

# TEEN SCENE

## Rediscovering Recreational Games

By Linda Lan Phung

I must confess, I gradually drifted away from board games and the like as I grew older. I forgot about playing Monopoly and War, the card game, opting for games on the computer such as Solitaire and chess. I played less of these board games not because I did not like them, but because I had nobody to play with. However, once I got the courage to ask my cousins to choose Twister over Call of Duty, I rediscovered the joy of recreational games again.

These recreational games, which can vary from puzzles to board games, are great ways to improve strategic thinking. Sophomore Daniel Ginsburg says, "I like playing chess because it helps me plan ahead and teaches that I can lose while still having fun." Through playing chess, Ginsburg has also developed other important skills like good sportsmanship and patience.

Not only do board games foster mental growth, but they also bring people together with family and friends. There is no limit to how many people can play the board game – although there may usually be two to four players, games like Cranium can involve a whole circle of people! Freshman Daria Torba says, "These games are amazing to pass the time and can also act as ice-breakers."

However, board games have their disadvantages, too. They take a long time, and it is hard to find people who have the same desire to play. Whenever Torba plays the classic games, like Monopoly, with younger children, an argument always ensues. Despite the disputes, it is important to learn how to resolve them peacefully. By communicating and compromising, all

of the players can learn to cooperate in the future.

Because of the difficulty of finding other players, people may go for online games. High school senior Kaiser Pister says, "I don't think we can compare board games and computer games – the latter are meant to be more fast-paced and competition-oriented, and normally support more than just a family of players." Each type of game has its own advantages and disadvantages, with Pister adding, "I believe they are both equally fun and bring different aspects to the gaming community."

Both games are enjoyable for different types of people, but let us not forget the beauty of recreational games as technology advances with more game applications (apps) and online games. There are amazing board games out there, such as Fictionary, and other party games with cards and puzzles. Don't be afraid to go the road less traveled and play the games less frequented, as I was before. Having diversity in entertainment is refreshing.



Linda Lan Phung, a Miramonte High School senior who volunteers throughout the East Bay, is an officer with Club Be the Star You Are!®, and strives for 17-second miracles, inspired by author Jason Wright.

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

## Community Service

### AAUW OML Empowers and Celebrates All Women

Submitted by Chris Laszcz-Davis



From left: Sandra Fox-Sohner, chair, Tech Trek Initiative, and Mary Bonilla, last year's Distinguished Award winner. Photo provided

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrated its busy year with a May 20 luncheon at the Orinda Country Club. The theme for the day was "Empowering and Celebrating All Women!" Members and guests gathered to acknowledge various members' contributions to the organization and to install the 2014-15 executive board.

The branch awarded Sandra Fox-Sohner with the 2014 Distinguished Woman award. Elise Fox, Fox-Sohner's daughter, introduced our 2014 honoree, sharing stories about the impact her mother has had on her life. Fox-Sohner's theme for her talk was: "You can learn anything from a book." She shared personal anecdotes about growing up and how she used books from a very early age to learn about things. She described learning to swim using the book "Learn How to Swim," and practicing on her bed. She put herself through college graduating from UC Berkeley with degrees in evolutionary biology and German literature. She then earned a graduate degree in

education and taught math and science in high school and junior high school. While raising three children, she earned her MBA at UCB and started her own company, HighTech Business Decisions, a market research and consulting firm focused on biotech manufacturing technologies and drug discovery technologies.

Over the years Fox-Sohner served on the Livermore Recreation and Parks District board of directors, was active in the League of Women Voters and the National Organization for Women, and volunteered for the Child Abuse Prevention Council. She has been deeply committed to equity for girls and women throughout her life.

Nominating letters described her keen intellect, thoughtful leadership skills, her grace, enthusiasm, and creativity. She has certainly distinguished herself in terms of leadership, creativity, initiative, and friendship in every endeavor in her community, profession, and AAUW.

Muriel Fry, a member of the Pleasant Hill/Martinez Branch installed OML's executive board for 2014-15, with Karen Mankowski re-elected as president of the branch. Fry reminded the audience that everyone needs to get involved and support our leaders.

Members were acknowledged for their contributions to AAUW Funds. A total of \$6,976 was donated in 2013. This year's Branch-Named Gift Honoree was Lana Reichick, acknowledging her many years of service to OML, her years of work on its fundraising efforts, her tenure as the OML vice president of the Legal Advocacy Fund, and her tireless efforts on AAUW-OML local philanthropies, especially Tech Trek.

For more information about the organization, go to [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net).

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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