

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 12, 2021



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D16

Lafayette Juniors tour focuses on life in your own backyard



Photos Sora O'Doherty

This Happy Valley home boasts spectacular views that can be enjoyed from the pool or hot tub, the sauna, or the heated loggia.

By Sora O'Doherty

Sparkling pools, outdoor kitchens, vegetable gardens and chicken coops were some of the elements shared by the homes on the Outdoor Living Tour hosted by the Lafayette Juniors on Saturday, May 1. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year the Juniors had to cancel their usual spring kitchen tour,

and this year, for the sake of safety, the tour was limited in size and only to outdoors. Six homes in different areas of Lafayette and Saranap were featured on the tour.

The sold-out tour will benefit Youth Alive, a nonprofit that works with violently wounded people, helping them heal themselves and their community, and also Loaves and Fishes, whose mission is to provide

community-based food programs.

The Outdoor Living Tour was designed to be a socially distant, self-guided tour showcasing unique and masterfully designed outdoor spaces at six beautiful Lafayette homes. Each ticket holder was also furnished with a Gourmet Nosh Box provided by local kitchen My Sustainable Table.

... continued on Page D4



Mostly single-level living, the home showcases almost 2,600 sq. ft. of living space, a brilliantly light-filled and open floor plan with four bedrooms, three baths, hardwood floors, high ceilings, recessed lighting, oversized windows, and smooth textured walls. The classic farmhouse design graces the quarter-acre, ultra-private, and gated property in the popular Saranap neighborhood. 630 Center Street, Walnut Creek Offered at \$1,895,000



Fresh contemporary features include a new chef's kitchen, a sumptuous master retreat, a fabulous new front garden entry, and a resort-style backyard with new pool and spa. The estate property celebrates natural light and inspiring indoor/outdoor living in Orinda's coveted Country Club neighborhood. Coming Soon | 513 Miner Road | \$4,598,000



Glenn Beaubelle & Kellie Beaubelle
925.200.5011
For more information:
TheBeaubelleGroup.com
Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com
CABRE# 00678426, 01165322

Lamorinda home sales recorded

| City | Last reported | Lowest amount | Highest amount |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 22 | \$885,000 | \$3,300,000 |
| MORAGA | 19 | \$605,000 | \$3,900,000 |
| ORINDA | 14 | \$1,200,000 | \$3,515,000 |

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

- 3218 Apache Court, \$3,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3602 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 03-31-21
1045 Buchan Drive, \$1,580,000, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 04-02-21
3938 Canyon Road, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3505 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 04-01-21
750 Grondine Drive, \$1,590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1912 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 03-29-21
917 Hough Avenue #2, \$885,000, 2 Bdrms, 1038 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 03-18-21,
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 01-23-14
15 Julie Highlands Court, \$2,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 3539 SqFt, 1998 YrBl, 03-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 05-09-18
1005 Katherine Lane, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 1371 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-22-17
136 Kendall Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 03-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 12-18-12
1244 Laurel Lane, \$1,785,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 03-18-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 05-28-13
120 Marsha Place, \$1,886,000, 3 Bdrms, 2426 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 03-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 10-01-87
1225 Monticello Road, \$2,495,000, 5 Bdrms, 3987 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 03-17-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,865,000, 09-23-14
943 Mountain View Drive, \$1,400,000, 2 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 03-31-21,
Previous Sale: \$367,000, 10-22-99
3140 Old Tunnel Road, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1510 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,298,000, 06-17-19
3607 Powell Drive, \$2,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 03-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 03-19-15
1009 Regio Court, \$1,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3045 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 04-01-21
1731 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,820,000, 4 Bdrms, 2522 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 03-31-21,
Previous Sale: \$986,000, 04-27-10
3197 Somerset Drive, \$2,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2850 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 03-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 10-26-01
8 Vista Viax, \$1,655,000, 2 Bdrms, 1176 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 03-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$90,000, 10-01-77
2 West Creek Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1488 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 03-18-21,
Previous Sale: \$741,000, 05-04-16
2920 Windtree Court, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2750 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 03-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 11-20-98
1003 Woodbury Road #108, \$942,500, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBl, 03-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 12-02-16
1003 Woodbury Road #304, \$1,395,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 2015 YrBl, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 09-02-16

... continued on Page D13

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JUST LISTED!

