

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 22 Wednesday, December 22, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

A berry, merry Christmas ... mostly for the birds



Holly is one of the most well-known holiday berries used in wreaths.

By Cynthia Brian

*"To me, the garden is a doorway to other worlds; one of them, of course, is the world of birds. The garden is their dinner table, bursting with bugs and worms and succulent berries."~ Anne Raver
Birdy, it's cold outside.*

Deciduous trees are barren of leaves, autumn perennials have finished their blooming cycle, and few flowers adorn the landscape. The glistening ornaments that embellish the foliage are a gastro delight for birds.



Cotoneaster berries provide a winter bird buffet.

Winter has arrived and with it the beautiful berries that are a vital source of food for birds as well as a traditional embellishment to Christmas wreaths and garlands. When we think of berries, we normally conjure images of blackberries, blueberries, raspberries or strawberries, all grown and harvested in the warmer months. Winter berries are different, and although they are a small fleshy fruit, they are mostly enjoyed by wildlife, with a few edible exceptions eaten by humans.

My garden boasts a plethora of winter berries that encourage my feathered friends to hang around for the holidays. Finches, mockingbirds,



Nandina, also known as heavenly bamboo, is poisonous and deadly to all wildlife and domestic animals.

Photos Cynthia Brian

robins, sparrows, jays, quail, doves, bluebirds, and orioles are attracted to the many varieties of berries that will provide their nutrition during a cold and stark winter. A few of my favorites include pyracantha, cotoneaster, viburnum, pepper, Chinese pistache, rosehips, holly, yew and barberry. Of these, only the pepper berries and rosehips are consumed by my family. Although pomegranates are not a berry, their jewel-red seeds called arils remind me of tiny berries and I grow them in my garden.

... continued on Page D10



Happy Holidays! Looking forward to 2022!!

Lamorinda, a place we call home, is so special and unique, that we love introducing it to others and welcoming them as new neighbors to our community.

We are busy preparing properties for the 2022 market, please give us a call, we'd love to help you too!

TRUST. EXPERIENCE. RESULTS.

Glenn Beaubelle, Kellie Beaubelle
Nancy Stryker, Lynn Molloy
925.200.5011

TheBeaubelleGroup.com
DRE 00678426 | 01165322 | 01910108 | 01290021

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	15	\$1,005,000	\$4,420,000
MORAGA	15	\$395,000	\$2,675,000
ORINDA	12	\$1,046,000	\$4,125,000

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

- 125 Camelia Lane, \$4,420,000, 4 Bdrms, 4072 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 11-05-21
4520 Canyon Road, \$3,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 4479 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-08-21
4077 Coralee Lane, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 2478 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 11-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$920,000, 11-19-13
8 Corte Rinaldo, \$1,690,000, 3 Bdrms, 3759 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 11-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$425,000, 05-01-87
3239 Del Mar Drive, \$1,402,000, 3 Bdrms, 2007 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-09-21,
Previous Sale: \$855,000, 04-19-06
1000 Dewing Avenue #216, \$1,005,000, 2 Bdrms, 1123 SqFt,
2017 YrBlt, 11-12-21
3260 Gloria Terrace, \$1,525,000, 2 Bdrms, 1420 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-10-21,
Previous Sale: \$127,000, 04-01-78
3920 Happy Valley Road, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3902 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-12-21
385 Hermosa Court, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1276 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$945,000, 10-11-21
2749 Kinney Drive, \$1,225,000, 2 Bdrms, 1527 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,030,000, 02-05-21
3938 Leroy Way, \$2,385,000, 3 Bdrms, 2456 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-01-21
316 Lowell Lane, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2771 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 11-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,569,000, 04-04-08
740 Moraga Road, \$1,695,000, 5 Bdrms, 2685 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$87,000, 11-01-89
6 Olde Creek Place, \$1,630,000, 5 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 11-12-21
1265 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$4,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3343 SqFt,
1936 YrBlt, 11-03-21, Previous Sale: \$2,850,000, 09-01-15

