

Grateful Moraga Couple Applauds MOFD Response

By Nick Marnell



Tom and Millicent McCormack

Photo Andy Scheck

At about 2 a.m. on Dec. 22, Moraga Bluffs resident Tom McCormack was sitting on his bed and he said that he couldn't breathe. "He told me to call 911," said his wife, Millicent. According to the dispatch records of that night's emergency call, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District crew arrived in 11 minutes and they immediately commenced continuous positive airway pressure therapy, a procedure used for years by fire departments and other emergency service providers.

"My husband fought them over the mask they tried to put on his face," said McCormack. She and

the paramedics convinced her husband that wearing the mask would probably save his life.

The mask that the paramedics strap over the patient's nose and mouth attaches to a tube connected to the ambulance oxygen supply. For many patients who have trouble breathing, like McCormack's husband, slamming a mask against their face seems counterintuitive. Convincing the patient to allow the intrusion of that mask is often a stressful aspect of the emergency call, according to firefighter-paramedic Dave Iman.

The crew bundled up the patient and carried him into the ambulance

and drove him to Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek, where he spent two days in the intensive care unit before he was released.

"The MOFD crew knew what they were doing. The Kaiser doctor said that the crew saved my husband's life with the use of that mask," said McCormack.

"I can't say if we saved his life, but with the mask the patient was definitely better off," said firefighter-paramedic Andrew Leach.

McCormack says: "We're all in the 'departure lounge' of life. None of us know whose plane is taking off first. I'm just grateful to God that I still have my Tom."

'A Brilliant Young Mind'

By Sophie Braccini



sions of love. His father, who was the only one able to connect with him and make him laugh, was killed in a car accident when he was little. Nathan's mother, longing to share emotions with her son, has more difficulty. Sally Hawkins who plays the mother gives a very subtle interpretation of her role. She is vulnerable, well intended and fragile. The depiction of her struggle to live a full life as a woman and a mother is shown with compassion, but could have been more developed.

Butterfield as Nathan is as socially challenged as expected, but with a charm and candor that connects with the audience. His difficulties to make sense of love, his fears and blockings are more moving than awkward, and one ends up feeling empathy for the young man.

Some scenes in the movie are funny; others are quite dramatic. As Nathan joins the group of young mathematicians in Taipei, he meets another boy on the spectrum. Nathan is never abused or taunted, while the other boy is. His oddities are not as charming somehow. What ensues makes the spectator wonder what society accepts and supports when it comes to eccentricity. Is one accepted because he is cuter, quieter, or more submissive to the norm? Audience members will find the end both moving and heart-warming.

"A Brilliant Young Mind" is part of the Orinda International Film Showcase and will run for one week beginning Jan. 29 at the Orinda Theatre. Beginning its sixth year, the showcase has been bringing premieres of foreign films selected by Efi Lubliner and Jo Alice Canterbury to Orinda. "A Brilliant Young Mind" will be a Bay Area premiere.

Understanding the inner workings of a teenage mind on the autistic spectrum is not easy, but in "A Brilliant Young Mind," British director Morgan Matthews manages to lift a corner of the veil, exposing the world of a young math genius on the spectrum, and allowing the audience to feel that they can reach out to this young man and accompany him on his journey. While the film, at times, tries a little too hard to manipulate the audience's emotions, this small weakness is amply compensated by the sensitive and remarkable performances of all of the actors involved.

Nathan (Asa Butterfield) is a teenage boy who was diagnosed

with autism at a young age. Lacking the ability to understand emotions, he instead has an exceptional gift for mathematics. Nathan finds the security he needs in numbers and predictable sequences, and he says that there is nothing he likes more than mathematics. The young boy works with a private professor and is selected to go to Taipei, Taiwan, to train with other youth who want to be selected for the International Mathematical Olympiad. There he meets a Chinese girl mathematician, Zhang Mei, and is faced with a different type of challenge.

