

School is out - yeah!

Have fun, kids! Lamorinda Weekly team

Teen Summer Jobs

By Cathy Tyson



Connor Perkins

I work for: Moraga Country Club
Job Title: Lifeguard Professional
Best Thing: Chicks in bikinis
Money?: Saving for a trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos



Haley Hall

I work for: Loard's Ice Cream
Job Title: Ice Cream Specialist
Best Thing: Eating ice cream, the job is fun
Money?: Spend it on clothes



Nick Valverde

I work for: Rheem Theater
Job Title: Ticket Guy
Best Thing: Working for my boss, John Penski
Money?: I buy presents for John Penski
 *My little brother Gabriel wanted to be in the picture



Jessica Barbagallo

I work for: Tennis Club
Job Title: Counter Night Staff
Best Thing: Interact with people from the community
Money?: I spend it on clothes, food and hopefully a car



Joey Powell

I work for: Just for Kids Day Camp
Job Title: Recreation Leader
Best Thing: The joy the kids bring me every day
Money?: I'm saving to buy a car



Saphia Guergah

I work for: Moraga Garden Center
Job Title: Cashier and odd job girl, weeding
Best Thing: The lush garden ambiance
Money?: Saving for a Vespa

Susan Sperry – A Moraga Life

By Becky Kim

Back in the day when trains were running through Moraga and horse back riding over the barren hills was a mode of transportation, a young girl roamed the ranch on the property of her father. An active member of the community since she was a mere child, Susan Sperry has settled her roots deeply in Moraga.

Following in the footsteps of her older sister Joan, Sperry attended school in Lafayette and graduated from Acalanes High School in 1962. Unlike today, where students sip their Starbucks and cruise around town, life in Moraga back in the 1960s included attending dances in the Old Veteran's hall, helping out on the farm, and riding horses.

The 1966 Cal graduate had her heart set on Berkeley from the beginning, and pursued a degree in design and art history. During her senior year of college, she met her first love, Jay Johnson, a native of Colorado. The two sweethearts shared a passion for ranching and moved back to Moraga where Sperry bore two children, both of whom grew up in the same tight-knit community.

Even though Sperry did not actively use the degrees she earned in college, she began to teach for the Moraga school district in 1969. "My roots are firmly planted in Moraga having been raised here. Therefore, I felt I understood this community, its students and parents, demands and resources. Here is where I wanted to raise my own family and sink my energy and resources," added Sperry.

Inevitably the teacher salary was not the plus side of the job, but nevertheless, it was the dream of impacting children and the passion for teaching that led Sperry to teach fifth graders at Los Perales for 14 years before transferring to Joaquin Moraga when Los Perales closed in 1983. She bounced around in

different subjects, teaching Special Ed for 10 years, and branching out to teach classes of all grades in English, Journalism, Yearbook, and Drama.

Many students and parents are familiar with the program "Skills for Success", started by Sperry after she noticed many students were struggling in school because of the lack of organization and knowledge in how to study. Sperry would leave her doors open at lunch and after school for those students who took a particular interest in organizing themselves.



Susan Sperry

Sooner or later, she was titled as "communication facilitator" for the young girls at JM who were in need of talking to an older figure. Whether it was about finding their identity or questions about the female body, the girls appreciated Sperry because of her willingness to listen with an open ear.

Finding completion in her life after teaching for 37 years in the Moraga District and after successfully raising a close family, Sperry decided to retire. Living in her rural utopia with her

second husband, Sam Sperry (after her first husband fell ill to cancer in 1986), she was able to attend to other tasks that were left behind with a working schedule.

Sperry continued, "In retirement, I have the freedom from the demands of the school schedule which allows me the time and energy for my 93-year-old father, 16-month-old grandson, daughters, husband, and the community organizations which I value. I now have the leisure time to pursue my passion for gardening."

Those in retirement can relate that life after work is still a busy task. Sperry continues to give back to the community by attending town meetings, being the president of the Moraga Historical Society, and occasionally substituting at local schools. She has influenced the lives of many students throughout her teaching and will continue to be heavily involved in the community of Moraga.

Becky Kim is a feature writer and a member of the Campo Class of 2007.

College Choices for Lamorinda Seniors, an article in our last edition, incorrectly stated the number of Campolindo students accepted into the University of California.



The numbers stated were not represented as a percentage of all seniors planning to attend a 4-year college. In 2006, 33% of those going to a 4-year college planned to attend a UC, while in 2007 only 22% did. This figure does not represent the number accepted into UC, just those planning to attend. Many more Campolindo students were admitted to a UC, but some chose to enroll elsewhere. We regret the error.

GET A CLUE @ YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program 2007! June 11-August 20 Pick up your reading records at the library. Read for fun and win great prizes. Kid's reading program for kids age 2 - 5th grade. New! Baby Reading Program for children birth through 2 years.

Got Summer?

Since school's out, we have room for summer on these pages! Now that the heat is on, we'd love to receive photos of your favorite summer activity! Tell us about your cool camp, swimming/tennis/basketball fun, or whatever else you're doing to make this the best summer ever! Email schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com!

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Paul Caccamo's Postcard

(From the Pacific Coast Trail)

Sunday, June 17: Greetings from Bishop, CA. I am again taking a nice day off here in town, enjoying all the fruits that civilization has to offer, mostly food. In fact, food has become an obsession for us hikers. Yesterday I sat on Kearsarge Pass at 12,000 feet with a group of friends and for all the beauty surrounding us, we went around to each person and fantasized about the food we would order for breakfast today. Mmmmm.....coffee....biscuits and gravy.....avocado and jack cheese omelet.....I could go on but you get the picture.

We are now deep into the High Sierra, having finally put the desert behind us for good. We have gone from worrying about where the next water will be and baking in the heat to a whole different list of concerns...snow and ice, freezing temperatures, mosquitoes, and the eternal battle of keeping the black bears from eating our food.

It is not possible for me to put into words the incredible beauty we are now experiencing on a daily basis. I have gone from taking one picture a day to forty. But these pictures are only a pale representation of the incredible grandeur of these mountains. It is a very simple place of rock, ice, lakes and streams, trees and blue sky. It hardly seems real at times, it is like we are looking out at something from the Lord of the Rings; jagged 13 and 14000 ft. peaks stretching out as far as the eye can see, towering cumulus clouds which on several occasions have turned into incredibly violent thunderstorms dumping rain and hail and lightning all over the place only to clear up and be sunny a half hour later. There

have been moments where it is overwhelming to all five senses, yes including taste, as we no longer have to treat our water we sometimes drink from a stream that has a flavor of sage and flowers to it.

I have traveled this section of trail before but the experience seems much deeper this time, perhaps because I have been immersed in the outdoors for almost two months now. Time has stretched itself out to the point that these two months seem like years. A very good new friend of mine by the name of Fester (I don't know his real name) put it

very well when he said that out in the wilderness the physical comforts of civilization are denied to us, but at the same time the mind is given the freedom to wander unburdened by the worries of daily life. Out here our only worries are food, water, sleep and physical well-being. It is an incredibly simple existence that I have come to cherish.

The next 400 miles will be through much the same territory as we make our way toward Lake Tahoe. More to come as Internet availability allows. Best wishes to you all, Paul C.

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JUNE BARGAINS of the month

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