

In Memory

Fred H. G. Lothrop, citizen of Lafayette, CA—1931-2018



Fred Lothrop left this life in the same way he spent it—by taking care of those around him and then quietly leaving the scene. It was August 8, 2018, when, after returning home from yet another hospital stay, he greeted each of his children and grandchildren (and their spouses), smiled at his wife Judith, checked out the view from the living room’s front window, and then simply stopped breathing. Living with cancer had become too much work. He was in the house he had purchased and lived in for more than 55 years in the Burton Valley area of Lafayette.

Fred was born in Berkeley to Marcus and Derelle Lothrop at the start of the Depression and together with his parents and a younger sister (Evelyn White) lived in a grand house his father had built when the Berkeley Hills were mostly empty. Fragile health as a child brought him to Lafayette’s sunshine for extended stays, and thus his relationship with this city he called home began. Upon graduation from Berkeley High School in 1949, he attended Yale College (graduating Class of ’53), and got drafted for the Korean War. But Fred led a charmed life and managed to spend his Army days mostly in Europe, where he got to refine a boyhood hobby (radio communication) into a life-long skill. Army life over, he returned stateside to get a 2nd Bachelors (Electrical Engineering at UC Berkeley) and to marry Janet Dudley Clayton in June of 1958. They moved to Lafayette in 1959, raised three daughters (Cathy Hager (John), Mary Trimble, and Nancy Kaehler), enjoyed 3 grandchildren (Andrew (Hannah), Stephen, and Thomas) and celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary before Janet died in 1999.

The majority of Fred’s work life was with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory at the University of California, most notably working with physicists who had come from all over the world to run their experiments in the Bevatron. LBL was Fred’s work home from 1956 to 1997.

Both Janet and Fred were deeply involved in All Souls Episcopal Church in Berkeley, where Janet (among other duties) was their first female usher. Fred’s duties were focused on ushering, electrical work, sound systems, general building maintenance, vestry responsibilities, and finance. The last church duty he gave up before illness took all his strength was running the sanctuary sound system from a booth he designed himself and had built in 2014.

In Lafayette Fred was a very familiar face—volunteering regularly for myriad fund-raising activities of the Chamber of Commerce (most especially the Res Run and the Art & Wine Festival), teaching CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes and serving on the Lamorinda CERT steering committee, and participating in the city’s Emergency Preparedness Commission, which he joined in 2005 and chaired from 2007 until the time of his death.

When not participating in civic duties, Fred enjoyed back-packing, gardening, photography, automobiles, and (of course) amateur radio (call K6REQ).

Fred married Judith Stadler Gonder in 2001, and she moved to his home. Besides church at All Souls, they shared a love of theater, mostly in Ashland, Oregon, as well as The Lamplighters presentations of Gilbert and Sullivan. Met live broadcasts of operas were another favorite.

A celebration of Fred’s life will be on September 8, 1:00, at All Souls Episcopal Church, 2220 Cedar Street in Berkeley. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to charity. Among Fred’s favorites are The All Souls Senior Housing Project (a non-profit endeavor for low-income seniors), Doctors without Borders, and Hospice East Bay.

Local firms bring the beach to a military family

Submitted by Truman Flynn



Photo provided

Branagh Development Inc. and Left Coast Architecture partnered with Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley to design and build a beach themed playhouse for a military family. BDI and LCA reached out to Habitat for Humanity back in March to organize a volunteer day and identified the Playhouse Program as a good fit. Habitat East Bay/Silicon Valley’s Playhouse Program offers sponsors a fun, unique team building experience spent creating custom playhouses for local children, with sponsorship proceeds going back in to fund housing solutions through Habitat.

Habitat EBSV partners with Blue Star Moms to select a family currently serving in any of the branches of the Armed Forces of the United States to receive the playhouse. The recipient family recently relocated to the Bay Area and requested a beach theme

for their 5-year-old son who left a lot of friends and family back in San Diego where they were last stationed. The intent of the playhouse is that it will help the boy make a smooth transition into a new community when the family relocates.

Based on the template provided by Habitat EBSV, LCA came up with the design for the playhouse which was full of vibrant beach colors and scenery including sand, waves, sun, and surf boards. On Aug. 3, with guidance from two representatives from Habitat EBSV, volunteers from BDI and LCA constructed and painted the playhouse at Branagh Development Inc., located at the west end of Lafayette. The recipient family arrived just as the paint was drying. They were thrilled with the design and the 5-year-old boy quickly ran inside his beach shack.

League of Women Voters’ Volunteers Assist in Voter Registration

Submitted by Gail Murray



Photo Ashley Coates

Members of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will stock voter registration forms weekly before the November election, at post offices, libraries, and other locations in Central and East Contra Costa County. From left, top row: Joan Lautenberger (Lafayette), Karen Dolder (Danville), Connie Chiba (Moraga), Sally

Ericksen (Lafayette), Barbara Kuklewicz (Pleasant Hill), Lietta Wood (Clayton); bottom row: Elaine McClellan (Danville), Anne Granlund (Lafayette), Patti Bittenbender (Walnut Creek), and Diane Bianchi (Orinda). More volunteers are needed in East Contra Costa. To volunteer for this important voter service, contact info@lwvdv.org.

In Memory

Noemi Maria Leonard

(March 10, 1921- July 9, 2018)



Noemi M. Leonard peacefully passed away at the age of 97 on July 9, 2018. She was born in Shanghai, China. Noemi was a very supportive, thoughtful, and caring person who cherished family and friends and enjoyed life to the fullest. She married William Leonard from Boise, Idaho on May 17, 1947. Her independence and strong will continued throughout her life’s journey. She was a longtime resident of Orinda. Noemi touched many families in her community and created a strong bond of friends in the East Bay and East Coast.

She will be forever missed and remembered fondly with love and smiles. She is survived by her three sons, Bill (San Jose), Bruce (Sacramento/Fair Oaks) and Brian (South Lake Tahoe).

Celebrations

SMC student veteran awarded \$12K scholarship

Submitted by Allison Borthwick



Photo provided

Elena Stoffe, who is an accomplished student veteran at Saint Mary’s College

of California, was awarded the Comcast NBCUniversal Scholarship, in partnership with Student Veterans of America. Elena is an active member of Saint Mary’s SVA chapter – successfully demonstrating the best in academic excellence and leadership potential of student veterans.

SVA partnered with Comcast NBCUniversal to provide scholarships to student veterans pursuing careers in the media and entertainment industry. NBCUniversal is committed to increasing diversity both on the air and behind the scenes to attain a secure, powerful and competitive advantage in their industry.

SVA is the country’s largest student veteran organization, supporting the 1.1 million student veterans currently enrolled in higher education. SVA’s mission is to empower all veterans through their transition from the military, educational advancement and career growth, and these scholarships help achieve that goal.

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.