

LAMORINDA

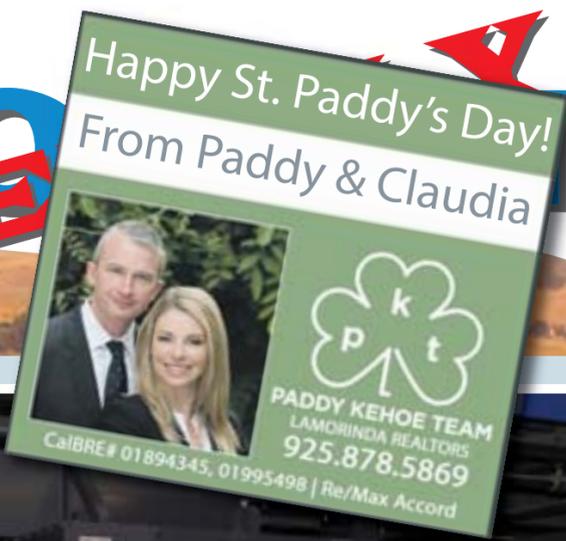
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Staff from the Lamorinda Weekly and Transcontinental Printing pull off the Feb. 22 issue from the presses.

Lamorinda Weekly Turns 10

By Peggy Spear

It takes a start-up about five years to be considered a success. This week, the Lamorinda Weekly is celebrating its 10th anniversary, an ambitious and laudable achievement given the history of journalism in today's world.

Over the last 10 years, the Lamorinda Weekly, led by publishers Wendy and Andy Scheck, has produced 262 issues and 8,928 pages of copy, all dedicated to life in Lamorinda. We cover the news in your towns, your schools,

on your sports teams and down your blocks. You will find stories of national and even international news, but filtered through the eyes and words of Lamorindans.

In this issue we feature several stories devoted to our 10th anniversary: On page A8 Nick Marnell looks at our unprecedented fire and safety coverage, and on A10 talks to original advertisers. On page B1, Sophie Braccini looks at her 10 years of reporting in Lamorinda. We also offer a 10-year "time capsule," compiled by Cathy

Dausman, on B3, as well as the paper's top stories viewed online. Even Susie Iventosch, our food writer, covers her top recipes of the last decade on page B3.

Creating the Lamorinda Weekly is, and always has been, a team effort, and without its staff of talented writers, columnists and photographers, we would not survive. So here's to another 10 years of great community news coverage!

Advertising

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| LAMORINDA WEEKLY | |
| Letters to the Editor | A9 |
| Community Service | B9 |
| Not to be Missed | B10-B11 |
| HOW TO CONTACT US | B11 |
| Classified | C2 |
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Fighting for Lamorinda sanctuary status

By Sophie Braccini

Three young Lamorinda residents and their friends have decided to take on a highly visible political campaign: get the three communities to declare sanctuary city status.

Sanctuary municipalities are locations where non-U.S. citizens can reside without fear of deportation, if they are law-abiding. There are several such cities in the Bay Area, including Alameda, Oakland San Francisco and Berkeley.

Lynn Hsu, Victoria (Tori) Shepard and Clara Fuchshuber are meeting with civic leaders, business people and talking to city councils, urging them to put the issue of becoming a sanctuary city on the agenda.

The three women are children of immigrant parents. They heard about the sanctuary city movement where jurisdictions declare that within their borders there would be no ethnic profiling against immigrants, and decided this would be their quest: bringing sanctuary status to Lamorinda.

The three women graduated from Campolin-



From left, Lynn Hsu and Clara Fuchshuber meet in Lafayette to prepare their next campaign.

Photo Sophie Braccini

do High School in 2011. They went their separate ways to college but stayed in touch. They are now back in Lamorinda, either working, or studying as pre-med students.

... continued on page A12

Leigh Creekside Park closer to getting play structure

By Pippa Fisher

If it was said that the divisive issue of Leigh Creekside Park would require the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job to solve, in the end perhaps it took more of the statesmanship of Pericles to move the proposed new play structure forward.

At the city council meeting on Feb. 27, with standing room only, Lafayette City Council once again heard from close to 50 impassioned residents as the meeting went well into the early hours of the following morning. With tension running high the council heard from those who want to add children's play structures to the small area of land that is the neighborhood park, located at the corner of Fourth Street and Moraga Boulevard ("actives") and

from those who want the leafy park to remain passive ("passives").

Jonathan Katayanagi, the city's director of the parks, trails and recreation department, told the council of several options for moving forward, given recent studies that show "exceedances of the city's noise ordinance due to the sound of children playing."

Option one would be to prepare a focused Environmental Impact Report, now required—a study that would cost \$24,000 and take three to six months to complete. Option two called for the temporary tabling of the issue and the amendment of the city's noise ordinance, which was set in 1977.

... continued on page A11

Civic News A1-A12

Orinda struggles with sinkhole solutions – page A6.

Fire Districts A8

Confire adds a new weapon to its fleet—page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

"Smokey Joe's Cafe" is worth a visit – page B1.



Camps

It's time to think about summer camps! – Special Section



B5-B8

Sports

Dons Boys Soccer claims NCS Division 2 title – page C1.



C1-C4

Our Homes

Create your own string art garden – page D1.



D1-D16



Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, March 8, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 29 - Feb. 11

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Alarms | 78 |
| 911 Calls (incl hang-ups) | 20 |
| Noise complaints | 3 |
| Traffic stops | 163 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 22 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 26 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 36 |
| Welfare Check | 21 |
| Patrol Request | 7 |
| Animal Cruelty | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Auto Burglary | |
| 3300 Block Woodview Dr. | |
| 3500 Block Brook St. | |
| 900 Block Dewing Ave. | |
| 700 Block Solana Dr. | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Battery | |
| 3200 Block Acalanes Ave. | |
| Beat Info | |
| 3900 Block Canyon Rd. | |
| 4100 Block Canyon Rd. | |
| Civil Problem | |
| 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 1000 Block 2nd St. | |
| 3300 Block Moraga Blvd. | |
| 1000 Block 2nd St. | |
| Commercial Burglary | |
| 1000 Block Dewing Ave. | |
| 1000 Block Brown Ave. | |
| Drunk In Public | |
| 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Forgery | |
| 3700 Block Highland Rd. | |
| Found Property | |
| 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. | |
| 3300 Block Rowland Dr. | |
| 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Fraud False Pretenses | |
| 3400 Block Hamlin Rd. | |
| 1100 Block Vacation Dr. | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Harassment | |
| El Nido Ranch Rd./acalanes Rd. | |
| 1st St/Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 1100 Block Via Media | |
| 3300 Block Sweet Dr. | |
| Hit And Run Misdemeanor | |
| Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Police Department | |
| 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 1st St/Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Identity Theft | |
| 900 Block S Thompson Rd. | |
| 3600 Block Powell Dr. | |
| 600 Block N Silverado Dr. (2) | |
| 3900 Block Canyon Rd. | |
| 3300 Block Woodview Ct. | |
| In Custody Theft | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Intoxicated Subject | |
| 50 Block Lafayette Cr. | |
| Litter | |
| 1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. | |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Loitering | 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
| Lost Property | Police Department 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
| Panhandling | 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
| Petty Theft | 3300 Block N Lucille Ln. 1000 Block Brown Ave. 900 Block Dewing Ave. 1100 Block Nogales St. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Oliver Ct. 3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 Block Brook St. 3600 Block Walnut St. |
| Petty Theft From Building | 400 Block Read Dr. |
| Public Nuisance | 1300 Block Summit Rd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 900 Block Dewing Ave. 1000 Block 2nd St. 3800 Block Happy Valley Rd. 1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. 3500 Block Golden Gate Wy 900 Block Hough Ave. 4000 Block Marianne Dr. Topper Ln./St. Marys Rd. 3300 Block Ridge Rd. 900 Block Moon Ct. 3500 Block Moraga Blvd. |
| Reckless Driving | Acalanes Rd./Eb Sr 24 Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr. Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Station Rd. Silverado Dr./Burton Dr. Moraga Rd./Madrone Dr. 3500 Block Brook St. Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd. 1st St/Mt. Diablo Blvd. Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd. Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd. 3200 Block Stanley Blvd. 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. |
| Residential Burglary | 3200 Block Beechwood Dr. 1000 Block Via Roble 600 Block Lucas Dr. 1100 Block Monticello Rd. |
| Robbery | Mt. Diablo Blvd./Golden Gate Way |
| Shoplift | 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5) |
| Threats | 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3300 Block Mildred Ln. |
| Trespass | 3400 Block Black Hawk Rd. 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
| Unwanted Guest | 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 30 Block Lafayette Cr. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
| Vandalism | 3400 Block Sky Ln. 600 Block Glenside Dr. Reliez Valley Rd. at Withers 3400 Block School St. |
| Vehicle Theft | 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct. |
| Verbal Dispute | 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1200 Block Bacon Way |

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Sidewalk maintenance falls to Lafayette residents

By Pippa Fisher

To what extent, if any, are property owners responsible for repairs to the sidewalk, defined as the area between the property line and the street line, whether or not it has a sidewalk or parking strip, gutter or curb?

That was the sticky issue the Lafayette City Council dealt with Feb. 27, with the subject continuing from the previous city meeting. City staff offered several options for proceeding with the issue of frontage maintenance.

Currently sidewalks are the owner's responsibility per Section 8-123 of the Lafayette Municipal Code, established in 1996.

The council heard from Matt Luttrupp, senior engineer for Lafayette. He presented five options, ranging from option 1, continuing the policy "as is" to option 5, totally eliminating Section 8-123, whereby the city would pay all costs.

In between those extremes he outlined option 2, which, he explained, would be to amend the code to require property owners to maintain their frontage improvements only when a sidewalk exists, as is the case in Orinda. Since Lafayette has few sidewalks this would be estimated to require an additional \$188,000. Also it would impact the Public Works Department to the tune of an estimated \$30,000 annually.

Option 3 would be similar to the previous option obliging the homeowner to pay for repairs but only in cases where a hazard caused by the owner is evident, such as is the practice in Moraga and Pleasant Hill. This option raises potential questions about the burden of proof of the reason for damage.

Option 4 would amend the LMC to reflect a sharing of the costs between city and owner. This potentially raises the perception of inequity.

As at the previous city meeting, several residents made their dissatisfaction with city's policy clear. Addressing the staff's concerns that residents would demand refunds for past work they had to pay for should the code now be amended, Lafayette resident John Sallay gave the example of paying a fine for speeding and suggested that the offender could not be asking for a refund of his speeding fine if the speed limit law were subsequently changed. Additionally, he repeated his accusation that the city is "double taxing." While many cit-



A curbside in Lafayette, which owners must maintain. Photo P. Fisher

ies do have similar policies to Lafayette's, he said, not all do and there is no need for this council to follow like sheep.

Karl Schaarschmidt, a retired civil engineer and local resident, made the practical point that the curb and gutter is part of the roadway and should be built together as one unit to ensure even wear and integrity.

Council members Ivor Samson and Mark Mitchell were both in favor of option 3. Both acknowledged a need to look at an appeal process and how to compensate previous residents who have paid.

However, Vice Mayor Don Tatzin made the point that these rules reflect what residents wanted back in 1996 when bonds were passed and an effective plan for road reconstruction was put in place.

Council member Cam Burks echoed the sentiment that in the interest of equity it is unfair to change rules now since by 2019 all failed roads in Lafayette will have been addressed. He voiced concerns over taking the city to another level of bureaucracy regarding appeals that would accompany option 3 and felt it was fair to leave it as it is to avoid fiscal burden on the city.

Mayor Mike Anderson said that he would recommend "staying the course" and consider amending the code later if necessary.

In the end the staff recommendation to continue current policy was carried by three votes from Anderson, Tatzin and Burks to two against from Samson and Mitchell, with a recommendation to look at the matter again after road construction is complete in 2019.

A focus on Lafayette life

By Pippa Fisher

For all aspiring Lafayette photographers, there is an exciting opportunity coming soon. The city of Lafayette is running a "Day in the Life" photo contest, sponsored by the city's Art Commission.

Photos must be taken in Lafayette on March 20, the spring equinox and is open to those living or

working in Lafayette. This is the third in a series of contests. The first and second contests took place on the winter and summer solstice respectively. Plans are underway for the fourth contest to take place on Lafayette's 50th birthday in the summer of 2018.

... continued on page A9



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Dynamic Husband and Wife Team Earn Citizens of the Year in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Dick and Robin Holt, Lafayette Citizens of the Year. Photo Pippa Fisher

This year Lafayette is going with the ultimate volunteering partnership in its selection for Citizens of the Year as it recognizes the long list of volunteer works done by husband and wife team, Dick and Robin Holt.

The couple first moved into Lafayette in 1975 with three small children while Dick Holt was stationed with the Navy in Alameda. They were attracted to Lafayette by the good schools and, says Robin Holt, in part be-

cause the area reminded them of Carmel, where they came from, especially given all the opportunities for outdoor activity and music.

Robin became involved with the PTA at Vallecito Elementary School almost immediately through friends while her husband was still on active duty. She was PTA President at Happy Valley Elementary School after the two elementary schools merged in 1983.

... continued on page A9

Music series embraces the Summer of Love

By Pippa Fisher



Jay Lifson gets into the spirit of things. Photo Pippa Fisher

As the song goes “Money can’t buy me love” and it won’t have to this summer in Lafayette, where the free Rock the Plaza series of concerts will be featuring very special tributes to the Summer of Love.

This summer sees the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love and while San Francisco’s Park and Recreation Department has denied a permit for a free concert in Golden Gate Park – a decision that will doubtless be appealed – the Lafayette City Council approved the “Summer of Love Lafayette” concert series Feb. 13 by a unanimous vote.

Many people are making arrangements to come to the Bay Area to celebrate the June 4 anniversary. Lafayette hopes to welcome many of those to the four-concert, Rock the Plaza series this year, which takes place on the first four Friday evenings in June, given the convenience of BART and its proximity to San Francisco.

And what an experience it is turning into. Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and longtime “Dead-Head,” Jay Lifson says, “We are transforming Lafayette Plaza Park to take you all back to 1967. Each

concert will include a local artist alley (aka: Shakedown Street) where visitors can shop before and during the concert, a two-hour set from the bands, and a hootenanny after each show around the campfire with special guest musicians including Lafayette’s own Stevie Coyle (The Waybacks).”

Lafayette’s Rock the Plaza series, now in its 12th season, takes place Friday nights in June at Lafayette’s Plaza Park at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. This summer the special Summer of Love artist alley will open at 5:30 p.m., and the bands play from 6:30–8:30 p.m. followed by the hootenanny.

The lineup this year includes cover bands that feature the music of Jefferson Airplane, The Grateful Dead, Neil Young and many of the sounds from 1967 – a time when free spirit, peace, love and compassion became the principles young people embraced and music was at the heart of the hippie movement.

Although these are “tie-dye optional” events, bell-bottoms and hippie attire is encouraged.

As Lifson says, “Peace, love and Bobby Sherman! If you remember the 60s, you probably were not there...”

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, March 8, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 27, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, March 14, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Library
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga Police Report



Feb. 8 to 20, 2017

Accident

Feb 17 Vehicle vs. pedestrian at Moraga Rd. and Lucas Dr. Pedestrian taken to the hospital.

Alarm calls

4

Bench Warrant

Feb 12 Cleared by arrest

Domestic Dispute

Feb 9 Husband/wife spat. No visible injuries. Medical treatment declined. The couple agreed to split until they calmed down.
 Feb 9 Woman had a minor finger cut. Hubby was nearby. Woman couldn't explain what happened. She left in a taxi (or a huff).
 Feb 13 Mother upset arguing with 18-year-old son. He left; no one hurt.
 Feb 16 Two adults drinking alcohol argued loudly. Police had them agree to quiet down.
 Feb 18 Subject shut off power to house; powerless to escape police.

DUI

Feb 12 Cleared by arrest

Firearms surrendered to PD:

Feb 8 air rifle
 Feb 13 disabled BB rifle

Found Property

Feb 11 Police stuck with a blood glucose meter.
 Feb 11 unwashed iTems (iPhone and Kindle) found at local laundromat held at police station until the owner E-trieved them next day.
 Feb 12 Suspicious. Black HP computer inside a white plastic bag
 Feb 15 Small amount of marijuana. Ssssssmokin!
 Feb 18 Commercial grade leaf blower St. Mary's at Moraga Rd.
 Feb 19 wallet

ID Theft:

Feb 15 Attempt to open credit card account
 Feb 18 Tax prep false filing foiled.

Larceny:

Feb 10 Three bikes (value \$400) from a Moraga carport. No one spoke up.
 Feb 10 Male stole mail; fled in pickup after pickup. Reporting person must be PO'd.
 Feb 14 Stolen vehicle
 Feb 15 Lost or stolen license plates
 Feb 14 wallet from vehicle

Missing person

Feb 13 Adult male driver, 96, reported missing. Seems he took a wrong turn — into Fremont. A request for DMV re-testing seems prudent.

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Budget, road maintenance lead town goals for 2017

By Sophie Braccini

It took surprisingly little time for the Moraga Town Council to agree on its 2017 goals, once the topic of gun violence prevention had been taken out of the picture (see article page A5).

Town Manager Robert Priebe and his staff had prepared a summary of the discussion that started in January. At the time Mayor Theresa Onoda had proposed only four goals, then ongoing projects had been added, followed by a list of other goals that other council members were pushing.

Some unusual ideas for Moraga were proposed beyond the usual balanced budget, road and drain maintenance, and protection of the open space. The mayor wanted to

put a priority on economic development, asking that the town work with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce to improve the permitting process for local businesses. That goal was unanimously approved, but the town manager warned that the likelihood of completion of this goal in 2017 was low.

Onoda had also listed as one of her goals the completion of successful bargaining agreements with all employees. Council members did approve that goal, but the town manager was not that optimistic about the potential for a positive outcome. He indicated that the town can only offer so much, and that it might not be enough to retain all valued em-

ployees, a recurrent problem for a small town with a reputation for frugality.

Town staff members also stated their skepticism over the completion in 2017 of some of other goals. The continuation of the efforts to establish a private/public partnership to develop the Hacienda de las Flores was in that category, along with the completion of the design of new roundabouts on St. Mary's Road and the efforts to support the Rheem Theater. Council member David Trotter challenged this latter assumption and asked for a medium probability for successfully supporting the local icon.

On the other hand, town staff

said they are feeling confident that the hillsides and ridgelines updated rules and the implementation process of the Moraga Center Specific Plan will be completed in 2017.

Fifteen goals were approved and four new goals were put on hold. Among these was a request by council member Kymberleigh Korpus, supported by Janette Fritzkzy, that metrics be introduced in the goal planning process to measure progress and success. Council member Trotter said that public policy could not be measured the same way business is, that processes such as amending planning rules are driven by their value, not by numbers.

Moraga Country Club faces unusual public turmoil

By Sophie Braccini

Three seats are up for renewal on the Moraga Country Club's board of directors, a matter that is usually not heard of outside of the club. But recent turmoil has created a climate of unrest for some homeowners and recreation members alike and the confusion has uncharacteristically crossed from the private to the public domain.

MCC homes represent about a tenth of all homes in Moraga, and adding in all the sports members, MCC impacts close to a fourth of the residents of the town, including youth involved in the popular swim and tennis activities.

The matters of what happened between swim team coaches who were let go, the director of aquatics, and volunteer parents managing the program weave a complex web of rancor, disappointment and misunderstanding that seems to have escalated over several months.

... continued on next page



A landslide blocking access to the trail

Photo A. Scheck

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Muni Code

Feb 17 Loud and large (100) apartment complex party; legions of adult beverages. Party was a no-go, said MPD, and probably also a Bev-no-more.
 Feb 18 35 guests asked to leave.

Outside Assist

Feb 20 Ends in felony battery arrest.

Possession

Feb 17 Not just horsing around; police found 10 grams of meth and drug paraphernalia in a Valley Vista Staging car. Driver was corralled to the hoosegow.

