

Community Service

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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Lafayette Community Foundation Award Grants

Submitted by Rhonda Andronico



Recipients gather at the LCF annual Grant Award Ceremony.

Photo provided

The Lafayette Community Foundation hosted its annual Grant Award Ceremony on May 4 at Amphora Lafayette. In addition to an olive oil tasting hosted by Amphora, attendees were thanked for their ongoing support of LCF. A total of \$19,750 was distributed among the following nine

Contra Costa county organizations: California Shakespeare Theater, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Futures Explored, Inc., Generations in Jazz, Girl Scouts Twin Canyon, Lamorinda Spirit Van, Lamorinda Village, Ombudsman Service of Contra Costa County and White Pony Express.

Orinda Senior to Ride 3,000 Miles to Raise Cancer Awareness

Submitted by Richard Perez



From left, Nick Bloisa and Orinda resident Rick Perez will ride from California to Florida to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer.

Photo provided

This June, longtime Orinda resident Rick Perez, 69, and friend Nick Bloisa, 70 — both of whom may have better sense — will cycle from Santa Monica to St. Augustine, Fla., as a fundraiser in memory of Laura Bartron, a close friend of Bloisa who succumbed to breast cancer at the age of 45. Although her life was far too short, Laura, who worked as a Nutritionist at Renaissance Club Sport in Walnut Creek, touched and enriched the lives of numerous others, friends say. Bloisa and Perez say they are determined to fight breast cancer with this epic 3,000 mile

bicycle adventure that will cross the USA.

Through this adventure, Laura's Ride will raise funds for the Danville-based Lazarus Cancer Foundation in support of patients fighting breast cancer and to help move breast cancer research forward. Their goal is to raise \$100,000.

The ride started with a Kickoff Party on June 9, then the two cyclists started their adventure on June 14. For more information and to donate, visit www.laurasride.org and www.crowdrise.com/lauras-ride.

Local Girls Awarded Gold Award, Scouts Highest Honor

Submitted by Yuka Akera



Campolindo students Kenna Sherman and Iman Sigman were honored with their Girl Scout Gold Award. Photo Lori Sherman

In May, two girls in the Orinda/Moraga Service Unit earned their Girl Scout Gold Award. This year's recipients were Kenna Sherman, a junior at Campolindo High School and Iman Sigman, a senior at Campolindo High School. They were recognized on May 22 during an awards ceremony.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout may earn and is completed by a Senior or Ambassador Scout between the ages of 14 and 18. To earn the Gold Award, which some compare to the Boy Scout Eagle Award, the Scout must identify a Take Action Project that reaches beyond the

Girl Scout organization and provides lasting benefit to the girl's larger community.

Kenna created a mentoring program at a local homeless shelter. For this program, teens from the Moraga area were paired with children at the shelter to become positive influences for the kids. Kenna trained her peers on how to work with children in less-fortunate situations. The team of mentors then went to the shelter for the first week of summer vacation in 2015. They exposed the kids to many activities, some of which they never would have been able to experience.

Iman worked with Loaves and Fishes, an organization based in Sacramento that tries to create a safe space for the homeless. Her project was designed to benefit the Mustard Seed School, which is an elementary school for homeless children in Sacramento where the rates of water-related accidents are incredibly high. Since many of the kids at this school did not have easy access to swim lessons, they were especially at risk. In 2015, she created a swim program for the summer program at Mustard Seed School. Since she is a swim coach, she thought she could do something to help. The program she created included games geared towards making kids more confident and able in the water and taught their summer team how to teach basic freestyle and backstroke. She also created a pamphlet for parents on how to keep their children safe around water.

Rheem Elementary Fourth-grader Earns 4-H P Platinum Seal

Submitted by Charlie Gruebele



Fourth-grader Madison Gruebele.

Photo provided

Lamorinda 4-H member Madison Gruebele, earned a Platinum Seal for her cultural arts presentation, "Tinikling: Filipino Bamboo Dance," at the 2016 California State 4-H Field Day that was held at UC Davis on May 28.

