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## Jazz Festival Coming Soon



Last year's performance

Photo Doug Kohen

Now in its twelfth year, the Lafayette Jazz Festival will kick off the magic on Friday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center. Sponsored by Generations in Jazz Foundation, both nights and the Sunday matinee show of the Festival have unique themes with top performers and soon-to-be famous student musicians from the area.

play a unique blend of modern electronic influenced grooves and improvisation. They will be joined by the award-winning Acalanes Jazz Ensemble led by Norm Dea.

Closing the Festival on Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 p.m. is "Honor That Jazz," featuring the Contra Costa County Middle School Honor Jazz Band, followed by the Contra Costa County High School Honor Jazz Band.

"An International Connection" is the Friday evening opener for the Festival, featuring International Artist J. Kyle Gregory and his quartet, along with Bob Athayde and the Stanley Jazz Messengers - promising students from sixth through eighth grade.

Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, (925) 284-7404 or by visiting their website at www.lafayettechamber.org. All shows will be at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road—\$10 for adults and \$5 for students for the evening performances. The Sunday "Honor That Jazz" matinee is only \$5 general admission. *C. Tyson*

The fun continues on Saturday, March 10, also at 7:30 p.m., with "Jazz for the Ages" featuring the Realistic Orchestra, comprised of some of the Bay Area's finest Big Band musicians that



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## Town Hall Meeting Almost Not Illuminating



Photo Cathy Dausman

Over three dozen Lamorindans attended an overview presentation of the California budget by Senator Mark DeSaulnier February 23 at Lafayette Community Center. Asked if he'd oppose a sales tax increase, DeSaulnier replied "No. It's weakening the education system." He offered to meet with parents to discuss their school district's financial concerns. DeSaulnier will hold another local meeting at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda, March 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To contact his office directly, call (925) 942-6082. *C. Dausman*

the first hour. During the second hour, he took questions, which centered on tax and education concerns. Asked if he'd oppose a sales tax increase, DeSaulnier replied "No. It's weakening the education system." He offered to meet with parents to discuss their school district's financial concerns. DeSaulnier will hold another local meeting at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda, March 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To contact his office directly, call (925) 942-6082. *C. Dausman*

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