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Marianne Mckay on Zane (the dark horse) and Zette Thierra on Ruby Slippers wait for a group of Orinda hikers to pass on a Moraga EBMUD trail. Photo Chris Lavin

## Head to Head: Bikers Vs. Horses (and Hikers)

*EBMUD considers opening Lamorinda watershed trails to bicyclists*

By Chris Lavin

Few things raise hackles more than when people who are passionate about their interests disagree. That is why the East Bay Municipal Utility District is gearing up for more public hearings on a hot topic: whether to allow mountain bikers on horse trails in the Lamorinda watershed.

“I think it’s a really terrible idea,” said Marianne Mckay, who keeps her Missouri trotting horse Zane at the Moraga Horsemen’s Association barn at the Valle Vista Staging Area. “Some bikers are responsible, but others just are not. We have a lot of blind curves on these trails and if a biker came around one of them, it could be really scary.”

The first public hearing on the issue was held in August at EBMUD headquarters in Oakland. Dozens of bikers and horsemen signed up to speak to board members and staff regarding the proposal, which probably won’t be voted on until after the first of the year, said Abby Figueroa, the agency spokeswoman.

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### Former MOFD Chief Stripped of \$1.2 Million

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Employees’ Retirement Association board Sept. 9 lowered former fire chief Peter Nowicki’s pension by \$1.2 million after it established that his retirement benefit was improperly increased by his own actions. The board determined that the former chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District engineered retroactive changes to his contract that resulted in improper retirement benefits and the district board, knowing Nowicki was soon going out the door, went along with the changes.

and according to CCCERA, the cashed-out perks granted in 2008 improperly inflated – “spiked” – his retirement benefit. “That was not the intent,” said Nowicki, who spoke to and answered questions from the CCCERA board members for nearly three hours. “It was not my decision to grab and run out the door. It looks bad from your side, but from my side, I needed to get out.”

Harvey Leiderman, fiduciary attorney for CCCERA, saw it otherwise. “We have the authority to correct errors if the member improperly caused the benefit to be increased or overstated at the time of retirement,” he said. “There is no question the member actively engineered these retroactive benefits.”

... continued on page A8

### Nowicki: I Followed the Rules

By Nick Marnell



Pete Nowicki in 2007 Photo A. Scheck  
 For a man who five days earlier had his pension reduced by over \$1 million, Pete Nowicki did not appear angry or bitter. Rather, the former Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief said that he felt disrespected and hurt. Disrespected, after the work that he did for 26 years at MOFD, and that he was punished for doing what he was told to do by the Contra Costa County

Employees’ Retirement Association. And hurt, over how he has been portrayed.

“Absolutely, I feel disrespected,” said Nowicki during a Sept. 14 interview. “CCCERA counseled me on what to do, on how to get what I was entitled to. I followed the rules. Then, ‘No, we changed our mind, and we’re going to take back the deal.’ How can they do this?”

Nowicki said he was surprised to receive the Aug. 5 letter from CCCERA, summoning him to a Sept. 9 hearing at which the retirement board was to consider adjusting his retirement allowance. “No, I did not see it coming at all,” said Nowicki. “Now I’ve got four weeks to find a lawyer and develop an appropriate response. I didn’t know I could have asked for a delay.” ... continued on page A8

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New oversight position created following development debacle – page A4.

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MOFD and ConFire part ways – page A8.

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Artist tackles challenges caused by MS – page B2.



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Miramonte cross country runner finishes on top – page C1.



**Our Homes D1-D16**

Holiday decorating strategies for now through New Year’s – page D8.

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# Lafayette

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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## Checking Appetite for Increased Sales Tax

By Cathy Tyson

Are residents ready to pay more in order to get more parking, more open space and improve and maintain the downtown? Lafayette City Council members Traci Reilly and Mark Mitchell shared some concerns about forming an independent committee to explore the topic and make a recommendation.

In response to the recent "Community Conversations," council members reviewed the results of citizens' priorities, along with their willingness to pay for those items.

In addition, goals from other sources – the Downtown Specific Plan, and a wish list from the East End Public Works Group – were considered. Bottom line: it's all about the money. Is potential funding available

to turn those requests into reality? Although a letter arrived supporting a sales tax measure from the members of the Chamber of Commerce just before the Sept. 14 meeting, Reilly was hesitant to support a tax measure considering the city's currently healthy budget. She said she would wait until the next meeting to see what a subcommittee comes up with through its investigation, and to see if the idea should go forward.

Some time ago, mayor Brandt Andersson and council member Mike Anderson were asked to clarify long-term visions and priorities for the city, from the Community Conversations, the Downtown Specific Plan and the East End Working Group. The DSP called for pursuing high priority goals, such as adding more parking,

new downtown parks and public spaces, moving city offices to the central district, adding public art, and more.

The East End Public Works Group, after more than a year of meetings, had a list of items that need significant capital upgrades and better maintenance.

The Community Conversations' top priorities included open space, police services, more parking, revitalizing the Park Theater, and better bike and pedestrian access. Only police services are fully funded in the city budget; the other projects are either not funded at all or are inadequately funded.

City council members narrowed down priorities to three items this summer: provide more parking, pro-

tect and acquire Lafayette's remaining open space, and improve and maintain downtown Lafayette.

"Given the loss of the Redevelopment Agency, there is no plan or resources for funding these ambitious programs. Absent new revenue, it is unlikely these goals will be achieved," noted the report by Andersson and Anderson.

Council members at the Sept. 14 meeting voted to continue the matter until the next meeting on Sept. 28. At that time they may consider a revised mission for the investigative committee as more of a fact finding group, recognizing that if there is not community support, perhaps the recommendation would be to not go forward.



### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 30 to Sept. 12

<b>Alarms</b>	87
<b>911 Calls (incl. hang-ups)</b>	15
<b>Noise complaints</b>	7
<b>Traffic stops</b>	131
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	20
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	22
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	32
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	
80 block Carolyn Ct	
1100 block Sierra Vista Way	
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	
Paulson Ct/Mt Diablo Blvd	
Trader Joe's	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Diablo Foods	
900 block Moraga Rd	
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Blvd	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
Village Center/Mosswood Dr	
1800 block Reliez Valley Rd	
3300 block Hermosa Way	
1000 block Upper Happy Valley Rd	
Brook St/Hough Ave	
<b>Burglary, Commercial</b>	
400 block St Mary's Rd	
<b>Civil Problem</b>	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
3300 block Betty Ln	
20 block Camino	
200 block Lafayette Cir	
700 block Los Palos Dr (2)	
600 block Doreen Way	
<b>Defrauding Innkeeper</b>	
Oakwood Athletic Club	
Mt Diablo Blvd/2nd	
<b>Disturbing the Peace</b>	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Reliez Valley	
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	
3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
<b>DUI</b>	
Lafayette Cir/Mt Diablo Blvd	
Pleasant Hill/Stanley Blvd	
<b>Fare Evasion</b>	
3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
<b>Forgery</b>	
1100 block Sierra Vista Way	
<b>Fraud</b>	
3600 block Chestnut St	
3500 block Via Los Colorados	
3300 Springhill Rd	
600 block St Mary's Rd	
<b>Harassment</b>	
30 block Old Millstone Ln	
3500 block Mt Diablo Ave	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
Round Up	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Trader Joe's (3)	
3600 block Walnut St	
Moraga Blvd/Foye Dr	
Stanley Blvd/Pleasant Hill Rd	
Oak Hill Rd/Mt Diablo Blvd	
900 block Dewing Ave	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
reported to P.D.	
3500 via Los Colorados	
1000 block 2nd St (2)	
600 block St Mary's Rd	
1100 block Rahara Dr	

<b>Intoxicated</b>	Round Up
<b>Loitering</b>	30 block Silverwood Dr
<b>Neighbor Dispute</b>	3500 block Brook St
	700 block Solana Dr
<b>Ordinance Violation</b>	S Thompson/Mt Diablo Blvd
	Los Arabis/Upper Happy Valley Rd
	Diablo Foods
<b>Panhandling</b>	Post Office
<b>Police/Fire/EMS Response</b>	500 block McBride Dr
	St Mary's Rd/Santa Maria Wy
	3000 block Rohrer Dr
	3500 Brook St
	3300 block Deer Hill Rd
<b>Possession</b>	Round Up
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	Peet's
	3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd
	3100 block Indian Way
	60 block Knox Dr
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	Stanley Middle School
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	Glenside Dr/St Mary's Rd (2)
	Silver Springs/Moraga Rd
	Reliez Valley/Pleasant Hill Rd
	3700 block Happy Valley Rd
	Moraga Rd/School St
	Via Roble/Dolores Dr
	Hidden Valley Rd/Diablo Cr
	Pleasant Hill/Hwy 24
<b>Shoplifting</b>	Safeway (4)
	3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd
<b>Stolen Vehicle Recovery</b>	Springhill Elementary
	at Police Department
	Mars Ct/Windsor Dr
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	30 block Hartwood Ct
	500 block Merriewood Dr
	900 block Hough Ave
	Safeway (2)
	3300 Deer Hill Rd
	800 block Avalon Ave
	1000 block 2nd Ave
	3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd
	600 block Lancaster Dr
	3200 block Beechwood Dr
<b>Theft, Vehicle</b>	700 block Solana Dr
	1300 Summit Rd
	1200 block El Curtola
	Acalanes High School
	1300 block Sunset Lp
	3200 block Camino Colorados
<b>Threats</b>	El Nido Ranch/Acalanes Rds (2)
	10 block Ethan Ct
<b>Unwanted Guest</b>	Library
<b>Verbal Dispute</b>	3000 block Rohrer Dr
<b>Warrant Service</b>	1500 block Rancho View Dr

## Plan Flowing for Downtown Creeks

By Cathy Tyson



Creek Day volunteers

Photo provided

Although creeks run through the city of Lafayette and are a sensitive habitat and natural asset to the area, the city does not own them – with one exception: only Lafayette Creek near the reservoir is on city-owned land. The city is concerned about stewardship and the impact of future development on these babbling brooks.

"Without a Downtown Creeks Plan in place, opportunities for preservation and restoration of downtown creeks might well be lost," said mayor Brandt Andersson.

The Creeks Plan when complete

will be part of the Downtown Specific Plan, which was adopted in 2012. The DSP was prepared to preserve the downtown character through design, and preserve the downtown's natural features, notably creeks and trees, so they contribute to the community's quality of life.

Funding was recently authorized to generate a plan that would provide a framework to ensure the preservation and restoration of these waterways, and serve the city along with homeowners and landowners for years to come.

With the city budget looking

more robust, city leaders acknowledged it was a high-priority project. They approved \$150,000 to pay for a consultant in partnership with volunteer efforts to generate a preservation, restoration and development plan that will clarify a number of creek concerns: setback requirements, preserving existing trees and riparian corridors, and developing criteria for adjacent development. In addition, the plan also seeks to develop public access and prevent property damage via flooding or erosion, and identify environmental concerns.

... continued on next page

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## Lawsuit Against the City of Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson

At the Sept. 14 city council meeting in closed session, which is not open to the public, city council members held a conference with legal counsel about a recently filed action by a group of residents called Save Lafayette. The group is suing the city along with the developer O'Brien Land Company and property owner Anna Maria Dettmer. The matter argues that the certification of the environmental report prepared for the Homes at Deer Hill was flawed.

Also at issue is the group's opposition to the requested amendment to the General Plan that allows a zoning change permitting lower density development with a maximum of two homes per acre, instead of the prior zoning classification of APO (administrative/office professional) uses, which allows up to 35 dwelling units per acre.

At the same city council meeting, Ordinance 641, which covers a number of items related to the Homes at Deer Hill including the zoning change, was officially adopted.

Ironically, the ordinance explains the zoning amendment as follows: "This lower density and change to single family residential, better protects the character of neighboring residential neighborhoods and is consistent with the pattern of single family development north of Highway 24. ... The change also better preserves the scenic quality and natural environment with a less intense potential for development."

Lafayette resident Michael Grif-

fiths is spearheading the grassroots Save Lafayette effort. Aiming to retain Lafayette's charm, he and a group of like-minded residents banded together, and filed this suit on Sept. 8, seeking to protect the town's semi-rural character.

Their goal is to give the community a voice in the process to achieve a better use of the property. The group feels the city council has ignored public comment, and is biased and one-sided. "When government fails to protect its citizens, then those citizens must act to protect their community. We are doing so by the only means left available to us, namely corrective action," said Griffiths in a statement. "Save Lafayette's position regarding the Homes at Deer Hill project is that the current combination of homes and huge sports complex has far too many negative impacts upon the surrounding community and city as a whole."

Negative impacts such as severe traffic congestion, destruction of the hillsides, harmful air quality on residents and the violation of the city's General Plan and Hillside Ordinance "need to be adequately mitigated and corrected by the city, not ignored by citing other so-called benefits," he added.

In addition to the lawsuit, the group is planning on gathering signatures on a referendum petition, to pause the development while city leaders reconsider their approval or bring the matter to voters. Save Lafayette would need to collect signatures from 10 percent of voters within a 30-day time frame.

## Creeks

After issuing request for proposals, and going through a selection process, Gates and Associates, a landscape architecture, urban design and land planning firm, was selected to prepare the plan. They will be working with ENGEO, a firm of engineering professionals, environmental scientists and hydrologists, and with Environmental Collaborative. The team started its geological assessments in August and should wrap up that initial part of the study in October.

Looking for input on the creeks plan, the first of a series of community workshops to brainstorm ways to preserve and celebrate downtown creeks will occur from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall.

The project schedule is slated to take a year to complete and will include public participation throughout. Development of concepts and options will be followed by a draft plan and implementation strategy and finally California Environmental Quality Act review before the final plan document will be produced and presented to the city council for approval.

Lafayette resident Austin Payne,

... continued from page A2

a civil engineer who works for Ducks Unlimited, the world's largest waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization, is one of the seven volunteer members of the Creeks Committee. He said it is important to have a plan in place that provides consistent requirements to developers to preserve and restore the creeks.

Another interested party in the project is the Contra Costa County Flood Control District; it is responsible for the channelized, or concrete sections of creek. Those channels were installed in the 1960s, said Payne, and they are at the end of their 50-year useful life. Although it would be a challenge, he would like to see those areas restored to a more natural state. The district is aware of the situation and is interested in opportunities to improve outdated sections. It has a 50-year plan, "From Channels to Creeks," that envisions converting concrete channels into natural systems that can safely convey flood waters. Defining goals for Lafayette's creeks via the Downtown Creeks Plan will help garner funding from potential grants to make improvements.

### Creek Day This Weekend!

Now in its fourth year, family-friendly Lafayette Creek Day is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 at the brand new Jennifer Russell Building, formerly known as the Manzanita Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. There will be opportunities to learn how drought affects creeks, and to dive in to help care for the Las Trampas Creek, along with guided hikes along the creek and giveaways.

## 'Green' Lights Go In at Town Hall Theatre

Submitted by Lewis Fone

In an effort to reduce its carbon footprint, Town Hall Theatre Company launched a campaign last year called Project Green Light – a vast, multi-media effort to raise money to switch over its energy-guzzling halogen lamps to energy-efficient, brilliant LEDs.

Thanks to the campaign, the new LED lights now use 60 percent less energy than before, according to Town Hall Theatre Artistic Director Joel Roster. When asked what's next for the theater, Roster simply smiled and said, "Everything else."

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, Sept. 23 cancelled  
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 8 canceled  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

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#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



### Moraga Police Department

**Creepy driver 9/08/15** Undisclosed reporting parties were walking on Camino Pablo, when the driver of a light-colored pickup truck stopped near them and asked if they could assist him in looking for a lost animal. The subjects responded by running away from the driver. Cops checked the area, but could not find the suspect.

**Unauthorized driving 9/10/15** The driver of a Toyota Camry was recognized by a police officer, and was pulled over. The fellow had a suspended driver's license from a prior DUI arrest, and was in possession of a meth pipe. He was arrested for driving while his license was suspended and for possession of paraphernalia and violation of court probation. He was released at the scene and the car was towed and impounded. Uber would have been the better and considerably cheaper option.

**Threats to football coach 9/11/15** The principal of Deer Valley High School reported that a parent of one of their JV football players had a verbal outburst that was directed at the coach. Which team's coach was not specified. "The outburst included a slightly veiled threat to shoot the coach," noted the police report. Several members of the coaching staff and school administrators overheard the statements. The coach requested the incident be documented and the parent removed from the Campolindo campus. Cops spoke with the parent who admitted exchanging words, but denied threatening him.

**Stolen vehicle 9/14/15** A Toyota tundra with an attached trailer was stolen from in front of a home on Ascot Drive between Sept. 11-13. Both the trailer and the truck have "Gardening Solutions Company" decals in plain view. Neither truck, nor trailer has been found yet.

**DUI 9/14/15** A 23-year-old was driving his older Toyota east on Moraga Way at 2 a.m. and left about a 50-foot skid mark on the roadway prior to hitting the curb just east of Miramonte Drive. Cops did not see the incident, but evidence left at the scene led officers to the Toyota and the driver. He was arrested for DUI and hit and run.

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### Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

## Council Opens the Door For Adventure Day Camp

By Sophie Braccini

Although some Moraga Town Council members denied that the piece of legislation they approved on Sept. 9 signaled support for the Adventure Day Camp project off Larch Avenue, the municipal code modification they adopted will allow the recreation company to be able to file an application with the town to transform the former Moraga Tennis and Swim Club into a preschool and camp site.

The amended text, which was initially proposed by councilmember Dave Trotter, states that for-profit recreational enterprises could utilize existing facilities established prior to the adoption of the 1986 Moraga Open Space Ordinance, as long as there was no increase in the development footprint. The Larch Avenue property is subjected to MOSO, a voter-approved legislation, and its implementation rules, which stated that only nonprofit enterprises could be operated on open space.

Neighbors of the Larch Avenue site were in attendance at the council meeting, as they were at the earlier planning commission meetings, to protest the modification of the municipal code. "There is no need for this text and it would create a precedent," said Clay Serrahn. Former mayor Karen Mendonca said that the planning commission had refused to recommend the adoption of the modified text.

At both their June 15 and Aug. 3 meetings, planning commissioners had indicated that good land use regulation does not consider the type of business, but instead defines which activities are desirable. They gave the example of an off-road motorbike trail that could be operated by a nonprofit group, but would not necessarily be the type of activity that should be permitted in a quiet suburb. Planning director Ellen Clark indicated that the MOSO text itself does not distin-

guish between for-profit or nonprofit businesses, but that the non-profit term appearing in the implementation rule is a likely leftover of the county regulations Moraga used as a baseline at the time of incorporation.

"This is about sloppy land use ordinance and trying to straighten it out," said vice mayor Mike Metcalf, "and trying to avoid a blight condition (on the Larch site). It has nothing to do with Adventure Day Camp." Councilmember Phil Arth agreed with Metcalf, indicating that the text had a very narrow reach, but would allow for the Larch Avenue site to be operated again and not deteriorate like the Moraga Adobe site.

But mayor Roger Wykle and councilmember Teresa Onoda said what really mattered was establishing a list of authorized recreation uses on open space land. "It would be much nicer to have a list of conditional uses," said the mayor. He

asked the planning director how the Hillside and Ridgeline Committee could deal with the issue.

"A list could be defined, with low impact, small footprint, not earth-moving activities," Clark responded.

Onoda asked if it would not be possible to approve the proposed amendment of the code, and make a list. "Could we have it both ways?" she asked. "Vote on the nonprofit and for-profit (amendment), and have staff look into different conditions for recreation on MOSO land?"

A majority of the council members decided that establishing a list of permitted open-space activities would be too time-consuming and that fixing the text was a better course of action. The amendment was approved, 3-2, with Wykle and Onoda opposed. The approved modified text will not preclude the necessity of an Environmental Impact Report.

## Spur in Construction Prompts Need For More Oversight

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga resident Randy Rasmussen alerted the Planning Commission at its Aug. 17 meeting that two roads cutting into the hill at the SummerHill Housing Group construction site, now called the Bella Vista development off of Rheem Boulevard, were dug out by the developer in violation of any pre-approved grading permit. Staff reacted swiftly. The Town Council approved a new construction inspector position on Aug. 26. This person will conduct a more intensive oversight of the current and future developments now emerging throughout Moraga.

