

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Bringing Back the Natives Goes Hands On

By Sophie Braccini



The Sorensons' creek restoration

It is quite remarkable, driving along Sleepy Hollow streets on the way to Bob and Stephanie Sorenson's, to witness the number of homes that have foregone front lawns for native/Mediterranean/low-irrigation plant displays. While most of them are not part of this year's annual Bringing Back the Natives Tour on May 5, they are testimony to Lamorinda residents' growing desire to save water and conform to native vegetation.

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour encourages such efforts, allowing residents a way to

visit some of the most beautiful native gardens around. This year there will also be a series of hands-on 'Select Tours' offered before and after the free self-guided tour, where participants can learn techniques to help them create their own native gardens.

"I had the idea of the Select Tours for people who want to see more gardens or who want to learn something about a specific theme," says tour organizer Kathy Kramer. "The objective is to help people move ahead, on their own." For example, six months ago the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour held



The Home Designer with Brandon Neff ...read on page D8

a "Mow no Mo'!" sheet mulching workshop at Craig Somberg's garden in Lafayette, and 1,750 square feet of lawn disappeared in one day.

Kramer said that people came with their gloves and shovels to help and to learn how to do it. Afterward, Somberg's garden was ready for drip irrigation and a Smart Timer to be installed, and for the plants to get into the ground.

There are some old favorites on this year's tour, like Al Kyte's garden in Moraga. Kyte has been a native gardener for 40 years and has a wealth of information. There are also several new Lamorinda participants on the tour, including the Sorensons.

Bob Sorenson was raised in Orinda and grew up by a creek; he moved to his current house in 1989. "I wanted to buy a home with a creek and to be part of nature," he said. "The creek behind my house must have been grazed by cattle at some point and was invaded by weeds. I started learning about the native plants and over the years replaced the weeds with natives."

It took Sorenson 10 years to restore the creek to its original state. As he learned about native plants, Sorenson also collected seeds in the San Pablo watershed and learned to propagate the plants. Once the creek project was complete, he started talking to his wife about replacing the front lawn.

At first she was happy with the European-looking front lawn, but as her desire to attract birds and wildlife to her garden grew, she learned that native plants are the best way to do it. "She gave me the okay 18 months ago," said Sorenson. He planted native oaks as the backbone of the garden. Then Sorenson started collecting more seeds and propagating more plants. ...continued on page D4

Lynn Molloy

presents:



Stunning Mediterranean Orinda Country Club Estate



This magnificent 5-bedroom home, custom built in 1997, features the finest of finishes, from European oak floors to imported stone tiles from Jerusalem. The professional chef's kitchen and adjacent family room look out on to the large level terra cotta patio, garden, infinity pool, and fabulous designer guest house with its own full kitchen, bath, and fireplace. This secluded estate features soaring beamed ceilings, large master bedroom with private balcony overlooking gardens and pool, temperature-controlled 1,000 bottle wine cellar, and splendid wood and iron work throughout. Additionally, the spacious living room, bedrooms, and raised dining room offer views of the lush flower gardens, mature Oaks, lovely Orinda hills, and beautiful fountains all surrounding the property. Don't miss the usable sport court and majestic flagstone path that winds through the garden up to the home's stately entrance.



Offered at \$2,750,000

Call for your private viewing of this truly grand country club estate.



DRE # 01910108

Lynn Molloy
925.818.7620

www.lynnmolloy-realestate.com

The Beaubelle Group
Coldwell Banker's #1 Group in the East Bay

©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$660,000	\$3,190,000
MORAGA	8	\$305,000	\$1,575,000
ORINDA	8	\$809,000	\$2,019,000

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, 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

25 Amber Lane, \$720,000, 3 Bdrms, 2398 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$220,000, 09-27-88

3197 Andreasen Drive, \$1,335,000, 5 Bdrms, 2972 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 3-13-13

3477 Black Hawk Road, \$1,810,000, 5 Bdrms, 2798 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 3-22-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 10-23-08

3645 Boyer Circle, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,495,000, 05-01-07

3960 Franke Lane, \$1,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 3305 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 3-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$250,000, 04-23-84

