

MEF funds new elementary science program



Photo Ana Moon

By Jenn Freedman

The Moraga School District has launched a new elementary science program this fall with the help of a generous grant from the Moraga Education Foundation (MEF). The program adds two new dedicated, credentialed science teachers who lead all elementary students through UC Berkeley's FOSS science curriculum each week.

Longtime fourth grade teachers Millie Tang from Los Perales and Virginia Drury from Donald Rheem have been tapped to teach the new curriculum. Both passionate and experienced educators, Drury also previously held a similar position at San Ramon Unified as a science specialist.

FOSS is a product of UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science, made by scientists and teachers. The FOSS program aims to make students active investigators instead of passive spectators. Awarded more than any other science program in America, FOSS is widely recognized for its quality, rigor, support, and effectiveness.

"Many children think they are 'not good' at certain academic subjects, like

science, at an early age. My goal is to help students learn to love learning and find answers to problems. ... We want students to love science, ask questions, and wonder about the world around them," Drury shares.

Tang adds, "We want our students to continue to be curious about the world around them, to be bold, to carry on their investigations and research outside of our classrooms. We want them to be relentless with their search for the 'how-to' and their 'I wonder.'"

With the new program, each student receives 45 minutes of hands-on lab work in the new, dedicated science classroom each week. In addition, Drury and Tang are leading teachers with a coordinated science lesson in the classroom. They have even created an internal website for the classroom teachers to share student progress, lessons, and links to ensure easy accessibility for all educators.

"The more people that are sharing and teaching the same subject, the more impactful it is going to be for the student," Brian Sullivan, principal at Rheem, emphasizes.

"My first graders call themselves scientists," a teacher recently mentioned to Ana Moon, president of MEF. "To have that be in their vocabulary that they identify as a scientist, it's going to open up so many possibilities for these kids to envision themselves enrolling in STEM electives at JM or taking classes like Biotech or Computer Integrated Manufacturing at Campolindo High School," Moon said.

MEF has been supporting Moraga's public schools for over 40 years. Thanks to the generous community of donors, MEF granted \$2.55 million to Moraga public schools this year, making these science teachers and many other programs possible.

Donations fund academics, enrichment, academic support, and student wellness.

The 2022-2023 Giving Campaign is going on now to raise funds for next year's grant. Donations can be made online at moragaeducation.org.

'Triptychs' features black & white photos by Jeff Heyman at Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre Gallery



Photos Jeff Heyman

The City of Lafayette's Public Art Committee has selected "Triptychs," a collection of 36 black and white photographs by East Bay photographer Jeff Heyman, for exhibit at the Town Hall Theatre Gallery in Lafayette. Heyman is a contributing photographer for Lamorinda Weekly.

The exhibition runs Oct. 4 through Nov. 17. There will be an opening reception Sunday, Oct. 9, from 3 to 5 p.m.

After taking photography classes at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, Calif., Heyman went on to earn a degree from San Francisco State University in Fine Art Photography. He studied under such photographers as Catherine Wagner, Don Worth, Jack Welpott and Melanie Walker, and painters Robert Bechtle and Paul Pratchenko.

Heyman has had work featured in

group shows and won several awards for his photos. This is his first solo exhibit. The photographs range from abstracts of a home in Orinda to surreal objects and bizarre portraits.

Heyman chose the triptych format, which historically has been used to convey a spiritual meaning or a narrative, because he felt it suited these particular photographs.

"I have always liked triptychs and felt that although I'm not telling a particular story with these photographs, it lends them a certain amount of whimsical mystery," Heyman said. "Each triptych will mean something different to the person viewing it. It will become their own personal narrative."

To view Heyman's photos, visit <https://heymanfoto.smug-mug.com/SoloExhibitTownHallTheatre/> - J. Wake

In Memory

Eric Gregerson

Oct. 5, 1944 - Sept. 3, 2022



Eric, a fifth generation Californian, was born on Oct. 5, 1944 to Eugene and Beryl Gregerson in Watsonville. He grew up in Sacramento, and later moved to Atlanta where he graduated from high school in 1962. Eric studied at University of Georgia and then moved back to California, attending Fresno City College and Fresno State. Eric also served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

At Fresno State, he met Judy Simonian in the spring of 1969. They married in 1972 and moved to Lafayette, Calif., where Eric worked for Bank of America. After a few years in banking, Eric received his contractor's license and made a career of home repairs and remodeling.

He and Judy lived in Lafayette for 40 years and raised Cora and Chad, coached youth sports teams and forged many friendships. Upon retirement in

2010, Eric and Judy moved back to Fresno. Eric's favorite place to be was in his shop, refinishing and repairing antiques and creating wood projects. He worked alongside Judy to help turn her creations into a reality. Eric enjoyed restoring and traveling in their vintage airstream.

He was always there for anyone that needed help, including helping his son with many projects or flying to the Midwest multiple times to help his daughter's family move. Eric inherited the Gregerson dry sense of humor and quick wit that was appreciated by many. He loved family time in the mountains: the annual family summer trips to Pinecrest and boating on lakes across California. He was an avid reader and he loved cooking gourmet meals for his friends and family. His beloved dog, Roxy, was always by his side. Eric was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Above all, Eric was gracious and giving and he will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Eric is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judy, his children, Chad Gregerson (Denise) and Cora Bahl (Brad), and grandchildren, Mary and Margo Gregerson and Parker and Avery Bahl. He was predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Beryl Gregerson and his sister Gale McArdle. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Eric's name to the American Cancer Society.

In Memory

Katherine Marie Cooper (Meyers) Morgan



Katherine Marie Cooper (Meyers) Morgan passed peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, on Aug. 12, 2022. She was born Oct. 22, 1977. Known and loved as Katie, she grew up in San Leandro and attended Bishop O'Dowd High School. Katie earned her BA from the University of California, Davis and her law degree with honors from Boston College Law School, where she served as Managing Editor of the Law Review.

Katie started her career as an attorney at Latham & Watkins in San Francisco before embarking on a second career in interior design. She curated each space in her life in her intentional, elegant way. Everyone could always breathe easier in the beautiful environments she created, including the family home she shared with her husband, Rees, and children, Claire and Jack, in Lafayette, Calif. Katie volunteered with the Lafayette Juniors for many years and served as president of the organization, was active in her children's schools

and extracurricular activities, and participated extensively in her community. She seemingly had more hours in the day than most.

Katie was loved smart with a lightning quick wit and as compassionate as she was funny. She loved books, talking politics long into the evening, wine, running, travel, gift-giving, and the absurdity of the human condition. To know Katie is to have laughed with her, received her sound advice, or benefitted from her pragmatic perspective; everyone in her orbit was drawn to her.

Most significantly, Katie was a wife and mother whose dedication to those roles has left not only a tremendous void, but an indelible mark on this world. She loved Rees deeply and unconditionally with a commitment to creating an exemplary life filled with meaning and connection, humor and fun. Claire and Jack were Katie's greatest accomplishment and pride. She lives on in them.

She is survived by Rees, Claire and Jack; her parents, Steven and Sally Meyers; her brothers, Steven Meyers, his wife Michelle and their three children and Michael Meyers, his wife Ashley and their three children; her father-in-law William Morgan and brother-in-law Chad Morgan; her aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless devoted friends Katie touched throughout her entirely too short life. Rest Katie and we will see you again.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Katie's memory to the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) by visiting melanoma.org/KatieMorgan or sending a donation to: Melanoma Research Foundation P.O. Box 719329 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19171-9329. Federal Tax ID Number: 76 0514428

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