Spring 2026

The Willow Leaf

The biannual newsletter of Julia Morgan School for Girls









JULIA MORGAN SCHOOL·FOR·GIRLS

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While tuition funds the majority of our budget, we depend on philanthropy to bridge the gap to reach the full amount needed to support our students. The Girls Fund is Julia Morgan School for Girls' annual giving campaign. Gifts to The Girls Fund support:

- tuition assistance– benefitting 50% of current students,
- hands-on experiences, outdoor education trips, and field trips that make learning engaging and accessible for students with all learning styles,
- equipment and supplies that create equitable access to instruments, technology, and lab equipment,
- professional development that keeps faculty and staff up to date on innovative teaching methods and helps retain exceptional teachers.

Ways to Give

We offer several giving options to best suit your needs, including check, credit card, gifts of stock, Donor Advised Funds, and planned giving.

Learn more or make your gift today at www.juliamorganschool.org/support.

A Message from Leadership



Dear Julia Morgan School for Girls Community,

When I arrived at Julia Morgan this fall, I told our students that I was new, too — that we were beginning something together. Looking back now, I can say with certainty: what a year it has been.

Our school community embraced a unifying theme this year: **Make People Feel Seen.** This idea— that every person deserves to feel noticed, important, and needed — shaped how we showed up for one another in classrooms, in hallways, on the field, and on stage. Our students didn't just learn the concept; they lived it. They welcomed new classmates, supported friends through difficult moments, and cheered one another on with remarkable consistency.

This year brought so much to celebrate. Our students led school assemblies, performed on stage, competed on courts and fields, presented original work, and ran our entire 8th grade graduation ceremony. They participated in group projects, musical ensembles, and team sports. They engaged in hands-on STEAM learning, outdoor education experiences, and a parent education series through Cornerstone Conversations that deepened our whole-community dialogue.

This year also called us to honor two irreplaceable members of our community. After 25 years, Marcia — a founding board member whose vision helped shape this school from its very beginning— retired. And after 20 years of steadfast dedication, Lorraine — who brought our beloved Gift of Giving program to life — also retired. Together, they gave 45 years to this school, and their impact will be felt for generations to come.

"We are building a legacy not just for the students who are here today, but for the families and young women who have not yet found their way to us."

We are also at a pivotal moment in our school's story. As we actively explore a future site for Julia Morgan, we are building a legacy not just for the students who are here today, but for the families and young women who have not yet found their way to us. The generosity and belief of this community makes that future possible.

To our Class of 2026: you have shown us what courage, compassion, and community truly look like. Carry forward the confidence you built here, and continue to be the kind of people who notice others, include others, and lift others up. The world needs more people like you.

To our entire community — thank you for showing up, for believing in our students, and for investing in their future. It is the privilege of my life to serve this school.

With gratitude,

Kathrina Weekes

Kathrina Weekes
Head of School

Women of Courage

THE 13TH ANNUAL EVENT IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS



This January, the community gathered for an evening defined by courage, remembrance, and hope. Students, families, and community members filled the room to hear from extraordinary women whose work shatters ceilings, strengthens communities, and models fearless leadership.

Guided by curiosity and confidence, six Julia Morgan students led the evening's conversation—conducting interviews, posing thoughtful questions, and inviting meaningful dialogue with the panelists. The student leaders took the stage, demonstrating the courage and voice the event seeks to nurture in every student. This year's panel featured three remarkable changemakers:

- **Ninive Calegari** — Founder and president of the Teacher Salary Project, co-founder of 826 Valencia and 826 National writing projects, and former CEO of Enterprise for Youth.
- **Honey Mahogany** — Founder of The Transgender District, Director of the San Francisco Office of Transgender Initiatives, and alum of RuPaul's Drag Race.
- **Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris** — Physician, author, patient advocate, and former presidential appointee to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee of the Office of Minority Health.



Student reflections captured the impact of both the preparation and the event itself. As Nia shared, "One of the panelists that I was really excited about was Honey Mahogany. I find her really inspiring. She is hardworking, courageous and such an inspiration for everyone!"

The experience was also an opportunity for students to grow as leaders. Asha reflected, "This event helped me develop my leadership skills. I practiced taking initiative, helped delegate tasks that everyone understood, and communicated my ideas clearly."

Behind the scenes, the process required dedication and collaboration. As Gia noted, "The biggest challenge during the planning process was finding the time to work on our script and research. The commitment paid off when the event turned out amazing."



We extend our deepest thanks to our panelists for sharing their stories and inspiring our community with their courage. The Women of Courage celebration remains a treasured tradition—honoring those who came before us while empowering the next generation to stand tall, speak boldly, and lead with conviction.

