

Letters to the Editor

A tribute to Tatzin

I am writing to express my profound appreciation for Mayor Tatzin's 33 years of service on the Lafayette City Council. Throughout his tenure, the community has made tremendous strides in fiscal resiliency, beautification, and environmental stewardship. Notably, he championed the effort to create the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the new cornerstone of our community. Additionally, he ensured that the City utilized sound fiscal practices resulting in Lafayette's ability to weather downturns in the economy while other cities struggled. And most notably, he supported the City's efforts to be an environmental leader by voting to join MCE – the single greatest environmental action that the City has done to date. Please join me in congratulating Mayor Tatzin for his efforts to make Lafayette a community we all "love".

Glenn R. Cass
30+ year Lafayette resident
Design Review Commissioner

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

AUHSD governing board election results

By John T. Miller

Local voters re-elected a pair of incumbents and one newcomer to the Acalanes Union High School District board of directors on Election Day Tuesday.

Incumbents Nancy Kendzierski garnered 19,566 votes (31%), and Bob Hockett received 17,339 votes (28.1%), while Christopher Severson, a former member of the Orinda Union School District Board, received 15,614 votes (25.3%).

Paul Derksen, the current PTA president for Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs, failed in his attempt to join the board with 9,196 votes (14.9%).

Kendzierski felt honored to be re-elected, saying, "I look forward to continued close collaboration with all of our stakeholders in our great district with amazing students and an incredibly supportive com-

munity." Proudly claiming 55 years in the California public school system as a student, teacher, and administrator, Hockett also looked forward to his work on the school board. A primary focus of his, he says, will be "to meet the needs of all of our students, especially those who struggle with academic, health – both physical and mental – and social issues."

Severson, whose children attend schools in the AUHSD, looks forward to adding his voice to discussions on the school day and calendar, homework and school safety. He says, "I am particularly interested in furthering efforts towards student wellness."

It should be noted that the board positions are voluntary and offer no salary or stipend to the members.

The word was out: vote

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

As Election Day approached, every public source of information seemed to become the unofficial town crier for consciousness. The buzzword was simple: vote. And, vote they did. Voters for the Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette council seats turned out at approximately 55 percent, well over the county average of 48 percent.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, one of the many voting precincts peppered throughout Lamorinda, experienced a steady stream of voters all day with the biggest rush happening after 5:30 p.m., as people stopped by to vote on the way home from work.

Joshua Peal, precinct coordinator, said prior to the rush, "It's a really good turnout; triple that of previous elections and two thirds of the votes are coming in by mail."

When asked if he had any thoughts as to why this election had such a strong voter turnout, Peal hypothesized that it was due

to the results of the 2016 elections. "It might just be my opinion, but I also feel that Obama Care and the whole health care issue made people want to participate."

Provisional ballots were also available to voters who lost their ballots or left them at home. These ballots allowed a voter (even those registered in another city), the ability to cast their vote. The only caveat being that you were left out of casting a vote for your city's candidates and issues if you voted outside of your registered city.

Without conducting an exit poll, voters were asked why they were compelled to vote in this election.

A teacher, who asked to remain anonymous, commented about Proposition 8 (the Dialysis Treatment Initiative). "It feels like it's a national issue, not just California." As a teacher, she also felt it important to cast her vote for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Dave Cummins basically liked the format and presentation of this election ballot, but felt that vital information was missing. "I was confused by the whole section for the various judges. There was no information as to who they were or why we were voting for them. I ended up not voting for any of them, because to vote with no information is irresponsible."

Cummins did have a future Election Day suggestion for Joaquin Moraga's lack of parking spots during school hours. "Request that the fire department allow provisional parking in otherwise temporary zones, if you can prove you're there to vote."

Most voters who stopped to chat outside the polling location answered that they felt it was important to vote.

Wendy Edmisten proudly said, "We vote in every election; just because."

Scholarship named in memory of beloved educator

By John T. Miller

With the passing of Joe Anthony last June – a former Acalanes Union High School District teacher, counselor and administrator – the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation has named a \$3,000 scholarship in his memory.

His wife of 69 years, Cecilia Anthony, said, "Joe sat in all the chairs" in the local school system.

Anthony began teaching in the AUHSD in 1955 before becoming a head counselor at Del Valle. In the late 1960s he became an assistant principal at Campolindo High School and advanced to principal at Las Lomas during the 1970s. Beginning in 1980 he served as assistant superintendent for four years and moved to superintendent until his retirement in 1989.

Although retired, Anthony's commitment to education never ended. When Joe and Cecilia moved to Rossmoor in 2012 he was recruited to serve on the RSF, becoming one of its most beloved

trustees, according to foundation correspondent Marilyn Mansfield: "He had a long struggle with emphysema and COPD, but pushing a walker and an oxygen tank never stopped him from doing everything he could for the foundation and the students needing scholarships."

Anthony joined fellow volunteer trustees interviewing scholarship applicants at Concord High School for many years. The RSF will fund the \$3,000 memorial scholarship beginning in 2019 to a student at Concord High.

Every year, RSF awards more than 50 scholarships of \$3,000 each to high school seniors from Acalanes, College Park, Concord, Ygnacio Valley, Las Lomas, Mt. Diablo and Northgate, and second-year Diablo Valley College students to help them pursue a college education. Students can apply through their school's career centers.

Recipients are chosen for their academic and leadership ability,

extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a personal essay, teacher's recommendation, and a lack of family or financial support.

Many fellow teachers, administrators, and former students shared their love, respect and admiration for Anthony at a memorial in August. Other former students, including some who graduated more than 50 years ago but who still remember him fondly, sent cards to his wife.

His fellow RSF members remember Anthony as "a man with vision and passion for youth."

Additional scholarships will be named for Anthony if more funds are received from the communities he served, enabling local students with financial needs to pursue college educations.

For more information on the RSF foundation, or to make a donation, visit rossmoorscholarshipfoundation.org.

Smoke a reminder to plan ahead

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Photo Cathy Dausman

Rein recommends a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration all-hazard public alert radio, which uses a 90-decibel siren (slightly less noise than a jet aircraft one mile out). It works on battery backup in event of power failure. One version available for sale online can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y8ye873z>.

Cal Fire's Incident Information page (http://www.fire.ca.gov/current_incidents) provides timely details on major incidents including each fire's location, acreage burned and percent of containment.

To borrow a phrase from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, employ a "Ready, Set – Go!" mentality. Be ready with preparedness understanding, be set with situational awareness when fire threatens and act early (go) when fire starts.

"Leave early" (when fire threatens)," says Rein. "Don't wait to be told to go, just go!"

Related stories:

<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1120/Be-fire-evacuation-ready-Lamorinda.html>

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You Already Know Us ...

So let us help you prepare to sell your home in 2019!



In order to sell your home in 2019, start by getting rid of "stuff". De-clutter & deep clean your home. Buyers pay a premium for well maintained homes so take a hard look at what "should have" been & needs to be done (gutters, painting,

landscaping). Also get a Home & Pest Inspection now. This will give you an idea of work & repair costs up front. Prepare yourselves. Separate your emotions from the process & begin to treat your home as a commodity that needs to get the highest price possible.

Finally, let us give you a free current valuation of your home based on competition & the current market.



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