

Lions annual Peace Poster Contest winners announced



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Submitted by Bob Murtagh

The Lamorinda Lions Foundation presented awards to the winners of the Lions Annual Peace Poster contest on Nov. 10. More than 200 students from four area schools competed in this international competition which annually attracts over 50,000 entries from



Orinda Intermediate School

around the world. This year's topic was "We are all connected."

The winners at Stanley Middle School were Clarie Drain (1st place); Emma Avnaim (2nd place); Ruby Bogan (3rd place); Principal Betsy Balmat and Art Teacher Robert Anke.

Orinda Intermediate School winners were Abigail Kim (1st place);



Stanley Middle School

Photos provided

Charlie Rivera-Gu (2nd place); Jane Luo (3rd place); Principal Stacy Wayne, Art Teacher Susan Weiss.

The winners at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School were Drew Sidensol (1st place); Evelyn Rayner (2nd place); Zoe Banford-La Cour (3rd place); Principal Joan Danilison and Art Teacher Moose Wesler.

And St. Perpetua School winners were Caroline Fairbourn (1st place); Gianna Miller (2nd place); Claire Johnston (3rd place); Principal Karen Goodshaw and Art Teacher Heide Schwarck.

For more information about the Peace Poster Contest or other Lions events contact Lion Bob Murtagh at (925) 283-1841.

A Toys for Tots tradition resurrected

Submitted by Cassie Allen

Fourteen years ago seven 4-year-old boys from Growing Tree preschool celebrated their December birthdays by donating presents to Toys for Tots. They delivered them to the Moraga Fire Department, starting a trend of combining forces for their birthdays that would last years. This year, upon turning 18 the boys resurrected the tradition with a modern twist. Using social media to increase donations and driving themselves to the station this time, they arrived at the same Moraga Fire station on Dec. 11 with bags and bags and bags of toys. Recreating their original photograph, from left, are: Adam Harper, Connor Fritch, Max Rittmann, Xavier Esquer, Lleyton Allen, Joe Gonzalez and George Destino.



World-renowned Moraga Rotarian Cliff Dochterman is gone



Photo provided

Submitted by Gary Irwin

Prominent Moraga Rotarian Clifford L. Dochterman died a few days before his 96th birthday following a brief illness. Cliff had been past president of Rotary International (world president) in 1992-93, and had served as director and/or trustee on many boards and committees, and was recognized as a pioneer in developing the Polio Plus effort, which has almost eradicated polio from the earth. He had a lifetime association with Boy Scouts of America, and was named Citizen of the Year in Moraga in 2014. He was a skilled orator, and was invited all over the world to speak, with the consensus that he has spoken to more Rotary Clubs and Rotarians than any other person.

District 5160 Governor Kathy Suvia said: "Rotary International lost a hero and a legend yesterday. But our District lost a good friend." Moraga Rotary President Brian South said: "Cliff never showed arrogance for his international fame, he was great man for all the right reasons, a very common man."

He was also a very important member of Rotary Club of Moraga, which he joined in 1994, having previously been in the Berkeley and Stockton Rotary Clubs. Though he never held an office, he was always a Director-at-large, and could always be counted on for his knowledge of Rotary history, custom and practice, and for general common sense. He and his late wife Mary Elena (also a Moraga Rotarian) brought the "A Nite at the Races" dinner/auction/horse race fundraiser to Moraga Rotary, and

18 annual events through 2020 were held. Cliff was instrumental in building the All-Access Playground at the Moraga Commons, and urged his Club to build a bigger park than was originally envisioned.

It was a very sad Moraga Rotary lunch meeting after his death, but many Rotarians rose to offer anecdotes about Cliff and his very many contributions to his Rotary Club and to the world. Jim Campbell, a past district governor, recalls hearing lots of Cliff's speeches and noted that he spent a lot of time talking to people in the House of Friendship, the social gathering place at conventions.

