

Lions Blood Drive gives gift of life



Photo provided

From left: Lion Karen Kalvass, Lion Peggy Hall, and volunteer Ceil Murtagh

Submitted by Robert Murtagh

The Lamorinda Lions Club on Dec. 29, 2022, hosted a Blood Drive at Holy Shepard Lutheran Church, Orinda. A

total of 37 people kept their appointed times and a total of 34 pints of blood were donated. The blood is distributed to several hundred hospitals in Northern California. For more information on future Blood Drives, contact Lion Karen Kalvass at (925) 284-8130.

Eagle project focuses on helping feed Ukrainian refugees

Submitted by Irene Gough

Acalanes senior Tyler Gough, Life Scout from BSA Troop 243 in Lafayette, is in the final stages of earning the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle project, Gough plans to raise \$5,000 and use the funds to pack 15,000 meals, with the help of Kids Against Hunger Bay Area, which will be sent to support Ukraine during its ongoing crisis. "The funds collected will be used to pay for the ingredients, to ensure the recipients are consuming quality food," Gough wrote on his GoFundMe page.

"Scouting has provided so many unforgettable opportunities and experiences, and I would love to be able to

give back to the community by addressing the issue of world hunger. Any help you can provide means so much to me as I seek to fulfill this dream," he wrote.

Gough is also asking for help at two upcoming packing events on Feb. 26 from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. and March 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m., which will be when the meals are prepared. Sign-ups are free and anyone is invited to attend.

For information, visit www.gofundme.com/f/eagle-project-helping-ukrainian-refugees?member=24682035&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined

Park Theater Capital Campaign on road to reaching its goal



Lamo archive

businesses, and foundations have donated to the Park Theater effort since 2018, with 190 new donors just from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31, 2022 alone. The \$3 million raised to purchase the historic Park Theater in December 2021 represented a huge showing of community support for this effort; these 2022 fundraising totals show that the desire to bring the Park back burns very bright indeed. Just think - if every Lafayette resident and every Lafayette business contributed to the Park's Renovation Capital Campaign, TPTT's goal of reopening in 2024 would be well on its way.

TPTT is asking that the momentum keeps going! Upcoming TPTT events and opportunities in 2023 include the TPTT golf tournament fundraiser to be held at Orinda Country Club on Monday, Aug. 28. TPTT is also excited to announce the formation of the Acalanes High School TPTT Booster Club led by two very enthusiastic students, Steph Boustani and Julia Johnson, and their faculty sponsor, drama teacher Ed Meehan. TPTT is so grateful for this interest and support because, certainly, the Park Theater is sure to be a favorite of the younger generation when it reopens!

TPTT has received City and County support (most recently \$25,000 from The Livable Communities Trust, thanks to Supervisor Candace Andersen), and is working with other government streams to secure additional funding. TPTT continues to seek major donor support, corporate and business donations, and other grant opportunities so critical to this transformational effort on behalf of Lafayette, Lamorinda, and the entire East Bay.

Please stop by the Park Theater to see a complete list of donors in 2022 or visit its website. Donations and pledges are cumulative toward fun Park Theater perks and meaningful recognition. Everyone can make a difference. For more information or to donate, please visit <https://parktheatertrust.org>.

Submitted by Tracey Karsten Farrell

Thanks to generous support from the greater Lamorinda community, 2023 is off to a terrific start for the much-loved Park Theater. Despite the recent wet and windy weather, spirits are very sunny and bright indeed as The Park Theater Trust (TPTT) not only met the challenge of matching \$350,000 for the Park Theater Renovation Capital Campaign, the all-volunteer nonprofit crushed it, bringing in over \$460,000 during the time period of Aug. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022.

Add the \$350,000 donated by two generous Lafayette families and a total of \$810,072 was raised this last part of the year. The Challenge was a huge success and a major contributor to an overall strong fundraising year for the campaign to bring the Park Theater back to life: Total 2022 giving was \$1,290,900.

Fundraising is more than just a numbers game, it's also a participatory game, and TPTT is especially thrilled to report that 752 individuals,

New exhibit 'Orinda: Photographs by Jeff Heyman' at Orinda Books



Photo Jeff Heyman

Orinda Books, an independent local bookstore in the heart of Orinda Village, is hosting a new photography exhibit, "Orinda: Photographs by Jeff Heyman," a collection of six iconic photographs of the East Bay city of Orinda.

The exhibit runs through the end of February. There will be an opening reception Saturday, Feb. 4, from 3 to 4 p.m. at Orinda Books (276 Village Square, Orinda). The bookstore is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on Sundays.

First taking photography classes at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, Calif., Heyman went on to earn a degree in Fine Art Photography

from San Francisco State University. He studied under the photographers Catherine Wagner, Don Worth, Jack Welpott and Melanie Walker, and painters Robert Bechtle and Paul Pratchenko.

Heyman, a Bay Area native who lives in Orinda, is a freelance photographer for the Lamorinda Weekly and The Orinda News. His photographs are published regularly and his work has been featured in several photography shows. This is his second solo exhibit.


"Orinda: Photographs by Jeff Heyman" at Orinda Books features a dramatic photograph of the Orinda Theatre at sunset as well as striking landscapes of the scenic city's hillsides.

Photographs from the exhibit can be viewed online here: <https://heymanfoto.smugmug.com/Exhibits/Heyman-Exhibit-Orinda-Books>

In Memory

Alan Cupples

Sept. 27, 1939 – Jan. 2, 2023



Alan Cupples of Pleasant Hill, California, passed away at home on Jan. 2, 2023, at the age of 83. Longtime resident of Orinda, born Sept. 27, 1939 in St. Louis, Missouri, Alan was the son of Jack and Hazel Cupples. Alan graduated from University City High School and then attended Washington University. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Ronald "Bob" Cupples of St. Louis.

Alan is survived by his former wife Lynne Cupples of Pleasant Hill and their three daughters, Kate Cupples, Nicole (Patrick) Mullins and Jessica (Sekai) Greer, his sister Elaine Gelber, dear friend and partner, Fifi Goodfellow, as well as 6 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great grandnieces and great grandnephews. He was a loving, dedicated father and even more devoted grandfather.

Aside from being an avid fan of his favorite professional baseball (A's) and basketball (Warriors) teams, Alan was an accomplished diver, baseball and football player. His love of sports continued well into his late 70s where he helped organize and played on the Lamorinda Lasers, a competitive, slow-pitch senior men's softball team. Alan also made it a point to attend almost each of every one of his kids' soccer games and grandkids basketball, baseball and football games.

Although Alan moved away from the St. Louis area in the mid-70s to pursue a successful career running Selix Formalwear based in the San Francisco Bay area, he maintained close ties with his lifelong St. Louis friends many of whom he truly considered to be like family.

Alan will be forever remembered by his many family members and friends with whom he always managed to share a copy or two of his favorite jokes or humorous stories.

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, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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.

**Submit stories or story ideas to
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