

## Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary HOME Team back in action



Photo provided

As a member of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's HOME Team, Conrad Breece of Lafayette hangs a mirror for a homeowner. Breece is immediate past president of the club.

Submitted by Thomas Black

After 18 months of forced hibernation Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's HOME Team is back in action, according to Hays Englehart, the Team's founder

and a longtime Rotarian. HOME Team sends volunteers into the community to assist elderly homeowners in making minor repairs. The Team is well-regarded throughout Lamorinda. That all services rendered are free of charge enhances its public appeal. Shut down by pandemic restrictions in March of 2020, the Team's first date for making house calls is Sept. 25. Englehart said that because of the extended hiatus, there are "quite a few in queue." House calls are scheduled bimonthly. Although there is no income ceiling, the services rendered must involve a home (no rentals).

HOME Team is Lamorinda Sunrise's signature community-service program. It proved so popular that it was adopted by more than 30 other Rotary clubs, one as far away as suburban Chicago. All service calls are by appointment. Homeowners may

request a visit in multiple ways – through church or synagogue, senior center, by visiting [www.rotaryhometeam.com](http://www.rotaryhometeam.com), by emailing [info@rotaryhometeam.com](mailto:info@rotaryhometeam.com), or by phoning toll free 1-888-204-5573.

## Orinda Troop 303 Honors two new Eagle Scouts



Photo Andy Pines



Photo Wendy Meckes

Owen Pines of Troop 303 in Orinda attained Scouts BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout, on Sept. 22, 2020. Due to COVID delays, his formal recognition ceremony, the Eagle Court of Honor, took place on July 18, 2021 at Orinda Community Church.

Submitted by Andrew Pines

Troop 303 of Orinda held an Eagle Court of Honor July 18 at Orinda Community Church to honor Frederick Alexander Meckes, 18, and Owen William Min Soo Pines, 18, both of Orinda, each of whom attained Scouts BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout. The rank of Eagle Scout requires the completion of 21 merit badges as well as a community project on behalf of a public or nonprofit entity.

Bruce McGurk, chair of the Briones District of Scouts BSA's Golden Gate Area Council, presided over the ceremony. Orinda Mayor Amy Worth presented each of the boys with an official proclamation of the Orinda City Council declaring officially July 19, 2021, as "Owen Pines Day" and July 20, 2021, as "Alex Meckes Day" in Orinda.

Alex Meckes of Troop 303 in Orinda attained Scouts BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout, on July 23, 2020. Due to COVID delays, his formal recognition ceremony, the Eagle Court of Honor, took place on July 18, 2021 at Orinda Community Church.

Representatives of U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and California Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan also attended and read letters of congratulations to Meckes and Pines. California State Sen. Steve Glazer also sent a letter of congratulations.

Meckes was recognized for his Eagle Project, the completion of an ADA Compliant pathway in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Pines was recognized for his Eagle Project, the replacement of the flower planters in front of the administrative and counseling offices at Miramonte High School with new ones. The beneficiaries, Toris Jaeger of Wagner Ranch Nature Area and Sara Harris, former assistant principal at Miramonte High School, offered their thanks to the boys as well. Both Scouts graduated from Miramonte High School in June.

**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.

## Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte seniors awarded Kiwanis Leadership Scholarships

Submitted by Steve Woehleke



Photos provided

Chaya Tong with parents Moona Nardi and Bryan Tong

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently awarded leadership scholarships to Chaya Tong (Miramonte), Tallulah Clancy (Campolindo) and Peter Kraszulyak (Acalanes), who each demonstrated community service, leadership and academic promise during their high school careers. Specifics included extracurricular clubs, tutoring, community projects, athletics and socializing the elderly during the pandemic, in addition to excelling in academics. The scholarship awards will help support their

continuing education at Emory University, Brown University and the University of Michigan. Please join in congratulating each for their successes and future promise.



Tallulah Clancy with mother Michelle Clancy and KCMV members Gloria Eive and Jim O'Brient

## In Memory

### Daniel James McDonnell

February, 26 1944 – August 1, 2021



Daniel (Dan) James McDonnell passed away peacefully at his home in Diablo, California on Aug. 1 after a brief illness. Born in Oakland to Jack and Mary McDonnell, he was the middle of seven children.

Dan graduated from St. Mary's College High School and Armstrong College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Dan began his career path in the retail nursery business as a young boy by working for his father at McDonnell Nursery. While the original nursery business began in Oakland with his grandfather, Patrick, the nursery as we know it today was started by his father, Jack. The first retail store opened in Oakland in 1933. Dan worked at the family's Walnut Creek store before taking over the Orinda location from his father in

1979. Orinda is the last retail site still in operation. He was proud to work full-time until very recently.

Dan will be remembered for his generosity, strong work ethic, commitment to the community and most especially his sense of humor. He loved playing golf and gin with friends at Diablo Country Club. He was also a longtime season ticket holder and dedicated fan of the Oakland A's.

Dan is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary Lou, his daughters Kelley McDonnell and Sarah McDonnell Slight (Mark), his grandchildren Noah and Heidi Slight, his six siblings John McDonnell, Jr., Kathleen Woolsey, Margaret Twomey, Mary McGuinness, Nonie McDonnell and Martha McDonnell and many beloved nieces and nephews.

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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