



# The Julia Burke Foundation Annual Newsletter 2014

[www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](http://www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org)

**FEATURED NEWS:** Zambia • Ecology • Academic Scholarships • Debate • HALO • Music Education • Troops Direct • Mindfulness • Memorial Walk

## I Can See Clearly Now JULIA BURKE CLINIC & TERRANOVA SCHOOL

By George Dietz, Assistant Principal, Woodward Academy

I am back at one of my favorite places in the world: Mazabuka, Zambia. More specifically, I am in the Julia Burke Clinic and a song from my high school days is playing in my head: I Can See Clearly Now, by Johnny Nash. I am feeling upbeat and this is an upbeat song; moreover, I am struck by the sensation that this song perfectly depicts the atmosphere here in Mazabuka: *I can see clearly now, the rain has gone / I can see all obstacles in my way / ... I think I can make it now, the pain is gone ...* As I stand here, looking around the waiting room of the clinic, I see people in pain, people in need. A few of the children stand out from the others: a young girl with a painful infection from a wound on her forehead, and a young boy with swollen face resulting from an eye infection. If the boy is not treated soon, he will suffer vision loss. The good news, for both of these children, is that thanks to the efforts of many people, and support from The Julia Burke Foundation, they will be treated and cured. As I move around the clinic, talking to people and trying to help where I can, I am reminded that a few short years ago, this clinic did not exist. It is likely that, without this clinic, both of these children would go untreated, as the next nearest medical provider is an exhausting, weather-beaten, 5-hour walk away.

*The Julia Burke Clinic and the Terranova School* are examples of the incredible impact of people joining resources and helping to enhance the lives of those less fortunate. Thanks to The Julia Burke Foundation, major new projects are now underway here in Mazabuka. Improvements to *The Julia Burke Clinic*, *Terranova School*, and the community bathrooms will improve both the functionality and longevity of these sites and will include extensive new tile,



as well as twenty new community toilets—the first toilets for this village. Next, with The Julia Burke Foundation funding, we will soon break ground on a new vocational school, the first of its kind in Zambia. These projects will help the community here, improving the lives of nearly 10,000 people in over 5 villages. *The Julia Burke Clinic* is already setting a local standard for excellence, and the new vocational school will have an immediate impact on the economy, as well as the living standards, in this part of Zambia. The change in this community over the past ten years astounds me. There is still a lot that needs to be done, but thanks to The Julia Burke Foundation, for the people in the community of Mazabuka, as Johnny Nash would say: *It's going to be a bright, bright, sunny day.* For more information, visit: [WoodwardAcademy.edu](http://WoodwardAcademy.edu)

**STUDENTS RISING ABOVE**

90% of SRA students graduate from college

**Students**  
Learn more about our comprehensive college completion program and how you can apply.  
[Learn more »](#)

**Volunteers**  
Explore how you can help our students develop the skills and experience to be successful in college and beyond.  
[Learn more »](#)

**Donors**  
Support our award-winning program and help our students achieve a college education.  
[Learn more »](#)

**Videos**  
Meet our students and view their video profiles as featured on KPIX 5. See how they rise above homelessness, abuse, and poverty.  
[Click here to watch »](#)

## Proactive, Personalized Support – Nationwide!

### STUDENTS RISING ABOVE

By Lynne Martin, Executive Director Students Rising Above

When the Julia Burke Foundation first joined Students Rising Above as a leading supporter in 2008, we had a small, high-impact college support program with the highest four-year college graduation rate for low-income youth in the country. Thanks, in large part, to The Julia Burke Foundation's visionary philanthropic support, we have been able to double the number of students in our program over the past six years, while maintaining our stellar college completion rate of 90%. And now, with additional funding from The Julia Burke Foundation, we are about to embark on new project that has the potential to bring key elements of our program to thousands of students across the state and country.

