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Spring Fest organizer, Isabelle Bennette, amidst the many booths May 14 at Moraga Commons Park.

Photo Vera Kochan

# Local teens bring Spring Fest advocacy to Moraga Commons Park

By Vera Kochan

The first of its kind local event is the brainchild of Miramonte High School senior Isabelle Bennette. Held at the Moraga Commons Park on May 14, Spring Fest was titled to celebrate the season and the theme of “springing into action” with regards to initiatives and advocacy affecting youth and the community.

Bennette originally came up with the idea “during the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020. It began as a cultural fair only a few months ago.” Many of the nearly 30 organizations provided ways for the community to engage in active causes. While Georgetown University-bound Bennette was the primary organizer, the Acalanes Union High School District hosted the event and the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee’s (Parks and Recreation Department) sponsorship allowed the basically

student-run Spring Fest to blossom. Miramonte, Campolindo, Acalanes and Las Lomas students all had a hand in some type of participation. Student bands entertained at the bandshell; a Wall of Compliments allowed folks to add encouraging remarks to strangers; a Collaborative Mural meshed individual artwork into one; and a cultural fashion show displayed the beauty of global differences through traditional costumes.

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# Hung finishes 36th consecutive Boston Marathon, tying women’s record



Photo provided

From left: Son David, his cousin Nancy, Patty, grandson Gavin, son Erick

By Jon Kingdon

There are two sure things in life – death and taxes. For the last 36 years, you could also add Patty Hung running the Boston Marathon. On April 19, the 76-year-old Orinda resident ran what she anticipates will be her penultimate race, pointing to next year’s Boston Marathon which will give her the record for the most consecutive Boston Marathons completed by a woman (Bennett Beach owns the men’s record of 54 consecutive Boston Marathons). Following the bombing at the 2013 and the coronavirus, this year’s Marathon finally had a feeling of normalcy. “Last year we had to verify vaccination records constantly,” Hung said. “We did have to mail in our proof of vaccination but not when we came in for the race because they had it all on record and it was a bit more relaxed this year. At the expo, where you could buy running gear and souvenirs, masking there was still important.” With the weather in the high 50s and low 60s and the sun coming in and out, the conditions for the runners were ideal for the 25,314 runners. “Everyone was talking about how great the weather was,” Hung added. “Running through Wellesley and Framingham and then coming into Boston right over the hill, the crowds were amazing. To have all of those people cheering us on, it’s unlike any other marathon.” Hung finished the race with a time of 5:08:03

which was 26 minutes and 22 seconds faster than last year which surprised her when she saw the time. “I never looked at my watch and when I saw how I had improved over last year, I was really surprised,” Hung said. Hung’s family was even more pleased than her with her time. “We were taking a plane out of Boston right after the marathon back to California,” Hung said. “My family made it clear that I had to finish the race in under six hours, and they were jumping for joy when I came in just over five hours.” Rank does have its privilege in this marathon for those who are in the Quarter Century Club, all those who have run at least 25 Boston Marathons (approximately 50 runners). “It’s been a real privilege to be in that club. We were allowed to get up to the front and start in Wave 2 which allowed us to start an hour and a half before the last wave was to start,” Hung said. “It’s a nice thing the directors do for our group.” Hung still believes that she can break five hours but that is not what is most important to her as she has approached each race: “I’m not trying to break any records. I just want to try and enjoy the race. Age creeps up on you and it does funny things sometimes and I just want to always remember how I’ve always enjoyed this race so much. The important goal is to enjoy my family and come back healthy the next year and that thinking has worked all the way. I just really want to enjoy the race and not to put any pressure on myself.

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