

GOOD NEIGHBOR: JACQUIE OLIVERIUS Food Bank receives helping hand from credit union

By Jacquie Oliverius

Posted: 07/09/2009 12:00:00 AM PDT

AS OUR POOR economy continues, residents are working to help their community, and volunteering to help out in many different ways.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, with warehouses in Concord and Fairfield, is being stretched to the limits as it helps increasing numbers of hungry people in need. Beginning in May, the Travis Credit Union, which has branches in Contra Costa and Solano counties, stepped up to help others by placing food collection barrels at its branches.

"When the (Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano) asked us to be the first business in the county to offer the food barrels for the year, we were more than happy to help," said Patsy Van Ouwerkerk, Travis Credit Union president and CEO.

"One of our strategic priorities is to be an active and supportive community partner in the communities we serve. We also recognize the challenges of this economic climate."

In addition to the food barrels, the credit union was involved in the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger campaign by organizing an employee competition between branches and departments to see who could collect the most food, and the results were remarkable.

"The employees came through with flying colors, collecting well over 5,000 items of food, weighing in at 2,467 pounds for the local food bank," said Sherry Cordonnier, director/corporate relations.

Donations go directly to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and are distributed in the counties (where) they are received, said Cordonnier.

Hats off to the Travis Credit Union and its employees. For those who would like to donate food or volunteer at the food bank, visit www.foodbankccs.org.

Art in the garden

Congratulations to the three Bay Area artists who were chosen as the top prize winners at the 15th annual Sculpture in the Garden exhibit at the Ruth Bancroft Garden.

First place and \$1,000 went to Harry Siter for his elmwood and bronze piece, "Her 2006."

Second place and \$500 was awarded to Cynthia Handel for "Spring Basin" in bronze.

Third place and \$250 went to Jeff Key for his "Vessel #24-Nesting" in wood.

"The cash awards were generously donated by Merridith Pelino Godfrey of Artscape Consulting," said Rebecca Ines, development director.

The exhibit will continue through July 19. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Check the Web site at www.ruthbancroftgarden.org for more information.

New president

Congratulations to Remsen Barnard, who was

Advertisement



Bring the Classroom to Your Home
With a Degree Online From Florida Tech

FLORIDA TECH
UNIVERSITY ONLINE

APPLY TODAY!
FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

installed June 30 as the new president of the Rotary Club of Walnut Creek for 2009-2010.

"The main objective of Rotary is service — in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world," said Jerry Benoit, publicity coordinator.

Barnard's theme for the year is "The Place To Be," describing the Walnut Creek club and his goal to "involve each member in the participation of 'hands-on' projects in the community and in international projects," said Benoit.

DAR medals

The Anne Loucks chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented three area women with medals from the National Society DAR for outstanding achievements in their areas of expertise, said chapter Regent Sally Holcombe.

The Historic Preservation Medal was awarded by Holcombe and Joan Spiegel, historic preservation chairwoman, to Denise Koroslev, president of the Friends of Rodgers Ranch Foundation.

The foundation oversees the restoration and renovation of the Rodgers Ranch home in Pleasant Hill, one of only a few 19th-century ranch houses in the county. "In addition to guiding the historically accurate restoration efforts, Denise has developed curriculum in local history and conservation, and is providing educational experiences in these areas for school children and interested adults," said Holcombe.

The Americanism Medal, which is given to a naturalized citizen who Holcombe said "displays exceptional trustworthiness, good citizenship, devotion to country and charity," was presented to Elizabeth Russell, a native of Scotland, and now an American citizen and CFO of Delta Dental in the Bay

Area.

Holcombe and Jo Mancebo-Silver, Americanism chairwoman, cited Russell's involvement as volunteer coordinator with the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment. "Based in Oakland, Women's Initiative serves qualified lower-income women with the training, resources, financial assistance and ongoing support they need to start and grow their own businesses," said Holcombe.

The DAR Medal of Honor, which is awarded to a native-born citizen who Holcombe said "also displays extraordinary trustworthiness, good citizenship, devotion to country and charity," was presented by Holcombe and Mancebo-Silver to Sheila Murray-Bethel, a lecturer and author in the areas of leadership and business solutions with the Bethel Institute in Walnut Creek.

She "has spent many years serving on behalf of children in the United States," Holcombe said.

Dressed to impress

If you have your mother's old fur coat still hanging in the back of the closet, you might consider donating it to a specialized fashion show, courtesy of Goodwill Industries.

Recently, members of the Martinez Lioness Club held a fundraising salad bar luncheon. The entertainment — a vintage fashion show put on by five members of the Goodwill Bags, an auxiliary of Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay — just about stole the show.

"Everyone really enjoyed the fashion show," said event chairwoman Karen Griffiths. "We heard nothing but praise for it."

The show, "Have Bag Will Travel," was a tour of

Advertisement



End-to-End Training as It Should Be: 100% ONLINE!

Earn Your Master Certificate in Internet Marketing

→ SEO & Paid Search	→ Internet Law
→ Online Branding	→ Media Buying
→ Web Analytics	→ Social Media

➔

1-800-268-9943
USanFranOnline.com/FD

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

ContraCostaTimes.com

fashion through the decades of the 20th century, said auxiliary member Shawn Wilson. Authentic dress and casual outfits for both men and women, many of which were donated specifically for the fashion shows, were modeled by Wilson and four other auxiliary members.

"The clothes now most often are donated by people who see the show and realize they have clothes from their parents and grandparents that would fit right in," said Harriett Burt, publicity coordinator. "The clothes often arrive packed in bags, hence the group's name — the Goodwill Bags."

Items for the column can be e-mailed to goodneighbor@bayareanewsgroup.com or mailed to Jacquie Oliverius/Good Neighbor, 2640 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Submissions to the "Good Neighbor" column about upcoming events must be received by noon Wednesday, at least one week before the event date. Due to space restrictions, non-timely items may not be immediately published.

Advertisement



Florida Tech
UNIVERSITY ONLINE

**Bring the Classroom to Your Home
With a Degree Online From Florida Tech**

APPLY TODAY!
FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™