

What's in a name?



Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

What's in a name? The phrase comes from Shakespeare's play, "Romeo and Juliet" – "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." A name is an arbitrary label, but when it comes to Campolindo, Acalanes and Miramonte high schools, almost no one to this day is aware of how they received their names. At the founding of each campus there was enough disagreement on settling for a name which apparently, for some, did not "smell as sweet."

Moraga's Campolindo High School opened its doors in 1962. Campolindo was not named after a person. To break down the name into two words, the Spanish translation of "campo" means "countryside or field," while the translation of "lindo" means "pretty". According to historian Margaret Mahler, Campolindo's first principal, Alex Winchester, wanted to call the school Los Cerros (meaning "little hills"), because of the rolling hills and

valley. The campus stands on what was once a lake – Laguna de los Colorados – part of a Spanish land grant.

At the time of Campo's naming a few disgruntled citizens wrote to the local newspapers of the day complaining about the improper use of Spanish. "They're murdering the Spanish, again," claimed Spanish teacher Helen Ford, who was already upset by the incorrect usage of names given to the local streets.

Ford went so far as to contact the Acalanes Union High School District with her complaint. "May I point out that this name cannot be used, because it is incorrect Spanish. It can be 'Campo' 'Lindo', two words. If we are to use foreign names, I believe that the words used should be correct and correctly pronounced."

Another citizen reasoned that since the school was located in the middle of what used to be a lake bed, it should be named "Laguna." Insisting that the first year of students should have the honor of naming their school, the assumption was that they would rather cheer "Laguna, La-

guna" as opposed to "Campolindo, Campolindo, rah, rah, rah!"

Winchester, besides wanting to call the school Los Cerros, lobbied for black and gold as the official colors. The students overruled him and Campolindo's school colors remain blue and red with the Cougar as the mascot.

Lafayette's Acalanes High School opened in 1940. The name was derived from The "Ahala-n" a Costanoan native village (part of the greater Ohlone tribe) in the area. The Spanish had called the village "Akalan."

The principal-elect at the time, Stanley Warburton, received a letter from A.L. Kroeber, PhD, a professor of anthropology at UC Berkeley, stating, "Use of the name Acalanes by the high school cheering section is within the realm of plausibility, but cheering for Laguna de los Palos Colorados would appear to offer some difficulty in enunciation."

The campus was built on land that was once a field of tomatoes and weeds. School officials wanted the mascot to be an American Eagle, which

was a revered bird to the Costanoans, but the student body intervened and selected the Don (a Spanish honorary title) along with school colors of royal blue and white.

Orinda's Miramonte High School greeted its first students in 1955. Much like Campolindo, it was not named after an individual. After this reporter's extensive research and inquiries to locals and various organizations, no documentation was uncovered as to the naming of the campus. Once again, in breaking down the name into two Spanish words, "mira" means "sight" and "monte" means "hill or mountain."

A paper dated July 1954 stated, "The school was named Miramonte, much to the disgust of a Mr. Maccarro who suggested the name be changed to Orinda High School."

Mahler's notes quoted an observer as saying, "At Miramonte in 1955, one looked over his surroundings and saw no houses at all – it was a beautiful setting. Each morning the fog gradually burned away, just as it does now, exposing the green, rolling hills

of Moraga."

The school's current principal Julie Parks said, "I can't speak to the direct impetus for the name change, but I think we can all agree that the name Miramonte is appropriate! We are indeed surrounded by mountain views!"

Built on a site that was once black walnut fields, the Student Commission chose the school's colors of green and white. The student body chose the Matador as the mascot, although there was a tongue-in-cheek suggestion for a change. The football team's first field was a bulldozed meadow. There was a horrendous infestation of gophers digging up the dirt. Luckily the problem was eradicated or the sign on Moraga Way might now read: Miramonte High School, Home of the Gophers.

Special thanks to: Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry (Moragahistory.org), Orinda Historical Society President Alison Burns (Orindahistory.org) and Michael Beller General Community Library Manager (Orinda).

Seven simple ways to go greener at home (and save green too!)



Photos Jenn Freedman

By Jenn Freedman

With Earth Day just around the corner on April 22, it's a natural time to reflect on how our choices impact the environment, and an apropos time to consider some effective ways to go greener at home. One of the biggest first steps to take is to compost and recycle more, and use the trash bin less.

Compost more, toss less. We are fortunate here in the Bay Area to have green compost bins available for food scraps, soiled paper, and yard waste. If you don't have one already, contact Republic Services to add a green bin to your plan for no additional cost for single family homes. For condos or apartments, contact your property manager or your homeowners or condo association to coordinate with Republic Services to add compost, and provide food scrap

pails and training for a nominal fee (about \$7 per quarter in Moraga).

