

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 20 Wednesday, November 23, 2022



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planting peace



Photos Cynthia Brian
A glut of gaga gourds and petite pumpkins.

By Cynthia Brian

“Landscapes move us in a manner more analogous to the action of music than to anything else. Gradually and silently the charm carries over us: the beauty has entered our souls we know not exactly when and how.” ~ Frederick Law Olmstead

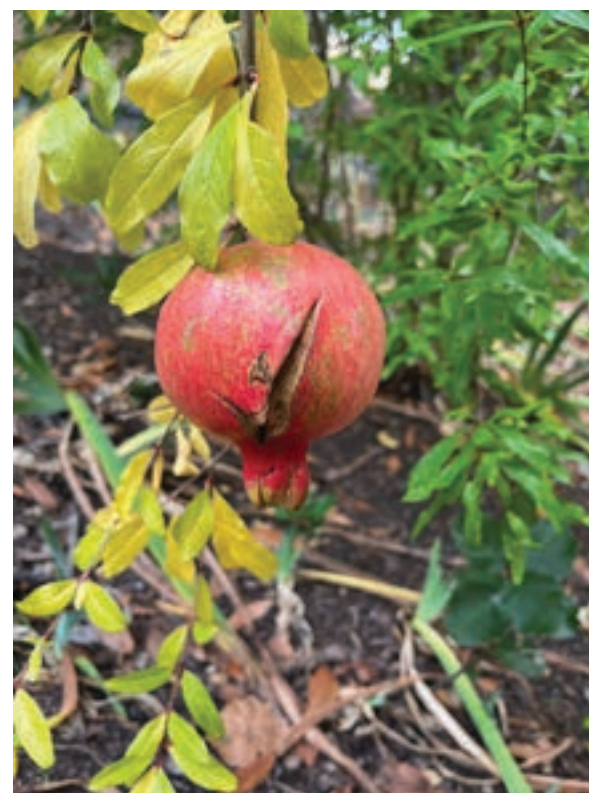
It was in the 1860s that America’s pioneer landscape architect brought calming, pastoral public areas to urban dwellers with



Pretty Pistache trees light up fall at local parks.

his design of New York’s Central Park. Throughout his life, Frederick Law Olmstead, designed 100 public parks and recreation grounds and his successor firm has seen the development of over 1,090 parkway systems over the last 100 years. With all his parks, he planted peace and tranquility for posterity.

With the approach of Thanksgiving, it is finally feeling like autumn with cooler and crisper air, turning leaves, and stressless strolls through bucolic parks. Our climate is changing and as gardeners we struggle to



Harvest red or pomegranates that are splitting to enjoy for the holidays.

keep pace.

November is the best time to begin planting spring-blooming bulbs. I picked my first bouquet of narcissi of the season on Nov. 1 before I had even begun planting any other bulbs. Once the ground chills to about 55 degrees, start the process of planting naturalizing narcissi as well as other bulbs in well-drained sandy loam where they’ll receive at least six hours of sunlight daily.

... continued on Page D12



Happy Thanksgiving

COOK LIKE A CHEF & ENTERTAIN LIKE A QUEEN

Orinda | 7 Evans Place | 3BD | 2.5BA | \$2,275,000

One look at the architectural detailing and gorgeous amenities from custom Italian cabinetry and imported ceramic tile to walnut hardwood floors and walls of windows will leave you breathless at this spectacular single-level home tucked in the hills of Orinda.

The expanded gourmet kitchen design leaves little to be desired. It features a soaring vaulted ceiling with a trio of skylights and a double-wide Andersen sliding glass door that opens to create a seamless flow to an outdoor dining venue and gas firepit. The kitchen also features custom Scavolini Italian cabinetry with LED underlighting and extra deep drawers, Italian ceramic flooring, three and a half-inch thick counters, dual oven

Wolf range, Wolf hood with warming lights, a SubZero built-in refrigerator with two freezer drawers, two Meile stainless steel lined dishwashers, and two SubZero under-counter refrigerator drawers.

Enjoy California's quintessential indoor/outdoor lifestyle and slide open walls of windows to fabulous outdoor spaces primed to create the ultimate outdoor entertaining mecca and backyard sanctuary on its generous .65-acre corner lot.



Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle

925.254.1212

TheBeaubelleGroup.com
Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com

CABRE# 00678426, 01165322



Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	12	\$835,000	\$5,600,000
MORAGA	9	\$595,000	\$3,050,000
ORINDA	5	\$1,400,000	\$2,700,000

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

- 21 Beaumont Court, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1652 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-11-22
- 3455 Freeman Road, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 10-11-22
- 4107 Happy Valley Road, \$5,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 5692 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-14-22, Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 01-09-02
- 12 Hidden Valley Road, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2926 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 10-11-22
- 1038 Leland Drive, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1228 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$905,000, 07-05-17
- 3350 South Lucille Lane, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 1607 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-03-22, Previous Sale: \$897,000, 07-05-06
- 660 Moraga Road, \$835,000, 5 Bdrms, 2474 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-06-22
- 3279 Mt Diablo Court #16, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$840,000, 04-01-21
- 1561 Pleasant Hill Road, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-06-22
- 1842 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,880,000, 4 Bdrms, 1691 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-12-22, Previous Sale: \$349,000, 11-18-98
- 3420 Shangri La Road, \$1,975,000, 5 Bdrms, 3342 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-07-22
- 3338 Sweet Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1556 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-07-22, Previous Sale: \$719,000, 07-01-08

MORAGA

- 124 Ascot Court #C, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-11-22, Previous Sale: \$490,000, 06-13-17
- 1472 Camino Peral #A, \$620,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-11-22, Previous Sale: \$679,000, 05-10-22
- 12 Corte La Rado, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2954 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 11-04-19
- 8 Corte Pinto, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-03-22
- 2121 Donald Drive #8, \$615,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-04-22, Previous Sale: \$435,000, 04-12-16
- 343 Fernwood Drive, \$1,895,000, 4 Bdrms, 2447 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-07-22
- 1 Hastings Court, \$3,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 3620 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 10-05-22, Previous Sale: \$2,900,000, 11-18-21
- 280 Scofield Drive, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1623 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-04-22
- 13 Williams Drive, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2557 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 10-06-22, Previous Sale: \$895,000, 07-05-02

ORINDA

- 30 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2316 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$1,168,000, 03-09-05
- 40 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-04-22, Previous Sale: \$625,000, 03-20-12
- 224 La Espiral, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-03-22, Previous Sale: \$1,508,000, 08-10-15
- 1 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1469 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-14-22
- 107 Moraga Way, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1817 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$710,000, 06-24-13

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GRATEFUL!

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL FAMILIES WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO HELP MAKE MOVES THIS YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING YOU IN 2023!

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING SELLING
IN 2023, WORK WITH THIS
AWARD-WINNING
REAL ESTATE TEAM AND GET
TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR HOME.

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WE HOPE YOUR
HOLIDAY IS FILLED
WITH LOVE,
LAUGHTER AND
GRATITUDE. HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!



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Learning to tap into the wonder of the natural world



Photo Toris Jaeger

By Toris Jaeger

The Indigenous people of the Earth have learned to live in harmony with nature. This means following nature's lead. They developed technologies for finding plants and animals to benefit their lives but always made sure there was plenty for the future.

They lived in nature and nature provided all.

Other cultures viewed nature differently. It was seen as something to use and change to meet their demands. They cut down the forests filled in the wetlands and sucked up the water to plant crops.

This was the beginning of Climate Change.

From a very early age I valued being outside in nature. I made the birds, insects, mice, rats and rattle snakes my friends. I have always found it difficult to express this connection in words.

Recently, two high school students gave me the book, "The Invention of Nature, Alexander Von Humboldt's New World," by Andrea Wulf. Humboldt was born in 1769 and died in 1859.

Humboldt and his contemporaries – Goethe, Thomas Jefferson, Darwin, Thoreau, March, Haeckel and Muir – and those who were inspired by him and his books, "A Personal Narrative" and his final work, "Cosmos," were some that went on to create great works themselves. They viewed nature as very powerful and connected everything that is a part of nature.

My humble summary of Humboldt's works is that he spoke the language of nature, which speaks through all that is in nature. Humboldt spoke against the poor treatment of the Indigenous people and spoke against slavery of any people. He traveled to all the continents and climbed all the Earth's mountains in his lifetime. He discovered more connections than differences.

These naturalists have much to teach us about how to live in harmony with nature.

While we may not have time or resources to travel the Earth to climb each mountain top, we can step into the natural world just outside our door, and revel in all its wonder.

