

# The Julia Burke Foundation Annual Newsletter 2013



www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org

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

### **Foundation Honored by HALO and Prince Harry**

By Guy Willoughby, Founder and CEO of The HALO Trust

During 2013, HALO marked a quarter century of pioneering work clearing mines with His Royal Highness Prince Harry as our patron. Since our beginning in Afghanistan in 1988, HALO has destroyed over 1.4 million landmines and cleared over 8,100 minefields to enable families to rebuild their lives after a conflict. This is thanks to supporters like the Julia Burke Foundation.

During this 25th anniversary year, HALO had special events to generate greater support and also to acknowledge the generosity of existing donors. Following the British Embassy reception on May 9, HRH Prince Harry attended an exclusive dinner in the Ambassador's private dining room, including Marilyn and Jerry Burke on behalf of the foundation they established in memory of their daughter, Julia. Their support has been invaluable in some of the most impoverished regions where the American government and others have been unable to provide funding.

Prince Harry made a speech at dinner that recalled his mother, Princess Diana, and paid tribute to HALO and our private and public donors including the US government. He said in part, "My mother, who believed passionately in this cause, would be proud of my association with HALO. In her special way, she adopted it as her own. She would join me – along with all of you I'm sure – in praising HALO for the amazing work it has done over the past quarter century, and in hoping that one day soon its humanitarian work will be done."



Marilyn Burke and His Royal Highness Prince Harry



of the IW Patterson Foundation

#### The JW Patterson Foundation By Elizabeth Coons

In April 2013, The JW Patterson Foundation for Academic Excellence in Speech and Debate, with generous support from The Julia Burke Foundation, proudly launched an initiative to provide nine scholarships to qualifying debaters who would otherwise be unable to attend the esteemed Tournament of Champions held annually at The University of Kentucky.

Dr. J.W. Patterson started the tournament in 1972, with the objective of giving some of the nation's most successful high school debaters a once-a-year opportunity to compete against one another, and to give debaters throughout the high school community a competitive goal for which to aspire. Today, the Tournament of Champions (TOC) is recognized as the premier tournament on the national circuit, representing some of the most competitively successful debaters from the nation's most prestigious invitational

debate tournaments.

The JW Patterson Foundation is deeply grateful for the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation. In 2000, the Julia Burke Award, a national high school annual debate award, was established and presented at TOC in memory of Julia, who debated at The College Preparatory School and attended the tournament. The purpose of the Julia Burke Award is to recognize a "policy debater who achieves competitive excellence in high school policy debate on the national circuit, and who demonstrates goodness of heart despite the pressures of competition at the highest level." Julia Burke was also one of the first four debaters to have been selected as a "University of Kentucky Institute Fellow" under Dr. Patterson for the summer of 1999. It is this level of talent and strength of character for which The JW Patterson Foundation was founded. For more information, visit www.speech-debate-scholarships.com

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#### **Letter from the President**

Each year, this space affords me the opportunity to reflect on the work of The Julia Burke Foundation in relationship to the vision that inspired us fifteen years ago. The world today is a very different place, in some respects, than it was when we first decided on a structure that could continue the trajectory of one young woman of substance. But the issues and causes that the Foundation has supported over the years are largely unchanged. We are still removing land mines, we are still supporting young people who reach far to achieve their goals, and we are still focused on the talented individuals, both young and old, who have a passion to give back. These things have not changed in fifteen years. The Foundation came into existence to provide wings to those important issues to which Julia had committed

her energies. These remain the core values and interests of our organization, while we have, at the same time, embraced important new causes that are wholly congruent with Julia's own values, such as TroopsDirect and Mindful Schools. She would be the first to make sure that this Foundation, which bears her name, remained dynamic and relevant. I think you will agree that Julia would be satisfied that we are achieving this goal.

