

## Lamorinda School Board Candidates as of August 10

(Information posted on the Contra Costa County Elections Division website)

### Acalanes Union High School District

Incumbents Gwen Reinke and Kathleen Coppersmith may be re-appointed in lieu of election because no additional candidates filed by the August 10 deadline.

### Lafayette School District

At least three candidates will vie for two seats on the Lafayette School District Governing Board: Jean Follmer (Community Volunteer), Quinlan Tom (Attorney), and Nancy Wallace (Community Volunteer). Because neither of the incumbents (Stephenie Teichman, Shayne Silva) filed for reelection by August 10, the nomination period remains open through today, August 15.

### Moraga School District

At least three candidates will vie for two seats on the Moraga School District Governing Board: Dexter Louie (Incumbent), Shari Simon (Business Consultant), and Parker Colvin (Investment Banker/Underwriter). Incumbent Dennis Kelleher did not file by August 10, so the deadline is extended until today, August 15.

### Orinda School District

At least three candidates will vie for two seats on the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees: Mathew Moran (Incumbent), Jason Lurie (Attorney/School Volunteer), and Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert (Educator/Mother). Incumbent Patricia Rudebusch did not file by August 10, so potential candidates have until today, August 15, to file nomination papers.

## Geese Must Go

By Sophie Braccini



Bessenyei's geese prepare for the ride to their new home.

Photo Andy Schreck

The final deadline for Frank Bessenyei's geese was Tuesday, August 7. By the end of the day, they had to be gone from their owner's property.

According to Mark Robbins, Lafayette Enforcement Officer, the city had tried for several months to work with Bessenyei to find other housing for the geese after a neighbor complained, but no one could provide an alternative. "We don't want to force him to euthanize them," said Robbins, "but the prop-

erty is in a R10 district (residential with no farm animal or fowl of any type); if someone complains, we have to enforce the code."

Bessenyei was quite upset when we talked to him on the morning of the deadline. "These are my babies," he said. "They follow me everywhere. I could never kill them." Bessenyei says he's called everywhere to try to find a place for his Canadian geese, but nobody wanted them. He had trouble understanding why he had to

get rid of the geese. "They don't bother anybody," added the man who has lived in the same one-plus acre property in Lafayette for 43 years, and has had the geese at his home for the past four. "This is a very sad story, these geese are a couple and they are mates for life."

Later that day, Bessenyei personally removed the geese from his property and released them in a local wildlife environment. He wishes them well and hopes to see them again.

## Late Bloomers for Everyone Young at Heart

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

Alps, the quiet little villages, the pretty old ladies in traditional costume, always neat and proper. We hold on to the image of green peaceful Switzerland, but something is brewing in the Alps, and in Bettina Oberli's movie the proper old ladies want to get free of social rigidities and start a new life, no matter what people say. The fresh and charming movie will take you on a delightful trip, full of optimism and tenderness. It's never too late to bloom!

Martha, in her 80s, lives in Trub, the Emmental village where she was born (German speaking Switzerland). Since her husband died, she has lost her joie de vivre. Even her best friends, Lisi, Hanni and Frieda, are at a loss to cheer her up. But one day, as she visits a fabric store in the nearby town, Martha understands that she longs to resume her ancient practice as a seamstress, a profession she once mastered.

With the help of her three friends, she decides to transform her late husband's grocery store into the lingerie shop she's always dreamed of, in spite of her son's opposition. He would like to use the space himself.

Soon Martha's new found freedom spreads to her friends, but the village's church leaders and politicians don't agree with the emancipation of the older generation. What is an old lady doing starting a business, and something so frivolous to boot? Village puritans soon set out to destroying Martha's dream.

The charming Swiss comedy mixes humor and melancholia. The cast is perfect. Martha is played by Stephanie Glaser, who's in her 80s. Her touching interpretation won her a Leading Role nomination at the Swiss film festival. Her friends are just as believable as well as the male characters, who are all taken aback by Martha's late blooming.

The film was one of the biggest commercial successes in the history of the Swiss movie industry, and has been entered as a contender in this year's Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category.

*Late Bloomers* will play in Orinda for one week starting on August 24, as part of the International Film Showcase that brings foreign films not yet released in the Bay Area to Lamorinda. For more information and tickets visit lamorindatheatre.com.

## THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

**App:** Pandora, by Pandora Media Incorporated  
**For:** All smart phones  
**Price:** Free

Would you love to have your own personalized music station?

One of the best ways to discover new songs or artists with a specific style of music is to use Pandora radio on your iPhone or Android phone. You sign up for this free app with your email and choose a password for easy access. With Pandora, each time you input the names of your favorite songs, artists, comedians, or composers, Pandora searches for others that are similar in style or genre. A separate station is created

specifically for you for that particular style of music or genre of comedy and you are allowed to design up to 100 different stations. You can add an artist or multiple artists and songs for a broader variety of recommendations.

When a new song airs, you have the opportunity to "like," "dislike," or "skip" it. If you like it or dislike it, your playlist will be tailored to your specifications even more. If you skip it, then the song simply changes without affecting your playlist—but keep in mind that you are allowed only a

limited number of skips per day.

Whether you log in from your computer or your smart phone, all of your stations are saved and uploaded. Another useful feature is the ability to download a favorite song that you've heard and liked at a later date.

For music and comedy buffs, it doesn't get much better than Pandora; it's a free ticket to personal performances.

*Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miramonte High School and on-air reporter for the teen radio program, Express Yourself!™*

## TEEN SCENE

### Siren Calls of Careers Tantalize Teens on Journey Fueled by Indecision

By Julie Khidekel

Acalanes High School senior Megan Ellery is a wanderer. Unlike many of her peers who have concrete plans for their distant futures – college course selections, majors, and meal times included – Ellery is unsure of where her future will lead her. In a society where many pre-teens already have specific dreams of entering the field of medicine or the fast-paced world of professional sports, Ellery seeks to embrace the freedom that comes with youth and not constrain herself to a particular career.

"There is way too much pressure on high school students to decide what career path they want to follow," said Ellery. "The pressure is especially taxing and unnecessary due to the fact that kids at that age constantly change their minds and interests, and therefore are generally unfit to make such concrete decisions."

Such pressure rears its head in a variety of forms, but typically instills the same fear among teens grappling with indecision. From headstrong students who plan to become Astrobiologists to the countless talk of jobs, majors, and career fairs that pervades the high school scene, students who don't have a definitive plan for the future often feel alienated.

"This pressure gets to me and many of my friends especially around this time of year when we start applying to colleges," said Campolindo High School senior Mimi Ericson. "I always feel like I'm not good enough to live up to the expectations that are put on kids in high school. This stress also causes me to question potential careers because I feel like it might be better in the long run to pick another that would give me more money and so-called greater success in life."

But, while some students find this pressure to be destructive and unnecessary, others thrive on it.

"I'll end up with an engineering or science degree and just roll with it, taking whatever job I get that isn't too dull," said Acalanes senior Erich Ellsworth, already anticipating a career in science.

According to Ellery, high school career dreams are by no means iron-clad. While the pressure to choose a career shows no signs of relenting, students and ideas change daily. Teens who preach their devotion to the world of finance one day may find themselves pursuing performance art or accepting indecision the next.

"Bottom line, I still have time to decide," said Ellery. "Societal pressures or not, anything can happen."

*Julie Khidekel is an Acalanes High School senior. She is Editor-in-Chief of the Acalanes Blueprint newspaper and loves Lafayette.*



Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

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