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Moraga Commons Park becomes a festive outdoor banquet hall as residents celebrate the 40th anniversary of their town's incorporation. Photo A. Scheck

Opting to save the speech-making for a later event, aside from a brief toast to the town offered by mayor Ken Chew, the town of Moraga threw itself a party to celebrate its 40th birthday. Moragans young and old - well, mostly older-ish - came together at the Moraga Commons Park Sept. 23 for a potluck picnic dinner that was outdoor dining at its very best.

Humorously emceed by Moraga's own DJ RyanO, with entertainment provided by talented musicians from Campolindo High School, highlights of the evening included a chat with the woman who has possibly lived in town longer than anyone, 70-year resident Susan Sperry, and a table-decorating contest judged by members of the town's Park and Recreation Commission. Fabulous tables created by residents and local organizations included a spectacular pear "tree" complete with birthday candles and Moraga trivia questions, elaborate displays of pears, grapes and flowers, recycled decorations made from several recent issues of

Lamorinda Weekly, and some intriguing artifacts of days gone by.

The Moraga Historical Society, in partnership with the Town of Moraga and Saint Mary's College, will host a celebratory dinner on Saturday, Oct. 18 at SMC's Soda Center. Speakers will include former mayors from each of the town's four decades of incorporation. The registration deadline is Oct. 10, so if you haven't made your reservation yet go quickly to www.moragahistory. org and click on "Events" or call Sperry, (925) 376-3053.

To read Sophie Braccini's Aug. 27 article about the incorporation of the Town of Moraga, visit our archives: www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0813/Moraga-Turns-40.html. - L.Borrowman

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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