

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 21 Wednesday, December 9, 2020



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

## Feng Shui

### Bringing peace and serenity to the dining table



Using fall themes help set a dining room table that reflects the harvest & abundance of fall we want to share with others.

#### By Michele Duffy

As we search for more tranquility and calm in our lives, Feng Shui can incorporate positive and uplifting energy into our homes. Even if environmental harmony is not part of your personal quest, we can create peace in our homes to counter the often chaotic world we live in. At the very least, creating calm at home with Feng Shui will allow your home life to welcome more health, wealth and happiness, and nowhere is that more important this time of year around the popular dining room table.

First, why are dining rooms important? In



Photos provided

Using candles creates intimacy which is a key component of how we dine together, especially over the holidays.

Feng Shui, dining rooms represent our ability to attract wealth, health, and relationship harmony into our lives. Dining rooms are more intimate and private compared to other rooms in our homes. For example, not everyone invited over is invited to stay for dinner. Dining rooms in Feng Shui function to remedy hunger, create happy family bonds, amplify sharing, and attract more of what we are harvesting in fall into our lives.

Feng Shui in the dining room also helps to create the intimacy that special occasions suggest, reflecting the intimacy you want to create. Dining rooms are more Yin (calm) than

Yang (active) and the flow of Qi should ideally circulate as freely as any other area in your home, especially around the dining room table. Avoid crowding the room with superfluous furniture and avoid clutter by not making the table a “dumping ground.” Clutter creates heaviness, stagnation, and obstacles for health, sharing and gathering. Dining rooms should also never face bathrooms. Try your best to designate one room to be the dining room in your home, keep it clutter-free, and keep the décor pleasantly muted.

Start with de-cluttering and cleaning the dining room from top to bottom including any overhead light fixtures, draperies, furniture and floors, so literally everything sparkles. Focus next on the actual dining room table. FengShui prefers round wood tables because they invite abundance without end, and if you also add a lazy susan to the tabletop, the food and abundance are further elevated. Rectangular, square, or oval dining tables are also good choices as they reflect the abundance of the food to feed the family, just do not push the table up against a wall, which blocks Qi flow.

The dining table must be inviting and welcoming to those you want to seat around it for festivities. Does the table fit all guests comfortably? Place a mirror on a wall that reflects and doubles the abundance and wealth the dining table represents, as well as functions like a window to bring in more light and nature. You may also want to leave out the expanding table leaf this year to make sure your dining table is scaled to support the number of diners, which will be much fewer in 2020.

It's also time to organize, sort and count the table linens including deciding to toss the tired or stained options. What is the current lighting configuration in your dining room? Throw out half-used table candles and refresh them with brand new candles that when lit will encourage family conversations well into the evening.

... continued on Page D4

## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	14	\$832,000	\$2,900,000
MORAGA	11	\$405,000	\$1,905,000
ORINDA	14	\$920,000	\$3,317,500

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

- 1023 Circle Creek Lane, \$832,000, 3 Bdrms, 1167 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-14-20, Previous Sale: \$370,000, 12-01-00
- 979 Condit Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2478 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-26-20
- 3565 Herman Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2349 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-28-20, Previous Sale: \$585,500, 06-11-02
- 390 Hermosa Court, \$1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-27-20, Previous Sale: \$905,000, 01-10-14
- 1820 Ivanhoe Avenue, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3195 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 10-27-20
- 3194 Lucas Drive, \$1,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 1369 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-14-20
- 597 Michael Lane, \$1,345,000, 3 Bdrms, 1468 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-14-20, Previous Sale: \$193,000, 05-01-87
- 1418 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,720,000, 6 Bdrms, 2765 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-28-20, Previous Sale: \$1,410,000, 12-19-16
- 3164 Rohrer Drive, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2126 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-30-20, Previous Sale: \$1,290,000, 03-10-15
- 859 Santa Maria Way, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3731 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-26-20
- 228 Seclusion Valley Way, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3446 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 10-29-20, Previous Sale: \$3,400,000, 08-16-16
- 373 Shire Oaks Court, \$1,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 1578 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-12-20
- 1096 Via Roble, \$1,600,000, 2 Bdrms, 2592 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-30-20, Previous Sale: \$795,000, 05-02-02
- 2 Wellesley Court, \$1,810,000, 3 Bdrms, 2136 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 10-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 08-28-17

