

Community Service

National Charity League Class of 2014

Submitted by Peggy Dillon



Photo Juleen Lapporte

The Lamorinda Chapter of the National Charity League celebrated the graduating class of 2014 March 9 at the 23rd annual Senior Presents at the Claremont Hotel and Spa. The young women were honored for their dedication to the values of leadership development, cultural enrichment and service to the community. During the past six years these seniors volunteered over 3,500 hours at 32 different non-profit organizations, including Mt. Diablo Center for Adult Day Health Care, Monument Crisis Center, Loaves and Fishes, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and Special Olympics. The students represent Miramonte, Acalanes, Campolindo, Carondelet and Bentley high schools. Their final act of philanthropy as a group was a

donation to the American Cancer Society in honor of Joyce Burke and family members and friends in their brave battle against breast cancer. The co-chairs for the gala were Erika Odell and Amy Ruegg. Top row standing, from left: Claire Marvin, Julia Nishioki, Lauren Petite, Olivia Bisel, Hannah Friel, Kyra Ruegg, Margaret Odell, Mica Zimmerman, Abigail Brzezinski, Grace Moran, Allison Nichols, Gabrielle Cirelli, and Makenzie Huguet; middle row, seated: Hannah Durant, Katie Adams, Allison Miller, Sierra Ryder, Jenna Schmitz, Samantha Garcia, and Caroline Colwell; front row, seated: Jennifer Leserman, Colleen Burke, Mallory Faldt, Helena Valvur, Clare Varellas, and Bailey Moran.

St. P Student Outreach Helps Others

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



Photo provided

Students Wil Schueler, Dylan Duque, Bennett Winter, and Alexis Lovelace recently participated in the St. Perpetua Jr. High Out-

reach Program, in which they planned, prepared and served a dinner for approximately 90 people at the North Concord Shelter.

Local Real Estate Agents Give Back During 'Day of Service'

Submitted by Janine Hunt



Top row, from left: Ruth Eddy, Paul Hunt, Larry Jacobs, Kress Hauri, Regina Englehart, Janine Hunt, Teresa Ramirez, Maureen Caldwell-Meurer, Monica Clarke, Tanya Degroot, and John Fazel; bottom: Brook Forkas, Lisa Shaffer, Tina Van Arsdale, and Mariah Bradford-Usher. Photo provided

This year the local Orinda office of Better Homes and Gardens/Mason-McDuffie Real Estate worked in conjunction with Moraga Parks and Recreation to provide a wonderful morning's worth of work as part of its annual 'day of service.' With the goal of providing manual labor to make an impact and a real difference, the group spent a lovely morning staining and preserving all of the exercise stations, benches and posts along the trail, beginning at Moraga Commons. "The thing that made the biggest impression on all of us agents were the number of appreciative runners, walkers, cy-

clists and playing families using the trail," said Janine Hunt. "Thank you for keeping our trail beautiful" and "Thank you for being volunteers" were a couple of the many accolades we received and it kept us going all morning." The group appreciates giving back so much that this year they are seeking additional volunteer opportunities, working with Las Trampas, Orinda Senior Village, the Rotary and their "Home Team" and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Look for their green and white T-shirts throughout the Lamorinda area as they make a difference in the community.

Poll Trust Grant Helps Expand Adult Day Program Facilities

Submitted by Beth Montgomery



Lamorinda Adult Respite Care's expanded program room

Photo provided

Lamorinda Adult Respite Care (LARC) hosted a reception March 16 to dedicate its expanded space to Earnest and Lola Poll – longtime Orinda residents who established a trust to benefit programs serving Orinda seniors with chronic illnesses. Originally from Hungary, the Polls moved to Orinda in 1949, opening Village Cleaners and becoming deeply involved in the community. Earnest passed away in 1982; Lola in 1987.

Trustee Erik Anderson of the Earnest and Lola Poll Trust presented LARC with an \$84,500 grant to expand and remodel its facilities located at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. The grant enabled LARC to double the size of its program space in order to serve more local families. LARC is a non-profit, state-licensed, social adult day program for those with

Alzheimer's and other related dementias. The program began in 1997 as a grassroots effort to help a fellow Holy Shepherd church member caring for her Alzheimer's stricken husband in her home. Through private donations, fundraisers and countless volunteer hours, the support of the church and 'word of mouth' advertising, LARC has grown to be a valuable community resource for the hundreds of families in the Lamorinda area who care for ailing loved ones; the program offers respite for caregivers by providing exemplary care and stimulating activities for their loved ones. It is among the very few licensed adult-day programs in California that receives no public funding.

For information about LARC programs and services, visit www.holyshepherd.org or call (925) 254-3465.

Moraga Rotary Guests Enjoy a 'Nite at the Races'

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Four Monte Vista Interact Club members help at the Moraga Rotary "A Nite at the Races."

More than 185 celebrants enjoyed the Rotary Club of Moraga's 12th Annual "A Nite at the Races," March 15 at the Holy Trinity Hall in Moraga. The Interact Club of Monte Vista High School and the Rotaract Club of Saint Mary's College (both Rotary service club affiliates) served the dinner to earn money as their own fundraiser. Moragans Joe and Linda Fitzgerald held the lucky six of hearts to win a weekend stay at the Stanford Court Hotel in San Francisco. Moraga Rotary will use the proceeds from this event to fund their many community and international service projects such as scholarship donations to both Saint Mary's College and Campolindo High School, weekly newsmagazines to elementary students in Moraga, 11 Odyssey of the Mind teams from Moraga, the Employee of the Month program (with the Chamber of Commerce), Christmas stocking donations to inmates at Juvenile Hall, and helping fund the final push to eradicate the disease of polio from the world. Rotary Club of

Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International that meets most Tuesdays at noon at Saint Mary's College. For information, call Frank May of Moraga Rotary at (925) 376-8195.



Moragans Joe and Linda Fitzgerald are happy they won a two-night stay at the Stanford Court Hotel in San Francisco at "A Nite at the Races." Photo provided