YOUR CB ORINDA REALTORS:

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 BEV ARNOLD
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 NANCY BOOTH
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 ROBERTA CALDERON
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 LINDA VAN DRENT
 TERRI BATES WALKER
 GREG WATKINS
 JERRY WENDT
 FRANK WOODWARD
 JUNE YOUNG
 ANA ZIMMANK


Orinda
25 Rustic Way \$5,750,000

Pool, tennis court, flat areas for play and entertaining, 8,514 square feet and an indoor gymnasium-racket ball court. Potential for subdivision of additional parcels.

Laura Abrams
25rusticway.com

510.697.3225 Melanie Snow
Lic#01272382 23lafond.com


Orinda
23 La Fond Ln \$3,995,000

An Entertainer's Dream!
4511 sf | 5 BR | 3 BA | 1.1 acre lot
Pool, Spa, and Views Galore.

Melanie Snow
23lafond.com

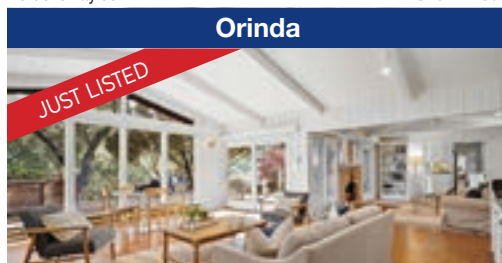
925.360.0344
Lic#00878893


Orinda
8 Dos Posos \$2,495,000

Romantic Orinda Country Club Jewel with Mediterranean Flair! Elegant and impressive with a dynamic floorplan. 4 bedrooms - 2.5 Baths - 3.652 Sq Ft.

Kelly Crawford Team
kellycrawfordhomes.com

925.998.5599
Lic#01327015


Orinda
170 Camino Don Miguel \$2,495,000

OCC 5th fairway location. Single level, vaulted ceilings, 3202 sq ft w/4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths on .91 ac. Private & secluded.

Shellie Kirby
sheliekirby.com

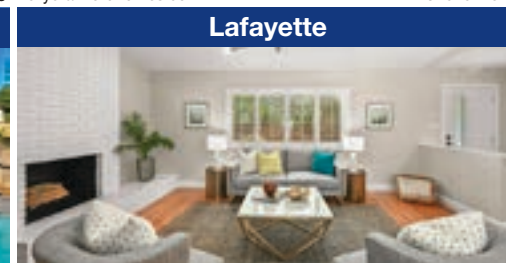
925.872.4257
Lic#01251227


Lafayette
1456 Rancho View Dr \$2,795,000

Enjoy gorgeous views of the Carquinez Straits. Guest house with 1 bed / 1 bath. Pool. 5 Bedrooms - 4 Baths - 3,853 Square Feet - .92 Acre

Kelly Crawford Team
kellycrawfordhomes.com

925.998.5599
Lic#01327015


Lafayette
1062 Oak Hill Rd \$1,150,000

Mid-century modern stunner 1 block from Bart and 2 blocks from downtown Lafayette shops and restaurants. 3 Bedrooms - 2 Baths - .25 Acre

Kelly Crawford Team
kellycrawfordhomes.com

925.998.5599
Lic#01327015


Moraga
308 Rheem Blvd \$1,795,000

Fabulous expanded rancher on an acre with an amazing private fenced rear yard, large enough to add a pool and still play soccer!

Laura Abrams
308rheembld.com

510.697.3225
Lic#01273282


Walnut Creek
524 Monarch Ridge Dr \$1,295,000

Lafayette Schools! Stunning Summit Ridge townhouse with a gorgeous kitchen remodel. 4 bedrooms - 2.5 Baths - 2,549 Sq Ft.

Kelly Crawford Team
kellycrawfordhomes.com

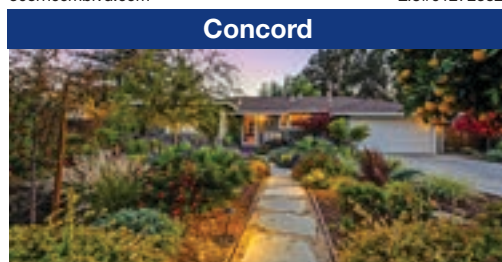
925.998.5599
Lic#01327015


San Leandro
1351 Scenicview Dr \$1,249,000

Fantastic 3BR/2BA home in sought after Bay-O-Vista is a remodeler's dream! Wonderful "retro chic" feel and panoramic view of the Bay, city skyline and Mt. Tam!

