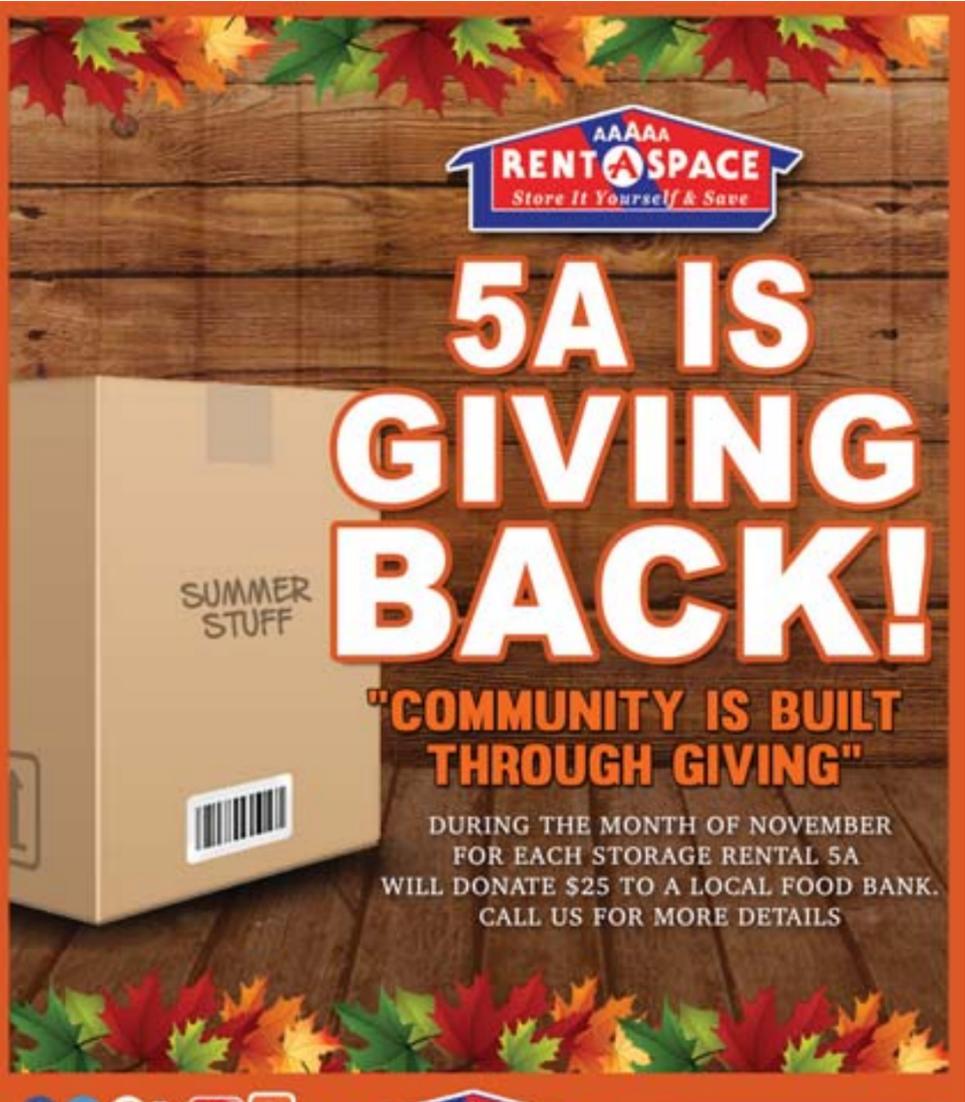


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No poppies for Veterans Day, but Veterans of Foreign Wars keep up most programs

By Sora O'Doherty

Like almost everything else, 2020 has been a challenge for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Post 8063 serves Lamorinda and Walnut Creek out of the Veterans Building in Lafayette, but the building has been shut down for the past 12 months, according to Terry Murphy, Service Officer and past Post Commander.

The VFW ordinarily raises funds to support its activities by the sale of poppies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but this year, that has not been possible. Not only is it not allowed, Murphy says, but he would not want to jeopardize the members, most of whom are veterans of World War II and the Korean War. In addition, the Post has held no meetings. However, it is continuing with its two national scholarship programs, Voice of Democracy, an audio essay competition for high school students, and Patriot Pen, a writing contest for middle school students. The only program eliminated for 2020 is the Teacher of the Year, owing to the difficulty of evaluating teachers outside the classroom.

VFW Post 8063 is a sponsoring VFW Post and awards a local scholarship. The national first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy, a recorded patriotic themed audio-essay, will receive a \$30,000 scholarship. Plus, additional scholarships from \$1,000 to \$16,000 will be awarded. Each year, more than 51,000 high school students from across the

country enter to win their share of more than \$1.9 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program. The theme this year is, "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"

The theme for this year's Patriot's Pen is "What is Patriotism to Me?" Each year more than 138,000 students (grades 6-8) enter the contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$900,000 in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC.

Entries for both contests were due by the end of October and are under consideration now. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in lieu of poppy sales, may make a donation to VFW Post 8063, PO Box 1025, Lafayette CA 94549.

There is also a GoFundMe drive for the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. The building, located at the intersection of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Risa Road in Lafayette, is about 12 years old and replaced an older one built in the 1930s. The building is owned by the county and is operated by a building board with a professional manager. The building is leased to the veterans and two groups call it home: The American Legion Post #517 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8063. All the monies need to run the building come from the building

being utilized by the public and functions as a quasi-community center and in times of need as a cooling/charging station (during blackouts). In times of threats it is designated as a secure place for children and others, including everyone at Temple Isaiah.

Before the pandemic, the veterans were quite successful and used funds in excess of their need to do upgrades to the building (about \$100,000 for efficient lighting) to support local veterans help projects (East Bay Stand Down, Concord Veterans Center, Marines Memorial, disaster relief for veterans and others), local scouting and to provide the granite memorial at the building to all veterans lost since 9/11. There was a plan to use some of the funds to install a generator that would have provided the power needed during the PSPS blackouts, but with the loss of revenue during the pandemic, those funds were needed just to keep the lights on, doors open, trash picked up, landscaping done, alarms/insurance payed for and the building managed.

