

Burton Valley students support Ukrainian refugees in the Bay Area



Burton Valley students with Ami Dodson from JFCS

Photo provided

Submitted by Mackenzie Preisler

Burton Valley Elementary's annual AIM Book Bonanza was a success again! Each year, the AIM class chooses a cause and donates the money that they make from their annual fundraiser. This year the AIM class donated the money to Jewish Family Services to help the Ukrainian refugees in the Bay Area, hoping to help them after their long journey from Ukraine to flee from the war.

After weeks of collecting gently used children's books, the class had enough books to start pricing and sorting; they were finally ready to start their sale. The prices ranged from 25 cents to \$3. The students also sold handmade origami, rainbow loom bracelets and keychains, bookmarks, as well as raffle tickets, and sports cards. They also had a signed Lady Gaga book bidding, with the winning

bid of \$115.

The classroom was transformed into a book store and sales started on Dec. 7. All the students worked really hard, and all the effort was worth it. When the sale ended two days later, the AIM students counted up the money for a total of \$3,503.61, which was a new record. Not only did the AIM class break the record for the most money raised, but they also broke the record for most books donated from students at Burton Valley Elementary. The remaining books were donated to the Contra Costa WIC program and West County Reads.

The students were filled with joy and pride when they presented the check to Ami Dodson from Jewish Family and Community Services for the Ukrainian refugees. Mrs. Martinson's class is very grateful for all the support and donations from the BVE students. Their book donations and purchases and book donations made all the difference.

Rotary Club of Moraga continues support for MEF



Photo provided

From left: Pete Alvarez (Campolindo High School principal), Dr. Julie Parks (Moraga School District superintendent), Igor Kipnis (Moraga Rotary co-president), Dr. John Nickerson (Acalanes Union High School District superintendent), Roger Gregory (Moraga Rotary co-president), Ana Moon (Moraga Education Foundation – board of director president)

Submitted by Hubert Ma

Rotary Club of Moraga continues to support the Moraga Education Foundation by presenting another financial donation after Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson's presentation at the Jan. 10 Rotary meeting. "Rotary is a great partner with our schools. Their support helps us develop the whole child during their academic career," Nickerson stated.

"Donations like Rotary's helps MEF fund the hiring of credentialed science teachers in Moraga's elementary schools," Ana Moon shared at the meeting.

"Moraga Rotary is a service orga-

nization that believes in supporting our local schools via Moraga Education Foundation," stated Moraga Rotary Co-President Roger Gregory. "Our membership along with those that support our various fundraisers like Dinner with Rotary enable us to provide this financial donation," added Moraga Rotary Co-President Igor Kipnis.

Moraga Education Foundation will be one of the benefactors of Rotary's Jan. 24 takeout dinner – additional details, www.moragarotary-fundraiser.com.

Rotary Club of Moraga (www.moragarotary.org) meets every Tuesday at noon both via Zoom and at LaFinestra restaurant (1419 Moraga Way in Moraga).

Brian South honored by Rotary Club in Scotland



Photo provided

Past President of Rotary Club of Tranent Jim Tait (left) presents the Quaich to Past President of Rotary Club of Moraga Brian South (right) at the Burns Supper in Tranent, Scotland.

Submitted by Gary Irwin

Moraga Rotarian Brian South was invited to deliver the Immortal Memory speech at the Burns Supper given recently at the Royal Musselburgh in Tranent, East Lothian, Scotland. This dinner is held annually by the Rotary Club of Tranent in honor of the renowned 18th century poet Robert Burns, who is remembered as the Bard of Scotland and whose work had worldwide impact. The annual Burns Supper is also a celebration of Scottish culture, complete with bagpiping, a meal with haggis, toasts, recitations of Burns' poetry, and Scottish musicians and entertainment.

South's speech was carefully re-

searched, and dealt mainly with the poet's popularity in the United States in the mid-1800s. He also donated to the Rotary Club of Tranent an authentic 19th century book of Burns' poetry with an inscription by a daughter as a present for her father in 1888.

South's speech also described interesting details on the connections between Burns and President Abraham Lincoln, who was known to have read and memorized Burns poems and to recite them throughout his life.

Rotary Club of Tranent connected to Moraga when each club hosted Youth Exchange students in their respective countries, and Eilidh Tait, daughter of Tranent Rotary Past President Jim Tait, was sponsored by Moraga Rotary to attend Campolindo for a year. During COVID lockdowns, the two Rotary Clubs renewed their

connection via Zoom, when each club provided a program at one another's meetings. Jim Tait even related the story of their family's grandfather who won the golf Open Championship three times in the late 1800s. Rotary Club of Tranent also generously donated an engraved Quaich, a traditional Scottish drinking vessel which will be awarded by Moraga Rotary to each year's new Club President.

Brian South has Scottish ancestors as a descendant of the Stewart Clan and he wore the appropriate Tartan tie. He was able to spend a few days as a guest of the Tait's, and he enjoyed Scottish hospitality, local cuisine, and unusually dry weather!

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.

In Memory

Ruth Cartwright

Nov. 23, 1959 – Oct. 15, 2022



Ruth Cartwright was born on Nov. 23, 1959 in Richmond, California and graduated from Pinole High School. She held a number of jobs before she joined Safeway in 1992 and was very active in her church: Saint Joseph in Pinole. She died suddenly on Oct. 15, 2022.

After losing the love of her life in a tragic motorcycle accident, Ruth raised her only daughter and managed to arrange her work schedule at Safeway so she could always drive her daughter to softball tournaments for over a dozen years. Ruth was devoted to her two grandsons (ages 6 and 12) and had a standing Friday night date with her oldest grandson. Her favorite band was Aerosmith; her favorite song was "Dream On."

Ruth usually worked checkstand No. 3 in the Moraga Safeway across from the self checkout stands. Always cheerful, even at 5:30 in the morning, she checked out her customers with marvelous efficiency and knew many of them by name. She utilized her sense of humor and ready wit to make things go smoothly. She continues to be missed by her coworkers and customers. Below are some comments from some of Ruth's friends and coworkers:

Brenda D: "Ruth and I have been friends for 29 years. We worked together in Orinda and Moraga. Customers still say how sweet she was and how much they still miss her smiling face. She is sorely missed. Rest in peace Ruth. Love you, Brenda."

Danny L: "Ruth was a devoted Raiders fan and she always had a smile on her face."

Tanya G: "She was a lovely woman and what I loved about Ruth the most was that she cared about people."

Ursula S: "When I heard that Ruth had passed away, I was so shocked that I cried. At 62 she was much too young. I love her and miss her."

Jaqueline C: "Ruth and I shared more than just working together, next to each other, every morning – we shared our lives, the joys and troubles. ... I miss her so much."

If you would like to contribute to a GoFundMe for Ruth's daughter and grandchildren, here is the link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/ruth-cartwright-memorial-fund?utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined

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