

# 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 can be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## MEF Soiree Supports Moraga Schools

Submitted by Diana Obrand



The March 6 MEF Soiree benefited local school programs. Photo provided

Community members, teachers, staff and parents came together March 6 to delight in the sights and sounds of Moraga's K-12 students. The MEF Soiree, organized by MEF community relations chair Shanette Westphal, highlighted the key people and programs that make the five Moraga public schools special places to learn and grow. From woodshop to choir, video production to science, MEF donations support many of the programs that students attribute as the reason they look forward to school each day.

"Music is very important to me – I can't imagine a day without singing,

playing the piano or just listening to my favorite songs. Having choir first period gets my day started on the right note," stated one ninth-grade Campolindo student.

Highlights from the evening included a performance from the fourth grade choir, a French presentation from Ed Willy's class adapted from "Romeo and Juliet," and a drama presentation. Student representatives from woodshop and photography were proud to show their work from their respective classes. Other displays included: K-8 art, video production, science, library, and K-5 computers.



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# Remembrances



## Grace M. Hyde

Dec. 19, 1919 – March 2, 2014

Born at home in Rensselaer, NY, Grace was the second youngest of four children of Ethel and Ray Hyde. Always a bright academic, Grace attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, earning a B.S. degree in 1941, a M.S. degree in 1942, and ultimately a M.D. in 1948. Remarkably, Grace was one of only 17 women in her medical school graduating class of 125. Before entering medical school, she also worked for two years as a bacteriologist at the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Mich.

In 1948, Grace moved west for an internship at Highland Hospital in Oakland. While at Highland, Grace met fellow intern Gerhard Hencky and they married in 1949. In the same year, she secured a residency in pathology at Highland and that would mark the beginning of her 40 year career as a pathologist, all at Highland. In the mid-1950s, Grace gave birth to her two children and continued to work at Highland while raising her children. When her children were older, Grace even took on an additional job as a cytologist and often could be found late at night in her den, hunched over her microscope.

Grace and Gerhard divorced in 1976 and she never looked back, buying a small home for herself in the Orinda hills and working happily until she was 70 years old. Retirement did not slow her down either; Grace stayed active by taking aerobics classes at the Orinda Community Center, sewing costumes and line-dancing with the Moraga Movers, taking upholstery classes in Pleasant Hill, becoming a member of the Golden Gate Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers, and working in her garden. In the latter, she was almost always accompanied by her dogs. Grace was a true dog-lover and particularly fond of golden retrievers and black labs. Over the years, she enjoyed the company of at least 10 dogs and supported a number of rescue organizations.

Grace was a good listener and generous mother, a kind and loyal friend, a proudly independent woman, and an individual of the utmost integrity. She was also a fighter, battling numerous health problems over the last several years while still retaining her quick wit and wonderful sense of humor.

Grace is survived by her children Sharran Rodd and Alan Hencky, and grandchildren Chris, Rachel, Nathan, and Afton. A celebration of her life was held in Orinda on Saturday, March 22. If you have any additional remembrances you would like to share with the family, please email to [henckfamily@comcast.net](mailto:henckfamily@comcast.net) or call (510) 338-3975. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Furry Friends Rescue, P.O. Box 7270, Fremont 94527.

## 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.

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