Word Day

A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF LANGUAGE







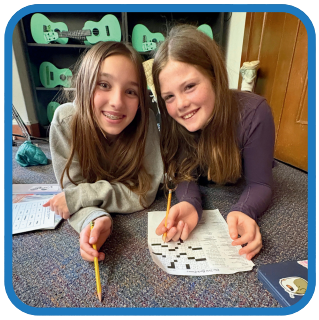
This February, our community came together for another inspiring and joy-filled Word Day. Teachers and administrators led dynamic "Wordshops" designed to celebrate the power of language in creative, interactive, and low-pressure ways—no grades, just curiosity and connection.



Students explored language from many angles, decoding imaginary alien grammar in "Martian for Beginners," creating playful challenges in "DIY Mad Libs," tracing word origins in "Etymology," rewriting song lyrics, and tackling crosswords and word games.

World languages and global traditions were also featured, with sessions in Japanese, Italian, and German, as well as movement-based storytelling in "¡Uno, dos, tres…Salsa!"

Meanwhile, creativity flourished in workshops that blended art and language. Students folded origami cranes paired with original haiku poems to create a collaborative hallway mobile. Others examined the "language" of herbs and plant medicine, or explored environmental journalism, learning how writers connect communities to the natural world.



A special highlight of Word Day was the opportunity for students to meet and learn from published authors Abbie Harlow, Anna Vangala Jones, and Eli Altman, who shared insights into the writing process and the many paths to becoming a storyteller. Their visits offered students a meaningful glimpse into how language moves from imagination to publication and inspired thoughtful conversations about voice, creativity, and craft.

Word Day 2026 was a true community endeavor. Teachers collaborated across departments, supported one another in planning, and shared lesson materials to ensure that each Wordshop ran smoothly. The result was a day filled with laughter, insight, creativity, and meaningful exploration.

Most importantly, students experienced language not as an assignment, but as a living, breathing force—one that helps us tell stories, build relationships, express identity, and imagine new worlds.

Thank you to our inspiring visiting authors and our incredible faculty and staff who made Word Day such a success!

Innovation & Imagination

INVENTION CONVENTION: IMAGINING A BETTER WORLD THROUGH INNOVATION



On May 21, our community gathered to celebrate a year of creativity, problem-solving, and innovation at Julia Morgan School's annual Invention Convention.

The event showcased the incredible talent, collaboration, and imagination of our 8th-grade students, who proudly presented original inventions developed over months of research, design, testing, and refinement. Families, friends, faculty, and community members had the opportunity to visit student exhibits, interact with inventors, and learn firsthand about the inspiration and process behind each project.



Drawing on concepts from science, coding, engineering, design, and entrepreneurship, students worked in teams to identify real-world challenges and develop innovative solutions. Many of the inventions were inspired by students' GO GIRL experiences and partnerships with organizations throughout the East Bay, reflecting a deep commitment to addressing community needs and creating positive change.

Throughout the evening, students confidently demonstrated prototypes, answered questions, and shared the stories behind their work. Each team also developed a thoughtful business plan, gaining valuable experience in market research, budgeting, branding, and presentation skills.



The Invention Convention highlighted much more than technical knowledge. Through the process, students strengthened essential skills in collaboration, communication, project management, critical thinking, and public speaking. As visitors engaged with exhibits ranging from environmental innovations to products designed to improve everyday life, it was clear that our students were not only learning academic concepts—they were learning how to turn ideas into action.

Science teacher Suzanne said, "We are incredibly proud of our 8th-grade inventors and all that they accomplished through this year's Invention Convention."



The evening served as a powerful reminder of what is possible when young people are encouraged to think boldly, solve problems creatively, and share their ideas with confidence.

"We are incredibly proud of our 8th grade inventors and all that they accomplished through this year's Invention Convention."

ANNUAL ART SHOW SHOWCASES STUDENT VOICE AND VISION



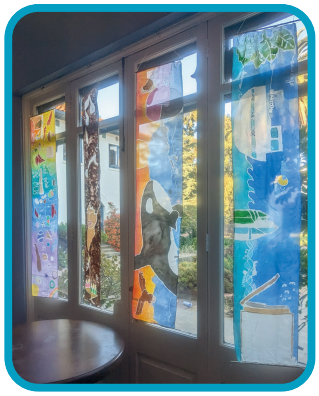
This year's Art Show at Julia Morgan School for Girls was a vibrant celebration of creativity, craftsmanship, and student voice. Families and community members explored galleries filled with textiles, books, murals, ceramics, masks, paintings, and more, each reflecting the imagination and care students brought to their artistic work throughout the year.

