

Popular Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary pancake breakfast helps fund community projects



Photo Thomas Black

Hundreds occupied popup tables set up on the ground-level library concourse.

Submitted by Thomas Black

The last of the 5K runners had yet to return when the pancake breakfast queue started to form in earnest July 4 at the ticket table on the concourse of the Orinda public library. A couple of hours later some 650 pancakes had been grilled and consumed.

For the bargain price of \$10, adults treated themselves to what the Independence Day event sponsor, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, was serving – two pancakes (plus maple syrup), two sausages, half a banana, a clutch of table grapes, orange juice, coffee and, if desired, a bottle of water.

This marked the sixth year that the Rotary club has put on the foodie festival. To pull it off, two-dozen members got up very early to start prepping. It took two grills to produce enough pancakes – one in the Orinda Community Center and a second in-

side a popup tent on ground level.

During the morning, a band played on the apron of the concourse. Meanwhile, the Orinda library took advantage of having a semi-captive audience by holding a book sale. On display was a motor boat recently restored by LSR worker-bees. It is being raffled as the principal fundraiser for 2019-20, with its next appearance scheduled at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, Sept. 21-22. Tickets sell for \$20 a piece or six for \$100. A 1963 Volkswagen Beetle rebuilt by the club and raffled last year netted more than \$20,000 (see related story on Page B1).

All proceeds from the breakfast are earmarked to help fund one or more community service projects the club sponsors. Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary meets Fridays over breakfast at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Guests are always welcome.

New Troop 224 Eagle Scouts



Colin Porciuncula and Peter Kraszulyak

Photo Mika Watanabe

Submitted by Lori Suppiger

Boy Scout Troop 224 of Lafayette honors two Scouts—Colin Porciuncula and Peter Michael Kraszulyak—for achieving Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, a candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community service project.

Kraszulyak, a rising junior at Acalanes High School, built a movable redwood bench, constructed a flagstone and gravel walkway, and repaired the legs of a broken bench at the Lafayette Community Garden. The project benefits the elderly community and families with small children who enjoy visiting the garden for pleasure and educational purposes. They can sit on the benches to admire the beauty of the garden, and they can use the walkway without any concern of tripping or getting their shoes muddy when it rains. Outside of Scouting, Kraszulyak enjoys playing basketball.

Porciuncula, a rising senior at Acalanes High School, also enhanced the Lafayette Community Garden by building an additional six redwood benches to provide much-needed seating for the many gardening classes held at the site. After determining the budget and the materials necessary, Porciuncula raised \$200 from friends and family members, received a generous donation of \$500 from the Lafayette Community Garden itself, and a discounted price on the redwood from Dolan's Lumber to complete the project. Porciuncula then worked with a large group of volunteers to cut the lumber, assemble the benches, and install them at the site. In addition to Scouting, Porciuncula swims varsity at Acalanes, is interested in studying environmental science, and plans to pursue a career in the fire service after college.

Kraszulyak and Porciuncula will be recognized for their achievement at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony Aug. 10 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. Troop 224 is currently accepting boys and girls as new members. For more information visit <http://www.troop224lafayette.com>.

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.

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 Odyssey of the Mind team places fifth at World Finals



Photo provided

Submitted by Janine Ogando

Over Memorial Day weekend three local teams competed at the 2019 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held at Michigan State University, with nearly 900 teams from 54 different countries and five continents competing in four divisions in an attempt to solve one of five different problems.

Orinda Rotary's Fifth Grade team (Division 1) consisting of (back row) Ryan Chan, Lily Harrick, Toby Montalban, (front row) Augie Martinez, Kodie Zundel, Vinny Yu, and Ian Hughes placed fifth in the world. They are coached by Janine Ogando and Jill Hughes and solved Problem 4, the structure problem. This is the second year for five members of this team to make it to the world competition. Last year they were a rookie team, placed seventh, and won an OMER's Award in recognition of exemplary behavior through personal action and exceptional skill.

Other local teams also did well at

the World Competition, which is similar to the Olympics but for OoTM problems. It's a huge feat to make it to and be able to compete at the World Competition; requiring that a team earn first or second at a regional competition and then either first or second at the state competition. Solving the Vehicle Problem, Foothill Middle School (Div.2) placed 13th and Orinda Rotary (Div. 3) placed 23rd. For Problem 2, Foothill Middle School (Div.2) placed 18th and Orinda Rotary (Div 3) placed 25th. Solving the classics problem, Glorietta Elementary School Red (Div. 1) got 26th place, Stanley Middle School in Lafayette (Div. 2) placed 15th, and Walnut Creek Rotary (Div. 3) placed 20th. Orinda Rotary (Div. 1) took 5th place in the structure problem. The California teams solving the dramatic problem at Worlds were Carolyn Clark Elementary (San Jose / Div. 1) placing 10th, Brentwood Elementary (Div. 1) placing 17th, Miller Creek Middle School (Div. 2 /San Rafael) 16th place, and Concord HS (Div. 3) earning 16th.

MSSL raises over \$3K in Round-Up for Rett Fundraiser

Submitted by Bianca Tung

The Music Students Service League of Contra Costa collaborated with Macy's Walnut Creek from May 1-15, to hold the Round-Up for Rett fundraiser in support of the Katie Nues Foundation for Rett Syndrome. MSSL is a student-run, nonprofit organization whose mission is not only to promote happiness through music but also to provide support for those in need. The Katie Nues Foundation was founded by Jesse Nues after his daughter, Katie, was diagnosed with Rett syndrome, and the foundation provides funding

for Katie's Clinic of the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland to create an environment that improves the daily lives of those who suffer from Rett syndrome.

Thanks to community support, a total of \$3,046 was raised in addition to the \$5,000 from the MSSL and Macy's 2nd Annual Fashion Show for a grand total of \$8,046 that will go toward covering clinical care, research projects, and community education. Interested in joining or collaborating with MSSL? Visit: msslmusic.org or contact MichelleChen@msslmusic.org.

~ Celebrations ~

National Merit Scholarship winners

Paige Martin-Holder of Acalanes High School and Adriana Derksen of Campolindo High School both received a \$2,500 scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Paige is attending UCLA in the fall as a biochemistry major and Adriana will attend Ohio State University this fall, majoring in neuroscience. Adriana joins the University Honors program and will live in the John Glenn Civic Leadership Community. The Scholarship goes directly to the university to be applied against her first tuition bill.



Paige Martin-Holder



Adriana Derksen