

Girl Scout Troop 31881 Takes on the Rainbow Community Center Art Station

By Aly Kirke



Photo Linda Murphy

The struggles of the LGBTQ community often go unrecognized. Luckily, places like the Rainbow Community Center in Concord exist. RCC works to provide LGBTQ+ youth with anything they might need.

That's why Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 31881 decided to support the RCC, organizing and helping stock a craft station where visitors can express themselves through art.

"The art station is a way for our youth to express internal emotions through a different and positive outlet. It's also a way for youth to connect with other LGBTQ+ people while sharing their art," said Christian Aguirre, RCC youth outreach counselor. "The girls are setting a good example. Volunteer your

time, attend community events, make donations, it all makes a difference."

Troop 31881 has been together since kindergarten and over the years it has become a group of four: Riley, Jordan, Natalie and Aly. The girls attend three different schools and the Troop keeps them connected.

With approval from RCC, the Troop collected a donated shelf with rainbow bins inside and received generous donations of art supplies. The girls organized supplies that RCC already had, painted the shelves with rainbows and flowers, and restocked brushes, markers and other supplies.

According to the True Colors Fund, the LGBTQ community makes up to 40 percent of the homeless youth population. This can be because they were disowned by their parents after coming out or being outed, to escape a dangerous situation.

RCC provides a Youth Program, counseling, a food pantry, a senior program, an HIV program and school-based support, presentations and guest speaking. The Community Center is open Monday through Friday, from 1 to 6 p.m., plus youth groups.

Fun at the Run on the Wilder Side

Submitted by Carolyn Mills



Photo provided

All ages enjoyed the Run on the Wilder Side fundraiser held at Wilder on Sept. 3 to benefit the Orinda Park and Rec

Foundation's campaign to raise money for the Community Park renovation.

AAUW Tech Trekkers thrilled by experiences at Grace Hopper STEM Camp

Submitted by Jan Cushman



Photo Sandra Fox-Sohner

Seven enthusiastic eighth-grade girls from Lamorinda who attended Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus in July were honored at a reunion and reception on Sept. 7 in Moraga.

Mary Conklin, Ella Easley, Marianne Eichmann, Jada Hembrador, Liesel Hilke-meyer, Isabelle Katz, and Maya Martono attended camp on scholarships sponsored by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women. The OML Branch has been sending middle school girls to Tech Trek camp since 1998, and to date, it has sponsored 86 girls.

The girls were delighted with their special experiences bonding with "like-minded girls" who love science and math and seeing their future in a variety of possible STEM careers.

Tech Trek math/science camp is designed to encourage rising eighth-grade girls to persist with their excitement about science, technology, engineering and math through high school, college, and into their careers. The program features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls to make friends with other girls interested in STEM and to meet professional women in STEM fields.

This year, core classes at camp included computer coding and cyber sleuthing, as

well as marine biology, CSI forensics, and aerospace engineering. At camp, the girls took apart computers, wrote computer code, dissected fish, went on a STEM hunt on campus, learned the physics of hand-made cars and went on field trips. They stayed up to midnight looking through a variety of telescopes and talking with engaging amateur astronomers. They "speed dated" to learn about the STEM careers of professional women, and learned about structural engineering and build structures using rolled up newspapers.

Some quotes from the girls: "This camp has been a fun, amazing and life-changing experience that I will never forget." "Thanks to this opportunity, I can leave with more confidence and an even greater love for STEM." "Continue to inspire girls like me to pursue STEM careers!" And "Tech Trek was one of the best weeks ever!"

AAUW-OML scholarships are funded through annual events, such as the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk featuring 16 restaurants providing food from 6 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 9 or a paper shredding event from 9 a.m. to noon at 5A Rent-A-Space in Moraga (Cost: \$9 per file box).

For more information about Tech Trek, visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/>.

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Looking Good in Lamorinda Welcome to fall

By Moya Stone



Jamie Peters models a stylish fall sweater by Banana Republic. One of many fashion finds available at Wayside Thrift Store.

Photos Moya Stone

Recently popped into Wayside Thrift Shop in Lafayette and met with Thrift Shop co-chair Arlita Smith and Clothing Team Chairman Jamie Peters for a chat and a tour. Wayside raises money for Assistance League Diablo Valley and is named for the historic inn, which it is located on Golden Gate Way. Locals know the shop to be a hot spot of quality clothing, including some vintage, and name brands such as J. Crew, Ann Taylor, Michael Kors, Calvin Klein, to name a few. "Wayside Thrift Store is an ideal place to bring anyone who loves finding unique gems and well constructed pieces," says Lafayette stylist Julie Rubenstein, who often shops at the Wayside for her clients.

According to Peters, customers run the gamut from teenagers who come in on the weekends wanting something different to moms needing kids clothes or something for themselves. Smith says that Wayside "appeals to that customer who is looking for a treasure." The shop brings out new donated merchandise every day and their special events are a big hit. Every couple of weeks, Wayside has a theme event in which particular items are featured. Coming up on Oct. 9 is Cashmere. All the shop's cashmere will be out on the floor and at excellent prices. I'm told people stand in line waiting for the shop to open on event days.

Wayside is also a good option for Halloween costumes. I saw a fabulous vintage Pendleton cape - hello Sherlock Holmes! There was also an adorable giraffe costume just right for a toddler. Fall fashions now in the shop include sweaters, jackets, wool skirts, and blouses. I spotted several chunky sweater dresses and men's clothes, too, such as tweed jackets, slacks and ties. Accessories abound. Jewelry, shoes, handbags ... oh my. Wayside Thrift Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Among the trends for fall 2018 is a new twist on the scarf. Scarves are every woman's must-have for style and comfort around the neck but this season designers are showing the scarf in a new fashion - around the head. Head covers were all over the fall 2018



Fashions by Indonesian designer Itang Yunasz are part of Contemporary Muslim Fashions at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

catwalks styled in different ways. From Hollywood starlet to Queen Elizabeth II, turbans to pirate style, head scarves are in. According to W magazine the desire for an "air of mystery" is what's driving this trend, which paired with sunglasses can help anyone go stylishly incognito. I found some beautiful scarf options at the Moraga Art Gallery in the Rheem Shopping Center. Hand painted silk by wearable art artist Natasha Faucault, these scarves are a good size and come in an array of fall colors for around the neck or head or both, your choice.

Speaking of covering up, the current fashion exhibit at the de Young Museum in San Francisco is the first to explore Muslim fashions. Contemporary Muslim Fashions is on now through Jan. 8 and features 80 original garments created by designers for Muslim women and all women who want to dress modestly. These fashions are colorful, made of rich and varied textiles, and appeal to a global market. Participating designers from the Middle East, Indonesia, Europe and the United States, provide examples of how cultural differences inform their designs. Additionally there are photographs and videos to help contextualize the fashions on display. Contemporary Muslim Fashions is a rare opportunity and a must see for serious fashion followers.

Have a fabulous fall season and remember, go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.



Hand painted silk scarves by Natasha Faucault available at the Moraga Art Gallery.

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