"Rancho Laguna II (now Bella Vista) and Camino Ricardo (now Harvest Court) are two development projects involving extensive grading of hillside sites," said Moraga public works direc-

tor Edric Kwan. "At this time we work with county inspectors, but they do not provide sufficient oversight." The director added that it was particularly true for the Bella Vista development; at the beginning of August, staff was told that a buckeye tree planted along Rheem Boulevard, and intended to be preserved, had been removed. The following week, staff received a number of inquiries about the grading of the two "haul routes" across the slopes and landslides – the ones Rasmussen was talking about. "So we recommend that you approve a new position," said Kwan to the council, "a senior construction inspector, on a contract basis for two years." Kwan added that the town was expecting more development activity starting in 2016 with three other private developments: Palos

Colorados, Los Encinos, and 1800 Donald Drive.

"You should have had this person in here two months ago," said vice mayor Mike Metcalf, "(but) these guys don't grow on trees. Where are you going to find somebody? Why do you want to get somebody in-house? Why don't you get someone from a contractor you trust?" Kwan agreed that a consultant could help, but that an in-house employee would be more devoted to the town's goals.

Town manager Jill Keimach said that SummerHill met with town staff after the incidents were noted and promised to dedicate an inspector to the Bella Vista site, and to come to weekly meetings with Kwan to alleviate all miscommunication. SummerHill's vice president Kevin Ebrahimi

came to the council meeting to apologize. "Mistakes do happen, but they shouldn't happen," he said. "We're going to be here for the long term; we will do whatever it takes to make things right."

Council member Dave Trotter said he hoped that from now on everybody would be on the same page and all natural resources would be protected. "I think that this person (the construction inspector to be hired) is extremely important," added council member Teresa Onoda. She said that she would be in favor of stopping construction until all of SummerHill's conditions of approval were reviewed.

Since that specific question was not on the agenda, the council members did not discuss it, but unanimously agreed to the hiring of a new staff person.

**Assault 9/14/15** There was a report of battery at Saint Mary's College. Moraga cops made contact with the 18-year-old female victim who claimed she had been battered by an 18-year-old male acquaintance during a sexual encounter earlier in the evening. The incident was investigated and the case forwarded to the Contra Costa District Attorney for review.

**Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between Sept. 8-15:**  
**Family Argument** – Camino Ricardo

**Deceased Person** – Brookfield Drive

**Package Swiped** – Shuey Drive front porch

**False Alarm** – Calle la Montana

**Golf Clubs Swiped** – Moraga Road

**False Alarm** – Inverleith Terrace, Calle La Montana

**Traffic Incident** – undisclosed location

**Elderly Female Drunk in Public** – Rheem Shopping Center

**Damaged Gas Pump** – Driver failed to remove hose before driving away.

**Attempted Bike Theft** – Donald Drive

**Loud Party** – Ascot Drive

**Identity Theft** – Brookfield Drive



For a more walkable and bikeable Moraga

### Community Workshop

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Hacienda de las Flores | 2100 Donald Dr.

The Moraga Walk | Bike Plan will recommend projects to make walking and biking safer and easier. But before that, we need to hear from the community:

- As a pedestrian or cyclist in Moraga, what are your biggest needs and concerns?
- What are the main obstacles to, and challenging locations for, walking and biking?
- What are **your** ideas and suggestions for improving conditions?

Join us at this workshop to find out more about the Walk | Bike Plan and to make your voice heard. Your input will be used to develop the recommendations in the plan.

Lern more at [moraga.ca.us/WB](http://moraga.ca.us/WB) or contact Coleman Frick, Assistant Planner, at (925) 888-7039 or at [cfrick@moraga.ca.us](mailto:cfrick@moraga.ca.us)



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# PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL

## SATURDAY, 9/26, 10AM-4PM

### MORAGA COMMONS PARK



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## Interested In Moraga's Bikeability? Take A Ride!

By Sophie Braccini



A runner crosses Rheem Boulevard to reach the sidewalk while a mother keeps her children as close as possible to the side of the road. Missing bike lanes and sidewalks force pedestrians, bikers and drivers to share the road. Photo A. Scheck

Dave Campbell is a pro when it comes to bikeability. The advocacy director and the Bike East Bay team have been working for 33 years to make Contra Costa and Alameda counties more bikeable. They have conducted studies in Piedmont, Pleasant Hill, Fremont and last month Berkeley. Now it is Moraga's turn, as part of the bike and pedestrian plan conducted by the town. Riders of all ages and abilities are invited to partake in a two-hour bike tour of the town with planning staff and Bike East Bay specialists Oct. 3 to explore what it would take to make Moraga

totally bike safe and convenient. "The goal of the Walk-Bike Plan is to make walking and biking in Moraga safer and easier," says Coleman Frick, the town assistant planner in charge of the matter. "As the next step in the development of the plan, the Town is asking residents for their thoughts and opinions on walking and biking in Moraga." Different outreach mechanisms have been devised: an online survey, an interactive map to pinpoint and note current concerns, a public workshop on Sept. 26, and for the first time, the bike-through exercise. ... continued on page A8

## Public Art Policy Proposed in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

Public art displays have become more prevalent in Orinda and Lafayette, but Moraga has lagged behind, with only a donation policy in place and a few pieces of art donated to the town, such as the statue of kids reading at the library. But recently elected Moraga council member Teresa Onoda, a plein-air artist, is pushing for the adoption of a public art policy.

At its Sept. 9 meeting, council members gave direction for new rules, leaning toward a regulation much like the one in Orinda, where artists loan art to the city that, if well received, is purchased with a mix of public and donated funds.

At the meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram sought direction and focus from the council members and asked them to think in terms of art acquisition as well as future maintenance of the pieces. Ted Urban, the Orinda resident who proposed the Art in Public Places Committee to the Orinda City Council in 2007, came to the meeting to answer questions.

"The purpose was to bring a wide variety of visual art to public spaces for people to enjoy," explained Urban. Since 2007, some 30 artists have agreed to put one of their pieces on display in various public locations through-

out Orinda for a minimum of one year. As some pieces became popular, the committee looked into purchasing them. "A portion of parks and recreation dedication

fee can be allocated to purchase art, and the community has to come up with matching funds," explained Urban.

... continued on page A8

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church  
 1700 SCHOOL STREET, MORAGA, CA



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 12 Noon - 10:00 pm

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 ◆ PORK & LAMB ◆ BEVERAGES ◆ OTHER FAVORITES

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PENDING

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 1275 Sussex Ct, Concord, \$479,000 -Ruth Eddy  
 2121 Donald Dr #9, Moraga, \$305,000 -Tania DeGroot  
 114 Alta Mesa Ct, Moraga, \$1,060,000 -Larry Jacobs & Kress Hauri  
 1070 Apple Ct, Concord, \$440,000 -Adam Hamalian  
 6 Paddock Ct, Pleasant Hill, \$995,000 -Cris Maltzman

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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, Oct. 12, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 30 to Sept. 12

Alarms	54
Noise complaints	2
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic stops	187
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subjects	8
Suspicious Vehicles	33
Abandoned Vehicle	
Lavenida/Donna Maria Way	
Animal Cruelty	
Safeway	
Battery	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
Barking Dog	
100 block Laura Way	
60 block Rheem Blvd	
20 block Underhill Rd	
30 block Valley View Dr	
Burglary, Auto	
Casa Orinda	
200 block The Knoll	
Burglary, Misc	
100 block Wilder Rd	
Civil	
100 block Laura Way	
500 block Hawkridge Terrace	
Credit Fraud	
400 block El Toyonal	
DUI	
Birch Ct/Spring Rd	
Embezzlement	
20 block Ramona Dr	
Forgery	
10 block Williams Ct	
Health & Safety Violation	
Hall Dr/Moraga Way	
Hit & Run	
80 block Davis Rd	
Ordinance Violation	
Lavenida/Estabuena	
Police/Fire/EMS	
400 block Moraga Way	
10 block Easton Ct	
10 block Muth Dr	
10 block Corte Bombero	
20 block Warford Terrace	
20 block Estates Dr	
Hwy 24/Wilder	
200 block Camino Sobrante	
500 block Kite Hill Terrace	
Promiscuous Shooting	
10 block Daphne Ct	
Public Nuisance	
200 block Lafayette Circle	
Reckless Driving	
Rheem Blvd/Glorietta Blvd	
Glorietta Blvd/Orchard Rd	
Moraga Way /Glorietta Blvd (3)	
El Toyonal/Loma Vista	
Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Camino Pablo	
Glorietta Blvd/Heather Ln	
Moraga Way/Whitehall Dr	
Recovery Stolen Vehicle	
60 block Overhill Rd	
Shoplift	
20 block Orinda Way	
Safeway	
Theft, Grand	
10 block Lost Valley Dr	
200 block Camino Pablo	
(from vehicle)	



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## Orindans Doing Well on Water Conservation

But some need to do better

By Victor Ryerson

East Bay Municipal Utility District board member Marguerite Young reported on the state of Orinda's water consumption at the Sept. 1 City Council meeting. The news was good for some, but there is room for improvement for others.

Five percent of Orinda households are excessive water users, meaning that they use more than 1,000 gallons per day. This is four times the median use during a non-drought year. These households are likely to be hit with an excessive use penalty, which can be costly, Young said.

California is in the fourth year of a historic drought. For EBMUD, which serves Orinda, conservation ef-

forts are of particular importance, because it gets about one half of its water supply from the Sierra Nevada snowpack—and this year, there is none. An additional 10 percent comes from our three local reservoirs. "Our water is our water," Young declared, meaning that EBMUD does not obtain its supply from a major river or water system. In current parlance, it is locally sourced.

EBMUD's goal for inside use under the present situation is 35 gallons per person per day, a 20 percent reduction compared to the 2013 level. Most homeowners are well aware of the commonsense actions to get there, and Orindans have generally been

doing a good job employing those measures.

The familiar litany of ways to conserve outside use includes watering no more than twice a week, and not within two days of measurable precipitation such as that which occurred here recently; washing your car with a hose equipped with an automatic shutoff valve (or at a carwash that recycles water, or not at all); sweeping or air-blowing hardscapes; and refraining from watering during the period of high evaporation, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Most Orinda homeowners seem to accept that brown is the new green and are cutting back.

Through May, according to Young, Orinda's consumption was down 22 percent compared to 2013, an impressive figure considering that there has been a 1.4 percent increase in the number of Orinda households over the same period.

What lies ahead with Orinda's water situation? "I don't know exactly," admits Young. While we hear much about El Nino conditions coming to the rescue next year, previous experience suggests that Southern California usually receives the majority of the benefit. And if the white stuff does not fall on our northern Sierra peaks, 2016 could be a very tough year indeed.

## Parks and Rec's Pickleball Increases in Popularity

By Daniel Smith

While walking through Orinda Community Park several weeks ago, I came upon an odd site: grown adults running around with oversized ping pong paddles, whacking a Whiffle ball back and forth over a net. I may have actually rubbed my eyes and shaken my head before taking a second, confirmatory look.

A flyer on the courtside corkboard read, "Pickleball ... Thursdays from 2 to 4." Pickleball. Odd name for an odd game. I wondered, where did such a goofy sport come from?

Research revealed an origin story fraught with disagreements; however, the following details were common to all accounts:

*Pickleball was invented in 1965 by Joel Pritchard, a future senator, and several friends. The children, having been summer couch potatoes, were dragged by Pritchard one afternoon to their badminton court and handed not rackets or a birdie, but a Whiffle ball and wooden paddles. The tomfoolery that ensued would become the sport of Pickleball. Accounts differ on whether Pritchard devised the event as a lesson in creative play or whether he was just really good at improvising after he lost the family's badminton equipment.*

Whatever the case may have been, Pickleball caught fire – today it's played by 2.46 million people. The Whiffle ball and court dimensions haven't changed, though the wooden paddles are now regulated by the USAPA (USA Pickleball Association).

But these stories and facts still weren't answering the big question: Why would someone choose to play Pickleball when there are already so many established racket sports without embarrassing names?

Several Thursdays later I decided to return to Orinda Community Park and to seek answers, not as a spectator, but as a participant.

The Pickleball boundaries were

visible in white paint, the whole game played in one half of the tennis court. The net, balls and rackets were all provided by the Orinda Parks and Rec Department.

I met three other players. Two were equally new to Pickleball and unsure of what to expect. The third, Tom O'Brien, had only played twice.

We stretched and batted the air with wooden paddles, the weight of a tennis racket at half the size. O'Brien, our default veteran, explained the game. The rules are nearly identical to tennis with a few notable exceptions: volleys can't be returned from a demarcated area at the front of the net called the kitchen; serve returns can never be hit before bouncing. Scoring is more like volleyball: you serve until

you lose the point and can only score on your serve. As O'Brien spoke he unsheathed his own paddle. Its handle had sleek vinyl gripping. The head had a matte surface for extra touch. It was inscribed with the Japanese symbol for power, capability, and influence.

"The Zen Paddle," O'Brien announced after finishing the rules, "graphite composite laid over honeycomb aluminum." O'Brien had bought this secret weapon after his very first Pickleball game. He said he'd known that very day that Pickleball was to become his new sport.

Within minutes of playing I understood Pickleball's appeal. The satisfying simplicity of the gameplay was addictive. The gentle pace of the Whiffle ball and the small court size

allowed even us first-timers to build sustained, competitive rallies. Yet there was challenging depth to the game. The difficulty of applying finesse with a wooden paddle, the restraint required to place balls within the shallow boundaries – these elements demanded an engaged player, physically and mentally present.

A notable drawback of Pickleball is its susceptibility to wind. Periodic gusts easily swept the hollow ball off course. Much of the game was a test of our ability to adjust the strength and direction of our hit to counter the wind.

These gales were unanimously and vocally recognized as the cause of most of our learning errors.

... continued on next page

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## Pickleball

... continued from page A6



People play Pickleball at Orinda Community Park.

Photo provided

After the wind calmed it was decided that on-court objects could also be to blame. Rookie Dave Wolden became the first player to draw our attention to an obstructive pine needle, which he claimed was responsible for his missed return. I was skeptical at first, but after badly missing my serve I was forced to conclude that this pesky pine needle had most likely blown over with the wind and lodged itself under my shoe, wrecking havoc on my traction.

During the entire two hours we only took breaks to re-erect the wind-embattled net and we only stopped when the Parks and Rec Department needed its equipment back. Despite dripping with sweat one player, com-

menting on the ease of play, remarked that "the hardest part was keeping the score," and added. "I'll be here next Thursday!"

I believe Pickleball's popularity also lies in its accessibility. Aging tennis players will find that the sport offers a comparable experience to tennis, but that the shrunken court demands less impact while still offering good exercise. Young athletes will appreciate the economy of Pickleball gear in comparison to other sports equipment.

It's worth mentioning that a few spectators stopped by, no doubt amused by the novel sight, as I had weeks before. Considering Pickleball's continued expansion, one won-

ders how big its future might be. The USAPA is optimistic, pointing to the upcoming first-ever professional live broadcast of the Pickleball National Championship as a sign of the sport's explosion. According to a USAPA representative, the organization sees Pickleball becoming an Olympic sport sooner rather than later. Who knows, yesterday's spectator could be tomorrow's paid Pickleballer.

Pickleball is played at Orinda Community Center Park from 2 to 4 every Thursday, excepting rain and holidays. Cost: \$3 for Orinda residents; \$4 for non-residents. For info, visit [www.cityoforinda.com](http://www.cityoforinda.com), Parks and Recreation Department, adult programs.

## Olive Lovers Rejoice!

Orinda Olive Festival happens Oct. 4

Lamorindans can learn about everything olive, from the chemistry of olive oil to how to make olive branch crowns and wreaths or create olive-inspired recipes, at the 6th Annual Orinda Olive Festival from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo in Orinda. This free, family-friendly event, sponsored by the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, celebrates olives, of course, as well as the historic Wagner Ranch, which includes its 130-year-old Mission Olive Grove. Optional donations support outdoor, hands-on envi-

ronmental science and social studies programs for K-5 Orinda Unified School District students. Multiple vendors will offer samples of olives, olive oils and vinegars, docents will provide tours of the 18-acre property, and there will be arts and crafts, games, food and live music for everyone to enjoy. For more information, visit <http://fwrna.org>. (See Susie Iventosch's Sharp Cheddar Olive Beer Bread recipe in the Sept. 9 Lamorinda Weekly archives at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0914/Showing-the-Love-for-Olives-in-this-Cheesy-Bread.html>.) J. Wake

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**ORINDA \$958,000**  
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Tom Stack CalBRE# 01501769



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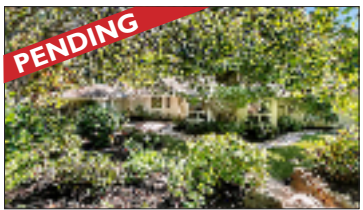
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3/2. Meticulously remodeled w/superb finishes & attention to detail. Ideal location.  
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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library Community Room  
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

#### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 1:30 p.m.

Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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# MOFD and ConFire to Go Separate Ways

By Nick Marnell

It may be just as well that fire station 46 never got off the ground.

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District chief Jeff Carman told his board Sept. 15 that he received a second opinion from a contractor concurring the feasibility of rebuilding station 16 in Lafayette, and that he awaits a report later in September from a structural engineer. The chief earlier presented to the board his desire to reopen station 16, scuttling plans with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to combine station 16 with MOFD station 43 into a new station 46. MOFD chief Stephen Healy then recommended that his board memorialize the station 46 program.

"After listening to some of the comments from (the MOFD) board meeting, I think we made the right decision to move ahead on our own,"

said Carman. "The differences in the two organizations would have been problematic, so I'm happy that fire station 16 presented itself as an opportunity."

MOFD director Fred Weil had commented that he did not want the district to hold on to the property it purchased as a site for station 46 in hopes that ConFire may come back to MOFD to reignite the partnership. "If the county came back next month and said, Yeah, let's go on with 46, it would just be more evidence that they are an unreliable partner," he said.

With the approval of the repairs to station 16 a near certainty, MOFD turned its attention to its own dilapidated station 43 in north Orinda.

"We need to get moving with this," said Weil at the Sept. 16 district meeting.

Healy confirmed that the current location of station 43 was the best site available for a fire station in the north Orinda area. He noted that four houses are for sale within a mile of station 43, and that the district geographic information system model showed that the station 43 site won out over the other four. "It would be hard to find a better location," said Healy.

Architect Alan Kawasaki estimated that the remodel of the station will cost \$4 million. "Nothing about station 43 meets any standard of a fire code," he said. The district has invested more than \$320,000 in the fire station remodel since 2011.

Board president Alex Evans said he was unsure that the district could afford sinking so much money into the station 43 project. "I don't want to have a nice fire station, and down

the road, I can't afford the firefighters," he said.

MOFD union representative Mark DeWeese also questioned the proposed spending on station 43. "The union's base salaries have lagged inflation and are only around 5 percent greater than they were in 2006," he said. "Before our board spends \$4 million to totally rebuild a station that is currently functioning, and has been for decades, we feel they should save the money for more pressing needs. The board's priority should be toward investing and restoring the district's most important asset, its human capital."

Healy plans to deliver to the board in October his specific recommendations for the station 43 rebuild, including contract details, financing options and the project timeline.

## Former MOFD Chief Stripped of \$1.2 Million

... continued from page A1

Leiderman also said that the fire district board conducted the Nowicki negotiations in closed sessions, in violation of the Brown Act, and he blamed the MOFD board for being slow to respond to a records request for the hearing.

"This is between CCCERA and Nowicki," said MOFD board president Alex Evans. The district did not send a representative to the hearing.

"As to Brown Act issues, I should note that the agreements with Mr. Nowicki were presented and approved in open sessions so I have to disagree with suggestions that the MOFD board operated

without openness," said Fred Weil, the only current MOFD director also on the board in 2008. "Mr. Leiderman, whose theories are based on suppositions, never attended any of those meetings, so it is difficult to understand how he can properly comment on what went on, who attended what meetings, what was said, or what the MOFD board should have done."

Former MOFD director Brook Mancinelli attended his first district meeting as a board member in December 2008. "I was assured by members of the board that Nowicki's contract was a long time in the

works," he told the CCCERA board. "I don't agree with the fact that it was done maliciously. And I had no idea the chief would be retiring."

Nevertheless, the retirement board voted to cut Nowicki's annual pension of \$240,923 to \$172,818, and ordered him to return more than \$600,000 in overpayments. The cost savings by correcting future overpayments was projected at over \$1.2 million.

Had the MOFD rank and file been at the CCCERA meeting, they may have jumped to the ceiling. "I'm glad it happened to Nowicki," said district union representative

Mark DeWeese. "The retirement board hearing and ruling validates our union's consistent belief that there was improper behavior from both our board at that time and Nowicki."

As the ruling means that Nowicki has exhausted all of his administrative remedies through CCCERA, it is likely that his pension reduction will be subject to litigation.

Neither current MOFD chief Stephen Healy nor Contra Costa County Fire Protection District chief Jeff Carman may sell back unused, accrued vacation time.