In 6th grade art, students explored the joy of creative play through "Splat Paintings," where paint-soaked yarn and spontaneous mark-making encouraged students to let go of perfectionism and embrace "happy accidents." Students also created detailed texture drawings inspired by artist Alphonso Dunn, learning how line, pattern, and value can create realistic three-dimensional forms. Additional projects included monochromatic self-portraits exploring color theory, blue-and-white ceramic-inspired vessels influenced by Chinese pottery traditions, and Aboriginal art-inspired dot paintings that encouraged students to reflect on the stories and symbols they would want future generations to discover about life today.



Seventh graders examined identity, culture, and social change through a wide range of projects. Their Identity Masks invited students to reflect on the visible and hidden aspects of themselves, while block-printed textile tote bags combined design, printmaking, and sewing skills. Students also curated thoughtful mini three-work exhibitions inspired by themes and artistic connections they discovered independently. In the spring, students traveled to San Francisco's Mission District to study public murals before creating collaborative Social Justice Murals inspired by activists, movements, and calls to action connected to issues they care deeply about.

In 8th grade electives, students explored both traditional craftsmanship and personal storytelling. In Book Arts, students designed and constructed handmade books while learning drafting, measurement, and sewing techniques. In Silk Painting, students studied the ancient art of sericulture and used family stories, ancestry, and cultural heritage as inspiration for beautifully painted silk scarves accompanied by artist statements.



The Art Show beautifully demonstrated how art at Julia Morgan encourages students to take creative risks, develop technical skills, explore identity and history, and communicate ideas that matter to them. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who helped install the show and to everyone who joined us in celebrating a year of artistic exploration and creative expression.



Academic Excellence & Belonging

AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION



This January, students put their problem-solving skills to the test by participating in the American Mathematics Competition 8 (AMC 8)—a prestigious national contest designed for middle school students in grade 8 or below. Held annually in January and administered by the Mathematical Association of America, the AMC 8 is a competition that promotes deep mathematical thinking across topics such as counting, probability, geometry, and number theory.

For many students, the experience offered both excitement and intellectual stretch. Seventh grader Molly shared, "It's fun to do a competition because it's challenging. It stretches the limits while also affirming my knowledge."

Faculty members see the competition as an important opportunity to cultivate perseverance and curiosity in mathematics. Math teacher Katie Martin Selcraig reflected, "It's meaningful to offer this opportunity to students who are looking for greater challenge in problem solving. Competitions on this level are an excellent way to practice growth mindset for even the strongest mathematician. I'm really proud of everyone who competed this year and last year for being willing to take the risk and try their best."

Participation in the AMC 8 reflects Julia Morgan School for Girls' commitment to nurturing confidence, critical thinking, and joyful exploration in STEM. By engaging in rigorous academic challenges within a supportive community, students continue to discover the power of persistence—and the excitement of mathematics.

PEOPLE OF COLOR IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE: ROOTS TO RESILIENCE



On March 21, Julia Morgan School for Girls hosted the 2026 People of Color in Independent Schools (PoCIS) Northern California Conference, bringing together educators from across the region. Centered on the theme "Roots to Resilience," the day featured engaging workshops, meaningful dialogue, and opportunities for connection.

Keynote speaker Elena Aguilar inspired attendees to reflect on leadership, resilience, and the ongoing work of building more equitable school communities. The conference also emphasized wellness and collective care, creating space for reflection alongside professional learning.



The day concluded with a social gathering, leaving participants energized and connected in their shared commitment to equity and belonging.

Taking the Stage

PERFORMERS SHINE AT THE SPRING CONCERT



A Standing Ovation for Our Spring Concert Performers!

This May, families and friends were treated to an inspiring showcase of creativity, confidence, and artistic expression. From lively songs and energetic dances to original musical compositions, students demonstrated an impressive range of talents and the dedication they brought to preparing for this special event.

The concert was a wonderful celebration of our students' hard work, collaboration, and joy in the performing arts. Congratulations to all who participated in making this memorable performance a success!

6TH GRADE BRINGS *THE GREATEST SHOWMAN* TO LIFE



This spring, sixth graders dazzled audiences with a joyful and heartfelt production of *The Greatest Showman*—a celebration of courage, imagination, belonging, and the confidence to step into the spotlight.

From the opening number to the final reprise, students brought energy, commitment, and creativity to every scene and demonstrated not only their growing performance skills, but also remarkable teamwork, resilience, and care for one another.

The story's message felt especially fitting for this stage of middle school: that confidence is something we build, that family includes the communities we create, and that everyone deserves to belong.



We are deeply grateful to the parents and families who supported the show in countless ways—helping students practice, coordinating logistics, creating costumes, designing and building sets, organizing backstage operations, and making sure every detail came together. Their generosity of time and talent created an unforgettable experience for our students.

