



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

## Feng Shui

### Year of the Female Iron Metal Ox



**By Michele Duffy**

So many of us here in the Bay area are thankful that 2020 is over! If you honored the New Year's transition with a positive intention-setting full moon practice, ringing bells, opening of all the house windows and doors for nine minutes, or creating special dishes only

served at the holidays, then you have welcomed the new year meaningfully.

If you honored your “self” in allowing a release of 2020 or what no longer serves you today, then you are on the right track to receive numerous 2021 blessings. If you didn’t engage in a meaningful ceremony of your own making, or mark the passing in some other way be patient with yourself and don’t despair ... you have another chance! The new Lunar year of the Yin (Female) Iron Metal Oxen is almost upon us and begins Feb. 12 this year and will usher in an era of honesty, greater stability and matters being creatively handled in a steady way, patience, persistence and hard work that bears fruit for us personally, but also for all the community.

Take action now!

If you still want to or need to space clear, cleanse, and release your home from the 2020 sadness, community ill-health, grief, stress, and feelings of helplessness, or isolation or the inability to travel or see loved ones, there’s no better remedy than intentional Feng Shui.

One strong and effective space clearing method includes placing nine drops of Neroli or tangerine essential oil per cup of water in a new spray bottle. Begin at the front entrance door of your home and mindfully walk counter-clockwise around your space and just follow the natural flow of Qi, so down or up stairs, into bathrooms and larger closets until you end up back at the front entrance door. As you move throughout the space spray the citrus water and visualize a detailed release of what you want to let go from 2020, and if you can include the Bagua map it’s an even stronger method.

At the same time you release stale energy, welcome a vivid visualization of 2021 protection, abundance, and possibilities for each Bagua area. Don’t get hung up on the ritual steps ... simply infuse your space with uplifting, boundless, joyful and loving Qi.

So dear reader, what will the New Year of the Yin (female) Iron Metal Oxen hold for each one of us and for society at large? Are you ready for the lunar New Year of the Ox?

In 2021 the Iron or Metal element rules the year of the Female OX. This year will encourage us to be as tough as nails (Metal) through one of the most hard-working years experienced so far. Since 2021 is a female or yin year, it will be less caustic, stressful and exhausting than 2020 despite the hard work that will be required of us all.

... continued on Page D4

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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	23	\$625,000	\$4,750,000
MORAGA	15	\$529,000	\$2,000,000
ORINDA	19	\$1,215,000	\$2,800,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

- 3199 Andreasen Drive, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 1475 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 12-07-20,  
Previous Sale: \$797,000, 06-05-10
- 3079 Camino Diablo, \$719,000, 2 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 12-09-20,  
Previous Sale: \$745,000, 03-11-20
- 3930 Canyon Road, \$1,750,000, 2 Bdrms, 2363 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 12-11-20
- 1 Dead Horse Canyon Road, \$2,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 3255 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 12-10-20
- 3 Dead Horse Canyon Road, \$2,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 4030 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 12-23-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,995,000, 08-17-16
- 1231 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-21-20,  
Previous Sale: \$118,000, 09-01-79
- 1136 Glen Road, \$3,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3389 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 12-11-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 02-13-17
- 3256 Greenhills Drive, \$2,025,000, 5 Bdrms, 3828 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 12-18-20,  
Previous Sale: \$145,000, 11-01-85
- 3724 Happy Valley Road, \$4,750,000, 6 Bdrms, 4995 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 12-21-20,  
Previous Sale: \$3,655,000, 09-09-09
- 4087 Happy Valley Road, \$3,520,000, 5 Bdrms, 3879 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 12-15-20,  
Previous Sale: \$3,150,000, 09-11-15
- 860 Hidden Pond Court, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3188 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 12-08-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,070,000, 12-07-12
- 4150 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2299 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 12-07-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 08-24-12
- 3245 Marlene Drive, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 12-24-20
- 3306 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,052,000, 4 Bdrms, 1568 SqFt, 1850 YrBlt, 12-14-20
- 32 Olympic Oaks Drive, \$1,790,000, 3 Bdrms, 2329 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 12-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 06-23-98
- 1121 Palomares Court, \$1,696,000, 4 Bdrms, 1963 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 12-24-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 01-04-18
- 3357 South Lucille Lane, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 12-09-20,  
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 06-25-13
- 858 Reliez Station Road, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-11-20,  
Previous Sale: \$313,500, 06-01-90
- 866 Revere Road, \$1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 12-09-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,242,500, 05-14-20
- 618 Stage Coach Court, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3946 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 12-07-20,  
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 09-01-91
- 3161 Stanley Boulevard, \$1,212,500, 3 Bdrms, 1239 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-07-20,  
Previous Sale: \$651,000, 11-10-10
- 3177 Teigland Road, \$1,599,000, 3 Bdrms, 2620 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 12-11-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 07-02-20
- 1215 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$3,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2738 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-11-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,940,000, 01-14-09