MORAGA

- 118 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 3033 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-04-21,
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 09-01-89
2129 Ascot Drive #10, \$610,000, 2 Bdrms, 1314 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-09-21
943 Augusta Drive, \$1,420,000, 4 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 11-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 04-12-07
3862 Campolindo Drive, \$1,927,000, 4 Bdrms, 1937 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-10-21
10 Crockett Drive, \$2,675,000, 5 Bdrms, 3831 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 11-10-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,975,000, 07-06-17
128 Danefield Place, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 2929 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-02-21
1615 Del Monte Way, \$2,320,000, 5 Bdrms, 2745 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-04-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,420,000, 04-19-14
2133 Donald Drive #4, \$585,000, 2 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 11-01-21
651 Moraga Road #6, \$395,000, 1 Bdrms, 669 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-10-21
651 Moraga Road #32, \$540,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 08-24-18

... continued on Page D11

WHO YOU LIST WITH MATTERS.

IN 2021, OUR LISTINGS SOLD FOR AN AVERAGE OF **25% HIGHER**
PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT THAN THE LAMORINDA MARKET AVERAGE.

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING SELLING
IN 2022, WORK WITH THIS
AWARD-WINNING
REAL ESTATE TEAM AND GET
TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR HOME.

TOP 1% OF REALTORS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

★★★★★
FIVE STAR AWARD-WINNING REALTORS

WSJ TOP REAL ESTATE
PROFESSIONALS IN AMERICA

 **Best of Zillow**

GIVE US A CALL ANYTIME!

STELLA TSAKONAS • CALBRE #01363574
925.878.6603
STELLA@STELLAANDSTEPHANIE.COM

STEPHANIE MULL • CALBRE #01955633
925.878.1896
STEPHANIE@STELLAANDSTEPHANIE.COM

STELLAANDSTEPHANIE.COM



COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. *Based on information from the Contra Costa Association of REALTORS (alternatively, from the Paragon MLS) as of 11/1/21 (date the AOR/MLS data was obtained). All data has not been, and will not be, verified by broker or MLS. All information should be independently reviewed and verified for accuracy.



SO MANY HAPPY MOMENTS FOR MY BUYERS AND SELLERS THIS YEAR



6 Valencia Dr, Orinda
30 Sea Pines, Moraga
53 Parklane Dr. Orinda
25 Dias Dorados, Orinda
3423 Freeman Rd. Lafayette
38 Muth Dr. Orinda
8 Estates Dr., Orinda
11 Dos Posos, Orinda
9 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda
8 Robert Road, Orinda
154 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
120 Ravenhill Rd. Orinda
63 Orchard Rd. Orinda
236 Ivy Dr., Orinda
2 Calvin Dr., Orinda
4 Crown Court, Orinda
1055 Via Roble, Lafayette
114 Merion Terrace, Moraga
10 Joaquin Patio, Stinson
107 Merion Terrace, Moraga
172 Lombardy Dr., Orinda
30 Owl Hill Rd., Orinda
78 Shuey Dr., Moraga
653 Augusta Dr., Moraga
26 Tappan Dr., Orinda
21 Scenic Dr., Orinda

925.980.3829
Shannon@ShannonConner.com
ShannonConner.com

DRE# 01885058
Villageassociates.com
925.254.0505



SC
shannon conner

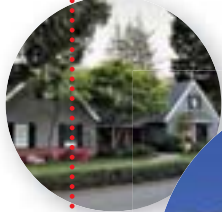
villageassociates.com | @villageassociates | 925.254.0505 | It's Village. Of Course.

