

## Help Make Cinch Bags for Needy Men and Women

Submitted by Maram Bata



Photo provided

Twelve women of the Interfaith Women Circle 2, as part of Neighbor to Neighbor initiative of the Contra Costa Interfaith Council, wanted to do a small positive thing to offset some of the negative aspects in the world around them. So they decided to make purses for women without homes.

The women brought 12 items and they assembled them into purses and handed them off to women without homes in the streets to let them know they cared.

Then some of the women advertised at their work and on Nextdoor.com, and they received generous donations that filled 90 purses, which they gave to Trinity Center and women without homes living in Oakland.

They were inspired by the overwhelming positive response from the community and the generous donations. From the input from the shelters they found out that there is a need for men bags too and women do not prefer purses so they decided light draw string (cinch) bags will be great for both this year. The women also learned that the preferred word is not homeless, it is person without a home or person in transition, to give hope it is just a phase in their life.

The women will be making the cinch bags from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6 at the Walnut Creek Islamic Center, 2449 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. The cinch bags will be distributed to men and women without homes throughout Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

The Interfaith Women Circle 2 is asking to spread the word to employers, friends and faith communities.

### How to Help:

Bring your donated items (and a friend!) and join the fun in assembling cinch bags.

OR drop the items at 1 Kenmore Ct, Orinda or at Coldwell Banker, 5 Moraga Way, Orinda.

Items to Donate: Cinch bags, tooth brushes and toothpaste, hand/boot warmers, panchos, deodorant, travel-size lotion, sunscreen, disposable razors and shaving cream, flash lights and batteries, gloves, socks, warm hats and scarves, tee-shirts, feminine sanitary products, wipes/hand sanitizer (travel size), uplifting notes, soap, shampoo (travel size), nutritional bars, nuts, raisins, gum, leftover Halloween candy, Band-aids, lipstick/lip balm.

## Moms go Viral – Sort of — With Karpool Karaoke for Hillary

Submitted by Mimi Bommarito



Photo provided

The Karpool Karaoke for Hillary gang.

One look at this Carpool Karaoke for Hillary video tells you two things: 1. This is not done by professionals, and 2. These women are having fun.

The two versions of the “Karpool Karaoke” video were posted on Facebook after the second presidential debate on Sunday, Oct. 9, and the positive response has been overwhelming. As of today, the two versions have a combined 25,000 hits, which is not all that much by Facebook standards, but still significant.

“We just couldn’t NOT do this,” said writer Mimi Bommarito of Orinda. She and fellow collaborator Leslie Darwin O’Brien (driver’s seat, next to Mimi) have written and

performed humorous Meadow Moms’ Skit Nights for the last eight years, much to their offspring’s mortification, at Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, during OMPA spirit week. “This is an election where we just can’t keep quiet and hope everything will work out for the best,” she added.

Other Orindans in for the joy ride are (front seat, passenger side) Melissa Matoesian Taylor, (back seat, left to right) Betsy Shandalov, Nicole Radlow (who was also part of Leslie and Mimi’s infamous “Jiggle Butt Rock” holiday video on YouTube) and Julia Stenzel.

For more information, contact Mimi Bommarito at 925-818-7068.

## Lafayette Rotary Club is Giving Back

Submitted by Matt Pease

The Lafayette Rotary Club celebrated its support for school music and performing arts programs in the Lafayette and Oakland areas with the proceeds from its 22nd annual Concert at the Res.

Participating schools in this year’s concert included Acalanes High School, Stanley Intermediate, Bentley, and Oakland’s Westlake Middle School.

Also participating were the Rossmoor Big Band featuring musicians age 14 to 92, the Lamorinda Theatre Academy, Dominant 7 Jazz ensemble and the Town Hall Troupe.

The Lafayette Rotary supports local school bands and performing arts organizations and provides a venue for them to perform on the beautiful Lafayette Reservoir stage.

Proceeds and donations from individuals and local businesses for the event are used to support these school music and performing arts programs. The concerts are free to the community and are produced with the volun-

teer efforts of many of the Lafayette Rotary Club members.

