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Danville Life

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Volunteers make it happen

Sandra Hunt and Stephen Morgan

The singing/song writing duo, Stevie and Sandi, (Stephen Morgan and Sandra Hunt) are also motivated to inspire children.

Hunt has found a place where people are more than receptive to her special ways of giving back.

"(Before) I always found myself to going to other towns to exercise my talents. When there's no one around you to accept it, you don't want to just not give. It comes from the heart," she said. "Once I understood Danville was such a supportive community, it encouraged me."

Today, she is one of the town's ambassadors for the chamber and is appropriately charged with organizing the music and getting merchants to participate in this year's tree lighting festivities.

To date, there are 52 host sites and 22 entertainment groups.

Hunt discovered the close knit, child-oriented community of Danville fortuitously after moving in with her husband Stephen Morgan, who had lived there since 1988.

"I liked the cuteness of the town. It didn't seem spoiled. It seemed to have its own charm," said Morgan.

Both relished the surrounding hills and abundance of trees.

"It's the serenity and the landscape. The view of Mount Diablo is right in your face. When you're an artist, gardener and a songwriter, being in certain environments, they contribute to your craft. You're not interrupted by the hustle and bustle," she described.

For several years, Hunt was a farmer at the Crow Canyon Institute, a Danville-based non-profit, where she taught youth groups about the web of life and plant parts, and instructed adults in herbal preparations and cooking with herbs.

It was working in the garden that inspired Stevie and Sandi's highly touted "Insect Songs," a recording that Hunt said Danville's Pascal French Oven "sells like hot cakes."

"We watched their [the insects'] behavior and came up with lyrics. We need to learn to live in harmony with them," she described their creative process. "We sometimes get complaints from parents that they're not allowed to kill bugs in their houses. Some kids don't realize that they have a choice, so now hopefully there's a balance."

Barbara Stott, the former garden manager of Crow Canyon Gardens, recalled Hunt's passion for gardening.

"It'd be getting dark and she'd hate to come



SANDI AND STEVIE bring plenty of enthusiasm to their projects, including their new CD "Insect Songs." She is a Danville Area Chamber of Commerce ambassador and organized the entertainment and retailer participation for the Tree Lighting event.

in... Sandi had lots of stamina. Must be all that singing," she said.

Stott invited the pair to perform their first pro bono concert at a fund-raiser for the institute three years ago.

"Sandi is magnetic. She stirs up everyone else's enthusiasm and commitment to a project," Stott added.

Morgan and Hunt's kid-friendly musical performances are one way of giving back.

"It's in my kind-hearted nature. If we do it for a special cause, we do it with open arms," Morgan, a native of Wales, said of the 15 charitable events where the duo have performed and his donating his talents as a photographer, graphic designer and songwriter to various projects — including two tribute albums for his beloved Bee Gees.

The pair volunteered at the Children's Film Festival in April and participated in the chamber-sponsored 13th annual Business Showcase and Culinary Event in Blackhawk.

Morgan sold tickets and gave out wine-glasses, while Hunt entertained the children.



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