Marilyn Burke

#### **Letter from the Executive Director**

Dear Julia People,

It is hard for me to comprehend that The Julia Burke Foundation is fifteen years old! It seems like it was just last year that Julia was organizing her young dinner guests for an after-dinner play. These always addressed current events and the "good guy" always won! What an important message Julia shared with her young peers: doing the right thing wins in the end

The Foundation continues to follow Julia's script for life, which is evident in the diversity of programs we support. We serve people on five continents with programs committed to paying it forward. We directly support the "good guys" so that they can survive and thrive, sometimes directly in the face of the opposition.

HALO USA is saving limbs and lives around the world, with their demining efforts, clearing the land so

farmers and villagers can rebuild or start new communities. STUDENTS RISING ABOVE continues to provide much-

needed scholarships and assistance to students who are frequently the first in their

family to attend college. The MINDFUL SCHOOLS program assists at-risk children, helping them to concentrate and learn how to show caring feelings and behaviors for others. The BAY AREA URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE supports students from urban areas so they have the opportunity to learn and practice the leadership skills of debate. The KONAWAENA HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM experienced the pride associated with having matching team uniforms for the first time to represent their school. Students in the VILLAGE

OF TERRANOVA, in ZAMBIA, AFRICA are now prepared for college because The Foundation provided science classrooms and study materials. And the GENERATIONS IN JAZZ summer program scholarships provide young musicians with the opportunity to learn and practice with successful professional musicians.

Please join us on our annual Walk and Reunion, this December 22, 2013, at the San Pablo Visitor Center. Directions and information can be found on our

website, www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org.

I continue to be so very proud to play a role in The Foundation's mission to support these amazing, diverse, and far-reaching projects. Each, in its own way, is paying it forward and making our world a better place. I know Julia would be proud of the work of her namesake foundation and the impact it is having so that the "good guys" have the opportunity to feel like a winner!

WE LOVE TO STAY IN TOUCH!

Please take a moment to update us with your address when you move. Contact Joy. My warmest aloha,

Joy Johnson

# Film Crew Documents Julia Burke Award

By Jonathan Cowperthwait, Board of Directors, The Julia Burke Foundation

When Executive Director Joy Johnson and board member Jon Cowperthwait, of The Julia Burke Foundation, attended this spring's American Debate Association tournament at Wake Forest University, an unexpected entourage joined them: a film crew.

Producer Jan Landis and filmmaker Nick Kalish documented the annual presentation of the Julia Burke Award for Character and Excellence in National College Policy Debate [confirm official name], and interviewed the committee of coaches and former debaters behind the award. Their work will be used to solicit award nominees and introduce its presentation in future years. A copy is also available on the Julia Burke Foundation's website.

The award, now in its 14th year, is presented to a college debater recognized by his or her peers for positively contributing to the debate community.



From left: Dr. Michael C. Hall, current president of the ADA Julia Burke Award Committee; Jan Landis, Producer; Nick Kalish, Cinematography and Editor

#### I'm a Julia Person!

Please send us a photo of you wearing your Julia t-shirt.



Staff of the San Pablo Visitor Center



MAHALO NUI LOA JULIA BURKE FOUNDATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! The Konawaena Boys' Volleyball Team: In Front —Varsity Team Manager, Febelyn Salvador; 2nd Row—JV Team: Nalu Loando, Danny Arase, Daylenn Pua, Algene Kelekolio, Bailey Hanato, Chase Rodrigues; 3rd Row—Varsity Team: Anthony Ward, Landon Deniz, Allan Fukushima, Gabe Trevino, Sefo Palu, Lena Santiago, Trevor Tanaka, Kai Dunston & Kalama Freitas

## Women Find Strength in Gatherings INTERFAITH CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

In Israel this year, The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, with support from The Julia Burke Foundation, held two Women's Multi-faith Eco-Gatherings in a collaborative project with TRUST Emun. Over 55 women from Christian, Druze, Jewish, and Muslim backgrounds came together in June, following an event that was held in January, in which 60 women came together. Many of the same women gathered in Jerusalem for these consecutive events to continue developing new relationships, to deepen a commitment to learning about the environment from a multi-faith point of view, and to devise practical activities to achieve these goals together. Nestled in the hills of Ein Kerem, just outside of Jerusalem, the serenity and natural beauty of the location promoted an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and understanding.

