

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL,
AND TO A HEALTHY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

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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.

LCF Grant Presented to Mo Levich

Submitted by Dick Holt



Dick Holt and Mo Levich

Photo Andy Scheck

Lafayette Community Foundation (LCF) board member Dick Holt presented a \$2,500 LCF grant last month to Mo Levich, who, at the time, was leading the Dominant Seven jazz group that was helping to celebrate the 90th birthday of our beloved Ed Stokes at Diablo Foods. Members of the Dominant Seven include Ryan Kapoor, Isabell Tankka,

Evan Mickas, Andrew DeShong, and Nate Welcomer. Levich, one of the founding members of Generations in Jazz, has played a major role in the promotion of the outstanding music programs that we all enjoy throughout the Lafayette community. Generations in Jazz, a community music foundation, was formed by a coalition of music educators, musicians

and businessmen in Lafayette to better fund, administer, and expand several existing community music programs. Its mission is to support community activities through the language of jazz. Board member Tina Tankka advised Holt that the LCF grant "... will go to well-needed keyboards for our Summer Music Workshop."

Girl Scouts Wrap Gifts for Bay Area Rescue Mission

Submitted by Sherry Diestler



Members of Girl Scout Troop 31983 at the Willow Spring wrapping party.

Photo provided

For the past seven years Girl Scout Troop 31983 has participated in the Bay Area Rescue Mission's annual Christmas toy drive. This event quickly became a holiday tradition for the girls, complete with hot cocoa and lots and lots of gift-wrapping. This year, nearly 800 gifts were collected and wrapped Dec. 15 at the Willow Spring Church in Moraga, where the troop join forces with other members of the community to wrap the toys and assign each one to a specific gender and age group. The toys were handed out to children on Christmas Day.

Each year, the troop has become more involved and invested in the

event. "We have used the money we earn through cookie sales to go shopping at Toys R Us or Big Lots to purchase gifts to contribute to the drive," said troop leader Melanie VandenBerghe. "We have also worked to set out toy barrels around town, in parents' offices, sports clubs, or schools, and we've received massive contributions from the community this way. Our toy drive has been a way to bring not only our troop, but also our entire community together during the holidays to provide less fortunate kids with a special and memorable Christmas."

As graduating high school sen-

iors, this year was the last year that VandenBerghe's troop participated in the toy drive. Not wanting this special tradition to die out, they invited a fifth-grade Lafayette troop to join them this year, explained VandenBerghe.

"At the wrapping party at Willow Spring Church, each of us seniors took a younger girl under our wing as we showed them the ropes of sorting, wrapping, and labeling each present," VandenBerghe said. "Seeing the enthusiasm that these young girls had in helping out gave me faith that this Christmas tradition would continue long after my troop is gone."

Moraga Rotary Prepares Christmas Stockings for Children at Juvenile Hall

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Moraga Rotarians Debbie Roessler, Leslie Lynch, and Mary Elena Dochterman display Christmas stockings for kids at Juvenile Hall. Photos Gary Irwin

Rotary Club of Moraga filled approximately 350 Christmas stockings Dec. 17 which were given on Christmas Day to children incarcerated in county juvenile hall. Treats in the stockings included a deck of cards, a pair of socks, puzzle books, candies, shampoos, soaps, and cosmetics. This year, the cosmetic sets were arranged by Rotarian Bill Phelps, general manager of Aegis. Many Moraga Country Club residents donated their leftover Halloween candy. In addition, Joan Bruzzone donated funds to provide 100 dozen cookies as refreshments to the children while they received their gifts. These stockings are often the only Christmas gifts these children receive.

Rotary Club of Moraga has con-

ducted this Christmas stocking project for more than a decade. In recent years, the Interact Club at Campolindo High School and the Rotaract Club at Saint Mary's College have worked to stuff the gifts into the stockings, which were cut and sewn by Moraga Rotarians, spouses, and friends. Girls at the juvenile hall participated in the decorating of the stockings, so each stocking was unique. This year's project was led by Moraga Rotarians Barbara Bruner and Debbie Roessler.

Rotary Club of Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International that meets at noon most Tuesdays at Saint Mary's College. For information about participating, please call Frank May of Moraga Rotary at (925) 376-8195.



Moraga Rotarian Vickie Devlin and friend Alex Tegenkamp display several boxes of Christmas stockings for kids at Juvenile Hall.



Moraga Rotarians Debbie Roessler, Leslie Lynch, and Mary Elena Dochterman display Christmas stockings for kids at Juvenile Hall. Photos Gary Irwin

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