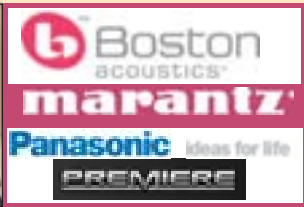


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Stepping Up to Serve the Library Foundation

By Cathy Tyson



Seth Hamalian



Suzy Pak Photos provided

Funding 53% of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's (LLC) operating expenses is no easy task. That's the role of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (Foundation), which was established to support the construction and operations of the Library with the help of only four Foundation staff members. Recently some of the original members of the Foundation Trustees stepped down: Anne Grodin, Teresa Geringer, Bret Peterson and Jack Jenkins-Stark. Seven community-minded volunteers offered to step in and fill those positions; the new Board members will play active roles on committees, fundraising and in leadership positions for upcoming events. "They are also our spokespersons in the community," said Executive Director Kathy Merchant.

The new Foundation Trustees - Victoria Bjerke, Seth Hamalian, Todd Jacobson, Sid Luckenbach, Suzy Pak, Laurie Phillips and Denise Zetter-

baum, join thirteen existing members to form a full roster of twenty - the maximum allowable.

Despite the demands of his day job as a principal of Mission Bay Development Group in San Francisco, where he is responsible for strategic planning, marketing and finance, Seth Hamalian stepped up to serve on the Foundation Board. "I felt my experience in fundraising and working with public private partnerships and redevelopment agencies could be valuable in helping the LLC to thrive," said Hamalian. "Lafayette's library is unique in that, instead relying on property taxes the way most libraries do, its operations are highly dependent on donations and the generosity of individuals and local businesses."

He adds, "I want to see the Lafayette Library and Learning Center do well because libraries hold a special place in my heart. Growing up, I spent hours in the Berkeley public library and developed my love of

reading and research there. I remember vividly the great satisfaction that came with finding locations in the stacks that contained whole new area of interest, and then pouring through that section, looking for the best books and checking out the maximum allowed on each visit. I want to tackle how, in an age of digital books and the internet, a physical space like the library can still provide that spark for a love of reading and promote intellectual curiosity. In addition, I want to build on the library's success in providing an important and unique gathering space that grows the fibers of community in Lafayette."

Fellow new board member Suzy Pak also has many demands on her time, with two young children, now in fourth and first grade respectively, a full time job with an asset management firm in San Francisco and as one of the founders of grassroots group, Lafayette for Education. "It's important to recognize that the community extends beyond school," said Pak. Her mother was a children's librarian, so she understands the importance of reading and libraries.

"The LLC has an amazing breadth and depth of services and collaborations (with the Glenn Seaborg Consortium), it's really an impressive program," said Pak, "I'm excited to be a part of it." She feels fortunate to live here and wants to make sure the library keeps going for future generations, "it's a vital part of the community."

SMC and MCC Partner to Renovate Driving Range

By Sophie Braccini



Brother Ron Gallagher (right) and Donald Maddison inaugurate the range

Photo Andy Schreck

Clear sky, crisp light, warming sun and green grass— Friday the 13th of January was a perfect day to play golf. Brother Ronald Gallagher, President of Saint Mary's College, and Moraga Country Club Board President Donald Maddison, holding their best drivers, aimed to be among the first to practice on the new driving range that reopened that morning. The men associated in play as their respective institutions associated in financing the complete renovation of the driving range that included drainage, irrigation, the addition of new sand holes, and new grass.

"We have a great relationship with the Country Club," said Scott Hardy, Saint Mary's College (SMC) golf coach, "the students practice here all the time; it's a win-win for my team." "We helped the financing of the range's renovation with the fees we pay to

the Club," added Gallagher, who also said that it was nice to see the range reopen after almost four months.

Frank Melon, the Moraga Country Club's (MCC) Executive Director, agreed, "We are very proud to have the students practice here," he said, "the members enjoy seeing them around, the kids are always very polite when they come here, and we follow their results. Saint Mary's had a very successful golf season last year."

Hardy indicated that the golf team has 11 students, most of them on scholarship and coming from all over, from South California to Norway. "We won two games last year," said Hardy, "one at Notre Dame and one at Firestone. Our present rank is 28th out of 300 teams and we hope to improve our ranking this year."

Mark Orr, SMC's Director of

Athletics, came to the inauguration still beaming from the previous night's win by the basketball team against Gonzaga by a merciless 83-62. "The golf team has been practicing here for almost 20 years," he said, "there is no place to practice on campus, this partnership works very well for us."

On the day of its reopening, the new range's grass looked a bit thinly sown. "This is normal for this type of grass," said Luis Ballesteros who, according to Melon, is the best golf superintendent in the nation, "we used a mix of Bermuda grass and perennial rye to create a drought resistant field that will recover and grow fast all summer long."

Melon indicated that MCC and SMC had just signed a renewed agreement for the next 20 years—a partnership that clearly seems to work for both parties.



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