

Troop 32193 honors 2020 Gold Award Girl Scouts



Elizabeth Paul with dad, Ben Paul.

Photos Jennifer Davis

Submitted by Joan Toney

Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 32193 celebrated the achievements of its 2021 graduating seniors, Leda Abkenari, Deja Cooper, Lauren Davis, Emilia Gutman, Alex Hascall, Miriya Huie, Elizabeth Paul, Madison Payne, Sydney Rohrbough, Shelby Suppiger, Charlotte Toney, and Chloe Parmelee (class of 2020), in a March 21 garden ceremony. Almost all 12 members have been Girl Scouts since Daisy Scouts, earning over 50 skill badges and achieving Bronze and Silver Awards, the highest achievement for Girl Scouting in fifth and eighth grades. In the fall of 2020, members Elizabeth Paul and Charlotte Toney achieved their Gold

Awards, the highest rank for high school Ambassador Girl Scouts, involving over 80 hours of work and leadership on their chosen project. Additionally, both young women were honored by Girl Scouts of Northern California in a virtual Gold Award ceremony in January.

Elizabeth Paul drew inspiration for her Gold Award project from her experience teaching children at Congregation B'nai Tikvah's religious school. During the COVID shutdown, religious schools moved to virtual learning and Paul noticed students were falling behind in their Hebrew reading skills. She created an eight-week "Summer Tutoriam" program aimed at teaching anyone, regardless of age, how to read Hebrew. She



Charlotte Toney with mom, Joan Toney.

trained a group of 11 Jewish teens on how to tutor, communicate professionally by email, and how to utilize different Hebrew reading resources. By the end of the summer, 30 students had shown improved reading speed, confidence tackling challenging words, and mastery of the language on par with their religious study peers. Due to its success, this program will continue to run every summer at Congregation B'nai Tikvah for students and any others interested in learning or improving their Hebrew language skills.

With funding from community donations, cookie sales, and garage sales, Charlotte Toney designed her Gold Award project to assist Hope Solutions in

fully furnishing and outfitting four apartments for formerly homeless families. Toney led a team of volunteers to move furniture and set up the apartments prior to the tenants moving in. In addition, she organized and cataloged a storage unit for overflow donations, updated the "needs list" for future donations, and created a list of community members with businesses that could donate furniture on a regular basis. She was proud to partner with Hope Solutions in their efforts to provide supportive housing to at risk and homeless families in Contra Costa County.

Saint Mary's College Guild pushes forward with fundraising efforts



Photo provided

From left: Karen Cain, Guild president; Diane Buick, treasurer; Millicent McCormack, St. Patrick's event chair and publicity chair.

Submitted by Millicent McCormack

Fundraising for Saint Mary's College scholarships has been extremely difficult due to the pandemic, but the Saint Mary's College Guild's St. Patrick's Day Raffle was a huge success, with the sale of five baskets filled with Irish treasures. The Guild was able to raise \$3,195 effortlessly, said Mary Poppingo, SMC Liaison and Assistant Vice President for Alumni & Community Engagement.

The Guild is now focused on its

May Raffle, which will feature a delicious dinner for four along with two bottles of wine from Towne Bakery & Café (valued at \$150). Tickets and donations are due by May 10 and the drawing is scheduled for May 12.

This year more than ever the community's help is needed to attract and retain qualified students at Saint Mary's College, said Poppingo. Ticket cost: 1 ticket for \$25 or 2 for \$40. Send checks (made out to SMC GUILD) to 1928 St. Mary's Road, PMB 3002, Moraga, CA 94575. For more information, call Karen Cain at (925) 323-9912.

In Memory

Ronald Sylvio Ertola

Resident of Moraga

July 22, 1930 - April 4, 2021



Ron Ertola was born in North Beach, San Francisco to Sylvio and Bruna Ertola. He graduated from Galileo High School, where he was an All City Basketball and Baseball Athlete. He was inducted into the Galileo Athletic Hall of Fame. He was awarded a dual scholarship for both sports to the University of San Francisco by legendary Coach Pete Newel. He was also offered a professional baseball contract by the Brooklyn Dodgers at the age of 16. He was later invited to Spring training by the Pittsburgh Pirates. While at Galileo he met the love of his life, Joan Lucchesi. They were married on December 1, 1950. They were happily married for 49 years, until Joan passed in June 2001. Ron was Joan's primary

caretaker and never left her side while she battled Parkinson's Disease.

Ron and Joan moved to Moraga in July 1960, where they raised their two boys. Ron coached many of his son's athletic teams. They enjoyed many vacations at their lake house at Lake Wildwood. Ron enjoyed golfing, fishing, boating and spending time with friends and family. He was a successful businessman and founded his own company, State Surgical Supply in 1970, which he later sold to McKesson in 1997.

Ron is survived by his sons Brad (Jamie) and Pat (Jan) along with grandchildren Brad (Michelle), Anthony, Andrew, Kelsey, Nicholas and great granddaughter Ava. Along with his loving partner of 14 years, Marilyn Van Stralen. Ron is preceded in death by his brother Walter Bresciani, his mother, father and his wife.

Private Services are pending, due to the pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

The Multiple Sclerosis Society@

WWW.NATIONALMSSOCIETY.ORG/DONATE and fill out the form for "a gift in your loved ones memory". If you prefer to mail your donation: Send a check to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 4153 Northgate Blvd. #6, Sacramento, CA. 95834. Include the name of honoree ("in memory of...") and the name and address of person(s) you wish to notify re: the gift.

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA 26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com

Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck;

andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com

Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers:

Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com,

Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Fran Miller, Jenn

Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, Linda

Fodrini-Johnson, Lou Fancher

Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas

Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.

Mailing address: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

Phone: 925-377-0977; **Fax:** 925-263-9223; **email:** info@lamorindaweekly.com

website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

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.