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Wednesday, November 10, 2010



Youthful Lafayette Library and Learning Center users gather at the main entrance and indicate the facility is not only number one, but also one year old. Photo Doug Kohen

Lafayette Library's Successful First Year

By Cathy Tyson

It's hard to believe the Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLC) has been open for an entire year. While the old shoe box library on Moraga Road collects dust, on most days 1,000 patrons – sometimes as many as 1,300 people per day stream through the glass double doors to enjoy the spectacular, user-friendly “community living room.”

A plethora of books, magazines, audio materials, computers, homework help, comfy chairs and a food-friendly policy invite users to come and stay a while. Any given day will find seniors hanging out, little ones excited for story time and a chance

to use the automated materials handling system “all by myself,” along with adults settling in with a laptop, cell phone and papers galore.

Library Manager Susan Weaver explains, “The new library is surprisingly different than the old library on so many levels.” She said this is due in part to the physicality of the place, room to accommodate many more people, the wi-fi, the homework center. “I think we have the best library in the world. It’s worked out better than we anticipated – I love that people camp out here.”

... continued on page L5

Quote of the Week:

"I have made this a lesson in adversity and bravery for my children."

Read Letters to the Editor, page L4.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A7
Letters to the Editor	L4
Life in Lamorinda	L1-L8
Classified	S2
Not to be Missed	L4
Business	A8
Schools	S3-S4
HOW TO CONTACT US	S4
Dining	L5
Sports	S1-S2
Service Directory	L2
Shop Orinda	L8
Our Homes	OH1-8

This Week Read About:

Incumbents Win	A2
Incumbents Win	A4
Who Won?	A6
Quiet Orinda on Agenda	A7
MOFD Winner	L2
Portraits of Peace	L5
High School Basketball	S1
Alcohol Policy	S3

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Angels in America at SMC

By Lou Fancher

Professor Reid Davis spent more than a year selecting *Angels in America*, the Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department's fall production. Reading plays, talking to students, considering curricula in related courses and the theater department's "season of angels" theme, Reid digested copious amounts of information and input while making the decision. "And, I made an informal poll with our English professors," he adds, "I heard *Angels in America* over and over again."

Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize winning play about the origins of the AIDS crisis in the late 1980's has been named "one of the ten best plays of the century," by London's National Theatre. It has received rave reviews; calling it "deep", "spiritual", and "thrilling". The play deals with timeless issues—life, death and faith—while chronicling the domestic drama of two couples, whose lives intersect.

"It's Kushner, thinking about the richest and the poorest: the most and the least powerful," Reid says. "The play's reach is Shakespearean. The issues are personal as well as global."

... continued on page L3



Saint Mary's College *Angels in America*: Andrew Galindo on left as Roy; Liam Callister as Joe. Photo Michael Cook

Challenging Conditions for Lamorinda Grapes

By Sophie Braccini



As the French prepare to release their 2010 Beaujolais Nouveau on November 18th, Lamorinda winemakers are releasing their own 2010 production. But it has been a very difficult year for local vineyards and wineries. Spring was very wet and summer never really settled in; grapes took longer to mature and develop acceptable sugar content. ... read on page L1

On the Road with the Gaels

By Caitlin Graveson



Saint Mary's women's volleyball took on WCC-league rivals the University of San Diego Toreros last Wednesday, November 3. With a win, the Gaels would tie the Toreros for first place in the WCC and move closer to securing a spot in the NCAA postseason tournament. Unfortunately, SMC lost to USD in four sets (25-22, 17-25, 13-25, 21-25) to fall to 8-2 in league and 16-7 overall. ... read on page S1

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Lafayette

- Public Meetings**
- City Council** Monday, November 22, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
 - Planning Commission** Monday, November 15, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
 - Design Review** Monday, November 22, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org

Police Report



Sticky Fingers in the Locker Room, 10/18/10 An unknown and incredibly opportunistic thief entered the boys' locker room at Bentley School during soccer practice and stole items from two unlocked lockers. Missing are two cell phones and a computer valued at \$1700. It may be a good idea to lock things up at Bentley given the number of thefts at that school.

How Many Thieves Does it Take to Load a Bag? 10/23/10 - Three. CVS video showed three unknown female thieves load an empty shopping bag with merchandise and walk out of the store without paying for the items. Loss to the store is \$1,124.11. Sounds like a lifetime supply of gum and nail polish.

Smash and Grab, 10/25/10 An unknown suspect smashed the window of a vehicle parked at an Orchard Road residence and make away with a \$50 gift card and a FASTRAK pass. Damage to the vehicle is \$400. While he may have gotten away with the gift card, the brilliant thief may not realize the FASTRAK pass can be tracked.

Fraudulent Check and a Texting Assist 10/29/10 Police were contacted when the suspect tried to cash a fraudulent check at Bank of America on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Officers made contact with the female suspect in the bank lobby and detained her while they spoke with the check payer by phone. The payer stated the check had been stolen from a mailbox, altered and that he didn't know the suspect. When police searched the suspect's cell phone, they found the most recent text message instructed her to leave the bank if the teller picked up the phone. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Martinez Detention Facility. A first-timer, perhaps?

City Council Incumbents Win Reelection

By Cathy Tyson



Don Tatzin and Brandt Andersson Photo courtesy of S. Falk

The boys are back in town. Lafayette's incumbents won re-election on November 2 and will serve on the City

Council for four more years. Long time winner Don Tatzin has served on the Council since 1985, when Reagan was President. Brandt Andersson began 2010 as Mayor, but will continue in January 2011 with Tatzin as City Council Members. Both gentlemen will be working for free.

"I am humbled that so many citizens reelected me to another term on the City Council. I offer special thanks to those who assisted my campaign," said Don Tatzin in a statement. "During the campaign, I met many residents either at their homes while I was walking or around town. All of the people I met recognize Lafayette is a special community and want to preserve its charms while making some improvements. I do too, and committed to make Lafayette better during the next four years."

An equally gracious Andersson said, "A campaign allows the candidates to talk to and listen to their constituents even more than usual. It also takes an enormous amount of time. I am grateful to be returned to office, but also grateful that I can refocus my efforts on the real work of governing. The morning after the election I was in the City Manager's office being briefed on possible mid-year budget adjustments. Even though the budget is balanced, we are addressing potential deficits three to five years out. That's how I want to spend my time, working to solve problems we see coming before they arrive."

Senior Housing Overlay District is Adopted

By Cathy Tyson

Looking to provide and encourage a variety of senior housing options, the Lafayette City Council recently adopted a Senior Housing Overlay district (SHO) that specifies senior housing as a land use classification within the Lafayette Municipal Code.

In researching a SHO district, City staff and the Senior Housing Task Force noted a couple key findings: the impact of senior citizen housing developments is lower than other multi-family residential developments, and potential developments benefit greatly from a close proximity to downtown services and amenities.

The new SHO district establishes standards for senior housing developments within the downtown core, which include five different types of senior housing: Alzheimer's/Memory Care

facilities, Assisted Living Developments, Continuing Care Retirement Communities, Independent Living and Senior Residential Care Facilities. Parking requirements are based on the level of independence of the residents. Finally density was increased from 35 units per acre to 45 units per acre, because generally units for seniors are smaller; in addition, Universal Design principles that accommodate wheelchairs and walkers are required.

It should be noted that this special district does not change any underlying zoning requirements. A senior housing permit may be issued for proposed developments that will house seven or more residents. The new senior housing overlay district fulfills one of the goals of the General Plan Housing Element - to provide opportunities for senior housing.



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Blazing a New Trail on the Burton Ridge Trail Connector

By Cathy Tyson



Christy, Georgia and Tyler Winkle on the Burton Ridge Trail Connector. Photo provided

Christy, Georgia and Tyler Winkle enjoy the recently completed all-weather trail that meanders through the north-end of the Lafayette Community Park and connects to the Community Center. Although the Winkle family clearly likes the walkway, there were a few heated public hearings that precluded the completion of the two-part Burton Ridge Trail Connector.

Many nearby homeowners were not thrilled with the path, calling it a "trail to nowhere" and "unnecessary and wasteful" along the already quiet residential street. One fellow who testified about the trail in the summer noted that now that it's complete some of the neighbors are coming around.

On a recent sunny day, Christy Winkle and her kids were using the path, "I will always treasure the memories of taking the trail from our house to the Community Center starting with the baby bjorn and then strollers and then push bikes and then bikes with training wheels and then off they go in the distance on their own bikes...We are so thankful for all the good times our family has had at the Community Center over the years."

The project connects the neighborhood to the Lafayette Community Center and Community Park along with the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail and provides safe, designated, less muddy routes for walkers and cyclists.

The Burton Ridge Trail Connector project has two parts – first the Murray Lane Trail component along an undeveloped city-owned parcel on the south side of Murray Lane between Michael Lane and Burton Drive. The skinny strip of land a quarter of a mile long has been dedicated for park and trail use since 1987, when the Murray Lane subdivision was built.

The second portion is the Community Park North End Weatherization project – a formerly muddy in the rainy season trail in the north end of the Community Park serves as a maintenance and emergency access road. Originally composed of dirt and wood chips it becomes understandably challenging to traverse when wet. Funds were used to weatherize the trail adding edging, a rock sub-base and decomposed granite surface.

City engineers estimated the total cost of the projects to be \$502,000 for both components, but the actual cost came in at \$418,377. Construction costs at \$307,777 made up the lion's share, but the project also required design and survey work, reports by an arborist and landscape architect and other services. These projects were funded entirely with voter-approved East Bay Regional Park District Measure WW monies that can only be used for acquisition of and improvements to parks and trails.

Big Thank You to Volunteer Spirit Van Drivers

By Cathy Tyson



Commissioners and friends toast volunteer Spirit Van drivers – from far right to left, Eddie Carvalho, Steve Rogness, Malcolm Hendry and Mauna Wagner. Photo Cathy Tyson

Senior Services, commissioners and friends toasted volunteer Spirit Van drivers and dispatchers for their dedication in providing a crucial link to independence for area senior citizens. Without this valuable service many seniors would be homebound.

Monday through Friday, the van takes riders to the C.C. Café at the Walnut Creek Senior Center for a healthy lunch and socialization. Errand rides on Wednesday afternoons along with medical appointments on specific days round out the Spirit Van services.

When asked why he helps out, driver Malcolm Hendry replied, "It's just a way of helping a fellow traveler who needs it." Adds colleague Mauna Wagner, "The Spirit Van offers seniors the

best of both worlds - independence to take care of themselves, along with a connection to people who care about them. It's a great program!"

The Lamorinda community is fortunate to have a transportation program for seniors so older citizens can live independently in their own homes after they no longer drive. "We generally don't realize how important transportation is until we no longer have a car at our disposal. Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda have a wonderful group of volunteers who step up to the plate to drive our seniors to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and errands," said Mary Bruns, Senior Transportation Coordinator.

"I feel so blessed to have this

opportunity to drive these people who really are so full of life," said Eddie Carvalho. "All it takes is a ride to lunch and back. Two hours a day makes such a difference in their lives. I overhear them talking and what comes up most of the time is how without this lunch run, we wouldn't have met each other or all the people at the lunch. It really gives them something to look forward to every day!"

For readers looking to give back to the community, there is a need for volunteer Spirit Van drivers and folks to assist seniors in giving the service a try by chaperoning. No special license is required, but there is a training class, for more information call (925) 284-5546. To schedule a ride on the Lamorinda Spirit Van, call (925) 283-3534.

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Civic News Moraga



Public Meetings	
Town Council	Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
Planning Commission	Monday, November 15, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Design Review	Tuesday, November 22, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Liaison	Friday, November 12, 8:00 am Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
 Town of Moraga online: www.moraga.ca.us
 Chamber of Commerce: www.moragachamber.org
 Moraga Citizens' Network: www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

• Police Report •



municipal Code 9.08.040 (Loud and Unruly Party).

Loud Halloween party, 10/29/10
 An anonymous caller notified police that there was a loud party on Buckingham Drive. Cops found approximately 150 people inside the rented residence and told them the party's over. One of the departing attendees was cited for riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol. The hosts were issued a warning for "Loud or Unruly Party."

Party, 10/30/10
 This time the party's at a Whitethorne Drive garage. College student renters had about 35 of their pals celebrating Halloween or perhaps a Giants victory, their motivation was not noted in the official police report. Citations were issued, hopefully they will learn their respective lessons.

Battery at party, 10/31/10
 A Moraga Road, surprise, Halloween party ended with a punch in the nose. Several females claimed one of the tenants had been punched in the nose by an unknown female that had been asked to leave. She took herself to the hospital for a possible broken nose after declining medical attention by the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department. Can't we all just get along?

Another loud party, 10/30/10
 Yet another anonymous caller reported a loud party on Wandel Drive. At just after 10:00 p.m. police dispersed about 75 guests and once again the hosts were cited for violation of the Town of Moraga Mu-

Correction, issue date 10/27/10, No Dollar Tree Decision Before the Election:

We mistakenly identified the spokesperson for the resident appellant's group as Holly Erickson-King. The spokesperson, to whom the relevant quotes should be attributed, is Hollie Lucas-Alcalay.

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After the Election

By Sophie Braccini

November 2 did not bring any surprises to the Moraga Town Council as incumbents Ken Chew and Dave Trotter never appeared to be seriously challenged. Seth Freeman, Dennis Wanken, and Eleni Wanken were not able to generate much momentum during the campaign. Typical of recent Moraga council elections, candidates that have not formerly served on the Planning Commission or the Parks and Recreation Commission seem to have difficulty when it comes to being elected. Prior service allows future candidates not only to get first hand knowledge of what is going in the Town, but also gives them the opportunity to build a support network.

Although the election results have not been certified, Trotter appears to have garnered the most votes. "I am very pleased by the outcome of this election," he said. "With volunteer help and support from many Moraga residents, we ran an active campaign. I'm so grateful for the outreach efforts of my campaign committee over the past several weeks. The re-election

results represent a strong vote of confidence from the Moraga community, and I believe they demonstrate that the Town is being well-managed and is on the right track."

Trotter acknowledged that there is much that needs to be done in the next four years to continue addressing the vital issues facing the town. "This includes implementing the Moraga Center Specific Plan in concert with the property owners, developing funding solutions for maintaining our neighborhood streets and other essential Town infrastructure, addressing the vacancies and future vision at the Rheem Center, and continuing to do everything we can to protect and preserve open space and ridgelines," he said, "I'm looking forward to the next four years on the Town Council and the important work that lies ahead."

On election night Ken Chew was out picking up as many of his 22 campaign signs as possible. "I want to thank all of my supporters and friends who have worked so diligently with me during the past

four years," said Chew. "Thank you, Moraga voters, for giving me the opportunity to serve this wonderful community again." Chew believes that his re-election comes from the voters' support of his work on the Town Council over the past four years. "Moraga residents, you can expect me to continue to provide that same kind of leadership, prudence, efficiency and effectiveness as we work together for our community during the next four years," he said.

Chew said that he is committed to maintaining a prudent, balanced fiscal budget and building a solid general fund reserve; to protect and preserve Moraga's ridgelines and open spaces; to create a long-term infrastructure renewal program and a financing plan; to sustain Moraga's excellent police protection and other services; to work cooperatively with the business community, Moraga's schools, St. Mary's College, and volunteer service groups for our common good.

Freeman, who garnered the most votes of all the challengers,

said he will continue to defend his views and plans to run again in two years. "I want to congratulate Dave and Ken and to thank the 1002 voters who supported my campaign," said Freeman, "I received about 50% of the votes of the two incumbents; a good showing for a first time!" Freeman hopes that the standing Council will incorporate some of the views that his supporters share. "The council really needs to develop a pragmatic strategy that allows them to focus on real economic priorities in light of the new economy and solve the \$45 million hole to maintain infrastructure and do everything it can to support the schools and support their funding requirements."

Eleni and Dennis Wanken ran their campaigns with no sign or flyers bearing their names, focusing instead on addressing community groups. "Our wish is for all of our elected representatives, whoever that may be, to work in the best interests of and include all citizens in Moraga in all public policy decisions," said Wanken.

LamorindaDogs.org

By Sophie Braccini

The members of the recently-formed Lamorinda Dogs have come a long way from their first rowdy protests at Town Council meetings regarding the off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park. They are now a well-funded, non-profit association that collaborates with staff and elected officials. The main objective of securing off-leash hours at the park has not changed, but the erstwhile protesters have become partners in policy-making.

"There was a shift in both the town's and our perception that we should work together to make Rancho Laguna a real multi-use community park," said Lafayette resident and Lamorinda Dogs Board director

Blair Newel. The other directors on the Board are Rob Blits, Bill Carman, and Jeanne Moreau; three more could be appointed.

