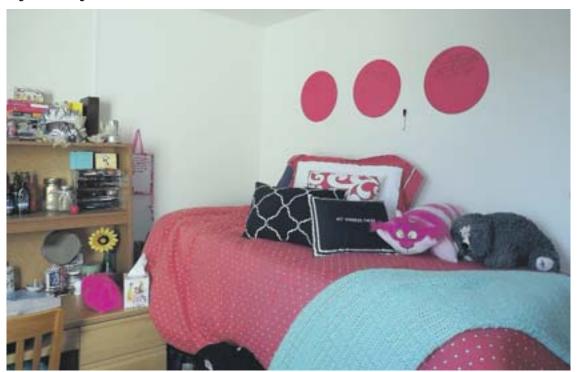
# Pamozinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 11, 2013

# The Home Designer Dreamy Empty Nest ... read on page D11

## Dorm Room Décor

By Cathy Dausman



Polka dots and a pink spread enliven one co-ed's new living space.

Photo Cathy Dausman

ometimes ... just sometimes ... stack and pack housing is a reality. The challenge is to make it fun. That's what the class of 2017 is experimenting with as they move on campus at Saint Mary's College and decorate what is for some, their first home-away-from-home – the college dorm room.

Our Homes previously touched on downsizing and compact living when it toured a Lafayette in-law apartment featured on an East Bay Homes tour this summer. (https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0711/Two-Lafayette-Homes-on-AIA-Tours.html). That project was a freestanding 750 square foot dwelling. But student spaces are one room

dwellings designed to work as living, sleeping and study space, and they do it all in less than 300 square feet while housing two to three people!

"Saint Mary's has approximately 4,200 students, with 2,800 undergraduates and 1,400 graduate students," said Elizabeth Smith, assistant vice president for college communications. She estimates about 1,650 undergrads live on campus.

Marie Lucero, director of Campus Housing and Conference Services, explained, "Saint Mary's College has six freshman halls, all on the central campus." Four years ago, as incoming class sizes continued to increase, the college measured every dorm room. It will come as no surprise that space is at a premium.

Two students, or an occasional lone student (single room charge is more expensive) live in 15 by 12 feet of space; three students have a 21 by 12 foot space.

Identifying the larger rooms and redefining them as triple bedrooms allowed housing services to carve out space for an additional 35 students, Lucero said. Old-style built-in closets gave way to modular furniture in the triples. Now desks, dressers and lockable closets can be reconfigured to accommodate under-desk drawer preference (right or left side) with drawer space either stacked up or tucked under beds.

Three students to a room also means one roommate will be sleeping above a desk. The newer "suite" residences have four to six students sharing a semi-private bathroom.

Saint Mary's College designates its living space as single gender either by floor or suite. Only one on-campus resident unit is single gender, because of an extremely limited number of rooms (10), and that is not a freshman dorm.

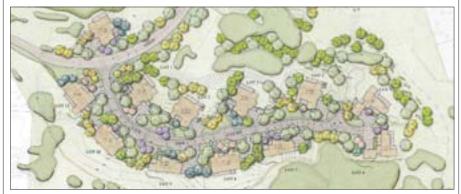
Dorm decorating was still a work in progress when *Lamorinda Weekly* toured the campus during Weekend of Welcome. At least one sleepy student was using her room as a bedroom during the photo session. Needless to say, the lights remained off at that location, as did the camera.

The halls in each dorm were decorated by theme – Paris, for one, Pixar for another. Inside the rooms, students turned to color and wall space to personalize. Posters were a quick fix for institutional off-white wall colors, and Lucero said the more creative students cover their walls in geometric designs using wall-friendly painter's tape.

... continued on page D4



#### ORINDA ~ NEW HOME DEVELOPMENT



The first release of homes sold quickly, so don't miss out on our next release and Grand Opening! Orinda Oaks offers twelve homes with an expansive mix of 4 and 5 bedroom residences. All homes showcase highly livable open-concept floor plans with countless options and flexibility. Main floor master suites, oversized two or three car garages and vast outdoor living space integrate to create the perfect place for your family to call home.

Call for pricing

#### **ORINDA ~ COMING SOON**



This home is located in the highly desirable lvy Drive area where kids can walk to school, town, Moraga Country Club and so much more. Enjoy amenities such as upgraded bathrooms, and kitchen, hardwood floors, vaulted beamed ceiling, new paint, large yard with view, lush lawn and garden and an ideal court location. Features: 4 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, approx.. 1580 sq.ft. and .40 acre lot.

Call for pricing

#### LAFAYETTE ~ UPDATED AND AFFORDABLE



Located close to Lafayette's charming downtown, this fabulous Townhome offers an open floor plan, two large bedrooms plus an Office, two bathrooms, large kitchen with stainless steel appliances, casual and formal dining, plantation shutters, designer colors, laundry room and large patio for outdoor entertaining.

