

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Independently owned and operated!

24,000 FREE copies [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) 925-377-0977

24,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses



Tomizaki's Champions Kung Fu performs a Lion Dance Feb. 10 at Orinda Library.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

# Lions and swords open the Year of the Dragon in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda celebrated Chinese New Year at the Orinda Library on Saturday, Feb. 10. The Year of the Dragon was welcomed by members of the Tomizaki's Champions Kung Fu, who performed a Lion Dance and a sword demonstration at the Orinda Library auditorium. This special event was sponsored by the Eng family. The Eng Family Library Endowment was set up when the Library was being built. According to Waylin Eng, the Eng's helped with the building funds, but told Dick Heggie that they would like to put money aside to bring Asian culture to Orinda in perpetuity. The endowment has now existed for over 20 years. This year's celebration has been organized by Eng's daughter, Amy Eng, who

also organized the Pan Asian Festival in 2004. Proud father Weylan Eng recalled that Amy was the Cherry Blossom Queen of Northern California in 2004. Eng added that Amy holds a master's in education and public policy from Stanford. Amy represented the family this year, as others were unable to attend, being in Hawaii on family business. In addition to the Lion Dance celebrations, the Eng family displays historical Chinese artifacts in Orinda Library each year. Eng praised library manager Michael Beller as very supportive, and expressed his appreciation to Lin Look who has worked very hard on the exhibition every year.

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Letters to the Editor	Page 10
Not to be missed	Page 8
How to contact us	Page 8
Classified	Page 8
Community Service	Page 10
Obituaries	Page 10
Shop Moraga	Page 12

Advertising

**LET'S GET MOVING IN 2024**  
*Your first smart move is to call me!*

Amy Rose Smith  
Partner, Village Associates  
925.212.3897  
amy@amyrosesmith.com  
www.amyrosesmith.com  
CalDRE: #01855959

## Not sure what to do for Valentine's Day? You might consider Dublin

By Sora O'Doherty



Courtesy of Whitefriar St. Church in Dublin

No, not the Dublin in Alameda County, but Dublin, Ireland. Whitefriar Street church has been a place of pilgrimage on Valentine's Day for many years. Of course, for those who have already found

love, Lamorinda offers many lovely ways to celebrate this February as well. The heart and blood of St. Valentine rests in this Dublin Church, and many visitors come for prayers of love and blessings for engaged couples. Today a statue of the saint stands over the reliquary that is emblazoned with the words, "This shrine contains the sacred body of the martyr, together with a small vessel tinged with his blood." Legend has it that Valentine was a priest from Rome in the third century AD. Emperor Claudius II prohibited soldiers to marry because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine allegedly felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. Valentine was imprisoned and condemned to death. Some say he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on Feb. 14 he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine," leading to the subsequent exchange of "valentines" between sweethearts and even school children. And what better way to spend time together for Valentine's Day than by visiting Dublin? Mind you, the weather forecast isn't great. Expect drizzles and a high of 50 degrees. Still, you probably won't have to fight hordes of tourists to pay your respects to St. Valentine. Or maybe you might.

## Chinese Lunar New Year celebrated at Moraga Library

By Vera Kochan



Chinese Calligraphy

Photo Vera Kochan

While the Chinese New Year technically began on Feb. 10, the Moraga Library's interactive celebration was held on Feb. 3. Attendees were encouraged to sample, as well as help make their own Dumplings, Sweet Rice Ball Soup, and Hot Pot edibles. A calligraphy table offered guests the chance to write Chinese phrases appropriate for the occasion. According to Community Library Manager Rita Carrasco, "This is the first time we've done a community event like this before. We had already planned on doing a display in the library, but wanted to do something bigger. Cathy Chang set up the various stations and coordinated them. We had decided on a registration list of 40 people, and we ended up with another 20 on the wait list, so eventually anyone that showed up was invited in." Cathy Chang, Moraga's 2023 Citizen of the Year, typically decorates the library's display case for the holiday, but took charge of the event with the participation of volunteers from Moraga and Orinda (including her children, Brian and Sara, who manned the Hot Pot and Dumpling stations respectively). ... continued on Page 4

**Civic News**  
Moraga welcomes new Town Clerk, Amy Heavener – Page 4

**Public Safety**  
Emergency sirens a no-go in Orinda for now – Page 6

**Life in Lamorinda**  
Art students work with seniors at Moraga care home - Page 12

**Sports**  
Mats 18U girls water polo wins in Australia — Page 11

**Our Homes** **OH1-OH12**  
Winter storms wreak havoc while enhancing beauty — Page OH1





See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Lafayette:**  
 www.lovelafayette.org  
 Phone: (925) 284-1968  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.lafayettechamber.org

**Lafayette Public Meetings City Council**

Regular Meeting: Monday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Planning Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, Feb 20, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Design Review**

Monday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room



COMPASS



**Treasured Trail Neighborhood Property!**

Offered at \$2,895,000

**786 Los Palos Manor, Lafayette**

3196± Sq. Ft. Main House + Cottage | .46± Acre Lot

**786LosPalosManor.com**

**Lafayette's #1 Real Estate Team 16 Straight Years**

DanaGreenTeam.com | 925.339.1918 | DRE 01482454



**John McCormick appointed to fill vacant City Council seat**

The Lafayette City Council has appointed John McCormick to fill the va-

cancy created by the resignation of Council Member Teresa Ger-

ringer.

Seven applications from Glenn R. Cass, Stella Wotherspoon, Shane Reisman, Janet Shahan, Alison Mary Collins, Vincent Salimi, and McCormick were received, and all applicants were interviewed by the City Council during a special meeting on Jan. 29. After careful consideration, the council unanimously selected John McCormick to fill the vacancy and serve on the council until the next regularly scheduled municipal election in November 2024.

McCormick has been a resident of Lafayette for more than 30 years and raised two children here. He is the co-owner

of a local music store, Lamorinda Music, which he and his wife founded in 2009. He has served on the city's Planning Commission since 2023 and is chair of the City's Land Acknowledgment Task Force.

John currently serves on the board of directors for both the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Park Theater Trust. In 2021, he was honored as the Lafayette Business Person of the Year.

John has a bachelor's degree in engineering from UC Berkeley. He worked in the software industry until his retirement in 2017. John recently received his master's degree in history




Photo provided

**John McCormick was sworn in as a member of the Lafayette City Council on Jan. 30**





from Harvard. He wrote a book titled "Chinese in Napa Valley" which was released in 2023.

- provided by City of Lafayette

**BATTERSBY.**  
**637 SKY HY CIR, LAFAYETTE**




3,064 Sq Ft\* 5 Bd 3 Ba .75 Acre\*  
 Offered for \$2,995,000 637SkyHyCir.com

**Ashley Battersby**  
 Broker/Partner  
 (925) 323-9955  
 ashley@ashleybattersby.com  
 @ashleybattersbyhome  
 DRE# 01407784  
 \*per public records

**It's Village. Of Course.**



**Lafayette Mayor updates community on State of the City**

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Some 117 people packed into a Lafayette Park Hotel conference room on Feb. 1 to honor the Lafayette Chamber's Business Person of the Year and to hear the State of the City address presented by Lafayette Mayor Gina Dawson.

In her State of the City address, Mayor Dawson congratulated Hollie Lucas-Alcalay – the owner of Hollie's Homegrown, the Lafayette Chamber's Business Person of the Year, and went on to discuss Lafayette's tri-

umphs and milestones as well as spell out some of the challenges that are on the horizon.

Dawson reported that the state of the city is strong but that there are many fiscal challenges for the city to address on the horizon. "We made extensive traffic safety improvements. We completed a housing element required by the state as well as a safety element. We adopted ordinances for safe firearm storage and a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers to

reduce carbon and noise pollution," Dawson explained. Dawson also mentioned a rain garden, the launching of a website and an impressive number of over 8,000 enrollments at Lafayette Recreation programs and more than 11,000 service calls from the Lafayette Police Department.

"This is just a sample of Lafayette's list of accomplishments – all while celebrating 175 years of history, which requires many hours of staff and volunteer efforts," Dawson said.

She reiterated that none of this would happen without the involvement of the community who engage with the public process. Dawson also shared that the city is in the midst of updating its general plan for 2024 to create the framework for re-envisioning Lafayette in the future. This was last done in 2002, at which time Dawson said the vision for current day Lafayette was created.

"Right now, we're at a pivotal time for change," Dawson said. "Our new challenges we need to address are fiscal sustainability and the planning to accommodate the growth ahead."

Dawson shared that the five-year budget to sustain and enhance the community while sustaining the target reserves at a level that allows for quick response to potential incidents forecast shows a 10% budget deficit, which translates to an annual \$2 million shortage. Dawson said this is in part because of increased costs for doing business and an increased level of unfunded state mandates.


"It is crucial that we address this \$2 million annual deficit in a way that allows us to continue providing services and programs to our

community, while also maintaining healthy reserves to address future challenges. We're launching a public outreach campaign and are actively seeking your insights into budget priorities."

The second challenge that Dawson described is the implementation of the housing element, for which Lafayette needs to develop 2,114 housing units by 2031, where she said the efforts are being focused along the downtown Mt. Diablo corridor. "Our job now is to implement the housing element. To do so, means tremendous change – change that will come with many challenges." Dawson posed some of the questions the city is addressing: How do we do this in a way that respects the very characteristics that we love about Lafayette so that this community continues to thrive? How do we guide this growth around this development – not only in the housing cycle but also in creating a way for those who will be living in Lafayette by 2040 to thrive?

In 2024, the city of Lafayette is focusing on two elements – the land use element of the general plan and updating the framework for a safety downtown corridor – both of which Dawson promised will come along with ample opportunities for public input.



"I'm confident that we can turn the challenges (we face) into opportunities for this growing community. We can shape this future and embrace change with a shared vision for a thriving, sustainable, vibrant downtown for generations to come. I look forward to your active engagement with us. Thank you and Love Lafayette."



**\$49 SPECIAL\***

INCLUDES:

- In-depth consultation
- 24-point neuropathy exam including high tech comprehensive testing
- Full written report of the exam and test results

**THE WELLNESS INSTITUTE**

\* offer expires 3-14-24

**Do You Suffer with NEUROPATHY?**

Discover the latest breakthrough that can relieve pain and numbness caused by neuropathy.

Peripheral Neuropathy is a common condition that affects 20 million Americans and, once identified, can be successfully treated without the use of drugs or surgery. Symptoms include:

- Numbness
- Diabetic nerve pain
- Sharp, electric-like pain
- Burning or tingling
- Muscle weakness
- Difficulty sleeping from leg or foot discomfort
- Sensitivity to touch
- Pain when walking

**We offer a scientific, 4-step, proven approach that heals your nerves and reverses your symptoms by:**

- Increasing blood supply to your nerves
- Repairing and re-educating your nerves
- Increasing the blood flow in your feet or hands
- Increasing your balance and mobility

**You Will Discover:**

- What REALLY causes Peripheral Neuropathy
- Dangers typically associated with medications prescribed for Peripheral Neuropathy
- How to stop nerve damage before the effects are irreversible
- How our revolutionary protocol provides outstanding results for sufferers of Peripheral Neuropathy

**CALL 1-925-690-5001 to Reserve Your Consultation Today!**

3189 danville blvd, suite #230, alamo • wellnessinstitute.io



# Bay Area comics bring free laughs to the Roundup Saloon

By Sharon K. Sobotta



Entertainer Ryan Rodriguez



Jonny Rios

Photos provided

Ryan Rodriguez has been an entertainer of sorts. But it wasn't until he sustained an injury that took him out of his gig as a professional wrestler that he found his way to the comedy scene.

"(In 2016) my friend signed me up out of the blue at an open mic event and I ended up cutting a promo by roasting the audience for three minutes straight," Rodriguez said. "They told me to go back and write some material and keep coming back. I did and I was able to build my own set to what it is now."

Rodriguez, along with Guile Mosher and Jonny Rios wove their love for comedy into Bay Area Comics and are on a mission to get people across the Bay – including Lamorindans – laughing. To do this, they're hosting a free

comedy show the last Tuesday of every month at the Roundup Saloon in downtown Lafayette. The monthly tradition kicked off in January and the next free live open mic event is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m.

The 26-year-old Rios performed a set during the Roundup's first comedy night. While on stage, he pulled the audience in with self-deprecating relatable jokes about everything from his immigrant childhood to his relationships.

"I don't go for the lowest hanging fruit. Even if the audience doesn't have my same exact story, they can relate to having a mother or another aspect of the jokes I tell, and laugh."

"Comedy works. I don't ever remember being sad while I was

laughing," Rios says.

"Comedy was my favorite pastime. And my roommate told me to try out an open mic and I did," Rios recalls. "When I was on stage getting laughter, and even after, I completely forgot all of my problems. It felt like there was a new connection in my brain. It felt nice to be able to make other people feel better and I felt better in return."

Sami Al-Asfour lives and works in Moraga and was thrilled to come to Lafayette for the Roundup's first comedy show.

"I thought the five comedians were good. After long stressful days at work, it's important to find the time to laugh and not take it seriously," Al-Asfour says. "I'll go to another comedy show and invite my co-workers."

## New Executive Director for Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation



Carol Varney

Photo provided

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) board of trustees is pleased to announce they have selected Carol Varney as the new executive director of the LLLCF.

Varney's extensive background as a strategic and innovative executive

director of non-profit organizations, combined with keen development skills and a deep passion for promoting community-based programming, will help further advance the impact of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center which celebrates its 15th anniversary this

year. Lisa Spiegler, LLLCF board of trustees immediate past president says, "Our board and transition team unanimously agreed that Carol's vast experience, as well as her commitment to the Foundation's mission and impact, make her the ideal leader for LLLCF. We are so excited about the possibilities that lay ahead under Carol's guidance, and we can't wait to start working with her as we embark on this new chapter."

Varney will manage day-to-day operations for the Foundation, the mission of which is to sustain the Lafayette Library and Learning Center as a community place and a regional resource that offers enriched experiences for all ages. She will work in partnership with Foundation board and staff, the Library manager, Friends of the LLLCF, and the city of Lafayette to ensure the library continues to evolve to meet the dynamic needs of its patrons. Varney will also oversee fundraising activities, managing fiscal resources efficiently and effectively; lead stakeholder engagement initiatives to deepen the library's ties within the community; and develop an operating plan based on shared mission, vision and values to benefit all who access the library. "It's an honor to hold this position in Lafayette. I look forward to meeting the community and learning how LLLCF can continue to grow its role in supporting enriching experiences for all," she said. - provided by LLLCF

**CAMPOLINDO**  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS CLUB  
presents our annual fundraiser

**ROARING 20s**  
**Jazz Dinner Dance**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 02, 2024**  
5:30 - 9:30 PM

**ST. PERPETUA HALL**  
3454 HAMLIN ROAD, LAFAYETTE, CA

TICKETS AT [CAMPOMUSIC.ORG](http://CAMPOMUSIC.ORG)  
ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASE REQUIRED

## COMPASS



### 52 Corte Maria, Moraga

5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3442 Sqft | \$2,795,000

Coming Soon! Newer home with remodeled kitchen and great room opening out to a fantastic backyard with a built-in BBQ, firepit, great pool, spa, and lawn. [52CorteMaria.com](http://52CorteMaria.com)

Orinda.com  
**ELENA HOOD**  
REAL ESTATE BROKER  
Elena Hood  
Elena@Orinda.com  
925.254.3030  
DRE 01221247



Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

**GALLEGOS BOAMAN GROUP**  
EXCLUSIVE LISTING

Coming Soon in the Trail Neighborhood!  
♥ Will You Be Mine? ♥

**831 Avalon Avenue | Lafayette**  
3 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,059 SF | 0.24 AC | Offered at \$1,895,000

You will fall in love with the gorgeous living room cathedral ceilings, spacious kitchen open to the great room and dining area. The fabulous backyard has room for entertaining, potential pool site, expansion or guest unit. Ideally located near downtown restaurants, shopping, K-8 schools and Lafayette Trail. Not to be missed!

