

Mark your calendars and join the Community Foundation of Lafayette on September 30 for its FREE Senior Symposium.

Location: Acalanes High School, Time: 8:30 am - Noon

You will have access to valuable senior health and wellness updates as you stroll the various exhibitor information booths and hear from a panel of experts. Confirmed speakers include:



Chip Conley - Former AirBnB Global Strategist and Joie de Vivre Hotels CEO/Founder
Topic: Wisdom @ Work: The Making of a Modern Elder

Alan Brast, Ph.D., CCHT, CSA, NLP - Comprehensive Wellness
Topic: Connecting Mind and Body While Navigating Life's Changes

Linda Fodrini-Johnson - Geriatric Care Manager, Eldercare Services
Topic: Feed the Body, Fuel the Mind: How Proper Nutrition and Positivity Help Prevent Dementia

Robineve Cole - CEO/Founder, Robineve & Co Interiors
Topic: Universal Design: Design Principles For A Home That Nurture You Through All Life's Stages

And remarks from Honorable

Registration and Sponsor at <http://www.lafayettetcf.org>



~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Campolindo student works to protect seniors

By Diane Claytor



Matthew Sugiyama (left) and his sister, Megan, with their grandmother, Alice Lin Photo provided

When Moraga's Matthew Sugiyama learned what happened to his beloved grandmother, he, like everyone else in his family, was both devastated and very angry. How could something like this happen, wondered the 16-year-old Campolindo junior.

His 80-year-old, widowed grandmother, Alice Lin, lives in Southern California and cares for her son, who is on disability. She and her late husband immigrated to America many years ago to raise their family and work hard so they could live the American dream. That dream was crushed when she was scammed out of more than \$720,000.

As Sugiyama describes what happened to his grandmother last year, his voice often cracks and his emotions are apparent. "She lost almost her entire life's savings," he sadly says.

She received a message through an online mobile messaging app from a man calling himself "Justin." An online relationship slowly developed, Sugiyama explains. "He was able to make himself relatable, make her feel sympathy for him."

Lin began to trust "Justin," who informed her of some wonderful investments he'd made, convincing her he could successfully help her with her own investments. Lin began to

make financial transactions through a mobile app for investments she believed were legitimate. They weren't. Over a period of three weeks, Lin walked into the local branch of a large financial institution seven times and, based on instructions from "Justin," wired various sums of money until, ultimately, her scammer had \$720,000 of Lin's money.

Although it had been many years since Lin had ever initiated any wire transfer, no one at the bank questioned her about these seven transfers or did anything to make them slow down or stop.

It wasn't until Lin, talking to her oldest daughter, mentioned that she was making these investments, that anyone had any idea that something was amiss. The family contacted the FBI, as well as local law enforcement. The money, they confirmed, was gone.

Sugiyama was angry. He saw the effects this had on his grandmother and his entire family and knew he wanted to do something. "I don't want anyone else to ever have to go through what my grandmother did," he says.

Sugiyama was already a young community activist. He founded a Lamorinda chapter of Lion's Heart, where members are encouraged to give back to their communities; he was a youth ambassador for

Act To Change, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) youth from bullying; and he is currently a chapter leader and legislative board member of AAPI Youth Rising, a student-led organization that takes small actions to make positive changes. He was recently selected to serve on the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee, which provides young people with opportunities for civic involvement.

"It's vital for youth to speak up as our society needs to hear from the next generation," Sugiyama believes. "Empowering young people gives them self-confidence and educates them to create a better society."

With this mindset, Sugiyama took action to do what he could to help both his grandmother and other victims of senior scams, of which there are many. The FBI reports that last year, about 88,000 people over the age of 60 lost more than \$3 billion to financial elder abuse, with almost 5,500 people losing more than \$100,000 each.

The first thing Sugiyama did was start a petition on change.org, asking the California Legislature to pass Senate Bill 278, introduced by Sen. Bill Dodd.

... continued on Page B3

Patricia Camras - Parenting Coach in Lamorinda



From Chaos to Cooperation, Coaching Can Help.



Hi! I'm Patricia Camras

CERTIFIED PARENT COACH
M.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY

My passion is helping parents forge deeper connections and cooperation with their kids, without yelling, shaming, or punishing, all in service of creating a positive family life where kids thrive and parents enjoy parenting.

Scan This QR Code to Book Your FREE Discovery Call



thepositiveparentingcoach.com | 925-899-9282

Carefree Moves
MOVE COORDINATORS

All-Women Company Serving East Bay Residents for Over 20 Years

COMPLETE MOVE & COORDINATION SPECIALISTS

★ CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ★

FULL PACKING & UNPACKING SERVICES

PACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:
plan, sort, pack, label and help with what to keep, toss, donate, consign

UNPACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:
placing furniture, setting up kitchen, organizing closets, cupboards and drawers

Insured, Bonded, and Green

Nominated by SCORE for Outstanding Woman-Owned Small Business

925.330.1988
hello@carefreemoves.net
www.carefreemoves.net

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your family pets to be blessed
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane
Lafayette
Sunday, October 8, 2023
10 a.m. for the full service
11:15 a.m. for a blessing and fellowship



LOPC
FALL-FEST

ALL ARE WELCOME **FREE EVENT**

FOOD FUN FRIENDS
SUNDAY OCTOBER 8 • 11:00 AM

BOUNCE HOUSE • LIVE MUSIC • GAMES
ABEL'S TACO TRUCK COURTESY OF THE LOPC FOUNDATION
FACE PAINTING • PUMPKIN DECORATING • CRAFTS & MORE!

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, California