

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Benefit planned for tutoring center ‘Retirement’ a temporary gig for longtime KCFB volunteers

Keizer-based Mid-Valley Literacy Center is hosting a benefit and award celebration Friday, April 24 at the Kroc Center.

Tickets are \$40 and attendees can RSVP by calling 503-463-1488, sending the ticket fee to 606 Dearborn Avenue N.E., Keizer, OR, 97303, or by visiting the MVLC website www.midvalleyliteracycenter.org. At the website, click “donate” and designate the purpose as “dinner tickets.”

MVLC provides tutoring for adults seeking a GED or furthering current skills and for those

seeking to take their U.S. citizenship tests.

Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz will deliver the keynote address and former Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski will present awards.

To date, MVLC has helped more than 120 students earn their GEDS and assisted numerous others in achieving their U.S. citizenship.

Sponsors for the event are still being sought. Call the center for more information. The Kroc Center is located at 1865 Bill Frey Drive in Salem.



Laura and Ray Ayers are taking a step back from their roles as volunteers at the Keizer Community Food Bank.

KEIZERTIMES/
Craig Murphy

Colored pencil works honored at Keizer Art Association



Courtesy CJ Worlein Portraits
Stephanie, by CJ Worlein of Beaverton, won the Best in Show award at the Colored Pencil Exhibition awards

Awards were presented Saturday, April 4, to winners of the 24th annual Colored Pencil Exhibition at the Keizer Art Association’s Enid Joy Mount Gallery in the Keizer Heritage Center.

The exhibit runs through Wednesday, April 29.

Winners:
Best in Show: *Stephanie* by C.J. Worlein, Beaverton

1st place: *Siltwater* by Pat Averill, Oregon City

2nd place: *Open to Possibilities*, Carol Morrison, Portland

3rd place: *NYC Reflections*, Karl S. Roussett, Colton

4th place: *Green and Silent Valley*, Dyanne Locati, Sun City West, AZ

Four merit award winners included: *California Condor* (Pat Jackman), *JT and Amati* (Claudelle Lyall), *Tell Me Your Story* (Terri Neal) and *Ping* (Bonny Wagoner).

The exhibit is staged at the gallery by the Colored Pencil Society of America, Portland District Chapter 201. Thirty-seven artists submitted 67 works of art. The Keizer Heritage Center is at 980 Chemawa Rd. N.E. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

By CRAIG MURPHY *Of the Keizertimes*

The weeks revolve around Thursdays for Ray and Laura Ayers.

Except for lately. The Ayers, who have been married for 66 years, have been volunteering at the Keizer Community Food Bank together for more than 12 years. Laura, 84, has been serving food alongside her 88-year-old husband for 10 years.

Recently both of the Ayers have had health woes. Thus, instead of being at Faith Lutheran Church, they have been in their cottage at Wilamette Lutheran Retirement Community.

Ray came down with pneumonia earlier this year, got better, then had a relapse that left him in a hospital for a while with fluid in his back. About a month ago Laura was leaving the hospital one windy day after visiting Ray when a strong wind gust knocked her down, injuring part of her hip.

As the Ayers recuperate at home, they look forward to

returning to the volunteer service they enjoy so much.

“My goal is to get back there,” Laura said. “I miss it.”

It’s a similar tale for Ray.

“I’ll get back there too, if it’s supposed to be,” he said. “The pneumonia wasn’t as bad as the relapse. Once my lungs are working good again, I’ll be back if they’ll let me.”

The two served community members side-by-side for many Thursdays. Ray handed out items like tortillas, breads and cookies while Laura handed out flour and soups. More memorably, Laura also handed out stuffed animals to children, as profiled in the *Keizertimes* two years ago.

Nancy Morgan is among the fellow food bank volunteers missing the Ayers.

“It’s been wonderful seeing them work together all those years,” Morgan said. “They are very devoted to each other. They have worked right next to each other. Our volunteers have asked about them, how they are doing. They are very concerned and miss them deeply.”

Laura is itching to get back to her Thursday routine.

“Other than my home and church, that is kind of a family down there,” she said. “I would have been down there last week if they had let me. This week I might go out and give out toys, just the toys. I miss it so much. When it gets to Wednesdays, I start looking forward to it. There are some special, special people down there. Some clients have been down there the whole time we’ve been there.”

Laura has a special connection with the youth.

“I miss the kids the most,” she said. “I love giving them the toys. I love the people we work with. You miss everything. It’s nice to know you’re missed.”

Like his wife, Ray misses all parts of the food bank experience.

“They are a good bunch of people to work with,” he said. “You know you are helping people who are hungry and need food. If you can be more fortunate and help, why that’s the way it should be.”

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5303 River Rd. N., Keizer
Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

John Knox Presbyterian Church
452 Cummings Lane North • 393-0404

Rev. Dr. John Neal, Pastor
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Education Hour - 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care Available
www.keizerjkpres.org

Faith Lutheran Church
4505 River Rd N • 393-4507

Sunday Schedule:
9:00 a.m. Children’s Church
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Children’s Activities
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

Pastor Virginia Eggert

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Celebration Services
Saturday Evening 6:00 pm
Sunday Morning 9:00 am and 10:45 am

Children’s Programs, Student and Adult Ministries
1755 Lockhaven Dr. NE Keizer
503-390-3900
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Keizer Christian Church
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