

Gizelle & John Sipin



The Sereno Group Real Estate
30 years as Negotiation Specialist in every market.
Helping our clients get what they want!

Clients For Life
May 2018

A Magic Ring

One day a king decided to teach a lesson to his son, a young and arrogant prince. He said, "Son, there is a ring that I want you to bring to me. I wish to wear it for my birthday, which gives you six months to find it."

"If it exists anywhere on Earth, sire," replied the prince, "I will find it and bring it to you. But what makes the ring so special?"

"It has magic powers," answered the king. "If a happy man looks at it, he becomes sad. If a sad man looks at it, he becomes happy." The king knew no such ring existed, but he wished to give his son a taste of humility.

Spring passed, then summer, and still the prince searched for the ring. On the evening of the king's birthday, the prince took a walk in one of the poorest quarters of the city, still searching. He passed by a merchant who had begun to set out his wares on a shabby carpet. "Have you by chance heard of a magic ring that makes the happy wearer forget his joy and the broken-hearted wearer forget his sorrows?" asked the prince.

He watched the merchant take a plain gold ring and engrave something on it. When the prince read the words, his face broke into a smile. That night the city welcomed the king's birthday. The king called for his son.

He said, "Have you found what I sent you for?" All the king's ministers laughed, for they were "in" on the joke.

But to everyone's surprise, the prince held up the ring and said, "Here it is!"

The king snatched the ring and read the inscription, which said: "This too shall pass." Suddenly his smile vanished as he realized the prince had succeeded. The words on the ring indeed would make the happy man sad, and the sad man happy.

On Gizelle's Mind

Dear Friends,

Spring is here and I'm ready for it, I bet you are too! I'm loving the longer days however the light coming in our windows in the late afternoon shows how badly we need our windows washed.... I also can't wait to get a little more consistency in warmer weather. I never know if it's a boot, sandal, sweater or coat day.



Many of you, especially my facebook friends know our daughter Kamala has just had our first grandchild Aishian (pronounced eyeshan). What an absolute joy he is. I've had so many friends tell me how great being a grandparent is but I could never even imagine how special it is. Kamala and her husband Anderson live in Norfolk Virginia so that is the only downside. However, thanks to facetime we see our Aishian early morning and night most days. We get to watch him develop and grow and it is such a precious time for everyone. We will be visiting soon and I'm sure he will wonder how we made it out of Mommy's phone:-)

I also wanted to take this time to tell you how very grateful I am for all the referrals of your friends and family to us through the years. It's so much fun to have great clients because your referrals are always wonderful like you. We often spend a very concentrated time together through the selling or buying process. When escrow closes it feels funny, I think about what you're doing and how your life is progressing. Then I'm back off to the races! It's great when we stay in touch and I get to watch families expand and kids grow up. Facebook is so good for that. After almost 30 years in Real Estate, the trend now is for many of our clients to be selling the family home and getting closer to grandkids or a more manageable property. The kids are grown and looking for their own nests to feather too. Silicon Valley is continuing to impacted our real estate market as well. The lifestyle here is so much better and even though prices are high, we still look like a good deal to the buyers from over the hill. I can't blame them, I'd much rather live at the Coast and near the redwood forests.

Thank you again for referring us and trusting us with your friends and family. It is always an honor and a pleasure. There is no better feeling in business for me than to see you and your friends and family succeed in our beautiful community. There's no better place than HOME.

Happy Spring, Gizelle



Décor for a Tight Budget

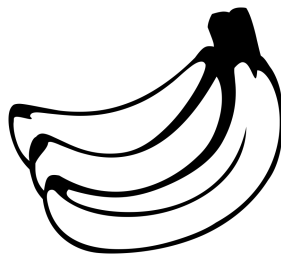
When moving into your first home, you probably have a tight budget for decor. Fortunately, a few targeted pieces – aside from the basics of a couch, dining table, and bed – will go a long way towards giving you a high design look on a low budget:

- 1. Rugs.** Spend a bit of your budget on a few nice accent rugs. They add color and depth to your space, and set off your few furnishings.
- 2. End/coffee tables.** Even a plain old couch can be enhanced with end tables or a coffee table that has the look you want.
- 3. Lamps/lighting.** Search for interesting lighting that makes a statement without being expensive, including lamps, pendant lights, wall lights, etc. There are many low-cost look-alikes that add character to a space.
- 4. Paint.** After getting your accent rugs, couch, and lighting, it's time to choose paint colors. When matched to your furnishings, painting completes your décor.
- 5. Plants.** When you lack a lot of furniture and other decor, purchase plants to fill in the empty spaces.

