

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 26 Wednesday, February 16, 2022



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Fabulous February flora



Photos Cynthia Brian

The fluorescent cerise blooms of the Christmas cactus.

By Cynthia Brian

*“No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.” ~ Booker T. Washington*

For the past two months, I’ve been working on writing a series of children’s books, a bit of prose, a bit of poetry. But with the ubiquitous sunny days and warm temperatures, digging in my garden wins the race. In the past, February has notoriously been a drab and dreary month, but this year it is filled with fabulous flowers, unsea-

sonal sunshine, and idyllic conditions for working outside. My Christmas cactus shines with fluorescent cerise blooms, the blazing blue of the rosemary bush host busy, buzzing bees, the viburnum is covered in masses of sweet-smelling white blossoms, and roses continue to bud and bloom. Wood sorrel or oxalis already showcases bursts of buttery yellow flowers. These shamrocks don’t usually appear until St. Patrick’s Day. The purple-tinted flowers of the marvelous magnolia liliiflora, known as the tulip magnolia, suggest that spring may have already sprung.

It’s mid-February and still no sign of rain. January was considered the driest month on record in California since 1895. Daffodils blanket the roadways and hillsides; ornamental pear trees are in full bloom with peach buds prepared to explode into luminous pink. Back in December when we experienced the atmospheric river and the record-breaking 17 feet of snowfall in the Sierras, we had high hopes that drought conditions may be receding.



Shamrocks (oxalis or wood sorrel) are early.

Cynthia Brian’s February Gardening Guide on Page D12