## Nowicki: I Followed the Rules

... continued from page A1

Nowicki said he felt he had no chance at that hearing. "I felt I was singled out, that this was media and politically driven," he said. He said he is frustrated that he has been unable to convey his position: That he was offered the job of MOFD fire chief in July 2006, and that his original contract did not include sell-back of vacation leave or administrative leave. "The board said they would do annual reviews, and that they would make me whole," he said. "They did exactly what they said they would do."

The district added vacation sell-back rights to his contract in July 2007, but the terms were not finalized

until February 2008. "The MOFD board was dysfunctional in getting things done in a timely fashion," said Nowicki. "Shame on them. But they told me it would be retroactive to July. I trusted them, and they did it."

The second amendment to his contract, allowing more sell-back rights, was not finalized until December 2008. Nowicki retired Jan. 30, 2009. The CCCERA board pointed to that retirement date as one of the factors contributing to the improper increase of his pension.

"My biggest mistake was not demanding that those perks be put into the original contract," said Nowicki. "I regret that." He said that he asked

MOFD director Fred Weil for an affidavit, stating what the board originally promised Nowicki, but that Weil did not respond. (Weil declined to comment, saying that the status of the former chief's pension "is likely to be the subject of litigation.")

"Of course it hurts," said Nowicki. "It's absolutely awful. I've had a lot of sleepless nights. Six years out of retirement, it overwhelms me, my family, my friends. It's a horrible position to be put in.

"I know the sentiment of the public. Here's this guy coming out of the fire department, making all of this money. It's got to be something I did wrong. But I didn't. I didn't set those

standards."

With the retirement board having voted to cut back his pension \$1.2 million – the projected savings by correcting future overpayments – Nowicki has exhausted his administrative appeals through CCCERA, and he said that he is talking to an attorney.

"I find it equally demeaning and dishonoring to be put in this position, especially after having served the fire district the very best I could for 26 years and having followed all of the rules and direction that was given to me by CCCERA," he said.

"It's shameful."

Moraga

## Interested In Moraga's Bikeability? Take A Ride!

... continued from page A5

"We do this regularly when cities want to update their bike plan," says Campbell. "This is good on-the-ground feedback from residents." The

group will assemble at the library the morning of Oct. 3, share a light breakfast, and from there follow a route to assess bikeability. "The ride is really for bicyclists of all abilities," assures Campbell, "parents with kids can come, as well as older riders. We will go to a specific place, for example a school, and there will discuss the challenges people have in that neighborhood." Solutions can be discussed on the spot, he says, with immediate feedback from users.

"If people cannot come to the ride but have places they would like us to explore, they should contact me," adds Frick. Even before the ride, residents

can be part of the decision making by attending a public workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores, La Sala building (2100 Donald Drive).

"We want to hear from members of the community about the needs and concerns of pedestrians and cyclists, the obstacles and challenges to walking and biking; and residents' ideas and suggestions for improving conditions," says Frick.

The needs assessment should be completed by mid-October. The Citizens Advisory Committee is meeting on Sept. 22, and on Oct. 14 the Town Council will get an informational

hearing on the progress made. "The draft plan, and associated CEQA documents, will be assembled this November and December and will be circulated for review and comment by the public and decision makers in January and February of next year," says Frick. The final version of the plan is expected to be presented to the Town Council for adoption and approval next April.

To reach Frick, email [cfrick@moraga.ca.us](mailto:cfrick@moraga.ca.us). The online survey is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/WalkBikeMoraga](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WalkBikeMoraga) and the interactive "pinnable" map at <http://j.mp/1NOEqpo>.

Moraga

## Public Art Policy Proposed in Moraga

... continued from page A9

When asked by council members how artists came to loan their art to the city, Urban explained that the members of the committee spend time visiting and seeking artists in the Bay Area, and that word of mouth is such that Orinda sometimes get offers from artists who want public exposure.

Moraga residents were supportive of a policy. Muralist and mosaic artist Shweta Srivastava, who recently managed the installation of murals at Camino Pablo Elementary School, spoke about the power of public art. "It gives an identity," she said. "Artwork brings a sense of pride."

Lawrence Kohl, founding music director of the Pacific Chamber Symphony and president of the Lamorinda Arts Council, wrote: "Art is amongst us, it gives us a smile and makes us think. It brings community together and shows that we care."

The council members decided not to emulate Lafayette, where developers are required to dedicate 1 percent of construction cost to art, to be displayed either on their site or in a public space, if they alter or build more than 10,000 square feet. "We do not want to add a new fee paid by developers," said Mayor Roger Wykle. In-

stead, they supported the idea to look further into what Orinda has been doing for eight years.

"Lamorinda could be to the arts what Napa is to wine," concluded Onoda. "It is a brand; a new dimension."

Ingram will bring the topic to the Parks and Recreation Commission, which will discuss the different aspects of a policy and offer its recommendation to the council for final approval. Ingram said his department plans to hold public sessions to hear what residents have to propose regarding a public art policy as well.



Business

# Local Therapist Cracks the Speech and Language Code

By Sophie Braccini



Alexandra Coleman in the Teen meeting room Photo Sophie Braccini

Meeting each client and understanding their unique interests to help them progress is what Alexandra (Alex) Coleman really loves to do at her new speech and language therapy practice, Affinity Speech and Language Services, in Moraga. For example, one of her 3-year-old clients loves guitars, so Coleman has guitars on every page of a booklet she made for the child, and uses guitars to address other elements that this particular child needs to work on.

"I remember a little girl who loved fashion," she says. "That's where we started, with dresses she would create and would have to describe."

Coleman worked in Bay Area

public school districts and at a private practice for six years before starting her own practice. She works with clients with autism or Asperger's syndrome, as well as those with articulation difficulties or stuttering, both children and adults, both inside and outside of her office at 356 Rheem Blvd.

"My first love was acting," says Coleman, who studied English and theater in college. "I went to New York, I went to Los Angeles, but decided to reorient my career toward occupational therapy. I completed my master's degree at San Francisco State University," she says, and then went on to intern at Stanford University Hospital. Afterward, she worked for the San

Carlos School District. "I was especially lucky in that district," she says, "but in public schools there are often so many kids needing services and not enough time in the day to see them all individually."

The San Carlos School District sometimes let her see the kids outside of the classroom, at their homes, or let Coleman take them to Starbucks or to Pokémon tournaments. "And that's how I saw that this really works," she explains. "In the office it sometimes feels like we work in a vacuum and kids can appear to master their skills, but they have to confront reality to really measure progress."

Moving outside is often very progressive. "We might first go to the frozen yogurt place or the pet shop and just get familiarized with the surroundings," she describes. Then she and her client will work on a scenario, rehearse it and then

go to the store and actually order frozen yogurt. Coleman says that evidence shows this is the best way for skills to generalize outside of the therapy room into everyday life. "I also have come to clients' homes to facilitate a playdate," she adds.

Part of Coleman's office space is dedicated to fostering social interaction between individuals with social communication disorders. She uses one of her rooms for pre-teen and teen Friday night special interest therapy meetings. "We could do an interest club, like playing Minecraft or Nintendo 3DS together, but there would be expectations and an exit ticket; they would have a checklist of certain things to say, do," she describes.

Coleman enjoys working with older children as much as with the little ones and has also worked with adults who need help with social skills and social thinking. "In mid-

dle school, high school and beyond you can continue to work on social skills," she says. With adults, she works on resume building, interviews or dating.

She also partnered with Crick Software that develops products for kids who have a learning or reading disability. "It helps kids organize their thoughts and work on their own," she says, adding that she is not a reading teacher, but can help to organize language.

Coleman continues acting in parallel to her therapist career. In February, she played Harper in the play "Angels in America" at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. For more information about Affinity Speech and Language Services, visit [www.affinityspeech.com](http://www.affinityspeech.com).

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

## business briefs

### Farmyard Darlings Expands 20 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette

[www.farmyarddarlings.com](http://www.farmyarddarlings.com) - (925) 818-1038

Farmyard Darlings recently opened its second store in Lafayette, just in time for the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 19. Kim Berry and Carole Sinclair opened their first country chic furniture store at the end of 2010 in the cottage in the back of Mt. Diablo Nursery at 3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The two ladies are now taking over the building that was known as The Hen House at 20 Lafayette Circle, between The Cooperage and The Round Up. This historic building was first built on what is now Mt. Diablo Boulevard in 1920 before being moved to Lafayette Circle approximately 20 years later. The most recent business owner was Elizabeth Kirkpatrick who managed an antique and collectible store there for more than 12 years. Berry and Sinclair love collecting and repurposing vintage and farm-related objects and one-of-a-kind treasures. They feel that they are cowgirls at heart; they were both raised with horses and have been collecting and reclaiming antiques gathered in Northern California even before they met. They create custom furniture from old farm pieces that get repurposed. Their merchandise has attracted a growing number of clients, and they needed to expand. They will continue to exhibit their merchandise in the nursery.



Kim Berry and Carole Sinclair in front of their new store on Lafayette Circle. Photo provided

Elizabeth Kirkpatrick who managed an antique and collectible store there for more than 12 years. Berry and Sinclair love collecting and repurposing vintage and farm-related objects and one-of-a-kind treasures. They feel that they are cowgirls at heart; they were both raised with horses and have been collecting and reclaiming antiques gathered in Northern California even before they met. They create custom furniture from old farm pieces that get repurposed. Their merchandise has attracted a growing number of clients, and they needed to expand. They will continue to exhibit their merchandise in the nursery.

### Marley Cabinetry Opens a Showroom in Orinda

81 Moraga Way, Orinda (925) 260-4198 - [www.marleycompany.com](http://www.marleycompany.com)

Marley Cabinetry originally from Danville recently opened a new showroom in Orinda. Marley designs custom cabinetry for kitchen and bathroom remodels.

### Moraga Produce To Change Ownership

Moraga Produce that has been closed for a few weeks and has now changed owners for the second time in less than six months. Details about the new owners have not yet been confirmed. The store was bought by the Cortez family in 2012, and then by the Soronz family at the beginning of this year. Rumor is that the store will reopen with a higher-end produce mix.

### News from the Three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

Monthly Mixer at Rivulet Chiropractic at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 280.

Save the date for the 23rd Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run from 6:30 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. For more information, visit <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/>.

### Moraga

There are no upcoming events scheduled.

### Orinda

October Mixer at Land Home Financial Services from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct 22 at 2 Orinda Theatre Square, #146.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)



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Giving Dreams an Address

## Head to Head: Bikers Vs. Horses (and Hikers)

... continued from page A1



From left: Zette Thierra on Ruby Slippers and Marianne Mckay on Zane Photos Chris Lavin



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At issue is a new approval of the Watershed Master Plan, which hasn't been revised since the mid-1990s and is due for an update.

"At issue of course, first and foremost, is to preserve water quality," Figueroa said. "Second is preserving the environment, but we also have a priority to provide recreational activities in the watershed. But the first two issues come first."

The Lafayette and Orinda reservoirs allow some watersports, and hikers can use 82 miles of trails in the watershed as long as they buy a permit. Bikers would be allowed the same access with the permitting process.

"One of the things we'll have to look at is the enforcement process," said Scott Hill, a district supervisor based in Orinda. If more people are using the watershed, more rangers might be needed to police the trails.

"It will take more staff time and there will be costs involved," Figueroa said.

The opinion of every bicyclist who spoke at the meeting said it wasn't fair that horsemen and hikers were allowed to use the trails but not bicyclists. They also said there was an issue of safety: Many East Bay Regional Park trails cross over EBMUD trails. Bicyclists have to stop when they reach watershed lines, and are forced to divert into traffic to go around those sections.

Richard Disstra, a bicyclist who did not speak at the meeting but was interviewed while diverting his bike on a trail near Moraga, said he did not think it was fair that bikers had to get off the trails to find alternative routes in traffic. "I just don't think it's right," he said. "If they are allowed onto the trails, I think we should be allowed on the trails. I think 99.9 percent of bikers would be respectful of horses."

Janet McBride, the executive director of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, suggested a compromise: All bicyclists who have to traverse the trail over just those EBMUD sections on

the ridge trail should be allowed to pass.

"It's something we think the board should look at," she told the directors.

Mckay doesn't like that idea. "People with dogs are supposed to have them on leashes," she said, "but 99 percent of people let their dogs off leash." Her horse got nipped one day "and now he's afraid of dogs."

Even hikers can spook horses. She likes to take her time when riding Zane on the trails – never trotting. She goes slowly, particularly around

large numbers of people. On a recent morning she and a friend had to pull off the trail to allow a large number of hikers from Orinda to pass them by. "Hikers love to see the horses, so it's a treat for them," she said. "But ... it's very slow going."

EBMUD will likely review the watershed plan early next year, Figueroa said. "There will be more public hearings, you can count on that," she said. "We'll try to work out a fair solution for everyone. But the important thing is protecting the watershed."



Keegan Beattie, 11, of Lafayette explores a trail in Moraga on his mountain bike. Keegan's face brightened when told that nearby EBMUD trails might be opened to bikers. He would "definitely" use them, he said.



Members of the Hercules Cycling Club ride through the EBMUD watershed in Moraga. Many members would be happy to get off the roads and use trails, they said. Bikers include Christopher Bunag, Andy Manuel, Arnel Dionisio, James Tolosa, Kenny Leduc, Mario Olivarez, Ron Magcauas and Walter Weber.

**Letters to the Editor**

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines.  
 email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

I am very pleased to see SB 707 pass through the Assembly, and I'm thankful my representative, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker supported this important measure. Too often do we hear news of yet another tragic shooting on school grounds and college campuses. Parents shouldn't have to worry about their child's safety when they drop them off at school, or send them off to college, and students deserve the opportunity to learn in an environment free from the threat of violence. Our children's safety must be our number one priority, and SB 707 takes a big step towards safer campuses.

Cathy Reed  
 Orinda

# An Eclectic Individual's Unique Endeavor

## Local art and antique collector Richard Knapp

By Victor Ryerson



Richard Knapp

If you have visited the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Show or any of the local street festivals or peddler's fairs over the years, you have probably noticed a distinctive man with long silver locks, surrounded by display cases filled with glittering silver flatware and other silver items, and sporting a vest draped with miniature spoons and medals. That would be Lamorindan Richard Knapp, a specialist in his field of antique flatware sales, but also a craftsman, show promoter, world traveler, art dealer and antiques collector with a range reflecting his profound knowledge of history and geography.

Born and raised in Martinez, Knapp has lived in Lamorinda since 1979. His father, a Dutch immigrant, worked for Royal Dutch Shell, first in Rotterdam, then the West Indies, and finally in Martinez. Knapp honors his Dutch roots, and punctuates his antique show wardrobe with a jaunty Dutch cap. His son, fittingly named Jan (pronounced "Yahn"), is a product of Lamorinda schools and lives nearby.

An early '60s graduate of San Francisco State College (now University), Knapp was headed for a management career in the retail field after college. He worked for a year after graduation as a junior executive for The Emporium, San Francisco's premier department store, and then took his first vacation, "glad to get out of that consciousness."

"I sent a telegram from Tokyo telling them that vacation was taking a little longer than planned," he says wryly. Then he started traveling around the world. He has covered 85 countries to date, usually in pursuit of his work.

How did he become a retailer of all manner of objects? "A collector who runs out of space at home becomes a retailer," he explains. At the time he took his extended vacation, he was living at home. He had planned to buy a Samurai sword for his bed-

room, and he indeed bought one in Japan – and then bought a Chinese sword, and others as he worked his way east. By the time he returned home, he had 35 swords.

"My mother told me I could keep one and had to get rid of the rest," he says. It took him six months to sell them off, and a career was born. He travels throughout the world picking up items that interest him, and although he particularly favors Asian art, his tastes are definitely eclectic. His house is filled with oil paintings, antiquities, and objects d'art of all sorts, each with a fascinating story. Among them, for example, is a series of prints by Wendy Yoshimura, one of the Symbionese Army abductors of Patty Hearst – as well as an oil painting by a renowned Dutch master.

Although he has slowed down a bit due to health issues, he still goes out on a treasure hunt when he can. "Six of us travel together, including an architect, a landscape designer, and so forth," he says. "We go over to a country, rent a 40-foot container, and fill it." Then they return to sell off their prizes – although some end up, at least for a while, in or around Knapp's shady, secluded home. A few years ago he and his group chartered a boat and cruised the Mekong River in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. "We filled it," he says succinctly, pointing out two large stone Buddhas in his lush garden. On a more recent trip, he and his group traveled throughout Estonia, Finland and Russia filling their collective shopping cart. He sells much of his Asian art to a firm in San Francisco's design district, as well as to architectural designers. A temple door with its original frame that he imported graces the Standard Oil office building in Los Angeles.

Knapp is also a promoter in his own right. For 10 years he ran the annual Shadelands antique show at Shadelands Ranch in Walnut Creek, a fundraiser for the Walnut Creek His-

torical Society that is held under the towering oak trees around the old farmhouse. "He knew all the ins and outs and knew all the dealers," says Martinez resident Steve Martindell, who learned the ropes from Knapp and took over the show for two years after Knapp decided to move on.

So how did Knapp become Lamorinda's silverware maven? Back in the early '90s, he was selling ethnic art at a Marin flea market, and had a few pieces of sterling silver on his table. "A guy with a footlocker came up to me and said someone had told him I'd buy anything." Then the man made Knapp an offer for the footlocker, which was filled with his family's silver. Knapp could not refuse.

... continued on page B3



Knapp's signature vest

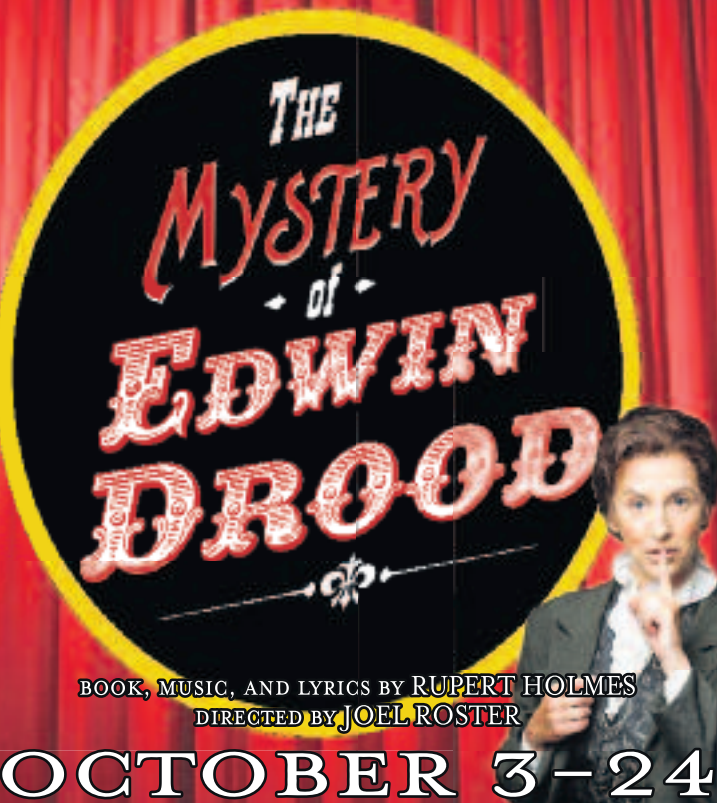
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Lynda Fu, certified instructor of the Japanese Embroidery Center of America (Atlanta), created this masterpiece with thousands of hand stitches of silk threads. Meet embroidery artists at the exhibition, try your hand at stitching, and ask about upcoming classes offered by Lynda Fu.

## Artistic Adaptation

Overcoming the challenge of painting with MS

By A.K. Carroll



Michael-Che Swisher uses a Saebo Mobile Arm Support to paint.

Photos provided

Eleven years ago artist and Moraga resident Michael-Che Swisher woke up with blurry vision. "Every time I moved my head I got nauseous," she says. "That happened for four months."

A children's book illustrator, Swisher's vision got so bad that it began to interfere with her work. "It was the first time I was really late with a deadline," Swisher says. Not long after, she switched from illustrating to painting, a career move that accommodated for a less predictable work life. "I had to start over again and build up to getting into galleries. I did art shows for years, which was exhausting."

When she went to the hospital with split vision in 2004, medics told Swisher that there was a possibility of multiple sclerosis, a disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and body. "I didn't even know how to spell it," Swisher recalls. Her first fears surrounding MS were of losing her independence, being wheelchair bound or having to wear diapers. "It never occurred to me that I wouldn't be able to paint," Swisher says. "I'd never learned to do anything else."