115BATES.COM
115 Bates Court, Orinda



OFFERED AT \$2,795,000



PENDING!

1090MARGUERITE.COM
1090 Marguerite Court, Lafayette



OFFERED AT \$3,995,000



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TOP 1% OF REALTORS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

COMPASS

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ARRIVING SUMMER 2021



VANGUARD PROPERTIES

IN LAMORINDA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Regional Director Ron Mintz

925.872.0968

ron@vanguardproperties.com

DRE# 01095341

VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM

DRE#01486075



Lafayette Juniors tour focuses on life in your own backyard



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Many of the existing features of this Saranap home needed sprucing up, including this rustic chicken coop.

... continued from Page D1

The tour included two homes in Burton Valley, on Crofton Court and North Lucille Lane, two in Reliez Valley on Ranch View Drive and Silver Dell Road, one in Happy Valley on Rahara Drive and one in Saranap on Freeman Road.

Enjoying the tour were Bob Epstein, his daughter Stacey Epstein and granddaughter Aliyah Henik, age 8. Mr. Epstein flies in from Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Juniors' tour each year. He first attended the Lafayette Junior's Kitchen Tour with his daughter about eight years ago. They enjoyed it so much, they decided to make it an annual event, although last year the tour was canceled owing to the pandemic.

... continued on Page D14



Melanie
Snow



EXQUISITE CRAFTSMANSHIP

83 TIGER TAIL CT, ORINDA | 4,500 SF | 5 BR | 4 BA
1 ACRE OF PRIVACY AND VIEWS \$3,595,000



Timeless Mark Becker design with a modern vibe. Dramatic western views. Open floor plan, flat backyard, room to roam. Stunning tall ceilings, beautiful hardwood floors, with luxury finishes throughout.



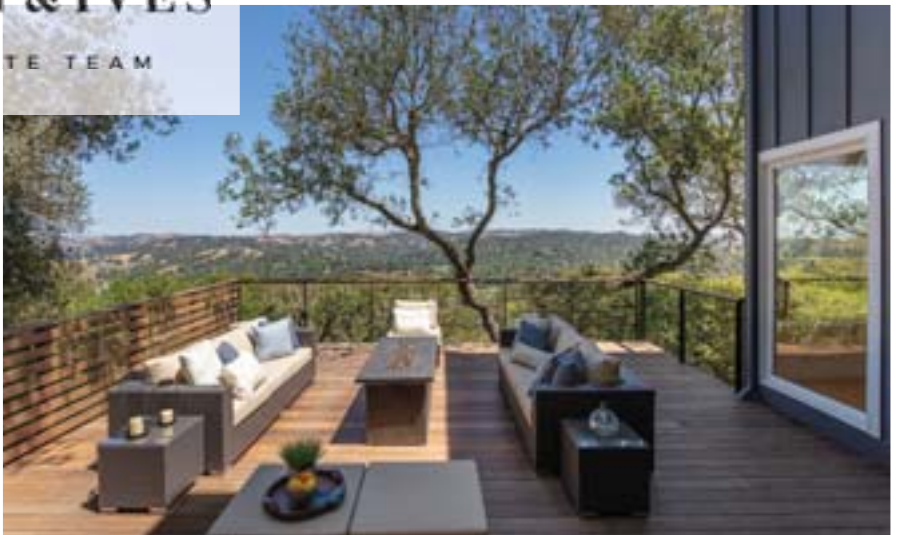
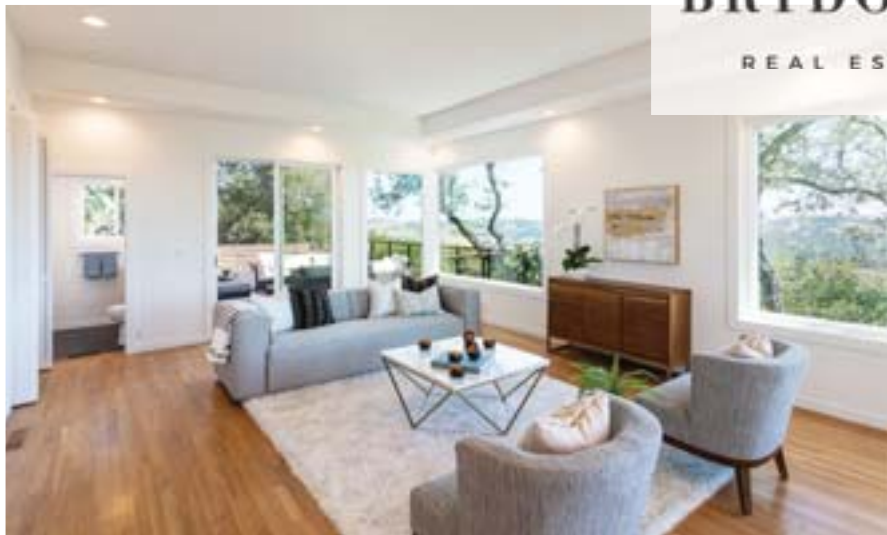
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244 El Toyonal, Orinda

