

# Stanley students' thoughts on sticky notes create a wall of inspiration

Submitted by Angie Zener



Sticky notes posted on a wall poster explain what a hero is to Stanley Middle School students. Photos provided

To emphasize arts education and promote performing and visual arts at the local schools, the National PTA organization runs an art contest called the PTA Reflections Program – an arts recognition and achievement program for students first launched in 1969. National PTA organization chairwomen Yuki Fujimoto and Dina Bogan, along with Stanley Middle School PTA president Denise Cain, created an oversized poster at Stanley, posing this question to its students, “A Hero Is...,” to stimulate creative thinking around this year’s PTA Reflections theme: Heroes around me.

Hundreds of kids participated on Wednesday, Sept. 26 by posting their responses on sticky notes, such as: A Hero is ... “My birth mother for being brave to put

me up for adoption.”

The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

Stanley Middle School participates in the program each year. Last year, there were over 110 entries with one student even moving to compete at the state level. This year Fujimoto, Bogan and Cain decided to elevate the visibility of the Reflections Program.

Other activities planned for the next month will continue to encourage participation.

## New Troop 243 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Laura Levandowski



From left: Nik Levandowski and Ben Krey Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 243 in Lafayette is inducting two new Eagle Scouts – Ben Krey and Nik Levandowski – at an Eagle Court of Honor Nov. 3 at the Lafayette Christian Church. 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 plan, organize, lead and manage a service project benefiting his community.

Krey, a junior at Acalanes High School, has been active in Troop 243 since bridging from Cub Scout Pack 643 in fifth grade. For his Eagle Project Krey had an interest in building something that would last. He learned of a third-grade class in Richmond that was in need of culturally appropriate books and somewhere to store them. He raised \$400 for the purchase of books and built two sets of shelves. He delivered the

books and shelves to the classroom and was lucky enough to meet the students. He hopes this project will have a lasting impact on the classroom

Levandowski, who is a senior at Campolindo, joined Troop 243 in fifth grade after starting his scouting life as a Cub Scout in Pack 643 at Burton Valley Elementary. He learned that clothing donations to the homeless rarely include socks, and health conditions like diabetes, prevalent in the homeless population, can be further complicated without access to clean, dry socks.

For Levandowski’s Eagle Scout project, he collected over 700 pairs of clean socks and assembled toiletry bags with wipes, Band-Aids, lip balm, toothbrushes and more for the homeless population in East Oakland.

Both join the less than 4 percent of all Scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

## In Memory

### Jeanette Fritzky

Nov. 20, 1954 – Sept. 28, 2018



To say Jeanette Fritzky was a woman of many talents is quite an understatement. A devoted wife and mother, daughter sister and friend, Jeanette also found time to represent her community as a member of the Moraga Town Council.

Elected in 2016, she was the voice of stability, respect and dignity for more than two years until she passed away Friday, Sept. 28 at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek after a brief but valiant fight with cancer. Her family was at her side. She was 63 years old.

Born in Ohio, one of five siblings to Chinese diplomats, Jeanette received her BS in Pharmacy from The Ohio State

University and an MBA from Tulane University. Jeanette enjoyed a productive and rewarding career in pharmaceutical sales and marketing. She rose through the ranks of companies like Roche and Chiron to become a top pharmaceutical executive. She also formed a successful marketing consulting firm while raising a family.

In July, Jeanette was diagnosed with stage four non-small lung cancer. She resigned her post on the town council to begin cancer treatments. Her family discovered that 20 percent of new lung cancer diagnoses are in women who never smoked, and within this group, Asian woman non-smokers are at disproportionately increased risk.

Jeanette was active in the Moraga community, serving as vice president of the NorCal Lacrosse Association board, served on Moraga’s Parks & Rec Commission and for three years she served as treasurer for the Moraga Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 234. She was also an avid Oakland A’s fans.

She is survived by her husband Bob and four adult children Zac, (daughter-in-law Lindsey), Patrick, Lindsay, Ann and two grandchildren, Auden and Asher.

A memorial walk and tribute in Jeanette’s memory will be held Saturday, Oct. 27 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Moraga Commons Park. The 1.5-mile walk is being sponsored by the American Cancer Society with additional sponsorship by the Town of Moraga, Moraga Rotary and Troop 234 Moraga.

For more information, please visit the Jeanette Fritzky Tribute Walk page at <http://jeanettefritzkytributewalk.com/>.

## In Memory

### Myron Konjoyan

1931-2018



Myron Seamone Konjoyan, a 55-year resident of Moraga, passed on Sept. 13, 2018 after a short illness. Myron was born May 7, 1931 in Oakland and was raised in Glendale, California. Nicknamed “Rocky,” he was a basketball star at Hoover High School and attended Glendale College. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. After his discharge, he married Arax Tulanian in 1955, and would go on to found two successful businesses: The Rheem Patio in Moraga and later Konjoyan’s Oriental Rugs in Lafayette.

Myron was an active member of the Armenian Triple X Fraternity, in which he held leadership positions in his chapter, and was a faithful member of St. Vartan’s Apostolic Church in Oakland and former chairman of its trustees.

He was a passionate USC football fan and never missed a televised game. But his number-one focus was always his family, which, during his illness, he called his “shots of penicillin.”

He is missed by his wife Arax, sons Jon and David, daughter Nancy Kurkjian, daughter-in-law Pamela Madieros, son-in-law Rick Kurkjian, grandchildren, Karly and Adam Kurkjian and brother, Norman Konjoyan.

Though Myron will be greatly missed, he now has the best seat in the house for every USC game.

## In Memory

### Joan Muer

Dec. 11, 1932 – Aug. 11, 2018



Joan Marie Muer, 85, of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, passed away peacefully on August 11 after a 10 year battle with Alzheimer’s.

Joan McCarthy was born in Detroit, MI, on December 11, 1932. She graduated from St. Ambrose High School and attended Detroit Mercy College. She married Ray Muer on April 21, 1955.

During their married life, Joan and Ray lived in San Francisco, St. Louis and Moraga while Ray worked in the fields of advertising management and radio sales. While in Moraga, Joan earned her Bachelors degree in Psychology from Holy Names College in Oakland. Joan worked for 20 years as a Supervisor for the state of California in Unemployment

Development. After retirement, Joan and Ray moved to Manhattan Beach, California. Joan later moved to Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

In addition to raising a family and working for the state of California, Joan was involved in community groups such as Friends of the Moraga Library and the Assistance League. She enjoyed playing bridge with her bridge group, needlepoint, knitting and travel. Our fondest memories of Joan involve her incredible role as devoted mother and grandmother to her children and grandchildren.

Joan is preceded in death by her husband of almost 60 years, Raymond Joseph Muer, her parents, Dennis and Edna McCarthy, her sister Barbara Fronrath and her brother James McCarthy. She is survived by her sister, Rosemary Doherty, and her three children: Lisa Muer Tanner, Julie Muer and Thomas Muer. She is also survived by her six grandchildren: Devin Ray Tanner, Spencer Thomas Tanner, Amanda Marie Tanner, Natalie Violanda Natole, Cora Albrecht Schoppe and Tolya Ray Muer.

A formal mass will be held at St. Perpetua Chapel in Lafayette on Friday, Nov. 23 at 10:30 a.m., followed by a burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette. There will be a reception immediately following the burial at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

## 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.

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