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In Memory

Wilma Mae Steele Connor



Wilma Mae Steele Connor, known by family and friends for her wisdom, wit, and global perspective, passed away peacefully on January 31, 2011, in the beautiful home she built in Lafayette with her late husband, Joseph Connor. She was 92.

Wilma was born in a farmhouse in Thurston, Nebraska on March 22, 1918. She spent her early years on farms in the Midwest and then her family migrated to Seattle. She graduated from West Seattle High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington in 1939. She birthed four children from 1940 to 1955. Wilma actively participated in the local Democratic Club and Parent Teacher Associations. She also enjoyed performing in several plays in the Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. She earned her teaching credential from the University of California Berkeley in 1966. She taught English and Journalism at Alhambra High School in Martinez from 1966 to 1985.

Wilma enjoyed creating a beautiful garden and an inviting, artistic home. She greeted everyone with enthusiasm and interest. She appreciated and inspired family and friends in her Lafayette home for 63 years. Her amazing capacity to educate and nurture will be missed forever.

She loved reading the New York Times and relished new books. Ever the optimist, she received her latest order of five books a mere six days before she passed away from cancer.

Wilma is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and her brother, Robert Steele. Her children: daughter Sandra Thais Connor; daughter Tara Ross; daughter Shelley O'Connor; and son Joe Connor. Her grandchildren: Brad Ross; Lisa Ross, Beth Ross; Ryan Ross; Erin Nelson; Jarett Nelson and Mirabel Connor. Her great-grandchildren: Tristen Ross; Brooklyn Ross; Gabrielle Ross; Imani Ross; Nevah Spettigue-Ross and Leo Spettigue-Ross.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 20, 2011, at the Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street in Lafayette.

Wilma appreciated how much the George Miller Center has enriched the life of her daughter, Sandra. In lieu of flowers, donations in Wilma's honor to the George Miller Center Concord Campus, 3020 Grant Street, Concord, California 94520, would be preferred.

Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Kiwanis Club Presents Donation to EFO

Submitted by Sandra McGonigle



Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley representative, Bruce Berman, presented a check for \$2,500 to members of the Educational Foundation of Orinda, EFO. The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley follows its mission "to serve the children of the world" as proud supporters of the Orinda schools. This donation helps EFO achieve its goal of raising \$1.5 million to support K-12 students at all six Orinda schools this year.

From left: Jill Morris, Bruce Berman and Joan Kiekhaefer, EFO President
 Photo provided

Lafayette Girl Scouts Celebrate 10 Years

Submitted by Chrissa Ventrelle (written by Colleen McCarty)



From left; top row: Bronwyn Hutchison, Kennedy Bloom, Janie Hofmeister, Carolyn Cole; bottom row: Erin Wurgley, Krista Federas, Samya Faiq, Emily Hopper.
 Photo Sandra Patterson

Young women in this community have their time so Lafayette Girl Scouts is proud to acknowledge the following girls for many choices about how to spend to acknowledge the following girls for com-

pleting 10 years in Scouting:
TROOP 31042, led by Geni Federas & Linda Bailey: Bronwyn Hutchison, Erin Wurgley, Krista Federas, & Caroline Colvin
TROOP 31883, led by Mary Ilyin & Barbara Cole: Janie Hofmeister, Carolyn Cole, & Kennedy Bloom
TROOP 30632, led by Marguerite Brackett: Emily Hopper & Samya Faiq
TROOP 32913, led by Laura Gambel & Karen Thapa: Emily Svensson, Julia Fel-lows, & Annalise Baer
TROOP 31983, led by Cathy Vandenberghe: Indigo Catton, Julia Partlow & Claire DeWolf
JULIETTE: Stephanie Burr

These girls have enjoyed ten years of making friends, providing service to others, camping, earning badges, selling cookies, learning leadership skills, and having a lot of fun! The girls were honored at the Lafayette Leader meeting on January 27th by the Lafayette Coordinating Team, Lafayette Leaders and their families.

Troop 246 Donates to SAFE

Submitted by Max Weinstein



The Boy Scouts of Moraga's Troop 246 donated over 160 stuffed animals to the Moraga Police Officers Association holiday collection drive benefiting Stuffed Animals for Emergencies. The stuffed animals are given to children in need after a disaster or tragedy.

Standing, from left: Sargent Brian South, Max Weinstein, Paul Ogle, Joe Zacharin, Charlie Chen, Officer Will Davis; in front: Jackson Hu, Ryan Baldwin
 Photo provided

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