According to Murphy, "The GoFundMe drive is our way to ask the public for a little help to keep this Memorial alive so it will be there for the veterans of the community and those returning from their service to our country. We hope to replace what we had and if possible continue doing the upgrades and supporting our veterans." The GoFundMe page is located at www.gofundme.com/f/a2ydb9-help-our-vets.

Orinda students return to schools

By Sora O'Doherty

Some Orinda students have already returned to the classroom, and a plan for the return of all students was adopted by the Orinda Union School District Board Oct. 29.

Elementary special education students returned to school Nov. 3 while Orinda Intermediate School special ed students return Nov. 12. Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students will return to school on Nov. 30 and third to fifth grade students will return on Dec. 7. On Jan. 4 all elementary and OIS students will return from winter break in distance learning mode, with a return to campus for all students on Jan. 7, except for those students whose families have chosen to remain in the distance learning mode.

The model of education that was adopted by the board is one proposed by the OUSD principals. The principals' plan suggested moving the flex day from Monday back to Wednesdays, but that change was not accepted by the board. Although the teachers argued

that it is tough to get kids started on asynchronous work on a Monday without having seen their teacher, the board wanted to keep all the schools on the same schedule for the convenience of parents who have children in different schools, and the Monday flex day was also determined to be convenient for COVID-19 testing. However, Carol Brown said that she hopes that other districts change the flex day to Wednesday.

The plan presented by the principals was not well accepted by the board, but was adopted with slight modification in an effort to at least move forward with a first step. The board did request that the principals return at the next board meeting with an improved plan. Board member Hilary Weiner voted against the plan, which was adopted by a majority, but not a unanimous vote.

The principals said the plan maintains the benefits of distance learning while providing significant time for on-site instruction and social engagement. It minimizes logistical challenges such as multiple carpools, lunch, midday transition between students, and cleaning between the different cohorts, will provide an easier transition to and from full distance learning, if needed, and allows the entire class to participate in distance learning together four days each week.

The board was disappointed with the amount of time students will be present at the school for academic work, with students in grades 1-5 only present in the school for 160 minutes in the afternoon twice a week. Academic work continues to be via Zoom in the mornings, while afternoons are devoted to in-person instruction and social and emotional learning. In addition, board member Jason Kaune voiced a number of

concerns, with which other board members agreed. The principals were asked to provide a solution for children who are not being well served by distance learning; to align parents with children in multiple grades; to provide day-care options; and to explicitly build the use of cameras into this model.

Board president Cara Hoxie said she was concerned that the previous plan, which provided for an am/pm schedule of the different cohorts, would not work. "I agree," she said, "that this is not a perfect model, but just a step." Board member Liz Daoust wanted to vote to move the plan forward, but have the principals come back to the board with revisions. Board member Carol Brown said, "My heart is with Hilary: this is not what we want for our kids. We want excellence; this is just OK." However she agreed that she wanted to move forward. During the meeting the board also discussed a contract with Goodyear HVAC Sales for portable air purifiers.

COVID-19 testing was available Nov. 9 from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the district office for students, staff and parents, with results available within 48 hours. The testing uses a viral nasal swab, not uncomfortable according OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton, and free for all participants. The board also unanimously accepted the draft community compact, with one minor change to specify that cloth masks are to be worn.

Weiner said that she was proud of the community compact because all the neighboring districts are using it, with some minor tweaks. The compact cannot be enforced, but Daoust said that she hopes that families and staff are taking it really seriously because it is truly an integral part of "who we are as a community."

Need Donations?

During the holiday season, Lamorinda Weekly will accept and publish opportunities for local giving. Send up to approximately 200 words describing the cause, type of donation needed, and where to bring or to send it. The organization collecting the donations, or receiving the donations, should be within our extended community. Submissions must be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com by Nov. 18 for inclusion in our Nov. 25 issue. Include "Season of Giving" in the subject line.



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High school students' collaboration demonstrates power of art – better together



Photo provided

The high school students work on 'Project We' Nov. 1 - a collaborative work organized by Carolyn Considine.

By Pippa Fisher

A local teen has embraced art during the pandemic as a powerful way to bring people together.

Campolindo High School sophomore Carolyn Considine organized the collaborative art project Nov. 1 at her Lafayette home, working with a group of high school artists to complete a painting on an 8 foot by 12 foot canvas. Considine chose to name the artwork "Project We."

"Given the divisiveness in the world these days, collaborative art can send the message that we succeed

most in life when working with a 'we not me' mentality," explains Considine.

This is not the young artist's first experience organizing art. She explains that during the summer in the midst of the pandemic she organized a virtual high school art exhibition with over 100 works of art from youth artists across the county for the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5).

Following this virtual show, AC5 Commissioner Beverly Kumar put Considine in touch with Hanna Ma at the Contra Costa County Department of Education. Ma

wanted to organize a physical exhibit for their county building, which is where the painting will hang once it is stretched and framed.

"From my virtual gallery, Hanna, Beverly, and I picked artists whose work demonstrated our theme, The Art of Resilience," explains Considine adding that she wanted to share the message of the project broadly, so she invited a videographer friend to film the painting day. She says that this collaboration project is also a part of AC5's Arts Cafe program.

... continued on Page B2

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Warm, creamy twice-baked goodness perfect for fall



Twice Baked Sweet Potatoes

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Sweet potatoes rarely see the light of day in our house because my husband can't stand them, not even sweet potato fries, which are so yummy. I get it, I'm that way with beets, and they are so popular these days. You see beets everywhere and on every menu. But, you'll probably never see a beet recipe from me! Nevertheless, my daughter and I really love sweet potatoes, so we occasionally

do get around to making them and we like coming up with new ideas for them. This is our latest creation. I actually dreamed about this recipe one night and when I woke up I went straight to my notes so as not to forget what was in them. Why I'd be dreaming about sweet potatoes with brown butter and crème fraiche, I can't really answer, but if anyone out there can help me figure it out I'd be much obliged. I hope you love these so much, you'll be dreaming about them too.

