

Lions announces Peace Poster contest winners

Submitted by Robert Murtagh

The Lions International Peace Poster contest for 2022-23 was titled "Lead with Compassion," and 75 students, age 10-13, from Stanley Middle School in Lafayette submitted entries. Annually, 55,000 students from around the world compete in the contest. This year student Ruby Bogan won first place and

Chloe Cooper took second, with Olivia Parker placing third. The winner will now compete with other entries from students from Alameda and Contra Costa counties and eventually a winner will be chosen from California. The International Peace Poster winner is awarded a trip to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City accompanied by a parent and teacher.



From left: Robert Murtagh, president Moraga Lions Club, Olivia Parker, Ruby Bogan, Chloe Cooper and art teacher Robert Anke. Photo provided

Joint efforts will light up the town this spring



Photo provided

Garden Club members: Janice Lieu, Ellen Beans, Linda Foley, Gillian Gray

Submitted by Linda U Foley

On a gorgeous Saturday morning this November, the Moraga Garden Club joined in with Kiwanis, Scouts, kids and town officials to plant 2,000 daffodil bulbs, half provided by Joan Bruzzone.

The areas across from the skateboard park and fronting the library sign will be a welcoming bright sight in the spring – barring gophers, moles or strangling clay. Moraga Garden Club welcomes new members. Follow us on FB and Instagram. moragagardenclub.com

Mechanics Bank donates \$10K to support The Park Theater Renovation Capital Campaign



Photo provided

From left: Sara Regan and Jay Lifson of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Sana Bhumbla, Raully Butler and May Gonzalez from Mechanics Bank, Tracey Farrell, Kathy Bowles, Jana Corey from The Park Theater Trust.

Lafayette's all-volunteer nonprofit Park Theater Trust (TPTT) – and actually the entire Lamorinda community and East Bay – is the recent beneficiary of a \$10,000 grant from Mechanics Bank to TPTT's Park Theater Renovation Capital Campaign.

Why such a broad-reaching effect? "This generous grant will make an immediate impact in our fundraising efforts to bring back Lafayette's much-loved community cinema for all to enjoy," says Kathy Bowles, fundraising chair and TPTT board member, "particularly as right now, two generous families have pledged to match, dollar for dollar up to \$350,000, every donation to our renovation campaign." The match campaign challenge runs until Dec. 31.

"We share our East Bay roots with the Park Theater, which has been an architectural marvel and community centerpiece in Lafayette since 1941," said Raully Butler, executive vice president and director of retail banking for Mechanics Bank. "Restoring its splendor for classic films, indie releases, and a wide range of events and activities will make the theater a vibrant community hub that entertains for many generations to come."

Almost a year ago, thanks primarily to gifts from private citizens, businesses, family foundations, and the city of Lafayette, the 510(c)(3) nonprofit TPTT founded in 2019 raised the \$3 million needed to purchase and protect Lafayette's historic downtown cinema built in 1941 and dark since 2005. Now TPTT volunteers are working to raise the \$5 million for the renovation of the Park into a two-theater movie and live music venue with a commercial

kitchen, community space, and Lafayette's only rooftop terrace. The goal is to re-open in 2024 offering first-run art/indie films, new Hollywood releases and classics, special events, and live music curated by highly regarded CinemaSF (<https://www.cinemasf.com/>) as the operator.

The past few months have seen a flurry of fundraising activities supporting this grassroots effort, including sold-out dinner benefits at RÊVE Bistro, and Hideout Kitchen, featuring jazz recording artist Shawn Raiford and his band. Point of sale support has come from local merchants Five Little Monkeys toy store and Clocks, Etc., and in August, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce hosted along with Hollie's Homegrown and Sideboard a packed Chamber Mixer. For the holidays, TPTT is selling custom Park T-shirts, totes, water bottles and collectible pins through Lamorinda Music. The response from the community continues to be one of excitement and engagement, which was evident when TPTT gave out over 500 bags of popcorn to eager families at the recent Trick or Treat Street Chamber event in October.

