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Moraga man embarks on sixth marathon to benefit Joslin Diabetes Center



Allie and Matt Curran

Photo provided

Submitted by Julia Demopoulos

In his early 20s, Matt Curran set a goal to one day complete six marathons. Now, in his late 40s, the Moraga resident is about to reach that goal and run his final marathon on April 18. Curran is running the Boston Marathon as a member of Team Joslin in support of Joslin Diabetes Center, a world-renowned diabetes research and treatment facility in Boston, Mass., which holds a special place in his family's hearts.

Curran's 12-year-old daughter Allie has type 1 diabetes (T1D) and was diagnosed when she was just 3 and a half years old after her preschool teachers noticed her symptoms. Curran and his wife, Sarah, were not familiar with diabetes at all. It wasn't until they looked deeper into their family history that they discovered Sarah's great uncle had passed away from T1D at a very young age.

The Curran family was familiar with Joslin's work and are friends with a runner who has run with Joslin in the past. Curran has also done work with other diabetes organizations. He sits on the board for Diabetes Youth Families, which provides educational and recreational programs for people in the Type 1 community.

Despite growing up in Vermont, with parents raised in Framingham, Mass., Curran has always had a connection to Boston and loved watching the Marathon. He wanted to run it himself one day and decided that there was no better time than now. His sister Kelly passed away last year and she would always encourage him to run it. "I thought, why wait?" Curran said.

Curran has been enjoying the fundraising aspect and thinks of it as a nice motivator to get up every day and continue his training. In running this marathon, there are a few

goals that Curran hopes to accomplish: He wants to better understand Joslin and the work they do in hopes of deepening his connection to them; he'd like to dive deeper into the research side of T1D and see what they're doing to work toward a cure; and he is also hoping the experience will bring his family closer together. Curran has extended family in Massachusetts and throughout the Northeast that will be cheering him on. "I'm really looking forward to getting together with them before the marathon so we can all share stories," Curran said.

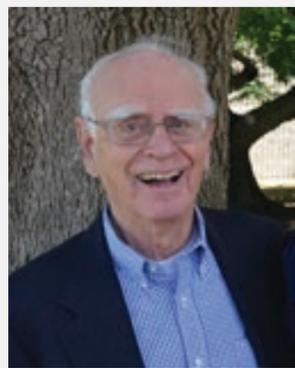
Living with and managing Type 1 Diabetes is not easy, but the Curran family hopes to continue to educate people about it. "We are very grateful for Joslin's support and know their efforts have helped Allie have the freedom and independence that was not available to others decades ago," Curran said.

For more information or to support Curran and Team Joslin, visit the link below: <https://www.givengain.com/ap/matt-curran-raising-funds-for-joslin-diabetes-center/> For more information about Joslin Diabetes Center, visit www.joslin.org

In Memory

Harrold Jones Rust Jr.

Dec. 14, 1929 – Jan. 8, 2022



Following a week surrounded by hymns and prayers from his family, Harrold Jones Rust, Jr., passed away peacefully at home in Moraga and into the Lord's embrace on Jan. 8. Harrold, known as "Rusty" by all who knew him well, was born in Saginaw, Michigan to Harrold Jones Rust Sr. and Edna Needham Rust, Dec. 14, 1929.

By the time he was school age they had moved to Jackson, Michigan where he encountered many good friends and neighbors. His best friend was a neighbor named Bill McConkie. Bill and Rusty had many adventures together like building forts or motorizing a go-cart (when Bill's father wasn't using the motor to mow the lawn). Holidays were usually spent with the families of his mother's four sisters. Those wonderful memories would lay the groundwork for his devotion to his own family in later years. One of the highlights of his childhood was attending YMCA camp at Torch Lake in Northern Michigan. He liked it so much he returned as a counselor for several summers. Among other activities he taught sailing, which down the road he was to repeat with his own sons on Lake Tahoe.

After graduating from Jackson High School, Rusty faced a pretty significant decision. When he was settling in at the University of Michigan, he received news that he was offered an appointment to Annapolis. U-of-M won his heart. He pledged Psi Upsilon where he would develop lifelong friends. Besides the usual antics of frat boys ... and he was president twice so he often had to answer for those antics ... they developed an attractive "date bait": They were able to flood the backyard of their frat house in winter. It then froze and became a skating rink with which to entertain their girlfriends.

Graduating in 1952 with a mechanical engineering degree, he attended Officer candidate training school in Newport Rhode Island and two years in the Navy followed. That was during the Korean War and his assignment was to a manufacturing plant near Philadelphia where they designed and made elevators to lift aircraft on a carrier to the deck as well as nets to catch aircraft as they landed. Following the Navy, Rusty returned home, but not for long. He opened a new office for Acme Industries, selling air conditioning systems, and moved to San Francisco. That's where he met his wife Diane one evening, when with his good friend Bill and his new bride, he visited Diane's roommates. They married Feb. 20, 1960 and moved to Moraga in 1964. Their marriage lasted just short of 62 years until Rusty passed.