Offered at \$579,000



GLENN and KELLIE BEAUBELLE www.TheBeaubelleGroup.com
Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com

925.254.1212

BRE#00678426/01165322

COLDWELL BANKER U

Coldwell Banker's #I Agent and Group in the SF Bay Area

©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. BRE License #01908304

Page: D2 OUR HOMES Wed., September 11, 2013

#### Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	17	\$490,000	\$2,001,000
MORAGA	12	\$400,000	\$2,250,000
ORINDA	10	\$475,000	\$1,650,000
	LAFAYETTE MORAGA	LAFAYETTE 17 MORAGA 12	LAFAYETTE 17 \$490,000 MORAGA 12 \$400,000

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.

#### LAFAYETT

1 Burr Court, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2009 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 8-9-13;

Previous Sale: \$220,000, 01-13-86

3651 Crescent Drive, \$885,000, 2 Bdrms, 1129 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 8-1-13; Previous Sale: \$843,000, 08-12-05

918 Dewing Avenue #A, \$588,000, 2 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 8-8-13; Previous Sale: \$468,000, 10-15-03

600 Francis Drive, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-31-13; Previous Sale: \$759,000, 07-09-04

3540 Herman Drive, \$1,174,000, 3 Bdrms, 1774 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-31-13; Previous Sale: \$1,315,000, 05-20-05

3644 Happy Valley Road #A, \$1,984,000, 4 Bdrms, 3405 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-9-13; Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 06-13-07

46 Knox Drive, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-31-13; Previous Sale: \$729,000, 08-01-02

3195 Lucas Circle, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 1905 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-31-13; Previous Sale: \$280,000, 04-10-86

3272 Marlene Drive #10, \$490,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-9-13; Previous Sale: \$302,500, 10-14-10

3453 Moraga Boulevard, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1184 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 8-9-13; Previous Sale: \$224,000, 02-28-89

546 Morecroft Road, \$1,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 2861 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 8-9-13; Previous Sale: \$410,000, 04-03-97

407 Ponderosa Court, \$1,775,000, 5 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 8-13-13; Previous Sale: \$375,000, 11-29-84

110 Promintory Lane, \$2,001,000, 5 Bdrms, 3979 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 8-9-13; Previous Sale: \$1,405,000, 08-22-02

3302 Springhill Road, \$730,000, 3 Bdrms, 2315 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 7-31-13 870 Tanglewood Drive, \$1,168,000, 5 Bdrms, 2806 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-2-13

649 Sky Ranch Court, \$1,235,000, 4 Bdrms, 2305 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-13-13; Previous Sale: \$1,385,000, 08-15-08

3283 Walnut Lane, \$1,280,000, 6 Bdrms, 2529 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-31-13; Previous Sale: \$1,180,000, 08-18-08

#### **MORAGA**

1414 Camino Peral, \$400,000, 2 Bdrms, 1126 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 8-1-13

798 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2471 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-8-13; Previous Sale: \$975,000, 03-16-12

139 Danefield Place, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2325 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-2-13; Previous Sale: \$468,000, 08-29-96

2083 Donald Drive, \$815,000, 4 Bdrms, 2944 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-31-13; Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-29-05

66 Hardie Drive, \$1,230,500, 3 Bdrms, 3140 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 8-2-13

6 Lance Court, \$927,500, 4 Bdrms, 1701 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-13-13; Previous Sale: \$340,000, 12-06-91

1012 Larch Avenue, \$775,000, 5 Bdrms, 2806 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 8-7-13; Previous Sale: \$775,000, 05-18-04

52 Merrill Circle #N, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 5471 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 8-7-13; Previous Sale: \$1,535,000, 04-24-98

25 Merrill Circle #S, \$1,810,000, 5 Bdrms, 4155 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 8-8-13; Previous Sale: \$940,500, 10-06-89

122 Miramonte Drive, \$605,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 8-9-13; Previous Sale: \$509,500, 10-07-04

... continued on page D14





## KURT PIPER GROUP

proudly presents...



The best of the Lafayette Trail. Custom built in 2003, this gorgeous 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath 4100± sq. ft. main home includes a separate guest house - an ideal "man cave", cabana or guest quarters. Main house with fabulous floor plan includes huge great room with gourmet kitchen, high ceilings throughout, oversized bedrooms and more. Situated on a pancake flat .37± acre with sprawling lawn, outdoor kitchen, large patio and sport court. 1000± sq. ft. 3-car garage too!