"One of our first objectives is to foster responsible dog ownership," says Lafayette dog owner Blits. "When people bring dogs that are untrained and create incidents we talk to them and recommend that they get training for their pet," said Carman, a Moraga resident. "If incidents continue to happen, we tell them 'maybe you should consider going somewhere else.'" Bilt

continues, "We can resolve most of the conflicts. A majority of owners want that." The group is now partnering with staff to draft dog-related rules that will be posted at the park.

Consistent communication with Moraga staff has helped smooth over relations between the Town and the group. "They are being good neighbors and they are very responsive," said Jay Ingram, Moraga Parks and Recreation Director. Rancho Laguna Park is a multi-use park, with set off-leash hours, but it re-

mains the prerogative of the Town to restrict those hours to accommodate other events. "I called them about the JM cross country meet that was going to be held at the park during off-leash hours," remembers Ingram, "and they asked their members not to come to the park that day."

But once housekeeping items have been taken care of, the elephant in the room is the physical separation of off-leash dogs and playground/picnic areas.

... continued on next page

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Rancho Laguna II: Defining Ridgeline Development in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



The October 27 meeting of the Moraga Town Council saw a bitter battle between proponents of different interpretations of the General Plan regarding the protection of ridgelines that are not protected by the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO). At stake is not only the Rancho Laguna project, a 27-home development along Rheem Boulevard that is currently under appeal, but future development in areas such as Indian Valley and Bollinger Canyon. The Council could not reach a consensus and called it quits at 12:45 a.m. The next hearing is scheduled for December.

This was Council's second hearing of an appeal of the Planning Commission's conditional approval of the conceptual development plan for this project. As proposed, the development comprises three areas – seven homes along Rheem Boulevard (D Drive), ten homes on a higher plateau (called C Court), and 10 homes that sit on a ridge that's mostly less than 800 feet in elevation and that requires grading (up to 35 feet of grading) to accommodate the development. These 10 homes (along what is called B Drive and B Court) are at the heart of the controversy: Does the General Plan pro-

hibit all development on all ridgelines? Does the term "protect ridgelines" mean prohibit development or just limit it?

During the long night of debate, the audience was taken back in time by Bill Vaughn who was a council member in 2002 when the General Plan was amended. "At the May 1, 2002 Town Council meeting, we the council discussed what we had agreed to regarding ridgeline protection and hillside development," said Vaughn, "Mayor Majchrzak summarized the Council's intent; that this language is explicitly to expand the protection to all ridgelines not protected by the (MOSO) provisions regarding major and minor ridgelines." Vaughn indicated that the language could be perceived as ambiguous, but that it was a way to leave some decision-making power to the Council. The record shows that Vaughn voted against this amendment of the General Plan.

In her staff report Planning Director Lori Salamack did not follow that interpretation of the Council's intent. "The 800 foot elevation is one of the defining elements to determine if a ridgeline is regulated under the General Plan," said (now former) Town Manager Mike Seg-

rest when he summarized the report.

The decision rested on the shoulders of three council members, Howard Harpham, Vice-Mayor Karen Mendonca and Council Member Dave Trotter. Mayor Ken Chew and Council Member Mike Metcalf had to recuse themselves because they live less than 500 feet from the project.

Trotter demonstrated a passionate attachment to protecting ridgelines; he would prefer to see no development on either B Drive or B Court. Mendonca indicated agreement that the 2002 General Plan can prohibit development on ridges adjacent to defined ridgelines and she supports the removal of the proposed homes along B Drive, but said that some of the lots "are trickier, they are not in the same proximity to the ridgeline." Harpham has consistently presented a pro-private property rights approach. He supports the removal or relocation of some of the lots on B Drive but not of the homes on B Court.

The meeting ended awkwardly, with a rare occurrence of open discord. Whatever the final decision, the Town could face a legal challenge from either the applicant or the appellant.

LamorindaDogs.org

... continued from page A6



From left: Bill Carman, Joan Nopp, Joan Birke, Gaylen Parson and Rob Blits (and dogs). Photo Sophie Braccini

During the last council meeting where this issue was debated, the Council made it clear that a physical separation needed to be put permanently in place at Rancho Laguna Park. Council member Howard Harpham volunteered to

be the liaison with the group in the drafting of a final plan.

"We invited Howard (Harpham) to one of our Saturday picnics at the park," said Blits, "and the discussion was very cordial." The tentative plan is to regroup

both playgrounds on the north side of the park, fence them in and add several picnic tables; the south side picnic area would also be fenced. The group is seeking guidance from staff regarding the specifications of a physical barrier, getting


estimates from contractors and raising funds from members; to date they have reportedly raised about \$8000.

"I expect that a plan should be ready to be presented to the Council at the beginning of next year," said Ingram.

Another fundamental objective of the Lamorinda Dogs Association is to get the multi-use nature of Rancho Laguna Park included in the Parks and Recreation master plan. "We want to avoid the politics," said Blits, "we want a multi-use field where dog owners are responsible and respected. About 50% of Lamorinda residents have dogs; this park is good for the socialization of the dogs and serves a real need for many residents."

Once the situation in Moraga is stabilized, the group plans to help the city of Lafayette with its plans for a dog park. "We would like to bring our experience and what we are learning in Moraga to Lafayette to help with their plan," concludes Newell.

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Civic News

Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission Tuesday, November 30, 7:00 pm
(November 23 meeting has been cancelled)
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Orinda: www.cityoforinda.org
Chamber of Commerce: www.orindachamber.org

• Police Report •



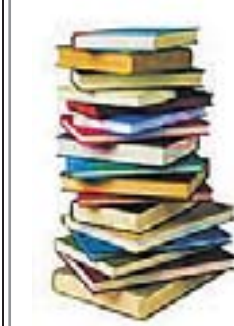
was doing. "Hanging out," he replied. He also did not have a medical marijuana card, so he was cited for possession of less than an ounce.

Frequent Flyer drunk in public, 11/02/10 Orinda's usual suspect was causing a disturbance on Moraga Way. She was found by officers lying on the ground with a half empty bottle of vodka. A cop asked her what she was doing and she started screaming his name – apparently they had met before. She was unable to stand on her own, plus had a .20 blood alcohol level, so she was transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Burglary, 10/25/10 An unknown suspect pried open the locked rear door of an Ardilla Road home and stole an estimated \$3,800 worth of unspecified items. This reporter wonders what kind of unspecified items – jewelry, computer, autographed Cody Ross Giants jersey?

Vandalism, 10/25/10 Sometime between 6:30 and 7:15 in the morning that rascally unknown suspect broke the drivers side window on a Saturn – the car, not the planet – parked on Muth Drive. Police speculate the damage was caused by a baseball bat. Fortunately nothing was taken from the vehicle but there was approximately \$250 in damage to the window.

Drug Possession, 10/26/10 A nineteen-year-old male was smoking pot in his mom's BMW at the back parking lot of Glorietta School on Martha Road. An officer could smell the strong odor of marijuana and asked the young man what he



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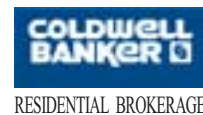
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And the Winners Are?

By Andrea a. Firth

Orinda's City Council election may still be too close to call until the very last ballot is counted. As of press time the Contra Costa County Board of elections still had thousands of mail-in and provisional ballots across the county to add to the election counts. The number of ballots that remained outstanding in Orinda was not known.

According to City Clerk Michele Olsen, Orinda has historically had a significant percentage of residents voting by mail, as high as 68%, so the City is watching closely for updates from the County.

Based on the election night results, just under 10,000 votes were cast by Orinda residents

who were given the option to vote for three of the five candidates— Amy Worth, Dean Orr, Sue Severson, Scott Zeller, and Tom McCormick. In the 2006 election, when voters were also given the option to vote for three out of five City Council candidates, a total of 21,569 votes were cast.

With the potential that several thousand votes still need to be counted, at this point we can only make educated guess as to who will be sitting on the stage of the Library Auditorium when the new Council members are sworn in on December 7th.

Here's what we know now. It's a safe bet that Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer, who each have two years left in their terms, will

be at the table. For the three open Council seats, the current results have Amy Worth leading the group with 2,485 votes followed by Dean Orr (2,010 vote) and Sue Severson (1,949 votes). Scott Zeller, M.D., the newcomer to Orinda's civic scene, remains in the hunt trailing Severson by just 59 votes. Current Mayor Tom McCormick trails the pack with 1,633 votes.

The election to fill three seats on the Orinda Union School District Board (OUSD) of Trustees is also very tight and uncounted absentee ballots could impact the results of this race as well. A total of 9,037 votes have been counted so far. This compares to 17,128 votes cast in the 2006 OUSD

school board election that also filled three trustee posts.

Based on the election night results, Julie Rossiter (1,952 votes), Chris Severson (1,923 votes), and Tyson Krumholz (1,877 votes) have the top three spots. Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert trails Krumholz by just 120 votes, and Sarah Butler is currently in fifth place with 1,516 votes. Rounding out the Board will be current Trustees Pat Rudebusch and Matt Moran who each have two years left in their terms.

Note, this information is up-to-date as of Monday morning, November 8th. We'll keep you informed as the election results are updated. Go to www.lamorindaweekly.com.

FPPC Does Not Pursue Complaint Against McCormick

By Andrea A. Firth

The California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) recently determined that a complaint filed by Orinda resident Gregory Wheatland against Mayor Tom McCormick did not provide evidence of a conflict of interest violation.

Twelve days prior to the recent City Council election, Wheatland, a former Mayor and Council member, filed a complaint with the FPPC alleging McCormick, due to the proximity of his home to downtown,

had violated the Political Reform Act by serving as chairman of a city task force that developed recommendations for downtown development.

Two days prior to the complaint filing, McCormick, who owns a residence within 500 feet of the edge of the downtown area, had submitted a written request to the FPPC asking for advice regarding whether he could vote on matters that concern downtown zoning. A response from the Commission is

expected by late November.

McCormick participated in over 100 meetings as chair of the City's Planning Process Review Task Force (the PPRTF), which was disbanded after submitting a report of its recommendations early this year. The downtown segment of the PPRTF's report has not yet been adopted by the City Council, and review of the recommendations stalled with the Planning Commission due to strong public feedback regarding the build-

ing height increases and mixed housing proposed in the report. The next step in the PPRTF review process is yet to be determined.

Although the election results for Orinda's closely contested Council race have not been fully counted, McCormick's current fifth place finish leaves it unlikely that he will be a voting member if downtown development and zoning matters come before the Council in 2011.

Artisan and Wine Faire

Submitted by Cherie Benzie

A wide variety of artisans will display their work at the annual Artisan and Wine Faire held at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, on Thursday, November 18 from 4:00 – 8:00. This festive event offers an array of unique creativity from local craftsmen happy to discuss their artwork with you. Several wineries will be offering samples, and you may purchase your favorite at the event.

Gail Solt will again display some of the Gemstones and beads she has collected from around the world to make into sumptuous necklaces. On a recent visit to Hawaii Gail met a fellow artist

from the University of Hawaii and together they designed some beautiful pieces showing a distinctive Hawaiian influence.

A new artist this year will show her intricate bead baskets. Sandra Wooten once lived in Santa Fe, and designs influenced by Native Americans can still be seen in her work. Each small basket offers its own unusual woven pattern created bead by bead. Symbols become an integral part of many designs often bringing a sacred quality to each piece of artwork.

Another returning artist will be welcomed back by her many patrons. Ceramic artist Gerry Wallace has spent many creative hours in

her Orinda studio picking up a variety of awards over the years. The clay she works with may take on a totally whimsical personality, become highly functional, or a purely decorative addition to your home. The common thread is the final works will all be uniquely Gerry Wallace.

Other artists will feature pottery, glass, photographic stationery, jewelry, woodwork and some truly unique clothing. The Art Faire is free and provides a beautiful venue to gather your friends. Maybe you will find the perfect holiday gift for the most challenging on your list prior to dining either at the club or in Orinda.



Gail Solt's new jewelry has a Hawaiian influence. Photo provided



Gerry Wallace's whimsical ceramics are unique. Photo provided



Sandra Wooten's bead baskets were inspired by her time in New Mexico. Photos provided

Council to Hear from Quiet Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth

Members of the citizen's group Quiet Orinda will address the Orinda City Council on November 16th to express their concerns about the air and noise pollution caused by the widespread use of leaf blowers in the city. "We want it addressed, we want relief, and we want it fast," says Peter Kendall, the group's leader.

Quiet Orinda will have fifteen minutes to present their case, and Kendall plans to have several resi-

dents and a pollution expert on hand to speak to the many aspects of the issue including a potential ordinance to limit or ban leaf blower use. "We feel that we need to educate everybody," says Kendall, adding that the City's current noise ordinance is totally inadequate to deal with the problem. Following Quiet Orinda's presentation, the Council will have the opportunity to ask questions of the group, and the public will have a chance to ad-

dress the Council on the issue in the usual three-minute allotment.

Kendall and his wife Susan have been championing their quiet cause for more than a year and it appears that people are starting to listen. Quiet Orinda recently received national coverage with a tongue-in-cheek article entitled *Blowback* by the New Yorker's Tad Friend. However, while Quiet Orinda has gained a following, not all residents support the group's goal. At the City

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Local Women Taking Charge of Their Lives

By Sophie Braccini



Dustie Robeson and Amy Berryhill



Lynne Navone



Susan Di Stefano in her favorite hospital gown

The hardest lesson I learned is that I'm the one in charge of my life," said Leilah Douglass, of Douglass Design, "Others can help, but you have to take charge and go with it." The Women's Empowerment Forum was a panel discussion organized by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Mechanics Banks on October 19, featuring a dozen seasoned local business women. In Lamorinda, many women take charge of their lives and change their career paths to accommodate their family life or to adapt to a change in circumstance. Their stories are empowering.

Susan Di Stefano spent 20 years raising her sons and volunteering for the Orinda community, and then wanted to start a business of her own. She settled on a concept, but life threw her a curve ball – she was diagnosed with breast cancer. "My silver lining showed up at a most unlikely moment," said Di Stefano, founder of Susan's Silver Lining. "It came to me right after I was handed an old hospital gown with a tear in it and was told to 'undress and put this on.' Before her next appointment, she pulled out a pajama top, cut open the back and sleeves, and sewed in silk ribbons. The next time she went to the doctor, with her own hospital gown to change into, she felt less exposed; more herself and stronger. Her doc-

tors agreed there was no reason she should not wear her own gown.

Di Stefano realized that she could create hospital gowns for others as well, in cheerful and fun fabrics, and she made several prototype gowns that tied at the side instead of the back. Nurses offered suggestions and at each visit she took her note pad and jotted down ideas. "That was what kept me going last year," said Di Stefano, who is now cancer-free. "I've been asked to have some gowns in hospital gift stores," she says, "and if my gowns can make a sick woman feel a little better and stronger, that's what will make me happy." The gowns come in different fabrics, from leopard print, to French country, to cupcakes, and are made locally of high quality cotton. They can be ordered online at susansilverlining.com.

Nothing that dramatic happened in the lives of Dustie Robeson and Amy Berryhill. It was meeting each other through a friend that was the catalyst to switching from corporate careers to their passion-become-business: organizing other people's space. "During a company meeting we asked each other what would be our dream job," said Berryhill, an Orinda mom who was then in sales and marketing for a pharmaceutical company, "and I said: professional organizer!"

When Berryhill met Robeson, their common love for build-

ing efficiency brought them together and their complementarities make their business a success. They acknowledge that getting organized can be a very emotional process and that no system works for everyone. They believe that being a team makes them more creative and efficient. They specialize in residential organizing, love working with kids, families, and home-based businesses. They can be reached through their web site at SpiffyChicks.com.

The transition from the corporate life to mother/entrepreneur has gone smoothly for the Spiffy-Chicks. Lynne Navone hopes for an equally straightforward ride. The Moraga mom just launched 24/7, a Personal Assistant service. Navone used to be an administrative assistant, 'before kids,' for Gumps in San Francisco, and the Sierra Club. She's since volunteered in the community, but it's been 20 years since she left the corporate world.

Navone needed to invent a new role for herself. "One day, when I needed to be at two places at the same time, it dawned on me that we sometimes have a need for a personal assistant, someone you know and trust, and can free up some time." Navone runs errands for her clients; around the home she supervises repairs and deliveries, organizes photos and scrapbooks,

and helps with clutter. In a home business setting she manages emails, phone calls and correspondence and makes travel and business arrangements. She provides "concierge" services and helps with holidays and special events planning. Finally, courtesy of her Italian roots and family tradition of home-made dinners, she plans and cooks for everyday meals or special occasions. For more details, her web site is www.twentyfoursevenhelp.com, or call 876-7314.

