

# Moraga Art Gallery enlivens East Bay art scene

**Submitted by George Ehrenhaft**

To celebrate its full-time return to normalcy, the Moraga Art Gallery cordially invites art fans of all ages to a free and festive reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. Its current show, "Midsummer

Synergies," which ends on Sept. 19, features Donna Arganbright's ceramics and Danguole Rita Kuolas' etchings as well as paintings, photos, ceramics, glassware, jewelry, woodworking, sculpture and other media by more than 25 members and guest-artists. Also, esteemed floutist

Nike Rejto, touted by NPR to "enthral, caress and go straight to the soul," will be play for all to enjoy throughout the reception. The gallery is located at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. Come to meet the artists and enjoy light snacks and wine.

Another event will take place at the gallery on the next afternoon – Sunday, Aug. 8 – when artist Danguole Rita Kuolas will demystify print-making during a free public demonstration, using solar etching. All are welcome at any time between 1 and 4 p.m. and all will be invited to

take home a small original etching as a keepsake.

The gallery is now open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, please call (925) 376-5407, or visit <http://moragaartgallery.com> or email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com).

# Moraga Rotary named the "Outstanding Club of the Year"



Photos provided

**Moraga Rotary Directors for 2021-22, front row: Evie Michon, Debbie Roessler, John Erickson, Mary Sue Erickson, Linda May, Frank May, Debbie Koo; back row: Lad Lynch, Tony Schoemehl, Dianne Wilson, Gary Irwin.**

**Submitted by Gary Irwin**

Moraga Rotary Club was recently named "Outstanding Club of the Year" for the 2020-21 year by District 5160 Governor Mark Roberts, echoing Moraga Rotary's winning the same designation in 2017-18 after the opening of the All-Access Playground at the Moraga Commons. This was a recognition of Moraga Rotary's outstanding achievements in service on both the local and international levels. This District is composed of 72 Rotary Clubs from Berkeley and San Ramon in the south to Weed, near the Oregon border.

Moraga Rotary was also named Moraga's Non-Profit organization of the Year by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

Moraga Rotary launched a series of "Dinners with Rotary" during the pandemic that not only raised funds for its own service projects but also supported local restaurants that were struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic. This spring, after learning firsthand about the devastation that the Delta variant was causing among the people of India from one of its own members who was visiting there, Club President Brian South and his fellow club members took the lead in launching a fundraising effort to help Rotary districts and clubs in India to purchase lifesaving equipment and supplies. In just three weeks, with contributions from other clubs and individual Rotarians throughout the District, the Moraga Rotary Foundation was able to send almost \$35,000 to their partners in India.

In addition, Moraga Rotary was able to install security cameras accessible to first responders in Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, conduct e-waste collections, award a "Teacher of the Month" prize, fill hygiene kits for a local church project, supply medical kits for every classroom in Moraga, complete the education project in Sierra Leone (the "Makambo-Moraga campus"), and fund the library project in Goma, Congo, while making its usual donations to scholarships and local charity relief programs.

Roberts said, "I am deeply grateful to the members of the Moraga club for exemplifying Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self through their pro-

jects and achievements during the challenging 2020-2021 Rotary year. ... All Moraga club members can be very proud of what they have accomplished together."

At a recent year-end dinner, South was elected Rotarian of the Year by his fellow Club members.

This award is named in honor of Cliff Dochterman who, during his 60-plus year career as a Rotarian, served as District 5160 Governor in 1968-69 and Rotary International President in 1992-93. As a Past RI President, Dochterman was in great demand as a speaker about Rotary activities all over the world. While he is revered by Rotarians worldwide, he is a living legend in District 5160. He was a member of the Berkeley club for many years and is currently a member of the Moraga club. Dochterman was named "Moraga's Citizen of the Year" several years ago.

Moraga Rotary is a 54-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the four Clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held at noon on most Tuesdays at La Finestra restaurant. If you are interested in information about Rotary, or would like to donate to their worthy causes, please visit the website at [moragarotary.org](http://moragarotary.org), or call Brian South, president, at (925) 888-7052.



**Moraga Rotary Club President (left) displaying his "Rotarian of the Year" award plaque, voted by Club members, and Treasurer Rich Render displaying the plaque of past recipients of the award.**

# Fashion camp finale features fabulous designs



Photos provided

**Participants of the Isabel Azam fashion camp July 22 at the Wilder Art & Garden Center.**

**Submitted by Jaleh Naasz**

A talented group of Lamorinda kids showcased their fashion designs and upcycled garments during designer presentations at the finale of their Isabel Azam fashion camp at the Wilder Art & Garden Center on July 22. Isabel Azam first launched in Moraga with a kid's fashion show where the kids got to be the designers and have their vision brought to reality by designer and educator Jaleh Naasz. Since the 2015 launch, the mom of three has evolved the brand to offer seasonal fashion camps for kids ages 8 and up.

Naasz uses her technical training from her graduate studies in fashion design, industry experience as a designer as well as 15 years of college instruction in the field of Fashion Design and Merchandising to create this unique, purposeful, and fun curriculum for kids.

In this session of fashion camp, the kids created concept boards and learned about designing from original inspiration, they practiced sketching, played with fabrics, and were introduced to draping. They practiced sewing and re-purposed a dated men's shirt to make themselves a skirt. Alongside learning some foundational sewing basics, they also made some new friends and did a lot of singing along to fun tunes as they worked in their creative space.

During the last day of camp, parents were invited to watch the kids present their creative ideas and accomplishments and encourage them as they worked up the confidence to speak in front of an audience. Naasz discussed how her instruction for the Sacramento State University Fashion Merchandising and Management program impacts her camp layout and some of the ways she incorporates sustainability and inclusivity as she works with kids in this capacity.

"I loved hearing about your work, focus, mission, and passions – so perfect for these girls! What a great confidence booster and learning experience for all of them," said Krysta Lapcevic.

A contributing factor to this summer's successful camp was the cooper-



ation of the city of Orinda in working with Naasz as she searched for a venue to hold the camp. The Art & Garden Center at Wilder was a fantastic venue and even attracted a few future fashion campers from the nearby preschool who would cheer the attendees on from the windows.

To learn about future camps and events, use this QR code to sign up for the Isabel Azam contact list: <http://eepurl.com/dgxl6f.qr.16>

**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.