

Orinda Troop 303 honors five new Eagle Scouts



Photo Gina Hageboeck

Submitted by
Angelica Steinmeier

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 303 of Orinda on Feb. 25 held an Eagle Court of Honor at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church to commemorate the achievement of five Scouts, each of whom recently obtained scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. Honorees included Leo Maximillian Streubel, William Theodore Ting Steinmeier, Thomas Griffin Wilson, Aidan Roque Dial and Jon-Marc Alexander Mosher.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in scouting with the BSA. To obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, candidates must now earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 14 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit and successfully complete an Eagle service project benefiting the community.

Bruce McGurk, chair of the Briones District of Scouts BSA's Golden Gate Area Council, presided over the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. Former Mayor of Orinda, Bill Judge, presented each Scout with an official proclamation of the Orinda City Council on behalf of Mayor Inga Miller, de-

claring officially Feb. 26 as Jon-Marc Alexander Mosher Day, Feb. 27 as William Theodore Ting Steinmeier Day, Feb. 28 as Thomas Griffin Wilson Day, March 1 as Leo Maximillian Streubel Day, and March 2 as Aidan Roque Dial Day. County Supervisor Candace Andersen (District 2) as well as representative Aaron Sanchez from U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (District 10) presented certificates of recognition and congratulations to the Scouts. State Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and State Sen. Steve Glazer were unable to attend but sent certificates of congratulations and recognition as well. The newly confirmed Eagle Scouts thanked their Scout leaders, community, parents and fellow Scouts who helped them achieve this rank and honor.

Troop 303 is a member of the Briones District of the Golden Gate Area Council of the BSA and has been serving the Lamorinda area since 1964. Scout Troop 303 (303B & 3030G) serves boys and girls in Orinda, California and the surrounding communities. For more information on how your sons and daughters may join the troop, email troop303g@gmail.com or visit www.troopwebhost.org/Troop303Orinda/index.htm

Four outstanding students from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School honored



Photo provided

2023 Good Character Award Winners, from left: JT Goett, Fatima Ghias, Flore Levesque and Riya Shah pictured with JM principal Mike Plant, Mayor Renata Sos, Rotary President Dan Herbert and Rotary Youth Services chair, Bob Marino.

Submitted by **Robert Marino**

Fatima Ghias, Joseph Goett, Flore Levesque and Riya Shah, all students at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga, were honored for their exceptional character on March 8 at a school convocation sponsored by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club. School administrators, family members, friends and Rotarians were in attendance to celebrate the students' awards.

Moraga Mayor Renata Sos and Rotary President Daniel Herbert presented the honors, including a commendation and cash award for each student. Teachers, counselors, and staff at the school were asked to submit nominations of students who, in their actions and deportment, exhibited the Rotary Club values of Truthfulness,

Fairness, Kindness, and Service to Others. In his brief remarks at the ceremony, Dr. Robert Marino, Lamorinda Sunrise Youth Services Committee Chair, noted that while academic and athletic accomplishments are key for success in the world, only young people with upstanding character will change our world for the better. Dr. Marino noted that "Character can be described as the good things we do when no one is looking."

Nominating faculty related multiple instances for each of these students in which they were observed helping and encouraging their fellow students and treating those they encountered at the school with sincere respect. The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club hopes to make this event annual. They also support the Leslie Cary Wellness Center at the school on an ongoing basis.

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.

In Memory

Gale Gettinger

1951 – 2023



Gale Gettinger passed away peacefully at home in Orinda on Feb. 15 due to pancreatic cancer.

Gale was born to Helen and George Gettinger in New York and moved to Georgia at age 10. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh with an English degree and studied journalism in grad school at Temple University.

Gale began her career in corporate journalism, which included some photography, and after a few years switched to photography as a career. She soon had her own flourishing business as a portrait photographer specializing in children and families for the next 30 years. Gale became a master at her craft, producing timeless, heartwarming, and meaningful

portraits for her clients. She had a real knack for engaging children and capturing a client's personality and joy.

Gale met her husband during graduate school in Philadelphia, and they spent three years in Los Angeles before moving to Pittsburgh, Penn., where they lived for 28 years and raised their two children. She always wanted to move back to California – so they relocated to the Bay area in 2009.