Mary Beth MacLennan
1351scenicviewDr.com

925.324.6246
Lic#01480008


Concord
1661 Georgia Dr \$869,000

Charming bungalow with a remodeled kitchen, open concept, solar, and on a quiet court. Magical front and backyards. 3 Beds - 1.5 Baths - 1,273 Square Feet - .26 Acre

Kelly Crawford Team
kellycrawfordhomes.com

925.998.5599
Lic#01327015


Oakland
3625 Harbor View \$799,000

Light-filled, spacious feelings will amaze you as you set foot into this approx 910 SF 2 BR 1 BA bungalow!

Suzanne Geoffrion
myagentsuzanne.com

925.699.4832
Lic# 01878803


Walnut Creek
840 Tice Creek Dr, #2233 \$459,000

Absolutely charming 2 BR/1.5BA condo with tree-lined views in The Waterford in Rossmore

Mary Beth MacLennan
1840TiceCreekDr2233.com

925.324.6246
Lic#01480008

Making Buyers and Sellers Happy in Lamorinda in 2022



#1 INDIVIDUAL AGENT Coldwell Banker Orinda Office



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LISTINGS AND BUYER TRANSACTIONS 2022 YTD

ORINDA

23 La Fond \$3,995,000 Listed
11 La Cuesta Rd \$3,600,000
91 Lombardy Ln \$3,225,000
11 Valley View Dr \$2,320,000
32 Dos Posos \$2,300,000
11 Los Altos Rd \$2,295,000 Pending
3 La Cuesta \$1,900,000
102 Ravenhill Rd \$1,850,000
130 Sleepy Hollow Ln \$1,850,000

LAFAYETTE

65 Silverwood Dr \$2,390,000

MORAGA

828 Crossbrook Ct \$2,875,000
178 Corliss Dr \$2,685,000
1850 School St \$2,515,000
192 Draeger Dr \$2,000,000
38 Sullivan Dr \$1,875,000

ALAMO

241 Likely Dr \$2,750,000

WALNUT CREEK

1820 Cannon Dr \$800,000
241 Masters Ct 1 \$520,000

PLEASANT HILL

428 Iron Hill St \$1,350,000





**I'm so grateful for all
of these connections
this year.**

85 Kathryn Dr., Pleasant Hill
36 Miner Rd., Orinda
684 Fox Run, Orinda
85 Tarry Lane, Orinda
38 Parklane Dr., Orinda
1919 Ascot Dr., Moraga
50 Meadow View Rd, Orinda
461 Ridgeview Dr., Pleasant Hill
30 Parklane Dr., Orinda
27 Woodland Rd., Orinda
21 Monte Veda Dr., Orinda
92 Coral Dr., Orinda
65 Meadow View Rd., Orinda
44 Ivy Dr., Orinda
30 E. Altarinda Dr., Orinda
9 Bel Air Dr., Orinda
50 Woodbury Highlands, Lafayette
20 El Gavilan Road, Orinda
589 Tahos Road, Orinda
52 Via Floreado, Orinda

If you are thinking of buying or selling in the Lamorinda area in
2023, give me a call. I specialize in bringing buyers and sellers
together to create happy moments!

925.980.3829

Shannon@ShannonConner.com
ShannonConner.com

DRE# 01885058

Villageassociates.com
925.254.0505



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ASSOCIATES



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REAL ESTATE TEAM



Gratitude

[gra-ti-tude] noun

The positive state of being grateful; an overwhelming feeling of appreciation and thankfulness, and the desire to return kindness to others.

For 20 years “each” we’ve been fortunate to meet and represent incredible people moving to and from our Lamorinda community. This is something neither of us take for granted.

These towns offer both a tangible and intangible beauty we are so lucky to be a part of and we are thankful to call HOME.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

Lisa & Kristi

Lisa Brydon DRE 01408025 | Kristi Ives DRE 01367466
925.788.8345 | bi@brydonivesteam.com | brydonivesteam.com





HOW HAVE I FELT THIS YEAR? *"Great-ful"*

I have THE BEST clients and business partners and I am so grateful for you all! Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season from my home to yours!

Through all kinds of markets, I have a track record of success. I look forward to helping you for many years and many markets to come!

13+
Years

**Local, LaMorinda
experience**

200+
Transactions

**Helping Buyers &
Sellers**

\$450m+
Sales

**One of the
top agents**

100%
Loving it!