3517 Hamlin Road #A, \$1,680,000, 6 Bdrms, 3508 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$45,000, 01-02-98

3674 Happy Valley Road, \$3,190,000, 3 Bdrms, 5242 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 3-22-13;

Previous Sale: \$3,650,000, 10-12-06

23 Julie Highlands Court, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1998 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,170,000, 04-15-02

815 Las Trampas Road, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 3382 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 3-13-13

914 Oak Street, \$660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1971 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$860,000, 06-22-05

1699 Pleasant Hill Road, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 1860 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 3-14-13

437 Ponderosa Court, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3396 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$300,000, 03-07-05

3219 Rohrer Drive, \$875,000, 4 Bdrms, 1711 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 3-13-13;

Previous Sale: \$625,000, 07-30-12

3399 St. Marys Road, \$725,500, 3 Bdrms, 1882 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$384,000, 09-16-98

3182 Teigland Road, \$680,000, 5 Bdrms, 3229 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$130,000, 01-31-92

MORAGA

722 Augusta Drive, \$710,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 3-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$748,000, 10-29-07

86 Brookfield Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 3-20-13

35 Merrill Circle #S, \$1,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 3263 SqFt, 1991 YrBl, 3-25-13;

Previous Sale: \$739,000, 08-27-91

128 Miramonte Drive, \$550,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$457,500, 09-20-10

50 Sarah Lane, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 3687 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$167,500, 02-21-80

26 Williams Drive, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2557 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 3-14-13;

Previous Sale: \$906,000, 02-27-04

ORINDA

67 Alta Vista Drive, \$1,267,500, 3 Bdrms, 2199 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 3-14-13;

Previous Sale: \$565,000, 04-08-97

105 Ascot Court #B, \$305,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 3-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$175,000, 07-09-93

657 Augusta Drive, \$690,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 3-15-13

28 Bates Boulevard, \$949,000, 3 Bdrms, 1865 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$960,000, 09-29-06

9 Bel Air Drive, \$2,019,000, 6 Bdrms, 4013 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,802,000, 02-25-04

49 Dolores Way, \$809,000, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-12-13

172 Ivy Drive, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-13-13;

Previous Sale: \$660,000, 06-30-03

25 La Cintilla, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2550 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 3-19-13

41 La Cresta Road, \$955,000, 3 Bdrms, 1823 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$905,000, 06-14-07

428 Miner Road, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2384 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-22-13

KAREN RICHARDSON PRESENTS



3334 Ridge Road, Lafayette
List Price \$1,399,000



3933 Woodside Court, Lafayette
\$1,075,000



Karen Richardson
(925) 639-3904

Karen@karenrichardsongroup.com
www.karenrichardsongroup.com
DRE#01407557



Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette 65 Acres
\$2,795,000



Arbor View Estates, Lafayette
New Construction – Call For Pricing



THANK YOU LAMORINDA
MOMS FOR VOTING THE
KAREN RICHARDSON GROUP
~ **BEST REALTOR 2013!**

*We feel honored to work and live in such
an amazing community!*



Happy Valley Rd, Lafayette
New Construction – Call For Price



6850 Elverton Drive, Oakland
\$1,650,000



KAREN RICHARDSON GROUP
KRG


ALAIN PINEL
REAL ESTATE





Bringing Back the Natives

...continued from page D1

"I propagated 6,000 plants over a one-year period," he said. "Ninety percent of the plants in my front yard meadow I grew myself." All the Ruch Grass of the front lawn came from the propagation of a single plant that was growing in the creek.

At this time of year, the front yard is a lush and charming tapestry of greens and little flowers. Cow parsnips (Hera-

cleum maximum) are about to bloom and are quite dramatic.

"The garden will change over the year; that's what native gardens do," said Sorenson. "In six months we'll cut the grasses back and it will come back next spring. It will keep evolving." Sorenson added that he does not plan to water the garden and just lets it "do its thing."

place her own front lawn with a beautiful native flower display.

"(The Sorenson's) garden is a fine example of the creativity of the people in our region," said Kramer. "Every year I feel blessed to discover new gardens, some of them that have been planted by people who came to the Tour a few years ago." Last year the Tour attracted more than 6,000 visitors; 14,257 garden visits were made on the day of the tour.

According to Kramer, 75 percent of registrants who attended a previous Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour said they changed their gardening practices because of their participation.