Suspicious Circumstances:

Feb 11 An open garage door led police to investigate the garage, vehicle and residence. They determined no burglary; perhaps just a mess?
 Feb 13 A self-serving customer left the store with unpaid goods and fled in a light colored sedan.

Threats

Feb 7 Police investigated a harassing phone call reported at Moraga Library. Seems the caller (no Dewey-eyed perp) may be checking out other libraries. Will he pay a fine? Who knows; sometimes truth is stranger than fiction.

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Moraga to study gun violence prevention

By Sophie Braccini

In the words of Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda, the town chamber had never been so full and the list of people wanting to speak so long as on the evening of Feb. 8, when residents came to discuss the possibility for Moraga to adopt prevention of gun violence ordinances.

It was a passionate and emotionally charged debate, always courteous, with a majority of Moraga residents wanting to enforce local rules on zoning for gun outlets and mandatory locking mechanism. A majority of the council members decided that the topics should be studied, but it was not added to the long list of goals for 2017.

Over a dozen residents spoke for adding gun violence prevention rules to the Moraga code and many more supported the topic in the room.

Allison Anderman, the Moraga mom and attorney with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence has been at the onset of this campaign and said supporters in Moraga were in the range of 200.

The arguments of these residents focused mostly on the need to have rules to safely store and lock guns in homes to prevent accidents with children. Most were parents of school-age children recounting incidents in the community and expressing the fear it could happen again here, as it did 25 years ago, when a teen was accidentally killed

by a classmate.

In its prepared list of goals staff had listed the topic of gun ordinances as potentially very costly. A local resident, in a very dramatic plea, argued that if the ordinance would save just one life, the effect would be immeasurable.

The group also advocated for a zoning ordinance similar to the one in place in Lafayette that does not permit guns trade in residential neighborhoods and near schools.

Four people, some from Moraga, spoke against adding more local rules when state laws already have provisions for gun safety, and dealers always provide a lock with a new gun. They recommended trusting the police officers in town.

A month ago when this topic was first discussed, Moraga Police Chief John King had taken a similar line, explaining that his professional opinion was that more education would more effective than rules that would be difficult to enforce.

Council member Kymberleigh Korpus was the only person on the dais to state an opposition to looking into the violence prevention ordinance. She indicated that staff time and town resources would be better spent elsewhere. The other four council members agreed to bring back the topic for an indepth study session, including legal aspects, at a later time.

Moraga Country Club

... continued from page A4

Now Leslie Mortimer, the board's president, says that all is under control and she'd rather not share specifics with the public. She said the swim team committee is working very hard to have a successful season, hiring coaches, and moving forward.

Turmoil also affected the tennis team, with the departure of a popular coach, with all parties involved blaming each other.

The matter of the landslide that has forced two club's families out of their homes may also have contributed to a perception of opacity coming from the board. Mortimer, explains that the club is tangled in a lawsuit over the landslide responsibility and that open communication is therefore impossible, as recommended by the club's legal counsel.

An example of the difficulty

in sorting out the situation is exemplified by what is happening with the club members whose homes have been red-tagged, but still find themselves having to pay Home Owner Association dues. The board declined to suspend their obligation to pay their dues, but on the other hand the general manager says that a Go-Fund-Me account was started to support these families.

Mortimer insisted that the issues affecting the club were private and should not be reported publicly. She added that in her opinion a few disgruntled people were using social media to spread inaccuracies. Her three-year term on the board will end next year.

The ballots for the election have already been given to voters and have to be returned to the MCC before March 20.

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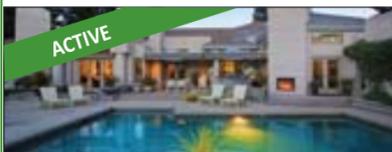


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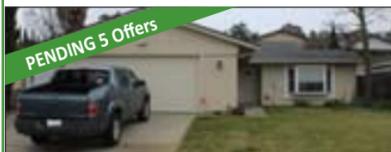
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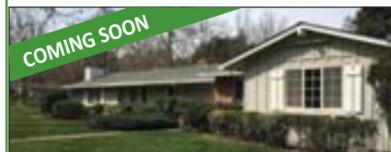
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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

TBA
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 14, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, March 13, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Feb 12 to 25, 2017

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 63 |
| Noise complaints | 3 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 7 |
| Traffic stops | 72 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 14 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 12 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 23 |

Battery

10 block Orinda Way

Burglary

3900 block Happy Valley Rd.

Burglary, Auto

Orinda Theater
10 Block Ardilla Rd.

Burglary, Residential

10 block Modoc Rd.

Civil

10 block Fern Way
Spring/Brookwood Rds.

Death, non-criminal

200 Block Hall Dr.

Dependent adult abuse

Orinda Convalescent

Disturbance

20 Block El Toyonal

Dispute

Orinda Convalescent
10 Block Camino Encinas
30 Block Claremont Ave.
100 Block Crest View Dr
10 Block Cascade Ln.

Hit & Run

Theatre Square
500 Block Tahos Rd.

Illegal entry

90 Block Sandhill Rd.

Ordinance violation

100 Block La Espiral

Police/Fire/ EMS

80 Block Orinda Way
400 Block El Toyonal
Santa Maria/Orinda Ways
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
30 Block Berkeley Ave.

Public Nuisance

80 Block Underhill Rd.
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.
500 Block Tahos Rd.
Moraga Way/Sanborn Rd.
10 Block Northwood Ct.

Reckless Driving

Rheem/Glorietta Blvds.
70 Block Donald Dr.
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24
Lombardy/Irving Lanes
Camino Pablo/BART
Camino Sobrante/Miner Rd.

Theft, Petty

60 Block Mira Loma
(from vehicle)

Theft, Grand

60 Block Cork Tree Ln.

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Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.
90 Block Scenic Dr.
BART



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Smooth transition as Keeter retires, Steve Salomon takes over

By Sora O'Doherty



Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth, Mayor Eve Phillips and city council members Dean Orr and Inga Miller say goodbye to Janet Keeter, holding the bouquet. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Tears and tissues, proclamations and praise were in evidence as longtime Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter retired.

Feted at a reception at The Quarry House at Wilder on Feb. 16, Keeter heard kind words about her 12 years as city manager from many, including former mayor, now State Sen. Steve Glazer, who spoke of Keeter's dedication to staff and her incredible skill to treat everyone with even-handed neutrality. Glazer presented Keeter

with a proclamation on behalf of the California Senate and the Assembly (Assembly Member Catharine Baker was unable to attend) as a token of the many great memories that Keeter leaves behind her. "You'll always be a part of the Orinda family," Glazer avowed, adding, "I'm proposing that we name a sinkhole after you!"

At the city council meeting on Feb. 21, the council also sang Keeter's praises and presented her with yellow roses and a proclamation of its

own. In it the council recognized Keeter's major contributions to Orinda, including the new city hall, the new public works maintenance building, the Wilder Quarry House, new playing fields at Wilder and Pine Grove, and the senior affordable apartments at Monteverde. They lauded her professionalism and knowledge, her communication skills, her dedication and her positive attitude. They admitted that they will miss living vicariously through Keeter's tales of helicopter skiing, Tough Mudder contests, mountain biking and skiing the toughest slopes.

Keeter had actually postponed her retirement somewhat to allow for the smooth transition to Interim City Manager Steve Salomon. He was hired last December, before the sinkhole became the predominant issue in Orinda. However Salomon said that Keeter made sure he was up to date by sending him pictures and emails before he started, and then staying on to overlap with him by a few days to make sure he was comfortable.

But the situation doesn't phase Salomon, a retired city manager and experienced interim city manager, who says, "When you've been at this as long as I have, you've faced lots of things that are big challenges." He did add that this one is difficult because there are lots of regulatory agencies involved with creeks, added to a second set of agencies involved in potential reimbursement.

The city has contracted with Peckham & Associates in Sacramento, to recruit a permanent city manager. Salomon assumes he'll be in Orinda until July or August. He lives in Brentwood, which is not such a long commute, but puts him into commuter traffic. He tries to avoid it by adjusting his hours.

Where will he go next? Just maybe, he says, he'll really retire.

Sinkhole update: Orinda struggles to find best solution

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda is now considering a temporary bridge to fix the Miner Road sinkhole problem.

According to Public Works Director Larry Theis, the creek that was the subject of the culvert failure is on private property, and the city cannot perform repairs without an emergency right-of-entry from the property owners, Darryl and Jana Rains. Even if the city were to consider a legal process of condemnation and eminent domain, it would take up to a year. Therefore, the city is working with the property owners to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

The city first proposed an elliptical corrugated metal pipe, then a larger, rectangular concrete culvert, but the property owner has

expressed, at public meetings, his belief that only a bridge will provide sufficient protection against flooding. He is now examining further hydraulic studies and other information provided by the city. Rains has obtained legal representation and an engineering firm to conduct a peer review of the city's supplemental hydraulic analysis. City staff is actively working with the property owner to resolve the concerns soon. Orinda Country Club has provided an emergency right of entry to the city.

The city council also heard complaints from residents of Miner Road and the surrounding area of a spike in crime in the affected region. Speaking at the public hearing on Feb. 21, Gary Curtis told of increased burglaries, including a home invasion where the residents'

children were held at gunpoint. Those residents will not be returning to their home, he said. The reasons for the increased crime seems to be that the road is now dark and untraveled, and thus has become a target for criminals. Police Chief Mark Nagel, contacted after the meeting, said that he has asked officers to go through the detour routes at least once each 12-hour shift. Nagel expressed relief that the teenaged children involved in the home invasion incident were unharmed.

Theis provided a sinkhole status update to the city council at the meeting. He noted that Lauterwasser Creek is flowing freely through the road embankment since the partial removal of the existing stone headwalls.

... continued on page A11

Dinner, Dvorak and decorated eggs

Orinda's Year of the Czechs continues with flair

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation will hold their second Dinner & Night at the Opera at 5 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center on Sunday, March 12.

The choice of "Rusulka" was made several months before it was announced as the New York Metropolitan Opera's current hit production. For \$50 participants can have a dinner of Czech food and enjoy a film of the opera by Antonin Dvorak. The story is set in a fairytale world of a water nymph, prince, water goblin, foreign princess and witch. The dinner and opera evening is the March offering celebrating the Year of the Czechs in Orinda, and is part of O/TSCF's continuing dedication to Citizen Diplomacy as expressed by Sister Cities International.

O/TSCF raises funds to finance bringing a

student to Miramonte High School for the fall term. The student is selected by a lengthy competition held in Tabor high schools.

The 2017-18 student has just been chosen. He is Marek Vybiral, and O/TSCF is in search of a host family for him. If you have an extra bed in the fall, hosting a visiting Czech student is said to be a wonderful experience. Hosts enjoy lots of support and testimonials from previous hosts. For more information, phone 925-254- 8260.

Additionally, as part of the continuing Year of the Czechs in Orinda, at 7 p.m. on March 23, in the Orinda community center, artist Lenka Glassner will present a lecture on the folk art of egg decorating. Hollowed out eggs are decorated with designs etched through paint. Glassner learned the traditional art as a child in the Moravian region of the Czech Republic from her mother.



Eggs decorated by artist Lenka Glassner.

Photo provided

PG&E completes first phase of work on damaged transmission tower

By Sora O'Doherty

Temporary work was completed by PG&E on March 2 to make a high voltage transmission tower safe after it was compromised by a landslide, according to PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkisian.

The mudslide occurred in a re-

mote area of Orinda between the Bruns Amphitheater and Camino Pablo. PG&E used helicopters to move in equipment and materials to the remote location, where the utility's workers shored up the soil and supported the sagging transmis-

sion tower. It was also necessary to build a temporary road to get heavy equipment up the hill from Camino Pablo. Transmission lines were removed from the tower and moved to a series of poles installed away from the tower.

The tower was then partially dismantled, and will be replaced, but as yet there is no timeline for the permanent repair. The tower is now secure and the area is safe, said Sarkisian, who emphasized that safety is PG&E's first priority.

Cranes had been placed on Highway 24 near the Bruns Amphitheater in case the mudslide progressed and made immediate removal of the tower necessary. Fortunately, that did not occur and the cranes have now been removed.

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Orinda honors its stellar environmental and volunteer residents

By Nick Marnell



Cindy Powell and Candace Andersen, left, and Catharine Baker and Amy Worth, right, flank volunteers of the Fix Orinda Roads committee. Photo Nick Marnell

Several Orinda residents were presented environmental and volunteer awards sponsored by the Orinda Association at a ceremony held at the Orinda Country Club Feb. 26. When the officials handed out the awards, not a one was handed out to an incorrect winner — a coincidence since the event

was held on the night of the Academy Awards.

Brian Waters, a volunteer with the Friends of Orinda Creeks, won the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award for the restoration of rainbow trout to San Pablo Creek. said. "It takes a village," he said. "So many people

have helped raise awareness of the creeks in our community."

Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth lauded Waters' restoration of a natural habitat, which she said posed an exceptionally difficult challenge today.

County Supervisor Candace Andersen praised the city for its

focus on environmental issues. "They are not always recognized in our communities and they are so important to our quality of life," she said.

The Volunteer of the Year Award went to the Fix Orinda Roads grassroots organization. Residents joined together after

the failure of two ballot measures and worked toward the passage of two new bond measures allocating \$45 million to fix the city roads. Spokesman Mark Roberts credited the group, which included Brad Barber of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and former Mayor Sue Severson.

"All of us are volunteers," he said. "We are proof that Orindans can pull together to accept the challenges that face our city and find creative and constructive ways to overcome them."

Andersen said she was all for handling situations like these locally. "I'm not one to waste people's taxes, but I have the greatest respect for the people of Orinda who are willing to tax themselves to ensure they have safe roads," she said.

"I'd love to see the state have similar progress and success," said Assemblywoman Catharine Baker.

Worth closed out the ceremony by high-fiving city residents who she said come through in every time of need. "When you're asked, you say yes," she said.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 14, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Ten years of fire reporting in Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell



Finley Brown, 6, and MOFD firefighter-paramedic Lucas Lambert ride in a fire engine on the way to her last round of chemo on Dec. 21, 2015.

Courtesy AJ Brown

The Lamorinda Weekly made an early commitment to cover the local fire districts, and the paper boasts a fully dedicated fire beat writer, the only newspaper in the Bay Area to do so.

“Emergency service is a very important aspect of our community, and I understand the role of our fire departments,” said publisher Andy Scheck, whose father worked for the fire service in Germany and who at 15 became a volunteer firefighter himself.

Our first fire article appeared on May 16, 2007. Cathy Tyson wrote about fire safety and defensible space, quoting Tonya Hoover, Moraga-Orinda Fire District fire marshal, and Contra Costa County Fire Protection District fire inspector Robert Davis. The first printed words from a Lamorinda fire offi-

cial read, “We believe we all share in the responsibility for our fire safety,” and that challenge imparted by Hoover rings as true today as 10 years past.

Andrea Firth, the original Orinda beat writer, pushed management to include more fire reporting, and she wrote occasional articles over the first two years, mostly about MOFD. The blockbuster story during her tenure — and of the past 10 years — was the Pete Nowicki pension spiking fallout. After the board miscalculated the fire chief’s pension based on incorrect information he submitted, the result cost the district millions of dollars and made MOFD the national poster child for public pension abuse. Firth explained the situation clearly and without hysterics.

Regular fire reporting took

off after Lucy Amaral succeeded Firth in 2009. With regular reporting came more thorough district coverage, including topics like the botched purchase of an administration building on Moraga Way, the confrontation between MOFD and the Orinda Fire and Infrastructure Renewal citizens group and the resignation of two directors after the board renewed the contract of Fire Chief Randall Bradley.

Amaral retired in 2012 and yours truly took over the fire beat. Coverage increased from regular to consistent, with two to three articles per issue, including more ConFire reporting. Starting with the Dec. 17, 2014 issue, fire moved from sporadic placement in various parts of the paper into its fixed Section A location, under the Fire Districts heading, where fire articles appear in every issue.

As our fire reporting changed hands, both districts faced their darkest moments. The Great Recession hobbled both districts’ finances, with terms “structural deficit” and “bankrupt” routinely written in our news articles. The districts either closed fire stations or cut daily staffing. Both beleaguered fire chiefs resigned and returned to their roots: MOFD’s Bradley to the Central Valley and ConFire’s Daryl Louder to Virginia.

Thanks in part to an improved economy, new chiefs Stephen Healy of MOFD and Jeff Carman of ConFire led their districts into the black, and our reporting covered the subsequent turnaround of the rock-bottom morale that pervaded both districts. Carman made news when ConFire took over the available Contra Costa County am-

balance transport contract, making it the first California fire district to make such a leap.

Our longest-running fire story ignited when the city of Lafayette threatened to secede from ConFire because of the closure of its Fire Station 16, and a back-and-forth attempt by both districts to construct a joint fire station in western Lafayette collapsed. Instead both chiefs pushed for the rebuild of fire stations in Orinda and Lafayette.

The uplifting tale of the MOFD firefighters and Finley Brown, the 6-year-old cancer patient who stole their hearts, made international news. Coverage of the firefighters’ driving Brown to the hospital in a fire engine for her final chemo treatment made sound bites and headlines in media outlets worldwide. Brown continues to do well.

And just this year, we reported that MOFD elected its first female board president, Kathleen Famulener.

On a personal note, this paper took a huge leap of faith in 2012 when it hired me, an inexperienced fire reporter who did not know the difference between a fire engine and a fire truck, let alone a quint. If it were not for the help of former MOFD director Dick Olsen, it is no exaggeration to say that I would have failed. Olsen spent hours over lunches, coffee and phone calls too numerous to mention, explaining details of the fire service and the history of our fire districts.

Olsen deserves much of the credit for the success of this section of our paper. His legacy will extend throughout the future of Lamorinda Weekly fire reporting.

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Just in: a new ConFire mobile command unit

By Nick Marnell

Thanks to funding from a regional Assistance to Firefighters grant authored by Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District recently purchased a \$976,000 mo-

bile incident command unit from LDV in Burlington, Wisconsin, a manufacturer of custom apparatus for law enforcement, emergency service and homeland security professionals.

The 55,000-pound vehicle, the largest and newest of its kind in Contra Costa County, will allow incident commanders to develop their action plans inside a large vehicle capable of radio communication, satellite uplink and other advanced technology.

“Until now, our incident commanders have had to function from the backs of their pickups,” Fire Chief Jeff Carman told his advisory

commission Feb. 27. He noted an incident last fall in which chief officers managed a multi-alarm fire using their iPads and cell phones through pouring rain.

According to Lon Goetsch, assistant chief of operations, the district will deploy the command vehicle in multi-alarm fires, major rescue operations or in a specialized incident that could go on for a long time, such as a chemical spill. “It may be used during a catastrophe at a major public gathering, like the Lafayette Food and Wine Festival, or at a serious vegetation fire,” he said. In a major incident outside district boundaries, for example, in

Moraga at Saint Mary’s College, ConFire will deploy the unit at the behest of Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy.

Goetsch stressed that the command vehicle will be driven by trained, off-duty employees. “We will not compromise our on-duty firefighters,” he said.

The unit will be housed at Fire Station 84 in Pittsburg, one of the few district stations with a large enough apparatus bay to store a vehicle that size. The mobile command unit will likely be placed into service by mid-March.



Confire’s new mobile incident command unit.

Photo courtesy ConFire



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‘Women in Music’ Day made official

By Pippa Fisher



Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson and Pam Freund-Striplen.

Photo Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council enjoyed a short musical treat from Pam Freund-Striplen on Monday, Feb. 27 as she gave a brief preview from “Threads”, her upcoming concerts with the Gold Coast Chamber Players, which features female composers throughout history.

Mayor Mike Anderson recognized Striplen and the Gold Coast Players for all their efforts since they were formed back in 1999.