The owners of the three businesses featured here were part of the Lafayette forum and they embody the words of wisdom that were shared there. "If you don't love what you do, you should be doing something else," said Chevron executive Sheila Taylor during the event, who realized one morning that her passion for her job was waning and she became an owner of the Wine Country Trekking company.

"Flexibility is key to be able to transition," said Anne Grodin who, among many other careers, was a key player in the establishment of the Lafayette Community Foundation. Professionals, volunteers, Chief Domestic Officers – Lamorinda women certainly tally a variety of experience. Like Susan, Dustie, Amy, Lynne, Leila, Sheila and Anne, all they need to soar is to discover their passion and act on it.

business briefs

Pizza Anyone?
Two New Gourmet Pizza Restaurants Coming to Lamorinda

Pizza lovers will soon have more interesting choices as two new pizza restaurants are getting the last details taken care of before their grand openings. Bonfire Pizzeria in Theater Square (across from Republic of Cake) boasts local, organic ingredients. The restaurant's website is <http://www.bonfirepizzeria.com/>.



Photos Sophie Braccini

In Lafayette, Patxi's Chicago Pizza (pronounced pah'-cheese) is set to open at 3577 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The company is privately owned and has three other restaurants. They offer Chicago style deep-dish pizza. Their web site: patxispizza.com. Both restaurants are scheduled to open early 2011. We'll keep you updated on details as the openings near.



Caldecott Properties Comes to Moraga
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Lamorinda native Andy Read, co-owner of Caldecott Properties which employs several Lamorinda residents, has moved in a few doors down from the New Rheem Theatre. The intent of establishing Caldecott Properties was to create a full-service brokerage specializing in sales, rentals and property management on both sides of the tunnel. With over 315 sales totaling more than \$170 million dollars in Alameda County, Caldecott Properties was named one of the 25 largest residential real estate firms in the East Bay. A portion of the company's proceeds are donated to various non-profit groups, including the East Bay Humane Society, the Bay Area's only no-kill shelter.

Trick or Treat



Photo provided

The ladies at CC & Co Hair Design in Moraga showed that Halloween fun is not just for the kids. Eloisa Avitia, Renee Deshung, Terry Wolff Stratton and Cathy Corsi dressed up as a fortune teller, Hot Lips Houlihan, Mrs. Robinson, and Madame Dracula.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette
Green Committee Meeting on Wednesday, November 17 in the Chamber Conference Room.
Entrepreneur's Club on Thursday, November 18 starting at 8:30am in the Chamber Conference Room.
Ribbon Cutting at Tara Natural Medicine on Thursday, November 18 from 5:00pm at 3186 Old Tunnel Road, Lafayette.
31st Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast on Friday, November 19 starting at 7:00am. Reservations required! Join the Friendly Chamber for the 31st annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast and take the time to savor the beginning of the holiday season. The annual event will be held this year at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. A catered breakfast will be offered by Green Lantern Catering Co. The cost is \$15 per person. Reservations can be made by calling the Chamber offices at 284-7404, or via email: Karen@lafayettechamber.org.

Moraga
General Chamber Meeting at the Hacienda de las Flores on November 19 from 7:30 – 9am. Meet and Greet, Coffee and Hot Muffins, starting at 8:00, introduction of new Chamber businesses.

Orinda
Chamber November Mixer at Orinda Motors on Thursday, November 11 from 5:30-7:00pm, at 63 Orinda Way, Orinda. Join your fellow Chamber members and guests for an evening of fun and networking at Orinda Motors.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call the office 925-377-0977

Life in LAMORINDA

Challenging Conditions for Lamorinda Grapes

By Sophie Braccini



Photos Doug Kohen



UC Berkeley exchange student Johanna was one of the many volunteers who together harvested 1,000 lbs of Cabernet Franc, 3013 lbs of Petite Verdot, and 2412 lbs of Petite Sirah grapes at Captain Vineyards earlier this month.

As the French prepare to release their 2010 Beaujolais Nouveau on November 18th, Lamorinda winemakers are releasing their own 2010 production. But it has been a very difficult year for local vineyards and wineries.

Spring was very wet and summer never really settled in; grapes took longer to mature and develop acceptable sugar content. The wet spring seemed to foster an explosion of wildlife – raccoons and birds devastated some vineyards. Areas that stayed damp were challenged by powdery mildew, a fungus that dramatically impacted the yield.

However, producers are optimistic. The 2010 production should be unique, probably with a lower alcohol content (low sugar), but boasting great elegance and flavor. “The wines are going to be very good, well balanced and easier to drink,” says Dave Parker of Parkmon Vineyards, “people’s taste will become more refined. 2010 will be a year to remember and keep.”

“The slow ripening this year will develop a deeper flavor,” agrees Susan Captain of Captain Vineyards in Moraga, “Every year

is different, each bottle tells the story of what happened that year.” Captain says the ideal sugar level is between 22 and 24 percent. “The higher the grade the higher the alcohol level,” she says, “for me 22.5 percent is good, I’m not looking for big alcohol, I’m looking for flavor.”

Mildew was also a problem for many vineyards this year. “I should have harvested three times the grapes I ended up picking,” says Peter Cacioppo, who owns Eagle Hill Vineyards and Winery, “the powdery mildew prevention was not done enough times; we are all learning as we go.” Cacioppo has a manager who does the maintenance for him and sprays the fungicide.

Cold weather and fungus were not the only threats to grapes this year. “When talking to some of the other members, it seems that there are some common issues being faced by the growers, such as: raiising/bunching of some of their crop, raccoons, birds, disappearing fruit on rows,” wrote Lafayette grower Bill Scanlin of Deer Hill Vineyards, on the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association blog.

Carol Haag of Moraga says that she lost 60%-70% of her crop to raccoons. The only way she found to get rid of them was to leave a radio on all night near the vineyard. Cacioppo has a different strategy, “I leave my two German Shepherds out at night the last three weeks before harvest, “they keep raccoons at bay,” he says.

Parker said he would not let his dog out, but that he had raccoons trapped last year and that kept the population close to his property under control. Other growers consider the raccoon problem to be so severe that they contacted the Department of Agriculture in Concord and will consider trapping them. “We live in a semi-rural environment with plenty of the natural habitat for the raccoons in between our vineyards,” says Parker, “it’s normal to see so many of them.”

“A lot of people dream of being a grower, but it is a lot of work and worry,” says Captain, “each year gives you a different story, and in the end it’s also a lot of fun.”

For more information:

Captain Vineyards: www.captainvineyards.com
 Parkmon Vineyards: www.parkmon.com
 Lamorinda Winegrower Association: www.lamorindawinegrowers.com.
 For those interested in acquiring a property with a large vineyard, Peter Cacioppo is selling his estate, www.lyndasnell.com.

Festival of Trees Moraga Royale

The Holiday season is a perfect time for giving. Moraga Royale, along with local businesses and organizations, has donated and decorated beautiful Christmas trees to support the Rescue One Foundation; a non-profit organization dedicated to the aid of the MOFD paramedics. A silent auction will be held at Moraga Royale from December 1st to the 7th. Community members are invited to join in on the holiday spirit and perhaps walk away with a wonderful Christmas tree. Viewing and bidding hours will be from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm daily. Bidding will conclude on December 7th at 9:00 PM. If you are the lucky winner of one of these trees and you reside in the Lamorinda area, we will personally deliver it to your residence the following day, December the 8th. We would love for you to join us in this fun and giving event.

Happy Holidays

If you are interested in making a donation to this event, please contact:
 Dianne Wilson or Al Pyne at Moraga Royale.
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Moraga Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors Meetings
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Next meeting(s):

November 17th, 7pm
regular Meeting,
Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga),
(go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

**Please submit:
Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorinda
weekly.com**

Wyro Reelected to MOFD Board of Directors

By Lucy Amaral



From left: MOFD Board members Brook Mancinelli, Fred Weil, Dick Olsen, Board president Frank Sperling, and John Wyro

Photo Lucy Amaral

During their November 3 meeting, members of the Moraga-Orinda Board of Directors congratulated John Wyro on his reelection to the Board. Wyro defeated challenger Bob Jungbluth in the November 2 election to represent Orinda's District 4.

Board members Frank Sperling and Dick Olsen, who also ran for reelection for District 1 and District 3 respectively, ran unopposed and were appointed in lieu of election. The newly reelected board members' next four year terms officially begin in December.

MOFD Promotes Two to Rank of Captain

By Lucy Amaral



From left: Mark McCullah, Jon Bensley, Battalion Chief Stephen Healy, and Fire Chief Randy Bradley.

Photo Lucy Amaral

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) held a badge pinning ceremony November 3, promoting Firefighters Jon Bensley and Mark McCullah to the rank of Captain. Bensley, who has worked as an emergency room technician in Walnut Creek and paramedic in Fresno, joined MOFD in 2006 as a firefighter/paramedic and was promoted to engineer in 2008. McCullah started with MOFD as a reserve in 2004 and was hired as a firefighter/paramedic in 2006. He is currently on MOFD's swift water rescue team, an instructor for rescue boat operations and Rapid Intervention Crew, and an academy instructor.

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Happy Healthy Holidays – the 3 Wise “Nots”

By Dr. Theresa Tsingis, D.C., M.S.

The holiday season brings more than its share of “To Do” lists for everyone. However, years of experience as a nutritionist and health practitioner have led me to think there are some specific “To-Not-Do” items pertaining to the holiday season which can help make it a better time for everyone:

1. How to Not Get Sick:

- Wash hands frequently and keep them away from your mouth and nose. The most common mechanism of contracting a virus is to bring it into contact with the mucus membranes of the body.
- Keep up with antioxidant foods and supplement intake – For example, in our clinic we test patients for zinc deficiency, which is linked to susceptibility to infections. Vitamin C is also a standby as are green tea, pomegranate juice, sweet potatoes and lycopene (obtainable from tomatoes).
- Don't Stay Up Too Late – Have you noticed that holidays tend to promote the overextension of efforts? Is it worth baking 50 dozen cookies or spending hours with elaborate gift wrap if you'll become too ill or tired to enjoy them? Your immune system will benefit from sleep, and the energy reserve will come in handy during exposure to seasonal germs.
- Practice good food hygiene – Recipes made with raw eggs, mayonnaise, or raw poultry and

fish should be processed without contaminating other food prep surfaces. They should also be thrown out after being served, even if out for only a couple of hours. Avoid a trip to the ER in the middle of the night because you felt obliged to eat the leftover whitefish.

2. How to Not Gain Weight:

- Stick with your exercise regimen no matter what – If that means foregoing the favorite tv show (vs. exercise), it's better to have exercised. A cardio-workout helps burn twice the calories later while you're “at rest” getting ready for the holidays.
- Eat breakfast, preferably with a solid protein base. Sugary cold cereals and hot cereals (sans nuts and fiber) increase cravings later in the day. Re: later meals, it's been found that eating vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts and cabbage stabilizes blood sugar into the next day. (see reference 1)
- Do not use a party as a mealtime; eat beforehand - and pick at your favorite selections at the event. It's better for both your social life and waistline.
- Watch the alcohol, especially before eating –Before a meal, alcohol increases appetite and leads to overeating. Drinking alcohol is like drinking dessert, since its hidden sugar packs on calories and causes fat deposition. A glass of

wine has some health benefits, so taking sips with a meal helps lower the negative effects.

- Get enough rest to avoid feeling worn out – Worth mentioning again, since research reveals that weight loss will not occur without adequate sleep, about 7-8 hours. (see reference 2)

3. How to Not Get so Stressed

- Do Not Overcommit – Cortisol is the stress hormone produced in response to going past one's innate energy level. It causes weight gain, fatigue and poor memory, not to mention deterioration of the spirit of the occasion and season.
- Keep it All in Perspective - Dave Barry wrote “Once again we come to the holiday season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.” Yes, there are more “To-Do's” than “Not-To-Do's” tugging for attention. Attitude might be a cure, because thoughts cause chemical reactions which affect physical health. Why not practice this outlook - “As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same.” – Donald Westlake.
- Whip Out the Humor - Lighten that load. Read or tell funny stories about the holidays, show

funny movies, play interactive party games. Holidays are an opportunity to build memories. Family and friends will remember good times and the enjoyment of each other's company (including the new “not-so-stressed you”).

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

References:

- 1) Second-meal effect: low-glycemic-index foods eaten at dinner improve subsequent breakfast glycemic response, TM Wolever et al, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Vol 48, 1041-1047,
- 2) www.webmd.com/sleep-disorders/guide/lose-weight



Dr. Theresa Tsingis, DCMS specializes in functional medicine, a branch of nutrition focused on prevention, medical research and therapeutic lifestyle change. Her practice, Lamorinda Nutrition, is located at 251 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette CA. Tel. (925) 283-Well
-or- drTsingis@comcast.net.

As Seen in Lamorinda



Hi Lamorinda Weekly!
We thought we'd share a picture with the community showing our Halloween & Giants Spirit! My husband (Eric Lindquist) carved it. Hope you enjoy it!
Go Giants!
Lisa Lindquist
Moraga, CA

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Senior's Open Reading Enlightening

By Cathy Tyson



Members of the Lafayette Senior Services Writers Group, Mary Lee Dodd, Miriam Glickman, Edna Coulson Hall, Judith Rathbone, Janet Clark, Sally Holzman and Mei Sun Li. Photo C. Tyson

With a broad array of excerpts of their selected works covering a Pomeranian Monologue - a charming slice of life from a beloved pooch's point

of view - to the story of a civil rights worker in Mississippi circa 1964 and more, the Senior Services Writers Group represents an impressive collection of talent that

thoroughly impressed the standing-room-only crowd at their recent Open Reading.

With their facilitator Judith Rathbone, herself a teacher at Las

Positas Community College, these women are working on a variety of projects and come together regularly to be supportive and offer feedback. Mei Sun Li describes the Group as a comforting place, “We've laughed and shed tears. It's a place of happy ruminations.” The goal of the Senior Writers is meant to be personally fulfilling and not necessarily lead to publication.

The on-going “Self-Discovery and Aging: Creative Writing Workshop” with facilitator Rathbone, is open to the public and will finish out the fall quarter with meetings on 11/12, 12/3 and 12/17 from 1:00 to 2:30 in the Elderberry Room of the Lafayette Community Center. The alternate Friday Workshop sessions include writing prompts, feedback, encouragement, and information about the world of writers, writing, and publishing.

Angels in America at SMC

... continued from page A1

Kushner is working on an epic scale and thinking about a nation at a particular time in history.”

Reid, who will direct the production, says the play fits well with the college's “Rethinking America's Changing Face” theme for the year. “Students can keep their core identities while learning about other values,” he explains. “SMC makes space for many viewpoints,” he says, before admitting that “every production of this play has been met with a rigorous and healthy dialogue.”

When pressed, he answers with care, saying the choice of a play about homosexuality prompted “deeply felt articulations of support, as well as concerns.” The most immediate concerns were the original play's nudity, (there will be none,) and how a scene that includes a sexual act will be staged (the characters will be isolated on separate parts of the stage and will speak the lines, with no physical portrayal of the scene). Once these questions were addressed, Reid says “the concerns weren't gone, but the play and the complementary conversations will be an opportunity to continue the dialogue.”

In collaboration with the School of Liberal Arts, SMC is hosting four panel discussions related to the play, covering subjects like “AIDS at 30 Years: Crisis and Compassion”, and “Making Change: Art and Social Justice”. Reid expects the blend of both traditional and progressive voices to shed light on the Catholic Church's role as a relief organization during

the AIDS crisis. “The Church provided care, comfort—and leadership,” he says, emphatically. “For college students in 2010, the AIDS crisis is historical. They don't have an immediate sense, a lived sense of the fear, the desperation, of the epidemic.”

Reid says the most challenging aspect of *Angels in America* is “the enormity of the research.” The students met with hospice nurses, a doctor who worked in an AIDS ward, and Lorri Holt, an original company cast member from the San Francisco professional production. “Acting requires integrity, so we train our actors to go deeply into the characters they are portraying,” he says.

With this particular play, that means examining their sexuality, their compassion for alternative lifestyles within a community, even

their family histories. “They've come to understand that 30 years ago, a generation of young people was dropping. They've had to think about living in a time of plague,” Reid says.

According to Reid, all theater “celebrates life, honors the common human struggles, educates, advocates and builds a community.” Inspired, and encouraged to explain how this relates his choice of *Angels in America*, he continues: “The ancients understood the sacred nature of storytelling. Theater arrives in all forms: on stage, in a family gathering, in a sports arena, around an organized, common cause. Its power is in how it bridges differences, in a way that technology inhibits. There's a warm, hand-to-warm-hand tradition in theater.”