In September, we launched the SRA College2Careers Hub. Unlike anything available on the web today, the Hub is an online resource and community for low-income, first-generation college students that provides personalized guidance along every step in the high school-to-  
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## Letter from the President

The recent health crisis in Africa has brought intense media attention to the plights of those who are underserved by crippled infrastructure. Across Africa, communities have been left behind as more developed parts of the world have acquired advanced technologies to manage the health and education of their peoples. Julia felt a passionate desire to serve such forgotten individuals, and we at The Julia Burke Foundation have never lost sight of this. More than six years ago, the Foundation partnered with Woodward Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, to support the development and construction of new classrooms, faculty housing, and bathrooms for the *Terranova School in Mazabuka, Zambia*. This partnership grew into a joint commitment to improve the living conditions in this community. When the *Julia Burke Clinic* opened its doors in Mazabuka in 2009, a positive wave of change swept over the region, as thousands gained

access to critical care. More classrooms, including state-accredited science facilities, soon followed, and students at the *Terranova School* are now eligible for university education. The positive ramifications for this community, in health, education, and the economy, are impossible to overstate. This year, the Foundation will fund a student dormitory at the school, improvements to the Julia Burke Clinic, as well as an expanded new restroom facility, and significant tile updates to the school's dining hall. In addition, we are pleased to announce support for the construction of a new vocational school in Mazabuka, the first in Zambia. We are so proud to have responded with the spirit of Julia, when the first call for support came from this distant community. Margaret Mead said it so well: *Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.*



*Marilyn Burke*

## Letter from the Executive Director

As I sit down and begin to write this letter, I look around my office, which is decked with memorabilia from our grantees and also adorned with three of the most beautiful black and white photographs of Julia at Baker Beach, taken by Marilyn. I look at the amazing collection in my office and marvel at the magnitude and diversity of work that the Foundation has accomplished over the past 16 years. I am awed to think of the thousands of lives that have been touched, improved, and saved by Marilyn and Jerry's efforts.

As many of you know, Julia was an award-winning policy debater, covering topics of worldwide concern. She was recognized in her sophomore year as a prominent debater at the Tournament

of Champions. At the tournament this year, one of Julia's former fellow debaters, Mr. Eric Oddo, spoke at the awards ceremony and remarked on the generosity and respect for others that drove Julia's success. As you read the articles from and about our grantees, I know you will be able to feel the essence of Julia.

This year we have updated our website and we have a newly designed Julia Burke Foundation T-shirt.

Please join us this year for our annual Reunion and Walk, which will be held Sunday, December 21, at the San Pablo Dam Visitor Center from 9-11:30. This is not a fundraiser, but a reunion of family, friends, and "Julia People." We hope you will join us!



My warmest aloha,

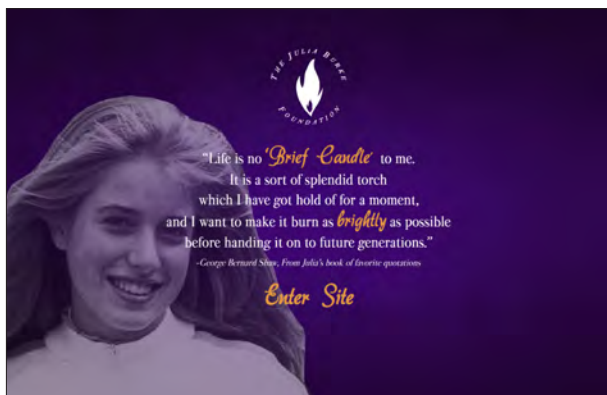
*Joy Johnson*



## WE LOVE TO STAY IN TOUCH!

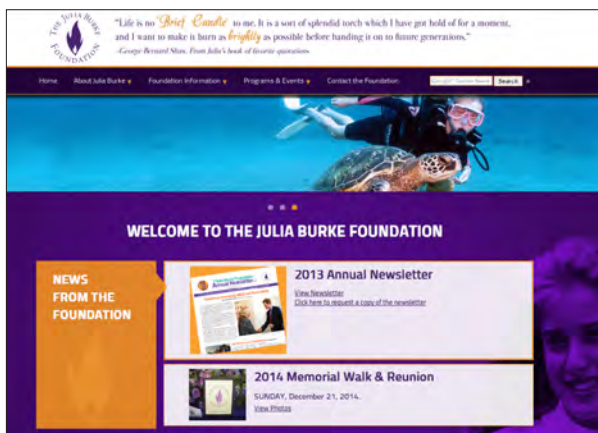
Please take a moment to update us with your address when you move or change email addresses. Contact: Joy Johnson at [Joy\\_Johnson@JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](mailto:Joy_Johnson@JuliaBurkeFoundation.org)





## Check out our new website

Please stop by our new website and have a look around! You'll find Foundation news in a dynamic new style. While offering updates on current events and progress on our international aid efforts, the site also provides access to a trove of past award recipients and Foundation beneficiaries. We are proud to offer this website as a new tool for The Julia Burke Foundation, and also as a virtual archive of our proud history. Thanks for visiting!