Do Refrigerated Bananas Keep Longer?

If you're like a lot of people, you buy a bunch of bananas, and before too many days go by, you end up with squishy, brown-spotted fruit which is only good for banana bread.

Can you put bananas in the refrigerator to keep longer, say a week instead of a few days?



Yes. Bananas do not like cold. When bananas get cold, they instantly stop ripening. If you put them in the refrigerator, the fruit inside the peel will stop ripening at the level of ripeness you put them in. The skin, however, will turn brown and splotchy (which is not an indication of the fruit inside).

So, if you like the taste of green bananas, and you put green bananas in the refrigerator, four or five days later when you pull them out, you'll still have green bananas on the inside (that woody tasting fruit), even though the outside looks brown. You won't be able to ripen them further by putting them out on the counter. They'll simply go bad.

**Go Green:
Recycle This
Newsletter!**

After you've enjoyed our newsletter, please recycle it by passing it along to a family member, friend, neighbor, or coworker.

Alisha & Kamala's Corner...

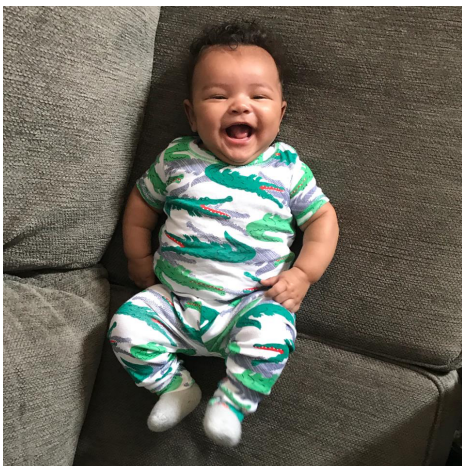
Happy May everyone. 2018 has flown by in a hurry. Not to mention that we were sprung into it from a whirlwind December. Between sweet baby Aishian being born and stealing the hearts and souls of this family (and anyone who sees him on FB), Andy home to be Kam's rock and strong Daddy duty, Kami blossoming as a woman and Mommy, Marcus getting hired with CalFire and my crazy work travel schedule which hasn't allowed a solid week at home - it has been one heck of a ride thus far!



This fast paced momentum has shown me how important it is to stop and find some solid time with Marcus. Sometimes it is easy to go go go and we forget to stop and breath. We instituted "date night" which has been really fun. A night to get dressed up and go somewhere a little romantic. We also have taken up Hello Fresh the meal delivery where they send all the ingrediants for dinner. We LOVE it. If your looking for a simple way to make dinner but not grocery shop... this is it! XOXO Alisha

Transitioning into being a new parent is a wild fun experience. Aishian is a sweet calm baby but has normal baby needs. Anderson and I are learning teamwork and communication like never before. We're also learning where God wants us to place energy. Managing online social businesses from home has been great! I've been able to streamline professional brands and still love on my baby from home. It's been challenging and totally rewarding being home with him. Anderson and I are dating and keeping our new relationship fresh. We're looking into fun local places to visit as a family. There are so many cool places here! Hope you are are well! If you have questions about your online brand, or are interested in five easy ways to improve your online social brand, shoot me a text! BRING ON WARMTH!

Kamala
650-830-1377



What Good Does It Do To Recycle Paint?

In many places around the world, latex paint is considered a hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly. Canada, the US, UK, Australia, and many other countries offer paint recycling programs that are easy for consumers to utilize. For instance, many local hardware stores allow you to drop off unneeded paint.

This begs the questions, why is paint considered a hazardous waste, and what good does recycling do? Surely no one wants your half pint of old brown garage paint, do they?

The answers may surprise you. Apparently, one gallon of improperly disposed of paint has the ability to pollute up to 250,000 gallons/1,000 liters of water. That happens when the chemicals in paint seep into the water table. If you dump your paint into the street drainage, you're risking some nasty pollution downstream that contributes to the overall quality of the environment.



There are estimates that more than 250,000,000 million gallons (close to a billion liters) of household paint are sold per year, which is about half the total amount sold for all construction. That's a lot of paint, so even a small fraction of home owners dumping their paint can cause unforeseen problems.

When you properly recycle your paint, what happens to it? Most often, the highest quality of latex paint is sorted out and turned back into recycled paint that can be used. Recycled paint is environmentally preferable to new paint, while still maintaining comparable quality.