733 Los Palos Drive, Lafayette • Offered at \$2,185,000



**Burton Valley Beauty.** You'll love this close-in Burton Valley location just a short walk to trail, school and community swim clubs. Single level nearly 1900± sq. ft. updated ranch-style home with a unique contemporary style. Flexible floor plan offers 3 bedrooms and 2 newly remodeled bathrooms, living room with wood beams & hardwood floors, large separate family room and spacious updated kitchen. Gorgeous front & back yard landscape. **624 Burton Drive, Lafayette • Offered at \$1,050,000** 



**Lafayette Oasis.** The perfect blend of privacy and views. Escape to your own quiet oasis with this custom built 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3451± sq. ft. home on 1.59± acres contiguous to Briones Regional Park open space. The two-story floor plan offers generous living spaces in every room only found in modern architecture. Gorgeous views of Mt. Diablo, sparkling pool, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings and more. Truly a one-of-a-kind.

120 Greenbank Drive, Lafayette • Offered at \$1,425,000

**Kurt Piper** 



925.818.8000

Christine Gallegos



415.606.2047

Leslie Piper



415.990.4929

**Amy Price** 



925.997.6808

Scott Sans



925.216.7583



KurtPiperGroup.com
Realtors Recommended for a Reason





## Dorm Room Décor

#### ... continued from page D1

They also refer to a website called apartment therapy, she said. Surprisingly, "moms have a big say about how the beds are to be made up," said housing assistant Liz Graham.

Pink was the coeds' go-to color. Brittani Decloedt was just stepping out when *Lamorinda Weekly* reached her dorm room. "We're going to definitely add more to it," Decloedt said of their decorating project in progress. "My first impression of the room was that it was



Traditional on the outside, but holding all manner of modern amenities (rented refrigerator, or student-owned flat screen TVs), Aquinas Hall is one of six freshman halls on campus.

bigger than a lot of other dorms I've seen at different colleges. I also was excited to have my own closet and desk area.

"Since the day Lamorinda Weekly took pictures, I've added a collage of photos to my wall, a couple of posters, and have cleaned up the mess on my desk!"

# Looking for Dorm Design Dos and Don'ts?

Finding creative ways to dress up a dorm room can be challenging. Visit these websites for décor and design tips perfect for tight spaces: www.apartmenttherapy.com www.designyourdorm.com www.myhomeideas.com/decorating/before-after/cute-dorm-room-decorating-ideas-00415000069106



Modular furniture and bunk bed ladders ensure floor-to-ceiling use of space even in a tight-quarters triple. Photos Cathy Dausman



A sports fan first and foremost, this college freshman's room reflects a love of local sports teams.



# KAREN RICHARDSON PRESENTS: "LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!"

127 Bayo Vista, #204. Charming 2bedroom/I bath condo on Bayo Vista at Harrison. Literally minutes to fwy and shopping.

Beautiful surrounding neighborhood.

Offered at \$339,000.





**Karen Richardson** www.karenrichardsongroup.com BRE#01407557





# The RE/MAX Collection

# 925.283.9200



Amazing West Side , Alamo Gorgeous 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, totally-remodeled home in West side Alamo. Featuring 2,887 square feet of elegance on a spacious .67 acre flat lot, this lovely home is complete w/ inviting pool, sport court, fire pit, & outdoor terrace dining.

\$1,537,400

Michael Hatfield

~

925.984.1339

Michael@alamoluxuryhomes.com



**Walnut Creek** ~ Views, Views, Views, from almost every room of this 5200 sq. ft. 5 bedroom 5 bath home with separate office or 6th bedroom. Gorgeous grounds include large deck with sp overlooking the City Lights and vineyard. Minutes to town, bart, and top rated schools. Call for private showing! **\$2,099,000** 

**Gretchen Bryce** 

gretchenbryce@msn.com

925.683.2477



Alhambra Valley Land ~ From 52 acres to 100 acres - Build your dream estate in the lovely Alhambra Valley & Briones area. Less than 20 minutes from Lafayette & Orinda, this beautiful countryside is one of the best kept secrets in Contra Costa County. Some parcels can be sub-divided. Shown by appointment only.

\$750,000 to \$1,999,000

**6185 Alhambra Avenue, Pleasant Hill** Develop this spacious 4bed/2.5 bath home with 3079sf plus delightful bonus rooms into your dream home. 1.3 acres provides room to plant a vineyard, keep your animals, or just enjoy the open space. Home needs some TLC and is priced accordingly. Call today for viewing.

The Pereira Team -~Dianne and John ~ (925) 297-0321 ThePereiraTeam@aol.com \$699,000



# **REMIN** 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.

# PACIFIC CHRISTIE'S UNION INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



#### 3290 Sweet Drive, Lafayette

New Construction! Beautiful craftsmanstyle home. Spacious open floor plan. 2851± sq ft. 4BR/4BA. Chef's kitchen. Hardwood floors throughout. Upstairs master suite with views and privacy. Level lawn & natural setting.

Offered at \$1,495,000



#### 925 Rheem Blvd, Moraga

Amazing remodel with attention to quality & design.  $2700\pm$  sq. ft., 3BR/3BA. Fabulous kitchen with marble counters & many high-end amenities. Luxurious master suite & more. Lovely patio & paths to wander the gardens.

