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Award-winning bartender Cynthia Songco, right, keeps thirsty revelers' glasses filled at Casa Orinda on New Year's Eve.

Revelers ring in the new year after heavy downpour saturates Lamorinda

Lamorinda residents of all ages gathered at various watering holes and restaurants to celebrate the end of 2022 and usher in a hopeful and happy new year, to be filled with many more opportunities for fellowship and fun.

The day's deluge had the chance of derailing party plans. Sandbags were being offered through the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District for Lafayette residents, and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District had several locations set up for sand bag filling in Moraga and Orinda. Roads were closed at different locations throughout Lamorinda on Dec. 31, with Nixle alerts from local police departments pinging on phones reminding folks to be careful when driving on slick surfaces, and ride apps like Uber sent out notices that rides could not be guaranteed after 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve due to high demand. But the rains didn't dampen any spirits and the heavy New Year's Eve downpour didn't keep revelers away, who despite the inclement weather, 'poured' into local establishments to ring in the New Year, donning festive and sometimes silly attire amid sparkling decor at Casa Orinda, the Moraga Country Club, Canyon Club Brewery in Moraga, as well as Postino and the Roundup Saloon in Lafayette (see more photos on Page A8).

Slick roads and swollen creeks aside, the joy on the faces of folks was evident – a wonderful respite after so many months of lockdowns and COVID restrictions. – J. Wake



Photos Jeff Heyman

Two sisters seemingly can't wait for 2023 to arrive at the Canyon Club Brewery in Moraga.

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Local teens reflect on 2022

By Ashley Dong

Ring in the New Year is a time for reflection, a time to think about all that has happened in the past year and all that is to come. For teenagers, in many ways, 2022 was a return to normalcy, especially after California officially lifted its mask mandate in March.

"I will miss the feeling of taking my first international trip after COVID," high school junior Jason Wagner said. "I went to France in April and was so excited to have the opportunity to do something I love again: international travel."

However, 2022 was also an unprecedented year in many ways: Russia invaded Ukraine, the world population hit 8 billion, the first all-woman team refereed at the World Cup. With a lot of global uncertainty, many nationwide issues remain unresolved. "One of the biggest issues society faces right now is the political division and gridlock, which hinders progress and leads to the neglect of significant problems such as climate change and the fund-

ing of public education," high school junior Vivienne Ardnt said.

"A big issue facing society right now is our tolerance of violence, regarding gun violence specifically, because not enough is being done to resolve this pressing problem," high school sophomore Caleb Elkind said.

In addition, as a smaller community, Lamorinda has struggled with its own issues. "I think a huge issue for Lamorinda is the persistent academic pressure, especially for students in high school," Ardnt said.

Now, at the start of 2023, many teenagers take the time to reflect on what they learned and the knowledge they accumulated over the past hectic year. "My biggest takeaway from 2022 was that you can only control what you can control, if that makes sense. If you put in your best effort, then you can't irrationally stress about the outcome, because you know you've done everything you can," high school senior Grace Liu said.

"My biggest lesson learned from 2022 is this: the best way to approach something you don't want to

do is to take the small step of starting it. A lot of times, I've been scared to start something because it felt impossible to tackle," high school junior Nicole Guo said. "But, I've realized that the hardest step is just to start it, and once you get the momentum, it becomes a lot easier."

In addition to contemplating the past year, many set their hopes and resolutions for the upcoming year. "I am optimistic that I will get a second shot at some of the things I could improve on from 2022 – dance auditions, spending more quality time with my family, and keeping my plants alive," Ardnt said.

"In 2023, I hope to spend my time wisely and experience new things. I'm excited to create new memories with the people I care about," Elkind said.

"There are things I'll miss about high school – and I'll definitely miss home – but, for 2023, I'm excited to meet new people, live in a new place, and take classes in topics I'm really interested in but never had the opportunity to explore before," Liu, an excited new admit to Cornell University, said.

So, pop open that fizzy champagne – or apple cider – and here's to a wonderful new year, 2023!

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Public Safety

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A moment of reflection with new Lafayette mayor Carl Anduri about city priorities

By Lou Fancher

In a conversation during the last week of 2022, newly appointed Lafayette Mayor Carl Anduri moved quickly to deflect attention from his leadership position on the city council.

“Being mayor is more ceremonial than anything else. It’s making sure every member of the public is heard and the council is heard as well. I have no more authority than any of the other council members,” he said. “We set policy and direction, but the City Manager, Niroop Srivasta, really runs the city. She hires and directs the staff and carries out the policies set by council. We really lucked out with having her – and all the

staff that have been here so long and bring depth and expertise.”

Anduri names and celebrates other staff, fellow council members and committee volunteers who have served the city for more than a decade, skipping lightly past his own record. Anduri joined the planning commission in 1996 and served on city council from 2002 to 2012, during which time he was mayor in 2005 and 2011. He stepped off the council in 2012 to concentrate on the high demands of his work as president of Lex Mundi, a position from which he retired in 2019. Back on the council in 2020, Anduri brings to his position experience on the Planning Commission Hillside Task Force,

Open Space Task Force, Environmental Task Force, Senior Housing Task Force, the Park Theater Task Force and the Roads Task Force.

When asked how the city might have changed, or not, since he first came on-board in 2002, Anduri said, “The challenges are greater now. Wildfire is definitely something we didn’t think about in 2002. And the pressure from the state for affordable housing really wasn’t nearly the same. It’s a big challenge to deal with the housing crisis and the housing prices.” The environmental impacts of climate change were on the radar in 2002, but Anduri said people are far more aware and can see real evidence of the problem in

2022, which makes it an important topic, but one with complex solutions.

On the plus side, he said Lafayette’s downtown is more vibrant and far more attractive. “We have the library; dedicated in 2009, and that has had a remarkable impact. There are other new buildings and (aesthetic) upgrades that have vastly improved the city.”

Another big change is that road repair no longer dominates the council meetings and public commentary. “My big priority in 2011 was to solve the roads problem. The revenue measure we placed on the ballot had us taking \$3 million from the reserve surplus to kick-start that. The measure didn’t pass but we applied the \$3

million anyway and made strides that improved the roads. Coming back on the council now, it’s strange because no one says anything about the roads. Then, it was all anyone talked about. But now, we have our payments scheduled on an annual basis so we’re in good shape to maintain the roads.”

Priorities set in 2011 such as more affordable housing for older adults resulted in completion of the Belle Terre project on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. With completion of the 6th cycle of the Housing Element by the end of January 2023, a major priority for all cities and towns, Anduri said attention to that effort has been the council’s priority.

... continued on Page A8

City plans to celebrate over 175 years of Lafayette history



Photo courtesy Lafayette Historical Society

Under the leadership of Mayor Carl Anduri in partnership with the Lafayette Historical Society, the city of Lafayette will be celebrating over 175 years of Lafayette history during 2023. The goal is to increase awareness and appreciation of the city’s history including recognition and understanding of the indigenous people who were first on the land that is now Lafayette, as well as the Spaniards and Rancheros that preceded American settlers who laid out the built community that we see today.

“I want us to look back farther than just 175 years and look at the indigenous people who were on the

land for thousands of years, well before even the Rancheros and Europeans came,” Anduri said. “The Indigenous people lived in harmony with nature and the history of that time when the Spanish came gives us a first chance to look at the clash of cultures and what that means. And then we can look at what happened when the Europeans came.”

The month of January will feature presentations by Mary McCosker of the Lafayette Historical Society, and a number of “Images of America: Lafayette” books will be available in Little Free Libraries throughout Lafayette.

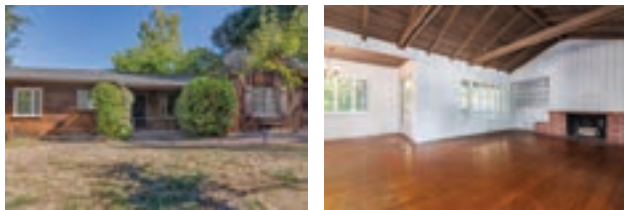
- J. Wake

For information, visit: <https://www.lovelafayette.org/why-lafayette/175plus>

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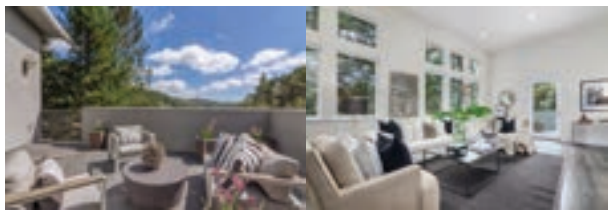
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Lafayette School District board looks ahead to the new year



Photo provided

From left: Meredith Meade, Rob Sturm, Katy Foreman, Dave Smith and Suzy Pak

By Sharon K. Sobotta

After an intense election cycle in November, the Lafayette School Board members are excited to roll up their sleeves and get to work. They say they're ready to lean in, listen, engage with the community, as they work toward the ultimate goal of serving children in the district and ensuring that they continue to have access to the high quality education that defines the community.

Suzy Pak, who has been on the board for nine years and has served as the liaison for Springhill Elementary School, was elected to the seat of board president. Meredith Meade continues to represent Happy Valley Elementary. Incumbents Dave Smith, who liaisons for Stanley Middle School, and Rob Sturm, for the Lafayette Elementary School were reelected to their seats in November. Katy Foreman, who represents Burton Valley Elementary School, is serving her very first term on the board or as an elected official.

"It's a goal of ours to remain student focused and work toward the well-being of the more than 3,000 students we represent. We (remain) committed to academics (and to) teaching and taking care of the whole child," Pak said. This is put into practice by integrating diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging efforts into the curriculum along with efforts to support the social, emotional learning and wellness of children. What does DEIB work and social, emotional well-being of students have to do with overall education? Everything, Pak says. "When a child feels like they're safe and secure and taken care of - whether that is through the lunch and breakfast program that's now available to all schools in California, or being able to have a conversation with a teacher or a counselor that helps them feel safe and secure - then they're open to doing more (learning) in the classroom."

Lafayette's reputation as a place of 'green hills and great schools' seems to attract a broad swath of families and children to the district. Pak says that living up to that reputation is important. "I think public schools are the backbone of our communities. ... We want to make sure we're honoring commitments with parents and caregivers, and as a public school district, we have no choice but to be very transparent about everything we're doing," Pak said. "The other part (that's important) is the staff and teachers that we employ. Our goal is to be an employer of choice. We understand that great teachers and great staff (are the cornerstone of) great education."

After being an engaged parent volunteer and serving in the PTA, Katy Foreman is excited to make her debut as an elected member of the Lafayette

School Board.

