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Photographer Golnaz Shahmirzadi took portraits of people at the Norouz Persian New Year Festival on Sunday, Mar. 10. The whimsical portraits featured the various symbols that are commonly used as part of the Norouz Table in celebration of spring.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

# Persian festival brings overflow crowds to Wilder Art & Garden Center

By Sora O'Doherty

In the words of organizer Farigol Bineshpour, "When mothers get together, magic happens." Three generations of her family joined Minoo Akbarian and other organizers of the first annual Norouz Bazaar and Spring Equinox celebration at the Art & Garden Center at Wilder on Sunday, March 10.

The event drew people of Persian ancestry, including those born in Iran, from all over the Bay Area and beyond. Visitors came from as far away as Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Pleasanton, as well as many other places.

Norouz (Nowruz) is a celebration of the new year, and on the Persian calendar the new year is 1403. Next to the stage, large numbers indicating the year were flanked by flowers, as visitors took the opportunity to have their photographs taken. Inside, a professional photographer took portraits with symbols of Norouz and Spring.

The parking lot was filled to capacity, and more, as some 1500 people at-

tended the free event. Nevertheless, the crowd was good natured, waiting patiently in line for barbecue or ice cream, and browsing the many booths of artisan offerings. Traffic control screened cars, and prevented festival-goers from venturing up Wilder Road into the Wilder development. Many vehicles were parked in places inside the parking lot but not designated for parking.

Bineshpour said that she didn't think that the turnout would be so large, but she was delighted by the success of the event, which was one year in the planning. She hopes the event will be at Wilder again next year, although she recognized that a larger venue might be required.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. festival goers were able to enjoy Persian food and sweets and live music on a mild spring afternoon. There were crafts for the children, and inside the building numerous stalls offered apparel, jewelry and accessories, pottery, handbags and shoes, among other things for sale.

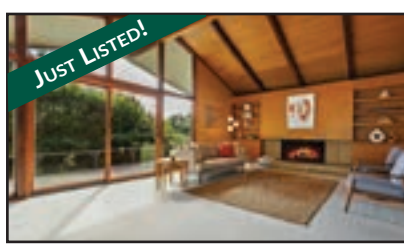
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## Is BART safe?

Lafayette residents react to BART's bystander intervention program  
By Sharon K. Sobotta



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Lafayette BART Station and the path that connects it to Town Center Apartments, downtown shops, restaurants, and Walgreens is a place that is frequented by commuters on their way to and from work, those on a night out in another part of the Bay, and unhoused people. Spend a little time in the area, and you're bound to see police patrolling, stopping, questioning, and occasionally chasing someone.

Five years ago, 18-year old Nia Wilson and her sisters got on the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) three stops down from Lafayette at the Concord Station for what would be her last time. John Lee Cowell, who was 29 at the time and three months out of treatment at a mental health facility, boarded the same train and stabbed and killed Wilson and injured her sister during a transfer stop at MacArthur Station. Shortly after, the beginnings of the pandemic kicked in, forcing many to pivot to remote work. Now, BART's ridership is at 43 percent of its pre-pandemic numbers and many are citing safety concerns as a deterrent.

In 2021, after hearing from youth who had experienced, witnessed, or feared gender-based violence while riding public transportation, BART partnered with the Girls Alliance and Unity Council to roll out a bystander intervention initiative called 'Not One More Girl.'

Alicia Trost, Chief Communications Officer for BART, says, 'Not One More Girl' has the capacity to benefit everyone – not just girls.

... continued on Page A8

## Election results: Moraga passes school bond, incumbents win their races

By Sora O'Doherty

Moraga citizens voted in large numbers for a new school bond in the Statewide election held March 5. The bond, intended to address Moraga's aging school facilities, will raise approximately \$3 million annually and will cost homeowners around \$28 to \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed values. The bond authorizes the Moraga School District to sell \$52 million in bonds, with both the principal and interest on the bonds to be repaid from the ad valorem tax on property. The measure, which required a 55% majority to pass, seems to have achieved a greater than 66% majority, according to preliminary results of the election released by Contra Costa County Elections, with 100% of precincts reporting.

Moraga Superintendent of Schools Julie Parks said, "We are so grateful for the Moraga community and the ongoing commitment to our schools. We look forward to putting this investment to good use to improve facilities for Moraga students now and in the future."

... continued on Page A4

### Civic News

Lafayette Housing element adjustments continue – Page A2

### Public Safety

Robbery with high-speed chase ends in Orinda– Page A3

### Life in Lamorinda



Perks Lafayette says goodbye — Page A14

### Sports

Lamorinda Wrestling going strong — Page B1



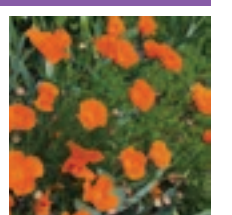
### Summer Camps

Part 1, Spring Break and Full Day Summer Camps — Pages B2-B3



### Our Homes

"Natives" versus "non-natives" Goddess Gardener compares — Page OH1







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**Lafayette Public Meetings**  
**City Council**

Regular Meeting: Monday, March 25, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Planning Commission Meeting**

Monday, March 18, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Design Review**

Monday, March 25, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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**More modifications demanded for Lafayette's Housing Element plan**

By Lou Fancher

The City of Lafayette on Feb. 12 received a letter from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) with their most recent review of Lafayette's revised sixth Cycle Housing Element plan. Because the Hous-

ing Element (HE) is a mandatory part of the General Plan, the review letter was posted to the City's website on Feb. 12 and sent in an email notification the following day to all subscribers signed up at [www.lovelafayette.org/enotifica](http://www.lovelafayette.org/enotifica)

tion for the category "General Plan."

At the Feb. 26 council meeting, Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff briefly reviewed the history of HE presentations to the council, the last of which took place in November 2023. At that time, the council suggested revisions, and after staff made the decisions and the required 7-day public review period was held, the draft was submitted on Dec. 14. Two months later, the latest letter from HCD arrived, indicating progress had been made. According to Wolff, although the plan was closer to certification, the city was not yet fully compliant with state laws and therefore additional modifications are required.

"We immediately reached out to HCD and requested a meeting to further understand several of their comments," Wolff said. Most of HCD's comments pertained to consistent themes and the city's new reviewer at HCD, Joanna Chang, was immediately responsive, arranging a meeting Feb. 27. "Tomorrow will not be our one and only meeting with them," he said. "We will request additional meetings and bring back to you in March the initial set of policy and guidance based on the outcome of tomorrow's meeting."

Housing Consultant Diana Elrod assumed leadership of the staff presentation and told the council this is the first time HCD has signaled the city is closer to certification. Elrod emphasized that the changes noted in the letter are not requests, but requirements, and it is clear Lafayette's HE will not receive certification unless and until the re-

visions are made, adopted, submitted, and deemed compliant by HCD. Elrod said the meeting with HCD will obtain specific clarification of "concrete actions" the city must take to satisfy the requirements.

The key revisions required by HCD include modifications to implementation programs: adding specific metrics, geographic targeting, and commitments made by the city to developments on various property categories; additional explanation of the status of pipeline projects, the redevelopment of small sites, and the criteria against which sites were measured for suitability; and added narrative discussing how the city's AFFH actions will address mobility opportunities throughout high-resource communities.

Elrod highlighted five other aspects of the letter upon which staff will need direction from the council prior to the March meeting. These elements pertain to density incentive specifics, publicly-owned site development permitting schedules and other terms, local processing and permit procedures that must be removed from ordinances due to discretionary language such as "it should fit in well with the community," commitments to revisions that increase heights, and decrease housing setbacks and upper story setbacks, allowances for the conversion of single-family spaces for new single-family uses, the last of which might involve increasing the allowable distance for developments from the current 1/4 mile distance from the downtown area to a 1/2 mile distance.

Elrod said she expected the meeting with HCD would be substantive and hoped it would eliminate the need for additional meetings before returning March 11 to the council with the revised HE.

Vice Mayor Wei-Tai Kwok, Anduri, and other council members asked about specific language applied to several sections of the letter that Elrod ultimately said were "boiler plate" language found in HCD's response to many municipalities in the Bay Area. The comments and required changes, especially relating to increasing density levels in low and medium density zones, have been found in letters to Danville, San Ramon, and others.

The staff has engaged Veronica Tam and Associates, an agency that has provided technical assistance to Lafayette through the Contra Costa County Collaborative. Due to the complexity of prior rounds with HCD, staff believed principle officer Tam's experience is valuable. Joining the meeting by Zoom, Tam at a number of times explained discreet aspects of the HE such as the laws as they are applied to ADU's, requirements for inventories, and other technicalities.

One topic received extended discussion. Council member Susan Candell pressed Elrod about why the city is using the RENA allocation percentages for the inventory sites.

"I feel strongly we demonstrated the rationale for doing this," Elrod responded. She said the response from HCD made no comment on the city's use of Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA). Candell suggested a different

process used by other cities that would add a few units to certain sites and bump the allocation from 40 percent to 50 might be best. Wolff said arguments could be made for either approach and the topic would be discussed at the meeting with HCD. Elrod continued to take the position that making this change at this time in the process would be "going backwards." Tam supported Elrod's position and explained that state law has no language establishing exactly what standards are applied to non-vacant sites in the RHNA. She said with no clear standards, pushing the 50 percent had not mattered in other areas.

Other topics addressed included the impact on the inventory of development projects that have changed during the last six months, staff schedules and expectations, and more. Public comments had the majority of speakers focusing on inventory, compliance with design standards, and zoning.

With the conversation returning to council, the discussion covered clarification of the letter's specific language, standards applied to setbacks, actions that will occur during, not prior to, the sixth cycle, and other details required by state law for certification. It was determined that either a written report or a single-item meeting March 4 would allow staff to provide council and the public with the results of the meeting with HCD. Staff will return to the council March 11 (after press time) with the revised HE draft.

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# City employee Therese Kain made the right call by dialing 911

By Lou Fancher



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

## Therese Kain on left with Mayor Dawson

Mayor Dawson at the council meeting on Feb. 26 recognized Therese Kain for the life-saving actions the engineering department assistant took following a phone call with a Lafayette resident on a day earlier in the month.

"It is my pleasure to introduce recognition for Therese Kain, who works in our staff. Therese, with her usual care and due diligence, encountered an unusual circumstance where she acted to help one of our residents in a time of need," Dawson said in her opening remarks.

On Feb. 2, while answering phone calls at the city office's front counter, Kain was discussing with a resident how to obtain a tree permit. During the conversation, the caller began to have difficulty communicating. Kain quickly became convinced the resident might be having a medical emergency, but the call ended before she could get more information. Her concern led her to pursue the matter, and by

searching a Planning Department database, she located the resident's address.

Kain placed an immediate call to 911 and gave the emergency operator the necessary information for sending emergency personnel. The EMT team found the resident, later self-identified at the city council meeting as Claudia Bubeck, at home by herself. She was transported to the hospital where it was determined she had suffered a stroke.

Dawson at the recognition ceremony invited public comment and the council first heard from Bubeck herself. She recounted her experience when discussing with Kain information about permitting related to trees on her property. She found herself "saying words that had no relationship to anything else and I was baffled." Bubeck felt fine and even so, sat down. Minutes later, the EMT's arrived. At the meeting, Bubeck turned from the podium to face Kain and thanked her for "being so quick on the mark."

Former Mayor Erling Horn spoke second, thanking Kain for her acute perception on the phone and calling her swift actions "remarkable." Mike Moran, director of engineering and public works, said Kain's investigative techniques were significant and administrative department assistant Dana Anderson remembered and recognized Kain's reserve and calmness that day.

In presenting the plaque, Dawson read the tribute aloud. Kain thanked all the medical first responder personnel involved, police chief Ben Alldritt, and others, and called it a "once in a lifetime happening." She thanked the resident for phoning the offices the following week to let staff know she was recovering and offered a tribute to the many "unheralded" 911 workers who assist and protect Lafayette's citizens.

# High speed chase from Lafayette to Orinda ends in injury crash with child in vehicle

By Sora O'Doherty

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office has no comment about why a robbery at a fast food restaurant in Lafayette was considered appropriate for a high speed chase that ended in an injury accident in Orinda with the discovery of a young child in the suspect vehicle.

At about 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, Lafayette police officers responded to a report of a robbery at a fast-food restaurant on the 3500 block of Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette, according to Jimmy Lee, Public Information Officer of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office. That restaurant, which is the only one at that block, has been identified in social media as Taco Bell.

According to Lee, officers identified the suspect vehicle and determined it was involved in armed robberies in Solano and Marin Counties earlier. About 12 minutes after the robbery was reported, a Lafayette officer located the suspect vehicle traveling westbound on Highway 24. The vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed, leading the officer on a pursuit that went west on Camino Pablo to-

ward El Sobrante.

On Camino Pablo in Orinda the suspect vehicle collided with another car traveling in the opposing lane. Police arrested two suspects, 24-year-old Black male, Jajuan Ojeda of Oakland and 39-year-old Black female, Aevra Traylor of Sacramento. They also discovered a 7-year-old boy in the suspect vehicle who was identified as the child of the driver. Ojeda and Traylor were booked into the Martinez Detention Facility and are facing charges that include robbery, felony evasion, and child endangerment. Both also had multiple warrants for their arrest.

The driver of the vehicle who was struck on San Pablo Dam Road was taken to the hospital as a precaution.

When asked why this incident was deemed suitable for a high speed chase, or if the officers involved knew about the child in the car, the Sheriff's Office offered no comment. No information is available about whether the child was returned to his family or taken into care. The investigation is ongoing. Both suspects remain in custody at the time of publication.



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For additional information on these volunteer positions visit the city's website [lovelafayette.org/volunteers](http://lovelafayette.org/volunteers) or e-mail [cityhall@lovelafayette.org](mailto:cityhall@lovelafayette.org)

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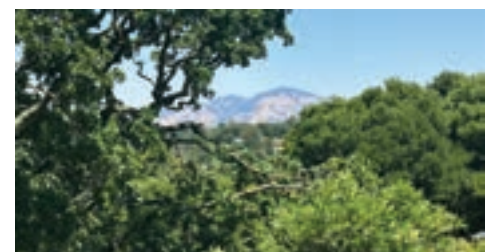


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**Town Council Meetings**

Wed., March 13, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., March 27, 6:30 p.m.

