

## National Charity League, Acalanes Chapter celebrates graduating 2023 seniors



Photo Juleen Lapporte

Back row, from left: Lucy Gellman, Kristin Parker, Reagan Kaelle, Tess Gundacker, Hailey Hiatt, Haley Rurka, Samantha Brouhard, Phoebe Hughes, Ava Jacuzzi, Sophia Awad, Kathryn Ishizu, Fiona Hughes; middle row: Emma Verprauskus, Ava Spiegel, Courtney Mercer, Charis Woo, Sophie Westen, Siena Espopa, Kelsey Severson; front row: Emily Floyd, Claire Wood, Gabriela Benveniste, Alexandra Yu, Gracyn Roake, Ella Robinson

### Submitted by Lynn Spiegel

During the Senior Recognition ceremony on March 4 at Contra Costa Country Club, the 26 girls of the Acalanes Chapter of the National Charity League's Senior Class were celebrated for their philanthropy work over the past six years. The Ticktockers, as they are referred to, were dressed in formal white gowns and presented their experiences to their families and loved ones. Following the formal dinner, the group enjoyed a high-energy dance party, complete with a DJ, candy bar, and balloons. Despite the inclement weather, all attendees had a great time.

The Acalanes chapter, which consists of members from Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga, recruits girls in

seventh grade and assigns them to volunteer at various organizations throughout the area, including the Contra Costa Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center, Lamorinda Village, Shelter Inc., Bay Area Rescue Mission, Operation Dignity, Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Oakland Zoo, Special Olympics NorCal, and many others. The NCL Acalanes Chapter has accumulated over 9,182 hours of service.

For their Senior Project, the class completely revamped and furnished several rooms in Grateful Gatherings, which helps parents and their children transition from homelessness into housing, promoting family unity. These young women will carry their leadership skills, community involvement, and cultural experiences with them as they embark on their college journeys.

## Three New Eagle Scouts for Troop 224G



Photo provided

### Submitted by James Crinnion

Troop 224G in Lafayette introduced its three newest Eagle Scouts: Caitlin Crinnion, Dakota Goyert and Hazel Krozek. All three joined Troop 224G on Feb. 1, 2019, the first day girls could officially join Scouts BSA. They became the fourth, fifth and sixth girls to eagle from Troop 224G.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn 21 Merit badges, including 14 required Merit badges. They must demonstrate leadership skills, scout spirit and they must develop, plan and execute a community service project while leading other scouts.

Crinnion, a junior at Acalanes, led a group of scouts to repair and reroof

the school bus stop that serves the Oak Springs neighborhood of Orinda. The bus stop was originally constructed in the 1920s and was in desperate need of repairs and a new roof. Over two days Crinnion led a group of scouts as they erected scaffolding, replaced rotten wood and put a new fire resistant roof on top of the bus stop.

Goyert, also a junior at Acalanes, led scouts in painting a mural at Jelly's Place. Jelly's Place is a nonprofit animal shelter in San Pablo. They rescue cats and dogs from all over the world in hopes of giving them a better life. Goyert decided to use her creativity and paint a colorful set of murals. Over the course of a few weeks, Goyert created stencils, primed walls, sourced supplies and painted a set of murals. Thanks to the help of fellow scouts, Goyert was able to brighten up Jelly's Place.

Krozek, a junior at Campolindo High School, saw a need in her neighborhood during COVID and did something about it. She led fellow scouts to build two mini book libraries for her neighborhood. They built them by hand, painted them and set them on posts in two separate locations in the Silver Springs neighborhood. When it was time to fill them, Hazel and her amazing neighbors filled them with books so everyone had something to read during those long days.

Troop 224G is the sister troop to Troop 224B and both currently meet in a hut behind Happy Valley Elementary. Later this year both troops will be moving to their new permanent home on Camino Diablo Road across from the Lafayette Tennis Club.