4 Bedrooms + detached office | 2.5 Baths | 2,538± SqFt | 1± Acre

Built on a stunning 1± acre property that reflects the picturesque and ever-changing views of the Orinda Valley and the reservoir, this modern-style beauty offers considerable privacy, an abundance of interior natural lighting, unparalleled views, and meticulous custom appointments including a cedar infinity hot tub, gorgeous IPE decks, and a wine cellar. This sleek and spectacular turn-key home is the essence of sophisticated Orinda living. Understated from street view, one must enter the home to experience the beauty within.

244ElToyonal.com Offered at \$1,975,000

• •
• •

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives

925.285.8336

bi@brydonivesteam.com

brydonivesteam.com

DRE 01408025 | 01367466



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Country Club Beauty: 212 Camino Sobrante, Orinda | 4 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 3779 sqft | .66 acre | \$2,595,000



A Super Family Home : 23 Woodland Rd, Orinda | 4 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 2913 sqft | .53 acre | \$2,350,000



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Orinda

83 Tiger Tail Court \$3,595,000

5 BD / 4 BA. Beautiful Mark Becker Spanish Hacienda style charm yet modern vibe.

Melanie Snow 925-360-0344
 83tigertail.com Lic #0878893



Orinda

NEW LISTING

3 Totterdell Court \$1,775,000

4 BD / 3 BA. Stunning home in premium location with VIEWS!

Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396
 3totterdellct.com Lic#01480008 / 00959101



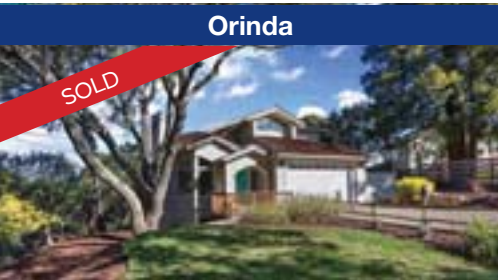
Orinda

SOLD

85 Orchard Road \$1,705,000

3 BD / 2.5 BA Sun filled single story Glorietta home

Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 85Orchard.com Lic#01272382



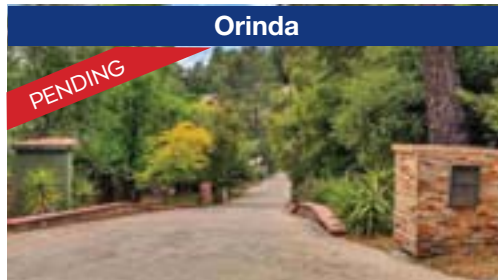
Orinda

SOLD

40 Camino Del Diablo \$1,730,000

First time on the market! Move right in. Fabulous Views.

Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 40caminodeldiabo.com Lic#01272382



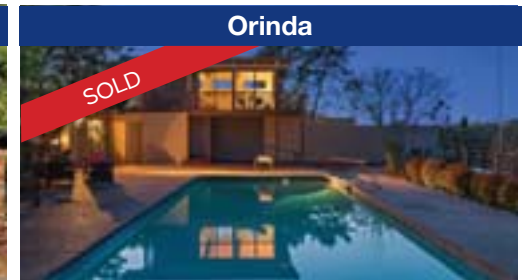
Orinda

PENDING

200 Hall Drive \$2,495,000

Privacy and security in your own 5-acre county estate

Yan Heim 510-499-4709
 Yanheim.com bit.ly/3vWXkr9 Lic #01965925



Orinda

SOLD

120 Scenic Drive \$1,695,000

4 BD / 2 BA Views from dusk to dawn, Pool!

Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832
 120scenicdr.com Lic#01878803

