

AAUW Celebrates Young Women's Achievements

Submitted by Mary Helene Tietz (written by Sandra Fox-Sohner, Gail Burnett, Margaret Padarathsingh, and Mary-Ellen Judson)



Jessica Coleman, Breanne Benedict, Dr. Kris Kulp, Mehrnaz Ahrar, and Courtney Whyte Photo provided

It is the vision of American Association of University Women (AAUW) to make a positive impact on local and global communities by promoting education, empowering women and girls, and supporting personal and professional growth. On April 12, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) AAUW gathered members, parents, and friends to celebrate and present nine remarkable young women from the Lamorinda area with college scholarships and Tech Trek camp scholarships.

Three high school seniors and one college senior received the 2011 AAUW College Scholarship Awards. At the meeting, these four winners described their accomplishments and career goals.

Mehnaz Ahrar (Acalanes) is a top academic student in her rigorous study program. She has volunteered more than 800 hours at Kaiser Permanente, serves food to the homeless, is a peer tutor, and supervises four Interact Clubs in the Bay Area. She plans to study pre-medicine at the University of California.

Jessica Coleman (Miramonte) is an outstanding student, dancer/instructor with California Academy of Performing arts, a junior swim coach and a three-year high school facilitator for AAUW's Sister-to-Sister program. Coleman plans to pursue a major in psychology.

Courtney Whyte (Campolindo) shows exceptional leadership in sports, community service, and maintains a strong academic record. She is a four-year member and captain of the varsity swim team and works with the Special Olympics Swim team.

Whyte has volunteered at the Sports Medicine Center for Adolescents at Children's Hospital. She will attend Notre Dame University for pediatrics and sports medicine.

St. Mary's College has a mission that teaches the students to "Enter to learn, leave to serve." This lesson is exemplified by scholarship recipient Breanne Benedict (St. Mary's College). As a student in the school of psychology, Benedict has assisted patients with Alzheimer's and people suffering from domestic violence and elder abuse. During a summer work program, she taught in an inner city boys' school where her goal was to show the boys the importance of completing school. Breanne has been accepted into the fall 2011 Ph.D. program at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in Palo Alto.

Since 1998, the OML AAUW branch has provided 40 7th grade girls with scholarships to Tech Trek camp. This year, five Lamorinda girls will be attending the Grace Hopper Tech Trek

camp at Stanford University. The winners were asked to read their essay from their scholarship application. These girls are outstanding students with a passion for science and math.

Caiseen Kelley (OIS) said, "My interest in technology is evident in my everyday life. After finishing homework, I normally read my favorite tech websites, including CNET, Engadget, and CNN tech."

Sophia Settle (JM) explained, "I am hoping to go into either marine biology or architecture."

Molly Faller (JM) mentioned her interest in CSI: "I enjoy hands-on science and science reports. I've always been interested in solving crimes, so I have a particular interest in the branch of science known as forensics."

Emma Connolly (Stanley) said: "I want to go to college and study math and science. Then I think I will get a job studying wildcats in their natural environment and help find ways to prevent them from being endangered."

Tess Olsson (Stanley) said, "My hopes and dreams for my future career are for me to go to medical school and become a radiologist. I love the way Tech Trek is trying to show girls that we can do anything we want and become anyone we want to become."

Keynote speaker Dr. Kris Kulp from LLNL explained how scientists and engineers from many fields work together to solve today's complex biological research problems. Melinda Moir, co-director of the Grace Hopper camp, described camp life for us. Both speakers donated their honoraria to the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp at Stanford University.



Tess Olson, Emma Connolly, Caiseen Kelley, Melinda Moir, Molly Faller, and Sophie Settle. Photo provided

In Other News...



Photo provided

On April 20, Girl Scout Troop 31361 volunteered at the Lafayette Community Center by sweeping sand out of the playground in preparation for the Bunny Brunch and Family Fun. Pictured are Olivia, Kira, Marika and Julianna.

Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Jennifer Russell has other volunteer opportunities available; reach her at (925) 284-2232.



Photo and caption submitted by Ken Ryerson

Moraga's Pack 505 with guest speaker Don Dendinger, a physical therapist in private practice in Walnut Creek. Dendinger visited the pack at the Moraga Commons on April 12th and spoke about the benefits of exercise and taking care of oneself. It was informative and a good time was had by all.

When approached by the news media and asked the question, "What did Waldorf education do for you?", Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg replied...

"It encouraged me to always strive to become a better human being."

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Youth Ink Winners, 2011

Submitted by Lisa Rodriguez

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) is pleased to announce the winners of Youth Ink, an annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. Each Youth Ink submission was read and critiqued by an esteemed panel of local professional writers comprised of Ann Manheimer, Melissa Manlove and Yvonne Prinz.

"This year's Youth Ink participants approached the *But if you Really Knew Me...* theme with honesty and creativity," said Molly Griffin Wilson, president of the Orinda Junior

Women's Club. "We were particularly impressed with the number of sixth grade writers who participated this year and we hope to see this trend continue in the future."

Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink include The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and Orinda Books. The Orinda Junior Women's Club welcomes additional sponsorships to ensure continued success.

Youth Ink winners will be honored at an awards ceremony and reading at the Orinda Library Auditorium on Thursday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The 2011 Youth Ink winners are:

First Place, Prize of \$250:
 Gabriel Moran, OIS, Grade 7, for "The Burdens of Trojuma"

Second Place, Prize of \$125:
 Kate Nerone, OIS, Grade 6, for "Swimming Upstream"

Third Place, Prize of \$75:
 Riley Hummel, OIS, Grade 7, for "Silver Doors"

Listed in alphabetical order, the following individuals were selected by the judges to receive an honorable mention. Each will be awarded with a \$25 gift certificate from Orinda Books.

Katherine Cane, OIS, Grade 6, "My Best Friend (If you really knew me, you would know that I love my dog, Maddie)"
 Paul Cane, OIS, Grade 8, "The Alexander Parker Cattle Ranch"
 Hannah Fishlow, OIS, Grade 6, "Athlete"
 Olivia Fishlow, OIS, Grade 6, "Who I Really Am"
 Jessica Guo, OIS, Grade 6, "But If You Really Knew Me..."
 Haley Lewis, OIS, Grade 7, "Super Siblings"
 Anna Saldinger, OIS, Grade 8, "She Isn't Real"
 Clarissa Sandvik, OIS, Grade 7, "Strangers"
 Christian Schillinger, OIS, Grade 6, "The Day I Learned"
 Aoife Tejada, OIS, Grade 7, "If You Really Knew Me"

All other participants will receive a gift certificate for Loard's Ice Cream in Orinda.

Orinda Moraga Girl Scout International Faire 2011

Submitted by Susan Rockwood

(written by Marie-Claire Schillinger and Sarah Rockwood)



Photo provided

Young excited Daisies, cheerful Brownies, mature Juniors, and supportive parents all had a great time at the annual Girl Scout International Faire hosted by Cadette Troop 30446 for the Orinda Moraga Service Unit on March 13. The International Faire is an event where many local Girl Scouts choose countries and, on their own, learn about them

their troop. They gather at the Faire to represent their country by hosting a booth that may feature games, activities, food and more to share with others. This year, Troop 30446 added a fashion show to the agenda. Each member of the troop, and a few volunteers, wore Girl Scout uniforms from many different countries and described them to the audience.