

## BSA Troop 224 honors six Eagle Scouts



Photo Mika Watanabe

From left: Ethan Del Rosario, Anthony Mirabito, Jason Sabbadini, Calvin Van Oss, Drew Lashinsky and Cole Griscavage

### Submitted by Joyce Mirabito

Lafayette Scouts BSA Troop 224 of Lafayette on May 30 held an Eagle Court of Honor at the Pleasant Hill Community Center for six Scouts who achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout: Ethan Del Rosario, An-

thony Mirabito, Jason Sabbadini, Calvin Van Oss, Drew Lashinsky, (all recent graduates of Acalanes High School), and Cole Griscavage, (graduate of The College Preparatory School in Oakland). To become an Eagle Scout, they earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrated leader-

ship and Scout spirit, and successfully completed a community service project with the help of troop members.

For his Eagle project, Del Rosario had a desire to help people with special needs. With the help of his mentor, Scoutmaster Erik Suppiger, he designed and created 300 adaptive board books for the Able Closet Nonprofit Organization to help enable physically challenged people to be able to easily manipulate and turn the pages of a book.

Mirabito chose the preschool which he attended, Happy Days Learning Center in Lafayette, as his service project recipient. The most popular play structure on the playground is the tire swing. Mirabito replaced the old wooden tire swing frame with a structurally sound steel pipe frame. He designed and fabricated the structure with the help of his mentor, former Scoutmaster Kyle Blocker.

Sabbadini, with the help of his mentor, Adult Leader Dan

Keenan, replaced and built a new fence surrounding the Garden of Learning at St. Perpetua Catholic School at which he attended elementary and middle school. The garden is a place for students to learn about growing produce, and each slat of the fence surrounding the garden is made to look like a crayon.

Van Oss, with the help of his mentor, Assistant Scoutmaster Steve Mirabito, completed a renovation of the "Motor Room" at the Burbank Preschool Center in Oakland. The Motor Room exclusively serves preschoolers with special needs. The room was thoroughly cleaned and received fresh paint, new floor mats, a mirror and a chalkboard. In addition, 300 adaptive books were added to the room.

Drew Lashinsky also chose to give back to the elementary school he attended, specifically giving to the Husky House at Happy Valley Elementary which houses the school's after-school program. With the help and

guidance of his mentors, Joey Lashock and Jim Shepherd, Drew constructed a wooden planter and two wooden benches with a storage area underneath. The wooden planter is used as a learning tool to teach students how to plant a garden, and the storage area is a place for backpacks.

Griscavage conducted a series of First Aid classes at his high school's after-school program called the Partners Program which supports underserved middle school students at The College Preparatory School in Oakland. He was assisted in the planning of his project by former Scoutmaster Bill Van Oss. Cole gave instruction on the fundamentals of first aid and also instructed with hands-on learning by having his students act out various emergency situations. He ended the series by holding a Jeopardy game which reviewed everything he had taught in the series.

## Moraga Lions recognizes stellar students

### Submitted by Ray Casabonne

The Moraga Lions Club recently gave out its annual Achievement Awards at three local schools: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Stanley Middle School, and St. Perpetua School.



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, from left: Charlene Stillman (teacher), Gianna Souza (Award Winner), Joan Danilson (principal), Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), Michael Tondi (teacher), Ammon Lee (Award Winner).



Photos provided

St. Perpetua School, from left: Matt Hastings, Ashley Hastings, Caden Hastings (Award Winner), Lion Bob Murtagh, Maddie Ingram (Award Winner), Christy Ingram, Dough Ingram, and teacher Heidi Schwarck.



Stanley Middle School, from left, back row: Ms. Shegoian, Mr. Mangold (A.P.), Mr. Carman (A.P.); middle row: Ms. Thompson, Mr. Anke, Ms. Balmat (principal), Mr. Huntoon, Ms. Wright; front row: Ms. Nolan (school counselor), Ryan Lorge (Award Winner), Dan Hagan (Lions Club).



Stanley Middle School, from left, back row: Ms. Shegoian, Mr. Mangold (A.P.), Mr. Carman (A.P.); middle row: Ms. Thompson, Mr. Anke, Ms. Balmat (Principal), Mr. Huntoon; front row: Ms. Sullivan (school counselor), Elijah Williams (Award Winner), Dan Hagan (Lions Club).

## AAUW-OML awards scholarships to local students

### Submitted by Mary Ann McLeod

AAUW-OML recently held a Celebration of Excellence event, highlighting STEM programs and college scholarships, and awarding a total of 36 scholarships to middle school girls, graduating high school seniors, and Saint Mary's College students.

