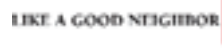


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Community Service

Orinda Couple Wins Rotary Raffle Canoe

Submitted by Thomas Black



From left: John Fazal, Janet and Norm Pease

Photo Thomas Black

The winners of a custom-made, hand-crafted wood canoe raffled by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club are Norm and Janet Pease, longtime residents of Orinda. Their winning ticket was drawn after the recent Lafayette Reservoir Run, in which Norm was an entrant, by Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the Run.

Gross revenue from the raffle -- \$20 per ticket, six for \$100 -- totaled \$17,310. The winner had the choice of accepting the canoe or \$2,000 cash. The Peases opted for the canoe, the commercial value of which is estimated at between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Proceeds will be used by the club to fund a variety of community-service projects, including partial underwriting of the new outdoor concert stage under construction at Lafayette Reservoir.

Tippy, as dubbed by the club, will make the trek next spring to the Peases' summer

home at Elk Lake, near Bend, Oregon. Meantime, it will "hibernate" in a hangar at Buchanan Field in Concord, where a private airplane owned and flown by Pease is stored.

The canoe was built from scratch by a dozen worker-bee Rotarians in the private woodshop of Gary Fulcher, a club member and resident of Orinda. In addition to acting as official project supervisor, Fulcher put in untold hands-on hours himself. It is estimated that some 1,500 man-hours were invested over a period of eight labor-intensive months, beginning last January.

The 15-foot canoe—literally one of a kind—was hand-built stem to stern, including the two caned seats. The outer top and bottom are "woven" from hundreds of lengths of African rosewood veneer. Other materials comprising the laminate hull are Kevlar, fiberglass and resins. The topmost layer is a professionally-applied thick clearcoat of high-gloss varnish.

Moraga Rotary Donates Dictionaries to Third Graders

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Moraga Rotarians, from left: John Erickson, Dictionary Project chairman Dick Vance, Al Simonsen, Frank May, Barbara Bruner, Tony Schoemehl, and President Nora Avelar.

Rotary Club of Moraga recently donated and delivered a total of 270 dictionaries to third graders at Camino Pablo, Rheem, Los Perales, Canyon, and Saklan schools, and to an elementary school in Oakland. These dictionaries are now owned by the students. Moraga Rotarians delivered the dictionaries to their classrooms, and gave the children some introductory instruction in using them. Many teachers assign the chil-

dren to pick a favorite word, look it up in the dictionary, and tell of their experience in a letter of thanks to Rotary. Delivering these dictionaries has been a Moraga Rotary project for more than 15 years.

Moraga Rotary is a local service club within Rotary International that meets most Tuesdays at noon at St. Mary's College. For information, please call Gary Irwin at (925) 376-7688.

Giving Opportunities this Holiday Season

Cycle Recycle, 'til the end of November. Every year, Bobbie and Tom Preston collect repairable bikes for refurbishing by Trips for Kids, the Bicycle Hut, and by the inmates at Marsh Canyon Detention Facility. The repaired bikes are given at Christmas to under-privileged children. Most needed are tricycles and junior bikes; please no skateboards. The Prestons have been doing the Cycle Recycle for 14 years, and over 1500 bikes have been gifted to kids. New and/or used, repairable bikes may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home, only through the month of November, at 1307 Larch Avenue, Moraga.

The Moraga Police Officers Association along with S.A.F.E. (Stuffed Animals For Emergencies) is collecting new or gently used stuffed animals to help children through traumatic experiences. The stuffed animals are given to local police and fire departments, which distribute them to children they encounter who have been affected by traumatic events. S.A.F.E also facilitates the distribution of donated stuffed animals for a variety of charitable purposes to help children. This year's annual holiday collection drive begins on 11/23 and ends on 12/27. New or gently used stuffed animals can be dropped off in the collection area located in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd. Thank you for your support!