**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.

## Lafayette piano students perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England



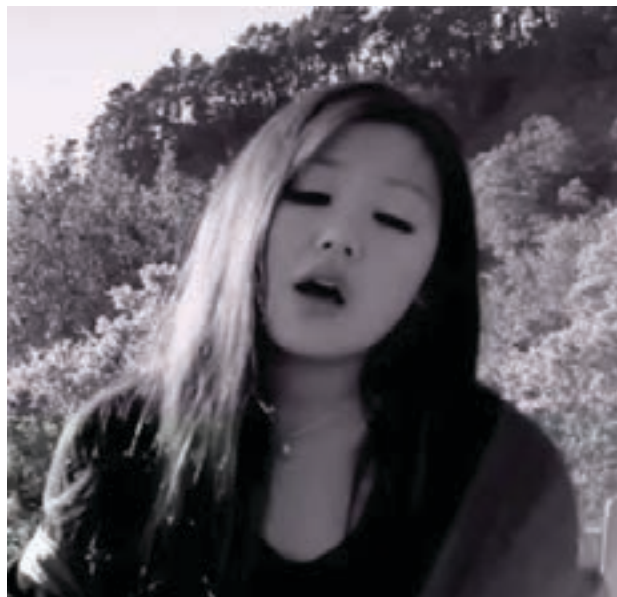
Photo provided

### Submitted by Darja Koehler

Seven piano students (Adelaide Chan, Antoine Luong, Audrey Luong, Gustav Singel, Lance Molina, Leo Chen, and Zoe Hao-Teplinsky) performed at the

British Suzuki Gala on April 9. The concert was held at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall in London, UK, and featured over 1,300 young musicians from 30 countries. Darja Koehler, their piano teacher, offered her students the opportunity to share their skills on an international scale, and successfully prepared them for both audition and performance. With the Suzuki Method, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki sought to create a better and more peaceful world through the love of music instilled in children at an early age. His wish was fulfilled by the exceptional musicians at the second ever British Suzuki Gala as they performed and shared their artistic abilities with the audience. The magnitude and impact of the event will remain unforgettable for both musicians and audience alike.

## Campo junior wins prestigious award for musical performance



Screen shot of Mina Lim

Campolindo High School junior Mina Lim won the Presidential Award for her music performance of "Rise Up" by A. Day as part of the 2023 Bay Area Creative Foundation Competition. The Bay Area Creative Foundation was established "to celebrate the importance of creativity in all our lives." BACF

seeks to encourage and support young artists by providing awards programs that promote and honor their creativity. The Presidential Award is BACF's highest honor. "After COVID, we were hearing a lot of stories of attacks on Asian Americans, especially around the Bay Area. My Grandparents were both in their 80's and I was really worried that they would be targets, and at the same time scared yet wanting to do something to try to stop these attacks," Lim said in her BACF Artist Statement. Lim decided to create

her video to show people that we are all humans living together and surviving together.

To watch her video performance, visit [www.bayareacreativefoundation.org/2023/rise-up-by-a-day-mina-l](http://www.bayareacreativefoundation.org/2023/rise-up-by-a-day-mina-l) - J. Wake

## Troop 402 honors two new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

### Submitted by Kevin Strohmeyer

Scouts BSA Troop 402 of Lafayette and Moraga recently announced that two young women earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Helen O'Neil and Molly Strohmeyer will be the sixth and seventh female Eagle Scouts to receive the award from Troop 402, formed upon the inclusion of girls into the Scouts BSA in 2019.

Troop 402, one of the largest all-

girl troops in the country, celebrated these scouts at an Eagle Court of Honor held on May 10 where Scoutmaster Heather Tzortzis presented the awards for the highest rank in scouting, earned by less than 2% of all members.

As a graduating Senior at Acalanes High School, O'Neil led the troop as Senior Patrol Leader during the lockdown days of COVID designing online meetings to keep isolated scouts engaged and part of a community. Her Eagle service project raised funds and art supplies for the nonprofit Voices of Children, an organization focused on children's mental health in war-torn Ukraine.

O'Neil will attend UC San Diego this fall to study global health.

Strohmeyer, a graduating senior at Campolindo High School, led the troop as Senior Patrol Leader in 2021-22, working with adult leadership to bring scouting's outdoor activities back to life with high demand. Strohmeyer's Eagle Service Project produced a sustainable plant identification signage project at the Rheem School Garden in Moraga. Strohmeyer will attend the University of Wisconsin in the fall, studying anthropology.