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Lamorinda residents gather for 'Vigil for Peace in Ukraine'

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followed by a closing prayer from Pastor Dan Senter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Every now and then a passing car would honk its horn in solidarity.

The crowd was made up of people who had varying reasons for being there. While all came to show their support, a few had personal reasons for attending. Liz from Lafayette, who asked that we not use his last name, has a son who works for the United Nations and is currently in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. His wife is Ukrainian, but has fled to

Switzerland with their children for safety (it is the reason their names are being omitted from this article). A Ukrainian woman cried as she told this reporter that her mother is still there, and we hugged through tears with the mutual understanding of people who share the same pain that only those living through it can begin to comprehend.

Still others, with no Ukrainian family ties but a compassion for its beleaguered people, felt compelled to join the vigil. "I am here in Lafayette at the crosses to support my friends who are Ukrainian," stated Moraga

Council Member Teresa Onoda. "It breaks my heart -- what they're going through." Added LHM Board Member and Lafayette Council Member Gina Dawson, "We're very glad to make the opportunity to have a vigil where people can come out and support the people of Ukraine."

Those who have family in Ukraine who attended the Lafayette vigil said that the overwhelming support from gestures such as this, no matter how big or small, do not go unnoticed and are more appreciated than words can say.

For anyone wishing to make a donation to help in the humanitarian aid for Ukrainian people, included is a list of reputable charitable organizations:

NOVA Ukraine (based in Palo Alto, CA): <https://NOVAUkraine.org>

International Committee of the Red Cross: <https://www.icrc.org/en/donate/ukraine>

UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en>

World Central Kitchen: <https://donate.wck.org>

Catholic Relief Services: <https://www.crs.org/>

Doctors Without Borders: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

International Medical Corps: <https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/>

International Rescue Committee: <https://www.rescue.org/>

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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