

HELPING OTHERS

# Health Guild Starry Night Gala Benefits Children's Hospital

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Orinda residents April Bowers, Alexis Thompson and Hillary Weiner are committed to bettering medical care for children in the Bay Area. To that end, they have become very involved with the Children's Health Guild (CHG). The three, along with many other dedicated volunteers, produced a fundraising gala, Starry Night, held at the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley in May. About 320 guests enjoyed the sold-out event, which featured cocktails, dinner, live music, dancing and both a live and silent auction.

Items offered by generous sponsors and donors included unique sports memorabilia from the Golden State Warriors and the San Francisco Giants and bucket-list travel, such as an African safari and exclusive tropical destinations. Morrison's Jewelers of Orinda donated sparkling diamond

earrings.

Funds raised support UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland and George Mark Children's House in San Leandro. George Mark, founded in 2004, is the nation's first freestanding pediatric palliative care center serving children, young adults and their families. Children aged newborns to 25 with complex medical conditions that may result in a shortened life expectancy receive palliative care which is compatible with treatments that are meant to cure. This care is offered irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, religion or socio-economic status.

Since its inception in 2012, CHG (a non-profit organization) has raised over one million dollars for these worthy beneficiaries. Speakers at the event shared courageous and emotional stories about the care their children received from each beneficiary.

For information about CHG or its beneficiaries, visit [www.childrenshealthguild.org](http://www.childrenshealthguild.org).



SHORENA GRIGOLIA

(L-R) Children's Health Guild members **Hillary Weiner**, spring auction chair, **April Bowers**, president and **Alexis Thompson** spring event chair at their gala, "A Starry Night," on May 14. The event, held at the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley, raised funds to support UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland and George Mark Children's House in San Leandro.

# LOPC Mission Team Helps Rebuild Town of Weed After 2015 Fire

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

"We are so grateful" were the words homeowners in Weed, California, said over and over again to the Mission Team from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) which spent a week in Weed helping with rebuilding efforts. In a devastating 2015 fire, 150 homes were burned to the ground along with the Catholic and Presbyterian churches, the library and community center. An elementary school and the last remaining wood products mill were damaged. A huge amount of work still remains to be done in this economically depressed town of 3,000.

Orindan Rich Lewis, who headed up the project, said he was glad to help people in our home state. This is his 12th year of leading church Mission Team trips. Previously, teams have worked in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Oklahoma, where tornadoes have struck.

In Weed, the 31-member team was assigned five clients. Some had already begun building, but lacked funds to complete the work as they were not adequately insured. The team worked with the Weed Long Term Recovery Group, formed by town citizens after the fire.

One of the houses was a Habitat for Humanity home where the Mission Team worked on the foundation. Shannon Kennedy, who had just purchased her home three days before the fire, had no insurance. She was reduced to tears when Lewis told her they had money for materials for a fence to keep her dog safe. Volunteers Marty Lewis,

Gladys Schaible and Alexandra Lamoureux, her teenage granddaughter, moved 10 yards of topsoil into Kennedy's garden.

Weed resident Cookie Reynolds has two teenage daughters and was also delighted to get a fence to keep out intruders. Work on another house for the DeValt family included installing siding, exterior trim paint, interior stairs, and laying out ceiling joists. Team member Bruce Kronmiller worked on the electrical installation at the Groppis' home.

Along with labor, LOPC donated a large cross to the Weed Presbyterian Church, which they will install after rebuilding. LOPC members Carol and Tom King were downsizing and asked if the Weed church wanted their organ. Carol played it for them over the phone after which Weed church members gladly accepted the offer, as they had never had a church organ. LOPC was also in the process of purchasing new Bibles so were able to donate used Bibles to Weed Presbyterian.

LOPC member Judy Kronmiller learned that the new library needed children's books. She rounded up two boxes, courtesy of the Friends Corner Book Shop at the Lafayette Library. Ann Loar donated five new handmade quilts. Weed resident Tiffany DeValt was thrilled to have the quilt as she'd lost one in the fire that her grandmother had made.

Weed started as a mill town, founded by Abner Weed. In 1897, Weed bought the Siskiyou Lumber and Mercantile mills for \$400 along with 280 acres of land. At one time the lumber industry had 1,200

[SEE LOPC page 20]

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LAMORINDA **arts** COUNCIL

# Lamorinda Idol Finals

Sunday, September 4, 2016  
Orinda Theatre

**K-2 SOLOISTS**  
Lilah Anders  
Shawn Smith  
Roxie Tarantino

**3-5 SOLOISTS**  
Callie Barber  
Amelia Chen  
Janie Mullerbach  
Alec Howe  
Mia Lim  
Claire O'Connor  
Mia Polichio  
Sadie Rouse  
Amy Schuchter  
Hayden Schneider  
Alexandra Van Der Poel  
Katie Welch

**6-8 SOLOISTS**  
Nejla Acköwe-Peggy  
Lleyton Allen  
Grace Bärmer  
Elizabeth Becker  
Zerulde Chaparral  
Jenni Coletta  
Kiera Glenn  
Juniaux Maeder  
Nicole Prozan  
Mari Sitzmann  
Grace Sjoberg

**9-12 SOLOISTS**  
Evan Gabrielson  
Ariana Glenn  
Emily Gray  
Avery Hansen  
Claire Levinson  
Samantha Martin  
Lauren Ramlan  
Michaela Sasner  
Max Tatem  
Leah Woodcox

**K-5 GROUPS**  
BOOGIE WOOGIE BUGLE GALS  
Mina Lim  
Lila Marx

**DYNAMIC DUO**  
Mia Polichio  
Katie Welch

**LUCKY CHARMS**  
Lucy Foss  
Kaylin Ishizu  
Ann Jacuzzi

**THE SINGING SIX**  
Callie Barber  
Claire Brevint  
Sarah Hawkins  
Janie Mullerbach  
Cami Lowell  
Elle Rodriguez

**6-8 GROUPS**  
AISLINN & ELLA  
Ella Schneider  
Aislinn Welch

**DUO**  
Nejla Acköwe-Peggy  
Grace Bärmer

**LILESA**  
Malessa Hasler  
Lily Jensen

**9-12 GROUPS**  
AVERY & GRACE  
Grace Girzadas  
Avery Hansen

**DYNAMIC**  
Kate Gilbert  
Gracie Gulchard  
Claire Levinson  
Lauren Ramlan  
Michaela Sasner

**SWEET HARMONY**  
Ariana Glenn  
Kiera Glenn

**SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY**

11:00 - 12:30 PM	GRADES K-2 AND 3-5 SOLOISTS
1:00 - 2:30 PM	GRADES K-5, 6-8 AND 9-12 GROUPS
3:15 - 4:30 PM	GRADES 6-8 SOLOISTS
5:00 - 6:15 PM	GRADES 9-12 SOLOISTS
7:00 - 7:30 PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

ADMISSION IS FREE! \$5 donation appreciated.  
THE ORINDA THEATRE HOLDS ONLY 750 PEOPLE, SO BE SURE TO ARRIVE EARLY!  
EVERY PARTICIPANT CAN VOTE FOR THE WINNERS IN EACH GRADE CATEGORY PROVIDED THEY LISTEN TO EVERY CONTESTANT OF THE CATEGORY.  
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