**Who you work with matters.**  
We have other homes that we think you'll love... Call us!

Happy Valentine's Day!  
♥ Christine & Amy

**Gallegos Boaman Group**  
Christine Gallegos | Amy S. Boaman  
925.878.2883 | 925.997.6808  
DRE# 01896511 | DRE# 01433269  
gallegosboaman@compass.com  
gallegosboaman.com

**COMPASS**

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. If your property is currently listed for sale this is not a solicitation.

**CONSIDERING MAKING A MOVE?**  
GIVE US A CALL TODAY 925.997.6808





**MORAGA**

See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**Town of Moraga:**  
www.moraga.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 888-7022  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
www.moragachamber.org  
**Moraga Citizens' Network:**  
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

**Town Council Meetings**  
Wed., Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Wed., Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:**  
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.  
**Park and Recreation Commission:**  
Monday March 11, 6:30 p.m.

- Hardwoods
- Carpets
- Rugs
- LVP
- Vinyl
- Laminate

**FAMILY OWNED  
30+ YEARS!**

**925-284-4440**

3344 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette  
lamorindafloors.com

**LAMORINDA  
FLOORS**

# Moraga's new Town Clerk is Walnut Creek's loss

By Vera Kochan

After over eight years as a deputy clerk with the city of Walnut Creek, Moraga's new town clerk, Amy Heavener, decided it was time for a positional change. "The city clerk that I worked for was younger than me, and I realized there was nowhere to go, so I came to Moraga," she explained.

Prior to working in the public sector, Heavener has held positions in companies such as Genentech in South San Francisco and Gilead Pharmaceutical in Foster City. She got her first glimpse of what working for the public would be like by attending Parks and Recreation Committee meetings on her own time and discovered that she enjoyed the process. "Walnut Creek was an excellent place for me to understand city government."

Heavener joined Moraga this past No-

vember and is busy fulfilling her many duties for the town, which include certifying and distributing ordinances and resolutions, coordinating the Town Records Management Program, maintaining the Office of Record, preparing and posting of agendas, managing Council packet production and distribution, processing required legal notices, responding to Public Records Act requests, co-publishing the About Town Newsletter with the Parks and Recreation Department, and working with the county during this election year to ensure candidate compliance. "The clerk profession is all about processing the rules," she stated. "We operate through the legal guidelines."

When asked what she finds different about working for a town rather than a city, Heav-

ener replied, "Walnut Creek was bigger and busier. Very production oriented rather than relationship oriented. There's more opportunity here to do a variety of things. I get to expand my duties. It hasn't been boring, and I'm learning about what exists while adding more to the department -- what level to take it." She already has plans to roll out a new type of agenda packet.

"Everybody has been so helpful and welcoming," Heavener said when referring to the town staff. "I was amazed to see how many people pitch in to help and get things done. I'm really excited to be here and become a town clerk."

Heavener is equally impressed with the locals. "The residents are super nice. I like the community of Moraga, because they are inter-



Town Clerk Amy Heavener Photo Vera Kochan

ested in their town. To me there's this small-town feel, because the people care about their community. I was surprised at all of the people that showed up for the State of the Town event."

Heavener's com-

mute will take her from Martinez, where she lives with her new fiancée, Danielle (they became engaged during an August 2023, Taylor Swift concert in Los Angeles) and their two dogs Gladys and Chili.

# Chinese Lunar New Year celebrated at Moraga Library

... continued from Page 1

"Every station had at least one adult and one student," explained Chang, "because we wanted to have the kids experience volunteering, in addition to passing on their culture to others. The Friends of the Moraga Library sponsored the event and paid for the food; and the lobby display will be up through the month of February."

According to the Chinese calendar, the year you were born could determine your personality, and each year in the lunar cycle of 12 is represented by an animal. This year, 2024, is the Year of the Dragon, and those born under its sign are gifted with courage, tenacity, intelligence, and confidence. The celebrations last for 15 days, with different activities hap-

pening throughout the

period. In the days leading up to Chinese New Year's Day, intense house cleaning (to sweep away bad luck) and shopping to prepare for the celebration begins. Putting up spring couplets or banners adds blessings to the house, visiting graves of loved ones and bringing offerings expresses remembrance, and having "reunion dinners" stresses the fact that wherever anyone may be, people are expected to come home to celebrate the festival with several generations of their family enjoying the food and time together.

Giving red envelopes containing "lucky money" are given to children and retired seniors. Red is the holiday's main color -- it symbolizes good fortune and joy. Just like any New Year celebration, revelers are expected to

stay awake till at least

midnight. The Chinese New Year begins with setting off firecrackers on the stroke of midnight (this is meant to scare away evil and welcome the new year). The week after involves visiting with friends and relatives, and by the eighth day most people return to work. The fifteenth day is for lighting lanterns, eating sweet dumplings, and more fireworks.

The Library's celebration included a calligraphy table for attendees to try their hand at writing in Chinese using traditional methods.

"Chinese New Year couplets are pairs of poetic lines, typically written in calligraphy with gold or black ink on red paper, representing well-wishes, blessings, and hopes for the future," stated an informational guide at the table. "They are an essential part of the festive decorations and are believed to bring good luck and fortune to the household. Paired couplets are typically placed on both sides of the front door, forming a harmonious and symmetrical display. Banners with simple phrases or a single character can be displayed on windows or at doors."

The enticing aroma that emanated from the food stations was enough to make stomachs growl with envy. There are seven foods that are considered lucky during the celebration period. Fish brings an increase in prosperity; Dumplings, Spring Rolls, and certain types of fruit bring wealth; Sweet Rice Balls bring family together-



Dumpling station Photo Vera Kochan

ness; glutinous Rice Cakes bring a higher income/position; and Noodles bring longevity. Some Hot Pot ingredients are fish, tofu, Napa cabbage, mushrooms, sliced pork, or noodles, which were available for folks to put into a community Hot Pot (a type of broth/vegetable-filled soup) and scoop out their share when cooked. It is customary to have plenty of ingredients on hand, because guests should not leave the table hungry.

At the Dumpling station, pre-made fillings of pork or vegetarian were on-hand for people to place onto a round flat piece of dough to fold and crimp before boiling. Eating the crescent-shaped dumpling (which resembles ancient Chinese currency) signifies ushering in wealth for the coming year. Other typical fillings include beef, fish, and shrimp.

Sweet Rice Balls, "Tangyuan," made of

glutinous flour and water are kneaded into a smooth dough, and a small percentage is boiled until it floats. That, in turn, is incorporated back into the original dough and mixed until smooth. Small pieces of the dough are broken off and rolled into balls for boiling in water. The cooked Tangyuan is then added to a small amount of broth containing brown sugar and warm water. This dessert is meant to represent the first full moon of the year and encourages togetherness.

You can't visit a library without expecting to learn something, so Moraga's handed out a sheet containing eight questions that could be answered if attendees knew where to look. Completed quiz sheets were turned in and, if answered correctly, winners were given red envelopes filled with candy or other prizes.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!! Happy New Year!!

*A Sweetheart*  
**OF A DEAL**  
RECEIVE  
**50% OFF**

FOR 2 MONTHS ON SELECT UNITS.  
EXPIRES 2/29/24  
FREE BOX OF CHOCOLATES FOR THE FIRST 50 CUSTOMERS  
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

Hours of operation  
Mon-Sat 9am -6pm  
Sunday 10am-4pm.

**5ASPACE**  
Storage of Your Way & More  
455 Moraga Rd, Ste. F  
(925) 643-2026  
www.5Aspace.com

**RHEEM SHOPPING CENTER**

## Do you have a person or couple in mind to be honored as the 2024 Moraga Citizen(s) of the Year?

Selection criteria are as follows:

- Must have a Moraga mailing address;
- Nominees should be persons who:
  - (1) have given their time, talent and treasure to help make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop; and
  - (2) bring the community together and make us proud to be residents of Moraga;
- Cannot be a current elected member or paid staff of the Town Council, the Town or any other local public agency (e.g., School District or Fire District).

Please email your nomination to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or mail it to Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations, Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road, Suite C # 202, Moraga CA 94556.  
**The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, March 8.**  
A celebration will be held on Sunday, April 14, at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church to honor the winner. For a list of past recipients visit: www.mcnmoraga.org.





When I say "good," you say "neighbor."

**Mike Rosa**  
Agent  
925-376-2244  
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583  
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106  
Moraga

Now that's teamwork.  
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7



State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

History, mystery, racism, murder, spies, CIA & FBI in the 60s & 70s

Leta's father witnessed the murder of MLK Jr.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Speaker  
FRIDAY MAR 1 @ 7 AM  
Lafayette Veterans Bldg.  
LamorindaSunrise.org/speakers



**BUNNIES & BREWS**  
**SUNDAY MARCH 10th**  
Buy Your Tickets Today!  
Moragarec.com



# Contra Costa Shark Tank lures young entrepreneurs to swim with the big fish

By Vera Kochan



Photo Courtesy Contra Costa Shark Tank

Front row (from left): Contra Costa Shark Tank Founder Maya Hammerman, second-place winner Ronen Jain, third-place winner Archit Kundu, and first-place winner Fatimah Hussain

Every great invention starts with a good idea, and the Contra Costa Shark Tank Youth Competition was designed to encourage young entrepreneurs to realize and market those good ideas.

The Campolindo High School Entrepreneurship Club organized the first ever event as a way to help students in grades kindergarten through 12th learn important life skills, such as perseverance, self-confidence, and financial literacy.

"The best way to learn about entrepreneurship is by starting a business," stated Campo junior and competition founder Maya Hammerman. "My journey as an entrepreneur started in elementary school. We want to inspire kids in Contra Costa County to start or grow any type of business from traditional ones, such as lemonade stands and babysitting, to innovative new products or services that they create."

The competition began in September 2023, when applications were open for submission. Approximately 300 students hoped to be considered for one of the 10 finalist spots, where they would present a three-minute Finalist Pitch during the Feb. 6 event at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

The judges included Hammerman, who is also Campo's Entrepreneurship Club's president and a businesswoman in her own right as the founder of Moon Blossom Collection. Other judges were Jason Gardner (Founder of

Marqeta), Stephanie Williams (CFO and Controller of Pacific Gas & Electric Company), Roxanne Christophe (Founder and CEO of Girls Crushing It), and Anthony Marino (President of thredUp).

The finalists were judged on four criteria: 1) Enthusiasm for entrepreneurship, 2) How the business was presented, 3) Viability of the business, and 4) How the prize money will be used to launch a new business or grow an existing one.

Up first was SportzCity by Hunter Smith (5th grade, Burton Valley Elementary, from Lafayette). His product is sports cards (like baseball cards) of sports-related, laminated photos of friends, family, or teammates.

Experimental Kids by Archit Kundu (5th grade, Bella Vista Elementary, from San Ramon). His product is science kits (lava lamp or crystal growing) at reasonable prices without the toxic ingredients.

Lydia's Soap by Lydia Stewart (7th grade, Virtuous Voices Christian Academy, from Antioch). Her product is hand-made soaps with bath time toys inside (rubber ducks, small cars, etc.).

Loonies by Valerie Castellanos, Angie Alvarenga, Giovanni Perez, and Savannah Johnston (7th grade, Summit Tamalpais, from Richmond). Their product involves washable glass water bottles with straws and attachable stickers.

Tied Up in a Bow by Himna Imam and Mahum Malik (9th

grade, Venture and Dougherty Valley, from San Ramon). Their products are themed gift baskets that can also be personalized.

ElderSafe by Ronen Jain (10th grade, Monte Vista High, from Danville). His mobile app for seniors allows them to identify hazards in the home and prioritizes a list of deliverable safety products.

MiracleAlgae by Nicholas Angel-Ordonez and Shashank Konini (11th grade, San Ramon Valley, from Danville). Their product, a type of spirulina, thrives in high carbon environments, and when it dries contains more than 60% protein that can be used in yogurts and smoothies.

Synchroma Studio by Hector Espinoza (12th grade, Freedom High, from Oakley). His software program helps live performance venues to organize all of their electrical needs, such as lighting and sound.

ScrubWoofer™ by Beatrice Roberge (12th grade, Campolindo High, from Lafayette). Her product contains fine bristles that when used with canine toothpaste helps dogs to keep their tongues and teeth clean while they lick.

Workout Wizard by Fatimah Hussain (12th grade, Dougherty Valley High, from San Ramon). Her at-home workout software allows users to choose their own exercise routine and then receive specific feedback as to the routine's effectiveness.

The third-place prize of \$250 was awarded to

Experimental Kids. "Contra Costa Shark Tank is a great opportunity, and winning third place gives me the confidence to take this business to the next level and make STEM learning fun for all the kids 5 - 12 years old," said Kundu. "Also, it was a learning experience to present my views in front of such great judges and such a large audience."

The second-place prize of \$500 was awarded to ElderSafe. "I'm beyond thrilled to be one of the winners of this competition after the countless hours I've spent perfecting my app," stated Jain. "It was super exciting to get direct feedback from the judges and attendees about my business and how they would use it."

The first-place prize of \$1,000 was awarded to Workout Wizard. "From the moment I got the finalist letter to the day I presented on the Contra Costa Shark Tank's stage, the entrepreneurship journey has been extremely rewarding," commented Hussain. "To

win the first-place prize is a dream come true, and I hope to continue inspiring fellow youth entrepreneurs to follow

their passions and never give up. The best time to build a business is now, so what are you waiting for?"

## Moraga Chiropractic

**Dr. George Baloyra D.C.**

Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist

- Chiropractic adjustments
- Cupping
- Blading
- Percussion
- Intersegmental Traction
- Ultrasound
- Sports Taping
- Interferential Current Therapy



1605 School St. Suite 8, Moraga

www.moragachiropractic.com

info@moragachiropractic.com

925-899-6515

COMPASS

## Dreamy Mid-Century Jewel



COMING SOON

Nestled on a lovely private lot tucked near the heart of downtown Orinda sits this charming mid-century treasure with delightful views.

