

AAUW-OML awards scholarships to local students



Sophia Kofoed

Submitted by Marielle Boortz

Since 1978, AAUW-OML (American Association of University Women-Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch) has supported education of young women in the community by awarding college scholarships.

Since 1998, AAUW-OML has encouraged girls to study and pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) subjects by awarding scholarships for local middle school students to attend the AAUW Tech Trek weeklong summer camp for girls entering eighth grade. And in 2016 AAUW-OML began holding an annual one-day STEM Conference for middle school girls.



Marielle Riesner-Hansson

AAUW-OML recently awarded its 2020 college and Tech Trek scholarships to local students. The awardees were chosen based on the applications they submitted, each with a written essay, and in-person interviews conducted by members of the AAUW-OML Scholarship or Tech Trek Committee.

AAUW-OML awarded college scholarships to four graduating high school seniors: Sophia Kofoed (Miramonte), Marielle Riesner-Hansson (Acalanes), Lynn Wolfe (Acalanes) and Kate Ye (Campolindo). Kofoed and Ye each received \$2,000 scholarships. Riesner-Hansson and Wolfe each received \$1,000 scholarships, splitting the \$2,000 AAUW-OML awarded for an Acalanes High School student.



Lynn Wolfe

The selection criteria for the college scholarships are academic excellence, community service and leadership. The four college scholarship winners are excellent students and have demonstrated leadership and helped others through community service:

Riesner-Hansson is lead Teen Wild Guide at the Oakland Zoo and volunteers at the Moraga Veterinary Hospital and Hospice East Bay thrift shops. Riesner-Hansson will attend University of Nevada, Reno.

Wolfe is Acalanes' Asian American Club president and member of the Acalanes High School Equity Board. She also worked with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation on a documentary about



Kate Ye

Photos provided

life in WWII internment camps and for the Oakland Asian Cultural Center she documented artifacts created by Japanese Americans in internment camps. Wolfe will attend University of California, Davis.

Kofoed created the Brain Safety Alliance Committee and has advocated locally, regionally, and nationally for requiring that helmets be worn in women's lacrosse. She also participated in the Miramonte High School Peer Mentoring Program, Link Crew, Public Speaking and Debate Club. Kofoed will attend Saint Mary's College of California.

Ye (a violin player) founded the Music for the Soul nonprofit organization and with the other students in the group played concerts in senior

homes and at fundraising events (e.g., for Children's Hospital and California wildfire relief). She also founded the Campolindo High School badminton team and is communications director of Campolindo Peer Tutoring. Ye will attend University of California, Berkeley.

In addition to receiving the AAUW-OML college scholarships, Kofoed and Wolfe participated in AAUW STEM programs: Tech Trek camp and the AAUW-OML STEM Conference.

The Branch selected seven girls to attend Tech Trek camp: Camille Bradley, Helena Linnen and Bea Dean (Stanley MS); Vivian Tolajian and Georgia Stankus (Joaquin Moraga IS); Deya Murthy and Emma Wong (Orinda IS).

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, AAUW-OML was not able to hold its annual awards event to honor these young women together and the 2020 AAUW Tech Trek camp and STEM Conference were canceled. AAUW-OML delivered certificates and flowers along with the checks to each college scholarship winner. For the selected Tech Trek campers, AAUW-OML provided each with a list of STEM resources and activities that they could pursue in lieu of the Tech Trek camp experience.

Daughters of American Revolution sponsors kids' poster contest

Submitted by Mary Carrillo

The national society Daughters of the American Revolution – an organization for women 18 years and over who can prove they are directly descended from American Revolutionary soldiers, sailors or patriots – is sponsoring a kids' poster contest with the theme of the United

States Constitution.

The poster should be an original design illustrating the spirit or meaning of the United States Constitution, size 11 by 17 inches with no raised surfaces, and must display "Constitution Week September 17-23" somewhere on the poster. The deadline for submission is Aug. 4. Each person may send up to two entries. Guidelines for judging

are: originality (1-15 points), followed rules for design (1-10 points), adherence to subject (1-10 points), organization of material (1-10 points), correct spelling and punctuation (1-10 points), grammar (1-10 points), historical accuracy (1-25 points).