For Rusty, family was everything – each member deeply loved. Diane and he had two boys, Harrold III and Bill, 2½ years apart. As a dad, he devoted a great deal of time to raising those boys. When they were learning math, he made flash cards; when they were in Cub Scouts he helped them make the fastest cars for the Pinewood Derby; when he was a plant manager for The Rucker Company he took them to the plant and let them ride forklifts. It's no wonder both boys earned mechanical engineering degrees. For summer vacations he found some newly built lakeside condos on the north shore of Lake Tahoe near Kings Beach. His family – grown to 10 now including two precious daughters-in-law (Margaret and Kayo) and six treasured grandchildren (Megan, Spencer, Ashton, Hana, Noah and Elliot) – continue to return there each summer for fun (and sailing) in the sun. That's been over 55 years now. He will be sorely missed this summer. He and Diane were stalwart season ticket holders of Stanford Cardinal football. He was also a faithful sports fan for all his grandchildren, attending countless events over the years.

If you wish to attend his Celebration of Life it will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 9 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian, 10 Valley Lane, Moraga. If you desire to remember Rusty with a donation in his memory we suggest: Samaritan's Purse/Ukraine relief, PO box 3000, Boone, NC 28607-3000

In Memory

Barbara June (Rivers) Novogradac



Mother, wife, friend, real estate entrepreneur, financial executive, and longtime Orinda resident Barbara June (Rivers) Novogradac, 61, passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, after a formidable battle with cancer.

Barbara had an inexhaustible zest for life, typified by a skydiving adventure with her son John just last summer in Truckee, California. She was game for any adventure, whether it was a spontaneous trip to New York City with her daughter, Ellie, to see a Broadway musical, or exploring London and Normandy with her son, C.J. Barbara's interests were full-spectrum—she was a knitter, pianist, scrapbooker, sewist, cyclist, chicken wrangler, car enthusiast, philanthropist, investor—and she loved to laugh. Barbara enjoyed walks with her husband and dogs, Patches and Pebbles, visiting friends, watching her children play sports, skiing, and traveling the world with her family. By 2013, she had visited all seven continents—including Antarctica.

Born in Portland, Oregon, Barbara attended high school in Dallas, Oregon, where she was Student Body President. Barbara graduated from UC Berkeley in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Business, with a focus on accounting, and began a public accounting career at Arthur Andersen & Co. In 1990, Barbara joined Robert Half International where she rose to the position of Senior Vice President and Controller. Barbara retired from Robert Half in 2001 to form a real estate investment firm, Novogradac Investment Company, and was elected to the Robert Half Board of Directors in 2009. At Robert Half, she mentored many staff and managers in their careers, coaching them to do their best work for both the company and for themselves.

Barbara was a diligent student in college and her determination to succeed led her to an economics tutor, Michael Joseph Novogradac who would, years later, become her lifelong partner and husband. Barbara and Michael married in 1994 and celebrated their 27th anniversary last September. The pride of Barbara's life were her three children, C.J., John, and Ellie.

Barbara never put herself first—she always took pleasure in caring for others, her family, friends, and those yet to become her friends. She enjoyed a lifelong relationship with a childhood friend and formed her cherished "Six Pack" with five other women with whom she shared many dinners, weekend vacations, and other adventures together—including group trips to visit their children in college.

An enthusiastic class-parent volunteer, Barbara was active in Boy Scouts (Orinda Troop 237), Girls Scouts, and the local chapter of the National Charity League, and many other charitable organizations. She inspired many co-workers and others to join her on the Waves to Wine bike ride, raising thousands of dollars to support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She cared greatly about her community and spent time making lunches and knitting blankets for homeless shelters.

Barbara's family and friends will continue to love her deeply and she will be missed enormously. Barbara is survived by her husband Michael, and their three children, Charles Jackson, John Ross Jure, and Elizabeth June, and by her stepson, Michael Joseph (Kat) Novogradac. She also leaves behind her mother Lois Roth, brother Tim (Nancy) Rivers, and uncle Bill (Doris) Reynolds. She was preceded in death by her father James Rivers, stepfather Gary Roth, and first husband Bruce Forsberg.

A celebration of Barbara's life and legacy is planned for late June in Northern California. Inquiries may be sent to novogradac@msn.com.

Condolences may be mailed to Michael Novogradac, 244 Glorietta Blvd., Orinda, CA 94563.

Remembrances may be sent in memory of Barbara to the MikeRoweWORKS Foundation, 1207 4th Street, PH1, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or at <https://www.mikeroweworks.org/donate/>.