### MORAGA

- 119 Ascot Court #1, \$638,000, 3 Bdrms, 1320 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-29-20, Previous Sale: \$218,000, 06-15-99
- 126 Ascot Court #A, \$405,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-13-20, Previous Sale: \$310,000, 06-09-15
- 338 Birchwood Drive, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-15-20, Previous Sale: \$842,000, 06-03-02
- 1467 Camino Peral, \$889,000, 3 Bdrms, 1584 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-28-20, Previous Sale: \$625,000, 10-24-07
- 135 Devin Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1545 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-29-20, Previous Sale: \$925,000, 05-06-16
- 4 Haven Court, \$1,905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2552 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 10-26-20, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 09-27-18
- 4 Lamp Court, \$1,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3092 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 10-29-20, Previous Sale: \$1,560,000, 06-02-06
- 194 Miramonte Drive, \$835,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-29-20, Previous Sale: \$475,000, 03-18-08

... continued on Page D9

## VLATKA BATHGATE #1 Coldwell Banker Realtor in Orinda



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Vlatka@BestLamorindaHomes.com

CalBRE#01390784



GLOBAL LUXURY



In gratitude to my wonderful clients I have donated in their name to the charities of their choice.

### Recent Sales

- 37 Oak Rd, Orinda
- 371 Calle La Montana, Moraga,
- 1295 Shakespeare Dr, Concord
- 1 Aghalee Rd, Orinda
- 234 El Toyonal Rd, Orinda
- 15 Candlestick Rd, Orinda
- 34 La Cuesta Rd, Orinda
- 9 La Fond Ln, Orinda
- 14 Berkeley Ave, Orinda
- 1571 1st Ave, Walnut Creek
- 42 Knox Dr, Lafayette
- 5316 Woodgrove Ct, Concord
- 70 Coral Dr, Orinda
- 59 Canyon Green Way, San Ramon
- 112 Spring Rd, Orinda
- 10 Rheem Blvd, Orinda
- 25 Longridge Rd, Orinda
- 807 Paseo Roble Ct, Walnut Creek
- 1128 Sanders Dr, Moraga
- 9 La Fond Ln, Orinda
- 516 Estancia Ct, San Ramon
- 21 Greenwood Ct, Orinda
- 3256 Greenhills Dr, Lafayette



VLATKA CAN HELP YOU WITH BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME.  
WWW.BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.COM

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John Notch owner  
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925.284.1400

