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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.

Golfers Get Special Thank You from Afghanistan



Some of the members of the Bulls, who happened to be playing golf on December 3, posing with the flag that flew in Afghanistan and the framed certificate. Jason Woodworth in black sweater is holding the flag. Photo Cathy Tyson

Because of the generosity of The Bulls – a fun-loving group of golfers who get together on Friday afternoons at the Moraga Country Club, soldiers stationed at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan now have their own personal driving range. When he heard that his best friend, an army reservist, was being called to Afghanistan, Bernie Smit, a member of the Bulls, organized a golf equipment drive for the troops. The regular

Friday afternoon golfers were very generous and the Country Club pitched in with, “tons of golf merchandise - balls, golf bags, hitting mats, clubs, tees, hats, gloves,” said Jason Woodworth, Director of Golf. “We were happy to be a part of the effort and support the troops.”

As a very unique thank you the Task Force Light Guard participating in Operation Enduring Freedom sent back a flag that had flown over the

base this summer along with a special framed certificate that read:

“So that all shall know, this flag was flown Sunday, June 12th 2011 over Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in Honor of THE MORAGA BULLS. Illuminated by the light of justice this flag bears witness to the sacrifice of those men and women fighting terrorist forces threatening the freedom of the United States of America and the world.” C. Tyson

Ask Dr. Harold:

Spiritual Development

By Harold Jules Hoyle Ph.D.

My pre-holiday column last year focused on the activities that you could do with your child and I received several notes requesting that I talk more about the meaning that our winter celebrations hold. So this year I will take a psychological look at the spiritual development of children. A psychological researcher need not go much further than the local kindergarten soccer game to find the spiritual dynamics of children, but I will cover one popular model below.

What is spirituality from psychological standpoint?

Just as we have physical, intellectual, and emotional development, the natural development of children includes spiritual development. In their book, *The Spirit of the Child*, Hay and Nye suggest we refer to spiritual development in children with the term “relational consciousness.”

Relational Consciousness

Relational consciousness as a model focuses on three dynamics: awareness-sensing, mystery-sensing, and value-sensing, to describe children's spiritual capabilities.

Awareness-sensing is your child's ability to attend to and get lost in following the ball down the soccer field, or lost in the flowers growing down at the end of the field. We adults call this prayer, meditation, or mindfulness. Kids come pre-loaded with multiple attention abilities and we see it in their questions.

Mystery-sensing is the wonder and awe that children can express when they see something they like or don't like. Maria Montessori's described it well: “Only those who look with the eyes of children can lose themselves in the object of their wonder.” This “built in” wonder is what we can help our kids hold on to and develop.

Value-sensing is your child's delight and despair over an event, an activity, or the day. Grandparents can be much better than us parents in just listening and experiencing the delight a child gets when showing an accomplishment over and over. As kids play with their sense of goodness and security they reflect upon meaning and can experiencing a sense of oneness

with the universe. Isn't that the feeling of a good grandparent anyway?

What can we do?

Notice what your kids find wonderful. What about the view make them want to take a picture? What is so cool about the graphics in the video game? How does their prayer time make them feel? Have them notice and learn more whole stories. Hay and Nye describe this as “seed to apple tree.” Growing a garden and having chickens are examples of ways to help kids increase their awareness of their wonder about the world and the divine in the world.

Help kids hold their minds open to seeing the perspectives of others. Taking another perspective helps us to see the divine they see and better experience the wonderful in our own lives.

Share your awareness, mystery, and values with your child. Rather than make it a lesson, share it through your relationship. Be aware of those times when you experience the mystery and wonder of life and the divine in your life. Talk with your kids and others about your inspirations and experiences of the good and bad in life. Like it or not, they are watching us and if they see we have extinguished these spiritual dynamics they may learn from our example.



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Harold is licensed clinical psychologist and a lecturer in the School of Counseling Psychology, Education, and Pastoral Ministries Santa Clara University. With his wife and two children he is a 14 year long resident of the Lamorinda area. He is a sought after speaker in the areas of parenting, education, behavior with adolescents and children. He has a local private practice.

Festival of Trees Raises \$40,000

Submitted by Susan Domingos



Photo provided

The Orinda Woman's Club and its 2011 beneficiaries have much to be thankful for during this holiday season. In spite of a troubled economy the community came together to support the Festival of Trees, the Orinda Woman's Club main

fundraiser. Over 500 people attended the luncheon and fashion show on November 17 at the San Ramon Marriott. Co-chairmen Alison Kling and Barbara Rogan did a fantastic job working with the Festival of Trees committees and with the staff at the

Marriott. Dan Ashley, the news anchor at ABC channel 7, was a fabulous master of ceremony. The Pavilion was beautiful, the food delicious, the fashion show spectacular. Helen Lyall's fashions were featured and were beautiful. Her store is located in Napa. Cassara's Fine Italian Men's Wear of Dublin provided the men's wear. The models' make-up was done by the Robert Jensen Salon of Lafayette.

The \$40,000 that was raised will go to the club's major non-profit beneficiaries for 2011. They are the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Independent Living Skills Program run through Vestia, and the Orinda Woman's Club Committee, which awards scholarships to improve the lives of women and children.

The Orinda Woman's Club is a member of the California Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs International. If you would like to join or are thinking about it please contact Membership Chairman Karen Norris at 254-4704.

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