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10

YEARS

Anniversary

“Hi Wendy, my new ad looked great. What a response!”
Jim Colhoun, Relocation and Home Marketing Specialist
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LAMORINDA
 WEEKLY

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

Ten years as a Lamorinda Weekly reporter

... continued from page B1

Over the years, as my own children were growing, I saw the three communities change and transform. In Moraga especially, I saw a very closed public process open up and residents becoming more and more engaged. In Lafayette we witnessed the remarkable progresses of Sustainable Lafayette and how, with Bart Carr and Steve Richards leading, it has become a citywide organization. There too we saw the erection of the library, the long creation of the vision for downtown development, and we wrote about the blooming of one of the most successful retail centers and restaurant scenes around.

For nine years I also covered the Lamorinda business news and met incredible people. I saw homes made of Insulated Concrete Forms, one of the first LEED platinum buildings with the most advanced features, the inventor of — among other things — the Echo pen that records and films note-taking, one of the largest angel investors network in the country, or people creating a new frontier in the internet-of-things. I also met countless budding entrepreneurs that created and marketed everything from echo-lunch boxes to gluten-free snacks and those brave brick-and-mortar creators that defy online shopping like Venture in Lafayette or Orinda Books. Hats off to them!

The number of remarkable typical Lamorinda stories I was exposed to started with the first article I wrote 10 years ago: it was about the crosses of Lafayette. There I saw how motivated individuals could make a difference, reach out to those with a very different perspective and how together they built something unique. Ten years later I wrote about an exhibition at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery about those crosses, closing a circle that went from emotional outrage to symbolic desire for peace.

There were many more uplifting Lamorinda adventures to report about. Let's not forget the rise of the Lamorinda urban chicken that got approved in Lafayette before being accepted in Moraga; the growth of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association and its successful bid to make Lamorinda a recognized viticulture area; the creation of more open space such as the purchase of Carr Ranch by the John Muir Land Trust; and all the art initiatives that flourish from the galleries, to classes and all the performing art produced by truly remarkable groups such as CalShakes and Town Hall Theater.

But above all what my mother did not understand, at least not at the time, was the amazing richness of the human beings I was going to be able to meet and share with oth-

ers. And in the process of writing about the Lamorinda human adventure, I was changed.

I have met several inspiring leaders such as Budd McKenzie who created a nonprofit, Trust in Education, to bring support to the children of Afghanistan. I met business people that had become spiritual beings such as Mark Drevno who became a certified Buddhist interfaith chaplain for inmates; countless volunteers such as Cliff Dochterman, former president of Rotary International. These and people like them find meaning in giving their time and skills to a cause. I have also witnessed the rise of a Lamorinda mindfulness movement that seeks to support children and adults alike in their quest for grounding and happiness.

Yes, Lamorinda has a culture of privileges and affluence, and several stories would also speak of selfishness and a desire to keep outsiders out. But there are hopefully more generous and selfless residents who aim at making their communities and the world a better place. Writing for Lamorinda Weekly, where I did not need to tweak the news to sell more ads, has been a privilege. Here is to the next 10 years!



It was 10 years ago today (or thereabouts)

By Cathy Dausman

A lot has happened in Lamorinda and in the world in 10 years — and a lot has stayed the same. Here is a “time capsule” of what was happening in March of 2007 when the Lamorinda Weekly launched:

Lamorinda:

Lafayette approved plans for a Whole Foods market (it opened in 2011) and broke ground for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. It opened November 2009.

The California Transportation Commission approved final funding for a Caldecott Tunnel fourth bore. Traffic pop-ups remained through its completion in 2013. Bulldozers on an Orinda hillside south of Highway 24 began shaping the Wilder Homes development. Orinda moved into a new city hall.

Moraga held its first triathlon. It mourned the loss of three young adults in unrelated motor vehicle accidents. Zillow Group, Inc. Median Home Values reported for March 2007:

- Lafayette: 1.14 million (vs. 1.37 million forecast for March 2017)
- Moraga: 1.07 million (vs. 1.25 million forecast for March 2017)
- Orinda: 1.26 million (vs. 1.46M million for March 2017)

The housing bubble burst in December 2007. California home prices fell faster than they had in the previous 25 years.

2007 Lamorinda leadership roles:

Mayor:

Carol Federighi, Lafayette
 Mike Metcalf, Moraga
 Steve Glazer, Orinda

City Manager:

Steven Falk, Lafayette

Phil Vince, Moraga
 Janet Keeter, Orinda

Fire Chief:

Pete Nowicki, Moraga-Orinda Fire District
 Keith Richter, Contra Costa Fire Protection District

Chief of Police:

Mike Hubbard, Lafayette
 Mark Ruppenthal, Moraga
 Scott Haggard, Orinda

Statewide:

- Arnold Schwarzenegger was California's governor; he served two terms.
- More than 9,000 wildfires burned in California during 2007 affecting more than one million acres and displacing nearly as many people.
- **Nationwide:**
- George W. Bush served his second term as President.
- Gas per gallon cost an average of \$2.81. Toyota Camry and Honda Accord topped the best-selling list in 2007.
- Apple promoted its first iPhone with a “Hello” commercial aired during the Academy Awards. BlackBerry reassured its customers with “we’ll be fine.”
- Facebook turned three; founder Mark Zuckerberg was a billionaire at 23.

Déjà vu:

The American Public Works Association recognized the Town of Moraga for its “emergency sinkhole repair” (September, 2007).

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” (released December 2008) The cast would include Saint Mary's College graduate and now Academy Award-winner Mahershala Ali.

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