

First Court of Honor for Lafayette Girls BSA Scout Troop



Photo provided

Submitted by Mary Markey

Nineteen girls from Lafayette Troop 402 celebrated a historic ceremony Thursday, May 23, as they participated in their first Scouts BSA Court of Honor Ceremony. This inaugural ceremony marked the beginning of a new troop and a new future of scouting.

Just over three months ago, on Feb. 1, Boy Scouts of America changed their name to Scouts BSA and welcomed girls into the historically all boy program. A small group of scouts and scouters in Lafayette hit the ground running, quickly establishing a troop on par with long running Scouts BSA boy troops. The troop marks the start of a new era that allows girls access to the same programming boys have participated in for over 100 years.

As a sister Troop to 204, the troop meets in the historic Lafayette cabin. The two troops use some of the same resources, but the programming and leadership are separate. For example, the girls have their own troop, they are not coed with boys. Other troops have used different formulas for integration. Troop 402 meets on their own and has their own patrols. While the national organization still holds on to "BSA", Troop 402 is all about the girls.

The troop comprises Scouts aged 11-16, in grades 5-10. They are led by a 10th grade Senior Patrol Leader and

meet weekly. The Troop has already gone backpacking, camping, and earned awards and recognition for advancement. Typically, it takes four-five years for scouts to advance the ranks to become an Eagle Scout, but since girls were only allowed in this year, they need to quickly advance if they aspire to scouting's highest rank. All scouts were awarded their first rank, Scout, and seven scouts achieved the rank of Tenderfoot. The scouts were also awarded a cumulative total of 14 merit badges for their work on subject matters of interest to them. The Troop attended a BSA summer camp in June and are going on a 25-mile backpacking trip in August. The girls are eager to work hard and achieve the requirements for advancement and learn new skills. They are picking up the skills rapidly and really taking off with the program.

Troop 402 is supported by a charter organization called the Lafayette Dads Club. This club first began supporting scouting in 1932 as the Boy Scout Troop 204 was formed. Troop 204 has a long history of scouting in Lafayette; it is the oldest troop. Many of the girl Troop 402s traditions are being built on the longstanding traditions of the Boy troop. The girls are just adding their bright ideas, fresh faces, enthusiastic spirit, and moxie.

Interested future scouts can learn more about joining the troop by emailing troop402lafayette@gmail.com.

~ Celebrations ~

Orinda resident wins Emmy



Orinda resident Randy DeVecchi recently won an Emmy award at the 48th Northern California Area Emmy Awards recognizing excellence in television broadcasting. DeVecchi, who is a video photographer who has worked at KTVU Channel 2 in Oakland since 1990, won the Emmy for 2019 Outstanding Achievement in the Sports-News Feature/Segment Category. The heartwarming story, called "Ty Whisler - 'Ty's Team,'" was about a 10-year-old boy who was battling cancer at Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto and the Stanford men's basketball team, which was performing community service and was visiting Ty. The team and the boy made a personal connection. Inspired by Ty, throughout the next year the basketball team "adopted" him, and

during Ty's cancer treatments the team made him team ball boy, and team captain. Both team and Ty had one of their best years ever. DeVecchi, along with reporter Scott Reiss followed the journey of both Ty and the men's team. The 48th Annual Emmy event was held on June 8 in San Francisco and the event had more than 560 individual nominees. The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences represents the talented professionals working in California, including Western Regional States.

In Memory

Yolande Lesley Rowe



Yolande Lesley Rowe, born on February 25, 1929, passed away on May 24, 2019, in Grass Valley, CA. She was 90 years old. Yolande was born in Plymouth, England and emigrated to the United States with her parents, Leslie and Florence (Poppy) Rowe in 1946. Yolande and her parents later lived in Orinda, CA until her parents passed away and Yolande moved to Grass Valley to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law. Yolande graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA, first with her BA and then returned to get her Masters in Business Administration.

She worked for American President Lines and then Eagle Marine, both based out of Oakland,

CA, as a top accountant. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Lesley and Mike Bullock, their children Kyle Bullock and Shannon Marengo, grandson-in-law Ricky Marengo, son and daughter-in-law, Brett and Jenny Burkett of Captain Cook, HI, and Brett's son, Tyler Burkett. She is also survived by two great grandchildren, Mason and Madison Marengo of Long Beach, CA. Yolande will be missed immensely by her family and all of her friends from Orinda and Grass Valley. A private memorial service will be held in the fall. In lieu of flowers or cards, memorial donations can be made to Hospice of the Foothills in Grass Valley, CA, or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Moraga Lions Pride Award winners announced

Submitted by Ray Casabonne

The Moraga Lions recently handed out its Pride awards to students from Lamorinda middle schools. The students are recommended by teachers and selected by the administration of each school.

Award winners are: Hanna Mirzai and Eva Toney (Stanley Middle School); Vito Crudele and Ty Madsen (Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School); Will Davalos and Marilynn Hasset (Orinda Intermediate School); and Kevin Henderson and Ellie Scheberies (St. Perpetua).



Photos provided

Back row: Linda Mara, Brian Mangold (A.P.), Alice Cyr, Susan Olson, Student supporters; front Row: Hassan Mirzai, Simin Mirzai, Hanna Mirzai (recipient), Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions, Eva Toney (recipient), Joan Toney, Fred Toney, Jule Gladden, and Claudia Windfuhr.



Lurue Crudele, Cathy Schultz, Pawan Datta, Vito Crudele (recipient), Jerry Gilbert, Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), Ty Madsen (recipient), Debbie Standrind, Heidi Madsen, Kristin Cortright, and Joan Daniels (principal).



Carolyn Druger, Stephen Davalos, Shelly Davalos, Will Davalos (recipient), Stacy Wayne, Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), James Hasset, Marilynn Hasset (recipient), Liv Hasset, and Maria Rosas.



Brian Henderson, Brenda Henderson, Kevin Henderson (recipient), Heidi Schwarck, Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), Ellie Scheberies (recipient), Beatrice Schmugler, and Mark Scheberies.

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.

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