

## Lamorinda Teens Perform at Junior Bach Festival

Submitted by Jin-Young Heo



The whole group

Photos provided

Four Lamorinda teens competed with their group against more than 390 participants in the 59th Annual Junior Bach Festival auditions on Feb. 5 before going on to perform the Concerto for Oboe and Violin (1060), Allegro, on March 31 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Kensington. Jin-Young Heo played the violin solo and Daniel Gurevich of Pleasanton took the oboe solo with orchestral accompaniment under the direction of their teacher Heghine Boloyan. Less than one third of the total festival audition participants were invited to perform. The group (which includes Stanley Middle School seventh-graders Heo and Katherine Chen, Stanley eighth-grader Dana Zhu, and Acalanes High School eleventh-grader Erin Chen) plans to compete again in two years. The Junior Bach Festival was founded in 1953 by Berkeley music director Tirzah Maillkoff after one of her students attended the Carmel Bach Festival,



From left: Jin-Young Heo (Stanley Middle School, grade 7), Erin Chen (Acalanes High School, grade 11), Katherine Chen (Stanley Middle School, grade 7), Heghine Boloyan (Teacher), Not pictured: Dana Zhu (Stanley Middle School, grade 8)

which inspired her to create a festival for children to audition and perform in the San Francisco Bay Area. This festival calls for kids through the age of 21 with exceptional talent in music to compete against others from throughout California by performing

any piece by Johann Sebastian Bach. The festival takes place around the time of Bach's birth date: March 21. Congratulations to these talented musicians!

## Fishlow Twins Tagged as Top Two in Orinda Junior Women's Club's Youth Ink 2012

Submitted by Lisa Rodriguez

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) announced 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. Hanna Fishlow (OIS, grade 7) won first place for "A Starless Night,"

Olivia Fishlow (OIS, grade 7) took second place for "A Knock on the Door," and third place, went to Kate Dunn (OIS, grade 7) for "The Package." Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony and reading at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 26 at the Orinda Library Auditorium.

"We were impressed with the high-quality creative writing we observed in this year's Youth Ink competition," said Cathy Opdyke, president of the OJWC. "The turnout included a good mix of boys and girls and a solid representation of Orinda residents who attend Bentley School, OIS, Seven Hills School, Stanley Middle School, St. Perpetua, as well as El Sobrante and Moraga residents who attend an Orinda school."

Contest organizers prepared each Youth Ink submission into a completely anonymous format that provided no information about the writer's name, age, sex or school and provided them to an esteemed panel of local professional writers. The panel, which included Cynthia Leslie-

Bole, Ann Manheimer, Melissa Manlove, and Scott Ostler, read and critiqued each submission and met at an in-person conference to determine the winners. Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink included Lamorinda Web, John Orgo, D.D.S., Orthodontics, The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and Smart Lounge.

The following individuals were selected by the judges to receive an honorable mention:

**Martha Castro**, OIS, Grade 7, "A Christmas to Remember"  
**Julia Dureault**, OIS, Grade 7, "This Means Everything"  
**Steve Ginsburg**, OIS, Grade 7, "Jamie li"  
**Will Knox**, OIS, Grade 7, "There's a Knock at the Door"  
**Samira Maboudian**, OIS, Grade 8, "The Nightmare"  
**Vivian McGowan**, OIS, Grade 7, "There She Is"  
**Gabriel Moran**, OIS, Grade 8, "The Man On The Moon"  
**Kate Nerone**, OIS, Grade 7, "Beyond the Threshold"  
**Kendall Reid Martin**, OIS, Grade 6, "Lily Jane"  
**McKenna Williams**, Seven Hills School, Grade 6, "Black Magic"

## THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

### Draw Something

Developer: OMGPOP

Cost: Free or \$0.99

For: iPhone, iTouch, and Android

If you haven't heard of *Draw Something* then you are missing out on an app that's attracted over 50 million users.

*Draw Something's* appeal is that it can be enjoyed by all ages. Part game, part art, plus social networking, this entertaining app allows users to select a word, draw an image for it, and challenge a friend to guess what word is drawn.