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,665 SF | .56 AC



Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives  
925.285.8336  
brydonivesteam.com  
DRE 01408025 | 01367466  
Follow us @brydonives

**BRYDON & IVES**  
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

## Tamplen Plastic Surgery now in Orinda

**Cosmetic Surgery**

- Facelift
- Facial Implants
- Neck Lift
- Nose Surgery
- Brow Lift
- Eyelid Surgery
- Ear Surgery

**Laser & Non-Surgical Services**

- BOTOX® Cosmetic and Dysport®
- Cosmetic Removal of Moles & Skin Tags
- Fillers (JUVÉDERM®, JUVÉDERM VOLUMA®, Restylane®)
- Fraxel Re:Store Laser Treatment

**Skin Care Services**

- Chemical Peels
- Obagi® Consultation



Dr. Matthew Tamplen, who grew up in Lafayette and is a nationally recognized Double Board-Certified Facial Plastic surgeon, opened a private practice in Downtown Orinda to better serve Lamorinda patients. Specializing entirely in the face, Dr. Tamplen's expertise is nationally recognized for providing patients with beautiful, elegant, and natural results.

**Matthew Tamplen, MD**

Orinda Office: **NEW LOCATION**

96 Davis Road, Suite #5, Orinda, 925-444-0824

TamplenPlasticSurgery.com



Double Board-Certified  
Facial Plastic and  
Reconstructive Surgeon.





See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Orinda:**  
[www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)  
 Phone (925) 253-4200  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
[www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org)  
**The Orinda Association:**  
[www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org)

**Orinda Public Meetings  
 City Council Regular Meeting:**

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.  
 Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way  
**Planning Commission**

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.  
 Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way

**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**  
 Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m.  
 Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way

**Sell Smarter. Sell Faster.**

Start preparing your home with the right real estate team today for maximum results this Spring!

With a steadfast commitment to prioritizing clients above all else, Chris Swim and Tracy Keaton consistently raise the bar in the East Bay's real estate scene. With over 70 years of combined experience, Chris and Tracy navigate the complexities of buying and selling with finesse, offering personalized concierge service that goes above and beyond expectations. Their strategic approach, honed marketing tactics, and extensive network ensure success in every transaction.

When it comes to preparing your home for the spring market, Chris Swim and Tracy Keaton are the agents you can rely on for unparalleled service and exceptional results.

Call 925.766.1447 to learn more about how Chris and Tracy will successfully navigate the current Real Estate market environment to benefit you.

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



**Chris Swim**  
 DRE 00943989

**Tracy Keaton**  
 DRE 01051349

925.766.1447

[chris@chrisswim.com](mailto:chris@chrisswim.com)  
[chrisswim.com](http://chrisswim.com)



**Split city council agrees to look at private roads and drains in Orinda**

By Sora O'Doherty

With vigorous opposition by Council Member Inga Miller, the Orinda City Council voted 4-1 to form an ad hoc subcommittee to evaluate both private and public options for better integrating and maintaining community infrastructure, as proposed by Mayor Darlene Gee. As proposed and passed, the new subcommittee members will be Gee and Vice Mayor Latika Malkani, and the subcommittee will be a Brown Act body capable of receiving input from

the public. Without further action, the subcommittee will last only until December and will then sunset.

The council received almost five dozen written public comments on the proposed subcommittee, and two members of the public appeared in person to comment. Bob Finch suggested that the situation is like requiring every citizen to pay school taxes but not allowing 20% of residents to send their children to public school (20% of

Orinda's roads are estimated to be private). Joel Libove called the system of public and private infrastructure "grossly unfair."

Gee's vision includes not only private roads but also private drains. She expressed concern that having the maintenance of some of the city's drains in private hands puts the city at risk of massive damage, and also liability. She said, "If I could wave my magic wand, I'd like to be able to make it all one public system."

In her proposal, Gee stated, "I have always believed and voiced that a better integrated and maintained city infrastructure will need additional money beyond what is currently available." She added, "I also believe the community should have the information to thoroughly understand what the benefits and costs of a more integrated and better maintained system would be and the opportunity to vote on whether they support that."

Gee, prior to becoming a member of the council, served on the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission, which oversaw the major renovation of public roads in Orinda. Miller said that the issue was "all new to her," and "really interesting." But as the discussion progressed, she made it clear that she strongly opposed the creation of the subcommittee.

There was some discussion about forming the subcommittee but returning to the matter

to define its scope, but Council Member Brandy Iverson believed that the scope could be defined, and included it in her motion to form the subcommittee. City Manager David Biggs confirmed Iverson's motion to approve the subcommittee with Gee and Malkani as members with the written scope attached to the agenda item, with the proviso that the subcommittee will refine the scope and bring that back to the council at a future date.

**Orinda not ready to move forward with sirens**

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda City Council members are very interested in following developments in siren systems designed to help protect residents from disasters, but are not yet ready to adopt such a system. After the devastation caused in Lahaina, Maui, by a wind-driven wildfire last year, questions arose about the use of sirens to warn residents. Lahaina has

sirens to warn of tsunami danger, but they were not used during the fire because officials feared that residents would flee in the wrong direction. In earlier California wildfires, some residents had no warning before the fire was upon them.

Berkeley, a city that

borders Orinda, also has sirens because it is located on the bay and could be subject to tsunamis. On Feb. 6, the Orinda City Council took a look at recent developments in the Berkeley siren system to see if they thought Orinda should adopt a similar system. Berkeley and

Orinda are similar in size, although Berkeley has a population of over 100,000 while Orinda's population is around 20,000. Orinda is hillier than Berkeley, and more wooded.

The new sirens in Berkeley have speakers, letting them warn for tsunamis, evacuations,

and shelter-in-place situations. Council members expressed concerns about the need for testing an emergency warning siren, and, for "smart" sirens, the ability of residents to make out the words. However, during their discussion, city council members considered that Orinda

residents are sophisticated and aware of impending conditions. In the event of a siren warning, the council believed that residents would then pursue further information before acting.

Information about the Berkeley siren system can be found at <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/outdoor-warning-system-emergency-siren-network>

**Garden Club recognized for Library Plaza refresh**

By Sora O'Doherty



For a project that has "restored a sense of tranquility and vibrancy in a space that fosters a connected community" the Orinda Garden Club was thanked by the City of Orinda at the Feb. 6 city council meeting. A certificate of recognition was presented to the club for "their purposeful vision and implementation of the renovation of the planter areas, and fountain area at Library Plaza" by Mayor Darlene Gee. Sue Anderson-Berger and Lisa Hallahan

accepted the certificate on behalf of the club.

The representatives of the garden club said that they would like to continue with the community center and the driveway to the library's underground parking lot, where they would like to remove masses of rosemary that hinders vision for motorists and is not fire safe.

The newly replanted areas include many native plants, that the garden club members said are pollinators and low

maintenance. Among the species listed are white crepe myrtle and Manzanita shrubs, pink carpet roses, Roxanne geraniums, celestial blue salvia, native verbena, popcorn ceanothus, Santa Barbara and seaside daisies, and many varieties of daffodil bulbs. 300 bulbs will provide color to the landscape over a long blooming season, as the club planted early, mid-season, and late blooming varieties.

Photo provided

**Sleek Architectural Masterpiece**

**40 Valley View Road, Orinda**  
 4 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 6,195 SQFT | 1.43 ACRES

Offered for \$10,500,000  
[40VALLEYVIEWROAD.COM](http://40VALLEYVIEWROAD.COM)

*Local Expert & Lamorinda Resident*  
**Ann Newton Cane**  
 415.999.0253  
[a.newtoncane@ggsir.com](mailto:a.newtoncane@ggsir.com)  
[AnnNewtonCane.com](http://AnnNewtonCane.com)  
 Lic. #02084093

**Golden Gate**  
**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**Surprisingly great rates that fit any budget.**

**Kelly Sopak Insurance Agency Inc**  
 Kelly Sopak, Agent  
 Insurance Lic#: 6006124  
 1 Northwood Drive Suite 1  
 Orinda, CA 94563  
 Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 5:00pm  
 Fridays 9:00am to 4:30pm  
 Evenings & Weekends by Appt

I can help you bundle your home and auto insurance, at a rate that may surprise you. Call me for a quote today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.<sup>®</sup>

Individual premiums and budgets will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm<sup>®</sup> underwriting requirements. Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
 State Farm Indemnity Company  
 State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
 State Farm General Insurance Company  
 Bloomington, IL

State Farm Florida Insurance Company  
 Winter Haven, FL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas  
 State Farm Lloyds  
 Richardson, TX

2101550

**State Farm**

**YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING**

**Mary H. Smith D.D.S.**  
*A Professional Corporation*  
**Family & Cosmetic Dentistry**

Proudly serving the Lamorinda community for over 26 years.

We always welcome new patients.

Our office delivers the highest quality and service.

Consults are always complementary.

Come visit our brand new State of the Art office.  
 1 Bates Blvd. Ste. 210, Orinda, 925.254.0824



# Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's industry-leading 4-step process to get rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

**GUARANTEED**

**FREE In-Home Inspection,**

**Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount**

**Call 925-433-3988**

www.honestrodentproofing.com

Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



## Spring Real Estate Market Off to a Fast Start

Listing inventory is low, interest rates are heading down and buyers are buying. Savvy sellers are making strategic, cost-effective fixups and utilizing top-notch marketing to sell their homes quickly.

Call me today for a free property evaluation and marketing plan. Utilize my 20+ years of local success to achieve your real estate dreams.

Integrity ♦ Knowledge ♦ Results

**Frank Woodward**

Realtor®, Luxury Property Specialist

T. 925.788.4963

E.Frank@FrankWoodward.com



**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**



©2024 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

## City Council nixes SSTOC study

By Sora O'Doherty

The Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC) brought a proposal to the Orinda City Council on Feb. 6, seeking authorization to spend about \$21,000 of Measure R funds on a community survey designed to provide a benchmark of Orinda attitudes toward wild fire prevention, but the council determined that the study was unnecessary and denied the request.

The SSTOC was formed in accordance with Measure R, a voter-approved increase in the sales tax to one cent for a period of 20 years from its adoption in 2020. Although it is a general tax, and therefore not tied to any particular expenditures of the city, Orinda said that the funds would be used primarily to improve wild fire safety and to continue road and drain maintenance. Measure R generates approximately \$2.4 million per year.

Commissioners Rachelle Latimer and Paula Reinman presented the SSTOC's proposal to the council with a number of different options on how to conduct the survey with various prices. Latimer noted that the city is

spending over \$1 million annually on fire safety, and that the goal of the SSTOC is to develop a baseline understanding against which to measure future progress.

Commissioner Reinman reported that the SSTOC had talked to two firms in order to get a ballpark idea of costs before embarking on a request for proposals. In order to be statistically significant, about 400 responses would be required, and it was expected that that is achievable.

Council Member Janet Reilly wondered if a survey was really necessary. Council Member Brandyn Iverson asked if the SSTOC has considered focus groups as an alternative. Mayor Darlene Gee asked if the SSTOC had found any other community who had actually conducted this type of programmatic survey, as opposed to the types of surveys conducted by Orinda to judge the appetite of the community for a ballot measure.

Latimer told the council that while most of the state is trying to get programs up and running, they are not focused on asking why people are not making

behavioral changes. "We'll be cutting edge in the state," she concluded.

Iverson said that there seems to be a lot of low-hanging fruit, such as free gutter guards. But Reinman countered that just because people took the gutter guards doesn't mean that they have installed them. Iverson had perhaps set the tone of the meeting earlier, when she pulled an item from the consent calendar, to ask questions about why the city spent money on consultants and studies for ADA parking improvements and new crosswalks.

Council Member Inga Miller pointed out that Connect Orinda was wildly successful with a one-day event in the library garden room, which was packed with people. She wondered if the SSTOC might do something similar. Reinman responded that asking people to walk around Orinda to say how they would like Orinda to look is "very different from telling people that you have a 20 or 30 thousand dollar problem in your yard." She also stated that while the work of individuals is important,

"you need the whole neighborhood to do it before everyone is safe."

Reilly favored the idea of conducting a study only through city channels, and said that she didn't "buy the argument that that wouldn't capture unengaged citizens." Iverson did not support the survey. Miller emphasized that the city had no experience with programmatic surveys, only election surveys, where the motivation to respond is high because it affects what will go on the ballot.

The council proceeded with a motion to not approve the survey. On the first vote, Council Member Reilly abstained. City attorney Osa Wolff intervened to explain that Orinda has a unique rule, which is not general parliamentary procedure, that in the event of a tie vote, the motion fails. Since the motion under consideration was a negative one to not approve the survey, the effect of Reilly's abstention would be to approve the survey. Reilly then changed her vote to aye, meaning that the motion to not approve the survey succeeded.

35 years of experience in architectural design

**KAPLAN ARCHITECTS** www.kaplanarchitects.com (510) 361-0223

## LeapFrog Plumbing

Plumbing is the heart of the home. LeapFrog offers a whole-house checkup so you know all systems are "go."

Head Frog Mo Williams

**The one-call plumber Gas, Water & Sewer**

- Emergency service
- Repairs & installation
- Camera sewerline inspection
- Whole house re-pipe
- Preventive checkups
- Design & remodeling
- Tankless water heaters

**LeapFrog Loot \$89 off** Whole-house checkup\*

**LeapFrog Loot \$59 off** Any plumbing repair or installation\*

**LeapFrog Loot \$200 off** tankless/hybrid water heater installation\*

\*1 coupon per service, exp. 2/29/24

**We Hop To It!** Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!

(925) 377-6600 www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

CA Lic 929641

### Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010  
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or www.nixle.com  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldrift  
925-299-3221  
Police Department Tip Line  
94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues  
94549Traffic@gmail.com  
**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049  
**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan  
925-254-6820  
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Identity Theft  
900 Block Carl Rd.  
Petty Theft  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block School St.  
800 Block Acalanes Rd.  
Residential Burglary  
3200 Block Ameno Dr.  
Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (8)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center  
Loud Music  
3700 Block West Rd.  
Loud Party  
3300 Block Walnut Ln.  
Public Nuisance  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Vandalism  
900 Block Acalanes Rd. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (2)  
**Other criminal activity**  
Grand Theft  
100 Block Fernwood Dr.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
Not Available  
Disturbing The Peace  
Campolindo High School  
Loud Party  
Not Available  
10 Block Corliss Dr.  
**Other**  
Battery Domestic Misd  
700 Block Augusta Dr.  
H&S Violation  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center  
Loitering  
60 Block Miramonte Dr.  
Suicide Attempt  
Barnes Ct./Larch Ave.  
Terrorist Threats  
Police Department  
Violation Restraining Ord  
Moraga Country Club

### Lafayette Police Department

**Incident Summary Report**  
Jan. 21- Feb. 3

Alarms	28
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	114
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	21
Patrol Req./Security Check	18
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	24
Vacation House Check	7
Welfare Check	9
Ordinance Violation	1



**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.  
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln.  
1000 Block Glen Rd.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
20 Block Lafayette Cir.  
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
900 Block Risa Rd.  
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Mor Rd./Mor Blvd  
Reckless Driving  
St Marys Rd./Camino Colorados  
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.  
Camino Diablo/Stanley Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mt. Diablo Ct.  
Laurel Dr./Garden Ln.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.  
St Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dolores Dr.  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
Jan. 21 - Jan. 27

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic	45
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	36
Patrol Req./Security Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	7
Vacation House Check	9
Welfare Check	2
Ordinance Violation	0

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
Jan. 23 - Feb. 5

Alarms	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	75
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	30
Patrol Req./Security Check	21
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	3
Welfare Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
Oak Rd./Stein Way, Ori  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
20 Block Hour Fitness  
Excessive Speed  
Canyon Rd./De La Cruz Way  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.  
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori  
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. (2)  
Moraga Way/School St. (3)  
Arco  
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way  
St Johns Church, Ori  
Chalda Way/Rheem Blvd.  
Bank Of America  
St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way  
Moraga Liquors  
Miramonte High School, Ori

**Vehicle Theft**  
3400 Block School St.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
10 Block Moss Ln.

# READINESS IS YEAR ROUND

Do your part and protect your home against wildfire. To support fire prevention efforts, the City of Orinda created the Measure R Fire Fuel Reduction Incentive Program.

