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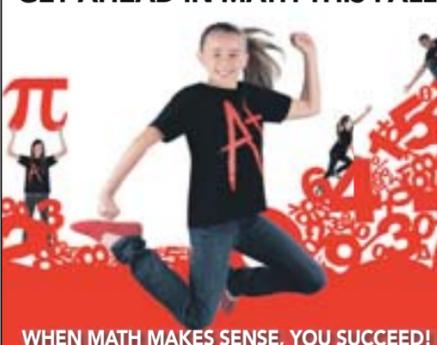
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Creating a sense of community at Moraga Country Club

By John T. Miller



Youngsters roast marshmallows in preparation for making s'mores at the Moraga Country Club overnight campout last month. Photo provided

Under new Youth Activity Coordinator Kareena Manji, the Moraga Country Club has set up a number of events with the goal of improving the community feel of the club.

Most of the events are open to nonmember guests, but a member also attending the event must accompany them. According to Manji, "The cost of our events fluctuate depending on the type of event, but they can range anywhere from complimentary pool parties to very elegant wine dinners."

Events planned for the club's youth in October include a Father-Daughter Dance this Saturday evening, Oct 6; a Drive-in Movie night the following Sunday, Oct 7; a Kids Halloween Party from noon to 3 p.m. on Oct 27, and a Halloween Trick O' Treat Buffet from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Oct 31.

For the complimentary Drive-in Movie night, participants will drive their golf carts onto the driving range and watch "Jumanji" on a large, inflatable screen. Movie snacks will also be provided.

So far, MCC has held a number of successful events, including a Back to School Pool Party on Aug. 18; an overnight Family Campout on Aug. 25-26; a Foosball Tournament and barbecue over the Labor Day weekend, and a Mother-Son Dance on Sept. 8.

Well over 100 people attended the complimentary pool party, which was geared toward bringing kids together on their last weekend of summer.

Throughout the summer, the MCC Waves swim team – with over 250 youngsters participating – played host to over a dozen social activities in addition to the weekly swim meets.

For the Family Campout, 17 tents housed about 65-70 people on the driving range starting at 5 p.m. Saturday, with a full buffet dinner and breakfast. Games, s'mores, music and the movie "Zootopia" entertained the overnight guests.

"This event received extremely positive feedback and we will definitely be having another one again," said Manji.

The Labor Day event, with nearly 150 attending, featured a Foosball Tournament with a Kids Division and a Parent/Kid Division and proved to be so popular that the adults want their own tournament, according to Manji. A barbecue lunch and dessert followed the tournament, with games and contests provided by a DJ.

The Mother-Son Dance featured a Safari theme and was hosted in the Main Dining Room with over 50 people attending. Moms and sons dressed up like lions and tigers. Again, a full buffet and dessert were provided along with games and activities including limbo, freeze dance and many more.

Manji summed up the Moraga Country Club's purpose, saying, "We are continually working to build a community that families are proud of and want to be a part of."

Members can contact the concierge's desk at (925) 376-2200 to find out more information on any of the upcoming events.

Sold-out LLLC Sweet Thursday event features author and civil rights activist

By Lou Fancher



Courtesy of Betty Reid Soskin

With people in their 40s, 50s and 60s snaking in a long line from the doorway and excited conversations ringing out across a plaza at Lafayette Library's Community Hall, it was easy to think a classic rock band or R&B star—The Beatles, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin or another music celebrity—was scheduled.

And in a way, there was. Appearing Sept. 20 at Sweet

Thursday Presents, singer/songwriter, author and civil rights activist Betty Reid Soskin drew a sold-out crowd of nearly 200 people. Remarkable for a variety of achievements, Soskin at age 97 is the National Park Service's oldest ranger. Her memoir, "Sign My Name to Freedom" (Hay House, 2018), chronicles a pioneering life from her birth in 1921 in Detroit, Michigan, through growing up in the Deep South with Louisiana Creole parents and rich ancestral history.

The memoir reveals that upon moving to the Bay Area and becoming an adult, Soskin existed on a racial bridge that had her deeply invested in Oakland and Berkeley Black communities and organizations, but also living, working, marrying twice and raising four children in what were, at the time, predominantly all-white neighborhoods. Eventually, Soskin became active in city and state government and white-dominated academia, work-

ers' unions and businesses in Walnut Creek, Berkeley and Oakland.

With limited prompts from moderator Ruth Thornburg, Soskin framed her childhood years. "My father was a craftsman who worked with his father, an eminent builder in New Orleans," she began. Among her family's many achievements were regionally significant buildings and the first banana conveyor used on the docks in Mobile, Alabama. Notable also was the "offense" her father caused by suggesting a white man should address him by his last name and not "Louie," his first name. It was customary – and obviously egregious – racism. Her family had to leave town after her father stood his ground, which explains why she was born and the family lived for the next three years in Michigan, far from their relatives. "I'm glad it's not like that now," said Soskin.

... continued on Page C4

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