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Photos Kendall Haynes

Another successful OMPA meet led by Orinda Country Club's 23rd consecutive victory

By Jon Kingdon

When Ann Elliott and Ashley Brush from the Moraga Country Club were named the OMPA co-meet directors for the 64th OMPA swim meet, they wasted no time in preparing for an undertaking that would comprise 1,686 swimmers and 491 heats, along with a large number of other arrangements that needed to be made. "It was an exciting undertaking and a great privilege to be so involved in this community event," Elliott said. "United We Swim."

They met with last year's meet director, Bruce Jamgotchian, right after the 2023 meet to get a jump on things. "We learned a lot from Bruce, so we

were able to put our best foot forward," Brush said.

Every parent who had a participating swimmer contributed volunteer hours throughout this weekend to make it possible. "We worked with representatives of every team that are on the OMPA board and the meet directors rotate from team to team each year," Elliott said. "We all worked together to make this a success; each team had a cluster of responsibilities, and we coordinated the bigger picture."

As a former swimmer in the OMPA, Elliott took a long-term perspective: "Everything is just electric and it's just a fun atmosphere, so I think that

thread is very much the same as when I was swimming."

For the third year in a row, Orinda Country Club, Meadow Swim and Tennis, and Sleepy Hollow finished 1-2-3 in the final standings. As each team approached the OMPA, the one consistent among them all was the appreciation for how special this weekend has been for all concerned.

ORINDA COUNTRY CLUB
Won the Orinda Lions perpetual trophy for finishing in first.
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MORAGA KIWANIS

BBQ Picnic Fundraiser

BACK FORTY Texas BBQ
RESTAURANT • SALOON • CATERING • BANQUETS

DJ B. BAILEY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7th, 5:00 - 7:00 pm! Moraga Commons - \$40 - Scan for Details
<https://moragavalleykiwanis.square.site/>

Miramonte students embark on Europe summer trip

By Emma Wong



Students and instructors in front of the Brandenburg Gate - Berlin, Germany.

From July 12 through 21, a band of 35 Miramonte students embarked on an educational journey to Berlin, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest. Across the Atlantic, these Eastern European cities offered striking beauty and miles of history.

The trip was led by history instructors Xavier Frippiat, Kelly Ginocchio, and Matt Sweeney. Frippiat has guided Miramonte students five times before to cities across Europe. "This year, I seized the opportunity to appeal to students' sense of adventure," Frippiat said. "I planned an itinerary less frequented by folks in our community: Eastern Europe. I framed it as: 'Discover the Europe your Friends Haven't Seen Yet!'"

Priority was granted to students who had completed the AP European History course. "All the places we visit are oozing with historical relevance from multiple periods, something students who engaged with AP European History can attest to," Frippiat said.

The trip drew students ranging from rising juniors to freshly graduated seniors.

"I decided to attend because I love traveling and seeing other parts of the world. I also don't think I will ever have the chance to go on another trip like this with my friends," graduated senior Ryan Sinnreich said.

After an overnight flight, students and teachers arrived in Berlin, where they met their Tour Director, courtesy of the travel agency EF Tours, and checked in to the first of four hotels. A typical day was filled to the brim with activities. Students would wake up early, eat a hotel breakfast, and then take a bus ride into the city, where a walking tour was held. On longer travel days, like the one from Krakow to Budapest, students would be on the bus for up to seven hours, winding through countryside such as the Tatra Mountains.

Still, a flexible curfew allowed students to explore. "After dinner, my friends and I would go out at night for fun. We would only stay in one city for two days, so you had to make the most out of your time there," incoming junior Margaret Meckes said.
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