Swisher was not given a diagnosis following her trip to the emergency room, but kept the possibility of MS in the back of her mind. Because she didn't have health insurance it was another nine years before she was officially diagnosed and fully realized what was happening to her body. By that time Swisher had already experienced blurred and split vision, balance issues, fatigue and difficulty with depth perception, all of which she had attributed to being tired.

Two months after her diagnosis, Swisher suffered an exacerbation (a relapse caused by inflammation of the central nervous system) that affected her right arm.

"It got severely weak," Swisher says. "A twitch or tingle went down my whole arm and within five days it just hung there." Shortly thereafter, she lost her fine motor skills and had to learn to adapt to living with one arm. At the time she didn't know if she would ever paint again.

Originally from Western Maryland, Swisher came to San Francisco



"Mr. Personality" by Michael-Che Swisher was painted with a brush and other objects dipped in paint.



"Head Up!" by Michael-Che Swisher

in 1995 to attend the Academy of Art University, formerly called the Academy of Art College. Of the schools she was considering, the Academy had the most drawing classes.

Her artistic success is thanks to a combination of perseverance and talent. As a child, Swisher was enchanted by the boxes of paints and brushes that her mother, also an artist, kept in the storage room.

Though Swisher claims she had little natural talent, it is a bit hard to believe when you look at her work. She is represented by the Eisenhower Gallery in Edgartown, Massachusetts, and the Nancy Dodds Gallery in Carmel, California, where you will find portraits of cows, bears, and an aviary of birds that range in personality from quirky to regal. Born out of her love for animals, Swisher's proliferation of creature creations led to an artistic pigeonholing that she likens to an actor being typecast. "People ask me if I don't know how to paint other things; and of course I do," Swisher says. Even so, she can't remember the last time she painted something other than an animal. "It's been years."

A combination of therapy and persistence aided in Swisher's muscle recovery. "I never fully got back use of my [right] arm," she says. "I keep going backward and it takes me a really long time to recover." Though the relapses are emotionally difficult, she refuses to give up.

Swisher recently acquired a Saebo Mobile Arm Support, a zero gravity device that facilitates weak

muscles during functional tasks. The Saebo holds Swisher's arm as she paints, prolonging her muscle endurance. She recalls seeing it in her studio for the first time. "It's not that I wasn't aware that I was disabled," Swisher says. "But when I walked in and [saw] it there, it was an emotional thing."

But Swisher was quick to adapt, and now a year and a half later, the Saebo is just another part of her life. "It becomes normal so quickly," she says. "My muscles have gotten stronger [and] painting isn't as painful as when I originally started. Swisher is proud of the effort she's put into her recovery. "I was determined to continue doing this," she says. "You learn to adapt. I plan to try to always figure it out."

Swisher sees every new challenge as an obstacle to overcome. "The [brush] strokes themselves haven't really changed," she explains. "It just takes a while for my fine motor skills." When her 2013 exacerbation left Swisher unable to hold a brush, she painted with sponges and tried new techniques. Her engagement with her work is what draws Swisher back to the studio day after day.

"I like the challenge," Swisher says of trying new textures and working with unexpected tools. "I like the process of learning something new." Swisher's painting is both the thrust for and the result of her incredible determination. "Sometimes I know what I paint is never going to go to a gallery," Swisher says, "but it inspires me, so I paint it anyway."

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# Students Look to the World, Not Just Across the Street

By Chris Lavin



Global Student Embassy members in the Campolindo school garden. Front row, from left: Sarah Firth and Ashley Yu; back row: Annie Loose, Shelby Bock, Chrissy Orangio and Chloe Bouchy Photo Chris Lavin

Teenagers sometimes wear blinders. It's easy to do: There are social events, homework, learning to drive, figuring out college applications, part-time jobs. But there is an expanding group of students who have cast their eyes more globally. They are participating in Global Student Embassy (GSE), a high school club at all three Lamorinda high schools that encourages travel to what is still the Third World.

Kind of a mini-Peace Corps. "We mainly focus on eco-action and environmentally sustainable agriculture," said Sarah Firth, who participates in the program at Campolindo High School. That sounds like a mouthful coming from a teen. But Firth quickly launches into fine details. "The goal is to develop a relationship with the environment, gardens, and learning sustainable gardening techniques."

In GSE, students meet other students their own age in countries like Nicaragua and learn how the families they visit grow or get their own food, then they bring what they learn back home.

"The program is getting bigger and bigger," said Chrissy Orangio, who is based in Contra Costa County and is the program coordinator for Northern California. And the relationships that students form can become reciprocal. Last year seven students

from Central America visited the students they met on visits to their own countries.

That means a lot of fundraising. Central Americans can seldom afford travel to Northern California, and Lamorinda students spend a lot of time fundraising for their own expenses.

"After traveling with GSE to Nicaragua my freshman year I saw the impact that such a small group can have on a community and the impact the community there could have on us," said Shelly Block of Campolindo. "The best part of Global Student Embassy's exchange program in my opinion is that we collaborate with students from other countries rather than act as if the United States has everything figured out perfectly."

Chloe Bouchy's biggest take-home was seeing that they could grow food at the school garden and have White Pony Express – the local nonprofit that collects food for area food banks – come and pick up the produce for people who can't afford it.

"Being part of GSE has changed the way I look at life," Bouchy said. "Working in the Campolindo Garden has been an especially eye-opening experience for me because I get to see actual food being grown before my eyes. We go to the super mar-

ket to buy fruits and vegetables; it isn't common for people to take a moment to wonder how this produce came to be, already

grown and ready to purchase." Orangio expects the program at all three high schools to continue to grow this year.

"It's a deep cultural experience," said Firth, who just headed for Boston University. "It's giving students a different perspective."

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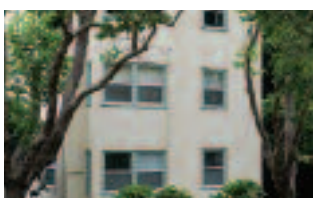
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Campo students Justine Bonn and, in the background, Chloe Bouchy, at work in Central America. Photo provided

## An Eclectic Individual's Unique Endeavor

... continued from page B1

Thinking that the footlocker was a salable item, Knapp accepted the offer. "I sold \$200 worth [of the silverware] that day, then the same the following week," he muses, and a business was born.

Over the years he has developed an immense knowledge of silverware patterns, and he can probably replace that teaspoon you misplaced from Aunt Ruth's heirloom silver if you can show him a piece of the same pattern. He also sells flatware to startup and established restaurants, and has about 15 regular restaurant customers to supply.

And what about those miniature

replica silverware pins that dangle from Knapp's signature vest? "Between 1900 and the Depression, girls usually got married when they graduated from high school. The local jeweler would bestow these little pins on the girls as graduation gifts," he explains, with a not-so-subtle reminder that the jeweler carried that pattern in his store. The girls wore the pins on their sweaters, a set of the silverware would become a graduation gift (this was before the days of gift registries), and the hopeful bride-to-be would find one of the pins attached inside the case as well.

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# Destination Tunisia

Where no man has gone ... lately

By Nick Marnell



Sidi Bou Said cafe, overlooking the Mediterranean

Photos Nick Marnell

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When your editor agrees that it is a good idea for you to fly to Tunisia to do a travel article, it may be time to rethink your job security.

"That's not bad," said my son when I told him where I was going. "Aside from the dead bodies and armed terrorists, the beaches looked beautiful. That's a real getaway."

What no one seems to understand is that the best time to travel to an area is after a tragedy occurs there. Flights are empty and rooms are cheap. I scored a 5-star beachfront hotel – a member of the Leading Hotels of the World group – for a price so low, well, as they say in the car dealer ads, "we're not allowed to quote it on air." Besides, the threat of terrorist activity was not going to stop me from visiting Tunisia, or any other country.

I landed at 11 a.m. in Tunis, the capital. Passport line took over an hour. Nobody queues. One mom jumps in line, followed by her family of seven. Kids are all over the place, like in Mexico and Central America and South America. I had no chance.

The airport ATMs did not work. I picked up a few dinar at a currency window, and got a tip on what bus to catch to my beach city – Hammamet. After I roasted for 15 minutes in the scorching heat, the bus driver let me inside. There we sat while he groused for another half hour. One kid answered my dumb questions, then he climbed back into his head-set. Forty-five minutes later, I arrived in town.

Taxi from the bus station, the cabbie a much cooler guy than the bus driver. With his dark hair and deep-set, dark eyes, he could have been a wise guy in a Scorsese movie, his expression between a smirk and a sneer, with a 'couldn't care less' air about him.

Directly to the pool. All Tunisians, not another Western tourist in sight. "Is he French?" "Is he British?" "Is he nuts?"

Up early, jetlagged, for breakfast. A huge white room, seating for at least 100, and all to myself. Did you ever hear of Tunisian cuisine? How a country once colonized by France has such bland food is one of life's great mysteries.

My server, Souhir, said the room was empty because Tunisians sleep till 10. She admitted that tourism has been hurt badly, but that I had nothing to worry about. "You are welcome here," and then, almost as if confiding a secret, her eyes lowered, "You are safe here."

I wasn't so sure, when I saw two young guys march poolside, black pants and boots, white T-shirts with black sleeves and machine guns draped across their left shoulders. "I just made a big mistake," I thought, but my heart settled after I realized they were security guards. Which is a fact of life here now. Armed police stood nearly one per mile along the main road to the capital. A flashing police car drove about 20 miles per hour in the right lane. It seemed that nearly every major intersection was a checkpoint.

Tunisia is a police state, and I did feel that I was being watched. (I sure did stick out!) I made a stupid mistake when I blurted out my profession: journalist. I regretted saying it by the second syllable. Just what the country needed – a Western journalist, snooping around, digging for evidence of Tunisia's human rights violations. That blunder to the wrong person could have gotten me a swift ride to the airport. Or worse.

Jasmine fragrance overpowered the air. And the white! Nearly every building in the gorgeous artists' community I stayed, Sidi Bou Said, was whitewashed. With the bright Mediterranean sunshine glaring off of the white buildings, you practically needed SPF 100 just to cross the street.

Ninety-nine percent of Tunisia is Arab, who are 99 percent Muslim, who are a bunch of decent people trying to make a buck (dinar) and raise families, just as we are. The country is devoid of tourists; maybe people are a little on edge – Tunisia is a liberal Muslim country, and the outside extremists likely do not appreciate that – but I did not feel threatened.

Quite the contrary. Traveled to a neighboring town, taxi driver never looked at me. Sunglasses, head-shaved like PitBull's, pop music pumping out of the radio. On arrival I handed him 10 dinar for the fare and when he gave me my change, he finally looked at me, and he said one word.

"Peace."



Two young Tunisian women stare at the Mediterranean from a Hammamet cafe



Typical September 2015 scene in Tunisia: a gorgeous hotel, nearly empty

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## The Moraga Pear, (Art) and Wine Festival This Saturday

*So much to do, and so much is new*

This year the Lamorinda Arts Council will partner with the Town of Moraga and the Parks Foundation to enliven the traditional Moraga Pear and Wine Festival, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Commons. "We will have live entertainment at the fair all day long," says Moraga councilmember Teresa Onoda who is also on the board of the Arts Council. The lineup is nothing like what Moraga has seen at the festival before: There will be performances by the Orinda Starlight Village Players, the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West, the Orinda Community Ukulele Musicians, the Orinda Ballet Academy, the Campolindo Jazz band and River Roses belly dancers.

Artists and galleries from Lamorinda will create an "art walk" at the festival including displays from the

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art and Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery in Lafayette, as well as a preview of "Painting with Threads: The Exquisite Art of Japanese Embroidery" exhibit, which will run Sept. 28 through Oct. 2 at BDK America, 1675 School Street in Moraga. The art walk will also feature local artists and different art booths for children. In one booth, children will learn how to make origami, and a second booth will be dedicated to teaching still-life painting and drawing. The Lamorinda Arts Council will have tables at the festival and will raffle themed gift baskets.

Four local wineries will offer samples of their wines and answer questions, judges will pick the winner of the pear recipe contest, food will be available at the park to purchase, and the youngest ones can enjoy playing on inflatable jumpies. *S. Braccini*

## Are You Managing Several Chronic Conditions?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

Managing a number of medical conditions is a challenge for the patient and the family. In a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal*, John Piette, Ph.D., who researches chronic-disease management at the University of Michigan, said: "Sometimes different doctors give patients conflicting information and advice."

Medication management and problems with interactions could be a serious issue. Piette suggests that patients (or family caregivers and professional care managers) write down as much information as possible at every appointment and then encourage the patient to get the doctors to talk to one another.

**Here are six tips to assist those with multiple chronic conditions:**

- 1) Choose one health care provider to be your primary doctor and be sure the doctor is updated on all visits, medications, treatments and test results of each condition for which you see other doctors.
- 2) Write up your health history and keep it updated – it might be dates of surgeries, tests, diagnosis, medications, etc. Be sure to have a section on allergic reactions to medications, foods or environmental irritants.
- 3) Keep an organized list of current medications and bring it to every doctor visit. Don't depend on them to have updated your records when another specialist might have changed a dosage or a drug.
- 4) When given any new drug, be sure to alert the prescribing doctor to other medications. You may need to ask to have a consultation with a pharmacist who specializes in giving discussions for these types of conditions.
- 5) If you feel overwhelmed with all the treatments or care needed, tell your primary medical provider. He or she might help you prioritize what is most important, and can refer you to a professional care manager/aging life care expert who could help you set up systems that support your quality of life and reduce your worry and anxiety.
- 6) If you get conflicting advice, don't try to figure it out on your own. Make an appointment or call your primary care physician immediately.

Time management is a major challenge for those caring for someone with multiple conditions, espe-

cially when dealing with a life that seems to revolve around medical appointments, treatments and medication regimes. This becomes exhausting for both the family caregiver and the patient and it starts to color life with a dark crayon. It looks like every day is focused on the health aspect of life and the other parts are out of balance – things such as the beauty of nature, family relationships, spiritual growth, hobbies, being able to do things for others, seeing friends, and other important aspects of life.

I suggest that every day you have a task, such as an appointment or medical procedure, you also put on that day's calendar one "joyful" activity. For instance, after the appointment, bring a bag lunch and sit in the park watching the birds, or go get a massage – both for the patient and the caregiver family member. You name the activity that adds to the quality of your life and be sure to weave it into those busy days that become overly focused on the health of another.

If you are struggling with this issue or want to improve the life of someone close to you, give us a call and ask for a consultation with a professional care manager/aging life care expert or if your family member is out of the area we can find someone for you anywhere in the country.



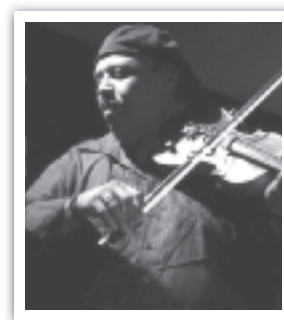
Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the Founder of Eldercare Services, a Licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, and a Certified Care Manager. She is an advisor on the new Lamorinda Village Task Force that will assist seniors to stay in their own neighborhoods and homes. For information about Eldercare Services, visit [www.EldercareAnswers.com](http://www.EldercareAnswers.com) or call (925) 937-2018.

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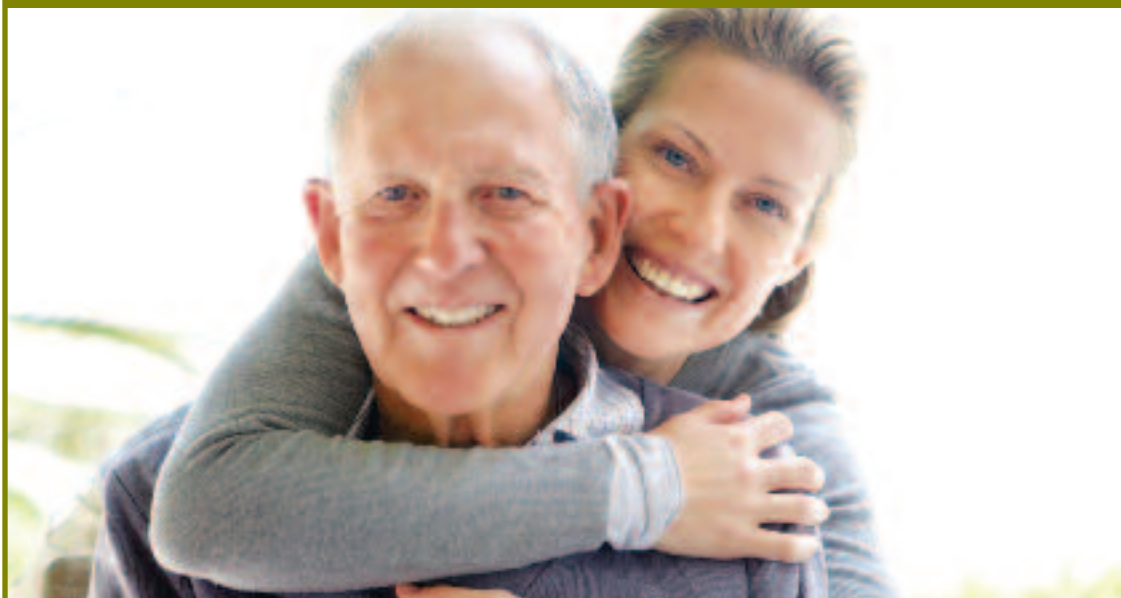
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## Hungarian Folk Music Featured in GCCP's 'Gypsy'

Submitted by Pamela Freund

"Gypsy" opens the Gold Coast Chamber Players' 2015-16 series, with works by Ravel, Bartok, Brahms and Haydn, spanning several centuries of music inspired by Gypsy exoticism Sept. 26 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Hungarian folk music will be a recurring theme, as well as German and French influences. Gold Coast Chamber Players and artistic director/violist Pamela Freund are the recipients of the 2015 Arts

Recognition Award by the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission. Joining Freund is Robert Howard, cello, Jeffrey LaDeur, piano, and one of the leading violinists in the U.S., Geoff Nuttall.

A co-founder and violinist in the award-winning St. Lawrence String Quartet, Nuttall has performed well over 1,500 concerts throughout North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. The St.

Lawrence String Quartet has been ensemble-in-residence at Stanford University since 1999, where Nuttall is on faculty. Nuttall directs the chamber music series at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina. The New York Times describes him as "The Jon Stewart of Chamber Music" for his fun and inventive approach to performing: "Like that television comedian, Mr. Nuttall is a creatively daring, physically talented performer who can

go goofball in a nanosecond, maintaining a veneer of entertainment while educating his base about serious matters." Nuttall will present Maurice Ravel's Tzigane, a virtuoso showcase for violin and piano in the style of a Hungarian rhapsody.

The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, with a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org) and by phone at (925) 283-3728. Limited seating, please reserve early.



Geoff Nuttall

Photo provided

## Community Service

### Kiwanis Helps Babies with Diaper Donation

Submitted by Bob Reynolds



Francis Wong helps prepare Moraga Kiwanis' donation of 5,000 diapers to local family service agencies.

Photo provided

Moraga Kiwanis capped its annual charitable contribution program this month with a donation of 5,000 diapers to five local agencies that provide housing and services to babies, children, and families. Kiwanis' annual donation of funds, goods and hands-on services totaled more than \$48,000, benefiting 31 agencies. Cash donations are expected to climb to \$50,000 next year. Donations benefited a variety of causes in Contra Costa and the East Bay, concentrated in education, family services and needs in Lamorinda. All three Lamorinda education foundations received substantial gifts.

Kiwanis has a long history of investing time and treasure in the community with cash donations totaling more than \$700,000 over the past 20 years and dozens of hands-on service projects. Charitable funds are earned in a variety of events including the upcoming See's candy sale, February's Crab Feed, and at town events in Moraga.

### Lafayette Rotary's Prettification of the Lafayette Gazebo

Submitted by Beverlee Hajek



Terry Ring power-washes the Lafayette Gazebo

Photo Larry Blodgett

The Lafayette Rotary Club July 26 spruced up the Gazebo at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Golden Gate Way, across from Mike's Auto Body, thanks to a team including Terry Ring, Larry Blodgett, Buddy Brodwin, Mike Henn, Beverlee Hajek, Matt Pease, and Brian Aiello. The benches were sanded and re-varnished, and the Gazebo was power-washed, sanded and repainted. This was one of several times in the past that the Lafayette Rotary provided a face-lift to the Gazebo.

The "Memorial Gazebo" commemorates Lafayette's participation in the bicentennial of

the signing of the U. S. Constitution, and was dedicated Sept. 20, 1987. In addition to the Gazebo Dedication Ceremony, Lafayette celebrated the bicentennial with a Horse and Carriage Days parade that included more than 50 groups.