"I've really benefited from our schools and I've appreciated being able to send my kids to our schools," Foreman said. "This sort of felt like a natural next step in my service to the schools." The election was an illuminating experience for Foreman. "(It confirmed) part of what I already knew, which was that people care deeply about schools in Lafayette. There are a lot of different viewpoints. (A lot can be gained) when we can have honest, brave, open collaborative conversations with people who have different perspectives."

Even in what felt like a tense political landscape leading up to the election, where some residents' chosen candidates weren't elected, the board members say it's important that all residents feel represented. "I want Lafayette to be a place of belonging for everybody, no matter who you voted for. I will listen with an open mind and open heart and continue to think about what's genuinely the best for our students."

Rob Sturm served as school board president for the past two years and he's been a part of the school board since 2017. "This was my third election cycle. I think this one was a little unique in that there was so much attention locally on the election. It reminded me how passionate our community is about schools and maintaining excellence with our schools so they can continue to evolve and become even better," Sturm reflected. "I spent many hours canvassing with my family and engaging in really interesting conversations. People are really craving information and wanting to stay informed."

The school board plans to continue to hold regular town hall meetings to keep the community informed about what is in the works and on the horizon in Lafayette schools. They also say they're committed to taking to heart the issues that are raised by parents and community members during the open forum, as they say is evidenced by the district's response to the after school childcare needs.

"In addition to serving on the school board, I'm a constituent. It's also my job to remain open to receiving public comment in board meetings. Even if we can't engage in dialogue in the structure of our meetings, we really do listen (and take action/make recommendations accordingly)," Pak said. "The issue of after school care came to us because parents brought it up during open comment. As a working parent, I understand that and I appreciate the vulnerability that comes with sharing that. We were able to say OK, we have a lot of working parents unable to find childcare, we need to do something. So we work together with our superintendent and now we're doing something about that (as early as January)."



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COMPASS



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



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Town Council: Wednesday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission: Monday, Jan. 16, 7:00 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, Jan. 17, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

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Outgoing mayor looks back at the town's 2022 goals and priorities

By Vera Kochan

Outgoing Mayor Steve Woehleke presented his list of 16 town goals and priorities for the year of 2022 that have either been accomplished or are in the process of completion. His slide show presentation during the town council's Dec. 14 meeting served as a reminder of last year's full plate of projects.

Number one on the list was to "efficiently sustain core operations and services of the town, maintain fiscal discipline, and continue to position the Town for long-term fiscal sustainability and operational efficiency." The town adopted a balanced Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget; had successful labor agreements; reduced Hacienda de las Flores operating costs; had an \$11.3 million balanced budget adopted with \$13.6 million Capital Improvement Projects; and received \$2.25 million in one-time developer fees, just to name a few.

Another top priority was to continue the general plan update and the 6th Cycle Housing Element with implementing corresponding rezoning, objective standards, and revisions to the planned development process. Much has also been accomplished through community engagement via workshops, surveys, pop-up events, town website/social media, and other forms of outreach.

The new Canyon Road Bridge has been reopened with a secured \$10.5 million in federal and \$400,000 in regional funding; and the three-

year "Worst First" residential street repairs are underway. New traffic safety striping and signage at key locations is also a priority.

Continued implementation of the Storm Drain System Operations and Maintenance Program along with undertaking needed storm drain CIP will keep the public works department busy into 2023.

The town allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds toward high priority needs, such as storm drains, financing new town software, and small business grants.

Moraga continues to "maintain and improve public safety with high-quality police and emergency response services," and "coordination with MOFD on fire safety, and with Moraga schools on student well-being." The hiring of new police officers; banning the sale of flavored tobacco within town; and conducting virtual evacuation drills are some examples.

The town has worked to enhance its public parks, open spaces and facilities by contributing \$250,000 to the acquisition of Harvey Ranch; installing a new irrigation system, trees and new playground equipment at Moraga Commons Park along with a sculpture at West Commons; making improvements at the Hacienda and Disc Golf Course; performing fire abatement; and the Monarch Habitat at Rancho Laguna Park.

A continuing goal is to "develop and initiate a process for identifying and prioritizing uses for Palos Col-

orados funds, including, among other things, consideration of a town-wide recreation and open space plan."

Traffic with regards to schools, pedestrians and congestion is being addressed through the Local Road Safety Plan; Saint Mary's Roundabout Plan; Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School and Camino Pablo Safety Crosswalk.

Communication with the public through the About Town newsletter, social media and the town's website, along with workshops, surveys and additional forms of outreach have served to keep the community better informed and participatory with regards to significant issues.

Moraga continues to "lessen the town's impact on the environment by continuing to implement sustainability initiatives and viable strategies in Moraga's Climate Action Plan" with water efficient irrigation; electric vehicle charging stations; and opting to go 100% Deep Green.

The town continues to make efforts to improve diversity and inclusion throughout the town by recognizing organizations such as the Moraga iKind project.

The town is working with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce to improve relationships with local businesses (ARPA grants); and SMC (building permits and Rheem development opportunities).

And finally, Woehleke made note of the immense success of Moraga Community Service Day (spearheaded by former council member Mike McCluer).

New playground equipment installed at Moraga Commons Park



New play structures replace old swings at Moraga Commons Park.

Photo provided

By Vera Kochan

For kids, going to the Moraga Commons Park has just become a little more fun with the completed installation of new playground equipment. Taking the place of a past-its-prime aging swing set, the new equipment had to wait five years due to funding issues. However, that's not the last of the improvements coming to the Commons. The nearby group picnic area will see a face-lift thanks to its scheduled budgeting in Fiscal Year 2022-23.

This project was part of the town council's goals to enhance the parks, open spaces and facilities with the public in mind, as part of the FY

2021-22 Capital Improvements Program Budget (\$33,000). The final cost of the project came in at around \$20,502.

According to a Dec. 14, 2022 staff report by Parks and Recreation Director Mackenzie Brady and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, "An agreement was signed on March 30, 2022, with Ross Recreation Equipment, Inc., a vendor/dealer for Landscape Structures. All four existing playground structures in Moraga Commons Park were manufactured and installed by Landscape Structures or one of their vendors. Use of the same manufacturer ensures consistency in repairs, maintenance, and the ability to have replacement

parts (nuts, screws, bolts, etc.) on hand to repair equipment quickly and efficiently as needed."

The installation of the three new play structures was completed on Oct. 21, 2022. A safety surface made of engineered wood fiber was later installed on Nov. 2, making the new equipment ready for use by the community. On Dec. 14, the town council unanimously accepted the new equipment as completed.

Topsy Turny Spinner; Curva Spinner; and Revi-Wheel Spinner are the highly descriptive names of the new equipment. Although, based on the names alone, it might be wise not to ride these immediately after a meal.



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After 17 years, Sam and Susan Sperry pass the Moraga Liaison baton to the town



Photo Susan Sperry

Stepping down from Moraga Liaison duties, Susan and Sam Sperry By Vera Kochan

One of the most informal yet informative meetings the town could possibly participate in is called the Moraga Liaison Meeting. Since 2005, resident Susan Sperry, joined by her husband Sam as “note taker” in 2012, have helmed the once a month, on a Friday at 8 a.m. sessions with the sole purpose to deliver a report to the community from the town’s staff, organizations, and politicians with the objective of keeping everyone abreast of the status quo.

According to Susan, Moraga Liaison first began in 1976, when Geraldine (Jerry) Meyer ran the meetings out of Fire Station 41, and they were called The Firehouse Liaison Meetings. Community members have always been welcome to sit in on the proceedings. With mornings free before her teaching duties, Susan agreed to become the moderator in addition to serving as the representative from the Moraga Historical Society.

The meetings have since moved to the Community Meeting Room at the Moraga Library with an average of 24 presenters reporting on business that would interest the community. Each presenter is allowed a maximum of five minutes with typical participants being: Moraga Mayor, Moraga Town Manager, Moraga Planning Department/Commission, Moraga Public Works, Moraga Parks and Recreation/Park Foundation, Moraga Police Department, Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Moraga Citizens Network, Moraga Community Foundation, Moraga School District, Moraga Education Foundation, Acalanes Union High School District, Saint Mary’s College, Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Moraga Rotary, Moraga Historical Society, Moraga Garden Club, Lamorinda Movers, RecycleSmart, County Board of Supervisors - District 2, California State Assembly - 16th Assembly District, California State Senate - 7th Senate District, and the United States House of Representatives - 11th California Con-

gressional District. During COVID’s mandates, the Moraga Liaison Meetings were held via Zoom, which according to Sam “were a piece of cake,” compared to the in-person meetings where a table and chairs have to be set up. Currently there are 92 residents signed up to receive email copies of his notes that are painstakingly transcribed from eight pages worth of presenter reports and additional pertinent research that Sam has compiled. Lafayette and Orinda offer their own versions of community status reporting.

The Sperrys have, for years, been involved in various aspects of community betterment, whether through established town organizations or on a personal level. In 2018, they were named Citizens of the Year as acknowledgment for their continual service to Moraga. Their decision to step down from Moraga Liaison duties was given much thought. “I told Susan, ‘You decide for yourself,’” stated Sam. “I don’t see beyond 2022 in doing this’. Then we talked, and Susan decided to pull back as well.”

“I would like us to get back to more ranch things,” said Susan. “We are very involved in our children and grandchildren’s lives; and I want to put more time into the Moraga Historical Society.”

With all of the paperwork involved over the years, the Sperrys’ attic has become quite crowded, admitted Sam. “We don’t have room to store this s**t!”

The decision has been mutually made to hand over the duties to the current sitting mayor of Moraga. Beginning in January 2023, Mayor Renata Sos will take the reins of the monthly Moraga Liaison Meetings.

Susan will look back on her experience as moderator fondly: “Having grown up in this town and raising the kids here, it was very rewarding for me.”

For anyone interested in signing up to receive the monthly Moraga Liaison Meeting transcribed notes contact: ranchsusan@aol.com.



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Inga Miller returns as mayor of Orinda



Inga Miller

Photo Kersti Peter

By Sora O'Doherty

Inga Miller says it "feels wonderful" starting her second term as mayor of Orinda with Darlene Gee serving as vice mayor. "We lost three of our council members, and that is challenging and also sad but full of new opportunities." While she is disappointed to not have the previous council members, she is excited to have new members.

New council members Latika Malkani, Brandyn Iverson and Janet Riley were sworn in and began work as city council members on Dec.

13 when Miller and Gee were elected to the top spots following Orinda custom. This is the first time since incorporation that three incumbents have left the city council, with the majority of the council being newly elected members.

Miller said, in a recent interview with the Lamorinda Weekly, that it is not the mayor's job to train newly elected city council members. Rather, she and Gee will accompany the new members to attend the New Mayors and Council Members Academy offered by the League of

California Cities in Sacramento from Wednesday, Jan. 18 to Friday, Jan. 20 in person. They may also get to know the new mayors and council members of neighboring Lafayette and Moraga if they also attend the event, Miller added.

