

## AAUW OML's Successful STEM conference reaches 36 schools in the Bay Area

Submitted by Renee Rosado



Photo provided

Last month the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch held their eighth Annual STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) conference at St. Mary's College.

It was an exciting day as the conference played host to 169 young female students from sixth, seventh, and eighth grades from 36 different schools and 33 cities in the Bay Area.

The purpose of this conference was to introduce these young girls to the science, technology, engineering, and math fields such that they

could be empowered and make decisions about moving forward in one of these fields. Many of these young attendees already showed interest in specific areas and were planning for a future education in these fields.

An important aspect of this conference was the opportunity for the young attendees to see, first hand, that there are others like themselves with the same interests and goals and that their dreams can become a reality in the STEM fields.

12 female subject matter experts presented workshops, including:

chemistry, engineering, the human brain, architecture, and experiments in space, to name a few of the 12 subjects presented.

Each student selected three different STEM subjects and participated in hands on workshops during this one-day conference.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Sonya M. Shuh from St. Mary's College's Biology department, who has an extensive background in research in the areas of reproductive and developmental biology, and toxicology. Dr. Shuh also discussed her educational journey and challenges in becoming a doctor in the field of biology. She encouraged attendees not to give up on their dreams and not to take "no" for an answer.

Aside from learning about the various STEM fields, the attendees mingled with others of the same age and same interests and began to network while sharing their goals and interests.

This conference was made available by the AAUW OML team members' various fundraising activities throughout last year, as well as the generous donations from St. Mary's College, local rotaries, and Kiwanis clubs in the Lamorinda area.

## In Memory

### Arif Yar Khan

July 8, 1935 - November 30, 2023



Mr. Arif Yar Khan, 88, died peacefully at John Muir hospital in Walnut Creek surrounded by family. Arif was born in Dehradun, India and migrated to Pakistan in 1947 with his family. He received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in Pakistan, and then won a Pakistan Petroleum Ltd. scholarship to study Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom.

Arif was part of the senior management team at Sui Gas Transmission Company Limited in Pakistan. After being hired by Williams Brothers he relocated to Tulsa, Oklahoma. His career spanned over fifty-eight years as his expertise in oil and gas exploration, natural gas processing plants, and pipeline design was always in demand worldwide. For Williams Brothers, and later the Fluor Corporation, he managed multi-national

multi-million-dollar projects in Canada, Colombia, Iran, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. He truly enjoyed his career, learning every aspect of it; he even received an Arctic Engineering certification from the University of Alaska. Although Arif traveled extensively because of his career he returned to Moraga after his retirement because he loved his semi-rural "vibe". He always hoped it would not be aggressively developed like other East Bay cities.

Aside from his dedication to his career, Arif will be remembered by his family and friends for his immeasurable generosity, kindness, and sincerity. Although he lost his mother when he was only seven years old, he was very close to his father who died battling cancer when Arif was 18 years old. After graduating from college, Arif supported his siblings for many years as a promise to his father. Besides his love of engineering, Arif was gifted in telling dramatic stories, learning languages and singing; he greatly enjoyed the arts, history, and soccer. He was genuinely religious. His family and friends miss him dearly - every day.

He is survived by his wife, Kaiser, and his children Nabeela (Faheem), Erum, Omar (Uzma), and Obaid (Sophia), as well as five grandchildren, and four siblings.

## Earth Day Event Hosted by Troop 200G

Submitted by Nia Ho



Photo provided

From left: Nia H., Mila N., Leah V., Emiko K., Tiffany H., Gabrielle P., Scoutmaster Ho, Tina Y.

Troop200G organized a successful sneaker drive at the Earth Day Celebration in Lafayette. Over 100 pairs of shoes were collected by the girls

from folks around the Bay Area. Driven by service to the community, Scouts BSA Troop 200 is co-ed and is involved in multiple adventure activities, including scuba diving, rock climbing, week-long canoeing, and multi-miler backpacking, and is active with various summer camps. T200G of the greater Troop200 is based in Lafayette and meets at Our Saviours Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. Come and check us out at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, and please bring your sneakers to donate on April 23. Donations go toward saving the mighty giants - The Redwood Trees. Help us save the Redwoods one shoe at a time - T200G of Lafayette, California. Contact us at troop200bg@gmail.com

## In Memory

### Jack Ray Bontemps

May 25, 1938 - Feb. 27, 2024



Long-time Orinda resident Jack Ray Bontemps passed away on February 27, 2024, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 85.

Jack was born on May 25, 1938, in Seattle, WA, to Ray J. Bontemps and Ruth L. Bontemps (née Grant). He grew up throughout the Northwest, attending the University of Washington and obtaining a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. He was recruited by Standard Oil of California (Chevron), where he spent his career in a variety of executive positions.

Jack arrived in Lamorinda with his young family in 1961 and over the years volunteered with many local organizations, serving on the board of the Mount Diablo Silverado Council of the Boy Scouts of America and as President of the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation where he helped establish the 12-acre Orinda Oaks Park and the

110-acre Orinda Open Space Preserve. As President of the Rotary Club of Orinda, Jack led the effort to bring lights to the Wilder Playfields, enabling local teams greater opportunity to play recreational sports. Jack also participated on the Advisory Board for the Lawrence Hall of Science and served from 2006-2010 on the Board of Directors for the Orinda Union School District.

Jack loved jazz and was an accomplished saxophone player, establishing his own bands in high school and college where he played school dances and fraternity socials. An avid tennis player, Jack was also an outdoorsman who loved spending his spare time hiking the Sierras or enjoying the north coast and the beautiful home he built at The Sea Ranch. Family and friends loved his quick wit, his positive outlook, his debonair style and, above all, his willingness to lend a hand when needed. He was a man of great faith and integrity, and he loved his family fiercely.

He is survived by his beloved wife and partner of forty-three years, Barbara; three sons of whom he was immensely proud: Doug Bontemps (Stephanie) of Lafayette, Todd Bontemps of Pleasanton; Jackson Evan Bontemps (Anna) of Oakland; and by his treasured grandchildren: Andrew Bontemps (Alena) of Denver, CO, Greg Bontemps (Claudia) of Emeryville, Sondrine Bontemps of New York, NY, and Austin Bontemps, Minneapolis, MN.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 11th. For information, contact: jackbontempscelebration@gmail.com. Gifts in Memoriam can be made to: The Rotary Club of Orinda Endowment Fund, PO Box 44, Orinda, CA, 94563; or to the Alzheimer's Association of Northern CA.

**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.

## 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 200 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

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