One of the most important and moving aspects of these events was how the women of different faiths gathered for informal and spontaneous singing. In the guest rooms, the women lodged overnight with women of differing faiths and several commented that this was a unique



Participants in the Women's Multi-faith Eco-Gathering share a song

opportunity to share food brought from home and personal experiences together.

Siham Halabi, the Druze coordinator, said about the gathering, "Just meeting other people is very empowering for women, as is getting ideas from other cultures about things that I can later do myself with my own projects... In the gathering I felt a strength. From the fact that women are together, that gives us strength. It was good to see that everybody actually wants to peacefully live together, in coexistence."

Interactions generated by these Gatherings help to promote coexistence and peace in the Holy Land. The environmental focus helps to promote a livable future for our children and grandchildren. We thank The Julia Burke Foundation for its generous support of this project and of our work.

For more information, visit www.interfaithsustain.org

# **Seed Money Grows Support For Forgotten Victims HALO**

By Amy Currin, Development Manager, HALO USA

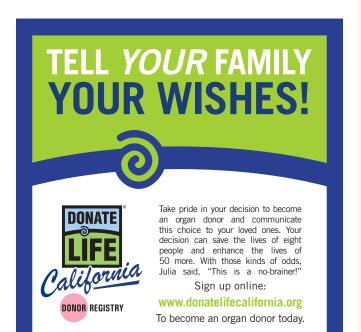
Zimbabwe's border communities live on the knife-edge of poverty, many depending on subsistence farming alone. It is common for the whole family to work to make ends meet and cattle are a critical source of draught power, manure and milk. This existence is so precarious that one upset – for instance a mine accident – has calamitous results for the whole family. This was starkly demonstrated in the case of the Chinoza family who farm near Zimbabwe's border with Mozambique. Last year, 17-year-old Raimon Chinoza stepped on a mine whilst accessing the family farming plot. Family members carried the injured boy to the track and from there he was taken by ox cart to his village. Many hours later an ambulance arrived to take him to hospital. The family had to sell its cows in order to cover the costs of medical treatment and a prosthetic limb. The family can no longer farm, and without any income, all the Chinoza children are out of school. Raimon's case is by no means unique and the families of other Zimbabwean mine victims suffer the same sharp downward spiral.

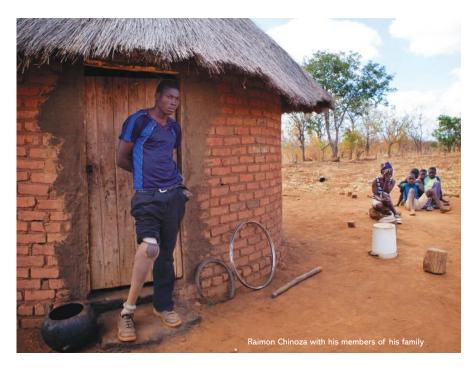
The dire landmine situation in Zimbabwe has been wrongly overlooked for the last two decades. Communities, spread over hundreds of miles of border with Mozambique, are left with some of the densest minefields ever laid. They are the forgotten victims of a brutal war at the end of the colonial period and of the more recent political environment. These are precisely the people HALO is mandated to help.

The Julia Burke Foundation contributed the initial 'seed funding' for HALO to set up a humanitarian mine clearance program in Zimbabwe. The program has now been officially registered and been awarded further funding by both the Japanese and the US Department of State. This would not have been possible without the investment of the JBF grant – and as such the 'seed' has been just that.