Twice Baked Sweet Potatoes

(Serves 4 as a side dish)

INGREDIENTS

2 medium-sized sweet potatoes (any color ... remember the orange ones they call yams are really sweet potatoes)
2 tablespoons creme fraiche (sour cream or plain yogurt could replace this, but crème fraiche is the best)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon white pepper
3 tablespoons butter, room temp and cut into small pieces (you will be browning the butter)
1 large shallot, chopped
2 tablespoons dried cranberries
2 tablespoons pecan pieces

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Clean sweet potatoes with a veggie brush or a clean sponge. Poke a hole in each with a fork. Bake for about 30 minutes (+/-) until potatoes are done and meat is soft. Remove from oven and cool enough to handle.

Meanwhile brown the butter in a small light-colored pan over medium heat, until it begins to foam. It will slowly turn golden brown and you will see little crystals starting to form. Once perfectly browned, it will take on a rich, nutty smell. This will take about 10 minutes, but keep your eye on it. Using a light colored pan will allow you to see when the color is just right.

Once browned, separate one tablespoon for the potato filling. Add the chopped shallots to the brown butter remaining in the pan and cook until translucent. Add pecan pieces and cranberries and continue to cook for a few more minutes just until pecans are toasted. Set aside.

Back to the cooled sweet potatoes! Scoop out the meat with a grapefruit or other spoon and place in a mixing bowl. Leave skins intact and place in a casserole dish or baking sheet open side up.

Mash the sweet potato meat with a fork, potato masher or food processor. Mix the sweet potato meat with 1 tablespoon of brown butter, creme fraiche, salt and white pepper. Tuck this filling back into the hollow sweet potato skins.

Sprinkle the shallot mixture over the tops. Reheat in 350 F oven for about 15 minutes, or until hot.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>

'Raining in the Mountain' an epic Taiwanese film offered by the International Film Showcase



Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

Three travelers start at dawn for a long journey on foot through a beautiful and mountainous Asian landscape. A man, the rich philanthropist Wen, his new concubine, and a male servant carrying their luggage live in the 15th century, during the Chinese Ming dynasty. Their destination is the Temple of Three Treasures, one of the most renowned Buddhist temples of the country.

The travelers are not seeking enlightenment; they have been invited by the aging abbot

who is about to depart for his last voyage and is seeking advice to choose his successor. The abbot has also invited governor Wang, and the wise Master Wu Wai to give their opinion.

But some of the dignitaries invited are coming with ulterior motives. The monastery is the repository for the Mahayana sutras written by Xuan Zang, a priceless treasure; Wen and Wang would do about anything to get their hands on this treasure. The arrival of Chiu Ming, a criminal who has paid to get his sentence commuted to becoming a monk starts disrupting the false

peace of the monastery. The movie has all the elements to make it a great epic story with its villains, its good guys, and a secret treasure. Lies, treason, theft attempts and even murder escalate during the days that precede the induction ceremony.

The 1978 movie is a Taiwan/Hong Kong co-production made by King Hu, a Chinese-born director who lives in Hong Kong. This is the first time in its 10-year history that the International Film Showcase is presenting a classic movie. The film, available online, has been completely restored and is worth seeing on

as big a screen as possible. The filming and the editing are flawless. The costumes, the natural decor, and the choreography are extremely beautiful.

The first scene of the three walkers at dawn, for example, is lyrical: women bathing in a spring, scenes in the forest, in the temple, across water, all have evocative and poetic qualities. The fight scenes include their share of kung fu and spectacular jumps, but it stays in the realm of human possibility and it is just sparingly interspersed. Group scenes with crowds of monks, intimate scenes with one or two people are just as well mastered and the overall rhythm is fast enough without being overwhelming.

King Hu, who wrote and directed the movie, said in an interview in the '70s that he wanted to study the struggles for power. "I do not know if power is a means or an end," he said. "I choose to set the movie in a Buddhist temple where the question of the essence of power can be questioned."

The spiritual undertone of the movie is discreet. There are a few Buddhist parables such

as that of the pail of clear water, and of course the Abbot's final decision. But a similar story could have happened anywhere, in any place of power where a succession war rages. Although the story takes place in a monastery, women have an important role to play, including the beautiful White Fox played by Feng Hsu. King Hu often chose a heroine to be at the center of his stories. He is viewed with this film and others such as "A Touch of Zen" or "Dragon Inn" as a major actor of the revival of wuxia (martial heroes) fiction films.

Sun Yueh, who plays Wen, and Shih Chun, who plays the villain Hui Tung, are all very expressive actors, with sometimes almost a stage presence. The film has English subtitles but includes many scenes that are action-oriented, which makes following it very easy even for non-Mandarin speaking audiences.

The film is available to be rented online on the IFS website. Details can be found on the website links at <http://internationalshowcase.org/>. IFS founder Efi Lubliner recommends using a Chrome browser to access the site more easily.

Lynn's Top Five

Be tax aware! Five year-end planning tips

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

As I'm writing this, it's the night before the election and so much is still up in the air regarding our shared political futures. That said, it's pretty unlikely we'll get any earth-shaking last minute tax law changes inflicted upon us before the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31. As we say good-bye (good riddance?) to one of the most truly bizarre years on record, it's time to focus on any remaining tax moves that could be helpful. Here are five for your consideration:

1) Required Minimum Distributions: Although Congress gave us a tax break this year and allowed RMDs to be skipped for 2020, there are some taxpayers who could benefit from taking distributions anyway. If your taxable income for the year will be less than zero when you file without taking distributions, you should

consider pulling some money out of the appropriate retirement accounts and invest these dollars into your other after tax accounts so you don't waste this opportunity to pay nothing on something!

2) Roth Conversions: Taxpayers who are in very low tax brackets might also benefit from Roth conversions. One important consideration to take into account before you make this move: whatever you do before year-end cannot be undone next year during filing season in 2021, so run your projections thoughtfully. Also, it's not just about the federal taxes you'd owe on the conversion – it's also about the tax impact to your state taxes as well. Last but not least be sure you have the cash to pay the taxes from a source other than the funds you are converting.