Kramer is not surprised by the spread of the native gardens in our region, even if it is not yet considered the standard look. "A four-year study of water use, green waste generation, maintenance hours, and maintenance labor costs between a traditional garden and a California native plant garden was conducted by the city of Santa Monica," she says.

...continued on page D5



**ADVANCE
TREE SERVICE
& Landscaping**

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



*Your friendly neighborhood
arborists Darren and Lew Edwards*

SITE FACTORS

Site factors have significant influence on both the likelihood and consequences of tree failure. When our ISA certified arborist from Advance Tree Service comes to perform a free risk assessment, the site is often first evaluated for targets and consequences of failure. Site factors that can be used to evaluate the likelihood of tree failure impacting the target include the history of previous failures. This includes branch, trunk, root, and soil failure. Wind and other natural winter conditions can be a high risk factor as well. So don't wait until it's too late, Call your local ISA certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree needs.

*Advance Tree Service
Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.*





925-376-6528
advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

*Follow us on Twitter (advancetree) and like us on Face Book
(ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.)*



Flowers in Elizabeth O'Shea's garden in Orinda



The Sorensons' front yard

Drainage Systems

- Standing Water Problems Eliminated
- Sump Pump Service, Repairs & Replacement
- Drainage Inspections & Reports
- Retaining Walls
- Grading



The first and only
Company in the Bay
Area Offering a **5 Year**
No Standing Water Under
the House Guarantee*



visit us on
Facebook

925-944-5263

drainagepros.com

Ex. 410

Lic. #512288





A+ rated

*Our 5 year guarantee is offered to qualified clients who follow our repair recommendations completely



"Mow no Mo" residents tear up Craig Somberg's lawn

"The results of this study showed that the native garden used one tenth of the water that the traditional garden did; generated less than 40 percent of the green waste; took 20 percent of the time to maintain; and cost 75 percent less to maintain than the traditional garden." (See <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Garden-Garden.aspx>).

Registration for the free tour closes April 27. This allows Kramer to send every participant a guide that includes the garden addresses, maps and directions as well as a schedule of presentations offered that day. This year, a walk-in sign up was added at the Kyte house, 57 Corliss Dr. in Moraga, where people can pick up the guide to continue the tour from there.

Cost for Select Tours – "How to Install a Netafim Drip Irrigation System and SmartTimer, Plant California Natives, and Receive up to \$500 for Doing So!" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 18 and "How to Remove your Lawn, Select Native Plants, and Design a Water-conserving, Pesticide-free Garden That Attracts Wildlife" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 19 – is \$30 per person/tour. Pre-registration for Select Tours is mandatory.

For more information and to register, visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks



family owned since 1933

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

DESIGN
INSTALLATION
IRRIGATION
DRAINAGE
STONWORK
CONCRETE WORK
DECKS
FENCES
PATIOS
LAWNS
PONDS
CLEANUP &
HAULING

BLUE RIDGE



925-258-9233
CELL: 510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.

BLUE JAY FELDMAN
OWNER/OPERATOR

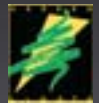
WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM



LICENSED
INSURED
Lic# 818633

Get Out & Stay Out!

In Your New Outdoor Room



Let Garden Lights Landscape Development give you good reason to "Get Out and Stay Out" this summer.



Enlarge your living area with an outdoor kitchen or entertainment space complete with a built in barbecue and the warm glow of a stone or masonry fireplace.

Garden Lights Landscape Development, Inc. is a full service landscape & pool design build firm. We design & install with just one call 925-254-4797 • www.gardenlightslandscape.com

Celebrating over 20 years of service in Lamorinda. Bonded – Licensed & Insured License# 702845 C27 & C53

Lana Fitzpatrick

Coldwell Banker Top 100 Realtor
presents:

Single Level Mediterranean in Sonsara, A Rare Gem

57 Parson Brown Ct., Moraga



Exquisite 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home, custom-designed with all the upgrades Taylor-Woodrow had to offer, including a sparkling pool with an elevated hot tub and cascading waterfalls. An inviting entry courtyard boasts Spanish tile and a wood-burning fireplace. Striking architectural details include arched walkways and wooden windows. Gourmet eat-in kitchen with an oversized center island, opens to family room. Truly a must see. **Offered at \$1,495,000.**



Lana Fitzpatrick

Mobile: (925) 872-4660

Email: lane.fitzpatrick@camoves.com

www.lanafitzpatrick.com

DRE # 01805218

Lana Fitzpatrick,
Top 100 Realtor



©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304.

