



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D6

Feng Shui

Mindful decorating during the holidays



Photos provided

By Michele Duffy

Holiday Feng Shui ... is that even a thing?

The answer is a very merry yes! Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, the holidays offer a fun time of year to experience Feng Shui since decorating your space creates intention and attention on your home. Home is exactly the point of the holidays, especially as we gather together with family and friends, share the year's bounty with gift giving, special foods, and celebrate the holidays with those closest to us.

We can apply the Feng Shui Bagua map and principles to almost anything. The home, office, garden, car, desk, the list is endless! How do we approach the holidays with Feng Shui? First, let's remember the entire level of lighting that factors into excellent Feng Shui in a space. The holidays are the season of light and beginning with a Christmas tree, lights energize the space and create mood, atmosphere, magic and warmth in our homes. Placing your Christmas tree, Menorah or Kwanzaa Kinara in a specific Bagua area will immediately energize that Bagua area, so where do you need an

energetic boost this time of year? Be more mindful this year when you place your tree, menorah or kinara. Overlay the Bagua and identify what Bagua area is blessed by these pieces and then create your own intention for that Bagua area to be uplifting and ignited. With a Christmas tree, the Wood Element (actual tree), Fire Element (the Christmas tree lights), and Metal Element (ornaments) are all present, and chances are with a multicolor scheme with a kinara, all Five Elements are included and that creates total balance.

A Kwanzaa kinara offers a soft glow and will energize whatever Bagua area it is placed in.

Second, Feng Shui encourages us to create a front entrance and front door that are well appointed with unique and inviting wreaths and seasonal displays. Also make sure your foyer is well lit and decorated as well!

Space clearing is always recommended in Feng Shui and involves purposely changing the energies of our environments and raising the overall vibration of the place. Consciously go through the house and kids' rooms and remove broken toys, toys that have not been played with in months, and toys that are no longer age appropriate. The end of the year is the perfect time to let go of clutter, making room for new beginnings, new energy and new opportunities.

The holidays elevate your space and letting go of some of the tougher mental and emotional stories we cling to and replay over and over again will elevate you mentally as well. Contemplatively gain clarity on what you want to release and what you want to welcome more of into your home, heart and life.

... continued on Page D4

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,010,000	\$5,525,000
MORAGA	11	\$850,000	\$2,110,000
ORINDA	8	\$1,000,000	\$1,885,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

1003 Almanor Lane, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1196 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-07-19, Previous Sale: \$760,000, 12-11-18
 1046 Brown Avenue, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1648 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-04-19, Previous Sale: \$125,000, 08-01-92
 929 Dana Highlands Court, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 11-05-19, Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 10-09-07
 4008 Happy Valley Road, \$3,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2327 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-08-19, Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 05-04-18
 3384 Mildred Lane, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2198 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-07-19
 430 Ponderosa Court, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 3891 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-04-19
 3380 Ridge Road, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2330 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 11-04-19, Previous Sale: \$682,000, 09-12-08
 3333 South Lucille Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1696 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-15-19
 22 Toledo Court, \$5,525,000, 5 Bdrms, 6001 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 11-12-19, Previous Sale: \$6,300,000, 06-15-17
 3330 Vaughn Road, \$1,745,000, 3 Bdrms, 2736 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 11-08-19, Previous Sale: \$1,630,000, 04-06-17

MORAGA

742 Augusta Drive, \$914,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-15-19
 26 Corte Aires, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 2399 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 11-12-19
 12 Corte La Rado, \$1,600,000, 6 Bdrms, 2954 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-12-19, Previous Sale: \$1,354,000, 04-20-06
 105 Devin Drive, \$1,165,000, 4 Bdrms, 2316 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-07-19
 10 Doral Drive, \$967,000, 2 Bdrms, 2238 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-06-19, Previous Sale: \$959,000, 02-05-19
 1163 Larch Avenue, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2136 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 11-06-19, Previous Sale: \$825,000, 10-18-04
 1266 Larch Avenue, \$1,445,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-07-19
 15 La Salle Drive, \$1,087,500, 3 Bdrms, 1492 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-13-19
 231 Los Santos Court, \$2,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 3036 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 11-15-19
 130 Miramonte Drive, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 11-15-19, Previous Sale: \$665,000, 09-13-05
 100 Sandringham Drive, \$1,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 2743 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 11-13-19, Previous Sale: \$1,310,000, 08-10-06