... continued on Page D6





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## *Feng Shui*

# Year of the Female Iron Metal Ox



... continued from Page D1

The year 2021 will redefine determination and devotion in achieving challenging objectives before us. The energetic signature of 2021 Ox will be all about humbly, diligently, attending to our responsibilities with restored integrity, and will require a lot of staying power and strength and there will need to be a “nothing spared” attitude for delivery on promises and commitments. We will all feel a breath of fresh air that lifts us into unceasing energy and relentless drive to accomplish 2021 goals, which overall will be of a more conservative nature that highlights caution versus recklessness.

In 2021 we may be asked to be more bold, flexible, and less rigid when it comes to being team players, and this includes welcoming and listening to different perspectives. While last year set some of the changing societal agenda items, 2021 will include thoughtful conversations on Black Lives Matter, climate change, education, income inequality, and protecting the human rights of all peoples, including indigenous cultures. The new year will encourage us to set our minds toward a positive course, borrowing Oxen’s obstinacy so distraction or discouragement are kept to a minimum.

... continued on Page D10



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**Orinda**



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 www.holcenberg.com Lic#01373412

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... continued from Page D2

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1047 Alta Mesa Drive, \$925,000, 2 Bdrms, 1700 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 12-15-20, Previous Sale: \$655,000, 08-18-06  
838 Augusta Drive, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-23-20, Previous Sale: \$540,000, 03-06-03  
371 Calle La Montana, \$1,272,500, 3 Bdrms, 1920 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 12-09-20  
1862 Camino Pablo, \$1,505,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 12-11-20, Previous Sale: \$1,126,000, 07-22-20  
1396 Camino Peral, \$835,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 12-16-20, Previous Sale: \$685,000, 08-02-16  
432 Deerfield Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2236 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 12-22-20, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 05-02-11  
2121 Donald Drive #6, \$529,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 12-15-20, Previous Sale: \$435,000, 07-25-16  
132 Greenbriar, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 2470 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 12-21-20, Previous Sale: \$722,000, 02-25-11  
1832 Joseph Drive, \$1,735,000, 5 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 12-09-20, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 07-02-07  
15 Kings Crown Court, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2698 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 12-18-20, Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 08-09-13  
87 Miramonte Drive, \$810,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 12-23-20, Previous Sale: \$685,000, 11-14-16  
122 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 12-23-20  
1913 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1880 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,059,000, 12-21-07  
212 Sheila Court, \$1,399,000, 4 Bdrms, 2050 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 12-22-20, Previous Sale: \$281,000, 09-01-87  
10 Woodford Drive, \$1,560,000, 3 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 12-21-20, Previous Sale: \$665,000, 08-08-12

### ORINDA

19 Camino Del Diablo, \$1,695,000, 4 Bdrms, 2676 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 12-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,702,500, 09-12-19  
158 Camino Sobrante, \$2,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3583 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 12-14-20, Previous Sale: \$702,000, 11-04-98  
10 Chelton Court, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1874 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-16-20  
212 Crescent Drive, \$1,551,500, 2 Bdrms, 1976 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 12-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,330,000, 06-26-15  
220 Crestview Drive, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 5966 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-11-20  
72 El Gavilan Road, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2213 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 12-16-20  
153 El Toyonal, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3178 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 12-18-20, Previous Sale: \$242,000, 12-01-87  
172 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,440,000, 3 Bdrms, 2232 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 12-11-20  
360 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2291 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-18-20, Previous Sale: \$870,000, 10-20-08  
41 Hillcrest Drive, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2504 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 12-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 11-11-16  
45 Ivy Drive, \$1,860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 12-11-20, Previous Sale: \$970,000, 07-19-20  
215 Ivy Drive, \$1,215,000, 3 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 12-18-20, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 05-06-16  
26 Las Palomas, \$1,229,000, 4 Bdrms, 1785 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 12-11-20  
14 Lavina Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2470 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 12-15-20, Previous Sale: \$875,000, 12-13-13  
153 Lombardy Lane, \$2,320,000, 5 Bdrms, 3601 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-17-20, Previous Sale: \$2,298,000, 07-12-06  
49 Oak Drive, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2771 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 12-07-20  
4 Soule Road, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 1933 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-18-20, Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 01-15-08  
51 Tomcat Way, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 4194 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 12-15-20  
79 Yarrow Valley Lane, \$2,090,000, 5 Bdrms, 4223 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 12-14-20, Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 08-09-07





