

2018 National Charity League Class honored

Submitted by Terri Konsella



Photo Juleen Lapporte

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League held its annual Senior Recognition celebration honoring its 25 graduating Ticktockers. The annual celebration at The Claremont Club and Spa marked the culmination of the NCL senior class' service to the community. These dedicated young women have been involved with the mother-daughter philanthropic organization since they were in the seventh grade, and collectively volunteered more than 5,000 hours over the past six years.

NCL's Lamorinda Chapter supports many local nonprofit organizations through its mission to foster mother-daughter relationships in a philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership

development and cultural experiences.

A special thank you goes to Stri Zulch and Meagan Hagglund for co-chairing this memorable event, as well as co-presidents Roxy Klein and Stacy Crinks.

Members of the Class of 2018 include from left, front row(s): Ariella Zulch, Annie Midthun, Frankie Veverka, Rachel Brickman, Laurel Weikert, Caitlin Goldsmith, Azalea Kim, Sidney Vranesh, Katie Klein, Madison McDonagh, Ryan Hagglund, Ashley Holbrook; middle row: Ashley Dunn, Caroline Ricksen, Jessalyn Simon-Parker, Kathleen Immel, Kate Marvin; and back row: Emma Wiley, Emily Barlow, Carolyn Gagan, Erin Neustrom, Isabella Wentzel, Anna Heckler, Katrina Drake, Elizabeth Odell.

Lions Club recycles used glasses to help those in third world countries

Submitted by Fred George

Lions Club International, which sponsors used glasses recycling and sends used glasses to third world countries, has 12 pickup locations in the Lamorinda area. The glasses are sent to a warehouse in Vallejo, where they are cleaned, sorted by prescription and then placed in envelopes for shipment on the next Lions' glasses mission to deliver them to poor people in Central

America, South America and Africa. Lions had 10 such missions last year to these various countries. Moraga Lions Club member Fred George said he personally went on one mission to El Salvador, where 2,200 people who could not afford glasses were outfitted in the little town of Zacatecoluca. Eleven Lions members from all over the United States went, including three optometrists.

The pickup points in the Lamorinda area are as follows:

Lafayette:

Lamorinda Optometry, 3581 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Jeremy Ensor Optometry, 284 Lafayette Circle
Optometry Store, 958 Moraga Blvd.

Moraga:

Rheem Valley Cleaners, 568 Center Street (Rheem)
5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Suite F (Rheem)
The UPS Store, 1409 Moraga Road, Suite 1
Moraga Hardware and Lumber, 1409 Moraga Way
Mechanic's Bank (inside Safeway) 1355 Moraga Way
Moraga Optometry, 1001 Country Club Drive, Suite E
Professional Eyecare, 1030 Country Club Drive, Suite A

Orinda

Optometrists, 20 Orinda Way
Orinda Association offices below Orinda Library

Celebrations

Local student named California National Geographic State Bee semifinalist

Submitted by Jill Marek



Lafayette sixth-grader Ben Marek was notified by the National Geographic Society that he is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2018 California National Geographic State Bee. The contest will be held April 6 at Cal State University, Fresno.

At the school Bees this year, students had to answer questions like these: The Appalachian Mountains run through which

state—Georgia or Mississippi? (A: Georgia); and The North Platte and South Platte Rivers meet in which state—New Mexico or Nebraska? (A: Nebraska).

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 30th year. School Bees were held in schools with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the State Bees.

Visit www.natgeobee.org for more information on the National Geographic Bee.

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.

Orinda Troop 303 honors three new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Cathy Lambert



From left: Liam Glynn, Walker Lambert, and Evan Drager.

Photos provided



The Challenger flag is returned to Troop 514 on Dec. 18, 1986 by astronaut Guy Bluford (second from right) in a formal ceremony at Falcon Air Force Base, Colo.

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda inducted three new Eagle Scouts – Liam Glynn, Evan Draeger and Walker Lambert – at an Eagle Court of Honor March 17 at St. Stephens Church in Orinda. To earn this highest advancement rank in Scouting, Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills, complete at least 21 merit badges and organize and lead a service project benefiting his community. These three Miramonte High School seniors joined the less than 4 percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

For his Eagle Scout project, Glynn refurbished a stairway and railing at Orinda Oaks Park. The project included 12 Scouts who contributed over 160 volunteer hours and included planning, materials sourcing, budgeting, city approvals, excavating 31 steps over a 70-linear-foot area, prepping the area and reinstalling new steps/dirt, and sanding/painting related handrails. The project improved safety and accessibility to the park, while educating the young Scouts about construction, restoration through hands on learning.

Draeger planned and built a 16-foot by 4-foot footbridge over Wagner Creek in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The project involved 17 Scouts and 184 volunteer hours. Work included bridge design, site preparation, staining, bridge assembly, and final installation of the bridge and railings. It provided the Scout volunteers the opportunity to learn how to paint and use a variety of tools. This ADA-compliant bridge provides year-round access to historically-important parts of the Nature Area. It also affords, for the first time, equal access to mobility-challenged individuals.

Lambert designed and directed the installation of an automated irrigation system with a water efficient, solar-sync controller for the garden beds at his former elementary school, Wagner Ranch for his Eagle service project. This project included 19 Scouts and 178 volunteer hours spent digging 350 feet

of 12- to 18-inch-deep trenches, connecting, laying and burying irrigation pipes and elbows, and attaching fittings and drip lines for eight beds and planting areas. This project will allow the garden beds, used for math and science lessons for grades K-5, to grow and flourish year-round while greatly reducing teacher and parent volunteer time spent watering.

Among the special guests in attendance at this Eagle Court of Honor were Orinda's Vice Mayor Inga Miller, who presented each Scout with a proclamation declaring a special day to be designated in their honor and Steve Adams, committee chair from Boys Scout Troop 514 in Monument, Colo. Adams began the celebration with a presentation about the history of "United States Space Shuttle Challenger Flag" which he brought with him from Colorado. This flag was originally ordered by William Tolbert for his Troop from the Valley Forge Flag Company who had arranged for the flag to be flown briefly over the United States Capitol building in Washington, on Jan. 25, 1985. It was submitted to the NASA Johnson Space Center by the 2d Space Wing, for flight on a space shuttle. On Jan. 28, 1986, it was carried in the "official flight kit" of the Challenger space shuttle on its last flight. It was sealed in plastic and was next to some souvenir medallions being flown by one of the astronauts. As the Challenger wreckage was brought up from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, rescuers found this flag, still in its sealed plastic bag, intact and completely unscathed. The souvenir medallions had melted into a single lump.

Troop 514 is still in possession of the Challenger flag. They continue to display it for certain special public events and Eagle Courts of Honor. This special flag was used in the opening and closing of the Eagle Court with the presentation and retiring of the colors by Troop 303 Color Guard: Malcolm Tom, Graham Berger, Aidan Young, Alex Meckes and Nicolai Bell.

Fifth-grader takes 2nd in Spelling Bee



Nadia Mujaddidi, fifth grader at Del Rey Elementary School in Orinda, took second place at the countywide spelling bee on March 24.

Photo provided