Whether warm turns to hot

will largely be determined by the temperature and tone of the dialogues: it is, after all, partly a play about homosexuality. The college intends for the talks to be civil conversations, not debates, according to Reid. “We will be discussing Church teachings on homosexuality from a range of perspectives,” he says.

Angels in America is a play with humor and honor, aimed at social justice education and seeking to ask the question posed by Mother Theresa: “How can we provide compassionate care to those in need?” Reid, who has spoken for a full hour about the production, the students, and the process of bringing it to the stage, finally rests, saying, “It really is about our deepest spiritual values.”

Angels in America, Part One (Adult Subject Matter)
LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga
Performance Schedule:
November 11, 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:30pm; November 14 and 21 at 2pm
Tickets: \$15 general; \$12 Saint Mary's faculty and staff and non-SMC students; \$8 SMC students
Reservations: (925) 631-4670 or www.stmarys-ca.edu/arts

There will be staged readings (free to all) of Part Two:
Perestroika on November 14 and 16 at 7pm and November 20 at 2pm in Hagerty Lounge.

Panel Discussions:
AIDS at 30 Years: Crisis and Compassion (Nov. 9)
Love and Sexuality: Spiritual Perspectives (Nov. 12)
America's Changing Face: the Politics of Identity (Nov. 15)
Making Change: Art and Social Justice (Nov. 18)
All panel discussions will take place in Delphine Intercultural Center at 4:30.

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: **Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570**

Editor:
It did not surprise me that the Burton Valley remodel was denied although it met all zoning requirements of the City of Lafayette.
When our family moved into the Lafayette public school district nearly 14 years ago we had one requirement, we would not buy a house in the city limits of Lafayette, Moraga, or Orinda. Both my wife and I had lived in Contra Costa County our entire life and knew the meat grinder these three cities put homeowners through when any type of construction is involved.
We found it idiotic to pay big money for a house and let various city employees, commissions and neighbors determine what we could do on our property even if we met all the legal requirements. At the time most of our friends though we were insane but have come to the realization that our thoughts were not "extreme" but right on the money. Over the last 13 years we had a friend on a level lot on Springhill Road come under the ridgeline ordinance when they tried to expand the rear wall of a ranch style house. A second family went through hearings, revisions and hostility by City employees when they tried to build a 5,500s/f house on over two acres on Silver Springs. In this case I believe most of the opposition came from envy. A third case on Camelia Lane involved a huge dispute over the protection of a "shrub" or "heritage tree", depending on your perspective.
In the 13 years we have lived in unincorporated Lafayette we have had one addition, redesigned the front of the house, along with kitchen and bath remodels. All 4 permits were obtained the same day we applied with Contra Costa County. It was simple, if we met the zoning and engineering rules, they issued a permit. That's the reason for written requirements.

I would encourage homeowners to push back hard when cities try to deny you the right to improve your property based on subjective claims when all legal requirements are met. It's time to eliminate arguments such as "it's out of character", "the roof is too tall", "the roof is too short", "it's a McMansion", "it's 10 pounds of house on 5 pounds of lot". It's the homeowner who is putting the time and money into the renovation, not the neighbors or city employees or commission. If a house meets all the legal requirements it should be approved, period.
It's ironic that with all the oversight, Lafayette has a manufactured house at the main exit from Highway 24 when heading west. If that type of house is allowed how could anything be denied.
Sincerely,
Mickey McGoldrick
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KARSTAN GALLERY

Editor:
This morning at 1:35 am my automobile was taken by thieves from my driveway in Orinda.
My wife heard the sound of a car idling outside, my car engine turning over, and tires screeching. She

woke me up and went outside to confirm that my pickup was gone.
I called 911 immediately and after giving my information and hanging up, I noticed cars travelling at a high speed coming up the street. I ran outside and saw my pickup, followed by a 2-door automobile speed by, headed towards the nearby access road to the freeway.
I grabbed my wife's keys and followed in the direction I guessed the culprits would go. Soon I came upon flashing lights from four police cars driving next to my vehicle travelling west on Highway 24. The group of cars slowed and the police apprehended the thieves near the Wilder Road exit, as I pulled in behind.
Of special note was the quick action of the K-9 unit. The Orinda police dog (Chef) was out in a flash, deterring the suspects from trying to escape by foot. There were two Orinda police cars at the scene, one the K-9 unit, one from Lafayette, and a Highway Patrol vehicle. It must have been less than 4 minutes from the time I called 911 that the local on-duty officers had the area cordoned off and able to recognize, pursue and recover my vehicle. It is fortunate that the car thieves decided to take a route away from the freeway initially, but the entire drama unfolded in a very few minutes.
I wish to take note of the efficiency and professionalism displayed by the officers given the duty to protect our community.
Officer Gogo of the Orinda Police Department took my report. This incident occurred starting at approximately 1:30 am Wednesday, November 3, 2010. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the dispatcher and all those involved in the recovery of my car. If the thieves had made away with it, I question if I would have ever seen it again, or in any condition to keep.
Relieved and Grateful,
Paul B. Bogle
Orinda

Editor:
The cost of your gardener could at least double if the Orinda City Council approves a ban on the use of leaf blowers by gardeners. The Council will consider a ban on leaf blowers on Tuesday night, November 16, and vote on it. If you don't want your gardener's bill to double, attend this meeting and speak and say "No" to any leaf blower ban. The meeting is in the Orinda Library auditorium and begins at 7 p.m. Pick up a yellow speaker's slip at the back of the auditorium, fill it out and deposit it in a box next to the desk and microphone at the front of the auditorium.
The selfish folly of the proposed leaf blower ban is shown by the complaint of one of the leaf blower ban proponents that she can't have outdoor parties on Saturday because her four neighbors use leaf blowers. Why not have the parties on Sunday? Why should her neighbors double their gardener bills to suit her convenience?
Be there on November 16 and speak. Check with the City Clerk to be sure leaf blowers are still on the Council's November 16 agenda.
Clyde Vaughn
Orinda

Editor:
Orinda taxpayers do subsidize Moraga's MOFD costs.
I am frustrated that Ellen Dale would tell Orinda taxpayers (letter 10/27/2010) that there is proof that they do not subsidize Moraga in the funding of MOFD. She is very wrong. She has willingly accepted an invalid MOFD analysis based on simplistic assumptions rather than facts.
The facts are: Data from the County Controller's office shows that Orinda taxpayers pay \$11,470,000 annually in property taxes to MOFD while Moraga pays \$6,249,000. This translates to Orinda taxpayers paying \$1,040,000 per firefighter in the Orinda stations (11), while Moraga taxpayers only pay

\$780,000 per firefighter in Moraga stations (8). Therefore, Orinda taxpayers are paying over 15% of Moraga's emergency services costs; subsidizing Moraga taxpayers by \$1,200,000 in this year alone.
The allegation that Orinda taxpayers SHOULD pay part of Moraga's costs because they are served by Moraga-based firefighters is a fabrication created by MOFD officials and accepted blindly by Mrs. Dale. A detailed examination of all 5,000 equipment operations performed by MOFD in 2009 determined that (a) out of 2,000 ambulance operations, Orinda was recipient of only 18 operations in excess of its 50% fair share and (b) Orinda-based fire units and Moraga-based fire units provided exactly the same number of mutual aid operations to each other and to outside the MOFD service area.
Orinda receives no more service from Moraga than it gives back and its taxpayers should not be liable now, nor in the future, for any of Moraga's emergency services costs. Further, if this inequity is not addressed, the annual subsidy is projected to grow to as much as \$3,000,000 ANNUALLY within the decade. This is money Orinda tax payers cannot afford to give away.
Steve Cohn
Orinda

Editor:
I want to personally thank Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert for running for OUSD board and for bringing many important issues into the public realm. I also applaud her courage before and during the race itself. Knowing before she declared her candidacy that there would be many individuals and groups opposed to her election, Bekki displayed great poise as the only candidate publicly attacked, falsely accused, and enduring multiple acts of vandalism. I have made this a lesson in adversity and bravery for my children.
Orinda parents by the hundreds have made a clear statement in this election: we are the primary stakeholders for our children's education, and the OUSD board is accountable for its actions. I hope she will find our support a continuing source of strength. Bekki, please continue your fine work to move the district towards greater transparency, fiscal responsibility, and responsiveness to parents and teachers for the benefit of our children.
Warmest regards,
Robert Lowe
Orinda

Editor:
I thank the citizens of Lafayette for entrusting me with another term on the City Council. I am humbled by the broad show of support I received. During the past few months, I walked through many neighborhoods meeting old acquaintances and new residents. All the people I met share a fondness for Lafayette as a special community. I do too, and will work to improve Lafayette during the next four years.
I thank the many volunteers who sent letters on my behalf to their friends and neighbors, hosted events, walked with me, placed signs on their lawns and made generous contributions. Their efforts made my candidacy successful.
Being an effective council member requires having contact with citizens. I hope that each of you takes time to communicate with the City Council regarding what you do and do not like about Lafayette, as well as your opinions regarding the issues before us. That information helps us make better decisions.
I appreciate the voters' decision and will work to earn your continued support.
Don Tatzin
Lafayette

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Community Service

Seedlings Preschoolers "Boogie for Belal"
Submitted by Lori MacLeod



Anna MacLeod dances happily for the cause Photo provided

On Monday and Tuesday of this past week, the Seedlings preschoolers got down and boogied for a 10-year old boy named Belal Dardonah of Gaza City, Palestine. Belal was born deaf and as one of eight children in his family, has never been able to attend school. There is one school is Gaza City specifically designed for hearing impaired children and adults; it's called Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children (atfaluna.net). It would be a dream come true for Belal and his family if he could attend Atfaluna. There he could learn to communicate with his parents and siblings. He would be given the

Tiger Cub Scouts Visit Local Newspaper
Submitted by Susan Linden



From left to right - Nolan Flanagan, Mason Fara, Adam Harper, Quinn Panos, Xavier Esquer, Scott Linden, Nate Powers, Donovan Castilla-Liu. Photo Doug Kohen



Newspaper photographer Doug Kohen gives a lesson on photo shooting

The Tiger Cub Scouts of Den 4, Pack 505 recently toured the office of the Lamorinda Weekly newspaper. The tour was part of their learning about how the media communicates to the public. The Cub Scouts learned about the basic colors used for printing, the photography equipment needed for a great shot and how stories are created and edited.

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Portraits of Peace

Moraga artist tries to heal the wounds of war
By Lou Fancher



Moraga artist Mel Ahlborn

Mel Ahlborn is an American artist whose bold paintings capture the unparalleled dedication of modern day soldiers, honoring them for all time in oil on paper.

Creating *Portraits of Peace*, a collection of what will eventually be eight paintings, is keeping the Moraga artist both busy and content. Her story—how she came to be developing enormous, 5' x 5' portraits of US soldiers—is as varied as the subjects she chooses to paint.

"I knew I was an artist at age 4 or 5," Ahlborn says, settling in to a plush, pillow-filled sofa in her liv-



[painting of a soldier] Photo Mel Ahlborn

ing room. "Everything that had color or form or line, everything that was art, engaged me long past the dinner bell."

But Ahlborn, a wiz at math and science, was sent by her family and the nuns at school, on a different trajectory: "Art was not a track they would send a bright student to pursue," she says.

Instead, she wound up with a double degree in Chemistry and Classics from Tufts University. She went on to Hughes Aircraft, where she was a support engineer for the aeronautics company.

The irony of her career progression, from aerospace engineer to artist, is not lost on Ahlborn. "The job at Hughes: I had an interview opportunity and the pay was amazing," she says, in explanation. "But even when I was in college, I'd finish my organic chem labs, and I'd work on my art."

A series of events in the 1980's triggered Ahlborn's complete transformation into the artist she is today. First, her calligraphy appeared in a Getty Museum exhibit of The Stammheim Mssal, a religious service manuscript. In response, her father gave her a box of tools that had belonged to his father.

Ahlborn discovered for the first time that her family history included an artist: her grandfather had been an engraver.

"Not too long after, I was seeking to illustrate my calligraphy," Ahlborn says, "So I went to art school." There, she learned about form and figures, causing an immediate expansion in her work.

Ahlborn's hunger for "heritage," a term she equates to "lived experiences," offers the best explanation for the origins of her *Portraits of Peace* project. "I have a friend, a social worker who works with soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and the alarming rate of suicides with that population—" she leaves the sentence dangling. "And I wanted to do a portrait of Obama, because he interested me. I'm a better American than I am a political partisan. I'm not a person who lives a double standard. I see more what unites us than what divides us," she says.

Combining these disparate impulses, Ahlborn created two large works. "I went into the studio. I went into the lab. I had Obama's Nobel speech in front of me. I was thinking, *how can I use this?*—

Photo Lou Fancher

'cause the material's on fire inside of me.'

The reaction from studio visitors was intense: "People were seeing what I was doing and they were crying. They were moved," she says. "My goal was to cause people to pause, to reflect, to think: *I'm a part of that soldier; I'm an American too.* I realized my artwork could contribute to healing the wounds of war."

Ahlborn wrote to the Department of Defense to request pictures of a female soldier. She chose Sergeant Monica Brown, a Silver Star recipient from Lake Jackson, Texas. The painting is now complete, and Ahlborn has made arrangements for it to be donated to a Veteran's hospital in Brown's home town.

Eventually, Ahlborn plans for all eight portraits to be on display in the soldier's birthplaces. "They're the ones that help us remember we are American. I don't discount the necessity of war: freedom and democracy come with a price. But we can't forget: the soldiers, they're human."

Four of the eight paintings are finished, or nearly so, and a fifth is in the works. Of the remaining two, Ahlborn says, "I need somebody from this area. These are our local heroes. Lamorinda has soldiers we don't even know about."

To contact the artist, email mahlborn@illuminationstudio.org. To learn more about Portraits of Peace, go to <http://portraitsofpeace.wordpress.com/>.



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Lafayette Library's Successful First Year

... continued from page A1

Kathy Merchant, President of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation Trustees (Foundation) adds, "The Library brought the community together like nothing else could. Residents feel that this is "their" library - they have ownership."

The LLLC has a close working relationship with the Foundation, a non-profit entity created to support the construction, operations, programming and funding of the LLLC. Many residents don't know that the Foundation is responsible for funding 52% of the annual operating costs - which translates into expanded library hours, funding Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium programming and maintenance.

As part of the negotiations to get the library built, the City of Lafayette agreed to fund only the amount that they had already been paying for the original library - forever. Of course the new 30,000 square foot, state of the art library is considerably more expensive to run than the old library - that's where the Foundation fits in. The Contra Costa County library system only funds staffing for 35 hours per week, the Foundation funds the balance of the 56 hours per week that the library is open plus the revolutionary Glen Seaborg Learning Consortium.

Some pleasant surprises and challenges have greeted both Weaver and Merchant - they credit Facilities Manager Brian Long for keeping the place humming, "None of us expected what it would take

to manage a facility."

One unanticipated surprise was the volume of computer users. The new building has one of the biggest bandwidths in the County library system - but there were so many users logged on to the free wi-fi at one time they had to upgrade capacity.

According to Weaver, another big change is the Friends of the Library. They went from a cramped room in the Lafayette Community Center to a spacious organized facility at the corner of First Street and Golden Gate Way, the Friends Corner Book Shop, and from thirty volunteers to over a hundred.

"Could we deliver an audience," was a concern of Merchant, of the first of its kind in the nation Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium - a partnership of a dozen Bay Area exemplary science, education and arts institutions. Management and administration of the Consortium is handled by the Foundation. Lamorinda residents are able to enjoy a wide array of events, courtesy of support from the Thomas J. Long Foundation, from California Shakespeare Theater and the Lawrence Hall of Science to the Oakland Zoo and the Commonwealth Club.

Merchant describes their first efforts at getting the word out as "gorilla marketing." In the ensuing months there has been a phenomenal response from the community. Just recently 550 people attended the Lamorinda Reads author event with Abraham Verghese discussing

his hugely popular book, "Cutting for Stone." Look for a regularly updated monthly calendar of events available online and on site.

The Foundation's Open Doors Open Minds is very close to its goal amount of \$4 million, helped along by substantial corporate and foundation funding. For example, a generous foundation grant from Bechtel in collaboration with the Foundation and schools supports a prototype model of a curriculum unit that can be replicated and is portable. NASA photos from outer space are the focus of the premier lesson. The plan is to have a "curriculum in a box" that fits in with existing science units to make life easier for teachers with enrichment materials and lesson plans.