3) Charitable Giving: For some you'll want to consider gifting low basis assets. For others the traditional cash ap-

proach will be best. Another idea for those of you who qualify would be to consider making a donation from your IRAs up to the limits (your RMD for the year, even if not taken). Called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), donating directly from your IRA funds this year could impact future years' taxable RMDs favorably.

4) Employee Retirement Benefits: You have until the end of the year to fully fund the employee contribution portion of your retirement plans such as 401(k)s. Check out your paystubs, and determine if you are on track to fully fund the maximum you are allowed to not only for the deduction, but for the benefit of future tax deferred growth. At a minimum, be sure you are investing enough to receive all the available employer matches.

5) Last call to realize Capital Gains and Losses: In this year of extremes, take a last look at portfolio moves you made and

tally up your gains and losses. This might not be the worst year to take gains if Congress decides to increase the tax in future years on these capital transactions to help pay for all the stimulus being provided now. Conversely, if you have losses on the books, determine if it's wise to lock some of those in. Keep in mind that you can only deduct net realized capital losses (after offsetting against realized capital gains) up to \$3,000 per year. However, at least under current law, any losses you can't use in 2020 carry forward to next year.

If ever my advice to work closely with your Certified Financial Planner™ and tax advisor was appropriate, this is the year to take that advice to heart! And if any of these ideas appeal to you, I'd recommend you act soon to be sure they are all tucked in place properly by year end. Here's to a better 2021 for us all.



Lynn Ballou CFP® is a Senior Vice President and Partner with EP Wealth Advisors. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, but we do not guarantee its accuracy and it should not be regarded as a complete analysis of the subject(s) discussed. All information is derived from sources deemed to be reliable. All expressions of opinion reflect the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change.

High school students' collaboration

... continued from Page B1

"My hope is to have the documentary shared on social media through AC5 and the California Arts Council," says Considine. "I would also love it to be seen as a pre-show at the now popular drive-in movies. It's impor-

tant to have this message of cohesion from our youth especially during these divisive times."

Considine brought Lafayette Art Gallery Owner Jennifer Perlmutter in as a mentor to guide "Project We" as the students, most of whom did not know each

other beforehand, set to work.

Considine, for whom this was a first collaborative effort, and the other artists were nervous about how it would work and what they could create together, but with Perlmutter's help and supervision, Considine says

once the painting started they all got into a groove as one brushstroke was finished by the next person.

Over lunch the students started discussing various topics and how art is important in life.

"After lunch we were in tremendous synch and had

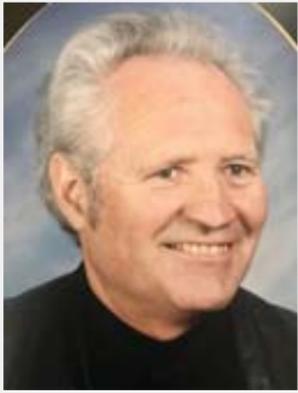
fun painting together. At the closest interviews for each artist, everyone clapped as our group mates finished expressing themselves."

Lessons learned, says Considine, are about the power of collaboration. "We are always better together!"

In Memory

Ronald Joseph "Moses" Forslund

December 18, 1943 – September 18, 2020



Ronald Joseph "Moses" Forslund went to be with Jesus suddenly on Sept. 18 after suffering a massive heart attack. Mo was born in San Francisco, California to Margaret Virginia Carr and John Gustav Forslund. He attended high school in Washington, while living with foster parents. Mo lived most of his life in San Francisco and Oakland, later settling in Moraga, California in 2010.

Mo was a loving and devoted husband of 36 years to his wife, Ann, and a loving father to their children. He is preceded in death by his son Eugene Rodney Cabral. He is survived by his wife, Ann, children Jill, Elizabeth (Randy), Jack (Margit), Janet (Ron), grandchildren Marlina, Mark (Misty), Jerod (Stephanie), Lance, Jessica, Kevin, Jennifer, Jacquelyn, Katie, and Marvin. He is also

survived by great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters.

Mo was an auto upholsterer for many years. He worked at A&A Top & Trim Inc. in San Francisco, and American Auto Upholstery & Glass in Oakland. His no-agenda trusting love was what drew people to him, and his warm smile and happy enthusiasm enveloped and included everyone. Mo was a powerful evangelist for his faith, who captivated his audiences with stories of the miracles God had done in his own life.

He was a board member at the San Francisco Teen Challenge for over 30 years, where he touched countless lives by lovingly mentoring students. Mo had found hope and help to change his own life through the power of Jesus Christ at Teen Challenge.

Mo and Ann served the ministry of Morris Cerullo for many years. He was a commissioned minister of the gospel. He was a devoted member of Glad Tidings Church in San Francisco for over 20 years, where he was actively involved in multiple ministries, such as evangelism, carpentry, teaching mens' ministry, childrens' teacher, and usher, to name a few, all under the guidance of Pastor Mel Johnson.

Mo was a beloved member of Willow Spring Community Church in Moraga for over 10 years. While there, he was a head usher, he worked with men's ministries and all aspects of the ministry under the leadership of Pastor Eric True.

In Memory

Anna Lee Forslund

September 22, 1933 – October 22, 2020



Anna L. Forslund went to be with Jesus Oct. 22 following a long battle with many health problems. Ann was born in Oklahoma to Leroy Hershel Graves and Eva Marie Yocom. She graduated from Fremont High School in Oakland, Calif. Ann attended Havenscourt Community Church. Ann lived most of her life in Oakland, later settling in Moraga in 2010. She was a loving and devoted wife of 36 years to her husband Moe, and a loving mother to their children and grandchildren.

Ann is preceded in death by her husband Ronald Joseph Forslund and son Eugene Rodney Cabral. She is survived by her children Jill, Jack (Margit), Janet (Ron), stepchildren Michael and Elizabeth (Randy). Grandchildren Wendy, Marlina, Mark (Misty), Jerod (Stephanie), Lance, Jessica, Kevin, Jennifer (Adam), Jacquelyn, Katie and Marvin. She is also survived by many great grandchildren.