At the training, attendees can learn about the Brown Act, and learn about ways of working together. Malkani and Iverson already have experience with the Brown Act from their work on the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission and the Planning Commission, respectively.

Miller noted that, because of the Brown Act, "we can't even answer questions from constituents on the street."

January will also hold the challenge of submitting the Housing Element to the state by the end of the month, and in February the city council will hold a public strategic planning workshop.

Miller says that she doesn't feel like she is stepping into the shoes of departing five-time mayor Amy Worth. "I don't feel like I'm assuming any position of the outgoing council members,"

she said. "We lose things when council members leave, often irreplaceable things." But, she added, "Each new council member will bring new skill sets. We are losing the past, but ushering in the future."

The new mayor is grateful that Orinda has "always been very civil for the most part, certainly when I have been mayor, much more civil than government at the county, state, or federal level, where there is so much divisiveness. We need to celebrate our rising above that," Miller states, "and do what we can to make it more the norm in our Contra Costa community."

Miller says that she has no aspirations to higher office, "but we interface with the state and federal governments, particularly in the Housing Element," she pointed out. "The state has really put in a lot of rhetoric about cities not wanting to build housing, and as cities we can respond by meeting demands but we can also work to educate our legislatures by going to Sacramento." Miller believes that all politics are local.

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Orinda School Board welcomes new members, reflects on pandemic

By Sora O'Doherty

It was an emotional afternoon on Dec. 12 when the Orinda Union School Board bid farewell to outgoing board members Carol Brown, Jason Kaune and Liz Daoust and welcomed new board members Edda Coleman, Eve Phillips and Katie Shogan,



Photo provided

Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen (second right) with Katie Shutte Shogan, Eve Phillips, and Edda Collins Coleman

who were sworn in by Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen. The board was then reorganized, with Hilary Weiner once again becoming the board president and Cara Hoxie vice president.

Outgoing board president Carol Brown opened the meeting with her last official act, seeking approval of the agenda, which was unanimously approved. This was followed by accolades to the outgoing board members. Brown and Kaune each served eight years and Daoust four years.

Superintendent Aida Glimme thanked them for volunteering their time to do an incredibly difficult but hopefully rewarding job. "Many members of the public do not know that this is not a paid position, yet at times it is a full-time job," Glimme noted. "You exemplify what a great board member is: you've put in countless hours and you have provided vision and guidance through some of the most challenging times any district has ever gone through. You had to go through the pandemic, when no decision was welcome, but you were able to keep our core values as your guide."

Former Superintendent Caroline Seaton joined the meeting remotely from Colorado. She also referred to the pandemic, a time when, she said, "even experts disagreed on what was the best thing to do during a pandemic." She added, "People just don't understand how difficult it is to be a board member." She praised the

board for putting students first, as well as developing the Diversity Equity and Inclusion program, "Everyone Belongs Here," which she noted was also adopted by the city of Orinda. Turning her focus to the incoming board, she stated, "I know that Edda, Eve and Katie are going to do an outstanding job."

Other speakers included Charles Shanahan of the Orinda Educational Association, who said that although he was not feeling well, he wanted to express his gratitude to the outgoing board members. Patsy Templeton, principal of Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, and Emily Allen, executive director of the Orinda Network for Education (ONE) also offered encomiums. Allen, an OUSD parent for 12 years, praised the outgoing board as being "unwavering in your dedication" and acting "with professionalism and grace." She concluded, "In a world when differing viewpoints can cause such strife, you have been a model of cooperation and respect."

Weiner told the outgoing board members, "It has truly been a privilege to know and work with you. We have accomplished so much," adding,

"It has been such an honor to work together. It's been a real blessing to make friends out of colleagues," her voice thick with emotion. She spoke about working through the pandemic, explaining, "It was not easy working with Brown Act restrictions, having to discuss really difficult issues for the first time in public."

Liz Daoust, who was board president in 2021, thanked everyone, saying she was truly humbled and touched. She said that she had actually gone back and looked at the statements she made at the beginning of board meetings at the height of the pandemic. She summarized the experience by saying, "I was really struck by what a unique, complicated and desperate time in which we were situated. Serving our community these past four years was one of the most challenging and stressful things I've ever done, but it was also the most rewarding. I've learned a tremendous amount. We all suffered and we all grew in different ways," Daoust concluded. "I'm so tremendously proud of our team; we kept students at the forefront of our work."

... continued on Page A7

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Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:00 p.m.

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.

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Local woman hired as executive director of ONE Orinda



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Emily Allen, Executive Director of ONE Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

In mid-July, the Orinda Network for Education (ONE Orinda) hired Emily Allen as executive director. Allen, who is a resident of Orinda, is close to the education community. Her husband is the head coach for Orinda Park Pool and has a math tutoring business working with Lamorinda students. She has two daughters at Miramonte High School, which is also the alma mater of her husband and his siblings. "Community is so important to me and my family," Allen says.

Allen worked for the De Young and Legion of Honor museums in San Francisco for almost 10 years, after

graduating with an art history degree from UC Santa Barbara. She's also done a lot of fundraising, including for Children's Hospital. Allen, a native of Walnut Creek, says that she grew up watching her father give back to the community.

ONE brings all the parents clubs together into one organization, Allen explains. The parents' clubs are still "boots on the ground," but ONE helps them share strategies and so on. Money raised at each school goes back to that school but ONE holds onto the funds and invests them together to create an endowment.

Allen is now working with the parents' clubs, the

school superintendent and the principals of the Orinda elementary and middle schools. "Things are going really well," Allen says. "The board did a great job creating the organization, which grew so much that they thought it was time to have an executive director."

Allen would like to have a community event for school families and the wider community in the spring. She is also active in the effort to form an alumni club. She knows that part of outreach to the community is a little bit of reeducation, reminding people that OUSD is the lowest funded district, what bridging the gap actually means, and how it really does benefit the community.

As an example of these benefits, Allen cites the wellness centers funded by ONE. She believes that the pandemic had a profound impact on the mental and emotional health of students of all ages. She is excited about the wellness center at Miramonte, where kids can leave classes to go to the wellness center for a break. "Do they want to just have a quiet moment, or spend time with a counselor? It can differ every time the student goes in," Allen gushed. "I could talk all day about the wellness center and programs such as bringing on campus therapy dogs during finals week."

According to Allen, Miramonte is truly lucky to have a wellness center, as well as a college and careers center, run by a very small staff and Stephanie Brady, which is also funded by ONE. The college and career center works with every student during their college and career process. Right now, Allen says, Miramonte has a career week, but she would like to turn it into a career month. In addition, she would like to connect with students.

Orinda School Board welcomes new members, reflects on pandemic

... continued from Page A6

Looking forward, Daoust added, "I'm leaving the board to five smart, independent, strong women and Aida, and I can't ask for anything more than that. I promise I will continue to serve this district and this community."

Kaune mentioned that he felt that the high point of those meetings was the way Daoust started each meeting. "The difference we have been able to make, I am so proud. I couldn't be more proud and grateful for this group of people, who have been completely respectful of each other; it was a tremendous experience to be a part of this," he said, adding, "Like Liz, I'll be around," and thanked everyone with whom he's shared this in-

credible journey.

Brown said, "I am so proud of the three new board members; I'm really confident that you will carry on the way we've been able to work together, disagreeing without being disagreeable." She noted that this gave her, "in the words of that song, a peaceful easy feeling." Brown said that after working in the publishing industry, then working to help foster children, she is "really retiring now." She concluded, "Without doubt, this is the best work I've ever done," and proceeded to thank the staff individually.

A representative of Assemblymember Rebecca Baurer-Kahan, who had a scheduling conflict, presented Assembly certificates of recognition to the outgoing

board members, which was followed by a brief reception.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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Winter safety tips from MOFD



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Fireplaces help to keep the house warm in the event of a power outage, but they can also be another source of danger. Make certain that you use a metal mesh screen to prevent sparks from popping out of the fireplace and igniting something nearby. Never use lighter fluid to start a fire in your home – it is not a barbecue. If you haven't used your fireplace in a long time, call a professional to clear it of any possible combustible items and remove any low hanging branches away from the outside that could catch fire. Chimneys should be fitted with a mesh screen and spark arrester.

Take care to have your house rain-ready to avoid any type of water damage both inside and out. Making sure to clean out gutters of any debris allows for an uncluttered drain pipe and possible gutter overflow. By the same token, make certain to keep all drains in yards, driveways and pool decks clear to avoid water backing up into the home. Remember that rain rivers can also cause fallen leaves to accumulate onto a drain and create a plugged effect. Try to check the drains during breaks in the rain to make sure they are not blocked. Also, Lamorinda offers sandbags free of charge to residents who may live in problem areas.

In order to save money on the electric bill, space heaters work to warm up a room and add direct heat. MOFD recommends the purchase of space heaters with labels from reputable testing laboratories. Plug the space heater directly into an outlet. Do not use extension cords or power strips that can overheat. Try not to put heaters in high traffic areas where someone can trip over them; keep flammable materials at least three feet away from the heat; and unplug the heater when it's not in use. There are space heaters available that shut off when they are knocked over.

Inclement weather can be a danger to even the safest of drivers. Hydroplaning and skidding can be prevented on wet roads by driving slowly and carefully. Keeping a larger than normal distance from the vehicle in front of you will prevent you from braking hard and skidding. Make certain that the car's tires are properly inflated. The pressure changes during extreme cold and heat (winter and summer). Also, check to see that there is sufficient tread on the tire. Bald tires are useless in the rain. Windshield wipers should offer clear visibility when in use. Check for dried out wipers with cracks.

In most, if not all, of the safety tips plain old common sense is key to staying safe during the winter months. Remember, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

By Vera Kochan

Even though experts are predicting another relatively dry winter for California, it doesn't mean that occasional storms like the one this week won't pop up to wreak havoc on those who are not prepared. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District's website offers dozens of Winter Safety Tips to help residents get through the season out of harm's way.

Power outages could happen without warning due to severe weather or other reasons. Make sure to have battery-operated flashlights and radios close at hand to avoid an unnecessary scavenger hunt scenario in the dark, and remember that those items are useless without fresh batteries. Make certain to keep your cell phone well-charged, because a power outage's duration could be lengthy. MOFD recommends unplugging electric appliances in order to avoid overloading circuits and fire hazards when the power comes back on, thereby creating a power surge. Leave a lamp on to indicate that the power has returned. Make extra ice by freezing water in plastic containers to keep foods from spoiling. To report downed power lines call 9-1-1 or Pacific Gas & Electric at 1-800-743-5002. Do not go near it yourself. Leave that to the experts. To check on current power outages visit: pge.com/outagecenter.