## I'm a Julia Person!



We have a new T-shirt design! Come to the Reunion and Walk to get yours, or write and ask us.



Brittany McLean, the Foundation's first filmmaker, at her recent wedding to Walter Sebaste with Marilyn Burke.

## STUDENTS RISING ABOVE Continued from page 1

college-to workforce pathway. The Hub allows students to access comprehensive college and career development information (via tips, PDFs, videos, webinars, links, etc.); engage with each other and share resources with other students at similar stages of college completion; and obtain advice from older students.

Most importantly, the Hub will provide direct access to SRA's team of professional, highly experienced Student Advisors, with a guaranteed 24-hour response time via online chat groups, email, text, or toll-free phone. We know from years of experience that students need proactive, personalized support. If a student who has joined the Hub ceases to log in for a few months, one of our Advisors will call the student and offer assistance. No other service offers such a seamless blend of

technology-driven and human-based support for optimal college and workforce readiness.

The Hub is available to select Bay Area high schools with limited college counseling services. It is being integrated into senior year curriculum to help prepare students for college. In the first 10 days, 300 students signed up. Over the next year, we anticipate serving 2,000 students before expanding nationwide. The Hub is a free service available to high school and college students, and can be accessed by logging onto [www.studentsrisingabove.org](http://www.studentsrisingabove.org). Thank you again to The Julia Burke Foundation for providing the seed money which enabled the creation of the HUB, your support and vision have been inspirational. For more information, visit [www.studentsrisingabove.org](http://www.studentsrisingabove.org).



To learn more about Student Rising Above College2Careers Hub go to [StudentsRisingAbove.force.com](http://StudentsRisingAbove.force.com).



## A FOUNDATION OF TRUST FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

### INTERFAITH CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**By Rabbi Yonatan Neril, Founder and Executive Director,  
The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development**

Thanks to the support of The Julia Burke Foundation, the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development (ICSD) has, over the past year, transformed its Women's Faith and Ecology Project. Jerusalem is generally divided between Muslims, Christians, and Jews, and this project brought women from all three faiths together to foster relationships and practice coexistence amidst a broader context of conflict.

Six events took place between December 2013 and August 2014. The December event featured culturally prominent women speaking on faith and ecology, as well as group discussions. Spring meetings focused on gardening and community agriculture; and our June gathering featured Palestinian embroidery lessons from one of the group's participants. The women's handwork gathering knitted itself into discussions about waste and converting art projects into ecological tools like reusable bags. In late July, the women gathered for a Ramadan break-fast dinner. Some women tested the cross-cultural waters by finding commonalities in their religious practices and their languages (Hebrew and Arabic), and wound up laughing and joking about life in the Middle East. "I had no idea how much we actually have in common! Learning about our similarities was so important – I want to invite my religious friends to the next event," a Jewish seminary student said.

While each event emphasizes sustainability in some capacity, we find that laying foundations of trust is just as invaluable as the ecology aspect of the program. "If we can see the humanity in the other and work together towards a common project, the focus switches from 'us' versus 'them' towards a collective responsibility to care for our shared space and resources," explained ICSD staff member Rachel Winner.

She has helped build trust and interest in the East Jerusalem communities, and continues to organize monthly meetings for the project. We thank The Julia Burke Foundation for its generous support of the work of ICSD!

For more information, visit [www.interfaithsustain.org](http://www.interfaithsustain.org)

## The J.W. Patterson Foundation

**By Elizabeth Coons, Director, J.W. Patterson Foundation**

The National High School Tournament of Champions celebrated its 43rd year in April 2014. For the second year in a row, The Julia Burke Foundation partnered with the J.W. Patterson Foundation to create need-based scholarships for highly talented debaters from around the country who qualified for the highly selective Tournament but otherwise would not have been able to attend.



This year, 13 scholarships were provided, and most of the thirteen participated in the tournament out-rounds (the qualification-based elimination rounds).

