

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Sonoma County Medical Association Alliance Foundation. Don't forget to add [alliance@scmaa.org](mailto:alliance@scmaa.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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# The Grapevine



E-newsletter of the SCMAA Foundation

February 2015

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

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[alliance@scmaa.org](mailto:alliance@scmaa.org)

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## Keeping the Alliance among your favorite organizations

2014-2015 Executive Board of Directors:

President -

[Shawn Devlin](#)

Secretary -

[Elizabeth Krainer- Huang](#)

Treasurer-

[Janet Lakshmanan](#)

VP Development (acting)

[Shawn Devlin](#)

VP Events -

[Sally Ebrahim](#)

VP Governance -

[Joni Schmidt](#)

VP Marketing and Communications -

[Maria Pappas](#)

VP Membership -

[Sheela Hodes](#)

VP Health Promotions -

[Cindy Popovich](#)

Greetings,

As each new year begins we have an opportunity to re-focus on the things that bring joy and meaning in our lives. It gives me great pleasure to list the Alliance as one of those things in my life. **This can be your time to consider learning more about one of our programs, taking part in a social event, or even joining a committee.** Sharing your time and talent is one of the most valuable things that can truly make a difference in not only this beloved organization, but also to your own life as well.

Here's what we have to look forward to in the coming months:

- \* February brings an occasion to celebrate as we enjoy Gala85! An evening event that will be sure to warm your heart as you celebrate **85 years of Alliance members and the organizations' accomplishments.**
- \* Garden Tour preparations go into high gear from now through May. This is our **community-wide event that brings together garden lovers, garden tourers, and folks who love spending a casual day with friends.** Be a part of this tradition!
- \* Perhaps this is the year that you consider stepping into a Board position? **The Nominating Committee would love to**

**VP Information**  
**Technology** - This position is OPEN. Please contact [Joni Schmidt](#)

**Advisory Board:**  
Lisa Sugarman, Meta Lightfoot, Gina Merwin, Barbara Ramsey

**Member At-Large:**  
Mary Schroeder

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday,**  
**February 28, 2015**  
*Gala85* - Celebrating a tradition of service to Sonoma County for 85 years

**Friday and Saturday**  
**May 15 and 16, 2015**  
24th Annual Garden Tour featuring gardens in West County

**hear from you!** Whether it's a way to develop your leadership skills or to take on an area that's brand new, becoming part of the Alliance team can be a fulfilling and fun way to spend your volunteer time.

In Good Health,  
Shawn Devlin

SCMAA & Foundation President



## 2015 Health Careers Scholarship available now

Do you know of a student looking to become a healthcare professional? Are they in need of scholarship funding to help make their educational journey a little smoother? The Health Careers Scholarship application is now available at the [10000 Degrees website](#). Part

of the process will be for the student to submit an essay so don't delay. The deadline for submitting an application is March 2, 2015.



***Imagine yourself all decked out with someplace special to go!***

We've got the perfect evening all prepared for you as the SCMA Alliance presents *Gala85*, our Anniversary Gala, celebrating the Alliance's 85 years of service to Sonoma County. Come join friends from the medical community as well as those from the greater community. The elegant gala includes a cocktail hour featuring unique Buy-In Parties, exciting ring raffle, a gourmet meal, live auction, dessert and dancing.

[BUY YOUR GALA85 TICKETS HERE](#)

## What's a Buy-In Party?

For the first time ever, we are so excited to offer Buy-In Parties. Those of you who attend this fabulous gala will have an opportunity to sign up for some very special experiences. Once you sign

up for it, you've "bought" it - hence the name "Buy-In" party. Here's one example of how it works:

## **SUPER SOUL SATURDAY**

**Saturday, May 9, 2015**

**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Hosts Sheela Hodes, Lisa Sugarman & Laurie Pousman** have put together a pampering experience full of healthy, organic gourmet snacks, lunch and desserts, a gratitude circle and meditation, yoga, and facials. With just 15 spots available at \$250 each, this Buy-In Party is sure to sell-out quickly. Make sure you're among those who gets to treat yourself to a world of relaxation.



Check out the [Gala85 Auction and Buy-In Party Catalog](#) for more unique and enriching items.

## **Raffle Tickets for your chance to win a stunning Tanzanite and Diamond Ring**

Created by **Dr. Scott Peterson**, the stunning 3.18 carat natural tanzanite surrounded by diamonds ring can be yours if you're the lucky winner of our Ring Raffle. Print your [Ring Raffle Ticket Order Form](#) and send it in TODAY! Need not be present to win.





*Laurie Pousman busily wrapping on "Wrap Day 2014"*



### **Give-a-Gift program brightens the season for foster youth**

We are truly humbled by the outpouring of generosity by 175 donors who made the wishes of 217 foster youth come true. Gift requests from the children ranged from winter coats, Legos, developmental toys, iPod shuffles as well as arts and crafts supplies. This year six bicycles were able to be given away.

For a third year in a row, **Austin Creek Elementary School** contributed to the Give-A-Gift program. With contributions of over \$1500 in gifts and gift cards, we are thrilled to have them as our partners. The Austin Creek Brownie Troop made blankets and wrapped stuffed animals around them for our infant children. Many thanks to the students for making such a difference in the lives of other children.

Wrapping all these wonderful gifts were a team of 15 Alliance members - "Santa's helpers" including new members **Elizabeth Bauer** and **Samantha Doemeny**. We're so happy to welcome them to this important and heartfelt work. Along with our thanks to these Wrap Day stars, we also thank our 6 shoppers this year including new members **Justine Athanassious** and **Marie Mintalucci**. We couldn't have done it without you!



### **Garden Tour 2015 Planning Underway**

We are so pleased to announce that our 24th annual Garden Tour will take place in West County visiting gardens in Sebastopol and Graton. The days of the tour will be Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16.

Volunteer opportunities are still open for those of you who would like to jump in and help in the planning of the tour. [Contact Garden Tour Chair Gail Dubinsky](#) to hear more about the committee and where your efforts might best align.

## Welcome to AMAA President elect Julie Newman

Incoming California Medical Association Alliance President Tricia Hunstock played host to one of our national leaders, Julie Newman, the next President of the American Medical Association Alliance. Julie highlighted the [new Physician Family Magazine](#), a publication created specifically for the families of physicians. She is impressed by the accomplishment of our county alliance and looks forward to sharing our success stories. (Pictured below: Julie Newman, Sally Ebrahim (VP Events), and Tricia Hunstock).



### JourneySafe assemblies: not just for students

Even if you don't have high school students, you are welcomed to attend the JourneySafe assembly. These are the upcoming dates and times should you wish to attend:

**Piner High School** (Santa Rosa) is scheduled for *March 3, 2015 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am*. **Technology High School** (Rohnert Park) will have the assembly on *April 17, 2015 from 8:15 am to 10:15 am*.

If you are interested in attending an assembly or would like to know how you can participate as part of the Health Promotions committee, please [contact Cindy Popovich](#).

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