

Moraga Troop 234's new Eagle Scouts



Photo Jim Babson

From left: Benjamin Hinchliff, Nicholas Faoro, Alex Mangoba, Mason Roesch, Stephen Chilimidos, Jack Saroni, and Andrew Babson.

Submitted by Nancy Chilimidos

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 234 honored seven new Eagle Scouts at its Eagle Court of Honor April 13 at St. Monica Catholic Church. Eagle is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, and one that is reached by fewer than 4 percent of Boy Scouts nationwide. The road to Eagle involves resiliency, responsibility, community service, and leadership. Scouts progress from the initial rank of Scout, to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life, which entail mastering new skills and successfully completing requirements for each rank; additionally, the scout must participate in service projects and hold positions of responsibility within the troop.

To achieve Eagle, the scout must meet these foundational requirements and earn at least 21 Merit Badges in the areas of Leadership, Outdoor Skills, and Community Service. Additionally, the Eagle candidate must hold a leadership position for at least 180 days after achieving Life rank, as well as develop, direct, and execute a community service Eagle project. Each of these Eagle Scouts, who all attend Campolindo High School, have not only met the national scouting requirements, but have been active leaders in building the camaraderie and unity that exemplify Troop 234, which is led by Scoutmaster Jeff Price.

Andrew Babson, a senior, power-washed, sanded, and finished the benches and planters at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, as well as replaced the planter bedding.

Senior Stephen Chilimidos collab-

orated with Soles4Souls, Inc. and organized a shoe drive, where he collected new and gently-used shoes over a three-week period; he received about 400 pairs of shoes that ultimately were shipped to Haiti.

Nicholas Faoro, a junior, located an old wooden rowboat in Sonoma that he refurbished into a sandbox, which required scraping off the old paint, replacing damaged parts, sanding, priming, painting, and then filling the boat with sand and toys for St. Mark's Preschool in Orinda.

Sophomore Benjamin Hinchliff resurrected and repaired approximately 60 music stands for Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, clearing the unusable stands in the practice rooms, and renovating the aging stands, before assembling a repair kit to enable continued maintenance by the students.

Alex Mangoba, a senior, created 10 full-sized signs for the Lafayette Reservoir, by sanding, cutting, assembling, then digging, planting and cement-mixing them along the Rim Trail.

Senior Mason Roesch removed an old shelving structure in the Oakland hills and built a new shed in its place, which included using gravel as a water drainage system in order to increase the shed's resistance to the elements; this project benefited Friends of Sausal Creek.

Jack Saroni, a senior, built a large drop-box designed to hold three book carts that will be used to receive book donations when the Moraga Library is closed; the project was done through the Moraga Parks and Recreations department for the library.

Several Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind teams head to World Championship Competition



Photos provided

Campolindo freshmen team to compete in Odyssey of the Mind World Championships. From left: Coach Cynthia Granicher, Jacqui Huebner, Olivia House, Amrita Malhotra, Madison Lee, Caroline Botsford, Marshall Franklin, Daniel Granicher, Coach Matt Franklin



Glorietta Elementary (Leonardo's Workshop), top, from left: Calla Garrett, Callum Glynn, Reese Akel, Claire Casado; bottom: Taylor Stevens, Kaia Bonham

Submitted by Rich Render and Andrea Akel

Two Campolindo Odyssey of the Mind teams, both sponsored by Moraga Rotary, and four Orinda teams advanced to the World Finals to be held in Michigan at the end of May. One of the Campo teams, made up of sophomores, is competing at Worlds for the third straight year.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program for K-12 kids that engages students in their learning by encouraging them to think outside the box. Teams made up of 5-7 members have to solve problems (anything from building vehicles to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics) and present their solution to the problem to judges in an 8-minute skit. In addition, there is a spontaneous problem that the team has to solve on the day of the competition, which also contributes to the team's score. Coaches and parents are prohibited to help out or suggest ideas to the team members in solving their problem.

The Glorietta Elementary team, solved a problem entitled "Leonardo's Workshop" where they had to recreate three of Leonardo Da Vinci's works. In one case, the team had to use an unconventional material to recreate one of LDV's paintings, so they dyed crushed eggshells.

The other elementary level team (members were from different schools so they competed under Orinda Ro-

tary), had to build an 8-inch structure made entirely of balsa wood and glue, weighing no more than 15 grams, which then had to support as much weight as possible. The team's structure supported 640 pounds.

The other two teams, also competing under Orinda Rotary, were made up of students attending various high schools and middle schools, both competing at the high school level. One of teams had to build a vehicle to be ridden by two of the team members, which had to be disassembled and re-assembled multiple times during the 8 minutes, and fit into a suitcase.

Meanwhile, the fourth Orinda team chose a problem that required them to make a mechanical creature that hid in plain sight. The creature had to change appearance three times, each time in a different way, to avoid being detected by a Searcher Character trying to find it.

This year, 144 teams participated in the SF Bay Regional tournament. Out of 13 participating Moraga Rotary teams, three advanced to the NorCal State tournament, held in Santa Rosa on March 30, and then the two Campolindo teams advanced to the World finals. A total of 22 teams from Orinda competed in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional competition in early March. Of those, seven teams advanced to the State Competition, where four of the seven Orinda teams advanced to the World Finals.

Info: www.odysseyofthemind.com

In Memory

David Reuben Iventosch

May 12, 1929 – April 16, 2019



David Reuben Iventosch passed away on April 16 at his home in Lafayette at the age of 89, just a few weeks before his 90th birthday. Although he ultimately lost his battle with cancer, his final days were filled with well wishes and visits from his close friends and family.

David was born on May 12, 1929 in Berkeley to Dora and Samuel Iventosch. He grew up in Berkeley, and was both a star athlete and class president at Berkeley High School. While he wasn't busy with studies, sports and school politics, he spent his time winning over the affections of his soon-to-be wife, Dolores.

He went on to attend the University of California where he studied business and played on the freshman basketball team.

David left Cal after two years to help run the family business when his father suffered a serious illness. Soon after that he started Freeway Variety, a retail store in Montclair that became a fixture in that community. He was a member of numerous business associations and he and his store became famous for being the spot that had everything you couldn't find at the grocery or hardware store - or anywhere else for that matter.

David and Dolores had four children: Shira, Kirk, Leonard, and Lori. He was a fixture at the kids' and grandkids' sporting events and ventured into the backcountry of the Sierras and Frank Church Wilderness until his mid-70s. And while he was an outstanding athlete, his true passion was music and the arts. He was a master flute player and singer, playing and singing until very recently.

David was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Dolores, and is succeeded by his four children, thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Services were held on April 22.

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.

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