

## Moraga Rotary makes 1K face shields for East Bay hospitals & facilities

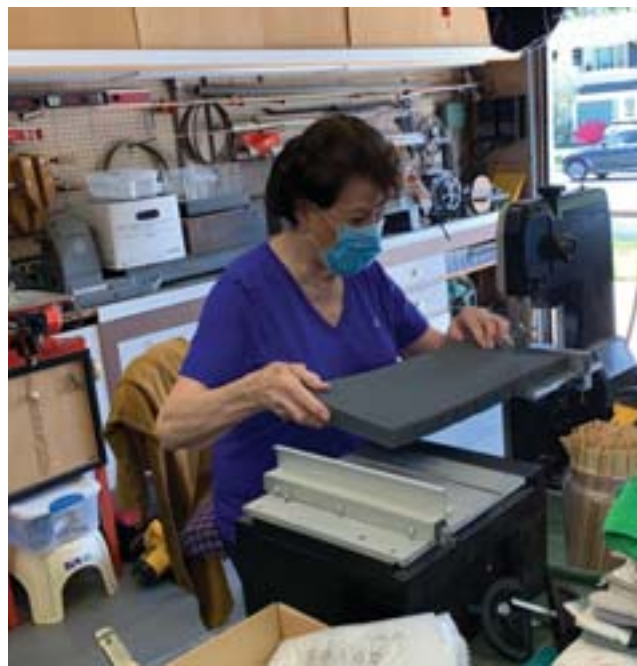


Photo John Erickson

Moraga Rotarian Mary Sue Erickson uses a hand saw to cut precise foam blocks to make the forehead pieces for face shields.

Submitted by Hubert Ma and Gary Irwin

One thousand plastic face shields to help protect medical staff are being constructed and delivered by Moraga Rotary Club to local and regional medical service providers and essential workers. These plastic shields are used in addition to face masks,

and provide additional protection to medical professionals who are battling this pandemic day in and day out. It was Rotary's way to give back to the medical professionals by making something that would help protect them as they help protect us.

The project commenced in late March by Rotarians Debbie Koo and Hubert Ma in a conversation about the shortage of face shields. Materials were ordered the very next day, and the first face shields were being made within the week, following established designs, and costing a bit more than \$2 per shield. Requests for shields may be made to moragarotary@comcast.net.

The face shields have been delivered to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, John Muir Health Medical Center, and Sutter Health, and to our local Moraga Royale, and 100 will be delivered to County Connection bus drivers. Some appreciative comments include: "Resources [face shields] like these are life savers for our front line caregivers, and we appreciate your effort on our behalf," Jamie Wood of Sutter Health commented, and Rowena Chesney of John Muir Health said they "are very fortunate for the community's generous support."

Dianne Wilson of Moraga Royale said, "Face shields provided by Moraga Rotary equip those on the front line who are protecting our most vulnerable citizens."

Rotary Club of Moraga is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of about 34,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at noon, currently via teleconference. If you are interested in joining Rotary or would like more information, please contact moragarotary@comcast.net or visit the website at www.moragarotary.com to get in touch with Brian South, membership chair.



Moraga Royale Senior Advisor Dianne Wilson (in blue) assists Executive Director Loto Rickman, left, and Medical Technician Lei Akoteu with their personal protective equipment, now including plastic face shields made by Moraga Rotary.

## Students keep connected while discovering distance learning

By Ania Keenan

Students on March 13 received an email verifying the Acalanes Union School District's decision to close schools through April 3 in response to the coronavirus, which came shortly after the Orinda Unified School District and many other districts around the state reached similar conclusions. "The Board and staff understand how immensely disappointing this is to many of you as your school, activities and social world has been completely disrupted. For that, we are profoundly sorry," AUHSD Superintendent John

Nickerson stated in his email to students, expressing his remorse.

Without access to classrooms students began transitioning to online schooling in the weeks leading up to spring break. The two-week period between March 16-27 was used as a trial run with the understanding that teachers would apply more interactive teaching platforms to reach their students if the closure was extended to meet public health needs.

A few weeks into online schooling most of the AUHSD students have been receiving a majority of their lessons through Google Classroom

and other online platforms with some teachers using YouTube to post virtual lectures. Miramonte Sophomore Natalie Kurtz says that she gets most of her class assignments from Google Classroom with limited use of Zoom or other virtual communication tools.

"I'm learning, it's just not like learning at school. I'm learning different ways to do my work but not necessarily learning a lot of new material," Kurtz said. This is a sentiment shared by many other students who recognize the difficulties of the situation but hope that the school can improve their strategies.