The Lafayette Gazebo is a great starting location for a stroll through downtown Lafayette, or a walk just 0.24 miles south to join the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail at Foye Drive. There is ample parking behind the Gazebo on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Walk 'N' Roll Event Benefits Las Trampas

Submitted by Suzanne Pestal



Participants at last year's Walk 'n' Roll event

Photo provided

The 6th Annual Walk 'n' Roll 1 mile or 5k event benefitting Las Trampas is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail at 3460 Lana Lane. Since 1958, Las Trampas has helped individuals with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities and to lead fuller lives in their homes, at work and in the community. A registration

fee of \$25 includes a T-shirt, raffle, a Whole Foods bag, games by KKDV Radio and Backyard Carnivals, refreshments and entertainment by the KKDV van and Bread and Roses. You can register online at [www.las-trampas.org](http://www.las-trampas.org) to either walk 1,000 steps for independence, sponsor someone else who is registered to walk, or become a virtual walker through a donation.

### AAUW Tech Trekkers Share Excitement from STEM Camp

By Jan Cushman



2015 Tech Trek campers Caroline Ruppert, Sam Swan, Maddie Wilson, Sophia Kofeod, Lynn Wolfe, Maddie House and April Lindblad.

Photo provided

Seven Tech Trek campers sponsored by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, returned from their week-long Stanford University campus Tech Trek Camp with glowing reports of fun, learning and new-found camaraderie.

"It was incredible to meet smart science and math loving girls who are a lot like me," said Orinda Intermediate School student Sophia Kofeod. "Now, I know I am not alone and am going back to school confident in who I am and what I want to do with my life."

Tech Trek Camp is designed to encourage seventh-grade girls to persist with their excitement about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through high school, college, and well into their careers. The camp features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls to meet numerous professional women scientists and engineers.

"My core class was forensics and I learned about fingerprints and chemical reactions as well as identifying different types of fibers," said camper April Lindblad, who attends Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.

In addition to CSI forensics, core classes at camp included computer coding and cyber sleuthing, as well as marine biology, 3D math, and engineering design. The girls took apart

computers, wrote computer code, built functional robots, worked as a team to make a bi-plane from rolled up newspapers using engineering principles, built structures using only uncooked spaghetti and duct tape, and took field trips to Symantec, a marsh, the Stanford blood lab, a virtual reality lab, and a solar car station.

"I loved the hands-on experiences and teamwork that I had to use in doing robotics and building with spaghetti," said Stanley Middle School student Lynn Wolfe, who plans to enroll in a robotics course next year.

OIS student Caroline Rupert enjoyed the visit to Stanford's solar car station. "We saw a car that was built and raced by the Stanford team," she said. "They raced across Australia and they got fourth place: the highest-ranking college team. Who was the driver? A girl from Tech Trek!"

The Tech Trek campers, all from Lamorinda intermediate schools, expressed their thanks to AAUW for their camp scholarships at a Sept. 1 reception hosted by the Branch AAUW Tech Trek Committee. To donate to the AAUW OML Tech Trek scholarship program, or to attend a Tech Trek fundraiser event such as the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk on Oct. 6, contact Jan Cushman at (925) 253-1958. Visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/> for additional information about AAUW and Tech Trek.



# Local Residents Help Afghani Refugees Resettle

By Sophie Braccini



Bobbie Preston

Photo Sophie Braccini

Sometimes people get passionately involved in a cause by choice, other times it is by chance. For Moraga resident Bobbie Preston, a recently retired radiologist, it was a bit of both.

For the past year and a half, Preston has helped Afghan refugees settle in the East Bay, and now she has connected with the nonprofit No One Left Behind (NOLB) that operates on a national level to support former Afghani translators.

It all started for Preston after viewing a request on the online network NextDoor from Sam Shapiro for furniture for Afghans supported by Jewish Family and Children Services – a nonprofit organization accredited by the U.S. government to provide resettlement services to refugees. Preston started helping, and when Shapiro had to step down, she took charge of collecting items. “The support of Moraga residents through NextDoor has been phenomenal,” says Preston. “Within a year and a half, we’ve been able to help 17 families resettling in Contra Costa or Alameda (counties). About 50 Moragans have helped with donations, but also with services [like] what Lisa Hsiao does: going once a week to tutor wives and kids in English, and driving them when needed.”

Of these families, about eight are supported by Jewish Family and Children Services; the other families have been referred to Preston through word of mouth. “We’ve also been helped by Twins By The Bay and Orinda resident Diana Honig,” adds Preston. “They have given us strollers and cribs.” She says she is in desperate need of three more cribs.

One of Preston’s friends met up with Amy Madsen, the newly recruited volunteer leader of the Bay Area Chapter of No One Left Behind. “That friend told me I had to meet Bobbie,” says Madsen.

Preston decided to work with

tribute to the family's income,” explains Madsen.

The two women have also initiated contact with the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. On the East Coast, where NOLB started, Zeller matches veterans’ families with Afghani families to mentor them for five years as they adapt to a completely different society. “Zeller says that the translators had their backs while they were there, and that now it is our turn to have their backs,” says Madsen.

“These people have made a great contribution to the American people at great risk for themselves and their families,” says Preston. “This country made a promise to them to welcome them once their services were not needed anymore. It is important to fulfill that promise.

“These are people that are educated, speak multiple languages and have had a very hard life,” she says. “My friend Pacha works two jobs, and will soon start training to become a pharmacy assistant, as this was his original training in Afghanistan. They love the U.S. and want to be a part of it.”

For more information about NOLB, visit [www.nooneleft.org](http://www.nooneleft.org).

Madsen as soon as they met. “No One Left Behind was created by Matt Zeller, a veteran who had served in Afghanistan and whose life was saved by his Afghani translator,” Preston explains. “During an ambush where he was injured, his translator took his rifle and killed the two Taliban who were moving in to kill him. Zeller was aware that it meant a death sentence for the translator, as for all the others who have been helping our troops in Afghanistan or Iraq and are considered traitors by the Taliban.” Once Zeller was back in the U.S. he campaigned to have his translator get a Special Immigrant Visa, something the country has promised to those natives who are helping U.S. troops. The translator got the visa, and the momentum for his support was such that Zeller collected \$30,000 to help him upon arrival. “When the translator arrived, he asked Zeller to use the money to help resettle other translators instead,” says Preston, “and together they started NOLB.”

Madsen used to work for the State Department in the Middle East and upon returning to the Bay Area, she engaged in different activities as she started raising a family. One of them was blogging about interesting nonprofits. “I talked to NOLB and told Matt Zeller that they should expand in the Bay Area,” remembers Madsen. “He asked me if I would spearhead that effort.”

Madsen and Preston will be at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday Sept. 26 to answer questions, disseminate information and recruit new volunteers. They will bring a list of what they need for NOLB families: more volunteers to assist the refugees as they rebuild a life for themselves, but also donations such as pressure cookers, large area rugs or sewing machines. “We would like to start sewing circles for the women as a mental health benefit, or even as a way for them to con-

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## Looking Good in Lamorinda Fall Fashions, 2015

By Moya Stone



Jake Wall on Project Runway

I cannot let a fall season pass without partaking in a trend or two and there are always plenty of choices. Fall 2015 continues the '70s theme with accessories such as chain belts and dangle earrings. Statement rings are it and more is better, think Queen Elizabeth I with a ring on every finger. The menswear influence in tailored pants is back. Skirts are still favored but there's been a shift to a fuller silhouette with longer hemlines.

This season Ann Rubin from Specialtees in Lafayette is excited about fringe. "You will see fringe on all your favorite styles," says Rubin. "Bohemian or preppy. Vintage or modern. Everyone will be loving fringe."

OK, count me in on fringe and my other go-to trend is the crop pant. Sharp and distinctive, the crop pant in tweed worn with boots is a twist on the menswear look, but still comfortable and professional. Pair with a tailored jacket and you will be nothing less than elegant-chic. For something different consider going '40s with the jacket. Mixing vintage with current fashions is an easy way to create a unique look. Collector's Choice Antiques in Lafayette carries an array of quality vintage clothing.

This fall Moraga resident Chelsea Nicole is going for layering and accessorizing.

"I like wearing hats during fall and winter because they are functional for keeping warm and you can tie a whole outfit together with a long and flowing scarf," she explains. A working mom, Nicole needs quick and easy fashion options. "I work at Absolute Center in Lafayette as a Pilates instructor and I really like their boutique because they offer fun and sporty pieces that you can also wear to the grocery store or dinner and not look like you just got off the treadmill."

"When in doubt bring out the black and white as it's always right," says Eliza Jamkochian from Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette, who is big on this season's color block trend. "It is safe to say that women wearing these two colors always feel striking, chic and feminine. Depending on the style of the dress, most women love the idea of a color block piece as it tends to be more flattering."

Just in time for the fall fashion frenzy, Project Runway has returned for their 14th season on Lifetime television and fans are excited to be rooting for two local designers. Jake Wall and Candice Cuoco, both from the Bay Area, joined 14 other contestants for the popular fast-paced fashion design reality-show competition. Last month I had a chance to meet Wall at Bespoke in the Westfield Mall San Francisco Center. Wall runs his own company, Jake, which offers custom-



Going black and white at Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette. Photo Moya Stone

made suit separates and shirting for men and women.

Wall says he and his business partner were inspired to jump into the suit business after hearing that the art of tailoring is on the decline. "I think that a lot of people don't wear as many suits as they used to because the suits don't necessarily fit them that well." Wall apprenticed in Hong Kong with a tailor and set up shop four years ago offering bespoke tailored pieces. As for Project Runway, Wall says he had a great time and ultimately what he came away with was a life lesson. "To challenge myself continuously and to think unconventionally," he shares. "I want to be more unconventional with things that I have around me every single day." He may also have walked away the big winner. As of press time, Wall is still in the running. Tune in and follow along.

Among all the current fashion events around the Bay Area is the exhibit "Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait" at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. Fans of the vocalist can get a peek at the young girl and her family before and after she found fame. Born in 1983 to a Jewish family in a London suburb, Winehouse grew up a regular kid in a supportive household but with success came drugs and an early death in 2011.

This charming, small exhibit celebrates Winehouse's life and includes a family tree, photos, concert mementos, clothing of her childhood, and fashions the singer favored such as a dress by Betsy Johnson, which Winehouse wore for her U.S. television debut on David Letterman. "Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait" runs through Nov. 1.

Embrace fall fashions and go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a local fashion writer and blogger at [www.over-dressedforlife.com](http://www.over-dressedforlife.com).

Photo courtesy Lifetime

## Local Physician Leads Program to Tackle Family Medicine Doctor Shortage

By Lou Fancher

The boon and blessing of President Obama's health care law has come with a cost in California. The expanding girth of the state's Covered California health exchange, record-setting Medi-Cal enrollments and young doctors with medical school debt as high as \$250,000 have combined to expose a serious, partially predictable deficit: an extreme shortage of family medicine physicians.

A new Family Medicine Residency Program based at John Muir Health's Walnut Creek Outpatient Center aims to fill and fortify the gap for future generations. Led by Moraga resident and Program Director Dr. Jeremy Fish, the program will provide hands-on-learning for eight medical students starting July 2017. A similar-size class will be added each year: by 2019, there will be 24 students working alongside John Muir teaching doctors and University of California at San Francisco physicians. Treating insured, many of them underserved, vulnerable patients in the East Bay, the residents will access and learn from a newly-formed program patients have helped to design.

"The practice is being designed by leadership and patients on the team," Fish says. "They have a vote in how it's structured. Instead of just reacting, we're insuring the doctors are trained in non-traditional skills like patient safety, quality management, leadership and high reliability leading to communications that reduce errors."

Family medicine doctors are generalists, whose broad-spectrum knowledge allows them to treat people of any age and condition before referring patients to specialists as needed. During 20 years in the field, Fish has held multiple appointments, including 10 years as the Family Medicine Residency Director for Contra Costa County Health Services. The 51-year-old physician received his medical degree from UC Irvine and completed his residency at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. He and his wife, Susan, are the parents of a 16-year-old son, a junior at Campolindo High School.

With more people gaining access to health care, Fish says the need for general practice services has swelled. Medi-Cal alone has

grown by approximately 2.7 million patients since January 2014. The high volume of people presenting with multiple conditions are overwhelming hospitals and clinics. "They have heart disease, lung disease, diabetes and other things at the same time. That's the clearest place where family medicine can make a difference," says Fish.

A segment of the patient population also has mental and emotional health issues. Fish says family medicine physicians receive more communication skills training than specialists. "Openness to behavioral health challenges makes us great partners. Most medical research is of a single disease; it's less clear how to rap it up with complex care. Our added value is that we comfortably ride the bridges between multiple conditions."

At the same time, salaries for family medicine doctors are typically a third or less than salaries paid to specialists. Fish says a perceived lack of prestige for family physicians compounds the problem and is wide spread. He doesn't deny the stigma's power – if anything, it proves that the new residency program is critically important. The number of college graduates headed for general medicine programs in med school is down 15 percent, he says.

"It's common for people to say to those entering family medicine, 'You'll only end up wiping people's noses,' or, 'You're too smart; you should be a surgeon.' Specialists are thought to have more structured, predictable, lucrative lifestyles," says Fish.

If the new program is to attract students and retain doctors after they graduate, it will require more than the Bay Area's attractive amenities that include good schools, beautiful surroundings, active cultural offerings and the like. Robust structures, electronic records, a highly functional system and the ability to practice at the top of their capability are necessary to draw strong applicants and hold onto doctors. "Where you train predicts where you practice. You can draw a circle and if you get out to a 50-mile radius, you get about 50 percent retention," Fish says.

It might also require young



Dr. Jeremy Fish Photo provided

doctors with a passion similar to Fish's, who grew up in Berkeley and whose family for a time was on welfare. "I had personal experience with the inhumanity of social welfare. My family also came from farmers, so pragmatism and idealism were part of my experience." Combined with a medical degree, the influences resulted in a philosophy about medical care. "Family medicine allows us to mold our practices to the community instead of asking the community to fit our specialties. It has a social justice flavor. I've spent my career working primarily in underserved, underinsured communities."

With several top family medical programs established in the Bay Area (Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez, approaching 40 years in operation and training roughly 40 students every year is one example), Fish says it's still not enough. "There are over 50 family medicine programs in the state already, but they may be only half of what is needed to cover all the Californians in need." Retirements and other attrition – let alone the booming number of patients in need – aren't entirely offset by shifting to nurse practitioners, online health care, or team-style health care centers that put multiple services in one office complex. With everyone playing catch up, Fish says residency programs are a vital part of the solution.

## Another Exciting Day at Moraga Royale

Submitted by Diane Wilson



From left: Polynesian dancer Nicole, Annie, on the pony, and Spunky.

Photo courtesy Lisa Haymaker

Over 300 children, parents and grandparents joined in the fun at the Grandparents Day celebration at Moraga Royale Sept. 12. This special event included Polynesian dancers,

singers, pony rides, petting zoo, a balloon magician, face painting, games, prizes and a cakewalk. The guests also enjoyed a delicious barbecue, popcorn and snow cones. Several Moraga-

Orinda Fire District firefighters arrived in a fire truck ready for the children to explore. This is an annual event open to the Lamorinda community as a courtesy of Moraga Royale.

Submit stories and story ideas to  
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Specialties of the House

# The Hunt for Happy Hour – The Park Bistro and Bar

A.K. Carroll



Papa Taught Me (with limoncello vodka, pisco and elderflower)  
Photos A.K. Carroll



Heads or Tails (with banana, allspice and rum)

This week, in the Hunt for Happy Hour, we visit The Park Bistro and Bar for a rebooted sampling of the best this boutique bistro has to offer.

A rustic bistro with a contemporary twist, the sleek leather seats, outdoor fire pits, high-topped tables and cozy stone fireplace of this bar and lounge create an atmosphere that is classic and relaxed, providing a sophisticated space that invites visitors to feel at home and allows locals the luxury of a vacation. Both the food and beverage offerings of the happy hour menu represent the quality and character of the entire selection and are prepared with the same attention to detail that you'll find throughout the menu.

After 25 years, The Park has brought in fresh blood in the form of bar manager Kyle Tran. Formerly of The Aviary in Chicago, Tran plans to shake things up, curating an ever-evolving cocktail menu that blends tradition and innovation in its flavors, technique, ingredients and execution; expansive enough to appeal broadly. Seasonal sangria goes for \$6 a glass and is made with red or white wine and a fresh selection of fruits. New to the menu are novel sipping options in

the form of bottled cocktails, made and bottled in house and ranging from a grapefruit and tequila Paloma to an orange-infused vodka cream soda. At \$8 a bottle, they're a little something special, allowing you to pop the top to refreshment after a long Indian summer day. Happy hour specials also include \$5 house wines and \$3 bottled beers, with two widely-distributed brands and a rotating local third that might be Anchor Steam one week and Lagunitas the next. Though the discounted drink menu offers a little something for everyone, you may be tempted to turn to the full list of cocktails, where you'll find familiar favorites and innovative newcomers, ranging from fruity and floral to boozy and complex.

Scaled down to a modest 8-10 items, there's nothing skimpy or sparse about the appetizer options on The Park's happy hour menu, any of which can stand up beside your fa-

vorite beverage. A \$3 chef's slider (mine was swordfish topped with pickled fennel and carrots) paired with a right-sized three-ounce shooter of the soup du jour is more than a tiny taster; it's a satisfying snack that will give you some idea of what may be in store should you choose to stay for dinner. Other happy hour eating options include sweet potato fries, blistered peppers, marinated olives, togarashi popcorn and crispy chicken skewers.

Whether you're out on the patio nursing a cocktail and browsing the web, up on a brass-studded bar stool rehashing the latest office drama over a martini, or snugly sinking into an armchair, sipping swallows of a soup shooter, you're sure to find a selection to compliment any occasion for happy hour at The Park Bistro and Bar. Step out and step up your evening with a little hint of luxury.

When: 4:30-6 pm, Monday-Friday  
Where: Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette  
Drinks: \$8 bottled cocktails, \$5 house wine, \$3 bottled beer  
Food: \$3-5 appetizers  
Recommended: Daily Slider and Soup Shooter, bottled Paloma



A grilled swordfish slider with pickled fennel and carrot and a soup shooter with Brentwood roasted sweet corn with bacon

## www.Lamorindaweekly.com

### Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Climbed Whitney. No Big Deal.
- Water Polo: Lamorinda to Pac-12 Pipeline Strong as Ever
- California Independent Film Festival Opens Tomorrow, Sept. 10
- Lynn's Top Five Smart Financial Steps for Interesting Economic Times
- Stress on the Front Line and on the Home Front
- New Reconfigured Cottage Plan for Mountain View Parcel
- PG & E to Remove 51 Trees Along St Marys Road in Moraga
- Downtown Congestion Study Starts This Fall
- BDK Center Brings Buddhism and Japanese Culture to Lamorinda
- A Real DIY Project Saint Marys employee designs his own electric car

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.

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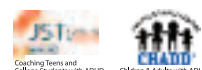
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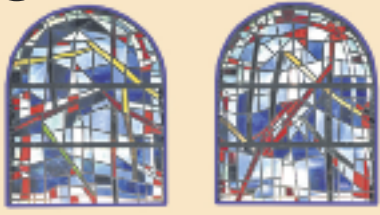
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## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### Lafayette United Methodist Church



955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette

284-4765, office@thelumc.org, thelumc.org

**Worship** Sunday 10 am  
**Children & Teen Faith Formation** Sunday 10 am  
**Teen Fellowship** Sunday 6 pm

*Opportunities for Worship, Love, Service*

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

*In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare*  
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► **SEEDLINGS Preschool**, M-F

► **LOPC: Where everyone is welcome, nobody is perfect & anything is possible with God.**

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Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

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Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

10 Moraga Valley Lane | www.mvpctoday.org | 925.376.4800

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

**Sunday Service and Sunday School** 10 - 11 am  
 Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
 Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org

### Willow Spring Community Church Loving God Loving People

*Come and Meet our New Pastor*

**Sundays:** 9:15am Adult Sunday School Classes  
 10:15am Pre-Service Fellowship (Free Coffee & Bagels)  
 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service

**Wednesdays:** 10:00am Community Bible Study  
 1689 School Street, Moraga (925) 376-3550  
 www.willowspringchurch.net

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holy shepherd.org



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.  
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

### SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School & Communion Service in the SMC Chapel



stgiles-moraga.org  
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### The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

*"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"*

**Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School 10:00 a.m.**

## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**The Moraga Art Gallery presents "Color, Clay & Fire,"** a new show featuring the ceramics of Jacqueline Proulx and the dramatic light-and-color paintings of Marge Barta Atkins. The show, which includes the gallery's 16 member artists and several guest artists, runs through Oct. 31. For more info, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**"Painting With Threads,"** an exhibition of exquisite Japanese embroidery art pieces will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily Sept. 28 through Oct. 2 at BDK America, 1675 School Street in Moraga. BDK America is the American affiliate of a world-wide philanthropy promoting Buddhism and Japanese culture and arts.

**Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Through the Eyes of Masters: Artist Julie Cohn Lectures on Matisse, the artist and his life"** from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8. Free.

**Columbus Day Weekend LAA Art Show and Sale** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Lafayette Christian Church, just off St. Mary's Road at 584 Glenside Drive. Eighteen LAA members will display recently completed works, including ceramics, jewelry, glass art, and photography.

**The newest show at the Lafayette Art Gallery, "Artists in Action,"** runs through Oct. 31. Selected artists will be demonstrating their techniques at the Gallery from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26 and 27, as a talented group of local artists showcase their works related to the theme of movement, motion and gestural action.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents "A Fine Line - The Dr. Maurice Alberti Print Collection of European and American Masters."** The show opens Sunday, Oct. 4. The collection consists of master works on paper by leading Impressionists, Expressionists, Fauvists and Cubists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. For info, call (925) 631-4363 or visit [stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**Valley Art Gallery's "Colorfall" Exhibit opens** on Saturday, Sept. 26 with a free reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Fall is the most colorful time of the year, with russets and siennas joining the greens and golds of summer. Valley Art Gallery celebrates this expanded palette with a new show, with a juried selection of new work from a talented group of local members. The show runs through Nov. 7.

### MUSIC

**"Gypsy" opens the Gold Coast Chamber Players' 2015-16 series,** with works inspired by Gypsy exoticism at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, with a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org) and by phone at (925) 283-3728. (See story page B6)

**Grace Partners presents a free benefit concert** from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Enjoy food, drink, and live music from Bollinger Station and The King Cosby Band. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity. Free. For more info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/701494296616699/>, call (925) 935-2100 or email [rr.gracewc@gmail.com](mailto:rr.gracewc@gmail.com).

**Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra presents "East Bay Orchestra Goes Around the World In 80 Minutes"** from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 at Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Violinist Phillip Santos will be part of the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra season-opener. Also hear the premiere of Benjamin Taylor's "Tocatta for Orchestra." Cost: \$10-\$30 at the door. For more info see <http://www.ContraCostaChamberOrchestra.org>.

**The Piano Composers of The Contra Costa Performing Arts Society** is presenting their first musical event of the new season at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall,

3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Family and friends of all ages can enjoy the variety of musical styles each musician/composer brings to the performance, eliciting the full breadth of sounds from the excellent Steinway grand. Free. For info, visit [www.ccpas.org](http://www.ccpas.org).

### THEATER

**Town Hall Theatre presents "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"** by Rupert Holmes Oct. 3-24. Taking place at the turn of the century in a bawdy music hall, a group of actors decide to attempt the unthinkable – to solve, resolve and conclude Charles Dickens' unfinished masterpiece, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." With the audience deciding several outcomes every evening (resulting in over 200 different combinations of endings), "Drood" is fast, incredibly funny ... and never the same show twice. Rated PG-13 for bawdy humor and adult situations. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or check the website at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com) for show times and tickets.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Lafayette Physical Therapy Lecture Series** will feature Michele Duffy BTB, M.F.S., who will discuss Feng Shui and Wellness from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. For info, visit <http://lafayettept.com/events/>.

**Life in the Bay Area: Dr. Miriam Chion, research and planning director** of the Association of Bay Area Governments, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 at The College Preparatory School's Buttner Auditorium, 6100 Broadway in Oakland. This presentation will provide an overview of major land use, transportation, housing, and climate change issues in the Bay Area. Tickets are \$15 at the door or at [www.collegeprep.org/livetaalk](http://www.collegeprep.org/livetaalk).

**Robert Reich Big Picture Teach-In from 2 to 4 p.m.** Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Lafayette Library. Along with Reich's Big Picture Videos (3 min. each) expert speakers and small groups will discuss actions to take, with a focus on the following videos: Make Polluters Pay, Tame Wall Street, Corporate Welfare and Get Big Money Out of Politics. Free. RSVP's are helpful but not required. Please RSVP to [moneyout\\_peoplein@yahoo.com](mailto:moneyout_peoplein@yahoo.com) or to Loretta Matthieu at (925) 464-7995.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents "The Art of Collecting"** a lecture by print dealer Dan Lienau on how to start an art collection, 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 in the Soda Activity Center.

**"The Gift of Failure - Fostering Intrinsic Motivation and Resilience in Kids"** at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8 at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center. Jessica Lahey writes for the New York Times and the Atlantic about parent and student issues. She shares the message that failure is vital to success, and shows parents how to offer support even as they encourage autonomy. For tickets, go to [jessicalahey.eventbrite.com](http://jessicalahey.eventbrite.com).

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**The Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda libraries** marked the start of Lamorinda Kids Read Sept. 1 by giving away free copies of Stuart Gibbs' "Spy School." Gibbs will talk about his "Spy School" series and his other popular children's books at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The Lamorinda Kids Read programs are free and geared to older elementary and middle school students. They are sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda Libraries. For more information, visit [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org) or <http://guides.ccclib.org/onebook/lamorinda2015>.

**The New SAT is coming March 2016.** In preparation, the new PSAT will be administered to students this October. To help students prepare, the OML- AAUW Scholarship Commit-

tee in partnership with Kaplan Test Prep, will hold a New PSAT Practice Test on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Miramonte High School in Orinda as a fundraiser for their scholarship awarded annually. Students will experience the full-length timing and structure of the new PSAT, receive a comprehensive analysis of their strengths and weaknesses and therefore know exactly what to expect on Test Day. Cost for the test is \$35. For more details and to sign up, visit: <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/psat/>.

**This fall Lindsay Wildlife Experience will be leading** hikes in Mount Diablo State Park to explore the natural habitat of tarantulas. Discover these eight-legged creatures on a local two-mile hike recommended for nature lovers ages 6 and up. Tarantula Hikes take place from 4 to 6 p.m. every Sunday through Oct. 25. The hike costs \$10 for Lindsay members and \$15 for all non-members. Pre-registration is required.

### OTHER

**Visit the Be the Star You Are! booth at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 in Moraga to receive a free book as part of the charity literacy outreach program sponsored by Children's Success Unlimited, Michael VerBrugge Construction, and Lamorinda Weekly. Info at [http://starstylerradio.net/Events/Entries/2015/9/26\\_Pear\\_%26\\_Wine\\_Festival\\_2015.html](http://starstylerradio.net/Events/Entries/2015/9/26_Pear_%26_Wine_Festival_2015.html).

**Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.** Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive. To schedule your appointment or for more information visit [redcross-blood.org](http://redcross-blood.org) and enter Sponsor Code MVPC. For info, visit [www.mvpctoday.org](http://www.mvpctoday.org) or call 376-4800x227.

**Middle Eastern Food Festival from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Saturday Sept. 26, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 on the church grounds of St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church located at 501 Moraga Way, Orinda. Food, live entertainment, dancing, children's games, a bazaar, crafts, books and Middle Eastern heritage exhibits and talks. Adults \$2; children under 12 are free. For info, visit [www.stjohnorinda.org](http://www.stjohnorinda.org) or call (925) 258-4255.

**The Moraga-Orinda Fire District will kick off** Fire Prevention Week with its Fall Open House and Pancake Breakfast from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 3 at Station 41, 1280 Moraga Way.

**Serbian Food Festival noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3** at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Enjoy special dishes, including barbecued ox, homemade pastries and live Serbian music.

**5A Rent-A-Space Shred Fest** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 3 at 455 Moraga Rd.

**The 6th Annual Orinda Olive Festival will be from** 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at 350 Camino Pablo in Orinda. This free, family-friendly event celebrates olives and the historic Wagner Ranch, including it's 130-year-old Mission Olive Grove. Come sample olives, olive oils and vinegars from multiple vendors; learn the chemistry of olive oils; see chef demos of olive-inspired recipes; make olive branch crowns and wreaths; find wonderful products and services at the raffle table; take a docent tour of the ranch; enjoy arts, crafts, games, food and live music.

**Join Saint Giles Episcopal Church for The Feast of Saint Francis and Blessing of the Animals** from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 on the Chapel Green at Saint Mary's College. After the service there will be coffee hour on the Chapel Plaza and packing of bagged lunches for the homeless population served by Sacred Space-Oakland ([www.sacredspacebay.org](http://www.sacredspacebay.org)) For more info, visit [www.stgiles-moraga.org](http://www.stgiles-moraga.org).

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please...



...thanks

MOVIE REVIEW

# Sci Fi Day 2 at the Rheem Theatre, Oct. 3

By Derek Zembrak



Image provided

Now that the California Independent Film Festival is over it is time for Sci Fi Day 2 at the Rheem Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 3. This fun-filled day of classic 1950s Sci Fi films will include a special guest appearance by Ann Robinson from "War of the Worlds." Robinson will be inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame as well as the film.

The amazing lineup of films includes:

**1:30 p.m. – "It Came from Outer Space" (1953)**

A spaceship from another world crashes in the Arizona desert, and only an amateur stargazer (Richard Carlson) and a schoolteacher (Barbara Rush) suspect an alien influence when the local townsfolk begin to act strange. "It Came from Outer Space" is based on the story by Sci Fi legend, Ray Bradbury.

**3:30 p.m. – "Thing from Another World" (1951)**

Scientists and American Air Force officials fend off a bloodthirsty alien organism while they are stationed at a remote arctic outpost. James Arness, from the classic television show Gunsmoke, appears in the movie as "The Thing."

**6:15 p.m. – "Forbidden Planet" (1956)**

A starship crew goes to investigate the silence of a planet's colony only to find two survivors and

a deadly secret that one of the survivors has. The movie stars two-time Oscar nominee Walter Pidgeon ("Madame Curie," "Mrs. Miniver"), Golden Globe winner Anne Francis ("Honey West") and two-time Emmy nominee Leslie Nielsen ("Police Squad").

Do not miss the appearance of a very special robot at the Rheem!

**8:30 p.m. – "War of the Worlds" (1953)**

The film adaptation of the H.G. Wells story, told on radio of the invasion of Earth by Martians, stars Golden Globe winner Gene Barry ("Burke's Law") and special guest Ann Robinson. "War of the Worlds" and Robinson will be inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame prior to the screening of the film.

Also, during the day there will be a special "laser gun" on display at the museum. For a donation to the Classic Film Hall of Fame and Museum, moviegoers will have the opportunity to be photographed with the "laser gun" and our special guest robot. Do not miss out on this fun-filled Sci Fi Day.

Tickets are now on sale online at [www.LamorindaTheatres.com](http://www.LamorindaTheatres.com) and at the Rheem Theatre box office.

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## Service Clubs Announcements



Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

<p>Please join us at our new location <b>THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL</b> on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at <a href="mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com">lamorindasunrise@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b>September 25:</b></p> <p>Photographer and Lamorinda Sunrise's own Tom Black will Expose Himself!</p>	<p><b>October 2:</b></p> <p>Our speaker will be Tom Croen - maker of Violins and President of the Lake Merritt Rowing Club</p>
<p><i>Please join us for breakfast and a great speaker!</i></p>	

### ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

**OTHER ... continued**

**Come enjoy Orinda's first Fun Dog Show, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4.** Your furry friends will compete for the waggiest tail, the most appealing expression, the best legs, the scruffiest dog/bad hair day, the dog that looks most like its owner, the most talented and a three-legged race. There will be prizes for the winners and also face painting, raffles, demonstrations by the Mount Diablo Dog Training Club and food from Adorubowl food truck. All ages are welcome; free for spectators. If you want your dog to join the contests, you can register (\$20) online at <http://http://ahallout.wix.com/fundogshow1> or at the park (\$25).

**Restaurant Walk: A Benefit for Girls' Science Education.** More than 20 Walnut Creek restaurants will be providing delicious samples from their menus during the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, sponsored by the American Association of University Women. Enjoy some wonderful food and help provide this important experience for more girls by sending your check for \$30 per person to Jan Cushman at 143 Meadow View, Orinda, CA 94563. Checks should be made out to AAUW OML Community Outreach Fund, Inc. For more info, visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/>.

**Women Unleashed! from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8** at Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. You deserve a Girls Night at ARF surrounded by precious pups and cute cats. Enjoy complimentary soda, wine, martinis, and appetizers while you shop for clothing, accessories, beauty products, and more. Relax with a mini massage, watch

demonstrations, and tour ARF. Cost: \$25 per person. Must be 16 years or older. For info, visit <https://www.arflife.org/arf-events/439/women-unleashed>.

**Burton Valley Elementary School PTA Sponsored Blood & Bone Marrow Drive** from 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 in the Multi-Purpose Room, 561 Merriewood Dr., Lafayette. If you have questions regarding your eligibility to donate blood, please call 1-866-236-3276.

**Art of Mixology Cocktail Competition and Tasting** 4:30 to 7:00 pm on October 10 at Orinda Theatre Square. Competitors will serve up their signature cocktails to a distinguished panel of judges as they vie for the title of Mixologist of the Year, and a \$500 cash prize and trophy. Tasting tickets for adults 21 years of age and older are \$45. For more information about the Art of Mixology craft cocktail competition, to enter and to purchase tickets, go to <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology>.

**Uncharted - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 16 and 17** in Downtown Berkeley's historic Arts District (2025 Addison Street, Berkeley.) Uncharted was founded in 2013 as the Bay Area's first ideas festival. It brings together some of the world's great thinkers, designed to engage and inspire. It's an interactive, eye-opening two days of discussion, debate, workshops, and good food, beer and wine. For more info, visit <http://www.berkeleyideas.com/about/>

**The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch** of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will feature the Honorable Ellen Tauscher, the U.S. Representative for California's 10th congressional district from 1997-2009, on

Tuesday Oct. 20 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Coffee will be served at 9 a.m. For membership information, visit the Branch website: <http://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

**SENIORS**

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171** meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour at 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The after-lunch speaker on Oct. 7 will be Dan Herbert, V.P. of WiseTech, who will discuss the rapidly changing global market for trade, its impacts on the supply chain and global security. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**GARDEN**

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its general meeting** at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 12 at the Gardens at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The program topic is "Keeping Your Garden Habitat Friendly in the Drought." You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For more info, email [mslittle44@gmail.com](mailto:mslittle44@gmail.com).

**Montelindo Garden Club will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16** at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Topic: Water Wisdom - Drip by Drip by speaker Roxy Wolosenko, landscape designer and owner of Roxy Designs, Moraga. For info, visit [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com).

**Please submit events to:**  
[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

**SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680**

*"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"*

**Please join us for our next meeting:**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 7th  
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Buttercup Grill  
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

"Save the Date for our Crab Feed" Saturday, January 23rd

**For more information, contact:**  
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076  
or go to: [soroptimist24-680.org](http://soroptimist24-680.org)

**Lamorinda Weekly**  
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Click Food tab.

## Mixing it Up

Art of Mixology craft cocktail competition in Orinda, Oct. 10

By Susie Iventosch



Cajun-spiced mixed nuts

Photo Susie Iventosch

The second annual Lamorinda Arts Council "Art of Mixology" cocktail competition is just around the corner, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at Orinda's Theatre Square. This year, the event will also feature a brand new "Art of Table Staging" competition category.

Competitors will serve up their signature cocktails to a distinguished panel of judges as they vie for the title of Mixologist of the Year, and a \$500 cash prize and trophy. Second and third place winners will be awarded \$250 and \$100, respectively.

The "Art of Table Staging" category winner will be selected by J. Rockcliff Realtors and the Audience Choice craft cocktail winner will be selected by those who purchase tasting tickets. Aspiring at-home bartenders are also invited to compete for

Top Amateur Mixologist.

We are featuring last year's winning cocktail recipe, The Perfect Pair, which was created by Joe Carpenter, formerly of The Cooperage in Lafayette.

And, because every good cocktail needs a good snack, I am publishing my husband's "secret" recipe for Cajun-spiced mixed nuts. He made this one up all by himself, and our friends and family always love this snack.

For more information about the Art of Mixology craft cocktail competition, to enter and to purchase tickets, go to <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology>. Tasting tickets for adults 21 years of age and older are \$45.

## 2014 Mixologist of the Year winner: Joe Carpenter (formally) of The Cooperage:



2014 Mixologist of the Year winner, Joe Carpenter

Photo courtesy Lauren Herpich

### The Perfect Pair

1.5 ounces rye bourbon  
0.75 ounce St. George Spicy Pear Liqueur  
0.75 ounce tobacco syrup  
1 ounce lemon juice  
Top with hot mulled wine espuma, (foam or froth), and garnish with a pear segment

## Cajun-spiced Mixed Nuts

### INGREDIENTS

2 pounds unsalted, mixed nuts  
1-2 teaspoons canola oil  
1-plus tablespoons lemon pepper  
1-plus tablespoons Cajun seasoning  
Salt and pepper to taste

### DIRECTIONS

Toss mixed nuts with the oil in a container with a tight-fitting lid, until well coated. Sprinkle lemon pepper and Cajun seasoning over nuts, and shake until well seasoned. Add more spices as desired, to taste. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Store in closed container, until ready to serve.



Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com). If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

## Newhouse to Speak at LLLC

Author of "Founding 49ers: The Dark Days Before the Dynasty" in Lafayette Oct. 1

By Lou Fancher

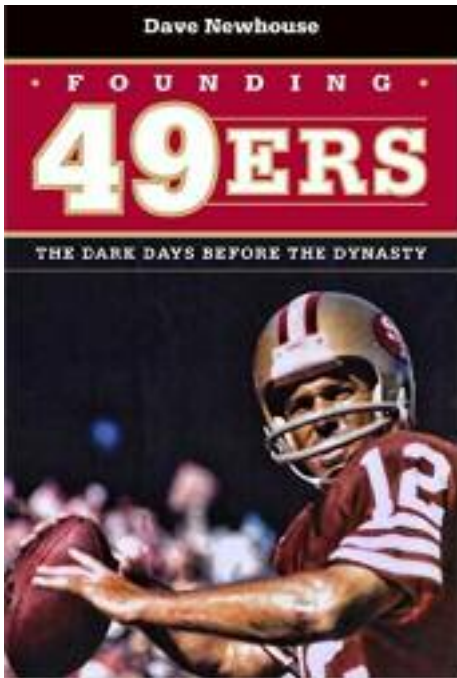


Image provided

Toss the longtime sportswriter and author the true story of a college basketball team improbably started at a just-made-coed school that swiftly won major championships or a historic tale of three seconds put back on a clock that turned upside down the dreams of an Olympic basketball team and the former Oakland Tribune columnist is hooked like a well-caught fish.

So it won't surprise his readership that the Lafayette Library's Distinguished Speaker Series

Oct. 1 will introduce his new book, "Founding 49ers: The Dark Days Before the Dynasty." The book chronicles the slow slog – 35 years – and spirited characters that built the 49ers from a motley crew into the crown king championship franchise known today.

Newhouse, 77, retired after 47 years at the Oakland Tribune and a career that includes hosting a KNBR radio talk show in the 1980s, appearances in ESPN and COMCAST sports documentaries and more. Never a person to put down his writer's pen, his passion for crafting stories and sharing them with audiences remains unabated.

"The library asked if I wanted somebody from a radio station to moderate, but I've been in front of crowds so much I said I'd be OK on my own," Newhouse says.

Even so, he appreciates the value of having a buddy. If the health of former 49er defensive lineman Charlie Krueger holds up, the man known as 'Textbook Tackle' due to his intelligent playing will join Newhouse. "I'll read part of the chapter I've written about him, then talk with him about the days when the 49ers were not a dynasty. The years when they didn't win league or conference championships."

Newhouse is likely to lay the groundwork by reading from his book about the years during World War II, when future 49er players were being hit by shrapnel, not defensive tackles. "These guys, some of them, came out of WW II and were genuine heroes," Newhouse says.

But they weren't on television or the instant heroes or villains created by today's tweeting and blogging, he insists. "Even when they got on TV, most people didn't have televisions. The games were on radio. There weren't a lot of competing sports here so those players became heroes, not because there was a viral, instant-celebrity society, but because they were pioneers."

Peculiar pioneers – with quirky habits, volatile relationships, second jobs (early players didn't command eye-popping salaries), unusual playing styles and other surprises Newhouse weaves into a compelling, team-coming-of-age-style narrative.

