

# Peninsula Bridge Connections

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Spring 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Peninsula Bridge Alumni Reunion

June 19, 2010  
4:00pm-7:00pm

@ Sacred Heart Preparatory  
150 Valparaiso Avenue  
Atherton, CA 94027

### 2010 Tour Schedule

Tuesday, June 29  
9:30am to 10:30am  
Castilleja

Wednesday, June 30  
11am to 12noon  
Castilleja

Thursday, July 1  
9:30am to 10:30am  
Woodside Priory

Tuesday, July 6  
12pm to 1pm  
Woodside Priory

Wednesday, July 7  
9:30am to 10:30am  
Sacred Heart Prep

Thursday, July 8  
12pm to 1pm  
Sacred Heart Prep

Tuesday, July 13  
9:30am to 10:30am  
Menlo School

Wednesday, July 14  
11am to 12noon  
Menlo School

Thursday, July 15  
9:30am to 10:30am  
St. Matthew's Episcopal

Tuesday, July 20  
1-2pm  
St. Matthew's Episcopal

Wednesday, July 21  
9:30am to 10:30am  
Crystal Springs Uplands

Thursday, July 22  
11am to 12noon  
Crystal Springs Uplands

## Peninsula Bridge Breakfast

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridge Builder's Society Breakfast, 'Passport to Success' was a huge triumph! Thank you to all who attended to support Peninsula Bridge. Demetra Jones Schoby, an alumnus of the Peninsula Bridge program, was our key note speaker. Since graduating from Peninsula Bridge in 1993, Demetra graduated from Spelman College, worked as an equity trader in San Francisco and is one of the early supporters of For Youth By Youth, a community based organization in East Palo Alto. Demetra's enthusiasm and passion for "giving back" were contagious.



In a year filled with economic uncertainty and many challenges, Peninsula Bridge raised funds that far exceeded our expectations thanks to our generous supporters. We hope to see you at our next breakfast scheduled October 13th, 2010 at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club.

*"Many of you have heard about a plane crash on February 17th that impacted an East Palo Alto neighborhood and Demetra Jones Schoby. On Wednesday morning, pieces of the small plane hit Demetra's home. Miraculously, no one was hurt but their home was damaged beyond repair. The community has come together to help Demetra and her family.*

*If you would like to help, a fund has been established at **California Bank and Trust**, 1735 E. Bayshore Rd. East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Fund name "Jones Family/Eppie's Daycare Fund."*

**Sacred Heart Preparatory** has also created a webpage for donations. Visit their website at [www.shschools.org/Page.aspx?pid=761](http://www.shschools.org/Page.aspx?pid=761)

## Coming of Age by Grainger Marburg, Executive Director



In the summer of 1990, a group of 26 middle school students from East Palo Alto cautiously stepped upon the Sacred Heart Prep campus and participated in the inaugural year of the Peninsula Bridge Program. Spearheaded by the indefatigably optimistic Les DeWitt and an enthusiastic Sister Peggy Brown, the Program quickly gained traction and expanded to Woodside Priory the following year. By 1994, Menlo, Castilleja and Crystal Springs Uplands had also joined the Peninsula Bridge family, and we recently welcomed St. Joseph's and St. Matthew's Episcopal as well, enabling us to reach almost 270 underserved students from East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, and San Mateo. As we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer, we will reflect upon the success of our first two decades and the positive impact we've had on so many lives. We've grown and matured a lot during those years, and are now poised to achieve new levels of success. We are coming of age. We owe a lot of thanks to our friends and supporters, and we hope you'll join us for one of our events or tours this year and help us recognize this important milestone in the organization's history.

For more information on the Alumni Reunion and tours, please contact Sherri Shaner at [sherri@peninsulabridge.org](mailto:sherri@peninsulabridge.org) 408-356-4561

## The Peninsula Bridge Program

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Our Annual Report for  
2009 will be out soon.  
Check it out at  
[www.peninsulabridge.org](http://www.peninsulabridge.org)  
under About Us



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Promoting academic and personal success for motivated  
middle school students from under-resourced communities.

### Invaluable Volunteers and Interns



One of the ways Peninsula Bridge has succeeded in expanding and delivering high quality programs is by soliciting the help of talented volunteers and interns. One such volunteer is Angie McPhaul, who is currently a student at Stanford University, majoring in Urban Studies. Angie began her journey with Peninsula Bridge in June of 2009 as a teacher's assistant at the Menlo site and worked after the program was over at our main office helping measure student achievement over the summer. Angie provided the Bridge program with valuable help, and she gained many resume-building experiences she can utilize in the future. In the

words of Angie, "the Bridge program provides opportunities for motivated, low income students to do great things". We would like to extend a huge thank you to Angie and all of the volunteers for making what we do possible.

We are currently seeking a volunteer to act as our Volunteer Coordinator. Requirements of this job include screening and placing volunteers within Bridge. Please contact the Bridge office at (650) 473-9461 if you are interested in the position.

### Bridge Connects with the Walton Family

One of the many facets of Bridge is our families with multiple children who are a part of the program. The Waltons, one of these families, have two alumni and one current Bridge student.



Mrs. Emy Walton explained, "the parents' job is to make it possible for the child to get a better education by sacrificing the simplest thing; time". Time, however, is not the only thing needed to help children succeed in their education. According to John Walton Sr., "Bridge is a way to level the playing field by providing equal academic opportunity. I say that in our family that mission has been accomplished. Our kids are definitely well prepared."

Jolene Walton is currently a junior at the University of Arizona. John Walton Jr., is in eighth grade awaiting acceptance into one of several prestigious high schools and James Walton is doing well in sixth grade at Beechwood School and will be attending the Sacred Heart Bridge Program this summer.

Many thanks to the foundations and corporations who have joined us in supporting our programs this year:

Borel Private Bank and Trust, Comerica Bank, DPR Foundation, eBay Foundation, Genentech Foundation, Koret Foundation, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space Company, Morgan Family Foundation, Morrison & Foerster LLP, Robert Half International, SanDisk Corporation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, SAP, Sobrato Foundation, Westly Foundation