**Planning Commission:**

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.

**Park and Recreation Commission:**

TBA

## Town welcomes new administrative services director

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

### Moraga's new Administrative Services Director Katie Bruner

Moraga's new Administrative Services Director Katie Bruner officially began working for the town on Feb. 20, taking control of the position from Interim Director Lisa Malek-Zadeh, who in turn filled the post

since Annie To resigned in October.

Previously serving as the City of Walnut Creek's budget and procurement manager for six years, Bruner has had an additional 11 years of experience with

both Alameda and Napa Counties in an analyst capacity. She has a Master of Public Administration, along with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Sonoma State University.

Bruner's town duties will encompass financial reporting and management; human resources, which includes recruitment, benefits management, and daily operations; information technology; preparation of operating and capital improvement budgets; risk management involving financial, human resource and liability risk management; strategic financial planning and analysis; and supervision of accounting services.

"Katie's exposure to working for three well-run California local governments in general, combined with her spe-

cific experience in the key components necessary to succeed as an Administrative Services Director, make her an ideal candidate to take on the role," stated Town Manager Scott Mitnick in a recent press release. "In addition to her technical skills (including budget preparation, long-term financial forecasting, preparing financial reports, investment portfolio management, purchasing, improving technology, etc.), Katie has the necessary people skills to work effectively with Town Council, Department Directors, Town employees, and members of the community."

Bruner grew up in the Bay Area and used to drive through town on her way to work from Oakland to Walnut Creek. She and her husband appreciated the

small-town feel of Moraga, which is why making a job relocation was a perfect move for her.

"There are a lot of similarities in services, and every city is different" Bruner said, when comparing working for a town as opposed to a city. "Here, there's a smaller staff, and everyone has to wear many hats -- you have to do more."

Currently living in Walnut Creek, Bruner is getting herself acclimated to Moraga government's way of doing things, "there's always room for improvement. In order to do that you have to get an idea of the process before you make any changes."

Bruner added, "I'm really excited to be here and serve the community in any capacity, and I also want to meet everyone's needs."

## The history of trains in Moraga — an MHS event

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Historical Society, in an effort to keep local history alive, held another of its public presentations at the Hacienda de las Flores. This time the topic was trains.

The March 3 event drew a sellout crowd of enthusiasts looking forward to hearing resident train expert, Sam Sperry, regale everyone with facts and a visual buffet of 53 slides. Sperry even showed up dressed for the part with an authentic train conductor's uniform, which he wears while retelling stories of Moraga's rails every year to the town's third grade classes (something he's done for 10 years).

Sperry's love for trains captured his attention when he was a boy. Growing up in Mackinaw, Illinois, where a depot was located, he would often ride the rails of the Illinois Central Railroad to

Peoria, Illinois.

Taking everyone's imaginations back in time to a 1913 Moraga, Sperry began with the Oakland, Antioch & Eastern Railway's route between Oakland and Sacramento with a stop at the Moraga Station, which took the town's commuters to work and pears to market. In 1928, the Western Pacific Railroad acquired OA&E, along with the Northern Railway and formed the 185-mile long Sacramento Northern Railway that added a St. Mary's College Station to the route, which eventually ended at Chico.

Sperry's presentation went beyond Moraga's boundaries to include facts beginning in 1905 and ending in 1957. He presented slides of various maps and photos which included sections of routes such as the San Francisco - Oakland Key System Ferries along with the Oakland

segment -- up Shafter Avenue to College Avenue and on to Lake Temescal and the Shepherd Pass Tunnel. According to Sperry, the Shepherd Pass Tunnel route ran under Skyline Boulevard and was 3,200 feet long, passing extremely close to the Hayward Fault.

Nearing its way to Moraga, the route continued through Redwood Canyon as it ran along Pinehurst Road (a popular picnic spot in its day), making a left at Canyon Road and running past Valle Vista's rock quarry with an eventual stop at the Moraga Station (which was directly across from today's Moraga Barn). The train's second stop in town was the St. Mary's College Station, eventually heading on to stops in Lafayette, Saranap, Walnut Creek, and Concord before boarding a train ferry at Mallard Island in order to cross Su-

isun Bay. The train cars were deposited at Chipps Island where the route continued on to Sacramento and eventually Chico.

The trains which served the entire route ran on an all-electric system. With the advent of the Caldecott Tunnel's opening in 1937, passenger service was terminated in 1941, due to reduced ridership. In early 1957, freight service was also discontinued.

There are reminders and remnants throughout Moraga of the 44 years of crucial service the railroad system provided to our small town. Some are visible,



Photo Vera Kochan

### "Conductor" Sam Sperry dresses the part for his train presentation

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## Election results: Moraga passes school bond, incumbents win their races

... continued from Page A1

In other Moraga school news, Parks also announced a tentative agreement with teachers. "This is an achievement to be proud of and aligns with our collective priority to recruit and retain excellent teachers," Parks said. The 7.5% salary increase across the salary schedule will mean that Moraga School District teachers will have realized a cumulative 19% raise over the last three years.

Local Democratic Congressman Mark DeSaulnier was the highest

vote-taker in the county, with approximately 65% of the vote. He will face Republic challenger Katherine Piccinini, who took about 19% of the votes, in the general election in November. Democratic Assembly member Rebecca Bauerkahan similarly took over 66% of the votes, and will run against Republican Joseph Rubay, who took about 33% of votes. County Supervisor Candace Andersen ran unopposed.

State Proposition 1, which was favored in Contra Costa County by over 56% of voters, is

still undetermined as votes statewide continue to be counted. Some vote-by-mail ballots still await counting, including those postmarked by March 5 but which arrive up to 5 days later. County election officials must verify results 30 days after the election. The Secretary of State's office must certify the election eight days later. The school bond and the state proposition will be final after the March vote. Candidates will move forward to the November general election.

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# Moraga's Chamber of Commerce sponsors 'Business in the Digital Age' presentation

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

## Amplified Digital Agency Advertising Executive Casey Weider

Several business members of the town's Chamber of Commerce attended the "Business in the Digital Age: Growing Your Business Through Digital Solutions" presentation, held at the Moraga Library, with the intent to improve or start their social media visibility.

"We felt that our local organizations were interested in learning to navigate the sometimes con-

fusing world of digital marketing," stated Executive Director Katie Bidstrup. "We had a wide variety of businesses in the 20 plus sign-ups, and you can see from the diverse businesses in attendance that this type of professional support is important across many industries."

Bidstrup acknowledged the businesses that attended, such as: Saklan

School, Mark Hoogs State Farm Insurance, Neptune Maps, Lamorinda Arts Council, Springbook, Moraga Hardware and Lumber, Loards Ice Cream - Moraga, Be The Star you Are, a commercial realty company, performing arts groups, and a budding animation business owner.

The March 6 event was guided by Amplified Digital Agency Advertising Executive Casey Weider, who typically provides custom digital solutions for all sizes and industries. The evening's goal was to help business owners understand, execute, and evaluate a digital strategy that would be a right fit for them.

Weider explained that Facebook has the largest social media platform with 3 billion users. Its demographic is 25 - 34 years old, and is the preferred social media plat-

form for people over 45. Its business page is created and managed by personal profiles.

Instagram is the second largest social media platform with 2 billion users, and 85% of its audience is younger than 45. It is the preferred platform for the 18 - 34 year old demographic, and its structure covers independent accounts that are classified as personal or business.

LinkedIn, explained Weider, is a primary social media tool for B2B (business to business) industries where 60% of users are between 25 and 34 years old. Typically, over 100 job applications are submitted every second on LinkedIn, and its business page is created and managed by personal profiles.

Weider also discussed how to get visibility. With regards to Face-

book, encourage page check-ins (activity); utilize Facebook Groups; view page analytics to determine the best time to post content; and video as much as possible (it has changed how people look at social media).

For visibility through Instagram, Weider recommended the power of

Reels (a short-form video); SEO (Search Engine Optimization) plus your profile; Highlights; post engagement such as Like comments, Share, and Save; use Hashtags; and implement co-sponsored posts. "It's a great way for people to find you," he added.

... continued on Page A9

# Bunnies & Brews celebrates spring with animals, beer and food

By Vera Kochan



Kids making friends with the bunnies Photo Vera Kochan

The Town of Moraga has begun celebrating all that is springtime with its 2nd annual "Bunnies & Brews" event for the whole family. The Parks and Recreation Department's festivities took place at the Hacienda de las Flores (hence the advertised description of "a Hacienda hoppy hour") on March 10, and the weather did more than cooperate with mildly cool temperatures and sunny skies.

The premise of the four-hour function was for adults to enjoy some beer from Moraga's Canyon Club Brewery,

Lafayette's Headlands Brewing Company, and Oakland's Ghost Town Brewing (who was sponsored by Moraga's Chamber of Commerce). "We see there are brew fests in other cities that have major breweries," stated Recreation Coordinator Donald Scully. "Having a couple of breweries around town makes this possible for us."

As for lunch, three food trucks were on hand that offered a variety of choices for anyone's taste buds. Ofie's Kitchen served up burgers, hot-dogs, and fries, while Golden Gate Gyro

tempted folks with Middle Eastern comfort food, and Bombzies BBQ offered a variety of Asian barbecue specialties.

Not leaving out the youngsters, childcare was provided by the Moraga Day Camp staff in the Casita building for kids aged 4 - 12, with supervised activities such as coloring, arts & crafts, or games.

You can't have a "Bunnies & Brews" event without the bunnies, and there were more bunnies on hand than you could shake a carrot stick at. Twenty bunnies in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors hopped around a large enclosure that featured kid-sized furniture (for photo ops), and plush pet houses for the animals to hang out in. Joining the bunnies were two crescent ducks, a small pig, and a goat, all provided by Cute & Cuddlee Mobile Petting Zoo (<http://cuteandcuddleemobilepettingzoo.godaddysites.com>).

With the unpredictability of this season's rain forecasts, "The weather was scaring me," said Scully, but he needn't have worried as

approximately 250 attendees came out to enjoy a pint and a pet.



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 Phone (925) 253-4200  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.orindachamber.org  
**The Orinda Association:**  
 www.orindaassociation.org

**Orinda Public Meetings**  
**City Council Regular Meeting:**  
 Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.  
 Orinda Library Auditorium,  
 26 Orinda Way  
**Planning Commission**  
 Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m.  
 Orinda Library Auditorium,  
 26 Orinda Way  
**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**  
 Wednesday,  
 March 13, 6:30 p.m.  
 Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way

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COMPASS

## Local legend contributes to her alma mater

By Sora O'Doherty

It started with a trip down memory lane: actor Zendaya wanted to show her boyfriend, Tom Holland, her beloved Cal Shakes, where she spent a great deal of her childhood. Executive Director Clive Worsley was frank in a recent inter-

view. Asked if he approached the actor for a donation, he exclaimed, "I absolutely did!" The result was that Zendaya recently contributed \$100,000 to Cal Shakes. Worsley was touched that Zendaya posted a photograph of herself at the

theater on Instagram with just the one word caption, "Home."

Worsley was contacted by Zendaya's mother, Claire Stoermer, who had been the house manager of Cal Shakes for many years. Stoermer told Worsley that her daughter wanted to show Holland around the theater where she grew up and studied. Worsley welcomed them warmly; he himself had only come back to Cal Shakes last year, when the theater was in decline and closure was being discussed.

Worsley shared his vision of the future with Zendaya and Holland when they visited. Since the days when theater-goers would buy season tickets seem to be gone, never to return, Worsley wants to open up the theater to a wider variety of events. He envisions dance performances, comedy, and live music; even weddings and other private events. Worsley said that Zendaya was excited by the prospect of saving the theater by opening it to wider audiences. And so she made her donation through the Women Donors Network, a national network of women, both cis and trans, nonbinary, and gender-expansive donors committed to protecting and advanc-

ing gender, racial, economic, and climate justice.

When Zendaya was a child growing up in Oakland, California, her mother worked as a teacher at Fruitvale Elementary School and also as the house manager at Cal Shakes, taking care of things such as ushers and the cafe. Zendaya would come after school and hang around the theater, talking to the actors. She did summer programs for years, Worsley says, including eight seasons of summer classes. Zendaya and her mother now both live in Los Angeles, but the actor returns to the Bay Area to visit her grandmother, who still lives in Oakland.

Summer season classes, which are still running and open now for registration for next summer, include things such as acting, voice, movement, stage combat, and text analysis. After morning classes, the students rehearse the play that will be performed at the end of the season. Worsley noted that the objective of the summer sessions is also to teach other skills, such as listening more than speaking, the benefits of teamwork, and the values of being humane, not just human. "We want to set them up for success and also to be good for society," Worsley said, adding that "it was nice to see all of that come to fruition in Zendaya" and that her contribution speaks to the kind



Zendaya in 2007 production

Photo provided

of person she is.

Zendaya met Colman Domingo at Cal Shakes, and now they are cast together in Euphoria on HBO. Domingo has received his first Oscar nomination this year for his performance in Rustin. Other prominent Cal Shakes alumni include Annette Benning, nominated for best actress for her performance in Nyad, and Mahershala Ali, winner of two Oscars and numerous other awards. Like Zendaya, Ali was one of the presenters at the 2024 Oscar awards on Mar. 10.

Cal Shakes has robust fundraising goals to meet its annual budget of about \$3 million. \$1 million, approximately, comes from ticket sales.

This year Cal Shakes celebrates its 50th anniversary. Part of the celebration will be performances of As You Like It, directed by Elizabeth Carter

throughout September. Cal Shakes didn't originate in Orinda, but in Emeryville in 1974 as the Emeryville Shakespeare Festival. It moved to Berkeley shortly thereafter, and in 1991 opened its open air theater in Orinda. In 2010, they added a building that houses the café, business office, wardrobe and dressing rooms, as well as restrooms. The performance season runs from mid-May to mid-October. There is parking for patrons, or some find it easier to take BART to the Orinda station, from where there is a shuttle bus to the Bruns Amphitheater.

