

New art installation at Moraga Commons brings added whimsy to the park



Utility box artist Anna Shao

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Situated among the trees along Moraga Road and between the two playgrounds

stands a colorfully appliquéd utility box, entitled “Moraga Beauty,” covered with various flowers and the town symbol – Bartlett pears. The artist is Campolindo

High School student Anna Shao, 16. “I’ve always loved nature and wildlife,” stated Shao. “I wanted to make something that other people would enjoy.”

The project started when Sue Olsen of The Olsen Team realtors approached Teresa Onoda, liaison to the town council for Art in Public Spaces. Olsen was interested in donating funds toward an art creation in town. Onoda decided to give a young artist a chance at local notoriety by “calling the Campolindo art teacher to see who would be the right person to do it.” The decision was made to decorate a utility box that was owned by the town, because it didn’t require council approval.

Shao wrapped her paper “canvas” around the sides and the top of the 6-foot by 3-foot utility box before first

drawing her designs in pencil. “I wanted to do a collection of all the flowers I’ve seen in Moraga,” Shao explained. “I did a lot of research on native plants and made modifications to highlight certain aspects of them.” Her finished painting was then transferred onto another surface that would allow her art to cover the box in a shrink-wrap process much like applying contact paper.

Shao enjoyed this new experience of art creation from its inception in December to the installation at the Commons on June 17. “This was such a great opportunity for me to see what it would be like if I was going to pursue a career in art,” Shao said. “It was really fun!”

Stating that this was a pilot program, Onoda said, “This one has been such a huge success, we might be

open to more. I really want to thank Anna for her talent and her generosity and her time, and Sue Olsen for making this possible.”

Shao has received glowing reviews from family and friends who have posted photos on social media. Onoda has heard positive comments such as: “Beautiful”, “It has so much life to it”, “It’s a wonderful addition to the park”, and “Who did it; are they professional?”

“Moraga stands for family, great schools, athletics and has all the potential in the world to stand for art,” Onoda stated. “All of these elements increase the value of our homes and our lives. A small investment in art can provide a return worth millions of dollars in the increased values of our homes, plus it lifts our spirits.”

Campo student fundraiser focused on COVID-19 relief



Photos provided



We@Campo, a club associated with the We.org movement that provides people (especially students) the tools to change the world, held a spring fundraiser facilitated by Arjun Chhabra, an incoming senior at Campolindo High School, by selling beautiful, handcrafted Rafiki bracelets for Mother’s Day and graduation.

“Rafiki bracelets are inspired by Maasai beading traditions in Kenya, handmade with love by women known as mamas,” said Chhabra, who followed CDC guidelines for local delivery. “We raised \$1,234 benefiting education, health, water, food, and COVID-19 relief internationally in this campaign and are planning our next one already!”

Shannon Tague, one of the Class of 2020 advisors at Campo, helped implement the Plan “C” Campaign which was a coordinated effort to virtually celebrate Campo’s Senior Class during the last two months of the school year. “Each week we would pick a word that started with the letter ‘C’ and use it as a themed rally-call ... words such as community, celebration, commemorate,” Tague said. “Arjun contacted me with an incredibly well-written communication regarding his fundraising effort selling Rafiki bracelets and asked if we could include it in our weekly communication to the senior parents. Many were looking for small, meaningful gifts to purchase as graduation gifts, and loved the added benefit of supporting a Campo-based organization focused on bettering the world. Despite the [shelter-in-place], Arjun found a way to smartly fundraise for his organization and showcase Campo’s commitment to helping those in need.”

– J. Wake



Rafiki bracelets were delivered safely during student fundraiser.



Arjun Chhabra wears a Rafiki bracelet.

Lions scholarships awarded in June



Kelly Robles and Leo Club advisor Sarah Morgan.

Photo provided

Submitted by Robert Murtagh

The Lamorinda Lions Club continued to present \$1,000 scholarships to three Campolindo High School graduates during June. Those receiving the awards are: Kelly Robles, Leo Club President, C.J. Rago, Leo Club Vice-President and Brent Avenall.

Robles and Avenall were recognized for their scholarship achievement and Rago for his community service during his four years at Campolindo. Due to the shortened school year and the Health Department requirements regarding the virus, the club was not able to participate in an Annual Awards Night at Campolindo.

The Lions Club congratulates all the Class of 2020!

In Memory

George C Fisher, Jr



George Fisher, aged 93, passed away peacefully at home June 10, surrounded by family in The Villages, Fla.

A Naval veteran of WW II, he was a graduate of the University of Orono, Maine.

He spent his career as a salesman for Milliken, Inc.

Living in Moraga for 50 years, both George and wife Julie became involved in every aspect of the town. Beginning with the incorporation of the town in 1974 until their departure to Florida in 2014, most of their time was centered around Parks & Recreation endeavors. With a tenacious, organized and relentless drive, he was instrumental in the development of the trail system that connected throughout the Bay

Area. The purchase of the historic Hacienda de la Flores and the founding of The Moraga Movers were particular bright spots of achievement. But most importantly, he was responsible for the placement of a post office mailbox in the Moraga Shopping Center. Mom and Dad were named “Citizens of the Year” in 2006.

A dedicated member of the Church of Religious Science, Oakland, he was a lifelong student of metaphysical studies. It was his idea to begin recording every sermon for those who could not attend. His commitment to positive thinking influenced everyone around him.

He was known as a genial host of many successful parties, notably the New Year’s Day Recovery Party. The lifelong friendships formed during their years in California were unmatched.

Many groups attracted his attention during his time in The Villages. He introduced nextdoor.com, now one of the most prolific websites used by residents.

He was predeceased by his son John in March 2020.

Survived by wife Julie Fisher, daughters Holly (Jim) Baumgartner, Ann (Tim) Wright, sister Joan Ewing and granddaughters Casey and Kelly Wright.

Condolences can be sent to The Fisher Family, 856 Folsum Place, The Villages, FL 32162

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