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‘Women in Music’ Day made official

By Pippa Fisher



Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson and Pam Freund-Striplen.

Photo Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council enjoyed a short musical treat from Pam Freund-Striplen on Monday, Feb. 27 as she gave a brief preview from “Threads”, her upcoming concerts with the Gold Coast Chamber Players, which features female composers throughout history.

Mayor Mike Anderson recognized Striplen and the Gold Coast Players for all their efforts since they were formed back in 1999.

Originally playing in private homes the group gradually expanded to venues throughout

Contra Costa County. The chamber group feature internationally renowned musicians and draws many of its core members from the San Francisco Symphony, Opera and Ballet Orchestras. Currently they consider the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to be home.

“Threads” is a vibrant program inspired by Susan Groag Bell, a historian in women’s studies and an advocate for gender equality. The council recognized the concept behind “Threads” which they said would bring the issue of gen-

der equality onto the concert stage, presenting music by women who had to breakthrough societal prejudices of their appropriate roles to create music that has left a major imprint on their time in history.

The council also recognized the Players for nearly two decades of educational outreach work within the Lamorinda public schools.

Awarding Striplen the proclamation, Anderson declared on behalf of the Lafayette City Council, March 5, 2017 to be “Women in Music Day” in the city of Lafayette.

Lafayette

Citizens of the Year in Lafayette

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They continued their involvement with schools as their three children progressed from elementary through Stanley and Acalanes High School from 1976-1990.

Additionally Robin, a keen gardener, was president of the Happy Valley Garden Club. The work of this organization is responsible for several areas of beautification around the community, especially the walkways and for donations to the community gardens.

She and her husband have been very involved on the board of the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center with Robin serving a stint as president from 2010 to 2012. Ellen Reintjes, current president of the LL&LC, says of Robin that she was instrumental in establishing strong and positive working relationships among the several library partners in this unique physical and organizational structure.

“Following her presidency, Robin continued with the Friends Board and has taken on new responsibilities that facilitate celebrating our volunteers and assisting the Library Foundation with fundraising events. In all these roles, Robin has impressed me with her creativity, diplomacy, and positive attitude,” Reintjes said.

Both Holts can still be spotted from time to time working as substitutes in the bookshop. Reintjes

says “They are the kind of people who pitch in to make things happen and are often among the first to respond to requests for volunteers for special Friends and Library events.”

In fact Robin says she is most proud of her contribution to the library, which she notes is an incredible community resource.

Dick Holt retired from the Navy in 1981, but, never one to sit around, he soon became busy, serving on the Lafayette Planning Commission for more than 26 years, from 1983 to 2010.

He has served as president of the Lafayette Rotary and on the Las Trampas board as well as on the board of the Lafayette Community Foundation for six years.

He still serves on the Environmental Task Force. He was co-chair of the Senior Symposium for three years and was, according to the current President of the LCF, Cheryl Noll, “One of the pillars of the Senior Symposium.”

Noll says of the couple, “His wife, Robin, was with him every step of the way, volunteering along side of him at LCF events and functions. LCF has missed Dick’s role as “the conscience of the community” on its board of directors since he stepped off a year ago.” Noll continues, “Dick and Robin deserve this recognition!”

For the last eight years he has

volunteered as a driver for the Senior Helpline and also works for Meals on Wheels.

However, he says he is proudest of his work establishing the Concert at the Res 23 years ago, still supported today by the Rotary Club.

Dick is a musician who plays guitar and appreciates Lafayette’s incredible music programs and local talent. It was largely due to him through his work at the Rotary and in collaboration with the Community Foundation that a permanent stage was erected at the Lafayette Reservoir three years ago.

This dynamic duo, ever modest about their long list of volunteering in the community, was selected for the award from a field of 15 nominees this year. They will be celebrated at the Citizen of the Year dinner on Friday, March 24 at the Lafayette Hotel and Spa. Registration can be found online at the Chamber of Commerce website, www.lafayettechamber.org.

Dick Holt says that the quality of service in Lafayette is great. His wife continued, “We have met fabulous people.” She says that there is so much diversity of backgrounds and service here in Lafayette. Through volunteering, she says, “We have learned so much, had so much fun — so many joyful moments.”

Lafayette

Zooming in ... continued from page A2

Photos, which may be color or black and white and no larger than 11x14 inches, must be submitted by April 17 and will be reviewed by the public art committee. All prints will be framed, curated and hung in the art gallery at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in June. A reception will be held at the city council meeting on June 12 with awards for outstanding entries.

Public art committee member Erling Horn notes that this is a “wonderful community event with participation by adults and kids of almost all ages.” He says the reception at the gallery is a great mixer

and also introduces the younger participant to a real gallery opening event with their work on display.

Horn points out, “The opening is one of the few public meetings on city council nights where almost everyone has a big smile on their faces at least between 6 and 7 p.m.” He says it is the art of our citizens, sparkling cider and cookies that makes everyone happy.

Further details are available on the Public Art page of the city website. For questions email JHansen@ci.lafayette.ca.us or call 925-299-3216.

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