Most of all, we celebrate our sixth graders for their courage and commitment. Performing a musical requires vulnerability, collaboration, and perseverance—and these students showed all three in abundance. We couldn't be more proud of what they accomplished together.

Bravo to our cast, musicians, crew, faculty, and families for an incredible production—and thank you for reminding us all that the greatest show is the one we create together.

Building a Culture of Giving

IT'S BACK! THE SPRING SOIRÉE

This May, our community gathered at the Spring Soirée—Julia Morgan's first fundraising event in more than a decade—for an evening of celebration and connection at Sequoyah Country Club. Current families, alum parents, founding board members, faculty, staff, and friends of the school enjoyed delicious bites, refreshments, lively raffle and bidding opportunities, and memorable time together in support of Julia Morgan.

Together, attendees raised an incredible $38,000 for The Athena Fund, helping strengthen our tuition assistance endowment and ensure access to a Julia Morgan education for years to come. A highlight of the evening was a heartfelt tribute to Marcia and Lorraine (see p.11), including a moving community video filled with appreciation and well wishes.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, volunteered, donated, and helped make the Spring Soirée such a memorable and meaningful success.












READ TO LEAD: OUR FIRST ANNUAL READ-A-THON

This spring marked the inaugural Read to Lead read-a-thon—an inspiring celebration of reading, women's voices, and collective impact. Over the course of two weeks, students immersed themselves in books written by female authors, logging minutes and gathering pledges. Students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, discovering new authors, deepening their love of reading, and supporting one another along the way.

Highlights included exciting prizes for top readers, and a well-earned pizza party for the 7th grade for the most minutes read. Congratulations to the students with the most minutes read, including 1st prize winner Francesca, 2nd prize winner Rose, and 3rd prize winner: Iona (pictured below).

While the competition added to the fun, the true accomplishment was what the community achieved together. Every page turned contributed to a shared goal, raising nearly $10,000 for our endowment, The Athena Fund, expanding access to a Julia Morgan education and strengthening the school's commitment to equity and opportunity.

Thank you to our students, families, and volunteers for making Read to Lead such a meaningful and successful new tradition.







EVENTS COMMITTEE

Heartfelt gratitude to the events committee for making these events a success!

Nina Ball, Kitty Esparrago, Lauren Grayman, Carla Lo Coco, Molly Webb, and Gale Wichmann

CLASS GIFT COMMITTEE

Continuing a longstanding tradition, 8th grade families contributed $6,170 to the endowment as their legacy gift. Thank you to everyone who donated and to the class gift committee.

Bahareh Nowee Airomloo, Soung Bae, Michele Brown, Kitty Esparrago, and Miranda Surjadi

Faculty Spotlight



This year we say farewell to two of the school's true pioneers as they head into retirement: Marcia and Lorraine. With deep gratitude, we thank them for over 20 years of service and wish them all the best!

CELEBRATING MARCIA BEDFORD: A LEGACY OF VOICE, VISION, AND CONNECTION



When Marcia first arrived at Julia Morgan School for Girls, it was still taking shape—full of possibility, creativity, and big questions about what it could become. Having joined the board in the school's earliest days, she stepped into her role as Assistant Head of School and Director of Admissions in 2001, just as the founding classes were coming together. Those early years, she recalls, were "a whirlwind"—energizing, demanding, and deeply meaningful.

Marcia didn't just witness Julia Morgan's beginnings—she helped build them. From shaping admissions to advising the first graduating class, she worked alongside colleagues and students to create traditions that still define the school today. Whether it was naming student groups like Lupines and Poppies or designing experiences that balanced creativity with sustainability, every decision carried a sense of responsibility: what they built would become legacy.

"There was a lot of deep thinking," she reflects. "We knew whatever we did would become part of the history and tradition."

Over 25 years, that foundation has grown and evolved. While the framework of Julia Morgan remains strong, Marcia notes that its programming and events have continually adapted, shaped by the creativity and passion of faculty. Working under visionary leadership pushed the community to think expansively—sometimes adding more than seemed possible—but always in service of students.

At the heart of Marcia's work has always been a deep belief in the transformative power of education—especially for girls. Inspired by her own experience at a women's college, she has been committed to helping students find their voices earlier, with confidence and clarity.



"I don't remember being asked, 'What do you think?' until college," she shares. "Here, we give students that opportunity sooner."

That philosophy has guided her work with generations of students, whom she describes as insightful, funny, and deeply engaged in understanding themselves and the world. In return, they've taught her to laugh, to stay grounded, and to embrace the ongoing process of growth. "You can't sidestep it," she says of personal development. "You have to go through it."

Perhaps one of the most meaningful affirmations of her impact comes years later, when alums return. "They'll come back and it's like we're picking up the same conversation," she says. "There's an energy and connection that stays with you."

