

COMMUNITY

INJURED CYCLIST IS FIRST RECIPIENT OF NEWLY FORMED FOUNDATION

By Dara Schulenberg, Las Sendas Resident Sterling Baer, Red Mountain Brumbys Cycling Group

Sunday, Oct. 5 was a beautiful morning in East Mesa—until just after 8:30 a.m. At that time, a member of our community was struck from behind by a hit-and-run driver while biking north on McDowell near Recker Road, training for Ironman Arizona. Another cyclist and his son were first to the scene, and held her hand while calling 911. Kind spirits pulled over to offer help, while others were frozen in disbelief at what happened.

The tight-knit East Valley cycling community spent the next three weeks attempting to identify this cyclist. As finally learned, it was our Las Sendas Windsong neighbor Dee Scott who was hit. Dee is an amazing 42-year-old ultra runner and triathlete who many residents would recognize from her swims, runs and rides within our community.

Dee was taken to Scottsdale Osborn Emergency Room, and was admitted for serious injuries, including head-to-toe

road rash classified as second degree burns.

Discovered much later was the life threatening multiple fractures in her spine, numerous broken ribs, hematomas and ligament damage—all of which make breathing and walking excruciatingly painful and even dangerous. Dee is now at home, but is bedridden in a brace—allowed only to move her head.

During her extended recovery, Dee is unable to work, and, as a single mother of two teenage boys, is financially stressed beyond measure. Dee is a tough, strong individual and athlete who is not at ease with asking for—or taking assistance.

Motivated to make a difference, a group of local good Samaritans have banded together to aid in providing meals, groceries, household services, animal care and financial assistance for Dee and her sons, with one family offering to provide Christmas for Dee's boys, Trevor, a senior at Skyline High School, and Tanner, a ninth-grader at Fremont Junior High.

In the spirit of thanksgiving and counting our blessings, let us, as a community, join in taking action and making a



Dee Scott, an accomplished triathlete, is now bedridden with her injuries.

difference for Dee and her family. Dee is the first beneficiary of the Not One More Foundation, a new non-profit organization being established to support legislation, educate drivers and engineer safer roads.

The foundation also teaches defensive cycling skills while importantly offering grants in support of injured cyclists due to car-bike accidents.

You are invited to express community support for Dee by visiting the Not One More Foundation at www.notonemorecyclist.com, where you will find a list of open needs for the Scott family and/or by making a deposit at any Washington Mutual, Not One More beneficiary account #4011235664.

Let's stand together, as cyclists, athletes, individuals, families, residential communities and faith communities—and say *no more!* Together, let's make Las Sendas and Red Mountain bike-friendly communities! ■

BOOK REVIEW

The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama

Reviewed by Jamie Larson

Gail Tsukiyama's *The Samurai's Garden* is an excellent, heartwarming, coming of age tale. Set in Tarumi, Japan, in 1937 *The Samurai's Garden* is told through the journal of Stephen, a young Chinese man, diagnosed with tuberculosis and sent from the polluted streets of Hong Kong to the fresh air of Tarumi, Japan, by his family to recover during the Sino-Japanese War.

Ordered home to Canton from university, Stephen is doted on by his mother and Ching, a house servant, but continues to digress. Once diagnosed with tuberculosis, it is decided that Stephen should go stay with his father who is on business in Kobe, Japan, to avoid infecting his younger sister, Pie.

Once in Kobe, Stephen begins to improve, and it is

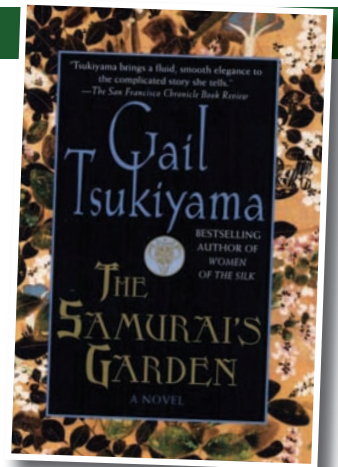
decided he should continue on to the family's summer home in Tarumi, a sleepy ocean town, where the air is fresh.

Life in Tarumi is much slower and much quieter than the life Stephen is used to back in China. Alone in the house with Matsu, the introverted caretaker, Stephen's health slowly begins to improve as he adjusts to life in Tarumi—swimming in the ocean each day, meeting Matsu's friends, Sachi and Kenzo, and falling in love with a young Japanese girl named Keiko.

Though the story is told through the lens of a hopeful youth, the horrors of war do not escape Stephen completely in his sleepy town. He comes to the realization he is the only able-bodied young male in the town while all young Japanese males are fighting the war in China. With his

thoughts often on the well-being of his family in Canton, Stephen must come to terms with the fact he is seen as the enemy in the town he grows to love so much.

A true coming of age tale, Tsukiyama has hit a homerun. *The Samurai's Garden* crosses cultural boundaries, and tells a hopefully tragic tale of life during war. Beautifully written, well constructed and, through nuance and subtlety, *The Samurai's Garden* is inspiring. ■



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