

New Local Girl Scout Cadettes Learn 'Gift of Giving Back'

Submitted by Jennifer Strohmeyer



Several of the new Cadette Girl Scouts from Troop 33077 raised money with the help of Kenny Lin, the CC Cafe manager.

As part of the journey to their Bronze Award, local Girl Scouts planned, developed and executed a "take action" project designed to increase the awareness of the impacts of non-biodegradable plastics on the ecosystem.

The girls are Havana Wesley, Jiselle Sicilia, Molly Strohmeyer, Laura Bea, Sofia Vezzali, Skylar Thomas, Katie Fink, Adriana Medina, Mehrunisa Kam, Helen O'Neal.

The girls met to discuss ways to reduce the use of disposable plastic straws and brought further awareness by sponsoring a booth at the Lafayette Earth Day celebration.

In addition the girls learned what it means to be a Girl Scout: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed."

Through one Cadette's volunteering at the Walnut Creek Senior Center, they discovered a need and wanted to help. They used money they earned through fundraising to purchase and donate a new commercial coffee maker and supplies for the center. One of the most important lessons the girls learned is the "gift of giving back." Through these activities, they feel empowered to make themselves and the world a better place.

Lamorinda Thespians Take a Run 'Into the Woods'

Submitted by Laura Soble



Acalanes students performing in the YMTC production of "Into the Woods" are, from left, Fiona Warburton, Gracie Guichard, Michaela Sasner, and Joel Braunstein.

Four Acalanes High School students are expanding their acting chops from Lamorinda as they are performing in the Berkeley-based Youth Musical Theater Company Performance of "Into the Woods," playing through Nov. 19.

The students are Fiona Warburton, who plays the Witch, Gracie Guichard, who plays Cinderella, Michaela Sasner, who plays the Baker's Wife and Joel Braunstein, who plays

a Wood Sprite/Villager/and understudies Rappunzel's Prince and Jack.

YMTC provides professional level musical theater training for young people seventh-grade through university age from all over the Bay Area.

The show is being performed at the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. For tickets and information, visit www.ymtcbayarea.org.

World-class Czech Violinists Perform in Orinda

Submitted by Ludwig Mlynek

The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, Sokol SF and Bay Czech presented on Oct. 27 the Concert for 8 Strings in Orinda. The concert was performed by the outstanding Czech violinists Jaroslav Svěcený and his daughter Julie Svěcená. Mr. Svěcený is one of the most notable contemporary Czech violinists. His daughter Julie, born in 1994, has performed on many occasions in the U.S., Great Britain, where she is currently taking advanced studies at the Royal Academy of Music, and in almost all European countries — and now finally in Orinda.

In the Concert for 8 Strings they perfectly executed duets, including pieces from Mozart, Luigi Boccherini, George Telemann

and others. The concert was concluded with the overture from "Le nozze di Figaro," ("The Marriage of Figaro,") where Jaroslav and Julie Svěcenýs sounded like a full orchestra, for which the overture was originally composed.

The audience was captivated by the performance of the father/daughter team, and it won't be the first such activity in the coming year. The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation announced that 2017 is the "Year of the Czech," in Orinda, and one of the activities will be a celebration of Czech heritage and culture in Orinda Community Park from Sept., 29 through Oct. 1, 2017.

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 may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Acalanes Student Sells Golden Shoelaces to Fight Cancer

Submitted by Melinda Krigel



Acalanes cheer and football squads wore gold laces to fight cancer. Photo Gint Federas

Gold laces are popping up all around the East Bay area as local athletes Lace Up 4 Pediatric Cancer® to support kids with cancer being treated at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Acalanes High School Senior Molly Davis took this initiative to heart last year and got many of her school's and other local teams to Lace Up in Go4theGoal's Gold Laces to support the partnership with the hospital.

In 2016, Molly's determination was stronger than ever to get as many local teams going gold as she can, including soccer, football, cheerleaders, and even water polo. On Nov. 4 at Acalanes High School Acalanes and Miramonte High Schools' Varsity Football teams had their last regular football game of the season. Both teams and the Acalanes' cheerleaders were laced Up in Go4theGoal's gold laces.

This initiative is near and dear to Molly's heart because when Molly was 8-years-old,

her 12-year-old brother was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and was treated at UCSF Benioff Oakland. Molly knows firsthand how important the hospital's therapy and support programs are for not only the patients, but their families as well. The psychology program at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland helped Molly cope while her brother was in treatment and continues to provide support to this day. Funds from the sale of laces will go towards funding psychological intervention at the hospital for patients and families going through the toughest time of their lives.

Proceeds from the sale of the laces and 100 percent of any donations will go towards funding psychological intervention at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland for patients and families. To order laces, visit Go4theGoal.org or donate to Molly's online fundraising page at www.donate.go4thegoal.org/mollydonations.

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Honors Four New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Carolyn Stewart



Left to right, new Eagle Scouts Sam Sernett, Justin Lammert, Jesse Wilkinson and Connor Stewart. Photo Tracey Millham

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda members Justin Lammert, Sam Sernett, Connor Stewart and Jesse Wilkinson, all seniors at Miramonte High School, achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and celebrated their Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Orinda Community Church. Former Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented the awards.

Troop 237, chartered by the Orinda Community Church, has served Orinda for 60 years and has seen over 230 of its young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

Justin, as the Consul Officer of the Miramonte High School Latin Club, designed a trophy display case for this nationally award-winning club. Sam, former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 237, led the creation of customized, age-appropriate Lego kits for the homeless children in transitional housing at Shelter Inc.'s Antioch facility.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Connor researched, constructed and installed four bat houses on 16-foot cedar posts near the Wagner Ranch Nature Area pond in Orinda. Jesse provided 80 Emergency Lock-Down kits for each classroom at Miramonte High School. Each kit contains first aid supplies, water, food, toilet paper, large plastic bags, and a toilet seat in a five-gallon bucket with a lid.

For more information about Troop 237, visit www.troop237orinda.com.

Local Boy Scout Seeks Used Camping Gear for Libraries

Submitted by Matthew Goldie

Matthew Goldie, a member of Boy Scout Troop 204, is collecting, cleaning and repairing used camping gear for the Bay Area Wilderness Training gear libraries as his Eagle Scout Project.

These libraries offer an efficient system for supplying camping gear and supplies alongside necessary wilderness training to urban youth programs throughout the East Bay.

He is accepting all camping gear donations dropped off to the collection contain-

ers at the following locations before Sunday, Nov. 27: the Troop 204 Cabin at the corner of School Street and First Street in Lafayette, and the sewnow! Fashion Studio, 3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. (2-6 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.)

Donors can clear their garages of used camping gear in good condition and receive a tax deductible receipt for an amount they specify.

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, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.