KPG

KURT PIPER GROUP
REALTORS RECOMMENDED FOR A REASON

BURTON VALLEY BEAUTY!



621 Lancaster Drive, Lafayette

- Remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch-style home
- Gorgeous gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room
- Hardwood floors, crown moldings & wood doors
- Spacious single level floor plan
- Professionally landscaped flat .27± acre lot
- A long list of features & improvements



Offered at **\$1,050,000**

www.KurtPiperGroup.com

925.818.8000

MANZONETEAM.COM

MANZONE

REAL ESTATE TEAM

In the business of making dreams a reality.

Let Michele and Leslie's experience, expertise, leadership, passion and dedication to their clients and bettering the industry, guide you to your real estate goals and dreams.

If you are thinking of selling or finding the perfect home contact The Manzone Team today!

925.253.7027

ManzoneTeam@gmail.com



Michele Manzone
Leslie Dopp-Manzone
Realtor®, GRI, CRS, CDPE

CA DRE # 01028002 / 01120753

The RE/MAX Collection

925.283.9200



Danville ~ Wonderful updated 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath home with over 2700 sq ft. Walking distance to 12 years of top ranked schools. Large kitchen with huge center island perfect for entertaining. Hardwood floors, crown moulding, dual pane windows. Private backyard w/pool and built in bar-be-que. **\$1,150,000**

Gretchen Bryce ~ 925.683.2477
gretchenbryce@msn.com



Lafayette ~ Just Listed ~ Gorgeous Makeover!
Spacious floor-plan at nearly 3000 square feet. 4 bedroom, 2.5 remodeled baths, formal dining, 2 fireplaces, 3-car garage, new kitchen, vaulted ceilings, indoor atrium, views, walk to town! Call Bruce for a personal showing! **Asking: Low \$Mil-**

Bruce Lesser ~ 925.788-6020
Www.BruceLesser.com



Alhambra Valley, Martinez ~ Scenic 56 acre private parcel backs to open space on two sides. Beautiful views, abundance of majestic trees, a variety of wonderfully secluded building sites, electronic gated entry, possibly sub-dividable. available to the public for the first time! Shown by appointment only. Call today for more information. **\$1,999,950**

The Pereira Team ~ John & Dianne ~ 925.297.0321
ThePereiraTeam@aol.com



Briones ~ Coming Soon! Charming smaller home on 2.9 acres in the inviting Briones community. Just minutes from Orinda, you find yourself in a peaceful country setting—a true escape from the busy lifestyle of the city. This property has a collector's garden of special plants, abundant fruit trees, beautiful lush creek setting and spacious level land. Call for more information! **\$825,000**



RE/MAX[®] ACCORD

www.remaxaccord.com

With over 400 Associates in 9 offices throughout the East Bay, RE/MAX Accord is your first choice for home buying and selling. And with connections to more than 87,000 RE/MAX Associates in over 80 countries, nobody in the world sells more real estate than RE/MAX. Outstanding Agents. Outstanding Results.



The Home Designer

Do Your Homework

By Brandon Neff

In light of the current job market, millions of Americans are still out of work, and many Bay Area professionals are choosing to launch their own home-based businesses and take the reins of their employment futures firmly into their own hands. If we are asked to make lemonade out of lemons (and this is shaping up to be another banner lemon of a year economically), then regaining control of your own destiny is key to navigating this lopsided economy. Truly, home offices are quickly becoming both a necessity and a refuge. If you're like many of your contemporaries, and looking to take back some power, I have a few tips on how to create a work space at home to keep you competitive with all of those C-level posers on Wall Street. So, before you go back to that card table you call a home office, take some A-list design inspiration and create yourself a comfortable and beautiful space to build your empire.

Keeping your at-home, work zone comfortable, yet practical and chic is the key to successfully creating an office that can help you grow your business. However, as most home offices need to fulfill several functions – like guest bedroom, dining room or the space you store your better half's family heirlooms – interior real estate is usually at a premium, and knowing how to effectively lay out your room is key. Read on.