In addition to helping Cal Shakes, Zendaya also works with Destiny Arts in Oakland, a non-profit group dedicated to empowering young people through art and movement. Cal Shakes also reaches out to Title 1 schools and Promise neighborhoods. In addition, they have run programs at Orinda Intermediate School since 2003 and often hire St. Mary's students for summer sessions. In terms of exposing students to Shakespeare, during the season Cal Shakes presents student matinee programs beginning when school is still in session. Artists are sent into schools, sometimes for a year, sometimes as part of an embedded program.

"We don't learn Shakespeare by reading it," Worsley affirms, "but by acting it or by seeing it performed." He stressed the "power of language and meter to lend emphasis to important words," and extolled Shakespeare's "unbelievable sense of the human experience."

You can join Zendaya in supporting Cal Shakes today. Visit <https://calshakes.org/support/> to make your tax deductible donation.

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## 'Rebel without a cause' (1955) comes to the Orinda Theatre March 26



Image provided

The ongoing Hollywood Orinda Classic Movie Matinees brings James Dean, Natalie Wood, Sal Mineo, Jim Backus, and Dennis Hopper in director Nicholas Ray's groundbreaking dramatic story of post-war teenage angst unleashed, 'Rebel without a cause'. One show only, Tuesday afternoon,

March 26 at 1 p.m. This matinee recreates the experience of what it was like to see this great film when it was new and played at the theatre originally on the giant, CinemaScope screen.

The Orinda Classic Movie Matinees are introduced by Matias Bombal, 56, syndicated radio film critic of "Matias

Bombal's Hollywood" and former repertory movie theatre manager. Bombal has worked in vintage movie palaces throughout his career, including the Crest in Sacramento, the FOX California in Stockton, and was a Dec-O-Win announcer some years ago at the Oakland Paramount for their sadly long-defunct movie classic series. He is a member of the Critics Choice Association, The Association of Moving Image Archivists, and The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. Recently, he was the emcee for the multi-day California Independent Film Festival at the Orinda Theatre and was well received by East Bay audiences.

Bombal feels that the great value and importance of this Orinda series is the chance to see these great films in the most ideal setting; as the original audiences did when the movies were new. He explains, "The place you see a movie in, the surrounding and those watching with you is as vital to the experience as the films themselves. The combined elements work in tandem to create a lasting memory. The Orinda

Theatre of Orinda, California is one of very few remaining theatres showing movies where you may experience this." The vintage movie going era is authentically recreated with vintage previews and occasional selected short subjects allowing for true time-travel to another era.

The series continues with 'San Francisco' (with the original 1936 ending) on April 30, 'North by Northwest' on May 28, 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' on June 25 and 'The Bad and the Beautiful' on July 30. The Orinda Theatre employs qualified union projectionists for these special presentations from Local 107 of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, IATSE.

The Orinda Theatre is located at 4 Orinda Square #3308, Orinda, California, 94563. Validated parking available in a garage on the same block as the theatre as well as on-street parking. BART: Orinda Station, steps from the theatre. Tickets, \$10, available at the door. [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com) Provided by Orinda Theatre



Matias Bombal

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# Is BART safe?

... continued from Page A1

It is however rooted in the lived experiences of youth. “Alliance for Girls brought us a report showing that youth in the Bay Area were frightened to ride BART because of cat calls, leering, staring, and following – not just on the train or on buses but on the way to take public transit. Some people weren’t going to school or work because of it,” Trost recalls.

With the input of youth, BART has responded with a comprehensive plan that includes policy and protocol changes, as well as a bystander campaign, which comes with business card size intervention cards. It’s also cleaned up and modernized its cars and added messaging about safety. “When we make the trains safer for girls and women, we’re making them safer for everyone,” Trost says. She described how the intervention cards can be used by anyone. “We saw this as an opportunity to talk to people about bystander intervention,” she added.

BART’s bystander cards are available from station agents. One says “You got me? Someone is harassing me right now,” and the other says “I got you. Do you need someone to stand with you right now?” Both cards list BART and community resources, as well as a four step process for offering support to the impacted person.

“The idea is that if someone is harassing you, you can slip someone the card right now without saying anything and get support,” Trost says.

To access the safety bystander cards, riders must approach the station agents and ask for them, and in some cases, be prepared to explain them. One of the two agents at Lafayette Station was immediately able to provide the cards. Agents at Rockridge, MacArthur, and Ashby were able to provide the cards after getting an explanation.

Lili, a rider enroute from Lafayette to 19th Street Station, says she’s become extra cautious since witnessing a chaotic situation she believes was drug induced years earlier. “I only ride on my own during daylight hours,” Lili explains. “If these cards were available near the entrance where we insert our tickets, people would use them. I would.”

74 year old Lafayette resident Lenora Jacob had no idea about the bystander program or cards, but proudly takes the BART at least twice a week to the very same station where Nia Jacobs began her last ride. “I wish there were more people on the BART train,” Jacob says, while describing the decline in passengers she’s observed after riding for three decades. “I feel safe on the BART. The new trains are nice and clear. Nobody bothers me. I try to talk to

somebody. I think more people should ride.”

33-year old Brandi Green has been riding the train her whole life and she’s never seen the bystander cards or noticed the billboards advertising the ‘Not One More Girl’ initiative. “A lot of times I notice, people don’t help,” Green said. “We’ve all gotten a little antisocial since the pandemic. Hopefully people can grow back into wanting to be around each other and help each other.”

Green says that while incidents like the recent Orinda derailment and mentally unwell people who she’s witnessed taking out their frustrations on passersby concern her, they won’t stop her from riding. “I don’t have a car and didn’t grow up with one, so I’ve always used BART. I’m vigilant. I sometimes wear earphones and I’m always aware of my surroundings. I carry pepper spray and a knife, but I’ve never had to use it,” Green says. “I have heard some terrible situations happen with not just girls and women, but also men, so I think if we can have inclusive messaging saying ‘I got you’ no matter who you are, it’ll be good. I think it’s important that we look out for each other.”

A BART Station Agent, who identified only as Robert, has been on the job for 16 years. He says he’s not surprised by some riders feeling more afraid than they used to because agents are also afraid. “We



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta  
**Lafayette resident Lenora Jacobs has been riding BART for decades.**

deal with a lot in an eight hour day. There are a lot of mental health issues, some drug use, and things are unpredictable,” Robert explains as someone jumps the entrance without paying. “I have seen people really scared and at times, have offered to stand with them until their train arrives. I think the intention behind the cards is really good. I do see the ads and the billboards but I’m not sure how many people pay attention to them and I’ve never had anyone really ask for the cards.”

When asked what ideas he had to get more cards in peoples hands, Robert suggests signage on the windows of the agent booth telling BART riders to ask for them or a small dispenser.

What can riders take from this? Initiatives like ‘Not One More Girl’ and bystander intervention methodologies like the “You got me?” “I got you” card campaign have the capacity to make a difference.

## NOTICE OF VACANCY EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notice is hereby given that a vacancy exists on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) for the seat representing Ward 2. Ward 2 lies in Contra Costa County and its boundaries include the Cities of Alamo, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Town of Danville; portions of San Ramon and Pleasant Hill and communities of Blackhawk and Diablo. The position will be vacant due to the resignation of John A. Coleman effective March 8, 2024. The EBMUD Board of Directors will appoint an individual to fill this seat.

The appointee will hold the seat until the next general election in November 2024. The individual subsequently elected in November 2024 would then serve the remainder of Coleman’s term - until December 31, 2026. The person selected to fill this vacancy in Ward 2 must be a registered voter and resident of the geographical boundaries of Ward 2. Eligibility can be verified by calling the Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters at (925) 335-7800 and by checking your address on EBMUD’s interactive ward map at <https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/board-directors/your-board-members>.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 11:00 a.m. Additionally, duties include service on Board Committees (which typically meet in the morning on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month), representing EBMUD on Joint Powers Authority boards, and attendance at special meetings and other meetings as required. Board members that meet minimum meeting requirements receive \$1,606.50 in monthly compensation. Board members are also eligible to receive medical, dental, vision and other benefits provided by EBMUD.

Persons wishing to be considered for this seat must submit an application packet consisting of a letter expressing their interest and qualifications for selection (no more than two pages), a resume, and a minimum of three (3) letters of reference. Application packets are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22 and can be submitted as follows:

- Email:** [Rischa.Cole@ebmud.com](mailto:Rischa.Cole@ebmud.com)
- Mail:** EBMUD, Attn: Board of Directors, P.O. Box 24055, MS806, Oakland, CA 94623
- In person:** EBMUD, Office of the Secretary, 375 11th Street, MS806, Oakland, CA 94607  
*Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

For additional information about EBMUD or the appointment process, please visit <https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/board-directors/board-elections/board-directors-ward-2-vacancy> or contact the Secretary of the District at [Rischa.Cole@ebmud.com](mailto:Rischa.Cole@ebmud.com) or (510) 287-0404.

The Board of Directors is scheduled to interview candidates at its Regular Board meeting starting at 4:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024 or if needed, at a Special Board meeting starting at 4:00 p.m. on either April 16 or April 17, 2024. The appointment will be made at a meeting of the Board not later than April 23, 2024.

A copy of this NOTICE OF VACANCY is being posted in three or more conspicuous places in the District as follows: EBMUD Administrative Offices in Oakland; City of Lafayette Administrative Offices in Lafayette; and City of Walnut Creek Administrative Offices in Walnut Creek. This notice is also being published in the Contra Costa Times, Oakland Tribune, San Ramon Valley Times, and other publications in Ward 2.

I, Rischa S. Cole, Secretary of the District of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, hereby declare that I have caused to be posted a NOTICE OF VACANCY on March 1, 2024.

Rischa S. Cole  
Secretary of the District



# Letters to the editor

## Safety Hazard Resolved

My thanks to our Town Manager, Scott Mitnick, and crew for their timely work done to eliminate a street safety hazard along Fernwood Drive near Stafford. This hazard has been an ongoing problem for several years. It appeared to be the result of nearby tree roots buckling the paving thus posing a possible loss of driver control to cyclists and drivers. It’s gratifying to see our tax dollars at work in the Moraga community.

Dick Socolich,  
Moraga

## PG&E gas safety and tree cutting

Like other Lamorinda residents, I cherish my family’s safety and our amazing natural surroundings. That’s why I and many others have demanded PG&E inact better gas safety instead of destroying hundreds of cherished trees with a discretionary and discredited right-of-way clearing program.

PG&E’s gas safety lapses are disturbing. Two of the five Lafayette gas transmission pipelines have never been hydrostatically strength tested. PG&E failed to install automated

safety valves to most quickly shut off gas during an emergency. The CPUC found PG&E in violation of adequately identifying High Consequence Areas, an important determination that triggers integrity management processes. For decades, PG&E left exposed pipelines with coating damage unaddressed in high wildfire areas. The list goes on.

Instead, PG&E pursues the removal of many heritage oak trees while fighting the City’s Tree Protection Ordinance. The City hired a pipeline expert who wrote in 2023: “I see no technical pipeline need to remove healthy trees on

or near PG&E’s gas pipelines with the City”. That conclusion should be no surprise to PG&E who admitted trees have never caused a transmission pipeline accident.

Since 2017, residents have demanded PG&E should stop this tree cutting. Let’s all now work together on better gas safety, including reducing third-party dig-ins. Until then, local gas safety is an empty promise unremedied by any amount of tree removal.

Michael Dawson  
Co-Founder, Save Lafayette Trees  
Lafayette

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](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556



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[RecycleSmart.org/survey](https://RecycleSmart.org/survey)

## 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](http://www.nixle.com)  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
925-283-3680

Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt  
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](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 18 - March 2

Alarms	48
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	80
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	15
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	28
Patrol Req./Security Check	38
Public/School Assembly Check	13
Supplemental Report	27
Vacation House Check	14
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	0

<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Injury	
Police Department	
Auto Burglary	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (8)	
1100 Block Martino Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Dui Misd	
1St St/Eb Sr 24	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3Rd St/Moraga Blvd.	

Reliez Station Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Police Department  
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Reckless Driving**  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
Bank Of America  
**Tc - Property Damage**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Deerhill/Oakhill  
Burton Dr./Glenside Dr.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1St St./Deer Hill Rd.  
Miller Dr./Deer Hill Rd.

**Vehicle Theft**  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud Credit Card  
Bank Of America Laf  
Fraud False Pretenses  
800 Block Revere Rd.  
1000 Block Via Baja

**Identity Theft**  
90 Block Hardie Dr., Mor  
3500 Block Springhill Rd.  
**Panhandling**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
**Petty Theft**  
3500 Block Golden Gate Wy  
3300 Block Hillside Terrace  
3500 Block Brook St.  
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Residential Burglary**  
3500 Block Via Los Colorados  
**Shoplift**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-fight  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Loud Motorcycle**  
1000 Block Buchan Dr.  
**Loud Music**  
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.  
3900 Block Franke Ln.

**Loud Noise**  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Public Nuisance**  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Trail  
Willow Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
**Vandalism**  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Bacon Ct./Bacon Way

**Other**  
Loitering  
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
Stray-traf Haz  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.

**Threats**  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Warrant Service**  
3200 Block Camino Colorados

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

Alarms	7
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	30
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	10
Patrol Req./Security Check	10
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	1
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	0
Ordinance Violation	0

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
200 Block Scofield Dr.  
Seven Eleven  
**Excessive Speed**  
Canyon/Valle Vista Staging Area  
Moraga Way/School St.  
**Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Commons Park  
**Tc - Property Damage**  
Campolindo High School

**Other criminal activity**  
Petty Theft  
500 Block Moraga Rd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Noise  
Not Available  
Vandalism  
1900 Block St Marys Rd.

**Other**  
Mentally Ill Commit  
1300 Block Rimer Dr.  
**Weapon At School**  
Joaquin Moraga Int School



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back**





# Yucatan salad with fruit, veggies, and a bit of spice

By Susie Iventosch



Chocolate cake

Photos Susie Iventosch

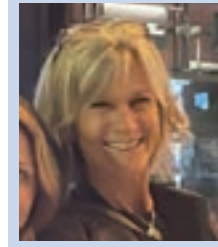
We were serving our Citrus Trio Turkey Tenderloin (Lamorinda Weekly August 19, 2020 issue) for a dinner party last week, and were coming up short on what to serve as a salad with it. The marinade for this turkey dish is vibrant and zesty with lime, lemon, and orange juice, plus lots of different spices! We wanted something equally bright and fruity, while still being a little bit

spicy. So, we set about finding a fun recipe that would complement the main course and discovered the idea of a Yucatan salad, made with a variety of fresh cut veggies, cabbage, lettuce, fresh pineapple, avocado, and lots of fruit juices including grapefruit. We absolutely loved this combination, and it was perfect with the turkey.

