

Community pulls together to created Easter baskets for needy children



Photo provided

Thanks to lots of local support and donations of supplies and toys from the community, six Lamorinda women spent three hours March 18 filling 100 Easter baskets with stuffed

bunnies, multitudes of small treasures, as well as chocolate bunnies and eggs, to be given to children at the Monument Crisis Center and to Contra Costa Food Bank. — J. Wake

Community effort culminates in 1,000 meals, 1,400 cards delivered to frontline workers



Photo copyright Lori A. Cheung

Frontline hospital staff at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center were delighted to receive 250 box meals and cupcakes, 250 Gratitude Cards and a flower arrangement on March 17.

Submitted by Elana O'Loskey

With the COVID situation continuing to be challenging and likely remaining with us through most of 2021, critical frontline healthcare workers are resource constrained and tiring in the face of these ongoing challenges. In parallel, local restaurants have been hit hard by the pandemic, and economic loss of in-house business, and are struggling to survive. Seven community groups – Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Garden Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club and Orinda Rotary Club – came together to make a difference.

On March 16 and 17, volunteers delivered 1,000 boxed meals, prepared by approximately 20 Orinda restaurants, to four Contra Costa County hospitals and health centers, as well as 1,400 handmade cards colored by school-age children and those “young at heart.” Floral arrangements donated by the Orinda Garden Club were also delivered to the hospitals.

“We had no idea the frontline hospital workers would be so moved by the children’s messages,” said

Elana O'Loskey, who is the curator of the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library and a board member on the Lamorinda Arts Council. “Some are papering the walls with them! It took quite a bit of coordination to gather 1,400 of them! John Muir Concord, John Muir Walnut Creek, San Ramon Regional Medical Center and Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez all received 250 cards as well as 250 box meals, 250 cupcakes and a flower arrangement.”

A GoFundMe page was created to offset the costs of this community-wide effort, with its initial target at \$15,000, but with extra box lunches being requested by the hospitals to include all their frontline workers, the target goal was adjusted to \$20,000. As of March 26, the GoFundMe page showed \$26,268 raised.

“Our hope with this campaign is that other communities repeat this formula. Even if there is no hospital in their city or town, there will be a care home or vaccine center,” O'Loskey said. “The personal touch is very important – forget just ‘dropping off box meals’ – the frontline workers need a personal acknowledgment of some kind to know the community truly understands the sacrifices they are making and heavy load they bear.”

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.

Moraga Rotary conducts ‘Evening with Rotary’ dinner and video



Photo provided

The dinner serving crew at “Evening with Rotary” takes a break from distributing 186 takeout “surf & turf” dinners at the Serbian Church in Moraga, including Rotarians, Campolindo Interactors, Scouts from Troop 246, and friends.

Submitted by Gary Irwin

The Campolindo Interact Club and Boy Scouts from Troop 246, both of which are sponsored by Moraga Rotary, assisted Rotarians March 6 in distributing a delicious “surf & turf” takeout dinner. The Club’s current project focus is to equip all the elementary schools in the Moraga School District with security cameras with direct linkage to the Moraga Police Department, and most of the funds raised will go this project. This type of camera system was recently installed at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, and provides a distinct upgrade in security. “Evening with Rotary” was held instead of Moraga Rotary’s popular dinner/auction “A Nite at the Races,” usually held in March, but couldn’t be done this year because of COVID-19 precautions.

The dinner portion of the evening was followed by a video presentation featuring singers from the Campolindo High School Choir, local disc jockey Ryan O, Dan Ashley and his band, some local officials, and various Rotarians showing community projects the Club has completed and others they plan to complete. Dan Ashley is a TV newscaster on ABC, and he is a

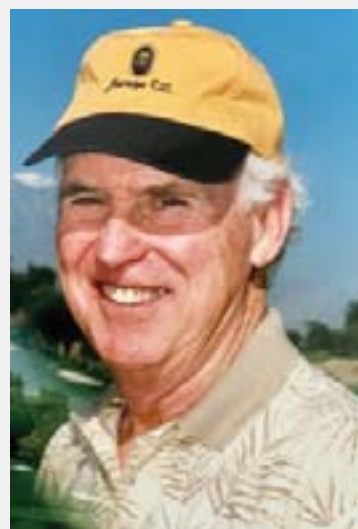
member of Concord Rotary. Anyone may now watch this free video by going to moragarotary.org and clicking on the red “Live Stream” button on the first page.

The fifth Dinner with Rotary in this series will include a delicious dinner on Thursday, April 22 from La Finestra, with meat lasagne, green salad, bread, and Nonni’s biscotti for \$35 per order, including \$10 donation to Moraga Rotary to support its community projects. Orders of \$70 or more will receive a complimentary bottle of wine. The Club hopes this will be the last of the takeout dinner series during the pandemic, which provided business and good exposure to local restaurants at a difficult time.

Moraga Rotary is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the four Clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held at noon on most Tuesdays online via Zoom due to the pandemic. If you are interested in information about Rotary, or would like to donate to their worthy causes, please visit the website at moragarotary.org, or call Brian South, president, at (925) 888-7052.

In Memory

Dennis F. Tierney, Jr.



Dennis F. Tierney, Jr., 79, passed away on Feb. 11, 2021 surrounded by his loving family after a long battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Dennis was born and raised in the Bronx, New York and graduated from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY where on a bet in the local bar he asked his future wife, Mary Mahoney, on a date (he lost the bet but won her heart!). He worked for several large life insurance companies that took him and Mary from New York to Hawaii and finally settling in Moraga, California. In 1982 he started his own firm, Dennis F. Tierney Insurance Associates, Inc. which continues to thrive today under the leadership of his daughter, Deborah.

Dennis’ favorite past times include playing practical jokes on family and friends, golfing, vacationing in Tahoe and traveling the world. Dennis and Mary had a special fondness for Mexico which they visited annually for more than 25 years. In addition, they loved spending time with their children, eight grandchildren and many extended family members and friends whether they were skiing at Northstar, kayaking on Lake Tahoe, building sandcastles on the beach or enjoying time at home.

Predeceased in death by his parents, Dennis Sr. and Marion, and brother, Thomas, Dennis is survived by his wife, Mary and their three children, Darren, Deborah (and her husband, Paul) and Renee (and her husband, Lee). He will also be missed by his grandchildren Logan, Katie, Matt, Jack, Emily, Anna and Luke; his great-granddaughter, Peyton Marie; his three sisters, Sr. Eileen CND, Elizabeth (her children, Sharon and Dennis (his wife, Kelly)) and Patricia; and our extended family including Nancy Lawrie-Stuckey (her husband, Chris and their children, Brittany and Bobby) and Scott Lawrie (his wife, Dana, and his daughter, Peyton Juliana); and many dear friends.

Dennis will always be in our hearts and we will forever hear him saying “MIH IT — Make It Happen”!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dennis’ memory to the ALS Association Golden West Chapter (www.alsgoldenwest.org) or the Beckwith Wiedemann Children’s Foundation International (www.beckwithwiedemann.org).

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com