

## LL&LC celebrates Boomark Contest winners

Submitted by Kay Pekrul



Back row, from left, Ava Curletto (Stanley), Andrey Cox (Stanley), Isabella Bartos (Stanley), Chloe Dawkins (Stanley), Ethan Del Rosario (Stanley), Carrie Zhang (Burton Valley), Sofia Bartos (Burton Valley), Dagny Bradford-Urban (Stanley), K. Yasumura (Saklan); front row, from left, Cooper Banwart (Burton Valley); Stella Byrne (Springhill); Ella DelRosario (Springhill); Gavin Wang (St. Perpetua); Avery Marshall (Happy Valley); Tamia Grosser (Lafayette)

More than 700 young artists participated in the annual Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Bookmark Contest. Each winner received a gift certificate to Bel & Bunna's or a gift certificate to the LL&LC's Friends Corner Book Shop. In

addition Anthony Ruiz of FastFrame in Lafayette is framing each student's bookmark free of charge. Mr. Ruiz also frames the winners' artwork for display in the Library and in the Friends Corner Book Shop.

## Assistance League of Diablo Valley Receives Proclamation of Achievement from Board of Supervisors

Submitted by Betty Miller



Assistance League of Diablo Valley President Lesley Salo receives Proclamation of Achievement from Contra Costa County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff much to the delight of Vice President Philanthropic Programs Susan Angle, as well as Supervisors Federal D. Glover, Diane Burgis, Candace Anderson and John M. Gioia.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, Assistance League of Diablo Valley is a nonprofit, member volunteer organization dedicated to improving lives in our community through hands-on programs. To that end, on May 2, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors awarded Assistance League of Diablo Valley a framed Certificate of Proclamation that specified the organization's philanthropic programs. Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff read the names of the programs aloud to emphasize their support of infants, children, families, adults and seniors alike.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley President Lesley Salo said that all programs are needs-based and operate on a spartan budget, which accounts for Operation School Bell's ability to provide new clothing and shoes for 4,500 schoolchildren in 2016-2017. Likewise, Scholarships will award

\$170,000 in support of high school and college students, foster youth and adults at the May regular meeting. Salo added that several of the chapter's philanthropic programs address children's literacy, while its TeleCare program reaches out to the homebound.

Supervisor Mitchoff concluded the presentation by encouraging members of the community to shop at the organization's primary fundraiser, Assistance League Way Side Inn Thrift Shop, located at 3521 Golden Gate Way, in Lafayette, where they will find wonderful bargains while supporting the chapter's programs.

To learn more about Assistance League of Diablo Valley and its primary fundraiser, the Way Side Inn Thrift Shop, please visit this website: [diablovalley.assistanceleague.org](http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org).

## Lafayette Middle School Student stars in Berkeley Playhouse Youth Production

Submitted by Jenny Berten



Lafayette resident Sarah Berten, a Stanley Middle School seventh grader, recently performed the lead role of Hope Cladwell in Berkeley Playhouse's Teen Stage musical theater production of Tony Award-winning "Urinetown." Hope is the innocent then rebellious daughter of corporate manager Caldwell B. Cladwell. The play was performed at the historic Julia Morgan Theater.

This fall, Sarah looks forward to performing with Ohana Arts in "Peace On Your Wings," the story of Sadako Sasaki, which will perform in San Jose and Seattle.

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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Submit stories to  
[storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

## NCL honors graduating seniors

Submitted by Lily Wescott



Bottom row from left, Amanda Dunning, Angelique Axelrode, Raquel Wescott, Kimberly Tang, Megan Miller; Second row from left, Chloe McCullough, Katherine Cane, Annie Varellas, Jaqueline Nichols, Kai Otsmaa, Annika Walker; Back row from left, Madison Alvarado, Becca Buck, Emma Godfrey, Sarah Fass, Mia Grillo, Lauren Williams, Kaitlin Clever, Anne Shepherd, Carlie Crumbaugh, Heidi Sanford, Molly Bobrovitch.

The Lamorinda Chapter of the National Charity League, Inc. held its Senior Recognition on March 5, 2017 at the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley. Twenty Two seniors from the graduating class of 2017 were honored for their dedication to philanthropic service and cultural enrichment. Over the past six years, these seniors have

graciously volunteered over 4,300 hours of community service to organizations in need of assistance.

The NCL Mission Statement is: To foster mother-daughter relationships in a philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences.

## 16th annual Wildlife Festival hosts record number of visitors

Submitted by Kathy Barrett



Steve Gentry, at right, looks on as children sample honey.

Photo Wade Barrett

More than 1,000 people of all ages, hundreds more than last year, streamed into the Wildlife Festival at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Sunday April 23 to celebrate Earth Day.

Soon children were catching water boatman bugs in the pond with dip nets, while others were feeding grass to the friendly goats. Gorgeous parrots from the Contra Costa Avian Society were riding on shoulders, and families were cooking biscuits in solar ovens with Wendy Helms and The Trust in Education Institute. The splendid weather and mesmerizing drumming and singing by Chester Miner and the Native American Cherokee Elders contributed to the atmosphere of fun and exploration.

For 16 years the Friends of the WR Nature Area have invited the community to

enjoy the wisdom of local environmental groups like Friends of Orinda Creeks, Parents for a Safer Environment, and Sustainable Contra Costa, and celebrate Earth Day. Young artists paint ceramic tiles for the entrance bench, make nature crafts and wear the beautiful tattoos by Coyote Brush Studios and face paintings by the Orinda Juniors. Joan Morris invited visitors to ask questions about wildlife and had them observe the structures of several abandoned bird nests. Cricket, of Raw Soap, offered samples of her organic olive oil soaps, and groups of curious children were asking Orinda Bee Man, Steve Gentry, a million questions.

That was just some of the fun activities offered at the festival. For more details about the Friends visit its website [www.fwrna.org](http://www.fwrna.org).



Jack Howell describes how solar cookers are used in Afghanistan

## 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.