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SMC Student Recital Series open to community



Music fills the Saint Mary's College Chapel at a previous recital. Photo provided

Submitted by
Renée J. Witon

Musicians at Saint Mary's College will perform in the first of five Wednesday Student Recital Series concerts at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23 in the Saint Mary's College Chapel. Featured performers include the Flower Duet from the opera "Lakme" performed by Madeline Vine and Mylan Biltz, and baritones Ian Robertson and Ryan Ford performing classical and Broadway selections. Violinist Emma Weyrauch and pianist Lino Rivera will perform the JS Bach/Gounod arrangement of "Ave Maria." Pianists Jas Chok and Samuel Doby will perform music of Copland and Dello Joio. The finale of the program will feature the SMC Chamber Singers and Glee Club. Donations are welcome.

Art about the community, by the community



Lara Dutto poses with some of the young artists responsible for the mural. Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

A new, colorful and eye-catching mural is now gracing the old ATM niche on the side of the Jennifer Perlmutter pup gallery at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. And it truly belongs to the community.

Inspired and led by local architect and artist Lara Dutto, the mural installed on plywood board was unveiled Oct. 5 at a well-attended reception to celebrate the teens that worked on it.

Dutto explained how she got a group of more than a dozen local kids of different ages together to create the

mural. During four workshops they talked about scale and about how they perceive Lamorinda. She challenged the students to come back with images and poetry, asking them what they thought was the best of the area. With comments on the beauty of the hills, trees and wildlife and how people take care of one another and feel safe, and what they value in the community, they set to work on the mural. Dutto says the mural also depicts their wishes and ideas for moving forward. "And there are secrets," she said, encouraging everyone to enjoy the mural.

Village Associates underwrote the project. Perlmutter appreciates the support: "They felt it was a strong way to convey their support of community and local business in Lafayette."

Crediting the thinking from urban planners, and Perlmutter as an amazing businesswoman, Dutto observed, "People come out for art."

Town Hall Theatre celebrates 75 years



Town Hall early days Photo provided

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Shepard looks forward to expanding community partnerships with more local nonprofits that have themes related to the art they produce. In December, the theater will work with The John Muir Land Trust Foundation during "Cinderella, A Fairytale" and Center for Elders' independence during "The Cherry Orchard." Shepard says nonprofits like these pair well with the themes in the shows of the upcoming season.

On the production side, artistic director Susan Evans

hopes to continue putting on high-quality shows, while attracting artistic talent and welcoming new audiences from the greater Bay Area. Since space is a limiting factor, she plans to explore putting on shows off-site, bringing productions into new spaces in the community.

Town Hall Theatre will host a masquerade gala fundraiser in honor of its 75th anniversary and 300th production on Oct. 26 at the Lafayette Veterans Center. "I think the longevity of Town Hall Theatre is a result of the support of the

community, the warm and welcoming spirit of the Town Hall staff and volunteers, and the diversity of what we have to offer," said Managing Director Dennis Markam, who has been with the theater for over 13 years.

The upcoming celebration will be emceed by local DJ ryanO and include a cocktail hour with live music, dinner, dancing, and the original cabaret "Coming Home - Town Hall Theatre Through the years" directed by Glen Riggs. The show will feature Main Stage and Education alums, highlighting the important role the theater has played in so many lives across generations.

"We are a place for the community to gather together, in person, and create memories and have shared experiences," said Shepard. "There are a dwindling number of spaces where people can gather in person and experience stories and performances so close to home with their friends and family."

Tickets for the gala are available through the Town Hall Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

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