"You don't have to make the world more comfortable. Keep using your voice."



Marcia credits the visionary leadership that she worked with at Julia Morgan for making her into the person and professional that she is today. "My career in education in California has been more than I ever could imagine-- tremendously fulfilling," she says. "It's because of the amazing mentors I've had, colleagues I've worked with and friends I have made."

As she looks ahead to retirement, Marcia is excited to reclaim her time and explore long-held interests—from meditation to mosaic art to returning to martial arts, where she once earned a brown belt in judo. It's a new chapter grounded in the same curiosity and creativity that defined her career.

Her message to students—and to the entire community—is both powerful and enduring: You are already enough. In a world that often encourages young people, especially girls, to shrink or adapt to fit others' expectations, Marcia urges students to hold fast to who they are. "You don't have to make the world more comfortable," she says. "Keep using your voice."

It's a message she has lived every day—and a legacy that will continue to shape the school for years to come.

HONORING LORRAINE SMITH: A CAREER OF CARE, CURIOSITY, AND COMMUNITY



From the moment Lorraine first stepped onto campus, she knew there was something special about Julia Morgan School for Girls. After nine years in public education, she was struck not only by the beauty of the physical space, but by the feeling it carried. "I felt at home right away," she recalls. Accepting the position marked the realization of a long-held dream.

Over the years, Lorraine has become a cornerstone of the community, bringing both warmth and intellectual rigor to her work as a history and social studies teacher.

For her, teaching middle school has always meant engaging students at a pivotal moment—when they are beginning to grow from children into young women, open to new ideas and discovering their place in the world.

One of the traditions that has meant the most to Lorraine is graduation. Unique in its structure, every student speaks—each voice heard, each story valued. "It's a wonderful way to end the year," she says. "The students feel proud, and we feel proud of them."

She also treasures the smaller, everyday moments that build community, like singing "Happy Birthday" at All School Meeting. "It's simple," she notes, "but it creates a sense of equity and intimacy that makes our community strong."

Lorraine has also left her mark through traditions she helped shape, including the Gift of Giving—an event rooted in joy, generosity, and connection. For her, it reflects the best of Julia Morgan: students coming together to share their talents while giving back.

In the classroom, Lorraine has guided students through the complexities of history, encouraging them to grapple with difficult truths while maintaining a sense of hope. For many, her classes are the first time they encounter history as layered and nuanced—a space where critical thinking, research, and writing skills deepen alongside personal understanding.



"The human story is complex," she says. "But students learn they can hold that knowledge and still move forward with optimism."

As she reflects on her career, Lorraine expresses deep gratitude for her colleagues and the shared commitment to Julia Morgan's mission. She credits the community—and its founding vision—for creating a space where both students and faculty can thrive.

"The human story is complex. But students learn they can hold that knowledge and still move forward with optimism."

Now, as she steps into retirement, Lorraine looks ahead with a sense of openness and curiosity. While travel is on the horizon, she is most excited by something less defined: the opportunity to embrace the unknown. "It's a privilege to not know what comes next," she says. "I'm excited for this next chapter."

Her parting hope for the school is simple but heartfelt: that it continues to be a safe, nurturing place for middle school students. It's a mission she has embodied throughout her career—and one she hopes will remain at the center of Julia Morgan for years to come.

Even in retirement, Lorraine hopes to stay connected to the community she loves. And if the many returning alums she's taught are any indication—students who arrive in high school well-prepared and confident—her impact will continue to be felt for generations.





Alum Spotlight

DIFFERENT PATHS, SHARED FOUNDATION: HOW JULIA MORGAN SHAPED SISTERS CHANEL '02 AND SHANA '04

At Julia Morgan School for Girls, learning is never one-size-fits-all—and the stories of sisters Chanel and Shana Johnson are living proof. Though their personalities, talents, and professional journeys could not be more different, both women trace their confidence, curiosity, and drive back to the same middle school experience.



Today, Chanel Johnson is a community builder, cultural producer, and strategist whose career has spanned the White House, Silicon Valley, and large-scale civic events across the Bay Area. After Julia Morgan, she graduated from high school and went on to UC Davis. During college, she became energized by civic engagement efforts during the Obama presidency and began organizing voter outreach in overlooked communities. That work led to an internship with the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs.

From there, Chanel pivoted into tech—spending eight years at Apple building new programs and teams from the ground up. She later worked at Williams-Sonoma, then Meta, helping integrate inclusion and accessibility into emerging technologies at the earliest stages of development. Today, Chanel runs her own event and community design work, producing large-scale cultural and civic events—from a celebration honoring journalist Belva Davis to community events for Mayor Barbara Lee. She also leads a youth African diasporic dance conference and helps produce the annual Taste of Africa Festival, which brings thousands of people together.



