

Boys Team Charity supports homeless families through Grateful Gatherings



Photos Linda Choi

Submitted by Anouschka Wardy

The Lamorinda chapter of Boys Team Charity – a volunteer service organization dedicated to developing civic service in young men through active participation in their communities – annually participates in Adopt-a-Family. This year, BTC Lamorinda partnered

with Grateful Gatherings to bring joy and hope to six families in need. When a family transitions from homelessness or crisis into a new home in the Bay Area, Grateful Gatherings helps them furnish it. To help these families make Christmas special, BTC's TeamMates went shopping, wrapped and delivered gifts, trees and stockings.



Hard work brings beauty to Moraga hillsides this spring



The December 2018 Volunteer Planting Crew

Photos provided

Submitted by Steve Woehleke

Spring is almost here and daffodils, which this year include flowers from 2,000 additional bulbs, are sprouting along Moraga Road near the Commons Park.

Each fall the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley adds bulbs to the field of Daffodils as part of its efforts to enhance the lives of children, families and seniors – in this case through beautiful spring flowers. The Moraga Garden Center has also planted daffodil bulbs, and this year owner Kenny Murakami instructed the volunteers on the history and characteristics of daffodils, and proper planting techniques.

The volunteers ranged from the very young to the “some-

what mature” with many in-between. Joan Bruzzone donated 1,000 of the bulbs, and joined the group as volunteer. All had fun on the beautiful sunny day (after rains had softened the soil).

For the many who knew Dr. John Heckle, think of him as you enjoy the flowers he helped plant only weeks prior to his unexpected passing.



Supervisors and worker

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.

Girl Scouts earn cooking badge and serve homeless



Photo Mary Markey

From left: Nicole Buchman, Keona Cozzatti, Piper Ward, Mary Markey, Izzy Thies, Christina Rago, Fiona Markey, Ellie Doane, Abby Christensen, and Cami Baxter.

Submitted by Mary Markey

A sixth-grade Girl Scout Troop from Moraga worked toward earning their “New Cuisines” badge and served their dishes to homeless seniors Jan. 5 at the St. Mary's Center in Oakland.

St. Mary's Center provides the only winter shelter exclusively for seniors in the Bay Area. Seniors, feeling acutely vulnerable, often avoid shelters that are full of younger people, and opt to sleep out on the street. The shelter is open from the beginning of December through the end of April. The shelter guests receive a home-cooked dinner courtesy of volunteers like the Moraga Girl Scouts.

For this Moraga Troop, it was a

perfect opportunity to combine working toward a new skills badge and giving back to the community. The commercial kitchen at the center is well suited for accommodating 12 aspiring chefs. The girls have started working on a cadette badge called “New Cuisines,” which includes learning to prepare dishes from other countries and other regions of the United States. For this particular cooking class, they made a menu straight out of the south with Louisiana favorites. Homemade gumbo, rice, broccoli and cauliflower casserole, and potato salad, made from scratch, were prepared and enjoyed by all. Three brownie (third grade) scouts competed the meal with a banana bread pudding for dessert.

In Memory

Mary Bailey Litzenberger

Aug 6, 1932 – Dec 31, 2018



Mary Bailey Litzenberger, a resident of Moraga for 28 years, passed away Dec 31, 2018. She was born Aug 6, 1932 in Everetts, North Carolina to Paul and Delia Bailey. She was a history major at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina and met her husband Earle D. Litzenberger, an NROTC cadet and geology student at nearby UNC Chapel Hill. They married in 1953. As the wife of a career officer in the Marine Corps, she did a lot of traveling and also taught first and second grade. They retired in San Diego in 1983. After Earle passed away, Mary moved to Moraga in 1990. She was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, participating in Ladies Aid, Altar Guild, and Bible Study. She suffered

from lupus much of her adult life and with the progression of macular degeneration, had to give up driving and required a part-time caregiver. After breaking her foot in Sep and suffering complications, she succumbed from COPD and heart disease on New Year's Eve. Her husband Earle and sister Lois preceded her in death. She is survived by her children Libby Holbrook (late husband Steve) of Moraga and Lee Litzenberger (wife Marianne) of Maryland; her grandchildren Andrew Litzenberger (wife Tara) of New Jersey, Bryan Holbrook (wife Jamie) of California, and Ashley Litzenberger of Virginia; her great grandchildren Zachary and Eliana Litzenberger; her brother Bill Bailey (wife Rose) of North Carolina; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial services are not confirmed, but the family may be contacted for details.

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.

As seen in Lamorinda...



Sunrise over Mt. Diablo

Photo Jennifer Spalding