

## Diablo Women's Chorale is Looking for Some Strong Voices

Submitted by Sarah Koller



Auditions for the Diablo Women's Chorale are Aug. 15.

Photo Provided

The Diablo Women's Chorale will hold auditions for new singers at 6:15 p.m. on Aug. 15. The group encourages any woman with choral experience, music-reading ability, and a love of good music and spirited company to audition.

Auditions for the 2016 fall season are open to all female voice parts. Singers are asked to prepare a song to sing and bring sheet music; this need not be a formal aria

or art song and need not be memorized, but should demonstrate vocal quality, technique, and musicality.

All auditions are by appointment only. To schedule an audition, please call Nancy with DWC at (925) 899-5050 or email [diablowomenschorale@gmail.com](mailto:diablowomenschorale@gmail.com). Please tell them what voice part you sing and include a brief description of your prior vocal/choral experience.

## New Eagle Scouts from Troop 224

Submitted by Karen Chelini



From left: New Eagle Scouts Nic Van Oss and Cole Robertson.

Photo provided

Nicholas Nguyen Van Oss and Cole James Robertson have earned the rank of Eagle Scout and were presented with their award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on July 9 at the Lafayette Community Center. They are members of Boy Scout Troop 224 in Lafayette under the direction of Scoutmaster Kyle Blocker.

Van Oss, 18, is the son of Bill and Khanh Van Oss. His Eagle Scout community service project was constructing and planting a brick herb spiral which you can observe at the Lafayette Community Garden. Van Oss enlisted 21 volunteers, 13 of them scouts, to aid in the building of the structure in the first phase of the project. A month later, when the soil and bricks had settled, a multitude of herbs were planted in the spiral.

Robertson is the son of J. Michael Robertson and Karen Chelini. For Robertson's Eagle community service project he and his team built a 90-foot split rail fence for the Lafayette Community Garden. Robertson and his volunteers built the fence on a rainy day on Jan. 23 to honor his grandfather Col. James R Robertson. Despite the weather Cole and team built the fence in one day.

## AAUW Sponsors Tech Trek Camp

Submitted by Jan Cushman



Photo Jan Cushman

Six rising eighth-grade girls from Lamorinda have returned from their week-long Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus July 3-9 with glowing reports of fun and learning.

The girls attended camp on scholarships sponsored by the Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women. The OML Branch has been sending middle school girls to Tech Trek camp since 1998, and to date, it has sponsored 72 girls. The girls who went to Stanford this year are Emilia Gutman, Hanel Kaidantzis, Abbie Lee, Shannon Lipp, Hannah Liu and Reese Whipple. The cost to send each girl to Tech Trek camp is currently \$900.

Tech Trek math/science camp is designed to encourage seventh grade girls to persist with their excitement about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through high school, college and into their careers. The program features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls make friends with other girls interested in STEM and to meet professional

women in STEM fields. All sleeping, eating, instructional and recreational facilities are located on a university campus where camps are held. Tech Trek camps are organized, managed, and funded by AAUW volunteer leaders, with core classes taught by paid credentialed teachers. Each camp is unique with varied field trips and laboratory experiences.

The success of AAUW-CA's Tech Trek Project has gained national recognition. Corporations that see the need for more women in STEM fields are discovering the value of AAUW's project nurturing budding scientists and engineers of the future. The project has been rolled out to other states with 21 camps now serving 1,600 girls. Only girls nominated by a science or math teacher are eligible.

If you would like to donate to the AAUW OML Tech Trek scholarship program, or if you would like to attend a Tech Trek fundraising event such as the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk on Oct. 18, 2016, please contact Jan Cushman at [jancushman@comcast.net](mailto:jancushman@comcast.net).

## Rescue One Foundation Seeks Applicants for its Board

Submitted by Greg Reams

The Rescue One Foundation is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on its board of directors. Residents living within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's coverage area are eligible to apply.

The Rescue One Foundation serves as a support organization for the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, acquiring emergency medical equipment and training materials not otherwise available through the fire district's regular budget. Financial support comes from gifts of appreciation, memorials and annual tax-deductible

donations by members of the community. The foundation has provided in excess of \$400,000 of equipment and training materials for paramedics since its formation 35 years ago.

Letters of interest should be sent no later than August 31, 2016 and addressed to:

Rescue One Foundation, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556.

For further information about this position, please visit [www.mofd.org/about/rescueone](http://www.mofd.org/about/rescueone) or call (925) 376-2086

## Sunrise Rotary helps Donate eReaders to Springhill

Submitted by Dennis Kurimai



From left, Marissa Guerrero, Eva Hempfling and Martha Burns enjoy the eReaders that the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary helped to fund.

Photo provided

Shortly after classes were under way last fall at Springhill Elementary School in Lafayette, fifth-grade teacher Martin Wong came up with the idea of replacing reading books in print form with their electronic counterparts.

After selling the idea to both of the other fifth-grade teachers, Christina Churchill and Deborah Hungerford, together they went knocking on the door of Springhill principal Mette Thallaug. To their elation, the reaction was affirmative, albeit with one caveat: Because no money had been budgeted for the purchase of eReaders, the funds would have to come from outside sources.

Within a few months, the full amount needed — \$8,000 — had been raised, enough to acquire 120 Kindle Fires. Donations from parents, community members, and even strangers, with a matching gift from Chevron, were collected via [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org). As they neared the fundraising finish line,

a check for \$2,000 from Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club pushed them over the top.

For the Rotary club, it meant reviving a community service program it had long sponsored: handing out print dictionaries to every third-grader attending a Lafayette school. The program was dropped in 2010, by which time iPads, tablets and other internet-based technologies had begun to gain widespread use. Over a period of 10 years, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary has donated more than \$50,000 worth of Merriam-Websters.

Creation of Springhill's fifth-grade eReader project represented a perfect segue opportunity for the Club, redirecting its contributions toward updated curricular needs.

"We welcomed the opportunity to participate," said club president Ron Melvin. "Support of education has always been a priority commitment for Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, as it is for Rotary clubs from coast to coast."

## Lafayette Native Victorious in International Moot Court

Submitted by Stephen Allen



Chancellor Michael Farris of Patrick Henry College coaches Lafayette native Helaina Hirsch in the Nelson Mandela World Human rights Moot Court Competition.

Photo provided

Lafayette's Helaina Hirsch helped her school, Patrick Henry College, win the eighth Annual Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition on July 20 in Geneva, Switzerland — a leading human rights educational event.

The final round of the competition, sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights, of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, was held in the UN Human Rights Council Chambers. Michael Farris, Chancellor of Patrick Henry College, coached the team of rising juniors, William Bock and Hirsch, to victory. PHC has won multiple national

championships in undergraduate moot court competition, but this tournament was unique for the school in that it was a world tournament and all other universities and colleges were represented by law students. The only other American university to qualify for the tournament was Yale Law School.

The two students competed against 24 other law school teams. Only five schools can come from each region. PHC is a part of the region that includes all of North America, Australia, and Western Europe. In the finals, PHC's undergrads beat a team of law students from Moi University in Kenya.

**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 may be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.