

# Art Embraces Words: Costumed literary and artistic characters present lively program



Photo Elana O'Loskey

Lafayette artist Ellen Reintjes (appearing as a Border Collie) presents her 13.5" x 49" acrylic painting with a baseball theme, "All Stars in the Family."

## Submitted by Elana O'Loskey

While the skies were overcast and the air a bit chilly, the mood was warm on Oct. 30, and the costumed characters stole the show at Art Embraces Words. The free program, sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council, was held outdoors in the Amphitheater at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Because the LLC Foundation shared their roomy double marquee complete with lights, comfy chairs, podium, easels, portable mic and speakers, guests were sheltered and comfortable.

This ongoing program features emerging writers who read from their work surrounded by original artwork from local artists placed on both sides of the podium. Both writers and artists were introduced by Emcee and LAC outgoing president Denise Nomura. They spoke about their work for 10 minutes each plus time for an audience Q&A. Program Co-Chair Natalie Samuels Wheeler explained it this way: "Writers paint images with words;

artists tell stories with color. Together they enrich our community."

Artist Ellen Reintjes of Lafayette was difficult to recognize in her Border Collie costume, but when she displayed her 13.5" x 49" work entitled "All Stars in the Family," all became clear. There are six portraits in the work and three of them are border collies. See more of her work at [www.bayareastudioartists.com/ellen-reintjes/](http://www.bayareastudioartists.com/ellen-reintjes/).

Writer Dita Basu of Walnut Creek explained that the silk fabric of her traditional Bengali ceremonial dress is literally imprinted with stories from Bengali history and folklore. She read from her work-in-progress fictional novel, "Dreamcatcher," about a young Bengali girl's outing on a train trip.

Characters appearing at the event included artist Gustave Courbet (1819-1877); artist Yayoi Kusama (1929-); Queen Noor of Jordan; Hillary Clinton, promoting her new mystery book; Dorothy Parker (1893-1967) who gave out cards with her most famous quotes such as, "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."; Doctor

Strange, visiting from the Marvel Cinematic Universe; Daisy Buchanan from "The Great Gatsby" and two Steampunk era women from London.

Orinda Starlight Village Players ([www.orsvp.org/](http://www.orsvp.org/)) costume judges Jill Gelster, Beth Hooper and Laura Matin-Chapen announced the costume contest winners as they distributed 12 prizes from local businesses, including Tutu's Food & Drink; CA Writer's Club, Mt. Diablo Branch; Diablo Writers' Workshop, LAC Mixology Saloon Box Team and Amphora Nueva Lafayette. Orchard Nursery Lafayette provided brightly colored Chrysanthemums which were given to attendees to take home. LAC volunteers on hand included board member Sue Farmer, Josephine Sabolboro, Isabella Pier, interns Ava Tran and Ricky Gjertsen, Jr. and curator Bill Carmel.

Art Embraces Words is made possible by a generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation. Visit [www.lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/) to learn more, including access to videos of recent webinars.

# Love Lafayette

**MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING**

HIRE A LOCAL NAME YOU CAN TRUST

925-247-0092

[MarkBellinghamPainting.com](http://MarkBellinghamPainting.com)

Interior & Exterior Painting Deck & Fence Restoration  
Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting Dry Rot Repair  
Light Carpentry Drywall Repair

For a Quick Preliminary Estimate  
Email Photos of Project to:  
[Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com](mailto:Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com)

See our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

*Anthony's*  
Custom Picture Framers

After 28 years of service, we are proud to reintroduce ourselves as Anthony's Custom Picture Framers. Family owned and operated since 1991. Anthony and Tony look forward to seeing you soon and assisting you with all your framing needs.

1020 Brown Ave, Suite A Lafayette, CA 94549 925-283-7620

Mon: 10am-5pm  
Tues-Sat: 10am-6pm  
[anthony'sCPF.com](http://anthony'sCPF.com)

\$30 off your next order with this ad!

**Lafayette Glass Co. Inc.**  
Shower & Window Glass Specialist

- Frameless Shower Glass
- Shower Enclosures
- Custom Mirrors
- New Windows/Patio Doors
- Replacement & Installation

**SHOP LOCAL**

**BEFORE** **AFTER**

**3375 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette**  
next to Premier Kitchens, **USE DYER STREET TO ENTER**  
**925-284-9510**  
[www.lafayetteglasscompany.com](http://www.lafayetteglasscompany.com) | CSLB # 489426, CSLB # 795837

Making Bay Area Homes Beautiful Since 1946

**Blodgett's**  
FLOOR COVERING

Abbey Carpet. [www.blodgetts.com](http://www.blodgetts.com)

3291 Mt. Diablo Ct., Lafayette 925.284.4807

**LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Orthopedics • Sports Rehab • Geriatrics

Mention the Lamorinda Weekly for a **Complimentary Consultation**

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Ste B110, Lafayette, CA  
**925-284-6150** [www.LafayettePT.com](http://www.LafayettePT.com)

**Lafayette Auto Body, Inc.**

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

3291 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 283-3421

**Orinda Hair Studio**  
Skin Care by Aurea Fonseca-Geen  
Licensed Clinical Esthetician

• Facials  
• Glycolic Peels  
• Waxing  
• Professional Products  
• Acne treatments

Cell: 925.262.3228 Spa: 925.254.5575  
[aureageen@hotmail.com](mailto:aureageen@hotmail.com)  
1 Orinda Way, Suite 5, Orinda

**The UPS Store**

**Hours:**  
Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00  
Sat 9-5, Sun closed

**Our location:**  
**3527 Mt Diablo Blvd**  
**Lafayette, CA 94549**

✓ Shipping ✓ Notary Services  
✓ Copying, Finishing ✓ Postal Services  
✓ Printing Services ✓ Business Services

[store0202@theupsstore.com](mailto:store0202@theupsstore.com)  
[www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/0202](http://www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/0202)

**Piano Studio**  
Keys to success

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation.

Rita Yegiazaryan  
**925-323-8969**  
[ryegiazaryan@yahoo.com](mailto:ryegiazaryan@yahoo.com)  
1060 Sierra Vista Way, Lafayette

Watch for Shop Orinda Nov. 24  
Call for Advertising 925.377.0977