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Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee
Meets first Wednesday of each month, 8:15 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term. The objectives of this committee are to foster a community for all users of the public roads. To advise the Town in ways and means for safer conditions regarding motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and road conditions. To encourage proper traffic enforcement. To encourage safe and enjoyable bicycling in Portola Valley as a means of transportation and recreation.

Cultural Arts Committee
Meets second Thursday of each month; appointed for a one-year term. Increase cultural awareness among residents of Portola Valley by sponsoring and supporting local cultural activities in the areas of art, music, science and nature, history, horticulture, drama, literature, photography and dance.

Cable and Utilities Undergrounding Committee
Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term. To oversee the operations of the Cabled TV System in Portola Valley; to advise the Town Council on matters relating to the system; to act as liaison between the franchise operator and the Town and its residents to facilitate harmonious communications; to oversee broadband access; to further the undergrounding of utilities.

Emergency Preparedness Committee
Meets second Thursday of each month, 8:00 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee works with Town Staff to ensure that neighborhoods and Town government are ready to respond to possible emergencies such as earthquakes, wildfires and flooding. Other duties include maintaining emergency supplies and equipment, planning response to emergencies and educating Town residents.

Finance Committee
Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee reviews and recommends for adoption the town’s annual budget, its annual Financial Statements and makes recommendations to the Council regarding investments and other fiscal matters.

Historical Resources Committee
Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term. To procure, organize, preserve, and make available for review and/or display archival materials likely to be of significant, general interest over a prolong period of time to residents of the Portola Valley region.

Nature and Science Committee
Meets alternate even-numbered months 2nd Thursday, 5:00 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term. The objectives of this Committee are to increase appreciation for Portola Valley’s natural environment. By providing opportunities for residents and visitors to observe and study local natural history, encourage scientific dialog and promoting scientific literacy in the community and provide information to the community about science, technology and natural history.

Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee
Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee supports preservation of the Town’s rural environment by advising the Town Council on open space acquisitions and uses.

Parks and Recreation Committee
Meets first Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee meets to develop, promote and maintain quality recreational and community enrichment programs, recreational facilities and park areas in the Town of Portola Valley.

Public Works Committee
Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term. The Portola Valley Public Works Committee acts as the liaison between the citizens of Portola Valley, Public Works Staff and members of the Town Council on the Towns need of public works nature.

Applications are available on-line at www.portolavalley.net on the homepage under the Town Committees tab. Hard copies are available at Town Hall.

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Which way forward?

Many questions unresolved as city pursues proposal to rebuild the main library

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Like residents in most Peninsula cities, people who live in Menlo Park don’t want to have anything of a lesser quality than their neighbors. Visit the elegant Mitchell Park Library and Community Center in Palo Alto, or the charming red-brick Redwood City Library, and it’s clear why some in Menlo Park want the same facilities in their city. Clean and bright, they are a hive of activity on weeknights, where there’s a place for everyone to pursue the activities they choose.

At the Redwood City Library, Project Read volunteers have a designated area where they can help nascent readers sound out words without being shushed, and at the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center, soundproof meeting rooms and quiet-zone desks are occupied until closing time.

Menlo Park’s library has no shortage of users and devotees. The library hosts programs such as a knitting group, a mystery book club, a film discussion group, and children’s story times. And book club, a film discussion group, as a knitting group, a mystery club, a poetry group, or the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center, soundproof meeting rooms and quiet-zone desks are occupied until closing time.

Menlo Park’s library has no shortage of users and devotees. The library hosts programs such as a knitting group, a mystery book club, a film discussion group, and children’s story times. And there always seems to be abundant desk space for, say, a reporter on deadline to set up camp.

According to Library Director Susan Holmer, though, if the deadline to set up camp. And staff often lug extra chairs up from the basement to set up and disassemble for meetings in the library’s main hall, which can add to personnel costs.

The library’s skeleton, which dates from the 1950s, is aging, she said, and additional renovations will trigger costly mandates to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Special to The Almanac
By Sheryl Nonnenberg

The library hosts programs such as a knitting group, a mystery book club, a film discussion group, and children’s story times. And book club, a film discussion group, as a knitting group, a mystery club, a poetry group, or the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center, soundproof meeting rooms and quiet-zone desks are occupied until closing time.

Volunteer Leah Benque restocks books in the Menlo Park Library in 2016, the year of the library’s centennial. On the cover: The main hall of the Menlo Park main library was built in 1957.