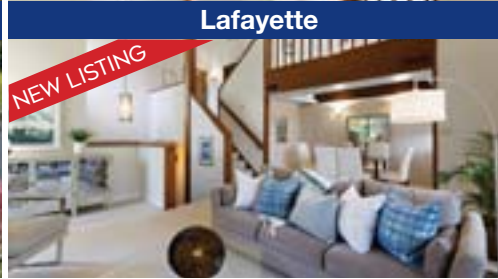


Lafayette

3776 Mosswood Drive \$1,395,000

4 BD / 2 BA / +- 1961 sq. ft. Single level on roughly .25 acre sparkling pool and stately oaks. Updates throughout.

Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769



Lafayette

NEW LISTING

921 Dewing Avenue \$899,000

Sun-filled beautiful second story contemporary with lovely views, vaulted ceilings in prime location.

Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 921Dewing.com Lic#01272382



Moraga

PENDING

1009 Larch Ave \$1,249,000

3 BD / 2 BA Represented Buyers

Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769



Oakland

SOLD

3801 Ardley Ave \$925,000

2 BD / 1.5BA Updates, cute yard. Located in Glenview!

Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769



Walnut Creek

PENDING

3266 Ptarmigan Dr., #4A \$979,000

2 BD / 2 BA / 1,521 sq. ft. Stunning level-in condo in Rossmoor with Mt. Diablo view!

Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396
 Lic#01480008 / 00959101



Walnut Creek

SOLD

407 Monticello \$1,475,000

4 BD / 2 BA, single level, 2371 sq ft. Resort living, pool, tennis court.

Maram Bata 925-899-3952
 vimeo.com/533111142 Lic #01435229



The stunning jewel box **ON THE OCC TEE BOX**



17 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda

First time on the market in nearly 60 years! This coveted home, perched atop the 6th hole of Orinda Country Club on an unprecedented lot, oozes with charm. Originally built in 1950 and meticulously cared for this is a beautiful place to call home.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 <i>Bed</i> | 2 <i>Bath</i> | .50 <i>Acre</i> |
| ±2,106 <i>Sq ft</i> | 1 <i>Pool</i> | 100% <i>Charming</i> |

Listed at \$2,450,000 | Visit 17caminodonmiquel.com

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READY TO MAKE A MOVE?

Time to get started with Chris & Tracy

LAMORINDA Q1 MARKET SNAPSHOT

SOLD LISTINGS

193

↑ 42% YOY

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

25

↓ 9 DAYS YOY

MEDIAN HOUSE SALES PRICE

\$1.85M

↑ 20% YOY

Source: Per MLS single family home sales for Q1 2021. Data from sources deemed reliable, but may contain errors and subject to revision. All numbers to be considered approximate.

Andrea
RENTALS

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Help!

It's so hard to find a place to rent in the Bay Area! Andrea, can you and your team find me a new home and handle all the frustrating details so I can rest easy?

Andrea and Team, I'm a real estate agent who doesn't handle rentals and my clients just closed on a fantastic property they'd like to rent out.
Can you take it from here?

AndreaRentals, I have a great rental property, but my tenants just gave notice and the thought of dealing with it makes me want to scream. **Save me!**

We're moving out of Lamorinda, but we don't want to sell! **AndreaRentals**, can you find us some great renters who will love and care for the house while we're gone?



Yes! Let's connect.

Full details and fee information for **Owner** and **Renter Services** at **andrearentals.com**

BRE #02003472

Make the winning offer.

In the most competitive market in recent memory, my buyers are getting their offers accepted and realizing their home buying dreams.

As a lifelong Lamorinda resident, I have a hyper-local network and market knowledge that gives my buyers the edge they need to win in competition.

Let's write your winning offer.