The generous grant from the Julie Burke Foundation is helping to prevent further accidents like Raimon's. The organization has been instrumental in the start of humanitarian mine clearance in Zimbabwe. Together we are making landmines history, not sacrificing some innocent person's future.

For more information, visit www.halotrust.org





#### Students of Jazz Return As Mentors Generations in Jazz

By Tina Tankka, Board Member, Generations in Jazz

Through a grant provided by The Julia Burke Foundation, we award scholarships to talented young musicians who cannot afford and would otherwise not experience the Lafayette Summer Music Workshop. These students make connections with mentors to pursue opportunities in higher education. Many have achieved national recognition at the highest levels (Downbeat Award winners), have gone on to receive scholarships,



Students practice at the Lafayette Summer Music Workshop

and have continued their jazz education at the finest jazz institutions in the nation. And most return as mentors, as a way to give back to the jazz community that nurtured them, bringing along new students from their old communities.

One of our scholarship students expressed it this way: "Thank you for your help. I can say, without a doubt, I have learned more in this week than I have in any other point in my life. Not only has my musical ability increased threefold, but this week has been more fun for me than the rest of my summer."

The Workshop is always an event filled with excited students, exceptional instructors, and happy volunteers and we achieve this through support from The Julia Burke Foundation. We pass along this gift of opportunity and life-long friendship to well-deserving students. Most can't wait to come back next year. Thank you!

For more information, visit www.generationsinjazz.org

# Successful Program Saves Lives PROJECT ECUADOR

By Paul Dunning, Founder, Project Ecuador

Prior to 2006, Ecuador was without professional lifeguards, lacking both the equipment and training programs to provide this service. In response to this need, the Long Beach Lifeguard Association developed the international lifesaving venture Project Ecuador.

Now, following a major collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism, Fire Departments, and Mayors and leaders in Quito, numerous Ecuadorian beaches have paid lifeguards with observation towers, inflatable rescue boats, and proper uniforms and equipment. The Julia Burke Foundation was the single largest donor to Project Ecuador and the results have been outstanding.

Our purpose is to train citizens in Ecuador to become lifeguards, then to help guide groups to become self-sustained, professional, ocean lifeguard services that can ultimately join the International Life Saving Federation. Project Ecuador partnered with Long Beach – Manta Sister Cities in 2010 and won the 2011 Innovation: Sustainable Development award by Sister Cities International. And we are proud to report that Paul and his team of international lifeguards have been invited by Ecuador's national leaders to organize and oversee Ecuador's 1st National Lifesaving Training Academy in Manta beginning November 10, 2013.

Project Ecuador is very thankful to The Julia Burke Foundation for its generosity to promote this enormously successful international outreach. Every day, rescues are made and lives are saved.

For more information, visit www.ecuadorlifeguards.org



Top: A trained team of Ecuadorian lifeguards Bottom: A crowded beach in Ecuador under lifeguard supervision



### **Dynamic Supply Chain Delivers The Goods**

**TROOPSDIRECT** 

By Aaron Negherbon, President and Founder, Troops Direct

The Julia Burke Foundation has been a trusted supporter of TroopsDirect from our fledgling stages in 2010. Since that time, we have seen year-over-year growth in excess of 400%. Sadly, this demonstrates that our United States military forces, across the globe, are often going without critically required items; supplies they need in order to operate effectively while maintaining the

health and safety of American lives. Through TroopsDirect, we mitigate this situation with increasing success and deliver to our heroes the medical supplies and operational equipment they depend on, including the items used to identify and diffuse the lethal improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that plague certain regions. Moreover, the service that TroopsDirect provides has gone viral amongst U.S. forces across all continents, and they know that they can rely on our supply chain to provide them with the specific items that they request in a

matter of days, as opposed to months.

The generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation has touched thousands of American lives. When we receive a request for tourniquets, stretchers and field surgical kits, or ballistic eye protection and TRP kits (the tool package used to render IEDs safe), then TroopsDirect and its supporters know that have saved

lives and limbs.