Hank Anderson, steward of fine art, dies at 95

By Sheryl Nonnenberg
Special to The Almanac

For some, collecting art is a hobby; for others it becomes a life-long passion. This was the case for local resident Harry W. Anderson (who preferred to be called “Hunk”), the founder, along with wife Mary Margaret “Moo” Anderson of the renowned Anderson Collection of Contemporary Art. Mr. Anderson died Feb. 7 at 95.

“Hunk approached collecting with excitement and joy,” said Jason Linetzk, director of the Anderson Collection at Stanford. “He strived to uncover new ideas, develop relationships with artists and galerists and share all he had learned.”

The museum, located in the university’s “arts district,” is the culmination of years of acquiring and caring for a collection that spanned American art from post-World War II to the present day. When the museum opened in 2014, Mr. Anderson stated that the initial gift of 121 works of art represented “the best of the best” of what the family had amassed. Having a dedicated space that the city pounced when staff announced in July that local billionaire developer and philanthropist John Arrillaga had made an offer to help build a new main library. Both need and the drive to keep up with the Joneses generated enthusiasm for the proposed project among city leaders. And the offer also jump-started an existing conversation about how to build a new Belle Haven branch library.

Seven months later, though, the proposed main library project hangs in a state of limbo. For the city to make good on the Arrillaga offer, it has to come up with millions of dollars to launch the project. And right now, the most likely way to raise that money — persuading the public in a timely manner to help fund a new main library through a bond measure — appears to be unrealisric. Results of a preliminary public survey indicate there may not be the requisite two-thirds of public votes needed for a bond to move projects for the main and the Belle Haven branch libraries forward. Whether those results are reliable or the issue needs further research and public outreach remains a question with which the council is expected to grapple.

At the same time, the City Council has determined that the new main library project isn’t on its list of top six priorities for the year, and ratcheted up its efforts to build a new Belle Haven branch library.

How the city got here

While Mr. Arrillaga’s offer was unsolicited, according to City Manager Alex McIntyre, it did not appear entirely out of the blue. In 2014, the city initiated a process to determine how to improve and modernize the city’s library, according to Ms. Holmer, the library director. At the time, there was interest from the Library Commission and the Library Foundation to conduct a needs assessment and fundraising campaign in advance of the library’s centennial in 2016, according to a 2015 report evaluating the library’s operations and administration.

Comments by both library staff and library users reflected both an appreciation for the current facility but also some frustrations. Concerns noted included spaces that are sometimes difficult to navigate, underutilized space in the outdoor patio, lack of community meeting space and group study space, not enough teen space and children’s space and lack of space for emerging technologies.

Consultant Anna Marie Gold of Sacramento-based Municipal Resource Group noted that libraries “are becoming increasingly creative in use and re-use of library space, such as new community gathering spaces (aka the new Starbucks), maker spaces for teens and all age levels and early childhood learning spaces. ...The ability (for libraries) to adapt their physical space to continuing new user demands is critical.”

According to Monica Corman, president of the Menlo Park Library Foundation, even before that analysis, her foundation board had conducted its own study comparing Menlo Park’s facilities with libraries across the region, including large systems like San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland, and smaller ones like Walnut Creek, Los Gatos and Los Altos. It came up short.

“When you see what these other communities are doing, you think, ‘We have an opportunity here.’”

See LIBRARY, page 17
Woodside’s ethics code analysis, debate set for Thursday

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

E thical behavior on the part of government officials in California is a matter of law. State regulations address conflicts of interest, gifts and honoraria, campaign contributions and more. For some communities, Portola Valley and Menlo Park being two, those laws — along with periodic ethics training required for public officials — are enough. Atherton has a code of conduct that dates from 2014. Woodside has had its own ethics code since 1994.

Woodside’s code, after being in an unfavorable news spotlight in 2016 and early 2017, is now in transition. An ad hoc committee of 12 volunteers, all residents, met Jan. 18 with a facilitator for the first of three workshops to consider revising or replacing the current code. The group next meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, in the Wildcats Room at Woodside Elementary School at 3195 Woodside Road. The first meeting “was very informative and a good beginning to the discussion,” committee member George Offen told the Almanac. Hana Callaghan, director of government ethics for the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University, facilitated the meeting. She organized the group’s work around recommending to the Town Council one of three types of ethics code: rule-based with enforcement procedures, aspirational, or a hybrid of these two.

Committee members have been assigned study materials about the ethical duties of public officials. In a Feb. 5 email to committee members obtained by the Almanac, Ms. Callaghan outlines her plans for the Feb. 15 meeting: adding detail to the discussion of conflict of interest laws and the state’s recusal policy, followed by more discussion, debate and a vote by committee members.