Village
ASSOCIATES





SORAYA GOLESORKHI
REALTOR®



SOLD

- 23 Martha Road, Orinda (S)
- 550 Orindawoods Drive, Orinda (S)
- 69 Windy Creek Way, Orinda (S)
- 241 Corliss Drive, Moraga (S & B)
- 2453 Providence Court, Walnut Creek (S)
- 1284 Shell Circle, Clayton (S)
- 3607 Whitworth Drive, Dublin (S)
- 4819 Reno Lane, El Sobrante (S)
- 1304 Larch Avenue, Moraga (B)
- 2920 Windtree Court, Lafayette (B)
- 1896 Camino Estrada, Concord (B)
- 3231 Camino Colorados, Lafayette (B)
- 2001 Skycrest #2, Walnut Creek (B)
- 1854 Penny Lane, Concord (B)

PENDING

- 8 Dale Court, Lafayette (S)
- 440 Warwick Drive, Walnut Creek (B)

S = Seller | B = Buyer

Happy Holidays

to you and your families and all the best wishes for the New Year!



For a full service, personal, concierge-style experience, call me.

Soraya

Soraya Golesorkhi
925.808.8390
sg@soraya4homes.com
soraya4homes.com
DRE #01771736



COLDWELL BANKER
5 Moraga Way, Orinda





Happy Holidays

FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS



Thankful now more than ever for our incredible community. Wishing everyone safe and healthy holidays and a wonderful 2022.

www.holcenberg.com

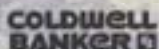
Michelle Holcenberg

Coldwell Banker Top 100 SF Bay Area

michelle@holcenberg.com

925-324-0405

BRE #01373412



©2018 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.



Kyle Davis

Owner/Partner

Senior Mortgage Consultant

Stonecastle Land & Home Financial

Direct/fax: 925-314-5299

Email: Kyle@Stonecastlemtg.com

380 Diablo Road Suite 201 • Danville, CA 94526 • CADRE #: 01111347 / NMLS #: 274107
Broker CA DRE #: 01328838 / BROKER NMLS #: 280803

RATES ARE NEAR ALL TIME LOWS!
30 YEAR FIXED RATE TO \$5,000,000!

2.750% / 2.799% APR

GREAT CONFORMING RATES!

	Fixed Rates to \$647,200		Fixed Rates to \$970,800	
	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
30 Year Fixed	2.750%	2.836%	2.874%	2.944%
15 Year Fixed	1.999%	2.155%	1.999%	2.200%

“PROVIDING PREMIER LOAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICE FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND SOLUTION-ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.”

Call 925-314-5299 for Today's Quote!

This is not a loan commitment, nor is it a guarantee of any kind. This comparison is based solely on estimated figures and information available at the time of production. Interest rate is subject to borrower and property qualifying. Stonecastle Land and Home Financial, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Lender.



RENT-A-SPACE
Store It. Tear It. Use It. Rent It.

\$50 OFF

ON SELECT UNITS
9X10 OR SMALLER (UPSTAIRS)
GOOD FOR 3 MONTHS
OFFER ENDS 12/31/21
LIMITED AVAILABILITY

50
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

FALL STUFF

Hours of operation
Mon-Sat 9am -6pm
Office and Yard.
Or call for an appointment.

RENT-A-SPACE
Store It. Tear It. Use It. Rent It.

455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2026
www.5Aspace.com

RHEEM SHOPPING CENTER

DRE 02155340



We're not just a real estate brokerage. We're your contractor and designer, too.

We're Enkasa. Just think of us as your agent, contractor, and designer—all in one. Figure out what needs remodeling (and how much it will cost) before you buy. Plan for updates to increase your home's value before you sell. Our team is your team, and we're here to help you get the most out of every home.

Text or call 925.238.3358
EnkasaHomes.com

 **ENKASA**

Unlock the potential in every home.





finolafellner

REAL ESTATE

Wishing you a wonderful holiday surrounded by family and friends.

May your home be filled with the magic of the season.