Stay focused. It's important to keep visual clutter to a minimum. Choose storage boxes in one color for all of your magazines, receipts and office supplies – russellandhazel.com offers great, colorful options. These can be displayed on your desk or shelving – keeping needed papers at the ready – while giving you easy clean up at the end of your tasks. If, like many, your office doubles as the family dining table, keeping your office clutter under wraps will help you take a visual break from your office responsibilities while not at work. Most importantly, respect your home office, and the sacred space you've created, by separating work activities from home activities while on the clock. Minimizing distractions will increase productivity and allow you to accomplish your professional goals.

...continued on page D10



Create a relaxing and beautiful work zone without a desk - just add your laptop or tablet.

Photo courtesy Brandon Neff Design



Real estate with a difference.

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

"We had difficulties selling our home with another real estate agent in the recent market. After a great deal of consideration, we contacted Team Rothenberg. It was the best decision we could have made. Ron and Susan are incredible professionals who handled the marketing and sale of our house with an uncanny understanding of the market. They navigated through sales complications flawlessly and handled even the most difficult issues perfectly. The house was sold within a month. Not only did they work with the best staging companies in the area to present our home in the most favorable manner, but they have a good understanding of what needs to be done to close a deal successfully. We wish we knew about them earlier. It would have saved us almost a year of frustration. They are both utterly honest, knowledgeable, and hard working -- the best real estate team in the Bay Area."

F. Schlatter, MD, Lafayette, CA - 2012
Emergency Room Physician

"Ron, Susan and their team provide a comprehensive, very professional approach to residential real estate valuation, marketing, make-ready, contract negotiation, and deal closure. Ron has an MBA in marketing. Susan absolutely has her finger on the pulse of cost effective street appeal, and both of them know the Lafayette market intimately and have no realistic competitor in its vicinity. Their team cheerfully and capably shepherds all details and processes to successful conclusion. Their integrity is unquestionable and they are painfully conscientious. We have both bought a home for which they were listing agents and sold that home with them as listing agents. I believe that they obtained the best possible price for the seller within time parameters set by the owner in both instances (during both the market peak in the first instance and the market bottom in the latter) and always remained focused on getting the deal done, despite the inevitable emotionalism of both buyers and sellers in a residential real estate transaction. Every member of the team is continuously available by e-mail, text and cell phone and the client always knows who is on the pitcher's mound for the team and who is fielding the fly balls. I recommend them without reservation and am an experienced homeowner, having bought and sold seven homes."

James Florey, MD and Pat Gary, MD, Lafayette, CA - 2010



Ron and Susan Rothenberg
Lisa Quiros
925.286.5530
info@teamrothenberg.com
www.TeamRothenberg.com
DRE# 01309986 | 00857547 | 01420876



A Member Of Real Living



The Home Designer

...continued from page D8



Create a corner office of your own using comfortable furnishings and plenty of natural light.

Photo courtesy Brandon Neff Design

Go for color. Choose an inspired wall color to increase your productivity. Studies show that women feel depressed in offices painted white, beige or gray, so stick to hues that turn up the energy volume. By the way, orange and purple tend to turn off the guys. Greens, soft blues and yellows, along with rich reds, both invigorate the mind and increase imagination and focus. Try painting just one wall a revved-up shade as a focal point, or take that color even higher and paint the ceiling. Additionally, set up your desk next to natural light – artificial lighting tends to dull productivity, and can stress your nerves after prolonged periods. However, where bulbs are unavoidable, dim the lights – run, don't walk to your local hardware store

and buy a dimmer. Good lighting is essential in an office, and making sure you can control the brightness is key when transitioning from day to evening. Skip the fluorescents, and get halogen bulbs – they more closely mimic natural daylight – giving you and your office a prettier glow. Better yet, for a sexier office try amber bulbs – instant facelift!

Make it personal. Take advantage of creating a work environment that's designed just for you by keeping furnishings, decorative objects and art that you enjoy close at hand. I believe how you work is inspired by where you work, and how you live. Choosing to set up shop at home gives you the opportunity to create a work environment that brings out your best. Personalize your work space with things you love. Look, you can't keep your head buried in your desk all day, so surround yourself with photographs and mementos that make you smile when you come up for air. If you're sharing the space with your partner, ask him or her to incorporate meaningful pieces to harmonize your individual tastes.

