

## Talking Trash

The spring market is here and buyers and sellers are packing up and moving in and out. Which bring us to talking trash. The number of boxes and packing material that it takes to move is mind boggling not to mention all of the trash that we accumulate over the years that we purge during a move. China has stopped importing 24 types of trash as of January 2018, and it's caused a panic as to where to send all the trash we create on a daily basis. More than 8 million tons of plastic enter the world's oceans every year.

This brings us to how can we help buyers and sellers cut down on trash created during a move. We recommend using a re-usable plastic bin borrowing service like bin-it.com or rentagreenbox.com. You rent plastic bins/boxes for your move, fill them up, move, empty them out, and then they are collected to be re-used. We also recommend if you must use boxes please pass them forward. Call your realtor so they can arrange for the boxes to be recycled or post on Nextdoor or any social media platform - there is always someone in need of moving supplies. We are personally looking for more ways to reduce trash and are hopeful that as a community we can do better to keep trash out of our oceans.

Changing gears, the Spring market is off to a great start. For the twelve months ending March 31st, Lamorinda sales price per square foot for detached single family homes is up 5.2% compared to the prior twelve months. Breaking Lamorinda down further, Lafayette is up 9.2%, Moraga 4.3% and Orinda 1.6%. In addition, for the same period for Lamorinda average days on market is down 5.0% to only 26 days. The potential fear that some economists



**ERIN & DARRICK MARTIN**

Direct: 925-951-3817

Erin@MartinHomesTeam.com

Darrick@MartinHomesTeam.com

www.MartinHomesTeam.com

CalBRE# 01922810, CalBRE# 02006564

# COMPASS

## Feng Shui

# Mother's Day feng shui

By Michele Duffy



*Square (Earth) crystals are great gifts for mom to honor the grounding she brings to life.*

*Photo provided*

Soon we will be honoring the legacy of our mothers, if they are (or were) an important part of our lives, and we should also honor the feminine in ourselves too. So thinking about the role all of our mothers in our lives makes it an opportune time to align with the grounding symbology of mothering, and the loving maternal. "Mother" is a nurturing and positive reference in most cultures, and mom's strength, generosity, kindness, and consistency of character and love, are represented in varied cultural threads that also reflect the rich cultural traditions of celebrating "mother" around the world.

The "Mother Goddess" was celebrated by ancient Greek and Romans, and "Mother Churches" were celebrated on "Mother Sunday" by Catholics on a specific Sunday, and in the early 1900s, America began its tradition of celebrating mother within the family with no gifts. In Mexico it is called Dia de la Madre. In the UK Mother's Day celebrations date all the way back to the 17th century. Indian children present festive cards to their moms like often in the U.S., and traditionally in October celebrate the goddess Durga, also known as the Divine Mother. The birthday of the symbolic "mother" of Thailand, Queen Sirikit is celebrated, in

Ireland children living away from home return to celebrate mom, and in France "Mamans" say ooh la la to pampering, gifts, and brunch out.

Mother's Day in Lamorinda has evolved over time much the same as in other American places, and so today, many cities offer a celebratory Mother's Day brunch so moms can have the day off and be pampered on all levels. Children bring breakfast in bed with a bud vase flower on a well-appointed tray for starters and are meant to handle all of mom's chores for the day. It's great to be a mom in 2018.

In the Taoist tradition of feng shui, mother rules the Relationship area of the BAGUA map, which rules partnerships, marriage, and every relationship in our life. The Relationship area of the feng shui BAGUA is from the front entrance of your home, the far right third, and it's also the same far right corner of your master bedroom and finally, your yard as you stand at the front entrance doorway. The Relationship area is resplendent with fantastic life force chi. Relationships are activated in our environments with the twinkly and sparkly Earth element, which may include crystals, shells, pebbles, ceramic or clay materials. The relationship quality of the Earth element is represented by the colors of pink, white and red, which are the romantic Earth colors, but Earth is also represented by yellow, tangerine, brown and some of the darker blues. A square shape, maybe a square jewelry box or square tile, are wonderful gifts for mom that symbolize the grounding we are meant to receive from our mothers. It's always nice to gift mom. Being mindful of the number two, which definitely governs relationships even though we are fully capable and aware of being in full relationship with self, the partnership aspect of all relationships is reinforced with pairs – twos, and multiples of two.

The Relationship area governed by mother in feng shui relates not only to our most intimate love partnerships or marriages, but also to all of our most feminine of relationships. For example, our feminine friends and family connections with all the other women in our lives, such as our own mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, colleagues, aunties and grandmothers. If you need to heal your relationship with any feminine people in your life, like your mom, girlfriends, daughters or sisters, this area should be audited first.

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