

~ Celebrations ~

Local couple celebrates 60 years together

Gloria and Dick Marchick celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a Zoom party on Friday, Dec. 18. Dick, originally from Cheyenne, Wyo., and Gloria, a St. Louis native met at Washington University, St. Louis where he was a medical student and she was getting a master's degree and teaching. In 1966 they relocated to the Bay Area where Dick practiced Obstetrics & Gynecology in Berkeley and Gloria taught and headed the ESL Program for the Acalanes Union High School District Adult Education department. Both are retired.

They have been residents of Orinda for 47 years where they reared their three children, Patti Kogan, David Marchick and Sarah Marchick. Patti and Mark Kogan live in Orinda, Sarah Marchick and Rob Hallman live in Rockridge, and David Marchick and Pam Kurland live in Washington, DC. The Marchicks have six grandchildren.



The marquee at the Orinda Theatre was lit up in honor of their anniversary and gifted by their children. In spite of COVID, the celebrating lasted two days. When asked what the secret to a long marriage is, Gloria said, "We were going to get divorced but neither of us wanted the kids so we just stuck it out!"

Lafayette 'Men's Book Club' fights food insecurity

Funds 28,000 meals for Contra Costa County residents in distress



Photo provided

Men's Book Club founder and president Ross Goodheart hands off a check for \$7,200 to Elana Sissions, annual fund manager for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. With matching funds, the contribution resulted in 28,000 meals for Contra Costa County residents in need.

Submitted by Jeff Album

The Lafayette "Men's Book Club" – an informal group of 48 local dads who know each other through their wives and children – does not read many books. None, in fact. More likely, you will find them in a backyard pitching horseshoes, drinking beer and eating barbecue.

But with pandemic restrictions advising households not to congregate, the MBC opted to come together this holiday season in a different way; by opening their purse strings, seeking corporate matches, and tackling the problem of food insecurity.

"We raised \$7,200 from a few of our members," said Ross Goodheart, MBC's founder and president. "When we turned that over to the Food Bank

of Contra Costa and Solano, they were able to win matching funds, allowing us to net \$14,400, enough to purchase 28,800 meals."

Ross, a market trader with a local financial firm, notes that MBC members volunteer annually at the Food Bank's Concord warehouse, doing so since the club's inauguration in 2010. He readily admits his self-anointed title of president is tongue-in-cheek, but none of the other members seem to mind and the MBC doesn't exactly have rules.

"My only demand is that members answer my email invitations, whether to get together or to volunteer or make a contribution," said Ross. "The answer can be yes or no, but if you don't bother to respond, as another president might say, 'you're fired.'"

In Memory

John Michael Reidenbach

Oct. 23, 1944 – Dec. 2, 2020



John Michael Reidenbach, born Oct. 23, 1944, passed away Dec. 2. Mike is survived by his siblings Sandy, Patty, and Jim, his wife Patty, his three children Peter, David, and Sarah, his seven grandchildren Finley, Fisher, Joe, Dane, Samantha, Kelly, and Maisie, and his beloved cat, Stinky.

Mike excelled at giving and taking care of others. Raised in Berkeley by parents Nancy Gilliland and John Reidenbach, Mike was the oldest of four children and went on to excel academically at Stanford and Hastings Law, and professionally at the Alameda District Attorney's office, as legal counsel

at Pacific Gas & Electric for over 40 years, through his self-built insurance company that he ran alongside his son, by becoming a published author, as a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and by serving as Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves for several decades.

Mike was an Eagle Scout and valedictorian. He treasured collaborating with his BNI friends at their weekly meetings. He was at his happiest rowing a boat on a family vacation at the lake. He was a family man who spent a lifetime trying to do better and better, so he could take care of his family and friends better and better. He strived, worked, and dreamed every day of his life, while also finding time for lifting weights, starting businesses, and being Scotty's body double in a Star Trek movie. Mike especially loved his grandkids, and we will always remember him holding them in his arms as babies, goofing off with and cuddling them as toddlers, and taking pride in giving them thoughtful gifts on every occasion. He lived with the extraordinary enrichment that comes from a generous heart. We are thankful that, after a life of hustle, our dad finally gets to rest. Due to the pandemic, his service will be private but a celebration will be planned for the future. We encourage you to celebrate him in your own way; a glass of red or an act of unsolicited kindness would be appropriate. Memories and condolences are welcome at: michael-reidenbach.forevermissed.com

Donations can be made in his honor to the nonprofit that he sat on the board of: The Cohen Bray house and the Victorian Preservation Center at: <https://www.cohenbrayhouse.org>

Our family spent Christmas at this historic home every year.

Mike was exceptional, accomplished, devoted, and very loved. Rest in peace, Pops. Thank you for everything that you have done for us. We love you so much, and we'll take care of Stinky.

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 Lions and Muffin People honor volunteers during pandemic



Photo provided

From left: Lion Bill Hansen, Lion Rich Laufenberg, Jack Dice (Muffin People), Lion Ray Casabonne and Lion Dan Hagan

Submitted by Bob Murtagh

In 1988 several members of the Men's Club at St. Monica Catholic Church in Moraga volunteered to collect from the food stores in Moraga to supply St. Mary's Center, Oakland. It soon became obvious that more food was needed so collection was expanded to six days a week.

In the beginning much of the donations were bakery products. One day at St. Mary's Center, upon seeing their van, one of the women clients called out, "Here come the Muffin Men," and the name stuck. As the program grew to include not just St. Mary's but also St. Vincent de Paul dining room and the Emeryville Community Assistance Program, more volunteers were needed and ladies joined the ranks, so the name became the Muffin People. Each of the three sites provide meals and food products to hundreds of needy individuals and families every day.

Presently the Muffin People collect all manner of food stuffs from all three Lamorinda Safeways, Trader Joe's, Diablo Foods, and Whole Foods in Lafayette as well as Lunardii's in

Walnut Creek. It is estimated that the total value of the donated food exceeds more than \$1.4 million annually. Trader Joe's in Lafayette donates about \$850,000 each year.

Jack Dice, of St. Monica Men's Club, is the program coordinator and schedules the daily pickups. Since four of his drivers, Ray Casabonne, Rich Laufenberg, Dan Hagan and Bill Hansen, are members of the Lamorinda Lions Club, the Lions decided to assist this program by giving a small gift of encouragement and appreciation to the heroes who work these food banks. During Christmas week Messrs. Dice and Casabonne awarded the staff and volunteers at St. Mary's Center, St. Vincent de Paul and ECAP with 65 gift bags to recognize their service during these difficult times.

Lion Bill Ridle, the Lions District Governor for Alameda and Contra Costa counties, has recently presented an award to the Lamorinda Lions Club and these four Lions for their efforts in preventing hunger.

For more information about the Muffin People, contact Jack Dice at (925) 376-7189. For more information about the Lamorinda Lions, contact Ray Casabonne at (925) 376-3078.