

## Family fun planned at Moraga Garden Club's 'Welcome to the Garden' event, June 5

The Lamorinda community is invited to celebrate the establishment of the Monarch Habitat and Demonstration Garden, built by the Moraga Garden Club as a gift to the town of Moraga, at the "Welcome to the Garden" event beginning at noon on June 5 at Rancho Laguna Park, 2101 Camino Pablo. The family-centered day of fun will begin at noon with a ribbon cutting by Moraga Mayor Renata Sos, followed by a but-

terfly parade (with costumed adults, kids and dogs), hot dogs and non-alcoholic beverages offered by general contractor and supporter Andy Boggeri of AB construction, crafts and games, docent tours and music. Milkweed and other pollinator seeds will be available as well as information about how to help the monarchs. For information, visit [www.moragagardenclub.com](http://www.moragagardenclub.com).  
- J. Wake

## Hoops 4 All nonprofit works to bolster local basketball program

Submitted by  
**Alvaro Ledezma**

Edward M. Downer Elementary School in San Pablo had a vibrant after-school basketball program with high student involvement and community support before the program was dissolved about 12 years ago due to budget cuts and a lack of coaches. Through the partnership with Downer Elementary, Hoops 4 All – a nonprofit organization dedicated to making the sport of basketball accessible to underprivileged Bay Area communities, founded by Campolindo High School junior Alvaro Ledezma – is looking to revitalize the school's basketball community and give the students an outlet to explore their passion for the sport.

The project consists of various renovations which are to be made to the school's basketball facilities, including the addition of side hoops to the

school's gym and the painting of a mural overlooking the school's playground, as well as the hosting of basketball camps for Downer's students. Most of the renovations are set to take place during late July and early August, and the basketball camps will likely be held at the start of next school year and coached by local high school basketball players.

To fund the project Hoops 4 All is organizing a fundraiser called the Hoops 4 All Shoot-A-Thon where participants from Campolindo High School's boys and girls basketball programs as well as from Infinite Training, a local AAU basketball team, solicit donations from friends and family, however anyone interested in donating can visit the Hoops 4 All - Edward M. Downer GoFundMe page (<https://go-fund.me/c3e6f053>). For more information about Hoops 4 All, email [hoops4all.emd@gmail.com](mailto:hoops4all.emd@gmail.com).

## Troop 204 celebrates new Eagle Scouts



Blake Chehlaoui and Ryan Coyle

Photo provided

Submitted by  
**Marc Chehlaoui**

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 honored two scouts who achieved the Eagle Scout rank at the Troop's 69th Eagle Court of Honor at the Cal Shakes Theater in Orinda on April 30. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout Spirit, and successfully complete an approved Eagle Service Project. In addition to the requirements above, these Troop 204 Eagle Scouts participated in the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trek on an eight-day trip.

Blake Chehlaoui, a junior at Acalanes High School collected, restored and donated over 330 pieces of used lacrosse equipment. He coordi-

nated and led groups of Scouts and friends in refurbishing the equipment during multiple workdays. Once the gear was ready for action, Blake donated it to Play Marin, a nonprofit based in Marin City that affords underprivileged youth the ability to learn and play sports free of charge.

Ryan Coyle, a junior at Acalanes High School worked with the city of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Rec Commission on a two-part project: The first part involved working with the commission to draft a standard for all Lafayette trail benches; the second part involved constructing one of these benches. Ryan's bench is on the Jakovina trail off the Sessions Road trailhead, under an oak tree with a view of Mount Diablo.

Troop 204, Lafayette's oldest BSA Troop, is celebrating its 90th anniversary and is currently accepting new members. For more information, visit [www.troop204.com](http://www.troop204.com).

## OIS debate team takes first in Spring Spar tournament



Photo provided

OIS debate team with coach Terry Eubanks show off their first place trophy.

By Casey Scheiner

Orinda Intermediate School's debate team took home first place May 14 in the East Bay Debate League's end-of-year online tournament, the Spring Spar.