Chanel vividly remembers immersive classroom moments: dressing up during history and participating in student-led conferences where she drove the conversation about her progress. "I got to advocate for myself early," she explains. "That made performance reviews later in life feel less intimidating."

She also recalls the unique culture of the school—being invited to call teachers by their first names. That subtle shift helped her see adults as collaborators and mentors rather than distant authority figures.

Her younger sister, Shana, remembers the same school through a different lens. Where Chanel gravitated toward leadership and performance, Shana excelled in math and science. From Julia Morgan, Shana graduated high school, earned a gymnastics scholarship to UC Berkeley, completed a master's degree in public health and nutrition at NYU, and built a career in clinical nutrition. She has worked in diabetes research, completed a competitive dietetic internship at UCSF, and most recently served as a pediatric dietitian supporting patients across specialties from gastroenterology to cardiology. She now works at Stanford Children's Health while growing her own private practice, RaeNewed Nutrition.



Looking back, Shana says she didn't fully appreciate Julia Morgan's distinctiveness until high school. "When I got to high school, there were freshman books I'd already read," she recalls. "I realized how far ahead we were."

What stands out most are the immersive, hands-on experiences: making paper by hand, designing Japanese silk scarves, preparing sushi in class, and engaging deeply with cultural traditions rather than simply

reading about them. Julia Morgan's creative exposure expanded Shana's worldview and sparked her love of travel, food, and cultural exploration—interests that now inform her work in nutrition and patient care.

She also remembers bringing and decorating a personal chair to school, a tradition that's still alive today. "I had never purchased a chair before," she laughs. "But it made the space feel like ours.

Both sisters speak with deep appreciation about Julia Morgan's all-girls environment. Chanel describes feeling empowered to speak directly and confidently, even emailing corporate vice presidents early in her career because she had never internalized the idea that hierarchy should silence her. Shana, naturally more reserved, credits the school with gently pushing her into plays and leadership roles she might not have chosen on her own. "I can be shy," she says. "But Julia Morgan gave me space to use parts of myself I didn't normally use."

"Even now, my friends don't all know where I went for high school or college, but they all know where I went for middle school."

Importantly, neither sister felt overshadowed by the other's strengths. Chanel was the outspoken one; Shana was the analytical one. One danced and dabbled in multiple sports; the other focused intensely on gymnastics and science. Yet both found rigor, support, and affirmation.

"If you're STEM-focused, you'll meet the rigor," Chanel says. "If you're not, the school won't crush your confidence on your worst day."



Today, Chanel is raising three daughters and intentionally passing along the "Four C's: creative, capable, confident, and compassionate" from Julia Morgan. Shana is preparing to welcome twin boys while expanding her nutrition practice. Both remain close with friends from middle school—standing in each other's weddings, still singing songs they learned together.

Chanel says, "Even now, my friends don't all know where I went to high school or college, but they all know where I went for middle school."

Their journeys diverged, but their foundation was shared: immersive learning, strong mentorship, cultural curiosity, and the unwavering belief that their voices mattered.

"That freedom—to be fully myself—was everything," Chanel says.

For two very different sisters, Julia Morgan did not mold them into the same shape. Instead, it met each exactly where she was—and gave her the courage to become exactly who she is.

Alum News

We love hearing from alums! Share updates with development@juliamorganschool.org to be included in our next issue.

Class of 2002



Kayla Patrick-Calloway visited campus this spring, while she was in town. We were thrilled to reconnect! After her visit, she looked back on her time here and shared, "As part of Julia Morgan School for Girls' founding class, I had the opportunity to grow up in an all girls environment at a time when it was still uncommon to see women leading in spaces like science, technology, and public life. Julia Morgan gave me opportunities to see women in those positions and made it clear from an early age that I belonged in every room I wanted to be in and that what I had to say mattered. That confidence has stayed with me, from raising my hand in class to taking my research to national platforms like MSNBC, speaking at convenings across the country, and engaging directly with leaders at the White House.

It was also at Julia Morgan that my passion for addressing inequities and removing barriers for underserved communities first took shape. I carried that foundation with me to Wellesley College, where I continued to grow as a thinker and leader. After grad school, my work at the National Women's Law Center deepened that commitment, where I honed my understanding of the importance of breaking down barriers for women and girls. While I have always seen myself as a researcher and advocate, I was called into public service during the Biden-Harris Administration and answered that call with a clear sense of purpose.

Today, I live in Washington, DC with my husband and spend my days doing work I care deeply about, helping to shape education policy so more students have access to the kind of opportunities and experiences that shaped me. We need strong, empathetic, curious, and confident leaders now more than ever, and I am grateful that Julia Morgan helped set me on that path."

