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Photo Vera Kochan

A Ukrainian flag with "Peace" written on it stands near the top of the hill behind Lafayette Mayor Teresa Gerringer, who speaks to residents at the March 6 vigil.

## Lamorinda residents gather for 'Vigil for Peace in Ukraine'

By Vera Kochan

Sponsored by The Lafayette Hillside Memorial (formerly known as the Crosses of Lafayette), a solemn gathering of approximately 70 Lamorinda residents came together in solidarity to participate in the March 6 "Vigil for Peace in Ukraine."

According to the LHM website, the hillside across from the BART station is a "sacred place of reflection and remembrance; a protest against forgetting. It is a place to recognize, honor, and commemorate individual national service contributions. The memorial is

also a place that encourages individual and public reflection on those contributions, and the otherwise unintended, unseen, and unexamined costs of war."

The crosses and other symbols representing various religions first began appearing on the hill in 2006, keeping a devastating tally of American service members killed in combat. As of Feb. 24, the nearly 8,000 wooden monuments serve a new meaning: to remind anyone passing by that Russian forces had invaded Ukraine. Perched near the crest of the hill stands a large wooden Ukrainian flag with the word "Peace" written on it.

The hour-long vigil was a somber occasion, more so for this reporter who is a first-generation Ukrainian American with family members still living there. LHM Board Members Janet Thomas, her husband Ramsay, and Kay James spoke briefly, and Lynn MacMichael read a poem by Fred Norman; Lafayette Mayor Teresa Gerringer announced that city council members voted unanimously to fly the Ukrainian flag in Plaza Park to show support for the Ukrainian people; John Lennon's song "Imagine" was played during a moment of silence and reflection;

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## Saint Mary's headed to Portland for First Round of NCAA



Photo Tod Fierner

By Jon Kingdon

In front of an enthusiastic crowd of students and alumnae at the University Credit Union Pavilion March 13, Saint Mary's was awarded the fifth seed (their highest ever seed) in the NCAA East Regional which ironically will be played, to the extreme satisfaction of the team and fans alike, in Portland, Oregon this coming Thursday. This is the eighth time Randy Bennett has taken the Gaels to the NCAA tournament and the first time they'll be playing a tournament game on the West Coast. They will face the winner of the Wyoming and Indiana game which will be played on Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio. With a victory, Saint Mary's will be playing the winner of the UCLA-Akron game on Saturday.

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