Originally playing in private homes the group gradually expanded to venues throughout

Contra Costa County. The chamber group feature internationally renowned musicians and draws many of its core members from the San Francisco Symphony, Opera and Ballet Orchestras. Currently they consider the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to be home.

“Threads” is a vibrant program inspired by Susan Groag Bell, a historian in women’s studies and an advocate for gender equality. The council recognized the concept behind “Threads” which they said would bring the issue of gen-

der equality onto the concert stage, presenting music by women who had to breakthrough societal prejudices of their appropriate roles to create music that has left a major imprint on their time in history.

The council also recognized the Players for nearly two decades of educational outreach work within the Lamorinda public schools.

Awarding Striplen the proclamation, Anderson declared on behalf of the Lafayette City Council, March 5, 2017 to be “Women in Music Day” in the city of Lafayette.

Lafayette

Citizens of the Year in Lafayette

... continued from page A3

They continued their involvement with schools as their three children progressed from elementary through Stanley and Acalanes High School from 1976-1990.

Additionally Robin, a keen gardener, was president of the Happy Valley Garden Club. The work of this organization is responsible for several areas of beautification around the community, especially the walkways and for donations to the community gardens.

She and her husband have been very involved on the board of the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center with Robin serving a stint as president from 2010 to 2012. Ellen Reintjes, current president of the LL&LC, says of Robin that she was instrumental in establishing strong and positive working relationships among the several library partners in this unique physical and organizational structure.

“Following her presidency, Robin continued with the Friends Board and has taken on new responsibilities that facilitate celebrating our volunteers and assisting the Library Foundation with fundraising events. In all these roles, Robin has impressed me with her creativity, diplomacy, and positive attitude,” Reintjes said.

Both Holts can still be spotted from time to time working as substitutes in the bookshop. Reintjes

says “They are the kind of people who pitch in to make things happen and are often among the first to respond to requests for volunteers for special Friends and Library events.”

In fact Robin says she is most proud of her contribution to the library, which she notes is an incredible community resource.

Dick Holt retired from the Navy in 1981, but, never one to sit around, he soon became busy, serving on the Lafayette Planning Commission for more than 26 years, from 1983 to 2010.

He has served as president of the Lafayette Rotary and on the Las Trampas board as well as on the board of the Lafayette Community Foundation for six years.

He still serves on the Environmental Task Force. He was co-chair of the Senior Symposium for three years and was, according to the current President of the LCF, Cheryl Noll, “One of the pillars of the Senior Symposium.”

Noll says of the couple, “His wife, Robin, was with him every step of the way, volunteering along side of him at LCF events and functions. LCF has missed Dick’s role as “the conscience of the community” on its board of directors since he stepped off a year ago.” Noll continues, “Dick and Robin deserve this recognition!”

For the last eight years he has

volunteered as a driver for the Senior Helpline and also works for Meals on Wheels.

However, he says he is proudest of his work establishing the Concert at the Res 23 years ago, still supported today by the Rotary Club.

Dick is a musician who plays guitar and appreciates Lafayette’s incredible music programs and local talent. It was largely due to him through his work at the Rotary and in collaboration with the Community Foundation that a permanent stage was erected at the Lafayette Reservoir three years ago.

This dynamic duo, ever modest about their long list of volunteering in the community, was selected for the award from a field of 15 nominees this year. They will be celebrated at the Citizen of the Year dinner on Friday, March 24 at the Lafayette Hotel and Spa. Registration can be found online at the Chamber of Commerce website, www.lafayettechamber.org.

Dick Holt says that the quality of service in Lafayette is great. His wife continued, “We have met fabulous people.” She says that there is so much diversity of backgrounds and service here in Lafayette. Through volunteering, she says, “We have learned so much, had so much fun — so many joyful moments.”

Lafayette

Zooming in ... continued from page A2

Photos, which may be color or black and white and no larger than 11x14 inches, must be submitted by April 17 and will be reviewed by the public art committee. All prints will be framed, curated and hung in the art gallery at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in June. A reception will be held at the city council meeting on June 12 with awards for outstanding entries.

Public art committee member Erling Horn notes that this is a “wonderful community event with participation by adults and kids of almost all ages.” He says the reception at the gallery is a great mixer

and also introduces the younger participant to a real gallery opening event with their work on display.

Horn points out, “The opening is one of the few public meetings on city council nights where almost everyone has a big smile on their faces at least between 6 and 7 p.m.” He says it is the art of our citizens, sparkling cider and cookies that makes everyone happy.

Further details are available on the Public Art page of the city website. For questions email JHansen@ci.lafayette.ca.us or call 925-299-3216.

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| Fresh Seafood Cioppino: in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast .. | 19 |
| Roasted Scallops: spinach, saliccia sugo | 19 |
| Roasted Wild Salmon: white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin.. | 17 |
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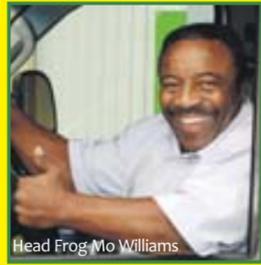
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Many original advertisers still find a home in Lamorinda Weekly

By Nick Marnell



Ignacio Vega, Village Associates holding a copy of issue 1 with his first ad. Photos Andy Scheck

Garden Lights Landscape and Pool Development - Cathy Lambert, Owner

I got a call from Wendy. I am turned off by high pressure but I felt she was very genuine and cared about our business.

I like how they think of us not just as a client. We were shopping at the farmers market, Andy and Wendy were doing a story there and they asked us to join them for a photo. Plus our daughter!

Our top referral is word of mouth, next is the Lamorinda Weekly. The paper is a perfect fit.

SewNow! - Susan Goldie, Owner

We both started our businesses at the same time (They beat the paper by four months.). We were trying to reach families with kids.

Sewing skipped a generation. Our ads catch the eyes of the grandparents, who want to see their grandkids learn that skill.

The first ad we submitted, we included the wrong phone number. It taught us a lesson about proofreading our ads.

The newspaper is a great fit for us.

Saklan School - Christine Kuckuk, Marketing Director

Our school always wants to invest in the community, and the Lamorinda Weekly has the ear of the community. The paper is widely read by the locals.

Andy and Wendy have been helpful to me as we build up our marketing efforts. Sometimes our artwork is not to their specs and they make sure that our brand image fits in with the needs of the paper.

Bay Area Drainage - Wayne Ortland, Owner

It started with a cold call from Wendy. She was easy to work with. We have always been a big part of the community — I was born in Moraga, my father worked for the Moraga Fire District.

I would rather give my business to someone local, and right now, we are doing a significant amount of business - 270 clients since early January.

The Lamorinda Weekly staff say thanks to all, as we work to help keep their business thriving for the next decade — and longer.



Jenny Boyd of 5A Rent-A-Space shows a newspaper with her first ad in the Lamorinda Weekly's March 14, 2007, edition.

Several advertisers have been with the Lamorinda Weekly since its inception in 2007, and those early adopters share two similar characteristics with publishers Andy and Wendy Scheck: They are community-oriented, and they are famously nice people. Their recollections follow, in their own words.

5A Rent-A-Space - Jenny Boyd, Senior VP, Marketing and Operations

I met Andy and Wendy at a Chamber event — someone introduced us. They told us about their paper. I thought, That's wonderful! It was all about the town, not just an article about the town.

I am proud to have been the first advertiser. (And they have been in every issue since.)

Village Associates - Ignacio "Ig" Vega, Broker

The Lamorinda Weekly filled the void when the Contra Costa

Sun failed. Andy and Wendy came in, they were down-to-earth, they were not slick at all. I was skeptical. How can you do a start-up like this? Then I thought, this might work. We had little to lose.

Because we were early, they gave us the back page of Our Homes (first stand-alone Our Homes section - Feb. 17, 2010). That insert gained traction. It gave us lots of eyeballs, and our competitors had to follow suit.

McDonnell Nursery - Sarah McDonnell, Owner

I felt good about Andy and Wendy. I liked what they were doing, covering the Lamorinda area. They are lovely to work with. They help me with my seasonal ad changes, and they always think of me when they run special articles in the paper.

They make things so easy.

It's time to Celebrate!



Thank you to Lamorinda Weekly for your commitment to share important local news. You make a difference in our Lamorinda community!

Happy 10th Anniversary from your friends at the Lafayette Chamber



Let the presses roll!



Printed copies travel through the plant



Ready for including inserts

Photo Gint Federas

The Lamorinda Weekly is printed at Transcontinental Printing in Fremont.

It is the fourth printer the paper has used in its 10-year history. The number of changes can be attributed to the fact that previous printers could not accommodate the Lamorinda Weekly's growing page count over the years. Transcontinental, a Canadian company, specializes in printing colorful newsprint, which fits this newspaper's vision of featuring strong, colorful photography for readers and advertisers.

For part of this paper's anniversary celebration, Transcontinental invited the Lamorinda Weekly staff to its plant

to see the paper being printed, a rare opportunity for reporters and editors who spend their time with words, but not the all-important ink that makes the paper come alive every two weeks. (See photo on page A1.)

Producing the Lamorinda Weekly is, as it is for most papers, a complicated process. After the stories are written and edited, publisher Andy Scheck, who also serves as designer, does the layout. After that is finished and approved, electronic files are sent to the printer, and shortly after that the press is ready to print the paper — in less than an hour. The Lamorinda Weekly is printed on one of Transcontinental's three

presses.

The staff saw the printing process as well as the quality control system used. After leaving the printing press all 26,600 copies of the paper travel on machines through the plant to dry the ink — the staff could watch 6,000 papers speeding in the air over their heads at the same time. At the end of the journey the papers are buffered and go on to other machines for inserting flyers, postcards and other documents. The last process is bundling and packaging for pick-up by the carriers, who deliver them to readers.

— Peggy Spear

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Letters to the Editor

Chess Club Needs Some Mates

Dear Editor,

I recommend your readers to a chess club started at the Orinda Community Center for any interested. This is a free club for those wanting play chess. They meet every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. Age 8 - 10 years to senior citizens like myself are welcome.

The club needs the help of more members to keep it sustained as not everyone can attend every week. If you enjoy the mind challenge of playing chess or interested to learn how please come.

Special thanks goes to the two young women Katie and Maya who started the club as their community project.

They have sustained it through their own effort of securing the room and providing chess boards and pieces and encouraging the players.

John Nackley
Orinda, CA.

Facing Facts on Orinda

Dear Editor,

We keep reading of plans to revitalize downtown Orinda. We need to face the facts:

- 1) Unlike Lafayette, we are divided by the freeway;
- 2) Unlike Lafayette which draws shoppers from Moraga, most of our shoppers are from only Orinda;
- 3) Lafayette and Moraga have a combined population of slightly under 50,000 while Orinda has around 17,000, making us much less attractive to a major store like Trader Joe's wanting to locate here;
- 4) The theater side of town is quite walkable, but Orinda Village is spread out and much less conducive to pedestrian traffic.

Dave Sullivan
Orinda

An Open Letter to Moraga

Dear Editor,

Why did you vote for town council members? Was it because of their position on development? Was it because they seemed fiscally responsible? These are good reasons. Was it, however, because you wanted them to promote the agendas of extreme political groups? I doubt it.

And yet this is exactly what's happening. Politically extreme groups are attending town council meetings and voicing their opinions, while those of us paying the bills stay home. They are pressuring council members to adopt ordinances that promote their political agendas, while opening us up to considerable liability of which they will not share. It's a good deal for them. Why take on the risk of your agenda when you can get town council to do it for you?

To be clear, the recent issues these groups are promoting are sanctuary city and gun control.

It's safe to say that these are platforms of the far left, but that is not the point. It could just as easily be mandatory school prayer. These are partisan issues that have little to no upside, but massive downside risk (lawsuits), to small local governments with very limited budgets.

We do not elect our town council members on a partisan basis. The ballot doesn't even list their political affiliations and, unless we asked them, we would likely never know. Why? Probably because we do not expect them to act in a partisan fashion as council members. Rather, we elect them for the "good reasons" stated above.

And so, it is time for those of us from the middle of the political spectrum to stand up and take notice. Attend council meetings and speak. E-mail your Council members and let them know how you feel. I'm reasonably certain the vast majority of us want them to manage our towns in a fiscally responsible manner, with cost/benefit analyses reviewed before every

expenditure. Let the extremists promote their positions, but let them bear the cost and risk themselves. Otherwise, we all might find ourselves on our hands and knees, praying mandatorily, to the King of Sanctuary City, asking for our guns back.

Doug Home
Moraga

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Lafayette

Leigh Creekside Park

Option three suggested bringing together the two sides to work on another redesign and option four presented no amendment to the Leigh Creekside Park master plan so that the play structure could not move forward.

Katayanagi said that the city had received hundreds of letters both for and against the project with the split being about 50/50, a claim that some of the "passives" said they doubted and pointed out that many of the "actives" used form letters.

The packed room heard from several children arguing for keeping the park passive, citing that they enjoy the park as it is -- a place to enjoy nature.

Many of the passives spoke of benefactors John and Ethel Leigh's original desire to keep the park passive, as well as with concerns over increased traffic and parking problems.

At least a couple of the passives were elementary school teachers who noted the benefits of quiet reflection and sensory exploration for young children. Lafayette resident Karen Ward pointed out that passives are not anti-child or anti-Americans with Disabilities, as had been implied. She said that often students from Springstone School or adults from Las Trampas walk

there and that there are many with invisible disabilities currently using the park.

Lafayette resident Mary Jo Cass expressed that everyone is exhausted from this subject, that this is a divided community. She said that social media such as Nextdoor "continues to serve as a pulpit for misinformation." To her the only way forward was to "stop the project tonight" and she suggested instead spending the money on community events such as community gardens and storytelling in the park.

Many actives pointed to what they claim is the current underutilization of the park. Furthermore, Brian Bowman rationalized that the neighborhood is changing with more young families moving in. He questioned the "technicalities of noise" holding the project up and urged the council to move forward.

Still other actives pointed out that whereas they have been compromising on the scale and scoop of the project, the passives have remained unbending. "Let's have a park with something for everyone," said Shannon Cahoon.

All members of the council were in agreement that a decision needed to be reached for the community to move on, although they differed in their opinions. Council

... continued from page A1

Member Ivor Samson said he was very disappointed and "appalled by the level of quality of participation" referring to many "nasty in tone comments." He said that in his opinion what is proposed breaks the covenant of the original use.

Council member Mark Mitchell argued that the original intent for the land was to stop development rather than to prevent play equipment.

Council member Cam Burks recognized a shortage of places to go to play for young children and said that they need to move forward, having invested too much time, money and emotion to walk away.

Mayor Mike Anderson emphasized the need to overhaul the noise ordinance separately, something the council agreed on. "We can't have a noise ordinance that precludes children from making normal children sounds," commented Vice Mayor Don Tatzin.

And so the playground inches nearer as a motion passed by three to two for a focused EIR with Anderson, Burks, Mitchell supporting and Samson and Tatzin against.

As Tatzin commented, he has never seen so much effort put into three quarters of an acre.

Orinda

Orinda sinkhole update

The concrete box plan would have qualified as "emergency opening" work, whereas a bridge may be considered "permanent restoration," which would entail lower levels of reimbursement and a longer timeframe for obtaining permits. If the city opts for either a concrete box or a temporary bridge, either may be considered a "betterment" for purposes of federal reimbursement, which means that the city will probably bear the cost of this element of the emergency repair work, and the cost of either the box or a bridge will be higher than that of the pipe. The time frame of the repair depends on resolution of the right-of-entry issue, the type of fix employed and, of course, the weather.

The city is also working on a

number of fronts to ease the difficulties caused by the sinkhole, including efforts to keep the public more informed of the progress of the repair; working on permanent stripping of the detour routes at the significant cost of \$25,000 to \$50,000, which may not be reimbursable; and assisting affected homeowners with their insurance claim forms.

Theis also said EBMUD confirmed it has made a temporary connection from another zone to maintain service for the Los Altos reservoir at the end of Los Altos Dr. in Orinda. The damaged waterline is being maintained with low pressure to prevent contamination of the system. Orinda has received verbal agreement from the California Department of

... continued from page A6

Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration that the overall project can proceed under an emergency opening process, which allows the city to bypass some of the regular environmental and design review requirements. The city has obtained the necessary emergency permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to install a new culvert and restore the roadway for traffic.

A community meeting is scheduled to take place at the Sleepy Hollow Elementary School at 6 p.m. on March 14. Theis, Nagel and Interim City Manager Steve Salomon will provide updates on the progress on the project and provide information on additional safety measures that will be put into place due to the detours.

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Fighting for Lamorinda sanctuary status

... continued from page A1

Politics was not on their radar too much during college, but the last presidential election ignited their passion. "We felt so powerless and anxious after the election was over," remembers Fuchshuber, "we wanted to make a difference."

Shepard found the website Mi-Jente that automatically sends petitions and letters to elected officials on the subject of sanctuary cities. They decided that the cookie-cutter approach would not work for Lamorinda and they took action on their own.

The trio recruited Lafayette friends Allie Walker and Caroline Silvanito who helped with the research on the topic and at presentations. "We also started canvassing," says Hsu. Going door-to-door was not the easiest for the self-proclaimed quiet young women to do, Fuchshuber says. But she admits that they were happily surprised by the willingness of people to engage in a dialogue with them.

"It was very important for us to understand the positions of people who were against declaring sanctuary in our cities," she says. They noted that people were concerned that the declaration would encourage dangerous people to come to Lamorinda. Others said that they had themselves worked hard to get a permit to stay in the U.S. and that they did not see why they would support lawbreakers. The young women add that they also met many sympathizers.

Fuchshuber, Hsu and Shepard were prepared when it came to speaking in front of the city councils. When they came to their first ever council meeting in Orinda,

they had divided their presentation into three segments of three minutes each that they gave one after the other. "Diversity and inclusion are fundamental American values," said Hsu in her introduction. "Sanctuary status simply protects the privacy of residents and keeps their immigration status private." Several residents who had heard of their projects also talked in favor of the status. The same happened in Moraga and Lafayette. In Moraga, at least three of the council members clapped with the audience after the presenters talked. Neither council though has yet decided to add the topic on their agenda for future discussion.

Moraga Chief of Police John King assured the council that Moraga would not seek out people's immigration status and that police action was disentangled from immigration enforcement. In Orinda, Chief of Police Mark Nagle stated that his department had not changed its practice in any way since Trump's new orders have been issued. His department is part of the county sheriff's office. Candace Andersen, District 2 County Supervisor, indicated that the practice in Contra Costa County is strictly to collaborate with ICE regarding immigrants in the country illegally who commit serious crimes, but that there was no seeking of those immigrants in the county.

The trio also went to the tri-city meeting on March 1 and the discussion was spirited among those supporting and those opposing the issue.

Lamorinda Weekly talked to several Lamorinda residents who

would rather not be named, and work in surrounding communities where the population of workers that do not have a legal status is large. One who works in a Pleasant Hill school said that some children are scared that their parents will be gone by the time they come home, other students are afraid of just coming outside. Another resident working in the medical field explained that she believes that people are afraid that information collected by social services would be shared with ICE. She said that this month prenatal visits had dropped by 50 percent, but she added that she could not confirm that the scare of being reported was the cause.

Andersen added that the county would not seek sanctuary status because there would be a risk to lose federal funding. A law on the books withholds federal justice department grants to sanctuary cities. It was passed after Kate Steinle was killed in San Francisco two years ago.

The trio adds that there are other ways to make sure that police will not hunt for those in the country illegally, such as reviewing the police rules, or making a statement that would not include the term sanctuary (see the school district's statement below), and they will continue their campaign tailoring it to their communities.

Their next steps are to seek meetings with Lamorinda elected officials to get the topic on the three cities' agenda while garnering as much public support as possible. For those interested, they can be reached at lamorindasanctuary@gmail.com. Their web site Lamorindasanctuary.wordpress.com is under construction.

Near and far: Other "sanctuary" initiatives.

