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Operation Swingtime Salutes the Troops

By Cathy Tyson



Photos provided

Is there an invisible time machine somewhere between the Lafayette Reservoir parking lot and the Rotary stage? In a special free concert honoring veterans' service, local Rotary clubs are hosting a twilight outdoor concert from 5 to 8 p.m. this Saturday, July 18 called Operation Swingtime, featuring the Big Band of Rossmoor and special guests Mic Gillette, formerly of Tower of Power, along with the Swinging Blue Stars, a quartet of ladies who sound just like the Andrews Sisters.

This concert, now in in its second year, sets out to recognize veterans, reserves, active troops and soldiers' families, thanking them for their service - and, of course, the public is invited to enjoy the show as well. Calling the playlist for the evening "eclectic," bandleader Mo Levich highlighted a festive mix of jazz, big band music, Broadway show tunes and Gershwin.

Look for military vehicles on display in the parking area, thanks to the Department of Defense and a large Mobile Vet Center vehicle that connects veterans with services they and their families may need, like health care, financial advice, education, housing and benefits.

There's a large lawn area opposite the stage on the east end of the reservoir near the kid's playground. Bring your own lawn chairs and a picnic dinner to nosh while stepping back in time. Golf carts will be available to help mobility-impaired folks on the short uphill journey to the stage area. Residents can thank the Rotary Club of Lafayette, the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Moraga, the Orinda Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Rossmoor for putting on the event. The Big Band of Rossmoor is presented by Generations in Jazz. A lovely evening, delightful music, perhaps some wine and snacks ... as Ira Gershwin put it so aptly, "Who could ask for anything more?"

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