

Community Service

Local Girls Benefit from Tech Trek Camp

Submitted by Sandy Fox-Sohner



Lamorinda Tech Trek Campers, from left: Maya, Audrey, Cara, Caroline, Anna, and Morgan. Photo Provided

Thanks to scholarships from Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette (OML) AAUW, six Lamorinda intermediate school students recently returned from their week-long Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp with a renewed sense of enthusiasm about science and math, and shared their stories at a reception September 11 sponsored by the AAUW Tech Trek committee.

The camp, which is designed to encourage seventh- and eighth-grade girls to "persist with their excitement about science and math through high school, college, and into their careers," was held at Stanford University and featured hands-on activities in math and science as well as a chance for the girls to meet professional women in

science and math-related fields.

This year, core classes at camp included Oceanography, CSI forensics, 3D Math, and Design Engineering and Physics. Participants built functional robots, made a working model roller coaster from rolled up newspapers, engaged in bridge-building contests using only uncooked spaghetti, attended field trips to medical research laboratories and wildlife preserves, and met numerous professional women scientists and engineers.

One student, Anna, went on a field trip with her forensics class to the world-renowned Stanford Blood Center. "The man who spoke with us created the first FDA approved vaccine for cancer, and his lab was the

first lab that screened blood for HIV," she said. Another student, Caroline, said her favorite experience was dissecting a squid with two of her classmates. "We cut up the mantle of the squid and saw all of the internal organs, including the stomach and the ink sac."

Each student was grateful for the opportunity to attend the camp. "I have always wanted to be a scientist," said Maya, "but this has been an eye opener."

AAUW OML is planning a fundraising event, the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk, from 6 to 9 p.m. October 9 to help raise money for additional Tech Trek scholarships. For information, call Sandy Fox-Sohner at (925) 631-0668.

OCF Expands Board

Submitted by Sue Severson



Photo provided

Orinda Community Foundation has expanded their board and selected new trustees including Erik Andersen, Mark Roberts and Ted Urban. They join founding trustees Dick Burkhalter, Carol Penskar, Sue Severson and Richard Westin.

OCF in its third year is now accepting grant applications for 2012 through October 15. All dollars raised the prior year through its main fundraisers, including community donations, Everyday Heroes golf tournament and Nor-

Cal Kids Triathlon, go directly to meet our mission of "Enhancing the Quality of Life in Orinda." To download an application or get more information visit www.orindafoundation.org.

Back to School Backpack Drive a Success

Submitted by Elizabeth Lewis



NCL members, from left: Alyssa Wright, Macall Rempp, Kirsten Sibley, Meg Newton, Olivia Carver, Lucy Fellner, and Katja Brewer. Photo provided

Right before the school year started, the Acalanes Chapter of National Charity League (NCL), a mother-daughter philanthropic organization, was busy making sure everyone could have new school supplies this fall. Several girls from throughout Lamorinda in grades 7-12 spent three days collecting supplies for Foster A Dream, a non-profit organization in Martinez that opened its Dream Store September 15 to distribute back-to-

school items including new clothing, shoes, backpacks, and school supplies to Bay Area foster children.

The non-profit's goal was to provide over 1,500 Bay Area foster children with backpacks and supplies needed for this school year. The Acalanes NCL leadership team (run by the officers of each grade level) planned the collection events and worked with CVS and The Dollar Store in Moraga to collect needed items. With everyone's gen-

erosity, the girls were able to provide over 60 backpacks to Foster A Dream as well as buy loads of additional supplies for the Dream Store. NCL members thank the retailers and shoppers who generously donated backpacks and school supplies.

For more information about Foster A Dream, visit www.fosteradream.org. For information about NCL, visit www.nationalcharityleague.org/nclacalanesarea.

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

Photos Linda Foley and Andy Schreck



Orinda Classic Car Show

Photos Ohlen Alexander