Because part of the new library's mission is to assist underserved communities, the NASA exhibit and teacher curriculum boxes will travel to the Antioch Library and schools in the area. "This fits perfectly with our mission," said Weaver, "Libraries are the great equalizer."

In a nutshell, the County runs the library, the City owns the building and the Foundation takes care of Consortium programming, operations and fundraising. Don't forget the Bookmark Café, the Historical Society and the Friends Corner Book Shop - also components of the LLLC. In the library's inaugural year there has been a 300% increase in the number of users; my guess is there is 300% more to love at the new facility.

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Not to be missed

ART

The Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College presents Gifted Hands: the Fine Art of Craft, featuring 90 objects by 15 major contemporary Bay Area artist through December 12. These artists transform glass, textiles, fiber, metal, precious and semi-precious stones, clay, wood, fallen logs, and sea shells into extraordinary works of art. On view are both functional and decorative objects: furniture, wearable art, jewelry, pottery, quilts, turned wooden bowls, and fabric and metal sculpture. The Hearst Art Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Suggested adult donation is \$4; free for K-12th grade students and Hearst Art Gallery members.

The Lafayette Gallery is pleased to announce our holiday show, Winter Wonderland. The public is invited to celebrate the season with a festive reception on Friday, December 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Enjoy the Lafayette Gallery, aglow with inspiration of the holiday season. Lafayette Gallery is a 23 member cooperative at 50 Lafayette Circle in downtown Lafayette. Gallery Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11am-5pm.

The 45th annual juried fine arts and crafts show and sale at Valley Art Gallery, Walnut Creek opens with a public reception Friday, November 19 from 5 to 8 pm. Located at the Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive. The show features fine crafts from over 50 Bay Area artisans, and an extensive juried selection of jewelry, pottery, wood-working, sculpture and glass items offer unique holiday gift options.

For the month of November, The Moraga Public Library will be exhibiting artwork by Davis, California artist Mary Neri King. Her work consists of bird portraits, landscapes and close-ups of nature in acrylic, watercolor, pastel, graphite and colored pencil. Address: 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Call (925)376-8294 for hours open.

MUSIC

Sunday Nov 14, The New Rheem Theatre presents the Mike Vax Jack Orchestra Concert and Dance, featuring vocalist Cami Thompson. \$20 General Admission, \$10-Students at the New Rheem's box office or www.thenewrheemtheatre.com.

Ten talented pianists of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society will appear Sunday, Nov 14. At this 2pm free concert, the pianists will perform compositions by Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Scott Joplin, Schubert, John Cage and Isaac Albeniz. All are welcome free of charge. Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.

The Fall Concert for the Campolindo Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Orchestra and Jazz Ensembles will be held on Thursday, November 18, at 7:30pm in CPAC at Campolindo High School. The concert is free of charge and open to the entire community, followed by a reception to meet the musicians and enjoy refreshments.

New Century Chamber Orchestra presents "Waltzing in Appalachia" Thursday, November 18 8-10pm, at the First Congregational Church in Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way. Featuring Composer Mark O'Connor, accomplished American bluegrass, country and classical fiddler, composer and music teacher joins New Century as soloist. Tickets are 29-49\$. For more information go to <http://www.ncco.org/1011season/waltzinginappalachia.htm>.

On November 19, 20 and 21 dazzling Bay Area pianist Daniel Glover will join the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra to perform Schumann's Introduction and Allegro appassionato and Chopin's Polonaise. Sunday, November 21, 7:30pm at the Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, tickets are \$20-28 at the door, for more information call (925) 943-SHOW or online at www.LesharArtsCenter.org.

Start the holiday season off with a song! Join us at the annual holiday concert performance by Saint Mary's Colleges' student chorus, the NightinGals. The program includes selections from the great composers, contemporary artists and holiday favorites. Sunday, November 28, at 2 pm and Monday, November 29, at 8pm at the Chapel, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga.

The Saint Mary's College Student Chamber Musicians, directed by Lino Rivera, Dawn Foster-Dodson and Martin Rokeach will perform vocal and instrumental music from a variety of prestigious composers. Two performances: Tuesday, November 30, at 8 pm, and Wednesday, December 1, at 8pm at the Chapel, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga.

THEATER

The Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department presents a 20th Anniversary production of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize winning "Angels in America" for their fall theatre production. November 11, 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:30pm; November 14 and 21 at 2pm, in the LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA. \$15 general admission; \$12 Saint Mary's faculty and staff; \$8 Saint Mary's students. For reservations call (925) 631-4670 or www.stmarys-ca.edu/arts. The language and content in the play is frank, adult and unsparing. (See article page 1)

Crisis Hopkins presents Damned for a Limited Time as part of the Town Hall Comedy Series, November 19-20, \$25 General Admission. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925)283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Crisis Hopkins has performed improv and sketch comedy locally and throughout the nation since 2006. Their last big show -- Easy Answers for Hard Times -- was preceded by One Nation Under Crisis the previous year. Crisis Hopkins also produces the Improv Soapbox; and they are the official producers of the San Francisco Improv Festival.

The Miramonte Drama Department presents Mary Zimmerman's "Metamorphoses." This play will be showing on November 17th, 18th and 19th at 7:30 in the Miramonte Theater. Tickets can be purchased online at the MHS Webstore \$5 for students and \$7 for adults or \$8 for students and \$10 for adults if purchased at the door.

The family favorite, Scrooge! The Musical returns to Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette this December. The Musical runs December 4 - 19. For tickets and ticket information contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Saturday, November 13, at 3pm, located at Orinda books, Thomas Gladysz will discuss and sign copies of The Diary of a Lost Girl. He is the director of the Louise Books Society and editor of the new edition of this book. He will discuss the book's remarkable history and its relationship to the acclaimed film.

VETERAN'S DAY

Why Remembering Matters, Sunday, November 14 at 9am and 10:30am, veterans and active military will be honored during both services and during a reception following services. Veterans will participate in the services and will share stories and memorabilia during the reception. The public is invited to attend this very special Sunday at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln, Moraga. For more information please call (925) 376-4800.

Campolindo High School in Moraga will be the site of a unique 2010 Veterans Day observance. Two memorial plaques will be dedicated to former Campolindo graduates who died in combat while serving our country. The dedication ceremony

Not to be missed

begins at 3pm at Campolindo and will be followed by a 4pm reception at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial. For more information contact the event coordinator, Tom Gardner, at (925) 285-2087 or tongardner@comcast.net.

Come and witness the dedication of new Veteran's Memorial at The Commons, on November 11 at 11am. The dedication will feature a bagpiper, color guards from the Boy Scouts and the Civil War Historical Society, speakers from the Town Council, a Vietnam Veteran, and the Boy Scouts, and an invocation from clergy. The Memorial celebrates those men and women of the armed forces who have given their lives to protect our freedom and cites a poem in their honor.

OTHER

St. Giles Episcopal Church in Moraga is holding its 2010 Annual Fundraiser Saturday, November 13 at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. The entertainment for the evening will be local folk-rock group Fender-Cronin, the husband and wife team of David Cronin and Jami Fender-Cronin. The evening is going to have an "Italian Bistro" theme with great food and lots of fun, including a raffle for a week's stay in a house at Palm Springs, and a silent auction for loads of exciting items. Tickets are \$35 before October 25, and \$45 after. For tickets (925)376-5770.

The Lamorinda Mom's 13th Annual Preschool Fair will be held on Tuesday, November 16 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Representatives from over 35 local preschools will be present to share their programs and philosophies with the public. This is a wonderful timesaving event for parents to gather preschool information at one time and in one location. This event is free and open to the public!

Moraga Parks and Recreation Department is organizing the second exterior home decorating contest. Homes have to be registered no later than November 15. Judging will take place the week of December 13th by the Moraga Women's Society. Winners will receive a gift certificate from Moraga Hardware/Across the Way and will receive a plaque from the Town. Entry fee is \$12.

Moraga Women's Society invites you to a Pampered Chef Party on November 15 at 10:45am. Come join us for a delicious Mandarin Chicken Salad and Mint Chip Brownies. See a live cooking demonstration, and shop for the holidays. At 10am at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St. For more information contact (925)376-3520.

The women of St Mary's College Guild's Harvest Luncheon and Fair will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 10:30am in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. A delicious Thanksgiving luncheon will be served and you will have the opportunity to shop for holiday décor, stocking stuffers, jams jellies, hostess baked goodies and candies. All profits go to scholarships for deserving students.

AAUW general meeting on Tuesday, November 16 at the Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga at 9:30am. Have you ever wished to learn the value of a treasured family heirloom, a garage or thrift shop purchase? If so, you have an excellent opportunity to realize your dream. A certified appraiser for Clar's Auction Gallery will view a wide variety of items, excluding furniture or jewelry, which require special equipment. This meeting is free and open to the public and an opportunity for fun you will not want to miss!

The Orinda Woman's Club cordially invites you to celebrate the holidays at the Festival of Trees on November 18 at 10:30 am. Come enjoy a delicious luncheon and a dazzling fashion show featuring Helen Lyall's collections. Tickets are \$85 and are tax-deductible. For information please call (925)963-6356. We are a non-profit organization providing help to youth and women in need and scholarships

for women who need help improving their lives.

Loaves & Fishes presents the Electronic E-waste Collection Fundraiser at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. Saturday, November 20, 9am-4pm. The Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa County provides food to families in need. For more information please call (925)890-1324.

"Cycle Recycle," 1307 Larch Ave. in Moraga, all of November 2010. The Prestons are gathering repairable bicycles that will be repaired by inmates at Marsh Creek Detention Facility, and given to local charities. This fall the Preston will collect used bikes for Trips for Kids/Re-cyclery in Marin County and Bike Education Training and Repair in Richmond. They accept used bikes through the entire month of November, dropped on their driveway, and they do not give receipts. For questions email tpreston2004@comcast.net.

The Stratford at Countrywood Hosts the first East Bay Adult Children's Summit. Saturday, November 13 from 9am - 3pm. The Stratford at Countrywood, is hosting a unique summit for younger and older children who are now faced with helping care for their parents. At the daylong Summit, experts from many different areas will speak providing a well-rounded day of information. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Located at the Lafayette Library Community Room.

Are your holidays nutty enough? The Girl Scouts Fall Sale is going on and Girl Scouts are selling nuts and chocolates just in time for the holidays. From November 5 through November 21, local Girl Scouts are selling nuts and candies throughout Lamorinda. Watch for our Girl Scout booths at: CVS-Pharmacy in Moraga/Rheem, Safeway in Orinda and Lafayette, and the Holiday Bazaar at the Orinda Community Center.

The Bethlehem Experience: Performances 5:30-8pm Dec. 10th, 11th, and 12th. This interactive performance takes participants back through time. Tour guides lead groups of about 10 people through the marketplace of Bethlehem on the night of the Messiah's birth. Tours begin every 15 minutes and take about one hour. The last tour leaves at 8PM, Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette. Questions: (925) 284-4765.

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club meets every second Thursday monthly, at 9:30am, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Nov 11 Topic is, "LGC Bouquets To Art Exhibitors Do the Holidays." Our very own talented and inspiring designers from "Bouquets to Art" will share the magic of Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day. They will arrange, educate and entertain us. For more information go to peterstonb4@aol.com

Moraga Garden Club meeting, November 18, join us for a special lecture and slide presentation by Elizabeth Murray, who as a professional gardener and artist helped restore Monet's Giverny gardens in the 1980's. She has returned annually, photographing its beauties and development and will share her insight. Starting at 9:30am, located at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga.

Join the Mt Diablo Nursery & Garden in Harry's House Garden Gift Shop, November 11-14, Thursday, 5-8pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9-5pm, for a champagne reception featuring the Farmyard Darlings and their fabulous finds, holiday cards, and sampling homemade candies.

Please submit:
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• Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining •

Let the Festivities Begin!

By Susie Iventosch

After endless months of politics invading our every waking moment, the election is finally behind us and we can get back to the business of focusing on family, friends and ... food! In fact, with the holidays just around the corner, we need to focus on food!

Maybe you will have some festive 3B's (Bridge, Books and Bunco) holiday parties, or maybe you will be entertaining friends and family, but whatever the case, it's always fun to have a new recipe or two to try on your guests! Grapes rolled in a blue cream cheese blend and toasted pecans make a delightfully fresh appetizer for your holiday parties. It's a little tricky rolling the grape in the cheese, but

the nuts hold everything in place nicely, and they are delicious.

If your plans include overnight guests, this spicy pumpkin bread is sure to delight, and you can serve it plain, or top it with a caramel glaze. The classic "sugar and spice" pull-apart rolls are amazing, and a requirement in my household during the holidays. Thanksgiving is just not the same without these delicious treats for breakfast!

The artichoke heart grilled sandwiches are fancy enough for guests, but easy to make and the flavors make you feel like you're enjoying the holidays in a Mediterranean villa overlooking the sea. Oh my, that sounds lovely!

Holiday Sugar and Spice Pull-Apart Rolls



Holiday sugar and spice pull-apart rolls. Photo Susie Iventosch

Yes you can! If you're afraid of yeast breads, don't be. This recipe is as easy as pie, actually easier. All you need is a little patience to let the dough rise—twice. Once you get past the dough, let the family chip in. Form a little assembly line, and the rolls will be done in no time. While you make the balls, let the little munchkins roll them in the butter and sugar mixture. This breakfast treat is so tasty you'll wish every weekend was a holiday. This recipe is a take-off on an old Better Homes & Gardens Plaid Cookbook recipe for Golden Bubble Ring.

Ingredients

Dough

- 4-4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 packages active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine (1 stick)
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs

Toppings

- 1 cube butter, melted
- 1 1/2 cups finely chopped walnuts or pecans, or both
- 1 1/2 cups currants

Sugar and spice filling

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cardamom

Directions

In a large bowl combine 2 1/2 cups of the flour and yeast and mix well. Heat butter, milk, sugar and salt in a small saucepan, stirring all the while until butter almost melts and mixture reaches approximately 115°F. (Do NOT boil.)

Add milk mixture to dries. Add eggs and beat with electric mixer on low speed for about 30 seconds. Beat for another three minutes on high speed, scraping down sides of bowl with a rubber spatula. Add enough of the remaining flour (half cup at a time) and mix by hand to form soft dough. Place dough on lightly floured surface and knead for about 5-8 minutes.

*You may need to add a little bit of flour as you knead dough, and you'll need to sprinkle the work surface with extra flour, too. The dough should be slightly elastic, and bounce back when you pull at it.

Shape dough into a smooth ball and place in a large greased bowl, turning once to lightly grease top of dough. Cover top of bowl with a slightly damp clean kitchen towel, and place in a warm, or sunny spot (not in a heated oven) for about 1 1/4 hours, or until dough has doubled in size.

Meanwhile grease a 10-inch tube or Bundt pan. Melt the butter and let cool slightly. Mix sugars and spices in a medium bowl. Finely chop nuts.

When dough has risen, punch a little hole in it to let it deflate. Divide dough into approximately 36 balls, each 1-1 1/2 inch in diameter. Roll balls in butter and transfer into sugar mixture. Roll in sugars and place in bottom of tube pan. When you have a full layer, sprinkle 1/3 of the nuts and currants over the dough balls. Repeat for two more layers, ending with nuts and currants. Cover with damp kitchen towel and let rise again until doubled, approximately 1 hour.

Bake at 350°F for 35-40 minutes. Remove from oven and cool in pan for 10-15 minutes. Invert onto plate, removing tube pan. Serve warm. Can be made ahead and refrigerated or frozen. Wrap in foil and reheat before serving.

Susie Iventosch is the author of *Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels*, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com.



Pumpkin Bread with Raisins, Walnuts and Decadent Caramel Glaze (optional)

Makes two 9x5 loaves



Pumpkin spice bread Photo Susie Iventosch

Ingredients

Bread

- 3 1/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2/3 cup water
- 1 cup raisins (or Craisins)
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

Caramel Glaze

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 2/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Directions

In a large bowl combine the first six ingredients. In another bowl combine the pumpkin, oil, eggs and water. Mix well with a whisk. Stir egg mixture into dry ingredients and mix well with whisk or wooden spoon. Stir in raisins and coarsely chopped walnuts. Pour evenly into two greased 9x5 loaf pans. Bake at 350°F for 60 to 65 minutes or until a toothpick tests clean. Cool for 10 minutes in the pans. Remove pans to a wire rack to finish cooling. (When making mini loaves, cook for 30-40 minutes, or until tester is clean.)

For glaze, combine in a saucepan butter, sugar, brown sugar and whipping cream. Cook until sugars are dissolved and mixture starts bubbling. Cool for 20 minutes. Stir in powdered sugar and vanilla until smooth. Drizzle over cooled loaves.

