

# Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary donation to THT used for new carpeting



ing director of Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette, recently accepted a \$750 check from Moraga resident John Speicher on behalf of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. The donation was used to install new backstage carpeting, supplied at cost by Larry Blodgett, owner of Blodgett's Abbey Carpet and Flooring in Lafayette. Prior donations from the Rotary club have gone toward other facility upgrades. This latest comes at a time when Town Hall Theatre has a capital campaign under way. THT is celebrating its 75th year of operation; the building itself is 25 years older.

**Submitted by Tom Black**

Dennis Markam, left, manag-

# Brook Street Park creek bank restored by Girl Scout group



Photo provided

**Submitted by Esther Dean, El Reid, Celia Farrell**

On the banks of Lafayette Creek, just a hop over the fence from Brook Street Park, 21 volunteers stood listening to John Zentner, chairman of the board for the Restoration Trust in Oakland, as he demonstrated how to plant small native plants to restore a local creek after the previous removal of an invasive species. Having finished his demonstration the three middle school leaders, Esther, El, and Celia stood up to talk about the safety guidelines everyone was going to follow before setting off to replant the creek bank.

Workers planted a total of 850 plants. These included young Mexican rushes, California fescue, and Santa Barbara sedge, all native to California. Girls from local Girl

Scout troops 33137, 33126, and 32928 all attended the event. The bank was on the steeper side, so there were numerous ropes in place to help workers stay safe. The group finished earlier than expected, so they picked up trash in the surrounding area.

Forty hours of work had already gone into restoring the small area of the bank by the park. Esther, El, and Celia had worked on planning this creek day since the previous summer for their Girl Scout Silver Award. At the same location on Nov. 16, the leaders led the effort to remove the invasive species Arundo donax, the top invader and enemy of many local creeks. By the end of the day, the group had filled 20 bags of Arundo and ivy. Now the bank is full of small, green plants that will encourage native species growth and create a healthier creek.

### 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.

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# Making Orinda and Moraga HeartSafe



Photo provided

**Submitted by Ryan Kaelle**

Ryan Kaelle, a Boy Scout in Orinda's Troop 237, partnered last spring and summer with members of Contra Costa County's American Medical Response, Emergency Medical Services and Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team for his Eagle Scout service project. For Kaelle's project, he organized and led a team of volunteers from both Troop 237 and Na-

tional Charity League Acalanes Chapter to increase awareness and education for automated external defibrillators at local businesses, schools, and institutions in Orinda and Moraga. AMR maintains a listing of the approximately 80 AED devices in the community. Kaelle and team spent over 100 hours May through August updating the AED list and, where possible, providing education and awareness materials and inspecting the actual devices to make certain they are ready

in an emergency. Another goal of the project was to spread the message that AEDs are not scary, are very user friendly and can be used by anyone in an emergency situation to save a life.

An AED analyzes the heart's rhythm and guides a first aid provider to deliver a shock to a victim of sudden cardiac arrest. This shock is called defibrillation and may help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. More than 160,000 Americans suffer a cardiac arrest every day, and for every minute that passes before returning the heart to a normal rhythm, the chance of survival decreases by 10%.

To continue the partnership and education, local paramedics came to a Troop 237 Monday meeting in December to educate on AEDs, CPR, Stop The Bleed and basic first aid. Over 50 Scouts attended the session with the goal of preparing them to react quickly in emergency medical situations.

Now that Kaelle's Eagle project is complete, AMR, EMS and Lamorinda CERT can determine where more AEDs are needed, which will ensure Orinda and Moraga are HeartSafe communities (a formal designation assigned by the American Heart Association).

Special thanks to Dennis Rein at Lamorinda CERT, Anna Cleese at AMR, Joanny All and Geoffrey Martin at EMS for the guidance they provided for this project.

## In Memory

### Barbara Harbuck

Feb. 4, 1938 – Nov. 28, 2019, Resident of Moraga, CA



The family of Barbara Jane Harbuck is sad to announce her passing on Thanksgiving Day. She is survived by her loving husband Col. James Harbuck, her sister Nancy Gnepper, brother Steve Johnson, grandchildren Haley and Cooper Harbuck, daughter-in-law Jill Harbuck, and many other loving family members. Her beloved son David predeceased her in 2016.

Barbara was a longtime resident and community leader in Moraga and had established a wide circle of friends throughout Lamorinda. She had a passion for people and tirelessly devoted her life to her family, friends, and philanthropic organizations. In her early career she was a grade-school teacher. She was a volunteer at John Muir hospital and the Navy League. She was a strong supporter of education, and a longtime respected member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Barbara served

as President of AAUW in 1987-88 and won the AAUW Distinguished Woman Award in 2004.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Feb. 1 at 1:30 pm at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of AAUW to support women's education.

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