

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~



Spring has sprung on Daffodil Hill

Photo Vera Kochan

## Daffodils on the hills mark an early spring

By Vera Kochan

Punxsatawney, Pennsylvania, has Phil the groundhog. Moraga has Daffodil Hill. The yellow blooms tell us spring is making an early appearance.

Moraga's tradition of planting daffodil bulbs in public places goes back over two decades. Through the years, residents have been able to spot daffodils planted by project lead/organizer Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club members and friends along Moraga Way near Moraga Country Club, around town of Moraga signs, the entrance to Hacienda de las Flores and on Moraga Road across from the Moraga Shopping Center. The current location, just north of Moraga Commons Park along Moraga Road, has been dubbed Daffodil Hill.

According to Kiwanis Club Secretary Sam Sperry, on Nov. 30 the volunteers

planted 2,500 daffodil bulbs. The club contributed 1,000 bulbs, Joan Bruzzone contributed 1,000 bulbs and Kenny Murakami, owner of Moraga Garden Center (where all of the bulbs were purchased) contributed 500 bulbs.

In recent years, an incentive was added to entice more volunteers to show up for the annual beautification project. Kiwanis member Sonny Tsuboi contacted Disney requesting free tickets to auction off during the annual Lobster Fest fundraiser. Having provided four tickets in the past, two years ago "Disney changed their qualifications for tickets, now asking groups to volunteer for community projects," explained Tsuboi. "I thought our annual daffodil planting was an ideal platform to incorporate into qualifying for tickets. However, additional requirements were to include families and kids, as well as an

educational component."

To get the free tickets, members and their families helped out. As word spread, Scout troops pitched in. As the volunteer number grew, so did the free Disneyland tickets available to auction off. Prior planting seasons have earned 10 tickets.

"We had 60+ volunteers this time, the largest group yet to participate," said Sperry. "Twenty Kiwanians, together with 25 children (from Kiwanis families, some Cub Scouts and both Boy and Girl Scouts) and over 15 non-member adults (mostly parents of the children or Scout leaders, but a few other community members as well)." If the participants exceed 70 next year, the club would be awarded 20 free tickets.

The Disneyland tickets will be auctioned off during the April 18 Lobster Fest. For more information visit: moragavalleykiwanis.org or call (925) 388-0492.

## NPR White House correspondent to speak at SMC



Submitted by Andrea Firth

Tamara Keith, NPR White House correspondent and co-host of NPR's "Politics" podcast, the top political news podcast in America, will be at Saint Mary's College to provide the inside scoop on the current state of the political race, as she reviews and connects the 2016 election to the upcoming 2020 election, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. March 18 in the Moraga Room at the SMC Soda Center.

Keith has been a White House correspondent for NPR since 2014 and has chronicled the Trump administration from day one, putting this unorthodox presidency in context for NPR listeners, from early morning tweets to executive orders and investigations. She covered the final two years of the Obama presidency, and during the 2016 presidential campaign she was assigned to cover Hillary Clinton. In 2018, Keith was elected to serve on the board of the White House Correspondents' Association. Previously Keith covered Congress for NPR with an emphasis on House Republicans, the budget, taxes, and the fiscal fights that dominated at the time.

Sponsored by The Disney Foundation and the Communication Department, the lecture "From Backseat Listener to White House Correspondent" is free but reservations are required at: www.stmarys-ca.edu/tamarakeith.



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