

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 19 Wednesday, November 10, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

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

### **Butterflies are free**



Photos Cynthia Brian

**A majestic monarch lands on a zinnia.**

**By Cynthia Brian**

*"If a butterfly flutters its wings in Brazil, could it cause a tornado in Texas?"~ Edward Lorenz, meteorologist*

Almost everyone has heard of the "butterfly effect." Originally based on weather and climate predictions, it has become a metaphor for the effects of chaos theory – the concept that small events can have huge widespread consequences.

As I was driving home from work one late

October day and listening to a radio program chronicling the rapid extinction of many species on our planet, I was struck by the comment that 99.9% of monarch butterflies have vanished from the West Coast.

Only a few years ago, I had enjoyed a glorious November morning in Pismo Beach among thousands of monarchs fluttering through the gum trees at Monarch Grove.

Knowing that the Moraga Garden Club had a goal of revitalizing the monarch butterfly population with its "Moraga for Monarchs" mission, I drove straight to Rancho Laguna Park to investigate the progress of the project. I was blown away at how quickly the area had developed from barren land to a lush, organic, ecologically beneficial beauty basin. The co-founders, Julie Stagg and Bobbie Preston, are quick to point out that this has been a community project of love with support not only from the members of the Moraga Garden Club, but from the town of Moraga, Saint Mary's College, Moraga Garden Center, Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation, numerous service organizations, and wildlife experts.

The "Moraga for Monarchs" goal is simple: repopulate monarchs throughout town while providing public monarch habitats, educating citizens, and providing plants to support monarchs and other pollinators in private landscaping.

Following their lead, every gardener can easily invite a bevy of beneficials to take up residence in the garden. Their website is a cornucopia of ever-evolving information about nectar plants, milkweed gardening, building a habitat, as well as supportive plants that are currently being installed in the Rancho Laguna Park Monarch Garden.

By first planting nectar plants that bloom February through April followed by monarch-specific nectar plants for blooming in October and November, a garden will be attractive to pollinators in all seasons. Besides butterflies, bees, birds, hummingbirds, lady beetles, bats, and other helpful insects will be darting and swooping through this nourishing landscape.

When I visited, swaths of cosmos in several colors had grown to over eight feet high. Purple, salmon, and chartreuse zinnias shone in the sunlight. Black-eyed Susan, purple verbena, Agastache, lobelia, sage, mints, yarrow, and butterfly bush were hosting bees and butterflies, including several monarchs. A trickling rock waterfall powered by the sun offers a sweet drink to the flyers. The water feature is flanked by a river rock dry creek that provides a sunning area for the butterflies surrounded by cosmos, zinnias, and lobelia as an artful caterpillar stands watch.

... continued on Page D10



**A heart of love on a zinnia shines brightly blooming with the Black-eyed Susan.**



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*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**Thankyou to all my wonderful 2021 clients...**



## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	11	\$925,000	\$2,650,000
MORAGA	4	\$1,050,000	\$1,600,000
ORINDA	8	\$600,000	\$3,200,000

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

- 38 Chapel Drive, \$1,738,000, 3 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-24-21, Sale: \$195,000, 07-01-80
- 916 Dewing Avenue #A, \$925,000, 2 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 09-22-21, Sale: \$503,000, 04-17-12
- 3495 Echo Springs Road, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 2132 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 09-22-21, Sale: \$565,000, 12-26-00
- 592 Francis Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 09-24-21, Sale: \$925,000, 05-25-18
- 948 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 09-24-21
- 3358 North Lucille Lane, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 09-22-21, Sale: \$1,065,000, 08-27-19
- 1091 Orchard Road #B, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1561 SqFt, 1933 YrBlt, 09-21-21, Sale: \$725,000, 09-20-06
- 12 Park Gate, \$1,775,000, 5 Bdrms, 3258 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 09-21-21, Sale: \$1,335,000, 07-31-17
- 2975 Rohrer Drive, \$2,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 4110 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 09-22-21
- 3359 Springhill Road, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2698 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 09-23-21
- 3368 Victoria Avenue, \$1,920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1504 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 09-24-21, Sale: \$650,000, 04-16-04

### MORAGA

- 108 Danefield Place, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2145 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 09-23-21
- 4 Dolores Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 09-23-21, Sale: \$760,000, 09-12-16
- 107 Merion Terrace, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 2029 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 09-22-21, Sale: \$551,500, 07-24-00
- 6 Sparrow Court, \$1,240,000, 3 Bdrms, 1704 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 09-24-21