If the committee votes to repeal the current code and not replace it, or votes to leave it as is, “our task is complete,” Ms. Callaghan says. Otherwise, the committee will discuss changes to the code so she can prepare a draft for a third meeting, she says.

A third meeting would include more debate and recommendations. If the group reaches consensus, a completed draft code would go to the council. If not, the committee would vote on “general recommendations (to the council) for a new ethics policy,” she says.

Roots of change
Woodside’s current rules-based code requires an investigation when a town official is accused of an ethics violation. Former mayor Dave Burrow triggered such an investigation in May 2016 by accusing Nancy Reyering, a member of the Architectural and Site Review Board, of ethics violations.

Central to Mr. Burrow’s complaint was Ms. Reyering’s failure to at least $33,384. That attorney and the state’s caseworker, reaching a conclusion “no further action.”

Ms. Reyering’s attorneys then prepared a federal lawsuit naming as defendants the town, Mayor Livermore and his predecessor, claiming violations of Ms. Reyering’s constitutional rights to free speech. The town settled with Ms. Reyering in November 2017, paying her $35,000 to cover legal fees. That sum added to the costs of the investigation brings the cost to the town to address the matter to at least $68,384. Included in the settlement was a stipulation that a committee of residents engage with the Markkula Center to analyze the ethics code and make recommendations to the council.

Asked whether the new code should address the matter of one Woodside public official openly questioning the actions of another, Ms. Offen said the code “should deal with that in some fashion or the other. I personally would not want to disallow something like that. That’s a freedom of speech issue, I think.”

Las Lomitas board to vote on $70 million bond measure

The board of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District will decide whether to ask voters to approve a $70 million bond measure when it meets on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

If the board votes to go forward with a bond measure, it will appear on the June 5 ballot. The district is currently working on major construction projects on both its school campuses that are being paid for with the proceeds of a $60 million bond approved by the voters in November 2013. The district’s 2013 master plan identified $120 million in needs on the campuses of its two schools: kindergartener to third-grade Las Lomitas and fourth- through eighth-grade La Entrada Middle.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. in the district conference room, 1611 Altshul Ave. in Menlo Park.

Included in a proposed resolution authorizing the bond election is a long list of projects the bond revenue could be used for, including: demolition
Remembering Billy Ray White

By Kate Bradshaw

Billy Ray White, remembered as a influential leader in Menlo Park, an eloquent orator and the city’s first African American mayor, died Jan. 26 at age 81. He remains the first and only City Council member in Menlo Park’s history to hail from the city’s Belle Haven neighborhood.

Mr. White was born June 29, 1936, to Q.W. White and Amanda Mattlock in Shelby County, Texas. He attended Prairie View A&M University, where he met Zerlene Victor. They married Aug. 22, 1955, and had six children together.

In the early 1960s, the family moved to Menlo Park. Mr. White quickly became part of the community, joining the Macedonia Baptist Church and serving on the Deacon Board. After meeting Onetta Harris, he began to work on the Belle Haven Advisory Committee. He worked at Raychem in Menlo Park.

Mr. White served for seven years on the city’s Planning Commission and was elected to the City Council in 1978, according to historians Michael Svanekiv and Shirley Burgett in their book, “Menlo Park: Beyond the Gate.”

Mr. White continued to work as a leader in Belle Haven, particularly as a member of the Big Six Domino Club, which supports the child development center and after-school programs.

In 1998, he was presented with the Onetta Harris Community Service award for his work to upgrade the affordable apartments on Willow Road and institute a citywide tree assessment district.

Community leader

According to “Menlo Park: Beyond the Gate,” Mr. White was “more than just the first African-American mayor” in Menlo Park. “When Billy Ray White spoke, everybody listened,” Mr. Svanekiv and Ms. Burgett wrote.

Former Mayor Jack Morris told the Almanac that he served on the Planning Commission and City Council with Mr. White and that he used to dread having to give his comments after Mr. White.

“I’d have to say that Billy Ray was quite a speaker,” Mr. Morris said.

“I always hoped that I wouldn’t have to be the person following him speaking about something. There was quite a step down, for me to be talking after he would.”

Mr. Morris said that Mr. White was passionate about projects to support Belle Haven. “I think we weren’t always on the same side of issues, but on redevelopment we certainly were,” he said.

City Attorney Bill McClure recollected Mr. White’s ability to speak directly. “If he thought an issue was ridiculous, he’d say that.”

He said he remembers Mr. White as a great council member. “He was always well-prepared and always well-versed in whatever the issues were that came before the City Council.”

Mr. White, he said, was involved in upgrades in Belle Haven, including the addition of street trees, street lights, storm drains and sidewalks.