Take advantage of a rebate up to \$599 on fire fuel reduction work. Qualifying work includes, but is not limited to, removal of the following plants:

- Bamboo
- Juniper
- Eucalyptus
- Monterey Pine

Learn more and get started on protecting your home: bit.ly/3RRgvOT

Visit CityofOrinda.org/EmergencyPreparedness

Measure R at Work



# Lamorinda's Religious Services

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
SUNDAY SOUL FORUM | 8:30AM  
SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:30AM  
TRANSMISSIONS ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE | LUTHERAN

WWW.OSLC.NET | FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM  
1026 CAROL LANE, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549 | 925.283.3722 | SPIRIT@OSLC.NET

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church  
A welcoming and loving community of faith that learns, grows, and serves **TOGETHER**

Sundays 10:00 a.m. In person & Livestream  
49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA  
**LOPC.ORG**

**ORINDA Community Church**  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org  
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Sunday Service 10 am or join us online.  
Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel  
Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

**ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library)-925-254-4212  
Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
All are welcome  
www.christianscienceorinda.org

**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
Worshiping, Learning, Serving  
www.ststephensorinda.org

**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org  
Sunday 10am in person worship

We are a church that strives to love as Jesus loves. Our congregation welcomes, includes, and affirms everyone on their journey of faith regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
www.holyshepherd.org

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/  
Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

**MVPC**  
JOIN US  
SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM  
OR ONLINE AT MVPCTODAY.ORG

**St. Anselm's Episcopal Church**  
WE WELCOME ALL!  
Sundays, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette  
Zoom Link for 10 a.m. service at www.stanselms.us

## Not to be missed

### Art

**Valley Art Gallery** announces "Enchanted Wilderness": Watercolors by Karen Kramer. The show runs through March 16. Free, open to the public. Open Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyart-gallery.org; (925) 935-4311

**The Lamorinda Arts Council** presents Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) group show in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library entitled "The BASA Invitational: As We See It." The show features BASA artists Suzun Almquist, Jeanette Baird, Lassie Colebourn, Ellen Reintjes, Ruth Stanton, Sharon Tama, Joanne Taeuffer, and Marcy Wheeler. Five local artists have been invited: Flora Baumann, Nicole Reader, Cecelia Wambach, April Ward, and Lynn Whitson. Visit <http://lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2> for more information or call (925) 359-9940.

**The Lamorinda Arts Council** is excited to announce the Art Gallery at Wilder's grand reopening on Sunday March 3 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. A reception is planned with light refreshments. Orinda Vice Mayor Latika Malki will officially open the Gallery to the public. Hours will be Monday - Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Curators are readying the gallery to display featured solo artist Shiva Jafarzadeh's artwork. Her theme is "Paintings and Drawings of Romance, Womanhood, Feminine Poems and Motherhood." Questions? Go to <https://LamorindaArts.org/galleries-2>, email [info@LamorindaArts.org](mailto:info@LamorindaArts.org) or call (925) 359-9940.

**The Lamorinda Arts Council** invites students in the Acalanes High School District to register for the High School Visual Arts Competition to compete for cash prizes and merit certificates by midnight on Feb. 23. The reception in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library begins at 7 p.m. on March 14; the juried awards ceremony runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. For information and online registration, visit [www.lamorindaarts.org/vac](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/vac). Questions? Call (925) 359-4490.

**The Art of the African Diaspora** Satellite exhibit at Gallery 2727 in Berkeley presents The Power Of Nature on Feb. 9, 16, 23-25, from 1 to 5 p.m., at Gallery 2727, 2727 California St., Berkeley. Throughout Black History Month, Gallery 2727 will host an exhibit of award-winning Black women artists' work on The Power of Nature. Cost: Free For more info see [www.2727.today/calendar?view=calendar&month=02-2024](http://www.2727.today/calendar?view=calendar&month=02-2024) or email [programs@2727.today](mailto:programs@2727.today).

### Music

**Step into the glitz and glamour** of the Roaring '20s and join the Campolindo High School Music Boosters for an evening filled with live music from the talented Campo Jazz Band on March 2 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Perpetua's in Lafayette. Get ready to dance the night away and dress to impress in your finest 1920s attire, or whatever makes you happy! You can brush up on your moves with an optional dance lesson or indulge in appetizers and a delicious buffet dinner and dessert, sip on refreshing drinks, and dive into the excitement of the raffle and silent auction. Funds raised will aid in purchasing sheet music, cover coaching fees, instrument repairs, and make musical trips and tours a reality. Tickets on sale at [www.campomusic.org](http://www.campomusic.org).

**The Town of Danville** presents a St. Patrick's Day celebration in association with New Ross, Ireland and the Eugene O'Neill Foundation Tao House. Green Road returns to the Village Theatre with a blend of traditional Irish ballads and the soulful tunes of American bluegrass on Friday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Tao House in Danville. Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville, [www.danville.ca.gov/226/Village-Theatre](http://www.danville.ca.gov/226/Village-Theatre), (925) 314-3418

**Volti presents Volti: From the Depths to the Ecstatic** on Friday, Feb. 23, from 8 to 9:30 p.m., at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. The professional vocal ensemble Volti sings new music by Jens Ibsen, Aaron Jay Kernis, Ingrid Stolzel, Forrest Pierce, Joanna Marsh, Emma O'Halloran. Cost: \$15 to \$50. For more info see <http://Volti.org>

## Not to be missed

iSF.org or call (415) 771-3352 or email [info@VoltiSF.org](mailto:info@VoltiSF.org).

**Cello and Bassoon Duo** Perform at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. Sunday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. (925) 934-2324, [concertseries@stpaulswc.org](mailto:concertseries@stpaulswc.org), <https://stpaulswc.org/concert-series/>

**California Symphony** presents California Symphony: Mozart Serenades on Sunday, March 17, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. California Symphony performs Mozart's masterpiece 'Gran Partita' on a program showcasing the unique sounds of woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Cost: \$20-\$90. For more info see [www.californiasymphony.org/](http://www.californiasymphony.org/) or call (925) 280-2490 or email [info@californiasymphony.org](mailto:info@californiasymphony.org).

### Theatre

**Miramonte High School's** upcoming spring musical Footloose! Join for a toe-tapping, hip-shaking journey that'll have you dancing in the aisles and cheering for more. With electrifying music, exhilarating choreography, and a 90-member cast and crew that's ready to rock, this year's musical production is sure to make you feel like you've been transported straight to the heart of the '80s. Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 9, at 7 p.m.; Friday, March 15, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 16, at 4 p.m., Tickets are available here: [www.showtix4u.com/event-details/80916](http://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/80916)

**Town Hall Theatre** is thrilled to invite the community to celebrate at their Season Announcement Party on March 2, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at their esteemed venue, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Come celebrate as they unveil their highly anticipated 80th season with a theme that delves into the heart of humanity: "Family: Born into and Chosen." To reserve your place and be part of the excitement, please RSVP at [www.townhalltheatre.com/2024-2025-season](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/2024-2025-season).

### Literature

**Calling all kids who like to draw!** The Friends of the Lafayette Library Bookmark

Contest is happening again! The contest is open to all Lafayette Students in grades K-8th. Entry forms may be obtained from your school library and at the main desk of the Lafayette Library. The deadline for the entries is Friday March 1. Each winner will receive a gift certificate for a local bookstore and the Friends Corner Book Shop, and a complimentary framing of the winning bookmark by Anthony's Custom Picture Framers. Our Awards ceremony will take place April 25. All winning bookmarks will be printed and given to patrons of the Lafayette Library, Friends Corner Book Shop and the individual school libraries. For more information contact: [Kae865@hotmail.com](mailto:Kae865@hotmail.com)

**The Lamorinda Arts Council** invites you to celebrate Black history Month with poets Senait Mesfin Piccigallo & Dorothy Edwards on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St. in downtown Lafayette. A No Host Bar is open during the event which features five poets and artist Bushra Gill. A reception immediately follows in the lobby. This program is generously funded by the Community Foundation of Lafayette. Questions? Email [literary@LamorindaArts.org](mailto:literary@LamorindaArts.org) or call (925) 359.9940.

### Other

**Leta McCollough Seletzky, J.D.**, Author, Essayist, Memoirist will be speaking at the Lafayette Rotary meeting. In the iconic photo of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination at Memphis's Lorraine Motel, a figure kneels beside him, attempting to stem the bleeding with a borrowed towel. Little known is that this person, a member of the Invaders, a "black power" activist group, was also an undercover Memphis police officer. This mysterious figure is Lita's father. Lita will share the gripping story of her father's undercover career in her book, "THE KNEELING MAN: My Father's Life as a Black Spy Witnessing MLK's Assassination." Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, March 1 at 7 a.m., <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

... continued on next page

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA. 24,000 printed copies; delivered to homes in Lamorinda.

**Contact us:**  
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Delivery issues: [homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Event listings: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Business press releases: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
General interest stories/Community Service: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sport stories/pictures: [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; [jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Associate Editor:** Jaya Griggs; [jaya@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jaya@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Staff Writers:**  
Vera Kochan; [vera@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:vera@lamorindaweekly.com),  
Sora O'Doherty; [sora@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sora@lamorindaweekly.com),  
Jon Kingdon; [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com),  
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) Food:  
Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com)  
**Contributing Writers:** Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, Jenn Freedman, Moya Stone, Alison Burns, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Elizabeth LaScala, Lou Fancher, Sharon K. Sobotta, Ashley Dong, Jim Hurley, Casey Scheiner, Toris Jaeger; **Photos:** Tod Fierner, Jeff Heyman  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556, Phone: 925-377-0977; email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com) web: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

## Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

### Plumbing

**WE HOP TO IT!**  
(925) 377-6600  
[LeapFrogPlumbing.com](http://LeapFrogPlumbing.com)

### For Rent

1 BR/1 BA, PRIVATE 650 square feet cottage, furnished/unfurnished, washer/dryer, deck, view; secluded, built five years ago, in Saranap, \$2950. Mark 1-925-286-9576

### Hauling

**Orinda Junk Hauling**  
Robert Michell  
925-238-4342

### Tree Service

**East Bay Tree Service**  
Tree removal, stump removal, Juniper removal to meet fire regulations.  
925-377-TREE  
Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

### Fencing

Custom Quality Fencing

925-938-9836

- Good Neighbor Fence
- Deer Fencing
- Picket/Split Rail
- RV Gates
- Trellis and Arbors
- Retaining Walls
- Insurance/Storm Repairs

licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491

### Structural Repairs

Since 1989  
**Alameda Engineering**  
DRAINAGE SYSTEMS  
RETAINING WALLS  
FOUNDATIONS  
UNDERPINNING  
LANDSLIDE REPAIRS  
510-537-6550  
General Engineering Contractors  
Lic. # 562641  
[alamedaengineering@comcast.net](mailto:alamedaengineering@comcast.net)  
[alameda-engineering.com](http://alameda-engineering.com)

### Rototilling & Landscape

**Ken's Rototilling & Landscaping**  
- Drainage systems installed  
- Brush Removal Abatement  
**To Fire Dept Regulations**  
- Hillside Deep Cutting  
Free estimates! 925-938-9836  
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491  
[www.kensrototilling.com](http://www.kensrototilling.com)

### Handyman

**Rusty Nails Handyman Service**  
Repair • Restore • Revamp  
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581



# Korean noodle dish Japchae from the wok

By Susie Iventosch



Korean noodle dish Japchae Photos Susie Iventosch

We were in the Chicago area for a friends' reunion a few weeks ago, and the mom of one of our friend's was born and raised in South Korea. She brought a dish to the gathering, and it was called Japchae, which to be honest, I'd never heard of even though I've

actually been to Seoul and had a few meals there. It could be that the menu listed it under a different name, but whatever the case, her dish was delicious, made from "glass" noodles, which are noodles made from sweet potato starch, tossed in a delicious

dressing of soy, sesame oil, sugar, rice vinegar, garlic, and sesame seeds, and tossed again with a rainbow of sautéed veggies.

Soon after I had tasted her Japchae, and helped myself to seconds, I realized I'd be making this dish soon because it was so delicious and beautiful. I couldn't find the exact kind of noodles made with sweet potato starch, so I substituted rice noodles instead, and they made a great substitute. The tricky thing about the rice noodles is that they can be very sticky, and you really want to cook them until they are actually a bit sticky before tossing them in the dressing. Just work the noodles into the dressing with tongs and you'll find that the sticki-

ness is no longer such an issue.

If you have a wok, sautéing of all of the veggies would be a bit easier, but I simply sautéed them, one veggie at a time, in a large saute pan and it worked out very well. While her recipe called for carrots, mushrooms, onions, and bell peppers, I added some eggplant, which was very good in this dish. Broccoli would also be a great addition.

The bottom line is that you can use whatever veggies you like, and she even added very thinly sliced beef to her Japchae. Pork is often an ingredient, and sometimes you find recipes

that call for the addition of scrambled eggs, much like fried rice does.

The overall taste of fresh veggies with rice

noodles, soy-sesame dressing, and sesame seeds is overwhelmingly satisfying. I hope you love it as much as I do!

## Ingredients

- 3 cups fresh spinach leaves
- 1 yellow onion, cut into thin, 2-3 inch strips
- 4 green onions, cut into 2-3 inch strips
- 1 small eggplant, cut into rounds and sweated, then cut into 2-3 inch strips (leave skin on)
- 1 red bell pepper, seeds and stem removed and cut into very thin 2-3 inch strips
- 1 yellow or orange bell pepper, seeds and stem removed and cut into very thin 2-3 inch strips
- 10 cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 cup shredded carrots, or cut into very thin 2-3 inch matchstick strips
- 2 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds (toast in the oven for about 5 minutes at 250 F. until golden brown)
- 7 oz. rice noodles (our friend used sweet potato starch noodles, but I used rice noodles)
- 1/4 cup oil for sautéing noodles and veggies
- \*Optional - thinly sliced beef or pork

## DRESSING

- 5 tbs. soy sauce
- 1 tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 tbsp. rice vinegar
- 2 tbsp. sesame oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper

Mix all well in a container with a tight-fitting lid and shake well. Refrigerate until ready to use.