Many times during power outages it is more convenient to light a candle. After all, if it was good enough for the pioneers, it's good enough for us. Also, candles do a good job of adding light to a room, and that's not even mentioning the romance factor. If using candles, keep in mind the many safety precautions. Always keep a burning candle in sight; never burn a candle near anything flammable; keep candles away from children and pets; use a sturdy, nonflammable candle holder; and never use a candle as a nightlight.

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A moment of reflection with new Lafayette mayor Carl Anduri

... continued from Page A2

The pandemic and resulting economic fallout is easily the greatest ongoing challenge for the city. "The big issue for Lafayette is the economic impact on small businesses." Anduri said sales taxes have returned to levels seen in 2019 and property tax revenue is actually a bit higher in 2022 than it was in

the year prior to the pandemic. Even so, he recognizes the harm caused by COVID-19 and said it has altered his awareness. "I have a new appreciation for how difficult it is for small business owners to be successful. (Vice Mayor) Gina Dawson and I want to walk along the streets and meet with owners to talk about their concerns."

In addition, the council's

goals for 2023 that will be revisited and revised at the Feb. 11 meeting that is open for public comment include supporting the Park Theatre Trust and other city learning and nonprofit centers, completing the Housing Element, enacting Vision Zero – specifically, using new technology to slow the speeds of traffic moving through the downtown core – and collabora-

tions with Sustainable Contra Costa that establish Lafayette's position as a leader in sustainability, including the Environmental Task Force's legislative agenda to have EV charging for new multifamily buildings.

Asked what motivated him to participate in city government – and to stay involved when the going has been rough – Anduri said his father's example and an in-

ternal force were major factors. "I just had a basic desire to serve."

Anduri, mildly uncomfortable with "going personal," said, "let's not put too much attention on that." Instead, he'd prefers the focus turns to community and council goals and to the upcoming 175-year-plus celebration in 2023 of Lafayette and its history (see story Page A2).

Revelers ring in the new year after heavy downpour saturates Lamorinda

... continued from Page A1



New Year's Eve dinner guests enjoy a bountiful meal at Postino in Lafayette.



A festive party was thrown by the Moraga Country Club for its members to ring in 2023.



The Roundup Saloon in Lafayette saw no shortage of merriment on New Year's Eve.



Donning masks for the New Year's Eve celebration at the Moraga Country Club were this joyous mother and daughter.

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs



The Orinda Library will host an in-person talk on Wednesday, Jan. 11, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. featuring Rene Dreyfus, the George and Judy Marcus distinguished curator in charge of ancient art at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, who will speak on the current exhibition at the de Young.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Seating will be limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. For special accommodations, please contact the library with 72 hours notice.

The event is rated as suitable for adults and teens. The

exhibition will run at the de Young Museum of San Francisco through Feb. 12. According to the de Young website, Ramses II, known as Ramses the Great, was the most celebrated and powerful pharaoh of the New Kingdom – Egypt's golden age. Believed to be a god on Earth, he ruled for 67 years as part of the 19th Dynasty, erecting enormous temples, obelisks, and statues and expanding Egypt's empire.

This state-of-the-art exhibition features the greatest collection of Ramses II objects and Egyptian jewelry ever to travel to the United States. Along with the pharaoh's colossal royal sculpture, the

exhibition highlights recently discovered animal mummies and treasures from the royal tombs of Dahshur and Tanis.

Visitors can walk among towering statues and immerse themselves in multimedia productions that re-create moments from Ramses's life, including his triumph at Kadesh, the largest chariot battle ever fought. An optional virtual reality experience, "Ramses & Nefertari: Journey to Osiris," offers a breathtaking tour of two of Ramses's most impressive monuments: Abu Simbel and Nefertari's tomb.

– S. O'Doherty

Photo provided

January Sweet Thursday Author Series features award-winning cocktail writer

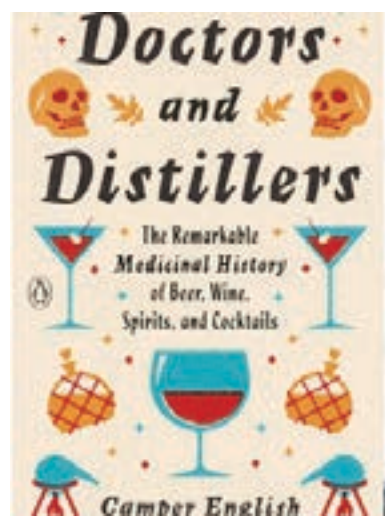


Image provided

Submitted by **Laurelle Miles**

At last, a definitive guide to the medicinal origins of every bottle behind the bar! Sweet Thursday Author Series presents Camper English, author of "Doctors and Distillers" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the Don Tatzin Community Hall. In this book, Mr. English examines the interconnected history of alcohol and medicine from ancient times to modern times. We will learn how the Gimlet, Gin & Tonic, and Old-Fashioned were born as remedies for diseases and discomforts. He also provides recipes for these and many other cocktails, so that readers can drink along with history. This thoroughly researched and delightful new work reveals how and why the contents of our medicine and liquor cabinets were, until surprisingly recently, one and the same. His book is lively and accessible, easily enjoyed by a medical anthropologist, home mixologist, or seasoned

bartender.

Camper English is a cocktails and spirits writer and speaker who has covered the craft cocktail renaissance for over 15 years, contributing to more than 50 publications around the world including Popular Science, Saveur, Details, Whisky Advocate, and Drinks International. With a focus on the nerdy side of mixology, he has studied everything from the history of carbonation to the science of clear ice cubes. He has been awarded International Cognac Writer of the Year by the Bureau National Interprofessionnel du Cognac and Best Cocktail Writer at the Tales of the Cocktail Spirited Awards, and he has been voted as one of the 100 most influential people in the global drinks industry for several years running.

The talk will be presented in-person with a Zoom Livestream option. The talk is free, but registration is required at Tinyurl.com/sweet-Jan23.

Moraga Art Gallery exhibit ignited by 'Light and Fire'



Ceramics by Donna Arganbright

Photos provided

Submitted by **George Ehrenhaft**

The Moraga Art Gallery announces its initial exhibit of 2023, opening on Jan. 18. Entitled "Light and Fire," it features the work of two celebrated member artists from Lafayette: Lucy Beck, an award-winning photographer who uses light to capture the astonishing color, beauty

and structure of small, everyday flowers, and ceramicist - Donna Arganbright, hailed for her functional bowls, mugs, trays, pitchers and plates, as well as "attitude figures" – vases disguised as posturing humans, hands on hips, and clothed in fresh, bright-hued glazes.

John Hopper of Walnut Creek is the featured guest artist. Acclaimed by both the American Watercolor Society



Photo by Lucy Beck

(AWS) and the California Watercolor Association (CWA), he combines realistic and impressionistic styles in spirited paintings that render a world awash with color.

The exhibit, which runs until March 26, also includes paintings in numerous media, sculptures, jewelry, woodcraft,

ceramics, photographs, etchings, silk scarves, and more by a score of member and guest artists, including Wenda Pymman, K. deGroot, Judy Miller, Kath Balamuth, Margaret Dorfman, and Rick Nelson.

The public is cordially invited to a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. Come to view the art, meet the artists, mingle with other art

lovers, enjoy a glass of wine and light snacks accompanied by live music befitting the gallery's gracious ambiance. The gallery, in the Rheem Shopping Center at 432 Center Street, Moraga, is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.moragaartgallery.com> or call (925) 376-5407.

Service Clubs Announcements



Every Friday, 7 – 8:15 a.m. Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building OR Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

January 2023 Weekly Speakers

- Jan 6 - Skip McCowan – Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Floods Guatemala with Good Deeds
- Jan 13 - Larry Toy – James Webb Space Telescope
- Jan 20 - Mark Roberts – BigPic highlight: RotaCare, Providing Medical Care to the Most Vulnerable
- Jan 27 - Bill Kinsey – Car 2nd Chance to Shower?

2023 Holiday Tree Collection Schedule

Your tree pickup will be on the same day as your regular garbage service but by a separate truck. Regular service will not be affected for Christmas and New Year's Day because they fall on a Sunday.

Week of Jan 2-6	Customers in Walnut Creek, Danville, Alamo, Diablo, and Blackhawk (including unincorporated areas).
Week of Jan 9-13	Customers in Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga (including unincorporated areas).
Week of Jan 16-20	Any customers who missed prior tree collection.
AFTER Jan 20	If possible, cut tree and place in organics cart with lid closed, or call (925) 685-4711 to schedule a pickup for a fee.

Reminders:

- Remove lights, ornaments, stands, and tinsel before placing at curbside.
- Trees over 6' must be cut in half.
- Flocked trees can be collected using your annual on-call garbage cleanup at no cost, but must be scheduled in advance. Call (925) 685-4711. If cut to fit inside with lid closed, flocked trees may be placed in your black landfill cart.



This souffle-like loaf is perfect as a side or cut into savory bites



Kalamata Olive Loaf

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

This savory olive dish resembles a loaf of bread, but is really more like a combination

of bread and quiche. The consistency is kind of like a fallen soufflé, but it slices like bread. While it's a little hard to describe, it's super easy to eat (a lot) of the delicious and savory

INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 large eggs, beaten
9 ounces milk (I use 2%)
3 ounces freshly grated cheese (Parmesan, Pecorino Romano or Gruyere)
3 ounces Kalamata olives, pitted and cut in half lengthwise (or other Greek olive)
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Grease or spray a 9x6 inch loaf pan. Preheat the oven to 425 F. (Reduce temp to 400 F if using a glass loaf pan.)

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a large mixing bowl. Slowly add eggs, whisking to incorporate. Then whisk in the milk to blend. Stir in olives, cheese and olive oil.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until firm to the touch and golden brown on top, approximately 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature. To serve as an appetizer, cut the loaf into bite-sized cubes, or cut into slices to serve as a side dish.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



Family Focus

Improving family relationships by getting agreements

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

In my work with couples and families, I often see situations where people have been beating their heads against the wall. This is because we all develop patterns of thought and behavior that cause us to repeat ourselves, despite the realization that it is getting us nowhere. Couples nag and criticize each other about the same old issues. Parents repeat themselves with their

children, hoping maybe one day their children will finally put away their toys or do their homework or clean up their rooms without needing to be reminded. Teens often just turn off to their parents rather than participating in arguments that never get resolved.

Sometimes there are deep-seated issues than can only be addressed with ongoing therapy, but often it is possible to handle these impasses within the family. When you are locked into these

sorts of battles, it's time to step back and work on forming an agreement. It's a problem-solving approach that involves compromise, but in a way where no one has to lose.