We also had a little bit of extra salad dress-

ing, so we marinated shrimp in it and barbecued it along with a little bit of blue cheese in a tin for an appetizer. And, if you are looking for a fun complementary cocktail, especially

with the warmer weather coming, try our Yucatan Martini! It's also made with plenty of fresh squeezed citrus juices. You'll definitely get your share of Vitamin C with this dinner!



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>

## Yucatan Salad

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 jicama
- 1/2 red bell pepper
- 1/2 orange bell pepper
- 1 head romaine lettuce, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups finely shredded green cabbage
- 1 cups mixed baby greens (or arugula)
- 1 cup fresh cilantro leaves,
- 15 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup diced fresh pineapple
- 1 avocado
- 1 ear grilled corn, cut off the cob
- Garnishes: lime wedges, avocado slices and crispy tortilla strips

### Dressing

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp. white wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. Lime juice
- 1 tbsp. grapefruit juice
- 1 tbsp. orange juice
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 1/2 oz. feta cheese
- 1 1/4 cups loosely packed fresh cilantro leaves
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 1/2 tsp. Spanish paprika
- 1/2 tsp. pink Himalayan salt
- 1/4 tsp. fresh ground pepper
- 1/3 jalapeno, diced
- 1/2 chipotle pepper in adobe sauce, smashed

### DIRECTIONS

To make the crispy tortilla strips, cut your corn or flour tortillas into two-inch strips about 1/4-inch wide. Heat a little bit of olive oil in a skillet and add the tortilla strips. Cook over medium-low heat until golden brown and crispy. Remove from heat and set aside.

Place all ingredients for the dressing in a mini food processor and blend until smooth. Set aside and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Place romaine lettuce, cabbage, and baby greens in the bottom of a large salad bowl. Layer the remaining ingredients on top. Gently toss with dressing and garnish each serving with extra avocado, a lime wedge, and crispy tortilla strips.

## Yucatan Martini



### INGREDIENTS per drink

- Fresh Squeezed Juices:
- 1 tbsp. grapefruit juice
  - 1 tbsp. orange juice
  - 2 tsp. lime juice
  - 1 tsp. lemon
  - 2 oz. gin
  - 1/2 crushed ice
- Garnishes:
- 5-10 juniper berries
  - 1 slice or twist each: grapefruit, orange, lemon, and lime
  - 1 sprig cilantro

### DIRECTIONS

Set up your glass with the juniper berries in the bottom of the glass. Place crushed ice, juices, and gin in a martini shaker. Shake until icy cold. Pour over juniper berries and watch the berries float to the top. Then garnish with fruit slices and cilantro. Cheers!

# 'Business in the Digital Age' presentation

... continued from Page A5

With LinkedIn, use thought leadership (popular content); collaborative articles; and strategic engagement with other businesses that may have commonalities with yours.

Weider also discussed the "Do's and Don't's" of converting an audience to your site. "Do" call to action; respond to messages; re-share your content in stories, groups, etc; add links to stories whenever possible; and utilize creative strategies to draw engagement by having contests, give-aways, or special offers. "Don't" direct-message individuals who did not engage beyond a Like; don't rely on your social media platform as your primary selling tool; and don't wait and assume customers will magically appear.

The importance of social media ads was Weider's next topic, and he recommended a Facebook and Instagram business page; a Meta Ads Manager; photo/video content; a landing page/lead form; and targeting geography, demographics, interests, and custom audience. With LinkedIn, businesses should run ads on the LinkedIn page, as well as follow the model set for Facebook and Instagram.

Weider also touched on a Google business pro-

file and how to use it. A business's Google ranking is based on how much activity is on its Google profile. As such, it is important to ask customers to leave a review, which these days rank higher in importance than Yelp. PPC (Pay Per Click) ads, their cost and factors to consider (audience behavior, goals, and your return on investment); and Google Local Services Ads were also mentioned.

"In our role as the Chamber of Commerce, we advocate for all types of organizations, and it's important to the Chamber that we help them spread the word about their organizations, facilitate their branding needs, and, most importantly, help them communicate with their clientele and one another," said Bidstrup. "If we can get more organizations up and proficient on social media, dialed in to the (free and paid) specifics of what Google can do for them, and understanding the digital marketing tools that might work for their specific organizations, it will be easier for people to find resources in our community, hear about interesting events and opportunities, and really share in the richness of Moraga and Lamorinda as a whole."



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- How to stop nerve damage before the effects are irreversible
- How our revolutionary protocol provides outstanding results for sufferers of Peripheral Neuropathy

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**Not to be missed**

**Art**

A vibrant exhibit, "Moving Energy," debuts at the Moraga Art Gallery, 432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center on Wednesday, March 20, with a free public reception on Saturday, April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Open daily, Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., the gallery invites art fans of all ages to come in, browse, and linger a while. [www.moragaart-gallery.com](http://www.moragaart-gallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**Art Gallery at the Orinda Library:** Students Rock the Art at VAC. The Lamorinda Arts Council's (LAC) High School Visual Arts Competition (VAC) features artwork from students living in or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette, or Moraga, including all schools in the Acalanes Union High School District. In addition to the in-person art exhibit, which runs through April 7, the contest features cash prizes, merit certifications, and an online public exhibit on the LAC website,

**Not to be missed**

[www.LamorindaArts.org/online-galleries/](http://www.LamorindaArts.org/online-galleries/). The reception in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, 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. (925) 359-4490. [www.lamorindaarts.org/vac](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/vac).

**Music**

**Front Porch Presents:** Folk Music Festival at Town Hall Theatre Co, 3535 School Street, Lafayette on April 5 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door [www.townhalltheatre.com/front-porch](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/front-porch)

**Rebecca Bogart presents** Gifts from the Darkness on Saturday, March 16, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Berkeley Piano Club, 2724 Haste Street, Berkeley. Carnegie Hall virtuoso pianist Rebecca Bogart performs at the intimate Berkeley Piano Club. Works by Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn & Chopin. Cost: \$50, \$70 for keyboard view, \$100 for keyboard view plus pre-event lecture. For more

info see <https://rebeccabogart.com> or call (510) 526-1787 or email [info@rebeccabogart.com](mailto:info@rebeccabogart.com).

**Theatre**

**The Great Leap** will perform March 16 – April 7, at the Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr, Walnut Creek. It follows a University of San Francisco college basketball team that travels to Beijing in 1989 for a well-publicized exhibition game. For coaches and players, the match offers a chance to claim personal victories on and off the court. For tickets (\$42-\$70) and more information, the public may visit [LeshlerArtsCenter.org](http://LeshlerArtsCenter.org) or call the box office at (925) 943-7469

**Diablo Ballet presents their Stars & Stripes** Jubilee program on March 22-23 at the Leshler Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Performances: Friday, March 22 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 23 at 2 p.m. Single tickets are on sale now (\$26 - \$54) with senior and youth pricing available. For tickets, call

**Not to be missed**

(925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit [www.lesherarts-center.org](http://www.lesherarts-center.org) or [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org)

**Town Hall Education** is excited to announce that four local finalists have been chosen for production at the annual Young Playwrights Festival! The Young Playwrights Festival (YPF) is a part of Town Hall Education's Young Playwrights Program. From the many talented writers, four finalists have been chosen whose plays will be performed by professional actors on March 23 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: Adult \$15, Youth \$10, Pay-What-You-Can Tickets available at the door. [www.townhalltheatre.com/young-playwrights](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/young-playwrights)

**Other**

**American Assoc. University Women - OML Branch** general meeting on Tuesday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church. Guests are welcome to join this meeting featuring a panel of 6 women: Pat Rudebusch, Leta McCollough Seletzky, Katharine White, Saira Pasha, Dr. Jacalyn Buettner, Dr. Jamie Textor.

**Mocktails & Cocktails:** Join those who love art, literature, music, and everything in between on March 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Tutu's, 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Time for some conversation about your creative journey; artists of all kinds are invited to bring prompts. Look for our knockoff Picassoesque poster of surrealist Dora Maar – that's us! No host bar. Just show up. Questions? Email Lamorinda Arts Council at [literary@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:literary@lamorindaarts.org) or call (925) 359.9940.

**Spirituality and the Land** Beneath Your Feet - Wine and Tapas Speaker Series welcomes Eco-Chaplain, Lauren Van Ham on Sunday, March 24 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Lauren has spent a career tending to the sacred voice of the biosphere. Lauren is a guest writer for "Progressing Spirit," an online publication exploring theology, spirituality, and public events. She serves as a spiritual director and guest faculty for several schools in the Bay Area. Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Visit [CreeksideCommons.org/upcomingevents](http://CreeksideCommons.org/upcomingevents) for more information.

**The Lamorinda Indian** community is gearing up to welcome Spring with

a Holi celebration Sunday, March 24 at 1 p.m. Join for an afternoon filled with colors, music, food, and community spirit. To RSVP and receive event details, please text 312-404-4469. Let's come together to make this Holi celebration a memorable and colorful experience!

**Garden**

**The Moraga Garden Club** meeting will be held on March 21 at 9:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. "Vegetables Love Flowers" is the topic of their presenter Heather Marano, master gardener and owner of Bush Poppy Farm in Orinda. Community-supported (CSA), Bush Poppy Farm focuses on regenerative farming and offers educational workshops on floral and gardening design. Open to the public and welcome new members. [www.moragagardenclub.org](http://www.moragagardenclub.org)

**The Lafayette Garden Club** monthly meeting begins on March 14 at 9:30 a.m. for social time and nibbles before a short business meeting at 10 a.m. and guest speaker at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Kim Bancroft, a longtime teacher who became an editor and writer. Kim will present Nature, Landscapes, Farms and Gardens Through Two 19th Century Bay Area Women's Eyes. She will bring copies of her book for sale and there will be a raffle for one of her books. The meeting will be at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Free to attend, guests welcome. Please visit [www.lafayettegardensclub.com](http://www.lafayettegardensclub.com) for more information.

**Bringing Back the Natives** Garden Tour and Green Home Features Showcase on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17, free talks in multiple nurseries. Online tour April 6 and 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In-person tour May 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information and registration at [www.bringingbackthenatives.net/](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/)


**Montelindo Garden Club** presents speaker and past club president Jill Appenzeller, on "Fear of Flowers,"—arranging flowers; discover your style and gain confidence in your artistic expression, on Friday, March 15 at 9 a.m. at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Free. For more information, see [www.montelindogarden.com/2024-meetings.html](http://www.montelindogarden.com/2024-meetings.html)



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*Lamorinda's Religious Services*



Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

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OR ONLINE AT [MVPCTODAY.ORG](http://MVPCTODAY.ORG)

**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](http://www.christianscienceorinda.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](http://www.stanselms.us)

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

Please join us for our Easter Sunday services with music and scripture inspired by Jesus Christ and His Atonement. All are welcome!

**March 31st at 10am**  
**3776 Via Granda**  
**Moraga, CA 94556**



\* Please join us the week prior on Saturday, March 23rd for a children's Easter egg hunt at 8:45am followed by a breakfast at 9am

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

SUNDAY SOUL FORUM | 8:30AM  
SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:30AM  
IN PERSON OR FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM

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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**

**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
invites you to join us  
**March 24th** at 10am for Palm Sunday Service  
**March 28th** anytime between 11:30am -6:30pm to walk our Maundy Thursday meditation labyrinth in the Fellowship Hall  
**March 29th** at 6:30pm for our Good Friday Service  
**March 31st** for Easter Sunday Service at 8:30 and 10:30 With a Brunch and an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)  
**Special Easter services** are Maundy Thursday (March 28 7pm), Good Friday (March 29 7pm), and Easter Sunday (March 31 8:30am and 10am).



WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on [facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/](http://facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/)  
Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.



ORINDA Community Church  
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

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

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

**Lamorinda Weekly**  
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24,000 printed copies; delivered to homes in Lamorinda.

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# Troop 204 Lafayette celebrates Eagle Scout service projects

Submitted by Lynda Rotundo



Photo Provided

Seated from left: Nicholas Owens, Griffin Rotundo, Luke Springer, Matthew Hoffman and Jace Carter, standing from left: Naoto Watanabe, James Bymaster, Ronan Collins, Lars Erickson, Lawrence Zhang and Ethan Lee

Lafayette Troop 204 proudly announces the successful completion of Eagle Scout service projects by its newest Eagle Scouts. These projects represent a significant milestone for both the scouts and the troop, which has

been cultivating outdoor adventures, leadership skills, and community engagement for over 90 years.

Eagle Scout James Bymaster spearheaded a repair and restoration project at the Tilden Park

steam train area for Golden Gate Live Steamers, preserving a beloved local attraction.

Eagle Scout Jace Carter oversaw the creation of a Lego activity table and conducted a Lego drive for Springhill

Elementary School in Lafayette, fostering creativity and learning among students.

Eagle Scout Ronan Collins organized a toiletry drive for Project Open Hand in San Francisco, providing essential supplies to support the sick and vulnerable in the community.

Eagle Scout Lars Erickson led a project to restore a historic walnut huller and installed a sign sharing historical significance at Lar Rieu Park in Walnut Creek, preserving local heritage.

Eagle Scout Matthew Hoffman collaborated with Core Academy to build picnic tables, stump seats and shade coverage, enhancing outdoor recreational spaces for the students.

Eagle Scout Ethan Lee worked with the special education classroom at Springhill Elementary School by designing a sensory cart and alphabet bowling blocks, promoting inclusive learning

experiences.

Eagle Scout Nicholas Owens managed the collection and shipped tennis equipment to Club de Tennis Las Cabras in rural Chile, expanding access to sports for underprivileged youth.

Eagle Scout Griffin Rotundo partnered with Lafayette Nursery School to establish a vertical edible school garden, enriching preschoolers' learning with a "Garden to Snack Table" experience.

Eagle Scout Luke Springer collaborated with Lindsay Wildlife Experience to build perches for large birds at their animal hospital, contributing to the well-being of wildlife.

