

Moraga Rotary fundraiser and e-waste collection success



Photos provided

Campolindo Interact Club members and Troop 246 Boy Scouts help hand out meal orders at “Dinner with Rotary” at La Finestra restaurant in Moraga. From left: Interactor Katelyn Shipman, Scouts Nitin Ravikumar, Aiden Goldstein, Sam Storrs and Jack Elder.

Submitted by Gary Irwin

La Finestra restaurant in the Moraga Shopping Center, owned by Rotarian Jeff Assadi, produced delicious hot spaghetti, meatballs, and tossed salad dinners for more than 285 happy local citizens Sept. 24 for “Dinner with Rotary,” which was organized and promoted by Moraga Rotary Club. Several Moraga Rotarians were handing out the orders in a socially distanced way, and were assisted by members of the Campolindo Interact Club and Boy Scout Troop 246, both sponsored by Moraga Rotary. Rather than cooking their own dinner that night, the firefighters at the MOFD Rheem fire station on Moraga Road enjoyed their “Dinner with Rotary.”

Moraga Rotary President Brian South was very happy with the large community support of the dinner, and patrons were pleased with the quality of the food and value offered. Some comments included: “Tonight’s dinner was amazing. ... our dinner was delicious ... a good food deal at a fair price ... nice to see Boy Scouts and kids helping out with the orders ... Job well done.” South said that a similar event in mid-November is being planned, and that reservation details will be posted at moragarotary.org soon.

Funds raised by this event will largely be used to continue to support school safety projects, including security cameras at local schools. The security camera project was initially funded by donations at “A Nite at the Races,” the Moraga Rotary dinner/party/fundraiser held in early March. Installation of security cameras at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School has already started. In 2019, Moraga Rotary also raised \$12,000 toward the purchase of radio communication devices for all teachers in MSD, which have all been distributed.

Moraga Rotary also conducted its 22nd semiannual e-waste/document shredding collection in late September at the Moraga Shopping Center. The chairman and original organizer of the event, Rotarian Rich Render, said, “Yesterday will probably turn out to be the most successful event we ever

had. Lines of cars forever. Had to cut them off at 4:10 p.m. The contractor had to make three truck trips back to his warehouse because we had so much.” Rotarians were assisted by Boy Scouts from Troop 246. Render is planning another e-waste/document shredding collection in the spring 2021, and he thanked the Bruzzone family, owners of the Moraga Shopping Center, for supporting and publicizing this collection fundraiser service project. All the material was safely disposed of according to California requirements by the licensed contractor that Rotary has used since inception of the project in 2009.

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 online via Zoom due to the pandemic. If you are interested in information about Rotary, or would like to donate their worthy causes, please visit the website at moragarotary.org, or call Brian South, President, at (925) 888-7052.



Rotarian Roger Gregory takes a break at the 22nd e-waste collection conducted by Moraga Rotary.



Moraga Rotary President Brian South (center) with Rotarians Rich Render (left) and Debbie Roessler (right) at “Dinner with Rotary.”

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.

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.

The Peter Pan Foundation hopes to keep the magic and music alive



Photo provided

Peter Pan Foundation members gather for a celebration prior to the pandemic.

Submitted by Gina Campo

The Peter Pan Foundation, a Lafayette nonprofit since 2007, has been finding creative solutions to continue sharing their hearts and talents with the communities who need them most. While its regular in-person visits to UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland, in-home wish reveals for Make-A-Wish kids and numerous other philanthropic and community service activities have been halted, they continue spreading their love and light by making performance videos, virtual visits and creating online activities.

Sadly, the organization has been hit especially hard by the pandemic. It has not been able to generate any revenue that funds its service endeavors

and covers fixed operating expenses. The organization relies on two big stage musical theatre productions and donations throughout the year for income and was required to cancel all 2020 scheduled productions.

It is at risk of losing its home building on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and has kicked off a Save Our Home campaign in the hopes of raising the funds needed to keep the foundation going. Their goal is to raise \$75,000 by the end of the year.

“The PPF home is a place where I feel safe, accepted and truly happy,” said Zac Faber, 15 of Lafayette. “It’s a place where I can make a difference in my community and the world.”

Donations can be made at www.peterpanfoundation.org

Lafayette Troop 224 Scouts are staying healthy while having fun



Photo provided

Submitted by Chan Whiting

During the pandemic, the Scouts of Troop 224 are living up to their mantra, “Be prepared!” With creativity, the Troop continues to be active, achieving rank advancements, earning merit badges and celebrating these achievements virtually. While many in-person activities have had to be canceled, the Troop chose to test their mettle with a challenging 50-mile backpacking trip through the beauty of Lake Tahoe’s Desolation Wilderness, using strict social distancing measures and COVID-19 testing prior to departure.

All scouts carried their own 30-plus pound packs, with tent, sleeping bag, food and 10 essential survival items for the adventure. Younger Scouts joined for a shorter version, fishing in the lakes and using their rope tying skills to build temporary structures along the way. Despite social distancing, camaraderie and enthusiasm were high.

“It was hard but super rewarding,” related Khozema Shipchandler, who attended along with his son, Juzer. “Beautiful scenery, rewarding journey ... great group of boys and girls. The food was fantastic! And we

learned how to keep it away from bears!” Zac Robb, senior Scout, echoed similar sentiments: “Amazing views as we climbed to the top of the passes, where you could see plenty of lakes and beautiful wildlife,” and, “Hikes were long and hard but it was a great experience that I would gladly do again.”

Troop 224 welcomes both boys and girls. Although girls officially have their own troop and leadership, the girls and boys troops, 224B and 224G, are linked and do many activities together. The Troops are committed to using a combination of virtual platforms and/or social distancing to keep everyone safe during this global pandemic, while continuing to provide a healthy and stimulating set of activities, building character and having them be prepared for life.

Troop 224 was established in 1953 and meets at the Hut (behind Happy Valley Elementary School’s gymnasium). It will hold a virtual open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 16. A Fishing event at Heather Farms is planned for late November. Contact Troop 224 for information on these events or to join the Troop (struchenadams123@gmail.com, <https://www.troop224lafayette.com/>).