

Moraga Junior Women's Club gives \$10,000 to MEF and PTAs

Submitted by Jamie Patterson



From left, Christine Hammond, Moraga Juniors President, Heather Davis MEF President, and Diane Bode, Annie Browne and Jennifer McCollum, event chairs. Not pictured: event chair Shannon Collins.

Thanks to all those who broke out their best cowboy hats, boots and plaid shirts to wear to the Moraga Juniors Women Club's second annual Hometown Hoedown at Campana Farm on Oct. 1, benefiting MEF.

A great time was had by all for a great cause. The event included a BBQ dinner,

dancing, field games, photo booth and silent auction.

Heather Davis, president of the Moraga Education Foundation, was presented a \$10,000 check at the Moraga Juniors' November meeting. The funds will go to both the MEF and Moraga school district PTAs.

Lafayette Rotary Gives Donation to All-Access Playground

Submitted by Matthew M. Pease



From left, Norma Evens, Matt Pease, Kevin Reneau, John Erickson and Buddy Brodwin Photo provided

The Lafayette Rotary Club recently made a \$5,000 donation to support the construction of an All Access Playground in the Moraga Commons Park.

The Lamorinda All-Access playground is being designed to fill the need for outdoor recreational opportunities for children throughout Contra Costa County who have physical or developmental disabilities, allowing them to play side-by-side with family members or friends who might not have any disabilities. The plan calls for 24 pieces of equipment that will focus on sensory stimulation including tactile, visual, auditory skills and provide safe access for those who have mobility issues.

The development of the playground is being headed by the Moraga Rotary Club and is being supported by the Town of Moraga. "There is a population of over 100,000 resi-

dents that have been underserved in outdoor recreational experiences and this playground will open up an opportunity for all children to develop physical, cognitive, sensory and social skills," according to Kevin Reneau, the president of Moraga Rotary.

"We are delighted to be an early supporter of this playground and are excited about the impact it can make in the communities surrounding Lamorinda" said Norma Evens, the president of Lafayette Rotary. The playground will cost approximately \$450,000 to build and individuals or organizations can direct inquiries about support to Reneau at kreneau@seniorhelper.com.

Lafayette Rotary meets at 12:15 p.m. on Thursdays at Oakwood Athletic Club and visitors are welcome to join them for lunch. You can get additional information about Lafayette Rotary at info@rotarylafayette.org.

Youth Ink 2017: A Middle-School Writing Contest to Support Literary Arts

Submitted by Chantal Valentine

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) presents Youth Ink 2017, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live in or attend school in Orinda.

The Youth Ink 2017 prompt is "60 Seconds." This prompt was chosen because it encompasses almost limitless potential for subject matter, thereby encouraging young writers to personalize their pieces.

Organizers say the first rule is to write about anything you like: real or imaginary. There is no limit to the imagination, and entrants do not have to adhere to the prompt. Whatever you write about, just remember to have fun!

"We eagerly await the results of how Orinda's talented young writers approach this year's prompt, although they can write about anything they choose," said Amy Stuffmann, president of Orinda Juniors.

Co-sponsors of Youth Ink 2017, including The Orinda Association, Friends of the Orinda Library and The Orinda Community Foundation, make it possible to provide priz-

es of \$250 for first place, \$125 for second place, \$75 for third place, and gift certificates for 10 honorable mentions.

A panel of several local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists, will evaluate Youth Ink 2017 submissions and choose winners. The judges' names will be shared when the winners are announced at an awards ceremony at the Orinda Public Library at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 20. The public is welcome to attend.

Youth Ink 2017 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis once the competition opens, but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or post-marked by Wednesday, Feb. 15 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, Post Office Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award. Youth Ink 2017 submission forms are available through the administrative offices and English departments at Orinda Intermediate School, the Orinda Public Library, Orinda Academy, Athenian School, or online at www.orindajuniors.org.

Moraga Movers Gives Thanks to Safety Personnel this Holiday Season

Submitted By Phillip Arth



Members of Moraga's safety community were honored at a holiday dinner, courtesy of Moraga Movers.

On Nov. 14, Moraga Movers treated members of the Moraga Police Department, Moraga-Orinda Fire District, and the town manager to a scrumptiously yummy Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings and pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream. Included in the attendance of 170 there was the entire police department along with many members of MOFD.

The theme for the evening was to give thanks to those who put themselves at risk on a daily basis to keep all of Lamorinda safe in our community. And Moraga Movers also recognized Town Manager Bob Priebe for his 37 years of service on the police force.

At the beginning of the evening Fire Chief Stephen Healy offered a few words of thanks followed by Police Chief Jon King introducing each member of his department. Then Battalion Chief Jerry Lee did the same

for each member of the MOFD.

After the meal Priebe briefly addressed the crowd, which was followed by King offering a short power-point presentation on safety and pleading for everyone to lock their cars and houses and generally be vigilant. Then King raffled off a home security system that was contributed by the police department. Finally, Phillip Arth, president of Moraga Movers, who emceed the event, brought the evening to a close, again thanking all the safety personnel for their service.

Moraga Movers offers activities for adults aged 55-plus by keeping them engaged and active. On Dec. 5 the membership gathered at the Soda Center for celebration and a fine meal followed with entertainment by the world-renowned Saint Mary's choir.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley Schedules Prospective Member Coffee in January

Submitted by Betty Miller



Find out why the Assistance League is so proud of the Way Side Inn Thrift Shop and be a part of its success. Photo provided

Since 1967, Assistance League of Diablo Valley, a nonprofit member volunteer organization, has improved lives in our community through hands-on programs. Its primary fundraiser is the Assistance League Way Side Inn Thrift Shop, a well-known landmark located at 3521 Golden Gate Way, in Lafayette.

In response to the needs of its client base, Assistance League of Diablo Valley is reaching out to residents who would enjoy clothing elementary schoolchildren for a more successful educational experience, performing educational puppet shows for schoolchildren, reading to second grade students, or helping in supplying emergency

clothing, food and supplies to those in crisis. Two recently formed philanthropic programs concern implementing art in the classroom and staffing the Listen Program, which helps identify students with verbal expression. Two other programs address the needs of seniors.

Residents interested in spending quality time and meeting energetic and upbeat people while helping those who are vulnerable, phone 925-934-0901 to inquire about a Prospective Member Coffee scheduled for early January. For more information, please visit the website at www.diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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 may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.