COMPASS

finolafellner.com | finola.fellner@compass.com
925.890.7807 | DRE 01428834



THE REVIEWS ARE IN

Thank You

FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR

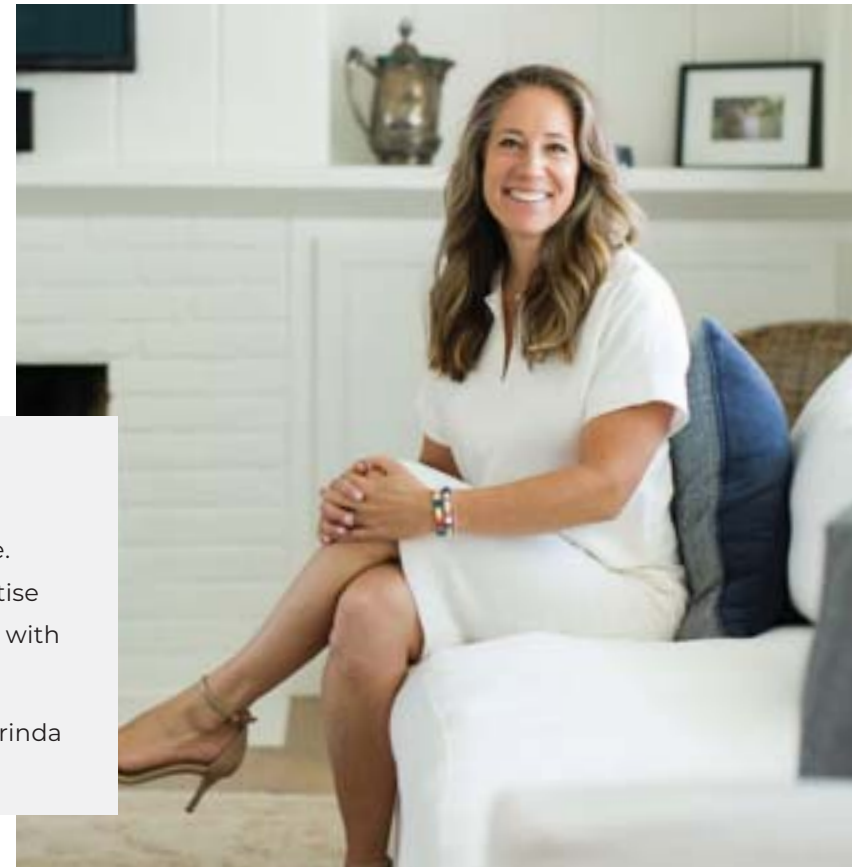
“Emily made a stressful process of selling our house feel comfortable. She was quick to respond to questions and concerns and her expertise in the Lamorinda market was really appreciated. We sold our house with multiple offers over asking and were thrilled with the outcome!”

— Seller, Orinda

“I worked with Emily on selling my home of 25 years recently and I cannot say enough about how sensitive, caring and professional she was in helping me prepare for this life changing event. Her knowledge of the business was impressive as she guided me through the maze of the entire process from making decisions on what needed to be done to make my house shine to keeping me relaxed throughout the entire process.

Emily is definitely a shining star in this profession. In addition, Emily helped me buy another home in the area and it went as smooth as silk!”

— Seller, Lafayette



“Emily was extremely proactive informing us on upcoming homes. Once we found our dream home she guided us into a competitive and fair offer. She seemed to know exactly when to step in and offer guidance and when to patiently wait for us to make a decision. Emily was supportive, honest and responsive—a true partner throughout the entire process. We are so fortunate to have met and worked with her and would strongly recommend her to our friends and family.”

— Buyer, Orinda

COMPASS

DRE#01942438

EMILY ESTRADA
REAL ESTATE

925-708-8116 // EMILY@EMILYESTRADA.COM // EMILYESTRADA.COM // @EMILYESTRADAREALESTATE



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

A berry, Merry Christmas ... mostly for the birds



Pyracantha berries are a favorite dinner for robins.

Photo Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

Pomegranates are a staple of the Christmas fruit basket because of their festive holiday colors. The arils are filled with antioxidants, potassium, fiber, vitamins, and minerals, packing a punch to keep us healthy. Add them to salads, make a chutney, or stir a splash of juice in a glass of sparkling wine for a festive, flavorful indulgence.

