

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES



Lamorinda Home Sales

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*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Garden gatherings



Photo Cynthia Brian

**The porch and patio were turned into an outdoor paradise with socially distanced tables.**

**By Cynthia Brian**

*“We need to teach people that the environment has a direct bearing on our own benefit.” ~ Dalai Lama*

It's official. The Pfizer vaccine has received full and final approval by the FDA with the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines soon to follow. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that if we want to spend time with people who don't live with us, outdoor activities are the safest choice. In these dire days of global crises, natural disasters, evacuations, and a highly infectious Delta variant, any positive news is appreciated.

At the beginning of summer, we all had high hopes that we would be able to emerge from our caves to enjoy a quasi-normal season. With the emergence of the Delta variant, it became clear that the pandemic will not be contained until most of the country prioritizes health and gets vaccinated. Humans are social beings and we like getting together. With warm weather predicted for the next two months, gathering in our gardens for a picnic, barbecue, or just a chat will be a safer method of communing.

I recently attended an outdoor birthday party for a dear friend generously orchestrated by her adult children and their spouses. This was the first time since the pandemic began that I had gone to any non-family occasion. Although I was hesitant to be around a few dozen people, every precaution was taken to make guests feel safe and comfortable. Being informed that all guests had been fully vaccinated prompted me to R.S.V.P. “yes.” The affair was colorful, fun, and secure. I came away with constructive ideas that we can all utilize to enjoy togetherness outside in our gardens during these challenging times.

How to have a more formal yet guarded, glorious garden gathering:

1. Prepare your patio.
  - a. Add colorful potted plants.
  - b. String lights, flags, garlands, or pennants.
  - c. Set up tables with fun placemats or tablecloths.
  - d. Space tables and chairs for appropriate social distancing.
  - e. Select throw pillows to add comfort and color.
2. Hang hummingbird feeders and birdhouses to attract the birds.
3. Create your scene with a theme and decorate accordingly.
4. Add a vase filled with flowers, branches, or fruit, preferably picked from your garden.
5. Design a thoughtful menu that allows you to be part of the party.
6. Have guests enter via a garden gate or other outside entrance.
7. Set up a “Covid” station with hand sanitizer and masks.
8. Ask that masks be worn when going indoors for any reason.
9. Make a playlist that fits your crowd.
10. If yellowjackets have been bothering your paradise, put up traps the day before your party and keep them in place throughout the event.
11. Invite the partygoers to tour your landscape.
12. Provide a “wow” moment with a special dessert.
13. Light contained candles or lanterns to flicker at dusk.
14. Send your guests home with a gift from the garden.

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