## DIRECTIONS

### Noodles

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the noodles and cook for about 8 minutes, or until the noodles are translucent and tender. Drain in a colander and rinse with cold water. Drain any remaining water. Transfer noodles to a large salad bowl and toss with 1/4 cup of the prepared dressing. Set aside. The noodles will be on the chewy side.

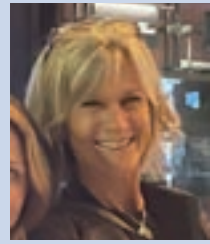
Meanwhile, heat a little bit of oil in a skillet or wok and add the drained pasta. Cook the pasta over medium until translucent and sticky. Transfer back to the bowl.

Add 1 tbsp. of oil to the pan and cook the carrots over medium-high heat, stirring often, for about one minute, or until the carrots are al dente. Push the carrots to the back of the pan. Add the yellow and green onion and continue to cook over medium heat until onions are becoming translucent. You don't want to overcook the veggies, so err on the underdone side.

Continue the process with bell peppers, eggplant, mushrooms and remove each veggie from the pan or wok once cooked to al dente. Cook the spinach last, and only for about one minute to allow it to be tender, but not stringy or mushy.

If adding beef or pork, add it to the pan with a little more oil after removing the spinach and cook to desired doneness. Remove from pan and add to the bowl with the noodles.

Add all of the cooked veggies to the noodles (and meat) in the bowl and toss with the remaining dressing. Serve with extra toasted sesame seeds scattered on top. This dish can be served cold, warm, or at room temperature. Store any leftovers in the refrigerator. Reheat the leftovers in the microwave to let the noodles become a bit chewy again.



Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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>



**WALNUT CREEK**  
DERMATOLOGY  
Healthier Skin Lies Within



**Paige Radell, M.D.**

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

925-391-9439

**Pediatric and Adult Patients.**  
Same day appointments available.

**Certechn**  
Environmental Services  
[www.certechnpest.com](http://www.certechnpest.com)  
(925) 300-1094

## CERTECH PEST PREVENTION & TERMITE PROTECTION

**ONE MONTH FREE**  
MONTHLY & BIMONTHLY ANNUAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

**WINTER SPECIALS \$50 OFF**  
MENTION THIS AD ONE TIME SERVICES

## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### Other ... continued

**Contribute your family recipes** to Moraga's 50th Anniversary Community Cookbook. This cookbook will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the town and will be a keepsake for your family for years to come. Be a part of history! Visit <https://cc.recipes/moraga>. Recipes are due Feb. 28. Cookbooks will be available to purchase beginning summer of 2024.

**Volunteer Opportunity** at Diablo Valley Literacy Council. "Each one teach one". English need not be your first language. No teaching experience is required. We will teach you how to be a tutor! The next workshop will be held Saturday, March 2, from 10 to noon via ZOOM & Saturday, March 9, from 10 to 1 p.m. in person at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 4000 Clayton Road in Concord. Register at [dvl-c4esl.org](http://dvl-c4esl.org). For more information leave a message at (925) 685-3881

**Celebration of Norouz**, Persian New Year Celebration

tion and Spring Equinox on March 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wilder Art and Garden Center, Orinda. Open to the public, Family Friendly. Persian food & sweets, apparel, jewelry and accessories, pottery, bags and shoes.

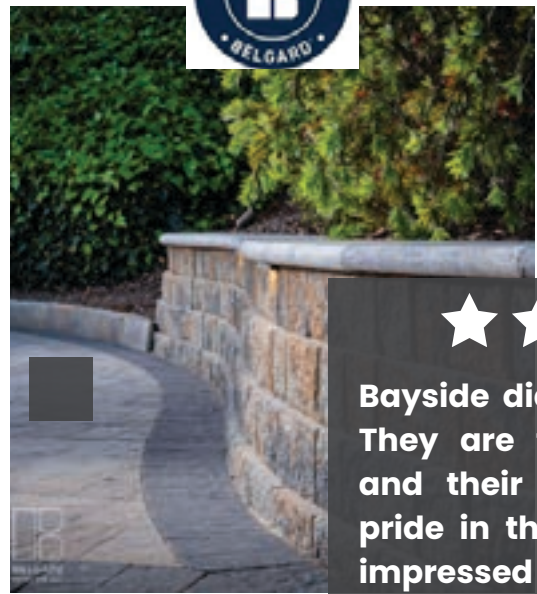
**Moraga Historical Society** presents resident train expert Sam Sperry for a fascinating discussion about the passenger and freight trains that once serviced our town. Join us as we go back in time to 1913, when the Oakland, Antioch & Eastern Railway's route between Oakland and Sacramento took commuters to work and pears to market. In 1928, with a merger of railroads, the 185-mile-long Sacramento Northern Railway was formed which included two stops in town: The Moraga Station and St. Mary's Station. Make your reservations now for Sunday, March 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. @ Hacienda de las Flores -- Casita Building, 2100 Donald Dr, Moraga. RSVP to Susan Sperry: [ranchSusan@aol.com](mailto:ranchSusan@aol.com) by Feb. 18. Moraga Historical Society members free, guests \$5. Limited seating.

### Garden

**"Plant Propagation for Fun!"** will be the topic of the Moraga Garden Club's February meeting, by speaker Garth Jacob, former owner of Mt. Diablo Nursery. Feb. 15 at 9:30 a.m. Moraga Garden Club, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St, Moraga. For many, gardening and fun are synonymous ergo there is never enough of either. Free, open to the public and welcome new members. Visit at: [www.moragagardenclub.org](http://www.moragagardenclub.org).

**Montelindo Garden Club** presents "Continuing Tradition of Botanical Art," by speaker Lee McCaffree, botanical artist, on Friday, Feb. 16 at 9 a.m. Social time, 10:20 a.m. speaker. Learn about the history of botanical illustration and Lee's fascination with wildflowers that inspired her to learn and excel at her art. Lafayette Library Community Hall. Free. For more information, see [www.montelindogarden.com/2024-meetings.html](http://www.montelindogarden.com/2024-meetings.html)

## BUILD YOUR DREAM BACKYARD WITH US



**Bayside Pavers**

**PAVER DRIVEWAY  
PAVER PATIO  
CONCRETE  
RETAINING WALL  
ARTIFICIAL GRASS**



**Bayside did an amazing job! They are true professionals and their team really took pride in their work. I was so impressed !!!**

**SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION NOW!**

**925.276.9097**

[WWW.BAYSIDEPAVERS.COM](http://WWW.BAYSIDEPAVERS.COM)

Please submit events to:  
[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)



# Are summer pay to play programs worth it?

By Elizabeth LaScala

As a high school student, it's likely that you've been extended an invitation, urging you to consider applying for a pre-college program taking place on a college campus over the summer. Most of these programs are for profit (although some award scholarships and some are even tuition free). But, in general, many summer programs cost several thousand dollars for a week or two on a college campus. The label "pay to play" is commonly used because these programs give students the opportunity to play at being college students. That said, the best programs treat students like scholars and teach college level material as

well as give concrete opportunities to develop and practice important hands-on skills.

As much as I guard against allowing my students to attend truly Pay to Play programs, immersion in the best of these programs can strengthen the students' insights into their future major. Also, I like how it can give them the language to express their interests clearly within their college applications and interviews. For example, students with business majors in mind often falter here; they have problems being specific and going beyond the predictable. Engineering majors have similar issues—often starting their essays with

how they loved playing Legos as a child and love fixing their bicycles. These kinds of essays are very overdone. Programs with a hands-on project give future engineers the chance to build skills and describe how they worked and what they worked on (teamwork, problem-solving, outcome/results). Future doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who attend a summer immersion program will move them away from the typical "I want to help people" and into some specifics about the different specialties, patient-provider interactions, and hot topics in healthcare today.

For those programs that have an application process, we know they

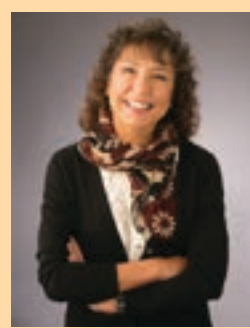
are at least somewhat competitive. Also, preparing the application can help the student understand the college application process. You have to fill out an application, ask a teacher for a recommendation, and write one or more essays. These tasks are similar to the real deal next fall. If the summer program is rolling, they will learn that applying early in the cycle can give them a better shot at getting in, similar to many colleges with rolling applications.

So, is the investment worth it? If you have a student with strong business, engineering, or other experiences and an already strong resume that will include

activities, a job, internship, or research during the summer following junior year, then it's unnecessary to add on a summer program. I do not think program par-

ticipation in itself boosts admission probability, but I do think the boost is to their insights, interviews, and college essays.

Doing College and Beyond College and Graduate School Admissions Services  
970 Dewing Avenue, Suite 202, Lafayette  
925.385.0562 (office)  
925.330.8801 (mobile)  
www.doingcollege.com  
Elizabeth@doingcollege.com  
Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. Elizabeth attends conferences, visits campuses and makes personal contacts with admissions networks to stay current on the evolving nature of college admissions. She and her professional team offer resume development, test preparation, academic tutoring, value analysis, merit and need-based scholarship search and more.



She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. Elizabeth attends conferences, visits campuses and makes personal contacts with admissions networks to stay current on the evolving nature of college admissions. She and her professional team offer resume development, test preparation, academic tutoring, value analysis, merit and need-based scholarship search and more.

## In Memory

### Dale Miller Walwark

April 21, 1936 – Jan. 17, 2024



Dale Miller Walwark, 87, of Moraga, CA, died peacefully on Jan. 17, 2024, in Walnut Creek, California.

He was born on April 21, 1936 in Belleville, Illinois to James Hamilton Walwark and Gladys Miller Walwark. He graduated from Belleville High School in 1954. Dale graduated from the University of Illinois in 1958.

He met the love of his life Penny in 1964. They were married on Nov. 28, 1965 and enjoyed 60 years together, living in San Francisco, Sausalito, Ross, Honolulu, and Moraga.

He joined Hoefer, Dietrich, and Brown in San Francisco

in 1964. He continued his advertising and public relations career with Transamerica, Amfac, and Wells Fargo Bank. He joined Penny in her family hotel business in the 1980s.

Dale served on the board of the Moraga Parks and Recreation Foundation, the Moraga City Council, and the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley.

Dale is survived by his wife Penny, daughter Jennifer Walwark, son James Walwark (Susan), grandchildren Lauryn Smeester, Gordon Dailey and Aroline Dailey, and brother Jim Walwark.

No service is scheduled. Donations can be made in Dale's honor to one of Dale's favorite causes: Contra Costa Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center, or Moraga Education Foundation

## Juan Toscano-Anderson presents his JTA Foundation to Moraga Rotary

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Photo provided

**Juan Toscano-Anderson, former player for the Golden State Warriors, along with Moraga Rotary President Jennifer Brophy with daughter Julia.**

Juan Toscano-Anderson, former NBA player for the Golden State Warriors, presented details about his Journey To

Achieve (JTA) Foundation, which is committed to the idea that small acts of kindness can change a child's life trajectory. He grew up in Oakland, so its mission is primarily in that community and will extend its reach to families in need in nearby areas. The three pillars of the Foundation are in Education, Support, and Community, and it arranges community engagement events, workshops, and clubs. It has also founded a scholarship fund.

Toscano-Anderson now plays in the Sacramento Kings organization. He said "I established the JTA Foundation with the aim of giving back to the community that has always believed in me."

Moraga Rotary is a 56-year-old service club within Rotary International, and meets most Tuesdays at noon at La Finestra restaurant. To inquire about membership, or for further information, check out the website: moragarotary.org or call 925-330-9260.

## In Memory

### Edward Milton Farrior Jr.

March 23, 1940 – Jan. 17, 2024



Edward Milton Farrior Jr., affectionately known by his family and many friends as Pete, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in Healdsburg, California. With his passing he has left behind a remarkable legacy of kindness, authenticity, and a life well-lived in which he touched the lives of many with his warm heart and genuine spirit.

Pete was born to Edward Milton Farrior Sr. and Texie Eli Farrior (nee Barnette) on March 23, 1940, in Wilmington, North Carolina. Pete grew up in Burgaw, North Carolina where he met life-long friends who still speak of his thoughtfulness and his history of excelling in sports. At Burgaw High School, he was the first student to letter in three sports for all four years. After

graduation from high school Pete attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics. His alma mater allowed him to focus on academics while continuing to showcase his athletic skill as a first baseman for the UNC Baseball team. Later in life he enjoyed various sports, including tennis, golf, softball, and windsurfing. His athletic endeavors were a testament to his passion for staying active and embracing life's adventures.

After achieving his college degree Pete joined the Marine Corps, where he served his country and forged more lasting relationships. These military friends took part in a road trip across the US that concluded with them in San Francisco, California. It was at the culmination of this cross-country trip where he would begin his favorite journey when he met the love of his life, Carol Ann Nicolaisen at the Pierce Street Annex. The couple were married July 27, 1968.

Pete's enjoyed a successful 35-year professional career as a real estate appraiser and real estate investor. Carol and Pete opened Shelby's Restaurant in Orinda in the 1990's which they owned together for over 10 years.

Pete was an avid sports enthusiast and particularly loved the Giants, Warriors and UNC Basketball. He and Carol loved to travel together and spent many memorable trips to Mexico with friends and family. And he loved DOGS! His generosity, coupled with his kind and compassionate nature, left an indelible mark on those he encountered. Pete's legacy extends beyond his professional accomplishments and athletic achievements in ways that are not measurable with data, but rather by how he made those around him feel. It is universally acknowledged by all who knew him that he was a sweet, caring, and kind human who prioritized the well-being of others. He had an authentic and generous soul with a dash of Southern Charm that would always shine through in his conversation and actions.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; his two children, Drew Farrior (Michelle Ana) and Shelby Kolpin (Renaud); as well as his grandchildren, Kobe Ana-Farrior and Taiten Kolpin.

As we bid farewell to Edward Milton "Pete" Farrior Jr., let us reflect on the joy, authenticity, and generosity he brought into the lives of those around him. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable man. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimers Association www.alz.org

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 200 words) to story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

## Nick Walker of Moraga achieves Eagle Scout rank

Submitted by Terry Walker

Nick Walker, a senior at Campolindo High School in Moraga, recently attained the prestigious Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts of America. With a seven-year tenure as a Boy Scout, Nick is a dedicated member of Troop 234 in Moraga. To achieve the Eagle rank, participants must undertake a community service project, and Nick chose to restore the Senior Deck at Campolindo during the summer.