Eagle Scout Naoto Watanabe conducted a music workshop for students at Maya Lin Elementary School in collaboration with the Bay Area Music Project, enriching their educational experience.

Eagle Scout Lawrence Zhang organized a

fundraising initiative with Calvary Church to create Christmas Gift Boxes shipped worldwide to support less fortunate individuals.

Troop 204 Lafayette extends its heartfelt congratulations to these exemplary scouts for their outstanding achievements and contributions to their communities. These projects embody the spirit of scouting and uphold Troop 204 Lafayette's tradition of service and leadership.

Troop 204, Lafayette's oldest BSA troop, is celebrating 92 years of scouting and community service. Since the Troop's first Eagle Scout in 1945, the program has advanced 449 young men through Eagle Rank. Troop 204 meets at the historic cabin on the corner of School Street and 1st Street in Lafayette and is currently accepting new members. For more information, please visit [www.troop204.com](http://www.troop204.com) or contact [scoutmaster@troop204.com](mailto:scoutmaster@troop204.com)

# Three Orinda scouts achieve scouting's top rank

Submitted by David Beckman



Photo Angelica Steinmeier

From left: Eagle Scouts Myles Miller, Ryan Loughran and Eliot Kim

On Dec. 2, 2023, Scouts Boy Scouts of America Troop 303 of Orinda held an Eagle Court of Honor at St Stephen's Episcopal Church to commemorate the achievement of three Scouts, Myles Miller, Ryan Loughran, and Eliot Kim, each of whom obtained scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. The Eagle ceremony drew scouts, parents, and a host of local officials.

Since its inception in 1912, only 2% of eligible scouts have obtained the Eagle Scout rank. Eliot, Ryan, and Myles join a stalwart group of only 136 Orinda scouts who have

earned the rank in over half a century, since the first Orinda Eagle commendations in 1968.

A key requirement of Eagle Scout attainment is the "Eagle Project," which benefits the local community. Scoutmaster Angelica Steinmeier, who along with Scoutmaster Michael Finegan, leads Troop 303, notes that "when meeting with life scouts on project selection, I encourage them to choose a cause that they are passionate about." In recent years, Eagle projects have benefited the Lamorinda area and as far away as Castro Valley. Projects underway now will

extend Troop 303's service to Oakland, through an effort to provide backpacks and school supplies to unsheltered and housing insecure youth.

Students in the fifth grade and up and their parents/guardians are welcome to attend an Open House at St Stephen's Episcopal Church on Monday, March 25, 66 St. Stephen's Drive in Orinda, at 7:30 pm. Or for more information, please reach out to Troop Communications Chair, David Beckman, at [troop303communications@gmail.com](mailto:troop303communications@gmail.com) or visit Troop 303's website.

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# Acalanes Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) hosts annual tea and scholarship awards ceremony

Submitted by Sarah Gorham



Photo provided

From left: Terry Lucido, Sarah Gorham, Eden Hall, Hannah Raeder, Sahil Chada, Mary Carillo, Matthew Olson, Emma Ngo, Natalie Baratz, Nia Jackson Wright, Joanna Yu, Katherine Isabelle Jacobson.

The Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) hosted a high tea at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Feb 4, recognizing five local seniors and five East Bay fifth graders. The seniors participating in DAR's Good Citizens Program submitted a packet exhibiting the four qualities of a good citizen: de-

pendability, service, leadership, and patriotism. The students had the option to write an essay on this year's focus question: "What are the civic responsibilities of a good citizen and why are these duties, activities, and behaviors important to the shaping of the America you hope to experience?"

The overall winner who will advance to the

District Level was Katherine Jacobson from Campolindo High School, who was awarded \$1,000. Each participant received a flag flown over the US capitol in their name, along with a \$250 award, and a Good Citizens pin and certificate. The fifth graders submitted an informative essay on John Philip Sousa's march "Stars and Stripes Forever", which was first performed on May 14, 1897. Congratulations to the first-place winner Matthew Olsen, who advanced to the DAR's District level. The Acalanes Chapter Members are delighted to reward these talented and patriotic students and wish them well as they continue their life's journey. For scholarship and membership information please contact: sarahgorham@yahoo.com and mary\_carillo@sbcglobal.net

Members of the Acalanes DAR also celebrated Nancy Dupuis's 101st birthday at the same event.

## In Memory

### Deborah Stephenson Reed

Sept. 14, 1969 – Feb. 27, 2024



Her family is deeply saddened to share that Deborah Stephenson Reed of Orinda, CA passed away at home on February 27th, 2024, at the age of 54, due to complications of metastatic breast cancer.

Deb was born to Robert K. and Nancy J. Stephenson in Marin County on September 14th, 1969. Deb grew up in Davis, California and graduated from St. Francis High School in Sacramento. She attended the University of Oregon and Simmons College, graduating early (no surprise to those who know her) with a B.A. in American Studies.

Deb and her future husband Mitch Reed met the first day of ninth

grade in Spanish class. Mitch was madly in love with her from the second he saw her bright eyes, her beautiful smile, and the incredible energy and humor that drew everyone to her. Deb took a few years to be convinced of Mitch's merits, but once they began dating, they were together for the next 40 years. Deb and Mitch married in June 1991, and they moved into a tiny apartment in Hoboken, NJ. Deb worked in adult special education in Manhattan, with a break in 1992 precipitated by the birth of the first of their wonderful daughters, Hannah Jane. The family moved in 1996 to Northern California, which was always where Deb's heart was. Another daughter, Elizabeth Virginia, joined the family in 1998. The family expanded again in July 2020 and December 2022 with the birth of perfect grandchildren Oliver Joseph and Lilly Wolf Olson, to Hannah and her husband Dr. Kyle Olson.

While she is gone far too soon, Deb packed more into her 54 years than most people could in 100. All who knew her will remember her as a force of nature. She always put others before herself, and there was never a problem that a friend or family member had that Deb would not drop everything to solve. She worked tirelessly as a social worker, volunteer, and consultant, contributing her empathy, creativity and self-taught expertise in Salesforce and fundraising to organizations such as the court system of Hudson County, NJ, CASA, the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Humane Society of Silicon Valley, the National Center for Youth Law, and countless others. She pursued each of her interests with unbridled enthusiasm; she was a certified Master Composter and Gardener and an amateur landscape and interior designer. Her other passion was hiking with her dogs Buster, Boom Boom, and Nacho.

In 2021, Deb took on a massive renovation to a neglected log cabin in Wisconsin which will forever be her family legacy. Even in the most challenging time of her life Deb endured countless hardships to travel repeatedly to LA to participate in a clinical trial – it was incredibly important to her that her sacrifices will likely change the lives of so many women facing this brutal disease.

The years after her initial diagnosis in 2005 allowed Deb to raise her daughters, plan an amazing wedding for her daughter Hannah, see her daughter Ellie find a wonderful partner in life Riga, meet her grandpuppy Walnut and grandkitty Arthur, and fill her grandchildren's lives with Gomma's joy and craziness. She was a ringleader and entertainer for all, hosting epic holiday parties which included costume contests, talent shows, and even a live piñata (aka Mitch) who was chased and assaulted by a pack of cousins, nieces, and nephews. Even after her disease came back, Mitch & Deb traveled the world as they did throughout her life, visiting Australia, Amsterdam, and London in 2022. Her family is incredibly happy that they got that time, but the world will never be the same without her.

Deb is survived by her parents Robert ("Kim") Stephenson and Nancy Stephenson, her husband Mitch Reed, daughters Hannah (Kyle Olson), and Ellie Reed (Riga Moettus), grandchildren Oliver and Lilly Olson, and siblings Bob Stephenson (Michiko Jameson), Jennifer Jones (Rich Jones), and John Stephenson (Nathalie Jans), and a large extended family. Her faithful doggie companion Nacho never left her side (including a sneak visit to the hospital – shhh!).

Her family would like to recognize Elle Stephens, a family friend who guided Deb through every step of her cancer journey, and whom they believe is a hero to so many women. They'd also like to offer immense gratitude to Dr. Mark Moasser of UCSF, who was Deb's partner in fighting cancer for 20 years. Thank you to all the dear friends and family who supported Deb and her family through the challenges of her illness.

While Deb loved flowers, she requested that those who wish to honor her make charitable contributions. Deb loved supporting children, conservation, and animals. She hated being told what to do, so she asked that people choose a cause that is dear to them.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**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](mailto:story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## In Memory

### Nelrose Lenore Mahoney

April 26, 1933 - February 13, 2024



Nelrose Lenore (Shirey) Mahoney passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of February 13, 2024 in Pasadena, California at the age of 90. She was the daughter of Leland Dewitt and Susan Surelda Shirey of Knox, Pennsylvania.

Known as Rose to her family and friends, she moved west to San Francisco after graduating from high school. She worked as a Pacific Bell Telephone Operator, where she met the love of her life and devoted husband, John Edward. They moved from San Francisco to New Jersey and returned to California to settle and spend many happy years together in Moraga. He preceded her in death in 1995.

Rose was the second youngest of eight children, and is survived by her two children and their spouses, John Alan (Melissa) and Susanne Rose Filback (Rob) and five grandchildren Jack, Bridget, Robert, Annie, Emma and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Rose touched the lives of so many and will be remembered for being a loving wife and homemaker, mother, and grandmother. She was an avid reader, loved music, and played the piano. Rose was a talented and accomplished artist, and enjoyed painting with oils and watercolors throughout her adult life. Rose also collected vintage dolls and doll clothing and was active in the doll collecting community. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and was enthusiastic about her genealogical research and family history.

A private service will be held in Northern California with the immediate family at a future date.

## 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](mailto:story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

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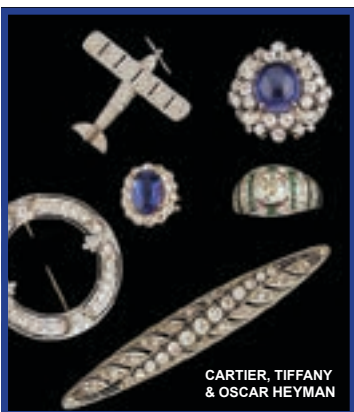


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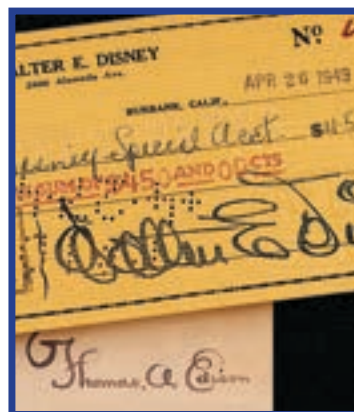
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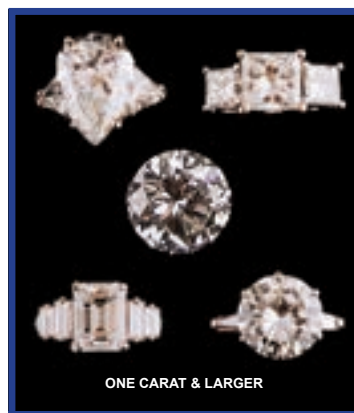
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# The end of an era

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Laura Kirleis sat on a lawn chair in front of the tiny square Perks/Caffino where she's spent a quarter-century of her life - serving coffee, smoothies, hot breakfast sandwiches, snacks, warm greetings, smiles, and well wishes. "I'm sad," Kirleis said while smiling through tears "I'm going to miss it. The people we see everyday mean a lot. There's a lot of interaction. It's a very special place."

Kirleis's journey to Caffino-turned Perks began when she was caring for young children and her grandmother, who had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. At the time, her husband came home from his job at (another) Caffino and told Kirleis that they should buy a franchise. This surprised Kirleis as a non-coffee drinker.

"He told me that after my grandmother passes, (the drive through coffee shop) would save me. He said I'd need the camaraderie of people around me...and he was right. It has saved me," Kirleis said. "I love the people here. People are busy, but this has been a place they could go while on the run. I can't tell you how many times someone at one window knew the person at the other one."

As Kirleis chats in front of Perks, former customer Keenan Parmelee stops by. "I've been coming here everyday since my son was very young and now he's a teenager. This place (and the staff) have been a part of our lives and my kids' lives. It was the one place I could come to during the pandemic," Parmelee said. "It's been an important part of our

community. I guess now I'm going to have to make my own coffee."

Kirleis had been led to believe (by her landlord) that she was vacating for the sake of a forthcoming construction so the city could build offices and a teen center, which she deemed a worthy cause.

"I don't think we would've survived the construction of this lot with me in it," Kirleis said. "Maybe I (might've proposed) that we stay until the plans are developed or the construction begins."

It turns out, however, that although the city has been interested in acquiring the Boswell's property, which city manager Niroop Srivastva said is ideally situated between the police station and the library, the city has not purchased the prop-

erty. Srivastva said the city appraised the property in 2019 and the owners declined. In late 2023, when the Lafayette city council was approached by the property owner about a potential sale, the council declined the offer.

"The City supports and values local businesses," Srivastva said. "We also have a strong partnership with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and support the local small business community through Shop Local promotions such as the new ExperienceLafayette.org business directory website and the eCard Program (a localized gift card that works at participating local stores)."

For now though, the lot, which once bustled with people driving through or walking up to get coffee or snacks, sits



Laura Kirleis

Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

still in front of what has been a cornerstone of community and connec-

tion to Lamorindins-marking the end of an era.

# Orinda/Moraga Girl Scout International Fair

Submitted by Karleen Stern



Photo provided

On Sunday, Feb. 25, over 450 Girl Scouts from the Orinda-Moraga Service Unit of the Northern California Girl Scouts Coun-

cil gathered at Joaquin Moraga Middle School participate in the annual Girl Scout International Fair. Each year, in honor

of World Thinking Day, the Orinda-Moraga Service Unit of NoCal Girl Scouts hosts an International Fair. World Think-

ing Day, first celebrated in 1926, is a day of international friendship, providing an opportunity to speak out on issues that impact young girls and women around the world. World Thinking Day is celebrated by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in over 153 countries.

This year, 29 troops within the Orinda-Moraga Service Unit hosted country booths, including Argentina, Greece, India, Israel, Philippines, Thailand, and Ukraine among others. The troops spent the weeks before the Inter-

national Fair learning about their chosen country, its language, history, customs, and culture. Troops then decorate their booths and plan activities like crafts, games, or food tasting - for other Girl Scouts to participate in to learn more about the country.

