



L to R: Brianna Hardy, Lauren Tyburski, Solana Olmer, Jennifer Tao
Photo by K. de Groot AAUW Photographer

Young Women of Great Talent Recognized in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini

For 40 years now, the Lamorinda branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has encouraged young women who are committed to excellence in education and to making a positive impact on their local and global community. One of the programs is the Outstanding Scholarship and Achievement Award, given to four young women every year. For Jan Coe, the President of AAUW and Maryellen Judson of the selection committee, the hard part is choosing only four winners, since the achievements of many Lamorinda girls are quite remarkable. This year's awardees were honored on April 10 in a ceremony at St. Mary's College.

From Acalanes High School, Lauren Tyburski was chosen for her many community service achievements, locally with the Richmond Rescue Shelter and John Muir Hospital and internationally on annual trips to Tijuana with Young Neighbor in Action. Jennifer Tao from Campolindo has been passionately

involved in many local causes. Her presentation to the Town Council of potentially harmful pesticides led to the passage of the first Integrated Pest Management Policy in Moraga. She has served on the Contra Costa Countywide Youth Commission for two years. Solano Olmer represented Miramonte. She was inspired to raise money for a generator for an Indonesian school, and recently delivered 130 bags of toiletries, school supplies and vitamins to a Burmese orphanage. Closer to home, she was President of Miramonte's Interact Club, organizing many local service activities involving local charity organizations. Finally, St. Mary's senior Brianna Hardy also received an award. Brianna was active in Dr. Shawny Anderson's hurricane relief mission to New Orleans. Brianna has served on the St. Mary's Academic Council for the past four years. Her advisor comments, "Brianna has the depth of character, intelligence and vision that are found in great leaders."

AAUW also granted one girl from each local middle school a Tech-Trek Award to attend math and science camp this summer. The awardees were Sophia Aguilera from OIS, Jacqueline Miller from JM and Hana Wasserman from Stanley. The 3 girls showed great poise and enthusiasm when presenting their motivations for attending the camp. "Our communities are blessed to nurture such talented and thoughtful young women," concluded Jan Coe.



L to R: Sophia Aguilera, Jacqueline Miller, Hana Wasserman
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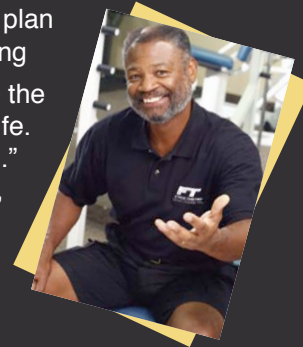
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