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of many, the Tournament of Champions is continuing to grow and thrive. When Dr. Patterson founded the Tournament in 1971, he hosted 128 policy debaters from 28 states. This year the Tournament hosted over 500 participants from 42 states, the largest in its history. It now includes six different divisions of competition including, Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Public Forum Debate, Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking

Thanks to the Burke Foundation's generosity, the Tournament has to date been fortunate to provide a total of 22 need-based scholarships to highly skilled students who have qualified. Enabling students of this caliber to attend and compete helps to ensure that the Tournament of Champions continues to be the highest mark of achievement on the national high school debate circuit. For more information, visit [www.speech-debate-scholarships.com](http://www.speech-debate-scholarships.com)

## TELL YOUR FAMILY YOUR WISHES!



Take pride in your decision to become an organ donor and communicate this choice to your loved ones. Your decision can save the lives of eight people and enhance the lives of 50 more. With those kinds of odds, Julia said, "This is a no-brainer!"

Sign up online:

[www.donatelifecalifornia.org](http://www.donatelifecalifornia.org)

To become an organ donor today.



# The Julia Burke Awards for Debate

The Julia Burke debate awards recognize the spirit and character of young debaters at both the local and national level.

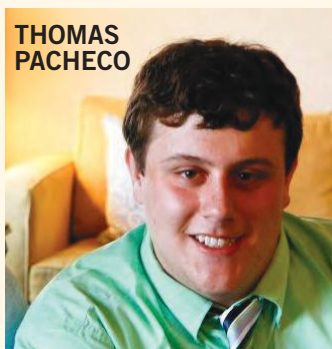
The Julia Burke Award for Debater of the Year, given by The College Preparatory School, honors the debate team's graduating senior who best exhibits excellent skill in combination with passion and commitment to debate. The Julia Burke Award, given at the Tournament of Champions and American Debate Association Nationals, recognizes the policy debaters who most closely uphold the combination of admirable characteristics that Julia displayed in debate.



**THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL**  
Oakland, California  
Julia Burke Debater of the Year Award



**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**  
Lexington, Kentucky  
School: Notre Dame High School, Sherman Oaks, California  
Designated Charity: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital



**AMERICAN DEBATE ASSOCIATION NATIONALS**  
Harrisonburg, Virginia  
School: University of Mary Washington  
Designated Charity: Teach to Learn



## Debate Skills = Life Skills BAUDL

By Beth Gunston, Operations Manager, Bay Area Urban Debate League

The Bay Area Urban Debate League (BAUDL) works with San Francisco Bay Area public school districts to make competitive policy debate available to every public high school student in the Bay Area. The BAUDL believes that debate increases student academic performance, enriches and expands their college and career opportunities, and provides the intellectual and networking tools for students to thrive as active and responsible leaders in their communities. It is refreshing and inspiring to have support from The Julia Burke Foundation, an organization that cares deeply about the quality education to which debaters have access, and invests in giving underfunded debaters the same experiences and opportunities that elite debate programs offer.

Thanks to support from The Julia Burke Foundation, the BAUDL expanded to serve more high school students than ever this year, and student engagement in tournaments grew as well. The average number of students to

attend a league tournament increased 50 percent. Attending tournaments is a key step to greater academic achievement in school. The hours of preparation required for competition advance vocabulary, critical thinking, reading skills, and research skills. Alumnus and San Francisco Regional Coordinator, Alan Santos shared: "I've seen the BAUDL turn what was thought to be impossible into something attainable. I never thought that college would be in my future. The BAUDL helped me find a path to higher achievement in education and beyond."

The number of teacher-coaches also increased this past school year. Experience has taught us that the strongest predictor of a transformative debate program at a school – a program that significantly alters the life trajectory of a critical mass of students – is a great debate coach. BAUDL teacher-coaches, working with students, incorporate debate pedagogy, an approach to education which reverses the typical classroom environment by putting student voice at the center of evidence-based argumentation while instructors do the listening. A community of teachers, who have devoted themselves to debate as a pedagogical method to stimulate the voice and intellect of their students, is the heart and soul of the BAUDL program. Using curricular materials and strategies designed in partnership with BAUDL, many of these teacher-coaches incorporate debate pedagogy into their classrooms. As Traveling Team Coach, Orion Steele explains it, "The BAUDL transforms lives – from college access to personal advocacy. It is helping create the leaders of tomorrow." For further information, visit [www.baudl.org](http://www.baudl.org)