**WALNUT CREEK**  
1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596  
925.937.4000

**DANVILLE**  
100 RAILROAD AVE., #A  
DANVILLE, CA 94523  
925.800.3510

**BRENTWOOD**  
60 EAGLE ROCK WAY, #B  
BRENTWOOD, CA 94513  
925.420.57174

**SIERRA TAHOE**  
6883 N LAKE BLVD., #B  
TAHOE VISTA, CA 96148  
530.414.1475

ADAM HAMALIAN



925.708.5630  
DRE# 01917597

CHRISTINA LINEZO



415.425.3085  
DRE# 01964989

JOHN FONDAZIO



925.817.9053  
DRE# 01938194

JULIE DEL SANTO  
BROKER/OWNER



925.818.5500  
DRE# 01290985

LISA TICHENOR



925.285.1093  
DRE# 01478540

MATT McLEOD



925.464.6500  
DRE# 01310057

COMING SOON TO LAFAYETTE CALL FOR DETAILS



MARY PISCITELLI/PETER GILLIS 925.765.9095

3683 HAPPY VALLEY RD., LAFAYETTE \$3,495,000



J. DEL SANTO/ K. BRICKMAN 925.818.5500

3203 STONE VALLEY ROAD, ALAMO \$1,995,000



HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500

2776 W. NEWELL AVENUE, W.C. \$1,250,000



SHERRY HUTCHENS/ADAM HAMALIAN 925.212.7617

RACHEL DREYER



415.990.1672  
DRE# 01994561

RUTH EDDY



925.788.5449  
DRE# 01313819

SHERRY HUTCHENS



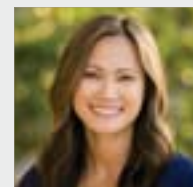
925.212.7617  
DRE# 01320608

TERESA ZOCCHI



925.360.8662  
DRE# 01907345

TINA FRECHMAN



925.915.0851  
DRE# 01970768

BRYAN HURLBUT



925.383.5500  
DRE# 01347508

JANE SMITH



925.998.1914  
DRE# 01476506

JOY WIEHN



415.377.1884  
DRE# 02047712

LAUREN DEAL  
HURLBUT TEAM



925.876.4671  
DRE#02060294

MARY PISCITELLI



925.765.9095  
DRE# 01426129

VALERIE DURANTINI



415.999.6116  
DRE# 01376796

# ARRIVING SOON



## IN LAMORINDA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

**Regional Director Ron Mintz**

925.872.0968

ron@vanguardproperties.com

DRE# 01095341

VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM

DRE#01486075



## Feng Shui

# Bringing peace and serenity to the dining table

... continued from Page D1

If possible keep the dining room as near as possible to the kitchen and both the dining room and kitchen should be on the same floor. Fresh flowers on the dining room table are always a wise choice and please make sure to discard once the blooms wane, along with any

stinky water. Placing a bowl of fruit on the table is also great symbolism for abundance. Please avoid using dried flowers as they imply deterioration or “dead” chi.

Ask yourself, what is most important to you this holiday season? Creating an inviting and warm dining experience should include simplifying, de-stressing, and abandoning what overwhelms. This year we may also be called to help others in this time of great need: maybe we decide to volunteer at a food bank or help prepare meals for the homeless. Wherever your head is these days allow yourself to be open to the possibility that everything is as it should be, and at very least, in your own home.

Remember to include laughter, gratitude, acceptance, and reflection into your dining room experience this year and, if you do, it will be easier to appreciate your blessings, together with your loved ones, even in these stressful COVID times.

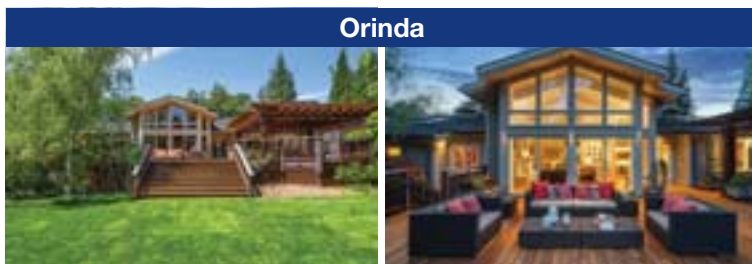
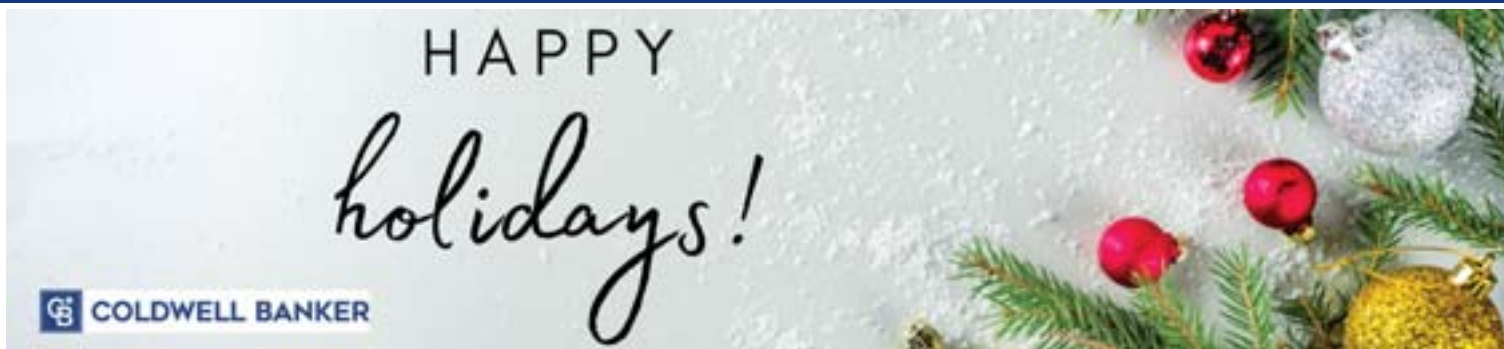
<b>WEALTH &amp; PROSPERITY</b> XUN Wood Southeast Purple	<b>FAME &amp; REPUTATION</b> LI Fire South Red Summer	<b>RELATIONSHIPS</b> KUN Earth Southwest Pink
<b>FAMILY</b> ZHEN Wood East Green Spring	<b>HEALTH</b> TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown	<b>JOY &amp; COMPLETION</b> DUI Metal West White Autumn
<b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; SELF-CULTIVATION</b> GEN Earth Northeast Blue	<b>CAREER &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b> KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	<b>HELPFUL PEOPLE &amp; TRAVEL</b> QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

