

American flag retired from Campo's Soda Aquatic Center



Retiring the colors

Photo provided

Submitted by Steve Bartis, Committee Chair, Troop 212

Life Scout Griffin Bartis on Jan. 31 provided a flag retirement for a worn out American flag which was flying at Soda Aquatic Center on the Campolindo High School campus. The retired flag will be brought to Camp

Timberwolf along Lower Bucks Lake in Quincy, California (home of Troop 212) this July and officially retired along with many other flags, by the Boy Scouts in the Troop. If you have a worn out flag and would like to have it officially retired, please drop it off at the Troop 212 (red) hut located at 1279 Moraga Way, across from the fire station.

DAR bestows Good Citizen Awards on four local students



Emma Safahi, Miramonte



Katie Bettencourt, Acalanes



Jeremiah Masato Yonemura, Contra Costa Christian High School



Amanda Young, Campolindo

Photos provided

Submitted by Louise Diracles

The Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored four students as the winners of their high school's 2021 Good Citizen Awards. The students were chosen by their school to receive this recognition, and each participated in an essay contest responding to the question, "How do the combined actions of so many good citizens keep our nation moving forward?"

Katie Bettencourt, from Acalanes High School, said that our country is made up of people working together. Jeremiah Masato Yonemura, from Contra Costa Christian High School, said the nation needs strong leadership to serve the people. The community must care for its people. Emma Safahi, from Miramonte High School, referred to the civil rights movement,

which changed laws. She proposed that united actions of good citizens can change society. And Amanda Shin-Hwei Young, from Campolindo High School, noted that our current common enemy is the pandemic and sacrifices by everyone yields progress. She felt that visionaries created our country and said that individual actions can make positive changes. Amanda won the DAR Acalanes Chapter Top Essay and she also won the DAR District IV Top Essay.

Each student was awarded with a small scholarship, a United States flag that had been flown over the nation's Capitol in their honor, and a certificate during the Acalanes Chapter's Feb. 6 Zoom Meeting. Susan Bourne, Good Citizen Chair, led the ceremony. Acalanes Chapter's DAR Regent Mary Carrillo congratulated all the honorees and said what a joyous event it is to honor such accomplished students.

GCCP presents 'Sphinx and Sitkovetsky' Feb. 28

Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

Gold Coast Chamber Players continue its virtual concerts at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28 with "Sphinx and Sitkovetsky," the third of six Main Stage Virtual Concerts in 2021 that celebrate love and diversity.

"Sphinx and Sitkovetsky" features legendary violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky in a rare personal exploration of his career including as soloist, founder of the New European Strings Orchestra, and his work with the Sphinx Organization. The program will be a meaningful way to conclude Black History Month celebrations.

Sitkovetsky has worked closely with Sphinx Founder Aaron Dworkin to mentor emerging musicians and has personally selected two to perform for Gold Coast audiences. Sphinx artist, bassist, Xavier Foley is known for communicating his virtuosity and passion for music on the double bass, which is rarely presented as a solo instrument. He is winner of a prestigious 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant and has won the 2016 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, a Paiko Foundation Fellowship, and First Prizes at Astral's 2014 National Auditions, Sphinx's 2014 Competition, and the 2011 International Society of Bassists Competition. Foley has performed as soloist with many orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra. Also a composer, he was co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the Sphinx Organization for a new work entitled "For Justice and Peace" for Violin, Bass, and String Orchestra. He will be performing Bach and two original compositions, Irish Fantasy and Iranian Folk Song.

Sphinx artist, cellist Sterling Elliott has soloed with the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland and Boston Symphonies and has performed in Carnegie Hall and at the 2019 World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland. Mr. Elliott will be performing a movement from Cesar Franck's Sonata and Luigi Dallapiccolo's Ciaccona.



Photos provided

The program also includes interviews with the artists. Single tickets \$20. Concerts are live-streamed via YouTube LIVE. Purchase online at www.GCCPmusic.com or by calling (925) 283-3728. Please visit gccpmusic.com to find regular updates about concert offerings, to make donations, and to purchase tickets.

In Memory

Sandra Landin

1947-2021



Sandra Landin, resident of Moraga, California, passed away peacefully on Jan. 7 with family by her side. She was a committed, caring daughter, wife and mother. Her laughter and smiles will be missed but she left us many wonderful memories. Sandy was born in Oakland to Charles and Diana Ivy. Her family moved to Orinda when she was 2 years old and she was in the first classes to attend new schools: Inland Valley Intermediate (now Orinda Intermediate School) and Campolindo High School where she met her sweetheart Doug. They were married in 1968 and lived in Moraga since then.

Sandy enjoyed singing in Campolindo's musicals and had a life-long love of music, theater and movies. She and Doug attended many jazz festivals each year and spent summer vacations at Lake Almanor with family and friends where she water skied, swam and the sun on her face reflected her joyful personality. She met many neighbors and community members in her work as a dental assistant and at the front desk in other medical offices. She was deeply connected to the doctors and their patients and loved her community and the stability provided by living her life in it.

Sandy had a caring, gentle heart, spontaneous humor, strong faith and often told friends "I've had a wonderful life." She brought joy to her many friends who knew that she was fiercely loyal to those she loved. She showed her love through practical, uncomplicated and high energy action in service to others. Sandy was a member of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church where she served as a deacon. She loved reading and the book clubs to which she belonged, and her love of words extended to the game of Scrabble in which she was an accomplished competitor.

The family is thankful for the doctors, nurses and support staff at John Muir Medical Center and for the love and care they provided for Sandy. She is survived by Doug, her husband of 52 years, their daughter Debra, son-in-law Terry and grandson Isaac.

Donations in Sandy's memory may be made to one of her favorite charities, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region, or to the charity of your choice. Sandy's wishes were to not have a formal service, but we look forward to a future that allows friends and family to gather. We know that her joyful spirit will be present in those moments.

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

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.