"While their communication hasn't been the best, it's been adequate enough to get us through the past week without too much issue," Miramonte Senior Harry Burnick said. "But I think if they just sent out a mass email, with a schedule for Zoom classes that every class has to follow, rather than the 'every man for themselves' approach the school is currently following, that would help this go a whole lot smoother."

Despite lack of connection on campus many school leadership programs are continuing to reach out to their students during the closures. The Miramonte leadership pro-

gram continues to post on their social media accounts, as have other schools in the district, and have floated the idea of virtual spirit days in the chats they send out to the student body.

"Currently, Leadership at Miramonte is actively planning a spirit week that can still occur virtually. This would include fun daily social media events that everyone can take part in," Miramonte All-Student-Body president Erik Johansen said. "My class, the junior class, is looking into potentially having a grade-wide Zoom call along with a variety of other ideas."

## In Memory

### Christopher John Beggs

Age 4, a resident of Moraga

2-10-16 – 4-20-20



This beautiful, most precious little boy lost his 2.5-year battle with Leukemia. He has spent most of that time in the hospital or in isolation, yet he had an unquenchable thirst to learn and laugh. He loved LEGOs and Paw Patrol. His strength and courage during his battle was an inspiration to everyone who met him. He will be remembered for the joy he spread despite the situation he was in.

Christopher is survived by his parents, Matt and Erin, his sister, Claire as well as grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins. He will also be missed by scores of friends and neighbors who were touched by him. No services during these times.

## Lamorinda Chinese Americans mobilized in mask donation



Submitted by Jamiel Liu and Laura Liu

Following the Bay Area beginning to "shelter in place" and the state of California following suit, the Lamorinda Chinese-American community extensively discussed the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases and the shortage of masks in the United States on WeChat, the popular Chinese social media.

Many expressed worries for their elderly neighbors, people working in the essential business and those working in healthcare, all groups who had little to no personal protective equipment (PPE): "We need to do something to help the community, and quickly... The healthcare workers are the frontline fighters against the virus. They need to be protected... We should pitch in and help."

Some families donated N95 and surgical masks, protective suits, gloves, and disinfectant wipes that they had saved to the Occupational Services of Kaiser in the Napa/Solano area. Others pledged to fundraise when further supplies were identified, reached out to their family and friends in China to ask them to send supplies and provide logistic resources, and put a great deal of time into researching federal PPE standards.

The first fundraising efforts began on March 17 when Alice Zhang, a member with a great understanding of PPE standards, secured a purchase of 93 boxes of Medline Surgical Masks (containing 4,650 masks in total). More than \$4,400 was raised in three hours by Chinese residents in the Lamorinda area, allowing for the order to be placed. The

masks were ultimately distributed among Sutter Health in Oakland, Kaisers in the Napa/Solano area, and Kaiser Diablo within one day. Furthermore, on that same day, a batch of 200 surgical masks and 20 N95 masks were collected from among the group and sent to the East Bay Gastroscopy Center. All medical centers responded with overwhelming joy and gratitude.

In addition, Zhang contacted a Chinese vendor to order regular masks for neighbors and themselves. Ye Liu, the group WeChat admin, reached out to neighbors through social media inviting others to take advantage of the opportunities. On March 26, approximately 20,000 regular masks arrived and were distributed to more than 100 neighborhood families within two days through swift work and help from many volunteers.

Another fundraiser, with a goal of \$5,000, was launched on March 27 to supply these same masks for grocery stores, post offices, police and fire departments, senior homes, gas stations, restaurants, and other staff around Lamorinda. According to volunteer accountant Hongyu Wang, by March 29, donations amounted to more than \$10,900, used by Zhang to complete the order. In total, 18,000 masks were received and distributed to senior homes, gas stations, grocery stores, and post offices, among others on April 4. In addition to the collective donation, personal donations of N95 masks, KN95 masks, surgical masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes have been delivered by more than 10 volunteers to senior homes, Children's Hospital Oakland, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, and the UCSF Medical Center, with more on the way.

All those in the Chinese-American community have been ecstatic to see their efforts helping the community. "This has been perfect teamwork," Liu said between tears of joy while discussing the outpouring support from all. "We know everybody in the community is doing their part. We are glad we are all in this together."

### 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.

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA 26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

### Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Sports Editor:** sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Staff Writers:**  
 Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com, Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com, Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com, Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Food: Susie Iventosch; suzieventosch@gmail.com  
**Contributing Writers:**  
 Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, Linda Fodrini-Johnson  
**Calendar Editor:** Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com  
**website:** www.lamorindaweekly.com