Offered at \$1,249,000



**Rob & Kathy Olson** 

925.788.6193 rolson@pacunion.com kolson@pacunion.com BRE# 00385275 | 01372297





# Tom Stack and Patti Camras present ...

#### **Stately Traditional**

1715 Greenhills Court, Lafayette Offered at \$1,495,000



Architectural elements and personal style harmonize to highlight this lovely home that was built in 1986 and features 4 lovely bedrooms, 3.5

baths, approximately 3727 square feet and is sited on a .86 acre parcel. Updated and expanded to include a brand new in-law suite, it boasts commanding views from every room. The inviting outdoor areas include a lovely patio and lawn just outside the dining room, a lush lawn off the kitchen and an expansive deck as an extension of the master suite.



Come to the "Bank Stage" at the Art & Wine Festival Saturday September 21st. Tom will be on stage announcing all day with the closing set by Petty Theft!



# Tom Stack Mobile: (925) 878-9964 tom.stack@camoves.com www.TomStack.com

BRE#01501769

#### Patti Camras

Phone: (925) 899-9282
Patti.Camras@camoves.com
www.PattiCamras.com
BRE#01156248



#### Affordability in Orinda

392 Moraga Way, Orinda Offered at \$765,000

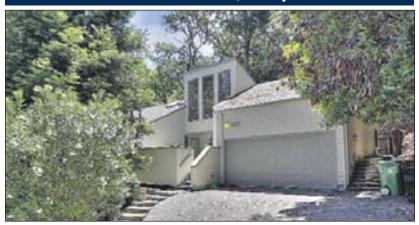


4BR/3BA 1,695 sq feet. 4th BR doubles as an oversized Family Room. Nestled on private 1/2 acre. Newly refinished H/W floors, huge fireplace, 12 years of great schools, centrally located

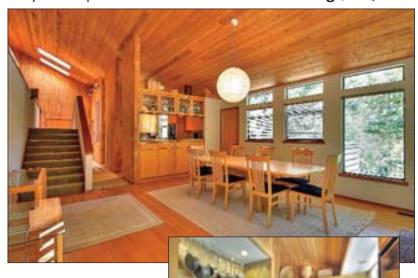
©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company, Equal Housing Opportunity, Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. BRE License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

# Architectural Gem

4077 Coralee Ln, Lafayette



"If you're looking for a home in Lafayette that is uniquely designed, and not the ubiquitous "slicked-up rancher", one that offers various options, and has over 2600 sq ft of living area; is conveniently located to Highway 24, yet sited in a quiet sylvan Hidden Valley setting, and is in the Happy Valley School district, then you should consider this lovely and unique 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home". **Asking \$985,000.** 



Call Dick Holt for a private showing (925) 297-9150

#### Experience • Integrity • Results



Dick Holt 925.297.9150 cell 925.253.6332 office direct Email: rwholtcb@aol.com BRE#00827803



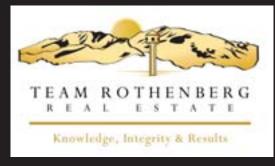
©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company, Equal Housing Opportunity, Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. BRE License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



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

"Ron and Susan are truly exceptional agents and they make a great team... truly value added partners in the real estate process. They are extremely responsive at all hours of the day. They provided sound, thoughtful advice... and weren't simply trying to earn a fee. They were extremely smart and detailed in guiding us through every step of the real estate process. And, their knowledge of the local markets -- what drives real estate value and how to execute a negotiation was exceptional. I can't say enough good things about them... best agents in Lamorinda hands down!"

Tom Barber, Lafayette, CA - 2012



Real estate with a difference.



#### Ron and Susan Rothenberg

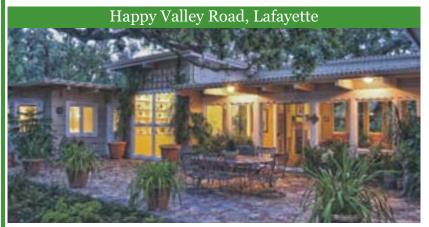
925.286.5530 info@teamrothenberg.com www.TeamRothenberg.com BRE# 01309986 | 00857547

A Member Of Real Living



#### Jim Colhoun Presents

# Premier Happy Valley Gated Estate Home



Offered at \$2,650,000.

Jim Colhoun
Relocation & Home Marketing Specialist
BRE# 01029160
www.jimcolhoun.com
(925)200-2795

Don't miss this opportunity to own one of Lafayette's most beautiful properties. This 1.24 acre lot on Happy Valley Road is securely gated and fully fenced. The 4200 square feet four bedroom home enjoys direct Mt. Diablo views and features a magical backyard set among ancient oaks with swimming pool, a full-sized grass tennis court, two stall barn with coral offering multiple possibilities. This home is shown by appointment only and no public open houses are scheduled. Please contact Jim Colhoun at 925.200.2795 to arrange your private showing of this spectacular property.