Red Grapes Rolled in Blue Cheese and Pecans



Grapes rolled in bleu cheese and toasted pecans. Photo Susie Iventosch

Ingredients

- 1 small bunch seedless red grapes (about 48-60 grapes)
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1-2 tablespoons dry sherry
- Dash white pepper
- 1 1/2 cups finely chopped, toasted pecans

Directions

Place pecan halves on a baking sheet and bake at 350° for approximately 8-10 minutes, or until toasted. Remove from oven and cool completely. Then finely chop. (I use the pulse on the food processor, being careful not to turn pecans into a paste.) Set aside in a small bowl.

In a mixing bowl, place blue cheese and 1-2 tablespoons cream cheese and beat with electric beater until as smooth as possible. Add remaining cream cheese and sherry, and blend well. Mix in a dash of white pepper.

Take clean grapes, one at a time, and roll in the cheese mixture. This might be a bit tricky because the cheese doesn't adhere too well, but just spread cheese over as much of the grape as possible and work out the kinks in the next step! (It's worth it!) Roll cheesy grapes in finely chopped, toasted pecans until evenly coated. Chill grapes until ready to serve. The yield will vary depending upon the size of the grapes, so if you've purchased very large grapes, you may either use more cheese and more pecans, or just make fewer. You can also adjust the cheese mixture to use more or less blue cheese, according to your tastes.

Grilled Artichoke Heart Sandwiches

Makes 4 Sandwiches

Ingredients

- 1 cup marinated artichoke hearts, drained and coarsely chopped
- 3 tablespoons sun-dried tomatoes, drained and chopped
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 4 ounces chèvre (goat cheese—can be herbed)
- 3/4 cup grated sharp cheddar, or Parmesan, or sliced fresh mozzarella

French bread, sliced or baguettes halved, or sliced whole wheat sandwich bread, enough for 4 sandwiches.

Directions

Mix artichokes, sun-dried tomatoes and feta in bowl. Spread goat cheese on bread slices. Spoon artichoke mixture over and sprinkle with cheese. Grill in a frying pan with a little cooking spray or olive oil, or bake open-faced at 425°F until cheese is melted and bubbly and bread is toasted. Or, grill close-faced, if using sliced bread. Serve with a side dish of mixed Mediterranean olives.

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Lamorinda Basketball Teams Gear up for Rebuilding Season

By Conrad Basset



Junior Ross Anderson (44) drives to the basket drawing a foul. Photo Jordan Fong

Practice for the consistently strong Lamorinda high school basketball teams began on November 8 and for the first time in several years all three teams will be facing rebuilding challenges.

Over in Orinda, the Miramonte Matadors will try to make up for the loss of several starters who took them all the way to the NCS finals and the Northern California tournament a year ago. The talented three year starters, Davis Louie, Spenser McDonald, and Chris Hat-

field, have graduated.

Coach Dave Brown returns for another year at the helm of the Mats and is excited about the upcoming season. The team returns senior Anthony Piganelli who played significant minutes last season as well as junior Ross Anderson who started the last several games of last year. Both are talented athletes and both are playing football so their early season time in basketball will be limited by the success of the Miramonte football team in the

post season.

Coach Brown also expects significant contributions from seniors Kaz Tamura and Brian Henson, and junior Jack Pietrykowski who all played on the varsity team a year ago.

Two newcomers who are moving up from last year's JV team are junior Conor Volpe and sophomore Kirin Shastri.

Coach Brown has scheduled a very strong preseason schedule including St. Mary's Berkeley and Salesian as well as a trip to the Sand Dune Classic in San Francisco.

Over in Moraga, Matt Watson returns for his third season as head coach of the Cougars. Campo ran the DFAL table a year ago going 12-0 in league before losing to rival Miramonte in the NCS quarter-finals.

Co-DFAL MVPs, Kellen Ito and Adam Mancebo, have graduated along with several other three-year varsity players. Coach Watson commented that this year's team will be sprinkled with several sophomores.

However, Campo does return players with varsity experience including senior guard Carl King. King started last year and directed the Cougar offense. Other seniors returners include are Garrett Franklin, Alan Hickey, and Andrew Ahr.

Both Ahr and junior point guard Griffin Piatt will be out for several weeks with football injuries.

Like the Matadors, Campo has scheduled a challenging preseason schedule that includes all Division 1 opponents and trips to the Montgomery High tournament in Santa Rosa and the Mission Prep Classic in San Luis Obispo.

In Lafayette, coach Darrell Hirashima, Jr. is presented with sim-

ilar challenges. He lost four of his senior starters including Corey Collins and Tyler Caldwell to graduation as well as a player who would have been his only returning starter, Carlo Valsecchi. Valsecchi was diagnosed with leukemia, and will not be returning.

After fighting through three rounds of chemo therapy over five months, he is finally on the road to recovery. Carlo's presence is deeply missed by the players, coaches and supporters of the Don program. Coach Hirashima said, "His perseverance and positive attitude throughout his ordeal has been a shining light of hope for all of us who know him."

Hirashima mentioned that seniors Michael Jackson, Stephen Collins and Bret Renner all played significant minutes off the bench last year, and they look to be major contributors this season. Up from the junior varsity team are juniors James Griffin, Kevin Huber, and Jonny Coleman

As they prepare for another postseason opportunity, the Dons will go to the Vontoure Classic at De La Salle and the Sonoma County Classic at Piner in the North Bay. Preseason games with always tough San Ramon and El Cerrito will be on the docket as well.

The DFAL season starts right after the first of the year and the league looks wide open as Las Lomas returns a strong team and Dougherty Valley and Dublin will also be improved. All three teams are looking forward to keeping the DFAL championship banner in the area as it has been for most of the last decade.

On the Road with the Gaels

Behind the Scenes of Women's Volleyball

By Caitlin Graveson



Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's volleyball took on WCC-league rivals the University of San Diego Toreros last Wednesday, November 3. With a win the Gaels, would tie the Toreros for first place in the WCC and move closer to securing a spot in the NCAA postseason tournament. Unfortunately, SMC lost to USD in four sets (25-22, 17-25, 13-25, 21-25) to fall 8-2 in league and 16-7 overall. While the match only lasted a couple of hours, much more goes into traveling. Here is a look at what it takes:

November 2

1:30 p.m. Depart Saint Mary's for Oakland International Air-

port (OAK)

4:00 p.m. Depart (OAK) for San Diego International Airport (SAN)

6:00 p.m. Arrive at SAN and head straight to the University of San Diego for a light practice

7:30 p.m. Finish practice and head to freshman middle blocker Natalie Loos's parents' house for a team dinner

"A lot of team bonding stuff happens on the road," said Loos. Sophomore libero Anna Schroeder said, "We get a new roommate each time so we get to hang out with different people."

November 3, Game Day

10:00 a.m. Morning film session

11:45 a.m. Finish up film session and have down time for homework, etc.

Sophomore outside hitter Lauren Corp said about some of the difficulties of missing class: "There is not a lot of room for procrastination. Teachers are good about us missing class for games and we have designated time for studying, but it's hard to get motivated."

Senior middle blocker Shannon Lowell noted: "Missing school is a little rough but being with

everyone all day and getting to focus on volleyball is pretty awesome."

1:00 p.m. Head out for a team lunch

Schroeder noted another bonus to traveling: "The food is good."

3:00 p.m. Return to the hotel for down time

Sophomore setter Missy White said that she starts to mentally prepare for the game with her pregame nap. "My routine starts with my nap and I wake up and start thinking of the game."

4:15 p.m. Afternoon film session and pregame coach's talk

Lowell said she puts on her game face with the film session right before they leave.

5:00 p.m. Leave for USD's Jenny Craig Pavilion

6:00 p.m. Hitting/Passing practice

7:00 p.m. Warm-ups

Right before game time the Gaels say a cheer, "Gaels Wool!" It's a tradition that began in 2002 when volunteer assistant Stacey O'Connor was a sophomore on Saint Mary's record-breaking team. "I remember it was said at practice one day and we just kept saying it.

We said it a little differently [than they do now] but it is the same phrase."

"We just do it and it gets passed on. I don't think it will end," Lowell said.

White is now the designated Gaels "Woo-er" she was assigned the role of ensuring the tradition continued during her freshman year as a red-shirt. "Since she was a red-shirt she would be there the longest," Lowell explained.

8:00 p.m. Game Time

Gaels win the first set 25-22, but drop the next three to give USD the win.

10:30 p.m. Late Team Dinner
The Gaels head to a local Mexican food restaurant for a late night meal with family and other SMC fans.

November 4

9:00 a.m. Leave for SAN

10:30 a.m. Depart SAN for OAK

12:00 p.m. Arrive at OAK

12:45 p.m. Arrive back at Saint Mary's and head to the gym for a weight lifting session

White commented on returning from a road trip: "It's nice to be away but then you have to come back to reality."

Silver Medal in Fencing

Submitted by Kasey Bryne



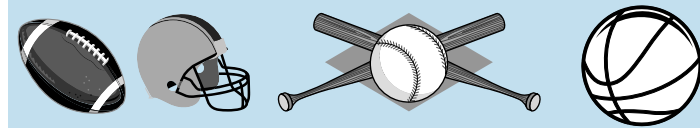
Gabriel Bronfman (showing back)

Photo provided

Gabriel Bronfman, a sixth grader at Orinda Intermediate School, competed in the San Francisco Regional Youth Circuit (RYC) Fencing tournament held on October 23-24. Gabriel earned a silver medal in the epee competition for boys 12U, and took seventh place in boys' epee 14U. Epee is the only fencing event in which the entire body is the valid target area, and there are no right-of-way rules; competitors can attack at any time. Epee is the heaviest of the three modern fencing weapons.

RYC tournaments are sponsored by the United States Fencing Association, and these competitions are part of the qualification process for the Summer National Championships in fencing. Bronfman began fencing just over a year ago while attending a summer academic program. He currently trains at Golden Gate Fencing in San Francisco.

Youth Sports Registration



Want to play baseball this Spring?

Sign up for Moraga Baseball Association Baseball!



- Register on-line from **November 1 through November 30, 2010**. Please click on the Registration link on our website at <http://www.moragabaseball.org>.
- Join us for an informational meeting at the JM Library on November 16, 2010, at 7:00 PM. New and returning families are encouraged to attend. Board members will be there to answer your questions.
- Please see our flyer on the Moraga School District website at <http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us>. Click on the Community tab and then the Local Student Activities tab.
- Questions? Please contact Pam Bishop at (925) 377-5311.

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



High Hopes and No Fears

SMC Men's Basketball Ready to Live up to Fans' Expectations

By Bryant West



Matthew Dellavedova

Photo Tod Fierner

Just a year removed from a Sweet Sixteen appearance and arguably the best year in the program's history, it would be easy to understand if the Saint Mary's men's basketball team's was anx-

ious over living up to fans' heightened expectations.

Not so, say the Gaels.

"You can tell, coming into this year, with the excitement and the energy... guys know what it

takes," senior guard Mickey McConnell said. "We know it's a long road and we can't just keep looking down that road, but the guys coming back, we know what it takes to get there."

And while this team may lack the star power it's had in the past - Diamon Simpson and Patrick Mills are two years gone, and Omar Samhan has hung up his jersey - the Gaels have the talent, depth and determination to battle for a repeat as West Coast Conference champions.

The Gaels biggest strength is their guards - McConnell and fellow starter sophomore Matthew Dellavedova are a fantastic one-two punch. McConnell has filled in as the team leader; head coach Randy Bennett calls him the team's "wise man." McConnell will be tough on the court as well, his 51 percent clip from three point land was tops in the NCAA. Dellavedova was a selection to the WCC-All Freshmen team last year. He is a strong offensive talent with to a great shooting ability and passing skills as well as a defensive force be-

cause of his size, speed and strength.

Dellavedova says the Gaels most greatest strength is the team's chemistry. "We're playing well together," he said. "Chemistry is massively underrated (in basketball) - without it, you could have the best players but you won't get anywhere. We've got good players and good chemistry."

Another strength for the Gaels is their depth - Clint Steindl, Jordan Page, Mitchell Young, Tim Williams and a collection of good newcomers - makes this year's team one of the deepest.

But if there is a question mark, it's down low, where the Gaels will start two junior transfers in Kenton Walker and Rob Jones. Over the past four years, Saint Mary's has been spoiled by interior strength, with Simpson and Samhan becoming the school's historical top rebounders. While Gaels fans know what to expect from the guards, it's not as easy to predict

how the bigs will perform.

Walker is confident that the post-players won't disappoint. "My expectations are to pick up where Omar left off," he said. "Everyone is telling me I have big shoes to fill, and I'm ready to fill them. I believe we are ready to go... we have the confidence and we have the will power to get everything done during games."

The WCC isn't going to be easy. Gonzaga remains the powerhouse and the perennial favorites to win the championship. Local rival Santa Clara is much improved and has a possible Player of the Year in Kevin Foster, while both Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount could make significant leaps. "I don't see a weak team," said Bennett, and he's right - the WCC, on paper, is arguably one of the strongest mid-majors in the NCAA.

"The WCC looks good, wide open," said Walker. "I don't want to jinx us or anything, but I feel we have a real good shot at repeating.

With the guys that we have on the inside and on the perimeter, we have a real good chance."

The Gaels kick off the season with five home games beginning on Friday, November 12th against College of Idaho. Saint Mary's will play some strong non-conference opponents this season, including a home game against Saint John's, an away match at San Diego State, and a matchup against Mississippi State at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, home of the WCC Championship.

"We've won quite a few games over the past few years," said Bennett, "so the expectations are pretty high for fans, and probably a little unrealistic, but it is what it is. We do a good job of focusing on our expectations on us, as a team."

If the Gaels keep up their strong guard play and find consistency from their new bigs, they'll have a good shot at meeting those expectations.

JV Mats Water Polo Undefeated

Submitted by Maria Solit



From left: Andrew Furtado, Drew Holland Tyler Kirchberg, Jack Garrett, Gabe Ostler, Clay Smudsky, Trent Schwartz, Mac Watson, Amin Andejani, Jason Lammert, Luke VanBuskirk, Nick Coufal, Gaelen Faulkner, Trevor Whitsitt, and Coach Joey Estrada. Photo Steve Furtado

The Miramonte JV Water Polo team completed their season undefeated. The team had 24 wins and 0 losses. The Matadors are coached by Joey Estrada.

OIS Volleyball Finishes on Top

Submitted by Elizabeth Lewis



The Bulldog team won the Good Sportsmanship trophy. Photo L. Joyce

The Orinda Intermediate School Bulldogs 7A girls' volleyball team took home the second place trophy at the annual Foothill Middle School Volleyball Tournament. OIS faced Albany in the championship game, on Friday the 29th, winning the first set, but losing the next two.

Lamorinda CYO Cross Country Results

Submitted by Jeanne Balczewski



Top row: Cassidy Haskell, Ali-Simon Parker, Ava Isola, Jenna Miles, Mary Orders. Bottom row: Luc Davis, Jack Mader, Marco Nykodym, Owen Hunger, Dominic Chilimidos. Not pictured: Lucy Burcham, Tommy Brovelli, Jared Uang, Connor Smith and Jordan Tehrani. Photo Ling Hunger

The Saint Monica/Santa Maria/Saint Perpetua cross country team finished a very successful season. The second-fifth grade girls' team of Jenna Miles (first place), Cassidy Haskell (sixth place), Ava Isola, Ali Simon-Parker and Lucy Burcham were Diocesan champions. There were 198 girls in the race. Other top finishers were Mary Orders, who placed third in the sixth-eighth grade girls race, and Jack Mader, who placed 11th in the second-fifth grade boys race. CYO Spring track starts in February.

Champions: Joaquin Moraga Eighth Grade Girls' Volleyball

Submitted by Terri Hattabaugh and Sophie Lucacher



From left, first row: Coach Patti Forster, Kelley Williams, Maddie Browning, Courtney Nelson, Madie Garrison, Amanda Giles; top row: Lauren Budde, Allison Tsuboi, Annie Doyle, Katie Lee, Kelley Wirth, Andrea Lucacher, Katie Hattabaugh. Photo Sharon Lee

The JM girls blasted through the postseason tournament, going undefeated during the four day competition. Eight local teams competed in the 8A championship including Stanley Intermediate of Lafayette and OIS of Orinda. Middle blocker/outside hitter Kelley Wirth received the "Tournament MVP" award for her outstanding performance. Setter Maddie Browning and outside hitter Annie Doyle were each awarded to the "All Star Team." In the final match, JM defeated Stanley in two games, 25-18 and 25-21.

