

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.

Orinda- Moraga Girl Scouts Earn Silver and Gold Awards

Submitted by Thama Brentano



Photo provided

On May 19, the Orinda Moraga Girl Scout Service Unit honored local scouts who had earned their Silver and Gold Awards. This year's Silver Award recipients were: Kenna Sherman, of Troop #30072 in Moraga, and Elise Anthenien, Lauren Finnell, Valentina Maria Trejo Honens, and Taryn Lausch, all of Troop #32259.

Sherman's project was, "Parents Night Out" for parents living at one of Shelter Inc.'s facilities in Pittsburg, which houses eight families. All parents were given four hours to have a spa treatment, along with a simple dinner or gift certificate to local movie theater and dinner at a nice restaurant while she and eight other Girl Scout sitters entertained the children. Anthenien, Finnell, Honens, and Lausch's project was called "The Feral Cat Foundation" in which the girls provided feral cats with 15 feeding stations and shelters, cat food, bowls and blankets, and educated the local community on the many benefits of spaying and neutering pets.

Campolindo senior Laura Gustafson, of Troop # 32911, earned her Gold Award by cre-

ating a library at Campbell Village Resource Center, an after school center in West Oakland. Laura built six bookcases and filled them with over 500 books, and inventoried the books on an Excel spreadsheet for monitoring and categorizing. Also earning their Gold Awards but unable to attend the ceremony were Natasha Blazer and Alyssa Trumble of Troop #30794 in Orinda, both seniors at Miramonte. Blazer worked with the Alameda County Family Justice Center which is an organization that provides a variety of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, creating kits for victims with items necessary for day-to-day living. Trumble coordinated nine different toy drives at various businesses, a bake sale to help raise funds to purchase toys, and organized a cross country run dedicated to Children's Hospital Oakland, and created an informational YouTube video.

The Silver Award is the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn, while the Gold Award is the highest award and is the equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle Award.

Los Perales Kindergartners Make a Difference

Submitted by Sheryl Ahrens and Dustie Robeson



Terry Miller with her kindergarten class at Los Perales Elementary School. Photo provided

Los Perales Elementary School kindergarten teacher Terry Miller launched a project-based, student-led inquiry unit built around her long-standing classroom themes: kindness and spreading sunshine. Centered around the concept of sustainable giving (ala, teach a man to fish) and the idea that small gestures can net big results, Miller's kinders wondered about their place in the world and ultimately, how they could make a difference. Together, Miller and her class brainstormed what they could do and ultimately decided to use their newly acquired reading skills to raise money for Heifer International's Read-To-Feed program. The kindergartners sought sponsors

from family members and friends and kept track of time spent reading, both in and out of class for two weeks. In total they raised \$3,101, which helped them purchase one water buffalo, one heifer, 18 goats, one beehive, and eight flocks of chicks, directly affecting the lives of 29 families.

You can watch the kids describe their read-a-thon in their own words and with their illustrations at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flgDqW_BCTQ.

For more information on this project visit: <http://lreads.blogspot.com/2013/04/lp-kindergartners-change-world.html>.

Lamorinda Village Seeking Board Members, Volunteers

A task force of approximately 22 members representing Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda is looking for more volunteers to develop Lamorinda Village, a community membership-based non-profit organization founded as a one-stop resource to provide a wide range of services to empower Lamor-

inda residents to remain independent and confident in their homes and communities as they grow older. The task force is also seeking applicants for its board of directors. For information, contact Ruth McCahan at redmccahan@comcast.net or visit lamorindavillage.wordpress.com.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Glorietta Junior Scouts Present a Nature Area Documentary

Submitted by Kathy Barrett, Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area



Photo provided

Gathered in the garden of Erica and Ravi Bains June 9, the Girl Scouts of Troop 30280 presented their Bronze Award program about outdoor education in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The girls collaborated in scripting a video about their adventures. Each scout reported on one of the many outdoor activities.

The video opened with piano music performed by Audrey Spindler. The audience viewed scenes from the Wildlife Festival's raptor show, Native American band, and solar cooking. The scout reporters presented scenes from Rancho Days, archery and games from Native American Studies and First Thanksgiving. Other scouts featured the garden, the Olive Festival, and panning for gold. Cooking was a high point of Pioneer Days, and students made jonnice cake in the adobe oven and chili from scratch. As the documentary came to a close, Bella Crayton's piano music accompanied scenes of students exploring the trails and streams with Toris Jaeger,

to whom the production was dedicated.

The audience of parents, local citizens, and Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area supporters, talked with the girls following the presentation. When asked about their favorite location in the Nature Area, several girls described the "beach" along the creek. The Troop cleaned up litter so that others may enjoy this lovely stretch of stream.

Jaeger thanked the Junior Scouts for supporting the Nature Area: Bella Crayton, Taylor Hernandez, Julia Lang, Kaitlin Miller, Ilana Rubin, Katrina Schrittwieser, Anika Shandalov, and Audrey Spindler. Troop leaders Lilana Spindler and Sandra Rubin took the girls on the outings and helped them choreograph the program. Spindler filmed and edited the video to a vibrant 17-minute peek into the joys of learning history and science in the outdoors. All agreed that the Wagner Ranch Nature Area is a unique gem for students in the Orinda schools.

Dog Wash Helps Pets

Submitted by Diane Sharp



Baker Sharp outside Pet Food Express with his dog, Truman.

Photo provided

More than 100 people headed to Pet Food Express in Lafayette on May 4 to wash their dogs for a cause. Think of it like a car wash fundraiser but for pets! The money from the pet washes (\$15/each) was donated to Operation Paws Rescue (OPR) associated with the Contra Costa Animal Shelter. Orinda Intermediate School seventh-grader Baker Sharp helped organize the fundraiser as part of his Take Action

Project at OIS, and through his efforts raised over \$4,000 for OPR, which has helped more than 300 dogs in Contra Costa County find homes in other states this past year. These are mostly small dogs that could not find homes in this county but can find homes elsewhere. OPR pays to have the dogs spayed or neutered before the volunteers drive them to Oregon or Nevada to get adopted into forever homes.

Lafayette Juniors Raise \$50,000 for Charity

Submitted by Christy Mack



From left, Lafayette Juniors members Alison Crane, Andrea Hilsabeck, Kathy Wilson, Debbie O'Neal, and Kendra Uffelman. Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors raised \$50,000 in the past 12 months for local non-profit organizations — the most money ever raised by the Juniors in a single year in its 60-year history. The funds were distributed May 30 by the Lafayette Juniors in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center to New Day for Children, CoachArt, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and We Care.

"We would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout the year," said Veronique Kuhner, president of the Lafayette Juniors. "Their generosity enabled our beneficiaries to expand the services they provide to children and families in need in Contra Costa and neighboring East Bay counties."

The Lafayette Juniors have a tradition of organizing fundraising events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and Kitchen Tour in the spring

for the sole purpose of raising money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose New Day for Children as their major beneficiary and donated \$25,000 to support New Day for Children's work with young American girls ages 10-18 who have been the victims of human sex trafficking.

"The \$25,000 [the Lafayette Juniors] have given us is the largest single donation we have ever received from any service group," explained Kathy Wilson, spokesperson for New Day for Children. "This \$25,000 will go toward the education, therapy, and daily care of the girls we are restoring." The Lafayette Juniors also donated \$10,000 to CoachArt and \$5,000 each to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and We Care.

For more information on the Lafayette Juniors and this year's beneficiaries, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.