The wonderful people of Handlebar Toys of Lafayette have kindly offered to host Lamorinda Girl Scout Troop #31983's "2nd annual Toy Drive Event" again this year, from November 25th until December 20th! There are several thousand homeless and needy children that will be served by the Mission this holiday. When purchasing a special gift for a child in your life, please consider choosing something to put a smile on another less fortunate child's face. Thank you so much from Troop #31983! Make a difference in the lives of women, families, and teens by making a tax-deductible donation to Be the Star You Are!® charity in Moraga. New books are being shipped to groups and families across the US who have suffered in recent natural disasters. Checks of any amount may be sent to Be the Star You Are!® 501c3, PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. 94556. Or make donations online via PAYPAL at <http://www.bethestaryouare.org/donate.htm>. \$25 provides 5 books, \$50 provides 12 books, and \$100 provides 28 books. Thanks for caring. Everyone counts!

Please support the new Lafayette Community Stage at the Reservoir. The new permanent stage, initiated by the Lafayette Rotary, will be used for community events like the annual "Concert at the Res," which help fund music programs at our local schools and many other outdoor performing events. Send your check to Lafayette Community Foundation, "Rotary Stage", PO Box 221, Lafayette, CA 94549-0221.

Tree of Lights ceremonies are meant to comfort members of the community who have lost a loved one and to raise funds to support Hospice of the East Bay services. By purchasing a light for \$25, you can honor someone you love while supporting patient care. To sponsor a tree or to make a suggested donation of \$25 per light visit www.hospiceeastbay.org or send a tax-deductible check to Hospice of the East Bay, at 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For further information, call (925) 887-5678.

The Town of Moraga reminds residents that they can help light the Town tree at the Moraga Commons Park by donating to the Buy-a-Bulb Fundraiser - send checks payable to the Town of Moraga to: Town of Moraga, Attn: Buy-a-Bulb, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556.

Safeway: Help Us End Hunger Holiday Food Drive from November 16 – December 24. Purchase a \$10 prepacked bag of groceries which will be donated to the Food Bank. In store barrels will be available to drop off the donation, it's quick and easy.

Whole Foods: From Now until December 31, donate non-perishable items while shopping at the Lafayette Whole Foods store to support the Food Bank, or make a cash donation at the register while checking out. Look for pallets of healthy items on display. You can't miss the bins to collect donated non-perishable items.

"Beadforlife" Workshop And Bead Sale, November 27 after worship at 11:15 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda 94563. The Women Helping Women Group of Orinda Community Church will sponsor another handmade beaded jewelry sale to help Ugandan women to leave poverty. The event will also feature a Workshop on Empowerment of Girls through Education. All net profits from BeadforLife sales are invested in projects that fight extreme poverty, primarily in three key areas: health, affordable housing, and vocational training for impoverished youth, and entrepreneurial development through micro credit for small businesses.

Company C Contemporary Ballet is partnering with the non-profit Educational Foundation of Orinda to offer tickets to select performances of the 10th Anniversary Season Winter Program that benefit EFO and the Orinda schools. For every full priced benefit ticket sold to an EFO supporter, the Company will donate \$10 of the ticket price to EFO. Benefit tickets are priced \$45 orchestra seating, available for the following Winter Program performances: Leshner Center for the Arts, January 20-21 and the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, February 17 and 19. For the matinee performance at the Leshner Center for the Arts at 3 p.m. on January 21, children 12 and under come for free with purchase of one full priced benefit ticket. Maximum of 4 children per ticket sold. Most appropriate for children 7 and older. Benefit ticket buyers must use the code "ENRICH" when ordering tickets to ensure their discount and support for every full priced benefit ticket sold. Details of programs, dates and venues may be found at www.companycballet.org.

Need Donations?

During the holiday season, *Lamorinda Weekly* will accept and publish opportunities for local giving. Please send 100 words or less describing the cause, type of donation needed, and where to bring/send it. The organization collecting the donations, or receiving the donations, should be within our extended community. Submissions must be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com by Nov. 30 for inclusion in our Dec 7 issue, and by Dec. 14 for inclusion in our Dec. 21 issue.



Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com