

Community Service

“Ya Gotta Have Heart!”

Submitted by Betty Miller



Assistant League member volunteer Susan Broderick feels that no teddy bear should be alone on Valentine's Day.

Photo provided

Beginning this week the Assistance League Way Side Inn Thrift Shop in Lafayette will virtually swim in various hues of bold reds, precious pinks, luscious lavenders, whimsical whites and everything for Valentine's Day including heart shaped boxes, small gift bags, stuffed bears sporting hearts, decorative pillows and assorted home décor. Sales from the Assistance League Way Side Inn Thrift Shop help fund nine philanthropic programs that improve the lives of those in the community who are in need and at-risk. To learn about Assistance League of Diablo and its recently awarded GuideStar Exchange gold participation level status, visit diablovalley.assistanceleague.org or the GuideStar Exchange.

Girl Scouts Celebrate the Holidays with Homeless Families

Submitted by Kim Jinnett



From left, front row: Kendall Schmidt, Kiera Crandall, Maria Wong, and Kyra Merryman; back row: Clare Ahearn, Josie Rosso, Lola Takhiro, Kenna Sherman, Jesse Rusk, and Juliet Arnswald

Photo provided

Moraga Girl Scout Troop 30072, all Campolindo sophomores, held a holiday party Dec. 12 for homeless families at Shelter Inc. in Pittsburg. The Scouts decorated gingerbread houses, cookies, ornaments and other craft items with the children and their parents. The Troop also shared a meal with the families and played with the “sugar-amped tots” well into the evening. Shelter Inc. tries to find people to adopt all homeless families during the holidays to ensure they feel cared for at that time of year. After adopting all families living at the shelter, the Scouts enjoyed selecting and wrapping gifts from a wish list the family members provided. Seeing the joy on the faces of the children and thankfulness of the families warmed their hearts. The Troop encourages others to adopt a homeless family next year.

New Eagle Scouts Honored

Submitted by Louis Phillips



From left, back row: Parker Watson, Evan Wentzel and Jack Winther; front row: Charles Bush, Evan Price and Tate Phillips

Photo provided

Lafayette's Boy Scout Troop 219 conducted an Eagle Court of Honor Jan. 11 at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda. Tyler Higgins led the ceremony and William F. “Rick” Cronk, the past president of the Boy Scouts, was the guest speaker for the ceremony. As part of earning their Eagle ranks, six Scouts led the following service projects:

Charles Bush of Acalanes High School landscaped and constructed a new walking path along the garden memorial at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. This involved major demolition of an existing shed and concrete walkway. The project created an attractive walking path and a significantly nicer environment for the memorial garden.

Parker Watson of Las Lomas High School chose to improve the grounds and setting at his former school, Parkmead Elementary. He led a team of Scouts to plant a pistachio tree and then construct an octagonal park bench around the tree, creating a park-like setting for students and guests to enjoy.

Will Price of Acalanes selected a project to aid Lafayette United Methodist Church by renovating an outdoor area, power washing and

painting the area, designing and building a planter box, designing and installing an irrigation system, and replacing the aging plants.

Acalanes student Evan Wentzel constructed 10 outdoor benches for the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center, a place for community members to grow a variety plants, and harvest plants, and hold outdoor classes to teach the importance of the environment and wildlife.

Tate Phillips of Acalanes constructed eight solar ovens and then delivered them to the Trust in Education organization for shipment to families in Afghanistan. A typical Afghan family spends about 30 percent of their income on wood for cooking and sterilizing water. The ovens offer a safe and cost-effective solution for both.

Acalanes student Jack Winther organized an effort to prepare and assemble first aid emergency kits for less privileged families in Contra Costa County. Once completed, he coordinated with the American Red Cross to teach first aid to the recipient families. He assisted the Red Cross in the classroom and he took responsibility to teach the children.

