# Arts shine on in Lamorinda

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**By Lou Fancher** 



Miramonte High School junior Jenni Coletta sings at Dec. 12 Lamorinda Photo Lou Fancher Arts Council's annual holiday luncheon.

Council's annual holiday luncheon, instant proof of the organization's value arrives in the uplifted arms, snapping fingers, assertive singing and vocal proclamations of Homeless Project," and select strength from local youth perform- Lamorinda Idol singers. ers. In a private dining room at the Orinda Country Club on Dec. 12, LAC board members, community Elementary, and OIS eighth-grader arts supporters and invited guests Amelia Chen performed at the lunenjoyed French chicken topped cheon. During 2018 the LAC enwith artichokes and capers or lemon-parmesan cod while being also displayed the visual artwork

uring the Lamorinda Arts dams Family" from Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theatre (produced by Bay Area Children's Theater), a screening of Lamorinda ShortDocs 2018 winner, "The

Both Mckenna Rose, a thirdgrade student at Sleepy Hollow gine behind these powerful voices entertained by the cast of "The Ad- of 60 artists, 250 local high school

students and 320 elementary and middle school students in exhibits held at the Orinda Library art gallery. Enthusiasm for the arts in Lamorinda as expressed through the council's activities this year supported not only the first-ever Arts Affair that showcased LAC partnerships with local arts organizations, but also Stanley Middle School student Neve Abcari's award-winning short documentary and the endeavors of Miramonte students Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey and Jenni Coletta, who delivered to the appreciative audience sincere renditions of emotional, melodic

In opening statements at the luncheon, LAC Board Chairperson Jenny Staelin highlighted additional accomplishments that included, among others, October's Art of Mixology that raised nearly \$10,000, and a new, outdoor Arts Moves Project supported with \$9,000 from private donors, businesses and local foundations. For the first time, a "Spark the Arts" award was given, with honors in 2018 to Mark Coffey for editing and outreach related to the LAC newsletter. As an advocate for visual, performing and literary art produced and enjoyed by people of all ages, Stalin said LAC hopes always to cultivate activities that "bring us together, uplift our hearts, open our minds, educate our children and provide joy to all who experience

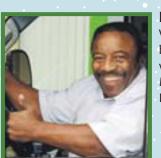
Staelin said future plans include expanding Arts Affair into an annual fundraiser. "We have to be careful not to overextend, because we're an entirely volunteer-run organization. (Managing Director Meredith Friedman is the sole paid

staff position.) We had 120 people partner more with Saint Mary's attend and this event has great po- College, Town Hall Theatre, Cal tential." As an indicator, Arts Affair Shakes. What can we do to bring portends the type of initiative Stae- artists together? We want to be the lin and the LAC plan to pursue with hub." local organizations. "We'd love to

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!** 

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