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

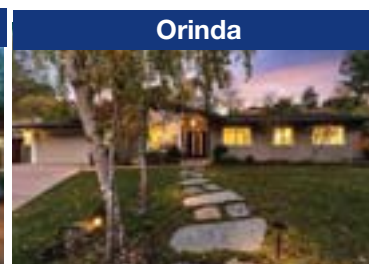


**YOUR CB ORINDA REALTORS:**

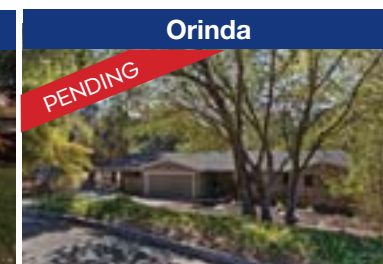
LAURA ABRAMS  
 BEVERLY ARNOLD  
 EMILY BAHN  
 MARAM BATA  
 VLATKA BATHGATE  
 ALBERT BERNARDO  
 NANCY BOOTH  
 ROBERT BROWN  
 ROBERTA CALDERON  
 TONY CONTE  
 KELLY CRAWFORD  
 COLIN ELBASANI  
 JOANNE FISHMAN  
 LANA FITZPATRICK  
 SUZANNE GEOFFRION  
 JEFFREY GILLET  
 SORAYA GOLESORKHI  
 HANK HAGMAN  
 ANDREA HARRIS  
 MARGARET HARTWELL  
 PETER HATTERSLEY  
 YAN HEIM  
 MICHELLE HOLCENBERG  
 WENDY HOLCENBERG  
 DICK HOLT  
 COOKIE JAVINSKY  
 SHELLIE KIRBY  
 SHERYL KORTRIGHT  
 MEREDITH LINAMEN  
 MARY BETH MACLENNAN  
 LARA MARKEL  
 CHRISTINE MASON  
 CHRISTINA MCCORMICK  
 MICHELE MCKAY  
 CHAD MORRISON  
 PEYMAN MOSHREF  
 AUDREY NEALE  
 WALTER NELSON  
 BRUCE NEWMAN  
 DIANE PETEK  
 MARGARET PRICE  
 SUSAN SCHLICHER  
 CATHY SCHULTHEIS  
 JOEL SHEIMAN  
 MELANIE SNOW  
 TOM STACK  
 TED STREETER  
 BO SULLIVAN  
 NORLA TORRES-TURNEY  
 LINDA VAN DRENT  
 THERESA WANG  
 GREG WATKINS  
 VAL COOK- WATKINS  
 JERRY WENDT  
 SCOTT WINBURNE  
 FRANK WOODWARD  
 JUNE YOUNG  
 ANA ZIMMANK



