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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.

Spencer Neale Scholarships Awarded

Submitted by Valerie Cook-Watkins



From left: Valerie Cook-Watkins, Michelle Singh, Audrey Neale and Erin O'Connell
Photo Ohlen Alexander

Michelle Singh and Erin O'Connell, both 2011 graduates of Campolindo High School, were awarded the Spencer Neale Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Art to support their continued education in the field of art – the scholarship was created and funded by the sales associates and staff at Coldwell Banker Residential Broker-

age in Orinda to honor the memory of 2009 Campolindo graduate Spencer Neale. Neale's mother, Audrey, attended the award ceremony. O'Connell, who dances and has interests in photography and oil, will attend UC Irvine in the fall; Singh will attend Loyola Marymount to study animation and modeling and is a member of several choirs.

AAUW 2011 Distinguished Woman Award

Submitted by K. deGroot (written by Bobbie Dodson)



Last year's Distinguished Woman, Mary Stephens Smith, presents Jan Coe with the Distinguished Woman album. The album includes many photographs of Coe's activities over her many years of membership, and the letters of recommendation that were written on her behalf. Photo K. deGroot

In recognition of her outstanding volunteer work in the community, Jan Coe received the Distinguished Woman Award of 2011 from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) at its May luncheon held at the Orinda Country Club.

Among Coe's numerous activities her work in education stands out. "It's a passion of mine," she says. A teacher for five years, she began her volunteer work at Glorietta Elementary where she was president of the Parent's Club. At OIS, she ran the Bulldog Kennel lunch program, turning it into a financial success. Under her leadership volunteers served lunch and brunch five days a week for over 800 students, "In 1997 we topped \$100,000 in profit," and Coe adds,

"My job is now a paid position." Continuing the volunteer path, she was president of the Parent's Club at Miramonte.

Coe has been a great fund raiser for education. She was co-chair of successful parcel tax campaigns for the Orinda School District and the Acalanes Union High School District. Coe recalls that she was working in a paid position at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church's Seedlings Preschool when she announced to her husband, Alan, that she wanted to quit her job as she didn't have enough time to do her volunteer work. He agreed; and she did.

This energetic woman served on the board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) for 10 years and as its president for two

years. Dr. Frank Brunelli, former Superintendent of the Orinda School District, in paying tribute to Coe at the luncheon, spoke highly of her organizational skills. Wearing another hat, Coe chaired Vanessa Crews' successful campaigns for a place on the Acalanes School Board; the two shared Orinda's Citizen of the Year award in 1998.

Coe has volunteered in a first grade classroom at the Burckhalter School in east Oakland for seven years, and has also been active at her church.

AAUW has benefited from Coe's leadership skills. She served as president for two terms from 2005 to 2007, and is active in numerous programs.

Other awards conferred during the luncheon included honoring Elizabeth Kingsley and Lynn Lonbaken for their 50 years of membership in AAUW. Newly elected president Deana Vick Davidson presented outgoing president Mary Helene Tietz with the AAUW Past President's pin. The branch also celebrated their recent Garden Tour fund raiser which generated over \$5,000 for the Tech Trek program, which sends middle school girls to a week-long summer science camp. Because of the branch's successful fund raising, five girls from the Lamorinda area will participate this year.

Coe's closing remarks included an eight word quote from Maya Angelou, "When you learn, teach. When you get, give." Her own eight words were, "Go out and educate. Go out and volunteer." She is an outstanding example of following both of these maxims.

Local Charities Receive Donations from Lafayette Juniors

Submitted by Rosylyn Aragonés Stenzel



Amy Friedli of Lafayette Juniors, Meliece, and Louise Bourassa of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing pose with \$17,000 check presented to CCIH.
Photo Gina Hageboeck

At the June General Meeting held at the Lafayette Community Center, Amy Friedli, Community Funds Chairwoman of Lafayette Juniors, presented Contra Costa Interfaith Housing with a check for \$17,000. CCIH's mission is to create a permanent solution to homelessness by providing supportive housing to high-risk individuals and families in Contra Costa County.

Lafayette Juniors is an organization of over 50 women dedicated to community service and to fundraising for local charities by hosting events such as the annual Lafayette Kitchen Tour in May, sauce-making parties throughout the year, and the Rummage Sale in November. For more information on Lafayette Juniors, and the charities they support, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

The highlight of the evening was a speech given by 12-year-old Meliece on behalf of CCIH. "Thank you so much for supporting Garden Park Apartments. It actually changes people's lives. My parents were homeless and now they are doing awesome. As for me, well...not to brag, but I am doing amazing and I know that I am going to grow up and make the world a better place, just like all of

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