## All the Amenities! 10 El Castillo, Orinda

www.TheOlsenTeam.com



#### **Gracious Orinda Home!**

Amenities throughout the house and property include large rooms, separate wings, a huge family room, beautiful kitchen with granite countertops, a separate media room and a luxurious master suite.

This five bedroom house also has a large office and 3 1/2 baths. The level .46 acre lot includes a large lawn, citrus grove, planting beds and a gorgeous pool with cascade waterfalls, gas heater and spa.

This private home is just minutes from the freeway and the top rated schools make it perfect for a large, active family or anyone who wants space and convenience.

Offered at **\$2,150,000** 











108 Barbara Rd., Orinda - \$1,485,000 4BR / 4.5BA 3900 SQ FT .3 ACRES Spacious Mediterranean Style View Home



1743 Spyglass, MCC - \$950,000 4BR / 2.5BA 2828 SQ FT .11 ACRES Moraga Country Club Forrest Hills Model



3435 Little Lane, Lafayette \$1,179,000 Private cul-de-sac. Walk to trail & downtown Lovely 3 bedroom home with private yard & pool.



Helping *nice* people make *smart* real estate decisions.

# The Olsen Team

Lamorinda Specialists Since 1977

www.TheOlsenTeam.com

Sue: (925) 200-6000 Ben: (925) 381-2151

CA DRE 00616156



Page: D10 LAMORINDA WEEKLY OUR HOMES www.lamorindaweekly.com p25-377-0977 Wednesday, September 11, 2013

## Easy Winter Home Prep

By Andi Peterson Brown

Iknow, I know—it's 80 degrees out and I'm writing about prepping your home for winter. But if you are anything like me, once the holidays hit, getting up on the roof to clean the gutters is just not going to happen. Thus, there is no better time than a warm fall weekend to spend a few hours preparing your home for the cold, wet weather that is just a couple short months away. These easy tips can prevent future costly repairs, lower your utility bills, and ultimately protect your largest investment.

- Clean your gutters. It's so easy and yet so hard. But failing to clean your gutters will cause long term water damage to your siding, roofing, and wood trim.
- Inspect your roof and flashing. Been some time since anyone's been up there? For minimal cost, a roofer can inspect, diagnose, and perform basic repairs.
- Inspect your heating system. For minimal cost, and HVAC technician can tune up, clean, and perform basic repairs to ensure your system is running at maximum efficiency.
- Reverse your ceiling fans to push warm air down.
- Extend downspouts. Water should drain a few feet away from your foundation, not flow right onto it.
- Caulk around windows and doors. And those foam and fabric front door draft stoppers—yes, those, the ones on late night infomercials for twelve bucks—they work wonders.



Andi brown

Real Estate Broker

AndiBrownHomes.com

BANKSON L

925.818.4588

real local • real knowledge • real value

©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

## Head and Arm above the Grass

By Cathy Dausman



Photos Cathy Dausman

ultimedia artist Tony Zorich said he never had a lesson in his life, but that doesn't mean he's not creative. Witness the rosin and fiberglass statue in the Lafayette man's front yard, a wall-sized painting in the works under cover along his porch and a house filled with scenery painted in bright primary colors and 3-D art. Zorich displayed his front yard statue – a man's head and right forearm - at last year's Burning Man event in Nevada. It took him two and a half months to build. "Burning Man is held on a dry lakebed," Zorich explained. When assembled, the pieces represent a man rising from the water clutching a fish. "There were at least 50 people looking at this every time I visited the [Burning Man] site," he said. When he brought it back, his neighbors suggested he leave it in his yard. The skull is reminiscent of another local artwork head, residing outside a Walnut Creek bank. "I did it before him!" Zorich said, laughing.



925-377-0977

Page: D11

#### The Home Designer

# Dreamy Empty Nest

#### By Brandon Neff

fter years of play dates and tantrums, Jell-O stains and slip covered furniture, you're waving goodbye to the last of the litter headed off to University, and saying hello to the idea of rediscovering long-ago tabled projects and a home designed just for you. As their car makes its final turn off your street, your mind is filled with a jumble of emotions - sadness, unease, and, what's that? A glimmer of happiness?

Sure, it's hard to adjust after all those sleepless nights, but hey, think about all the extra space, soothing quiet and beautiful fabric coming your way! Remember, you're not losing a son (or daughter); you're gaining a healthy dose of refined living. And, nowhere else is that newfound calm needed

than in the bedroom – your place to decompress, recharge and dream. And so, to bed.

www.lamorindaweekly.com

When designing a bedroom I always think about ways to bring serenity and texture to the space. How you end each day, and greet the next should be spent in a room filled with notes that soothe all of your senses – color, fabric, lighting and art – all in concert to lull you off to sleep at night and wrap you in comfort when you awake.

For this project, I was commissioned by a busy couple - an ER doc and his partner who heads global marketing for a major motion picture studio – to transform their lackluster master suite from dated to drop dead gorgeous.

