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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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Big Checks for Great Causes

Submitted by Rosylyn Stenzel



Photo Jenny Shepherd

Lafayette Juniors presented \$20,000 to Shelter Inc. at its late May general meeting. From left: Lafayette Juniors Community Funds members Laura Lashinsky, Gina Hageboeck, Jon Hawkins of Shelter Inc., Martha Woodard and Rosylyn Stenzel. An additional \$20,000 was distributed between CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), New Day for

Children, SEED (Special Education Enrichment and Development Foundation) and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. With a membership of over 60 women, Lafayette Juniors hosts the annual Kitchen Tour, Rummage Sale and themed fundraiser events to raise money for local charities. For more information, visit [lafayettejuniors.org](http://lafayettejuniors.org).

## Vintage Fashion Show Benefits Sentinels of Freedom

Submitted by Elsie Euing



Lamorinda Republican Women Federated members, from left: Melanie Moss, Elsie Euing, and Maryann Skitarelic with Sentinels of Freedom Chairman Mike Conklin. Photo provided

Following its successful Vintage Fashion Show at the Orinda Country Club in April, the Lamorinda Republican Women Federated (LRWF) presented a check for \$3,550 to Sentinels of Freedom in San Ramon, which provides "life scholarships" for up to four years to help deserving U. S. Armed Forces veterans who have suffered severe, permanent injuries become self-sufficient, and to provide financial assistance for relocation, housing (rent or mortgage payments), household furnishings, a vehicle (specially equipped, if necessary),

continuation of their education, potential employment/career planning, and in most cases, continued medical care and rehabilitation after they are released from the hospital and rehabilitation centers. During the year, the LRWF also provides blankets for foster children in Contra Costa County, quilts for soldiers through the Camo Quilt Project, and books to local libraries through the Mamie Eisenhower Literacy Project (MELP). The Lamorinda RWF was founded in 1950 and is the largest RWF club in the East Bay.

## Orinda Country Club Golf Tournament Focuses on Fighting ALS

Submitted by Brian Griggs



Participants at last year's Drive for a Cure ProAm golf tournament, from left: Adam Henderson, Buck Worthing, Brian Griggs, Matt Chaney, PGA Pro, and Chris Barnard.

Photo provided by The ALS Association Golden West Chapter

The Orinda Country Club (OCC) lost its fourth member to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, with the passing of Mark Schimbor earlier this year, following former members Ziyad Sulyman, Dr. Robert Beallo and Cliff Wingo who also lost their fights over the past five years to ALS. The OCC has hosted a special golf tournament, Drive for a Cure ProAm for the past five years, raising approximately \$450,000 to support The ALS Association Golden West Chapter. This year's golf tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 25.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord. When these cells die, a person loses their ability to walk, move, talk, swallow, eat and, ultimately, breathe while all five senses and, in most cases, their minds remain sharp and alert. The average life expectancy of a person with ALS is two to five years from time of diagnosis. The annual costs

for home care and necessary equipment (speech, mobility, transportation), can easily exceed \$200,000 per year, many not covered by insurance. ALS can strike anyone. It knows no racial, ethnic, gender, or socioeconomic boundaries, though research has shown that military veterans are at twice the risk. There is little known about the causes of ALS and there is no cure.

With recent advances in research and improved medical care, many people with ALS are living longer, more productive lives. While there are many research efforts investigating possible risk factors, more is needed to unlock the mysteries of this devastating disease.

For information about the OCC Golf Tournament, call the Orinda Country Club golf shop at (925) 254-0811, e-mail [golfshop@orindacc.org](mailto:golfshop@orindacc.org), or visit the event website- [www.driveforacureproam.org](http://www.driveforacureproam.org). For more information about ALS, visit the ALS Association Golden West Chapter's website at [www.alsgoldenwest.org](http://www.alsgoldenwest.org).

## Orinda Wine Class Helps Wagner Ranch

Submitted by Marjorie Hitzl



Orinda sommelier Vlatka Bathgate describes the benefits of decanting at a recent wine class in her home. Photo Andrew Bathgate

Orinda sommelier and enologist Vlatka Bathgate has wine in the blood. Growing up on a winery in Croatia and for years assisting in the wine making and blending of classic Napa wines, she hosted a wine class in her home May 19 to benefit Wagner Ranch Elementary School. Bathgate gave a light-hearted but technical presentation on wine tasting methodology and jargon. She also provided numerous wax scents for the audience to practice detecting. These scents included primary aromas such as honeysuckle, rose, violet and fruity aromas like grapefruit, apricot, peach, litchi, and raspberry. There were also some not-so-pleasant aromas associated with flaws; these included mold, detergent and ... cat pee.

The participants were swirling and swooshing a variety of wines including 2007 Grgich Hills Carneros Chardonnay and 2009 St Emilion Grand Cru Chateau Croix Figeac and many more wines from the New and Old World. By the end of the evening the tasting cards were filled with descriptions of 'legs,' 'meniscus,' 'tannins,' 'tartrates' and primary, secondary and tertiary aromas. There was of course a lavish meal to accompany the great wines. One participant, Jane Greenthall, said, "We learned so much about wine and had such great time doing it." Eric Papke felt that the class was educational and at the end of the class he was able to smell not just blackberries but blackberry tart in the Bordeaux blend.