



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathy Padro
(925) 829-8770

**Harmony and Hope: Pleasanton Families Gather
For Evening of Music, Reflection, and Fun**

DUBLIN, Calif. (November 25, 2009) Children are the center of every holiday season and this year is no exception. The Santa Rita Players, a woodwind group of 11 and 12 year olds will bring holiday magic to the *Lights of the Valley* celebration on December 2nd at Heritage Bank. An evening to honor or remember a loved one, this annual event hosted by Hope Hospice features music, memories, and treats. Families attending Lights of the Valley will also enjoy singing by the Harmony Fusion Chorus. A local chapter of the International Sweet Adelines, the group advances the musical art of barbershop harmony with a fusion of seasonal and time-honored renditions. Harmony Fusion Chorus gives full voice to the spirit of the evening and lends a nostalgic note to the tree lighting festivities. Their motto is, "Harmonize the world!"

Many guests of *Lights of the Valley* are Pleasanton neighbors who return, year after year, to make this event an integral part of their holiday activities. Marilyn Lemm of Pleasanton says, "I remember my parents and in-laws every year. It is my Christmas gift to them. I tell my husband, 'I have gotten the gifts for the folks.' Then, when I pass by the tree, and I look at the light in honor of them, I can say, 'Mom and Dad, there you are...you are still with us...your light burns bright for me.'"

This year, the Tree of Life in Pleasanton will shine throughout the month of December with symbolic lights that honor loved ones. For other Lights of the Valley locations/events or to remember someone special with a light, star, angel, or name on a lighted wreath, call Hope Hospice at (925) 829-8770 or <http://www.hopehospice.com>. (Click on *Lights of the Valley*).

The Pleasanton Illumination Ceremony takes place Wednesday evening, December 2, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Bank - 300 Main Street. A perfect photo opportunity in a festive holiday atmosphere, families will gather to watch the tree being lit and enjoy performances by Harmony Fusion Chorus (formerly Sweet Adelines) and the Santa Rita Players. A reading by Pleasanton Poet Laureate, Deborah Grossman will be followed by light refreshments.

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