If you are willing to put up with advertisements, *Draw Something* is free, otherwise you can purchase it without the ads for only 99 cents. After downloading, the first prompt is to sign in via your Facebook or email account and create a user name. You then design your game and invite friends on Facebook to play. Your opponent is

found via username, email, or by random searching.

*Draw Something* supplies you with three words to start. If you don't like your choices you have the option of selecting new words by tapping the "to draw" screen. When you are finished, send the picture to your friend to start "game on." When your friend guesses what you have drawn correctly, you are both rewarded with coins. These coins can be used to purchase new market colors or bombs (bombs are used to delete letters, making it easier to guess new words).

*Draw Something* is a simple and creative game to enjoy with family and friends.

Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miramonte High School and on-air reporter for the teen radio program, *Express Yourself!*

## Tile Wall of Character Installed at Burton Valley

Submitted by Merilee McCormick



Photos provided

Girl Scout Troop #32149 along with the Burton Valley PTA installed more than 500 tiles over the past couple of weekends as part of the Tile Wall of Character project at Burton Valley Elementary School. This wall is more than an artistic symbol of various students' work; every student who painted a tile demonstrated one of the six pillars of character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, caring, citizenship, and fairness) on their piece. They each filled out an order form with a story and/or drawing of how they demonstrated one or more of the pillars. Kids were very creative in coming up with ideas. Many students asked "new friends" to play or invited a student eating or playing alone to join them. This project built awareness about how these

kids can make a difference with small deeds that are very meaningful. The tiles came out beautifully and the kids did an amazing job coming up with ideas to artistically communicate the six pillars. As part of this project, fifth-graders assisted preschoolers with their handprints and then added the big buddy thumb print (which was designed into an animal of choice). Each classroom designed its own tile (each grade given a pillar) then every student added their thumb print as a signature of the character pledge. The Wall unveiling will be at 2:45 p.m. Thursday, April 26.

To learn more about the project, visit:

<http://www.burtonvalleypta.org/burton-valley-wall-of-character>.



## Three Moraga School Principals Moving On

By Cathy Dausman



Carol Kitchens, retiring Campolindo High School Principal

Photos Cathy Dausman



Bill Walters, retiring Los Perales Elementary School Principal

Moraga students at three area schools will have new leadership for the 2012-2013 school year as the principals move to new positions or to retirement. Campolindo High School Principal Carol Kitchens and Los Perales Elementary Principal Bill Walters are both retiring; Principal Deborah Roden is leaving Camino Pablo Elementary to become director of curriculum and instruction for Las Lomitas Elementary School District in Menlo Park.

Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns says Roden's "expertise in curriculum and instruction has been an asset to Camino Pablo and to the district." Roden loves the "bookends" of greeting students

both mornings and afternoons and says she has felt "truly blessed" working within her school community. She says she has made personal friends in her three-year tenure at Camino Pablo. "This [new] job found me," she explains, but the Santa Cruz area native also admits the tie-breaker in deciding was relocating near her young grandson.

Carol Kitchens has worked for 39 years as an educator, 19 of them as an administrator. Becoming principal at Campolindo High School was a job she says she dreamed of. Although the job is "24/7" intensive, requiring evening commitments several nights a week, "it always felt so good [to be here]," she says. Some of her fondest memories have been of bringing former students back as Campolindo teachers. Kitchens plans to spend time visiting her grown daughters in Arizona and the Dutch West Indies after her June 30 retirement.

Bill Walters retires as Principal at Los Perales Elementary after 47 years in education. Except for a short "retirement" earlier and a few years at Antioch Middle School, Walters has been in Moraga since 1988, first as a teacher, then as assistant principal and later as principal of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. "It's time for me to start taking care of myself," he says simply.

Burns says bringing in new principals to Camino Pablo and Los Perales allows those schools "an opportunity to reevaluate desired qualities and future challenges." He says the hiring process "is an exciting opportunity to meet candidates" and learn what they can offer to students, staff and parents.

No changes are slated for either Orinda or Lafayette School District principals at this time.

Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)