

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 can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Orinda Moraga Girl Scouts Honor Award Recipients

Submitted by Thama Brentano



Graduating Ambassador Girl Scouts are all smiles.

Photo provided

The Orinda Moraga Girl Scout Service Unit on Sunday, May 18, honored 21 Bronze Award recipients, 11 Silver Award recipients, three Gold Award recipients and 14 graduating Ambassador Scouts. Jan Cushman, a member of the Gold Award committee of Girl Scouts of Northern California and Councilwoman Amy Worth from the City of Orinda were on hand to help recognize the Scouts' accomplishments.

The Bronze Award is the third highest award a Girl Scout can earn. The Junior Scouts awarded for their three projects included: Emma Bennett, Sadie Habas, Haley Hartman, Zoe Heidersbach, Olivia Hillhouse, Kira Jangotichian, Jessica Long, Quincy Morgridge, Katie Price, Jennie Sheehan, Erin Thomas, Sofia Vattuone, Sarah Warner (Troop 30288) for the Moraga Easter Egg Hunt; Maddy Crain, Emma Dillard, Sarah Millard, AJ Russell, and Marit Ullrich (Troop 30318) for the Sister to Sister Troop Mentoring Kit; and Annabeth Chow, Aislinn Welch, and Alexandra Yokomizo (Troop 30638) for the Moraga Royale Visitors Program.

The Silver Award is the second highest award that can be earned in Girl Scouting. This project takes a minimum of 50 hours per scout towards the design, planning, and execution of the project. From Troop 30072, Kiera Crandall and Maria Wong worked together on their project titled Transitional Kindergarten Book Exchange; Kyra Merryman's project was called Mira Vista Mural; Josie Rosso's project was Shelter Inc. Kitchen Upgrade. Kim Baxter, from Troop 30114, held a Teen Game Night at the

Moraga Library. From Troop 31035, Cameron Cort and Payton Ellis did a Kindergarten Supplies and Homework Readiness Kits project, while Erika Riepe worked on Safety Tips for School Children. From Troop 33120, Claire McCullough and Sasha Gordon's project was titled, Wagner Ranch Nature Area Improvements, and Erica Stephan's project was Renewed Garden for Lavonia Allen Head Start in Bay Point.

The Gold Award, the equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle Award, was presented to three scouts this year: Katherine Coates, of Troop 30273, a junior at Campolindo High School who ran a summer reading camp and donated books to the Lyle Morris Family Center with Shelters Inc.; Jane Fessenden of Troop 30040, a senior at Miramonte High School who ran a summer arts camp at a Head Start pre-school in Concord with the goal of inspiring the children to continue with art and to aspire to great success; and Emma Patton, also a senior at Miramonte, who planned and implemented summer music lessons at a local Head Start preschool that culminated in a musical performance for the parents.

Additionally the service unit honored the following 16 Ambassador scouts for their years of dedication and service as Girl Scouts who will be graduating this June: Campolindo students Elysa Campo, Jacqueline Redinger, Bailey Thomsen, Linden Brentano, Megan Adachi, and Katherine Friedman; and Miramonte students Elizabeth Chenok, Colleen McCullough, Ariel Ramirez, Anna Finnell, Michelle Juliana Prezkop, and Julia Young.

Lamorinda Chapter of NCL Demonstrates Commitment to Community

Submitted by Kathi Torres



Mothers and daughters of the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League distribute donated backpacks to children at the Monument Crisis Center. Photo provided

John F. Kennedy once said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." The 268 mothers and daughters in the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League exemplify those words through their ongoing commitment to volunteerism. The chapter recently concluded their operating year with an enjoyable afternoon get-together at the Saint Mary's Soda Activities Center, recognizing outstanding contributions by both individual members and the chapter as a whole.

The Lamorinda Chapter of NCL recorded a remarkable 7,187 philanthropy hours for the year, averaging almost 600 hours a month of volunteer service performed throughout the community. Philanthropies include Monument Crisis Center, Blue Star Moms, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Contra Costa & Solano Food Bank, J.F. Kapnek Trust/Pediatric AIDS Fund, Loves and Fishes, American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Special Olympics, American Heart Association, Las

Trampas, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Save Mt. Diablo, Friends of the Library, and many more.

Several young women went beyond expectations and were duly recognized for their extraordinary efforts. Grace Baer, a freshman at Acalanes High School, earned NCL's national "Merci" Award for completing 131 philanthropy hours in addition to chapter requirements. Kai Otsmaa, a freshman at Miramonte, qualified for the national Yellow Rose Award for completing 80 philanthropy hours in addition to chapter requirements.

National Charity League's motto is "Mothers and Daughters Serving Communities Together." Its mission is to foster the mother-daughter relationship through community service, leadership development and cultural enrichment. The Recognition event was a powerful illustration of how putting goals into action serves the betterment of all involved.

Caie Kelley wins Lions California Student Speaker Contest Semi-Final Round

Submitted by Fred George



Photo provided

Miramonte High School senior Caie Kelley won another \$6,500 in scholarship money May 25 at the Elks Club in Santa Clara, speaking on the topic "Community Service - What Does It Mean, and Why Does It Matter?" Kelley has now won five rounds and \$11,000 in scholarship money, and advances to the finals

to be held June 7 in Pasadena, Calif. If she wins the finals, she will receive another \$10,000 in scholarships. Pictured are Rich Laufenberg of the Moraga Lions Club, Vince Lipinski, district governor of the Lions Clubs, and champion, Kelley, who will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

Books Galore Go to Good Cause

Submitted by Melanie McCauley and Sue Milby



Camino Pablo Elementary Students smile with some of the donated books from the successful book drive. Photo provided

Camino Pablo Elementary School in Moraga held its annual Reading Round Up (Read-A-Thon and Book Drive) and student involvement was at an all-time high, with some grade levels reaching 100 percent participation. The CP community collected gently used book donations to benefit Reading Partners (www.readingpartners.org), a local, non-profit literacy program in the East Bay. The over 1,000 books donated will be used to help chil-

dren enrolled in a one-on-one tutoring program build their home libraries. Principal Tom Rust explains, "Life skills are the foundation on which we build a community of learners at Camino Pablo School. The Read-A-Thon and Book Drive gave students an opportunity to raise money for their own school and think about others in the larger community, emphasizing the life skills of caring, cooperation, effort and respect."

MORAGA VALLEY SWIM & TENNIS CLUB

Come Join the Fun!

Come try out the
- NEW Clay Courts -
Tennis Open House
June 7th 1:00-3:00 pm

Visit moragavalleypool.org or email: membership@moragavalleypool.org

- Year-round adult and junior tennis programs with USPTA certified coaches
- 6 Lanes for lap swimming, dive tank, baby pool and expansive green space
- Learn-to-Swim lessons and Masters program
- MVP Marlins Swim Team
- Summer swim and tennis camps

Memberships Now Available