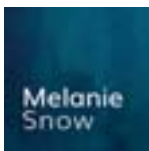
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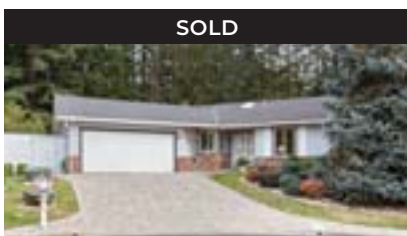
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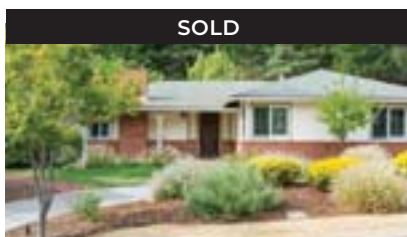
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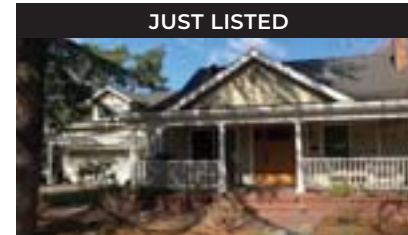
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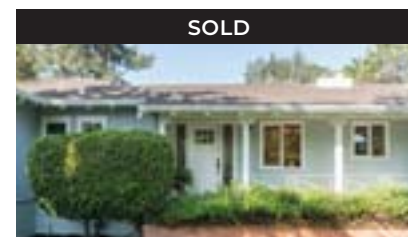
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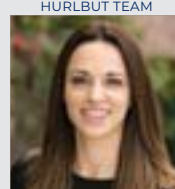
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## Feng Shui

# Year of the Female Iron Metal Ox

... continued from Page D4

Generally, our expectations will be reliant on a sense of life being more dependable and calm than it was 2020. Our 2021 ambitions are realized when we balance our focus on hard work with important family time, which functions as the antidote to work stress. This 2021 connection is a reflection of Oxens consistent and strong ties to nurturing family, traditions, faith, and the strength that hard work demands. In 2021 avoid being self-opinionated, stubborn,

unapproachable, miserly, persistent in old ways or narrow minded.

Since Oxen can be reticent communicators in 2021 we will be required to try hard to become consistently clear communicators, which includes speaking and listening to others, especially to different points of view from our own. Happy New Year of the OX and if you're curious about your personal relationship with 2021 Oxen, please reach out to me at [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com) or see [mandalafengshui.com](http://mandalafengshui.com) for more details.

<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; SELFCULTIVATION</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](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).







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## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### **Prune, plan, and peruse**



Nemesia and ferns are excellent bedmates.

#### **By Cynthia Brian**

*“A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.” ~ George Moore*

Like most of us who have been sheltering at home for the past 11 months, traveling to foreign lands has not been part of my normal activities. At first, I was immensely disappointed to cancel my 2020 exotic trips, especially the one that would have reunited me with my European pen pal with whom I've been corresponding regularly since I was 9 years old. That's a long time to have maintained a close relationship across thousands of miles.

But, like so many, this past year has found me digging even deeper into communion with nature. I have been inspired by its majesty and motivated to respect our alliance with a stronger devotion by spending many hours outdoors in contemplation as well as work-mode.

A week ago, the hills were still golden brown but with the recent heavy rains, a lushness and verdancy have finally appeared. February nights bring increased frost and freezing temperatures. We must cover our tender plants with burlap or cloth as protection.

The most necessary garden chore this month is pruning our fruit trees. It is essential to prune your peaches, pears, prunes, plums, apples and apricots while the trees are dormant in winter. Sweet cherries are pruned in summer as they are susceptible to fungal and



An old Asian pear tree is pruned in winter.

bacterial diseases. All other fruiting trees need to be pruned to allow for increased sunlight to penetrate the branches which will in turn yield higher quality fruit. Pruning helps battle diseases while developing a better form for a healthier tree.

The tools you'll need are a lopper, hand pruner, pruning saw, and long-handled pruning shear. You may need a ladder if your tree is especially tall but be very careful when using any ladder. Make sure to have a second person with you to hold the ladder since the ground may not be level. Sterilize your tools with alcohol or bleach mixed with water to avoid spreading any disease from plant to plant.

