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Pacific Chamber Orchestra returns to concert stage



Photo provided

Submitted by Shelly Rose

Pacific Chamber Orchestra's first program of its 2021-22 season is themed

"Renewal" and will be performed at 7:30 p.m. July 17 in Moraga at the Campolindo Performing Arts Center and at 3 p.m. July 18 in Livermore at

the Bankhead Theater. Music Director Lawrence Kohl chose Beethoven's Fifth Symphony because it embodies a snapshot of our current emergence from a tempestuous journey to some kind of new normal.

At the end of such a journey comes 'Renewal' or a return to freshness and vigor. Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, also known as the Pastoral, weaves a harmonic background into a stream.

The stream reaches a pool alive with a chorus of birdcall. Beethoven penned this note to describe his final movement: "The Shepherd's Song After the Storm."

Join in the PCO's triumphant return to the concert stage and sail with them through musical storms to a peaceful renewal. For more information and tickets go to www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

Honoring Larry Swindell, July 16



The family of Larry Swindell has set a memorial service to honor his life at 2 p.m., Friday, July 16, at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga.

Larry Nolan Swindell was born on June 10, 1929, in Quanah, Texas. A graduate of UCLA and a U.S. Army veteran, Larry was a career journalist, film historian and author who published five biographies of film actors (such as Spencer Tracy and Carole Lombard).

A familiar citizen of Moraga from 1998 until his death last year, Larry died of congestive heart failure on June 22, 2020. He was 91. Due to the pandemic, this service was delayed.

Larry was inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame in 2013 and the Texas Literary Hall of Fame in 2014. Also a passionate baseball expert known for his uncanny memory, Larry was a longtime editor of the Moraga Historical Society's quarterly publication and an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley. For many years he organized and hosted a popular monthly classic film series at Moraga's historic Rheem Theatre.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Patricia Volder, of Moraga; as well as his five adult children from his 29-year marriage to Eleanor Eby Swindell (who died in 1983), 11 grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. Due to his journalism background and great love for ice cream, Larry was the beloved "Scoop" to his grandkids.

A courtyard reception will take place at the church following the service.

In Memory

Janet Louise Emmerich

September 16, 1932 – March 16, 2021

Resident of Lafayette and Moraga



Janet "Jan" Emmerich, loving wife, mother, sister, grandma ("Ma"), great grandma and friend passed away at the age of 88 peacefully in her home with her family by her side. She leaves behind her sister, Joan (Fred), and her children, Joan (Kevin), Paula (David), Mary (Rick) and Mike (Ora). She also leaves behind 12 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and her loving caregivers, Nick, Sofia and Esther.

Jan was born to Naval Captain Paul and Pauline Carbiener in Vallejo,

California. After her sister Joan was born the family moved several times before settling in San Francisco for Jan's high school years. She was proud to be called a Navy Junior during her growing up years as her father was a member of the Naval Dental Corps during World War II.

Jan was accepted to UC Berkeley after graduation from Lowell High School at the age of 16. She focused on accounting for her studies. She became a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority where many lifelong friendships were created. It was during an exchange with the Del Rey Fraternity that she met the love of her life, Vic Emmerich. At the exchange a bonfire was lit that gave Jan a bad case of poison oak. Vic came to visit her in the hospital and the rest is history. She always looked back at their college years with such happiness, even recalling how it was there that Vic taught her how to drive. They spent a wonderful 62 years together.

Vic and Jan continued to be lifelong UC Berkeley fans (Go Bears!). They were football and basketball season ticket holders and attended games with their fellow Cal Bear "cronies." The annual Big Game party at their home in Lafayette was not to be missed.

In addition to being avid Cal Bear fans, travel was a big part of their life together. They passed their love of travel on to their whole family, even taking each grandchild to a different country when they graduated from eighth grade. After seeing much of the world their love of Kauai became clear and they spent the summer months there with friends and family.

Always one to laugh at herself, the family fondly remembers Jan's life on a diet. She was always aware of the next best fad diet and she tried them all. Family will also smile and think about her honorary acceptance into the British Secret Service. This honor was given to her by an "official member" of the service, her husband Vic, and was often referred to when teaching the kids little tips and tricks.

Jan was a very active resident of Lafayette and served many positions in the Suburban Women's Club. She took her roles seriously within the community and continued this with being baptized at St. Monica Church in Moraga at the age of 83. Becoming Catholic was very important to her, something she was unable to do prior to Vic's passing as he didn't "take it seriously enough."

Jan made it clear that she will miss everyone a lot. She will be greatly missed and will live on in the hearts of many.

A memorial service will be held in the fall. Donations in her memory may be made to Hospice of the East Bay whose staff cared for her so lovingly.

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.

In Memory

Diane Weidel Steuber

July 4, 1940 – June 24, 2021



The flag has been lowered for Diane Weidel Steuber, who left us just short of her Fourth of July birthday. After being in declining health for two years, Diane died peacefully at home on June 24 surrounded by her loving husband Hal and her children.

Born to Marjorie and Ed Weidel in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Diane was the older sister to her beloved brother Eddy. The Weidel Family moved to Long Beach, California in the late 1940s and settled into California life. Diane was an active and popular student at Long Beach Poly High School. Her natural grace and beauty shone in everything she did from the start. She enjoyed modeling, served as Miss Lakewood USA and was not thinking of marriage. However, she met Hal, the star

football player from the opposing high school, and the rest was history.

Diane and Hal married in December, 1960 while they were still attending college. Diane moved to Palo Alto where Hal was playing football and rugby at Stanford University. She finished her degree at San Jose State College and became a fourth-grade teacher in Cupertino.

Diane and Hal were partners in everything that they did. Almost 50 years ago, they started Associated Services, an office coffee company that now has five offices stretching from Sacramento to Carmel. Diane was the sales manager who worked hard behind the scenes to make her sales skills look effortless. Customers couldn't say no to Diane's knowledge of coffee as well as her charming manner.

Religion centered Diane and the Golden Rule was the basis of all that she did in life. She served in many different volunteer capacities at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Her favorite positions included serving as the Elder of Fellowship, Moderator of The Presbyterian Women of LOPC, the Noteables, and The Explorers Social Group.

Diane will be greatly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know and love her. She is survived by Hal, her two children Tom (Virginia), and April Carlson (Jon); her six grandchildren Kirk, Katherine Croshaw (Yahtzee), Justin (Aidan) and Jared Steuber; Jack and Mike Carlson; her lovely great-granddaughter Elizabeth; and her brothers- and sisters-in-law.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 10 at 11 a.m. at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow.

The family thanks her many doctors at Kaiser Hospital and Hope Hospice for their care in Diane's final weeks. We especially thank Diane's caregiver Moni Marriott for her kindness and professionalism that was essential for Diane's care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Diane's memory may be made to Monument Crisis Center, www.monumentcrisiscenter.org, or any other charity of your choice.