

Lamorinda Village - Neighbors helping Neighbors

This is a subset of Moraga Seniors that we interviewed for their collective historical perspectives, as well as individual experiences, with Lamorinda Village.

PHOTO BY ANN MURPHY



With more than 470 members and nearly 200 active volunteers, Lamorinda Village has become a meaningful part of life across Lafayette, Moraga, & Orinda. The organization offers a wide range of programs/services designed to help residents stay connected, independent, and engaged.

On an average of 7-9 times weekly, one can engage in gatherings and educational programs like SWELL, to practical support such as transportation, meal prep, home mtc, and classes such as 'Easy Meals for One' for the Living Solo program.

At the heart of it, are the people who make it work.

Moraga resident **Mary Anne Perkins** is one of them. A retired RN, she has been involved since 2016, serving on both

the Village Care Team and Ambassador Committee. Her role is centered on connection.

"We're not doing formal medical assessments," she explains. "We're getting to know people and what they need, what they enjoy, and how we can connect them with the right support."

That support can be as simple as companionship or as practical as helping coordinate services that make daily life easier. Volunteers, many with backgrounds in healthcare, social work, or related fields, can offer guidance in ways that feel personal, not clinical.

Executive Director, Katherine Ishizu, helps bring structure to those efforts through thoughtful program development. Under her leadership, Lamorinda Village continues to expand services while staying grounded in its four guiding pillars: connection, aging well, independence, and the gift of service.

For some members, the impact is deeply personal.

Moraga resident Jo Kerner joined Lamorinda Village in 2024 after years of community involvement through Lamorinda Movers and local activities therein, like **Bocce at the Commons Park**. Since joining, she has utilized services such as gardening and handyman support, although for her, it's even more than those conveniences.

"It's about how people navigate this season of loss and isolation," she shared.

For many, Lamorinda Village becomes a way to rediscover connection during times of transition - offering not just support, but a renewed sense of belonging.

Maria Salerno (board member) and her husband, Roberto Alvarez del Blanco, are helping ensure that sense of community continues into the future. As part of a strategic task force, they are working to shape the organization's vision over the next five years - building on continuous collaboration that began before & during the pandemic.

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Longtime members David and Julia White have been part of that journey from the beginning. After first learning about Lamorinda Village through **Lamorinda Movers** more than a decade ago, they became early supporters and remain actively engaged.

Board member and Finance Chair, Peggy Cabaniss is helping guide the organization efficiently, contributing to its financial outlook, and working with Lamo to support grants and budgets for more programs and sustainability.

Throughout the year, members gather for picnics, restaurant outings, and structured or informal meetups, creating simple moments that reinforce something bigger.

In a place like Moraga, where community already runs deep, Lamorinda Village builds on this foundation. They are creating opportunities for neighbors to support one another in ways both meaningful and long lasting.

Contact Lamorinda Village at (925) 283-3500 or email: info@lamorindavillage.org

DON'S GOLDEN HAPPY HOUR IS A FAVORITE

Aegis Senior Living in Moraga has been a sponsor of this Lamorinda Village - Happy Hour event in the past. This activity rotates to different locations on the second Tuesday of each month. It's a festive and well attended social program in honor of past founding member Don Jenkins.



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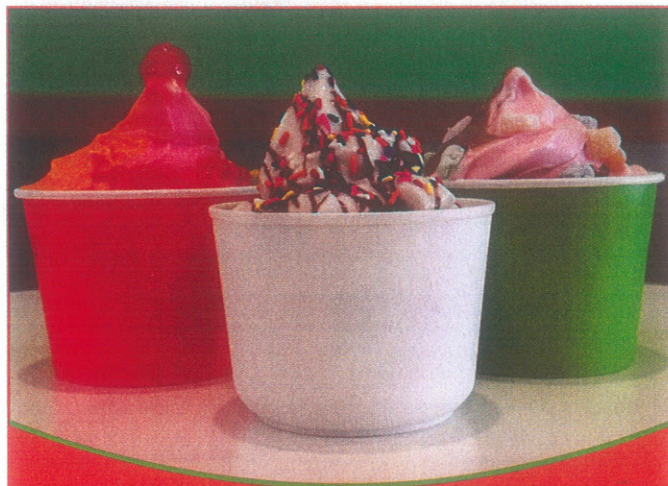
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