The pretty pink peppercorns from a California pepper tree are a gourmet's desire. Since these trees are grown as ornamentals many people don't realize that their berries are edible, with a fruity, spice profile that complements numerous recipes. They can be dried or used fresh. I have found the best way to grind them is with my mortar and pestle because their paper-thin husks get caught in my twist grinder. When making stews or soups, I toss the whole berry, called a drupe because it is a single seed, in the pot. If you buy pink peppercorns, be prepared to pay \$10-15 per ounce. Consider planting a California pepper tree which will grow to 30 feet tall and wide if you have the room.

Although it is mid-December, my roses continue to bloom. This month I am no longer dead-heading my bushes as I want the rosehips to form. Since roses are in the same family as apples and crab apples, the taste of rosehips mimics the tartness of crab apples. The seeds/berries of rosehips have powerful disease-fighting capabilities and are packed with vitamin C. After washing the hips, use them to make jellies, teas, syrups, soups, and desserts.

... continued on Page D12

Fresh Coat Restoration LLC

Restore | Refresh | Re-Design | Rebuild



Lic #962764

925-655-7528

New Builds
Staining
Restoration
... and so much more!

Check us out on Yelp and Google!

5% off
with mention
of this ad



Our advertisers make our paper possible to print and deliver free to your home. Please thank them and let them know you saw their ad.

**Your publishers,
Andy and Wendy Scheck**

**LAMORINDA
WEEKLY**

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

NOW OPEN!



VANGUARD PROPERTIES | EAST BAY
971 DEWING AVENUE, LAFAYETTE

OFFERING AN ENTIRELY NEW REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE IN THE EAST BAY
For more information, contact Regional Director, Ron Mintz 925.872.0968 | ron@vanguardproperties.com DRE#01095341

DRE#01486075

VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

A berry, Merry Christmas ... mostly for the birds



Viburnum berries are a satisfying food for feathered friends and some species are edible by humans.

... continued from Page D10

For the birds...

Peeking through leaves and decorating trees and shrubs, winter berries are nature's Christmas décor. As beautiful as they are, the most critical element of growing these botanicals in your garden is the nutritional fare they provide for the birds and other wildlife during the coldest season of the year when food sources are limited. There are several other autumn ripened



Photos Cynthia Brian

Yew berries are poisonous except for the red flesh arils.

berry-bearing bushes or vines that still have shriveled fruit hanging, such as grape and elderberry, that can be left for the birds. Here's a sampling of vibrant holiday berry dinners fit for the birds.

Cotoneaster emerged as a volunteer in my garden, most likely from seeds brought in by birds. It is an evergreen shrub that grows into a tree if not properly pruned sporting white flowers in spring that are a magnet for bees and rich red berries in winter that are a delicacy for birds. Deer munch on the branches which doesn't bother the bush. Cotoneaster is fire-resistant and can be propagated from cuttings, although I have found that once one cotoneaster is in a landscape, others seem to sprout like weeds.

Holly has glossy leaves that are either serrated or have spiny teeth. Because most hollies are dioecious, you'll need to plant both a male and female for cross-pollination if you want those glorious red berries to decorate garlands, wreaths, and Christmas trees. English holly and American holly are the two species most used during the holidays. Although holly berries tend to start ripening in fall, most birds, including blackbirds and song thrushes don't start feeding on them until late winter when other food is scarce.

Chinese pistache is one of my favorite trees for its exuberant fall color of yellows and oranges with attractive berries that metamorphose from green to aqua, to pink, and finally magenta. Birds, turkeys, quail, and squirrels go crazy for the bunches of berries that hang from the branches. I add a few sprays to my Christmas tree whenever the fowl and squirrels are kind enough to leave me a few bunches.