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Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition

By Sophie Braccini



Jaime Rich gives a presentation in Orinda Photo Sophie Braccini

Jaime Rich was excited as she stood before an audience in Orinda to talk about the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Some key stakeholders were in attendance – Lamorinda’s three police chiefs, a middle school principal or two, Orinda City Council member Sue Severson, Moraga Parks and Recreation staffer Kimberly Nelson, and several parents.

Rich’s objective is to form an ongoing coalition that will act to reduce youth access to alcohol

and underage drinking, and to create a healthy and safe environment in Lamorinda. Anyone interested in this project is welcome to attend the Coalition’s monthly meetings. The group meets twice on the third Wednesday of every month – once in the morning, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Orinda City Hall’s Community Room at 22 Orinda Way; and again from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Supervisor Gayle Uilkema’s office at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. The next meeting date is November 17.

Rich was hired by the Center for Human Development, a community-based organization that since 1972 has provided wellness programs and support aimed at empowering people and promoting positive growth, to start a coalition in Lamorinda. Rich, an Orinda mother of two teenagers, had a career as a Clinical Exercise Physiologist. Her passion for prevention and wellness led her to volunteer in the schools. She is the co-chair of the Healthy Choice Committee at Miramonte High School. “In our school district alcohol is the drug of choice for

many teens,” says Rich, “the purpose of the coalition is to increase community awareness, and improve the social norm regarding underage and binge drinking.”

During the first meeting Rich conducted brainstorming exercises to identify the audience’s perception of the problem, as well as possible corrective actions. “Parents are often in denial that there is a problem,” said Severson. “We’ve noticed a growing lack of respect for authority,” said Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe. “We have a feeling of entitlement here,” said a mother who would rather not be identified, “there is a perception that we can break the rules because we run the show.”

“Parents model for their kids,” said another mother, “if they see that the only way their parents have fun is through drinking, they will want to do the same.”

Participants were just as vocal when they started brainstorming solutions. “I’d like to see in print the police reports for ‘disturbing the peace’ infractions,” said a mother. “A local network could serve as a support system for

parents who want a change,” proposed another parent.

“We’d like to see the County make some changes in the legislation, commit resources and add teeth to the juvenile punishment system,” said Priebe.

“Maybe we could revisit our social ordinance,” said Severson, “and clearly state what is not acceptable.” Nelson added, “The youth groups, such as the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee, could get involved and give their perspective.”

At the end of the meeting, Rich asked participants to reach out to different community groups and ask for their participation. “The coalition depends on community members being involved,” she stated, “we need a consistent number of people from police, local governments, schools, parents and young people to continue to attend.” Interested parties unable to come to the meetings are encouraged to contact Rich at Jaime@chd-prevention.org to offer suggestions or ask to receive Rich’s monthly updates regarding the Coalition’s progress.

Orinda Academy Teacher Wins Award

Submitted by Miriam Schaffer



Orinda Academy’s Jeff Quittman

Photo provided

Orinda Academy, an independent, college prep school serving grades 7-12, recently announced that history teacher Jeff Quittman is the winner of a \$10,000 grant from

the Warren W. Eukel Teacher Trust.

Quittman, who has taught at Orinda Academy for 23 years, is one of three Contra Costa county teachers receiving

the award from the community-based nonprofit organization, which honors teachers who show extraordinary commitment to students.

“Jeff is highly deserving of this award,” says Ron Graydon, founder and director of Orinda Academy. “Many of our students have learning differences and have often been told what they are unable to do. Jeff’s warmth, patience, passion, and encouragement have inspired students to understand all that they can achieve, enabling many students to excel.”

As a history teacher, Quittman’s philosophy is to provide a broadly humanistic approach to the ideas, events, peoples, and extraordinary individuals that have shaped our world. Students learn critical

thinking skills while gaining a passion and appreciation for the rich variety of past and present experience, and the multiplicity of ways in which they connect to and illuminate one another.

The award will be presented to Quittman and two other recipients at the Eukel Teacher Trust’s 19th Anniversary Awards Dinner on November 18, 2010 at the Diablo Country Club. The event, which is open to the public, is hosted by food and wine critic, Narsai David. He will design a multi-course dinner prepared by chefs from the several local restaurants.

For more information, go to: <http://www.eukelteachertrust.org> <http://www.orindaacademy.org>

Kids and Bandz

By Lou Fancher



If you haven’t heard of Silly Bandz, the silicone bracelets shaped into animal forms and so much more, then you’re not hanging around at elementary and middle schools in Lamorinda.

The retro toy—when was the last time a rubber band was all the rage?—has become a hot trade, a cool reward, and a fast-food perk. Silly Bandz even have their own web page. Today, there are Justin Bieber, Barbie, Rainforest, Yo Gabba Gabba, and Hello Kitty packs. There are “retired” packs. And, as if training an entire generation to misspell “bands” wasn’t

enough, there are now Silly Ringz, Caribinerz and buttons. (Why it’s not “buttonz”, we can’t explain, but school teachers around the world are thanking their lucky stars.)

Some teachers, that is. Silly Bandz have become so popular, teachers have had to ban them from the classroom. At Orinda’s Glorietta Elementary School, Principal Wendy Sparks was proactive; using the school’s online newsletter to inform the community.

“We need your support so we can make certain the Silly Bands

[sic, sort of,] are not disrupting the educational process,” she wrote. A bullet pointed list of guidelines followed, covering everything from sharing only during recess, wearing no more than five, and allowing kindergarten students to only wear them on Fridays.

Rheem Elementary principal Elaine Frank wrote in an email on the subject, “We are living peacefully with the Silly Band craze and have not ‘banned the bands’ yet.” The school has a strict “no trade” policy and the students have been warned that the Bandz will be banned if they become a nuisance.

Frank reports that teachers have had to take them away from students on several occasions, but no more than any other “jewelry” or similar distraction.

Sparks, in a recent phone call, said “the problem is minor. We have great kids here, so I think common sense has really been the best policy.”

With all the fervor, one has to wonder if the concern over Silly Bandz is just...silly. But when you think about kids trading while mingling in the bus lane, or becoming so consumed with Bandz acquisition that they ignore the real reason

for going to school (listening to teachers and learning how to spell, amongst other things), you begin to understand the need for controls.

Sparks and Frank, and most kids, are enjoying the social aspects of Silly Bandz. For now, trading, sharing and even designing custom bands provides valuable interaction. With a few rules in place, Silly Bandz are what a toy should be: fun. And maybe, a little silly.



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1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
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Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
Wednesday, November 17, at 7pm

Orinda Union School District
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, November 15, at 4pm

Moraga School District
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
Tuesday, December 14, at 7:30pm

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Lafayette Elects a New School Board

By Jean Follmer

In a race of five candidates for three spots, tension was high and campaign signs were everywhere. Teresa Gerringer sought re-election, Art Kapoor vied for the spot he was appointed to two years ago, and David Gerson, Berch Parker and Saveth Soun battled for the seat being vacated by Ann Appert. Gerringer and Kapoor held on to their seats and Gerson pulled far enough ahead to win Appert's seat.

Gerson, a Springhill Elementary School parent, was relieved to move beyond the election. "I'm happy to get it over with and I look forward to working with the other School Board members; I think it will be a good working relationship. I have a learning curve ahead of me and I look forward to absorbing how it (the school district) works from the inside out," said Gerson. In the short-term, Gerson plans to help the District with its efforts to pursue additional funding sources. He also plans to address the issue of families who live outside District boundaries but attend Lafayette schools by using false addresses.

Candidate	Percentage/Number of Votes
Teresa Gerringer (i)	31.44%/4,376
David Gerson	15.53%/2,161
Art Kapoor (i)	38.61%/3,982
Berch Parker	12.12%/1,687
Saveth Soun	11.98%/1,667
Write-in	0.33%/46

Gerson said it's not fair to Lafayette residents or to those students who attend our schools as Allen Bill or interdistrict transfer students. "I appreciate all those who supported me and I look forward to going to work for this community," said Gerson.

The incumbents were also enthused about the election results. "I am thrilled to be re-elected. The vote reaffirmed my belief that the current board has done a great job for the citizens, parents and children of Lafayette. Now the hard work of developing the district's budget for the 2011-2012 school year will start. I look forward to

working with David Gerson as we start to tackle the District's budget challenges," said Kapoor. Gerringer echoed Kapoor's gratitude to the voters and shared thoughts about Ann Appert and David Gerson. "I would like to personally thank Ann Appert for her many years of service - she will be missed. I look forward to getting to know and work with David Gerson. There is a steep learning curve, but David showed during the election that he is willing to take the time to study the issues and to listen. Both are important qualities in a board member," said Gerringer.

Lamorinda Schools Seek to Reduce Student Stress

By Jean Follmer

The message is clear: our kids are more stressed-out than ever before. The rate of depression amongst our kids continues to increase as they strive to "do more" and to "do more better." Wake up calls like Lafayette film director Vicki Abeles' *Race to Nowhere* have brought the discussion to the forefront for parents, teachers and school administrators across the country.

The Lamorinda school districts recently joined forces to bring renowned pediatrician Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg to Acalanes High School to discuss the need to build resilience in our children - they need to experience failure so they can learn from their mistakes. Ginsburg is on the board of Challenge Success - formerly Stressed-Out Students - a Stanford University Department of Education project. The Lafayette and Orinda school districts have adopted the Challenge Success program, the goal of which is to address the concern that adolescents often compromise their mental and physical health, integrity and engagement in learning as they contend with performance pressure in and out of school.

Are our high performance expectations realistic or desirable?

The effort to provide students with outstanding academic opportunities while minimizing the negative effects of high community expectations begins at the elementary level. Homework is an area in which

such balance is sought. "In general, we do have guidelines for the number of anticipated minutes of homework per grade. Our policy has been in place for many years and it becomes a bigger issue at Orinda Intermediate School. We try to stagger project due dates in different classes and the focus is on assigning meaningful homework," says Lisa Bissell, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Orinda Union School District.

Rachel Zinn, Lafayette School District's Director of Curriculum and Instruction, echoes those sentiments. "Homework should not be just busy work; the work needs to be purposeful and consistent with class material," she says.

This doesn't mean homework isn't valued. "We believe students and staff should view homework as both expected and appropriate," says Sharon Pincus, the Moraga School District's Director of Pupil Services. "The focus should be a little less on volume and a little more on quality," said Dr. John Nickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services for the Acalanes Union High School District.

As cited in *Race to Nowhere*, cheating incidents are on the rise. Fifty percent of students who enter the University of California, Berkeley, need to take remedial classes to bring them to the level required of an entering freshman. Yet, these students are entering the univer-

sity with grade point averages well beyond 4.0. How can the average high school student get straight A's in four or five AP courses while participating in extracurricular activities like sports, dance, music and scouting? It used to be that some students in each graduating class took AP courses and some attended an elite college. Where has the bell curve gone?

Children show stress in a number of ways. Headaches and stomachaches that aren't addressed in the younger years may lead to cutting and drug use in later years. A student may sail through elementary and middle school and hit an academic wall in high school.

It's a balancing act, according to Nickerson. "I think we're aware of a lot of the challenges in this hyper-competitive environment yet we're trying to provide opportunities for kids to pursue a wide variety of both academic and extra-curricular activities," he explains.

Nickerson says the high school district hopes kids pursue these opportunities for the right reasons - "We want to see them pursuing these things out of passion and not just as a means of checking the box for college admissions." When it comes to college, the desire is for students to seek the "right college for them" rather than the "right" college. "What is success, really? I think what we want for our kids is adult happiness and health," concludes Nickerson.

Ask Dr. Harold Holidays

By Dr. Harold Hoyle, Ph.D.

I recently did a parenting talk at an elementary school and during the questions a parent asked, "What do you recommend I do with my kids during the holidays?" So here are a few suggestions for holiday time for families.

Plan for family

One of the less healthy dynamics in the modern American family is the lack of intergenerational interaction at holidays. Sociologists tell us that our sense of community has decreased with the amount people move and the lack of interaction we have with our extended families. Plan to have activities for the kids to do with the grand parents or other extended family. These activities can be centered around the theme of the holiday. You could have all of the people share what they are thankful for or make a thankful poster with drawings and writings. Prepare kids to share some of their school or other accomplishments so that the family can give them positive reinforcement. Prepare a grandparent by asking them to bring an important family story to tell. Start a tradition or revive one that has not been part of the family for a while. Have tasks for people to help. It feels good to be helpful so plan to have helpers.

Give your kids time

For adults, the concept of quality time can work quite well. For kids it doesn't work. You can plan quality events. But for kids, quality time doesn't exist, there is only time. Plan time with your kids

while they are out of school and quality things will happen. Find out what they want to do and do that activity. Play a weekend long game of Monopoly. Watch that show that they can't go without. Have a contest with them on their favorite touch app or play their favorite video game with them. Time might be the greatest gift you can give to yourself as a parent.

No lessons, please

If you have decided to take the first step and give your kids time, here is your next challenge. No life lessons and no fixing things. Kids like to hang out with other kids because their friends are not always telling them what to do or how what they just did will relate to the rest of their life. They just want to be with you. So your challenge is to separate your doing from your being. You might be able to fix something for them if they make a mistake but it is possible that they just need you to be with them during their mistake. This is done most commonly by listening. So plan big chunks of time and just be with your kids; you will have plenty of time to fix things and tell lessons later in life.

Get outside

It is very difficult to find a psychological publication that does not include a new study talking about how exercise and being outside aids in stress reduction and mental health. Hike, walk, bike, play, and do as much of these types of activities with your kids as you can. Do these things even if the

kids are looking at you and saying, "Really dad? You want me to do what?" And do them without saying this will be good for you or a good lesson for you.

Maybe you can plan an intergenerational activity that is done outside and no one makes it into a lesson. Give it a try and send me the ones that work.



www.drharoldhoyle.com
Harold can be contacted by phone or email: 510-219-8660 hjhoyle@mac.com

Harold is licensed clinical psychologist and a lecturer and in the School of Counseling Psychology, Education, and Pastoral Ministries Santa Clara University. With his wife and two children he is a 14 year long resident of the Lamorinda area. He is a sought after speaker in the areas of parenting, education, behavior with adolescents and children. He has a local small private practice.

Congratulations to Lamorinda's National Merit Scholar semifinalists!

Acalanes:	Campolindo:	Miramonte:
Baker, Trent W.	Hickey, Alan P.	Abramson, Rose A.
Barton, Katherine M.	Hsu, Lynn	Beal, David O.
Ellsworth, Emily E.	Ludwig, Connor H.	Bluford, Zachary S.
Frank, Rebecca S.	Meng, Cynthia S.	Boyd, Margo E.
Lee, Nicole M.	Min, Jung-Gi	Breen, Benjamin I.
Marciarille, Gianna D.	Perez, Sophia	Chang, Philip
Michels, Alec W.	Sanders, Clay M.	Chiu, Jerlon
Takahashi, Junya	Svedberg, Erik R.	Hass, Eric M.
Zelin, Matthew S.	Willmore, Lindsay C.	Klingman, Catherine A.
		Liu, Eric V.
		Shamash, Philip N.
		Vazquez, Olivia I.
		Yao, Jessica L.

(Information submitted by Aileen Liu)

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 04 Issue 18 Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Does Tilt Come with the Territory?

By Lou Fancher



Michael Mahoney and Sergio Navarro doing drive stand & pier installation



Clubhouse demolition page OH6

It took 60 years for Pam and Mike DeLange's Orinda home to tilt, but less than four weeks to set it right.

The process, underpinning, repairs foundations and stabilizes houses, buildings and other structures. Using steel piers and a surprisingly simple, 4-step approach, Bay Area Underpinning was able to level and prevent long-term compromise to the DeLange's house.

"We didn't notice the tilt of the house until a few months after we were in it," Pam DeLange says. Outside, workers move past the window, but there's little noise to indicate the enormity of what is taking place.

When the DeLange's bought the house six years ago, they were told about the uneven floors. "No mention, other than that, was made of it," she says. With time, however, they began to wonder about the sloping.

"We had someone come out and measure it," Delange says. "We found out there was a 5 inch difference from the back to the front of the house." The cost to fix it? One bid was \$120,000, another, \$80,000. The DeLanges decided they and their three boys could live with uneven floors.

"As the seasons passed though, it got worse," Delange recalls. This time, a second set of experts advised leaving it alone; offering dire warnings of fireplaces falling apart and wood floors splintering. DeLange paraphrases their words: "Just live with it, it's Orinda and that's how it goes."

By chance, she saw Steve Egloff's Bay Area Underpinning company working on another home in the neighborhood. She decided to place one more call.

Photos Andy Scheck

... continued on page OH4

THE BEAUBELLE GROUP Nancy Stryker

presents...

