

## STARSEARCHER'S EXPRESS

MAY PLAY 2011



*"To be a leader, you must be a reader!"*

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**Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3**

**PO Box 376**

**Moraga, California 945456**

**925-376-7126**

**<http://www.bethestaryouare.org>**

It is not now, and has never been, our intention to send this free newsletter to anyone who does not want it. If you received this in error, please respond with "REMOVE" on the subject line. Forward this to anyone who you think may be interested in its contents. If this was forwarded to you, and you want to receive it monthly, reply with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

[Visit our web site.](#)

Thank you.

## MAGNIFICENT MAY

The spring beauty of the month of May warms our body, mind, and hearts.

We celebrated the wonderful women in our



lives with Mother's Day, our teens are dressing up for Proms and Balls, baseball games are thriving not only in the stadiums but in our local parks, community events are plentiful, and our gardens are cloaked in their full blooming regalia. I love this time of year with the sunny weather, green hills, baby bunnies, chirping songbirds, and smiling faces.

The volunteers at [Be the Star You Are!®](#) have been truly active.



### **[BE THE STAR YOU ARE®](#)**

**[!](#)** is a 501 c3 charity dedicated to empowering women, families, and youth through improved literacy and increased positive media.

### **[BE THE STAR YOU ARE®](#)**

**[!](#)** has no religious or political agendas or affiliations.

**SHOUT OUTS** are in order for the dedicated work.

\*Jacqueline Tao reorganized our [Amazon store](#) and has been working feverishly with Vivien Lee to orchestrate the upcoming Moraga Faire event and charity car wash.

\*Steven Zhou designed the [flyer](#) for the car wash as well as created our coupons and tickets.

\*Eric Pawlakos researched, wrote, and submitted two grants for our literacy programs.

\*Courtney Cheng has read and reviewed several books for the STAR Teen Book Review Team under the chairmanship of energetic Gaby Gyrko.

\*Our radio guest coordinator, Angela Siekman, is grateful for the weekly radio research provided by the Katherine Kim and Jyothi Jayapal.

\*Director Robert Mohr, completed the [new video](#) for our book, [Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS](#).

\*Besides working with Robert as a videographer, Shari Dyer donated a new web site for our programs.

\*Steven Zhou is the new BTSYA teen site web master and Courtney Cheng is the writing coordinator.

\*Sean Wraith hand wrote 155 Letters for Literacy while Kim Carlson maintains the web site.

\*Heather Brittany continues to co-produce and co-host our T42 segment on [Starstyle®-Be the Star You Are!®](#)

\*Over 40 volunteers will be participating in the [Moraga Faire and Car Wash](#), and more exciting collaborations are on the horizon.

Thank you all for your magnificence and

## MIRACLE MOMENT®

*"Build a dream and the dream will build you."*

*Robert Schuller*

## WE WANT YOUR THOUGHTS!

At [Be the Star You Are!®](#) we are constantly striving to increase literacy and positive messages. We'd really like to get your feedback on these questions. Email us at [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org).

\*In your opinion, how does the inability to read and write impact the lives of Americans?

\*Does age impact one's ability to learn how to read and write?

\*Considering federal education programs such as No Child Left Behind, why do you think illiteracy remains a problem in the U.S.?

\*What do you believe is the solution to illiteracy in America?

\*Is violence in the media

Thank you all for your magnificence and beneficence. We are building dreams and growing leaders here at [Be the Star You Are!®](#).

Hope to see you at our upcoming events and if you can't attend or volunteer, I encourage you to dig deeper and [donate](#).

May you have a magnificent May. And play, play, play!