... continued on page D12



Photos courtesy Brandon Neff Design

## WWW.HOLCENBERG.COM

Client satisfaction: a family tradition

#### One-of-a-Kind Craftsmanship and Views

#### II Birchwood Place, Moraga

**New Listing!** So much to love inside and out! This very special 2-story home is located on a cul-de-sac in the sought after Rheem Valley Manor neighborhood. Situated on more than I acre of land with expansive Mt. Diablo views, this home is a treasure. With 4 bedrooms. 2.5 remodeled baths and custom craftsmanship throughout this more than 2400 square foot home, you won't be disappointed. The updated kitchen with granite, dark cabinetry, and stainless appliances takes in the views and looks onto the level lawn, spacious deck and fruit trees beyond. The family and living rooms orient to the

view as well. The master and hall baths have been remodeled by a local artisan and are truly works of art that must been seen to be appreciated. The home also features a formal dining room, breakfast nook, dual-paned windows and many more upgrades, as well as numerous custom creations throughout. In addition of course are tops schools, an excellent central location, and easy access to Moraga Commons Park and the Lafayette-Moraga Trail.

Offered at \$1,275,000

Photos and virtual tour at: www. I I BirchwoodPlace.com.





Wendy Holcenberg wendy@holcenberg.com

925.253.4630 BRE#00637795

Michelle Holcenberg michelle@holcenberg.com 925.253.4663 BRE#01373412



# **Dreamy Empty Nest**

#### ... continued from page D11

During our initial conversations, the only clues I gleaned about their expectations for the space was their desire for a room to lounge in and provide a place to unwind. The rest was up to my imagination – a fantasy project for any designer.

From the very beginning, I knew I wanted the room to shimmer - natural light was abundant, and I envisioned harnessing that light to full effect. Everything had to have interest, texture and luminosity. I achieved this with a few key materials: a silvery grass cloth wall covering, mohair velvet accents and a variety of finishes including polished chrome, horn, silk, bone and malachite.

With a pared down palette and only a few accessories, the fabrics needed to take center stage to cushion my clients from floor to ceiling. Installing full length linen draperies (50 yards worth!), and custom cornice boxes gave the windows and French doors real presence. Lengths of charcoal gray wool were used to upholster the dressing room and walkin closet walls, along with striped linen Roman shades for the smaller windows. Accent fabrics in emerald, celadon and jade were used to infuse real depth to the pale scheme. ... continued on next page



925-377-0977



# bathsimple

custom bathrooms. on time. on budget

Visit our booth at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

Enter to Win!

Full Day Spa Retreat Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa

Contact us for your in-home design consultation 510.356.0310 | bathsimple.com





To keep the room from becoming too sweet, I added an exotic Ikat accent fabric to the custom bedding and ottoman – its classic motif holds all the hues in the room and adds a little visual tension – something I feel every space needs to keep things interesting.

Tip: to contrast the pale tone-on-tone area rug, I had the floors stained a deeper walnut – a great trick to help make a room look taller – the floors recede giving the ceilings more height.

I designed the custom bed with an exaggerated wing back headboard, again to draw the eye upward and add height. A pair of swivel chairs in a cream boucle, and a black Saarinen side table ground

the sitting area beneath a contemporary drum pendant in the corner. Lastly, after a bit of cajoling, we settled on an atmospheric photograph for the only adorned wall. It features a time-worn apartment lobby complete with graffiti art and layers of patina coating the classical mouldings.

Surely, we didn't forget about a cozy movie night, so a state-of-the-art television and surround sound was installed with all of the components tucked away in the walk-in closet. I'm not usually an advocate of a TV in the bedroom, but I balanced its size with the gas fire insert giving it a more balanced appearance.

As in all my work, I installed three zones of lighting: recessed cans for overall light and artwork; decorative sconces for accent; and unique table lamps for specific task lighting.

Remember, lighting is essential – without it you'll never see the beautiful details in your new space.

Tip: for a cleaner look, use three inch LED or halogen cans – great light with a smaller profile trim.

Designing a restful bedroom, or living room for that matter, just takes thoughtful consideration of how you want to live in that room. Figuring out what colors and textures speak to you is the first step. Look for inspiration – a calm ocean, a grove of trees or a winter sky can all provide all the ideas you need to create something soothing.

Everyone I work with has their own individual style and taste level. My job is

to ascertain what really moves them and makes them feel most at home. As you design your own empty nest take a pause to reflect, and ask yourself what elements truly inspire you. Dream big.

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



#### Introducing Lamorinda Architects Cafe



Truitt and White & Marvin Windows and Doors proudly presents

#### Lamorinda Architects Cafe

to be held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd., in the Community Hall

Three Saturday events available for a free one hour consultation with a participating:

- Architect
- Interior Designer
- Marvin Window and Door Specialist

Prominent local architects and designers will be on hand for personalized appointments to discuss your design and renovation plans in a casual atmosphere, providing valuable information for your future ho me renovations.