The Park Theater Trust's mission is to restore and operate Lafayette's iconic Park Theater building and revitalize it into an accessible and inclusive, community-centered cinema, arts and culture hub with programming that includes critically acclaimed films, throwback favorites and engaging non-film events. For more information or to donate to the Park Theater Renovation Match Challenge, please visit <https://parktheatertrust.org/>.

Season of Giving

Support local nonprofits during this Season of Giving

One of the best things about Lamorinda is its strong volunteer base within local nonprofit organizations that raise much needed funds to benefit the community. Each year, Lamorinda Weekly offers an opportunity for these nonprofits to promote their charitable giving opportunities. Here are a few ongoing campaigns this holiday season:

Lamorinda Village Season of Sharing

Lamorinda Village, a virtual village that allows seniors to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible, is raising funds to continue its mission. Volunteers provide rides, grocery shopping, companionship, handyman and check-in call services as well as fun and educational events to its members. Help keep our elder neighbors engaged with love. Donate at www.lamorindavillage.org/donate or mail a check to P.O. Box 57, Lafayette. If you are a senior interested making new friends or needing help, or if you are thinking of volunteering, email us at info@lamorindavillage.org.

Lamorinda Spirit Van

The Lamorinda Spirit Van has reopened and is providing rides to Lamorinda older adults age 60+ to destinations in Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. We are currently seeking a part-time dispatcher who will take ride reservations, schedule route, communicate with Passengers/drivers, prepare reports. Position requires good communication skills and knowledge of Excel. We are also looking for volunteer drivers for 4-hour weekly or bi-weekly morning or afternoon shift – taking older adults to appointments, errands and shopping. Help us help others! Donate to Lamorinda Spirit this holiday season by mailing a check payable to: City of Lafayette (note "Lamorinda Spirit" on memo line) 500 Saint Mary's Road, Lafayette 94549. Learn more at www.lovelafayette.org/residents/transportation/lamorinda-spirit-van Or email Riki at rjuster@lovelafayette.org or call (925) 284-5546.

Moraga Community Foundation

The Moraga Community Foundation is excited to be just over \$50,000 shy of our goal to raise \$450,000 for needed enhancements to the Moraga Commons Park. A new drinking fountain/ water bottle station and new flagpole have already been installed. Planned for 2023 are ADA/accessibility improvements including brand new, gender neutral bathrooms, an updated accessible picnic area near the All-Access Playground, and beautiful trees with improved irrigation (also completed with MCF's financial support). Do you love and enjoy the park? Show your appreciation by donating to the Commons Enhancement Project at www.MoragaCommunityFoundation.org. Help us raise the last \$54,000 to make this happen.

Goodwill of the San Francisco Bay

Join Goodwill of the San Francisco Bay for a drive thru community donation event at the Orinda Masonic Lodge located at 9 Altarinda Road in Orinda. Clean out those closets and bring all of your gently used items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, and again from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. Can't come in person? Schedule a pickup at tinyurl.com/SFBAYPickUp or visit www.sfgoodwill.org to discover other ways you can support our mission.

In Memory

Marsha Healey Robinson

Jan. 13, 1938 – Oct. 2, 2022



Marsha Healey Robinson, beloved sister, mother and grandmother passed away peacefully on Oct. 2, 2022. Marsha was born in San Francisco on Jan. 13, 1938 to Margaret and Harry Healey of San Mateo. Marsha graduated from San Mateo High School and then earned a teaching credential from San Jose State University in 1959. Marsha was a teacher at Francis Scott Key elementary school in San Francisco. Marsha married Frank Robinson in 1961. They moved to Lafayette in 1972 and Marsha stayed home to raise their daughters Frances and Tori. Marsha volunteered in the Lafayette school district and was active with the Junior League of the East Bay. Later Marsha returned to work in the retail sector at Talbot's in Walnut Creek and Pendleton in Lafayette.

Marsha is survived by her daughters Frances Farley (husband Jim) and Tori Heffelfinger (husband Warren), her grandchildren Jessica and Alex Farley, and Mary, Heidi and Wendy Heffelfinger, her brother Bill Healey (wife Linda), her sister Angela Hollman (husband Steve), and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Marsha was preceded in death by Frank and her sister Jane Jones (husband Bob). A celebration of life will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 21 at St. Perpetua Church with reception immediately following in the Parish Hall.