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**Orinda**  
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 Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte  
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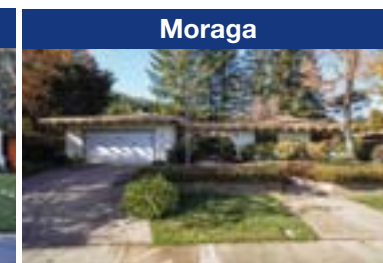
**Lafayette**  
**1201 Cambridge \$3,195,000**  
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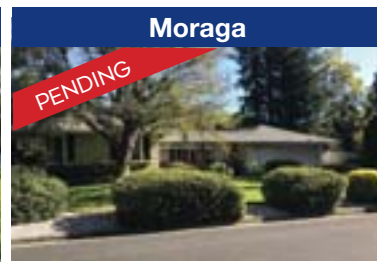
**Lafayette**  
**1076 Serrano Court \$1,485,000**  
 3 Beds/ 2 Baths. Quintessential Lafayette rancher with Farmhouse style charm.  
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382



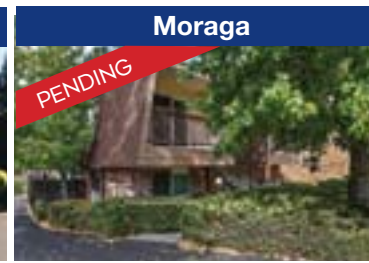
**Moraga**  
**315 Constance Place \$1,780,000**  
 4 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths. Perfect for entertaining with pool, spa, koi pond & more.  
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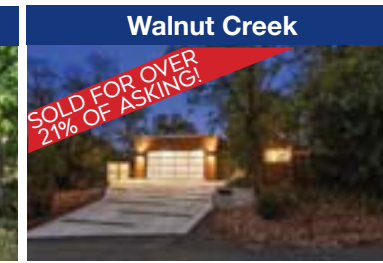
**Moraga**  
**126 Brookfield Drive \$1,549,000**  
 4 Beds/ 2 Baths on a cul-de-sac. Updated single-story contemporary  
 Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405  
 www.126brookfield.com Lic #01373412



**Moraga**  
**212 Sheila Court \$1,399,000**  
 4 Beds/ 2 Baths. Single-story home on cul-de-sac with gorgeous resort-like pool  
 Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405  
 Lic #01373412



**Moraga**  
**142 Ascot Court, #3 \$499,000**  
 2 Beds/ 2 Baths  
 Fabulously updated cozy condo  
 Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte  
 925-324-6246/925-708-1396  
 142ascotct3.com Lic #01480008/00959101



**Walnut Creek**  
**14 Edmund Court \$1,450,000**  
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 No expense spared remodel!  
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Outdoor Kitchen, Fireplace, Putting Green & Yard

**32 Heather Lane, Orinda**

4 bd | 3.5 ba | 4048 sqft | .80 acre | \$1,699,000  
PLUS :2 bd/1ba Apartment for Inlaws or Income!



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58 Oak Dr, Orinda



929 Hough Avenue, Lafayette



870 Corcoran Ct, Benicia



1489 Camino Peral, Moraga



162 Northcreek Circle, Walnut Creek



1801 Castro St, Martinez



*Reflection. Looking back so the year ahead is even clearer.*



### Buyers

11 Wins | 48 Offers in Competition  
9 Cities | 3 Bay Area Counties  
3 States (CB National Referral Network)

**Buyer Sales Volume--\$14.6M**

### Sellers

9 Sales | 18 Total Offers  
7 Cities | 2 Bay Area Counties  
2 States (CB National Referral Network)

**Sellers Sales Volume--\$5.7M**

**Over \$20M in Sales Volume**

### Town Hall Theatre

16 Virtual Fundraising Events  
65 Live Events over 10 Years

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*Happy Holidays To All!*



184 Alice Lane, Orinda



127 Warfield Drive, Moraga



2933 McClure St, #14, Oakland



306 Manor Park Circle, Pacheco



20 Crestmont Drive, Oakland




1493 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek



306 Ashton Way, Pleasant Hill





*Cheers to a happy, healthy,  
and healthy new year.*

**I'm fortunate to have helped these buyers and sellers in 2020. Many of these opportunities were "off market." It's more important than ever to work with an agent that is local - 2021 is already heating up and I can help!**