Mr. White also pursued upgrades for what are now the Gateway Apartments on Willow Road, he said. The city secured redevelopment funds to renovate the apartments on the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Willow Road that were in bad shape.

Mr. McClure said Mr. White had a great sense of humor, a positive outlook on life, and always had a smile. “He was a really positive person and a good influence on the council at the time.”

Others remember Mr. White’s leadership warmly too. Former mayor Bob Stephens, who served stricken by the train. The car was dragged for about a quarter-mile until the train stopped just short of the Watkins Avenue crossing, they said.

The collision caused damage to the locomotive that will run to more than $100,000 to repair, Mr. Lieberman said.

According to fire officials, this is the second time in four years a vehicle has been struck by a train and then caught fire at this location.

On a dark and rainy night in December 2014, a driver followed his vehicle’s navigation system onto the train tracks and became stuck. The driver was able to escape from the vehicle before it was struck by a southbound train, fire officials said.

—Bay City News Service

Car struck on Atherton tracks after driver flees

An unoccupied vehicle caught fire when it was struck by a train Saturday night in Atherton, according to Menlo Park Fire Protection District officials.

The driver was a former Atherton resident, a man in his 70s, who now lives in Los Angeles, Caltrain spokesman Dan Lieberman said.

At 8:13 p.m., firefighters responded to a report of a vehicle that was on fire and jammed under a southbound Caltrain passenger train at the railroad crossing at Watkins Avenue.

Crews arrived on scene within minutes and found a white classic 1950s Austin-Healey convertible on fire and pinned and entangled under the front grill of the train. Firefighters extinguished the blaze and transferred more than 300 Caltrain passengers to another train. Fire crews then worked to disentangle the car, much of it reduced to twisted metal and debris, from underneath the locomotive, fire officials said.

There were no reports of injuries, they said.

Following an investigation, fire crews determined that the vehicle had stalled at the Fair Oaks Lane railroad crossing just north of Watkins Avenue. The driver exited the vehicle before it was stuck. The driver was able to escape from the vehicle before it was struck by a southbound train, fire officials said.

—Bay City News Service

LAS LOMITAS

continued from page 6

and construction of new classrooms, technology upgrades, energy-efficiency upgrades, playgrounds and equipment, multipurpose rooms, security and safety systems, school offices, and “furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program management (and) staff training.”

At 15.15, the time under item 13, the full wording of the resolution calling for the election and the full project list.

If the bond measure is approved, it will bring the total of bonds approved by voters in the Las Lomitas district since 1999 to $154 million.

The district’s enrollment has fallen from a high of 1,419 students in the 2012-13 school year to 1,360 in this school year.

Monthly Real Estate update with Mandy Montoya

Comparing the active number of listings in Menlo Park vs. last January, there were dramatically fewer homes for sale this year. This was reflected in the buying activity with many homes going into contract with multiple offers, in some cases in the double-digits, and well-above asking prices. I will report on those sales next month once they close escrow and expect to see rather dramatic jump in sales prices. Many homes are also being sold off-MLS, particularly in Atherton, and most of those sales are not reflected in the MLS numbers.

 Tight inventory and a strong national economy, notwithstanding the stock market fluctuations, should continue to pull prices upward this spring. Contact me if you’re thinking of buying or selling a home.

Mandy Montoya
REAL ESTATE

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MONTHLY REAL ESTATE UPDATE
February 2018

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*Very small sample size

LAS LOMITAS

continued from page 6
School board scrambles to get informed ahead of bond election deadline

By Barbara Wood

Portola Valley School District officials came away from a Feb. 6 school board study session on their facilities master plan, and a possible bond measure that might help pay for its projects, with one very clear message: Board members have a lot of work ahead and a very short amount of time to do it.

That’s because four of the five school board members are new and not very familiar with the facilities plan, but there’s an early August deadline to get a bond measure on the November ballot.

If that deadline isn’t met, board members were told at the meeting, the earliest a bond measure could appear on the ballot is 2020.

Brent McClure of Cody Anderson Warner Architects (known as CAW) and Amanda Moss from the political consulting firm Clifford Moss presented an overview of the facilities master plan the district has been working on for more than a year. They also provided the board with information on two community meetings this month that could include the Portola Valley Schools Foundation board member Tricia Christensen, and the district’s chief business official, Connie Ngo.

The district also wants to have several community meetings this month that could include the Portola Valley Ranch homeowners’ association and gatherings at the Sequoias retirement facility and the Town Center.

By the board’s March 7 meeting, the subcommittee is scheduled to present some firm recommendations about whether the district should consolidate onto one campus or include teacher housing in the master plan.

