

# Community Service

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.

## Continuing to Care

*Second annual 'Trekking for the Troops' hopes to raise money, awareness for wounded vets*

Starting Sept. 13, Orinda resident Jake Martin, who is currently a student at UC Davis studying political science and communication, and 14 other members of his Sigma Nu fraternity will set out on a 100-mile, 11-day hike to raise \$15,000 for the Pathway Home, a rehabilitation organization that works with wounded veterans to help them regain their physical, mental, and emotional strengths. The trek will end by the group summiting Mount Whitney in

honor of returned veterans. Each fraternity brother has pledged to raise \$1,000 for the Pathway Home, doubling the efforts from last year's trek. "Recently, I was shocked to find out that a third of our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan experience some degree of Post Traumatic Stress or Traumatic Brain injury, and that every day an average of 18 veterans commit suicide," Martin wrote in a letter to family and friends. "Many of these veterans try to cope

with their symptoms from PTSD with alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and spousal abuse. One of Sigma Nu's values is service, where we strive to develop our members through servant leadership while benefitting the community. This is why we created this program dedicated to a balanced service of both donation of time and talents to local organizations. Sigma Nu at UC Davis and The Pathway Home have joined efforts and, throughout the year, we are raising money and awareness to treat these symptoms and safely reintegrate these brave soldiers back into society."

Over the past 4-year period, the Pathway Home, located in Yountville in Napa County, has served 305 warriors and helped over 130 families cope with our returning warriors com-



Orinda resident Jake Martin (fourth from left, striped shirt) on a training hike with Sigma Nu brothers from UC Davis. Photo provided Home, visit [www.thepathwayhome.org](http://www.thepathwayhome.org). J. Wake

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## New Board of Directors Announced for Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary

Submitted by Stephen Ware



Photo provided

The Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise recently announced its the new board of directors for 2013-14: from left, Thomas Peeks, Ernie Furtado, Stephen Ware, Ron Brown, Don Jenkins, Mark Larks, Ron Melvin, Buddy Burke, Claire Roberts, Rick Ashburn, John Fazel, and president Hays Englehart. The Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise meets at 7:15 a.m. every Friday morning at Celia's Restaurant.

## Girls Act as Science 'Upstanders,' Not 'Bystanders' at Stanford Stem Camp

Submitted by Chris Laszcz-Davis

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has granted a total of 53 scholarships to Tech Trek camp for local middle school girls over the past 16 years. This summer, six Lamorinda girls were chosen to attend the week long July, 2013 Grace Hopper Tech Trek Camp at Stanford University.

The 2013 LamorindaTech Trek camp scholarship winners were Chun Che Free and Julia Moseyko from Orinda Intermediate School, Natalie Davis and Audrey Moore from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, and Molly Mudgett and



From left, top row: Ariella Zulch, Molly Mudgett, and Audrey Moore. Bottom row: Natalie Davis, Julia Moseyko, and Chun Che Free. Photo provided

Ariella Zulch from Stanley Middle School. These outstanding students with a passion for science and math were selected on the basis of written applications and personal interviews, potential career goals, and their other outside interests. Potential career goals spanned a broad range of pursuits, including marine biologist, high-tech entrepreneur, mechanical or civil engineer, inventor, mathematician, and fighter pilot.

The camp was kicked off by an inspiring speech by former judge Ladoris Cordell, who challenged the girls to be "upstanders" rather than "bystanders" in life. After returning from the Stanford University science camp this summer, the girls spoke of fabulous "hands on" experiences including: constructing a robot with sensors and programmable actions – like turning a figure 8 or slamming a golf ball – learning how to suture from a veterinarian; dissecting a squid; constructing balloon-powered and mousetrap-powered car models

designed for long travel or for speed; extracting DNA from strawberries; and visiting the NASA history museum with spectacular auditorium views of the heavenly bodies.

OML Dorm Moms (and AAUW members) Gail Chesler and Jan Cushman kept very busy with the six OML campers and 16 additional girls from other districts in their dorm groups, facilitating the girls week so they optimized their learning and their adventure.

The girls also participated in Professional Women's Night – sort of like "speed dating" for the girls to meet and ask questions of 12 women with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)-related careers.

AAUW will be selecting another round of Tech Trekkers in the spring of 2014, and some of the 2013 girls may have a chance to return as junior counselors in 2016. For information about the AAUW-OML Tech Trek and Scholarship programs, visit [www.aauw-techtrek.org](http://www.aauw-techtrek.org).

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