### ORINDA

- 180 Ardith Court, \$1,740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1696 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 09-21-21
- 118 Bates Court, \$3,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2632 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 09-23-21, Sale: \$1,571,500, 04-04-07
- 73 Brookwood Road #16, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 09-21-21
- 5 Buena Vista, \$1,720,000, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 09-24-21, Sale: \$1,950,000, 07-12-21
- 26 La Cuesta Road, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2591 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 09-20-21, Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-19-05
- 55 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3009 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-24-21
- 8 Lost Valley Drive #A, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 09-23-21, Sale: \$819,000, 07-10-13
- 1 Stein Way, \$1,760,000, 4 Bdrms, 2601 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 09-21-21, Sale: \$303,000, 12-01-90

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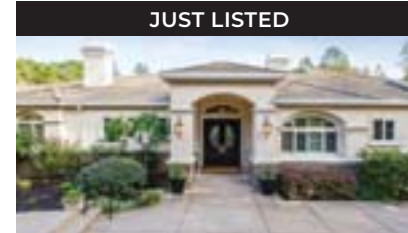


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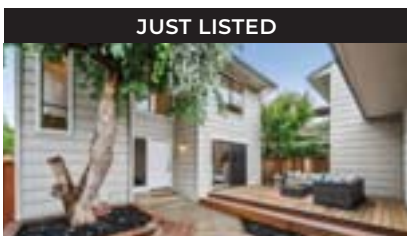


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DRE# 01347508

CAROLYN WAY

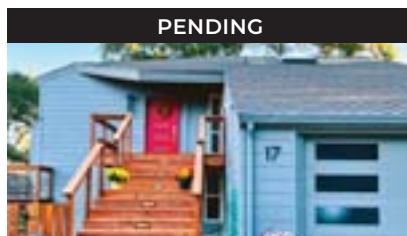


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JUST LISTED

827 AUGUSTA DRIVE, MORAGA  
OFFERED AT \$1,050,000  
MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500



PENDING

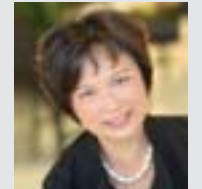
17 SHADOW CREEK LANE, ORINDA  
OFFERED AT \$2,388,000  
CHRISTINA LINEZO | 415.425.3085



PENDING

3260 GLORIA TERRACE, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$1,550,000  
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CHERYL HATA

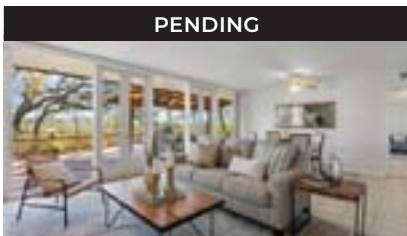


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CHRISTINA LINEZO

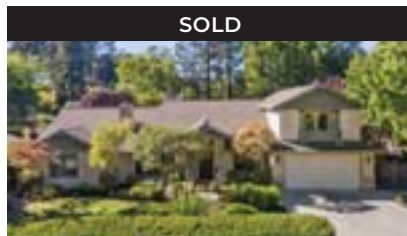


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PENDING

19 EL PULGAR, ORINDA  
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SOLD

31 DARYL DRIVE, ORINDA  
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SOLD

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DRE# 02105225

JANE SMITH



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DRE# 01476506



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136 MANZANITA DRIVE, ORINDA  
SOLD FOR \$3,310,000  
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SOLD · REPRESENTED BUYER

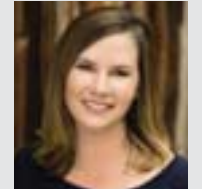
326 GOLDEN GRASS DRIVE, ALAMO  
SOLD FOR \$3,650,000  
DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047



SOLD · REPRESENTED BUYER

1223 RIMER DRIVE, MORAGA  
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JOY WIEHN



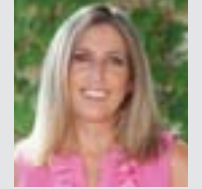
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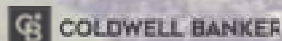
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- General contractor, commercial and residential construction project consultant, and Realtor for over 30 years
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- Orinda Schools Parents Clubs and Site Council member for 12 years
- Lamorinda Youth Sports Coaching
- Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center Volunteer for 17 years
- Center for the Education of the Infant Deaf Volunteer for 5 years
- Founding member and Past Commander- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post#8083 for Lamorinda and Walnut Creek and Past Commander of District #10 [S.F., Alameda and Contra Costa counties] VFW
- Member of the Building Board for the Veterans Memorial Building-Lafayette
- Volunteer of the year in Orinda for 2009-10



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# The month before the holidays and all through the house ...

