

Troop 234 honors three new Eagle Scouts



From left: Asa Smyrl, Calvin Chen, and Alessandro Paolieri Photo Jim Babson

Submitted by Flora Hsu

Troop 234 held their Eagle Court of Honor May 28 at St. Monica Catholic Church to honor three new Eagle Scouts – Calvin Chen, Alessandro Paolieri and Asa Smyrl. The guest speaker was Moraga Mayor Steve Woeleke and some special guests in attendance included Matt Ariker, Briones District Chair, and Chris Kolm, Unit Commissioner for Briones District.

Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in Scouting. It requires scouts to familiarize themselves in outdoor skills, serve in their community and take on leadership positions. It is a journey that requires hard work, tenacity, dedication and leadership. One of the acronyms of teaching a young scout something new is EDGE: E stands for Educate a person; D is for Demonstrate the task; G is to Guide them through the challenges; and E is Enable them to do more by positive reinforcement. It is through this method that scouts become proficient in tying knots, reading the compass, preparing for a campout and ultimately leading a campout.

A major part of receiving the Eagle

Scout rank is to serve the community through an Eagle project. Calvin Chen worked with Moraga Parks and Recreation Association to prepare, paint and install nine wooden trail markers around Moraga. One can see them at Moraga Commons Park, Rancho Laguna Park and the Hacienda. They serve as guides for those who visit the parks. Alessandro Paolieri worked with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and Moraga Parks and Recreation to prevent outbreak of wildfires. He removed tree and bush branches in Rancho Laguna Park, lower than 6 feet to the ground to reduce the risk of fire spreading from the ground to tree canopies. This reduces the fire danger to surrounding residential areas and open spaces. Asa Smyrl ran a book drive for Harbor House Ministries to collect books for its after school programs. In providing books for this underserved community, it aims to close the education gap for the students there, whom some of the students are families of recent immigrants.

Three new Eagle Scouts would like to thank Troop 234's adult leaders, fellow scouts and families, and community for their support through the years.

Troop 57 announces new Eagle Scout

Submitted by Maura Aars

Through dedication and hard work Ryan Aars has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 57 in Orinda. Ryan became an Eagle Scout on March 1, after going above and beyond to earn his Eagle Scout rank while earning 86 merit badges. He is still inspired to earn more merit badges this summer. Ryan also earned the 50th Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award where he took the lead, along with other Boy Scouts, to clean up several beaches. Ryan is a sophomore at Miramonte High School and works at Trader Joe's in Lafayette. Ryan built a Volunteer Shed for Xenophon Therapeutic Riding in Orinda, which is a place for therapeutic riding. The Volunteer Shed is used daily and has helped create a place to rest in-between working with the horses.

Ryan Aars

Photo provided



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.

Our advertisers make our paper possible to print and deliver free to your home. Please thank them and let them know you saw their ad.

**Your publishers,
Andy and Wendy Scheck**



925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 honors new Eagle Scouts



Photo Karen Drinkwater

Back row: Alexander Yee, Michael Coane, Adam Harper, Bryce Maher, Quinn Ricketts; front, seated: Zack Donovan, Ryan Sintchak, Mason Fara

Submitted by Siv Ricketts

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 held its 59th Eagle Court of Honor at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 1. The Court recognized the achievements of eight young men who have fulfilled all the requirements necessary to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, BSA's highest rank. Each Scout earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, participated in 25 or more campouts and at least one 50-miler backpacking high adventure, and fulfilled the Scout Oath to do their duty to God and country by serving in leadership positions at school and in the community.

Just as an eagle flies high and soars over vast areas, so the Eagle Scout sets his standards of personal character high and over all aspects of his life. The 2022 Troop 212 Eagle Scout class members include: Michael Coane, Zack Donovan, Mason Fara, Adam Harper, Bryce Maher, Quinn Ricketts, Ryan Sintchak, and Alexander Yee.

Each Scout planned, executed, and led a service project to help others, another aspect of the Scout Oath. On the whole and though they were individually planned, the Scouts' projects uniquely responded to the needs of our times. Two Scouts, Bryce Maher and Ryan Sintchak, created fire barriers to

protect Rheem Elementary School and Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, respectively. Two Scouts worked on school libraries: Alexander Yee refurbished St. John School's Library by reviewing 7,000 books, revising the library's website, and replacing or adding over 500 new books, while Zack Donovan designed and built a new bookshelf to showcase diversity, equity, and inclusion materials at Los Perales Elementary School. Quinn Ricketts' project, planned pre-pandemic yet especially helpful during a pandemic, benefitted Campolindo High School's music program as he designed and built custom music clips that hold sheet music onto music stands so that the Campo bands can play outside. Adam Harper built a bench in memory of Johnathon Klock, father of a close friend, a mentor, and a coach to many Bay Area kids; the bench was originally placed at the Campolindo High School football field, though it has since been moved to the Klock's family property. Michael Coane conducted a toiletries drive for Harbor House Ministries in Oakland, a community development organization that serves an ethnically diverse population, and Mason Fara reminded us of local history as he installed a monument and plaque commemorating the Sacramento Northern Railway Station in Moraga.

AAUW-Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette Branch awards Community Engagement Scholarships



Photo provided

From left: AAUW-OML 2022 scholarship awardees Caroline Hoskins, Angela Garcia, Maristella Heo and Emma Bonardi.

Submitted by Mary Ann McLeod

The American Association of University Women – Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette branch honored three local high school seniors and a member of the Saint Mary's College Class of 2023 at their April meeting. The awards are based on grades, community engagement and leadership.

The following students personify these goals: Acalanes High School, Maristella Heo; Campolindo, Emma Bonardi; and Miramonte, Caroline Hoskins. Angela Garcia received the Saint Mary's College award. Each of the awardees searched for ways to connect with others during the pandemic. They launched many efforts in the Bay Area and encouraged others to join them.

Heo found solace in music, joined her church band, and brought comfort to others. As Editor in Chief of the Acalanes school newspaper, Blueprint, she kept the community informed on issues such as COVID and local fires. Bonardi tutored children in Oakland through the Aspire Education

Community Reading Buddy program. She co-wrote a book "Jett the Spy: The Secret to Finding True Friends" and donated the book to the children in the program. As captain of Miramonte's water polo team, Hoskins encouraged team members to participate in volunteer programs such as Grateful Gatherings and Adopt a Family. Hoskins and her teammates helped families transitioning from homelessness or abuse programs by furnishing their apartment to create a welcoming place to call home. Garcia returned to her former high school Ygnacio Valley to assist the softball coach with the idea of enriching the program and serving as a role model to student athletes. She tutors students through the Oakland Public Education Fund to help build the children's reading confidence.

In addition to these scholarships, middle school students who will be attending AAUW's Tech Trek program were introduced. The speaker for the event was Dr. Rosalie McGurk, a staff astronomer at the Keck Observatory, Hawaii.