For example, Denise and Scott were highly frustrated with their son, Chris, age 12. Chris had begun to neglect his homework, his room, and his younger brothers. Instead, he spent most of his time in his room either listening to music or on his iPad. Both parents tried asking, encouraging, complaining, and finally ordering Chris to comply with their requests. Nothing seemed to make a difference. Chris became increasingly defiant and resentful.

Denise and Scott decided to regroup and try a different strategy, a more solution-based approach. They asked Chris when a good time would be for them to talk with him. When they met, both parents talked to Chris about what they appreciated about him and what they missed in their relationship with him. They asked Chris to tell them what he thought they could do or say differently, promising no recriminations. They didn't repeat their complaints. The objective was to promote understanding and good will, not to continue criticizing.

At age 12, Chris didn't want to feel controlled by his parents. When they continually prodded, criticized and complained, Chris only became increasingly alienated. But when his parents sat down with him and treated him with respect by wanting to listen and find a solution together, he responded much better to this approach.

Depending on the level of distrust and resentment a child has developed, this process may need to be repeated several times before he or she is ready to cooperate. Then it is time to hammer out terms of an agreement. One benefit of an agreement is that each party can reference it as a reminder and also avoid going back to square one with anger and recriminations. If the agreement hits a snag, all parties can meet again to determine how they can get back on track. Trying to promote understanding and then forming agreements is a continual work in progress. Children's needs and wishes change as they age, as do parents' expectations.

Forming an agreement is a highly useful tool for couples as well. When there are continuous disagreements on issues such as finances or parenting approaches or in-laws, couples can try to figure out anything that is mutually agreeable and proceed from there. Sometimes having a commitment and agreed-upon approach can provide encouragement and help diffuse anger and resentments.

A couple I worked with, Peter and Natalie, argued often about money issues. They had two young children and both worked full-time. Peter enjoyed being able to spend money on golf, restaurant meals and his valuable coin collection. He acknowledged that he

didn't care as much about saving money as Natalie did, and that his goal was to enjoy life. Natalie, on the other hand, worried about finances and wanted to have enough money saved to feel secure.

Natalie felt that Peter wasn't considering her needs when he made independent decisions about spending without consulting her. The more he spent on what Natalie termed indulgences, the more resentful she became. One reason money issues are the number one area of conflict for couples is that we need to make so many decisions related to money. And money can represent various things to each of us – power, control, providing for others, security, excitement, and more.

Both Natalie and Peter worked hard and each wanted a say in how their income would be handled. They had a financial advisor and an accountant, but their disagreements over money took a toll and adversely affected their relationship. It was important for this couple to form some agreements regarding their finances so each of them could have their emotional needs met. Peter wanted more fun and excitement, and Natalie wanted more reassurance and financial security. As we worked together, they were able to designate certain amounts of money each month for each of them to handle the way they would like. If either wanted to exceed this amount, they agreed to check with each other first.

As Natalie saw Peter rein in his expenditures for her sake, she felt much more cared for and understood. She was even willing to put some of her share of the monthly amount toward a family vacation fund, and at times to let Peter have a greater amount to spend. For his part, Peter showed that he was willing to limit his spending in order to please Natalie.

Sometimes very simple agreements can promote good will and a closer connection among family members. The idea that each party is willing to make an effort to cooperate is often as important as the actual terms of an agreement. So, if you're feeling stuck in a persistent pattern of conflict, try to find something to agree upon to turn around the negativity and keep building from there.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. Her latest book, "Family Focus: A Therapist's Tips for Happier Families," is available from Orinda Books and Amazon.com.

In Memory

William D. Wright

1942- 2022

Loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, friend, and colleague.



William Dale Wright took his final flight home on Dec. 9, 2022, after a sudden and short battle with a complex staph infection.

He is survived by his beloved wife Marilyn (Simpson) and his six children: Jeffrey (Maureen) of Eagle River, Alaska, Jennifer (Don) Charney of Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, Stephanie (Lorenz) Marti, of San Rafael, Calif., Christopher (Julie) of Saratoga Springs, Utah, Catharine (Roman) McNaughton of University Place, Wash., and Michael (Stephanie) of Sandy, Utah. He is also survived by the love of 21 grandchildren and three great grandsons.

William D. Wright (Bill) was born on Aug. 10, 1942, in Eugene, Ore., the third child of Harry N. and Anna Mildred Wright. With siblings Ann (Frank) Johansen, Craig (Tommie Sue) Wright, and

Christine (Roger) Bacon, Bill lived on a ranch with horses and other animals until the age of 14. Later the family moved to a home that backed onto a golf course and this was the beginning of Bill's love for golf.

Bill graduated from Eugene High School in 1960 and went on to attend Brigham Young University in accounting and economics. He met his wife, Carol (Tanner) while at BYU and they were married Nov. 27, 1965. Carol passed away of cancer February 2007.

After graduating from high school, Bill served a three-year Spanish speaking mission on the Texas/Mexico border for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. This set the stage for a deep reciprocal love affair with Latin Americans, resulting in a 55+ year business career and the focus of much of his church related service.

After graduating from BYU, Bill accepted a position as an investment banker with Bank of America, International Division-Latin America in the San Francisco office. Two years later, Bill was relocated by B of A to Mexico City, Mexico. Bill continued his international banking career for the next 20 years serving in various senior executive positions with Bank of America, CITI Bank, and Wells Fargo with focus primarily on Latin America. As Bill's career grew and expanded, so did his family. Bill and Carol had six children and during his 20-year banking career, they moved to several different countries, adding to a rich and adventurous family life.

In the 1980s Bill made the decision to establish his own registered investment management company and established William Wright and Associates (WWAL) and made his home in Moraga, Calif. Over the past 40 years WWAL has expanded in order to deliver essential services to its valued clients.

In 2007, Bill was introduced to Marilyn Simpson (a clinical psychologist) and she and "Mr. Wright" were married June 7, 2008 in the LDS temple in Los Angeles. Bill and Marilyn have been blessed with a healthy, happy, and actively engaged 15 years together.

Life for Bill was to be lived to the fullest. He worked hard but also played hard with his zest that made any activity he pursued fun for everyone that was involved. He loved all water sports, flying, skiing, motorcycling, golf, hiking, biking; anything that was outdoors and with those he loved. Bill and Marilyn moved from the East Bay (Calif.) to the South Reno/Tahoe area (Nev.) in 2020 where they have actively pursued their many interests together (family, travel, work, golf, church activities).

Services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 7, at noon.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3776 Via Granada, Moraga, California.

GCCP announces end of era

Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

The Gold Coast Chamber Players announce that this season, their 23rd, will be their last.

Voted Best East Bay Concert Series, only three GCCP concerts remain for this leading Bay Area chamber music series. The first of these concerts is "Connections in Time: Tracing a Musical Path" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt.

Diablo Blvd, with a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. All concerts will be recorded and ticket holders have access to this Digital Concert Hall, making it possible to enjoy recordings of these live performances anytime this season.

"Connections in Time: Tracing a Musical Path" features the Horszowski Trio with Gold Coast Chamber Players violist Pamela Freund-Striplen. Described by the New Yorker Magazine as "the most compelling American group to come on the scene," the Trio

made its 2019 London debut in a sold-out concert presented by Wigmore Hall. In the same season, they also appeared at the 92nd Street Y in New York City; the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

This concert features bookends by two French composers and one work by young Russian Shostakovich. Louise Farrenc completed her Trio, Op. 33, just one year before Gabriel Fauré was born, and she died a year before he gave birth to his magnificent Piano Quartet in C minor. In Russia



Photo provided

The Horszowski Trio and violist Pamela Freund-Striplen

in 1923, just one year before Fauré would pass away, 16-year-old Dmitri Shostakovich wrote his Trio No. 1 while in love, and it is full of French-like colors and Romanticism.

Tickets: \$15-45, online: www.gccpmusic.com or by phone: (925) 283-3728. Discounted subscriptions are available.

◆ Not to be missed

Art

Moraga Art Gallery's exhibit "Light and Fire," opening Jan. 18, features the work of two celebrated member artists from Lafayette: Lucy Beck, an award-winning photographer who uses light to capture the astonishing color, beauty and structure of small, everyday flowers, and ceramicist Donna Arganbright, hailed for her functional bowls, mugs, trays, pitchers and plates, as well as "attitude figures," i.e., vases disguised as posturing humans, hands on hips, and clothed in fresh, bright-hued glazes. John Hopper of Walnut Creek is the featured guest artist. A free reception will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. The gallery, in the Rheem Shopping Center at 432 Center Street, Moraga, is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information visit www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Main Street Arts first guest artist of the new year is Irenka Kudlicki. The show runs from Jan. 6 to Feb. 25, with a reception on Jan. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. A preview of the exhibit can be viewed at www.mainstreetarts.net/irenka-kudlicki.html. 613 Main Street, Martinez, (925) 269-8049, www.mainstreetarts.net

Music

Diablo Ballet's 29th season continues with a mixed bill titled "Swan Lake Suite," featuring selections from the classic ballet staged by Sean Kelly performed to Pyotr Tchaikovsky's majestic score. Swan Lake Suite performs Feb. 10 - 11 at the Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601, Civic Drive in Walnut Creek. Get your tickets now and take advantage of early bird pricing through Jan. 18. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or www.diabloballet.org.

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert: Connections in Time with the Horszowski Trio. Saturday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Don Tatzin Community Hall, Lafayette Library 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Tickets www.gccpmusic.com

Theatre

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Nanay," written by Molly Olis Krost, directed by Yari Cervas. Jan. 20 and 21, 27 and 28. Tickets: \$25. Jan. 28 is

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

◆ Not to be missed

the Pay-What-You-Can performance. 3535 School Street, Lafayette. 925.283.1557, www.TownHallTheatre.com.

Literature

January 2023 events at Orinda Books: Thursday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. Stuart Florsheim will read and discuss his new book of poetry, "Amusing the Angels," a collection focusing on grief and loss that was recently awarded the Blue Light Book Award. Saturday, Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. Andrea Mein DeWitt will discuss her new book, "Name Claim & Reframe: Your Path to a Well-Lived Life." DeWitt is a life coach and lives in Orinda. Her new book encourages readers to step into their power, their potential, and their truth. 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606, www.orindabooks.com,

info@orindabooks.com

Sweet Thursday Author Series presents Camper English, author of "Doctors and Distillers" on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the Don Tatzin Community Hall. Learn how the Gimlet, Gin & Tonic, and Old-Fashioned were born as remedies for diseases and discomforts. The talk will be presented in-person with a Zoom Livestream option. The talk is free, but registration is required at Tinyurl.com/sweet-Jan23.