Debbie Roessler recalled how Cliff would volunteer as security guard for the White Elephant Sale (benefiting the Oakland Museum), and few people could believe that a person of his accomplishments would do so. Frank May remembered how he loved to be the popcorn man at the OMPA Swim Meet, and was very proud of his record of 971 bags sold over that weekend. He said Cliff was always caring and kind with his advice, and he brought out all the best in people.

Dianne Wilson, former executive director of Moraga Royale, recalls how she showed a video of one of Cliff's hilarious speeches to her mother in the hospital, and found that several doctors and nurses were enjoying it also. Evie Michon, then a prospective member at her first Rotary lunch, sat at Cliff's table, and decided to join immediately afterwards.

Lillian Roodveldt remembers that, at an International convention, Cliff was asked by a young Indian woman if he could help her stay in the U.S. after completing her studies. Cliff declined, saying that she should return to India and apply her skills there. On a later trip, he encountered the same woman who was now the director of the hospital he was touring.

Jim Tait, president of the Tranent Rotary Club, located east of Edinburgh, Scotland, mentioned via Zoom that Cliff and Mary Elena were mentors to his daughter Eilidh when she was a Youth Exchange Student at Campolindo, sponsored by Moraga Rotary. His Club shows a video of Cliff telling the history of Rotary to all their new members. Tranent Rotary Club has participated via Zoom in many Moraga Rotary meetings, and Tait even gave a very interesting program at one meeting.

Cliff's family will hold a Celebration of Life in Moraga on Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church in Moraga. Friends are invited.

New Troop 237 Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Troop 237 Eagle Scouts, from left: Luke Franklin, Luke Lewis, Andrew Stern, Marcus Erickson, Ben Guthrie and Ryan Kaelle.

Submitted by Jodi Kaelle

Scout Troop 237 of Orinda announced that Marcus Erickson, Luke Franklin, Ben Guthrie, Ryan Kaelle, Luke Lewis and Andrew Stern have achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and will celebrate their Eagle Court of Honor at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at the Orinda Community Church. All six Eagle Scouts live in Orinda and are in the Class of 2023 attending Miramonte High School.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project benefiting the community. Their Eagle Scout projects ranged from helping our area schools, a youth center, a church and Moraga/Orinda town AEDs.

Their Eagle Scout service projects are as follows: Erickson built a large bench for the outdoor classroom in the garden of learning at Glorietta Elementary School. A total of eight scouts and two adults participated, volunteering a total of 37 hours. Franklin's Eagle Scout project was the result of a summer spent volunteering at the Oakland Police Activities League youth center in East Oakland. In addition to collecting used books, Luke organized a book drive at Flashlight Books and Orinda Books where he placed "buy a book, donate a book" boxes which collected new books over several weeks. His project involved three Scouts who collectively completed 72.5 hours of work collecting, organizing, and delivering 370 books to the youth center serving disadvantaged youth in East Oakland.

The Orinda Community Church's

outdoor common area was in need of long overdue repairs, so Guthrie led a team of 26 volunteers who contributed a combined total of 170 volunteer hours over multiple weekends to refurbish many areas. Fixing this area has made it safer to use for the church, elderly and kids from the preschool located on site.

Kaelle partnered with the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (Lamorinda CERT), Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the American Medical Response agency (AMR) to update all Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across the towns of Moraga and Orinda. Over 75 AEDs were logged and updated throughout Moraga and Orinda in commercial settings. The project allowed the towns of Moraga and Orinda to apply for "HeartSafe" designation status with the American Heart Association.

The Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA) is a nature preserve and historic site in Orinda offering hands-on experiential, environmental education to Orinda school children. Lewis worked with naturalist, Toris Jagger, and built and installed Amphibian Boards in the WRNA which create a safe habitat for many creatures and provide students the ability to study these animals.

Stern's Eagle project was refurbishing his elementary school's garden and adding a bee and butterfly garden. The Del Rey Garden had been planted many years ago and was overgrown and run down. Andrew, his family and six Scouts from Troop 237 worked over four weekends and logged over 50 hours.

This group of newly confirmed Eagle Scouts wants to thank the Scout leaders, community, parents and fellow Scouts who have helped them along their journey to achieve this rank and honor.