

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Cub Scout Campfire Kick-off

Submitted by Charles Reagan



Photo provided

Cub Scout Pack 200 representing the Springhill neighborhood of Lafayette kicked off the new scout year with a September campfire meeting at the Twin Canyons Girl Scout Camp. At the meeting new Tiger Cub Scouts (first graders) were welcomed to the organization. Returning scouts were awarded badges for summertime accomplishments. Parents learned of upcoming planned scouting outings and activities. All scouts and parents were trained on the nuances of BSA Popcorn Fundraising Sales by two-time popcorn sales

leader Jackson Steele. And, of course, the campfire program included a flag ceremony and campfire singing. Photo shows Assistant Cubmaster Paul Mason, Wolf Scout Cole Mason, and Bear Scouts Chase Caicedo and Cameron Bodel preparing to lead a Pack 200 campfire song. Nonprofit organizations interested in renting out the Twin Canyons campsite (or other Girl Scout organization sites) can do so at: <http://www.girlscoutsnorcal.org/camp-and-properties/reserve-a-property>.

### Students Share Pumpkin Carving Skills with Seniors

Submitted by Rochelle Holbrook



Photo provided

Residents at Atria Lafayette were joined by 33 St. Perpetua School students Oct. 7 who carved pumpkins for the residents. A good time was had by all.

### Campo Leo Club Supports the Moraga Education Foundation

Submitted by Bob Murtagh



From left, Campolindo High School principal John Walker, Leo president Emma Archangel, Leo vice president Sam Heckle, and Lions advisor John Baitx. Photo provided

The Campolindo Leo Club presented a check for \$250 Oct. 7 to Campolindo High School Principal John Walker for the Moraga Education Foundation. This is the seventh year the Leo Club has made a donation to MEF. The Leo Club is sponsored by the Lamorinda Lions Club and is a service organization which in the past year has provided Contra Costa

County with over 800 hours of service. Members of the club have recently been seen working at the Fourth of July at the Commons, Pear Festival at the Commons and the pancake breakfast at the Moraga Fire House on Oct. 4. Working with MOFD staff the Lions Club event raised over \$2,000 for the Alisa Ann Rush Burn Foundation.

## TEEN SCENE

### An Ocean Away

By Konnie Guo

Teenagers form a large community not only in Lamorinda, but all around the world. In the populous country of China, teens are an especially major part of society. During my summer visit to Shanghai, China, I had the opportunity to find out what life of a Chinese teen is like. Lamorinda and Shanghai are separated by over 6,000 miles, and while teenagers in both areas have drastic differences, they also share surprising similarities.

Every high school student stresses out about getting into the right college, and in China, the pressure is even greater. The college application process is highly competitive, requiring dedication, diligence, and determination. For most teens, their college acceptance rests on a single exam: the National College Entrance Examination, or "gao kao." Once they have received their results, students must apply to only three schools to which they send their scores. According to 19-year-old Chinese student Wei Shen, "I was very worried that I would not score high enough on the exam to get into the college I wanted." Luckily, Shen did extremely well and is currently studying to become an airplane engineer.

Additionally, in mainland China (not including Taiwan or Hong Kong), major websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are banned. While it is still a common sight to see teenagers toting around their iPhones, they have to resort to other forms of social media and entertainment.

Moraga teen Yurika Kazama explains, "Facebook is used so ubiquitously nowadays

that it has practically become an essential form of communication." Luckily for Kazama, if she were ever to visit China, she would find plenty of alternatives. For example, the app WeChat is becoming increasingly popular as a method of contact, acting as a substitute to its American counterpart, Facebook messenger.

Chinese teens are undoubtedly miles apart from those in Lamorinda, both figuratively and literally. However, there is a trait that makes every teenager in the world connected to each other—we're teens! So, while we can examine all the differences of living in China, the undeniable bond of simply being a teenager makes us just one step closer.



Konnie Guo is a senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda where she is a member of Club BTSYA. She is an avid reader, and during her spare time, enjoys playing the piano and doing volunteer work.

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

## Celebrations

### Moraga Native Laurie Schroeder Marries Philip Callen



Laurie Schroeder and Philip Callen were married at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda on April 12, 2014, with a reception following at Claremont Country Club. Laurie, the daughter of Fred and Marla Schroeder, grew up in Moraga and graduated from Campolindo High School and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. She received her MFA in Classical Acting from the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Phil, the son of Ron and Carolyn Callen of Lansing, Mich., graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. The couple met in New York City when they were cast as Lord and Lady Capulet in "Romeo and Juliet." Coincidentally, the production also featured Elizabeth Romanski, Laurie's lifelong friend from Moraga, as Lady Montague. Phil and Laurie were honored to have Elizabeth and another longtime friend, Jim Amos of Minneapolis, serve as Maid of Honor and Best Man in their wedding. In addition to acting, Laurie is a Medical Educator at the New York Institute of Technology, training doctors and medical students in the art of interpersonal communication. Phil has acted extensively in both Minneapolis and New York City and is CEO of the Tapemark Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament in St. Paul, an event benefiting people throughout Minnesota with developmental disabilities. Laurie and Phil make their home in New York City.

## Position Available: Sports Reporter

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a sports reporter to cover a variety of high school, college and club sports. A journalism background and understanding of AP Style is helpful, but not required.

Please send your resume and writing sample to [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com) or call (925) 377-0977; \$50-\$75 per published article.

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### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.