Class of 2009

Violet Kozloff is starting a job at Oakland Children's Hospital to support babies, children, and their families during and after medical events. Last year she was the maid of honor for her best friend from Julia Morgan - **Amanda Crego-Emley**! "We have been friends for 20 years, since we met in 6th grade art class!" she says.

She credits Julia Morgan with helping her, "know myself, have confidence in my academic skills, and build lifelong friendships. I wouldn't have chosen a women's college (Wellesley College) without Julia Morgan School for Girls."



Class of 2010



LiLi Pigott works for the Seattle Girls' School as the Development Coordinator. Her primary role is raising money for tuition assistance, but she is also the adult leader of the adoptee affinity, co-leader of the API affinity, cross country coach, and chaperone of the 6th grade bike trip.

LiLi shares, "Working for SGS has made me appreciate Julia Morgan even more-- and makes me miss the joy and bliss of being a middle schooler!"



Cristina Riani lives in Beaverton, OR with her husband (married May 31, 2025) in the house they bought last summer. They honeymooned in Europe for 21 days. She also runs her own business, Riani Coaching, as a Holistic Task Completion coach. She recently led her third successful Unshaming Procrastination workshop and is working on monetizing it, bringing it to more people, and offering workshops for organizations or in specific communities.

She reflects, "Julia Morgan School for Girls helped empower me to advocate for myself and follow my dreams. I was super prepared for honors level classes across subjects in high school. I learned good study habits and academics in addition to interpersonal skills. I also have lifelong friends I made at Julia Morgan, with whom I am still very close."

Class of 2013



Anna Kristina Moseidjord is currently in graduate school at UC Berkeley, studying Public Policy (Environmental/Natural Resources). Looking back, she says, "I still think about Julia Morgan School for Girls readings, classes, and friends!"

Class of 2016



Asha Dev is working as the Director of Communications at Gideon Strategic Partners, a Los Angeles based Registered Investment Advisor. In her free time, she likes to be creative. Last year, she did Production Design on a couple short films and also put out her first single. She is currently working on an EP.

Class of 2018

Zoe (Zoya) Elias has one more year at University of San Francisco before officially becoming a nurse. "Julia Morgan instilled in me the values that shape the way I deliver care to my patients. Being a confident, compassionate, capable, and creative nurse, I am able to show up as my best self for patients and create a positive healing environment," she shares.

Class of 2019

Gabriela Selk Anagnos is currently a junior at the University of Oregon, pursuing a BA in Political Science and minoring in legal studies. After graduation in June 2027, she plans to pursue a career in Law or International Relations.

"Julia Morgan School for Girls prepared me for high school, college, and life, fostering my skills of independence, adaptability, communication, and team work," she says. "The school helped me feel more confident not only in myself but in my academic capabilities as well while giving me a strong sense of community and support."

Wren Schely is about to begin her senior year at Reed college. She attributes her communication style to her time at Julia Morgan. "I came out of middle school knowing how to contact my teachers or any other school resource for support or just a chat," she shares.

Class of 2022

Ella Kligman will attend USC for business next fall.

"Without my time at Julia Morgan School for Girls, I wouldn't have had the confidence to apply to college as a business major," she says. "I came into Julia Morgan as a shy 6th grader who didn't believe in myself. My three years at Julia Morgan helped to reprogram this belief, and by the time I entered high school, I was confident in my math and STEM abilities. I am so grateful to Marcia and Kathrina for upholding the Julia Morgan mission and creating an environment where the next generation of middle school girls can thrive."



Class of 2024



Aleya Joshi will be spending her summer in Medellín, Colombia where she's volunteering at Casa de Ejercicios Espirituales Nueva Aurora, helping to develop and lead summer activities, including teaching English to kids ages 5-13. She looks forward to staying with a local host family and practicing her Spanish.

Alums in Community

ALUM ENCORE



Julia Morgan School for Girls was thrilled to welcome alums back for our Alum Encore event—an evening filled with laughter, reconnection, and shared memories. The reception, held prior to the 6th grade musical, gave alums the chance to enjoy treats, reconnect with one another, and spend time with faculty and staff before the performance began.

It was wonderful to see graduates from the Classes of 2025, 2024, 2016, and 2015 gathered together once again, catching up with former classmates and sharing updates about their current adventures and accomplishments. From recent graduates beginning high school journeys to older alums returning with years of new experiences, the evening was a meaningful reminder that the Julia Morgan family extends far beyond graduation.