Response to the book has been positive, with groups like the NFL's Northern California Alumni Chapter purchasing 400 copies to distribute and guest stints on KGO Radio and Michael Krasny's Forum on NPR. "People say I hit a gold strike," Newhouse says. "One of the common expressions is, 'I didn't know this, or that.' Part of 49er history is either forgotten or untapped. It's like a black hole."

The dangers of football, on the other hand, are all too familiar to Newhouse and most hot-for-sports Bay Area communities including Lamorinda. It's a subject that can shoot Newhouse into a riff of responses. "Pro football has gone from broken noses and knocked out teeth to serious concussion injuries that have caused players to commit suicide," he says. "Coaches don't legislate against going head-to-head. It's

like concussion city."

Performance enhancing drugs are another bone to jaw on. "If you take a drug, you sit out four games. If you knock someone out, you might not even have a penalty. The NFL punishes more for drug users than head hunters who cause concussions." Newhouse says that as long as players unions can overturn a commissioner's decision – "Roger Goodell makes \$44 million a year and as we see with Inflation-gate, he doesn't seem to have a lot of power," Newhouse says – players are going to get richer and sicker. "The game seems to want to hurt itself," he says.

Despite his critical words, he is unlikely to stop wordsmithing about sports. Mining the resumes and histories of athletes to find the person in the player is his way of connecting to the world – and to his inner sensibilities. His next book, "Dare to Dream," written with former UC Berkeley coach Lou Campanelli, profiles the meteoric, 10-year rise of the James Madison University men's basketball team. A second, untitled book, this one in search of a publisher, captures the peaks and valleys of the 1972 Olympics, when swimmer Mark Spitz wowed the world, Edy Heart's heart was broken when his coach misfired the start time for his heat and three seconds made all the difference to Russian and American competitors. "My writing MO is to try to present the sensitive sides of people," Newhouse says. We might add, "And it's only the beginning."

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## SMC Men's Soccer Seeks Consistency as WCC Play Looms

By Karl Buscheck



Freshman Stephen Dougherty (18) and senior Will Kendall celebrate Dougherty's first career goal vs Canisius  
Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's men's soccer team has big plans for 2015.

"I mean we expect to challenge for the conference championship – that's for sure," Head Coach Adam Cooper said.

Cooper and his squad have a right to be confident, as the Gaels are returning eight starters from a 2014 team that set the program record for most wins overall and in West Coast Conference play.

"Whether we finish first, second or third – I don't know," Cooper said. "But we're going to challenge for that conference championship – that's for sure."

The rest of the conference expects a strong showing from the Gaels too, as WCC coaches tabbed Saint Mary's to finish second. For his part, Cooper knows games – let alone conference titles – aren't won on paper.

"Paper doesn't play, right?" Cooper chuckled.

As Saint Mary's (3-4-1) navigates the non-conference slate, there's no question what the team's central issue has been.

"[We've been] inconsistent," Cooper said. "We've played some good games. The guys have done well. It's been mostly on the road. Some long road trips and the guys have responded relatively well, but

we need to find more consistency."

Early on, the Gaels have had mixed results on the road. To open up the season, the team dropped a pair of games at the John Rennie Nike Invitational at Koskinen Stadium in Durham, North Carolina. On Aug. 28, Saint Mary's lost 3-2 to Duke, the tournament host. A couple of days later, the Gaels fell 1-0 to Elon.

After picking up a pair of home wins over La Salle (3-2) on Sept. 4 and over Canisius (1-0) on Sept. 6, the Gaels split a two-game trip to Missouri. On Sept. 11, Saint Mary's lost 1-0 to Missouri State on an overtime penalty kick. The Gaels followed up that disappointing defeat with an overtime thriller of their own on Sept. 13. In the 101<sup>st</sup> minute, senior Will Kendall poured in a penalty to hand the Gaels a 2-1 win over Oral Roberts University.

On Sept. 18, in the team's return to Moraga, a lack of consistency doomed the Gaels to a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Cal State University Northridge.

"I think the score was misleading," Cooper said. "I think we played all right except for a seven-minute span there."

The Gaels jumped out to a 1-0 advantage in the 23rd minute, but the lead would be brief. Beginning in the 25th minute, CSUN crashed in three

goals over a seven-minute stretch and the visitors never looked back.

As WCC play approaches – Saint Mary's opens its conference schedule by hosting Pacific on Oct. 11 – the Gaels will need to figure out who will be leading the attack. In the first eight games, eight players have found the back of the net and only freshman Stephen Dougherty and senior Will Kendall have scored more than once – they have two goals apiece.

"That's a good and bad thing sometimes," Cooper said. "At least we're scoring them by committee. If we keep scoring them by committee, whatever works. But we also need a guy to step up and score some goals."

Kendall scored an equalizer in the 56th minute of Sunday's match against UC Riverside, the Gaels' first draw of the season (the Gaels outshot their opponent 20-14).

While sorting out the offense remains a work in progress, Cooper also knows that the squad has to do whatever it can to cut out the mental errors that have been hampering the Gaels in non-conference play.

"Consistency. [That's the] bottom line for us," Cooper said when asked what the team needs to do to meet its lofty preseason expectations. "We've got to be more consistent. That's the No. 1 thing right now."

## Miramonte Girls XC Poised to Break 10-Year Slump Behind Freshman Haskell

By Spencer Silva

The Miramonte girls cross country team hasn't appeared in the CIF State Championship Meet, the barometer for success in high school running, since 2005. Between 2001 and 2005, during the program's so-called 'golden era,' the Mats brought home a state title, along with third and fifth place finishes. Both the boys and girls teams participated in the state meet all five of those years.

In recent seasons, the girls have barely missed qualifying, but the 10-year drought could soon be coming to an end.

"I would love to get us back to where we were," Coach Brian Henderson said.

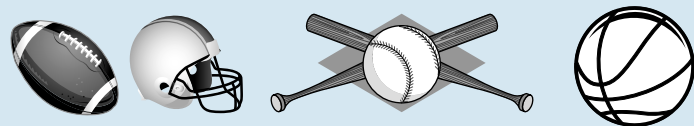
Henderson, who coached those high-achieving teams of years past before going on hiatus, sees striking similarities in his current and former squads: they're young (only one senior), hungry, and they race smart.

And, perhaps most notably, they have a frontrunner: freshman Cassidy Haskell. ... continued on page C3



Cassidy Haskell took first place for small schools at the Ed Sias Invitational Sept. 14  
Photo Gint Federas

## Youth Sports Registration



### Lamorinda Rugby Football Club



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## Girls Water Polo Teams Face Off at Acalanes Invitational

By Emily Dugdale



No. 6 Grace Tehaney takes a shot on goal

September ushered in the beginning of girls water polo season and with it came the Acalanes Invitational over Labor Day weekend. Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte all made a showing at the first tournament of the year.

Campolindo played perennial powerhouse San Ramon Valley (SRV) in the championship match, but ultimately fell 14-2.

"This year's team carries with them the legacy of the past, but the excitement of an entirely new beginning," Campo Head Coach Kim Everist said via email before the tournament.

Both Campo and Miramonte graduated a number of key players and will rely on a new crop of talent this fall. The Dons' roster, conversely, remains mostly intact.

"I think we're prime to have a pretty good season," said Acalanes Head Coach Mischa Buchel. "We only graduated one senior last year, so we have a pretty strong team coming back. Everyone had a great club season, so we're optimistic on that front."

The Dons' offense is led by Hannah Kresnak, Emma Myalle and Brooke Alsterlind. They put up some great stats at last week's invitational, beating Drake 12-8 and Amador Valley 14-7. The Dons fell to Campo 7-4, despite nearly mustering a comeback. In the third-place match, the Dons fell to Miramonte 10-5.

For their part, the Cougars look poised for another competitive season. Campo is armed with strong shooters in freshman Zoe Crouch, sophomore Lauren Etnyre, and junior Olivia Price. They started off the Acalanes tournament with a commanding 17-3 win over Tamalpais, scoring eight goals in the first quarter alone. Goalie Becca Buck served up tough defense in the cage with 14 saves.

In their second match, they beat Gunn High School 11-7, before stifling the Dons in the semifinal. Victorious, the Cougars set off against SRV in the final match, but were quickly outpaced in goal-scoring by SRV's large, experienced squad, who scored five

times in the first quarter alone. Buck had seven saves, and both Price and Olivia were able to squeeze in a goal for the second place finish.

Photos Gint Federas

"There is a lot to learn," Everist commented during the tournament. However, she's far from worried about her team. "We stay focused on what we as a team need to do — they've adapted well, and completely buy into our team motto of Team First, Self Last."

This past week, Campo beat Monte Vista 8-7 in a Friday night showdown. Then, on Sunday, they beat Davis 9-5 in a home non-conference match.

When asked about Campo's toughest competition this year, Everist commented on the changing landscape of girl's water polo in the area. "All the teams look different than they did last year with so many great seniors graduating," she said. "No one should be overlooked."

The Mats rolled into the invitational with a heavy fan base of parents and friends, and had one of the more heart-wrenching losses of the tournament against SRV in their own semifinal game.

Miramonte clobbered Menlo School in their first match with a 20-0 shutout, with 10 goals alone

in the first quarter of play. They rolled to another easy win over Monte Vista by a score of 12-8.

Against SRV, the Mats faltered early, but soon gained ground with a series of goals in the second and third quarters, bringing the score to 7-4 in the fourth. A quick succession of goals brought the Mats within one point of tying the match, but SRV ran out the clock with their final possession and advanced to the final.

Sophomore standout Katrina Drake, who was also the girls 15-18 high point winner at the Contra Costa County Championship meet this summer, proved fearsome for Miramonte, scoring two goals in their match against SRV. Sophomores Grace Tehaney, Drake, and Carson Broad led the team with 11, seven and six goals, respectively. Broad and fellow sophomore Kristina Murphy also had seven assists apiece over the weekend of play (Murphy contributed five goals as well).

The Mats will next face Las Lomas in Walnut Creek on Sept. 24.



Acalanes No. 2 Brooke Alsterlind

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# Eclipse Boys Win Copper Select Tournament

Submitted by Anna Eppinger



Top row, from left: Mazi Maghsoodnia and Miguel Camacho (coaches); middle row: Tucker Starbuck, Michael Coane, Quinn Panos, Nader Maghsoodnia, Sam Smith, Mason Fara, Eli Silberman, Nicholas Eppinger, Cooper Lenahan, Nate Powers, Ryan Haugner; bottom row: Chris Morrison, Charlie Revelos, Xavier Esquer, Willy Hodder, Yoav Konstantino, Joe Gonzales, Collin Krznaric

The Eclipse U12 boys won the championship at the San Ramon Copper Select Tournament Aug. 29-30. The Championship game, against Mt. Diablo Arsenal, was decided in penalty kicks. The Eclipse won in sudden death when Nicholas Eppinger scored a go-ahead goal and goalie Xavier Esquer blocked the opponent's kick.

# Former Lamorinda Soccer Stars at Center of Dramatic College Match

By Spencer Silva



Preston and his father, Richard, celebrate the victory over Princeton  
Photo Florida Gulf Coast University Athletics

# Miramonte Girls XC Poised to Break 10-Year Slump Behind Freshman Haskell

... continued from page C1

Haskell, who just began her freshman year, is just three races into her high school career, but she is already racking up accolades. On Saturday, Sept. 12, at the 31st annual Ed Sias Invitational – a short two-mile course that winds through Hidden Valley Park in Martinez – Haskell finished first in the small-school division with a time of 11:58.2, besting the second-place finisher by more than 20 seconds.

The team finished seventh overall at the event, which was especially encouraging because the team's second-best runner didn't participate.

Then, last weekend, at the Nike Invitational, held at De La Salle (Concord), Haskell placed sixth in the varsity girls' three-mile with a time of 18:09, tops among Division III runners. The team placed 11th overall at the meet, ahead of both Campolindo and Acalanes, with strong supporting performances from Hannah Fishlow and Arden Creson.

"It's nice having a frontrunner, that 'No. 1' penciled on your score," Henderson said.

The boys have had better luck in recent years. They were 18th at the state meet last year, and, in the early season, they placed third at Ed Sias and 24th at the Nike Invitational. Senior Pete Bull is the team's No. 1.

The Campo girls finished second in state last year, thanks to a strong senior class headlined by Toni Finnane, who tied for first at the state meet and currently runs for ACC powerhouse Notre Dame. The team is "trending younger" this fall, according to co-head coach Andy Lindquist.

Despite the loss of the talent, the team placed third at Ed Sias and 16th at the Nike Invitational. The Campolindo boys took first at Ed Sias and seventh at the Nike Invitational, on the back of a fifth-place 15:47 finish from junior Jared Yabu, whom the program expects big things from this fall.

The Acalanes boys are anticipating improvement in 2015. Last fall, they participated in the state meet, which is an accomplishment itself, but ultimately they finished dead last. The team returns Cameron Gaskell, who finished fourth overall at the Nike Invitational with a time of 15:30, or 48 seconds faster than the time he ran at state last November. On the boys' side, Gaskell may be Lamorinda's best bet to challenge for a Division III state title.

According to co-head coach Nate Beach, the challenge for the Dons will be getting consistent performances from the middle of their squad. "If we can run them as a pack, I think we can get them to state," he explained.

The Acalanes girls are in a "rebuilding" period, and while making the state meet as a team is currently a lofty expectation, junior Samantha Taketa, who finished 35th overall at the Nike Invitational, has a chance to make the state meet as an individual.

As Beach explained, cross country is the type of sport where all is well that ends well. That is, meaningful races aren't run in September. "The first couple of races are dust busters," Beach said. "We expect everyone to get faster as the year goes along."

# LMSC U15 Boys: NHB Cup Finalist

Submitted by Vivian Alfaro



Photo provided

The Lamorinda U15 boys delivered an outstanding performance during Labor Day weekend's NHB Cup in Huntington Beach, California. They started out with a 2-1 win over Sherman Oaks Extreme FC – Adrian Guzman scored both goals. In the second game, the boys scored an astounding eight goals against host team NHB FC, winning by a final score of 8-1. In the third game, they tied Aztecs FC, a team that had scored 11 unanswered goals in its previous two matches.

LMSC went on to play Albion SC in the quarterfinals, winning 3-1. In the semifinals, LMSC faced the Rebels Reyes, whom they beat 2-1 – Adrian Guzman and Jonathan Gong scored the goals, assisted by Edwin Montoya and Martin Galvan, respectively. In the final, LMSC played the River Valley Rovers at UC Irvine, but ultimately lost, finishing as runners up. Coach Jacob and the boys' parents were extremely proud of their performance at the ultra-competitive tournament.

A pair of former Lamorinda soccer standouts made national news on the same play Sept. 10, but for very different reasons. Former Campolindo student Preston Kilwien scored the game-winning goal for Florida Gulf Coast University against Princeton on an improbable 35-yard strike that earned the No. 3 spot on ESPN SportsCenter's Plays of the Day – it was also featured on Fox Sports 1's national sports update.

The goal, which ended Princeton's nation-leading 10-match unbeaten streak, was scored against Tigers' senior goalkeeper Ben Hummel, an Orinda native and 2012 graduate of Bentley School in Lafayette. Kilwien, who graduated last spring from College Park High School, was making his first collegiate appearance and the score gave FGCU its first win of the season after a scoreless draw against then-No. 3 ranked Georgetown and a narrow 1-0 loss at No. 20 Wake Forest.

That two former Lamorinda soccer stars met on a field more than 3,000-miles away from

home is noteworthy in and of itself, but the fact that both players spent time as youth players at Concord-based Diablo FC and played for current Saint Mary's associate head coach Chris Brown makes for an even greater coincidence.

"I had a lot of space on the left side and Rodrigo (Saravia) did a good job of finding me," explained Kilwien. "I got the trap and it wasn't the greatest touch, but I just hit it. I didn't really know it was in until I saw it hit the net. It was the greatest moment I've had so far."

Kilwien also had another memorable goal as a sophomore at Campo. He scored a sudden death overtime goal at Ygnacio Valley that sent the Cougars to the North Coast Section Finals under coach Shane Carney. Kilwien, a two-time team offensive MVP for Campo, played his final high school season for the De Anza Force Academy in Cupertino, California. Hummel, a senior at Princeton, has started 22 games for the Tigers, earning Ivy League all-conference honors last year as a junior.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 9 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 23, 2015

## Pooling Water

*Lamorinda cistern called a Nor Cal first*

By Cathy Dausman



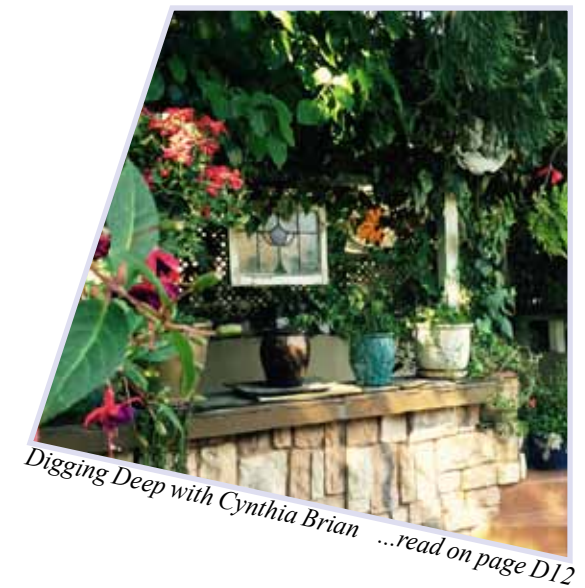
*Contra Costa County Water District water conservation coordinator Chris Dundon, left, learns about the cistern project from landscape contractor Roxy Wolosenko. Photo Cathy Dausman*

Jeff and Kathleen Johnson seem to like holes in the ground filled with water. When they bought their house 15 years ago, the backyard featured a 30,000-gallon swimming pool, which served their family of four well for a number of years. Jeff Johnson said both daughters, now grown, “loved it.”

“It had a slide, and a diving board,” he said. But the home was built in 1974, and the pool became

cracked, discolored and “in dire need of work.” In fact the pool took up so much space, the backyard was under-landscaped – leaves are a pool owner’s nemesis – and underused. Johnson said even the custom pool cover was ugly.

Keeping the pool filled, heated with solar panels and chemically balanced was expensive. Johnson estimates he spent \$100 to 200 per month on



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D12*

maintenance, including water replacement (evaporation accounts for tens of thousands of gallons per year). Eventually the Moraga family stopped swimming and considered pool removal, at a cost of \$6,000 to \$15,000.

Then landscape contractor Roxy Wolosenko of Roxy Designs suggested converting their unused pool into a cistern.

“It’s really a very simple system,” she said. A cistern, dating back more than 4,000 years to ancient Greece, is an artificial reservoir or underground tank for storing liquids, especially rainwater. Unlike wells, cisterns have waterproof linings. Wolosenko pitched this project to three other clients, but the Johnsons were the first to take the plunge. Jeff Johnson was already familiar with the concept; his parents had a cistern in Texas, where he grew up.

The project is a first in Northern California, said Julie Lienert, special projects manager for Roxy Designs.

Mike Garcia, owner of Enviroscope LA, completed a similar project in Los Angeles about three years ago. “It’s a pretty simple process but it’s getting to be a big deal,” he said. Closer to home, Walnut Creek’s Ruth Bancroft Garden recently held an education program for its members, one of whom has built a 10,000-gallon rainwater collection system used to refill a large pond and irrigate garden and orchard flowers and edibles.

Work on the Johnson project began in mid-August, with a completion date set for early October. A portion of the existing hole was back-filled with pool debris so only the rebar had to be taken off site.