Ann was a payroll auditor for the city of Berkeley for 40 years. Where she enjoyed friendships with many co-workers.

Ann had strong faith in her Lord and savior Jesus Christ and sought to share her love for Him with everyone she met. Ann served the ministries of San Francisco Teen Challenge and Morris Cerullo ministry for many years. Ann supported Latin America Child Care in El Salvador for 40 years. Ann was hard working and devoted to her family.

She was a devoted member of Glad Tidings Church in S.F. over 20 years, where she was actively involved in multiple ministries; all under the guidance of Pastor Melvin Johnson. For the last 10 years of Ann's life she was a faithful member of Willow Spring Church while there she served in women's ministry, VBS, and prayer team. One of Ann's favorite ministries was sending encouraging cards or memos to individuals around the world. Ann's focus was on eternity and she glorified God with her warmth and concern for others.

The family invites you to a memorial to celebrate Ann's life and homegoing at 3 p.m. Nov. 14 outside at Willow Spring Community Church, 1689 School St. in Moraga. Reception to follow.

In Memory

Theodore Ellis Terstegge



Orinda resident Theodore Ellis Terstegge (Ted), San Francisco native, died quietly in his sleep from kidney failure, Oct. 10, at age 84.

Ted joined the Navy after high school, graduating from City College of San Francisco on his return. In college, he met and married Marilyn Santos, from Martinez. They have two children, a son, Teddy, and daughter Martha.

Ted worked for 36 years as a refrigeration serviceman. The love of his life, however, was inventing. He spent spare time working on drill press, milling machine and lathe in his workshop. He has two patents, one for a speed wrench vice handle.

Ted had a stroke in 2001, but never gave up on life though partially paralyzed and had to relearn

to speak and walk again. He spent the last couple of years in a wheelchair.

Ted lived a life of outdoor adventures; he loved archery, backpacking, camping and hiking, target shooting, photography and music. Ted was an inventor and machinist. He loved trains, old cars, boats, planes, machinery, and historical places.

Ted was known for his wacky sense of humor, adventurous spirit and unfailingly positive attitude. He lived each day with a sense of joy and appreciation.

Ted will be sorely missed by his family: 59-year partner, Marilyn; son and daughter; daughter-in-law, Nancy and grandson Christopher; brother Bill, cousins, nieces and nephews, friends, and associates in the refrigeration industry.

Due to COVID no memorial will be held now, but hopefully a Celebration of Life at a future date.




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Campolindo Leo Club sends letters to Veterans



Photo provided

From left: Ryan Lee, Justine Meyer, Marina Rago, Ms. Sarah Morgan (Leo Advisor), Amelia Asuncion, and Lani Balinag.

The Campolindo Leo Club joined other community groups Oct. 28 in writing thank you letters to Lamorinda veterans. Organized by VFW Post 8063 in Lafayette, the letters were mailed to arrive by Nov. 11 to honor those who have served. For more information about the Campolindo Leo Club, contact Lion Bob Murtagh, Lamorinda Lions.

Sister Code retreat for teens in Orinda



Photo provided

Masked Sister Code participants at its September retreat. Submitted by Leslie Darwin O'Brien

What happens when you want to hold a conference for teenagers to help build their sense of community and self-esteem, but it's during a pandemic? You find a big backyard, surrounded by nature, and use the county guidelines for day camp.

That's exactly what happened when Sister Code launched Sept. 26 and 27 in Orinda. Sister Code is a unique daylong retreat/workshop for teenagers, aiming to cultivate a sense of empowerment and community among young women, expanding minds through the power of creativity and personal growth. It was a time of rest, reset and reconnect in these challenging COVID-19 months of stress and uncertainty.

The mentors, Leslie Darwin O'Brien, performer/storyteller and founder of GirlPower Message and Music, Courtney Fortune, acclaimed singer/songwriter, performance coach and founder of Songmaker Sessions and Beate Walden, internationally-renowned musician, photographer and empowerment coach led the young women through the five Sister Code principles: community building, the practice of courage, creativity, collaboration, and the power of confidence.

The morning began with a guided meditation, mindfulness, a question box which provoked deep and meaningful discussion around how COVID has changed our lives, social media, body image, friendship, and school, while considering the Sister Code (which the participants wrote): 'Speak your own truth. Be respectful. Create a space where we can talk that's full of care and kindness. Value the people in our lives

and never take them for granted. Let go of the idea of perfection. Practice courage through 'doing it anyway'. No self-deprecating remarks. No put-downs. Only say sorry, when you are truly sorry, not as a filler word. We have each other's backs. Listen and ask.'

Surrounded by inspirational quotes which contained messages of openness, problem solving, inclusion, self awareness, and strength, the girls used photography and songwriting to examine their inner selves. Beate Walden guided them to see the light in each other and to use the camera as an instrument to appreciate each other. Courtney Fortune led a songwriting workshop and by the end of the day, the young women had collaborated on a song. Leslie Darwin O'Brien shared stories of deep revelation and powerful encounters.

One participant said, "We came here and did not know each other, and now I feel so close to everyone in this group. I have never experienced anything like this."

Sister Code is a project of Terry's Kids, a 501c3 that brings music education programs to underserved communities and makes the world better through music. Founder Terry Miller said, "With our current environment, teen mental health is an urgent issue, so Terry's Kids is proud to sponsor Sister Code. It is an honor to bring these three mentors to young people in Orinda. We look forward to nationwide Sister Code retreats, once the world opens up."

The founders look forward to sharing Sister Code with self-defining sisters of all ages. Women's conferences are in the works.

For more information, visit www.joinsistercode.org or www.tmkids.org.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Not to be missed

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new art exhibit, "Spaces, Inside and Out" which runs through Dec. 24. The gallery is open Friday through Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. Starting in November it will be open Thursday through Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. For information, visit the Moraga Art Gallery website: <https://moragaartgallery.com>.

MUSIC

St. Paul's Concert Series is excited to present Harpsichordist/ Organist Arthur Omura in a solo performance broadcast live from St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28. This live performance will be broadcast online. To register for tickets and receive the live link, click here Arthur Omura Concert Registration.