Photo provided  
Nick Walker



**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 story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Letters to the editor

### Library Sunday hours

The fact that Lamorinda public libraries aren't allowed to open on Sundays because Contra Costa County thinks it isn't "fair" that other cities in the county can't afford to open theirs shows just how demented and ridiculous the so-called "equity" movement has become. This twisted mentality that taking something away from those who happen to live in wealthier neighborhoods in any way benefits those who live in less-affluent areas is utterly absurd. In fact, if Lamorinda libraries were allowed to open on Sundays, those living in other cities who wished to go to the library on a Sunday could easily come and enjoy our libraries. But instead, literally no one can go to the library on Sunday—what kind of insanity is this?

Last fall, the county library received a \$10 million grant from the state for a new state-of-the-art library in Bay Point, but can't find the dollars to staff other libraries on Sundays so Lamorinda libraries can spend their own money to be open on Sundays? This absurd notion that denying something of value to some (who can/are willing to pay for it themselves) in anyway helps those who can't/aren't is the most egregious, petty, zero-sum type of divisive thinking one can imagine.

If Lamorinda libraries have the fund-

ing/ability to serve residents on Sundays, the county has absolutely no business being able to tell them they can't. One would think petty tyrants squashing freedom in the name of "fairness" would only happen in totalitarian countries, not the (supposedly free) United States.

Steve McLin  
Moraga

### Torch Sensors article

I just read about a genius outdoor smoke detector by Vasya Tremsin that can combat against Wildfires [published Aug. 30, 2023]. I am attending Campolindo High School right now and I am inspired by this project. With my dad being a firefighter, I am in support for anything that can help and protect our community. Moraga with its dry hills could fall victim to a wildfire and anything that reduces those chances are welcome and encouraged. Torch Sensors covering 10 acres, shooting alerts through an app, and being tough against weather can be a major asset to protecting our towns.

Declan Anderson  
Moraga

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence — we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

Submit sports stories and story ideas to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

## Mats 18U girls water polo victorious at Australian Youth Water Polo Championships

By Jon Kingdon

How do you top a four-year run with three Nor-Cal Championships (with one championship canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and a combined 94-2 record? For Miramonte girls water polo head coach John Roemer, it was a matter of putting together a team comprised of five Miramonte players (Rosalie Hassett, Audrina Kang, Ally Larsen, Alison Sagara, and Bea Hearey) and Lily Holloway (Campolindo) along with seven other players from the East Bay and taking it over to Australia to compete and ultimately win the 18U Australian Water Polo Championships, which is the equivalent of the U.S. Junior Olympics.

Roemer, whose team finished second last year in Australia, asked about bringing a team over again this year and the Australians responded accordingly: "Absolutely, we'd love to have you," Roemer was told.

Roemer named the team Mats Polo (a take-off on the Miramonte nickname Matadors) and took a different approach from his usual coaching perspective: "Our goal was to go over there and have fun, spending a few weeks in Brisbane, Australia. I used to coach over there in college, so it was like going home in a way for me. The whole country of Australia was involved in the tournament, and it was a good learning experience in that the water polo over there is very good," Roemer said. "So, we went there and won the whole thing, which we did not really expect to do."

Roemer called up his Miramonte players to help put together the team and told them to pick some girls that they wanted to play with and also three other girls to share a room with for two weeks. "John asked for our input because we all know each other from club teams and playing against each other and we gave John the names and he would reach out to them or we would," Rosalie Hassett said. "I had played with all of my teammates at one time or another, so we were all pretty close going into the tournament."

The team had limited practice time and were able to scrimmage at the Olympic Club. After taking a 14-hour non-

stop flight to Brisbane, Australia, the Mats trained for a week with the Australian Mermaids team and a couple of teams from New Zealand to get used to playing together.

Roemer used the same triangle offense that he has had so much success with at Miramonte and had similar success in Australia. "With the triangle offense, we move all the time, and our opponents did not know how to defend it with our cross passes for goals, which is something that their coaches hadn't seen before," Roemer said. "In this offense, our players learn how to play every position and they're not just role players, which expands their water polo IQ immensely, and they start understanding what their strengths and weaknesses are."

The offense was new to many of the players, but they were able to pick it up fairly quickly. "What helped was that all of players had at least played against that offense, so they kind of knew the basics and since we had a group of very resilient players, they were all really quick to catch on," Hassett said.

Lily Holloway, in just her freshman year, played against Miramonte five times last season. "The triangle offense was just a little bit different at first," Holloway said. "Because I've played defense against it at Campolindo, I picked up on it quickly and because everyone on the team was so skilled, they were able to do so as well. It's the type of offense that if you run it well, it can be unstoppable."

The Mats also had to adjust to the style of play of the Australian teams. "Over there, it's more international style and physical play," Roemer said. "The hardest thing we had to overcome was their physicality. They would grab and pull around and the officials would not call it the first or second time, but they would call the third time."

That style of play did not catch the Mats unawares. "Since John had played over there himself, he gave us a heads up on that," Hassett said. "He would tell us how we needed to start practicing with the physicality that we needed to show up with and not

build into it once we got there."

"They were super physical, and we had to work extra hard to earn a foul and an ejection, but we got used to it over time," Holloway concurred.

The Mats won seven straight games with their only real challenge coming in the semifinal game with a one goal win over the Balmain Tigers from Sydney. "This was their National 18 and under youth team," Roemer said. "They were really good, dialed in and well coached by a professional coach they brought in from Spain and that's why they were so good."

The championship game against the North Brisbane Polo Bears proved to be anticlimactic. The Mats led 12-3 at halftime and the final score was 18-8. "Winning the championship by 10 goals was a little underwhelming because no one was cheering for us," said Hassett who scored four goals. "The fans were a little bitter about it but that's what we came there to do. Other than this, the Australians were super friendly, and we made friends with the other teams pretty easily."

"I think every single person on our team scored in the championship game and that's how well balanced we were," Roemer said. "Lexi Nelson (Menlo-Atherton) was the MVP goalie for the tournament."

The tournament was a team victory in the true sense of the word. "I made it a point to play everyone the same amount of time because I didn't want the girls to come this far and sit on the bench," Roemer said. "We had five substitutes so we would put those five in and one person would stay in and that's how we substituted in all of the games. It was waves of people coming in and out."

The team also met Roemer's goal to have fun away from the pool. "We stayed in a high rise in downtown Brisbane, and we could go out the front door and there was anything that we could want," Roemer said. "It was Christmas beautiful, and it was fun. We visited Queensland, Surfers Paradise and stayed on Kirra Beach all day and then walked down the



Photo Jon Kingdon

Mats Championship Water Polo Team with head coach John Roemer (far right), and assistant coach Clay Douyere (far left).

street with the vendors and people taking pictures of our players wearing their USA, Stanford, and Mats T-shirts. We also went to the zoo and visited different places in Queensland."

Hassett, who will be playing for the University of California next year, had previously played for the U.S. Water Polo Youth National Team and the USA U16 team in Brazil and Greece, respectively.

"This trip was definitely more lax because we were like a high school team, so it was not representing the country and we were not under strict rules so we definitely had a lot more free time to explore the city and get to know the area, which was nice," Hassett said. "We went to the Australia Zoo and the Gold Coast and got to see their crazy big beaches and it was really beautiful and since it is summer over there, the water was so warm."

There was a lot of seafood consumed by the coaches and players, but for Hassett, she and some of the players stuck to what they knew best. "We had an outrageous amount of burgers and it was not too much different from American food," Hassett said.

As the only freshman on the team and in her first time out of the country, it was a unique experience for Holloway. "My teammates felt like sisters to me the whole time and we got super close by the time the matches began," Holloway said. "Our hotel was smack in the middle of Brisbane and we got to go shopping and we went out to dinner a lot as a team so we got to know the city really well and did a lot of team bonding. I gained a lot more confidence playing with so many great play-

ers who will be going on to big-time colleges and learning from them just made me a better player along with being exposed to international level water polo which helped grow my water polo IQ and overall knowledge of the game."

It also proved to be a learning experience for

the Australian teams. "You might have thought they would get upset because a foreign team won the tournament, but they thanked us for coming and they came to realize that they were going to have to raise the bar now to compete with the U.S. and other places," Roemer said.

**Bay Area UNDERPINNING**  
FOUNDATION REPAIR • CRAWL SPACE REPAIR • CONCRETE LIFTING

**707-532-2468** LIMITED TIME OFFER  
**\$500 OFF\***  
GET A FREE INSPECTION

\* Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$500. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promo valid through 03/31/2024.

**Rat proofing**  
**Ratman Pest and Termite Control**  
Local family-owned business.

All pests & termites. Mice, rats, raccoons, skunks, and squirrel-proofing. Attic/Subarea clean up. Duct/Insulation repair.

**Customer service is my #1 priority.**

Serving the LaMorinda area for 10 years as former branch manager of Coulson-Moseley/ Detailed Pest Control.

**Free inspections schedule TODAY**

1044 Stuart St., Lafayette  
**(925) 338-9304**  
**877-7RATMAN**

**RATMAN**  
—PEST AND TERMITE CONTROL—

**BAD INC.** **Bay Area Drainage, Inc.**

### Have You Checked Your Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

A General Engineering Contractor  
Locally owned and Operated  
Contractor LIC # 762208

**925-377-9209**   
visit our website  
[www.bayareadrainage.com](http://www.bayareadrainage.com)

**Correction:** In the Jan. 31 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, article "Diablo Athletic League Lamorinda recognized athletes fall 2023," Ainsley Hogan - JR - 1st Team - Campolindo was missing from the list of the girls all-league water polo players and Griff Tunney - JR - 1st Team Miramonte was missing from the list of the boys all-league water polo players.

## Sixth-grade CYO girls Santa Maria basketball team wins championship

Submitted by Liz Daoust

The sixth grade girls CYO (American) Santa Maria team from Orinda won the league championship in the beginning of February. The team won over the team of St. Monica's from Moraga and the team of St. Mary's from Walnut Creek in the final game. The team went undefeated this season.

Photo provided



Back row: coach Katie Fagundes, Annie Daoust, Aimee Fagundes, Abby Feldman, Jazzy Atkinson, Ava Bellamy, Coach Tony Cantando; front row: Harper Cantando, India Cohen, Hope Rogers; not pictured: Emma Logan, Emma Parisi



# Students from Laratelier Art Studio volunteer at Aegis Living Moraga

By Emma Wong



Photo Emma Wong

**From left: Teen volunteers Lilia Maharbiz, Nora Kalmar, and Lily Kalmar hold up senior residents' paintings.**

With a few careful brushstrokes, high school junior Lilia Maharbiz gazes at a masterpiece — a sprawling assembly of purple flora. A warm smile is visible, even through the mask she dons. But this creation isn't hers to claim — the senior woman beside Maharbiz is the painter, proudly signing her name on the canvas.

On a cloudy Jan. 20, three students of the

Laratelier art studio visited Aegis Living Moraga to guide senior residents through a painting lesson. The volunteer session is one of several proposed by Laratelier founder and Orinda resident Lara Horoupian, who, after volunteering at Aegis herself, urged her students to sign up.

"I was inspired by one of my students who was interested in volunteering at different

places with seniors," Horoupian said. "I thought this was a good opportunity to create art together, where the young meet senior generations and bring joy to them. I reached out to the closest place, Aegis. As soon as you walk in, it's like you're in a different world."

Each session differs, with seniors working with a variety of art mediums including paint and clay. "It's a unique way to volunteer," four-time participant Maharbiz said. "This time we volunteered at the Life's Neighborhood, which provides memory care services for those with advanced cognitive deficit."

"I love helping people along with doing art. This felt like a good combo and a way to give back to the community," junior and first-time volunteer Lily Kalmar said.

Junior Sophie Avery and senior Alexis Gottschalk, who have both taken part in past events, agree. "I jumped at this opportunity because I enjoy interacting with seniors and hearing their fascinating stories," Gottschalk said. Avery added, "I love seeing the

amazing things seniors create and the joy they have while making art."

This time, Miramonte juniors Nora and Lily Kalmar along with the veteran Maharbiz led seniors through an art lesson to paint flowers. Overseen by a staff member, the teens filed into the crafts room, where they met a variety of residents and squeezed tubes of colorful paint into plastic palettes.

From the steel oven, the aroma of freshly baked cookies wafted into the room, accompanied by soft jazz music from nearby speakers. The high schoolers sat beside a resident before guiding their brushes into paint.

Volunteering at a senior living community comes with its challenges, including seniors' uncertainty about participating, let alone making the first bold strokes on a blank canvas. "The residents are unique in how they paint, and their confidence can affect this a lot," Maharbiz said. "Some will be perfectly fine doodling while others will ask for more help."

But as time passed, residents' movements became fluid and confident, accompanied by the occasional helping hand of the Kalmars or Maharbiz. Seniors began chatting amongst themselves, complimenting each other on their use of color and revealing their vibrant personalities. One resident took inspiration from a nearby jazz poster, incorporating the bright yellows and oranges into her flower.

Many canvases sat finished on the table, each holding a unique flare: swirls of orange for the petals, bright stems of green, patterns of pink that snaked around the buds. One resident still worked tirelessly at her piece.

As the Kalmars and Maharbiz waved goodbye, what lingered was the intergenerational connection forged between the youth and seniors. "I liked watching residents create their pieces, and I especially enjoyed helping them make something they're proud of," Nora said. Maharbiz also considered the linkage formed over age barriers. "These residents all have their

own stories they may lead on," Maharbiz said. "The woman I talked to was really interesting. It was cool to learn that she spoke Spanish. I tried to speak a little Spanish to her, even though mine isn't that good."

Ultimately, each experience reflected an eye-opening journey for all involved. "It's a joy for these kids to visit these seniors and be able to help and inspire them through art," Horoupian said. "This isn't necessarily a place where you have a goal — it's a place where you see another part of the world, see how seniors live their lives. I wanted to give something to the community, and I wanted to be good to another human — to give my heart through art, through kindness. When you give, you already gain so much."

Those interested in volunteering at Aegis Living Moraga may contact Hui Lin Chin, Life Enrichment Director, at HuiLin.Chin@aegisliving.com. Students interested in Laratelier art classes may email Lara Horoupian at Larig23@yahoo.com.