Schools and other cities have adopted rules or ordinances alluding to the safety of students and residents. Recently, the Acalanes Union High School District boards adopted a resolution ensuring "their unequivocal commitment to ensure our schools are safe and welcoming places for all our students, and that the District will provide equal access to a public education for all our students, regardless of students' or parents' actual or perceived national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, citizenship, or immigration status," its website stated.

The Contra Costa County Board of Education adopted a similar statement at their board meeting on March 1.

At Saint Mary's College students and faculty have asked President James Donahue to make Saint Mary's a sanctuary campus.

Several cities have declared sanctuary status in the Bay Area including Alameda, Berkeley, San Francisco and Oakland.

California Senate Bill 54, called the "sanctuary state bill," seeks precluding local and state agencies, such as police departments and ICE, from working in conjunction to seek out immigrants who are undocumented.

Meanwhile, the city of Alameda adopted sanctuary status on Jan. 17, says city manager Jill Keimach, who was Moraga town manager until January 2016.

She explains that when the topic was discussed it was a 50/50 argument with the public, with people saying that the city would harbor criminals. But since Alameda does not have a jail, the argument was mute. ??? Why does his matter?

Another aspect was funding, she said. On Jan. 25 President Trump signed an executive order denying federal funding to sanctuary cities. Alameda is part of Congresswoman Barbara Lee's district. Lee led a workshop with attorneys to explain to cities that the Tenth Amendment prohibits the federal government from enforcing any law though the denying of funding. The federal government possesses only those powers delegated to it by the United States Constitution, and all remaining powers are reserved for the states or the people. Immigration and deportation are not listed in the Constitution.

Keimach proposed a text to her council that listed all the elements of a sanctuary city, without using the word, something she thought prudent. But Alameda city council decided to use the word "sanctuary." Keimach notes that Alameda has a much larger population of immigrants, documented or not, than Lamorinda, and that these people have been coming to all council meetings. "Anxiety is high," she said.

Saint Mary's is proud of alum Ali

By Sophie Braccini

After the former Saint Mary's student Mahershala Ali won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the Oscar-winning movie "Moonlight," the college's social media sites started crackling with messages congratulating the actor.

"Congrats" messages appeared everywhere, from Facebook to

Instagram. Ali had been the commencement speaker at the Moraga college last year, and the online community on Feb. 26 continued echoing how the man had been incredibly humble, grateful, and kind.

Ali graduated from Saint Mary's in 1996 with a degree in communications. He made his

theater debut with the California Shakespeare Theatre, having obtained an apprenticeship there after graduation. His movie career took off in 2008 with a role in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." In "Moonlight" he played Juan, a drug dealer with a big heart, who takes Chiron, the main character, under his wing during his childhood.

Town Hall's 'Smokey Joe's Café' is a delicious musical delight

By Sophie Braccini



Pictured in front, Jamail Davis; rear, from left, Glen Riggs, Jacqueline Dennis, Katrina McGraw, Elizabeth Curtis, Cadarius Mayberry, and Natalie Buster in "Smokey Joe's Café," through March 25, at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. Photo Jay Yamada

It seems that musicals are in the air...and this one is for our utmost delight. "Smokey Joe's Café," opened to a sold out audience on March 4 at Lafayette's Town Hall Theater.

The "play" presents a time of innocence, in the 1950s and early 60s when the American dream seemed to be within everyone's reach, and a whole generation was breaking free dancing to rock and roll beat. There is not one spoken word in Smokey Joe's Café, just songs, one after another, developing the timeless theme of the quest of love between men and women.

Four men and four women perform on stage. The play opens in a little town where they all used to live, heralded by the song "Neighborhood." They remember the time they had together. Then they will leave, they will love, betray, and get back together, with a breathless rhythm that captures the audience. It is not really a story, but it is more than a list of songs. Those are scenettes played, sung and danced by a super energetic and beautiful cast.

All the songs are from lyricist Jerry Leiber and composer Mike Stoller. Since 1952 and into the 60's, the amazingly productive duo wrote over 70 hit songs. The

musical show was put together as a tribute to an area and to the talent of both men in 1995. It ran for 2,036 performances, making it one of the longest-running musical revues in Broadway history.

Viewers will discover, or recollect songs, depending on their age. "Hound Dog," "Stand by Me," "Love Potion #9," "Yakety Yak," "Jailhouse Rock," "Spanish Harlem," "On Broadway," "Kansas City" and "Fools Fall in Love" are just a few.

Director Lauren Rosi thus took on an American icon of a musical when she agreed to direct "Smokey Joe's Café." The voice and acting talents had to be right to make it a success.

Rosi picked indeed probably some of the best vocal talents around.

There are some remarkable voices in this revue, and when not remarkable, they are excellent, making the production very homogenous. Spectators will get goosebumps at times. The beautiful "I'm a Woman" for example, sung by the four female singers separately and in unison, is perfection of execution.

Each of the singers is very distinct and brings their own voice color and style. Branden Thomas brings to the stage a

voice with an amazing range. His very warm and nuanced register is enchanting. Katrina Lauren McGraw is such a polished singer, with a well-controlled voice that excels in both blues and rock-and-roll songs. Natalie Buster, with her deep voice, brings great seduction and even a bit of sultriness at times that adds to the general mood of the play. Elizabeth Curtis, Jamail Davis, Jacqueline Dennis, Cadarius Mayberry and Glen Riggs are all completely up to par, with a special mention for Davis whose dancing talent shines.

Another very nice element of the show is the live musicians: Elvis Ordiniza on saxophone, Scott Massoni on guitar, Matthew Porter on drums, and Peter Ruszel on bass. They are all on stage, but behind the windows of Smokey Joe's Café, a very nice stage idea.

Only one small caveat, the stage is sometimes a bit restrictive for some of the dancing and lyricism of the musical revue.

Tickets and more information at www.townhalltheatre.com. The play will run until March 25.



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Ten years as a Lamorinda Weekly reporter

By Sophie Braccini



Lamorinda Weekly past and current editors, Lee Borrowman, Peggy Spear and Jennifer Wake. Photo A. Scheck

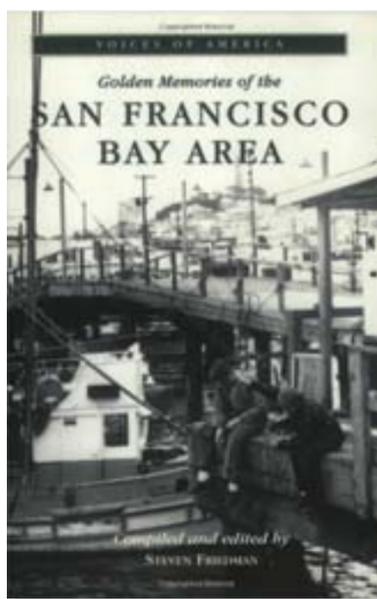
Ten years ago, when I told my mother that I had gotten a job at Lamorinda Weekly, I heard disappointment in her voice after I explained what the paper was, "You are going to write about "les chiens écrasés" – road-kills," she said. Since I graduated from the Political Science Institute in Paris, my mother had always dreamed that I would work for "Le Monde" or other prominent international paper. She was disappointed, and she was so wrong! For the past 10 years I have been reporting about stories on a micro-local scale often just as riveting as what is playing on the national scene.

Lamorinda is a microcosm of this country with many of the same elements at play: the developers fighting the environmentalists; the (few) global-warming deniers

fighting the more progressives; those who play nice and those who don't; the big sports rivalries, the economic challenges; the struggling businesses crushed by online purchasing; those who hate government and those who support it. Yes, there is everything in Lamorinda, including "foreign policy" stories: haven't you heard about those who want to erect a wall or a barrier to prevent some of their neighbors to come in?

Lamorinda governments struggle with maintaining their infrastructure, with creating an inclusive social fabric from schools to businesses, and at times very narrow minded interests, as well as a feel of privilege, got the best of the Lamorinda community.

... continued on page B2



Saturday, March 25, 2017
at 2:00pm

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Bay Area

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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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- www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0226/Lamorinda-Summer-Camps-2009-Lafayette-Moraga-Orinda.html
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- www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0801/The-Cooperage-Makes-a-Big-Statement-in-Lafayette.html

Thoughtful Food

A decade of delicious delights: Susie's top recipes from her vast repertoire

By Susie Iventosch



Photo Susie Iventosch

It is nearly impossible for me to believe that five years have gone by since we celebrated the Lamorinda Weekly's fifth birthday, much less 10 years since the paper was founded! And, I have been writing the food column for the past nine years already, which has been such a pleasure and a great way to keep my own kitchen humming.

When our editor, Peggy Spear, asked for my favorite recipes from the food column, I thought it would be an easy task and started pouring over all of the old newspapers, including some 230 recipes. This was an enjoyable journey through time, and even though it was a bit of a challenge to narrow it down to 10 recipes, I decided to pick those I've made over and over again, year after year. Several of these recipes come from our treasured local chefs and restaurateurs, which

makes them even more special. Also, it was great fun to reread the favorite holiday recipes from our mayors over the years. I think we'll have reinstate that again for 2017.

It was interesting to see what types of things our community liked to cook back then versus today. For me, personally, not much has changed, since I have no family members with gluten or dairy issues. We have always loved to cook with lots of fresh vegetables and whole foods, and I still like to cook many of the same types of dishes. Mediterranean cuisine, which encompasses so many countries, is still is my favorite kind of food. But, I will say that, universally, "gluten-free" has become more and more popular and is the one thing that I encounter all of the time, whether it's from readers requesting alternatives, special diets for guests we

entertain at home, foods stocked on the grocery shelves, or options on restaurant menus. Fortunately today, it is much easier with all-purpose gluten-free baking flour readily available, instead of the combinations of different flours and meals that cooks needed to keep on hand for gluten-free options in the past.

One very exciting evolution over the past 10 years, is a greater interest in cooking at home and making meals from scratch. I'm not sure if the Food Network or "Julie & Julia" is to thank, or just a more profound awareness of healthy eating. In addition, nearly every town has a farmers market, which is a great way to eat produce fresh from the farm, and besides, it's a fun, weekly social gathering as well!

Here's wishing the Lamorinda Weekly a very Happy 10th Birthday and many more to come! Now, let's eat some goodies!



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Salsas, A Healthy and Delicious Alternative
Recipe: Tinrin Chew's Mango-Avocado Salsa
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0209/pdf/Salsas-A-Healthy-and-Delicious-Alternative.pdf
- May 13, 2009**
A Window to the World in Lafayette
Recipe: Polenta alla Contadina
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0305/RECIPE-Polenta-alla-Contadina.html
- January 5, 2011**
Crab and more Crab!
Recipe: Crab Cakes Dianna
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0422/Crab-and-More-Crab.html
- January 19, 2011**
Chili and Wings – Game On!
Recipes: White Bean Chicken Chili and Baked Buffalo-Style Hot Wings
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0423/Chili-and-Wings-Game-On.html
- June 8, 2011**
Put the Lime in the Coconut...
Recipe: Coconut Lime Cupcakes
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0507/Put-the-Lime-in-the-Coconut.html
- February 13, 2013**
Turkish Meatballs, Courtesy of Kabab-Burger
Recipe: Turkish style meatballs in tomato sauce
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0625/Turkish-Meatballs-Courtesy-of-Kabab-Burger.html
- August 14, 2013**
New Italian Restaurant Owners Share a Traditional Family Favorite: Eggplant Parmesan!
Recipe: Melanzane Napoli
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0712/New-Italian-Restaurant-Owners-Share-a-Traditional-Family-Favorite-Eggplant-Parmesan.html

- September 24, 2013**
Olive Festival Coming Soon!
Recipe: Kalamata Olive-Stuffed Ravioli
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0715/Kalamata-Olive-Stuffed-Ravioli.html
- January 15, 2014**
Chicken from the Village
Recipe: Baked Chicken Breast with Goat Cheese and Tarragon-Watercress Vinaigrette
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0723/Chicken-from-the-Village.html
- December 3, 2014**
Spicing Up Your Condiment Selection
Recipe: Holiday Red Onion Jam
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0820/Holiday-Red-Onion-Jam.html
- August 10, 2016**
Mocha and Kahlua Cheesecake is an Entertainer's Delight
Recipe: Mocha Cheesecake
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1012/Mocha-Cheesecake.html



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

Cooking Term of the Week
Amuse-bouche: a small, bite-sized appetizer, not ordered by the guest, but rather offered compliments of the house at some restaurants. It is of French origin and literally means "(it) entertains (the) mouth."

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Lamorinda Village sponsors managing End-of-Life discussions

By John T. Miller

Lamorinda Village's planned simulcast of Dr. Atul Gawande's presentation on "The Value of Community Choice as We Grow Older" last month at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church was postponed due to blizzards in the Northeast preventing the surgeon and author from reaching Boston. The event has been rescheduled for sometime this summer.

Dr. Gawande's simulcast was scheduled to originate from the Beacon Hill Village. He is the author of several books, including, most recently, "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" (2014). The book discusses end-of-life choices and challenges many traditionally held notions about the role of medicine and the effect of medical procedures on terminally ill people.

Lamorinda Village Executive Director Anne Ornelas announced that the simulcast will be rescheduled for sometime this summer, but a date has not been settled yet.

Meanwhile, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, treated local residents instead to a free seminar on preparing for end-of-life decisions. Fodrini-Johnson is a Licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, a Certified Care Manager and the founder of Eldercare Services in Walnut Creek. She has contributed columns to the Lamorinda Weekly in the past.

Her presentation, "Are Your Ducks in a Row?" led the audience of nearly 100 participants through a series of topics to consider when preparing for changes that can occur later in life, such as memory or sensory loss and lack of stamina and strength.

"Quite often we are on a journey that can include some interdependence before we leave this life," she said. "These conversations

about end-of-life decisions should happen before it is too late, so you can fully live until you die."

Fodrini-Johnson offered several checklists for preparing, including legal and medical advice, how to stay socially active, tools for a long life, and how and where to find support. She also provided helpful tips for those who are caregivers to the elderly.

On March 23, the Diablo Valley Villages — comprised of the Clayton Valley, Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Villages — will hold their bimonthly Lunch'N'Learn program at Atria Walnut Creek. The topic will be "Tech Talk for Seniors" presented by Sharon Beck, founder of Mac-Senior.

Beck is dedicated to helping seniors get the most out of their iPads, iPhones and Macs, and will show how they can stay in touch with their families through technology. The program will run from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Registration and luncheon are free, with limited seating for 30 participants.

The Lamorinda Village is a nonprofit organization for members 55 and older that works to actively build a community embracing connections, caring, and choices in how members live and thrive.

The Village movement began in 2001 at Beacon Hill in Boston with a group of residents who wanted to receive services and support in their homes. It has now evolved into a national movement with over 50 operating Village organizations. Hundreds of organizations worldwide are at various stages of creating a Village, including ones in Clayton Valley and Walnut Creek.

Those interested in learning more about Lamorinda Village and their events can email them at info@lamorindavillage.org, or call 925 253-2300.

Vintage Madame Alexander dolls are on display at Lafayette Library

By Cathy Dausman



Lauren Tombari and friend.

Photo Cathy Dausman

talk with Lauren Tombari about her Madame Alexander doll collection is a chance to learn a bit of history and perhaps uncover a Lafayette mystery.

Tombari is a great teacher — in fact that's her day job, but she is also young enough to have wanted American Girl dolls rather than dolls made by a company founded in 1923. Nevertheless a collector she is.

Tombari began her love affair with the Madam Alexander dolls when she noticed them at Lafayette's Handlebar Toys. She also recalls being in awe over a 20-inch tall Madame Alexander fashion doll (complete with rhinestones) she saw at FAO Schwarz Toy Company in San Francisco. It retailed for \$700. Expensive? Yes, especially in 1990s dollars.

"It was quite something to see," Tombari said. She did not get that doll; instead her grandfather found her mother's Madame Alexander doll in his attic and gave it to Tombari as a gift.

Madame Alexander herself was a female entrepreneur ahead of her time. She was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1895 and lived over her father's doll repair shop.

At the onset of World War I she began making cloth dolls styled as Red Cross nurses. "Madame" (a self-appointed title) established her company in 1923 and remained at its helm for 65 years (www.madamealexander.com). In the 1930s the company began modeling dolls after famous people — the Dione quintuplets, characters from literature, then-Princess Elizabeth and child actress Jane Withers.

The doll market boomed during post-World War II consumerism. An 8-inch tall Alexander-kin doll was introduced in the 1950s; it had jointed knees, a plastic face and "real saran (plastic) hair." The face was hand painted — savvy collectors can identify different artists by the brush strokes — and the eyes, "sleep eyes," usually blue, opened and closed as the doll was made to stand or recline. The dolls' attention-to-detail clothing and myriad accessories earned Madame Alexander four consecutive Fashion Academy Gold Medal Awards beginning in 1951.

Tombari's collection has grown since childhood, and by her own admission "it is not exactly a cheap hobby." She prefers to view her dolls as something of a 3-D art

collection. When asked how many she has, Tombari responds with a guess: "Oh gosh, maybe 50? I've never counted!" It's easy for her to name her "pride and joy", though — a rare 20 inch Cinderella doll, vintage 1955 dressed in a satin gown with ostrich feathers and carrying an opera fan.

"I've told my Dad which dolls to take if I ever have to leave my house," she said. Who knows how many other Madame Alexander dolls are tucked away in storage across Lamorinda.

Moraga resident Peggy Hoffman has kept her own collection from childhood. Although not an active trader, she estimates she has 30 dolls, mostly Alexander-kin models. "I passed them on to my daughter who also enjoyed looking at them, but (for now) they reside in my attic waiting for the next generation," Hoffman said.

A portion of Tombari's collection is available for viewing at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and the Lafayette Historical Society. It is at the historical society where Tombari sought information about a former Madame Alexander seamstress who operated out of a shop along Lafayette's Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Jane Miller Company clothes were sold in upscale department stores including Neiman Marcus, Bullocks Wilshire and Marshall Field's. The woman had the misfortune to have such a common name that neither staff at the Lafayette Historical Society nor Martinez Historical Society staff could find any record of her. Although Miller's doll clothes live on, the woman herself is a mystery "lost to history," Tombari said.

Family Focus

Reluctant Discipline: A helpful approach to a tough subject

By Margie Ryerson

Many parents face the difficult issue of how to coordinate their efforts to discipline their children. One parent may tend to be a strict disciplinarian, while the other may be more lenient.

Recently I met with a couple who were locked in a pattern of good cop/bad cop. "Mandy" was the strict one who set rules and applied them. "Jeff," on the other hand, preferred to be low-key and nonconfrontational with their two children. Because they weren't in agreement, their relationship with each other suffered. Mandy resented being the one who always provided the discipline, while Jeff resented the pressure to change when he was perfectly happy with the way he was.

When it comes to disciplining our children, we are often products of our own childhood family environment. Mandy grew up in a healthy family atmosphere where discipline was neither too strict nor too indulgent, what we call an authoritative approach. Her parents were in control, but the children had a voice and it was a participatory system. Family relationships were strong and respectful.

Jeff's family upbringing was more on the permissive side. His parents were hesitant to take control, and allowed their children a great deal of freedom. Jeff and his two brothers didn't have many family meals together, limits on screens or a curfew when they were older. Jeff felt close to his parents and appreciated their leniency. (The only downside for Jeff was that his relationship with his brothers was strained. Without their parents' help resolving conflicts, not much got settled. Too often, they were left with anger and hostility towards each other.)

In order for Mandy to be able to step down from her role of en-

forcer, Jeff needed to agree to get involved. He knew he didn't want his two children to be as unregulated as he and his brothers were, but he also didn't want to come across as heavy-handed.

I introduced the idea of reluctant discipline to them: A parent demonstrates with words, tone of voice and body language that he really doesn't want to have to be in the position of having to discipline, but unfortunately the child's behavior has necessitated a consequence.