Foundation may help

At the Feb. 7 regular meeting, Tricia Christensen, who has represented the Portola Valley Schools Foundation during the facilities master plan work, said the foundation “probably would do a private fundraising campaign and a capital campaign” to help pay for some of the district’s desired projects, as well as help campaign for the bond.

Two community members spoke at the study session. Former school board member Judith Mendelsohn told the board, “I’m really concerned about the scope of your plans.”

“This is really a big deal to take on,” she said.

Corinne Moesta, a district parent, said the board should “find those projects that really make a difference in our kids’ learning.”

“We don’t want to have buildings falling down, but we don’t need the restrooms to be beautiful,” she said.

Board member Mike Maffia asked the board to consider what could be eliminated from the facilities plan. Perhaps the existing multi-use space could be expanded to have a regulation-size gym and a performance space, instead of building a separate performing arts building, he said.

Mr. Maffia said he believes if the district educates the community about what a bond would pay for, voters would approve the bond.

Other districts’ bond spending

The consultant’s presentation

This chart compares per-pupil bond revenue spending in four school districts in the Almanac’s coverage area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>City School District</th>
<th>Woodside</th>
<th>Las Lomitas</th>
<th>Portola Valley</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

See SCHOOL BOND page 10

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Top 49 Agents Nationwide - Wall Street Journal
listed some of the bonds that have been issued by local school districts and how much spending per student they represent. The Almanac used state data found on ed-data.org to make a more comprehensive examination and found districts’ per-student bond spending varies widely.

In the Menlo Park City District, three bond measures totaling $136.1 million have been approved by voters since 1995. With current enrollment of 2,972 students, the bond spending is $45,794 per student. In the Woodside School District, three bonds totaling $30.7 million have been passed since 1999. With 407 current students, the spending is $75,430 per student.

In the Las Lomitas Elementary School District, where the board is considering putting a $70 million bond measure on the June ballot, three bond measures totaling $84 million have been passed since 1999. With 1,353 current students, current bond spending is at $62,084 per student.

The approval of a new $70 million bond would bring the spending up to $113,821 per student. In the Portola Valley School District, $23 million in two bonds have been approved since 1998. With 604 current students, spending is now $38,079 per student. If an additional $70 million bond were passed, the spending would be $153,974 per student.

If Portola Valley district voters approve a smaller bond measure of $40 million, the spending would be $104,304 per student. 

Menlo Park, Waze

Menlo Park has partnered with Waze on its “Concerned Citizens Program” to share and receive data about traffic conditions.

Waze has made similar agreements with more than 450 other agencies, including cities, state and county governments, nonprofits and first responders.

Menlo Park residents have in the past complained that the app has routed drivers through their neighborhoods in order to circumvent roads known to jam up, especially Willow Road. Staff say that they have worked with Waze over the last couple of months to alert it of new turn restrictions from the city’s Willows neighborhood.

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Philanthropist, builder Sanford Diller of Woodside dies at 89

Woodside resident and philanthropist Sanford Diller was a patron of the arts and a major benefactor to health care initiatives. And he built things — apartments, playgrounds, and a real estate company that became a development and investment company and a West Coast institution. Mr. Diller died Feb. 2 at his home. He was 89 years old.

Mr. Diller was the founder and chief executive of Prometheus Real Estate Group, whose website lists 40 “luxury” apartment complexes in the Bay Area, including 10 in Santa Clara, nine in Mountain View, five in Sunnyvale, three in Foster City and one in Palo Alto. Portland is home to seven Prometheus-owned complexes and Seattle to five.

Mr. Diller and his wife, Helen Samuels Diller, “catalyzed significant development and growth” in health care through major funding of the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Helen Diller Prometheus Cancer Research Building, both located at the University of California, San Francisco, according to a statement provided to the Almanac by Prometheus.

Mr. Diller was working with UCSF up to his last days “to execute bold plans for the future that will help ensure cutting-edge medical discovery, world-class patient treatment, and access to the most expert health professionals for the benefit of the Bay Area and humanity,” the statement says.

The Dillers were major donors to support public access to the arts, in particular to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the DeYoung Museum and the Contemporary Jewish Museum.

The Dillers also funded playgrounds at Julius Kahn Park in San Francisco’s Presidio, Mission Dolores Park in the Mission district, and new playgrounds set to open Feb. 14 in the San Francisco Civic Center.

Mr. Diller’s parents, Jacob and Claire Diller, fled Austria to escape persecution. They gave birth to their son in San Francisco, and he went on to graduate from UC Berkeley and study law at UC Hastings and the University of California, San Francisco. He closed his law practice in 1965 when he founded Prometheus.

