

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Moraga Library holds a winter craft workshop for kids



Photos Vera Kochan

Amateur ornithologists make Pinecone Snowy Owls

By Vera Kochan

Now that COVID mandates have been lifted by Contra Costa County, the Moraga Library is once again holding programs for kids. The Dec. 8

craft workshop was the first since in-person events were curtailed in March 2020. Youth Services Librarian Nirit Schnitzer said that the library is hoping to offer a free program for kids once a month. Assisted by Library Aide

Stacey (last name withheld) and Library Assistant Emily Ferne, kids aged 2-8 spent an hour making Pinecone Snowy Owls using pinecones, pampas grass, cotton/batting, pipe cleaners, and wiggly eyes. Schnitzer explained that the idea was to emulate many of

the natural ornaments on the library's Critter Tree that was made by members of the Moraga Garden Club (who sponsored this event).

Parents pitched in to help their younger kids, but the older ones did just fine without any guidance. Assembling an owl was much more difficult than it appeared, as this reporter's owl looked like it was hit by a semi-truck in mid-flight.

However, Sonya (8), was one of the "expert" crafters whose Pinecone Snowy Owl was a very good facsimile of the real thing. When asked if she'd given her owl a name yet she replied, "I will when I think of one."

## Campolindo parents donate a tsunami of cookies to teachers and staff



Photo Sora O'Doherty

A volunteer assembles a sample plate of cookies to show the volunteers how to arrange the gifts for teachers and staff.

By Sora O'Doherty

A call went out to parents of students at Campolindo: "We need 160 parents to each donate two dozen cookies as gifts for teachers and staff at the school." And the call was answered as thousands of cookies poured into the school on the morning of Dec. 8, where parent volunteers gathered to assemble gift packages for each teacher and staff member and others. This year the cookie committee was chaired by Sabine Antonios-McCrea with the help of Susette Johnson.

If everybody who was called upon had donated the requested number of cookies, it would have totaled nearly 4,000 cookies, and organizers believe that they did receive roughly that number. No one had time to actually count, however, as volunteers gathered to assemble holiday plates with a selection of

about 30 cookies each, to be wrapped in cellophane and tied up with festive bows.

There was a special table dedicated to gluten-free treats, and about 10 gluten-free plates were prepared. In addition to the cookies some parents also donated chocolates or other candies. A special treat this year was items from Holly's Home Grown in Lafayette, as Holly is the parent of a senior at Campolindo.

In addition to the teachers and staff, 24 plates of cookies were distributed to the Annex, which houses some Acalanes High School District employees, and also to the Wellness Center and the Counseling Center on campus.

Stephanie Sliwinski, Attendance and Health Technician, reported that the cookies went over very well with the 114 teachers and staff. "We look forward to it every year," she added.



Two volunteers show off a finished gift plate of cookies, made and donated by parents, to be given to the high school teachers and staff for the holidays.

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