

Community Service

Lafayette Juniors Win State Awards for Charity Work

Submitted by Elizabeth Siamas



From left, Tina Sebree, Teli Thayer, Ann Vervut, Rachel Blatt Photos provided



From left, Christine Kelly, Mia Kelly, Kari Trimble



Sharee Spence

The Lafayette Juniors were awarded first place from the state of California on behalf of the General Federation of Women's Clubs for their fundraising and membership programs for charity. The Lafayette Juniors are part of the GFWC, a 125-year-old international service organization made up of more than 500 clubs and 80,000 women who are dedicated to volunteering their time to make the lives of oth-

ers better. GFWC clubs including Lafayette Juniors routinely seek to raise awareness of issues from domestic violence to disaffected youth and homelessness through community service, fundraising, and participation in local, state and national legislation.

"The Lafayette Juniors won first place in their club category from both the Mount Diablo District and the state of California because of their creative, unique fundraising, and for their ability to attract and retain Juniors club members that care deeply about people in need and are called to act on their behalf," says Cary Farago, president-elect of GFWC's Mount Diablo District.

The Lafayette Juniors raised a record amount at its 22nd Annual Rummage Sale at Lafayette's Our Saviors Lutheran Church to benefit Youth Homes, Diablo Ballet, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, and Lamorinda Spirit Van. "The sale's success was made possible because of the dedication of our members as well as the generosity of community members and local businesses who continually support our events," says Christy Mack, president of the Lafayette Juniors.

The Juniors next fundraising event will be their 17th Annual Kitchen Tour on May 14. For information, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Lafayette Rotary Work Crew Cleans Up

Submitted by Matt Pease



Josiah Coy Photos provided



Beverlee Hajek

You might have thought you saw a convict work crew cleaning under the Highway 24 freeway overpasses on Dec. 6, but no, it was the Lafayette Rotary Club hard at work making the city a bit tidier. The team of Matt Pease, Mike Henn, Terry Ring, Josiah Coy, Beverlee Hajek, David Abrahams, Steve Falk, Maurice Williams, Tom Schnerr with his son Cooper, as well as five students from Acalanes High School, spruced up the areas at Brown Avenue, First Avenue and Oak Hill Road. The Rotarians collected over 60 bags of weeds, debris and litter

at these areas that connect north and south Lafayette. The Oak Hill Road area is a major entry point from Highway 24 into Lafayette and that area is now much neater and better represents our city. The City of Lafayette staff supplied garbage bags and picked up the filled bags. The Lafayette Rotary Club will revisit these areas several times a year to help maintain the area. If you would like to find out more about the Lafayette Rotary Club, visit <http://www.rotarylafayette.org/>.

Moraga Magnetics Wow Crowds at Moraga Royale and Aegis

Submitted by Joanne Home



Photos provided

Twenty-one well-rehearsed students entertained residents at Aegis and Moraga Royale in Moraga over the Thanksgiving weekend. Local denizen, Wei Barck, coordinated the winter concert community service event. Hosted and performed by fourth-through 12th-graders, the two-day one-and-a-half-hour-long programs consisted of voice, piano, clarinet, flute, cello, guitar, violin as well as the Chinese harp. Selections ranged from the classic to pop, jazz and holiday favorites.

Now known as the Moraga Magnetics, these future maestros from Lamorinda can add one more accomplishment to their lists. A round of applause to all participants: Emilia Barck, Henrik Barck, Jaden Chuang, Kyle Chuang, Alec Home, Elaine L., Julianna Meneses, Andrew N., Hannah Pan, Owen Pan, Justin Thorne, Michelle Thorne, Lucy Wang, Aislinn Welch, Katie Welch, Sarah Wu, Justin Xiao, Ashley Xu and Delu Zhao.

Lafayette Siblings Start Libraries in Botswana and Swaziland

Submitted by Linda Drucker



Nicole and Noah Prozan Photo provided

388 students from preschool to fourth grade and 17 teachers. According to the African Library Project, it will be the school's first library and the only library in the village of Dagwi, a rural community on the border with Zimbabwe. The book drive began as part of a community service project the siblings embarked upon as part of the celebration of Nicole's bat mitzvah in September, 2015.

"Here in Lafayette, children have an abundance of books but in Africa, most students don't have access to the books they need to learn," said Noah Prozan. "It's exciting to know children in Africa will be able to enjoy books that we once read and loved but no longer need," added Prozan's sister, Nicole.

Bat mitzvah guests were asked to donate books and the siblings also obtained donations from the Contra Costa library system and the Storyteller bookstore. The pair's book drive was so successful that they have collected over 500 additional books, which they will use to start a second library in Swaziland in 2016. The siblings are financing the costs of shipping the books through contributions, and by donating gift money they received from their bar and bat mitzvahs. Contributions can be made via PayPal to noahprozan@gmail.com.

Acalanes High School junior Noah Prozan and his sister, Nicole Prozan, an eighth-grader at Stanley Middle School, have collected and shipped 1,100 children's books to create a library at an elementary school in Botswana, Africa. The books are en route via freighter to Botswana's Dagwi Primary School, which has