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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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

The Lafayette Community Foundation Spring Grants

Submitted by Cheryl Noll



From left, LARC's Beth Hofinga, Program Director; Cookie Bedford, Activities Leader; and Betty Zingale, volunteer.

The Lafayette Community Foundation (LCF) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Spring 2011 grants. Since 2000, LCF has given over \$250,000 in grants to a variety of local organizations, making a significant impact on their projects. These grants are possible due to generous contributions by the donors of the community of Lafayette. A total of \$10,000, parceled into multiple grants, was given to area organizations this spring in order to further the Foundation's mission of: "Investing in programs and projects that promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of Lafayette and beyond." Two of the grant recipients for the Spring 2011 grants were WomenSing and The Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC). For additional information on the Lafayette Community Foundation and to find information about how you can become involved, please visit www.LafayetteCF.org.

Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) is a non-profit, state licensed, social Adult Day Program for those with Alzheimer's or other related dementias, offering respite for caregivers by providing exemplary care and stimulating activities for their loved ones. Open Monday through Friday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, they provide interesting and engaging activities such as games, crafts, exercise, friendships and daily live musical entertainment. LARC participants feel safe, cared for and valued. The center's paid staff and caring trained volunteers foster dignity and self-worth in the participants (and they laugh a lot!). The grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation will allow the LARC program to continue to

meet the needs of the community by expanding and improving their services. The funds will be used to create a Caregiver Resource Library with relevant books and DVDs to lend on dementia and related topics, to purchase colorful flowers for participants to plant in the patio garden pots, and for special intergenerational activities with the neighboring preschoolers. LARC is 100% privately funded and neither solicits nor accepts government funding. This generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation enables LARC to continue their mission and enrich the lives of many. LARC is located at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. 925-254-3465; email larc@holyshepherd.org; www.holyshepherd.org.

WomenSing is a unique organization that began 45 years ago, devotes itself to the study and performance of choral music. WomenSing, with its 50 auditioned members, delights audiences with its

beautifully blended sound not only in Bay Area but also in Europe, Asia, Latin and South America and Canada. This, local, non-profit organization has an exciting musical outreach program named Youth Inspiring Youth that partners with "River of Words" collection of poetry. Composers and poets as young as 8 and 14 inspired by nature are chosen and their works are mentored by nationally recognized composer Libby Larsen. This treasure trove of inspiring works is given voice by WomenSing under the direction of Artistic Director Dr. Martin Benvenuto. The group regularly holds their workshops at Veterans Memorial Hall in Lafayette in front of an interested, large audience. WomenSing will use this year's grant from Lafayette Community Foundation to help expand the Youth Inspiring Youth project.

The next concert by WomenSing "Stepping Westward" will be on June 8, 8:00 pm, at Lafayette/ Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette.



Dr. Anita Rama (left), Lafayette Community Foundation Board member; Dr. Martin Benvenuto, artistic director of WomenSing; and Ann Dzuna, President of the Board of WomenSing. Photos provided

Moraga Rotary Collects Nearly Five Tons of E-Waste

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Moraga Rotarians Mary Elena Dochterman, Debbie Roessler, Rich Render, Lad Lynch, and Kevin Reneau complete filling a pallet box of e-waste.

On April 23, Rotary Club of Moraga collected from local citizens almost five tons of electronic waste, 9,627 pounds, and has recycled it according to California law. The four semi-annual e-waste collections held at the Moraga Shopping Center operated by Moraga Rotary have collected a total of about 15.75 tons of discarded electronic items. Rotarians working at this community service event were Lad Lynch, John Erickson, Cliff and Mary Elena Dochterman, Debbie and Lou Roessler, Kevin Reneau, Mike Rosa, Frank May, and chairman Rich Render.

Citizens dropped off their e-waste at the Moraga Shopping Center at the site where the Farmers Market is held on Sundays, no appointment required. Televisions, monitors, laptop computers, flat screens, cell phones, CPU's,

cell and wired phones, printers, copiers, DVD players, fax machines, VCR's, stereos, ink jet cartridges, and video games were dropped off. Many items were dropped off at no charge, but there was a small charge for some items.

The next Moraga Rotary e-waste collection will be on September 24, 2011 in the same location, according to Render. Moraga Rotary thanks the Bruzzone family, owners of the Moraga Shopping Center, for supporting this vital community service, and thanks all the citizens who dropped off e-waste at these events.

Rotary Club of Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International that meets most Tuesdays at noon at St. Mary's College. For information, please call Gary Irwin of Moraga Rotary at 925-376-7688.



Nick Hooks (foreground) and friends bond with Blaze (foreground) Pippin and Oscar at Saint Mary's College during finals week. The dogs are Pet Hug Therapy animals from the Animal Rescue Foundation Photos Cathy Dausman

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