

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Orinda Troop 303 Honors Three New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Jim Brovelli



From left: Kyle Wallace, David Whisnant and Jonathan Date-Chong

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda honored three new Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor Award Ceremony on Feb. 21 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek. Kyle Wallace, David Whisnant, and Jonathan Date-Chong earned the highest advancement rank in Scouting by fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills, as well as completing at least 21 merit badges and organizing and leading a service project benefiting his community. These four young men joined

the less than 4 percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

For his Eagle project, Wallace, a senior at Miramonte High School, designed and built a rainwater harvest system and garden bed for his former preschool. The project cleans, collects and stores up to 330 gallons of rainwater used to water vegetables and plants grown in the garden bed. The project educated the young students about water conservation and provided hands-on learning opportunities.

Whisnant's Eagle project included the construction of a wooden framed stair system leading from the parking lot of the Oakland Zoo up to the Veterinarian Clinic. It was an intense process of grading the hillside before assembling the wooden stringers and risers and securing the assembly to the ground. This project was a necessity to the zoo, as it provided staff with an easier way to transport sick and injured animals to the clinic. Whisnant is a freshman at Campolindo High School.

Date-Chong, a senior at Miramonte High School, designed and directed the construction of four wooden benches for Wagner Ranch Elementary school. The benches, painted to match the trims of the school buildings, were installed in areas where there was previously no seating for the students.

For over 52 years Orinda Boy Scout Troop 303, chartered by the Rotary Club of Orinda, has been providing boys with a variety of hiking, camping, community service and leadership opportunities. To learn more about the troop, visit [www.bsatroop303orinda.com](http://www.bsatroop303orinda.com) or contact scoutmaster Jim Brovelli (925) 997-8437.

### DAR Good Citizens Award Winners Announced

Submitted by Louise Diracles



Photo provided

The Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented awards on Feb. 6 to local students who had entered

the DAR Good Citizens Award competition. These students were nominated by staff at their schools for their achievements and contributions to

school and community. The contestants also submitted essays on a patriotic topic to a panel of judges. Pictured, from left, are: Susan McGill, Good Citizens Award chairperson, award winner Ivy Li from Miramonte High School, award winner Fiona Stewart from Campolindo High School, Susan Skilton, DAR Acalanes Chapter Regent, and Leslie Pfeifer, District IV California DAR Director. Not pictured are award winners Sabrina Elliott from Acalanes High School, Sarah Wong from Contra Costa Christian High School, and Alexandra Kurland from Las Lomas High School. Fiona Stewart, the Acalanes Chapter winner, was also recognized as District IV winner, and was presented the award for the district by Leslie Pfeifer. Fiona will go on to compete for the California State award.

### 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.



## Celebrations

### Lafayette Resident, Colleen Starrett, Turns 99



Photo provided

Colleen Starrett turned 99 on Feb. 17. Born of Sicilian immigrants in 1917 in Forth Wayne, Ind., Colleen, along with her two brothers and one sister, were raised in San Francisco where she went to elementary schools throughout San Francisco and attended Mission High School. Colleen's four daughters were born and raised in San Francisco. Her youngest daughter attended

Lafayette community, where they rode the first BART train from Lafayette to San Francisco in 1972, when they worked for lithograph companies and commuted daily to San Francisco until they retired in 1978. Colleen and Ken enjoyed the Lafayette open space and reservoir, beautiful downtown Lafayette areas, and proximity to Sun Valley Mall.

A resident of Lafayette since 1969, Colleen moved from San Francisco to a lovely brick house behind Acalanes High School where she still continues to update her house and yard to make it as spectacular as ever. Colleen and her husband, Ken Starrett, loved the

Colleen spends time every day in her garden, talking to neighbors and family, and keeps up-to-date on current events, reading the daily newspaper, enjoying crossword puzzles and reading books of all types. Colleen is a talented seamstress and continues to sew for enjoyment. She also enjoys spending time with her four daughters, eight grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

## In Memory

### Joan Freitas Favors

Aug. 16, 1929 – Feb. 2, 2016



Joan Freitas Favors died peacefully Feb. 2 in Anacortes, Washington with her daughter by her side.

Joan was born to Albina and Archie Freitas on Aug. 16, 1929 in Oakland, California. She and her two older brothers, Robert and William, grew up in Oakland and spent their summers at the family cabin in Pinecrest. Joan attended Holy Names High School, and graduated with a degree in education from Stanford University in 1951. Shortly after graduation she married Arch Monroe Favors (Jack) and began her life as matriarch of a large and boisterous extended family in Lafayette, California. Together they had five children, John, Gregory, Mary, Billy, and Jane. Joan inspired them all with a lifelong love of the family cabin in Pinecrest and time spent at the beach in Monterey. Later she was blessed by her six grandchildren, Jeremy, Tia, Lindsay, Alex, Jackie and Trevor, and her great-grandchildren, Zoe, Mackenzie, Jackson, Mason and Heath and soon to be great great-granddaughter.

Joan was a devoted parishioner of St. Perpetua's Catholic Church. She volunteered teaching Catechism, Great Books and later was active in many of the church functions. She was also a long-standing member of her book club and investment club. Later she became an avid antique dealer.

Joan was loving and devoted to her family and her friends. After the sale of the family home in Lafayette she moved to Anacortes, Washington to live with her daughter Jane and grandchildren Jackie and Alex. She enjoyed many trips with her grandchildren and dogs travelling to Canada, Yellowstone, Jackson Hole, the Cascades, Oregon and California. She enjoyed sitting in the sun and telling stories.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Jack, her parents Arch and Albina, her brothers Robert and William and many aunts and cousins. And though we are left with broken hearts we are blessed by her example of love, compassion and forgiveness.

Funeral Mass to be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 26 at St. Perpetua's Catholic Church in Lafayette.

### Ray Muer

July 11, 1932 – Feb. 1, 2016



Raymond "Ray" Joseph Muer, 83, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., passed away peacefully on Feb. 1, with family at his bedside.

Ray Muer was born in Detroit, Mich., on July 11, 1932. He graduated from De La Salle High School and University of Detroit with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. After graduating college he briefly attended Sacred Heart Jesuit Seminary.

Ray spent 32 years in advertising management and radio sales with companies such as Kenyon and Eckhardt, Blair Radio and KGO Radio. During this time he lived in San Francisco, St. Louis, and Moraga. After retirement he moved to Manhattan Beach.

In addition to his executive and sales history, Ray was a classically trained pianist. He possessed the ability to play piano by ear and enjoyed a particular talent for jazz. After his retirement, Ray played jazz piano in many San Francisco Bay Area restaurants. Our fondest memories of Ray involve him playing the piano surrounded by family and friends.

Ray is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Joan Marie Muer, and three children, Lisa Muer Tanner (Glenn), Julie Muer, and Thomas Raymond Muer (Susann). He is also survived by six grandchildren, Devin Ray Tanner, Spencer Thomas Tanner, Amanda Marie Tanner, Natalie Violanda Natole, Cora Albrecht Schoppe, and Tolya Ray Muer. Ray is preceded in death by his parents, Anna and Anthony Muer the 2nd, and his brother, Anthony Muer the 3rd.

A funeral mass will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 11 at American Martyrs Church in Manhattan Beach. A reception will be held immediately following the mass. A committal ceremony will be held at a later date at the Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette, Calif., where he will be laid to rest. In lieu of flowers a donation may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, 5670 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1800, Los Angeles, CA, 90036.