Do double duty. If your office also serves as the guest/media/ironing/needlepoint room, choose furniture that serves two purposes. Smaller scale sofas that double as sleepers, or futon-style chairs that unfold offer you a place to sit and catch up on reference reading by day, and offer your unexpected visitor a place to crash. Look for smaller-sized pieces known as "condo" scale furniture that allows you more options for a floor plan that suits your needs. Also, as technology improves, and smaller, more portable devices are available, you may choose to do away with a traditional desk and chair set up, and build an office around a cozy chair and ottoman – hey, if you're going to work in your pajamas you might as well be reclining! (This is meant to be a joke; if you're not willing to dress appropriately for your profession, even at home, you're not taking it seriously.)

Go back in the closet. If space is really limited, annex your closet as a cozy office niche. Remove the doors, slide in a stylish desk, install simple shelving in place of the clothing rod and voila! For added light, mount plug-in adjustable sconces over the desk to save space. And, for even tighter spaces many furniture sellers are producing freestanding armoires that transform into a workstation with storage – just add a comfy desk chair.

As always, purchase the best quality you can afford, and don't scrimp on treating yourself to a little luxury - a simple sterling cup to hold paperclips, or a stack of monogrammed note cards will remind you of your victories along the path of your own private, corporate ladder.

*Brandon Neff is a
Bay Area based
Interior Designer.
He can be reached at
BrandonNeffDesign.com or at
brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com.*



COMING SOON IN ORINDA!



Stylish 5BR/3BA home in the sought-after Glorietta neighborhood. Updated throughout with hardwood floors, dual pane windows, bonus room plus separate artist studio. Secluded setting on 1.66± acres with level yard and beautiful views. Great location just minutes to Glorietta Elementary School and Meadow Swim & Tennis Club via natural trail.



VIRGINIA & PAUL RATTO

925.998.9501
vvarni@pacunion.com
www.Varni-Ratto.com
DRE# 00900621 | 01361537



Finola Fellner and
Lynn Molloy
present:

The
Beaubelle Group

Spanish Mediterranean Country Club Residence



Beautifully situated on Lake Cascade, this approx.4900 Sq Ft home resides on .68 acres, designed by architect Alan Page and built by award winning Mark Bohon, exceptional finishes adorn its five bedrooms, four full and two half baths, private office, four fireplaces and 3 car garage. This incredible retreat is surrounded by lovely gardens, mature oaks, a small vineyard and large level lawn. The perfect setting for formal or casual living in the coveted Country Club neighborhood.

Price upon request. Call for your private showing.



Finola Fellner

925.890.7807

www.FinolaFellner.com

DRE # 01428834



Lynn Molloy

925.818.7620

www.lynnmolloy-realestate.com

DRE # 01910108



©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304

WWW.HOLCENBERG.COM

Client satisfaction: a family tradition

Don't Miss This One: 5-Bedroom Single-Story on Cul-de-Sac



314 Draeger Drive, Moraga



This one-story Rheem Valley Manor home has one of the nicest settings around. Situated on a cul-de-sac on more than .40 acres, it features 5 bedrooms and a 3-car-garage. The kitchen/family room open to the yard with lawn, patio, pool & basketball hoop. It has hardwood flooring and new paint and carpet. Come and enjoy the bells of St. Marys and the views of hillsides in this tranquil setting.

Offered at \$1,150,000



Wendy Holcenberg

wendy@holcenberg.com

925.253.4630

DRE#00637795

Michelle Holcenberg

michelle@holcenberg.com

925.253.4663

DRE#01373412



©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304

Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm.



22 Muth Drive
Diamond in the rough with good bones, newer roof, gutters, & exterior paint. Large rooms, hardwood floors in bedrooms. Living Room, Formal Dining area, large Family Room w/brick fireplace & access to patio & backyard w/pool. **Offered at \$779,000**



22 Valencia Road
Spacious 4+ bedroom/3 bath home with hardwood floors, beautiful front & back brick patios, and large yard. Master with fireplace. Located near 12 years of schools. **Offered at \$995,000**



84 Van Ripper Lane
Situated in desirable Sleepy Hollow, remodeled w/ top quality & design. LR has wall of glass windows overlooking patio & pool. Updated kitchen w/granite counters & top of the line appliances. Great home for working couples. **Offered at \$1,325,000**