Sanford and Helen Diller founded the international Diller Teen Leadership Program, the national Diller Tikkun Olam Award for teens, and the Diller Educator Awards, among many programs in which they were involved that recognize, cultivate and inspire “a vibrant Jewish community for future generations,” the statement says.

Mr. Diller was preceded in death by his wife, Helen. He is survived by his daughter, Jackie Safier; by his sons, Brad Diller and Ron Diller; and by seven grandchildren.

The family will be holding a Celebration of Life Reception on February 24th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Palo Alto Women’s Club at Cowper & Homer Avenues in Palo Alto.

Barbara Worl
February 27, 1927 – September 12, 2017

Barbara Worl, eminent California gardener and rosarian, died peacefully after a brief illness on September 12, 2017, at her home in Menlo Park, California. She was 90 years of age.

The youngest child of Russell and Hazel Worl, Barbara was born in Cambridge City, Indiana, on February 27, 1927, and educated at Westtown, a Quaker school in Pennsylvania where her brothers John and James had gone before her. In 1945 she came to California to study at Stanford University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1950 with a degree in English history and a minor in English literature.

That same year she began a 55-year career at Bell’s Books, an independent bookstore in Palo Alto founded by Herbert Bell in 1935, and carried on by his wife Valeria and now their daughter Faith. There Barbara built up a superb horticultural section, perhaps the best on the West Coast. Her deep knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, literature, horticulture, and children’s books became indispensable to hundreds of customers and her grateful colleagues.

Barbara was also a photographer, professional seamstress, Sunday school teacher, and master of ecclesiastical embroidery and flower arranging. Loving flowers from childhood, she became a remarkable gardener, although her Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors for generations were farmers. One of the enchanting gardens she created was on a 2-acre piece of land lent to her on Cowper Street in Palo Alto, where she began a tradition of Open Garden Days. The other surrounded the home she bought in Menlo Park in 1954. It was so magical that British nurseryman Peter Beales featured it in his 1996 book Visions of Roses.

Barbara welcomed people and animals to her garden, and worked with joy in it until a month before she died. The former English major delighted in growing the ornamental plants of which the poets spoke. She began giving slide talks on gardens and old-fashioned roses, became a regular speaker on them at The Huntington, and was among the first to import historic old roses from France. Founding Sweetbrier Press in 1979, she published a line of handmade cards and calendars featuring her own photos. Her facsimile edition of Henry Curtis’s Beauties of the Rose won high praise from Graham Stuart Thomas, then the head of Great Britain’s National Trust. In the 1970s Barbara helped found the Heritage Roses Group Bay Area and remained its staunch supporter to the end of her life. In 2007 she was honored by the Heritage Rose Foundation and also received the Founders Award from the Western Horticultural Society.

Known for her warm and gentle Quaker ways, Barbara made friends wherever she went. One of the greatest of those friendships began during the 1960s when a young East Palo Alto civil rights activist wandered into Bell’s to buy a book and argue with Barbara. “It was a few years,” she later wrote, “before I realized that Israel Washington Harris and I were to be partners for life.” The two were to “remain loyal and true friends and lovers” for 38 years until the WWII Purple Heart veteran’s death in 2006.

In a 2009 letter to her Westtown classmates, Barbara wrote of the cultural shock she experienced coming to California in 1945 “from a serene, honorable, intelligent, simple Quaker environment.” She went on to say, however, that she “came very quickly to feel at home here and to do my bit to build peace between the differences….I look back on my life with joy and wish the same to all of you.”

Barbara is survived by the children of Israel Harris and by her Indiana family: sister-in-law, Mary Worl; nieces Laura, Sally, Alison, and Diane; and her nephew, John. She was a beloved godmother and a loyal friend to countless others. A memorial will be held on March 4, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 815 Portola Road in Portola Valley. Please come and share stories of Barbara.

Catherine “Kay” Miller
May 21, 1917 – January 16, 2018

Sophisticated, witty, and artistic, Kay lived her life with flair. She left this world just the way she would have wanted, sitting on her sofa near the fireplace, enjoying a glass of Chardonnay while discussing the day’s events with her daughter.

Raised in Crescent City, California, Kay graduated from Del Norte High School in 1935. As an inspired violinist and pianist she pursued music studies at College of the Pacific, Class of 1939, and was a member of the Mu Zeta Rho sorority. After college she moved to San Francisco (The City) where she basked in its artistic offerings and met her future husband, Damon J. Miller. They had two children, Damon J. Jr., and Marilyn Kaye. The Miller family moved to the then rural Peninsula in 1950. Kay was widowed in 1971 at the young age of 55. Her son, Damon Jr., passed away in 2003.