At the International Fair, Scouts spent the afternoon traveling from country booth to country booth, learning about each country's unique customs, sampling cuisine from the country, playing traditional games, learning a few

new words in that country's language, or participating in a craft. Once they've visited the country, they get a stamp in their passport.

The event brings together Girl Scouts of all ages, from Daisies (Kindergarten and First Grade) to Cadettes and Senior Scouts in high school.

It's fun to learn about different countries and try new foods, said one Del Rey fourth grade scout and now there are even more counties I hope to visit one day!

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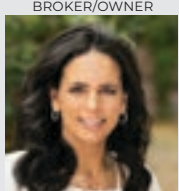
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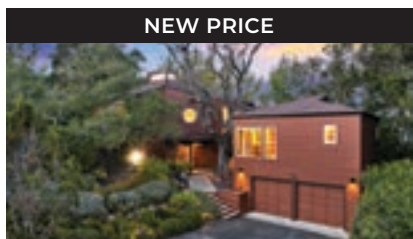
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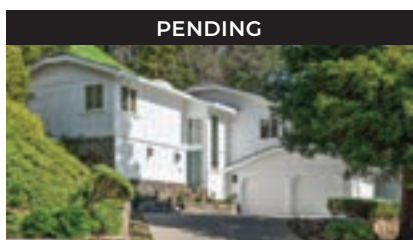
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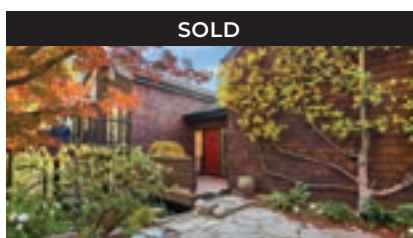
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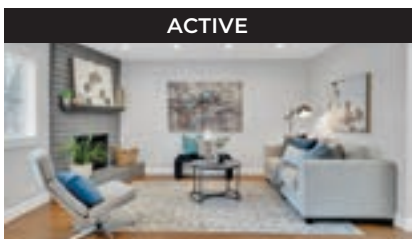
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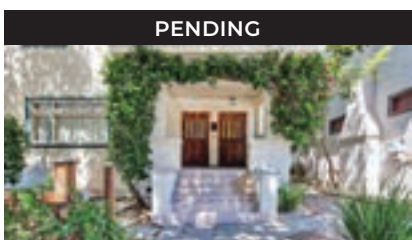
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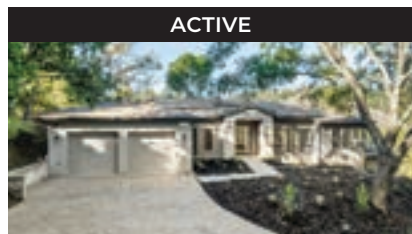
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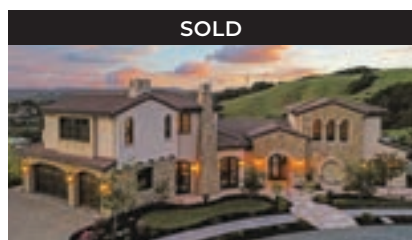
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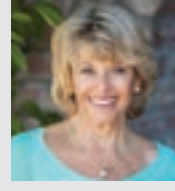
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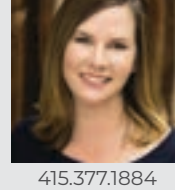
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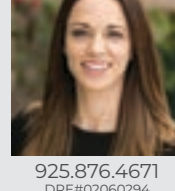
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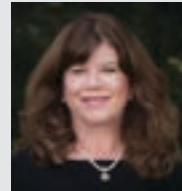
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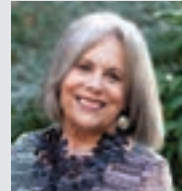
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DRE# 01320608



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DRE# 01970768



415.690.6037  
DRE# 01913149



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

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

## Nick Safir named Miramonte's Head Football Coach

By Jon Kingdon

After twelve years as an assistant high school football coach, the last two as the defensive coordinator at Moreau Catholic (Hayward), Nick Safir was named the head coach at Miramonte High School.

After seeing the job listing, Safir jumped at the opportunity. "I sent in my application about 30 seconds after the job was posted," Safir said. "Growing up the Bay Area I know the excellence of Miramonte and it's athletics and I'm very excited for this opportunity."

Safir was an offensive lineman and middle linebacker at St. Mary's (Berkeley) High school and a linebacker and tight end at Linfield College, and is currently in his third year as a full-time teacher in the middle school in Hayward. "I've dedicated my life to mentoring youth," Safir said. "It really brings me a lot of joy to develop these young boys into young men."

Miramonte's athletic director Sean Hennessey

shared how Safir won him over. "First and foremost, he's an educator," Hennessey said. "Being a teacher really came across as a strong plus for Nick. He understands talking to students and student athletes and he stood out in every phase of what we're looking for."

Safir was an assistant coach at Piedmont and Encinal prior to Moreau Catholic. "Piedmont was most like Miramonte in that they prioritize academics as well as athletic excellence," Safir said.

Getting a head coaching position was something that Safir was pointing towards after graduating from Linfield. After coaching for five years at Piedmont, the next six years at Encinal and Moreau were key for Safir. "Coaching under Keith Minor at Encinal and Moreau really helped to develop me into the finer points of what it takes to be a head coach," Safir said.

Safir's family was

equally thrilled with his appointment. "My wife, Brianne (and their 1½ year old daughter Piper) and my sister are extremely excited for me because they know how long I've been working for this," Safir said. "When I told my dad, he told my mom to get out the good scotch. They live on the east coast now but they're going to be flying back for a few games."

Safir has already hit the ground running. "It starts in the offseason, and we've been getting in the weight room already," Safir said. "It's about coaching these kids hard and in the fundamentals. I'm excited for the challenge, but it's going to take a lot of effort and dedication from the kids. If they follow the program that we're setting out for them and if they take to the coaching, we'll be competitive with all of our opponents."

Just as important to Safir is putting his staff together. "We've got almost a complete staff

with about six or seven coaches on the varsity staff, some of whom were retained from the previous staff and then I have three or four guys on the JV staff and we're looking for freshmen staff because I think we're going to be able to have a freshman team this year."

Safir is well aware of the discrepancy in the team's head-to-head records against Campolindo, Acalanes, and Las Lomas. "I was pretty shocked to find out that Miramonte has not beaten Campolindo since 2010 since this was one of the most elite rivalries in the Bay Area and I think it still is, but you can't call it a rivalry if one side wins every single time," Safir said. "We want to compete with those teams because we think our program is on that level and I definitely recognize that as one of the issues that the community really wants to see."

Miramonte will be running a spread offense with the return of quar-

terback Carson Blair and wide receivers, Jack Quinnild (36/568), Andrew Bjornson (26/626), Preston Rguem (23/184) and Mitchell Reichenbach (15/185). "We're pretty excited about the receivers we have coming back and the young receivers we have coming up from the JV so we're going to do everything we can to get as many of those guys on the field but, we will have the flexibility go to two backs and to use a tight end if we need to."

Safir will be running a 4-2-5 scheme on defense "because we want to get more defensive backs on the field to cover the many schools that are using a spread offense so we're going to try and get more speed on the field."

In the end, it comes down to tackling and physicality for Safir. "My focus is going to be on changing the culture of the team in the secondary by tackling a lot more in practice," Safir said. "I want to make our opponents drive the field



Photo Ann Murphy

Nick Safir Miramonte Head Football Coach

and play against a really tough-nosed defense. With our conditioning program and the athletes that we have, we can wear those teams down on the defensive side of the ball."

This is going to be a non-stop job for Safir. "I'm well versed in how to make it work year-round, where we can work out, what we can push, how much of the time they're supposed to be at these practices and offseason lifts. We have a twelve-month plan and have come up with some great ideas for how we're going to develop our program."

## Success and growth for Lamorinda Wrestling

By Jon Kingdon



Photo provided

Campolindo' Piper Lalli and Coach Phil Freeman

With a new beginning at Acalanes, continued growth at Miramonte, and a third straight season for a Campolindo wrestler to make it to the state tournament, it was a season to build on for the Lamorinda wrestling teams.

### Campolindo

Campolindo head coach Phil Freeman has set a high bar for himself and for his team. "We had a pretty solid season that could have been better in some ways, but I think it was a solid year," Freeman said.

The Cougars were well represented at the DAL league tournament. Luke Hansen - first, Shane Harris - second, Emory Hsiao-146, Daniel Thaler - fifth, Emilio Penate - sixth, Jack Sim-

mons - sixth, with Harris, who had 27 pins this season, finishing in the top twelve at the North Coast sectional tournament.

"I think we'll do well next year," Freeman said. "Luke has a lot of leadership and Soushians Bahramifar (190) showed a lot of character, and he will be one of our leaders as well."

For the girls at the DAL, Piper Lalli came in first, Camila Baxter - second, K.T. Thompson - second, Ori Rogers - third, and Mailena Yang - fourth.

At the NCS, Lalli placed third, qualifying for the state championship. Baxter finished in seventh, Thompson and Patricia Davila Gil finished in the top 12

and the girls finished 13th overall out of 80 teams.

For Lalli, making it to state was the capstone to four years of wrestling for Campolindo.

"Wrestling has taught me so much about life," Lalli said. "When things got hard, I learned how to push through it. I've never done anything that's been more physically and mentally demanding and it definitely made me a stronger person, and I will take that work ethic forward, knowing what kind of mental strengths you can have and where that can take you."

At the CIF, Lalli did win the Pursuing Victory with Honor Award. "This award reflects the intangible qualities that Piper holds such as being a terrific team captain, having a great character and personality along with being so nice," Freeman said.

### Acalanes

Leading the Acalanes boys was senior Dylan Potter (24-17), who had a solid season but came up short at NCS due to a knee injury. In his first season, sophomore Adam Caicedo (5-4) had limited time with the team due to the extended football season. "Adam finished in fourth at the league tournament, which was good

since he only had six weeks with the team, so I see that as a success," Nelson said.

Ian Sanftner, in only his second year, was a bright spot, finishing third at the league tournament but had a tough draw at NCS. "I expect Ian to come back with a new purpose next season," Nelson said. "Marley Oh is an absolute leader and is going to be a good wrestler, and Sam Whipple just missed making it to the NCS in a very tough 215 weight class."

The girls team was led by senior Dakota Goyert, who took seventh at the NCS tournament. "Dakota battled through some injuries midway through the season and I believe she is the first female medalist at Acalanes to place there which is a huge accomplishment," Nelson said.

Head Coach Steven Nelson felt it was a strong start for his first year at Acalanes. "When I was hired, I was told that we would be starting the season with six or seven kids and I ended up with 23 kids, so I would have to say that's a pretty big success," Nelson said. "The outlook for our team is nothing but good."

### Miramonte

In just three seasons, Head Coach Louis Suba

has seen his roster of wrestlers grow from nine to almost 50 this year. "We're still a very young team considering 80% of our wrestlers are freshmen and sophomores," Suba said. "Most of our first-year wrestlers started the season without having ever seen a high school wrestling match before, so their learning curve was steep."

Owen Beidelman, Finn Hura, and Brody Suba all qualified for the NCS championship. "These were three of our hardest workers with the most wins during the regular season, and wrestled against some of the toughest competition in Northern California," Head Coach Louis Suba said.

Hura, just a freshman, finished the season with a 31 and 14 record, winning a varsity tournament, took third at the DAL Championships, and won twice at NCS.

For the girls team, senior captain Izarra Ballesteros concluded her career with an eighth place medal at NCS. "That was an incredible accomplishment considering that she only started wrestling last year after transferring to Miramonte from a school that did not offer wrestling," Suba said. "She finished the season with a 20-8

record and had five first place medals in regular season tournaments, and won the DAL tournament, earning a first-team all-league honor."

Sophomore Claire Casado went from a winless freshman year to winning twenty matches this season, capturing six medals and finishing fourth at the DAL along with a victory at NCS. "Her improvement was astounding," Suba said. "She is a shining example of perseverance." Freshman Cayleigh Farrar won 19 of 30 matches prior to suffering a season ending injury.

Suba spoke for all wrestlers on what makes them such a special group of athletes: "Wrestling is a tough sport that's not for everyone. There's a greater chance of heartbreak than there is happiness, but the successful ones come back despite the pain that is just temporary. They go through a lot of adversity but that's how they build character. It's not about the wins and losses or the score at the end of the match. They grow through the struggle, building their confidence and inner strength. It's rewarding to see that transformation and that's what's most important."

## 2024 Oakland Diocese champs and west Diablo division CYO champs

Submitted by Neil Singh



Photo provided

The fourth grade CYO American team defeated St. Monica to win the CYO championship. By de-

feating Holy Rosary the team also won the Oakland Diocese championship.

Back row from left: coaches Kevin Vakil, Jeff Caulfield, Neil Singh; front row players: Joseph Maduck, Forrest Canoles, Shaan Vakil, Henry McShane, Ty Coy, Aiden Hennessey, Hyland Caulfield, Luca Lagrotteria, Will Bolger and Neil Singh

## Seventh grade boys American League CYO champs

Submitted by Miyon Cosso



Photo provided

The seventh grade boys Catholic Youth Organization (American) St Perpetua basketball team from Lafayette won the league championship on Feb. 10.

The team won over the team of Christ the King of Pleasant Hill in the final game. The team went 9-1 this season.

Anthony Bishop, Luke Fishman, Tyler Cosso, Charlie Philips, Zenai Kaplans-Jones, Francesco Cangini, William Griffin, Samuel Spicer, Filippo Cangini



## Lady Mats Basketball Camp

6/24 — 6/28



Lady Mats Basketball Camp will take place at Miramonte Highschool and be run by Miramonte Coaching staff, as well as current and past student athletes. Grades 3 - 8 are welcome. Camp will focus on Basketball Fundamentals as well as team building skills.