... continued on Page D14

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

Moraga ... continued

3962 Paseo Grande, \$1,860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-05-21, Previous Sale: \$760,000, 06-23-03
 304 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-01-21, Previous Sale: \$750,000, 05-04-04
 1903 Saint Andrews Drive, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-03-21, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 11-12-13
 3 Via Barcelona, \$955,000, 3 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-12-21, Previous Sale: \$615,000, 09-23-11
 454 Woodminster Drive, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-08-21

ORINDA

14 Aspinwall Court, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 1925 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-12-21
 14 Bobolink Road, \$2,850,000, 6 Bdrms, 3597 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-09-21
 32 Calvin Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2184 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-10-21
 211 Crestview Drive, \$1,046,000, 2 Bdrms, 970 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-01-21
 492 Dalewood Drive, \$4,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3438 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-01-21, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 08-15-00
 2 Keith Drive, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2126 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-12-21
 23 Longridge Road, \$1,520,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 11-04-21, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 07-03-18
 30 Meadow Park Court, \$1,980,000, 4 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-01-21, Previous Sale: \$679,000, 09-18-01
 5 North Lane, \$1,680,000, 4 Bdrms, 1831 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-09-21, Previous Sale: \$875,000, 01-23-19
 22 South Trail, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 2709 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 11-05-21, Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 11-04-16
 3 Valley View Lane, \$3,100,000, 6 Bdrms, 5409 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 11-03-21, Previous Sale: \$2,715,000, 07-12-07
 30 Whitehall Drive, \$1,710,000, 3 Bdrms, 1857 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-12-21

\$20M+

17

TRANSACTIONS

Just Sold:

114 Merion Terrace, Moraga
 466 Woodminster, Moraga
 73 Brookwood Rd #43, Orinda
 29 Crescent Dr, Orinda
 4290 El Nido Ranch Rd, Orinda
 25 Los Cerros, Orinda
 9 Via Corte, Orinda
 35 Underhill Rd, Orinda
 859 Grayson Rd, Pleasant Hill
 1767 Ruth Dr, Pleasant Hill
 257 Kingston Way, Walnut Creek
 1673 Poplar Dr, Walnut Creek
 2009 Stewart Ave, Walnut Creek
 2827 Fernside Blvd, Alameda
 1411 Ridgewood Dr, Martinez
 5325 Stonehurst Dr, Martinez
 4337 Clarinbridge, Dublin

Thank you,
buyers and sellers in 2021



925-330-9474 | john@johnbnash.com
 www.johnbnash.com | DRE # 01995244

JN John Nash
realtor

home is where you make it

villageassociates.com | @villageassociates

Village
ASSOCIATES

925.254.0505 | It's Village. Of Course.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

A berry, Merry Christmas ... mostly for the birds



Pink peppercorns from the California pepper tree add tasty, mild flavors to food.



Photos Cynthia Brian

Pistache berries are great for decorating Christmas trees if they aren't devoured by birds and squirrels first.

... continued from Page D12

Pyracantha may be the preferred winter staple of robins. Birds flock to the orange-red berries called pomes, eating so many that they seem intoxicated. Known as firethorns, pyracantha is a fast-growing plant with sharp thorns. Volunteers sprout in unusual locations thanks to the birds spreading their seeds. Keep pyracantha pruned and use branches with berries in holiday arrangements.

Viburnum shrubs and hedges add beauty to any garden. They produce pinkish-white flowers that bloom from spring until late fall, depending on the species. Birds love munching on berries ripening in winter with colors that are black, blue, purple, bright red, neon pink, and even yellow. Some species are edible by humans, but other species can be toxic. Unless you know that the viburnum you planted is edible, leave the berries to the birds.

Yew berries red flesh called arils are sweet and safe for birds. The arils provide nutrients needed by the flyers. The seed inside is deadly, and birds know to discard it. Often called the Tree of Death, all parts of the yew tree are poisonous except the arils. The highly poisonous taxane alkaloids of the yew have been developed as anti-cancer drugs.

Not for the birds...or any animal

Nandina adds multi-season interest to any garden with its nectar-rich white flowers that attract pollinators followed by clusters of green berries

that ripen to shiny bright red in late fall. The lacy foliage emerges as purple, then turns green, then changes to red and purple throughout the year. As much as I love this ornamental bush, it is important to know the berries are deadly to birds, wildlife, and domestic animals. Most birds innately avoid this plant, but the voracious eaters, cedar waxwings, are susceptible to imbibing until intoxicated. The berries contain cyanogenic glycosides that convert to hydrogen cyanide when ingested.