Anyone of any age may enter and everyone who enters has an opportunity to compete nationally (DAR

Acalanes chapter will send the posters in for national judging). The DAR Acalanes chapter is additionally giving a \$100 prize for the winning poster from entries of children and students under 18 years of age. Please include contact information – name, address, phone and email, age, grade and school – on the entry form for this DAR, Acalanes chapter contest. For

consideration for national entry, each entry must include "By Signing below, I grant permission to the National Society to reproduce my entry for sale and I further state that I created the original design" and your signature, or if under 18, your parent's or guardian's signature.

Entries should be sent to Mary Carrillo, 30 Manzanita Terrace, Orinda.

St. Perpetua students give back through food drive



Photo Sean Sabarese

Campbell Sabarese, K.C. Sabarese, and Hunter Sabarese

Submitted by Britt Strottman and Lindsay Hanover

St. Perpetua School in Lafayette, whose motto is "Be the Good," had the privilege of giving back to the community by participating in Monument Crisis Center's food drive this spring during an unprecedented time of need. Families donated non-perishable items, such as pasta, cereal, household essentials and canned food to the center from

the end of March through the remainder of the school year. Lines at Monument Crisis Center were wrapped around the building when the school delivered food donations. It was a meaningful opportunity for the students and their families to look beyond themselves and serve their community.

Monument Crisis Center is a family resource center that provides food, education and referrals to individuals, families, children and seniors in need. They partner with local

organizations to provide resources and services to the community and ensure that 4,000 people don't grow hungry each month. "I am so proud of our school community! While we were trying to adjust to learning academics from home, the best lesson we could teach our children is to assist those in need," said St. Perpetua Principal Karen Goodshaw.

In Memory

Dale K. Filipas

May 27, 1949 - May 16, 2020, Resident of Moraga



Dale Kathleen Filipas passed away on May 16, after a brave eight-month-long battle with Lymphoma. She was born and raised in San Francisco to Lily and David Wong. She graduated from University of California, Berkeley in 1971 and married the love of her life Richard J. Filipas in 1972.

Dale was a tireless and dedicated teacher for 35 years. She taught at Mission High School for 10 years and taught preschool for the remainder of her career so she could also be with her four children. Dale and Richard had a collaborative and caring relationship based on mutual support and a deep love for each other. She was highly involved in her children's lives and Dale had the ability to

manage and balance her time between all of her children. Dale's energy was boundless, and in her retirement she helped care for all nine of her grandchildren.

Dale was talented and knowledgeable in so many things – sewing, knitting, and crafts. Her true passion was cooking and was always trying new recipes as well as mastering the recipes of her late mother-in-law. Her kitchen was the heart of her home and the setting for most family gatherings and Sunday dinners. Her welcoming and warm personality made these gatherings for friends and family special and will be missed by all. Dale loved watching a good baseball game and was an avid SF Giants fan.

Dale is survived by her loving husband, Richard, and her devoted children Kim Thompson (Ryan), Stefanie Sosnowski (Piotr), Robert Filipas (Aimee) and Joanne Verrips (Justin), grandchildren Jack, Olivia, Isabella, Alexa, Emma, Lilianna, Alessandra, Emilia, Otto and sister Christine Lee (James). In lieu of flowers, donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society are appreciated.

Boy Scout Troop creates Birthday Buddies for Aegis



Submitted by Karen Boccabella

Initially created to be summer program during the shelter-in-place order, Ben Boccabella, with the support of his Boy Scout Troop 237 in Orinda, organized Birthday Buddies for Aegis in Moraga. Having so much fun, however, the troop may extend the program throughout the year. The troop wanted to lift spirits of the residents of this assisted living center in Moraga during this challenging time. Scouts have been adopting a resident on their special day and dropping off birthday bags filled with decorations or flowers to make SIP a little brighter. Troop 237 has a long history of volunteering within the community.

Photo provided

Benjamin Boccabella, Boy Scout in Troop 237 of Orinda and recent eighth-grade graduate from St. Perpetua School in Lafayette.

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.