

## Four Lamorinda Students Recognized as California Arts Scholars

Submitted by Robin Moore

**D**evin Abbott of Lafayette, Brittany Padon of Moraga, and Annelise Gelman and Matthew Loudon, both of Orinda, are among sixteen Contra Costa County students who have been recognized as "California Arts Scholars" by the state's InnerSpark program. These students will participate in an intensive pre-professional training program at the California State Summer School for the Arts to be held at the campus of the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia this summer.

InnerSpark—California State Summer School for the Arts—is a rigorous, pre-professional, month-long training program in the visual and performing arts, creative writing,

animation and film for talented artists of high school age. The school was created by the California Legislature in the mid-1980s in response to increasing competition from other states on the burgeoning arts and entertainment industry. At that time, film, television, and recording complexes, which had traditionally been the domain of California based companies were being outsourced to other parts of the country such as Texas and Florida. To keep the tax revenue and talent pool close to home, the legislature worked with arts and industry leaders to establish the school which provides a training ground for future artists who may wish to study and practice the arts or to pursue careers in the major

performing arts companies and the commercial and fine arts institutions in California. This unique public-private partnership is now embarking on its 21st summer of operation; the school has trained more than 9,500 students.