“We have been delighted to support these programs for many years and we have seen how the Concert at the Res program has become such an important event for these programs and an enjoyable experience for the Lamorinda communities” said Rotarian Dick Holt, who conceived of such a concert to be held at the Lafayette Reservoir 23 years ago and has been assisted in this annual production by his fellow Rotarians.

“The goal of Rotary is Service above Self and the Concert at the Res and the community stage are great examples of the impact Rotary can make in the community” said Norma Evans, president of the Lafayette Rotary Club. The Lafayette Rotary Club meets weekly at Oakwood Athletic Club from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays and first-time visitors are invited to join for lunch. For more information contact Lafayette Rotary at info@rotarylafayette.org.

## Lions and Leos Help See the Good

Submitted by Robert Murtagh



From left, Ray Cassabonne, Moraga Lions Club President; Brigitte Marinier, Vice president Campolindo Leo Club; Carl Langhorst, Lions in Sight Coordinator; Morgan Scaln, President, Campolindo Leo Club; Lion Bob Murtagh, Leo Club Advisor. Photo provided

On Oct. 16, Moraga Lions and Campolindo Leo’s met at the Station 42 firehouse to sort and clean approximately 2,500 donated used eyeglasses. This is the 12th year that the two Moraga services clubs have undertaken this important mission of Lions International.

Once cleaned and sorted the eyeglasses will be sent to the next process of determining the prescription. After that, they are

ready for distribution to the needy in developing countries. The Lions Clubs in Northern California hope to have a shipment of 50,000 used eyeglasses ready for shipment to El Salvador in March.

Eyeglass collection sites in Moraga are located at 5A Storage, Hacienda de las Flores, and Mechanic’s Bank (Safeway). To learn more about Lions and Leo’s, contact Bob Murtagh, 925 283 1841.

## Teens Take a Visit to Mad City Money

Submitted by Jocelyn Coolbaugh



Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Teens learn about money the fun way. Photo provided

The Acalanes Area and Walnut Creek chapters of National Charity League, Inc. recently sponsored an event called Mad City Money. They partnered with Travis Credit Union to teach basic skills of personal finance to teens in a fun, safe and hands-on simulation.

Each participant was given a career, monthly salary and family situation. They learned about credit scores, how to write and balance a checkbook, with the goal of being able to balance a monthly budget of life essentials. The “catch” was as they visited these life essential booths, such as food, clothing, transportation, travel and mall purchases, volunteers were trying to up-sell them things— just like adults have to face every day with ads, salespeople and promotions.

In the end, when some teens were asked what they learned, the consensus was “live within your means.” We could all learn from that!

## Orinda Veterans Remember Okinawa

Submitted by Tom Gardner



From left, veterans Bill Cooper and Bob Maynard will be raising money for veterans organizations this year. Photo provided

The imminent release of the film “Hacksaw Ridge” will portray the 1945 Battle of Okinawa unlike any movie since World War II. A pair of longtime Orindans remember it very well as they witnessed it as teenagers.

Former Marine Bob Maynard was drafted in 1943 and served as a radio crew chief. Bill Cooper, a decades-long Scoutmaster of BSA Troop 237, was drafted into the Army in 1943. He served as a Combat Infantryman in several major Pacific battles, including being on the next ridge over from Hacksaw

Ridge during that battle. For the past seven years, they have been raising funds for local veteran’s charities as part of the VFW Buddy Poppy effort.

In honor of Veterans Day, they’ll occupy a corner of the Bank of America building in Orinda Village for an effort benefiting Lamorinda VFW Post 8063, from 9 a.m. until noon, on Thursday Nov. 3 and Friday, Nov. 4. Proceeds benefit the Palo Alto Polytrauma Clinic, the Concord Vet Center, and many other veteran’s charities.



From left: Bob Athayde, Randy Porter, Ken Berman, Dick Holt, Judy Haxo, Ginny Wehrmeister, Rena Wilson, Maurice Levich and Dennis Garrison. Photo Andy Scheck