In many cases, reusable paints of the same color are pumped into a tank where the material is mixed and tested. The paint is adjusted with additives and colorants as necessary. Finally, the paint is fine filtered and packaged for sale at a much cheaper price for use where exact color matching is not vital. Non-reusable paint can be made into a product used in cement manufacturing, thereby recycling virtually 100% of the original paint.

Recycling one gallon/3.7 liters of paint could save 13 gallons/50 liters of water, 1 quart of oil, and 250,000 gallons/1,000 liters of water pollution, 13.74 pounds of CO₂, save enough energy to power the average home for 3 hours, cook 6 meals in a microwave oven, or blow dry someone's hair 27 times.

John's dropping a line

Spring has finally arrived with sunshine and showers of rain...that's the problem with us who have acreage that you never hear about how many times we battle the weeds and long grass with our 2 cycle weed eaters or tractor. It's always timing, isn't that true about everything. Well if I wack all those weeds this week is it going to rain next week cause if it does that is another crop of fresh weeds to mow down again and it's more than one days work. Ahhh all those months of winter break with dormant lawn and no maintenance around the yard except to keep a eye on the water to make sure drainage does not do any damage.



But spring is very welcome especially the warmth it brings in the morning and the long afternoons to get this stuff done or would I rather take a walk on the beach? No brainer, right! Walking on the beach at Rio Del Mar or Seacliff is strange to me. I grew up here and that cement ship The SS Palo Alto has always been a monument in our area not only to see but everyone had to have a picture of the cement ship and the beautiful sunsets that they could frame by standing in different areas facing the ocean and ship. Gosh we were able to fish not only on the wharf that was built to get to the ship but all the way to the end of the ship and on the ship before it started to separate. It is timing right, I

The SS Palo Alto

In 1910 a Norwegian civil engineer named Fougner thought of using concrete to build ships. It wasn't until 1917, when wartime steel shortages required the use of cement for construction that Fougner's idea was used. Three concrete ships were built. Two, the Peralta and the Palo Alto, were built at the U.S. Naval Shipyard in Oakland, California while the third, the Faith, was built in a shipyard in Redwood City, California. The Peralta and the Palo Alto were built for wartime use as tankers, however World War One ended before ship construction was finished -- so they were never used.

The Palo Alto remained docked in Oakland until 1929, when the Cal-Nevada Company bought the ship with the idea of making her into an amusement and fishing ship. Her maiden voyage was made under tow to Seacliff State Beach. Once positioned at the beach, the sea cocks were opened and the Palo Alto settled to the ocean bottom. By the summer of 1930 a pier had been built leading to the ship, the ship was remodeled. A dance floor on the main deck was added, also a cafe in the superstructure was built, as was a fifty-four foot heated swimming pool, and a series of carnival type concessions were placed on the afterdeck. The Cal-Nevada Company went broke after two seasons -- then the Palo Alto was stripped, leaving the ship and the pier to be used only for fishing.

and people my age or older who lived here or was born here 60 plus years ago saw the cement ship in part of it's old glory. Just think...the next or next generation may not even see what we see now because of mother nature and all the winter storms that damage the SS Palo Alto every winter...so go out and enjoy the view that may be completely gone in generations to come...people in the future may be walking the same path you are today and looking out to sea it may be flat ocean with only a pier...it's timing, tight!

Enjoy John

*"He who laughs, lasts."
~ Mary Pettibone*

We want to THANK ALL OF YOU for your continued business and referring your friends and family to us.

Welcome Clients:

Saara and Scott Boyer referred by Erik Johnson

Wayne and Lauri Morgan- welcome back!

Jim and Sherri Khatibi-welcome back

Dorothy Nicholson referred by Rene and Michael Curtis

Bob and Maureen Sachs referred by Ilana Minkoff

News Alert!!!!

Do you want to win a \$25.00 AMAZON gift card?

We have a new format for our Quiz question, check your email at the beginning at the month (spam too). We will be emailing you a Quiz question. All participants names will go into a hat and at the end of the week we will have a drawing for an Amazon \$25.00 gift card emailed directly to you. It's fun and so easy! Congrats to Linda and Jeff Robinson for being our first winners.

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www.facebook.com/GizelleandJohnSipin

I post fun information about Santa Cruz local events!



Friends: Would you rather receive this electronically???

If so please email Alisha at: alishahightower@gmail.com.

Call me with your real estate questions and check out our website.

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