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Contact:
Lamorinda Weekly
(925) 377-0977
wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Attn: Wendy Scheck

Dry Launch for Rotary Canoe

By Cathy Dausman



Canoe builders and Rotary members (L-R) Spike Speicher, Michael Edwards, Ron Brown, Charlie Franklin, Mark Larks, Pat Flaharty, and John Fazel gather around the canoe they built as a fundraiser. Project organizer Gary Fulcher is missing from the photo. Not surprisingly, Fulcher was away on a water trip! Photo Cathy Dausman

The Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise canoe has yet to touch water, but it was "launched" for show Friday morning at a regular Rotary meeting. The canoe is being built as a fundraiser (https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0507/Can-You-Canoe-This-Crew-Can.html) from which the club hopes to raise between ten and twenty thousand dollars. Its builders say that it will be ready for its water test by next month.

The canoe, more a piece of art than a simple water craft, is built from 200 strips of African Rosewood veneer, with maple for the gunnels and thwarts (rim and side-to-side reinforcements) and two hand-woven cane seats. The wood makes it heavy; it weighs 50 pounds. Epoxy has been carefully applied before and after every layer of sandwiched materials (fiberglass, foam core, fiberglass, Kevlar, fiberglass and wood veneer). A final clear coat

will be professionally applied to insure a smooth-as-glass, bubble-free seal.

The canoe goes on tour in the next few months, making stops at local Rotary clubs, other local venues, and possibly a Rotary district conference in Monterey. It will be a featured centerpiece of the Rotary booth during the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival in September (http://lafayettechamber.org/events/art-wine-festival/). Although no date has been set, its water launch will likely be into the Lafayette Reservoir.

Raffle tickets will sell for \$20 apiece or six for \$100; an optional cash prize of \$2,000 is available for those wishing to support Rotary but not acquire the canoe. The winner of the canoe will surely be sitting pretty but must supply his or her own paddles. The drawing takes place at the October 28 meeting of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Questions can be directed to Rotary member Pat Flaharty at (925) 376-9361.

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 can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Girl Scout Troop 31017 Visits Supervisor Uilkema

Submitted by Carol Yates



Photo courtesy of Carol Yates, Community Liaison person for County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, District 2

At the invitation of Gayle B. Uilkema, Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 31017 worked toward completing badge requirements by attending a council meeting, interviewing a law enforcement official, and researching careers in law enforcement with the interviews of a judge, undersheriff, and a supervisor.

They had a full morning that began with a visit to the offices of Supervisor Uilkema who spoke with them briefly in her office before ushering them into the Board Chambers to have the experience of sitting up on the dais where the five supervisors would shortly sit.

Then the girls were met by Undersheriff, Mike Casten to discuss topics of their interest such as cyber safety. They also got some career tips from Fire Chief Louder as he was entering the board chamber. As the meeting was opened, the Scouts performed the Flag Ceremony and then observed a portion of the meeting in session.

Next on the program that had been planned by Supervisor Uilkema, was a visit to the nearby courthouse to meet Judge Mary Ann O'Malley. The girls' interest continually increased as they asked more and more questions – we may see future leaders emerge from these experiences and interviews of the day.

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