In Memory

George Wilson Hall II Resident of Moraga

Nov. 25, 1944 – Jan. 21, 2015



George Wilson Hall II, 70, of Moraga, passed away peacefully at home Jan. 21, 2015 with his family by his side. George was born on Nov. 25, 1944 in Malone, New York, and was a computer consultant before retiring and later becoming an esteemed office manager for his wife's business, the Hall of Taxes. His quick wit and generosity will be missed by everyone who knew him.

George enjoyed weekly golf outings (he recently posted his best score of 66), 30 years of playing softball with the St. Monica's team, being active with the Lion's Club, playing his clarinet alongside his musically-inclined family, poker nights with the guys, and had a passion for traveling and chatting with almost anyone willing to have an opinion on something. He touched all those around him with his love, sincerity, friendliness, humor, intelligence and incredible strength.

George is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Peggy, children Julia (Kris) and Stephen (Ida), grandchild Ansley, sister Cindy, and brothers Steve and Brian, as well as numerous other loved ones.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate George's life during a funeral mass on Friday, Jan. 30 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Monica's Church in Moraga, followed by a burial at Queen of Heavens in Lafayette. Afterwards, his family is hosting a reception where everyone can remember and share stories about George. We encourage you to view and leave comments on George Hall's Memorial website: www.georgewilsonhall.com.

For those who wish, memorial contributions in George's name may be made to the Moraga Lion's Club at 17 El Camino Flores, Moraga, CA, 94556.

Shirley Price Callister

July 2, 1922 – Jan. 18, 2015



Shirley Price Callister, our mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, passed away peacefully with her family at her side on Jan. 18, 2015. Shirley was born at home on July 2, 1922 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the youngest of five children of Julia Blanche Lauritzen and Thomas Lawrence Price. As a child, Shirley enjoyed dancing, spending time with her friends and trips to the family's ranch in southern Utah. She graduated from East High School in 1939 and then attended the University of Utah. As a young woman, she especially enjoyed her job as a roller-skating Western Union telegram courier. In 1942

Shirley married the love of her life, Cyril Taft Callister MD, and they remained inseparable for 61 years until Cy's death in 2003.

Shirley enjoyed gardening, bridge, cooking, needlepoint, and traveling but her family was the focus of her life. Her home of over 65 years in Lafayette was her castle and she was the anchor and practical voice in a house full of lively personalities. Her wit, humor, wisdom and love for life were contagious. From her famous 4th of July parties to many family events, she was the consummate hostess. Everyone was welcome. Even at 90 years old, “Mima's House” was always “home” for her extended family which over the years grew to include a multitude of her grandchildren's college classmates who all loved her dearly.

She is survived by her five children: Susan Price Callister, Barry Price Callister (Cecilia), Ann Callister (Bruce Brennen), Cyril Bruce Callister (Deborah Cox), and Thomas Brian Callister, MD (Rose Lorea) and eight grandchildren: Devin Taft Callister, MD, Mathew Riordan Callister, Andrew Price Callister, Coreen Denise Callister, Louis James Callister, Liam Joseph Callister, Erin Susann Callister and Connor Taft Callister as well as many beloved nieces and nephews and extended family. A celebration of life is planned for Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549. In lieu of flowers donations are welcome for Hospice of East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Mark Quinn

Nov. 24, 1958 – Jan. 7, 2015



Mark Quinn passed away at his home on Wednesday Jan. 7 at age 56.

Mark was born in Fort Lee, Virginia as the only child of Lew and Char Quinn. He is survived by his son, Brady, his ex-wife, Sherry, his father Lew, and his Aunt Kathy. Mark grew up in rural, upstate New York, attended college at WashU in St. Louis, and came to California in the early 80's. Mark was passionate about dogs, sports, and coaching – especially basketball. He coached hundreds of kids in the Lamorinda area over the past 13 years, including his son, Brady. Mark, Sherry and Brady carried on as a special, connected family even through separation; Brady and Sherry will always cherish the times they spent with Dad/Mark.

A celebration of his life was held on Sunday, Jan. 25 in the gym at Lafayette Elementary School.

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.