

AAUW Tech Trekkers thrilled by experiences at Grace Hopper STEM Camp



Photo Jan Cushman

Back row: Madeleine Termond, Michelle Chen, Nicole Hui, Eden Hall; front row: Angela Kohr, Bella Stratford, Zoe Seaman

Submitted by Jan Cushman

The seven enthusiastic eighth-grade girls who attended AAUW (American Association of University Women) Tech Trek camp at Stanford in July were honored at a reunion and reception hosted by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of AAUW on Sept. 6. Eden Hall, Bella Stratford and Madeleine Termond from Stanley Middle School, Nicole Hui and Angela Kohr from Orinda Intermediate School and Zoe Seaman and Michelle Shen from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School shared their experiences with AAUW-OML members and parents. The girls were delighted with their special experiences bonding with "like-minded girls" who love science and math and seeing their future in a variety of possible STEM careers. Molly Mudgett, a former 2013 Tech Trekker and three-time camp counselor, joined the reunion. She is studying engineering at Northwestern.

This year, core classes at camp included App Developer and Cyber Sleuthing, as well as marine biology, forensics, and engineering. At camp, the girls took apart computers and servers, dissected fish, learned the physics of hand-made cars and built and programmed robots. They went on field trips to Symantec, a marsh, Knightscope and the Santa Clara County Crime Lab. They stayed up to midnight looking through a variety of telescopes, talking with engaging amateur astronomers and observing Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, nebulae and the International Space Station. They "speed dated" to learn about the STEM careers of 10 professional women. They learned about structural engineering and built structures using rolled up newspapers. They learned to solder and made flashlights. And much more.

AAUW-OML members Gail Chesler, Sara Lautenbach and Jan Cushman were dorm moms at camp.

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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

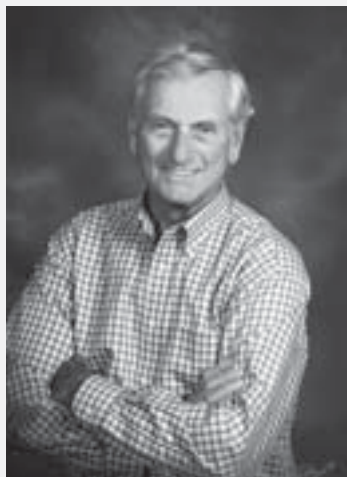
Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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.

In Memory

Donald Clyde Drennan

February 19, 1934 - October 3, 2019 50 Year Resident of Moraga, California



Born to Gladys and Valla Drennan in Peoria, Illinois, Don was an alumnus of Oakland Technical High School, Berkeley High School and University of California, Berkeley.

In 1948 he met his love and life-long companion Marilyn Drennan. They were married on December 26, 1955 at the Chapel of 1st Methodist Church in Berkeley, CA. After 53 years of marriage, Marilyn passed on January 16th, 2009. Don found happiness with Joan Bellows, whom he married on February 10th, 2018.

Don is survived by his wife Joan of Rossmoor, CA and three children: Julie Drennan Nelson (Reed) of Santa Cruz, CA, Carol Lyons of Elk Grove, CA, John Drennan (Stacey) of Moraga, CA; 7 grandchildren: Dustin McCord (Shanna)

of Lafayette, CA, Christina Lynch, of Pleasant Hill, CA, Jason (Kandice) Lyons of Sacramento, CA, Jessica Lyons of Rocklin, CA, Jordan Lyons of Elk Grove, Spencer and Laine Drennan of Moraga, CA; 7 great grandchildren; Gracie and Liberty Lynch, Bodhi, Eden and Wyla McCord, Justin and Joshua Lyons. Don had one brother, Gerald Drennan (1932-2019) of Redding, CA.

Don served in the United States Navy as Lieutenant Commander of Class 27 - 1954. He was in Squadron VA- 155. He flew the Sky Raider as a carrier pilot on the USS Hancock and later flew as a commercial pilot with Pan Am.

He was a devoted Christian and a longtime member of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and most recently Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. He was deeply involved with Troop 212 of Moraga; CA. Don was on the Camp Timberwolf Board for 25 years and served as the President of the Board for 14 years. He volunteered nearly two weeks a year at the camp. He also volunteered with inner city youth organizations in Oakland to develop camping programs for disadvantaged youth.

He was an active member of Kiwanis for over 25 years. His passions included: flying, sailing, backpacking, skiing, traveling and taking long walks. He was known for always lending a helping hand or shoulder to lean on. He had a beaming smile, zest for living life to its fullest and sharing friendship. He continues to be an inspiration to family and friends and those whose lives he touched.