SLEEPY HOLLOW TRADITIONAL



Fabulous private home located in the heart of Sleepy Hollow on a large lot with gorgeous garden and an open floor plan. This 4 bedroom, 3 bath updated home is complete with hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, chef's gourmet kitchen, private master suite. This is a wonderful home for indoor/outdoor entertaining. Close to Sleepy Hollow School. **Offered at \$1,299,000**

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Seize the opportunity to own one of the last prime lots in Happy Valley. Featuring approximately 1.24 flat acres, this expansive property features established trees and a tranquil setting. This stunningly unique setting is conveniently located to downtown Lafayette, a town renowned for its excellent schools, convenient transportation, popular restaurants, and recreational opportunities. **Offered at \$1,650,000**

FABULOUS UPPER ROCKRIDGE TRADITIONAL



This private Upper Rockridge home offers modern sophisticated living with a traditional flair! This updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on .20 acres boasts a park like setting with beautiful serene gardens. This remodeled 1,891 sq. ft. jewel features a large living room, gorgeous master suite, two additional bedrooms, hardwood floors, and a gourmet kitchen that opens up to a spacious dining room. **Offered at \$938,000**



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

Area	Last reported:	Lowest Amount	Highest Amount
LAFAYETTE	13	\$302,500	\$1,650,000
MORAGA	4	\$220,000	\$2,465,000
ORINDA	12	\$692,000	\$2,300,000

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

- 4026 Canyon Road, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 3476 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 10-1-10
- 395 Castello Road, \$585,000, 3 Bdrms, 1371 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-14-10
- 3417 Goyak Drive, \$630,000, 4 Bdrms, 2071 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-15-10
- 998 Hawthorne Drive, \$587,000, 3 Bdrms, 2090 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-12-10;
Previous Sale: \$805,000, 09-29-06
- 3272 Marlene Drive #10, \$302,500, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-14-10;
Previous Sale: \$136,000, 01-18-90
- 862 McEllen Way, \$1,248,000, 4 Bdrms, 2851 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-15-10;
Previous Sale: \$350,000, 07-31-87
- 10 Monticello Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3746 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 10-13-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,065,000, 12-22-98
- 100 Rodeo Court, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 3014 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 10-14-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,025,000, 03-15-00
- 503 Silverado Drive, \$795,000, 4 Bdrms, 2168 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-8-10
- 3235 Stanley Boulevard, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 2559 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 10-1-10;
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 06-30-05
- 976 Stow Lane, \$945,000, 3 Bdrms, 2536 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-15-10;
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 03-15-99
- 1068 Via Roble, \$650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-1-10
- 2970 Windtree Court, \$1,203,000, 4 Bdrms, 3081 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-4-10;
Previous Sale: \$615,500, 12-17-97

MORAGA

- 1402 Camino Peral, \$350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1360 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-8-10;
Previous Sale: \$170,000, 04-26-91
- 11 La Salle Drive, \$751,000, 4 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 10-8-10
- 9 Shannon Court, \$2,465,000, 4 Bdrms, 4966 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-6-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,438,000, 02-17-99
- 801 Villa Lane #4, \$220,000, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 10-12-10;
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 04-19-05

ORINDA

- 187 Canon Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1779 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-13-10;
Previous Sale: \$755,000, 05-23-02
- 44 Estates Drive, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2764 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 10-5-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 09-20-06
- 9 Gardiner Court, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 6963 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 10-1-10;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 02-04-05
- 258 La Espiral, \$792,500, 5 Bdrms, 2098 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-15-10
- 273 La Espiral, \$700,000, 1 Bdrms, 1905 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 10-5-10;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 01-31-08
- 12 Northwood Drive, \$930,000, 2 Bdrms, 1834 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-1-10;
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 12-08-94
- 154 Ravenhill Road, \$692,000, 2 Bdrms, 2546 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 10-6-10;
Previous Sale: \$305,000, 10-03-83
- 15 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1741 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-15-10;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 05-27-04
- 33 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$761,000, 4 Bdrms, 3354 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 10-8-10;
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 05-04-89
- 75 Van Tassel Lane, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3321 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-15-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,185,000, 10-17-01
- 7 Whitehall Drive, \$799,000, 3 Bdrms, 1630 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 10-7-10;
Previous Sale: \$155,000, 04-22-80
- 4 Wood Acres Court, \$1,494,000, 4 Bdrms, 3754 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 10-14-10;
Previous Sale: \$840,000, 04-04-94

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

- 3357 South Lucille Lane, 94549, Rfc 1 Limited, 10-06-10, \$343,900, 1671 sf, 3 bd

ORINDA

- 67 Brookwood Road #18, 94563, HomeSales, 09-30-10, \$276,401, 764 sf, 1 bd



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Moraga



121 Via Joaquin
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748 Country Club Dr,
Moraga Country Club



10 Sea Pines
Moraga Country Club



109 Cypress Point Way
Moraga Country Club



75 Shuey Drive
Camino Woods



238 Paseo Bernal
Paseo de Moraga



942 Raintree Place
Lafayette



75 California Ave.
Wagner Ranch



127 Cypress Point Way
Moraga Country Club



28 Via Barcelona
Moraga



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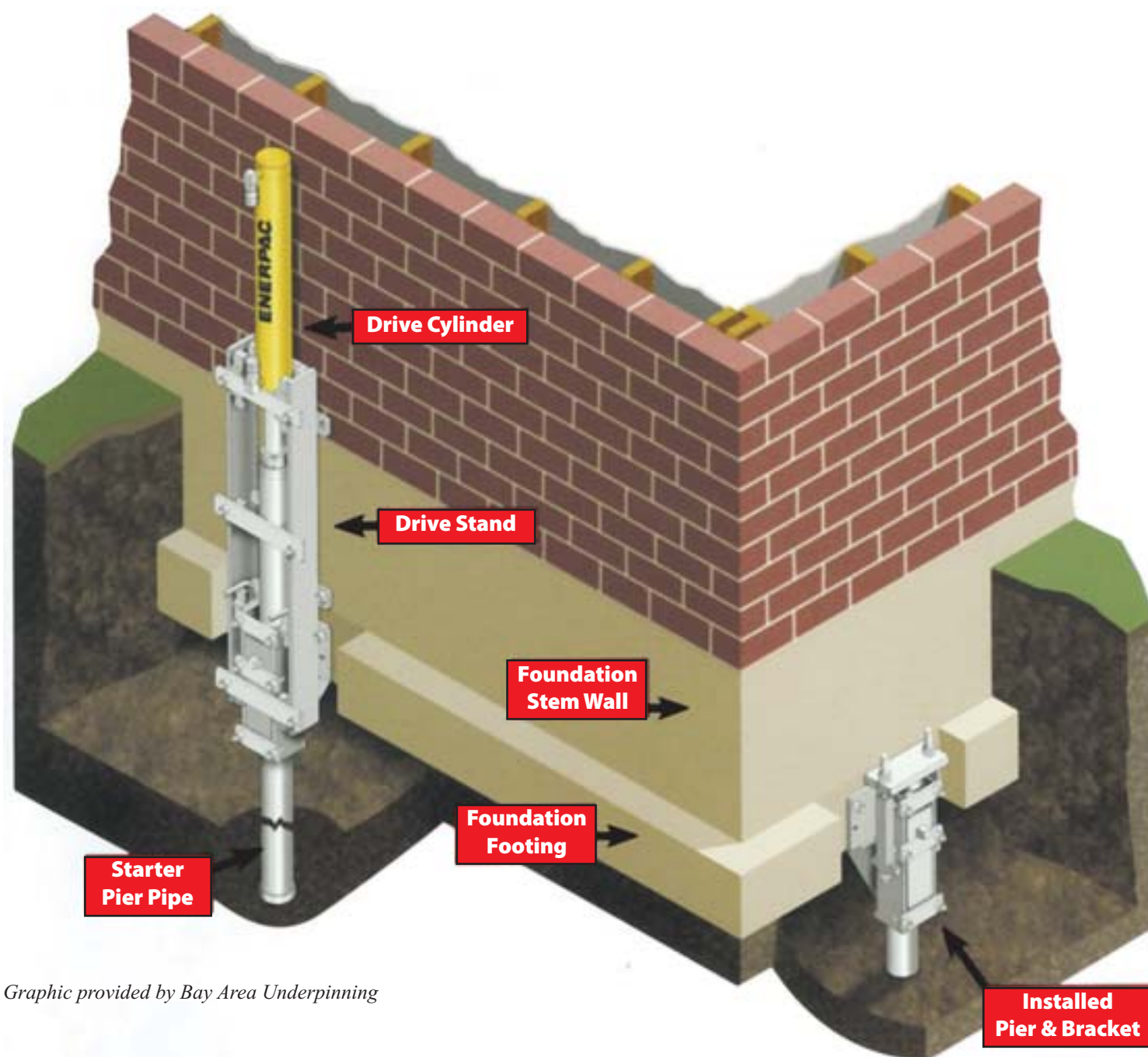
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Does Tilt Come with the Territory?

... continued from page OH1



Graphic provided by Bay Area Underpinning

DeLange says that the main reason they agreed to share their story is the leave-well-enough-alone attitude they encountered. “Plus, we’ve had such a good experience, we wanted others to know. We’ve been totally comfortable having them work here because they are respectful and really responsive to our questions and concerns.”

Most homeowners worry about the impact a construction project will have on the family. DeLange says the digging and sinking of piers took about two weeks and the actual leveling, two days. Righting the house only took more than one day because Egloff and his crew paused often, checking all through the house and taking measurements during the procedure.

The DeLange family was able to stay in the house the entire time. “One night, my husband took the boys out and had our usual family night outside, talking about the project,” Pam says, explaining the easy way the undertaking meshed with her family’s life.

Experience makes Egloff nonchalant about his work. “What happens in the Lamorinda area, is they (home builders) cut into the hill, take the fill, and move it to the front of the property. So it’s non-compacted soil. The house just settles in the front,” he says. “And drainage adds to the problem. When you get both things, like what we had here, it means a

pretty severe settlement.”

Egloff says the construction techniques of the 1940’s to the 1960’s weren’t suitable for hillsides. Signs of failure in a foundation’s integrity are cracks around windows and doors, doors that stick, and uneven floors. “It’s easier to do the work sooner, when you first see the problem, than later, when it’s horrible and there are a lot of other problems,” he says.

Egloff describes the first part of the process for leveling a home with a short, rapid list: “The building department engineers create a layout, we dig small, 2-3’ holes every 6 feet along the foundation, we mount the brackets, and drive the piers.” He slows down long enough to emphasize that each pier is individually load tested, then says, “We start lifting, and when you are level, we get a city inspection.”

Occasionally, there’s interior leveling with screw jacks, an adjustable metal jack supporting most homes. The final stages involve backfilling the holes and completing any landscaping or deck repair included in the job.

The DeLange home required 25 piers, each bearing 12,000 lbs and driven to support the load in a 2 to 1 ratio. “We over-engineer it,” Egloff says. “The company I worked



Installed pier pipe



Lift set up



Photo Andy Scheck



Measuring the progress

Photo Doug Kohen



Photo Doug Kohen

for before has been doing steel pier underpinning since 1975, and we've never had to go back and readjust a home."

Steel piers are not the answer for every home, and Egloff carefully describes another kind of underpinning, using drilled piers. Drilled piers are best for situations where there is lateral movement and the structure is on an extremely steep hill. With this technique, the portable equipment, use of concrete, and extensive soil hauling mean the cost is dramatically higher than with steel piers. It is also more invasive, requiring enough room to get large equipment in and out, according to Egloff.

Fortunately, for the DeLanges, their home is now level and the project, started just over 3 weeks ago, is nearly complete. Their house is right, and will remain so, for at least another 60 years.

Bay Area Underpinning specializes in lifting, leveling, and stabilizing building foundations.
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Tearing Down the Old Country Club House

By Sophie Braccini



Excavator takes the first bite of the club house roof

Photo Doug Kohen

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Old concrete will be recycled and reused at the site

Photo Doug Kohen

Like a T-Rex tearing at the flesh of its prey, the giant jaw of the excavator grabbed and tore out chunks of the Moraga Country Club House, slowly but surely devouring the whole building. On November 4, demolition of the structure started at 9:00 a.m. sharp and continued on, unabated, for three days. Sitting in his Caterpillar 330C, Stephen Blackmon, from Carone and Company, maneuvered the powerful hydraulic excavator with the delicate touch of an expert. The leveled ground is now ready for the erection of the new Club that was approved by the Town of Moraga and financed by the Club's members. The work is expected to be complete in 10-11 months.

"We've been preparing for this for over a month," said Frank Melon, General Manager and Chief Operating Officer of the Moraga Country Club, "we had to remove all of the hazardous material, divert electrical power, water supply and sewer and identify everything that could be recycled." Russ Kain is the Senior Superintendent from Overaa Construction, the general contractor for the project. "We got the demolition permit from the Contra Costa County Building Department and the recycling plan for the Town of Moraga," said Kain.

Blackmon took his time to avoid collateral damage. The site was constantly hosed down so no dust was projected into the air. Tennis players in the nearby courts played, undisturbed. Nonetheless the noise level was significant and each time the excavator knocked out a big piece of the building, the ground shook.

"This is so exciting," says Kathe Foster, the Assistant General Manager who's been working at the Club for 20 years. The mix of sheer power and precision was impressive. The truck driver alternatively used the machine to either demolish a part of the building, or delicately pick up a recyclable beam as if it were a matchstick, or pound debris that will be hauled away to Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg for further recycling. Some of the material, such as concrete and asphalt, will be recycled on site during the construction of the new building.

The Lamorinda weekly has more photos and a video online. Interested kids of all ages can check it out at www.lamorindaweekly.com/mcc.html.

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New Price

136 Manzanita Drive

Quality newly blt custom 4bd/3.5ba on lovely 1.27 ac w/lvl grassy yd. Exquisitely crafted with Santa Barbara style, 4000 sf of comfortable living & incredible design.

Offered at \$2,150,000

ORINDA



291 Sundown Terrace

Impeccably updated contemporary 4bd/4.5ba on lovely landscaped .96 ac lot, 4396 sf open floor plan, spacious master suite, 2 family rms, 75' lap pool & spa.

Offered at \$2,350,000

MORAGA



Back on Market

1365B Camino Peral

Comfortable 2bd/2ba, 1281 sf w/fireplace, washer/dryer, deck & 2 dedicated parking spaces. Near shopping, park, library and trails. Best schools!

Offered at \$299,000

MORAGA



1746 St. Andrews Drive

Beaut remodeled lvl 3bd/2ba townhome w/high ceilings, flplc, attached garage & EZ indoor/outdoor living. Pvt yd includes waterfall, patio & lawn.

Offered at \$699,000

MORAGA



24 La Salle Drive

Fabulous 1/2 acre pvt paradise with views, lawn, sparkling pool. Spacious 4+ bd rancher, renovated kit, 2 fireplaces, storage galore. Idyllic close-in loc nr Orinda border.

Offered at \$865,000

MORAGA



20 Greenfield Drive

Spacious home w/2 bonus rms + fam rm. Lg bonus rm great for 5th bdrm, media, ofc, study. Two fireplaces, pvt lvl yd. Nw paint, carpet, updated kitchen. Walk to elementary.

Offered at \$899,000

MORAGA



New Price

160 Valley Hill Drive

Fabulously remodeled 4bd/4ba ranch home on over 5 acres just minutes from town. 3-stall barn, pastures and pool. Shown by appointment only...call today!

Offered at \$1,350,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3170 Plymouth Road

Storybook charm. Beautifully remodeled 3bd/2ba with tasteful upgrades & stylish touches thruout. Hdwd flrs & crown moldings. Gorgeous kit, newly remodeled baths.

Offered at \$849,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1021 Walnut Avenue

Delightful downtown charmer. Complete 2007 remodel. Fabulous lovely 3bd/2ba w/hdwd flrs, crown moldings, gourmet kitchen & much more. Come and see!

Offered at \$849,000

LAFAYETTE



1176 Glen Road

Happy Valley Glen. Charming 4bd home w/two office spaces, many new updates. Beaut hdwd flrs, French doors to yard & pool. Close to town, Bart, grt Laf schools.

Offered at \$1,195,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3919 So. Peardale Drive

Fabulous sgl lvl updated hm. Tons of natural light, hdwd flrs, vaulted ceilings, LR w/custom fireplace + sep alcove. Marvelous great rm, kit w/wine bar, sep pantry & more.

Offered at \$1,335,000

LAFAYETTE



3819 Palo Alto Drive

Price reduced on this wonderful Happy Valley home. Beaut maintained & appointed. Newer kitchen w/lg eating area & fam rm. Ideal in-law set up. Walk to school.

Offered at \$1,679,000

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Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings

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