Cara Wolfe was the featured speaker. A graduating senior at UC Berkeley, she is studying computer science and Asian American studies. Wolfe participated in all OML branch STEM programs, and when she graduated from Acalanes High School in 2017, she received a college scholarship from the branch for her community service. While sharing her experiences participating in the branch's Tech Trek and STEM Conferences, Wolfe highlighted the importance of young women working equitably and comfortably in the STEM field.

A total of 18 Lamorinda eighth-grade girls will attend virtual Tech Trek camp this summer. In normal times, Tech Trek is a weeklong STEM immersion program held at Stanford Camp Curry, but last year's camp was canceled because of COVID-19. This year, although the girls will not be on campus, they will have a unique opportunity to participate in the hands-on activities in the morning and afternoon STEM workshops, hear from inspirational women working in STEM, and interact with each other in breakout rooms. They will learn the video software Flipgrid and will share their creations on Friday. And there will be optional evening sessions as well. The op-

portunity to participate in this year's program was offered to last year's awardees, and they accepted.

The following middle school girls to attend virtual Tech Trek camp are: Stanley Middle School: 2020, Camille Bradley, Beatrice Dean, Helena Linnen; 2021, Arianna Bustamante, Isabelle Culinco, Abigail Hui. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate: 2020, Sophia Gomes, Georgia Stankus, Vivian Tolajian; 2021 Maryam Kermani, Audrey Spears, Rebecca Tanner. Orinda Intermediate: 2020, Deya Murthy, Emma Wong; 2021, Sophia Bitton, Claire Casado, Christophe Davis, Kodie Zundel.

The selection criteria for the high school and college scholarships are academic excellence, community service and leadership. All recipients are excellent students and have demonstrated a desire to help others for the good of their communities.

Local graduating high school seniors and Saint Mary's College students received scholarships, including Acalanes High School's Emilia Gutman and Sophie Krayna; Campolindo High School's Jacqueline Artiga and Helen Kaidantzis; and Miramonte High School's Chaya Tong. The Saint Mary's College students from the High Potential Program received scholarships, including Daniela Catubig, Maleena Guido, and Maya Patel.

Additionally, nine Saint Mary's students received scholarships to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This virtual conference offers two days of leadership training, inspiration and networking; empowering students to gain the skills and confidence to pursue their goals.

## Lafayette Juniors raises \$65K for local nonprofits

### Submitted by Karen Evans

The Lafayette Suburban Junior Women's Club ("Lafayette Juniors") raised \$65,000 over the past 12 months for two local nonprofit organizations. In an outdoor celebration, the Lafayette Juniors awarded \$32,500 to each major beneficiary, YouthALIVE and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County, on May 20.

Lafayette Juniors traditionally organizes two fundraising events each year – a Rummage Sale in the fall and a Kitchen Tour in the spring. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, Lafayette Juniors moved the rummage sale online, as individual members did virtual garage sales and solicited corporate matches to raise funds. In another pandemic twist, the Kitchen Tour was re-born into The Outdoor Living Tour to keep the community safe but still raise funds for their beneficiaries. The Outdoor Living tour had strong support from sponsors and sold out weeks before the event date.

Since 1991, as mentors, youth leaders, counselors, case managers, intervention specialists and violence interrupters, YouthALIVE has worked to help violently wounded people heal themselves and their community. Their primary goals are to educate and train young leaders to create a more peaceful community, to inter-

rupt the cycle of violence on the streets, to convince angry victims and their loved ones not to retaliate, to provide ongoing support to help the wounded and grieving get needed services and heal from their trauma.

Since 1983, Loaves and Fishes has served over 5 million meals to many thousands of hungry people throughout Contra Costa County. They have recruited thousands of volunteers and built an organization that has grown to serving over 149,000 meals, and distributing over 302 tons of groceries each fiscal year. Loaves and Fishes also partners with other social service agencies and community-based organizations to support those in need and also provide cost effective access to their two commercial kitchens to local food entrepreneurs to support their start-up businesses.

Lafayette Juniors is looking forward to continuing the tradition of giving to well-deserving local organizations, and is accepting applications until July 31 from all nonprofit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area that are dedicated to social welfare, education and/or civic work. Lafayette Juniors will select organizations from the applicant pool in August to become their major and minor beneficiaries for the 2021-22 membership year. To obtain an application or learn more about Lafayette Juniors, visit [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org).

**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.