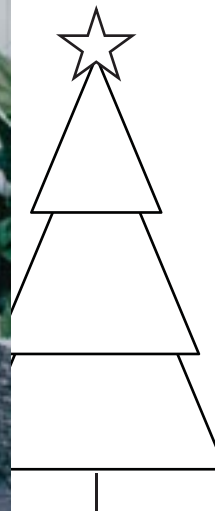
ORINDA

155 Canon Drive, \$1,322,000, 3 Bdrms, 2767 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 11-05-19, Previous Sale: \$642,000, 10-04-01
 43 Dos Osos, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2253 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-07-19, Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 04-02-12
 172 Lombardy Lane, \$1,225,000, 2 Bdrms, 1667 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 11-15-19
 163 Moraga Way, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-13-19
 30 Moraga Viax, \$1,402,500, 4 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 11-15-19, Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 12-06-17
 25 Moraga Viax, \$1,804,000, 4 Bdrms, 3369 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-13-19, Previous Sale: \$205,500, 02-01-87
 17 Overhill Road, \$1,402,000, 5 Bdrms, 3215 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 11-13-19, Previous Sale: \$975,000, 01-12-16
 2 Tarry Lane, \$1,885,000, 3 Bdrms, 3297 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-14-19, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 05-23-03



Wishing you and
your family a
Happy Holiday.

The Paddy Kehoe
Team



PADDY KEHOE TEAM

Paddy Kehoe

925.878.5869

paddy@paddykehoeteam.com

DRE 01894.345



Leslie Lomond

650.799.2110

leslie.lomond@compass.com

DRE 01968517



Mary Statten

925.890.6875

mary.statten@compass.com

DRE 01947354



Dave Schurhoff

925.997.9569

dave.schurhoff@compass.com

DRE 01834201



Christine Frazier

925.550.2130

christinefrazier@compass.com

DRE 01949722

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.



Feng Shui

Mindful decorating during the holidays



Photo provided

... continued from Page D1

Use your favorite essential oils, citrus or cedar spray, burn palo santo or sage, or ring bells to clear your space of whatever is no

longer serving your higher purpose. Start at your front door, walk clockwise all around the house, finishing back at your front door.

The holidays are family-centric times and Feng Shui says to make sure lots of family photos are displayed, print some images out or even use a digital photo frame for a family collage. Having pictures around of family boosts our self-esteem, resilience and confidence, and kids and teenagers will especially benefit by including family images in their rooms.

Give the gift of gold in the 2019 Golden Pig year! Oranges are revered and considered natural gold with the ripening of opportunities and wealth. You can also give Hanukkah gelt, gold wrapped coins and candies, and gold jewelry.

Decorate your dining room table with accents of the season. Dining room Feng Shui includes creating an intimate gathering for family and friends and Christmas calls for

whimsy, color and warmth. Choose linens and centerpieces that borrow from natural elements like pine cones and greenery and, of course, candles, since many a memory are made in the cozy candle lit dining rooms around the world.

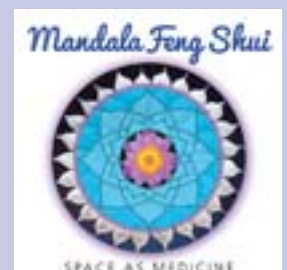
Finally, buy your home a present, or something everyone can enjoy. Make a ceremony out of gifting the home and your family with the gesture of generosity. This can be a new game everyone can play together, a new movie to watch together, a new espresso machine to enjoy, new tile in a sun porch for family enjoyment, installation of a camera for security.

