



Renee DeWeese Photo provided

Moraga native lands part in SF production of ‘The Pajama Game’

Submitted by Jonathan White

Moraga native Renee DeWeese will be playing "Gladys" in the 42nd Street Moon's production of "The Pajama Game" – one of the loveliest (and rarely-performed) Tony Award-winning "Best Musicals" of Broadway's Golden Age.

DeWeese grew up in Moraga and attended Donald Rheem Elementary, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate and Cam-

polindo High schools. She went on to study musical theater at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she received her BFA in Drama (CAP21 Studio). DeWeese has been teaching, directing, choreographing and running children's theater programs throughout the Bay Area since 2004, and has performed professionally in the Bay Area with CCMT, DTC, Woodminster, and American Musical Theatre of San Jose. She received her second Shellie award for

choreography for CCMT's "Oklahoma!" and a 2010 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for best supporting actress in a musical for her portrayal of Cassie in "A Chorus Line."

"The Pajama Game" will run from April 15 to May 3 at San Francisco's Gateway Theatre. For ticket information, visit www.42ndstreetmoon.org or by call (415) 255-8207.

Troop 204 announces new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Oliver Lane of Boy Scout Troop 204

Submitted by Mika Watanabe

Lafayette's Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 14 Scouts for achieving the Ea-

gle Scout Rank at the troop's 67th Eagle Court of Honor. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Scouts BSA | Boy Scouts of America and these Scouts will be honored at 1 p.m. March 21 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Thirteen of these Scouts' Eagle Projects were mentioned in the March 4 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, but Oliver Lane's project was inadvertently omitted from the article.

To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout Spirit, and successfully complete an approved Eagle Service Project. Troop 204 Eagle Scouts have also attended the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trek on a nine-day trip.

Lane, in partnership with the Lafayette Historical Society and the Lafayette Library, installed auto shop flooring beneath the Historical Society's antique fire engine "Old Betsy". Upon completion of the floor, he cleaned the Historical Society's exhibit cage.

Local teams take top prizes at Odyssey of the Mind regional competition



Photo provided

Submitted by Janine Ogando

Local SF Bay Area teams competed at the yearly SF Bay Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition Feb. 28 at Concord High School. Odyssey of the Mind, in its 41st year, started at a college in Pennsylvania and is the second largest worldwide competition which includes children – second only to the Junior Olympics. Teams must solve one of five different problems, (1) vehicle, (2) robotic, (3) classics; (4) balsa wood, or (5) drama. Teams compete against other teams in their age division – elementary, middle school, high school or college.

Teams placing first or second in their region are able to compete at the

state level and the top two state teams are invited to compete at the world competition. The local teams did very well, with 31 teams advancing to the state competition (Lafayette Elementary 1, OIS 2, Orinda Rotary 1, Glorieta 2, Wagner 1, Stanley 2, Moraga Rotary 5, Burton Valley 2, Happy Valley 1).

This year, a rare award, the Rana-tras Fusca Creativity Award for outstanding creativity, was bestowed upon the OIS 6th Grade (Balsa Wood) Team consisting of Ryan Chan, Polly Efimova, Janie Luo, Augie Martinez, Will Riley, Parker Hjortsvang, and Vinny Yu, coached by Janine Ogando for their 18 gram structure which was able to disassemble, do the limbo, resemble and still hold a significant amount of weight (800+lbs).

Moraga Rotary event raises \$33K for safety upgrades at Moraga schools



Photo provided

Enjoying "A Nite at the Races" are Ana Moon, MEF Communications Director; Bruce Burns, Superintendent of Moraga School District; Janelle Chng, Vice President, and Heather Davis, President, both of the Governing Board.

By Gary Irwin

The Moraga School District will be the beneficiary of more than \$33,000 which was contributed by participants at the 18th Annual "A Nite at the Races," a March 7 Moraga Rotary Club dinner/auction fundraiser. All these funds are intended to enhance the safety of the students and faculty in the MSD. While the particular uses of the money have not been decided, it is possible that the amount can be increased by additional grants from within the Rotary District and International organizations, similar to the way \$12,000 was raised in 2019 toward the purchase of radio communication devices for all teachers in MSD.

However, \$2,230 of the funds raised will go to specific needs; participants donated money toward 24 classroom medical kits, seven exterior light fixtures, and five exterior signs, and this money may be spent immediately.

MSD Superintendent Bruce Burns spoke to the participants about the drive toward safety in local schools, and that no sources of funds are currently available for necessary improvements other than community contributions. The Moraga Education Foundation is very effective in raising large amounts, but all their funds go

toward classroom education efforts. Also attending were Heather Davis, president and Janelle Chng, vice president, both of the MSD governing board, and many MEF officials, as well as parents who volunteer time at the schools.

In addition, \$14,200 was raised for the Lumumba Children's Library in Goma, Congo, which will serve desperately poor children who have never held a book in their hands. It is an ongoing project of Moraga Rotary in partnership with Goma Tumaini Rotary Club in the Congo. Previously, more than \$55,000 has been raised. The balance of the funds raised will be devoted to the several service projects conducted each year by Moraga Rotary.

Moraga Rotary is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the five clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held at noon on most Tuesdays at Michael's Restaurant in Moraga. If you are interested in information about Rotary, or would like to donate to these worthy causes, please contact moragarotary@gmail.com, visit moragarotary.com, or call Brian South, president-elect at (925) 260-2143.

New officers of Moraga Garden Club announced



Photo provided

Moraga Garden Club's new slate of officers. Left, outgoing president, Roberta Klapproth; third from left, incoming president, Penny Walwark

Submitted by Linda Foley

The Moraga Garden Club announced its new slate of officers for the coming year starting September.

In addition to its many efforts of beautifying and supporting the town, the club has worked in conjunction with Moraga to give a facelift to the Triangle – the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road – includ-

ing an interesting whimsical, whirling sculpture. Several members have also diligently worked to create and develop a perennial garden in the Hacienda, exemplifying artistic and solid garden planning. Other members have taken on the long neglected urns on Country Club Drive.

For information about Moraga Garden Club, visit: moragagardenclub.com

Loaves and Fishes Calls for Volunteers

Due to the COVID-19 virus some regular volunteers may need to stay home, and Loaves and Fishes is in a tough spot, because they need volunteers in order to provide services for people in need. For anyone

who is home from work and wants to help provide meals, please contact Operations and Volunteer Manager, Karen Olson at karen@loavesfishesc.org.

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.