

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Girl Scout Luau Benefits Children's Hospital

Submitted by Lori Langley



Photo Provided

It was a rocking good time for a terrific cause at the Father-Daughter Luau Dance held recently at the Lafayette Community Center. Local fifth-grade Girl Scouts of Troops 32787 and 32788 joined together to organize, promote, and host the event which included dancing, crafts and a photo booth. Proceeds from the event benefited Children's Hospital Oakland,

supporting its mission to care for children in need. In addition to the much-needed funds, participants brought donations including clothing, books, rattles, and teething devices. These girls, many whom have been together since kindergarten, worked all fall to make this dance a success and have earned their bronze merit badge.

### Lafayette Juniors Oscar Night Helps Local Non-Profits

Submitted by Christy Mack



Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors held A Night at the Oscars benefit in late February to raise money for New Day for Children, CoachArt, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette

Library, and We Care. From left, Anna Eppinger, Sylvia Ames, Colleen Miller, Heidi Keely, Michelle Muller, Lisa McCauley, and Daniele Upp.

### LLLCF Foundation Executive Director Announces Retirement

Submitted by Caitlin Meaney Burrows



Kathy Merchant

Photo Provided

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation announced March 18 that Kathy Merchant, executive director of the foundation since November 2010, will retire from her position.

As a founding trustee, the first president of the LLLCF and a major donor, Merchant became the LLLCF's first executive director. Her leadership in the decade leading up to the opening of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was instrumental in raising community awareness of the benefits af-

forded by this unique library and consortium partner model. In addition, Merchant helped secure the necessary funding to launch initial construction and the library's annual funding campaign.

Despite an economic downturn following the successful "Imagine a Place" capital campaign that allowed the library to open its doors, Merchant helped the board of trustees successfully reach its \$4 million goal for LLLCF's "Open Doors, Open Minds" campaign to establish a sustainability fund in 2011. LLLCF provides over 50 percent of the library's total operating costs which supports longer open hours, enriching programs and the sustainability of the building.

Vickie Sciacca, senior community library manager said, "Kathy Merchant's dedication to the Lafayette Library has been a tremendous gift to the community. Her passion for libraries, her commitment to excellence, and her understanding of literature, art, and education have been instrumental in shaping the direction of the Lafayette Library for years to come. We are absolutely grateful to Kathy for helping the Lafayette Community realize, and not just imagine, such a place."

The LLLCF board of trustees has started a formal search process to find a new executive director, expected to be in place this summer; it will celebrate Merchant's contributions to the Lafayette community at a reception to be held in early summer.

### National Charity League Class of 2013

Submitted by Sherry Henderson



Front row, seated from left: Claire Svedberg, Victoria Perrella, Bailey Finegold, Kathryn MacNulty, Allison Baymiller, Rebecca Frazier. Second row: Jessica Wilcox, Kendal Taylor, Victoria Cimino, Madeline Yzurdiaga, Rachel Sears, Hayley Wilcox, Amanda Lemelin, Madison Yeack, Hadley Swanson. Back row: Tela Zembsch, Cassidy Waters, Madison Hossfeld, Katherine O'Keefe, Katherine Catton. Photo Studio Fotografica

The Acalanes Area Chapter of National Charity League—a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities—once again celebrated their graduating seniors during the 2013 Senior Celebration Program Feb. 23 at the Claremont Hotel.

Nationally, there are over 175 chapters committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through philanthropic, leadership and cultural activities. Membership in the Acalanes Area Chapter is drawn from the Lamorinda communities of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Participation begins in seventh grade and continues through the senior year of high school. The girls are honored for their many hours of

philanthropic work volunteering at Foster-A-Dream, Lafayette Library, California Shakespeare, Juvenile Diabetes, Bay Area Rescue Mission, and Special Olympics, among others. The Class of 2013 put in over 2,700 volunteer hours during their years in our Chapter.

These volunteer activities combined with activities focused on leadership development and cultural awareness, form the three pillars of National Charity League, and help to initiate a lifelong commitment to community service and deepen the bond between mother and daughter. For membership information, please visit [www.nationalcharityleague.org](http://www.nationalcharityleague.org).

### New Eagle Scouts



Luther Kuefner, Aaron Miller, Justin Nathan, Nicholas Villanueva and Reece Yamamoto; Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 243.

Photo Amy Baba



Serge Balian, Chris Greenfield and C.J. Novogradac; Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237.

Photo provided

### Motivational Presentations by Cynthia Brian

Hailed as an expert in lifestyle, teens, gardening, and personal growth, New York Times Best Selling Author, Media Personality, & Coach, Cynthia Brian empowers audiences to find their inner star.



"Dynamic, energetic, entertaining, informative, inspiring, motivating! I can't say enough about Cynthia Brian. Her unique style of engaging an audience is SPECTACULAR."  
Marsh Engle, Founder of Amazing Woman's Day

Book Cynthia Brian as a speaker for your next event.

925-377-STAR

Cynthia@Star-Style.com, www.Star-Style.com