During and after her fifty-five year career as a residential real estate broker in the Menlo Park/Atherton area, she pursued learning with non-stop zest. She took classes in art, photography, business, philosophy, music history, and computers. She traveled the world, and was a dedicated Children’s Health Council volunteer. She arranged flowers at Filoli, while she lovingly created her own prize-winning gardens and Bonsai collection at her Redwood City home.

At the age of 96, with a little coaxing from family, she agreed to slow down “just a bit,” and move to Grass Valley, California to be closer to her daughter. Upon her arrival she joined the Nevada County Bonsai club. She also signed up for art classes at Sierra College. Water Coloring, at AsIf Art Studio became a new, absorbing challenge.

Kay’s passing leaves a huge hole in the lives of her family, Jack & Marilyn Scholl, grandchildren, Kaili Scholl, Damon P. & Ashley Scholl, and great grand, DP Scholl. She filled their hearts — and the hearts of all those who knew her — with love, friendship and inspiration. Kay lived her long life with laughter and drive right up to the very last toast — just as she had wanted.

Celebration of Life Reception on February 24th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Palo Alto Women’s Club at Cowper & Homer Avenues in Palo Alto.
Lorraine Godfrey lived a full and active life

A memorial service is set for Lorraine Godfrey, a longtime resident of Menlo Park, at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Community Hall at 765 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

Ms. Godfrey was born in San Francisco on Valentine’s Day in 1919, and died a few days short of that date, on Feb. 10. She was 98. During her life, Ms. Godfrey raised two sons and two stepsons, earned a doctorate, taught school, and belonged to several women’s organizations and reading associations.

Ms. Godfrey graduated from Lowell High School in San Francisco and from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor’s degree in history. She worked for a time on the staff of the California Pelican, a humor magazine at UC Berkeley. She was secretary for the alumni magazine at UC Berkeley. She was secretary for the alumni association for the Class of 1941 for more than 50 years.

“It was appropriate that she was born on Valentine’s Day,” her family said, “because she loved everyone and everyone loved her. She was always cheerful and interested in others and their stories and families. She showed grace and strength in the face of adversity.”

Ms. Godfrey earned two master’s degrees from San Francisco State University and a doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco. She taught at the Frederick Burke Laboratory School and in the elementary education department at San Francisco State.

She was married to Joseph McCarthy for a short time, and then Bill Godfrey in 1950. She had two sons from each marriage.

Among the organizations to which she belonged were the Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Association of University Women, and the Presbyterian Women’s Group. She was a director of the California Reading Association, president of the San Mateo County Reading Association and a member of the International Reading Association. She was also an active member of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bill Godfrey and by her two stepsons. She is survived by her husband Bill Godfrey and by Bill Godfrey’s children, including a brother and two sisters.

Mom graduated from University of the Pacific in 1951 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology. Shortly afterwards she met a dashing young midshipman from Oakdale, Calif., at a dance, soon to graduate from the US Naval Academy. They married and moved to the Bay Area of Calif., where Dad worked in the nascent electronics industry and later attended Stanford University for his PhD, settling eventually in Portola Valley. There they raised their three boys and Dad, working at Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International), developed a lifetime love of global travel that he shared with Mom and the three boys.

Mom, too, had her hands full. In her spare time while the boys were in school, and more so after they fledged, she volunteered for and organized numerous organizations including the Allied Arts Guild of Menlo Park, the Alpine Hills Auxiliary of Portola Valley, the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, San Mateo County Genealogical Society, and also worked as librarian for the school district, then Menlo Park and Sunnyvale public libraries. She enjoyed librarianship so much that she obtained her Master of Arts in Library Science Degree from San Jose State University. She particularly enjoyed children’s literature and served as Children’s Librarian at the Sunnyvale Public Library until her retirement. Her personal collection of children’s literature was epic.

Mom and Dad leveraged their love of travel into several expatriate postings, including two years in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia where Mom taught music in the international grade school while Dad worked with the Saudis to deploy their newfound oil revenues. They spent two years in Fujinomiya Japan and 2 years in Anchorage Alaska while Kendall taught Management and served as a management consultant. Travel and adventure always intrigued them both; they spent a lifetime traveling the breadth of the globe from Antarctica to the Aleutians, Riyadh to Jerusalem, Switzerland to Cyprus, Botswana to Beijing, and countless points between. She had been planning a trip to Anchorage for Thanksgiving when death came for her.