Other

Appreciating Diversity Film Series presents "Through the Night" - an intimate cinema verite portrait of working mothers whose lives intersect

◆ Not to be missed

at a 24-hour daycare center on Thursday, Jan. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Ellen Driscoll Playhouse, 325 Highland Avenue near the corner of Oakland Avenue, Piedmont. Free, no RSVP needed. For more info see <http://diversityfilm-series.org> or call (510) 871-1088 or email deb-said2@gmail.com.

Garden

Lafayette Garden Club monthly meeting begins at 10 a.m. on Jan. 12 at the Veteran's Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Catherine Watters will be the guest speaker. She is a botanical artist who paints in watercolor and lectures and shows her work in many exhibitions each year in the U.S. and abroad. She will be presenting her work and discussing techniques she has

◆ Not to be missed

developed along with some of the history of botanical art. It is free to attend. If interested in attending or joining the club, please contact LCGMembershipCommittee@gmail.com.

The Jan. 20 meeting of the Montelindo Garden Club will feature Rose Loveall of the Morningsun Herb Farm, speaking on "Herbal All-stars in the California Dry Garden." Membership is open to all, and interested people are welcome to visit montelindogarden.com/meetings.html for meeting and club details. Location is the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. The hall opens at 9:30 a.m., with club meeting at 10 a.m. and speaker at 10:45 a.m. Free.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

New sense of normalcy returns to Lamorinda Wrestling



Miramonte's Willie Gilmore wrestles and medals at a recent tournament.



Campolindo co-captains Chase Yang and Natalia Kalas

Photos Jon Kingdon

By Jon Kingdon

With the pandemic in the rear-view mirror, the turnout numbers for the Lamorinda wrestling teams have all shown an increase. The lower numbers were attributed to the reluctance of athletes that had been deterred from going out for wrestling, but a new sense of normalcy has returned.

Campolindo

Coming off a very successful season and off-season, head coach Phil Freeman is looking for a carryover to this season. With his girls' club teams winning the state championship earlier this year in Greco-Roman wrestling and having success at the Pan-American Championship and world championships in Rome, Italy, Freeman was recently named the NCS Honor Coach for Girls wrestling.

With a roster of 30 wrestlers, it's a balanced number of boys and girls on the team. "We lost a number of seniors to graduation, and we have a lot of new boys and girls," Freeman said. "We're a young team, with only two seniors but I expect good things this year and in the seasons to come because we have so many underclassmen."

The boys' team is being led by senior captain Chase Yang (147), Shane Harris (HW), Gavin Juni (197) and Daniel Thaler (162).

"Chase has already won the Bay Area 59 and Bill Martell Tournaments and has a 13-1 record so far," Freeman said. "He's doing all the things a captain should do - showing up all the time, organizing team runs outside of practice and being a great leader. Shane is still healing up from football and we're taking it slow with him. Gavin (7-3) has been medaling consistently and as a junior looks like the present and the future."

Thaler has also been winning varsity matches and like his teammates is bigger and stronger this year. "We're in

the weight room a couple of days a week," Freeman said. "One of our goals this year was to get stronger, which we have accomplished."

On the girls' side, the leading wrestlers have been co-captain junior Natalia Kalas (108), Camila Baxter (140), and KT Thompson (128). "Natalia has been making it to the finals in her tournaments," Freeman said. "Camila has placed at all of her tournaments and KT has medaled a couple of times as well. I believe our girls are going to finish very strong at the North Coast Section Tournament and am optimistic about sending someone to the state tournament again."

Piper Lalli (154) is also a co-captain who has been injured most of the year, but has been helping in any way she can and is expected to be back soon and wrestling with the team.

Making it to state is a harder path for the boys because now only the top two qualifiers go to the state tournament instead of the top three and the loser in the finals has to still defeat the consolation champion to make it to the state tournament.

"We're still hopeful about sending someone to state this year," Freeman said. "Chase and Gavin should be in the hunt and coming up this week, Chase will be wrestling against someone from the national Japanese team which will be over here on a cultural exchange."

Freeman does not lack for confidence in his teams: "I'm hopeful to win the league with the boys and girls again because for the first time ever, there will be an inaugural DAL girls championship team and we want to be that team."

Miramonte

For Miramonte head coach Louis Suba, he made it a point to increase the number of wrestlers on the team's roster after only having 10 wrestlers on last year's team.

"At the beginning of the year, Hannah Ripper and I did

a demonstration for all the freshmen PE classes," Suba said. "This generated a lot of interest and Hannah really resonated with the kids and we now have a roster of 20 boys and 10 girls. We are missing some of the heavier weight classes, but we have 11 of the 14 weight classes covered. Unfortunately, Hannah has been out for about a month and a half after suffering a concussion, knocking her head against her partner and she has just begun practicing after receiving her clearance."

With the influx of so many new wrestlers, experience is not a large commodity on the team. "We're a young team with a number of first year wrestlers so we've entered a lot of novice and JV tournaments," Suba said. "They're learning and trusting in the process and getting better with every practice. Everything we work on in practice was demonstrated in the six tournaments we've competed in."

Standing out for the boys' team has been sophomore Willie Gilmore who is wrestling at 132 pounds this year after weighing 125 last year. "Willie has been wrestling all summer and has gotten stronger and faster," Suba said. "He is completely wrestling obsessed and he has been a standout. I've never met anyone that loves wrestling as much as he does. His technique has gotten a lot better and he is developing some favorite moves that have almost become unstoppable."

Among the other leaders on the team are senior Jack Hughes (170) and juniors Jack Riley (160) and Zach Fineman (170). "Jack (Riley) and Zach are both looking strong and have done well in the tournaments and we're looking for good things from Jack Hughes."

There has also been a big turnout of freshmen, many who came over from the Miramonte water polo team. It's a very promising group comprised of Owen Beidelman, Xander Egan, August Hance, Calvin Lai, Zach Lindheim,

Brody Suba, and Julio Villanueva. "With my son Brody on the water polo team, I was at all of their matches, talking with them and their parents to at least try out for the wrestling team. They all showed up in good shape and were ready to go from the start," Suba said. "We just have to teach them to wrestle."

Hannah Ripper, the girls co-captain, after making it to the state tournament last season, is ranked 17th nationally by USA Wrestling. "Hannah has gotten stronger and faster," Suba said. "She just has to work on her cardio before she is ready to wrestle since she has not been able to work out."

Sophomore Alice Cropsey, who showed a lot of potential last year, is returning and leading freshmen Claire Casado and Melissa Le and junior transfer Izzy Ballesteros.

"Their learning curve is steep because they're brand new to the sport," Suba said. "However, the girls are working really hard in practice, showing up every day and getting better after each practice and in competing at tournaments."

Acalanes

Despite losing a number of wrestlers to graduation, the Dons have some returnees who had success last season but also have a roster comprised of freshmen and first year wrestlers.

"We're young and scrappy," said head coach Greg Weitzman. "Our numbers are okay this season with 23 wrestlers, four of which are girls, though we did not see the influx of wrestlers that I was hoping for. However, we did a lot of off-season work and I feel good about that. We're looking for ways to win with the team that we have, and I believe we're going to make it happen. It's getting them started the right way by teaching fundamentals and wrestling tough."

Weitzman is particularly excited about the arrival of two freshmen, Marley Oh (126) and Kirian Gracie (113). Mar-

ley has a jujitsu background and has already wrestled in varsity tournaments and has a winning record and this is only after wrestling for a month," Weitzman said. "Kirian also brings a jujitsu background and has displayed a lot of toughness. Bryce Birdsong (132), a rugby and football player, is another freshman who is a really hard worker and is showing a lot of potential."

Key returners for the team are sophomore Sam Whipple (195) who made it to day two of NCS last year and senior co-captains Zachary Robb (HW) and Hunter Goyert (138). "Sam wrestled last year at 220 has lost 25 pounds and put on a lot of muscle, and Zachary is also leaning up well," Weitzman said. "Junior Dylan Potter (170) is a core part of the team and Miles Garcia is our 152 wrestler."

With such a young team, many of the newcomers are being asked to step up and compete on the varsity level. "They've been wrestling tough," Weitzman said. "We've been able to fill almost all of the wrestling classes using a number of freshman and first year wrestlers."

Junior footballer Collin Malmquist (160) and sophomore Matthew Law have come out for wrestling for the first time. "Collin has stepped in and is wrestling tough," Weitzman said. "He's winning and losing some matches but he's learning a lot. Matthew (132) is tough and has a lot of athleticism and talent."

The girls' team is comprised of four who returned from last year's team - junior Dakota Goyert (101), senior Joyce Baker (106), Olivia Banks (160) and sophomore Anya Haas-Hollenbeck (116).

"Dakota is 5-0 in tournaments against girls and 7-1 against boys," Weitzman said. "She's doing great and kicking butt. Joyce missed almost all of last season with an injury and is having fun on the mat. Anya has shown a lot of improvement over last year and Olivia had a good off-season and is wrestling well. We've got a lot more tournaments for them this year and I'm excited to see them take advantage of it and if things break right, possibly going to state."

Weitzman has been relying on the leadership of Goyert and Robb. "They all have a lot to learn, and Hunter and Zach have done a good job in leading the kids on things like making weight, how tournaments work, how to warm up and to eat and manage their weight, something many of these kids had never thought about before. The kids that stick with it and put in the work come to love it. It's an enjoyable part of the year for me."

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Julian Fiammengo named Campolindo baseball coach



Photo Jon Kingdon

Campolindo baseball coach Julian Fiammengo

By Jon Kingdon

With the local sports world focused on the playoff tournaments for the fall sports, it was Campolindo Athletic Director Ray Meadows who reminded everyone that preparation for the spring season is also ongoing when he named Julian Fiammengo as the new baseball coach for the Cougars. Fiammengo, who played football and baseball for College Park High School, graduating in 2009, and baseball for Diablo Valley College, ultimately graduating from San Francisco State, is also a teacher in the Mt. Diablo Unified School Dis-

trict. "This is my first time as a varsity head coach after being affiliated with College Park High School for about eight years," Fiammengo said. "I ran the JV program and have been helping out Coach Andy Tarpley with the varsity program the last couple of years, and I have also managed teams since 2015 whether it was the JV program or a private travel club in the summer and the fall."

Fiammengo played for Tarpley at DVC and played and coached for De La Salle's David Jean in summer ball and both were very much responsible for his development. "Coach Tarp has been a mentor, and role model in teaching me the game of baseball, as a player, a coach and as a manager," Fiammengo said. "The biggest thing I learned from him is that as a coach, you're doing it for the kids and for the love of the game in a selfless manner. From this, I've found a lot of purpose in coaching. I've been really lucky, and I feel grateful to have the opportunity to be here at Campolindo and being a baseball coach has allowed me to fulfill myself and to find purpose that way."