Too often, power struggles, resistance, resentment, and anger arise when a parent disciplines in a strong manner. A parent's loud, angry voice and irate facial expression coupled with criticisms or threats doesn't tend to produce a desirable outcome. True, a child will be corrected and disciplined, but what is the collateral damage?

We want to discipline in a manner that shows our children there are rules and ways of behaving that we expect them to follow. We need to be very clear about what we expect, and to give them a warning whenever possible before we implement a consequence. The purpose is to train them to behave in certain ways, but also for them to want to go along with our program. We want cooperation and respect.

By disciplining reluctantly, a parent shows a child that he is not taking any satisfaction in having to take charge. He is not angry, just matter-of-fact or sad because rules weren't followed. It's important to match your tone of voice (compassionate) and your facial expression (halfhearted) with your words. You want your child to perceive that you are always on his side, even though sometimes you need to insist on certain rules and behaviors.

Of course, a parent must first be able to suppress his own anger at his child's misdeeds so that he

can come across sincerely and effectively. It can help to take some time to evaluate the situation and figure out how to have a measured response. You may want to talk to your partner or another trusted person. You may want to do lots of deep breathing! Avoid reacting or responding too quickly unless the situation calls for a fast correction. A toddler who continually defies parental authority or who is in possible danger needs immediate intervention. A teen who has continually ignored an agreement, such as failing to do dishes or other chores, can wait for a parental response.

As with acquiring any new skill, the more you practice reluctant discipline, the more instinctively you will be able to apply it. Since anger begets anger, removing anger from disciplining enables a child to be better able to look at his own actions instead of reacting to negative parental verbal and/or nonverbal messages.

Jeff and Mandy were relieved to find a system of discipline that felt satisfactory for each of them and also united them in a common approach. Their children benefited and felt more secure when their parents were able to work together as a team in this way.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist and author in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com.

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SUMMER CAMPS 2017

11th Annual Summer Camp Guide

Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps (Part 2, half-day camps, April 5 2017)

25 camps listed

Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek, San Ramon, & Alamo)

see ad

A traditional summer day camp for children ages 3-15. In a relaxed atmosphere, children gain confidence and skills in a wide range of camp activities including: swimming, horseback riding, sailing, skateboarding, woodworking, science, arts, sports, archery, drama, music, rock climbing, hiking, overnight camping, and camp games. Home transportation is available from most areas. Dates: June 11-Aug.18 (925) 937-6500 www.adventuredaycamp.com

Avid4 Adventure (Moraga, Oakland, Walnut Creek)

see ad

This summer, experience the power of authentic outdoor adventure. Avid4 Adventure's experienced instructors teach pre-K - 7th graders of all levels to climb, paddle, bike, hike and thrive in the outdoors. 9 - 3 p.m. with before & after care with camp locations in Oakland, Moraga, Walnut Creek and other Bay Area cities. Dates: Weekly June 19-Aug. 18 (800) 977-9873 www.avid4.com

Get ready for summer!

It may only be March, and the rain is clouding our lives, but summer is just around the corner. And with summer comes the wonderful opportunity for our children to experience summer camps. In this issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, we kick off our annual guide to summer activities and programs in and around Lamorinda, featuring full daycamps and overnight camps. Look for our listing of half-day camps and programs coming in April.

Get your children ready to have the summer of their dreams!

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Berkeley Rep School of Theatre (Berkeley)

see ad

Discover the art of theater-making with professional playwrights, directors, and teaching artists in a dynamic, four-week camp for all levels. Create an original play to be performed professionally. Dates: Summer Theatre Intensive for entering grades 6-8, June 19-July 14; Summer Theatre Intensive for entering grades 9-12, July 15-Aug. 11; Filmmaking & Acting Intensive for entering grades 9-12, July 17-Aug. 4. (510) 647-2972 berkeleyrep.org/summerintensive

Camp Awesome (Lafayette)

Camp Awesome is a fun, flexible and affordable, 11 weeks of summer, day camp (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Early care (7:30 a.m.), aftercare (2 to 5 p.m.), by the week, drop-in, sports, games, crafts, Games2U (laser tag, hamster ball, video games twice a week), magicians, jugglers, friends - a summer full of memories! Dates: June - August (925) 284-2232 www.LafayetteRec.org

Camp Doodles (Orinda, Berkeley, SF, Mill Valley)

see ad

After 15 years in Marin and San Francisco, Doodle is crossing the tunnel and coming to Orinda. We are an incubator for kids to grow their creative intelligence through Making and art. Weekly programs are designed around themes such as basic engineering, biomimicry, renewable fuels, and the always-popular Play-scapes carnival. ACA accredited. Dates: weekly sessions June 26 - Aug 18 (415) 388-4386 www.campdoodles.com

Camp Hacienda (Moraga)

Moraga Parks and Recreation presents Camp Hacienda, a day camp for children ages 5-10 that will incorporate sports, games, crafts and lots of other fun activities in the safe, secluded environment of the Hacienda de las Flores! Extended care also available. Dates: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 19 - Aug. 11, Extended care: 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. (925) 888-7045 www.moragarec.com

Camp Kefli (Lafayette)

Camp Kefli offers a wide range of programs that are appropriate to each age group, grades K-8, filling our two one-week sessions with fun. Some programs utilize the Temple Isaiah facility while others take place off site. We offer creative theme days and adventures that enrich and delight our campers. Dates: July 31 - Aug 11 (925) 284-9191 www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli

Camp Orinda (Orinda)

This camp for ages 6-12 offers one adventure after another. It includes games, arts, crafts, hiking, skits, sports, and twice-weekly field trips to such places as Waterworld, Lawrence Hall of Science, the Exploratorium and the Oakland Zoo. Full day and extended-care options available. Dates: June 12-Aug. 4 (925) 254-2445 www.cityoforinda.org



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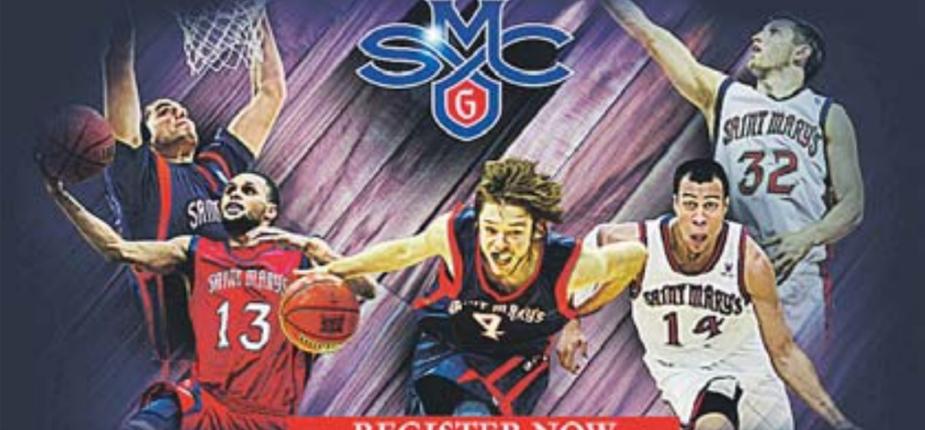


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SUMMER CAMPS 2017

The Crucible Youth Summer Camps (Oakland) see ad

Kids can explore a wide range of arts—blacksmithing, glass blowing, ceramics, jewelry, neon, welding and robotics—all under one roof. Week-long youth camps, for ages 8+, let imaginations soar while teaching hands-on skills overlapping science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Morning and afternoon camps with after care available.
 Dates: Weekly sessions June 19 - Aug. 4
www.thecrucible.org/youth-camps

iD Tech Camps (Moraga)

Students ages 6-18 can learn to code apps, design video games, mod Minecraft, assemble laptops, discover cyber security, engineer robots, create websites, 3D-print models, and much more! Campers are taught in small groups of just 8 students per instructor—guaranteed—for personalized instruction every time.
 Dates: June 12–Aug. 25
 1-888-709-8324
www.iDTech.com

Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop (Lafayette)

This weeklong music workshop provides an intimate and inspiring environment for learning and playing jazz. Students, ages 11 to 80-years old, receive master classes, improvisation workshops and jazz combos led by some of the preeminent, professional musicians in the field.
 Dates: One week only, July 30 to Aug. 4.
www.lafsmw.org

Orion Academy Summer Adventures for Teens with Asperger's (Moraga)

Orion's popular summer sessions were developed and are run by Orion faculty to improve the social skills of teens with Asperger's in a fun and supportive environment for ages 12-16. Find common interests while learning to paddle board, geocache, navigate a ropes course and hike with llamas.
 Dates: July 17- 21, July 24- 27 (925) 377-0789
www.orionacademy.org

Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Moraga) see ad

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's McKeon Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-13 to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game. Throughout the week Coach Bennett will lead instruction on every aspect of the game. Morning, afternoon and full day options available.
 Dates: June 6 - July 14
smcmensbasketballcamps.com

Roughing It Day Camp (Lafayette) see ad

Roughing It is a traditional all outdoors summer day camp for children aged Pre-K - 16 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Activities include horseback riding, swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and other adventures. Free transportation and home pick up from the Lamorinda area. Free extended care is available too.
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SUMMER CAMPS 2017

Saklan School

(Moraga)

see ad

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Dates: June 12 - Aug. 11
(925) 376-7900
www.saklan.org

Sewnow! Fashion Design

(Lafayette)

see ad

Have a blast, learn to design, sew, and illustrate like a pro and walk away with unique personalized fashion items. Camps include fashionkit patterns and digital instructions, fabrics, notions, custom embroidery, and participation in our end-of-summer fashion show. One-week, half-day and full-day camps for juniors (second and third grade), kids, and teens.

Dates: June-August
(925) 283-7396
www.sewnow.com

Sienna Ranch

(Lafayette)

Camp choices at Lamorinda's own ranch camp include morning Farm Hands and Nature and Horseback Riding camps as well as afternoon pottery, woodshop, archery, art and animals, horses and more. Serving campers entering grades PreK-8 with select teen programming, Sienna Ranch offers week-long, full-day or half-day camp options.

Dates: various dates and times available
(925) 283-6311
www.siennaranch.net

Spanish Immersion

Summer Camps with Viva el Español (Lafayette)

see ad

Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts & crafts, and cooking. During each week-long camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Wondrous Outdoors at the Reservoir or Secret Formula "Laboratorio." Full Day 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Before/after-care available. Half-day options are available too.

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see ad

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Summer Shakespeare

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see ad

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*Cost for morning or afternoon, not both

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June 26th - 30th (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

July 10th - 14th (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

July 17th - 21st (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

July 24th - 28th (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

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TheCrucible.org/youth-camps

Overnight SUMMER CAMPS 2017

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Aspen Network Team Camp (Sierra Nevada Mountains) see ad

Teens and young adults with social differences that include anxiety, spectrum behaviors, OCD, ADHD or Non-verbal Learning Disorder have discovered a safe space at our camp located in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains of Northern California. Activities include river rafting, sailing on Lake Tahoe, backpacking, hiking and campfires.

Dates: July 5-19
(925) 262-3135
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Avid4 Adventure Overnight (Rocky Mountains, Colorado) see ad

First-12th graders take on a range of adventure sports—rock climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding—and strike out on eye-opening, character-building overnight expeditions. An immersive experience that makes a deep imprint on kids and teens, leaving them with lasting skills and new reserves of confidence.

Dates: July 9-13
(800) 977-9873
www.avid4.com

Lorne Smith Lacrosse Camps (Lake Tahoe, University of Oregon) see ad

3x NCAA Champion (Princeton'99), 3x All-American, former Stanford Coach, Baltimore Hall of Fame, and Lafayette resident Lorne Smith offers overnight camps (with day option) for boys ages 12-18.

Dates: University of Oregon, July 9-13.
Lake Tahoe, July 16-20 (High school only, rising freshmen okay)

www.lornesmithlacrosse.com

Amazing Summer Math Camps

- **The Wide World of Sports Statistics**
Play sports and calculate your statistics
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****** Warning – These classes might trick students into believing that math is fun ******

If you have further questions feel free to contact Michael at m.adler@sbcglobal.net

Classes taught by teacher & experienced math instructor, Michael Adler

To enroll contact the Moraga Parks and Rec. Department at www.moraga.ca.us or call (925) 888-7036

Want a great tutor who is fun? Individual/small group summer or year round tutoring available
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Michael Adler

Did we miss your favorite camp?

On April 5 we will list all half-day camps and classes. Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda and advertise with us. Call (925) 377-0977 or email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com.

Thank you Advertisers! Lamorinda Weekly.

Marin Ranch Camp (Petaluma) see ad

Hosted by Walker Creek Ranch and the Marin County Office of Education. Traditional camp activities like canoeing, archery and sitting around the campfire roasting s'mores. Our well-trained team of counselors creates a nurturing environment where campers feel safe to step outside of their comfort zone, challenge themselves with new adventures and make new friends.

Dates: Aug. 8 – Aug. 17
(415) 930-4649
www.marinranchcamp.org

The Randy Bennett High Potential Camp (Moraga) see ad

The Randy Bennett High Potential Camp is designed for boys entering 6th-12th grades who would like to achieve at the highest levels of basketball. Coach Bennett and his staff personally direct this overnight camp as they coach each participant as if he were a player at Saint Mary's College. Each athlete will participate in daily competitions, skill development, and scrimmages.

Dates: Aug. 1-3
smcmensbasketballcamps.com



Summer Camp July 5-19

Aspen network is an exciting program for youth and young adults with social differences, which includes a great summer camp.

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- Meeting challenges and personal goals
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www.AspenNetwork.net
Tel: (925) 262-3135




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Modern, six-lane competition pool with diving board and play area

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Cougar Football

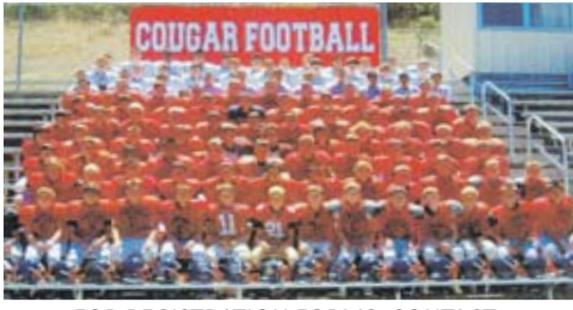
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FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 4 – 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 10 thru July 21 (M – F) TIMES: 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.
FEES: \$350 (T-shirt included)



FOR REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT:
925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanes.k12.ca.us
or download registration form at campfootball.com

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

Garden Club learns to color seasons

Submitted by Karin Biasotti



Members and guests, at the Moraga Garden Club's February meeting were treated to a presentation by Laurie Callaway of Laurie Callaway Garden Designs. Her topic was, "Secrets of a Four Season Garden." She revealed how gardens can be colorful and beautiful throughout the year, and not just the spring and summer seasons.

From left, Moraga Garden Club member Joyce McClellan, guest speaker Laurie Callaway and Linda Foley, president. Photo provided

2017 National Charity League Class honored

Submitted by Laurie Dunn



Front, from left, Jessica Carlin, Julia Mueller, Caroline Clark, Mia Carvotta, Madison Stuart, Marla Wong, Meghan Nuti, Olivia Lindgren; Middle, from left, Isabel Kirke, Sara Lemelin, Lauren Ladrech, Katharine Larson; Back, from left, Paris Thomas, Sarah Ryles, Katherine Dunn, Caroline Sernett, Lindsay Dunn, Jenna Sposato, Shelby Bocks, Justine Bon, Morgan Rogers, Caroline Phipps

Members of the National Charity League, Acalanes Chapter, Class of 2017, were honored for six years of leadership and service to our community at their Senior Celebration held on Feb. 11 at the Diablo Country Club. The National Charity League is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. Over their six years, the class of 2017 volunteered over 5,000 hours with 28 non-profit organizations across the East Bay.

www.Lamorindaweekly.com
Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- MOFD director threatens to resign over financials
- Battering storms ravage Lamorinda
- ConFire rolling out new station signage
- Lafayette residents balk over costs to repair curbs and gutters
- Review: 'The Salesman' is profound and universal
- Transformative Buddhism: A way of life for several Lamorindans
- Main Street America Comes to Assess Orindas main streets
- Moraga challenges EBMUD in year-old landslide incident
- Noise now permitted at Lafayette swimming pool
- College financial aid awards and scholarships - getting your best offer

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

Saklan students donate to All-access playground

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Saklan students display All-access Playground poster. From left, Head of School Peter Metzger, students Mikayla Perrin, Sadie Zippin, and Nikko Choi, and Moraga Rotary President Kevin Reneau.

Saklan School students held a baked goods and hot chocolate sale to raise \$780 to donate to the Lamorinda All-access Playground, to be built at the Moraga Commons. The Saklan Student Council picked this project for the students to support as their contribution to the community, according to Peter Metzger, the Head of School. The check was recently presented to Moraga Rotary President Kevin Reneau at a school assembly, who remarked that the broad support from the Lamorinda community made him very optimistic that construction could begin in the fall.

This project is sponsored by Rotary Club of Moraga to commemorate its 50th anniversary in June. The playground will provide exercise equipment for both able-bodied and special needs children, and will be promoted to special needs groups throughout the East Bay.

Campo's Girls and Boys State representatives chosen

Submitted by Kate Ginley



Katherine Ginley Photo provided

Campolindo Junior Katherine Ginley is this year's Girls State Representative.

The American Legion Auxiliary runs the Girls and Boys State program and chooses 500 girls and 500 boys from California to represent the program each year. For 75 years, these programs have taught teenagers the structure and responsibility of government. Boys and Girls State is known for producing U.S. Presidents such as the Bushes and Bill Clinton.

Girls and Boys State is essentially a week of participating as self-governing citizens while campaigning to get higher positions. Ginley says she hopes to win the Supreme Court Justice position, although the one who wins the position of State Governor gets to proceed to Girls National in Washington D.C and meet with either the President or members of Congress.

Campolindo's Boys State will be represented by junior Kyle Davis.

2017 Poul Anderson Writing Contest launches in Orinda

Submitted by Julie Rossiter

The Friends of the Orinda Library announces the 2017's Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all students who reside or attend high school in Orinda.

Entry Categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is Friday, April 21st at noon.

winners will each be awarded \$250 prizes at the close of this school year, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, who was a true friend to the community for 40 years.

Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives or at the Orinda Library. For additional information go to: www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org or email Julie Rossiter at jjrossiter@me.com.

St. Monica's students donate to VESTIA

Submitted by Eric Moon



St. Monica's fifth-grade basketball team stand by items they collected for the county's homeless. Photo Eric Moon

In January, St. Monica's fifth-grade American Boys Basketball team organized a sock and sleeping-bag drive in conjunction with Volunteer Emergency Services Team in Action (VESTIA). After collecting items from members of the community, the boys were able to donate 12 sleeping bags and 102 pairs of socks to VESTIA, which will distribute these items to Contra Costa County's homeless population.

Submit stories to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"
 Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.



Lafayette United Methodist Church
 955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
 Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation
 5pm New Youth Group!
We Love God, Love Others & Serve the World

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
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 Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

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Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
 www.holyshepherd.org



8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. Education for all ages
 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
 Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School &
 Communion Service
 in the SMC Chapel



stgiles-moraga.org
 (925) 376-5770
 traditional liturgy +
 inclusive theology



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
 254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
 Sunday 8am, 10am

Not to be missed

ART

IRAN/USA, an original exhibition organized by the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, presents a program of compelling video art and prints by artist and faculty member Peter Freund through May 28. The multi-language exhibit re-envisioned key moments in the politically charged history of the two countries through the lens of an experimental artist. The museum is located on campus, 1928 St. Mary's Road in Moraga and is open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday; \$5 admission.

The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents Side x Side, an exhibit featuring the paintings of James Koskinas and Julie Schumer through April 15. They both work in acrylic and tend towards a painting style of large scale abstract expressionism and figurative. There will be an opening reception with a talk and film preview at 6 p.m. on March 9. 3620 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com.