CONGRATS TO MY CLIENTS ON THEIR RECENT WINS:



3320 S Lucille Ln, Lafayette



1055 Larch Ave, Moraga



4289 Oakwood Ct, Concord

COMPASS

DRE#01942438

EMILY ESTRADA
REAL ESTATE

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— JUST SOLD —

63 Moraga Via, Orinda



GLORIETTA PERFECTION

Sold for \$1,885,000
with multiple offers

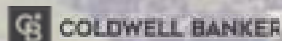
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**ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT
SELLING, BUT WORRIED YOU
WILL BE HOMELESS?**

I understand your concern.
This crazy market has limited your choices.

I have found that sellers have 5 options:

1. List and sell your home; then rent a home until you find your next one.
2. List your home and make the sale of your home contingent upon you finding a new one within 30 to 60 days.
3. Make a contingent offer—buy first and make it contingent upon the sale of your home.
4. Obtain a bridge loan to buy your new home while you are preparing your current home for sale. (A good choice right now.)
5. Sell your home and leave the state! (Easiest option!)

There are pros and cons to each situation.

**Call me to help you find the right
option for your move!**



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sg@soraya4homes.com
soraya4homes.com
DRE #01771736

COLDWELL BANKER
5 Moraga Way, Orinda



Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA

- 124 Ascot Court #B, \$605,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 02-05-18
- 787 Augusta Drive, \$2,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 3007 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,050,000, 03-20-18
- 31 Birchwood Place, \$2,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3071 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 04-02-21
- 20 Brandt Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2945 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 03-15-21
- 1043 Camino Pablo, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 03-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$625,000, 08-26-14
- 244 Claudia Court, \$2,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 3349 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,650,000, 06-26-17
- 116 Corliss Drive, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 03-31-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 02-19-14
- 360 Deerfield Drive, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 2379 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 03-17-21,
Previous Sale: \$879,500, 05-20-04
- 1885 Joseph Drive, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2277 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-02-21
- 1204 Larch Avenue, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 08-23-11
- 28 Merrill Circle, \$2,489,000, 4 Bdrms, 4808 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 02-07-12
- 9 Moraga Valley Lane, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2583 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 05-29-12
- 367 Redfield Place, \$1,920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2259 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,070,000, 03-13-15
- 1751 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 03-29-21
- 4 Via Barcelona, \$1,023,000, 3 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 04-01-21
- 9 Shannon Court, \$3,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 4966 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 03-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,750,000, 02-02-17
- 104 Wallace Circle, \$1,072,000, 3 Bdrms, 1790 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 03-18-21
- 106 Wallace Circle, \$1,099,500, 3 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 04-01-21
- 503 Woodminster Drive, \$768,000, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$602,000, 09-29-15

ORINDA

- 25 Dias Dorados, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 04-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 02-13-14
- 46 El Gavilan Road, \$1,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 2859 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 04-26-12
- 81 Estates Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1716 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 03-18-21
- 114 Meadow Lane, \$2,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3055 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 04-02-21
- 19 Monte Vista Road, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 05-21-13
- 42 Oak Road, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2860 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 03-17-21,
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 07-07-10
- 2 Snowberry Court, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2566 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 03-19-21
- 89 Tarry Lane, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2401 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-17-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,218,000, 06-02-14
- 10 Valencia Road, \$1,770,000, 4 Bdrms, 2389 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,187,000, 07-28-06
- 71 Van Tassel Lane, \$1,876,000, 1 Bdrms, 1492 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 07-26-12
- 78 Van Tassel Lane, \$3,515,000, 7 Bdrms, 5117 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 09-03-03
- 45 Via Farallon, \$1,764,000, 3 Bdrms, 2296 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 03-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 07-18-14
- 44 Via Floreado, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2028 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 03-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 03-11-15
- 66 Windy Creek Way, \$2,430,500, 4 Bdrms, 4149 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 03-31-21,
Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15

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Lafayette Juniors tour focuses on life in your own backyard



Residents and guests of this Saranap home can play bocce ball on this convenient court, while spectators relax in the adjacent swing.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

... continued from Page D4

This year was the first time they were joined by Aliyah. Together they loved the “awesome backyards” they toured this year.

The tour brochure, which for the first time was available only online, included photos of each property as well as descriptions and highlights. A special section for each property listed the resources, such as general contractors, landscape architects or designers, pools, nurseries, patio, accessories, solar power generation and storage, greenhouses, chicken coops, turf and gravel, flooring, lightening, furniture, ADUs, saunas, fencing, and outdoor kitchen resources such as countertops and appliances.