# SHOP MORAGA

**MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING**

**HIRE A LOCAL NAME YOU CAN TRUST**

**925-247-0092**

**MarkBellinghamPainting.com**

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

**For a Quick Preliminary Estimate Email Photos of Project to: Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com**

See our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

*Come to the Moraga Art Gallery to find a special gift for your special person.*

*You'll find jewelry, sculpture, paintings, photography, and much more.*

438 Center Street in the Rhem Shopping Center  
Open Wednesday - Sunday  
Hours to 5:00

*Sculpture by Mary Lou Miller*

**A good neighbor has your back.**

**Mark Hoogs, Agent**  
Insurance Lic#: OM08809  
629 Moraga Road  
Moraga, CA 94556  
Bus: 925-254-3344

Life's a combination of good days and bad. I have your back for both. And who has my back? The company more people have trusted for 90 years. **CALL ME TODAY.**

**State Farm**

1606040 State Farm Bloomington, IL

Member of Moraga Chamber of Commerce

**shop Moraga first.com**

**MAKE LIFE EASY SHOP LOCAL**  
SHOPMORAGAFIRST.COM

**MORAGA RETREAT CARE HOMES**

*residential assisted living for seniors*

*professional staff, resident-centered care*

*private rooms, home-made meals, medication management*

*unparalleled attention to detail*

MORAGARETREAT.COM (925) 376-2273

**Now accepting nominations for Business & Non-profit of the Year**

**MORAGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

<https://moragachamber.org/accepting-nominations/>  
Nominate a Moraga business and/or a nonprofit that you feel is worthy of this honor. From your nominations, the Moraga Chamber of Commerce board will select and recognize one business and one nonprofit. Self-nominations are welcome! If you would like to nominate both a business and a nonprofit, please complete two separate nomination forms.

- Nominations should be based on the following criteria:  
**DOES YOUR NOMINEE:**
1. Practice good business strategies
  2. Support the Moraga community
  3. Serve as a good Business or Community role model
  4. Have good customer relationships
  5. Demonstrate ethical business practices
- Nominations are due by **MONDAY, March 4**. The selected Business and Nonprofit will be announced to the membership soon after and an event in their honor will take place the third week in March or second week in April, depending on the selected nominees' schedules.

Thank you so much for helping recognize our valued community partners!

**OF A DEAL**

**50% OFF**

FREE SEE IT ENROLLMENT FOR THE FIRST 30 CUSTOMERS IN THE MORAGA AREA!

WE SELL BOXES, WARDROBE BOXES, LOCKS, FURNITURE COVERS & OTHER PACKING SUPPLIES

**5SPACE**  
455 MORAGA RD. SUITE F  
(925) 643-2026  
www.5space.com

HOURS OF OPERATION  
MON-SAT 9AM - 6PM  
SUN 10AM-4PM

**MORAGA MOTORS**

since 1981 in Moraga. Located on Moraga Road, Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Professional Automotive Service and Repair  
Foreign and Domestic

**2016 Moraga Small Business of the Year**

530 Moraga Rd. • 925-376-0692  
www.moragamotors.com

**EAST BAY TREE SERVICE INC.**

We take: **VISA**

- Tree removal,
- Stump removal,
- Juniper removal to meet fire regulations.

Call **925-377-8733** for **FREE Estimate**  
Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

**\$50 off for new clients**

**Hall of Taxes**

*Peggy Hall, Enrolled Agent*  
Over 30 years experience

*Stephen Hall, MBA, CTEC*  
Specializing in complex tax situations for individuals and small businesses.

Moraga  
(925) 388-1040  
www.HallofTaxes.com • peggy@halloftaxes.com

**Watch for Love Lafayette**

**Feb. 28**

**Call for Advertising**  
**925.377.0977**

**Si Si Caffé**

Best Latte in Town

910 Country Club Dr.  
Moraga

**925-377-1908**



# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 26 Wednesday, February 14, 2024



Composting tips from a naturalist ... read on Page OH9

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Sandbags, moss, lichen, butterflies, and garden gossip

By Cynthia Brian

Photos Cynthia Brian



The storm caused branches and palm fronds to fall.



Look how delicate the moss growing on these bricks is!

*"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." ~ Lao Tse*

What a storm last week! It certainly seemed like nature was hurrying to topple trees, flood streets, and dare us to pay attention! Various reports noted the winds were hurricane equivalent. Shorn branches, palm fronds, and other debris littered streets. The local creeks were rushing as houses relied on sandbags as an extra layer of protection.

We need precipitation, yet it is better to have a break between these very volatile atmospheric rivers. The hills are greening, and the weeds are sprouting. If you live on a hillside, it is best not to begin weeding until the rains halt as roots help stabilize the soil.

With the wet weather, you may have noticed a multitude of mosses covering bricks, stones,

and wood. This ancient non-vascular species has existed for millions of years around the globe requiring damp, moist conditions to thrive. Mosses are rootless and reproduce via spores. There are over 10,000 known types of mosses, and yes, there are male and female mosses. If you have hiked in a fern forest or camped in the redwoods, you have probably enjoyed sitting on a cushy, moss-covered log. Moss is important in the ecosystem because they stabilize soil and reduce erosion. They fight against air pollution and are effective indicators of CO2 emissions. Mosses filter water and provide food to insects and other invertebrates. As an elegant top cover for my potted plants, moss maintains moisture.

Often, people mistake lichens for moss, yet they are very distinct organisms. Mosses are singular organisms while lichens are composites

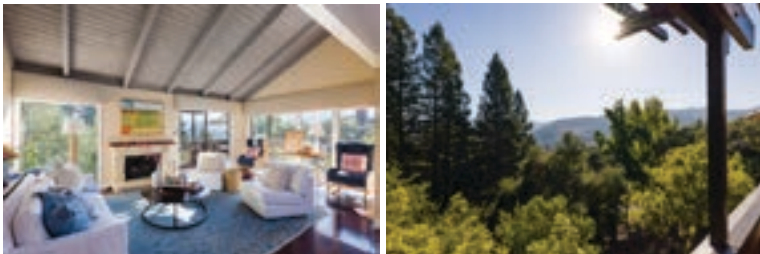
formed when fungi and algae enter a symbiotic relationship. Lichens are ubiquitous, with about 15,000 species in every size, shape, and color. They grow on trees, rocks, and walls, and can even make a home out of decaying fabric. Lichens are a primary colonizing species with around 3,600 species reported in North America. Through decomposition, they influence soil formation, which helps create the correct conditions for other organisms to flourish. Lichens are key-stone reflections of the health of an environment. Where lichens prosper, the area is healthy with good air quality. Lichens fight air pollution as they absorb carbon dioxide through their photosynthesis process.

... continued on Page OH8





**JUST SOLD** | 315 MILLER COURT | ORINDA | 5BD | 4BA | OFFICE | 3,822SF  
ORINDA OAKS | \$3,550,000



**PENDING** | 114 RAVENHILL ROAD | ORINDA WOODS | 3BD | 3BA | 2,320SF

*We believe in starting the real estate journey with a detailed plan to make your home shine in today's competitive market.*

*If you're ready to make your home sale the next success story, let us guide you through the process with decades of experience and a designer's eye.*

TRUST. EXPERIENCE. RESULTS.

GLENN BEAUBELLE & KELLIE BEAUBELLE

925.200.5011

TheBeaubelleGroup.com

glenn@thebeaubellegroup.com

DRE 00678426, 01165322



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of CA & abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements & sf are approx.

## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	9	\$981,000	\$2,000,000
MORAGA	2	\$1,200,500	\$1,655,000
ORINDA	1	\$3,142,500	\$3,142,500

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

- 1829 Del Rey Street, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1720 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 01-11-24
- 1408 Eagle Point Court, \$1,880,000, 4 Bdrms, 2949 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 01-04-24
- 3346 Freeman Road, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2649 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 01-11-24,  
Previous Sale: \$234,000, 01-10-24
- 1003 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,199,000, 4 Bdrms, 1680 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 01-04-24,  
Previous Sale: \$840,000, 08-09-21
- 3341 North Lucille Lane, \$1,101,000, 3 Bdrms, 1277 SqFt,  
1951 YrBlt, 01-12-24
- 3339 Oak Court, \$981,000, 3 Bdrms, 1296 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 01-04-24
- 1391 Sunset Loop, \$1,751,000, 4 Bdrms, 2048 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 01-10-24
- 4057 Valente Court, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2024 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 01-05-24
- 3975 Woodside Court, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1681 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 01-04-24

### MORAGA

- 8 Buckingham Drive, \$1,200,500, 3 Bdrms, 1522 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 01-05-24
- 7 Juniper Way, \$1,655,000, 3 Bdrms, 2112 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 01-11-24

### ORINDA

- 134 Diablo View Drive, \$3,142,500, 5 Bdrms, 4008 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 01-11-24,  
Previous Sale: \$390,000, 08-01-92



COMPLETE TREE CARE

***Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!***

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977

**(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com**





# Cuteness that's close to all the things.



## 243 Sandringham Drive, Moraga

You're not going to want to miss this one! Tucked away in a close-in Moraga neighborhood, this delightful single-level home offers ample living space on a generous, flat lot.

Step inside to discover a beautifully updated interior where modern convenience meets timeless charm. The heart of the home is the open kitchen seamlessly connecting to the family room, creating the perfect gathering spot. The sliding doors to the backyard provide a smooth transition to the outside making indoor/outdoor entertaining a breeze.



\$1,950,000

4 Bed

2 full 1 half baths

2,353 sqft

.25 acre lot

925.980.3829

Shannon@ShannonConner.com  
ShannonConner.com

DRE# 01885058

Villageassociates.com  
925.254.0505



SHANNON  
CONNER

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





DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR  
**2023 PRESIDENTS CLUB HONOREES**



**MARISA COX**  
 TOP PRODUCER  
 VOLUME



**DENISEN HARTLOVE**  
 TOP PRODUCER  
 UNITS



**HURLBUT TEAM**  
 TOP PRODUCING TEAM - VOLUME  
 LAUREN DEAL, BRYAN HURLBUT, DREW SHILLER, ERICA MISASI



**CONNORS TEAM**  
 TOP PRODUCING TEAM - UNITS  
 BELINDA DELGADO, KIM CERDA, JAMIE CONNORS, KERRI MCATEE

★ **PRESIDENTS CLUB ELITE** ★

**ADAM HAMALIAN**  
**ANGIE CLAY**  
**CHERYL HATA**

**JULIE DEL SANTO**  
**KAAREN BRICKMAN**  
**LORI LEGLER**

**MARISA COX**  
**OLIVER BROWN**  
**SHERRY HUTCHENS**

★ **PRESIDENTS CLUB** ★

**ANGELA LOTMAN**  
**BELINDA DELGADO**  
**BEV TRIBUIANI**  
**BONNE WERSEL**  
**BRANDON KERSIS**  
**BRETT BARNES**  
**BRYAN HURLBUT**  
**JOHN & CANDI HOYLE**  
**CAROL NASSAR**

**CATHY BAIGENT**  
**DAVE CHRISTIE**  
**DAVE SMITH**  
**DENISEN HARTLOVE**  
**EMANUEL SAKKIS**  
**FONIA HUMPHRIES**  
**JANE SMITH**  
**JAMIE CONNORS**  
**JIM COLHOUN**

**KAREN GUARISCO**  
**KAREN IVANKOVICH**  
**KIM CERDA**  
**KIM & JOHN SEFTON**  
**LAUREN DEAL**  
**LESLIE SHAFTON**  
**LISA TICHENOR**  
**MATT MCLEOD**  
**MEREDITH KUMMELL**

**RACHEL DREYER**  
**RUTH EDDY**  
**SABRENA LAWTON**  
**SCOTT HUMPHRIES**  
**SHEILA CHRISTIE**  
**SOOSH NASSAR**  
**TERRYLYNN FISHER**  
**TINA FRECHMAN**  
**VERONICA HIDALGO**



**JULIE DEL SANTO**  
 BROKER/OWNER  
 925.818.5500  
 DRE# 01882902 | 01290985





# DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP

WWW.DUDUM.COM

DRE# 01882902

DRE 01882902

ADAM HAMALIAN



925.708.5630  
DRE# 01917597

BRICKMAN & WOOLSEY



925.351.5049  
DRE# 01932119 / 01914797

CHERYL HATA



510.912.5882  
DRE# 013859346

JILL BALAZS



925.804.0200  
DRE# 02038791

JULIE DEL SANTO  
BROKER/OWNER



925.818.5500  
DRE# 01290985

LORI LEGLER



925.286.1244  
DRE# 00805732



COMING SOON

32 CREST ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
CALL FOR INFORMATION  
MATT MCLEOD | 925.465.6500



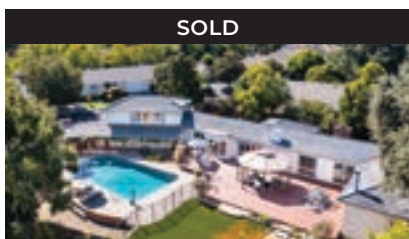
ACTIVE

89 DAIRY CREEK LANE, ORINDA  
OFFERED AT \$4,999,000  
RUTH EDDY | 925.788.5449



PENDING

1089 GLEN ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$4,000,000  
TINA FRECHMAN | 925.915.0851



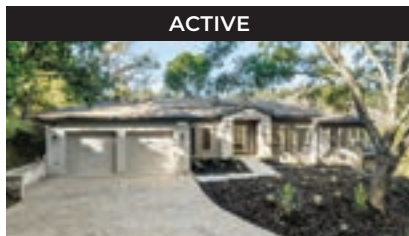
SOLD

250 NORMANDY LANE, WALNUT CREEK  
SOLD FOR \$1,475,000  
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.212.7617



COMING SOON

62 MIRAMONTE DRIVE, MORAGA  
CALL FOR INFORMATION  
COLOMBANA GROUP | 925.878.8047



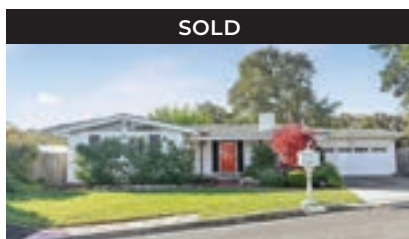
ACTIVE

1161 OLEANDER DRIVE, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$4,580,000  
JULIE DEL SANTO | 925.818.5500



PENDING

3212 LOS PALOS CIRCLE, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$3,495,000  
L. LEGLER & C. HATA | 925.286.1244



SOLD

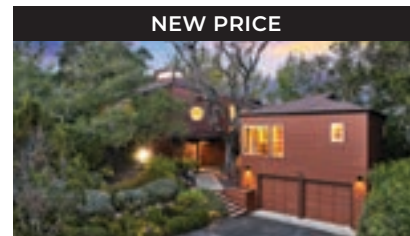
3351 BETTY LANE, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$1,300,000  
SMITH HOMES TEAM | 925.998.1914



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

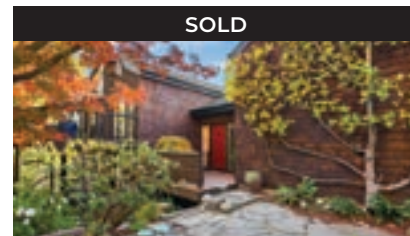
RENDERING

1046 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY RD, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$5,275,000  
K. BRICKMAN & L. WOOLSEY | 925.351.5049



NEW PRICE

8 MOUNTAIN VIEW LANE, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$2,699,000  
KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049