By removing unnecessary limbs, you will be able to shape the tree while providing better access for any necessary spraying. The increased sunlight promotes a larger size of fruit with a uniform ripening time. Insect infestation and other diseases are reduced through pruning because after a rain shower, the limbs will dry more quickly. Pruning appropriately will provide a more beautiful canopy without topping the tree. The sugar content of the crop is increased with the airflow and sun. Harvesting is easier. Pick up a book on pruning to read about the best methods for your various trees or watch online tutorials. If you feel out of your league, hire a professional arborist. Always gather the trimmings from the ground. When dry, use as kindling, shred for mulch, or add to your green bin.

... continued on Page D13



## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### **Prune, plan, and peruse**



**Roses for Valentine**

... continued from Page D12

Although this month is not the time to plant annuals and perennials, it is the perfect time to plant any bare-root specimens including roses, berries and fruit trees. Check out the selection at your favorite nursery or garden center. Follow the directions on the packaging for soaking the roots, light pruning, digging the holes, and filling. By late spring most bare-rooted plants are established and flourishing.

Besides pruning and planting bare-root, February is a terrific



time to plan for all-season enjoyment and splendor. Recently a delivery was made by someone who hadn't been to my garden since the summer before the pandemic. His first comment to me was: "Your landscape is so beautiful and colorful ... it's like falling into a chapter of 'Alice in Wonderland.'" I expressed my thanks for his sweet compliment, although in my mind I was thinking "winter is the ugliest time of the year in my garden."

I decided to look at my yard through a different lens ... fresh eyes, as if returning from a vacation. Sometimes when we rarely leave our cocoon, we fail to recognize the evolution of the cycles of attraction.

... continued on Page D14



## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian* **Prune, plan, and peruse**



**A sprig of purple sage.**

... continued from Page D12

As I walked around my property, I saw what he saw – a hillside covered in sweet-smelling narcissi, rows of pink Bergenia, waves of purple sage, shimmers of calendulas, bushes of azaleas, rhododendrons, and roses, trees of camellias, groves of ferns, mounds of nemesia, orchards of citrus, crocus, calla lilies, and daffodils popping, and the soaring orange plumes of birds of paradise all in full glorious bloom. Even in the middle of winter, my garden is teeming with interest and vibrancy.

Take a walk around your garden and make notes of where you need more wit and whimsy. Know where the sun rises, moves, and sets throughout your landscape. Do you need to add or extend irrigation? Do you have a favorite color palette, or do you prefer a cacophony of color authentically unique to you?

Once you understand your wants and needs, pour a cup of tea, cover yourself with a cozy throw, and peruse a multitude of garden catalogs that showcase bulbs, annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, grasses, fruits, vegetables and herbs. Research what plants will be best suited to your terrain and

micro-climate. Make a wish list noting the months to order, when to plant, and when to expect the show. By creating a calendar of flowering events, your garden will boast attractive appeal all year long. For a dramatic night environment, make sure to add outdoor lighting and lanterns to highlight trees, paths, fences, and walls.

**Here are a few catalog favorites that you can order:**

White Flower Farm:

[www.WhiteFlowerFarm.com](http://www.WhiteFlowerFarm.com)

John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds:

[www.KitchenGardenSeeds.com](http://www.KitchenGardenSeeds.com)

Plant Delight Nursery, Inc.:

[www.PlantDelights.com](http://www.PlantDelights.com)

Bluestone Perennials:

[www.BluestonePerennials.com](http://www.BluestonePerennials.com)

The Whole Seed Catalog:

[www.Rareseeds.com](http://www.Rareseeds.com)

Renee's Garden Seeds:

[www.Reneesgarden.com](http://www.Reneesgarden.com)

Proven Winners Shrubs:

[www.ProvenWinners-shrubs.com](http://www.ProvenWinners-shrubs.com)

David Austin Roses:

[www.DavidAustinRoses.com](http://www.DavidAustinRoses.com)

Your general state of happiness is connected to how much you enjoy your home. With these garden catalog treasures,

you can travel the globe without leaving the safety of your house. Prune, plan, peruse, and dream on.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing!  
Happy Valentine's Day!



**Calendulas add sparkle to the winter, spring, and summer garden.**



**A layer of frost on a retaining wall.**



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**Cynthia Brian with the February color of purple.**

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.

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## ORINDA

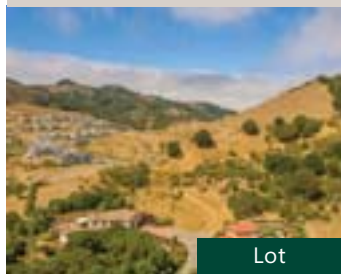


### 42 Oak Road

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