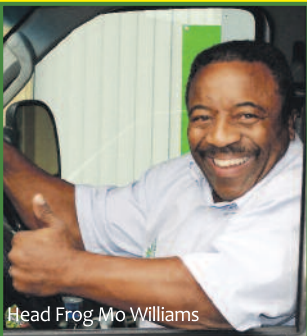


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Off to the Race

After years of recovery, a big moment for a Moraga resident

By Chris Lavin



Amy Morosini Photo provided

It's not exactly as if Amy Morosini of Moraga will be the first Lamorindan to run the New York City Marathon, but she may well be the first who has survived a traumatic

brain injury (TBI) to do it.

"I'm a little nervous only because I took some time off from running," Morosini said. But she's working regularly with a trainer, running again,

and working out. Along with the Boston Marathon, the New York City Marathon, which will be held Nov. 1, is notoriously difficult to get into. When Morosini got the invitation, she was ecstatic.

Part of that is because Morosini fell, or may have been pushed, out of a three-story window in San Francisco in 1997. She shattered her skull and her body. (See the April 8, 2015 *Lamorinda Weekly* story in the online archives.) It took years to not-quite-recover. She started volunteering with veterans coming back from the Middle East with TBI, subsequently fell in with the Achilles Team of Wounded Veterans, and a relationship was born. If they could run, she thought, so could she. So she started running. She is going as part of that team.

Because Morosini grew up in the New York metropolitan area, she'll be seeing high school friends she hasn't seen in 30 years. "They're all going to come and cheer me on," she said. Plus her mother still lives in the area, and it would be good to see her.

But oh, that won't work out, because her mother is flying out here to help take care of the kids while she's gone. Their flights will pass in the air. Maybe they can wave out the windows.

In Memory

Ann Miller Denny

Jan. 7, 1940 – Aug. 23, 2015



Ann Denny passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at her favorite spot on earth, her home on Swans Island, Maine, where she loved watching the sunsets and having her children and grandchildren around her.

Ann is survived by her loving husband of over 27 years, Ray Bland, her four children: Jeffrey Denny of Arcata, Calif., Jill Denny Whitcomb of Wayne, Pa., Eric Denny of Rockport, Maine, and Phillip Denny of Oakland. She is also survived by her six step-children: Julie Clavin of Roseville, Douglas Bland of San Ramon, Laura Schafer of Brentwood, Heather Frazier of Pollock Pines, Michael Bland of Hong Kong, and David Bland of Patterson, Calif. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 10 step-grandchildren, but when asked, Ann didn't differentiate between families and always told people she had 10 children and 20 grandchildren. She loved them all.

Ann is also survived by her sister June White of St. Petersburg, Fla., and her brother Bill Miller of Cincinnati, Ohio. She was pre-deceased by her father, James Miller, Sr., mother, Ida Miller and brother, James Miller, Jr.

Ann was born in Laurel County, Ky., and then moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where she graduated from Withrow High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Denison University in Granville, Ohio where she was president of her Chi Omega Sorority. She loved working for causes that made her communities and the world around her better. As a 27-year resident of Lafayette she served as Director of the March of Dimes in San Francisco and the American Diabetes Association prior to taking the reigns as Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in 1993. In 1995 she was instrumental in designing and coordinating the inaugural Lafayette Art and Wine Festival. In 2001 she was named the "Lafayette Business Person of the Year" due to her tireless efforts in promoting the unique and special qualities of the town and its businesses. Ann was a founding board member of the Lafayette Community Foundation. After retiring from the Chamber in 2005, Ann remained an active board member for the next decade, offering advice and encouragement to the community she loved and could always be found volunteering at Chamber events. She personified the spirit of "Love Lafayette."

Ann loved to travel and was fortunate to see the world with her husband Ray. Together they traveled to over 55 countries and throughout most of the United States. In the end, however, her favorite place in the world was her summer home on Swans Island, surrounded by family, the ocean, and lots of love.

A Celebration of Life for Ann will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ann's memory to the Lafayette Community Foundation, P.O. Box 221, Lafayette, CA, 94549.

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.

Elite Bulletin Partners with White Pony Express

Miramonte High School student Jack Jorgensen, the founder of Elite Bulletin – a community platform devoted to connecting local teens with families to complete small jobs – recently announced a partnership between his online service and White Pony Express. "White Pony Express is a nonprofit devoted to picking up excess, unspoiled food from restaurants and deliver it to people in need," says Jorgensen. "They have done a wonderful job in expanding this throughout Contra Costa County with over 100 donors and over 50 recipient partners. Elite

Bulletin will be providing them with volunteers to drive (over 21) and minors to help out with washing cars, distributing the goods (food, clothing, school supplies) and delivering them to people in need. I am very excited to be working with such an extraordinarily beneficial foundation." In Lamorinda, White Pony Express picks up food for donation at Whole Foods and the Orinda Farmers' Market. For information about Elite Bulletin and White Pony Express, visit elitebulletin.com and www.whiteponyexpress.org. S. Braccini



Elite Helper, Daria, walks a dog to help out. Photo provided

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