THEATER

Diablo Ballet Launches 2020-21 27th Season this November with Julia Adam's "The Nutcracker Suite," which also includes interviews and fun behind the scenes footage. It will be filmed in Diablo Ballet's transformed black box theatre early November and streamed virtually to audience's homes on opening night Nov. 13. The virtual link will be available for three days. Diablo Ballet will also present its annual Sugar

Plum Party virtually this year on Nov. 14, at 3 p.m. This exclusive event via Zoom includes a virtual tea party with the Diablo Ballet Company dancers, a mini ballet class, Story Time and a Sugar Plum kit filled with goodies to make the day extra sweet. Tickets are \$25 per child and are packaged with the virtual performance. Virtual tickets are being sold one per household through the Leshar Center for the Arts and can be purchased by calling 925-943-SHOW (7469) or visit lesherartscenter.org.

Literature

"The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution" written by first time author Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky. Although currently residing in Washington DC, Dr. Chervinsky (Lindsay Bowles) is a native of Lafayette, and a product of Happy Valley, Stanley Middle School and Campolindo schools. She attended undergraduate school at George Washington University, and received her PhD from UC Davis. She will be the featured author at the Lafayette Library's Sweet Thursday's Zoom event on Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. (Registration required on Lafayette Library website.)

Other

Meals on Wheels Diablo Region is hosting its first ever No Show Gala which

allows guests to "attend" whenever they want, from wherever they want and they can wear any attire they want! They are asking guests to make a donation on what they would have spent that evening on a ticket, an auction item, a babysitter, or a new outfit. The No Show Gala started on Oct. 29 and runs until, "whenever you want," says Nadworny. "But we hope people will make their donation soon, because we have a waiting list of seniors in need of meals and services." The agency says the need for delivered meals and services will continue to increase as COVID-19 goes into the winter. To "attend" the No Show Gala with a donation go to www.mowdiableregion.org/no-show-gala.

Diablo Foods Floral

Department is conducting a webinar on how to create a festive arrangement of flowers. Learn some tips, gain some confidence, and get ready for the holidays from this team of experts. Proceeds to benefit the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County. For tickets and more information, visit: <https://capc-coco.org> and click on "Buy Tickets." Webinar is Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25.

Free help with medicare plan changes for 2021. HICAP is a program of Contra Costa County Aging and Adult Services. HICAP is here to help you to figure out how

these changes affect your coverage in 2021, so that you can make informed decisions. Visit www.cchicap.org for info on how to register for free one-on-one counseling, online talks, and updated Medicare plan information, or call (925) 602-4163.

6th Annual Hacienda

Holiday Faire and its first Virtual Shopping Event! With so many changes in 2020 and the challenges with COVID-19 regulations, we wanted to offer our customers all of the one-of-a-kind handmade gifts and gourmet food items from local artisans, but in the comfort and safety of their homes. We will continue to host the Virtual Shopping Faire until the end of the holiday season. Thank you for supporting our local artisans! Hacienda Holiday Faire Site <https://haciendaholidayfaire.com/>

GARDEN

The Montelindo Garden

Club Friday Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: "Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change." Speakers: Rob Badger and Nita Winter, internationally acclaimed, award-winning wildflower photographers, will give us a spectacular view of California's wildflowers as both a cause for celebration and protection. They will talk about how climate change

and other human impacts on the environment are threatening wildflowers and the life that depends on them. Their inspirational talk will weave art and science to spark hope and action. To request a Zoom link to attend this meeting, email: montelindogarden@aol.com

Lafayette Garden Club

Monthly program begins Thursday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. Our guest speaker this month will be Robin Parer, one of the foremost collectors and propagators of Geraniums and Pelargoniums. Robin is the author and illustrator of the book "The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums." She is also the owner of Geraniaceae, a small mail-order nursery in Marin County which was started in 1983 where they continually try to stock the newest and best hybrids of these lovely plants. The meeting will be online via Zoom Webinar. Join us as a guest at no charge. For details on this presentation and membership information please email MaryanneKain@comcast.net

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's women's basketball: an amalgam of experience, youth and size

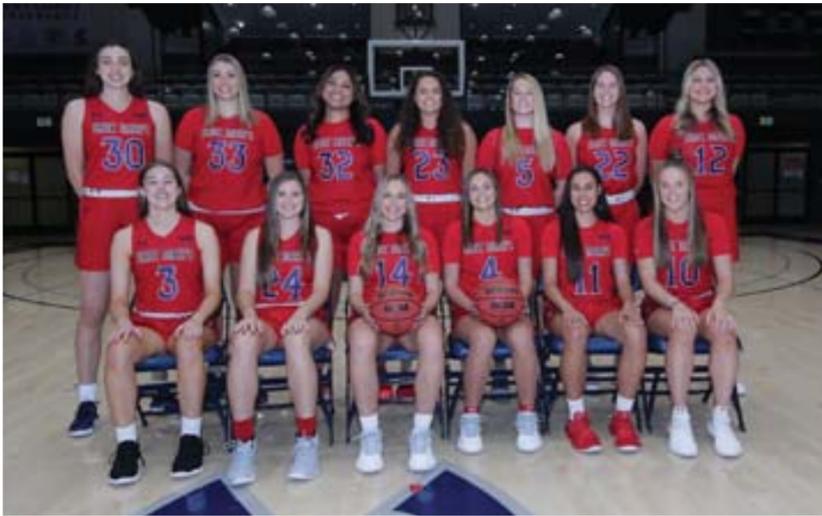


Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

After winning at least 20 games in nine of their last 10 seasons (19 in 2010-11), prior to last year's 12-19 record, head coach Paul Thomas is very optimistic about this year's team. With six veteran players and six new players on the roster, it's a group that Thomas feels is more athletic, bigger and stronger than last season.

Despite not being able to practice during the offseason, Thomas and his assistants did whatever they could do to improve the team from afar. "The extended offseason was extremely valuable to our team," Thomas said. "We spent it all on the mental parts of the game. Two of my assistants, Allyson Fassnacht and Heidi Heintz did a 12-week symposium with Zoom meetings with the players. Having these weekly sessions and utilizing the information they came up with has proven to be very valuable. We've been together for about two weeks now and there has not been a day in which we have not referred to those educational moments and revisited the topics that were discussed."