#### To schedule your free appointment for the Lamorinda Architects Cafe:

please logon to: <a href="mailto:architectscafeevents.com">architectscafeevents.com</a> and indicate your preferred date(s) and time(s)

Saturday: September 14, October 5 or October 19 at 8am, 9:30am or 11am

Each visit will be scheduled to ensure little to no waiting. Registration is required. Bring any plans, sketches, photos and wish lists along with you.

Schedule your free one-hour architectural, interiors and renovation consultation today!



### Dudum real estate group Distinctive Properties







#### 660 LOS PALOS DRIVE, LAFAYETTE

\$1,775,000

Enjoy the premier Burton Valley Los Palos neighborhood at its finest. Five bedrooms, three and one half baths, (3388 sq. ft.) gourmet kitchen spaces, K and K windows, inlaid wood floors, gorgeous pool. Completely rebuilt in 1998 by well know Bay Area designer Peter Baltay. Mid Century modern meets Craftsman in this glorious remodeled family home.

#### WWW.660LOSPALOS.COM







#### 840 SANTA MARIA WAY, LAFAYETTE

\$1,000,000

This updated rancher was staged to perfection and its proximity to K-8 schools, the trail and downtown added to the panache. It's a four bedroom, three bath rancher at 2300 square feet and .23 acres of land. The perfect family home with an updated kitchen which opens to the family room. The family room has large outlooks to the trail and expansive backyard. The trail neighborhood at its best!

#### WWW.840SANTAMARIA.COM



#### Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

720 Moraga Road, \$540,000, 4 Bdrms, 1918 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-9-13; Previous Sale: \$315,000, 01-30-90

153 Walford Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-14-13; Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 04-18-07

#### **ORINDA**

53 Acacia Drive, \$795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1614 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 7-31-13 109 Ardith Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2548 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-8-13; Previous Sale: \$440,000, 12-12-97

142 Ardith Drive, \$807,000, 3 Bdrms, 1658 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-14-13 10 Crown Court, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2254 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-8-13; Previous Sale: \$890,000, 09-29-05

6 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,560,000, 4 Bdrms, 3207 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-6-13; Previous Sale: \$467,500, 08-30-96

6 Las Vegas Court, \$475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1395 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-31-13 145 Las Vegas Road, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 4061 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 8-8-13; Previous Sale: \$1,993,000, 05-02-00

167 Las Vegas Road, \$888,000, 3 Bdrms, 1759 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-31-13; Previous Sale: \$829,000, 04-01-13

124 Moraga Way, \$1,085,000, 3 Bdrms, 2251 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 8-2-13; Previous Sale: \$925,000, 07-16-09

1 Scenic Court, \$1,000,000, 6 Bdrms, 2158 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-9-13

# Lamorinda Home Values are Up!

August **August** Lamorinda: 2012 2013 Change **72 72 Properties Sold\*** 0.0% **Average Sale Price** \$889,000 \$1,033,000 17.3% \$419.6 **Price per Square Foot** \$475.4 13.3%

\* Single-family homes on MLS, excluding any with no sale price.

To see details on individual recent Lamorinda home sales, go to:

www.Lamorinda.net

Troy Feddersen, CRS
J. Rockcliff, Realtors
Broker Associate
Presidents Club
(925) 550-2353

3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100, Lafayette

Troy Feddersen & J. Rockcliff, Realtors Two Names You Can Trust







# Ask Cynthia Brian-Beans or NOT? Reader's Request



#### Hi Cynthia:

My kids brought me a bag of beans that they want me to cook up for them. They picked them somewhere on a trail. Since I am not a gardener, I thought I'd ask you if these are edible before feeding the family. Thanks for identifying them. Amy

#### Hi Amy:

The photo you sent was blurry but from what I can tell these are NOT beans but wisteria pods. I'm emailing you one of my photos as a match. Wisteria pods resemble bean pods and can easily be mistaken to the untrained eye. Do NOT cook or eat the pods as they are poisonous. Even though wisteria is part of the pea family, the seeds and pods are not edible. Even the flowers can be toxic. As little as two seeds ingested can cause serious health issues.

As much as foraging is touted, it is wise for all of us to remember to never eat anything that has not been 100 percent identified as edible. Please make sure to advise children never to eat vegetation they pick without asking if the produce is safe. On a happier note, you can dry the pods, pop them, and plant the seeds to grow your own beautiful and fragrant wisteria vines.

Happy Gardening and happy growing!

Cynthia

©2012

Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

Cynthia will answer one or more questions every other issue as space allows. Email your comments or questions to Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

# McDonnell Nursery



family owned since 1933

# Houseplants Workshop

Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 AM

To reserve a seat please call: (925) 254-3713 or info@mcdonnellnursery.com

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



Family owned in Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood ISA arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

#### **Utility Right-of Way**

Pruning for utility line clearance does not always follow desirable pruning techniques in regards to appearance and health of the tree. In this situation, the needs of the utility right-of-way take priority over the tree.