# Demining Efforts Return Farmland to Families

## THE HALO TRUST

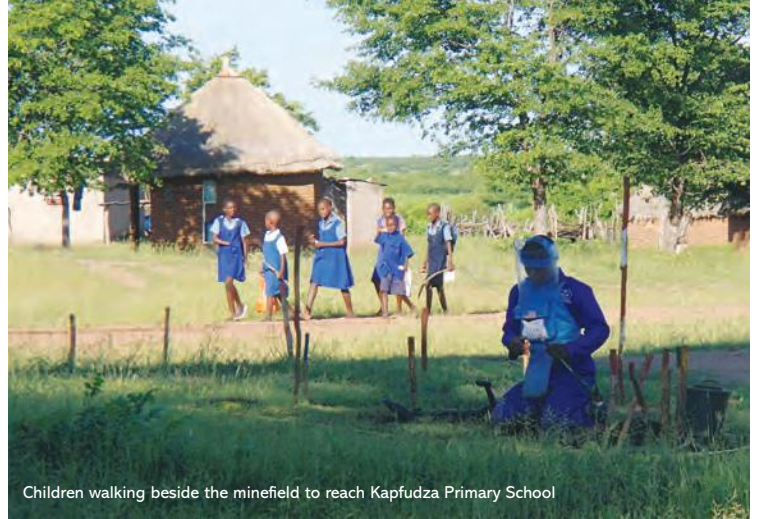
By Amy Currin, Development Manager, HALO USA

Over the past year, the HALO demining teams have been concentrated in the area around Foya Village, in northeastern Zimbabwe. Here, the population lives directly opposite the minefield, and hundreds of children, from Kapfudza and Gomo Schools, walk to school just meters away from the mines. In September, HALO handed back to the communities cleared land along a frontage of almost

3km. The entire area in front of Kapfudza Primary School has now been cleared, thus creating a much safer environment for the children.

There is virtually no formal employment in the area of Foya Village (apart from demining with HALO) and most of the population has to rely on farming to survive. Farming is done at a family level on small plots of land with cotton, corn, cattle and goats being prevalent. The minefields prevent farmers from using the land for cropping and they take a steady toll on the livestock.

An accident waiting to happen. The white stick shows where HALO cleared a mine from a footpath leading to community fields.



Children walking beside the minefield to reach Kapfudza Primary School

HALO's clearance, facilitated by The Julia Burke Foundation, will allow land to go back into productive use and decrease the number of cattle and goats killed by mines.

None of this work would be possible without the assistance HALO has received from the Julia Burke Foundation. Of the program's ten vehicles, The Foundation has provided eight. These are in daily use transporting deminers from camp to the minefields, surveying the border, providing ambulance cover to the teams and providing logistics both in the immediate Foya Village area and between Harare and Foya. In March, a Julia Burke Foundation vehicle and HALO medics provided lifesaving medical evacuation to a villager who had just stepped on a mine.

Cindy McCain (Chairman, the HALO Trust USA) said, "Landmines affect the poorest people in Zimbabwe. I've seen firsthand how The Julia Burke Foundation's funding is saving lives in Zimbabwe, while returning desperately needed land for farming, and I applaud their efforts." For more information, visit [www.halotrust.org](http://www.halotrust.org)



## Quality Content at Camp

### GENERATIONS IN JAZZ

By Tina Tankka, Board Member, Generations in Jazz

The Lafayette Summer Music Workshop provides students the opportunity to make valuable connections with some of the best jazz mentors in our country. In turn, we provide our exquisitely talented mentors the opportunity to tap into young talent that might otherwise not be visible. All participants look forward to the week of shared lingo and musical banter. One highly acclaimed musician, referring to his role as teacher, mused that, "This is one camp I teach at every year. Though my monetary reward, for the week, could be better met as a private entertainer, this just has to be done for the kids. The quality of content at Lafayette Summer Music Workshop is second to none. There is no other workshop like it in the country."