The team has been undergoing regular testing without any positives so far, said Thomas: "We're all part of the

testing. I feel safe coming on to campus with the precautions we've taken and the fact that there is only one way onto campus, and there are no outside people on campus without authorization."

However the team did suffer a loss due to the virus. Junior Sam Simons, who was all league last season in the WCC and was the Gaels' leading scorer last season, chose to redshirt this year due to the virus. "Sam's family thought it was best that she stay at home in Australia as there have been zero cases where she is from (Adelaide)," Thomas said. "We respect her decision and have let her know that she will always be a member of this team and we will accept her back with welcoming arms."

The Gaels' offense is not going to be short of scorers. Senior Emily Codding (14.7) is coming back after off-season leg surgery, junior Tacy Wedin (12.8) and senior Madeline Holland (12.6) were the three leading scorers after Simons last season.

There will be a number of new players contributing this year, though only three are freshman. Sophomores Amy West and Jade Kirisome both practiced all last season with the team but had to sit out the season due to transfer rules. "We do have a team that has numerous veterans and we

have done a really good job of mixing in our new people," Thomas said.

Saint Mary's will be a much taller team this year though, without anyone listed as a center, it will be a starting lineup with three forwards. "We look like a completely different team," Thomas said. "Last year, our average height was about 5'11" and this year it's 6'1". We haven't had a true center since Meghan McKay (2017-18). Amy is a legitimate 6'4" forward with good range. She along with sophomore Finau Tonga will give us a post presence as each has lots of skills near the basket." Sophomore Mia Griseliz and freshman Ellie Croco also bring good size and the ability to score from the outside.

Most of the experience on the team is in the backcourt. There will be three primary ball handlers - Holland, who led the team in assists last season (137), Kirisome and freshman Tayla Dalton, who has been impressive in the early practices, said Thomas. "Tayla is a scorer more than a shooter. She is a very good athlete who is fast, quick, powerful and plays with toughness. She will be a great person to get on the court because she is so coachable and loves the game. And people are going to be really impressed when they see Jade play with the ball in her hands. She is an exciting player."

Last season, Wedin was named honorable mention all WCC and established herself as one of the top three-point shooters in the nation, setting the West Coast Conference record for three-pointers made in a single-season with 104, a mark that ranked fourth-best in the NCAA and second in the NCAA in three-pointers per game with 3.35.

With more size and depth, Thomas is looking for a different type of offense this year. "We are going to be faster and more balanced. Last year, we set a record for three-point attempts but I don't see us shooting that many this year. We are going to be stronger and more physical inside. Jade, Tayla and Maddie are strong getting to the basket so we will be better getting the ball inside with passes and on drives."

Last year, Saint Mary's gave up 71.8 points per game with the additional size up front and Thomas anticipates improvement with the Gaels' defense: "We will be better because we have more depth this year and more options to put out on the floor. We can now have 6'4" and 6'2" players to defend the other team's post players, which is something that we did not have last year. We were forced to play everybody's post players with our perimeter players which always put us at a disadvantage and now we should be able to keep our opponents out of the paint this year."

Under all these conditions, leadership becomes that more crucial and Holland and Codding have taken on that responsibility: "Maddie and Emily have been our leaders on and off the court," said Thomas. "They have taken on that role and done a great job for us."

"I'm excited to be a top leader on this team along with some of my other teammates," said Holland on the Saint Mary's website. "We have a lot of new people and people coming up so I'm looking forward to guiding them in the right direction with our plays and our defense."

If there is any positive to all that has been going on with the virus, it's clear how much the players and coaches have missed the game. "When something is taken away and it's not part of your life anymore and then you get it back, you learn to appreciate it more and more," said Thomas. "I think our team and coaches feel that way now. Still, when we get out on the court, we do know that it could be taken away. These are hard times, but hard times make for tough people and I can't tell you how often I've said that."

Saint Mary's will open its season with a three-game tournament beginning Nov. 25 with opponents still to be determined. They will also play on the road against Fresno State (Dec. 11) and Ohio State (Dec. 15). The first home game for SMC will be against Nevada on Dec. 21 and the first league game against Pacific will be at home Dec. 30.

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The Moraga School District Governing Board is currently accepting applications for an appointee to its Board. The appointee will hold office from November 19, 2020 through December 2022. For an application call (925) 377-4101 or visit www.moraga.k12.ca.us Applications are due by November 13, 2020, noon.

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Campolindo football focuses on diversity and inclusion



By Jon Kingdon

This past spring, racial incidents and videos by some Campolindo students became public and caused an uproar. Since then, the schools in the Acalanes Union High School District created a Diversity and Inclusion program, and on Oct. 26 the Campolindo Football Team and the Campolindo Football Moms for Diversity joined up for a fundraiser at the Canyon Club Brewery to raise money and awareness for the program.

Canyon Club Brewery donated 10% of all the proceeds from the night and the Campo Cougar Football Club matched donations up to \$1,000.

There are several facets within the Diversity and Inclusion group – fundraising, media, communications, athletics and extracurriculars – allowing the organization to focus on different initiatives and merge its efforts in the end. “We have been hosting virtual events and quarterly book club reads and our next book will be ‘Across That

Bridge’ by the late Congressman John Lewis,” said Emily O’Connor, whose son Miles is a junior on the baseball team.

“Every Monday morning, an hour is set aside where they have been learning about different aspects of racism,” said Lauren Fritsch, whose son Connor is a junior on the football team.

Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy strongly endorsed the Diversity and Inclusion program: “I like to think that the rest of the world is catching up to us. Our football program has been involved with outreach for years. I was an Oakland kid, played at Skyline and coached at Oakland Tech and Bishop O’Dowd. I’ve always wanted to keep those connections so everything we have ever done such as scrimmages, passing camps and summer camps has been at schools with different environments.”

