

Life in LAMORINDA

Dochterman Receives "Service Above Self" Award Moraga Rotary Named "Club of the Year"

By Sophie Braccini



Mary Elena Dochterman and Colin Barnard Photo courtesy of Moraga Rotary

Mary Elena Dochterman, past President of the Rotary Club of Moraga, was given the prestigious "Service Above Self" award from Rotary International, and the Club was awarded as the "Medium-Sized Club of the Year" in Rotary District 5160 at the District Conference in Sacramento recently.

The Rotary International "Service Above Self" Award is given to individual Rotarians who have rendered exemplary humanitarian Rotary service that embodies Rotary's motto Service Above Self. The award recognizes outstanding efforts in the promotion of Rotary's objectives of serving youth, international humanitarian causes, and meeting community needs. The Award is considered Rotary's highest honor. Recipients are selected from among the 1.2 million members of Rotary International in 180 nations of the world. Only 135 awards were given throughout the world this year.

Ms. Dochterman just completed serving as Assistant District

Governor, responsible for eight clubs out of 67 in the District, which includes Rotary Clubs from San Ramon northward to the Oregon border.

"I have participated in volunteer activities since I was in high school in San Francisco over 50 years ago," says Dochterman, "all of the years I was working as a teacher, school administrator and in later years as a Benefits Analyst for Wells Fargo Bank, I always hoped that some day I would be retired and able to focus on volunteer activities."

Dochterman's worldwide humanitarian activities have included polio immunization in India, Ethiopia, Turkey and Philippines; assistance to AIDS orphans in South Africa; delivery of wheelchairs in China and Mexico; educational scholarships to orphaned Russian children; and securing playgrounds and educational supplies for Mexican children. She has also led the Moraga Rotary Club in a variety of educational activities for local children.

During the same ceremony, Moraga was recognized as the "Medium-Sized Club of the Year" for its District. Past Club President Colin Barnard said, "The Rotary Club of Moraga was chartered about 41 years ago, and has provided Moraga many capital improvement projects as well as service projects that benefit the community. We have worked hard for the community, and are pleased to be recognized as the outstanding medium-sized club in the District. The new District Governor, Jim Campbell, is a member of Moraga Rotary and we look forward to supporting his projects this year".

Moraga Rotary donates time and money to many service projects in Moraga and the county, including giving a dictionary to every third grader in Moraga, buying and installing playground equipment, giving scholarships to St. Mary's College and Campolindo High School, sponsoring Interact Clubs at Miramonte and Campolindo High Schools, conducting a Field Day track meet for third, fourth, and fifth graders in Moraga schools and sending high school students to leadership and entrepreneurial camps. Moraga Rotary also donates to national and international project such as disaster relief, providing LN-4 prosthetic hands, providing wheelchairs and working towards eradication of polio in the world.

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Way Side Inn Thrift Shop Celebrates 30 Years with Pearls

By Sophie Braccini

The building now called the Way Side Inn Thrift Shop was a hotel and a tavern at the turn of the century, in a time where Mt Diablo Blvd was a stagecoach road between Oakland and Walnut Creek. For the last 30 years it has been the home of the Assistance League of Diablo Valley thrift shop, a non profit group serving those in need in Contra Costa. The Lafayette store celebrates its 30th anniversary on Monday, August 11, with a "Pearl Extravaganza" from 3

to 7 p.m. at 3521 Golden Gate Way. The event will include refreshments, door prizes, information about the chapter's programs and merchandise for sale featuring pearl jewelry and accessories.

The store is stocked with high quality clothing and accessories that have been given to the League after being gently used. All personnel working there are volunteers and they strive to keep the place attractive to shoppers.

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