It was Tarpley who recommended Fiammengo to Meadows who was familiar with Tarpley's reputation as a top baseball coach. "My son played with Andy Tarpley and when the coaching position opened up, I contacted Andy because he's so connected in the baseball community, and he strongly recommended Julian."

Fiammengo works in a virtual independent study, learning program teaching history and English to seventh and eighth graders. When

COVID hit, I began working virtually through the independent study program," Fiammengo said. "It's under the same umbrella of the all-ed program."

Working both as a teacher and as a coach allows Fiammengo to use similar skills with each group. "It's refreshing for me because I get to work with two really different kinds of kids," Fiammengo said. "There's a wide spectrum of kids that come through our independent study program and then there's also a wide spectrum of kids that come through our baseball programs. Baseball is a very diverse game, getting kids from all walks of life and the same thing happens in the schools. It is a different type of adjustment when I come from work to the field because after working in an online setting all day, I then come out and I live in the dirt with the kids, so for me, it's a really good balance."

It was the combination of Fiammengo's people skills combined with his coaching experience that initially won over Meadows. "Julian is the entire package," Meadows said. "Besides knowing baseball really well, Julian has a vision and is a really effective communicator. That really came across in the interview process in terms of the relationships that he wants to build. We talked with some of his students and players that he's coached, and they love him. We're really excited with this hire because he's going to be great."

For Fiammengo, it's more than just coaching a player on the field, it's also helping individuals off the field: "As with any sport, having played foot-

ball, basketball and baseball while growing up, I saw how sport teaches character and life lessons and how everything that you learn on the field in order to succeed, can be directly applied to real life and ultimately into adulthood once they move on from sports. That's why I'm so passionate about teaching morals and the ethics on the field because it's something that the players can take and apply it later in life in terms of work ethic, character, discipline, pride, and selflessness. Those are all things that I like to preach on the baseball field so that these boys can be good men when they leave here."

As for his baseball strategy, Fiammengo sees more than one way of doing things offensively. "I love to put pressure on offense, doing things like running and bunting," Fiammengo said. "However, you have to assess your opponent and your own personnel along with the game's situations. I can't say that I have one set philosophy - doubles and home runs are good too. Small ball opens up big ball and creates those opportunities."

Understanding that each pitcher has his own set of skills, Fiammengo has one demand that he will make on all of his pitchers. "My first priority is to have them pound the strike zone," Fiammengo said. "You can have pitchers who are prepared to throw a lot of innings and some who are limited in that way but can still be effective. Some throw harder, and some locate better than others. Once a pitcher has that foundation of throwing strikes, you can work off that with his secondary pitches and then build velocity."

Fiammengo is no stranger to Lamorinda baseball and appreciates the performance of the Campolindo baseball team that was coached by Max Luckhurst. "Max has been a legendary coach at Campolindo, having been here so long and having coached against him," Fiammengo said. "There are tons of great things I learned about him from other coaches and players with some intense war stories between Campolindo and College Park through the last decade, and his having won back-to-back-to-back NCS championships, and I look forward to continuing what he started. I've coached against Acalanes' Conner Hornsby and Miramonte's Sean Hennessey. I knew of Conner growing up and of Coach Hennessey when he was the head coach at Las Lomas in my playing days."

He also has a connection with Campolindo's football coach, Kevin Macy. "Growing up, I attended Coach Macy's football camps, and I was on the sidelines at some Campolindo football games when I was in elementary and middle school," Fiammengo said. "Coach Macy's son, Miles, was a teammate of mine when we played basketball and baseball growing up."

Fiammengo is hitting the ground running: "I'm really excited and honored to have the opportunity to be at Campolindo," Fiammengo said. "It's a school with a really strong tradition of academics and athletics and I look forward to continuing that tradition. There's a lot of prestige here and high expectations to fulfill and I'm embracing that."

OIS girls basketball wins championship



Submitted by Maureen Matthews

Orinda Intermediate School won the East Bay middle school girls basketball championship. Winning a tough battle over a talented Martinez team 34-28, OIS relied on relentless defense and a pass-first offensive scheme. Lorelei Keenan was named to the all tournament team, and Annelise Lindberg was named tournament MVP.

Standing from left: Ally Rogin, Lorelei Keenan, Talia Kardon, Annelise Lindberg, Myra Gakhar, Kimia Jowharchi, Sophia Blore, Samantha Murphy, Freida Vierra, and coach Curry; kneeling from left: Sydney Gray, Claire Kennedy, and Ava Noga.

Photo Maureen Matthews

Submit sports stories and story ideas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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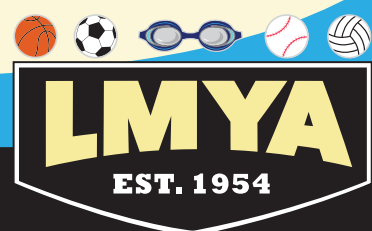
SOFTBALL

1st - 8th Grade Girls



LMYA Swim Team registration starts February 1, at www.lmyaswim.com

www.lmyasports.com



Lions and Leos share Christmas spirit



Submitted by Robert Murtagh

The Moraga Lions Club and Campolindo High School Leo Club on Dec. 16 delivered gifts and flowers to the patients and staff at Moraga Post Acute Care Facility on Rheem Boulevard. Normally the students would sing Christmas carols, however, the facility is presently on lockdown due to COVID.

This year Trader Joe's in Lafayette participated in donating over 50 bouquets of holiday flowers.

This year marks the 19th year that the Lions and Leos have brought holiday cheer to the patients and staff at the facility.

From left: Lion Rich Laufenberg and volunteer Cecilia Murtagh

Photo provided

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

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Publishers/Owners:
Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com

Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:
Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com, Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com, Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com, Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers:
Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, John T. Miller, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, M.D. Jones, Linda Fodrin-Johnson, Lou Fancher, Jeff Gomez, Chris Rauber, Sharon K. Sobotta
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas, Jeff Heyman
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck, Jeff Heyman
Mailing address: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556
Phone: 925-377-0977; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 23 Wednesday, January 4, 2023



Tips to save native flora and fauna ... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

2023 Garden Trends, Part 1



Vertical gardening with a potato vine climbing up a trellis.



A basket of succulents set in a birdbath amongst ferns.



Living green walls are trending for 2023.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”~ Audrey Hepburn

Where did the year go? It seems like only yesterday that I was writing gardening goals for 2022, and it is already 2023. Time to start anew! Happy New Year!

Every year, the Garden Media Group releases trends for the forthcoming year. The Garden Trends Report for 2023 is aptly named, “I Believe in Me!” Individuality and access to critical resources will be in vogue throughout these next 12 months. As an Empowerment Architect, I resonate with this craze outlined for 2023 and hope that personal

expression and self-reliance will become a style, not just a fad. Our choices and lifestyles need to reflect who we are as individuals so that we become our unapologetically authentic selves in service of others.

When it comes to designing any interior or exterior place, I have always believed that to fully function for the family, the space must be personalized, reflecting the colors, shapes, objects, and souvenirs that are meaningful to the individuals living in the location. We need to feel comfortable, secure, relaxed, and rejuvenated. Home is where our heart resides. Cookie-cutter installations may be magazine-worthy, but they won't necessarily showcase the depth, passions, and character of the dwellers.

... continued on Page D6

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	13	\$800,000	\$7,750,000
MORAGA	7	\$399,000	\$2,800,000
ORINDA	9	\$1,000,000	\$3,345,000

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

- 3255 Ameno Drive, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 1911 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-14-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 12-26-17
- 3195 Condit Road, \$2,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2709 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 11-14-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 10-02-12
- 3936 Happy Valley Road, \$5,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 3441 SqFt,
1951 YrBlt, 11-22-22
- 210 Lafayette Circle #205, \$1,995,000, 2 Bdrms, 1721 SqFt,
2021 YrBlt, 11-14-22
- 210 Lafayette Circle #201, \$2,124,500, 2 Bdrms, 1823 SqFt,
2021 YrBlt, 11-16-22
- 210 Lafayette Circle #202, \$1,798,500, 2 Bdrms, 1658 SqFt,
2021 YrBlt, 11-22-22
- 210 Lafayette Circle #305, \$2,297,000, 2 Bdrms, 1721 SqFt,
2021 YrBlt, 11-16-22
- 210 Lafayette Circle, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 828 SqFt, 2021 YrBlt, 11-22-22
- 22 Lucas Ranch Court, \$7,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 5503 SqFt, 2021 YrBlt, 11-23-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 02-12-20
- 4045 Marianne Drive, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2173 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-15-22,
Previous Sale: \$495,000, 10-21-98
- 22 Northridge Lane, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 4549 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 11-15-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,450,000, 05-11-21
- 1112 Rahara Drive, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2400 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-15-22
- 6 Smoketree Court, \$1,085,000, 3 Bdrms, 1589 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 11-23-22,
Previous Sale: \$574,000, 10-14-02

MORAGA

- 1965 Ascot Drive #13, \$399,000, 1 Bdrms, 678 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-21-22,
Previous Sale: \$358,000, 06-17-19
- 563 Augusta Drive, \$2,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2687 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-14-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 02-27-06
- 798 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2471 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-15-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 08-01-13
- 208 Fronteras Drive, \$2,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 3270 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 11-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,031,000, 10-28-20
- 24 Hansen Court, \$970,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-14-22,
Previous Sale: \$639,000, 04-11-14
- 242 Paseo Bernal, \$1,001,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-21-22,
Previous Sale: \$664,000, 06-03-04
- 3968 Paseo Grande, \$1,572,000, 3 Bdrms, 1797 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-15-22,
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 04-27-05

... continued on Page D5

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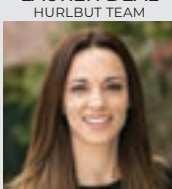
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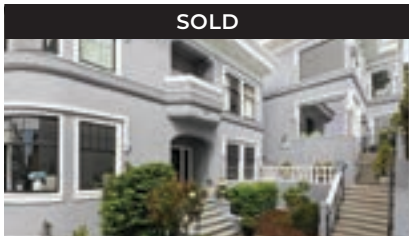


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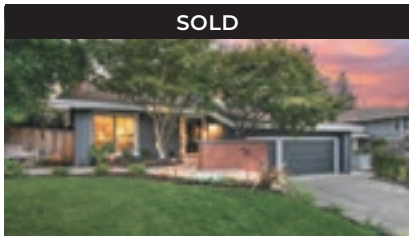
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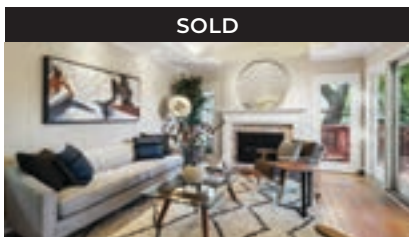
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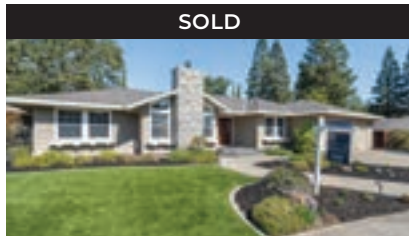


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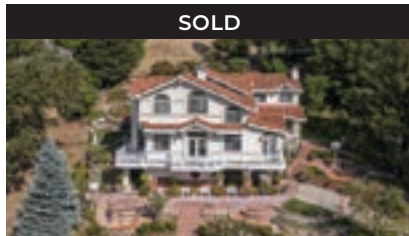
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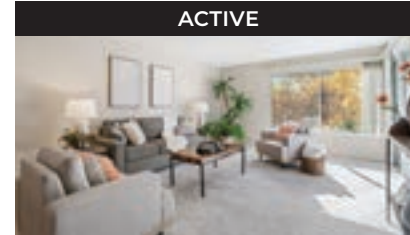
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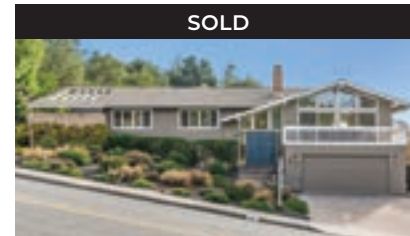
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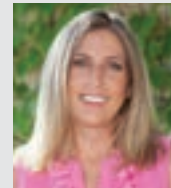
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A few ways to save native flora and fauna from human impacts



Photo Kim Curiel

The beauty of wild mushrooms is evident at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda.

