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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.

Lafayette Woman's Club Sponsors Student

Submitted by Mary Lou Beeler (written by Betsey Young and Tury Riksheim)



Loretta Nutti presents Hailey Finnane to the club.

Photo Mary Lou Beeler

For the last 30 plus years the Suburban Woman's Club of Lafayette, along with other Northern California Federated Women's Clubs, have sponsored a sophomore from the local high schools to the Northern California Leadership Seminars. This year the seminar met in May at Menlo College, Atherton, California.

Hailey Finnane, from Moraga, was selected by the faculty and staff of Campolindo High School to represent our club. Students are chosen for their leadership and scholastic accomplishments. Hailey was an outstanding choice. She came to the club's June meeting and spoke enthusiastically of the activities the students

were involved in over the weekend - the inspiring guest speakers and the lasting friendships made. Her enthusiasm was contagious.

The students returned from the weekend filled with a desire to begin volunteering and setting up charitable organizations in their communities.

Hailey was so impressed with her experience at the seminar she is looking forward to attending next year, on her own, as a junior.

For more information on the Leadership Seminars contact Loretta Nutti, (925) 376-4786.

For information about the club and our other charitable activities call Jean Cappa, (925) 283-2759.

A Silver Experience

Submitted by Shelley Kwok



Sasha Newton (left) and Shelley Kwok.

Photo Elizabeth Newton

For nearly a hundred years, Girl Scouts have been helping their community through means of service. Whether it's assisting the elderly or picking up trash, Girl Scouts have always been ready to offer their aid. Often times, these services are needed to complete a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award project. These endeavors teach girls about leadership and helping others in many different ways.

It took much coordination to get to the "take-action" part of our project. Our first step towards our Silver Award project was to complete the "Leadership Journey Book," called *Breathe*. After we finished that, we decided to enhance our town through means of gardening and painting. We were able to accomplish this by contacting the trail supervisor of the East Bay Regional Parks District and an Assistant Principal and Grounds Keeper for the school district.

In order for our project to be successful, we needed to develop a team of people that could

help us with all aspects of our project. This consisted of our dedicated troop leader and project supervisor, Sue Olson, as well as the help of many volunteers and advisors.

We accumulated the majority of our hours (leadership, as well as action) in two different ways. This included painting the rail fences of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail with the help of others and weeding the flower and plant beds of our local high school.

In addition to all this labor and leadership, we spent a lot of time collaborating with each other. The two of us learned much about time management, leadership, organization, and communication. If you (or anyone else) are interested in a simpler version of this project, you can go to www.ebparks.org/getinvolved/volunteer to help out. We highly recommend doing this as a way to help your community. You probably won't earn a medal but the feeling of helping is gratifying enough!

Sunrise Rotary Joins Forces with Buena Vista Auxiliary

Submitted by Delia Tully



Photo provided

As a part of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's new focus on Children's Literacy, the Club decided to "adopt" Cambridge Elementary School in Concord, which is one of the local schools that benefit from Buena Vista Auxiliary's literacy tutorial program.

At Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's June charity auction gala, Motorama, enough funds were raised by the event's attendees to provide an entire school year of tutoring sessions through Buena Vista Auxiliary's tutoring program. Students who are selected by their teachers to participate in the program will receive 16 one-hour sessions over a four to six-week period. The Club's generous donation

will provide enough funding for 31 students at Cambridge Elementary to participate in the program. "The Cambridge staff is very excited to learn that our students have recently been adopted by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary", said Joyce Demsmore-Thomas, teacher at Cambridge. "Their focus on children's literacy by funding one of our Buena Vista Auxiliary reading tutorial sessions will allow us to help our students become successful readers. We are very appreciative of their support of our children's future and look forward to partnering for student success."

"Buena Vista Auxiliary is thrilled that Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary has selected our Organization to support, in their efforts toward children's literacy", said Andrea Callaway, Buena Vista's Chairperson for 2011/2012. "The success of their recent Motorama event, and their ability to promote their causes so effectively, speaks to the high quality of their organization. We look forward to working together in the future to make a difference in children's literacy in our community."

Rotary Sends Miramonte Student to Camp Venture

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Alex Glazer with parents

Photo provided

Alex Glazer, a Miramonte senior, spoke at a recent meeting of Rotary Club of Moraga about her experience at Camp Venture, a Rotary-sponsored one-week camp for students who wish to become familiar with entrepreneurship and general business concepts. Alex reported that the Camp was an exceptional experience for her and other students, and that she hopes to establish a career in business someday. Her scholarship was awarded by Moraga Rotary.

Camp Venture is a training and motivational camp for students who have finished their junior year and are interested in enhancing skills in teamwork and leadership. It is held in late June at the Maritime Academy of California State University in

Vallejo. Students have the opportunity to interact with experienced business people and meet with other students who have similar interests. Students form teams which conceive of a new business and then develop and present a business plan as if they were seeking investors, and Alex's team was judged 2nd

out of the ten teams competing.

Alex has been a member of the Orinda Teen Advisory Committee for four years and is currently its co-chair; this group consists of about two dozen young men and women who plan and implement youth activities and who provide guidance to the Orinda Department of Recreation. Alex is also a public speaker who has recently won local competitions and participated this summer in the National Public Speaking Competition at Dallas.

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.

Sons in Retirement Celebrate

Submitted by Lamorinda SIR



Recently the two Lamorinda Branches of SIRS joined together for a BBQ at St. Mary's College. In addition to great food and camaraderie, President Emeritus of St. Mary's College, Brother Anderson, gave a talk on Moraga, St. Mary's and their mutual histories.

SIRS is an organization for retired men. We meet one Wednesday each month for lunch and a speaker. In addition we have groups providing opportunities in various activities: golf, bridge, bocce ball, tennis, walking and many others. For additional information call Pete Giers, 254-4667, or Phil Arth, 376-3784.