Cynthia Brian

[Founder/Executive Director](#)

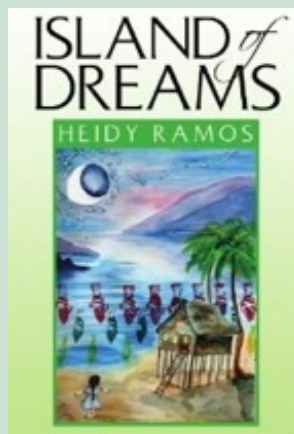
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## AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT



**HEIDI RAMOS, Author of [Island of Dreams](#) and [Secret Whispers](#)**

[Heidy Ramos](#) grew up in Mactan, Lapu-Lapu in the Philippines. As the single mother of five children who are the joy of her heart, Heidy has penned two books to honor them as well as leave a legacy of love. *Island of Dreams* focuses on her abusive childhood growing up in painful poverty on a beautiful small island, abandoned by her mother, and never knowing her father, where her singular respite was the sea. After her divorce from husband number three, the writer and poet in Heidy was awakened. *Secret Whispers* is the result- a book of



instigating more violence on the streets?



Are you an author who needs a book review? Be the Star You Are!® provides a special book review service for a tax deductible contribution of \$150.00 per book. We'll read the book, write a review, and post it at various on-line sites. Email us for details. [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org).



## WISHES

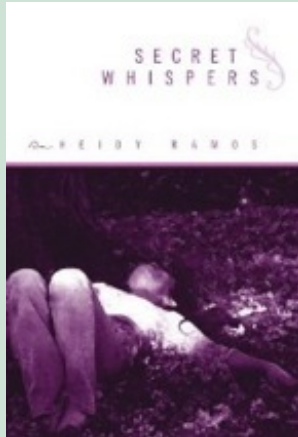
Be the Star You Are!® has compiled a short wish list. We hope you can help. Email [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org)

\* [Stamps \(available\)](#)

poetry inspired by the men she loves and once loved through heartbreak and triumph.

[Read a review of Island of Dreams. Books are available on Amazon.](#)

Listen to [Radio Interview with Heidy Ramos](#)



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## FAIRE FUN & CAR WASH

Saturday, May 14 from 9:30 to 5:00pm come to the Moraga Community Faire for a full day of family activities including a car show, music, art, food, wine tastings, and activities for children.

Visit the [Be the Star You Are!® booth](#) for free face painting for the children, discounted books, and sales of fresh organic lemons, eggs, mint, and lavender. Mention you read it about it in the StarSearcher's Express and receive a bag of complimentary potpourri.

Buy a discount ticket for a car wash for the charity car wash happening next door at the STAR Service Station, 398 Rheem Blvd/Moraga Rd. where the volunteers will also be selling homemade baked

\* Stamps (we'll take any denomination)

\* Public Relations firm to provide pro bono services

\* Buy cases of our signature Be the Star You Are!® book series

\*Donate \$99 & we'll ship a case of new books valued at \$500 to the cause of your choice.

\*Buy our T-shirts and Books (\$15-\$20)

[\*\*DONATE HERE\*\*](#)

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## LITERACY KUDOS

Forbes Magazine announced that GreatSchools.org ranked the Moraga School District in California the 4th best school district in the nation behind Falmouth Maine, Barrington, Rhode Island, & Pella, Iowa. What these areas have in common is that they are small communities with between 10,000 and 37,000 residents.

They share these key assets- devoted teachers, challenging curricula, involved parents, parcel taxes for schools, and vibrant cultures of achievement. Bravo Moraga! It's no coincidence that Moraga is the home of literacy charity, [Be the](#)



goods and [Read, Lead, Succeed T-shirts](#). Our video crew will be roaming the events shooting new episodes of SHINE. If you can't make the fun event, make a [donation](#) online.

Buy your tax-deductible \$8 ticket via [PAYPAL](#) at or send a check to Be the Star You Are!®, PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. 94556. Join the fun!"

Special thanks for the donations and in-kind support from [OSH](#), [UPS Store](#), [STAR Service Station](#), [Mohr Productions](#), [Keigan Productions](#).