**Let's Find the
Right Fit**

Amy Rose Smith
Partner/ Village Associates
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amy@amyrosesmith.com
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FINDING THE *Right* FIT



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925.254.0505 | It's Village. Of Course.



"Spring Market" will be here soon ... Time to start planning!

You deserve a team who has the experience,
expertise, and proven track record to help you
achieve your real estate goals.

Chris and Tracy have been providing unparalleled
results in Lamorinda for over 35 years.

Contact Chris & Tracy today for more information.



**Chris Swim
Tracy Keaton**

DRE 00943989 | 01051349

925.766.1447

chris@chrisswim.com

chrisswim.com

COMPASS

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TERRI BATES WALKER

REAL ESTATE



29 Sullivan Drive, Moraga
\$2,080,000
29sullivan.com



46 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
\$2,249,000
46caminosobrante.com



Terri Bates Walker, Broker, J.D.

510-282-4420 terri@terribateswalker.com terribateswalker.com
CalRE#01330081

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

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Wishing all a safe and joyful Holiday Season! Thank you for your trust and your business!

REAL ESTATE IS MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS.

Every Home has a story!



19 Candlestick Road, Orinda
Sold at \$1,835,000 • 19Candlestick.com



25 Rustic Way, Orinda
\$5,750,000 • 25RusticWay.com



308 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga
\$1,795,000 • 308RheemBlvd.com



407 El Toyonal, Orinda
Sold at \$1,305,000 • 407ElToyonal.com



40 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda
Sold at \$1,800,000 • 40CaminoDonMiguel.com



5 La Noria, Orinda
Sold at \$3,200,000 • 5LaNoria.com



1 Madera Lane, Orinda
Sold at \$1,775,000 • 1MaderaLn.com



5 Brookbank Road, Orinda
Sold at \$3,300,000 • Represented Buyer



9 La Noria, Orinda
Sold at \$1,910,000 • 9LaNoria.com



37 Vallecito Lane, Orinda
Sold at \$1,800,000 • 37VallecitoLane.com



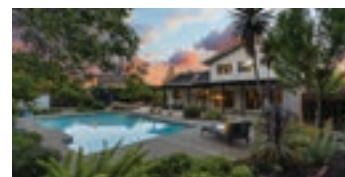
2 Bien Venida, Orinda
Sold at \$2,940,000 • 2BeinVenida.com



67 Brookwood Rd # 6, Orinda
Sold at \$515,000



75 Stanton, Orinda
Sold at \$1,650,000 • 75Stanton.com



31 Nottingham Place, Clayton
Sold at \$1,520,000 • 31NottinghamPl.com



105 Ardith Drive, Orinda
Sold at \$2,100,000 • Represented Buyer

407 El Toyonal, Orinda

"I inherited a family home and I don't live in the area so Laura made all the arrangements to have the house fixed up at a reasonable cost. She went above and beyond to organize people and the projects that needed to get accomplished. She always kept me apprised of what was happening and the time table to completion. Because of Laura's knowledge of the community she was often one step ahead of any problems and as a result no delays occurred. She answered all my questions promptly. She explained the process perfectly and was able to present the home beautifully. As a result of her hard work we received substantially more money for the house than I could have hoped for."

9 La Noria, Orinda

"Glad that I found Laura, she is like no other agent that I have worked with in the past. She was so detailed about preparing the home. Makes selling the house an easy and FUN experience. Will definitely recommend her for anyone looking to sell or buy a home."

19 Candlestick, Orinda

"Laura moved the sale of our home to a very successful conclusion in a changing market. We were very pleased with her attention to detail, being always available & answering all of our inquiries with straight forthright responses. She also held the house open every weekend, which was instrumental in the sale of our home. She recommended several trades people to

improve our property and followed their progress to our satisfaction. We could not be more happy with her efforts."

2 Bien Venida, Orinda

"We were lucky as we called Laura after seeing an advertisement. We had interviewed other agents but Laura was the only agent who was positive about selling our home. She supervised all the market preparation and the staging was wonderful. We were successful selling our home and we couldn't have been happier with the transaction. We kept thinking what if we had not called Laura. We don't think any other agent could have made our home so inviting. We are very grateful."

37 Vallecito Lane, Orinda

"The sell and buy transaction with Laura was very smooth. I bought a home in Rossmoor and sold one in Orinda. It took a year to find the perfect Rossmoor home and she worked with me every step of the way. Laura was very competent, knowledgeable, and responsive. I was extremely happy with the outcome, as I know the buyers on my home were too."

