

## 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.

### NCL Hosts Luau at Moraga Royale

Submitted by Emma Godfrey



Ticktockers outside of Moraga Royale after enjoying a tea with the residents. Photo provided

The 10th grade class from National Charity League, Lamorinda Chapter, gathered at Moraga Royale Assisted Living Nov. 16 for festivities and the joyful company of the elders. The 15- and 16-year-old locals, with the help of their mothers, organized a Hawaiian-themed luau with entertainment featuring the talented Grace Baer singing a beautiful rendition of "Somewhere over the Rainbow." Guests were

asked to dress in Hawaiian attire, with leis provided. While swapping stories and chatting with one another, the girls and guests enjoyed a mouthwatering snack including tuna sandwiches, tropical fruit kabobs, lemon bars, and cupcakes. The Moraga Royale residents enjoyed an afternoon filled with vibrant activities, stories, and most importantly, memories.

### The Gift of Sight

Submitted by Bob Murtagh



Photo provided

Ten members of the Campolindo Leo Club and nine members of the Moraga Lions Club gathered at the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 42 on Moraga Road Nov. 16 to sort and clean 3,500 pairs of used eyeglasses. The main mission of the Lions and Leos is to aid the visually impaired. Each year the Lions clubs in California and Nevada collect over 700,000 used eyeglasses and ship them to third world countries. Once sorted and cleaned, the eye-

glasses are sent to the California Medical Facility in Vacaville where inmates determine the prescription and place them in individual plastic bags. Lions clubs are located in over 200 countries worldwide and these clubs will request both glasses and host doctors who will conduct exams and issue the correct prescription. To learn more about the work of the Leos and Lions or to donate used eyeglass contact Bob Murtagh, (925) 283 1841.

### Kiwanis Holiday Candy Shop Open for Business



From left: Moraga Valley Kiwanis president Gloria Eive; Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns; Mayor Ken Chew; Moraga Education Foundation president Nikki Peterson; Chief of Police Bob Priebe; Moraga-Orinda Fire District Battalion Chief Felipe Barreto Photo S. Braccini

Outgoing mayor Ken Chew cut the ceremonial ribbon Nov. 20 as Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club opened its See's Candies holiday shop. Net proceeds go to the club's Community Contributions Fund and from there will be do-

nated to local charities focusing on services to youth – including Lamorinda's education foundations. The volunteer-run store will be open through Dec. 23 in the Rheem Shopping Center next to Starbuck's. S. Braccini

### Scrapbooks Highlight a Lifetime of Service in Lafayette

Submitted by Rosylyn A. Stenzel



From left: Veronique Kuhner, Rosylyn Stenzel, Betsey Young, Pam Severson, Amy Parlett and Tina Sebree Photo Rosylyn Stenzel

Meeting in the same room where the very first Lafayette Juniors meeting was held in 1953, founder Betsey Young invited Juniors past presidents to her home to collect her scrapbooks of which she documented over 60 years of fundraising and volunteering in the Lafayette community.

### Larry Beans' Post Office



Larry Beans with a few of the many Reidelberger stamps. Photo Sophie Braccini

Before he passed away, Bob Reidelberger asked Moraga resident Larry Beans if he would disperse his stamp collection to benefit his family. Reidelberger owned thousands of stamps he had collected all his life that filled a whole room in his house. Beans has sold the very valuable ones already, and to put the U.S. stamps that come in all denominations to good use, he is offering to affix the proper postage and take to the post office any quantity of Christmas cards, Hanukkah greetings, wedding invitations, and packages from the community. "I will take all packages that don't require special forms or

insurance," says Beans. "Let me know your preference of stamps and I can probably fulfill your request. (Christmas, Hanukkah, Love, Flags, Flowers, Olympics, etc.) You can give me the envelopes either before or after stuffing them." There is no service fee; Beans will take the mail to the post office and people will pay the actual cost of stamps. "For regular mail, I will charge 45 cents for 49-cent stamps," says Beans, who adds that all proceeds will go to Reidelberger's family. Send him an email at [larrybeans@comcast.net](mailto:larrybeans@comcast.net) and he'll give you his address to drop your mail. — S. Braccini

### Donation Requests from the Community

*'Tis the Season of Giving*

#### Orinda's 'Cans for a Cause' Food Drive

Benefits Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Show how much you care, Orinda, by helping to collect 10,000 pounds of food this holiday season. Drop off your donations at specially marked collection bins at: Orinda City Hall, Orinda Community Center, the Orinda Union School District's administration building, or any of Orinda's elementary schools through Dec. 19. (Contact sites for specific collection dates and times.) Items needed: peanut butter, hearty soups, dried or canned beans, canned tuna and chicken, canned tomato products, 100 percent fruit juice (48 ounces or less plastic bottles), canned vegetables and fruits, enriched rice or pasta, iron rich and whole grain cereals, powdered milk. For more information, call: (925) 570-5654.

#### Lafayette Rotary Club Coat Drive

Every year the Lafayette Rotary Club is collecting gently used coats to donate to Shelter Inc. of Contra Costa. At a recent Rotary meeting Executive Director Timothy O'Keefe pointed out how important the Rotary coat drive is every year at the start of the cold season to serve many homeless community members with warm clothing. This year the club is inviting the community to bring gently used coats (adult or kids sizes) to the following locations in Lafayette: Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring, 3291 Mt Diablo Ct., Lafayette, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Ste. 103, Lafayette.

#### Toy Drive for Needy or Homeless Children

Every year since Leslie DeWolf's daughter started Brownies/Girl Scouts, they have taken a barrel from the Bay Area Rescue Mission and asked a business to host it. "We have seen amazing generosity and felt the true joy of the season," she says. If you feel blessed and would like to bring happiness to a needy or homeless child this season, bring an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl of any age to Smile Tu, Inc., 2933 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek.

#### Support the Spirit Van Through Donations, Volunteering

The Lamorinda Spirit Van is a transportation program that offers affordable rides to local shopping centers and medical appointments for Lamorinda's most vulnerable older adults. Its clients are overwhelmingly widows in the later years of their lives who have not only outlived their husbands, but also their ability to drive. In most cases it offers some sort of independence, and avoids the need for these folks to rely on the generosity of friends and family or to move into institutions. Almost all the drivers are volunteers who donate the equivalent of about \$75,000 per year of their time to support the program. The program needs your help. A small donation from Lamorinda families could provide additional funds for the support of these vulnerable folks and improve individual lives "one trip at a time." Your tax-deductible check may be made payable to the City of Lafayette and mailed to: Lamorinda Spirit Van, c/o Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549. For anyone interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please call (925) 283-3534.

### Need Donations?

Each year Lamorinda Weekly includes announcements from the community about local charitable giving opportunities. Need Donations? Submissions with a brief summary of your organization and charitable drive can be sent to [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com) (include "Season of Giving" in the subject line). Season of Giving announcements will continue through Dec. 17.