Whatever your holidays symbolize to you and your family, may love remain in your hearts, words and thoughts and may all the warmth and joy of the season be yours this year and for many more to come. Happy Holidays!

WEALTH & PROSPERITY XUN Wood Southeast Purple	FAME & REPUTATION LI Fire South Red Summer	RELATIONSHIPS Kun Earth Southwest Pink
FAMILY ZHEN Wood East Green Spring	HEALTH TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown	JOY & COMPLETION DUI Metal West White Autumn
KNOWLEDGE & SELF-CULTIVATION GEN Earth Northeast Blue	CAREER & OPPORTUNITIES KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui

Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2019 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.





To our loyal clients, family and friends, we want to thank you for your support and for allowing us to assist you with your real estate needs.



May the Spirit of the Holidays be with you throughout the New Year.

GLENN BEAUBELLE
KELLIE BEAUBELLE
FINOLA FELLNER
NANCY STRYKER
LYNN MOLLOY

925.254.1212

TheBeaubelleGroup.com | Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com | CABRE# 00678426, 01165322, 01428834, 01290021, 01910108



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Have yourself a very merry Christmas!



Photos Cynthia Brian

The naked branches from a red-branched Japanese maple are gorgeous in winter.

By Cynthia Brian

“Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own.”

– Charles Dickens

It’s the most wonderful time of the year!

Every December I utter these same words and each Christmas seems to come earlier than the previous year. Where do the seconds, minutes, hours, days and years go? When I was a child doing my best to be nice instead of naughty, Christmas took forever to arrive. Today, Rudolph and his sleigh are on fast forward.

We have officially entered the season of winter. The deciduous trees are bare, the sky

is gray, and gardens have gone to bed for a long nap. Poinsettias, cyclamen, narcissi, bottlebrush and red branches of Japanese maples offer hints of bright color amidst the dreary daylight landscapes.

Come nightfall, magic happens. Houses and fountains are illuminated with twinkling lights, cuddly teddy bears line windowsills, and treetops glisten with dangling ornaments. Oh, what fun it is to ride around to admire the festive luminosities.

Nature has a way of healing itself. With the rainfall, the formerly charred hills of Moraga and Lafayette are turning a verdant green. In the spring poppies will be flourishing as the ground revitalizes from the frightening October fires. Hurray for Mother

Nature!

Did you ever see the 1947 movie, “The Ghost and Mrs. Muir” starring Gene Tierney and Rex Harrison? It’s a classic film and imminently watchable even by today’s standards. What stood out for me in revisiting that movie recently was the mention of a Monkey Puzzle Tree. Although I had traveled to both Argentina and Chile from whence the tree originates, I had never paid it much attention until I visited Butchart Gardens in Canada. I thought it looked like a naturally decorated Christmas tree with its very unique “pine” cones, although it is not related to a pine tree. The proper name is Araucaria Araucana and what makes it so unique are its cones. The male cones look like hanging cucumbers and the female cones resemble

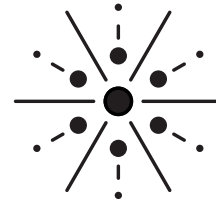


The endangered Monkey Puzzle tree looks like a Christmas tree.

Happy New Year



Coming in 2020



Orinda listings:



Charles Hill Neighborhood



Country Club Neighborhood



Glorietta/Downtown Neighborhood



Del Rey Neighborhood

Finola Fellner

The Beaubelle Group, Partner

finola.fellner@compass.com

925.890.7807

DRE 01428834



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Have yourself a very merry Christmas!



**This must be where
Santa and Mrs. Claus
live with their elves.**

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D6

The male cones look like hanging cucumbers and the female cones resemble round bulbs. The seeds in the cones are edible like pine nuts and consumed by the indigenous population. This national tree of Chile can live to over 1,000 years (Is Santa Claus that old?) and is now on the endangered list. Why is it called a Monkey Puzzle Tree? Evidently, a monkey is unable to climb this tree, thereby puzzling the monkey.