... continued on page D4





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City	Last reported:	Lowest Amount:	Highest Amount:
Lafayette	15	\$905,000	\$3,190,000
Moraga	8	\$420,000	\$1,290,000
Orinda	12	\$1,032,000	\$2,845,000

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

- 3318 Beechwood Drive, \$1,244,000, 4 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 7-31-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 10-17-14
- 3341 Betty Lane, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-4-15;  
Previous Sale: \$699,500, 05-26-04
- 3716 Crestmont Place, \$2,755,000, 4 Bdrms, 4291 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 7-31-15;  
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 03-12-99
- 1850 Del Rio Drive, \$905,000, 4 Bdrms, 1757 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-4-15;  
Previous Sale: \$247,500, 01-12-89
- 1182 Glen Road, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 2008 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-31-15
- 1812 Hunsaker Canyon Road, \$1,200,000, 2387 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 8-7-15;  
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 06-17-09
- 3911 Leroy Way, \$1,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-31-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,058,000, 05-19-14
- 9 Mountain View Place, \$1,378,000, 4 Bdrms, 3481 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 8-4-15;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 03-12-04
- 4033 Natasha Drive, \$1,755,000, 5 Bdrms, 2857 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-6-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 06-19-00
- 1601 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2263 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-7-15
- 1231 Rose Lane, \$3,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 4710 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 8-11-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 07-16-93
- 3445 Solana Court, \$1,541,000, 4 Bdrms, 3359 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-31-15;  
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 06-13-00
- 741 Solana Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1206 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-5-15;  
Previous Sale: \$94,000, 07-08-77
- 3161 Teigland Road, \$1,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2923 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-7-15;  
Previous Sale: \$158,000, 04-01-77
- 3320 Woodview Court, \$1,430,000, 3 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 8-7-15;  
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 02-12-98

### MORAGA

- 63 Amberwood Court, \$1,004,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-31-15;  
Previous Sale: \$829,000, 06-15-04
- 1349 Camino Pablo, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2443 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-11-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 07-21-14
- 1405 Camino Peral, \$725,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-31-15;  
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 10-11-07
- 932 Camino Ricardo, \$1,282,500, 5 Bdrms, 2496 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-31-15;  
Previous Sale: \$39,500, 12-02-70
- 2121 Donald Drive #15, \$420,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-10-15;  
Previous Sale: \$230,000, 09-27-10

... continued on page D11

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# Pooling Water

... continued from page D1



A stack of Eco Rain Cubes prior to assembly

Photo Cathy Dausman

Cistern construction began with the assembly of Eco Rain Cubes. These plastic cubes were shipped flat and assembled into something resembling oversized milk crates measuring roughly 18 by 16 by 27 inches. The cubes were stacked horizontally, five layers high in the pool cavity. The cube collection was double wrapped, first with a felt filter fabric, and then with an impermeable plastic liner. When the project is complete, the cistern will be all but invisible beneath new water-wise landscaping and a bocce court.

Five downspouts with 4-inch PVC drainpipes will divert rainwater from the roof into the cistern. Each square foot of roof runoff yields about a half gallon of water. The water will feed a drip system and irrigate new backyard water-wise plantings.

Twelve hundred square feet of the Johnson's roof is being used to collect rainwater runoff. In a non-drought year the Johnsons could recycle as much as 28,000 to 32,000 gallons of water. This would provide at least three months of landscape irrigation water for their backyard. And rainwater, unlike graywater, does not have to be used within 24 hours. City water feeds the system when it does not rain.

Wolosenko said cistern installation costs are dependent upon size, but average \$2 to \$3 per gallon of water stored. Wolosenko has personal experience with pool upkeep, having lived in several houses with backyard pools. "I hated those pools," she said, emphasizing the expensive monthly upkeep she incurred with each one.



Fully assembled Eco Rain Cube

Photo Cathy Dausman

... continued on page D6

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## Pooling Water

... continued from page D4



*Swimming pool to rain tank conversion*

*Photo provided*

Water conservation representatives from both East Bay Municipal Utility District and Contra Costa Water District have viewed the Johnson project with interest. CCWD's water conservation coordinator Chris Dundon called the cistern project a unique opportunity. "Rainwater catchment is an intriguing concept," Dundon said, "one which people don't always do purely for the financial savings."

By installing the cistern, Dundon said the Johnsons took advantage of an opportunity which may allow them to save "pretty much 100 percent" of their rainfall. And Dundon is also interested in the long-term effectiveness of this project; he wants to know how it works out and what, if any, problems develop. Rep. Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, recently introduced legislation to establish a new Environmental Protection Agency grant program. The program, called the Drought Relief and Resilience Act supports water recycling projects, and includes a range of long- and short-term solutions.

But EBMUD's water conservation representative Scott Sommerfeld says his water district wants to encourage water reharvesting whether it is cost effective or not. "Great job," he told the Johnsons, after viewing their project.

For more information online:

<http://www.ebmud.com/water-and-drought/drought/>

<http://www.ccwater.com/148/Conservation>

<http://huffman.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/after-unprecedented-public-input-rep-jared-huffman-introduces-final>

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# Holiday Decorating to Take You from Now to New Year's

By Ann McDonald

Every year it's the same thing. The suburban holiday season starts in Lamorinda grocery stores with the first corn stalk display out front, and lasts over four months through the New Year's Day football party at your home.

The number one question we get as a design firm from about September on is "Can you help us decorate for the Holidays?" The short answer is yes. The long answer? My teams and I love to decorate holiday homes, but we schedule and sell out somewhere in August for 1:1 appointments up through Dec. 5.

Here's the good news: To help stylish suburbanites from going 'off the grid' and giving up on the whole thing altogether, we put together cut-out tip sheets and video workshops that you can enjoy from the sanctity of your own home. Equipping you to take dominion over your holiday home is one of my favorite things. A few tips can make a difference in both your checkbook balance and how luxurious it looks.

First, choose your main color for the holiday part. Do you celebrate Christmas? Hanukkah? I always advise you choose your seasonal color palate from your main celebration. We have seen some fresh holiday color combinations at market this past summer, including bright oranges and Tiffany blues, but for time and space constraints, I am limiting this to the four most popular color combinations.

This foundational color will become your "Fall Frame Color," and your "New Year Accent Color," as well as being your "Holiday Main Color." Let me explain.

What typically happens when fall rolls around is you pick up a few pieces here and there and scatter them around your home. If you remember where you stored last year's fall decorations you may pull out that bin and work those items in, but many people either can't find the bin or didn't label it properly. It's OK – we've all done it.

The same thing happens once we are into the season, somewhere between Halloween and Thanksgiving. At some point we look up and all those scattered decorations look less than ideal. The photos from Trad Home don't match our mismatched menagerie. The solution? Get back to the basics with a color thread and edit-add-decorate from there.

Second, we plan. Even if you only plan one thing – your main holiday color – you will be ahead of the game. This is how we do it and create stunning displays from estate properties to small homes and boutique offices that work with the setting and don't break the bank.

Once you have chosen your color, you won't be re-inventing the wheel for every holiday that comes over these four months.

With my thread color for the season now through Jan. 1, I can wisely purchase and weed out old decorations.

We recommend you purchase ribbons, basic non-seasonal specific wreaths and neutral garlands in this color.

... continued on page D10



*Be sure to look for ways to add texture with your color palate, like with these deep red feathers.*  
Photos courtesy Couture Chateau llc



*These berries and maple leaves complement any holiday décor.*



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*Stylish Solutions*

# Holiday Decorating to Take You from Now to New Year's

... continued from page D8

You can even purchase floral sprigs or accessory items if you don't decorate with themed items. Many of our clients use this time of year to add to collections of Ginger Jars or Blue and White because they don't put up a tree.

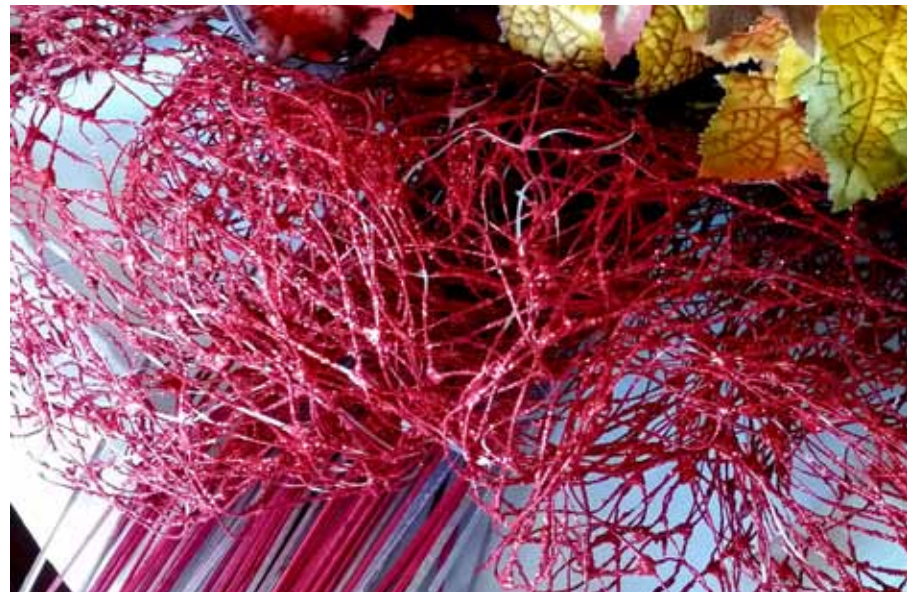
That backbone color thread is what stays in your home throughout the season. The other parts change. You can see from our first color chart, the "pumpkin – deep red – brighter red color" combination at the top. Even though most people don't think about pumpkin orange looking good in their homes, this is our most popular color combination year after year.

We purchase ribbon in the deep red (looking always at undertones with our year-round color scheme), wreaths that might be feathers, leaves, berries or shells, and garlands of the same non-specific type.

By using those as foundations, we can accent with the pumpkins for fall, the

maple leaves for Thanksgiving and bright red for the New Year's Day party, which goes well with requisite gazpacho.

I hope this has been helpful! Make sure to head over to the website and sign up for our Holiday Home Video Series, [www.couturechateau.com/holiday](http://www.couturechateau.com/holiday). Let us know what your colors are for this season. Mine? Deep red. Unless Cal goes to the Rose Bowl, in which case we might celebrate Hanukkah with blue all around.



*This pumpkin color red pops against the festive silver for a fun New Year's flare.*



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit [www.couturechateau.com/blog](http://www.couturechateau.com/blog)

Find and Use Color Combinations That Work

Fall	Holiday	New Year
	Deep Red	
	Blue	
	Gold	
	Green	

Step 2: Use your "HOLIDAY Main Color" as a "FALL Frame Color" with ribbon, basic wreaths or non-seasonal specific garlands

Ann McDonald  
[www.couturechateau.com](http://www.couturechateau.com)



# Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

## MORAGA

140 Via Joaquin, \$772,000, 3 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 8-6-15;

Previous Sale: \$680,000, 10-15-08

137 Westchester Street, \$880,000, 4 Bdrms, 2291 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 8-3-15;

Previous Sale: \$770,000, 12-03-04

6 Wingfoot Street, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 8-7-15;

Previous Sale: \$484,000, 12-31-87

## ORINDA

3 Beaconsfield Court, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2100 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-4-15;

Previous Sale: \$272,500, 12-15-87

216 Crestview Drive, \$1,238,000, 3 Bdrms, 2825 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 8-3-15

59 Cedar Lane, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3931 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 8-7-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,420,000, 04-13-04

134 El Toyonal, \$1,032,000, 3 Bdrms, 1547 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-11-15;

Previous Sale: \$570,000, 02-04-02

11 Estates Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3252 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 8-11-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 08-06-10

115 Fiesta Circle, \$1,579,000, 4 Bdrms, 2017 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-31-15;

Previous Sale: \$970,000, 07-28-06

345 Miller Court, \$2,498,500, 5 Bdrms, 4106 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 8-5-15

531 Miner Road, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 5397 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 8-5-15

97 Oak Road, \$1,515,000, 4 Bdrms, 2846 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 8-7-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,059,000, 06-05-08

73 Scenic Drive, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 5572 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 8-3-15

74 Van Tassel Lane, \$2,845,000, 4 Bdrms, 3847 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 8-5-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 04-07-06

28 Via Callados, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 3288 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-31-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,180,000, 11-23-04



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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

By Cynthia Brian

*"Go forth under the open sky, and listen to Nature's teachings." ~ William Cullen Bryant*



*Lilies, Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan) and Gladioli are low-maintenance, multi-blooming and drought tolerant.* Photos Cynthia Brian

Autumn is with us. The sun is still scorching our soils with heat during the days while the nights offer chilly dew. October is the best month of the fall season to take care of garden chores before winter arrives. With the drought a forever threat, we are all seeking ideas for a low-maintenance garden that will thrive with little care and less water. It is clear that we need to stand under the open sky to listen and look at what Mother Nature is telling us about our future in the outdoors.

Visit your favorite nursery or garden center and talk to the professionals. Choose plants appropriate for your soil and sun requirements. Determine whether you have a shade or sun garden, how much moisture your area needs, then pick the plants that will flourish in those conditions. For example, sun-loving specimens such as canna, lamb's ears, sweet alyssum, geraniums, salvias, fountain grass and boxwood planted densely will out-compete weeds while providing you with an elegant, low maintenance area. Plant the clump forming fountain grass and the

evergreen shrub, boxwood, toward the back, with the fragrant sweet alyssum as a border in colors of pink, cream, purple and white in the front. The wooly silver evergreen lambs-ear with its spikes of purple looks great with the salvia and tall spikes of the robust perennial canna in red, yellow or orange. Geraniums are available in color clusters of red, pink, white and purple, offering continuous blooms above bright green leaves spring through mid-winter, when it's time to prune them to the ground.

Other low-maintenance plants for full sun include Russian sage, rosa rugosa, daylily and rudbeckia. For a shade garden, consider hosta, Lenten Rose and ferns. If your soil is extremely dry, succulents including hen-and-chicks, lavender, sedum and St. John's Wort are easy choices while astilbe and Japanese iris will prosper in wet soil. A recirculating water feature, waterfall or pond will keep the pollinators around while adding a calming resonance in your environment.

Halloween will be upon us soon. Allow your sunflowers, cornstalks and pumpkins to continue in the garden until it's time to decorate.

... continued on page D14



*Create a beautiful nook with a pot of bright red geraniums.*



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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

... continued from page D12

- **MOVE** baskets and pots to a shady area when Indian summer is hottest.
- **PRUNE** your berry vines hard after you have harvested the fruit for easier picking next season.
- **ORDER** spring bulbs from catalogs now for planting in November.
- **PICK** sorrel to add to salad, sauces and soups.
- **DEADHEAD** spent annuals.
- **PROPAGATE** geranium and pelargonium by cutting back no-blooming stems and planting in damp soil.
- **DESTROY** invasive star thistle that may have taken root in your garden. Animals and birds will not eat it and it must not be added to the compost pile.
- **BUY** trees boasting autumn colors now.
- **VISIT** nurseries to check out the fall selection of plants and bulbs. Suggestions in the tulip category include Greigii, single or double early blooming, triumph, Giant Darwin hybrid, lily flowering, parrot, peony, heirloom, viridiflora, fringed, crispa, single or double late blooming. Amazing how many varieties there are. Make sure to cool them in the refrigerator for six to 10 weeks before planting. Other bulbs to buy include narcissi (and there is an equal amount of varieties, sizes, shapes and colors), amaryllis, paperwhites, crocus, galanthus, scilla, iris, freesia, hyacinths, muscari, anemone, fritillaria, Dutch iris, allium, peonies and Asiatic lilies, for starters.
- **CHECK** around your house for fire hazards and flammable materials. October is the height of fire season.
- **FERTILIZE** begonias and roses for more blooms.
- **GATHER** seeds from bachelor buttons, cosmos and four-o'clocks to dry and save for spring planting.
- **FEED** your citrus.
- **TRANSPLANT** calendulas, Iceland poppies, dianthus, forget-me-nots, primroses, Shasta daisies, agapanthus and daylilies.
- **FREEZE** or can your extra harvest of fruit and vegetables for winter health.
- **EAT** the flowers of chives, garlic, basil, mint, dill and other flowering herbs, which are delicious and pretty in salads, sandwiches and soups.
- **HARVEST** the last of your grapes. Add the colorful leaves and twine the vines to form a spectacular autumnal arrangement.
- **RAKE** your leaves into a compost pile. Add lawn clippings, eggshells, food scraps (no meat) and coffee grounds. Stupendous soil will be ready to use before the holidays.
- **RESEED** tired lawns using low-water loving clover for less maintenance and fast, healthy growth.



*For bursts of color and easy care, save seeds of cosmos, bachelor button, and four-o'clocks for sowing next spring.*



*More seeds to gather for spring planting: Queen Anne's lace and purple bachelor buttons.*



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## New Tree Planting

Think of the tree you just purchased as a lifetime investment. How well your tree, and investment, grows depends on the type of tree and location you select for planting, the care you provide when the tree is planted, and follow-up care the tree receives after planting. The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season—in the fall after their leaves drop or early spring before bud breaks. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location. The proper handling during planting is essential to ensure a healthy future for new trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you find your perfect tree.

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- **DECORATE** your front porch with sunflowers and cornstalks from your garden at the end of the month.
- **SAVE** sunflower seeds to feed the birds as well as to sow for next season.
- **PICK** your pumpkins at the end of the month and make a family day of carving jack o' lanterns.
- **SEE** you at the Pear and Wine Festival on Sept. 26 at Moraga Commons. Visit the Be the Star You Are booth to receive a free brand new book as part of the literacy outreach project, "Read, Lead, Succeed!" Thanks to our sponsors, Children's Success Unlimited, Michael Verbrugge Constructions, and The Lamorinda Weekly for making this giveaway possible. Pick up free seeds, bookmarks and potpourri for all of our garden readers. Info [http://starstyleradio.net/Events/Entries/2015/9/26\\_Pear\\_%26\\_Wine\\_Festival\\_2015.html](http://starstyleradio.net/Events/Entries/2015/9/26_Pear_%26_Wine_Festival_2015.html)

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing.



*Cynthia Brian with dahlias and pelargoniums.*

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Cynthia Brian

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New Listing

**4 La Sombra** Delightful mid-century one level living home of style +design allure. Truly wonderful floor plan opens to level outdoor areas. On private cul-de-sac, close-in living, schools nearby.

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## ORINDA



New Listing

**12 Tara Road** Unique architectural 3bd/2ba Orinda home designed by modernist architect Walter Thomas Brooks in 1980. Private .7ac lot w/lots of room to expand home. Very close in to Theater Square.

**\$989,000**

## ORINDA



New Price

**50 Don Gabriel Way** South Orinda home features open floor plan w/custom cabinetry, hardwood floors, updated kitchen. Patio & outdoor dining area, large terraced upslope backyard perfect for relaxation.

**\$1,150,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**65 Evergreen Drive** Serene setting on quiet cul-de-sac, park-like yard, spacious living rm & family rm w/vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, fresh paint inside & outside, new roof. Convenient commute.

**\$1,150,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**476 Dalewood Drive** Corner lot at Candle Terrace w/exceptional beauty, privacy & allure. Deluxe kitchen & gorgeous adj. family rm. Vaulted ceilings & mstr ste w/ofc. Easy access outside to flat yard, pool.

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## ORINDA



New Listing

**8 Camino Del Diablo** Stunning Contemporary rebuilt in 2002 by MGHG Designs. Impeccable design & architectural finishes. Chef's kitchen w/top of the line appliances, Carrera marble counters, radiant flrs.

**\$2,100,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**9 Lucia Lane** Two story traditional on .60ac w/pano. views on prime cul-de-sac just around corner from Campolindo High & nghbrhd swim club. Minutes to shopping, dining, entertainment & commute.

**\$1,050,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**923 Augusta Drive** Ideally located on quiet cul de sac in desirable MCC. Vaulted ceilings, open family room & spacious master on main level. Updated granite kitchen. New carpet & fresh paint. Views!

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## MORAGA



**5 Paseo Linares** Stunning new construction. Private cul-de-sac setting, views & level yard. Apx. 4142sf, 5bd/4.5ba Med. Villa w/spacious rms, formal dining & great rm. Walk to shops, park & bike trail.

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## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3 Gilmore Court** Charming custom single level home rebuilt in 2008 w/quality finishes. 3bd/2ba, hwd flrs, Chef's kitchen, great rm, formal dining rm & seamless in/outdoor living. Award winning schools.

**\$1,080,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**145 Camelia Lane** Masterful expression of contemporary design. Apx. 4486sf on 2.2ac w/stunning views. 4bd/4 full baths + 2 half baths, separate ofc, 2 fam rms, formal dining, great rm & Chef's kitchen.

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## LAFAYETTE



**23 Sessions Road** Gated English Manor 12.18 acre 5bd/6ba Estate. Grand foyer, living, family rms + "Club" rm, deluxe kitchen, dramatic solarium + executive office. Gorgeous grounds w/lap pool/lawns, views.

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## LAFAYETTE



**1141 Vallecito Court** Treasured Happy Valley estate custom built in 2006 w/finest craftsmanship. Chef's kitchen, gorgeous master, ofc, fam rm, home gym. Pool, spa, frplc & level lawn w/views. Detached guest house.

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## BERKELEY



New Listing

**791 Contra Costa Avenue** Coveted upper Thousand Oaks neighborhood 1925 built home. Bay views, remodeled bath, private yard, master/sitting room, eat-in kitchen, charming in-law studio w/separate entrance.

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## PLEASANT HILL



New Price

**2180 Geary Road #1** Lovely single level end unit. Rare 3 bedroom & 2 bath condo that lives like a single family home! Fabulous location! A must see!

**\$470,000**

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