It’s more than just the game for his players, Macy said: “Football is a very violent and intimate sport. Our kids get to bond with the opposing players and develop

friendships and relationships where they can follow each other through the internet and Twitter. I’m glad that the rest of the school is getting involved with this program so like our players, the students get these experiences and hope that they will grow from the experiences.”

Senior Maxwell Weaver, who plays football and basketball and is on the Campo Athletics Committee for Diversity, sees the program working through sports. “We just wanted to create this unifying message of starting out the school year on a great note, even with the coronavirus,” he said. “It’s all about equality, diversity, and inclusion. We need to recognize our differences and at the end of the day, we can all come together and unite towards one common goal.”

“We love going out and playing schools that are more diverse,” Senior Daniel Wheeler said. “It opens us up to a new environment and it’s an opportunity to see how different things are outside of this bubble.”

Varsity lineman Matai Bell and wide receiver Maxwell Weaver, both seniors at Campo, serve food to guests in the front of Canyon Club Brewery. Photo Lauren Fritch

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

Creating a cozy home environment during turbulent times

By Amanda Eck



Photos provided

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



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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



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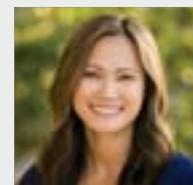
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Creating a cozy home



... 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

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!



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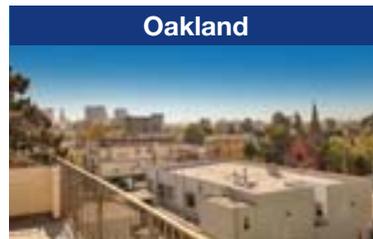
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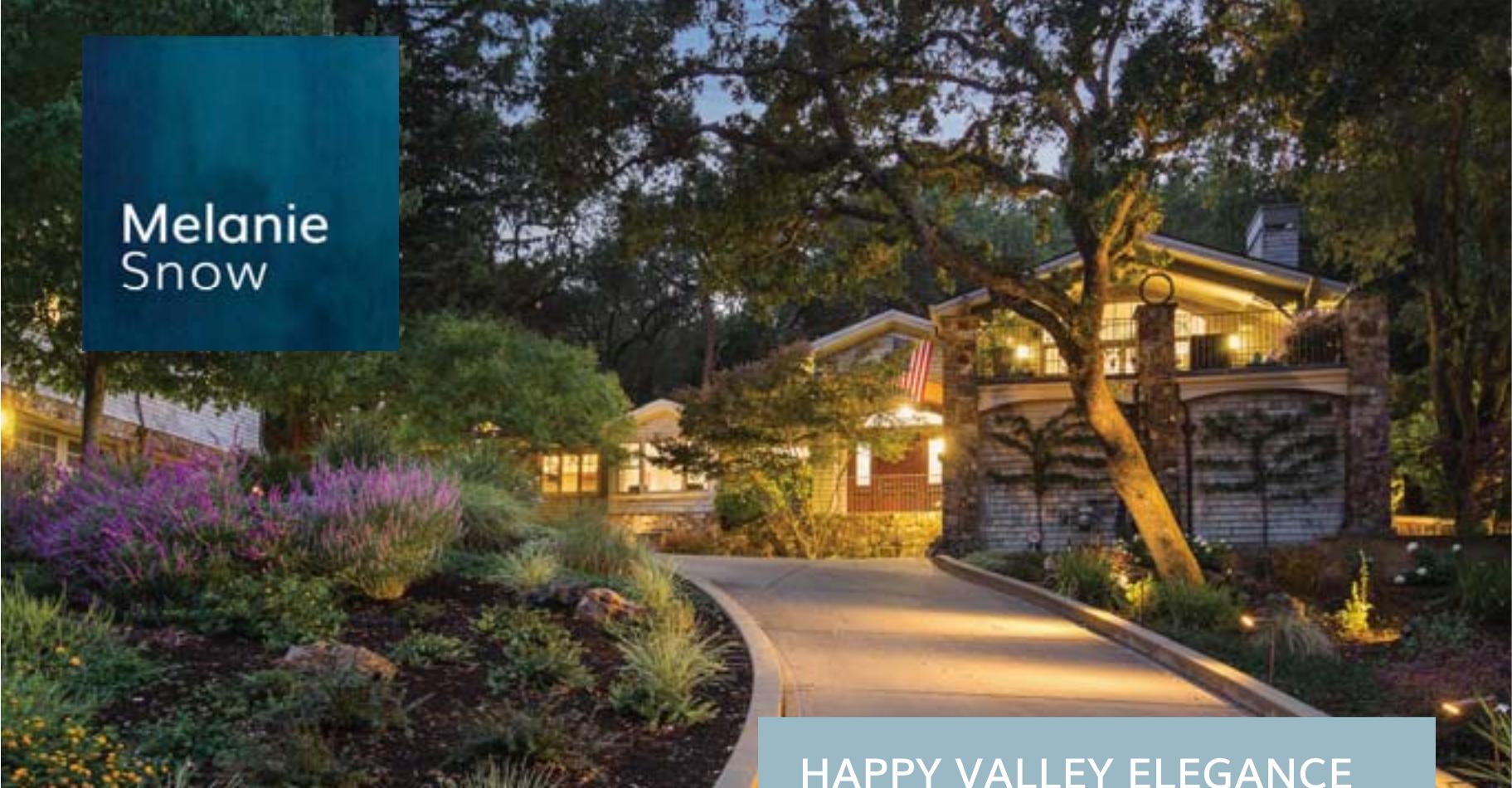


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**But more importantly,
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**Wishing you and your families a
happy Thanksgiving!**

- Amy



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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



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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.

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. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD.

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MORAGA



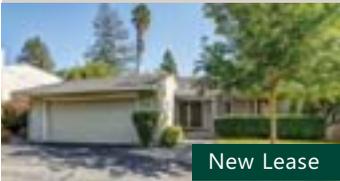
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MORAGA



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LAFAYETTE



New Listing

21 Hidden Valley Road

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\$2,899,000

LAFAYETTE



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LAFAYETTE



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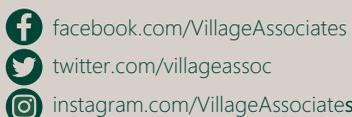
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