The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee invites the public to attend a welcome reception for its newest art exhibit Use Less or Useless, featuring local photographer Melissa Moehle. The exhibit will run through March 20 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Library Gallery in the Community Hall.

The Diablo Fine Arts Gallery presents **Travels** with an Artist, a new show featuring three guest artists whose travels have defined their art and their passions. In addition to these wonderful guest artists, the 16 member artists of the Gallery will be giving a glimpse of special ways that they combine their travels and their art. The show runs through April 1, with a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on March 11.

MUSIC

There will be a Wine & Tapas Film Night & Fundraiser featuring "Before the Flood" from 6:30-9 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Start the evening with shared wine and tapas and then watch Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey to five continents and the arctic to witness climate change firsthand. With unprecedented access to scientists, political leaders, and thought leaders, DiCaprio shares a riveting account of the changes now occurring as well as the actions we can take to prevent the disruption of life on the planet. All donations collected (\$5 suggested) will go towards the host church going "Deep Green" (100 percent renewable electricity). Co-hosted by Sustainable Lafayette and Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Diablo Choral Artists presents a choral concert of music by Dvorjak, Schubert and Bruckner, featuring Dvorjak's "Mass in D Major." The concert will play at 8 p.m. on March 17 at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave, Walnut Creek, and at 3 p.m. on March 19 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill. Details and ticket purchase on website: www.dcachorus.org, (925) 680-7089, info@dcachorus.org

Diablo Ballet will celebrate its 23rd Anniversary with a special one-night only performance at 6:30 p.m. on March 23 at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. The celebration will feature stunning works from the Company's 23-year history. Tickets are \$33-\$59. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or www.diabloballet.org.

Experience a lovely musical offering of arias by Verdi, Schubert, Handel and more performed by the much-acclaimed "Opera Scouts" young artists of San Francisco Opera Guild, 4:30 p.m. Sunday March 26 at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga. Enjoy a deli-

cious buffet supper and wine. Tickets \$45.00. Reservations through Ana Zimmank of Coldwell Banker 925-640-6008; Ana.Zimmank@camoves.com

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Smokey Joe's Café," directed by Lauren Rosi through March 25. With music such as "Poison Ivy," "Charlie Brown," "On Broadway," "Stand By Me" and many more. 3535 School Street, Lafayette. (925) 283-1557. Show times and ticket information is available at the box office or online at www.townhalltheatre.com. See story page B1.

Campolindo High School Presents "Beauty and the Beast." Follow the "tale as old as time" as the Beast encounters Belle and races to break the spell and return to his former self with the help of his enchanted household characters. The show will run from March 17 through March 26 at Campolindo High School, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga. For info on show times and ticket prices, visit http://www.campochoir.com/ticketing/

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice center is hosting a Center Monthly Forum Event, An Evening with Budd MacKenzie, with a potluck at 6 p.m. and the presentation at 7 p.m. on March 16 in the Owl Room of the Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church at 55 Eckley Lane in Walnut Creek. MacKenzie is a resident of Lafayette, a peace and education activist and founder of Trust in Education. He will be speaking on his autobiography: "Off the Couch, Into the War for Hearts and Minds." Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, free for students and half price for MDPJC members. To purchase tickets go to www.ourpeacecenter.org. (925) 933-7850.

Orinda Library Writers Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, in the Orinda Library Study Room A. Meet with a friendly and supportive group of beginning writers to motivate, provide feedback, and inspire one another. The group meets every other Tuesday.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Lamorinda Arts Council is hosting its 14th Annual High School Visual Arts Competition through March 30 at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. This annual exhibition provides the community a wonderful opportunity to view a wide range of creative, original work by local students and recognizes the region's dedicated high school art teachers. The competition is open to ninth through 12th-grade students living in or attending public or private high schools in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga. The competition is also open to all students who attend the Acalanes Union High School District schools, including Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas, and Miramonte High Schools, regardless of residence. The registration form as well as the full details of the competition can be found at www.lamorindaarts.org/vac.

The Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center is sponsoring a Bookmark Contest and invites all Lafayette students grades K-8 to enter their original art work. The entry forms are available at the Lafayette Library main desk, the Friends Corner Book Shop and at school libraries in the Lafayette School District and St. Perpetua School. The entry deadline is Friday, March 10. For more information contact Kay Pekrul:kae865@hotmail.com.

Celebrate Teen Tech Week at the Orinda Library, "Be the Source of Change" 4 to 5 p.m. through March 11. Drop by your library to learn about all the great digital resources available to help you make a posi-

tive change in life and community. Activities, giveaways and more. Open to all teens 13 - 18 years old.

ACT Free Practice Test by the Princeton Review: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 18 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Get realistic practice and receive a personalized score report pinpointing strengths and weaknesses. Registration required. Sign up at (510) 295-0002 or visit www.princetonreview.com/product/offers/334922

SPEAK is a program for high school students developed in response to issues they are facing: stress, relationships, partying, sexuality, and mental health. Ninth-12th graders will have a safe space to speak their truth about their experiences and will be equipped with resources and decision making strategies. An adult program offers the opportunity for sharing of concerns and strategies to address these issues. The program runs from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sundays through March 26 at Orinda Community Church, www.speak2016.eventbrite.com or Kelsey: SPEAKlamorinda@gmail.com

Calling All Teenage Bands! Register Your Band Now for the second Annual Rock Band Showcase at the Lafayette Community Center! The bands will play at 7:30 p.m. on April 14. Register at www.abrighterday.info

OTHER

International Speaker Dr. Bobbie Preston, chief operations officer, for "No One Left Behind: Local Residents Help Refugees Resettle," a presentation of the American Association of University Women—Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch at 9:30 a.m. on March 21 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.

Free Tax Preparation for the 2017 tax season is available from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's Earn It, Keep It, Save It (EKS) programs. All tax preparers are trained and certified by the IRS. While both programs serve taxpayers of any age, Tax-Aide does not have an income limit in whom they can serve but EKS can only serve individuals whose incomes do not exceed \$50,000. For general information and other site locations, call (925) 726-3199. For information on EKS sites call 2-1-1 or visit www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org.

Join the Lamorinda Democratic Club Panel Discussion to Take Action on Climate Change from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 9 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Free for members. \$5 for non-members. www.ldclub.com

Learn the art of making Pysanky, or Ukrainian Easter Eggs, decorated using a wax-resist and dye method in a three-hour workshop led by local folk art teacher, Evie Michon. Classes are from 9 a.m. to noon on March 10. You may attend either or both sessions at \$20/session. Class sizes limited to 20 persons/session. Hosted by Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. All profits will be donated to the Moraga Rotary in support of their All-access Playground Project for Moraga Commons. Register holy-shepherd.org/Upcomingevents/Pysanky.

Come celebrate diversity and promote our unity at Soul Food Lamorinda from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 12 at the Intercultural Center at St Mary's College. Soul Food Lamorinda is a free Baha'i-inspired program which combines an audio-visual presentation with readings from various faiths, philosophers and leaders, reminding us of the oneness of humanity. This month's program, "Ode to Giving," will explore how the simple act of giving can spiritually nourish those who give, and those who receive. Free and open to everyone. For more info: www.meetup.com/Soul-Food-Lamorinda/.

... continued on next page

Please...



...thanks

MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

Is 'Logan' a farewell to Wolverine?

By Derek Zemrak



Photo provided
Logan is rated R and Director James Mangold ("Walk the Line," "The Wolverine," "Girl Interrupted") sets the tone with the first word spoken in the film.

"Logan," the second R-rated superhero film from Hollywood ("Deadpool" in 2016 was the first), is the end for the Wolverine franchise. At least that is what Hollywood is making us all believe. But we know all too well about the box-office numbers. Logan is rated R due to brutal, graphic violence, strong language throughout the movie and brief nudity. It is recommended that parents see the film before just letting your child attend the movie. It is not your typical superhero film.

Now that we have cleared the air, "Logan" is set in the future in 2029; in a world that has seen no new mutants for over 15 years. Logan (Hugh Jackman) is now going by his birth name James Howlett and is trying to live a low-key life as a limo driver in Texas. After driving across the Mexican border, Logan finds himself at an abandoned facility where he and a mutant, Calidan (Stephen Merchant) care for the ailing

Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart). Logan's plan was to retire at a scenic ocean view while caring for Xavier. But as with all superhero films, no plan is set in stone. Enter Laura (Dafne Keen) a young girl with powers equal to Logan's. He goes on the run from the military as he realizes his sole purpose in life is to protect Laura.

"Logan" is an exceptional film with one of the best storylines and script of any superhero movie of the past. This movie is not for everyone because of the graphic, brutal fight scenes. Please parents, preview the movie before letting your young ones see it! "Logan" has a TRT (total running time) of 2 hours and 17 minutes.

4 Slates

Upcoming events at the Lamorinda Theatres:

Orinda Theatre Events

Free Movie Night at the Orinda: 7 p.m. March 9, "Sunset Boulevard."

Starring Gloria Swanson and William Holden, this black and white film will be stunning on the big screen in the Orinda Theatre – the way Wilder intended the film to be seen – in a movie palace.

Rheem Theatre

Live Music at the Rheem — Greatest Songs from Disney Movies: 7 p.m. March 11.

Patti Liedecker returns to the Rheem Theatre with a concert of favorite Disney songs played on the beautiful baby grand piano. The evening will include a video presentation and lecture by Derek Zemrak. The Moraga Community Foundation is sponsoring this event. Admission \$15
 Larry Swindell's Classic Films return to the Rheem Theatre at 2 p.m. March 15 with "The Woman in the Window." When a conservative middle-aged professor engages in a minor dalliance with a femme fatale, he is plunged into a nightmarish quicksand of blackmail and murder. Starring Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett and Raymond Massey. Admission \$7

TO ALL LAMORINDA OPERA LOVERS

Come and experience a lovely musical offering of arias by Verdi, Schubert, Handel and more... performed by the much-acclaimed "Opera Scouts" young artists of San Francisco Opera Guild. Sunday March 26 at 4:30pm at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga. Enjoy a delicious buffet supper and wine.

Tickets \$45.00 (\$30.00 tax deductible). **Reservations through Ana Zimmank of Coldwell Banker 925-640-6008 Ana.Zimmank@camoves.com**

Service Clubs Announcements



We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

| | |
|--|--|
| March 10 Bip Roberts, TV broadcaster and former A's, Indians star. | March 17 Maria Dempsey, Airlines industry expert on JetSuiteX at the Concord airport |
|--|--|

No joke, it really is true. March 25th our gorgeous Teardrop Trailer publicly debuts!

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

| | |
|---|---|
| March 9: Jeanette Fritzkly will be speaking about Poly Pharmacy | March 16: Troy Feddersen will be speaking about his beer making |
|---|---|

www.rotarylafayette.org
 www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

Purim in the Orient from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 12 at 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Featuring interactive Megillah reading, authentic Oriental cuisine, music, Mishalach Manot, Oriental masquerade, Chinese acrobat show and more. Cost: \$10, Family \$36. www.jewishcontracosta.com (925) 937-4101.

Come to a Purim Celebration at 5 p.m. on March 12 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Featuring Chinese dinner buffet, acrobat show, games, music, and masquerade party. Free. RSVP www.chabadoflamorinda.com/purim or call (925) 384-7242

The Persian Center presents Persian New Year Festiva from 6 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14 at Durant Avenue, 2029 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Jump over bonfires to shake off the darkness of winter; welcome the lightness of spring. Persian music, dancing, food, crafts, kid activities. Free. For more info see www.anotherbullwinkeshow.com/persian-fest/, call (510) 548-5335 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkeshow.com.

The Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club's Lobster Fest is at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 18 at the St. Mary's College Soda Center. The evening's entertainment starts at 6 p.m. and includes a silent auction, music, raffles, dancing and LOBSTER. This is one of the two largest annual events sponsored by the club. Tickets are \$55 per person and are available at moraga.kiwanis.event@gmail.com or (925) 899-9536.

Allie's Pals Cat Rescue presents its Feline Fundraiser from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on March 22 at Mangia Pizzeria at 975, Moraga Rd, Lafayette. www.alliespals.org

ARF presents the 13th annual Business of Saving Lives conference for animal welfare professionals and volunteers from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 25 at ARF in Walnut Creek. This pow-

erhouse conference packs practical information and valuable tools into one full day of learning at an affordable price, to help attendees save more lives. Register now to ensure a spot, tickets are \$45. Continental breakfast and a vegetarian lunch are provided to all attendees. For registration, agenda information, and session details, visit www.arflife.org.

Moraga Classic Car Show registration is now open to residents who own classic cars and would like to participate in the ninth annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday May13, as part of the 2017 Moraga Community Faire. The \$35 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1, but space is limited to 70 cars, so register early to secure a spot. Register at www.moragachamber.org/faire or, call Gloria at (925) 247-4473.

SENIORS

Learn Cooking for One or Two: Breakfast & Brunch with Jaime Rios, Byron Park Executive Chef from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 29 at Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. As we all know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. In this demonstration-style class, Chef Jaime will help attendees find new inspiration with recipes that will transform breakfast and brunch routines. Space is limited; these classes fill up quickly. RSVP to Lafayette Senior Services by Wednesday, March 22. For info, Seniors@LoveLafayette.org or 284-5050.

Anne Randolph Physical Therapy presents the Art of Balance from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 22 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. People worried about falling or are at risk of falling should know about simple ways to improve balance. Learn how to gain increased balance and avoid the risk of falling. Fee per class members: No charge/ Non-Members: \$10

GARDEN

The Lafayette Garden Club presents "Gamble Garden, Landscape of Optimism" presented by author Susan Woodman and Gamble Board member Jane Stocklin from 9:45 a.m. to noon on March 9 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building, located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The garden is showcased as a place for hands-on practical and creative classes, a magnet for artists, and a venue for seasonal events and celebratory occasions including the Garden Tour held every April. Books available. Visitors are welcome. Email Carolyn Poetzsch cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

The Gardens at Heather Farm and The Garden Conservancy will host an afternoon "Meet the Authors" event at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 10, as San Francisco-based landscape designers Stefani Bittner and Alethea Harampolis present their new book "Harvest: Unexpected Projects Using 47 Extraordinary Garden Plants" set for release next month. \$5 for Gardens at Heather Farm and Garden Conservancy Members; \$15 General Public. Make a reservation online at www.gardenshf.org or call (925) 947-1678

The Walnut Creek Garden Club monthly meeting is held at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Business meeting is at 10 a.m., social time 10:30 to 11 a.m., program from 11 a.m. to noon. March 13 Program: Special Decorated Eggs from Czechoslovakia Using Natural Dyes — Lenka Glassner, folk artist. She will talk about the colorful history, traditions and techniques of the ancient art of egg decorating and share her unique collections. The public is invited to attend and consider becoming a member. Maureen Little: mslittle44@gmail.com, (925) 820-1476

The Moraga Garden Club Monthly Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 16, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guest

speaker will be Rosemary Lovell, owner of Morningsun Herb Farm in Vacaville. She will be discussing "Companion Planting with Herbs." Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, the 10 a.m. meeting, as well as the presentation by Rosemary Lovell, immediately following the meeting.

The Montelindo Garden Club, which meets the third Friday of every month, September through May, will gather at 9 a.m. on Friday March 17 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Everyone welcome. Presentation: Wonderful Western Wildflowers. Speaker: Heath Bartosh, one of the California Native Plant

Society's top rare plant experts and is co-founder of the Bay Area ecological consulting firm Nomad Ecology, LLC.

The Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center presents its Historical Houses presentation and tour from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 25. Learn of our local valley's history through the chronicles of three old houses from the 1800's: the Old Yellow House in Orinda, Rodgers Ranch in Pleasant Hill, and the John Muir House in Martinez. To register, go to LafayetteCommunityGarden.org/classes-and-events. \$5 donation appreciated.

Lamorinda Weekly

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Acalanes claims NCS D2 boy's soccer title

By Karl Buscheck



Mason Larrick (20) and Brody Quinn (14)

Photos Gint Federas

On the path to securing the North Coast Section Division 2 boys' soccer championship, Acalanes didn't let in multiple goals in any of the team's final 13 games. In the playoff finals on Feb. 25 in Lafayette, the Dons didn't allow any goals at all, outlasting Montgomery, 1-0, in double overtime.

After the Dons, who Max-Preps ranked as the No. 43 team in the state, capped their 20-2-4 campaign (9-1 in league) with the title-game shutout, head coach Paul Curtis offered a simple message to his squad.

"I always tell them congratulations on the win," Curtis said. "And then I think the key factor was how proud the other coaches and I were of them that they were able to maximize their potential and show tremendous resolve."

Against the No. 5 seed Montgomery, the second-seeded Dons delivered the decisive goal in the second-to-last minute of double overtime courtesy of Gabe Singer, who found the back of the net for the fifth time in four playoff games.

The senior striker was playing as part of an injury-depleted starting 11 that featured four Dons reserves.

"This team was unique in that they pulled together as a unit perhaps as well or better than any team that I've coached," Curtis said. "And that became a real strength for them."

"The other strength was the depth of talent that we had," Cur-

tis added.

Two of those fill-ins were starting along Acalanes' stingy backline. At the heart of the defense was center back Chris Rogers.

"Chris was the most outstanding defensive player on our team, as selected by his teammates," Curtis explained. "He's just a sophomore, made first-team all-league and was a huge part of that whole defensive unit."

Junior goalkeeper Luke Denham was another indispensable member of the group. During the regular season, Denham and the defense were all but impenetrable.

In league play this year, the defense allowed two goals," Curtis said. That's it. Just two. I've never seen anything like it."

That success spilled over into the postseason, as the team permitted only a couple of goals against its four NCS opponents.

"He made several big saves (in the title game)," Curtis said. "In fact, each batch of the playoffs he made several big saves (on) close-in shoots that are goals unless he plays spectacularly. So, that just adds to the excitement of it."

While the Dons dispatched Casa Grande 4-1 in the opening round, the road to becoming NCS champs was not an easy one. Acalanes toppled Campolindo 1-0 in the quarterfinals before edging the No. 3 seed Richmond 2-1 – in double overtime – in the semifinals.

By the time the finals arrived, the Dons had become masters at

remaining calm and executing in pressure-packed moments.

"I think that just added more fuel for our boys (after) having gone through a very close Campolindo match and then really surviving a double overtime (game against Richmond)," Curtis said. "They had more experience in tight situations than the other team did and I think that paid off at the end as well – helping them be calm in the face of a very hectic last match."

For the Cougars, the semifinals exit brought an end to the team's 11-10-4 season (3-4-3). Campolindo had entered the NCS Division 2 bracket as the No. 7 seed. Miramonte, who grabbed the No. 12 seed in the Division 3 competition, lost out in the quarterfinals to No.4 Bishop O'Dowd. The Mats wrapped up the season 10-10-2 (5-4-1 in league).



Chris Rogers

Play Ball!



Photo Shirley DeFrancisci, DeF-Stop Photography (www.defstop.net)

On Saturday Feb. 25, the Moraga Baseball Association celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a festive hometown parade and ceremony. The event featured over 200 players and coaches, members from the original 1977 Board, Campolindo cheer, Boy Scout Troop 212 color guard, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate school band, and Moraga police and fire departments. The master of ceremonies was Oakland A's announcer Dick Callahan, a long-time local resident. Visit moragabaseball.org to learn more about MBA.



Mustang 10U Royal Knights players Gabe Savala and Niklas Lindberg walk into the gym

Photo provided

The Orinda Baseball Association (OBA) celebrates its 33rd season of community baseball, with Opening Day on Feb. 25. OBA has over 340 players participating this season, spread out over four divisions, with kids ages 7 to 14. OBA has a strong tradition in Orinda for a meaningful baseball experience, striving for a balance between sportsmanship, skill development, competition and having fun. Games are on weekends at Del Rey, Wagner Ranch and Orinda Sportsfield; casual baseball fans are always welcome.



