

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORGAN HILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES 2010 SALUTE MORGAN HILL AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce is extremely excited to announce the 2010 Salute Morgan Hill Awards recipients. They are Teri Larice, Woman of the Year, Lynn Liebschutz, Man of the Year, Ellen Yu Costa, Educator of the Year from Gavilan College, Franchesca Kellett, Student of the year from Ann Sobrato High School, Cherisse's Hair Salon, Business of the Year, and the Morgan Hill Kiwanias as the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the year.



2010 Woman of the Year, Teri Larice, according to her nomination, “one of Teri’s philosophies is “if you need help with anything all you need to do is ASK”. Morgan Hill is a town which prides itself in its family-oriented events and youth activities. Throughout her years as a resident of this community, Teri has volunteered at her sons’ schools, from Paradise Valley to Britton to Live Oak and Sobrato. She has served on Home and School Clubs, volunteered in the classrooms as well as the school office. She is the mother of a special needs son and is a staunch advocate for his

education and well being. She has given him many opportunities through her involvement. Our community, through Teri’s work, is developing a model for others to follow, a model of acceptance and pride for each and every one.

Man of the Year 2010, Lynn Liebschutz, is being recognized for his long-time service to the community of Morgan Hill. He has lived here for 33 years and during that time he has volunteered his time and expertise to working with the Boy Scouts of America, The Grange, Santa Clara County Science Fair, Morgan Hill Library, elections, Jackson Oaks Home Owners Association President, Britton Band Boosters, Central High School and was named the Volunteer of the Year by the Gilroy Garlic Festival. For 31 years Lynn has worked with Boy Scout Troop 730. If you ever wondered who has organized trash clean-up at festivals, such as the Mushroom Mardi Gras, the Garlic Festival, The Taste of Morgan Hill, this has been led by Lynn. Lynn does not seek recognition and would tell you his awards are the many eagle scouts he has mentored, etc. This 2010 Man of the Year has spent a lifetime doing service for the community of Morgan Hill, winning admiration from adults and children alike.



Franchesca Kellett is the 2010 Student of the Year from Ann Sobrato High School. Based on her nomination, “Frankie is everybody’s BFF (Best Friends Forever) having never passed judgment on others. She has high expectations not only for herself but also for others to be the best that one can be. Her humble demeanor belies all that she has accomplished. Frankie recognizes that each of us is but one part of a larger community. Her dedication in all endeavors is admired by family, friends and colleagues. The enthusiasm to which she brings is contagious.

The world is fast changing; people come and go; but someone like Frankie will leave her mark for generations to come.



90 E. Second St., Morgan Hill, CA 95037 • P.O. Box 786 Morgan Hill, CA 95038 • www.morganhill.org

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2010 Educator of the Year, Ellen Yu Costa, “The reason Ellen deserves this award is her continuous work to teach and set up as many parent advocacy locations in Morgan Hill for the immigrant community as is possible. In each of her day and evening classes Ellen shares her vision with students from all countries of the life they can have in ours with the skills she teaches them.” She is currently an instructor of ELS at Gavilan College, Morgan Hill site and due to her promotion of this class has an enrollment of 51 students. Prior to

working for Gavilan, she was employed by the Morgan Hill Unified School District as an instructor with CBET. She was also the El Toro Elementary School after school program coordinator and Martin Murphy Middle School trainer for Leap Track Learning Systems. She has facilitated a Science Alive workshop as well as a workshop to parents on Communication with your Child. To summarize, Ellen cares deeply about her students, is not easily demoralized and perseveres despite great odds.

Cherisse’s Hair Salon is the **2010 Business of the Year** and according to one of the nominations, “Cherisse never says no to any opportunity to give back to her community. Anytime someone calls looking for a donation for a charity event the answer is always “yes”. A small list of programs she supports include “JP Pet Wash” raising \$1,000 for our local San Martin Animal Shelter, “Party at the Tool Bar” with the styling tools then donated to Community Solutions, starting in November stylists were sent to the CRC Senior Center for no cost haircuts and styling. In addition to all of the fundraising, you can find Cherisse helping to develop the craft to up and coming stylists as a teacher at Gavilan College as well as a Premier National Educator for Paul Mitchell and never misses an opportunity to learn more herself by attending classes.



The 2010 Volunteer of the Year award is given to the Morgan Hill Kiwanis Club. For as many years as anyone in Morgan Hill can remember, the members of the Kiwanis Club have assisted in every event, beginning with the 1980 Mushroom Mardi Gras, the set-up, tear-down of the Friday Night Music Series every Friday night, requiring 6 people each week for an entire evening. The flags for the Mushroom Mardi Gras and the Taste of Morgan Hill are put up by the Kiwanis Club. This organization is small in number but mighty in the service they do.

The club organizes the Holiday Lights Parade for the past 14 years and rain or shine it goes off without a hitch. Each member of this club participated in the 2006 Morgan Hill Centennial. How fortunate Morgan Hill is have a service club of such high caliber and devotion to our city.

The 2010 Salute Morgan Hill Awards Ceremonies and Dinner will be held Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center.

For more information, please contact Special Events Director, Michele Naylor at 408-779-9444 or mnaylor@morganhill.org



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