*Buyers* 257 Overhill Road, Orinda • 100 Estates Drive, Orinda • 20 Ellen Ct, Orinda • 100 Sandhill Road, Orinda • 50 Don Gabriel Way, Orinda • 3613 Shukla Ct, Walnut Creek • 76 Scenic Drive, Orinda • 57 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda • 10 Wild Lilac Way, Orinda

*Sellers* 257 Overhill Road, Orinda • 100 Sandhill Road, Orinda • 106 Brookline Street, Moraga • 101 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda • 12 Kimberly Drive, Moraga • 18 Charles Hill Cir, Orinda • 213 Overhill Road, Orinda • 76 Scenic Drive, Orinda • 14 Silverwood Ct, Orinda • 1091 Pereira Road, Martinez • Rheem Blvd, Orinda

Amy Rose Smith  
Village Associates  
925.212.3897  
amy@amyrosesmith.com  
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## OAKMONT

### Only 1 Elevator Home Left!

Latest release of four new homes in the new Oakmont neighborhood. Steps to Piedmont Avenue

Master planned for optional solar, air conditioning, office, in-law suite and elevator to meet owner's future needs.

Private Showings by Appointment

Starting at \$2,195,000  
TheGoldenStateSeries.com

- Open floor plans with expansive folding doors lead out to the lovely private patio per plan
- 3 Bedrooms
- 3.5 Baths
- Office space (optional)
- Exquisite details in each unique home
- Designer chef's kitchen with commercial range and stainless steel appliances per plan
- Spa-like owner's suite
- Ample closet and storage space
- 2 car dedicated parking space & garage



THE TILDEN | 4517 Howe Street



THE YOUNTVILLE | 4519 Howe Street



THE PRESCOTT | 4523 Howe Street



THE STINSON | 4521 Howe Street



**Andrew Pitarre**  
Real Estate Consultant  
415.342.9950  
APitarre@gmail.com  
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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

### MORAGA ... continued

- 3951 Paseo Grande, \$1,665,000, 5 Bdrms, 2655 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-30-20,  
Previous Sale: \$452,000, 08-01-92  
1842 School Street, \$1,345,000, 4 Bdrms, 1932 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-30-20  
272 Tharp Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1580 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-26-20,  
Previous Sale: \$687,500, 09-16-11

### ORINDA

- 393 Camino Sobrante, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3653 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-26-20,  
Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 07-23-15  
66 Charles Hill Road, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2998 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 10-27-20,  
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 05-17-99  
4 Chelton Court, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-13-20,  
Previous Sale: \$395,000, 09-01-99  
17 Culver Court, \$3,317,500, 2 Bdrms, 4327 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-13-20,  
Previous Sale: \$2,505,000, 03-08-06  
115 Fiesta Circle, \$1,760,000, 4 Bdrms, 2017 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-28-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,579,000, 07-28-15  
35 Honey Hill Road, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2642 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 10-30-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 01-05-10  
253 Ivy Place, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2246 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-30-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 02-05-08  
15 Linda Vista, \$1,347,000, 5 Bdrms, 1948 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-27-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,168,000, 05-01-15  
9 Loma Vista Drive, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2327 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 10-30-20  
25 Longridge Road, \$1,100,000, 2 Bdrms, 1200 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-13-20,  
Previous Sale: \$645,000, 11-07-07  
10 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,887,500, 5 Bdrms, 3304 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 10-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 08-13-98  
232 The Knolls, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2447 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-12-20  
216 The Knolls, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 05-03-18  
19 Vallecito Lane, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1672 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-13-20



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257 Ivy Place, Orinda  
14 Donna Maria Way, Orinda  
9 Via Corte, Orinda  
117 Via Joaquin, Moraga  
14 Candlelight Ln, Lafayette  
1045 Los Arabis Ln, Lafayette  
10 Bud Ct, Pleasant Hill  
1984 Maybelle Dr, Pleasant Hill  
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## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### **Young sprouts!**



Photos Cynthia Brian

**After planting her seeds, the garden must be watered.**

#### **By Cynthia Brian**

*“The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives. I rejoice when I see anyone, and especially children, inquiring about flowers, and wanting gardens of their own, and carefully working in them. For love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies, but always grows and grows to an enduring and ever-increasing source of happiness.” ~ Gertrude Jekyll*

Watching the wide-eyed wonder of children during the holidays is an additional dividend of the magical season of Christmas. The twinkling lights, the tantalizing aromas of cinnamon and nutmeg, the joyful caroling tunes, and most of all, red-nosed Rudolph prancing through the night sky leading his herd of reindeer to the chimneys of good little girls and boys.