Please contact  
vwirthman@gmail.com



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FEES: \$500 (T-shirt included)



FOR REGISTRATION GO TO:  
cougarcamps.com

# SPRING & SUMMER CAMPS 2024

Part 1, Spring Break and Full Day Summer Camps  
(Part 2, half-day camps, April 10, 2024)

## Get ready- it's camp time!

It may only be March, but spring break and summer are just around the corner, and with that comes the wonderful opportunity for our children to experience some fantastic camps. In this issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, we kick off our annual guide to activities and programs in and around Lamorinda, featuring full-day camps for the summer as well as spring break camps - which start April 1 this year. Look for our listing of half-day camps and programs coming in April. Get your children ready to have the spring break and summer of their dreams!

## SPRING BREAK CAMPS

### Randy Bennett Spring Break Basketball Camp (Moraga)

Held at Saint Mary's College and led by Coach Bennett and his staff, this camp is a great way for boys and girls K-6th grades to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game. Encouragement and positive reinforcement lead to improvement in fundamental basketball skills as learners discover how to successfully function in a group-oriented setting. Dates: April 1-4. www.smcmenbasketballcamps.com/

### Bay Area Ballplayers Spring Camp (Moraga)

Advanced indoor Baseball Camp. Only 12 players - professional coaches. Lunch and snacks included!

Ages 10-12. Dates: April 1-4, from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
bayareaballplayers.com/camps

(925) 247-5164

### Town Hall Theatre (Lafayette)

Pre-k through 5th grade Spring Break Camps offer the perfect blend of fun and learning, featuring flexible pricing options to fit any budget. Students will explore the world of theatre and ignite their imaginations through games and creative play, perfect for first time actors or experienced storytellers. Give your child the gift of artistic exploration and make their spring break memorable with Town Hall Education! <https://www.townhalltheatre.com/sbc-2024>

## FULL DAY CAMPS

### The ArtRoom (Lafayette)

Choose from Fine Art Camps for ages 5-12, Clay Camps for ages 7-17, and MS/HS camps in Painting & Drawing, Manga & Anime Drawing, Textile Art, and more. Half or full day, with a lunch option available.  
Dates: Weekly, June - August  
(925) 299-1515  
www.TheArt-Room.com

### Bay Area Ballplayers (Moraga)

Two great options this summer. Full week 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Legends Baseball Camps in Moraga (weeks of 6/3, 6/10 and 8/5). Hone your baseball skills with enthusiastic college and professional coaches. Afternoon Indoor Multi-Sport Camps at our facility 4-6pm Mon-Thurs. Baseball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Water Polo & other games!  
bayareaballplayers.com/camps (925) 247-5164

### Berkeley Rep (Berkeley)

Looking for summer fun? Berkeley Rep's got you covered. Create your own play, musical, or film, perform on Berkeley Rep's main stage, and learn from award-winning professional artists. All experience levels welcome— the only requirement is an open mind and collaborative spirit! Learn more and register today at [BerkeleyRep.org/Summer](http://BerkeleyRep.org/Summer).

### Cal Shakes Summer Conservatory Camp (Orinda)

Students ages 11-18 will develop and improve their performance skills by studying with Bay Area experts in Acting, Voice, Movement, Text Analysis and more, while rehearsing a Shakespeare play for performance on the Bruns Amphitheater stage. 3-week and 2-week sessions available. [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

### Camp Awesome Summer Camp (Lafayette)

Camp Awesome is back this summer for another Awesome camp experience. Awesome games, activities, and phenomenal summer shows. Open all 11 weeks of summer: Early care 8 a.m., Day Camp 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and Afternoon camp 2 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration opens March 25 at midnight. And camp runs from June 3 through August 8. [www.LafayetteRec.org](http://www.LafayetteRec.org) | (925) 284-2232

### Contra Costa Ballet Center (Walnut Creek)

CCBC offers comprehensive ballet training for beginning-advanced dancers. Ages 5-7 are invited to join Ballet Classics Camp which introduces ballet foundations through classic fairy-tale ballets. Ages 8-19 may audition for our intensive which includes technique, pointe, character, contemporary, conditioning, anatomy, rep and more! June 26-July 21. [www.contracostaballet.org](http://www.contracostaballet.org) | (925) 935-7984

**Summer Conservatory**  
Join us for an exciting and immersive theater experience where learning meets fun, and Shakespeare comes alive!  
Contact Us: [learn@calshakes.org](mailto:learn@calshakes.org)

Zendaya at Cal Shakes Conservatory 2007

**June 10th–28th**  
\$1,900 tuition: financial aid available

**July 22nd–Aug 2nd**  
\$1,300 tuition: financial aid available

100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Summer 2024

July 17-20

3-5pm



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Join Acalanes Youth Football Camp as the Dons welcome young athletes of all levels to join the fun this summer and take their game to the next level. Our experienced Dons football staff and players will help each athlete learn the fundamentals while assisting them in developing their skills using proper techniques. Offensive and defensive position drills follow proper stretching and warm-ups, along with fun football competitions. A great opportunity for any young athlete looking to improve their game, have fun, make new friends, and raise their confidence.



Register at: [acalanesdonsfootball.com](http://acalanesdonsfootball.com)

or Scan QR Code

\$200.00 for the week

Open to boys and girls, grades 4th-8th



The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.



**MORAGA Day Camp 2024**  
**Weekly June 10 - August 9**

<b>Moraga Day Camp</b> Ages 5.5 - 11	<b>Day Camp Jr. *</b> Ages 4 - 6
<b>Regular Care</b> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
<b>Extended Care</b> 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Lunch and unstructured playtime from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM. Parents may pickup anytime before 1:00 PM.

\*No Day Camp Jr. the week of 7/1 or 8/5

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

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# SPRING & SUMMER CAMPS 2024

## FULL DAY CAMPS

**FireCracker Summer Math Camp (Lafayette)**

FireCracker Summer Math Camp for curious and challenge-loving kids ages 6 to 16. Instructions employ math games, projects, and magic tricks, sparking kids' interest in math and boosting their skills and confidence. Morning classes are followed by fun activities in the afternoon. [www.firecrackermath.org](http://www.firecrackermath.org) (510) 488-4556

**Camp Galileo**

Summer day camp in Lafayette at Lafayette Elementary School. Join us for an exciting summer of mind-bending STEAM projects and outrageously fun camp traditions for K-10th graders. Dates: June 10 - July 26  
 Camp Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 AM Extended Care: 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.,  
 PM Extended Care: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Lady Mats Basketball Camps (Orinda)**

Lady Mats Basketball Camp will take place at Miramonte High School and be run by Miramonte Coaching staff, as well as current and past student athletes. Grades 3 - 8 are welcome. Camp will focus on Basketball Fundamentals as well as team building skills. Dates June 24-June 28. Please contact [vwirthman@gmail.com](mailto:vwirthman@gmail.com)

**Moraga Day Camp & Day Camp Jr. (Moraga)**

Step into the world of Hollywood with arts, crafts, games, and field trips inspired by the finest works of Tinseltown. Ages 4 - 11  
 Weekly sessions June 10 - August 9  
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with extended care available  
 Moraga Day Camp Jr. will run 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. select weeks  
 Located at Hacienda de las Flores  
 (925) 888-7045 [www.moragarec.com](http://www.moragarec.com)

**Orinda Parks and Rec (Orinda)**

Make new friends, learn new subjects, and have fun in a safe, engaging environment. This year's summer camp theme is Curiosity Quest. Orinda summer camps will run from June 3 - Aug. 9, and there will be no camps on June 19 or July 4-5. Registration opened on Monday, March 4.  
[www.cityoforinda.org/188/Camp-Information](http://www.cityoforinda.org/188/Camp-Information)

**Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Moraga)**

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's College in University Credit Union Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls grades K-8th to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game, led by Coach Bennett and his staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available. Day Camps June and July  
[www.smcmenbasketballcamps.com/](http://www.smcmenbasketballcamps.com/)

**Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)**

Outdoor Summer Camps for nature exploration, visiting our animals, learning survival skills, nature-based crafts and more for prek-8th grades. Full day 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
[admin@siennaranchl.net](mailto:admin@siennaranchl.net)  
 (925) 283-6311.  
[www.siennaranch.net/programs/summer-camp/](http://www.siennaranch.net/programs/summer-camp/)

**Spanish Immersion Summer Camps (Lafayette)**

Learn or improve Spanish language skills at Viva el Español through games, music, arts and crafts, science projects and cooking. During each weeklong camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Champions of the Reservoir or Ocean Science. Full day, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Before-care available.  
[www.vivaelespanol.org](http://www.vivaelespanol.org) | (925) 962-9177

**Summer@Saklan Language, Culture and Creativity (Moraga)**

Summer@Saklan is the perfect place for your child to discover new passions and cultivate creativity this summer. Weekly summer camps offer hands-on art and science experiences and engaging activities such as cooking, games, and water play for children ages 3 - 8 in a fun and supportive environment. [www.saklan.org/summer/](http://www.saklan.org/summer/)  
 June 17- August 2

**SUMMER SAKLAN**  
 Science + Art Camp

Ages 3 - 8 June 17 - August 2  
[saklan.org/summer](http://saklan.org/summer)

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SUMMER 2024

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 Lamorinda Weekly.

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# Congratulations LMYA BASKETBALL 2024 Champions

LMYA Basketball wrapped up the 2024 season with Championship matches for its 3rd-5th grade Girls and Boys Divisions. There was spirited competition on display fueled by fun with teammates and new skills learned and perfected during weekly practices. Congratulations to all of our players and thank you to all of the coaches, refs and parents for making this another great LMYA Basketball season!



### 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE GIRLS, WINGS

(Front Row L to R): Olive Manzi, Blythe Andron, Ellie Laman, Safiya Biboletova. (Back Row L to R): Rachel McKenzie, Greta McCarthy, Juliana Tyndall, Yizhen "YuYu" Zi. (Coaches Row L to R): Joe McCarthy and Brent Tyndall.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE BOYS, CLIPPERS

(Front Row L to R): Benji Shuai, Lincoln Patton, Marcus Ewing, Noah Milsom. (Back Row L to R): Coach Belem Avila, Asher Pahwa, Adam Ibarra-Avila, Easton Cano, Riley McLaughlin, Coach Kimberly Hunter.



### 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> GRADE GIRLS, SPARKS

(Front Row L to R): Cora Ryan, Logan Osborne, Genevieve Firestone, Aysha Biboletova, Rachel Gutu, Lila Nykodym, Natalia Nykodym, Abby Tuck, Lilly Hedlum. (Coaches Row L to R): Steve Tuck and Shakira Osborne.



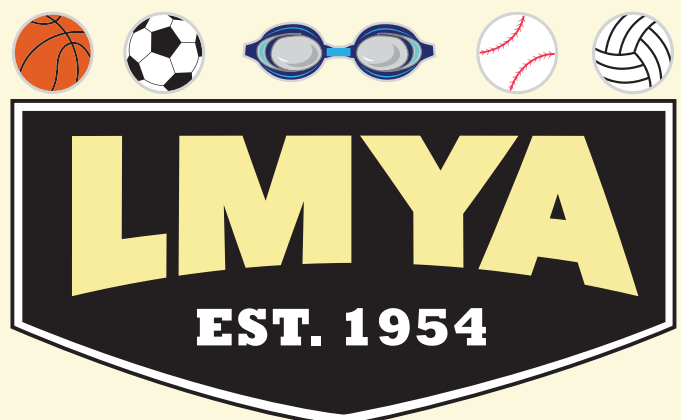
### 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> GRADE BOYS, WEST - HORNETS

(Front Row L to R): Jerry Hu, Marlow Schneider, Ryo Nakamura, Oakley Gupta, Calder Yang. (Back Row L to R): Coach Nestor Toro, Roman Sosine, Matthew Ragchaagadi, Camden Stern, Roman Toro.



### 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> GRADE BOYS, EAST - NETS

(Front Row L to R): Callan DeMent, Oskar DeMent, Aarav Nalagotla, Teddy Mahoney, Hunter Murray, Hadnet Ocbai, Jacob Danao. (Not pictured): Alex Yoon, Jonah Becker, Pierce Budke.



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



# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 18 Issue 2 Wednesday, March 13, 2024



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page OH2

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## The Garden Melting Pot

By Cynthia Brian

Photos Cynthia Brian



From East and Southeast Asia, the spectacular *Magnolia Soulangeana*, AKA tulip magnolia, AKA saucer magnolia blooms profusely in California.

*“When a flower opens, the whole world appears.” Zen Saying*

Unless you are a member of an Indigenous tribe, you are a part of the great melting pot that we call the United States of America. Even if your ancestors arrived on the Mayflower, you are still not considered a native. Like people, plants have immigrated to our shores and have found love, compatibility, and regions to survive and thrive. We often read about the need to plant more “native” plants, but what are they? Are “natives” any better than “non-natives” that have acclimated to our climate and soil while claiming our hearts?

The definition of “native” by the United States Department of Agriculture’s US Forest Service indicates that a native plant species has “evolved and occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat. Plant species native to North America are generally recognized as those occurring on the continent before European settlement.” For example, California poppies, the state flower of California, are native from the slopes of Western Oregon to Baja. However, people

assume that *Echinacea purpurea*, known as Purple Coneflower, is native to our area, while in fact, it is only endemic to states east of the Rockies. Yet borders are not observed by plants, so perhaps a better description of a “native” would be a plant that has adapted over time to thrive in conditions that were like their endemic habitats.

Because true natives are well-suited to the climate and soils of a region, gardeners believe that they won’t require as much attention. But being “native”

doesn’t mean that a species doesn’t require water, fertilizer, pest protection, and maintenance. Natives are not immune to drought, predators, temperature fluctuations, and other garden stressors. Our landscapes are not natural environments; our gardens are man/woman made! Forests, woodlands, deserts, and marshes have evolved over millennia to be biodiverse and resilient.



**Ceanothus, California lilac, is a drought-tolerant, flowering native.**

... continued on Page OH8





**SNEAK PEEK | ORINDA VIEW DEVELOPMENT | \$5,585,000**  
5,691SF | 4BD | 5.5BA | OFFICE | POOL | 1.17AC

Nestled within the sought-after Orinda View Development, this stunning single-level property spans over an acre of pristine land. The professionally landscaped yard is a haven, featuring a sparkling pool/spa, putting green, gazebo, sport court, solar, and an array of vibrant flowers and plants. Step inside to discover a meticulously designed interior adorned with spectacular finishes, including exotic wood cabinetry, barrel ceilings, and custom hardwood flooring. The residence seamlessly blends elegance with functionality, creating an inviting and sophisticated atmosphere. With its spacious layout and luxurious details, this property offers a unique opportunity for refined living in a picturesque setting.

