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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.

Digital Design Class Tapped for Senior Symposium Logo

Submitted by Dick Holt



Aaron Miller, LCF board member Dr. Anita Rama, Angelo Calitis and Susan Lane.

n an effort to provide real world design challenges to the students in her digital design class, Acalanes Digital Design Teacher Susan Lane collaborated with Acalanes junior Aaron Miller in requesting her students create a logo for The Lafayette Community Foundation's (LCF) upcoming Annual Senior Symposium. Miller, a Lafayette Troop 243 Boy Scout and Eagle candidate is helping to organize the October 13 Symposium as his Eagle project. He suggested tapping the Acalanes Digital Design class for help creating a proprietary logo for the event; more than 30 student designs were submitted to the LCF's Liaison Committee for Seniors for a vote. Acalanes freshman Angelo Calitis' dynamic and cheerful design was selected and will be utilized in all materials used

to promote the event. On Wednesday May 23. Calitis received a certificate of appreciation and a gift card from LCF.



Calitis' winning design

Orinda Rotary Shepherds Little **Flock**

Submitted by Frank and Rhonda Darling



Children near Chennai, India have future as bright as their smiles thanks to the collaboration between Little Flock orphanage and Lamorinda's Rotary and Interact clubs.

Photo Frank and Rhonda Darling

honda Darling always wanted to do a project somewhere in the world that needed her skills. So in January 2011, after retiring from a 38-year nursing career, she teamed up with other medical professionals to care for the children of Little Flock, an orphanage in Southern India, 90 miles south of Chennai.

Little Flock was founded to care for 100 children ages 4 to 17, many of whom had been abandoned because of their status as members of the "Dalit" or "untouchable" caste. At Little Flock, they now have food, shelter, clothing, education, and limited medical and dental care.

For two weeks, the three dentists set up their own clinic while the five nurses examined the kids. Once they had completed treating the orphans, they opened the clinics up to neighboring villagers.

After Rhonda returned, she talked with her husband, Frank, about the hardships in the Indian jungle. She told him that rented vehicles were being used to get volunteers to and fro in difficult conditions, and that a more reliable means of transportation was needed for the volunteers - and to allow the kids to connect to their heritage on field trips similar to those taken by many U.S. kids.

Frank, named president of the Rotary Club of Orinda in July 2011, suggested raising funds to purchase a bus for Little Flock as part of the club's call for international projects. The Board liked the idea and "Wheels for Little Flock" was born with help from the Moraga, Lafayette, Lamorinda, Sunrise, and Rossmoor clubs, as well as the area's Interact Clubs (Rotary sponsored service clubs in high schools). "Little Flock" also reached out to their major donors with the goal of providing half of the total amount needed - \$50,000.

That goal was met, and planners are now working out the details for the bus purchase and delivery, proving that simple ideas can become reality. Acting locally and thinking globally to make life better for others no matter where they live need not be just a dream.

For more information about Little Flock, visit: littleflockhomes.org.

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LOPC Members Help Joplin Victims Rebuild

Submitted by Bobbie Dodson

hirty four members of the Adult Mission Team from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) volunteered 1,440 hours of work during the week of May 5-12 helping build houses in Joplin, Missouri, the town which suffered extreme tornado damage in May of 2011.

The category E5 twister, struck at 5:32 p.m. leaving a path of destruction, nearly a mile wide and six miles long, through the town. Some 8,000 homes and 400 businesses were destroyed; 4,500 jobs affected; 1,550 residents injured; and 162 lives were lost in just 32 minutes. Nearly a year later the long scar remained. While some new homes graced the flat, rocky, green landscape it was mostly a wasteland of concrete foundations and still some debris of damaged homes, with the nine-story St. John's Hospital building standing tall, but unusable because it had been moved four inches off its foundation by the 200 mph wind.

The LOPC team, men and women, worked on four new homes accomplishing such tasks as installing house wrap and siding, finishing interiors with molding, sealing tile, sanding sheetrock, putting in Prego flooring, and painting. An older home was gutted, including tearing out a chimney, and the rebuilding began.

team learned some of the terror they endured. Amy and Larry Jump, with their three boys, barely made it into their basement where it sounded like a freight train was rumbling over them. When they emerged all that was left of their home was a pile of bricks and broken studs. They learned that a car which landed on their gas meter had been blown from the hospital parking lot, nearly a mile away.

Taking refuge in her laundry room because it had no windows, which made it safer than most rooms, Stevi Andron came out to find it was the only thing left standing. Betty and Mel Brownsberger sheltered 13 people in their basement while their home above was being blown away.

All the homeowners expressed their gratitude to the volunteers over and over again. Brownsberger said, "We didn't wait for help, and started working right away but having people like you come is a Godsend."

Volunteers continue to arrive from throughout the United States and foreign countries as well. Knowing there will still be much work to be done the LOPC team plans to return in 2013, Rev. John Weems, the group's leader, explained. Also, this summer he will accompany the high school group when they travel to Joplin to add Listening to the stories of the owners, the their efforts to the rebuilding of the town.

Record Number of Athletes Compete at Moraga Rotary's **Annual Field Day**

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Photo Ohlen Alexander

n May 30, the Rotary Club of Moraga held its 21st Annual Field Day, a track and field meet at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade Moraga students in the three public elementary schools and Saklan School. There were 250 athletes this year, compared with 205 last year, competing in events such as sprints, relays, sack races, long jumps, and baseball throws. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event.

Again this year, Donald Rheem Elementary School won plaques for the most winning points and the most participants, and these plaques will be displayed at the school. The 112 Rheem ath-

letes accumulated 182 points out of the total 271. There was a tie for High Point Girl between Caroline Coates, in Mrs. Cavallero's fifth-grade class, and Kendall Runckel, in Mrs. Berkman's third-grade class, both at Rheem. The High Point Boy was Will Grubbs, in Mrs. Noyes' fifth-grade class at Rheem School. These students along with the High Point Teacher, Mrs. Cavallero, and Principal Elaine Frank, will be presented with the plaques honoring their achievements at an

upcoming Moraga Rotary meeting.

The Field Day is a community service project that was originated by Moraga Rotarian, and past president, Al Simonsen who has chaired the event since its inception. Simonsen is a retired captain for American Airlines who also substitute-teaches in intermediate and high schools in Lamorinda. "A big 'thank you' to all teachers who encouraged their students to attend Rotary Field Day," he said. "It was a fun event for the children, Rotarians, parents and teachers who were there. The students behaved beautifully and were enthusiastic in their support for each other and their schools."

Rotary also supports local schools by giving a dictionary to every third-grade student in the Moraga schools including Saklan and Canyon schools; this community service project has continued for more than a decade.

"It was a beautiful day," Simonsen added. "All who participated were winners in our eyes."

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