By Toris Jaeger, Naturalist, FONA

As someone given the gift of nature awareness at a very young age and becoming a naturalist for the Wagner Ranch Nature Area some 45 years ago, I feel I must use my voice to speak for local flora and fauna.

The truth is that native wildlife is disappearing while the human population continues to increase and the reasons for the wildlife decline are human caused. Removing woodlands, forests for cattle grazing and planting crops, the use of pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides have polluted the land and the waterways.

The best way to protect biodiversity is to respect the lands of Indigenous peoples, who are the best guardians of the natural world and are an essential part of diversity.

The species at greater risk are those depending on woodlands and waterways.

We may not be able to save the starving manatees in Florida or the polar bears in Hudson Bay immediately but we can stop the use of the poisons making it challenging for them to survive.

The other resource we need to save is water.

You may not be able to invest in a gray water system or rain barrels but your irrigation system could be updated. You can receive landscape advice from the East Bay Municipal Utility District and they have grants available to purchase native plants and remove lawns.

The California Native Plant Society has a website (Calscape.calscape.org) identifying which plants are best for your landscape. You can type in your address and find suggestions for plants.

Three local native plant nurseries are Native Here, Watershed Native Plant Nursery and Regional Botanic Garden.

A great book that can be of help is "Native plant gardening for birds, bees and butterflies, Northern California" by George Oxford Miller.

Of course, the most challenging issues are changing transportation to electric and powering our homes with solar energy instead of the use of fossil fuels.

I believe if you make the time to be in nature each day you will learn so much and want to protect it.

"Look deeply into nature and you will understand everything better" ~ Albert Einstein

"If we save the Earth we save ourselves!" ~ Friends of the Earth

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

ORINDA

- 71 Barbara Road, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1564 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-18-22
9 Bel Air Drive, \$3,345,000, 6 Bdrms, 4013 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-15-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,019,000, 03-07-13
234 Crescent Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2053 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 11-23-22
26 Descanso Drive, \$1,605,000, 5 Bdrms, 2296 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-23-22
100 El Toyonal, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2350 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-16-22
15 Keith Drive, \$1,635,000, 3 Bdrms, 2442 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-16-22
35 Owl Hill Road, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2851 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,575,000, 10-08-21
82 Underhill Road, \$1,100,000, 2 Bdrms, 1276 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-15-22,
Previous Sale: \$528,000, 12-03-13
205 Village Gate Road, \$1,230,000, 2 Bdrms, 1858 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-21-22



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

2023 Garden Trends, Part 1

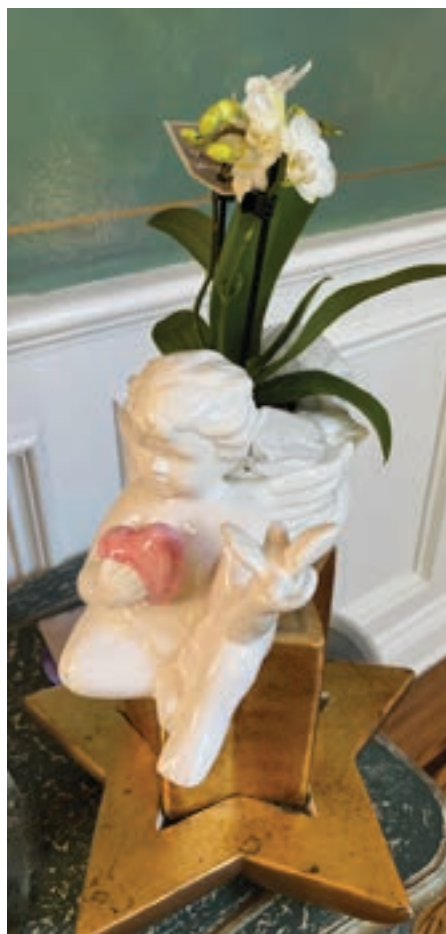
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As we begin to plan for 2023, learn about the forthcoming trends, but decide what resonates with you. Just because something is au courant, it doesn't mean that it will empower everyone. In part one of my interpretation of the Garden Media Report, I've chosen a few gems that may trigger a positive possibility path for you.

The report shares the smart benefits of the garden green industry which has gone electric or battery-powered more quickly than any other industry, including electric vehicles. Mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws, and other electric equipment accounted for 17% of the gardening sales in the United States in 2022. Smart garden tools are becoming as critical to gardening as shovels and picks, especially for those who are just entering the gardening arena. Although I have not tried it yet, there is a new smart device on the market that is a weeding robot. Solar-powered, it lives in the garden chopping weeds. Now that is an innovation I will be checking out as weeding my landscape requires grueling work for months on end.

Another huge trend will be shopping online for garden products. Many companies are offering not only plants for sale but identification and information for various plants. It is as easy as taking a photo of a flower, leaf, tree, or other specimen and clicking a button. Several matches will appear on the app, but it is up to you to determine which is the correct one. Other garden apps provide tips on how to plant, when to plant, and where to plant as well as healthy recipes for harvesting crops.

Because of the housing crisis with buying a home being out of reach for numerous people, ADUs (accessory dwelling units) have become popular in the past year and will continue to be in demand. Container gardening will linger as a major trend as gardens and patios become smaller. Vertical gardening, trellises, fences, and living green walls will be integral to adding privacy and protected places to enjoy nature. Millennials and Boomers are embracing vintage and mid-century patio furniture



A white orchid lives in an angelic container.

including wrought iron, retro lawn chairs, and pagoda umbrellas.

In the section called "Super Agers," the Garden Trends Report boldly states that "In 2023 and beyond, 100 is the new 50!" I'm not so certain that this is a truism, but it does bode well for gardeners who want to continue being active with tilling, filling, and thriving with nature long into their golden years. Accessibility options such as raised beds, wider paths for wheelchairs, and plants at levels that don't require bending will allow anyone to enjoy the outdoors.

When it comes to plants, tropical and exotic are the favorites for all age groups. Orchids, bromeliads, anthuriums, birds of paradise,



A small space boasts an elaborate tropical garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian

cordylines, Ficus, palms, philodendrons, and peace lilies are only a sampling of specimens that are attractive to Gen X, Y, Z as well as Boomers. I speculate that water features, especially creative fountains based on individual themes, will be a big focus this year. Besides the health benefits of the negative ions that running water provides to humans helping us refocus and recharge, birds and wildlife rely on them in the backyard garden for bathing and drinking.

These are just a few of the projections for our outdoor enjoyment for 2023. In my next column, I'll offer more suggestions. Believe in tomorrow. Plan to plant a garden. Live to 100? What's on your list?

Safety Tip:

With heavy rains projected all week, it may behoove you to fill a few sandbags in case of flooding. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District has made sand, bags, and a shovel available at the following locations:

Moraga

Rancho Laguna Park parking lot (2101 Camino Pablo).

Orinda

Fire Station 43 - 20 Via Las Cruces, Orinda

Fire Station 44 - 295 Orchard Road, Orinda

To ensure there is sufficient sand and bags available, they request citizens to please take only what is needed for actual or threatened flooding. Sandbags can also be obtained from local home improvement stores for a nominal price.



Cynthia Brian wishes you a healthy, happy, prosperous, and golden New Year!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy 2023!
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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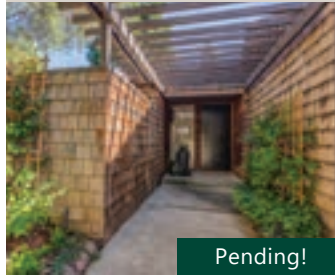
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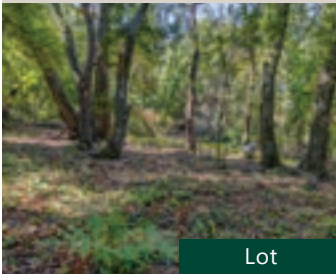
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2 Orchard Court
Home sweet home! 3 bd/ 2 ba home needs lots of TLC now & is awaiting the next generation!

\$999,000

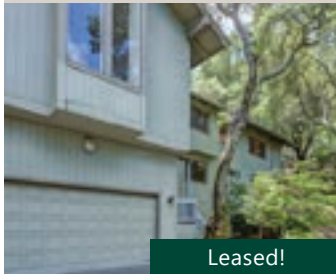
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0 Camino Del Monte
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19 Woodcrest Road
Fabulous Glorietta location! Spacious, light & bright 4 bd/ 2.5 ba home with high ceilings and beautiful views!

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1336 San Reliez Court
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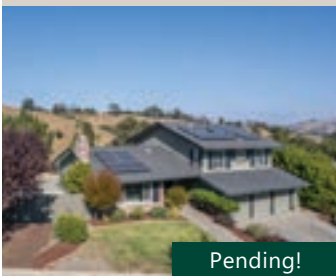
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4010 Woodside Court
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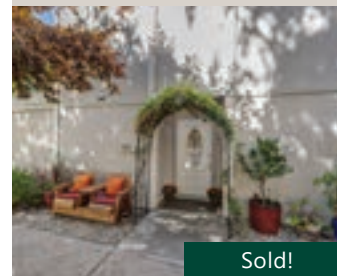
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2114 Buena Vista
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