December is a great month to spark children’s enthusiasm for gardening. The rewards go far beyond reaping a harvest of fruits, flowers and vegetables. Not only do kids get to dig in the dirt, but it is also a plus if they get dirty.

Since families usually erect a Christmas tree or Hannukah Bush, it is fun to let each child grow their own tree. When my kids were young, we bought one-gallon pines, spruce, and firs to plant a Christmas tree farm. They watered, pruned, protected, and prepared the trees to be cut for our festivities. Although the trees never matched the symmetry of ones purchased from a lot, once they were festooned with all the homemade ornaments, they were uniquely

beautiful. Most of all, the children were proud that they had grown this special tree all by themselves. They also each decorated a small growing Christmas tree for their bedrooms with sparkling lights on a timer that went off at bedtime. After the holidays, the tree went out to the patio, to be tended by them.

Teaching kids to garden instills responsibility, patience, love, creativity, tolerance, hope and imagination. Their minds expand and they learn a deep appreciation for living organisms. By introducing them at a young age to the natural world, we are showing them how to respect and honor the environment. When we scrape vegetable scraps, eggshells, coffee grinds, fish bones, and other biodegradable items into a pail that we add to our outdoor compost bin, we are demonstrating the value of enriching the soil with natural, nontoxic substances. Ask your child to help you shovel woodchips into a wheelbarrow to add to the yard before winter storms arrive to prevent erosion, keep the soil warm, and provide an appealing appearance to your landscape.

Every child needs to learn where their food comes from. Healthy eating habits are learned from the ground up. Add packets of seeds to a Christmas stocking with instructions for a private pot or plot to be planted in the spring. Stuff in a small field guide about growing vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Encourage dreaming of what crops to plant in the spring. You’ll be amazed at what kids will eat when they put in the effort of growing it. Brussels sprouts? Check! Broccoli? Check! Spinach? Check!

... continued on Page D15



**The pretty border plant, alyssum in purple or white is a perfect starter plant for kids.**

Melanie  
Snow

# #1 Lamorinda Coldwell Banker Agent YTD 2020



## HAPPY BUYERS

241 Orchard Rd, Orinda  
131 Canon Drive, Orinda  
2 Irving Lane, Orinda  
894 Richard Lane, Danville  
328 Glorietta Blvd, Orinda  
4145 Hidden Valley Rd, Lafayette  
3780 Via Granada, Moraga  
972 Carol Lane, Lafayette  
506 McBride Drive, Lafayette  
440 Deerfield Drive, Moraga  
29 Lost Valley Drive, Orinda  
915 Mathew Court, Walnut Creek

## ON THE MARKET:

1201 Cambridge, Lafayette  
20 Hacienda Circle, Orinda

## HAPPY SELLERS

16 Del Mar Court, Orinda  
3221 Lucas Circle, Lafayette  
14 Candlelight Lane, Lafayette  
12 Snow Court, Orinda  
3193 Lucas Circle, Lafayette  
3221 Lucas Circle, Lafayette  
8 Nobi Lane, Orinda  
568 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette  
4 Haven Court, Moraga  
119 Hawthorne Court, Pleasant Hill  
866 Revere Rd, Lafayette  
3175 Surmont, Lafayette  
1509 Rockledge Lane, Walnut Creek



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925.360.0344 cell  
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## Cynthia Brian's Goddess Gardener Tips for Gardening with Kids

**GIVE** each child a pot or a plot of land to grow whatever they desire. When you give them the responsibility, they will rise to the task.

**BUY** size-appropriate tools. A hand trowel, rake, shovel, wheelbarrow, and bucket expressly for gardening chores gives a child a sense of accomplishment. Don't forget the garden gloves!

