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Lafayette teachers demand fair pay

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The Lafayette Education Association, the union representing about 200 Lafayette teachers, counselors and speech therapists, and LAFSD are negotiating a new contract.

Teachers have been wearing black in protest to draw attention to their needs. Churchill says that parents have been supportive. "Most of them had no idea we were working without a contract for two years

or what our pay was," she says, adding, "The assumption is an affluent area equals high pay."

The district recognizes the need to retain high quality teachers, ensure quality programs and fairly compensate teachers but says that unfortunately the district's projected budget deficits have put them in a difficult position to guarantee ongoing increases in the absence of

additional revenues or reduction in current spending.

The two sides met for mediation Feb. 26. They will be reconvening in mid-March.

Gerringer says that the teachers and district continue to work on reaching an agreement with both sides mutually agreeing to mediation.

Citizen of the Year

Jenkins has traveled with Linda to many countries to deliver artificial (LN-4) hands - a project sponsored by Rotarians worldwide. He has also accompanied Linda teaching English to non-English speakers, most recently to Taiwan.

He was a founding member of the Lamorinda Village and says that Marshall Duncan, whom he met at the Lafayette Community Foundation, has been a role model for him and is one of the reasons he co-chaired the Senior Symposium for five years. Duncan thinks Jenkins is very deserving of the honor and notes his ability to "keep things going," adding, "He's helped an awful lot."

Jenkins is active within the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and was a founding trustee. He said following his election as an elder, his responsibility was for seniors. He brought in "Thurs-

day Fellowship," a weekly lunch, with activities and speakers for seniors. He points to work that was being done by the Rotarians on a monthly basis providing home care to seniors that he introduced at LOPC and which eventually led to Lamorinda Village.

It is really in the service to seniors, he says, that he has found his passion. He says it is about helping people as they age find where they fit. His work with Lamorinda Village helps people stay in their own homes, and he stresses the importance of creating meaningful service work for seniors, too. "Their activity gives them meaning and purpose," he explains.

Jenkins is currently involved with the new Cancer Support Community, working to bring the new building to Lafayette, which he says will offer so much. His family has been on the receiving

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end of such support. He wants to see Lafayette set the precedent with this new facility.

Somehow this man manages to find time for other interests too. He enjoys sailing, which he says he took up at age 16 in Rhode Island. He has more than 18,000 miles of ocean sailing experience, including trips from New Caledonia to New Zealand and Fiji to New Zealand plus coastal sailing, delivering boats from the Caribbean to New York and from Canada to New York.

Linda Jenkins says that she considers herself so privileged to live so many years with this man. "He does so much for so many," she adds.

Jenkins' service will be celebrated at a dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel on April 13. To register, visit the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website: www.lafayettechamber.org.



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