As the need for TroopsDirect grows amongst deployed units, we are fighting for change at home. As our purpose and the unparalleled manner in which we operate garners the attention of Congressional Members in Washington, who are beginning to investigate the sources of supply inefficiencies, we are poised, with The Julia Burke Foundation at our side, to stand as the leading support organization for our American troops for decades to come.

For more information, visit www.troopsdirect.org



American troops receive critical supplies

### Mud, Sweat, And Tears.... THE JULIA BURKE CLINIC IN ZAMBIA

By George Dietz, Assistant Principal, Woodward Academy

Most people are quickly annoyed with mud. We get it on our shoes; we track it all over the place, including our homes. Sometimes, however, we have the opportunity to look at life and our surroundings from a different perspective. In the proper hands, mud can be wonderful. It is used to make pottery, grow crops, and for the inhabitants of Mazabuka, Zambia, it is used to build the future. How? The locals make bricks from river mud and then use the bricks to build their community. The mud bricks are used to build classrooms, houses for teachers, medical clinics, and community housing.

The workers do not mind the hard work and sweat needed to build the classrooms. In fact, they take pride in being part of the construction process, as

Young patient at the Julia Burke Clinic



most of them have children or relatives attending the school; they know that they are helping build the school and facilities that will enable their children to have better lives. With these mud bricks, they are building solid futures.

The Julia Burke Clinic in Zambia

A quick walk from the school to the village will take you to the Julia Burke Medical Clinic. One needs only to stop in for a visit to see how this facility has changed the lives of everyone in the community. On average, 80 people a day stop in to see the medical officer. No one is ever turned away. This is a luxury. Years ago, before the clinic was built, mothers and children had to walk five hours each way to see a medical officer.

Children are now able to go to the clinic for shots, medicines, and other treatments. Eye and lung infections caused from dust are now more easily treated. It is not unusual to hear children crying at The Clinic, but it is a good sign that a child has been immunized or maybe a baby was delivered.

There are also tears of joy. One only has to attend graduation at Terranova school to see the pride in the community. People who live in mud huts and who have never had a formal education now have children who are being accepted to the universities. There is a sense of community pride as people now have jobs, people are raising their standard of living, and people are finally seeing hope for a positive future.

Mud, sweat, and tears... and The Julia Burke Foundation. Changing the lives of the people of Zambia, one brick at a time.

For more information, visit: www.WoodwardAcademy.edu



By Lynne Martin, Executive Director, Students Rising Above

Students Rising Above (SRA) is especially grateful to The Julia Burke Foundation's tremendous multi-year support, which has enabled SRA to transform from a small scholarship program into a broad-service college access and completion program. When the Foundation began supporting SRA in 2008, we were able to accept 35 new students into our program each year. This year, thanks in large part of the Burke Foundation's continued generosity, we were able to accept 100.

We have been able to grow substantially in terms of the numbers we serve as well as the services we provide while maintaining our stellar 90% college completion rate—three times the national average for low-income, first generation students. "The support of The Julia Burke Foundation has been a game-changer for Students Rising Above, helping us to grow exponentially. We would not be where we are today without Marilyn and Jerry's thoughtful and steadfast generosity," said Lynne Martin, Executive Director.

One of the most impactful ways in which The Julia Burke Foundation has helped SRA and its students is by forming The Julia Burke Named Scholarship in 2012. With this scholarship, the Burkes helped SRA launch an important giving program that personalizes donations by connecting supporters with specific students while providing multi-year support for college expenses. The Burkes' leadership has inspired several additional named scholarships, paving the way for scores of individual students to rise above personal hardships by earning college degrees.