WARNING: *When planting berry-bearing bushes, please be cognizant that most provide wildlife forage but may be toxic, poisonous, or even deadly when consumed by humans. Never put any plant substance in your mouth unless you are certain that it is edible.*

There is still time to give the gifts that keep on giving by purchasing any of my award-winning books from www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store. Proceeds benefit the literacy charity empower women, families, and youth, Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 (www.BetheStarYouAre.org)

You will receive many additional gifts with every purchase.

Birdscape your garden by growing a bird-friendly sanctuary with berry-producing florals that birds will love. Wander in a winter wonderland of wildlife and have a berry, merry Christmas ... with the birds!

Blessings to all and a ho, ho, ho!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Holidays!



Cynthia Brian wishes you a very berry, merry Christmas

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.

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. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings.

Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
www.GoddessGardener.com

McDonnell Nursery



family owned since 1933

**We are open thru Xmas eve for last minute Christmas gifts.
 We will be closed for the holiday break, reopening on Jan. 5th**

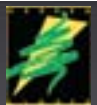
www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • (925) 254-3713 • Open Wednesday - Sunday

Get Out & Stay Out!

In Your New Outdoor Room

Let Garden Lights Landscape Development give you good reason to "Get Out and Stay Out" this summer.



Enlarge your living area with an outdoor kitchen or entertainment space complete with a built in barbecue and the warm glow of a stone or masonry fireplace.

Garden Lights Landscape Development, Inc. is a full service landscape & pool design build firm.
 We design & install with just one call 925-254-4797 • www.gardenlightslandscape.com

Celebrating over 20 years of service in Lamorinda. Bonded – Licensed & Insured License# 702845 C27 & C53

LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA



Sold!

11 Ranch Road

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

\$3,035,000

ORINDA



Sold!

11 La Fond

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

\$2,350,000

ORINDA



Sold!

8 Avis Court

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

\$2,101,500

ORINDA



Sold!

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!

\$1,900,000

ORINDA



Sold!

73 Brookwood Road #13

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

\$700,000

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



Sold!

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!

\$488,000

LAFAYETTE



Pending!

1130 Nogales Street

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath single story home w/ extra room! Perfect for office, family room, or extra bedroom w/ large closet!

\$1,278,000

LAFAYETTE



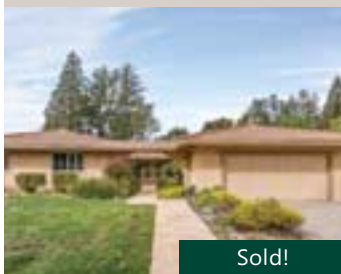
New Lease!

3342 S Lucille Lane

Located in Lafayette Valley Estates is this 1154 sqft rancher w/ 3 beds/ 2 baths. Close distance to trails, parks, & top rated schools!

\$4,200/mo

MORAGA



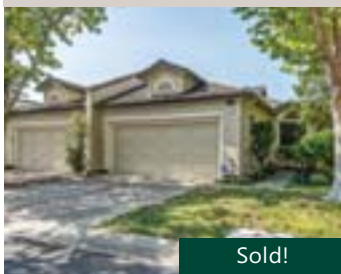
Sold!

34 San Pablo Court

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

\$2,255,000

WALNUT CREEK



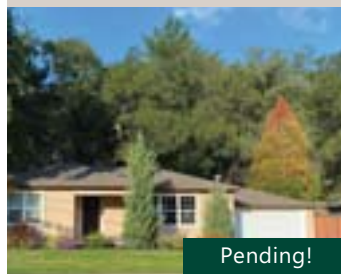
Sold!

310 Beacon Ridge Lane

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

\$1,200,000

WALNUT CREEK



Pending!

1460 Springbrook Road

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath Rancher on private lot near downtown w/ 1 bed/ 1 bath guest house. Remodeled in 2014!

\$1,149,000

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

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Margaret Zucker

facebook.com/VillageAssociates
twitter.com/villageassoc
instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on [Open Homes](#)

Village

ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

DRE#01301392