From left: Spring Hill student and Yankee player Kyle Woodson with Stanley student and Indians team member Nikko Woodson.

Photo A. Scheck

Lafayette Little League opening day on March 4 fell short because of the rain.

Despite the rain Kyle and Nikko Woodson of Lafayette practiced together.

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Miramonte rolls to girls basketball NCS title as all 3 teams prepare for NorCals

By Karl Buscheck



Photo Gint Federas

The Miramonte girls basketball team secured the NCS Division II title on March 4, pulverizing No. 2 seed Montgomery 84-44 at Saint Mary's College.

The Mats will next compete in the CIF NorCal regional tournament, which begins on March 8 after carving through the NCS bracket. The top-seeded Mats cruised past No. 15 Hayward, 83-30, in the opening round, handled No. 9 Alameda, 75-37, in the quarterfinals and dispatched No. 13 Newark Memorial, 78-55, in the semifinals.

Miramonte begins the next round of post-season play with a 27-3 record overall (9-1

in league) and ranked No. 25 in the state, according to MaxPreps.

Acalanes narrowly missed out on a chance to square off with their neighbors in the title matchup, falling 53-50 to Montgomery in Santa Rosa on March 1 in the semifinals.

"Getting to the semifinals is not easy and the kids earned it every step of the way," head coach Ashley Valenzuela said after her third-seeded Dons' NCS run came to an end.

The Dons, who enter NorCals with a 19-10 record (6-4 in league), advanced to the penultimate stage of the NCS DII postseason

after taking care of No. 14 Rancho Cotate, 64-52, in the opening round and rallying past No. 6 Redwood, 67-65, in the quarterfinals.

"The best part about our postseason run is that everyone had to step up," Valenzuela said. "Every game we were faced with challenging situations that put our kids in a position that every single person had to step up and perform. It was fun to watch them really step up and face those challenges."

Against Redwood, Acalanes didn't claim its first lead until there were 24 seconds left on the clock. During the furious fourth quarter, senior point guard Brooke Panfili poured in 11 of her team high 21 points. Senior post player Emma Godfrey added in 18 points and senior guard Roni Marrone accounted for 15.

The team's NCS march came to an end in the Dons' March 1 loss to Montgomery, but Acalanes has already shifted its focus to the next stage of the postseason.

"The season is not over," Valenzuela said after the defeat. "We have NorCal to look forward to and we need to learn from this game in order to prepare for the next one."

Like the Dons, Campolindo will be taking part in NorCals after exiting in the semifinals of the DIII bracket. The third-seeded Cougars lost 67-48 to No. 2 Salesian on March 1 at Albany High School.

"I am very proud of what we have accomplished this season so far," head coach

Art Thoms said in the wake of the semifinal defeat. "We have a great group of girls that care a lot about each other and have a lot of fun."

Co-champions of the DAL National division, the Cougars (23-6, 9-1) head into the next round of the postseason. Campolindo smashed through the first two stages of NCS play, hammering No. 14 Novato and No. 6 Moreau Catholic – their opening round and quarterfinal opponents – by a combined margin of 70 points.

"Haley Van Dyke and Aubrey Wagner really played well against Moreau," Thoms said. "Haley had 35 points and 18 rebounds and Aubrey had 22 points and 13 rebounds. Ashley Thoms had a great game against Novato. Ashley had 25 points and made six 3-pointers."

With more basketball left to be played, Thoms has urged his team to put the challenging semifinals matchup in the rearview mirror.

"The message is to stay together though the good times and bad," Thoms said. "Salesian was a tough loss and we did not play well. Those difficult times are where these young ladies build their true character and a strong bond with each other. Now we regroup and go try to win the NorCal tournament."

Campo boys' hoops team loses in NCS championship, but advances to NorCals

By Karl Buscheck



Chris Wright

Photo Gint Federas

The Campolindo boys' basketball team dropped the NCS Division 3 title game to Salesian 55-40 on March 4 at Saint Mary's College, but the postseason run continues on for the upstart Cougars.

The next order of business for Campolindo, (19-11, 7-4) will be to take part in the CIF NorCal regional tournament, which begins on March 8. Even after that NCS setback, the Cougars find themselves in a spot that few would have predicted heading into the season.

"We definitely enjoyed that fact (the we qualified) because I don't think a lot of people thought this team could do that," said head coach Steven Dyer. "But at the same time, we can enjoy all these things more at the end of the season. When you're in the moment, you want to just do your best to focus on the next game."

Dyer believes that the lack of hype surrounding the squad helped drive the Cougars, at least in part, to a second-place tie in the Foothill division of the DAL and their current berth in NorCals.

"I think that's motivated a lot of guys," Dyer said. "I think a lot of the varsity guys

coming back weren't very happy with how their season went last year. So, I think there's a lot of motivation and then we have a lot of young guys who are trying to prove themselves at this level."

The trickiest part of competing in NorCals is that the Cougars will now be running up against teams from far-flung locales across the region.

"It will be obviously very challenging because there's teams from the Sacramento area, teams from way up north, teams from the Peninsula, so you could be playing a lot of good teams," Dyer said. "It will be obviously challenging."

Dyer highlighted a trio of seniors – Chris Wright, Lev Garcia and Mike Navruzyan – for spearheading the team's NCS run into NorCals. After drawing a bye in the opening round as the No. 2 seed, the Cougars thumped No. 7 Hercules, 51-32, as Wright chipped in a double-double with 16 points and 16 boards.

"We earned that No. 2 seed, which was big because we got a home game in the quarterfinals and the semifinals," Dyer said.

Garcia's introduction into the starting five has been crucial to the Cougars' emergence.

"Lev Garcia has been a really good defensive player," Dyer. "Our season's really taken off since he's been in the starting lineup."

Meanwhile, Navruzyan hit a few big 3's off the bench in Campolindo's 68-53 semifinals win over Analy.

"That semifinal game against Analy was maybe the best game we've played all year – both offensively and defensively," Dyer said. "So, it's always good to be playing some of your best basketball in the postseason. So, I'm really proud of the guys."

As the team begins its NorCal drive, the team's depth – the Cougars have received contributions from players up and down the roster – will be essential.

"It's been a group effort, for sure," Dyer said. "And the one thing, or the biggest thing, is that this team plays really well together and is a very unselfish group which makes things fun as a coach."

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Lamorinda SC helps spawn new SF Deltas high-level soccer club

Submitted by Azfar Haq



Alex Mangels

LW archive

Lamorinda SC has produced some of the country's most stellar women's soccer players, with many of their players making their way into universities with Division 1 teams and some players even making it to the U.S. Women's National Team. In fact, just for the graduating class of 2017, there are already nine girls signed to play at prestigious universities around the country.

Just recently, however, Lamorinda SC has taken its first step to becoming one of the best US youth clubs for cultivating soccer players regardless of gender.

Fresh off of obtaining US Academy Status (Women's Side), Lamorinda SC formed San Francisco's new team, the SF Deltas.

The SF Deltas boast a roster of young players from all over the country and the world. Approximately half of the players hail from countries outside of the U.S., places like France, Brazil and Spain. In fact, there are only two Bay Area natives who have made it onto the team: Midfielder Muhammad Saalih and Goal Keeper Alex Mangels.

Mangels is from Lamorinda and made his way into professional soccer through his time after playing as UC Berkeley's starting keeper and receiving an invitation to attend the Delta's training camp.

Both Mangels and Saalih knew each other well, having spent their youth training in Moraga at Lamorinda SC.

The Sixth Women

Submitted by Brandy Ford



From left, Mark Orr, Saint Mary's College Director of Athletics, presents the honorary Game Ball to Brandy Ford, CO Manager-Moraga Mechanics Bank, and Danielle Ford. Mechanics Bank, a sponsor of the Gaels Basketball team, on Saturday Feb. 25 vs. Santa Clara.

St. Perpetua 4th Grade Girls won West Diablo National Champions

Submitted by Joe Cannizzo



From left, Addie McShane, Grace One, Grace Cannizzo, Reiney Fish, Cameron Powell, Lucy Wilson, Emerson Cannizzo and Claire Zimmerman Photo provided

St. Perpetua's fourth-grade girls basketball team defeated St. Catherine 26 to 22 in a hard-fought West Diablo championship game. The team played its best game of the

entire season which was needed to fend off a tenacious and talented St. Catherine group. Congratulations to this amazing group of fourth graders.

St. Monica's 4th grade boys win again

Submitted by Laura Revelos



Back row from left: coach Mark Robeson, Joe Revelos, coach Eric Van Olst, Anthony Sanguinetti, Kai Van Olst, coach Shawn Clancy; front row from left: Max Robeson, Cooper Chang, Blaise Clancy, Luke Bonardi, Gian Maguire, Gaetan Aviccoli. Photo provided

The St. Monica's fourth grade boys basketball team defeated St. John Vianney in the final round of playoffs to become the West Diablo League American Champions for the second consecutive year. The team moves on to the Diocesan Championship in Oakland.

Saint Monica's wins CYO

Submitted by Swetta Abeyta



Back row from left, coaches John Giordani, Alex Mooradian, Mark Pastore; front row, from left, Dylan King, Devan Abeyta, Jack Mooradian, Colin Rutzen, Landi Giordani, Niklas Lindberg, Luke Devine, Rex Pastore, Levi Olsen, and Nolan Paul. Photo provided

The Saint Monica Spartans fourth-grade basketball team won the CYO finals by one point over the St. Perpetua team.

Undefeated LMYA basketball girls

Submitted by Piyush Srivastava



Front row, from left, Vivienne McCarthy, Isabella Tritto, Naina Srivastava, Karina Morgan; middle row from left, Leyna Levenfeld, Savannah Cahoon, Olivia Larsen, Parker Blau, Olivia Hoppe; back row, from left, Joe McCarthy, Piyush Srivastava, Billy Blau Photo provided

The fourth- and fifth-grade girls LMYA basketball team won the championship game on Feb. 25 held at Happy Valley Elementary School in Lafayette and ended the season with a 9-0 record.

Saint Maria 8th grade team wins CYO

Submitted by Stephanie Barmmer



Reese W, Leilah H, Ava M, Natalie S, Grace B, Mia C, Lindsey B, Katie B and Anna L (not pictured).

The Santa Maria 8th grade National team won the CYO League Championship tournament defeating a tough SJV Team 37-

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Your LMYA 2016-17 Basketball Champions



3rd GRADE GIRLS, WICHITA STATE: Alexis Le, Alexia Weyland, Natalie Hamill, Valerie Vojta, Riley Peterson, Olivia Whipple, Grace Wolpert, Sydney Graves.



3rd GRADE BOYS, OREGON: (Back Row L-R) Coach Jon Briones, Mason Briones, Carson Wellington, Arman Craig, Cayden Leitheiser, Riley Gates, (Front Row L-R) Owen Hughes, Musa Munif, Luke Silva, Robert Roy Terry.



4th & 5th GRADE GIRLS, West, LOUISVILLE: (Front Row) Vivienne McCarthy, Isabella Tritto, Naina Srivastava, Karina Morgan, (Middle Row) Leyna Levenfeld, Savannah Cahoon, Olivia Larsen, Parker Blau, Olivia Hoppe, (Back Row) Coaches Joe McCarthy, Piyush Srivastava, Billy Blau



4th GRADE BOYS, WICHITA STATE: John Koslosky, Kurtiss Hunter, Zachary Garcia, Henry Ross, Coach Kenneth Zener, Dominic Patitucci, Cannon Thuma, Cameron Zener Zachary Degroot, Coach Todd Williams, Owen Williams,



5th & 6th GRADE BOYS, West, WICHITA STATE: (Front , L-R) Monty Gumabay, Max Dickstein, Saylen Slim, J.J. Sanchez (Back, L-R) Coach Jun Gumabay, Jonathan Su,



4th & 5th GRADE GIRLS, East, WICHITA STATE: (Front Row) Mia Daly, Lila Mathers, Jordan Lang, Jean Halstead (Back Row) Coach Ken Daly, Sarah Pezman, Valentina Varela, Cadence Selph, Laurel Tringe, Coach Greg Mathers (Not Pictured) Skylar Platto



6th-7th-8th GRADE GIRLS, UCONN: (Front L-R) Coach Kevin Kelly, Grace Kelly, Angela Chavez, Molly Keliher-Burke, Andrea Cox, Coach Andrew Cox (Back L-R) Haley Flynn, Meg Larsen, Olivia House, Bella Starbuck.



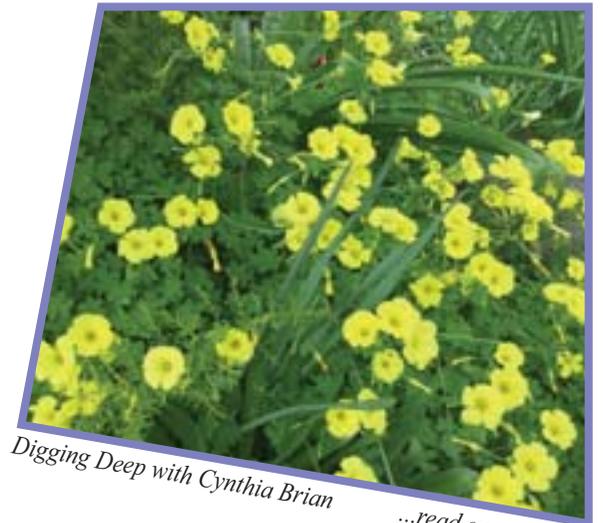
5th & 6th GRADE BOYS, East, OHIO STATE: (Front L-R) Nick Dietsch, Owen Evans, Ted Helvey, Devan Mohanty, Kasey Kazliner, Dylan Potter (Back L-R) Coach Bruce Potter, Coach Steve Dietsch, (Not Pictured) Tobias Case, Simon Hornik



7th & 8th GRADE BOYS, LOUISVILLE: James Trainer, Ben Kim, Onn Matalon, Robert Kuhn, Torin Cate, Cooper Ciruli, (Not Pictured) Chandler Peatross, Max Simas, Hayden Cipriani, Coach Dave Ciruli

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 8, 2017



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D13

Create living sculptures with Kokedama

By Kara Navolio



Kokedama in the Japanese art of string gardens.

Photo Kara Navolio

Transforming average house plants into living sculpture was the goal at the recent Kokedama String Garden Workshop held at Orchard Nursery and Florist in Lafayette.

Gardeners from all over the East Bay gathered to learn the art form from Allison Ferry, the indoor plant buyer and designer at Orchard. Kokedama is a style of Japanese Bonsai where the plant's root system is wrapped in sphagnum moss and string, transforming it into a sculptural art form. Loosely translated, koke means moss and dama means ball.

"Kokedama has been around for a long time," Ferry says. "They are created in Japan as a reflection of Wabi-Sabi, an aesthetic which is about leaving things imperfect, natural, unfinished and simple. Wabi-Sabi is the art of finding beauty in imperfection and honoring that. More recently in Norway the idea caught on to hang the Kokedama." Internet sites have propelled its popularity, including sites like Etsy and Pinterest.

Ferry predicts that it will be the next big trend in plants. Orchard's January workshop on Kokedama was so popular that they added the February class to accommodate the demand.

"Kokedama are quite easy to make," Ferry explained. "All you need is the plant, bonsai planting mix, sheet moss and string."

After spreading out the sheet moss, participants were instructed to loosely massage the roots of the plant from their pots until most of the soil had fallen away. The next step is to layer a handful of the bonsai mix, which includes bark, lava rock, sand, and peat moss. After placing the plant and its roots onto the mound, add a little water until you can form a small ball of earth without it breaking apart. Then you begin wrapping the sheet of moss around the whole ball. The last step is to tie the string around the middle of the ball securing it with a knot, then begin wrapping the string around the ball many times, crisscrossing, until the ball is secure.

The whole process takes less than one hour. Some attendees learned how to tie on a second string to be used for hanging the Kokedama, while others elected to place them in bowls or other ornamental vessels. "They make beautiful centerpieces when placed in a decorative bowl," noted Ferry.

... continued on page D4





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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 10 | \$745,000 | \$2,950,000 |
| MORAGA | 3 | \$434,000 | \$2,750,000 |
| ORINDA | 2 | \$490,000 | \$689,000 |

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

4147 Canyon Road, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3742 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 2-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$665,000, 03-22-96

33 Diablo Circle, \$1,488,000, 3 Bdrms, 2236 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 2-2-17;
Previous Sale: \$350,000, 03-10-94

1414 Eagle Point Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2998 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 2-9-17;
Previous Sale: \$470,540, 07-07-85

147 Haslemere Court, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 2-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$310,000, 06-30-93

1067 Laurel Drive, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1726 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-10-17

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #5, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 1684 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 2-6-17;
Previous Sale: \$701,000, 04-21-15

4021 Natasha Drive, \$2,295,000, 1 Bdrms, 1617 SqFt, 2009 YrBlt, 2-6-17

1390 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,443,000, 4 Bdrms, 2800 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 2-10-17;
Previous Sale: \$967,000, 05-21-04

8 Shreve Lane, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 2-6-17

1723 Toyon Road, \$1,292,000, 2 Bdrms, 2100 SqFt, 1931 YrBlt, 2-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$369,000, 11-03-94

MORAGA

2133 Donald Drive #7, \$434,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-9-17;
Previous Sale: \$220,000, 05-05-00

1557 Moraga Way, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1635 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-2-17;
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 05-02-03

9 Shannon Court, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 4966 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 2-6-17;
Previous Sale: \$2,465,000, 10-06-10

ORINDA

67 Brookwood Road #3, \$490,000, 2 Bdrms, 897 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-2-17;
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 05-18-11

3 Buena Vista, \$686,000, 3 Bdrms, 1343 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 2-10-17



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Create living sculptures with Kokedama

... continued from page D1



Gaye Thompson of Martinez.

Photo Kara Navolio

The whole process takes less than one hour. Some attendees learned how to tie on a second string to be used for hanging the Kokedama, while others elected to place them in bowls or other ornamental vessels. "They make beautiful centerpieces when placed in a decorative bowl," noted Ferry.

The best plants to use for Kokedama are spider plant, ivy, begonias, succulents, orchids and ferns. However, it can be done with outdoor plants as well, including dwarf lemon trees or dwarf Japanese maples. Just keep in mind that the moss does not like direct sunlight, so plants should be OK with indirect sunlight.

To care for the Kokedama you submerge the moss ball in water for 5-10 minutes. Then it must be moved to a place where it can drip for a while. Most plants require this watering once per week. Once the dripping has ceased, it can be placed in its container or rehung.

Some people like to add twigs and other elements from nature or hang their Kokedama at an angle to add more artistic expression. Hanging multiple Kokedama at different lengths creates an appealing art wall. ... continued on page D8



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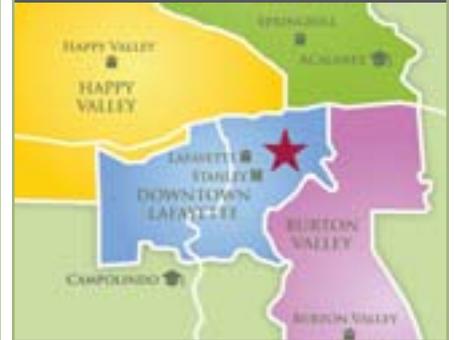


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Robineve Cole, Interior Designer
JP Bergez, Landscape Designer

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Create living sculptures with Kokedama

... continued from page D4

Other items can also be used to wrap the balls like colored yarn or wire for a different look. “I love everything Japanese,” explained participant Gail Reilly of Berkeley. “I’ve been to Japan twice and when I heard about this class I wanted to learn how to do it.”

Recently Ferry put her own creative spin on Kokedama by crafting heart-shaped wire sculptures, stuffing them with the bonsai mix and moss, then adding succulents and beads. The result is a beautiful living sculpture to hang along a window or wall. The possibilities are endless. These heart-shaped creations and other more traditional Kokedama made by Ferry are available at Orchard.