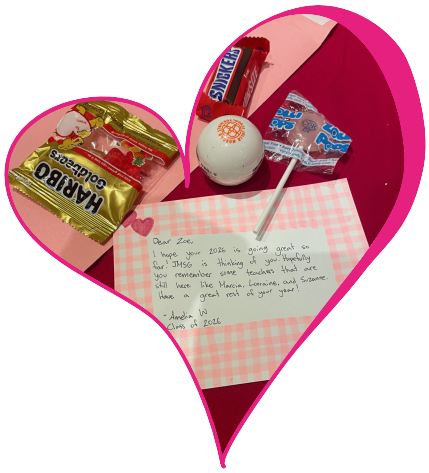
After the reception, many alums stayed to watch the 6th grade musical, cheering on the next generation of students and enjoying the energy and creativity of the performance. The evening beautifully reflected the lasting connections that make the Julia Morgan community so special.

We are so grateful to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success. We look forward to creating even more opportunities for our alum community to stay connected in the years ahead!









VALENTINE'S DAY CARE PACKAGES

Once a Julia Morgan alum, always a Julia Morgan alum!

This February, our college age alums were sent a little love from current students and their families. Students wrote and decorated notes of encouragement and parents donated sweet Valentine's Day treats. The care packages not only helped connect students past and present, but truly embodied our shared mission of creating the future of compassionate young women.

Thank you to our parent community for donating and volunteering!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Our alums are thriving around the world, with updates from Argentina, Australia, and Ireland. Current undergrad students are attending colleges and universities across the country, including:



ALUM COMMITTEE

Thank you to these alums for guiding this year's initiatives and events:

Abbie Urban '18
Abigail Rome '25
Alexa Landazuri '03
Claudia Homann '25
Elena Cohen '15
Emi Jerome '08
Fern Vyda '25
Lexi Zhu '21
Lily Slack '25
Ruby Shere '25
Tess Curet '03

MENTORSHIP COMMUNITY

We're launching an alum mentorship initiative designed to connect graduates across shared interests and career paths. So far we have alums in the fields of Law, Health & Medicine, Government, and Engineering.

Whether you'd like to seek advice, offer guidance, share experiences, or simply expand your network within the Julia Morgan community, we'd love for you to participate. And no matter where you live, you can be involved virtually!

Alums: to join our committee or mentorship community, email development@juliamorganschool.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

PRESENTING THE CLASS OF 2026!



Student Reflections

"I cried and I giggled and I argued and I learned." — Sophie

"I was able to drop my multiple masks and just be myself."
— Cassidy

"The best word to describe it is growth. I grew academically, emotionally, and most of all in my character." — Storm

"White water rafting... through all the harsh currents and jagged rocks, [my classmates] were there." — Finley

The class of 2026 will head to the following schools:

- Alameda High
- Bentley High
- Berkeley High
- Bishop O'Dowd High
- Branson School
- Campolindo High
- Cate School (boarding)
- College Preparatory School
- Encinal High
- Head Royce High
- Holy Names High
- Lick-Wilmerding High
- Los Lomas
- Miss Porter's School (boarding)
- Oakland High
- Piedmont High
- Saint Joseph's Notre Dame High
- Saint Mary's College High

TECH TREK BOUND



Rising 8th grader Rachel has been accepted into the highly regarded Tech Trek summer program, a weeklong STEM camp designed to inspire girls entering 8th grade to explore science, technology, engineering, and math. Sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Tech Trek provides hands-on learning experiences, mentorship from women in STEM fields, and a chance for students to envision future careers in science and technology.

Rachel joins a special family tradition—her older sister, a Julia Morgan alum, also participated in Tech Trek as a middle school student. We are thrilled to celebrate Rachel's achievement and look forward to hearing about her experiences this summer!

6TH GRADE NOVELS

Did you know that Julia Morgan students are also published authors? Check out the class of 2028's online bookstore, where you can purchase copies of their completed novels. Explore their work, read about their creative process, and celebrate the dedication and imagination that brought these stories to life.

HEARD AROUND CAMPUS

"A huge THANK YOU for providing a safe and honest place for the girls to process what is going on in the US both historically and politically right now. I appreciate you all so much." – current parent

"I just feel surrounded by a community that really, truly cares about me."
– rising 7th grader

"My daughter's Julia Morgan tuition was the best money I ever spent!" – parent of alum

"It is hard to put into words how much I value what you are doing. I see this being a life-changing experience." – current parent

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars now for next year's community events. We hope to see you there!

- Class of 2026 Reunion: October 15, 2026
- Women of Courage: February 4, 2027
- Spring Soirée: March 11, 2027
- Alum Encore: May 20, 2027

Your Logo Here

Event sponsors receive recognition and other fun benefits. To learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit juliamorganschool.org/support

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Parents of Alums: If this publication is addressed to your student who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, contact development@juliamorganschool.org to update their mailing address.









