

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Three-Quarter Century Club Celebrates

Submitted by Thomas Black, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary



Thomas Deahl and wife Aileen pose with plaque honoring them as the Longest-Married Couple. He is 94 years of age; she, 90. They have lived in Orinda since 1957. At right is emcee John Fazel. Photo Thomas Black

Members of the Three-Quarter Century Club were honored on June 10 at the Orinda Community Church, which hosted the annual luncheon saluting residents of Orinda who are at least 75 years of age.

This year's celebration marked the tenth anniversary of the increasingly popular event, again co-sponsored by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary (LSR), Prudential California Realty and the church. Over 100 guests attending this festive

event, according to perennial emcee John Fazel, a charter member of LSR and local Prudential California realtor. Fazel takes over as President of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary on July 1.

Said Fazel, "It's tremendously heart-warming to see the smiles on the faces of our honored guests, (some of whom) otherwise see little public recognition for what they've done."

Entertainment came in the form of tales of yore spun by

McAvoy Layne, known to many as "The Ghost of Mark Twain." He has performed as Twain's professional "reincarnation" for more than two decades. Layne is a local boy, belonging to the Miramonte High School Class of '61. When not impersonating Mark Twain -- a la Hal Holbrook -- Layne hangs his hat in Incline Village, Nev. During the summer, he also pilots a tourist pleasure boat that plies the waters of Lake Tahoe daily.

As in years past, special awards were presented to individuals with notable life attainment. Crowned "King" as the senior-most man was Thomas Deahl, aged 94. He and his wife Aileen, 90, have lived in Orinda since 1957.

Named "Queen" for the third consecutive year was Helen Vurek, 99. She has been an Orinda resident for 70 years.

"Baby of the Year" went to Eartha Newsong, a seven-year Orinda resident who turned 75 last January and is very active in the Orinda senior community.

Other special awards were for the couple married the longest -- the Deahls -- and the shortest -- Bobbie Dodson Nielsen and Fred Nielsen, married less than a year.



"Baby of the Year" award went to Eartha Newsong, who turned 75 last January. She has resided in Orinda for seven years. Photo Thomas Black

Moraga Junior Women's Club

Submitted by Jacqueline Welch



MJWC garden tour chairs Kana Ryan and Dustie Robeson present \$32,200 in support of the UCSF Children's Hospital Child Life Services' Music Program to Manager Michael Towne and Associate Director of Development Brenda Larabee at Terzetto Cuisine Restaurant. Photo Jacqueline Welch

The Moraga Junior Women's Club presented \$47,600 in charitable contributions throughout the past year. The Juniors raise money through various events including their annual "Through the Garden Gate" tour of six Lamorinda gardens and the community egg hunt hosted at the Moraga Commons.

Partial list of the 2009 MJWC beneficiaries
UCSF Children's Hospital Child Life Services' Music Program (Major Beneficiary)

This program provides music lessons and performances to pediatric patients receiving both short and long-term care in the hospital. These services lessen patients' stress, anxiety, depression, and physical pain during their stay.

Moraga Education Foundation
 MEF supports programs in Moraga schools. It raises funds to preserve and enhance educational opportunities for Moraga public school students in kindergarten through twelfth grade through a broad-based community effort.

Meals On Wheels
 Meals On Wheels delivers nutritious balanced meals to homebound seniors, thus alleviating food insecurity and loneliness experienced by seniors who want to stay in their own home but cannot shop or prepare meals for themselves.

Room to Read
 Room to Read is dedicated to promoting and enabling global education. They partner with local communities throughout the developing world to provide educa-

tional opportunities by establishing libraries, creating local language children's literature, constructing schools, and providing education.

Bearskin Meadow Diabetes Camp

Resident camp for children, teens and families affected by diabetes where campers learn the skills necessary to live long, healthy and successful lives with diabetes.

Thank you to everyone who aided the efforts of the Moraga Juniors this year. Your generous donations, participation, and support are the cornerstone of our charity drives. Currently, MJWC is looking for gardens, sponsors and advertisers for the 2010 garden tour. For more information on the Moraga Juniors, including how to join or how you can help, visit www.moragajuniors.org.

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, with the subject header In Service to the Community.

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