1 Madera Lane, Orinda

"Laura is the hardest working agent we have ever met. She went above and beyond. Her tenacity is remarkable. This deal never would have come together without her. We can't recommend her highly enough. Plus all dogs love her and that made it easier!"



Laura Abrams

laura@lauraabrams.com

510.697.3225

DRE # 01272382

Top 25 Coldwell Banker Bay Area
International Presidents Premier
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www.lauraabrams.com



Celebrating 22 Years With Coldwell Banker Orinda
A Trusted Partnership Local Expertise with Global Connections

Recognized as one of America's 2022 Best Real Estate Professionals by
RealTrends and Tom Ferry.
Ranked among the top 1% of 1.4 million real estate professionals in the
United States!



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planting peace



Add pumpkins and scarecrows to your outdoor Thanksgiving display.

... continued from Page D1

With our dense, nutrition-lacking clay soil, we need to amend it with sand, peat moss, and compost before digging the holes. All flower bulbs require neutral pH soil around 7.0 to develop a strong root system that supports flowers. Mother Nature is busy spreading her wild seeds via the wind, birds, animal fur, and even our stocking feet. Most flowers need the next few colder months to rest and germinate. Before the geese head south, walk around your yard to ponder what you'll want to improve, include, edit, or change for the spring. Our year of outdoor work is winding down as our celebration of gratitude approaches. After your big slice of pumpkin pie, work off the calories with garden chores in preparation for a respite in winter. Head to the park to unwind, encounter stillness, and appreciate beauty.

PROTECT plant roots by mulching your garden.

GRIND fallen leaves with a mower to reduce particle size and increase decomposition time.

TURN the soil in your vegetable garden, pull out any unwanted growers such as mint, add buckets of compost, and plant a nitrogen-rich cover crop like fava beans or clover. Blanket the ground with straw and continue mulching until planting time in spring.

SUPPRESS weeds while enriching the soil by laying newspaper (three or four sheets) on your bare earth. The newspaper will biodegrade and the zinc in the ink adds nutrients to the mulch. Cover with straw, leaves, or wood chips to continue adding nutrients.

DIG up bulbets of mother bulbs with numerous offshoots. Separate and replant in other areas.

SOAK ranunculus and anemone tubers in tepid water overnight or



Cover frost-tender plants with burlap or sheets.

for at least three or four hours before planting three inches deep and six inches apart in well-draining soil in full sunlight.

PLANT spring bulbs beginning this month. Make sure you have refrigerated your tulips and crocus for at least four weeks before being dug. The best bulbs to plant for spring radiance include:

Daffodil: Hardy in cold or warm climates. Daffodils grow great in pots, too!

Tulip: Also great in containers. Group like colors together for the greatest impact.

Freesia: Magnificently scented in a rainbow of colors.

Ranunculus: Cottage-style flowers with peony-like blooms.

Hyacinth: Tough, fragrant, growing in sun or shade.

Iris: Purple, blue, white, yellow, and mauve Dutch iris make great cut flowers.

Anemone: Single or double colorful tubers prefer light shade.

Crocus: Only a few inches high, you'll know winter is waning when they sprout.

FORCE hardy flower bulbs of amaryllis, freesias, and paperwhites for Christmas blooming by potting them in sterile, neutral pH potting soil in an area where they will enjoy a temperature of 72-82 degrees Fahrenheit with good air circulation and low humidity. Give them a big drink of warm water, tamp down the soil, and do not water again until green sprouts. Amaryllis will sprout spectacular shows within eight weeks.

CUT stalks of peonies to ground level and discard the cuttings as they are not good for compost. If your peonies didn't bloom, they may be planted too deep. Dig them up this month, rework the soil, and replant ½ inch higher than the soil level.

... continued on Page D14

How to protect your home and valuables this holiday travel season

(StatePoint) Whether you're visiting your in-laws or taking a tropical vacation over the holidays, you'll likely be leaving your house and the majority of your belongings unattended while you're gone. Recent research suggests that if you're like many Americans, you may not be doing enough to protect your assets when you hit the road.

According to a study conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of Selective Insurance, 59% of U.S. homeowners have a home security system or device, yet less than half (49%) use one to protect their unoccupied homes when they are on vacation.

However, most homeowners do take some safety measures before departing for extended periods. For instance, 68% lock all their windows when they leave town. Additional precautions include having someone check their home (61%), setting lights on a timer (39%), shutting off water (21%), and hiring a house sitter (13%).