Jerry Burke with the 2012 Julia Burke Scholars

The Julia Burke Named Scholarship serves five students each year who exemplify the values and qualities that best describe Julia Burke: kindness, fearlessness, and a sense of humor. Each of the students has been honored to be a Julia Burke Scholar. In her thank you letter to the Burkes, Analis Ibarra remarked,

"Sometimes it feels like I am dreaming as I walk to class or sit in my dorm room and do my homework. I could not have done it without all the support I receive from Jasmine, my mentors, and especially you. Again, thank you so much for believing in me and providing me with the support I need to make my dreams a reality."

For more information, visit www.studentsrisingabove.org

#### A Transformative Year Of Mindfulness MINDFUL SCHOOLS

By Randima Fernando, Executive Director of Operations, Mindful Schools

Thanks to generous support from The Julia Burke Foundation, Mindful Schools has built a new Year-Long Certification program on Mindfulness in Education, which includes ongoing work to update our curricula and workbooks, to provide video support, and to build a complete online platform for attendees.

We recently completed the opening retreat of this Year-Long Certification program, providing a transformative experience for nearly 70 attendees. One participant expressed that, "The deep silence during practice was so important -- actually putting practice first is something that I deeply appreciate about the training."

At the culmination of nearly six years in providing Mindfulness training, the Year-Long Certification program offers over a full year of study and practice, aiming to transmit the core competencies of "mindfulness & education" that have emerged through our work with children and adolescents. Another retreat participant explained that, "Since returning home from the retreat, my whole life seems different and people seem to be responding to me differently. The only way to describe it is that before the retreat my life felt uncomfortable like bad fitting, scratchy clothes, but now my life feels comfy like a favorite pair of jeans. I'm just comfy wherever I go now."

For more information, visit www.mindfulschools.org

Participants in the Year-Long Certification program on Mindfulness in Education





# **Debate Powering Success** in the Classroom BAUDL

BAUDL participants prepare for debate during the Summer Institute

By Dmitri Seals, Executive Director, Bay Area Urban Debate League

This year, The Julia Burke Foundation made possible a record-breaking season for the Bay Area Urban Debate League (BAUDL). Support from The Foundation helped us train over a hundred teachers in using the power of debate in their classrooms and on teams, to run the largest Summer Institute in BAUDL history, and to add four new schools to the program. We helped hundreds of new students find academic success and a confident voice through debate.

With the Debate Pedagogy Initiative, we trained teachers to use debate strategies to help students channel their loud voices into positive behaviors. Each of these teachers have become advocates for debate on their campuses, helping to build strong teams and change the game for thousands of more students who are failing in the status quo school environment. History teacher Ruben Rodriguez of Oakland High wrote that, "The speakers from BAUDL were awesome. I'm glad we brought them in - I think we all want to incorporate debate into our classes for the students that traditional approaches fail to reach." We have already seen debate have transformative impacts on urban youth - the 450 students we serve maintain a 96% graduation rate and 88% college attendance rate, nearly twice the going rate in their schools. One of our most important goals for the past year has been to build on the success of individual debaters to create a cultural shift at each of the struggling schools we serve—to make smart cool for urban youth—and we are glad to say that it is working!

At the end of the camp all of our debaters had their first tournament of the year, and although many of them were nervous, they were all excited. By Friday, they had formed a tight community of young leaders ready to charge into the new season of debate. You can see these inspiring debaters in action at the Season Opener tournament on October 19 at UC Berkeley - contact us at info@baudl.org for more information!

For further information, visit www.baudl.org



### AMERICAN DEBATE ASSOCIATION NATIONALS

Harrisonburg, Virginia School: George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia Coach: Dr. Warren Decher

### THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Oakland, California Julia Burke Debater of the Year Award

#### TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Lexington, Kentucky
School: Whitney Young High School,
Chicago, Illinois Coach: Elyse Conklin
Designated Charity: National
Association for Urban Leagues
(Vincent Binder Scholarship)

#### 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 love for, and commitment to, debate. This year's recipient, Elsa Givan, will travel to Spain, seeking a year of adventure and enrichment before attending Georgetown University School of Foreign Service the following fall.



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