## 9 no-stress tips for truly enjoying the holidays



Give the gift of time together. It's always the perfect gift.

**By Jennifer Raftis, CPO®, Certified Professional Organizer**

After an unpredictable year, I am looking forward to spending some extra quality time this season with my family and friends. The pandemic is far from over so our typical holiday season might look a little different this year. If we have learned anything, it's flexibility, resilience, and adaptability. For many of us, the past year and a half has highlighted the value of time with loved ones. So, my goal this year is to de-stress the holidays.

Here are a few of my favorite tips to help you really enjoy this holiday season so you can focus on what's important to you.

**1) Order gifts early:** You'll avoid the stress of last-minute shopping. Keep in mind, that we are seeing major supply chain disruptions and delays this year, so it's even more important to shop early.

**2) Give the gift of time together:** It's always the perfect gift. We all learned during the time of COVID how valuable time is with loved ones. Purchase experiences instead of things – tickets to a theater or sporting event, art or cooking classes, a day at a theme park, etc. Check out @SFBucketList on Instagram for a unique list of things to do together in San Francisco.

**3) Create master grocery lists:** Plan your meals now, create a shopping list for each of your Thanksgiving and holiday meals, and store it on your computer. This saves my clients so much time not having to re-write the grocery list every year.

**4) Get your guest room ready:** Make your guests feel welcome – create a calm and cozy space with a soft throw on the bed, fresh linens, a water bottle, fresh flowers, or a flickering LED candle, etc.

**5) Simplify holiday decorating:** Declutter as you decorate, really think about your holiday décor – what you use, what you don't, what you love, what you keep just because you feel you should. Discard and donate decorations that don't light up your life, rather than storing them for another year. After you decorate this year, take photos so you can easily recreate your decor next year. Take a photo of each decorated room and the front of your house too. Print the photos and put them in the labeled storage box with each room's decorations. Next year, decorating will be so easy – and everyone can help because you have the photos!

**6) Declutter the kids' toys:** Now is the perfect time to go through your children's rooms – discard any items that are broken or missing pieces and donate the items they have outgrown that other children may enjoy.

**7) Give back:** There's nothing quite like the feeling of giving back to your community, and it's a great lesson to teach our children. Taking time to volunteer at a food bank or participate in an adopt-a-family program can brighten the holidays for others and for you too!

**8) Talk to your family:** What tradition does your family most enjoy? Have everyone tell you the must-do tradition that they like the best. What traditions does nobody really care about anymore? We can make ourselves crazy trying to do it all. Perhaps it's time to add a new tradition and let go of some old ones. You may be surprised that the tradition you've been bending over backward to fit in is something nobody really cares about anymore.

Here are a couple of new ideas: Play a game of high-low at your holiday dinner – ask everyone their high and low experience of this past year – you will be amazed at the conversations that these questions inspire. Make holiday dough ornaments with the family – my adult children still love this. Purchase scratch-off lottery tickets for the stockings or for each day of your holiday.

**9) Don't forget to plan quiet time:** And put it in your calendar! Kids need quiet time and so do adults. The holidays can get busy. We're often good about scheduling the things we need to do but forget to block out time for ourselves. Watch a holiday movie, enjoy a leisurely cup of tea or hot chocolate, grab a cozy blanket and read a book (alone or with the kids), make a puzzle, etc. Give yourself and your family the gift of quiet time.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays!



Take photos of your decorations, so you can easily recreate them next year.

Images Shutterstock

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com





# BARB BRAWNER HOMES

## 2021

### REPRESENTED SELLER



69 Singingwood Lane  
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651 Moraga Road  
Moraga



30 Owl Hill Road  
Orinda



261 Ivy Place  
Moraga



3337 Carlyle Terrace  
Lafayette



1850 Joseph Drive  
Moraga



70 La Cresta Road  
Orinda



125 Fairfield Place  
Moraga



708 Glenside Circle  
Lafayette

### REPRESENTED BUYER



724 August Drive  
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10 La Punta  
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3344 Walnut Lane  
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5 Hanson Court  
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## COMPASS



## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Butterflies are free



The solar-powered rock waterfall and the artistic caterpillar.