Nevertheless, risk experts say you're best off with a system that monitors for break-ins and other mishaps, including fire and flooding from storms or leaky pipes.

"Vacations are a great time to create new memories, but they are quickly forgotten if you return to a damaged or burglarized home. Taking sensible home safety preparations before leaving is as important as packing the right items in your suitcase," says Allen Anderson, senior vice president of Personal Lines at Selective Insurance. "Our research shows that home security systems and devices are widely under-used across the country, but they are powerful tools to mitigate against unoccupied home theft, fire and water leaks."

According to Anderson, here are some steps you can take this holiday travel season for greater peace of mind:

- Install and use a smart home security system or device. Doing so provides a vital line of defense and could save you money. Many insurers, including Selective Insurance, will provide a homeowners policy discount to policyholders with a professionally monitored security system.
- Lock your garage and all of your doors and windows – and double-check them.
- Install outdoor lights. Use an automatic timer to set your interior and exterior lights and give your home the appearance of occupancy.
- Stop your mail, package and news deliveries.
- Stow away your valuables.
- Consider waiting until you return from your trip to share vacation photos to social media, or use privacy settings to control who sees your posts.
- Unplug all unnecessary electronics.
- Bring all house keys with you, or leave one with a trusted friend to check up on your home while you're gone.
- Turn off your water! Some of the most frequent and costly homeowners' claims are due to water damage.

For more home protection tips, visit selective.com.

As you make your holiday travel arrangements, think beyond airline tickets and hotel bookings. Be sure that your plans also include home protection in your absence.

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planting peace

Photos
Cynthia Brian



Plant deep pink freesia bulbs for an explosion of spring color.



Narcissi is already in bloom, but you can plant additional bulbs now.



Pick Fuyu persimmons while green if squirrels and birds are a problem.

... continued from Page D12

TURN OFF sprinkler systems. Water by hand when necessary.

LOWER mower height as lawn growth slows. If you didn't fertilize in October or earlier in November, fertilize now with an organic fall blend.

GUARD against an unexpected frost by watering deeply and covering susceptible shrubs with burlap, fabric, or blankets the afternoon before the cold arrives.

REDUCE your garden work out by seeking out plants that are identified as "compact." Look for tags that say dwarf, patio, knee-high, tiny, or baby in the variety name. If a plant tag says "perfect for cut flowers" it will

grow to be too large for a small space.

PICK pomegranates as they ripen or split. Harvest persimmons on trees that are being ravaged by birds and squirrels even before they are ripe. Leave on the countertop to ripen as needed.

DECORATE for Thanksgiving with pumpkins, Indian corn, and gourds.

COOK a pan of cubed winter squash with rosemary for a healthy and satisfying Thanksgiving side.

VISIT our local parks to inhale autumn aromas and savor the sensational fall foliage.

This year marks the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmstead. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we can add his legacy to our thankfulness list for introducing America to

the beauty, tranquility, and necessity of experiencing nature through the development of idyllic parks in towns and cities.

Let us also give our thanks to the hard-working volunteers of local garden clubs who have planted a multitude of bulbs that will blanket our roadways and hillsides with glorious blooms come spring!

My gratitude to you for being part of my Digging Deep family. Plant peace this Thanksgiving with friends and family and celebrate the melodic beauty of our rural landscapes.

Happy gardening and happy growing.
Happy Thanksgiving!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Saturday, Dec. 10 is Santa Day at 5A in collaboration with Be the Star You Are!® charity. Come get your photo taken with Santa and his elf plus book signing of the children’s book, “No Barnyard Bullies,” the perfect holiday gift delivering kindness. Thanks to Mark Hoogs of State Farm Insurance (www.TeamHoogs.com) for sponsoring BTSYA. Info: www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events



Cynthia Brian enjoys the colors of fall.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian 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. Her newest children’s picture book, “No Barnyard Bullies,” from the series, Stella Bella’s Barnyard Adventures is available now at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and exclusive experiences, buy StarStyle® NFTs at https://StarStyleCommunity.com Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com https://www.GoddessGardener.com

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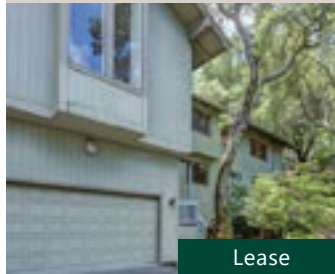


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