

Environmental youth activists make plea to local town council



Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew, from left: Jasia, Rio and Magdalena

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Roughly one year ago, Rio (who asked not to use his last name) became depressed after family friends lost their home to the Paradise Fire. That, coupled with continual media coverage about climate change and the environmental timeline of 12 years left to decrease emissions before irreversible damage to the

Earth sets in, made him distraught over mankind's future. Rather than sit on the sidelines, he decided to take matters in his own hands by rekindling Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew, whose members range from grades three through eight.

During the Public Comments and Suggestions portion of the Aug. 28 Moraga Town Council meeting, members of Earth Guardians,

a youth climate activist organization, made a presentation to the council.

Three students, Jasia (11), Magdalena (11) and her brother Rio (13), wore sashes pinned to their shirts with the word "Urgent" boldly written on them. They came to ask the town to consider using MCE Deep Green energy for all town-owned buildings, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Earth Guardians website says they "train diverse youth to be effective leaders in the environmental, climate and social justice movements across the globe – using art, music, storytelling, on the ground projects, civic engagement and legal actions to advance solutions to the critical issues we face as a global community."

Jasia, the first speaker before the town council, stated, "I think that the town of Moraga needs to do 100% renewable energy that will help with stopping climate change. I am terrified about the future and how it will turn out if we do not pull the emergency brake on fossil fuels. I want my kids to have a future."

Magdalena added, "For the ones on the front lines, we are mostly white, rich communities so we don't have to worry about our homes getting burned or flooded. We don't have to live by oils seeping into our homes, schools, food, water and exhaust going into our air. We don't live by refineries and oil fields. I see us making loving decisions for all people, animals, climate and the future – a just future."

Rio ended with, "I'm concerned you as decision-makers know that you need to switch to 100% renewable energy, but decide not to switch because of the cost. I know Moraga can afford it. If you do need help

through fundraising please contact us, because we can help fundraise." He added, "I would like to talk with you about the irony that CalPERS has a lot of investments in the fossil fuel industry that is destroying our planet."

The Earth Guardians are spurred on by the actions of Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish student who began to make politicians accountable for the climate crisis by conducting "school climate strike movements" to raise global awareness. The movement eventually took flight around the globe.

Earlier this year, Rio and Magdalena were part of an Earth Guardians group that staged a rally in San Francisco to attract the attention of Sen. Dianne Feinstein. They personally spoke with Feinstein about endorsing the Green New Deal – a proposed United States legislation targeting climate change and economic inequality. Student activists from groups such as Earth Guardians and Sunrise Movement will speak at a rally in Walnut Creek's Civic Park at 1 p.m. Sept. 21, in conjunction with the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 20, signifying the growing urgency of the climate crisis for the young people who will be primarily affected by it in coming decades.

For more information about Earth Guardians visit: www.earthguardians.org.

Campo students send 1,000 textbooks overseas



Photos provided

Submitted by Linda Trecek

Campolindo students Emma Ngo and Amrita Malhotra raised \$1,000 through a GoFundMe campaign to ship about 1,000 science textbooks to the International Book Project headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky. The two found these science textbooks in the dumpster at the high school at the beginning of summer when they were biking around there, and found out that the textbooks were being dumped due to changing science standards in California. "We got permission from the administration to take the books from the dumpster and donate them," Amrita noted on the GoFundMe page, "and we spent time in the summer moving the books and storing them in our garage."

The textbooks will be shipped to the International Book Project, which

will then ship the textbooks to various countries around the world where students can benefit from them. Emma's dad's company, Moz Designs, built a crate and assisted the students with the shipping process.

For more information on the International Book Project, visit: <https://www.intlbookproject.org/>



In Memory

Robert Lawrence Mann

2/17/1963 - 6/16/2019

Resident of Aptos



Robert Lawrence Mann of Aptos tragically passed away at the age of 56 on June 16, 2019. He is forever loved and will be forever missed.

Bob was well-known for his love of brewing, barbecuing, boats, 4x4s, and just about anything with a motor. He enjoyed being at Lake Tahoe where he was able to enjoy all of his passions. The first part of Bob's work career was spent catering to the new Micro Brewing community with specialized products he was able to offer through Oxford and Zep chemicals. He became well-known as "Caustic Bob" to

all his brewing friends. In 2009 he married Janell Lund and they moved to Aptos to manage Janell's family mobile home park. Bob took on new hobbies that coastal life offered him, namely deep-sea fishing and crabbing.

He is survived by his loving father and mother, Bill and Joyce of Orinda, sister Carol Cunha of Granite Bay, brother Bill of San Francisco, niece Catherine Cunha of Sacramento and nephew Robert Cunha of San Diego, in-laws Paul Cunha of Granite Bay, Gerald and Bonnie Lund of Aptos, Jayson Lund of Kingsburg and daughters Lauren and Hailey Lund.

A Celebration of Bob's life will take place Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Tahoe Yacht Club, 700 N. Lake Blvd, Tahoe City, California, from noon to 4 p.m. Attire is Tahoe Casual and please RSVP so we have a count for lunch - bobmanncol@gmail.com. Please do not send flowers despite any links on Legacy.com or Tributes.com. Donations in Bob's name to the Rubicon Trail Foundation are appreciated. <https://www.rubicontrailfoundation.org/about-us/>

In Memory

Mohammad Rashid

1947 - 2019



Mohammad Rashid passed away on Aug. 24, 2019, two decades after the death of his wife. At the age of 72, he passed away from a stroke, surrounded my family and friends in the end in Walnut Creek. He is survived by his four children and 45 grandchildren who surrounded him every moment from the time he initially got ill. He resided in Orinda for 30 years with his eldest son, Gohar.

A sculptor by training, Rashid leaves behind timeless works of art and many anecdotal stories from his time in Pakistan. He worked hard to support not only his family, but the families of all his siblings. His memory lives on through his

stories, his sacrifices, and his contagious sense of positivity. Funeral prayers were held at the Islamic Center of Berkeley on Sunday, Sept. 1.

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