Throughout the movie, Nathan struggles with expres-

Photo provided

A BRILLIANT YOUNG MIND

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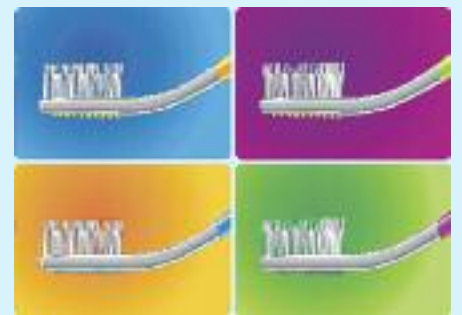
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In Memory

WILLIAM REGINALD SHEPHERD, JR., 83



William (Bill) Reginald Shepherd, Jr. of Lafayette, California passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 17, 2016 after a long and valiant battle against Parkinson's Disease. Bill was born in Fargo, North Dakota to Zoe and William Shepherd, Sr. and spent his childhood in Pittsburg, California.

Bill had a successful career in the auto business as the owner of several car dealerships, including Shepherd Chevrolet, Shepherd Volkswagen, Shepherd Pontiac, and Shepherd Honda/Suzuki. He was given his love of cars by his father who owned Chevrolet dealerships in Pittsburg and Antioch. Young Bill washed windows at his father's dealership and took note of how to run a successful business. In 1990, Bill was honored by being named Time Magazine's Car Dealer of the Year.

Bill graduated from Acalanes High School (1951) and attended Stanford University and University of Oregon, earning his degree in 1955. During college, Bill enlisted in the Air Force and served four years as a Reservist.

Bill was introduced to the love of his life, Mary Jo Miller, by dear friends while water skiing on the Sacramento River. Their meeting was "love at first sight", and the two married three months later in 1961. Soon after their marriage, they started to grow their family and had four boys in the span of six years. Life was full, fun and exciting with summers spent on the lake at Tahoe and winter weekends spent skiing at Squaw Valley. Bill and Mary Jo loved raising their family in Lafayette and took great pride in all that their boys achieved. When asked how they happened to have four boys who were all so tall, they replied, "A lot of love." Bill had a generous nature and welcomed strangers as if they were family. He took a genuine interest in the lives of others and enjoyed sharing stories into the wee hours of the morning.

Bill enjoyed boating on Lake Tahoe and acquired several antique wooden boats over the years. He was able to enjoy rides on the lake last summer, which was a highlight during his final year. Bill and Mary Jo loved traveling together, entertaining, spending time with friends, dining at Trader Vic's, vacationing in Hawaii, cheering on the Golden Bears, celebrating Christmas, and skiing. As a couple, they hardly spent a day apart. It was rare to find Bill without a book in his hand, as he was an avid reader. Bill enjoyed hunting and the outdoors. He was also a supporter of Boy Scouts, proudly leading all four sons to receive their Eagle Scout award.

Above all, Bill loved his family. Family was the center of his life. He was an incredibly devoted and caring husband, a loving and supportive father, and a dedicated "Grampy" to his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Mary Jo of 55 years; his sister Nancy Hudson of Alamo; his sons William, Robert (Kimberly), Richard (Lisa), and James (Jennifer). He is also survived by his ten grandchildren: Katherine, Morgan, Kristoffer, Anne, Elizabeth, Amanda, Jeffrey, John, Matthew and Sarah.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Vic Guterrez for his loving care and support of Bill and Mary Jo during Bill's illness. We will forever appreciate the loving friendship he shared with Bill.

Bill will be remembered for his kindness, ready smile, saint-like patience, quick one-liners and humor, captivating storytelling, genuine character, and warm personality. Bill's sons and grandchildren will continue his legacy while holding their cherished father and grandfather in their hearts.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, February 5, 2016 at 4:00 PM at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church (49 Knox Drive, Lafayette). A celebration of Bill's life will follow immediately at Orinda Country Club (315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda).

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Bill's honor may be made to The Friends of Cal Crew - 10 Clay Street, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94607 or by visiting <http://calcrew.com/donate.html>