

Earth Day in Lafayette

A family-friendly event

By Sophie Braccini



Lafayette Earth Day 2012

Photo provided

Last month in Lafayette, the Lamorinda Democratic Club invited Dr. Andrew Gunther, the executive coordinator of the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium, to talk about the impact of climate change on our area.

"We are entering a period of consequences," said Gunther, using a phrase by Winston Churchill to describe what is happening as a result of increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

The first local consequences, noted Gunther, involve water: less snow in the Sierras means less reserve for us, and increased pressure from southern California to get Delta water. Gunther says that people on both sides of the aisle are looking for solutions and he highlighted areas where progress would have the most impact: fuel efficiency, solar panels and eating less red meat.

The main message? "Change starts at home."

For those interested in making a change, the April 21 Earth Day Festival in Lafayette will be a good starting point. The 8th annual festivities will focus on helping Lafayette become one of the most sustainable cities in the Bay Area, with special attention this year on recycling.

Activities include: the 'self-propelled' parade, which starts at Stanley Middle School at 10:45 a.m.; interactive activities from the Lawrence Hall of Science and Lindsay Wildlife Museum will be offered from 11 a.m.

to 1 p.m.; the one-hour family friendly screening of the movie "Garbage Revolution" from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Arts and Science Room of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center; and for the first time this year kids can expend energy in a bounce house. Food and music will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the LLLC piazza.

Residents interested in reducing their carbon footprint can do so along Golden Gate Way; information will be available about gardening, how to raise chickens, and how to drive less, and visitors will be able to learn about environmentally-safe home cleaning products, land, creeks and open spaces around Lafayette and more. Solar panel installers will also have the latest on costs and incentives.

A big focus this year will be on reaching a 75 percent diversion rate in Lafayette. The current rates are in the 60s and the state's objective is 75 percent by 2020. Lafayette wants to be a leader on the road to zero waste.

"The patio area of the library will feature a 'No-Waste Zone,' which will display educational material and information on how residents can help Lafayette reach its goal of 75 percent waste diversion," says Sustainable Lafayette spokesperson Tina Goodfriend. "Residents can declare a pledge on ways they will help to reduce and eliminate waste in Lafayette by making a commitment on the

Pledge Wall. We are also going to have a display of 365 water bottles so people can see what a year's worth of water bottles look like."

Girl Scout troops will present waste diversion ideas and will earn badges for participating in the festival. FRG Waste will be at the Stanley parking lot on School Street from 10:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. collecting electronic waste. They will be collecting all electronic waste that has a plug – items such as outdated/non-compliant goods, computers, PDA's, monitors, phones and more (no microwaves or large appliances will be accepted).

The Earth Day Festival is a widely supported Lafayette event, organized and hosted by four different entities: Sustainable Lafayette, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Lafayette. The City of Lafayette Green Award winners for 2012 will be announced at noon during the festival, recognizing citizen and business environmental contributions to the Lafayette community.

For more information, visit www.sustainablelafayette.org. Lamorinda Weekly is a proud sponsor of this event.

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Caring is Not Enough for Lafayette Resident

By Cathy Dausman

"We plan vacations, education; we even write grocery lists. Why don't we think about this?" asked Lafayette resident and "Caring is Not Enough" author Terry Ann Black.

"This" is the question of how survivors manage a loved one's affairs after death or catastrophe. A nurse, lecturer and author with over 46 years experience in the health care field, Black has spoken to many Bay Area service groups about this type of planning.

Black's passion "for people to be prepared" came out of a combination of work-related nursing experiences and personal experiences, including her father-in-law's and mother's deaths. When Black's father-in-law died unexpectedly in an auto accident in the early 1990s, she helped settle his estate. In the process she uncovered a safe deposit box key. Black thought her father-in-law might have been safeguarding his valuable collection of stamps and coins, but neither she nor her husband ever discovered where the key belonged.

Black's mother also died in an unrelated auto accident. Black said it was "a disaster" to administer that

estate. "She [Black's mother] had a 10-year-old [outdated] will, had given away stuff she had willed to people and left behind \$20,000 in credit card debt," Black said. She called the time spent as her mother's executor "confusing, depressing and unpleasant." She was so distracted functioning as executor that she said she never had the time to grieve.

When Black's co-workers suggested she compile a list to help others avoid this confusion, the pamphlet "Caring is Not Enough: A List of 50 Most Important Questions" was born.

In 1998 her family moved to New York state and she shelved the project. By 2005 the Blacks were in Lafayette and her son suggested she reissue her booklet. When Black asked him why, he answered: "Because of Terri Schiavo."

Schiavo suffered massive brain damage after collapsing in her Florida home in 1990. Schiavo's husband petitioned the courts to remove her feeding tube starting in 1998; her parents opposed the move. She died in 2005. Black discovered a lot had changed since the book's initial publication in the 1990s. ... continued on page B5



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