Photos Cynthia Brian



The pergola provides a centerpiece and shade for the fenced garden.



A close-up of a gorgeous deep pink zinnia.

... continued from Page D1

Milkweed is growing to feed the caterpillars. Passionflower vines twine up the wooden pergola and wood chip paths meander throughout the plantings. Signage has thoughtfully been installed throughout the beds to instruct visitors on the species planted. The habitat is fenced to keep out hungry predators as well as people. Soon

benches will be installed so that visitors can rest and watch. Volunteers maintain the garden, carefully pulling out the insidious bindweed, and lovingly pruning, deadheading and sowing.

There is something magical about witnessing the flight of a butterfly as it gathers pollen on its legs and disperses it as it flits from flower to flower. Everyone can enjoy a butterfly waystation next spring by planning

now. If you want to erect a Monarch and pollinator oasis, check out the resources provided by the Moraga Garden Club in collaboration with the Xerces Society and Monarch Joint Venture at [moragagardenclub.com/moraga-for-monarchs](https://moragagardenclub.com/moraga-for-monarchs).

Here is a list of milkweeds and other plants that you'll want to consider recommended by the Moraga for Monarchs garden.

#### MILKWEED

It is recommended to only plant California native milkweeds.

*Approved for Lamorinda*

Narrow Leaf (*Asclepias fascicularis*)

Showy (*A. speciosa*)

California (*A. californica*)

Woolly (*A. vesta*)

Heartleaf (*A. cordifolia*)

*Not Advised for Lamorinda*

Common Milkweed (*A.*

*syriaca*)

Butterfly Weed (*A. tuberosa*)

Tropical Milkweed (*A. curassavica*)

Other Milkweed

#### SUPPORTIVE PLANTS

Agastache

Anise Hyssop

Bee Balm

Black-eyed Susan

Brodiaea

Butterfly Bush

California Brittlebush

Catmint

Ceanothus

Coyote Mint

Coral Bells

Cosmos

Echinacea

Goldenrod

Hairy Gum Plant

Lavender

Liatris

Lithodora

Lobelia

Lupine

Meadow Blazing Star

Mint (several)

Monkey Flower

Oregon Grape

Passionflower

Passion Vine

Penstemon

Rosemary

Salvia

Sage

Scarlet Monardella

Seaside Daisy

Snake Lily

Sweet Joe Pye Weed

Sunflower

Tithonia

Verbena

Yarrow

Zinnia

Butterflies may be free, but the Monarch is on the possible extinction list. We all need to do our part to save our planet by saving our pollinators. We already know that bees are dwindling and so many other critical species are endangered. Start pesticide and insecticide-free gardening habits. By being

proactive with organic gardening practices and establishing healthy habitats, we will all enjoy our personal paradises while supporting our garden guardians.

I dream that when a butterfly flutters its wings in Lamorinda, it will cause peace throughout the world.

Nature lovers are welcome. The Moraga for Monarchs Butterfly Garden is free. For more information on Moraga for Monarchs or to donate, visit

<https://www.moragagardenclub.com>

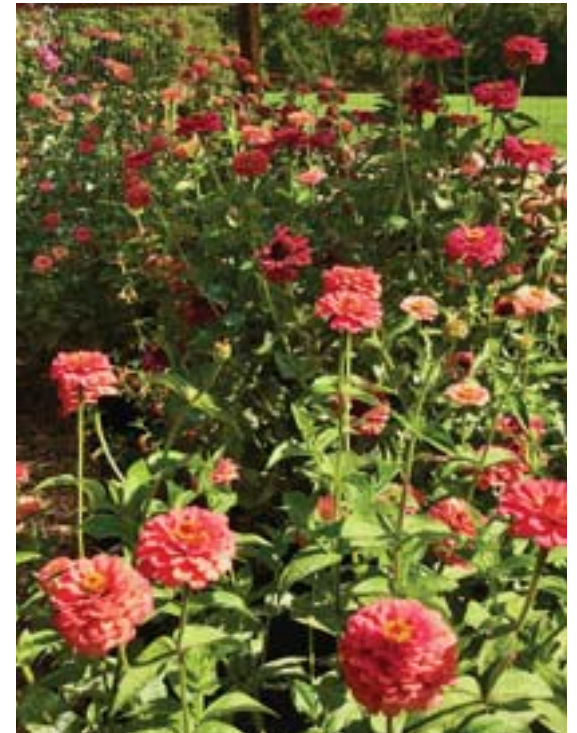
Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



This Monarch fluttered from zinnias to Black-eyed Susan flowers.



