

## The Lamorinda spirit in action



2018-19 Lamorinda Spirit Van drivers

Photo provided

### Submitted by Mary Bruns

Now in its 14th year, the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program provides rides for Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda older adults Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. thanks to volunteers, drivers and dispatchers who serve the community.

Thanks to community donations and grants, Lamorinda residents aged 60 and over who need transportation to appointments, errands, shopping, classes, social visits, and/or lunch at the C.C. Café/Walnut Creek Senior Center, can call (925) 283-3534 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., to make your ride reser-

vation and get answers to questions.

"It's the sweet simple things of life which are the real ones after all," participant Virginia Stuart said of the program. "What a big difference your kindness makes! I use the Spirit Van a lot. What a blessing it is for me."

Residents interested in volunteer driving can call (925) 284-5546. If you would like to make a donation to the Spirit Van program, tax-deductible checks can be made payable to the City of Lafayette and mailed to: Lamorinda Spirit, Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549. (Please write Lamorinda Spirit on the memo line.)

## Breakfast with Santa Benefit for Lafayette Historical Society, Dec. 15



Photo provided

Santa at last year's "Breakfast with Santa" event with, from left: Maggie Conklin and Lafayette Historical Society advisory board members Laura Torkelson, president Mary McCosker, Lauren Herpich and Larry Blodgett.

### By Lauren Herpich

It seems as if Thanksgiving were just yesterday, but since there are only three short weeks between the turkey and the tinsel, it's not too early to say that Santa Claus is coming to town ... and this year, he's staying for breakfast. Back for the second year, the Lafayette Historical Society is hosting its Breakfast with Santa benefit on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Sideboard Lafayette.

Perfect for anyone who wants more than just a wait in line for that quick photo-op with the big guy, guests of the breakfast will enjoy a private meet-and-greet with Father Christmas as well as special off-the-menu pancakes served alongside gourmet hot cocoa, and a choice of freshly squeezed orange juice or pour over coffee courtesy of Sideboard, which is the home to Lafayette's original Pio-

neer Store, opened in the early 1860s by Benjamin Shreve, Lafayette's first school teacher.

"This is such a perfect way for multiple generations to come together during the holidays, enjoy the spirit of the season and learn more about the city's past while celebrating the sugarplum dreams of our community's future," said Mary McCosker, president of the Lafayette Historical Society – the keeper of the city's artifacts, ranging from indigenous people's arrowheads, town founder Elam Brown's lantern, and more than 2,000 photographs, news clippings, maps and oral histories.

All guests gain a year's membership to the Lafayette Historical Society and access to a silent auction of items donated by local Lafayette businesses. Last year's breakfast raised nearly \$1,200 for the organization, which takes in 100% of the proceeds.

Advanced reservations are required and cost \$29 for adults and \$20 for seniors and kids age 12 and younger. To book your tickets and for more info (including a video of last year's event and dietary accommodations), go to: <https://www.localfoodadventures.com/breakfast-with-santa>.

## Girls Crushing It winter pop-up show, Dec. 15



Photo provided

A Girls Crushing It member showcases her wares at last year's event.

### Submitted by Emily Best

The Second Annual Girls Crushing It Winter Pop-up Shop, which will showcase 60 local "girlpreneurs" proudly presenting everything from their homemade bath products and pet treats, to original works of art and handmade jewelry, will return from 2 to 5 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Lafayette Community Center.

Special guest and prominent Bay Area author Diana Kapp will also be on hand signing copies of her new book for young women, "Girls Who Run the World: 31 CEOs Who Mean Business," an ideal addition to this event since it profiles successful entrepreneurs in areas of business ranging from fashion and food to construction and tech. The stories of these female CEOs from companies such as Stitch Fix, Soul Cycle, Wildfang and Glossier relay their failures as well as their triumphs and share words of advice, all of which are sure to inspire readers to become the leaders of tomorrow.

"I wrote this book in part to encourage my own teenage daughter to pursue her passions and when girls

read a whole book of stories about relatable, imperfect women who create products that sell in the billions they start imagining themselves doing that too," said Kapp. "Girls Crushing It is an invaluable organization that not only shows young girls the power of possibility but is also a celebration of their entrepreneurial prowess."

Roxanne Christophe, founder and CEO of Girls Crushing It said, "I am delighted to bring the Winter Pop-up Shop back for another year. These girls are growing in confidence and with authors such as Diana Kapp enlightening them to a world of possibilities, they can truly see they can be the CEOs and business leaders of the future."

In addition to the pop-up shops, Girls Crushing It runs business workshops where the girls learn the fundamentals of entrepreneurship – everything from product development and pricing to marketing and developing their sales pitch. They also learn the importance of budgeting, investing and giving back.

Suggested donation to Girls Crushing It is \$20 per family/household. Donations benefit Girls Crushing It.

## Moraga Junior Women's Club Hoedown huge success



Photo Anita Bicskei

Back row, from left: Janel Kidd, Kingsley Frazier, Angela Munoz, Lauren Knight, Stephanie Wraight, Lindsey Carr, Erika Lamoreaux; front row: Anna Nestler, Dawn Novak, Lyndsey Gilmore

### Submitted by Kingsley Frazier

The Moraga Junior Women's Club hosted the 5th Annual Hometown Hoedown Nov. 16 at the Jennifer Russell Building. The Ripplers provided the entertainment for the evening while guests ate BBQ and danced the night away. Beer was provided and poured by Canyon Club Brewery and guests could participate in a whiskey tasting. A silent auction and raffle raised money for Court Appointed

Special Advocates of Contra Costa County. The mood was set with lighting by Desired Effect and the memories were captured by Anita Bicskei and Oh Snap It Photo Booth. Special thanks to sponsors: Village Associates, Kurt Piper Group, Diablo Magazine, Mechanics Bank, Secret Garden Landscapes, Desired Effect, Canyon Club Brewery, Moraga Rotary, Bloom West, Donisi Landscape Construction, Humble Yoga, Mountain Camp, and Efficiency Matters. For more information about joining MJWC, please email [membership@moragajuniors.org](mailto:membership@moragajuniors.org)

### 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.