Plus, extra large 96-gallon recycle and compost bins are also available upon request for no additional fee in Lamorinda. More good news: you can save almost 50% off your bill by switching to a half-size (32 gallon) trash bin from the standard 64 gallon bin (note: a 32-gallon bin still fits 2-3 kitchen bags).

The most misplaced items? "Styrofoam and wood," according to John Taylor, recycling coordinator at Republic Services. Even if marked as recyclable, styrofoam should be placed in the trash bin. And while branches and other yard waste go in the compost bin, wood from furniture, fences, and other treated wood can not be composted and should go in the trash. For additional information about recycling and compost, visit

www.recyclesmart.org.

Shop local

Lamorinda is fortunate to have two farmers' markets: one in Orinda from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays in front of the Orinda Community Park, and another in Moraga from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays at the Moraga Shopping Center. When we buy local, we reduce our food's carbon footprint significantly through minimizing transportation and packaging.

Join Buy Nothing or other "gift economy." Buy Nothing (buynothingproject.org) is an international project with a mission to offer people a way to give and receive, share, lend, and express gratitude through a worldwide network of hyper-local gift economies. Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette all have a Buy Nothing Chapter through Facebook.

Speaking from experience, Buy Nothing is awesome. I have been able to gift items that may have otherwise gone in the trash, such as used toys, food, clothing, dishes, art supplies, an old sewing machine, and more. Plus, the few times I have asked for specific items to avoid purchasing new (like plastic storage containers), I have received. Finally, I have snagged a few surprise treasures along the way as well, like my rice cooker.

Consider an Imperfect Box subscription. According to the National Resources Defense Council, 40% of food goes uneaten in America. A key reason is that farmers are unable to harvest and sell up to a third of their produce because it doesn't look "perfect." Although misshapen or blemished, the food is still perfectly delicious and nutritious. San



Extra large recycle bin, standard compost bin, small trash bin

Francisco-based Imperfect Foods combats food waste and enables fresh food accessibility across America. In addition to salvaging produce, the company offers shelf-stable groceries, dairy, meat, and alternatives.

To learn more about subscriptions, visit www.imperfectfoods.com. My family has received a biweekly Imperfect box for four years to supplement our farmers' market and grocery hauls; we are quite satisfied with both the quality and customer service.

Use cloth towels and napkins. In addition to drying dishes, consider using cloth instead of paper to clean up the kids and the surfaces.

Capture cold water while waiting for the hot. Waiting for the hot water is such a doozie – especially in drought-prone California. A plumbing fix may or may not be a solution for you. However, it's easy to use most of that captured cold water: water plants (especially from bathroom faucets), fill the tea kettle, cof-

fee maker or pots, or rinse dishes pre-dishwasher.

Eat more plants, less meat and dairy. One final way to focus on the planet is reduce meat and dairy consumption. Animal agriculture uses up precious resources like water and land. For example, one gallon of milk requires 880 gallons of water (for raising and grazing cattle, and bottling and processing) and it takes 660 gallons of water to produce a 1/3-pound beef burger, according to data by National Geographic. Beans require about one tenth of that. For comparison, a shower utilizes about 17 gallons (so consuming one burger uses as much water as 39 showers).

Consider starting with at least a small step, like switching to one plant-based meal per week.

Jenn Freedman is the founder of www.plantpowereddivin.com, a food and lifestyle blog for conscious foodies, vegan dabblers, et al.

Moraga Art Gallery revives popular tradition

Submitted by George Ehrenhaft

Early in 2020 COVID-19 put an end to the popular receptions held in conjunction with the opening of each new show at the Moraga Art Gallery. To express their gratitude for community support since then, the

gallery's members cordially invite the public to a special reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24 in the plaza in front of the gallery at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center.

While some artwork will be displayed in the plaza, guests in limited numbers will

have access to the gallery itself (masks required) to view the current show, "An Elegant Balance," featuring the work of two member artists: K. de Groot, who specializes in striking, Asia-accented necklaces, bracelets and other jewelry, and George Ehrenhaft, a watercolorist focused on Cali-

fornia's matchless scenic beauty. In addition, the gallery has on display roughly 350 original artworks, large and small, by members and guest artists. Of particular note is the gallery's recently-opened "Art Boutique," containing an array of unique, locally-made gifts in wood,

glass, ceramics, and other materials.

The gallery is now open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., and also by appointment. For more information, call (925) 376-5407, or visit <http://moragaartgallery.com> or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.