Purple Agastache and purple zinnias at the Moraga Butterfly Garden.



Salmon zinnias in the Monarch Garden.



Cynthia Brian

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your winter 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 books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings.

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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*With this rain it's the perfect time to get plants in the ground!!*

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Flowers • Trees • Succulents • Pottery & Fountains  
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# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



### 11 Ranch Road

Rare 3 bed/ 3.5 bath on 1.17 acres w/ Gorgeous level lawns & patios. Gracious 3826 sf home -create your dream!

**\$2,795,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 11 La Fond Lane

Single level 4 bed/ 3 bath home on .71 private acre lot w/ updated kitchen & family room, pool, & outdoor kitchen!

**\$1,995,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 8 Avis Court

Exceptionally charming 4 bed/ 2.5 bath home located at end of cul-de-sac w/ gorgeous pool, patios, decks, & views!

**\$1,699,000**

## ORINDA



Pending!

### 21 Scenic Drive

Single-level 3 bed/ 3 bath located in beloved Glorietta neighborhood. Sits on almost half an acre w/ views of the hills!

**\$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



Pending!

### 73 Brookwood Road #13

Updated 2 bed/ 1.5 bath condo conveniently located near BART/ Hwy 24, downtown Orinda, & top-rated schools!

**\$689,000**

## ORINDA



Lot

### 23 Kittiwake Road

Private residential .43 acre lot in one of Bay Area's most sought after neighborhoods. Close to Highway 24 & downtown.

**\$575,000**

## ORINDA



Pending!

### 73 Brookwood Road #43

Chic 1 bed/ 1 bath condo in tree-house like setting! Renovated in 2016 w/ vinyl flooring, quartz counter tops & more!

**\$465,000**

## LAFAYETTE



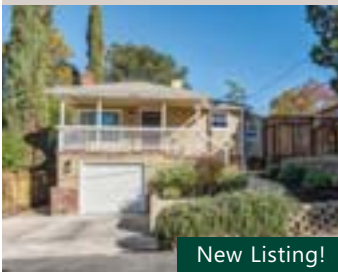
Pending!

### 22 White Oak Drive

Custom built 5 bed/ 3 bath home w/ single level floor plan perfect for family living & entertaining both inside/outside!

**\$1,895,000**

## LAFAYETTE



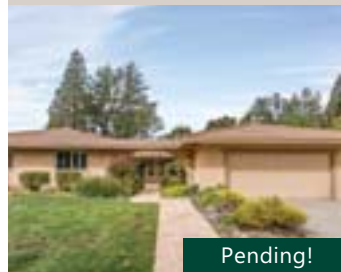
New Listing!

### 928 Oak Street

Storybook charm near downtown! 2 bed/ 2 bath w/ work from home or in-law suite set up & beautifully landscaped!

**\$1,295,000**

## MORAGA



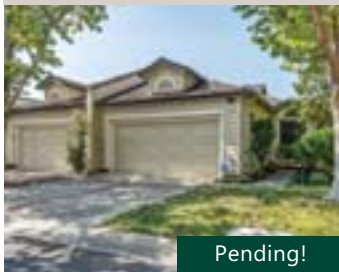
Pending!

### 34 San Pablo Court

Special 4 bed/ 2.5 bath located in The Bluffs neighborhood w/ gorgeous gardens, pool/spa, & private backyard.

**\$1,825,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



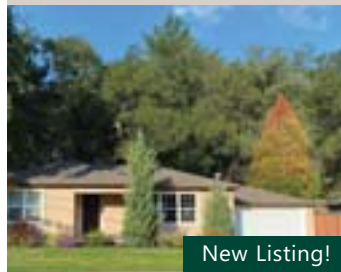
Pending!

### 310 Beacon Ridge Lane

Private 3 bed/ 3 bath end unit townhouse w/ view of hiking trails & walking distance to pool & tennis courts!

**\$1,198,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing!

### 1460 Springbrook Road

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath Rancher near downtown Walnut Creek w/ 1/1 guest house. Remodeled in 2014!

Price Upon Request

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Shannon Conner  
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich  
Joan Evans

Linda Friedman  
Claudia Gohler

Dexter Honens II  
April Matthews

Hillary Murphy  
Karen Murphy

John Nash  
Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock  
Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith  
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