**SUPPLY** seeds that are easy to grow. Include vegetables such as carrots, radishes, beets and lettuces, and some pretty flowers like sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds and calendulas.

**MAKE** it fun by showing them how to use chopsticks to plant seeds.

**BUY** small two-to-four-inch containers of herbs for a windowsill garden. Dill, mint, sage, parsley, and oregano are simple to grow and can be snipped for pizza, spaghetti, and soups that put smiles on their faces.

**GROW** thornless succulents including ice plant, aloe vera, echeveria, and jade that require very little water or care.

**PLANT** theme gardens with your kids. Everyone loves butterflies and a Butterfly Garden will encourage kids to watch the evolution of nature from creeping caterpillar to graceful flyer. Include alyssum, butterfly bush, coreopsis, asters, salvias, Lamium, milkweed, penstemons, lavender, and snapdragons. Other ideas include a Pizza Garden with everything except the pepperoni and cheese, a sensory garden of plants with texture, taste, smell, sound and beauty. Or how about a 24-Hour Garden where each of the plants blooms at a different time? Use morning glories for the a.m., four o'clocks for the afternoon, evening primrose for early evening, and moonflowers for the night. If you have the room, one of my favorites is a Pie Orchard with peaches, apricots, cherries, pears, and a berry patch. Or two gardens my own kids loved were the Christmas Tree Farm which they planted leftover small pots of live trees, spruce, pine and fir, and the Halloween Cemetery of various types, colors, sizes, and textures of gourds and pumpkins.

**SHARE** plant and seed catalogs with your little sprouts. Let them select photos they find enticing and read to them the descriptions. Follow up with a socially-distanced, masked-wearing field trip to a nursery or garden center to investigate the various specimens.

**ALLOW** kids to experiment and design their own spaces. Rows don't have to be in straight lines. Eliminate adult ideas of perfection and instead shoot for enthusiasm and curiosity.

**GIFT** a magnifying lens to your child so they can get up close and personal with leaves, flowers, stamens and bugs.

**MARVEL** at the soil workers. Examine the worms and insects.

**WALK** around your fall landscape to choose colorful leaves for festive displays and to press into Christmas cards.

**HELP** them decorate for the holidays with natural berries and branches. Pyracantha, cotoneaster, and holly are filled with red berries. Wear gloves and offer help with the prickly holly and pyracantha.

**BE CREATIVE** by making garden art from steppingstones to scarecrows! My daughter painted a funny face on a broken rake that still guards our vegetable garden.

**DOWNLOAD FREE** coloring books to let kids color their world. There are seven different ones, all with botanical art that is simple and appropriate for little sprouts. <https://bit.ly/39CnSDv>

Happy gardening. Happy growing. Happy December.



This gorgeous fall landscape at John Windle's home offers a kaleidoscope of opportunities for art projects and festive compositions.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Although prickly, pyracantha berries are great as holiday décor.

... continued from Page D12

Children are naturally curious and by keeping your nature talks short and fascinating, you'll develop a gardener for life. Gardening is fun and it's an excellent way to keep our bodies and spirits in optimum shape. While you are sowing the seeds of growing in the minds of young sprouts, you'll also be planting resilience and acceptance. Failure is fertilizer. When something doesn't grow, we throw it on the compost pile to grow a new garden next season. As a metaphor for life, our children are all going to flounder and fail. The teachable moment from Mother Earth is that there are no mistakes if we learn the lesson and fertilize for the future.

Whether you are a big or tiny sprout, my gift is to pass on my love and knowledge of gardening with you. Dig it with your kids!

Wishing you a jolly December of magic and marvel!



A small potted spruce tree can be decorated by children now and nurtured for the next season.



Cynthia Brian's little sprout gardening partner uses chopsticks to plant her seeds.



Cynthia Brian and her garden helper young sprout, Kaylee.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

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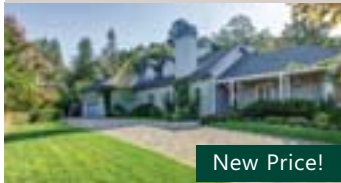


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