When you have a tree under a power line that requires frequent reduction by the utility co. it's important to have proper pruning before, or have the tree removed, and plant a tree with the criteria (i.e. size and placement) that should be determined by a arborist, so that a tree's health and appearance will never be compromised by the need for utility pruning. So don't wait until it's too late, call your local ISA Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you determine your choice for the

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.)



perfect tree.

# Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm



128 Scenic Drive Charming ranch w/great expansion potential. Beautiful 1/2 ac knoll setting w/wraparound lawn/lovely views. 4 spacious bedrms, gracious living rm, fab. granite kit. Bonus area ideal for inlaws/home ofc. \$965,000



29 Charles Hill Circle Stylish, sophisticated on .75 acre, this inviting 3bd/2ba home has a lovely, updated kitchen with custom cherry wood cabinets and private setting yet easy access to commute and town.

\$1,150,000



630 Tahos Road 4 bedroom, 3 bath with 3286 square feet. Perfect open floor plan! This light filled contemporary home offers privacy and beautiful views. Enjoy indoor/ outdoor living and a pool.

\$1,475,000



108 Barbara Road Mediterranean style view home, 4 bedrooms and 4 and a half bathrooms, Chef's kitchen with stainless appliances, huge office, lots of natural light.

**ORINDA** 

40 Los Altos Road Majestic,

inspiring, tranquil. It doesn't get

any better! 5bd/3.5ba on private

tennis court/ cabana and serene

garden paths.

gated 2.27 acres with pool/cabana,

**ORINDA** 

\$1,485,000

\$3,595,000





1 Camino del Cielo Need more space? Gorgeous newer construction, 4 bed + office, 4900 sq ft with stellar views. Exceptional privacy yet is conveniently located just minutes from downtown Orinda. \$1,699,000

**ORINDA** 



10 El Castillo Spacious 5bd/3.5ba built in 1998. Amenities include: lots of natural light, marble entry, private office, huge kitchen/ family room combo, media room. Minutes from 24.

\$2,150,000



17 Tappan Lane Vistas across Orinda come alive from all rooms of this spacious 4,155 sf with 6 bd/4 ba & 2 half ba. High ceilings & light & bright. Perfect for fun in the sun with yards, decks, pool, & vineyard on 1.15 ac.

\$2,389,000



#### THE VILLAGE **ASSOCIATES:**

Ashley Battersby Patricia Battersby Joan Cleveland Shannon Conner Joan Eggers Linda Ehrich Ioan 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





651 Moraga Road # 24 Pottery Barn Style! Chic updated end unit in quiet location at rear of Rheem Terraces. Lovely fenced private patio. Dual pane windows, wood flrs, stainless steel kitchen. Walk to shops, restaurants, Rheem Theatre! \$307,000

#### **MORAGA**



271 Paseo Bernal Paseo de Moraga gem in heart of Moraga updated thruout. 3bd/2.5ba w/vaulted ceil., plantation shutters, fab. kitchen w/SS appliances, granite counters, limestone splash. Priv. location backs to open space. \$649,000 **MORAGA** 



21 Tamarisk Beautifully maintained Moraga Country Club home on cul-de-sac with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, indoor laundry, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, new deck, and private backyard. \$769,000

**MORAGA** 

1743 Spyglass Lane Moraga Country Club Forest Hills model, updates throughout include new kitchen appliances, granite counters, updated bath, hardwood floors, new carpet, paint & lighting.

\$950,000

#### **MORAGA**



1903 Saint Andrews Drive Stunning Moraga Country Club Home! Meticulously maintained w/high-end kitchen, open layout, luxurious master suite. Tons of light, plenty of storage. Gorgeous gardens, views, & all the amenities of MCC! \$1,295,000

#### LAFAYETTE



3802 Happy Valley Road Most extraordinary Happy Valley estate. Rare 3.35 level acres - two separate parcels sold as one. 1940 charming Spanish Hacienda with 5bd/4.5ba, walls of glass, views of hills, grand sized living areas. \$5,700,000 **DANVILLE** 



1540/1550 Finley Road Terrific horse property on two level sep parcels total 2.98 acres(pr). Rancher w/country kitchen,pool & hot tub. Ranch has 12 stall barn, indr/outdr riding arenas, covered & stall paddocks, fenced pastures & more! \$1,299,000 WALNUT CREEK



1531 Arkell Road Rancher in Carriage Square with HUGE oversized lot. Updated throughout with hardwood floors, pool, patio and grass play area. Great location near Bart, freeway, shops, parks and trail. Must see!

\$649,000



facebook.com/VillageAssociates



twitter.com/villageassoc

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505 Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on Sunday Open Homes