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Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Building Community in Moraga and Abroad

Submitted by Sharron Sue



(From left): Sharon Metcalf, Hacienda Foundation Vice President; Claire Roth, Hacienda Foundation President; Janice Lieu, Treasurer MAAC; Teri Follete, MAAC-Japan Relief Fund
Photo Sharron Sue

Moraga Asian American Club (MAAC) granted \$5,000 to worthy projects in keeping with its mission to promote civic involvement and diversity efforts that value and respect differences to build an inclusive community for all. Grants this cycle were awarded to: Moraga School District, Hacienda Foundation of Moraga, Moraga Education Foundation,

Moraga Library and the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund. All the grantees are repeat recipients, with the exception of earthquake relief. Typically the Moraga Asian American Club (MAAC) makes charitable grants to local community groups, but the Great Tohoku Earthquake of March 11th spurred MAAC to also help the people of Japan with relief, recovery and re-

building from the devastating effects of the earthquake, subsequent tsunami and radiation contamination. MAAC is reaching out to members, family, friends, and community to raise \$8,000 to help the citizens of Japan by April 18th. To encourage support of this campaign, MAAC pledges to match combined total donations up to \$4,000. (\$2,000 from MAAC grants and \$2,000 through the generosity of an anonymous donor.) 100 percent of the proceeds raised will go towards citizen relief efforts on the ground in the most affected areas via the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund established by the Japanese Cultural Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) through long relationships they have had since the 1995 Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake centered in Kobe. Updates about the relief efforts that are being supported are available at: www.jcccnc.org and hit the "click here" button. For more information on MAAC or how to help, please contact Sharron Sue at 925-376-2005 or nssue@aol.com.

Realtors and Friends Clean Creeks

Submitted by Tania DeGroot



Photo provided

In what could be considered a prelude to the annual Orinda in Action Community Day, the Orinda Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate office participated in a company-wide 'Giving Day' Project on March 5th. The realtors met behind La Cucina to work with members of the Friends of Orinda Creeks at cleaning and clearing the banks along the creek,

from the Chevron station to the Bank of America building. The Friends' ultimate goal is to create an attractive walking path along the creek with benches and pleasant areas for lingering, but that will take a few years. The group numbered about 25 in all and after having some fresh coffee, donated by Peet's, and bagels, everyone spread out and got

to work. Their tasks included removing litter, as well as other objects including an old vacuum cleaner and fluorescent bulbs, cutting back invasive plants such as ivy and raspberry bushes, trimming dead branches from trees, and spreading bark chips. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and was perfect for this kind of work, with partial clouds and cool temperatures. Just over three hours of labor produced two huge piles of green waste, a few large bags of items for recycling, and more bags and bins of trash. It was a productive and rewarding day for everyone and brought the Friends of Orinda Creeks a little closer to their ultimate goal. All 36 local offices of Better Homes and Gardens donated time and resources to work on designated projects for some 30 charities in their local communities on that day.

Student Art Will Provide Relief to Japan

Submitted by John Fazel



Miramonte High School student Alex Chen recently paid a visit to the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club to ask for help in auctioning off his beautiful brush painting (see photo). Proceeds will be donated to the Japan relief effort through the four local Rotary clubs - Lamorinda Sunrise, Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga. Chen presented his painting to the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarians and discussed with them his plan to raise money to help Japan after the earthquake and tsunami. Rotary International will match 50% of all donations. For more information, contact John Fazel of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary at (925) 324-2017 or runmtns@prodigy.net.

Alex Chen with his brush painting
Photo Don Reichert