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Davis founder of Myanmar children's group gives talk

Daily Democrat

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The Myanmar Children's Foundation, a local nonprofit organization, will tell about its efforts to improve the lives of disadvantaged children in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, in an upcoming talk in Woodland.

Children's Foundation co-founder Max Harrington will give a presentation about his experience working with an orphanage in Myanmar at the Woodland Senior Center on at 10:30 a.m. Friday.

The MCF, a nonprofit organization, was founded in Davis in January 2007 and has since constructed a new classroom building for an orphanage in Myanmar, sponsored 55 at-risk children to stay in school, and trained and placed three volunteer teachers to teach English in poor rural areas.

In the talk, Harrington, a 2002 Davis High School and 2006 UC San Diego graduate, will also discuss his experiences living in Myanmar, one of Asia's poorest and least visited countries which is located between India, China, and Thailand. He will also discuss how people in the United States can get involved in helping to improve the lives of children in Myanmar.

Later that same day, Friday, the MCF will hold its first-ever movie night at the Davis International House, at 10 College Park, at 7 p.m. First, attendees can watch "People of the Lake,"

a one-hour documentary that tells about the annual Paung Daw Oo Buddhist Festival and the famous one-legged rowers and floating gardens of Inle Lake, one of Myanmar's most beautiful attractions.

Following, photo exhibits from Myanmar and MCF's work there will be on display, and a raffle,



MCF volunteer Lin instructs students at the orphanage assisted by the MCF in writing letters, which were exchanged with students at a private school in the country's main city, Yangon, in a pen-pal exchange program. The cards gave the students at the orphanage a chance to practice their English, draw for the first time with colored pencils, and to make a friend in Yangon, a city that none of the children in the rural area have ever visited. (Courtesy)

silent auction, and art sale will raise funding for MCF's programs. Drinks and light refreshments will be served, and

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children are welcome.

The presentation at the Senior Center is free, while a \$10 (adult), \$5 (children under 12), \$25 (family) admission fee is requested for the movie night. Proceeds will go directly to MCF projects in Myanmar.

For more information, including on joining as an event or silent auction sponsor, visit the foundation's web site at

<http://www.myanmarchildrensfoundation.org> or contact Max Harrington at (858) 205-0170 or max@myanmarchildrensfoundation.org.

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