We have a whole bevy of musicians from the inner city who count on our Workshop for their summer jazz-combo experience. As in years past, support from The Julia Burke Foundation made possible the gift of full and partial scholarships to 25% of student participants in the Lafayette Summer Music Workshop. This continued partnership with the Foundation, over the years, has been cherished and unparalleled by our organization. The Julia Burke Foundation commands a tremendous presence in the spirit of our week's events. A scholarship student wrote, "This week at the Jazz Workshop would not have happened without you. Each week I come here is better than the last. I had a wonderful time this week, with all the help and support from the staff and faculty."

For more information, visit [www.generationsinjazz.org](http://www.generationsinjazz.org)



# Following Our Troops to New Regions in Need TROOPSDIRECT

By Aaron Negherbon, President and Founder, Troops Direct

Troops Direct is once again grateful to The Julia Burke Foundation for its steadfast support of our mission – one that ensures the health, safety and success of our American forces deployed around the globe. We have borne witness to rapidly changing dynamics in the call to protect our national security. Thus, the demands put on our Americans in uniform have never been higher. The response rates required overseas have increased, while time to prepare for these calls has significantly diminished. And so, Troops Direct has been there.

Afghanistan remains a very kinetic environment, with over 44,000 Americans still serving under the Operation Enduring Freedom banner, and Troops Direct continues to field requests daily from the region. Moreover, we have answered a new call to support American forces that are responding to hostile actions elsewhere in the Middle East and throughout Africa. And so, as American service members to come to the aid of peoples throughout the world, Troops Direct aids directly in that effort. Commonly, American ‘Quick Response Forces’ prepare to answer the call to duty within 96 hours, to nearly anywhere on the globe, and items



including communications equipment, personal protective equipment, and medical gear are often not immediately available. When this occurs, these units rely on Troops Direct to receive the supplies they need in less than 36 hours. The end result is a better-equipped assemblage of Americans, who are

more effectively defending the oppressed, in various regions around the globe.

Again, we are indebted to The Julia Burke Foundation for believing in and actively supporting the Troops Direct mission. For more information, visit [www.troopsdirect.org](http://www.troopsdirect.org)

# Calm When it Seems the Hardest THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Carol Harris, Instructor, Lafayette School District

Stress...it has become a constant in our lives. For teachers and students, stress affects our emotions, social interactions with peers, and ultimately, academic success. Mindfulness, according to a recent TIME magazine (February 3, 2014), is “an indispensable tool for coping—both emotionally and practically—with the daily onslaught.” Mindfulness helps reduce stress, increase emotional coping skills, improve attention/focus/executive functioning skills and cultivate a deeper sense of empathy. With technology slicing our attention into a million

bites and the Common Core raising the stakes, teachers and students need training to work mindfully and learn mindfully.

Thanks to the generous support of The Julia Burke Foundation, teachers in the Lafayette School District were given the opportunity to take the Mindfulness Fundamentals and Curriculum Training courses from Mindful Schools. Mindfulness in the classroom produced some amazing results. Behaviors and attitudes changed. First graders wrote, “Mindfulness is a very wise choice to be able to calm down.” And, “When I get mad or stressed I go in my room and close the door and lie on my bed and find my anchor and do mindfulness.” Another explained that, “We know how to be calm when it seems the hardest.” And a third grader reported, “It gives me patience when I’m angry or stressed. I felt like I let all of the stress and worries out of my body and my mind.” Reflecting on the experience of Mindfulness training and implementation, a teacher expressed that, “Mindfulness has improved the quality of my life...it is a life-changing practice.” Thanks to The Julia Burke Foundation for your generous support of this program. The positive ramifications are immeasurable. For more information, visit [www.mindfulschools.org](http://www.mindfulschools.org)





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Please join us for  
**THE JULIA BURKE FOUNDATION ANNUAL  
MEMORIAL WALK  
& REUNION**  
*in honor of Julia*

**Sunday, December 21, 2014 • 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

The meeting place for our Memorial Walk and Reunion will be indoors at San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Area Visitor Center, RAIN OR SHINE! We will have talented musicians led by Bob Athayde of Stanley Middle School, a bounty of refreshments and sweeping views of the reservoir from the venue. There will be an easy walk, less than one mile, and a great opportunity to visit in a heated facility. There is plenty of complimentary parking. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, visit [www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](http://www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org).

**San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Area Visitor Center  
7301 San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante, CA**

This is not a fundraiser, but a chance for everyone to catch up and visit.