The residents of this Burton Valley home generate their own power and grow their own fruits and vegetables, using runoff water collected in an underground well.



The owners of this Reliez Valley home wanted to have flexible spaces in the garden, such as this secluded bench on its own small terrace off the path that winds along the property.

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Photo Sora O'Doherty

This Saranap home is perfect for outdoor entertaining, featuring a sports court, bocce ball court, a swimming pool, outdoor pizza oven, and even a renovated guest house.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Garden party hacks



Azaleas do well in shady areas and will bloom profusely.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"I was reared in the garden, you know." ~ Emily Dickenson

If you are like most people who have been hibernating and following CDC social distancing protocols during the pandemic, you are probably itching for a gathering of friends and family. If you have been vaccinated (and, I hope you have), small outdoor get-togethers without masks are considered relatively safe.

Is your garden and patio area ready for a party? While many people have baked bread, learned to crochet, or tackled puzzles, I have been busy helping clients prepare their landscapes for small garden shindigs as well as creating quiet spaces as a peaceful, restorative sanctuary.

You don't have to do an entire expensive makeover to make your place look pretty and presentable. There are several ways to get a

streamlined look on a budget that you can afford.

I call these "garden hacks" and I'll share suggestions with you.

Walk around your exterior perimeter and take notes. What areas need more TLC? Do you have debris anywhere or everywhere? What about weeds, broken or dead branches, or an overabundance of fallen leaves? The first thing you want to do is clean. Remove whatever is broken and not fixable, recycle or re-purpose other items. Rake the leaves and put them in the compost pile or green bin. With pruning shears, cut any dead branches on shrubs or trees and remove dead or dry foliage.

Next, tackle the weeds. If weeds are growing in beds, it is best to pull them by hand. If they are on a hillside or area without many other plants, you might be able to use a weed-eater. My preference is always hand-pulling to get the roots. Pulling out the roots ensures that

they won't sprout again this season.

Once your garden is free of weeds, check the soil. If it is hard and compacted, it behooves you to bring in bags of enriched compost before planting. Soil is the foundation of verdant growth. With our glorious spring weather, blooming flowers, trees, and shrubs are in abundance at nurseries and garden centers. Before it gets too hot, you'll want to add any shrubs or color spots. Until plantings are established, you will need to water deeply and often. I prefer to plant colorful perennials, biennials, and bulbs that will return in future seasons. Some of my favorites are azaleas, foxgloves, delphinium, lavender, roses, and calla lily, all available in several colors. To soften a fence or arbor, I recommend clematis, honeysuckle, or jasmine. Wisteria is a strong, spreading vine that requires heavy-duty support systems. Also, seek drought-tolerant species and succulents. In my garden, I like to create a painter's palette of color with minimal spacing between plants, however, strategically placing just a few select plants is impressively impactful.

... continued on next Page



Calla lilies are elegant and flower annually.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Garden party hacks



Photos Cynthia Brian

Purple statice fills the back of a former solar light pelican

... continued from Page D16

Ornamental grasses are easy to care for and add a natural stream-like flow to a garden. Clumping bamboo is excellent as a rustling screen that blows in the breeze. Both offer a feeling of serenity and calmness to any space.

After you have planted, you'll want to top-dress with mulch to enhance the aesthetics, increase moisture retention, and minimize weed growth. You can buy wood chips in at least three different colors: red, black, and forest brown by the bag or you can order other varieties in bulk. Any flammable mulches such as chips, bark, straw, or pine needles must be distanced two feet from structures as per the fire ordinance. Gravel or rocks can be placed around the structure as a preventive measure.

Add steppingstones surrounded by small pebbles or pea gravel to enhance a dirt path. Gravel and rocks add texture, and the crunching sound is soothing. If your porch or deck needs refinishing and that project is not in your current plan or budget, buy inexpensive indoor/outdoor carpeting or rugs in natural tones to temporarily cover the flaws and make walking comfortable and splinter-free.



The former dirt path is improved with black pebbles, steppingstones, and lined with mulch.

