

Hungarian Folk Music Featured in GCCP's 'Gypsy'

Submitted by Pamela Freund

"Gypsy" opens the Gold Coast Chamber Players' 2015-16 series, with works by Ravel, Bartok, Brahms and Haydn, spanning several centuries of music inspired by Gypsy exoticism Sept. 26 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Hungarian folk music will be a recurring theme, as well as German and French influences. Gold Coast Chamber Players and artistic director/violist Pamela Freund are the recipients of the 2015 Arts

Recognition Award by the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission. Joining Freund is Robert Howard, cello, Jeffrey LaDeur, piano, and one of the leading violinists in the U.S., Geoff Nuttall.

A co-founder and violinist in the award-winning St. Lawrence String Quartet, Nuttall has performed well over 1,500 concerts throughout North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. The St.

Lawrence String Quartet has been ensemble-in-residence at Stanford University since 1999, where Nuttall is on faculty. Nuttall directs the chamber music series at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina. The New York Times describes him as "The Jon Stewart of Chamber Music" for his fun and inventive approach to performing: "Like that television comedian, Mr. Nuttall is a creatively daring, physically talented performer who can

go goofball in a nanosecond, maintaining a veneer of entertainment while educating his base about serious matters." Nuttall will present Maurice Ravel's Tzigane, a virtuoso showcase for violin and piano in the style of a Hungarian rhapsody.

The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, with a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at www.gcplayers.org and by phone at (925) 283-3728. Limited seating, please reserve early.



Geoff Nuttall

Photo provided

Community Service

Kiwanis Helps Babies with Diaper Donation

Submitted by Bob Reynolds



Francis Wong helps prepare Moraga Kiwanis' donation of 5,000 diapers to local family service agencies. Photo provided

Moraga Kiwanis capped its annual charitable contribution program this month with a donation of 5,000 diapers to five local agencies that provide housing and services to babies, children, and families. Kiwanis' annual donation of funds, goods and hands-on services totaled more than \$48,000, benefiting 31 agencies. Cash donations are expected to climb to \$50,000 next year. Donations benefited a variety of causes in Contra Costa and the East Bay, concentrated in education, family services and needs in Lamorinda. All three Lamorinda education foundations received substantial gifts.

Kiwanis has a long history of investing time and treasure in the community with cash donations totaling more than \$700,000 over the past 20 years and dozens of hands-on service projects. Charitable funds are earned in a variety of events including the upcoming See's candy sale, February's Crab Feed, and at town events in Moraga.

Lafayette Rotary's Prettification of the Lafayette Gazebo

Submitted by Beverlee Hajek



Terry Ring power-washes the Lafayette Gazebo. Photo Larry Blodgett

The Lafayette Rotary Club July 26 spruced up the Gazebo at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Golden Gate Way, across from Mike's Auto Body, thanks to a team including Terry Ring, Larry Blodgett, Buddy Brodwin, Mike Henn, Beverlee Hajek, Matt Pease, and Brian Aiello. The benches were sanded and re-varnished, and the Gazebo was power-washed, sanded and repainted. This was one of several times in the past that the Lafayette Rotary provided a face-lift to the Gazebo.

The "Memorial Gazebo" commemorates Lafayette's participation in the bicentennial of

the signing of the U. S. Constitution, and was dedicated Sept. 20, 1987. In addition to the Gazebo Dedication Ceremony, Lafayette celebrated the bicentennial with a Horse and Carriage Days parade that included more than 50 groups.

The Lafayette Gazebo is a great starting location for a stroll through downtown Lafayette, or a walk just 0.24 miles south to join the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail at Foye Drive. There is ample parking behind the Gazebo on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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 may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Walk 'N' Roll Event Benefits Las Trampas

Submitted by Suzanne Pestal



Participants at last year's Walk 'n' Roll event. Photo provided

The 6th Annual Walk 'n' Roll 1 mile or 5k event benefitting Las Trampas is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail at 3460 Lana Lane. Since 1958, Las Trampas has helped individuals with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities and to lead fuller lives in their homes, at work and in the community. A registration

fee of \$25 includes a T-shirt, raffle, a Whole Foods bag, games by KKDV Radio and Backyard Carnivals, refreshments and entertainment by the KKDV van and Bread and Roses. You can register online at www.las-trampas.org to either walk 1,000 steps for independence, sponsor someone else who is registered to walk, or become a virtual walker through a donation.

AAUW Tech Trekkers Share Excitement from STEM Camp

By Jan Cushman



2015 Tech Trek campers Caroline Ruppert, Sam Swan, Maddie Wilson, Sophia Kofeod, Lynn Wolfe, Maddie House and April Lindblad. Photo provided

Seven Tech Trek campers sponsored by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, returned from their week-long Stanford University campus Tech Trek Camp with glowing reports of fun, learning and new-found camaraderie.

"It was incredible to meet smart science and math loving girls who are a lot like me," said Orinda Intermediate School student Sophia Kofeod. "Now, I know I am not alone and am going back to school confident in who I am and what I want to do with my life."

Tech Trek Camp is designed to encourage seventh-grade girls to persist with their excitement about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through high school, college, and well into their careers. The camp features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls to meet numerous professional women scientists and engineers.

"My core class was forensics and I learned about fingerprints and chemical reactions as well as identifying different types of fibers," said camper April Lindblad, who attends Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.

In addition to CSI forensics, core classes at camp included computer coding and cyber sleuthing, as well as marine biology, 3D math, and engineering design. The girls took apart

computers, wrote computer code, built functional robots, worked as a team to make a bi-plane from rolled up newspapers using engineering principles, built structures using only uncooked spaghetti and duct tape, and took field trips to Symantec, a marsh, the Stanford blood lab, a virtual reality lab, and a solar car station.

"I loved the hands-on experiences and teamwork that I had to use in doing robotics and building with spaghetti," said Stanley Middle School student Lynn Wolfe, who plans to enroll in a robotics course next year.

OIS student Caroline Rupert enjoyed the visit to Stanford's solar car station. "We saw a car that was built and raced by the Stanford team," she said. "They raced across Australia and they got fourth place: the highest-ranking college team. Who was the driver? A girl from Tech Trek!"

The Tech Trek campers, all from Lamorinda intermediate schools, expressed their thanks to AAUW for their camp scholarships at a Sept. 1 reception hosted by the Branch AAUW Tech Trek Committee. To donate to the AAUW OML Tech Trek scholarship program, or to attend a Tech Trek fundraiser event such as the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk on Oct. 6, contact Jan Cushman at (925) 253-1958. Visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/> for additional information about AAUW and Tech Trek.