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## Community Service

### AAUW Honored 12 Promising Young Women at Awards Ceremony

Submitted by Sandy Fox-Sohner



Top row, scholarship winners and keynote speaker, from left: Kate Ruth Greer, Jenanne Margaret Vaccaro, Danielle Feinberg, Mina Arasteh, Natasha Blazer, Mariah McKenzie Miller, and Elise Peterson-Trujillo. Front row, Tech Trek winners: Chun Che Free, Julia Moseyko, Audrey Moore, Natalie Davis, Ariella Zulch, and Molly Mudgett. Photo provided

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of AAUW gathered with members, parents, and friends April 21 to award 12 remarkable young women from Lamorinda schools with Tech Trek camp scholarships or college scholarships.

Keynote speaker Danielle Feinberg of Pixar Animation Studios – a mainstay at Tech Trek camp on the Stanford Campus for several years – enthralled the audience with her love of computer graphics and showed scenes from the movies she has worked on, such as “Brave,” “Cars,” “Ratatouille,” “Finding Nemo,” and “Toy Story.” She stressed the importance of mathematical equations when designing the movements and structures of animation, as well as behavior patterns, and she encouraged the girls to follow their dreams no matter how hard the courses or the problems.

In elementary schools, girls and boys are highly – and equally – interested in science and math, but by the time these students are in high school or college, the number of students taking science and math courses has dropped off considerably, especially for the girls. These are tough courses, and sometimes even some very smart students start to think they can’t do it.

Tech Trek camp for eighth graders provides girls with the confidence and the excitement they need to succeed in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) courses and fulfill their dreams of entering science and engineering careers.

The OML AAUW branch has provided a total of 53 scholarships to Tech Trek camp for local middle school girls over the past 16 years. This year, 60 girls were nominated by their science and math teachers, and 52 interviewed

with AAUW members to compete for the six camp scholarships. The six winning Lamorinda girls will be attending the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp at Stanford University in July.

The Tech Trek scholarship winners for 2013 are Chun Che Free and Julia Moseyko from Orinda Intermediate School, Natalie Davis and Audrey Moore from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, and Molly Mudgett and Ariella Zulch from Stanley Intermediate School. These girls are outstanding students with a passion for science and math. Each girl read their application essay at the ceremony, indicating their wide range of career goals, including marine biologist, high-tech entrepreneur, mechanical or civil engineer, inventor, mathematician, and fighter pilot.

Based on the generosity of Gayle Ulkema, an anonymous donor, and AAUW OML donations, two \$5,000 scholarships, three \$700 scholarships, and one \$500 merit award were presented on Sunday to six very deserving young women. Each girl spoke impressively about her incredible accomplishments, career dreams, and college she will be attending. The four college scholarship winners for 2013 are Natasha Blazer from Miramonte High School, Mina Arasteh from Campolindo High School, Jenanne Margaret Vaccaro and Elise Peterson-Trujillo from Acalanes High School, and Mariah McKenzie Miller from Saint Mary’s College. In addition, Kate Ruth Greer from Acalanes High School received a special merit award.

Anyone interested in supporting the AAUW-OML Tech Trek and Scholarship programs, or joining AAUW, may obtain more information by visiting [www.aauwoml.org](http://www.aauwoml.org).

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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Girl Scouts "Get Moving"

Submitted by Lisa Ross



Photo Lisa Ross

Burton Valley Elementary School Junior Girl Scout troop #32192 had a work party April 27 to help install sheet mulching at the Lafayette Community Garden as part of their "Get Moving" green energy Journey badge quest. They learned about organic gardening, Lafayette’s community garden, and how to install sheet mulching using old card-

board boxes from Beth Ferree, one of the board members of the garden. From left: Sydney Goldwyn, Lyndsey Goldwyn, McKenna Muller, Sophia Eubanks, Jennifer Bauer, Audrey Davis, Beth Ferree (garden board member), Jessica Davis, Blaire Coccotis, Grace Cunningham, and Libby Ross (not pictured: Jenna Davis).

### Moraga Women’s Society Game Day a Success

Submitted by Susan Sperry



Photo provided

Lavonne Clark and guests enjoy brunch at the Moraga Women’s Society Game Day fund raiser April 29. Established in 1967, The Moraga Women’s Society is dedicated to service for the betterment of the community. Recently donations have been given to the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School garden, the Moraga School District history program, the Campolindo High School music department, Parks and Recreation and easy chairs for adults at the Moraga Library. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome at meetings which are the third Monday of every month September through May at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center. For information, call membership chair Colleen Lund at (926) 376-3520 or email [littleelf39@att.net](mailto:littleelf39@att.net).

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### Del Rey Fourth-Graders Restore Creek Habitats

Submitted by John Zentner



Photo provided

Students from Orinda’s Del Rey Elementary School completed a hands-on creek restoration project March 28 on Moraga Creek, which runs by their school. Led by a team of biologists and volunteers from The Restoration Trust, the fourth-grade classes of Terri Brasch and John Moran removed non-native species, such as English ivy, and planted over 1,000 native grasses, trees and shrubs. After planting, the students learned that removing the non-natives and restoring native plants helps protect the health of Moraga Creek and reduces erosion. The Restoration Trust is a non-profit land trust dedicated to providing educational opportunities to the community for the benefit of native

habitat restoration. Visit [www.restorationtrustonline.org](http://www.restorationtrustonline.org) for more information. Funding for this project was partially provided by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee. From left: Molly Weber, Madison Peters, Lucy Marken, Evy Lavelle, Marlowe Randolph-Malochowski, Anna Logan, Claudia Gravano, Lucy Wilson, RoniDavidovich, Camryn Taft, Tenly Thompson, Zoe Sylvester, Greg Kormguth, Max Grinold, Michael Pang, Caleb Wilday, Josh Morganstein, ChrisNikban, Michael Lin, Ryan Johnson, Aidan Stone, Maddy Reynolds, and Brendan Padilla. In background are Sean Micallef and Mark Bonsignore of The Restoration Trust.