Gale was an avid traveler who loved to meet people from other cultures and explore new places. She was a voracious reader and had a deep thirst for knowledge. Outgoing and making friends easily, Gale joined multiple social groups, including book clubs, gardening clubs and mahjong groups. She was an excellent cook who loved preparing real foods from scratch with organic ingredients. She created artistic nature-photo travel note cards to give as gifts, and more recently started producing dried flower art. She enjoyed nature walks, gardening, and loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Gale had a strong spirit, great resolve, and a life well-lived. May her memory be for a blessing.

Gale is survived by her husband Richard Ash; daughter Julie Gettinger Ash; son Brian Gettinger Ash (Sharon Sha); grandson Sage and granddaughter Seraphine; brother Glen Gettinger (Cheryl); and many cousins, nieces, nephews, sisters-in law and brothers-in law. Gale was preceded in death by her parents George and Helen Gettinger and her sister Jill Gettinger (who is survived by husband Bob Finnerty).

In lieu of flowers, Gale's family would be grateful for donations in Gale's memory to the charity of your choice, or to PanCAN.org. Interment service for immediate family; celebration of life arrangements pending.

In Memory

James Joseph Putkey

1931 – 2023, Resident of Moraga



James "Jim" Joseph Putkey was born at home in Richmond, Calif. in 1931, and died peacefully at home in Moraga, Calif. on Feb. 14. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Angela, their three daughters and sons-in-law, Jacqueline and Tony Hill, Joanne and John McClellan, and Paula and Chris Kenny, their four grandchildren, Grant, Laura, Pete and Brian, and a multitude of nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, John and Anna, and his five brothers, Herbert, John, Charles, Thomas, and Edward.

Jim grew up in Richmond playing stickball in a vacant lot, fishing and swimming in the Bay, and helping his mother cook Slovakian meals. In high

school, he enjoyed illustrating school publications and playing football, later becoming a dedicated fan of local high school and college football teams and working the "chain gang" at Campolindo football games. After graduating Richmond Union High School in January 1949, Jim worked for a year and a half as a merchant seaman on a Standard Oil tanker ship to earn his college tuition. Jim attended Santa Clara University, earning a Bachelor in Civil Engineering in 1954. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army for two years, stationed in Germany.

In 1956, Jim began his professional career as a Civil Engineer with Bethlehem Pacific Coast Steel Corporation where he oversaw the steel construction of many bridges and buildings throughout California and Oregon, including the Feather River bridge, Oakland's Kaiser building on Lake Merritt, San Francisco's Alcoa building, and the Century Plaza Towers in Los Angeles. After Bethlehem closed its West Coast offices, he joined the University of California in the Office of the President for seven years, then started a business as a private Construction Consultant, which he ran for 30 years. He retired at age 81.

Although Jim worked hard, his proudest accomplishment was his family. He met Angela at a Catholic social mixer, and in 1959 they married at St. Leo's Church in Oakland. They moved to Moraga in 1963 to raise their family. Jim liked to take on any house or yard project, usually with success. He was an active father to his daughters, flying kites and hiking in the hills, cooking breakfast, and singing lullabies at night. He was a proud grandfather who treasured every minute he could spend with his grandchildren, whether it was babysitting, reading books, playing games, attending sporting events, or volunteering at Boy Scout camp.

Jim was a "people person" who could strike up a genial conversation with anyone, and he was a steadfast friend to old and new acquaintances alike. He enjoyed being part of the St. Monica Catholic Church community as a member of the Parish Council and the Men's Club, and as the Charter Organization Representative for Boy Scout Troop 234. He was a lifelong artist, designing holiday cards and perfecting his specialized pun art. Jim was known for collecting and repairing Oriental rugs, playing a sharp bridge game, and being an avid storyteller. He was also known around town for his fashionable walking stick and straw hat.

Jim had a strong faith in God; he lived an honorable life as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, uncle, granduncle, and friend. His dry wit and generous spirit will be greatly missed.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 10:15 a.m., St. Monica Church, 1001 Camino Pablo, Moraga, CA, 94556 with a reception immediately following in the St. Monica Peace Center. During this reception, family welcomes written or shared stories and memories of Jim to celebrate a life well-lived. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Hospice East Bay (925) 887-5678, <https://www.hospiceeastbay.org/donations> or to John Muir Cancer Research Center <https://www.givehealthjhm.org/cancernetwork>

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.