9 Las Piedras
Picturesque private estate in a park like setting. Views, level lawn and recreational pool. Classic custom home with vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, and hardwood floors. **Offered at \$1,595,000**



52 Oak Drive
Enchanting 1939 Vintage Home on a beautiful oak studded 1.4 ac lot. 4+bd/4ba, hardwood floors, dual pane windows, large master suite with sitting/office. Beautiful pool area, fabulous views. Close to 12 yrs of award winning schools. **Offered at \$1,595,000**



2 Valley View Drive
Landmark home! 5 Bd., 3 Ba. over 3800 sq ft on .60 acres. Updated & gorgeous. Elegant living & dining, gourmet eat-in kit, huge family room w/bonus rm. Large yard w/patios, play areas. 1940's elegance w/modern amenities. **Offered at \$1,595,000**



4 El Sueno
Custom built 4bd/4.5ba, 3745sf home of the highest quality w/exceptional attn. to detail. Rooms are extra-large, walls of wndws & craftsmanship. In-law qtrs w/kitchenette & bath. Spectacular parcel in club on hole 7 w/vus & privacy. **Offered at \$1,899,000**



201 Glorietta Blvd.
Stunning 4400 sq ft 5bd/4.5ba Spanish hacienda beautifully updated with handmade tile roof, hardwood floors, central courtyard. Fabulous granite and stainless kitchen. Gorgeous one acre with sweeping lawns, terrace, pool. **Offered at \$2,195,000**



65 La Espiral
Updated 4bd/4ba with beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/privacy, fully fenced. Tuscanian ambience, European flair. **Offered at \$2,195,000**



68 Singingwood Lane
Orinda Downs! Exquisite 6bd/5.5ba Architect's Home, cul-de-sac, over 5,000 sq. ft., 1.7 acres, soaring ceilings, views, level lawn/ patio, lush landscape. First time on market in 21 years. **Offered at \$2,750,000**



349 Tharp Drive
Remodeled, turnkey 4bd/3ba, 2470 sq.ft. rancher on a level .24 acre lot with pool, patio & lawn. Gourmet kitchen with center granite island, HW floors, cathedral ceilings & more! Entertainers dream home. **Offered at \$1,050,000**



3394 Angelo Street
Charming 1700 sq ft, 3 bedroom 1.5 baths on .4 level acre, small court setting. Original owners, 1950's cutie that would love to be updated. **Offered at \$784,000**



3216 Judith Lane
Lovely classic 3bd/2ba ranch home. Beautiful family room with hardwood floors, vaulted ceiling, French sliders to large level lawn. Expansive side yard. Gorgeous sunset views! Jog to trail. **Offered at \$799,000**



3925 N. Peardale Drive
Happy Valley great neighborhood, beautiful .3 acre lot and setting. Charming 3bd/3ba. Master & Office. Glass doors to gorgeous backyard. Top schools. **Offered at \$1,050,000**



1274 Shell Circle
Beautiful townhome in Chapparal Springs situated on the 15th fairway of Oakhurst Golf Club. Features are an open floor plan w/high ceilings, new paint, dual pane windows, spacious deck in garden-like setting on the golf course. **Offered at \$369,000**



2050 Shell Ridge Trail
Northgate Vineyard Estate with Gated 1.08 Acres, Grand main house, gorgeous grounds, guest/ party house with movie theatre, diner style game room + newer salt-water pool, 5-car garage. **Offered at \$2,400,000**

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby
Patricia Battersby
Joan Cleveland
Shannon Conner
Joan Eggers
Linda Ehrlich
Joan Evans
Linda S Friedman
Marianne Greene
Dexter Honens II
Anne Knight
Susan Zeh Layng
Art Lehman
Charles Levine
April Matthews
Karen Murphy
Ben Olsen
Sue Olsen
Tara Rochlin
Jaime Roder
Altie Schmitt
Judy Schoenrock
Ann Sharf
Amy Rose Smith
Molly Smith
Jeff Snell
Lynda Snell
Clark Thompson
Angie Evans Traxinger
Ignacio Vega
Terri Bates Walker
Ann Ward
Dan Weil
Margaret Zucker

Visit www.villageassociates.com
to see our weekly online previews.
Click on **Sunday Open House**
Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings



93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 Orinda, CA 94563
(925) 254-0505 or 1-866-856-VARE