SOLD

601 WATCHWOOD ROAD, ORINDA  
SOLD FOR \$2,175,000  
CAROLYN WAY | 925.890.4115



SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER

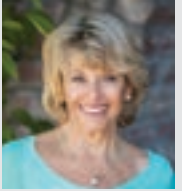
117 WOOTTEN DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK  
SOLD FOR \$1,700,000  
COLOMBANA GROUP | 925.878.8047

BEN MARSHALL



415.321.9206  
DRE# 01916157

CAROLYN WAY



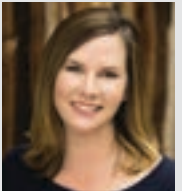
925.890.4115  
DRE# 00947460

JANE & DAVE SMITH



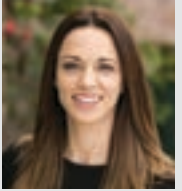
925.998.1914  
DRE# 01476506/02105225

JOY WIEHN



415.377.1884  
DRE# 02047712

LAUREN DEAL  
HURLBUT TEAM



925.876.4671  
DRE# 02060294

MATT MCLEOD



925.464.6500  
DRE# 01310057

RACHEL DREYER



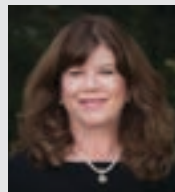
415.990.1672  
DRE# 01994561

COLOMBANA  
GROUP



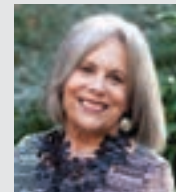
925.878.8047  
DRE# 01979180

RUTH EDDY



925.788.5449  
DRE# 01313819

SHELLEY RUHMAN



510.506.1351  
DRE# 01180260

SHERRY HUTCHENS



925.212.7617  
DRE# 01320608

TINA FRECHMAN



925.915.0851  
DRE# 01970768

WENDY MEANS



415.690.6037  
DRE# 01913149





# VANGUARD PROPERTIES EAST BAY

LISTINGS FOR SALE



6638 COLTON BOULEVARD OAKLAND

4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,472 SQ. FT. \$1,695,000  
MARTHA HILL 415.999.7973



1129 AVENIDA SEVILLA, UNIT 4B WALNUT CREEK

2 BED | 2 BATH | 1,243 SQ. FT. \$500,000  
MEREDITH PETERSON 925.788.7034



256 FAIRLAWN DRIVE BERKELEY

2 BED | 1 BATH | 1,152 SQ. FT. \$925,000  
MARIA CAVALLO-MERRIO 510.919.8841  
ANITA BECKER 510.520.8335

MORE EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS BY -



KELLY  
CRAWFORD  
TEAM



OMAR KHAN  
925.705.1609  
DRE# 02139271

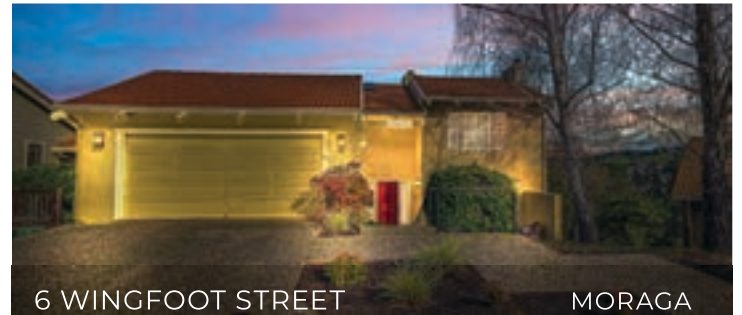
BEV ARNOLD  
925.788.8516  
DRE# 01154860

KELLY CRAWFORD  
925.998.5599  
DRE# 01327015

JEANNETTE  
BETTENCOURT  
925.787.3464  
DRE# 01154506

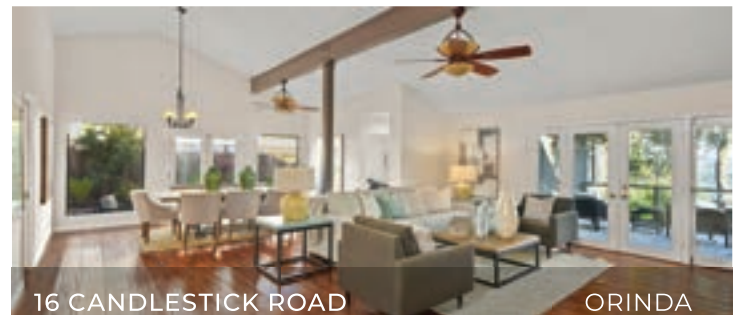
ASAD DURRANI  
310.735.7116  
DRE# 02174180

MICHELE MCKAY  
925.482.4116  
DRE# #01902466



6 WINGFOOT STREET MORAGA

4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 3,424 SQ. FT. \$2,250,000  
KELLY CRAWFORD 925.998.5599  
JEANNETTE BETTENCOURT 925.787.3464



16 CANDLESTICK ROAD ORINDA

4 BED | 2 BATH | 2,499 SQ. FT. PENDING!  
KELLY CRAWFORD 925.998.5599

"We KNOW where the good ones are. We GO where the good ones are!"

KELLYCRAWFORDHOMES.COM

925.998.5599



VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM | 971 Dewing Avenue, Lafayette, CA 94549 | DRE# 01486075







CONGRATULATES

KELLY  
CRAWFORD



2023  
EAST BAY  
TOP PRODUCER

AND ANNOUNCING

NANCY  
DOLINAJEC

AS  
EAST BAY  
AGENT SERVICES  
COORDINATOR

Thinking of  
making a move?

I'VE GOT A TEAM TO GET YOUR PROPERTY  
SALE-READY FOR THE SPRING MARKET.

LET'S TALK!

Listings **coming soon** in Moraga and Lafayette.  
Contact me for more information.

Lamorinda Native.  
Lamorinda Expert.

SELLING LOCAL HOMES SINCE 2003



MICHELLE HOLCENBERG

925.324.0405 | HOLCENBERG.COM

Michelle@holcenberg.com DRE #01373412





*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Sandbags, moss, lichen, butterflies, and garden gossip



**A different species of moss thrives on the pavement.**



Photos Cynthia Brian

**You have a healthy yard when you have lichen growing on your trees.**

... continued from Page OH1

Lichens benefit humans by absorbing pollutants, including heavy metals, sulfur, and carbon. Scientists can extract these toxins to determine pollution levels.

Hummingbirds and other birds make nests from lichens, using them as camouflage and insulation. Many grazing animals include lichens as a nutritious food source. Some insects have adapted their appearance to be dis-

guised as lichen. If you have lichens growing on your rocks, trees, and soil on your property, you are fortunate. This means that the air you are breathing is clean and healthy. Be careful to not disturb lichen-encrusted soil as it can take years to regenerate. When I was visiting Iceland, we were specifically told not to walk or sit on the lichen-covered earth as it could take hundreds of years to re-grow. Nature is not hurrying with lichen. I am eternally grateful for the bounty of lichens that call my landscape home.



# Make composting and recycling your resolution for 2024

By Toris Jaeger, Naturalist



Food Scraps with worms

Photo A. Scheck

As we embark on the new year with much hope for a peaceful world, our most frequent resolutions seem to revolve around losing weight, exercising more and eating a more healthy diet. But one resolution that would make the world a more peaceful place is if all of us were more kind to our family, friends and other people we meet.

We could also be kinder to the Earth, which includes all of the flora and fauna. One simple resolution could be to use the bins provided by Republic Services more correctly.

The blue bin is for all items that can be recycled, the green bin is for plant debris and food scraps. One could also start composting at home. Republic Services will provide you with a compost bucket for the kitchen that can be used to collect the food scraps to put in your outside compost bin. They can also provide a compost bin for a reduced price. My favorite are bio-stack bins that have doors at the bottom. The finished compost can be removed from the bottom of the bin while you can continue to put food scraps on the top of the bin.

The black bin is for trash – not items that can be recycled, green waste or food scraps – and goes to the landfill where the trash is emptied on top of the earth and plowed over.

My dream is that all trash will someday become extinct. May your new year be filled with happiness and good health.

For more information about compost bins, and workshops about composting, visit [www.recyclesmart.org/compostbins/](http://www.recyclesmart.org/compostbins/)

**Tom Stack**  
REAL ESTATE

COLDWELL BANKER  
BRE #01501769

**925.878.9964**  
**TomStack.com**  
**Tom.Stack@cbtnorcal.com**



**BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**  
**Hollie Lucas-Alcalay**  
**HOLLIE'S HOMEGROWN**

*Ecstatic to pass the title on to such a worthy recipient. Proud of what Hollie brings to our Community. Stop by to congratulate her in person -- Hollie's Homegrown is in the old Squirell Cafe!*



## Additional February Garden Gossip

The ferocious winds and river of rain pummeled my narcissi, yet I'm thrilled the stronger stems of daffodils have been unaffected. Burgundy calla lilies as well as the traditional white "crystal-clear" calla lilies have emerged, indicating that spring is within reach. They are a beautiful ornamental plant, although not a true lily, with gorgeous trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom in several colors. If you don't already grow them, buy a few of these African natives at your favorite nursery as they'll provide you with years of beauty and bliss starting in late winter.

Be on the lookout for monarch butterflies through the end of February. I visited the Pismo Beach Butterfly Grove, which has one of the largest protected overwintering sites for western monarch butterflies. The tall eucalyptus and Monterey cypress trees provide a sheltered area with thermal stability. These butterflies can fly over 200 miles in a day. Some travel 2,000 miles to reach their overwintering grounds in California. When summer summons, they fly as far north as Canada.

On the monarch migration coastal course, Moraga boasts a Monarch Butterfly Garden at Rancho Laguna Park created by the Moraga Garden Club.

<https://www.moragagardenclub.org/moraga-for-monarchs>

The monarchs and their migration are threatened. What can you do to entice monarchs?

- Be organic. Do not use pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides.

- Plant milkweed.

- Plant native nectar flowers.

- Support conservation efforts.

- Educate yourself. <https://xerces.org/monarchs>

Naval oranges are ripe and sweet. There is nothing more delicious than a freshly picked orange.

Bare-root roses need to be planted now with a wide range of glorious selections in the garden centers. Make sure to follow soaking and planting directions carefully.

Last chance to prune your growing roses for an April burst of blooms. Cut canes back by at least one-third.

Treat your true love to a beautiful bouquet or an inspired live plant for Valentine's Day.

May everything get accomplished in nature's time. Sandbag before the storm, marvel at your moss, like your lichen, and look for butterflies. Stay dry. Stay safe.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Love Day!



Monarch butterflies overwintering in the eucalyptus grove.



Relish the sunny daffodils as they pop up!





Purple is the color for February for Cynthia Brian.

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. 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](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Her newest children's picture book, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>



**Carefree Moves**  
MOVE COORDINATORS

**All-Women Company Serving East Bay Residents for Over 20 Years**

**COMPLETE MOVE & COORDINATION SPECIALISTS**

★ CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ★

**FULL PACKING & UNPACKING SERVICES**

**PACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
plan, sort, pack, label and help with what to keep, toss, donate, consign

**UNPACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
placing furniture, setting up kitchen, organizing closets, cupboards and drawers

Insured, Bonded, and Green

Nominated by SCORE for Outstanding Woman-Owned Small Business

**925.330.1988**  
[hello@carefreemoves.net](mailto:hello@carefreemoves.net)  
[www.carefreemoves.net](http://www.carefreemoves.net)

**McDonnell Nursery**



**Outdoor Pottery sale 25% off,**

family owned since 1933

Flowers • Trees • Succulents • Pottery & Fountains  
Benches • Garden Decor • House Plants • Gifts

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

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



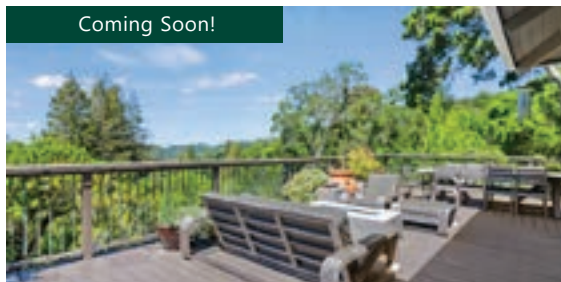
# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM



## 8 Hidden Lane, Orinda

5 Bd | 3 Ba | 4495 Sqft | \$2,250,000

Beautiful 5bd/3ba, 4495 sqft home w/ wrap-around Sleepy Hollow views and is move-in ready!



Coming Soon!

## 710 Miner Road, Orinda

5 Bd | 3 Ba | 3088 Sqft | \$1,995,000

Fantastic off-market opportunity available for showing now! Peaceful 1.15 acre knoll setting with beautiful valley views!



## 17 Fallen Leaf Court, Lafayette

5 Bd + Study | 5.5 Ba | 4789 Sqft | \$4,495,000

Rare, single-level 5bd/5.5ba family home nestled on a cul-de-sac in one of Reliez Valley's most coveted neighborhoods!



## 312 Maverick Court, Lafayette

4+ Bd | 3.5 Ba | 3243 Sqft | \$2,999,000

Tastefully updated 4bd/ 3.5ba, 3500+ sq. ft. home features an ideal floorplan that captures views of the large, private yard.



New Listing!

## 637 Sky Hy Circle, Lafayette

5 Bd | 3 Ba | 3064 Sqft | \$2,995,000

Set in quiet Sky Hy Ranch, this 5bd/ 3ba retreat has stunning views of Mt. Diablo and the Lafayette hills!



New Listing!

## 243 Sandringham Drive, Moraga

4 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 2353 Sqft | \$1,950,000

Tucked away in a close-in Moraga neighborhood, this 4bd/ 2.5ba, single-level home offers ample living space on a generous, flat lot!



## 211 Corliss Drive, Moraga

5 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 2538 Sqft | \$1,699,000

Fabulous family home nestled on prime private .42 acre in sought after Rheem Valley Orchards neighborhood!



## 1409A Spruce Street, Berkeley

1 Bd | 1 Ba | 645 Sqft | \$575,000

Cute rancher on a huge lot on a cul-de-sac in the Strandwood neighborhood. Wood floors and updated kitchen w/ newer appliances.



New Listing!

## 3605 May Road, Richmond

3 Bd | 2 Ba | 1515 Sqft | \$795,000

Adorable sanctuary w/ views of the hills featuring 3bd/ 2ba, living & family rooms + an office in approx. 1515 sq.ft. on a .23-acre lot.

**The Village Associates:** Ashley Battersby • Shannon Conner • Meara Dunsmore • Linda Ehrich • Emily Estrada • Joan Evans • Linda Friedman • Liz Gallagher  
 Claudia Gohler • Ari Hatton • Gillian Judge Hogan • Dexter Honens II • Christina Linezo • April Matthews • Hillary Murphy • Karen Murphy  
 John Nash • Altie Schmitt • Ann Sharf • Amy Rose Smith • Molly Smith • Jeff Snell • Lynda Snell • Alexis Thompson • Clark Thompson  
 Angie Evans Traxinger • Ignacio Vega • Ann Ward • Margaret Zucker