At this time of year, so many delicious smells emanate from the kitchen. Making

persimmon pudding from our hachiyas with lots of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and other spices is one of our family traditions. I've also been drying sage, bay, oregano and rosemary to use in recipes and give as gifts. The scents of the holidays are gifts to the senses. Make sure to try some new recipes.

Deck your halls, jingle your bells, and rock around your tree. It's the season to be jolly.

Savor the blessings of being with family and friends and have yourself a very merry Christmas.

**Fragrant narcissi in full bloom
backed by the fading roses.**



PREMIER KITCHENS

Your vision
brought to life.

From **cabinets** to **countertops**,
there is no project too big or
small for our team.

Schedule a meeting or give us a call!

(925) 283-6500

3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

info@premierkitchens.net
www.premierkitchens.net



GENUINE
REAL ESTATE
EXPERTISE



Chris Swim & Tracy Keaton

DRE 00943989 | 01051349

925.766.1447

chris@chrisswim.com

chrisswim.com

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

Orinda



Design and Build To Suit

6 Berrybrook Hollow

5 Bed 5.5 Bath 3,400± Sq Ft 1.64± Acres

The above drawings are example floorplans. You would work directly with the builder to create your ultimate dream home!

\$2,895,000

Talk to Chris and Tracy about the
Concierge program they have to help
you sell your home!

Our Concierge program is the hassle-free way
to transform your home with zero upfront costs
or interest.

We will work with you to determine how we
can maximize the value of your home by
taking advantage of select Concierge services.

With Concierge, you do not have to pay
the initial out-of-pocket costs for home
improvement services like painting, staging,
flooring and more.

When your home sells, you will simply pay
back the funds that the program
provided—and nothing more.

No hidden fees, no interest charged.

Contact Chris and Tracy today
for more information

925.766.1447



Cynthia Brian's End of December Gardening Guide

BRING branches from your evergreen trees inside to use as inexpensive holiday décor. The fresh fragrance gives your home a cozy, festive feeling.

BAIT for snails and slugs.

ADD lights to your bird houses and fountains.

TREAT all acid loving plants with sulfur to lower the soils pH.

DECORATE for the New Year with the red cones of the magnolia tree.

REDUCE erosion by leaving a vegetative cover or stubble from perennials in the soil. The decreased water runoff keeps contaminants like fertilizer and pesticides from our streams.

GIVE a gardening book to a gardener. Gardening books in the winter reminds us that spring will be here soon, so we need to get ready! Whether a master gardener or a novice, there's always something new to learn from "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" or "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul" (we have hard-to-find, rare first editions) available at www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store.

CONTACT Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control at (925) 685-9301 or www.ContraCostaMosquito.com for education or if you have a problem with rats, mice, skunks, ticks, yellowjackets, and mosquitoes. The services are free as you've paid for them with your taxes.

PRUNE roses anytime you have time. Don't forget to root canes that you love in potting soil or offer them to other gardeners.

FILL a Santa hat with pinecones to give as a last-minute gift.

FEED the birds by allowing seedpods to form on perennials.

FINISH planting all spring blooming bulbs.

DONATE to your favorite charity. It is the season of giving. Mine, of course, is Be the Star You Are! (<http://www.bethestaryouare.org>)

RIDE around the town to admire all the holiday ornamentations of decorated houses and gardens.

THANKS for another great year together, gardening, laughing, inspiring and reading.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Christmas to all and to all a Good Night!



Cut a branch from a magnolia tree with red cones for a New Year decoration.



On a sunny wintery day, bottlebrush shines brightly.



A festive fountain is lit for Christmas.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at



Cynthia Brian loves the glitter of the holidays.

www.StarStyleRadio.com.
Buy a copy of her books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

RENT-A-SPACE
Store It. Tear It. Use It. Move It.

10% OFF

ALL MERCHANDISE
GOOD 12/1/19-12/31/19

Give us a review, we're happy to hear from you, appreciated! Check our website & on Facebook to find out about upcoming events

RENT-A-SPACE
Store It. Tear It. Use It. Move It.