Zahra Tanner of Benicia said, “I saw this class in the newsletter, and it sounded interesting. I’m making my Kokedama for my dad’s birthday. We both like unusual plants.”

Orchard Nursery and Florist has many classes throughout the year. Next up is Forest Terrariums at 2 p.m. on March 11. For more information visit www.orchardnursery.com.



From left: Laurie Hailey and Merrie DeFrene both of Walnut Creek.

Photo Kara Navolio



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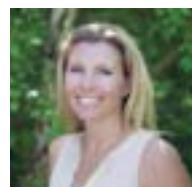


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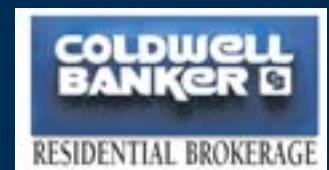
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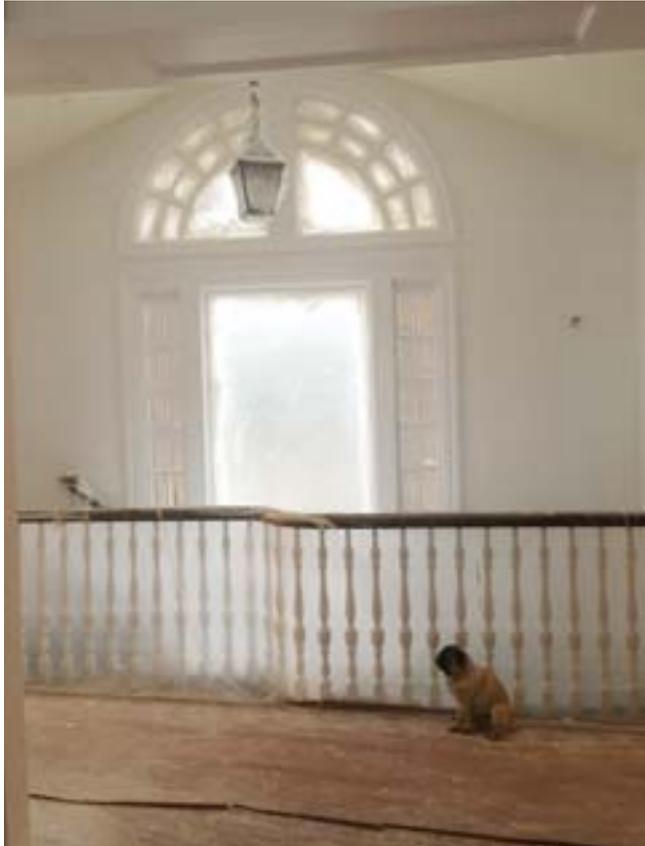


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Stylish Solutions

March Madness: Give your interiors a spring makeover

By Ann McDonald



My home in a work in progress. Notice the smooth walls. They are so much more current. Our timeline is four weeks, based on a rough formula I came up with when we are managing simple interior updates: One week per 1,000 square feet. Our pug Bella is oversees the painters faithfully, each day. She loves to be part of the crew!

Welcome to March! While the sun is peeking through rain clouds, we are tackling an update of inside style this month. Depending on how long you have been in your home, it might be a good idea to look hard at what should stay and what should go.

As a design firm, we advise clients to take a deep look, every 10 to 15 years, at an interior update. For our purposes this month, let's call it a proverbial botox or laser peel.

Minimally invasive, an interior update is certainly more than a simple "teeth cleaning." The interior update can have down time and mess, but should be accomplished in less than a month, if well planned. We typically allocate one week per 1,000 square feet of home.

If your home is 2,000 square feet, plan for a solid two weeks; 4,000 square feet, plan for a month.

My personal recommendation for this type of update is that you plan to work from home to oversee it during this time, or hire a seriously good manager to coordinate this type of project.

While these are surface updates, they must be coordinated and overseen to prevent them from taking over or running off schedule.

Interior updates can range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 depending on the scale and type. For our discussion here: no walls or footprints are modified, no plumbing or electrical is being moved. An interior update like this is mostly about not getting caught wearing the 1970s polyester pantsuit when it's 2017.

What does this involve and why do it, even if you are planning to stay in your home another 50 years?

Sometimes we simply don't see what our home actually looks like. We've looked at the drapery so long, and paid so much for it years ago, we miss that it is in-

credibly outdated, even for a traditionalist.

Design is not a one-and-done type thing. Many homeowners think it is. It's not. Drapery has a life span. Tile backsplash has a life span. Even custom cabinets, have a life span.

Historic styles once considered sacred still need updates. Consider LED lighting or better water flow with a newer faucet. You source appropriate style-sensitive suppliers of course, and good places to start include appliances and windows that will reduce your electric or water bill.

Essentially we take a good hard look stylistically at what would better serve your lifestyle, especially financially. I know historic homes can turn into money pits, so let's do what we can with what we have access to.

For other homes, ask yourself, do our cabinets bang a bit? Do our windows open easily?

... continued on page D12

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Truly a Gardener's Paradise!

110 and 114 Cora Court | Walnut Creek

This incredible property provides a special respite from a busy world! Spacious living room with hardwood floors, wainscoting and Marvin windows. Craftsman-style kitchen opens to a cozy sitting room with a fireplace and a large light-filled family room. Rich wood windows and doors allow views of the park-like setting on .50 Acre. Bonus room can be a home office or playroom. French doors lead to a patio with a pretty bubbling fountain. Two large bedrooms share 1.5 bathrooms. A charming breezeway leads to a one-room au pair with a full bath and kitchenette. The back yard has meandering paths, a pretty arbor and an array of beautiful plants. Imagine the possibilities!



110 Cora Court
Offered at \$1,200,000



114 Cora Court is an adjacent .38 acre lot
Offered at \$400,000

Stylish Solutions

Give your interiors a March Makeover

... continued from page D12

Is the granite on our kitchen counters from 15 years ago? If so, consider those items to be on the list.

A great way to see what you seek is to peruse some of the Open Houses this next weekend. Ask yourself if you can see what has been updated versus what has not. Practice looking differently, at different price points.

Look and take note of tile. Look and take note of light fixtures and finishes. Look and take note of carpets. Then, go back to your own home and try to identify some of the items in your own home that need to be updated.

The first two things to consider which make, in my professional opinion, the biggest difference:

1) Wall texture and color. Are your walls in need of a “skim coat”? Perhaps you’ve never even noticed your wall texture before. Once you start to observe, you’ll become a resident expert and start to see how wall texture greatly affects the style of a space. Paint can cover a multitude of design sins, but it cannot ever make up for a dated texture.

After you get the texture right, paint. Colors do more than trend, as paint has come a long way in the past 10 years. The change in color is just the start. With better quality, you can update the inside of your home quickly.

I always recommend professional painters, as it is a true skill set. If you are budget conscious in this area, you may be able to help with some of the prep or furniture moving, but please leave the painting to the ones who do it 40-plus hours a week.

When we remodeled our home 10 years ago, we opted for a smooth texture everywhere except in the living and dining room, which we covered in a heavy antique texture. In our current spring clean, we had the entire area changed to a beautiful smooth coat. The new paint sings on the walls. I feel happy every time I walk in!

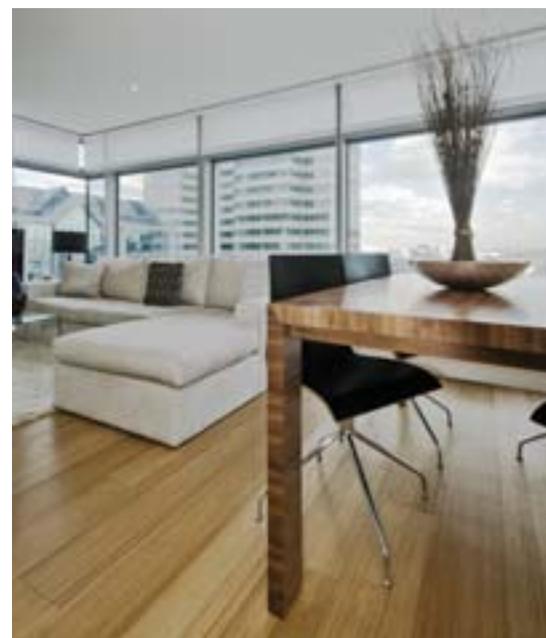
What rooms will you change?

Most painting contractors can handle the texture change, and will charge by the square foot. Be prepared, it can be messy, but oh so worth it! Look at the photos on page D10 to see progress in our home.

2) Lighting fixture updates. The other area we are updating is lighting fixtures. For a relatively inexpensive amount, you can update your look. The budget for lighting fixtures can be \$100 to \$300 per fixture on the low end, up to \$500 or more per fixture on the medium to high end. Certainly the sky’s the limit, but with the advent of Amazon Prime and other shopping sites, we can now source many brands online that were off limits to the consumer just five years ago via the design trade.

Next month we will be tackling the balance of the project and I will share photos of our progress again. I allotted four weeks to complete the entire project, and even with the rain, we are right on schedule.

Granted, this is what I do for a living, but even with careful planning, some things can be on back order. My team and I spent one week with a deep plan, and had three rooms as contingencies, meaning, if we ran over budget, we’d hold off on those rooms. I will let you know how it goes!



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.



March Gardening Guide

Go Gaelic green in the garden

By Cynthia Brian

“May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall softly on your fields.” — Irish Blessing



The bright white blossoms of a flowering pear tree.

Photos Cynthia Brian



A close up of the Peace Lily.



Red-veined dock, part of the Rumex genus, is an edible lemony-tasting sorrel.

Although I don't have an ounce of Irish in me, every March I get excited to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Besides the fact that the beloved rebirth of nature is officially only days away, my adoration of the Emerald Isle is deep-rooted. My good fortune as a child was to be taught for eight full years by dedicated, intelligent Irish nuns, and to be mentored by Irish priests who had my best interests at heart. I danced throughout California in an Irish dance troop and one of my best friends in the world is my Irish pen pal, whom I met through letters crossing the Atlantic at the age of eight. My Irish first-grade teacher and I are still in constant correspondence. She always told me she kept a leprechaun in her pocket just in case she needed a trick or two. Fortunately I've been blessed to spend many weeks with these friends in their very green country where I've been officially christened an "honorary Irish woman."

With the propensity of rain that we've enjoyed this past winter, our countryside is looking very much like the verdant island. As I look at the cattle grazing on the hill, I am reminded of my friend's dairy farm in Limerick where the rich milk goes to produce Bailey's Irish Cream. I milked those cows when I visited and was rewarded by a shower of hot manure on my hair. That was many years ago, but I'll never forget the smell... and the laughter.

Since that time, I have always grown shamrocks, which here in America we call oxalis, a noxious weed. Nevertheless, I have a major fondness for the bright yellow or pink flowers of these shamrocks as I seek the rare four-leaf clover pattern. For each petal on the shamrock a wish of good health, good luck, and eternal happiness are bestowed. I'll take all of the blessings and positive thoughts offered! If you are not a fan of shamrocks, plant baby tears in a shaded garden. They, too, are reminiscent of the Celtic spirit.

The good news is that spring is coming and with it an abundance of flowers and beauty. All you have to do is look around to witness the beautiful blossoms on pear and peach trees. My plums have already finished blooming and are leafing out. Rose bushes are budding. My calla lilies, daffodils, crocosimias, hyacinths and tulips are abloom, spreading their joy and fragrance throughout the landscape.

It's time to pull the weeds, prepare the soil, and get ready for a wonderful season of seeding and sowing.

May the luck of the Irish be with you!

Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for March

CUT budding branches from fruit trees to place in a vase to watch the petals open. Add a few drops of bleach to the water to prolong the blooms. A few sprigs of narcissus provide perfume to an entire room.

USE baby tears as a ground cover in shaded areas as a pretty green carpet.

CUT calla lilies to be used indoors in a vase. They will last two or more weeks as long as you replace the water regularly and add a drop of bleach or lemon juice to the water.

INVITE the wood nymphs, faeries, and leprechauns into your garden to help you with your chores by providing hiding places for these wee ones.

CLEANSE your indoor air with a container of peace lilies, also known as the sail plant.

FORAGE for wild greens including Miner's lettuce, mustard, creek watercress and wild strawberries. The young leaves are delicious in salads.

PULL weeds as soon as the rains terminate. Leave weeds on hillsides to prevent erosion until the end of next month.

PREPARE your soil for next month's planting by mixing your compost into the topsoil. Don't rototill unless you are creating a new garden bed as you don't want to disturb the existing ecosystem that surely contains many worms.

FERTILIZE lawns, trees and annuals with a high-nitrogen organic fertilizer. It's best to fertilize your lawns when you know it's going to rain to assure a deep feeding. The winter rains have definitely stripped our soil of nutrients making it necessary to boost the nutrition now. Remember to mow without the bag as the lawn cuttings are rich in nourishment for the grass.

TIME to reseed or sod lawns. My preferred grass seeds are purchased from Pearl's Premium. www.PearlsPremium.com. I also really like mixing in clover as it is self-fertilizing and always green. You do have to like having tiny white or pink flowers in your grass.

NET areas where you are seeding, both in gardens or grass. The birds will be voracious eaters if you don't protect your seedlings.

WEAR green on March 17 and pin a clover on your collar or the banshees will be coming for you.

BUY packets of seeds for vegetables, vines, herbs and flowers from companies you trust. Look for heirloom varieties and non-GMO. There are many companies to choose from including Renee's Garden, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Plant Delights Nursery, White Flower Farm, Select Seeds and many others.

CONTINUE to collect fallen camellias until the end of the blooming season. Do not let the dying or dead flowers remain on the ground or you'll jeopardize the mother plant.

PRE-ORDER my forthcoming garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts Series. All pre-orders will receive extra goodies such as heirloom seeds, bookmarks and more. Email me for details, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds benefit the 501c3 Be the Star You Are! charity.

RELEASE your perfection attitude in the garden. Take your cues from the chaos that is nature. Let it go and let it grow!

SING a lullaby, dream of castles, kiss the Blarney Stone, and celebrate the vernal equinox with an Irish jig.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andy and Wendy Scheck for 10 years of stellar publishing of the Lamorinda Weekly. I am honored and grateful to be a part of this elite writing team. Our community is better because of this newspaper. Thank you!



The bright blooms of crocosimias.



Raised beds with edible greens and lettuces.



A bed of Baby Tears.



Cynthia Brian

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Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at www.StarStyleRadio.net

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ORINDA

New Listing

31 Paintbrush Lane Beyond your "Wilder" dreams! .53 acre lot with views plus approved plans for a new 4,500-5,000 sq. ft. Swatt-Miers designed home. The hard work is done, get ready to build!

\$1,150,000



ORINDA

New Listing

5 La Sombra Court Charming East Coast style 2191 square foot home with 5 bedrooms, 2 baths on level half acre, small friendly court!

\$1,299,000



ORINDA

New Listing

220 Camino Sobrante Very special location on lake near town, commute, BART & Orinda Country Club. 4bd/4ba home with great layout for enjoying comfortable living & entertaining. Alluring, beautiful lot with sports court.

\$1,650,000

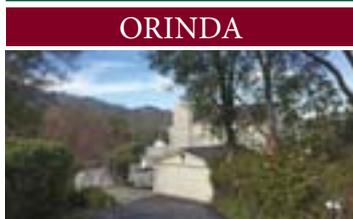


ORINDA

New Listing

109 Van Ripper Lane Don't miss this exquisitely remodeled 4bd/3ba single level Sleepy Hollow gem! Hardwood floors, stainless appliances and incredible master suite are just a few highlights. Come See!

\$1,975,000



ORINDA

36 El Patio 1st time on market in 50 years! Fabulous 5 bdrm estate home in heart of country club w/ gourmet kitchen/ family room, formal dining +detached guest cottage. Hdwd flrs, French drs, lovely grounds w/ adjacent vacant lot.

\$2,498,000



ORINDA

New Listing

23 Via Hermosa Exceptional craftsmanship of unparalleled quality join together in a breathtaking setting. 5-star resort atmosphere with yard, terraces, infinity pool & spa + forever views across valley to Mt. Diablo.

\$2,950,000

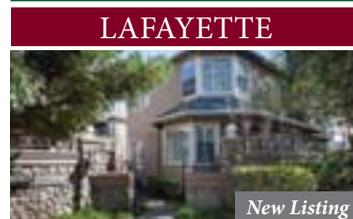


MORAGA

Coming Soon

392 Springfield Place Updated 2,374 sq.ft. 2 story traditional on a .227 acre corner lot - 4+bd/2.5ba w/hardwood floors, kitchen/family rm combo overlooking level yard. Close to award winning K-8 schools, hiking trails.

Call for Price

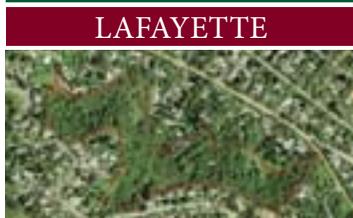


LAFAYETTE

New Listing

918A Dewing Avenue Lovely cottage style townhome with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, apx. 1245 sq. ft., high ceiling, detached garage. Excellent location, close to downtown Lafayette, BART. Top schools!

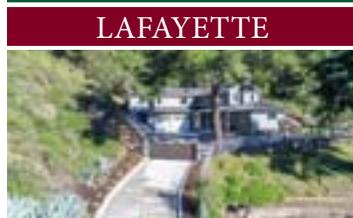
\$675,000



LAFAYETTE

3333 Hamlin Road Super opportunity on almost 20 acres. One of the last big parcels of land in Lafayette to develop. Truly a rare find of magnificent allure of beauty & close-in trail are appeal.

\$2,500,000



LAFAYETTE

1204 Glen Road Stunning new construction by SpringHill Homes boasts 4225 sf of exceptional open living spaces & beautifully landscaped level backyard on 2.06 acres with views in sought after Happy Valley Glen.

\$3,650,000

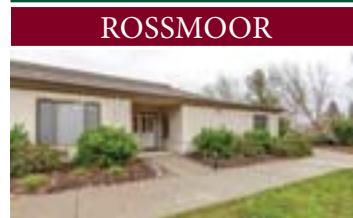


EL CERRITO

New Listing

2425 Mira Vista Drive Enjoy incredible views of the Golden Gate Bridge from this updated 1965 sq. ft. home with an open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a bonus room downstairs and a Bocce ball court!

\$799,000



ROSSMOOR

1908 Golden Rain #2 New Rossmoor Beauty! Updated and expanded 1325 square foot 2 bedroom, 2 bath Yosemite model. Level-in, light and bright end unit!

\$475,000



WALNUT CREEK

New Listing

114 Cora Court Flat .38 acre lot with incredible park-like setting in lovely neighborhood. Close to BART, freeway, shopping, Trail. Also, for sale separately is 110 Cora Court which is a 3+bd/2.5ba on .50 acre lot.

\$400,000

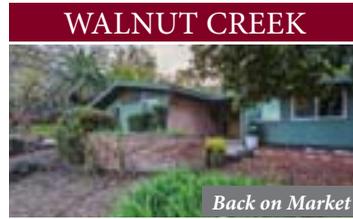


WALNUT CREEK

New Listing

1827 Holland Drive Beautiful 2 story townhome conveniently located near freeways, BART, & shopping. New paint, newer carpet, updated kitchen, indoor laundry, attached 2 car garage, 2 private patios.

\$559,000



WALNUT CREEK

Back on Market

215 Grover Lane Top location in desirable South Walnut Creek! Spacious 4bd/2ba rancher w/1928sf on a .44 acre lot w/privacy near end of cul-de-sac. Vaulted ceilings, kitchen/ family combo. Close to BART, top schools.

\$849,000



WALNUT CREEK

New Listing

110 Cora Court Beautiful 3+bd/2.5ba home including Au Pair on .50 acre. Also, for sale separately is 114 Cora Ct which is a flat .38 acre lot. Acalanes School District.

\$1,200,000

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