There will be a Celebration of Life at MVPC on Friday, October 25th at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Camp Timberwolf, P.O. Box 134, Moraga, CA 94556, a wilderness Scout Camp.

Chapel of the Chimes

Trends for the Class of 2020 to consider

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

Understanding the reality of today's college application process is an important element in managing expectations. One trend that we advisors have observed has made an even greater impact on this past admission cycle. Great grades and top test scores will not guarantee entrance into top colleges. These credentials will certainly open the doors at the vast majority of schools, but colleges ranked in the top 25 or even 50 expect more: a compelling uniqueness as well as a true connection to their mission. So you need the numbers and the other factors to boost your chances.

Below are other trends worth mentioning, as they will impact your experience applying to college this fall:

- Applying early action is losing some of its luster. Whereas in the past students were given a significant advantage if they applied this way, quite a few schools this year elected to defer students into the regular pool instead of making a quick decision. If you lack top grades and test scores or the 'uniqueness' referred to above, early action may not buy you as much as it did in past cycles.

- More colleges are going to allow self-reported grades and test scores, only asking for an 'official' report if you choose to attend. While this will require more effort on the student's part, it will also save the family money.

- Offering a student admission in the spring instead of the fall is gaining momentum as an enrollment management tool for colleges. This option comes as a surprise to most students who never knew it was a choice. Don't let the possibility throw you. Instead, look at the advantages of taking a break between high school and colleges. Think about advantages associated with planning a trip or securing a job or an internship.

- The list of test optional schools is growing. With 1,000 schools on board, it is possible to apply to college without ever taking an ACT or SAT. (Visit www.fairtest.org to see colleges on the list.)

- Colleges that offer merit aid tend to award money to students who take advantage of the early action and priority dates. Research

each college website carefully to find these dates and then adhere to them; be sure to complete any required financial aid materials by the colleges' deadlines.

- The University of California campuses now routinely deny or waitlist smart and highly qualified California students. If you need public in-state options, be sure you apply broadly to UCs and California State Universities. In addition, expand your college list to include public out-of-state choices for lower price tags. You will still pay out of state tuition and fees, but these are still likely to be lower than some private college options.

Every college admission cycle is different and having an experienced college advisor in your corner who knows the trends can be very beneficial. I hope the Class of 2019 benefits from reading and adhering to these important trends and tips for success.



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. The number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write elizabeth@doingcollege.com; Visit www.doingcollege.com; or Call: 925.385.0562.

Imperfect produce put to good use



Photos provided

Students prepare salads for Housing Consortium of East Bay

Submitted by
Cathy Harrison

At the beginning of this summer harvest season, a local volunteer-run farm in Moraga was looking for channels for imperfect and ripe produce so the produce would not go to waste. Camino Pablo Elementary School second-grade teacher Margaret Coughlan, who was looking for service projects for her class and the school PTA's community services committee, decided to turn these amazing produce into healthy vegetable sides for the 40 residents at Housing Consortium of East Bay's Community Cabins

program by Lake Merritt (9 10th E Street, Oakland).

Coughlan's class prepared fresh salad in the school kitchen with the teacher and parent volunteers' help. The class also made a giant, colorful poster for the Community Cabins program. The residents don't get fresh vegetables regularly and, therefore, every bite counts. With support from the school principal, Chris Reddam, and the successful pilot with Mrs. Coughlan's class, five more classes have participated in preparing healthy vegetable dishes on Fridays for the Community Cabins' residents. The classes have made salsa, salad, sandwiches, chilis, vegetable stew and rice sandwiches.

A colorful posters added more energy to the Community Cabins' site. The food and posters were delivered fresh by parent volunteers on the same day. This initiative has brought parent volunteers, students, teachers, and Moraga volunteer-run farm together. It also connects the two communities.

Although the seasonal Friday food initiative at Camino Pablo Elementary School has ended in early October this year when the volunteer-run farm's summer harvest season came to an end, the Community Cabins program by Lake Merritt will continue to receive Friday meals through the "Feasting with Friends" program (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/feasting-with-friends-tickets-60915267204>). Camino Pablo PTA Community Services Committee creates and promotes volunteering opportunities for elementary school students throughout the school year.

For information about the Community Cabins program by Lake Merritt, visit <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/04/04/oakland-to-invest-millions-in-tuff-shed-program-to-help-house-homeless/>

For information on Moraga School District's Volunteer Service Award Programs, visit www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1314/Moraga-students-honored-for-volunteer-service.html