



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Students at Foothill High School in Pleasanton held a noontime to make fellow students aware of human rights violations in Russia.

Foothill Students Demonstrate Over Russian Gay Issues

Two dozen Foothill High School students conducted a silent demonstration in the school's quad at lunchtime to make fellow students aware of human rights violations in Russia.

The protest on Feb. 21 was sponsored by the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) and the campus chapter of Amnesty International.

Cori Hartwig, president of the GSA, said that the students wanted to do some-

thing because of what they had heard from news media about anti-gay repression in Russia.

The students formed a circle and held signs that spoke against hatred. Some included a gay pride flag logo.

Hartwig, a senior, said that she did not know whether it was the first such demonstration at Foothill, but she has not seen any similar demonstration in her years

on campus

"The response was really positive. A lot of (students) came up to us and said, 'Thank you for doing this,' or 'I support you.' Since it was a silent vigil, we couldn't talk back," said Hartwig.

The demonstration was silent because "we didn't want to do anything aggressive. I believe part of creating tolerance and acceptance is to respect others," said Hartwig.

Chamber Announces 51st Annual Community Service Awards Winners

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will recognize individuals, groups and businesses who have demonstrated excellence and community leadership in business, volunteer activities and achievement within the Pleasanton community on Wednesday, March 19 at the Firehouse Arts Center.

The Community Service Awards began in 1963 in an effort to recognize good people doing great things in the community. Since then hundreds of recipients have been honored.

Award recipients include the following:

Turman Commercial Painters, Business Philanthropy Award: For businesses that have provided philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity.

The HopYard American Alehouse & Grill, Excellence in Business Award: For businesses that have made a positive impact in the Pleasanton community through their achievement within the scope of normal business activity.

Pleasanton Military Families, Excellence in Service Award: For non-profit organizations that have contributed to Pleasanton.

Greg Thome, Disting-

uished Individual Service Award: For individuals who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts.

Sarah and Claire Williams, Distinguished Individual Youth Service Award: For youth who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts.

Hacienda, Green Business Award: For businesses that promote sustainable environmental business practices throughout their organization for the benefit of employees, customers or the community.

This event, sponsored by Chevron and University of San Francisco Pleasanton Campus, will celebrate people who go the extra mile to

make Pleasanton a fabulous place to live and do business. The public is invited to attend this fun-filled evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a hosted bar and heavy hors' d'oeuvres, as well as a silent auction followed by the awards presentation. Cost to attend is \$45 per person and tickets are on sale now on the Chamber's website at www.pleasanton.org.

The Pleasanton Chamber presented six Community Service Awards in 2013: **Business Philanthropy Award:** 1st United Services Credit Union; **Excellence in Business Award:** Simpson Strong-Tie; **Excellence in Service Award:** Volunteers in Police Service; **Distinguished Individual Service Award:** Debi Covello and **Green Business Award:** The Clorox Company and Café Main.

Writers Program Tells How to Save a Bundle on Your Taxes

Bonnie Lee will be the guest speaker at the next monthly meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at the Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton.

For over 20 years, as the owner of Taxpertise™ and as an enrolled agent, Lee has represented taxpayers across the country. She specializes in resolving tax problems for independent contractors, the self-employed, and small business owners. She is a member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA) and California Society of Enrolled Agents (CSEA)

In 2007, Lee mounted her Taxpertise™ seminars and broadcast the first of her weekly Taxpertise™ radio broadcasts on KSVY radio in Sonoma County. Her Entrepreneur Press books, Taxpertise: The Complete Book of Dirty Little

Registration Opens for Parent Project Program