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Community Service

Lamorinda NCL Celebrates with Service

Submitted by Mary Caprio



Photo provided

In December, members from the Lamorinda chapter of National Charity League (NCL) gathered together at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center with the hope of brightening the holidays of those less fortunate. Each year at this time, the Lamorinda NCL chapter works just a little bit harder to help those in need and this year was no different. Stockings were stuffed with treats and necessities and warm blankets were made for delivery to the Monument Crisis Center in Concord.

When the evening was over, hundreds of stockings had been filled and warm blankets had been assembled, all to be donated to the Crisis Center's many patrons in need. Lamorinda

NCL chapter president Mary Torchio commented on the evening's impact, "We dedicated our entire November meeting to working together and getting as much done as we could to help those in need at the Monument Crisis Center - one of our many philanthropy partners. I was so pleased that this year we were able to give the center an abundance of much needed support thanks to the help of our members."

NCL is a volunteer organization composed of mothers and daughters who join together in community involvement. The Lamorinda chapter has a membership of 260 mothers and daughters, in grades 7 through 12, all of whom actively participate in local philanthropic programs.

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.

Acalanes NCL Adopts a Family

Submitted by Carrie Dern



Photo provided

The Class of 2014 of the National Charity League Acalanes Area Chapter participated in an Adopt-A-Family through the Child Abuse Council of Contra Costa County. The girls applied their donated funds to shop together as a class to purchase and wrap a long list of much needed gifts for the families.

National Charity League, Inc. is a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities. Nationally, there are over 168 chapters committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through philanthropic, leadership and cultural activities. Participation be-

gins in 7th grade and continues through the senior year, culminating in celebrations at the Claremont Resort and Hotel in the spring. The girls are honored for their many hours of philanthropic work volunteering at The American Cancer Society, California Shakespeare, Juvenile Diabetes, Smiley Dog and Special Olympics among others.

For membership information, please visit www.nationalcharityleague.org. These volunteer activities initiate a lifelong commitment to community service and deepen the bond between mother and daughter through these shared activities.

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Beau/Derek on the California Independent Film Festival

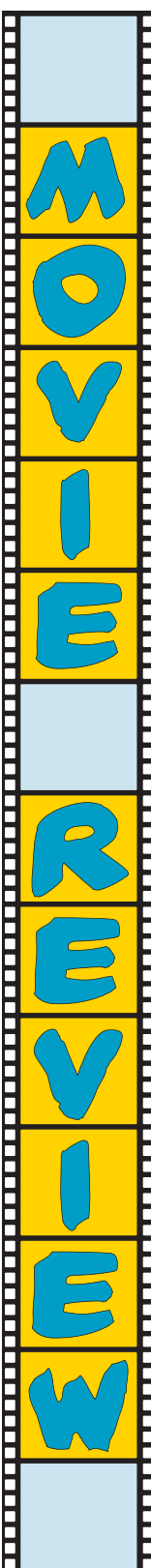
Derek's two must see films at the upcoming 14th California Independent Film Festival:

It will be a very momentous occasion and history in the making as our Opening Night movie, *Monsieur Lazhar*, is nominated for the 2012 Oscar Best Foreign Language Film. It will be the first time that Lamorinda area will be able to screen a film that is short listed by the Academy before its theatrical release and before the Oscars on Feb 26th, 2012. *Monsieur Lazhar* is screening on Feb 10, 2012 at the Rheem and Feb 14, 2012 at the Orinda Theatre.

My other choice is *Miss Monoes*. It is about children learning lifetime habits at a very young age. I encourage all parents to take their children to see this film and give them a gift of a lifetime by educating them on international cinema and the joys of being in film festivals. This fun-filled family film from Holland will be a treat for all ages. It is screening on Feb 11 at the Rheem, when CAIFF will have a Family Day event.

Beau's thoughts on the 14th Annual CAIFF:

I do not have one favorite film in our upcoming festival. The fibers of our rich fourteen-year history are interwoven in the lineup of our films this year. Everything is a must-see. Come and enjoy the filmic pursuits of our very talented filmmakers from around the globe (February 10-16, 2012). (*Derek Zemrak is a filmmaker and the president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA); Beau Behan is the CAIFFA program director and director of the Lamorinda Theatres.*)



please...



...thanks