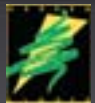
455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2026
www.5Aspace.com

We move you in FREE when you rent a unit!

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

LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA



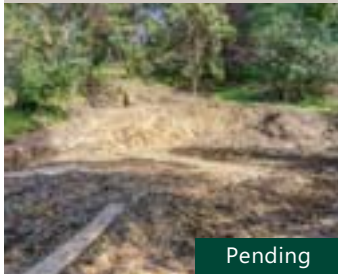
Lease

10 Ivy Drive

Lease! Lovely single story 4 bed/ 3 bath home centrally located near 12 years of top schools.

\$4,500 / mo

ORINDA



Pending

6 Linda Vista

Incredible opportunity to design & build a home in this fine enclave of Orinda Country Club properties.

\$399,000

ORINDA



Pending

11 Crestview Court

Bold modern Mediterranean inspired villa. Ideal for privacy & luxury. Open floor plan & panoramic views.

\$1,899,000

ORINDA



8 Moraga Court

Single level 5 bed/ 4 bath home with pool & expansive grounds. First time on market in over 34 years!

\$1,995,000

ORINDA



48 Oak Drive

Elegant 4 bed/ 3.5 bath two level renovated home with remarkable views from terrace decks.

\$2,599,000

ORINDA

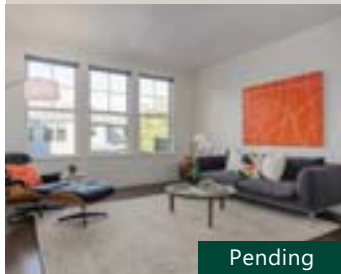


19 La Cintilla

Elegant 5 bed/ 3.5 bath home with chef's kitchen & hardwood floors. Minutes to commute & top schools.

\$3,198,000

LAFAYETTE



Pending

1000 Dewing Avenue # 413

Amazing 1554 sqft 2+ bed/ 2.5 bath Penthouse in the heart of desirable & vibrant Lafayette.

\$1,395,000

BERKELEY



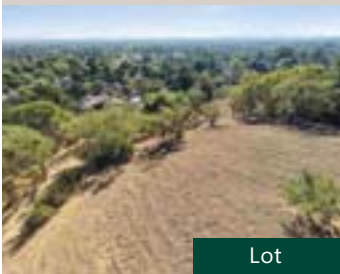
Lease

7164 Buckingham Boulevard

Fabulous, furnished, light-filled 3 bed/ 3 bath home. Easy access to Hwy 24, UC Berkeley, and the Caledcot Tunnel.

\$8,500/ mo

PLEASANT HILL



Lot

20 Whitfield Court

Great parcel at top of knoll with views of Mt. Diablo. Ideal for privacy. Investment opportunity!

\$1,375,000

WALNUT CREEK



1341 Leisure Lane #4

Beautifully updated, sought after level-in Yosemite model, 2 bed/ 1.5 bath. Perfect for privacy. Views!

\$499,000

WALNUT CREEK

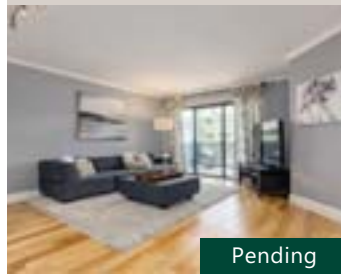


1310 Creekside Dr #101

Open & airy 2 bed/ 2 bath condo with an updated kitchen & spacious master bedroom. Close to Broadway Plaza & Iron Horse Trail.

\$669,000

WALNUT CREEK



Pending

1670 San Miguel

Spacious 2 bed/ 2.5 condo w/ remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, & oversized master w/ large closet.

\$699,000

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby
Patricia Battersby
Shannon Conner
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Emily Estrada

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Dexter Honens II

Anne Knight

Susan Layng

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Jenny Lyons Wilhite

Margaret Zucker



facebook.com/VillageAssociates

twitter.com/villageassoc

instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on [Sunday Open Homes](#)

Village

ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

DRE#01301392