

Acalanes Chapter of NCL Honors 2014 Graduating Class

Submitted by Sherry Henderson



Photo Tiffany Fong

The Acalanes Area Chapter of the National Charity League honored the graduating class of 2014 with a Senior Celebration event Feb. 22 at the Claremont Hotel and Spa in Berkeley. The 22 young women were celebrated for their six-year dedication to leadership development, cultural enrichment, and community service. National Charity League empowers young women with the skills and confidence to lead, and these

young ladies have volunteered over 4,300 hours at 20 different non-profit organizations such as Bay Area Rescue Mission, Taylor Family Foundation, Contra Costa Food Bank, and the Oakland Zoo. The young women give a speech to the 400 event attendees, discussing what National Charity League has meant to them and the philanthropies they support. The event co-chairs were Grace Paolini and Nancy Ingersoll. Top row stand-

ing, from left: Gabrielle Paolini, Claire Gratz, Sierra Regan, Kendall Green, Cassidy Fuller, Kelly Furay, Alison Chen, Chloe Landry; middle row, standing: Daniell McCann, Mollie Fiero, Claire Haley, Chase Lanier, Kate Fellner, Victoria Yee, Samantha Bartak, Lauren Figone, Janell Ingersoll; front row, seated: Julia Duncan, Kendall Henderson, Ellyn Stewart, Natalie Vigo, Brenna Lowery.

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Civic News Orinda Service Above Self

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Saying it will be up to voters to decide how quickly to effect change, she explained that "there really was no one perfect vehicle" and that repairs could only be achieved via "a multi-phased, multi-pronged approach," before cautioning that maintenance will always be an issue. "Roads and drains are not static; they continue to deteriorate."

Proclaiming 2014 "a year of teamwork and collaboration, Severson reiterated that Orindans must come together to strengthen public safety across the community, finalize the city's roads and drains plan and improve communications. Severson then announced the launch of a

Mayor's Brown Bag Lunch series to enable residents to meet with her informally. She also encouraged Orindans to actively engage by volunteering for city commissions, attending CERT classes, and turning out for 2014's Orinda Action Day of Community Service, which kicks off at the Orinda Library Plaza at 9 a.m. on April 19. To learn more and sign up, click on the volunteer tab at the Orinda Community Foundation's website: www.orindafoundation.org/.

In closing, Severson quoted Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Orinda's New Police Chief, Mark Nagel

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Now, ARIES not only helps public safety groups share dispatch call maps, crime lab reports, offender addresses, probation reports, fingerprints, mug shots, and restraining order information, but also enables law enforcement professionals from different agencies to compare notes when investigating the same suspects or similar crimes.

ARIES is funded via fees paid to Contra Costa County by the other counties – roughly \$30,000 per year per lead agency – as well as both fed-

eral and state grants. According to a March 2014 report by the Bay Area Urban Security Initiative, which has been considering ARIES for grant funding, San Francisco Bay Area agencies are increasingly using ARIES "to make better decisions, utilize assets and prepare for future events."

And that can only help make Orinda safer. To learn more, catch Chief Nagel's reports in the Orinda Outlook, a weekly publication available on the city's website.

Anti-Theft 101 with Chief Nagel

1. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that, because you live in a low crime neighborhood, you can leave valuables in your car. Auto burglaries are typically 15-second, smash-and-grab crimes of opportunity that leave shattered car windows and damaged door locks in their wake.
2. Crooks steal first and "do the math" later, evaluating the booty they pull from stolen backpacks and briefcases after they've fled the crime scene. So, lock belongings in the trunk of your car. Even old coats tempt would-be thieves because goodies might just be hidden in coat pockets or under jackets.
3. Never leave any of the following on a dashboard, seat, or in an easy-to-open glove compartment: GPS device, cell phone, laptop or iPad/iPod, wallet or purse with check book and credit cards, mail, or vehicle registration documents.
4. Garage door openers are particularly tempting because they give burglars access to homes after they've cleaned out homeowner cars. Lock yours away rather than leaving attached to the driver's side visor, which can be spotted from outside your vehicle.
5. When parking, consider the location. Is your car hidden between trucks or in another area blocking public view of your car? Thieves prefer to break into places where they run the least risk of being seen.
6. Robbers have broken the hearts of the bereaved during home burglaries across the country when taking urns containing the ashes of homeowners' loved ones. Funeral urns are being pawned for their pricey, precious metals. If you have an urn of a loved one in your home, consider interring it in a columbarium or other safe location.

Last Chance to Nominate Moraga's Citizen of the Year

Nominations are being accepted for Moraga's Citizen of the Year. The designated outstanding citizen will be honored with a banquet event on Friday, May 2 at the Soda Center of Saint Mary's College.

Nominations with detailed information concerning the individual's community activity may be addressed to Wendy Scheck, associate publisher, Lamorinda Weekly, at P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94556, or by email to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com.

Sponsors for Moraga's Citizen of the Year event are Lamorinda Sun, Saint Mary's College, Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis of Moraga Valley.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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