When it comes to patio furniture, take an inventory of the condition of what you have. Can it last another summer with a bit of cleaning and updating? Do you need new pillows and pads, or can you just wash and refresh the ones you own? I recently worked on a project where the homeowners were going to discard their table and chairs because they were rusting. Their dilemma was that they didn't have the time nor the money to invest in new patio furniture before a scheduled garden get-together for a few vaccinated friends. My suggestion was to use a little elbow grease: scrub, sand, and spray-paint. It took only a couple of hours, and the result was that the set looked brand new. Painting is one of the greatest hacks offering immediate, inexpensive results.

Another hack that I employ regularly is adding cut seafoam statice to area pots or beds where a little pizzazz is needed. Bunches of straw-like statice will hold their purple color for weeks without additional water. Shaded areas with comfortable seating invite a cooling, quieting, and relaxing experience. Umbrellas add sophistication to a patio and two or three strips of vintage-looking LED Edison-bulb lighting to provide a warm inviting glow in the evening. Lay a row of tube lights on the ground be-



As a highlight to your vaccinated outdoor gathering, make charcuterie cones with a slice of orange and a sprig of rosemary.

hind hedges for ethereal illumination.

The smart choice when planning the party bites is to offer individually cupped appetizers to eliminate people double-dipping. Home-grown (or farmers' market) carrots, celery, and peppers cut into long slices standing on top of hummus in tiny tableware mount a pretty display as well as a nutritious one. Cones with charcuteries adorned with sprigs of rosemary, orange slices, and berries will entice any carnivore. For drinks, individual bottles or cans of favorite beverages will quench thirsty friends. Glasses can be marked with the names of the guests.

Finally, fresh, free-flowing flower arrangements picked from a profusion of blooms from your garden will be a conversation starter. The ones I created for the event were a mixture of calendula, Jupiter's beard, Mexican sage, mixed with mock orange which added a heady perfume to the outdoor occasion. After the festivities, the bouquets became fragrant favorites indoors.

I was reared in the garden and am proud of being a nature lady. By using these simple hacks, you are ready to host your outdoor garden party with your vaccinated friends. Give it your best shot!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Before planting, no mulch sedona garden



After planting sedona garden

Photos Cynthia Brian

Note how different this area looks with plantings of foxglove and petunias and filled with dark mulch.



The repainted table holds a loose arrangement picked from the garden: calendula, Mexican sage, Jupiter's beard, and mock orange blossoms.



Sliced celery, peppers, and carrots in an individual cup of hummus are a tasty appetizer.

REMINDERS

- Compliance deadline for wildfire risk is June 1. Make sure to cut your tall grasses, prune tree limbs to a minimum of six feet from the ground and away from roofs. Keep two feet of combustible ground covers including bark or mulch away from structures. Gravel is a good medium to use in this area. Also, plantings need to have a one-foot clearance above the ground. Clean out gutters and roof area of debris. Trim trees away from chimneys and remove flammable liquids and other matter away from your home.
- Once your daffodils, tulips, woodland hyacinths, and Naked ladies'

foliage have dried, remove them from the plant. By allowing the leaves to yellow, the plant is receiving its nutrition to develop flowers for the next season. The leaves can be added to the compost pile.

- Keep a bucket in your shower and use the water on your indoor plants.
- Empty all outdoor vessels of standing water. Even a teacup saucer will breed mosquitoes.
- Snakes are now out and about. Garter, King, and gopher snakes are great friends to our gardens.



A blue clematis is a great addition to a fence or arbor.



Cynthia Brian in the spring garden with yellow freesias and blue woodland hyacinths.

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.

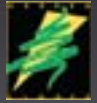
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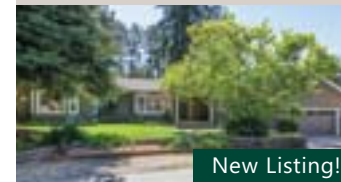
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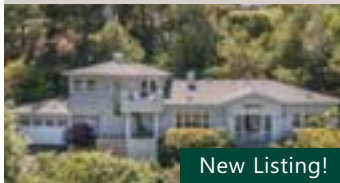
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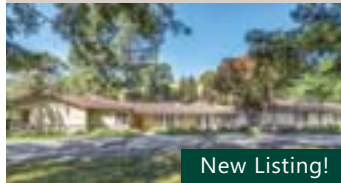
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