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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	6	\$1,400,000	\$4,075,000
MORAGA	2	\$1,460,000	\$1,695,000
ORINDA	7	\$455,000	\$3,550,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

- 218 Contessa Court, \$3,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 3136 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 01-31-24,  
Previous Sale: \$3,525,000, 03-10-22
- 1182 Glen Road, \$4,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 3676 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 01-30-24,  
Previous Sale: \$3,520,000, 07-22-20
- 1541 Rancho View Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2349 SqFt,  
1955 YrBlt, 02-05-24
- 3388 Rossi Street, \$2,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2537 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 01-29-24,  
Previous Sale: \$1,795,000, 11-18-19
- 1092 Via Roble, \$1,810,000, 3 Bdrms, 2108 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-08-24
- 95 Woodbury Highlands Court #33, \$1,699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1904 SqFt,  
2022 YrBlt, 02-09-24

### MORAGA

- 109 Brookline Street, \$1,450,000, 2 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 02-05-24,  
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 11-29-12
- 448 Kingsford Drive, \$1,695,000, 4 Bdrms, 2132 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 01-31-24

### ORINDA

- 73 Brookwood Road #30, \$455,000, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 02-02-24
- 6 Ivy Drive, \$1,107,500, 2 Bdrms, 1548 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 01-29-24,  
Previous Sale: \$281,000, 04-01-89
- 315 Miller Court, \$3,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 3822 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 02-06-24,  
Previous Sale: \$2,425,000, 10-09-19
- 132 Ravenhill Road, \$1,460,000, 3 Bdrms, 2674 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 02-05-24
- 2 Stanton Court, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2193 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 02-05-24,  
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 12-06-22
- 332 Village View Court, \$3,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 02-05-24,  
Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 01-11-23
- 601 Watchwood Road, \$2,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 2541 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 02-08-24



# A Little Off-Market Action.....



**For More Information About  
Off-Market Listings Give Us a Call!**

**Amy Rose Smith, Shannon Conner,  
Clark Thompson and Molly Smith**

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**710 Miner Road, Orinda  
5 bd | 3 ba | 3088 sqft | 1.15 acres**



**141 La Cuesta Road, Orinda | \$2,200,000  
4 bd | 3 ba | 2477 sqft | .31 acre**

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All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Shannon (01885058) | Amy (01855959) | Molly (01498053) | Clark (00903367)





## Contra Costa County suspends All-Electric requirements for new buildings

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors suspended enforcement of its requirement that most new buildings be constructed as all-electric buildings at the Feb. 27 meeting. The County's all-electric building requirement, as part of the County's building code, had prohibited the installation of natural gas infrastructure in most new buildings and required developers to use electricity as the sole source of energy in the building. With the suspension, the County's all-electric building requirement will not be enforced.

Last month, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invalidated a City of Berkeley ordinance that prohibited natural gas infrastructure in new buildings. The court held that the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act precludes cities and counties from adopting building codes that prohibit the installation of gas plumbing in buildings.

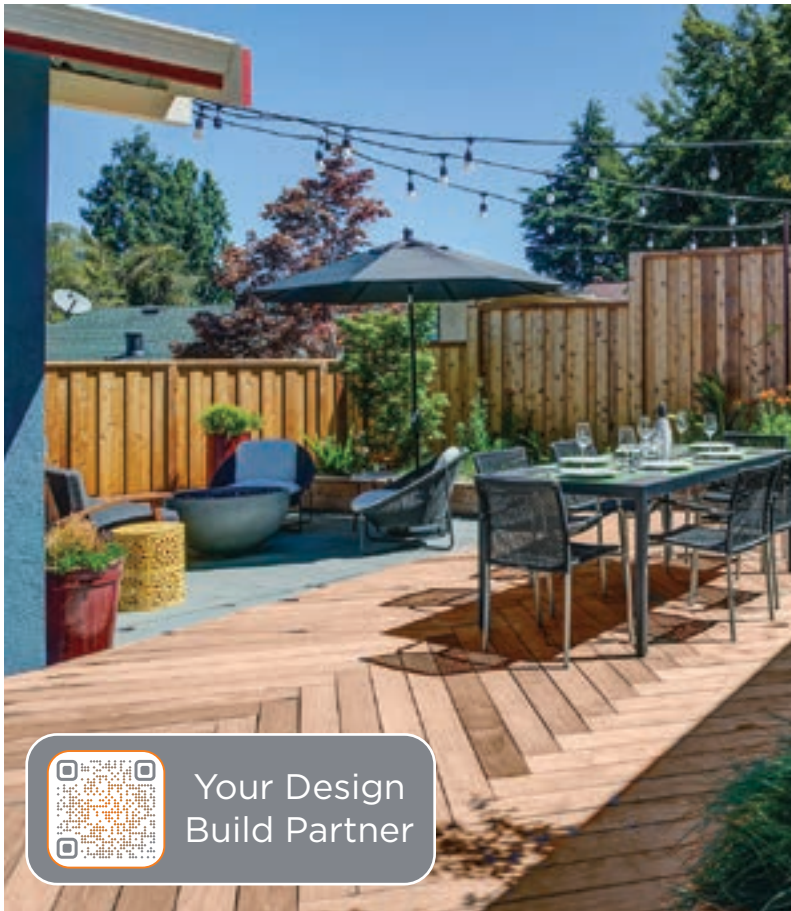
Contra Costa County's all-electric building requirement, like the

invalidated City of Berkeley ordinance, prohibits the installation of gas plumbing in new buildings. The County is therefore suspending this requirement in response to the Ninth Circuit's decision.

At the same time, the Board of Supervisors remains committed to the goals that prompted it to adopt the all-electric requirement: improving public health and fighting climate change. The Board referred the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings to its Sustainability Committee and directed staff to report on alternatives for advancing this objective at the Committee's next meeting.

"Contra Costa County remains committed to reducing the use of fossil fuels in buildings and continues to support the construction of new buildings using all-electric technologies. We are eager to identify new and innovative ways to continue to pursue our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings," said Board Chair Federal D. Glover, District 5 Supervisor.

*Provided by Contra Costa County Office of Communications & Media*



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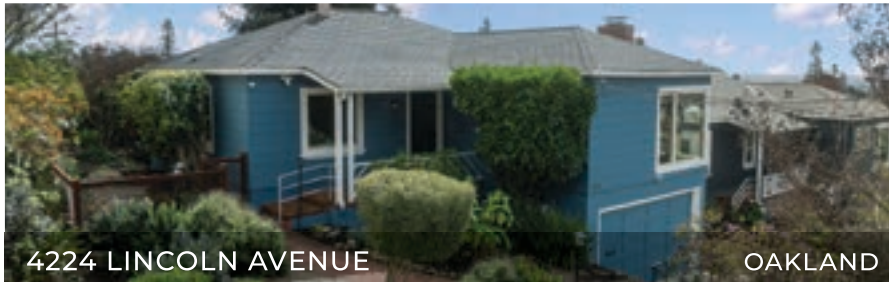
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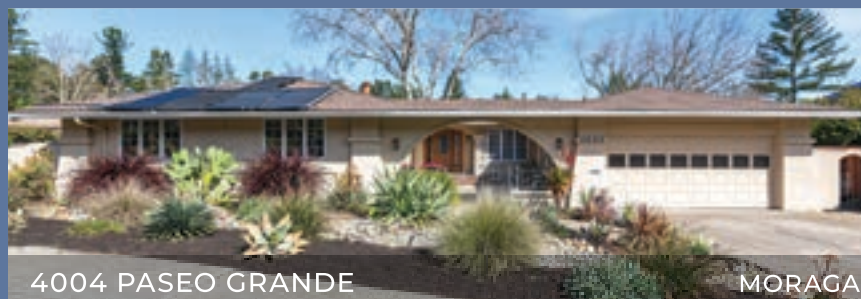


**27 MERRILL CIRCLE** MORAGA  
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*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## The Garden Melting Pot



**Eucalyptus is endemic to Australia and should not be planted in our region because of fire danger.**

... continued from Page OH1

Do we want to only plant natives instead of non-natives? My answer is a firm no! I have always advocated for “planting the world” as there are so many species that thrive in our locale with origins from around the globe. Many revered non-natives have acclimated to our soil, weather, and stressors providing food and refuge for insects, wildlife, and birds while living in harmony with native species. Would you want to live without tulips, daffodils, Asian lilies, camellias, azaleas, peonies, Birds of Paradise, tulip magnolia trees, or Calla lilies? What about the numerous houseplants that we use to beautify our indoor facilities? If you love orchids, bromeliads, anthuriums, philodendrons, crotons, or Schefflera, you’ll agree that tropicals and non-natives are just as critical as natives to ecological cohesion.

There are trees, shrubs, grasses, and numerous bloomers that are natives. There are over twenty species of oaks and two species of redwoods that are native to California.

Here is a short list of my favorite natives that prosper in my landscape.

- California poppy
- California fuchsia
- California milkweed
- Blue-eyed grass
- Morning glory
- Western yarrow



**California poppies are the state flower and propagate by seed.**

Photos Cynthia Brian

- Ceanothus
- Agave
- Prickly Pear
- Oak
- Redwood

Balance the diversity and aesthetic appeal to create a magnificent garden melting pot filled with both natives and non-natives. Plan to plant species that have adapted to our local climate, avoid any invasive varieties, refrain from using insecticides and pesticides, and maintain your garden as needed. Remember that even “natives” will need pruning and maintenance. When you incorporate a harmonious atmosphere of many different types of plants from around the globe, pollinators and other creatures will be supported.

My family immigrated from southern Italy and the Italian canton of Switzerland, bringing with them their favorite seeds from “the old country”. The descendants of those heirloom seeds are beloved plants shining in my garden today. Because I was born in California, I often refer to myself as a California native. Yet, just like the plants in my garden, I am just part of the marvelous melting pot of cultures from around the globe.

Embrace a more diverse and resilient ecosystem by planting a salad of natives and non-natives in your garden. Appreciate the differences. When the flowers bloom, the whole world appears!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy St. Patrick’s Day!



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# An ODE to Spring

By Toris Jaeger, Naturalist

The first day of Spring takes place on March 19 this year.

It will be great to celebrate the Spring EQUINOX.

We are also celebrating the first day of Summer Solstice on June 20.

In late March, April, May and early June we will witness the NATURE come alive with wildflowers in bloom, Deciduous trees putting on their leaves, the evergreen trees growing more leaves and needles.

Such a wonder to witness!

“Look deep into Nature and then understand everything better “ Albert Einstein

We each have our own interpretation of Einstein’s quote.

My understanding is to really experience Nature in the mind, heart and soul, one must be in the Nature and be one with Nature.

Visit your favorite site that speaks to you

Take a walk in the Redwoods, the healing trees.

Visit a creek and witness the life giving force that runs through Nature.

The ground is alive with mushrooms, the keepers of the soil and the trees root systems.

Take a trip to the ocean, the time of much reflection.

Our phones and computers with all their apps can provide a view of the Nature but in my humble opinion it is not the same.

I hope you can find the time and the interest in getting out into the real Nature;

you will be immensely rewarded.

Toris Jaeger,  
Naturalist



## Cynthia Brian's Goddess Gardener Monthly Guide

**REPOT** houseplants that have outgrown their containers. Gently loosen the roots after you have removed the plant from the original pot. Add new potting soil to a bigger planter. Position your plant in the center, fill the edges with new soil, and pat down the soil. Water thoroughly. It may take a bit of adjustment until your plant will flourish.

**AERATE** lawns and leave the plugs on the grass as fertilizer.

**SHARPEN** and clean tools for the spring workload.

**HARVEST** oranges.

**BUY** pots of oxalis, also known as shamrocks, to decorate for St. Patrick's Day.

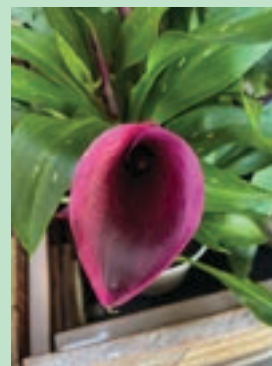
**PLANT** milkweed to attract Monarch butterflies.

**START** weeding to get a jump start on spring plantings.

**DISPOSE** of fallen camellia blossoms until bushes are finished blooming to prevent disease.



Used both indoors and outdoors, Cordyline is a genus of plants native to Pacific islands and Southeast Asia.



Native to South Africa, Calla lilies thrive in California.



The long-lasting houseplant, the heart-shaped anthurium was discovered in South America.



The Netherlands is home to our revered tulips.

Photos Cynthia Brian





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**Getting ready for spring, Cynthia Brian rejuvenates at the ocean.**

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>

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## 8 Hidden Lane, Orinda

5 Bd | 3 Ba | 4495 Sqft | \$2,150,000

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



## 241 Camino Pablo, Orinda

3 Bd | 2 Ba | 1160 Sqft | \$1,095,000

Adorable updated cottage style home with abundant charm, located close to everything Orinda offers!

New Listing!



## 141 Fiesta Circle, Orinda

3 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 1392 Sqft | \$1,075,000

With "good bones" on a spacious .29 flat acre corner lot, the house offers a canvas for your imagination!



## 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!

New Listing!



## 1224 Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette

3 Bd | 2 Ba | 2235 Sqft | \$1,950,000

Private .87 acre lot provides a picturesque setting with views of the stately trees and surrounding hills!

New Listing!



## 1988 Ascot Drive, Unit C, Moraga

3 Bd | 2 Ba | 645 Sqft | \$695,000

Spacious 3bd/2ba unit on Ascot Drive with a peaceful deck over looking verdant views!



## 1411 Stonehedge Drive, Pleasant Hill

3 Bd | 3 Ba | 2304 Sqft | \$1,675,000

This stunning tri-level located in the desirable Valley High neighborhood has been updated from head to toe!



## 2601 College Ave #309, Berkeley

2+ Bd | 2 Ba | 1084 Sqft | \$875,000

Conveniently located between Elmwood & UC Berkeley, this light & bright top-floor unit has Bay views!

## The Village

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