To advance to the state level, Madison earned gold medals at the County Level held in February and the North Central Section Level held in March. Madison chose Tinikling as her topic because of her Filipino heritage and love of dance. During her two years in Lamorinda 4-H, Madison, a fourth-grader at Rheem Elementary School, said she has learned a lot about community service, animals, sewing and public speaking. In addition to 4-H, Madi enjoys playing piano and viola, dancing, and reading.

To learn more about the 4-H Youth Development Program, visit <http://ucanr.edu/sites/contracosta4h/>.

Del Rey's Maker Faire a Sunny Event

Submitted by Marge Maceda



Students from Del Rey Elementary School worked with robots, drones, clay animation and solar technology during the school's Maker's Day Fair last June 2.

Photo Sun Light & Power-Kristin Broussard

Del Rey Elementary School, along El Camino Moraga, held a Maker's Day Fair on campus on June 2 to further foster their students' interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and the arts.

Students and their families enjoyed the

half-day event as they gained hands-on experience working with robots, drones, clay animation, green screen movie making and solar technology.

According to Del Rey principal Kirsten Theurer, the Maker's Day Fair exemplifies great community spirit. "We hope that this fair will further inspire our future artists, scientists, doctors, astronauts, engineers and researchers."

Sun Light & Power (SLP), the company who will be installing solar systems at five OUSD schools this summer, and TerraVerde Renewable Partners LLC, the company assisting the Orinda unified School District in their solar project, did a solar power demonstration that focused on solar cell exploration and clean energy generation.

Aside from exploring STEM-related booths, students wrote movie scripts and created a video of their stories using either green screen, or clay and an iPad. John Toki, a well-known Bay Area sculptor, guided the students as they help design, weld and paint a piece of public art to be displayed at the Orinda Library and later to be installed at Del Rey.

Glorietta Elementary School, another OUSD school, will hold a similar event in the fall, with the exact date to be determined.

Eagle Scouts Mark Memorial Day With Flag Placements

Submitted by Keith Beard



Eagle Scout Aidan Beard of Troop 200, Lafayette, decorates a Veteran's grave at Oakmont Memorial Park on Saturday May 28. In all, Troop 200 scouts and leaders placed nearly 500 flags.

Photo provided

Common Interests Bring Different Faiths Together

Submitted by Terry Clark

On Saturday May 21, area residents from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish congregations gathered together at the Lafayette Reservoir to enjoy relaxed fun, fellowship, each other's foods and rich conversation under the theme "Harmony in Diversity."

The occasion was the second annual Interfaith Picnic sponsored by Neighbor to Neighbor, an East Bay partnership among different faiths established six years ago to promote understanding, respect, appreciation for others' religions and deep inter-relationships among people of all cultures and faiths.

As the 100 or so picnickers arrived, each placed a flag pin in a very large World Map at the country of origin for their ancestry. Virtually all pins landed in Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, South America and elsewhere around the world. As N2N Coordinator Terry Clark explained later in the program, "The results underscore that (unless we are Native Americans) all of our families originated with immigrants from outside the United States. From these diverse origins, we come together to create the

strengths of our country."

An early highlight was the outdoor Christian worship service, conducted by Pastor Lauren Gully of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Her message deepened the theme of harmony in the diversity among people of different faiths and emphasized the importance of "our many Interfaith activities in the East Bay community connecting neighbor to neighbor."

Members from the San Ramon Valley Islamic Center and Temple Isaiah also spoke from their scriptures on this theme of the day. In addition, Pastor Gully carefully explained each element of the Christian worship for the benefit of the other faiths; and everyone joined in singing hymns together on common spiritual beliefs and the scriptural imperative to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Before the group began their meal, all formed N2N's signature "Ring of Solidarity" in prayer and reflection on their motto of "People of All Faiths Standing Together" along with blessings from Jewish, Muslim and Christian representatives.