"The kids were phenomenal Saturday. They speak so eloquently, with great confidence, curiosity, and writing ability," OIS debate coach Terry Eubanks said. "They've done extremely well this year. Our team has won every tournament in 2022. Every year around December, the students start to take it to another level."

Co-founded by OIS in 2007, the East Bay Debate League (EBDL) hosts six tournaments per year, with competing schools including Fallon Middle School in Dublin, Dorris-Eaton in San Ramon, and Head-Royce in Oakland. "Our school's program really evolved in recent years," Eubanks continued. "It used to be just a semester, but it's become a year-long class that the kids are really devoted to. I think [their devotion] is a big reason for our success in recent years."

The EBDL uses a format of parliamentary debate, which features two teams of three debating a resolution. For example, recent motions included

"Ecotourism does more good than harm" and "The US should lower the voting age to 16." With 49 teams of three competing, one emerged above the rest: OIS' team of Reese Akel, Claire Casado, and Molly Stout, who placed first. Another Orinda team of Zara San Gabriel, Caitlin Loughran, and Sacha Patwardhan went undefeated as well.

"We put in a lot of work and spent many nights trying to polish our [arguments]," Akel, the team's first speaker, said. All of that dedication proved to be worth it during the award ceremony. "Hearing your name be called for anything feels amazing and you know that all your hard work has paid off," Akel concluded.

In addition to awards for best single team and overall school, OIS speakers took home individual honors. Competing with nearly 150 competitors, Caitlin Chan was awarded third place, Roxie Tarantino finished seventh, and Emma Wang and Kodie Zundel placed 10th and 11th. "My team and I have gotten really close since the beginning of the year and they're one of the biggest reasons I did so well in this tournament," Chan said. "Debate is my favorite class. I met so many new people and made so many new friends. Not only that but we have an amazing teacher in Terry [Eubanks]."

## AAUW-OML Distinguished Woman, Stacia Cragholm



Stacia Cragholm

Photo provided

Submitted by Jan Cushman

Every May, the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-OML) honors one of its members as the Distinguished Woman of the Year, for services to the community and the branch.

In April, Stacia Cragholm was named the Distinguished Woman of the Year and was honored at a luncheon in her honor on May 17.

Cragholm graduated from UC Berkeley, playing on the tennis team for two years and trying out several majors, including math and biology and then settling on history. She completed a minor in elementary school physical education, while attending San Francisco State's credential program. She launched her teaching career at Mill Valley Middle School. She married Ellis Cragholm in 1970 and moved to Missoula, Montana, his home state, where she taught girls PE and after school sports. In 1972 they moved to Oakland and later to Lafayette. In

1973 Stacia began teaching in Lafayette, subsequently working at Vallecito, Montecito, Happy Valley and Burton elementary schools. After spending time with her two daughters, Julie and Cristina, she was hired by the West Contra Costa Unified School District where she worked in Richmond and in Hercules teaching elementary and middle school students. She retired from teaching in 2009 and joined AAUW in 2011.

When she became a Branch member, she joined the Tech Trek committee and helped interview and select seventh-grade girls for AAUW sponsored Tech Trek camp. But she had a vision to engage over 100 middle school girls with a one-day conference to provide hands-on workshops on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). She met Dr. Kristen Beck and Roy Wensley, Dean of Saint Mary's School of Science, who supported what has become OML's STEM Conference. Saint Mary's donated the use of classrooms and Stacia engaged with Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conferences to secure a grant from Chevron as well as contributions from the community, including the Sunrise Rotary and the Bettelheim Family Foundation. She has been the initial catalyst, inspiration and leader for the STEM conference, working over multiple years.

In total over 800 girls have attended the conferences from 2016 through 2019, virtually in 2021, and in-person again in 2022. Now that's success! And it didn't stop there. High school girls who participated in Sister-to-Sister and Tech Trek are recruited each year to hone their leadership skills as ambassadors to the conference. Stacia's idea has become a powerful reality, introducing the STEM world to over 800 girls – a life-altering experience for them and for Cragholm a legacy to be proud of. AAUW-OML is privileged to celebrate Stacia Cragholm's commitment to young women and the mission of AAUW as our Distinguished Woman of 2022.

**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.