## VOLUNTEER STARS



### **Eric Pawlakos:** Book Reviewer and Teen Grant Writer

Eric writes: "My passion for volunteering began when I was just a cub scout participating in local food drives and grew until I was a teenager volunteering for environmental causes and local teams. Volunteering is rewarding. I feel good about

[Star You Are!® 501 c3.](#)

## AUTHOR EVENTS

99% of authors earn less than \$50,000 a year. If you want to be in the other 1%, the [Publishing Seminar](#) in New York City on May 22 is for you with four gurus coaching you to success.

If you are going to BEA in New York City this year, you may want to also participate in the [Author 101 University](#) being held on May 22 and 23 at the Skyline Hotel. Rick Frishman has an amazing line-up of pros to help you be the author you dream of being. Limited to 100 participants gives you the chance to mingle with stars!

## YOU HAVE THE POWER!



helping others. Also, volunteering provides a good opportunity to learn more about nonprofit businesses. I'm inspired to choose volunteer jobs that use writing because I enjoy writing." Besides volunteering as a Be the Star You Are!® grant writer and book reviewer, Eric is also active with Save the Delta when he saw first hand how his favorite fishing spots were being degraded because of water redistribution. Eric is a high school junior who also enjoys playing electric guitar, rugby, and writing a technology column for the [newspaper](#).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our Be the Star You Are! volunteers for getting published in the Lamorinda Weekly and Lamorinda Web.

Steven Zhou-[Vocal Chords of Victory](#)

Courtney Cheng-[Prom Anyone?](#)

Heather Brittany-[Lamorinda Cool!](#)

Cynthia Brian is a regular [columnist](#)



## PEOPLE ARE TALKING

Comments from around the country to our April newsletter.

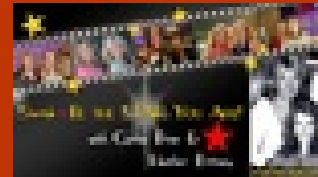


*"Thank you for such a beautiful Spring Message!! You are a blessing in my life and have helped me pass it forward."*

*Phyllis Watts, Author, Where Food and People Meet, Alaska*

*"I was reading your newsletter just now and felt compelled*

Our videographer, [Robert Mohr](#) shares his newest [video](#) about our book, Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS.



Starstyle-Be the Star You Are!® radio program features award winning and best selling authors of new books every week. Listen live every Thursday from 3-4pm PT/6-7pm ET on [World Talk Radio/Voice America](#) or tune in for [photos](#), [descriptions](#), [links](#), and [more information](#).

Free on [iTUNES](#)

For guest guidelines, contact our Guest Coordinator, Angela Siekman at [radio@bethestaryouareRadio.com](mailto:radio@bethestaryouareRadio.com)

To sponsor our program, email [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org)

[Buy Books](#) from your

*to write you. What an amazing, beautiful, unique, and talented woman you are. The adjectives I use don't even begin to describe how I feel about you. Would you share your words at our congregation in San Diego?" Paula Hawley, California*

*"I loved reading the story about your dad but enjoyed seeing his picture even more." Anne Ravizza, California*

*"You are like the sunshine in my life... every so often when I get a little bummed an email comes in from you or I read an old email I had kept. I am so grateful to have made your acquaintance." Kevin Huhn, President - Hockey-ologist, The Hockey Source, Canada*

*I am once again reminded of your enthusiasm and good works, and the reach of your associations and influence. It is a wonderful thing you are doing. Harry Freis, California*

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!



**We appreciate you!**

**Have a stellar day while you PLAY in  
MAY.**

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favorite authors as a donation.



Is your body language sabotaging your interviews and auditions?

Empowerment expert, [Cynthia Brian](#), is available to help you with life challenges, acting, writing, presentations, and media training in person with video playback, by phone, or SKYPE. Book your success session by calling 925-377-7827, emailing [cynthia@star-style.com](mailto:cynthia@star-style.com).

## READ, LEAD, SUCCEED



The teens of [Be the Star You Are!®](#) are launching a new website geared for young adult creatives. Coming

soon!

## FOLLOW US!



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[Twitter Radio](#)

[You Tube](#)

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[Great Non Profits](#)



**You CAN Make a  
Difference!**



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[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

