

Sweet Thursday Author Series: book on lessons learned by Willie Mays

Submitted by Laurie Miles

The Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center are excited to end the programming year by offering John Shea, author of “#24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid” at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15 in the Don Tatzin

Community Hall. “#24” is about Willie Mays, nicknamed the “Say Hey Kid” and Baseball Hall of Famer. He is considered by many to be the greatest all-around player of all time. According to Leo Durocher, Mays’ first Major League manager, “He was a superstar who could hit, hit with power, run, throw, and field. He had that other ingre-

dient that turns a superstar into a super superstar. He lit up the room when he came in. He was a joy to be around.” The book is divided into 24 chapters, the same number Mays wore his entire baseball playing career. Each chapter is based on a “life lesson,” such as “life and baseball aren’t fair: the story of a game of inches” and “never give up: the story

of a 16-inning classic.” In each chapter, Mays makes some brief comments, and then author, Shea, fills them out with anecdotes from fellow players, friends, and even ex-presidents. His chapters on batting, hitting, fielding, and running bases are for everyone to learn from and enjoy. If you love the game of baseball, you will love this book.

This is a free event although registration is required. Register at tinyurl.com/sweet-june23. The DTCH doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and sweets before the talk. Books will be sold after the event. This program will be presented in-person or via Zoom livestream.

Rain doesn't dampen fun and generosity at Rotary event



Photo Leander Hauri

Submitted by Tom Guyette

The First Annual Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Speed Croquet Tournament was held May 6 at the Lafayette Reservoir. The bad news – the intermittent inclement weather kept many folks away. The good news – those of us who did come out had a fantastic time. The croquet players ranged in age from 3 to “it’s not polite to ask” and all competed with fortitude and good humor.

Rule No. 1 (“Have fun!”) was strictly adhered to. The rules of croquet were strictly ... approximated. Each team of six had to make it from one end of the croquet field to the other in the least amount of time. The top teams had a playoff to determine the winners of the highly coveted medals.

When the dust had settled, Team

Mad Hatter, consisting of the Wilkinson-Textor family and whatever ringers they could round up, took the top honors.

But everyone was a winner. The rain that fell immediately before and immediately after the event held off throughout the tourney. The event was continuously punctuated by cheers, laughter, creative interpretations of the alleged rules of croquet, and a shared sense of a day well spent.

Wrapping up the day was the Magic of Cosmo. Perhaps his greatest feat of magic was the grace and facility with which he blended his illusions, the spirit of Rotary, a message (“Be wonderful, not perfect”) that is important for the self-esteem of everyone, but especially for the self-esteem of the middle school students who will benefit from the \$650 funds raised.

The Speed Croquet Gold medalists, The Mad Hatters, from left: Daphne Wilkinson, Nick Wilkinson, Michael Wilkinson, Jamie Textor, Perrin Kliot, Brad Davis

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