Mom loved her family, and genealogy was a major interest of hers. She was the main instigator behind the many garden parties she would throw for family, friends, and charities. She especially loved her sisters-in-law, and shared with them a fondness for quilting, gardening, adventure, and an overall broad spectrum of knowledge. And cats.

She was a voracious reader, and in her later years favored biography, science, and history, especially naval history.

Mom embraced the future. She took to computers and the worldwide web from the outset, relishing her place in the eye of the Silicon Valley and Stanford academia. She was very much an open-minded woman, gracious and self-effacing, welcoming, embracing and truly enjoying everyone she met. In return, she was universally loved, brightening and enriching the lives of all who knew her. The last photo we have of her, taken by her grandson, shows her trademark mischievous smile, as if she were about to start another adventure.

She is sorely missed. She is survived by her sons Stanton (Rosa Meehan) of Anchorage Alaska, Howard (Heather Moll) of Clearwater Fla., and Martin of Chico Calif.; her granddaughter Michele (Tyson) Evans of Chico Calif. and grandson Jeremy Moll of Nashville Tenn., sister-in-law Marilyn Moll in Fort Belvoir, Va., brothers-in-law Leo Moll of Aptos, Calif. and Donald Scott of Modesto, Calif., and numerous cousins, nephews and nieces. She was so excited about becoming a great grandmother in March of this year. She was preceded in death by Kendall, her husband of 57 years, her sister Margaret Scott, her sister-in-law Jeannine Moll and brother-in-law Kenneth Moll.

A Memorial and Celebration of Life will take place February 21, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Rd., Menlo Park Calif. All are invited to attend – she would love it if you could be there.

Memorial donations may be made to the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and the child health programs at Stanford University School of Medicine. www.lpch.org/supportlpch
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A re there lessons to be learned today from the turbulent history of the Napoleonic Empire, when a shrewd megalomaniac driven by an obsession for power conquered much of Europe? Are there parallels to be drawn between those oppressive years of the early 19th century and our own times?

For Jose Luis Moscovitch’s answers to those questions, one need only see his latest West Bay Opera production, “Fidelio,” Beethoven’s only opera. Transferring the two-act opera’s original setting from an 18th century political prison in Spain to a modern-day for-profit U.S. prison, Maestro Moscovitch leaves no doubt that his answer to both is, “regrettably, yes.” “Fidelio” opens on Friday, Feb. 16, for a two-weekend run at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto. Mr. Moscovitch, West Bay’s general director, will conduct an orchestra playing from both the pit and the stage. Ragnar Conde, the artistic director of Escenalia Ensamble of Mexico, will direct the production. The duo most recently collaborated in the staging last year of Richard Strauss’ “Salome” — also set in a future time rather than in its original period and also offering a cautionary message.

Performing the lead roles are dramatic soprano Meredith Mecum, a Merola alumna now based in New York City, as Leonora/Fidelio; and helden-tenor Brent Turner as Florestan. Mr. Turner, also based in New York City, won the Jim Toland Vocal Competition of 2015. The opera premiered in 1805 Vienna, days after Napoleon’s troops marched into that city. Mr. Moscovitch described the Vienna of that day as “a place of splendor and enlightenment” that was transformed overnight by the military and political upheaval.

It was a climate of fear and uncertainty, with rel- evance to our times, he noted. “Next step is the strong hand that will tighten the screws and make them feel secure again, this time under a much tighter system ... where there are no real freedoms, only those granted by the magnanimity of the person in power, provided they don’t threaten his grip on power, and the courts are packed with judges who are happy to find justifications for the agenda of our times.”

The Andersons did not, however, use art consultants or advisers to assist them in their collecting. From the outset, collecting was a family affair, as the couple, later joined by daughter Mary Patricia, enjoyed by many for years to come. At Stanford will always have the deepest affection for Hunk as a generous, big-hearted man.”

The history behind the Anderson Collection is well-known to many Peninsula residents: After a trip to Europe in the 1960s, the Andersons decided to collect art. They visited galleries, immersed themselves in art history books and became friends with local experts like artist Nathan Oliveira and Albert Eisen, professor of art history at Stanford.

The Andersons did not, however, use art consultants or advisers to assist them in their collecting. From the outset, collecting was a family affair, as the couple, later joined by daughter Mary Patricia (“Putter”), began to purchase art and become known in the art world.

Initial efforts at buying Impressionist art led to the conclusion that works of high quality were not available. They turned their attention to the work of the Abstract Expressionists (artists working mainly in New York in the 1960s and 70s) and were able to acquire top-tier paintings by artists such as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the collection grew as the couple added artists working in the Pop Art, Minimalist, Funk Art and Photorealism styles. During these decades, the Anderson Collection was consistently included by Art Magazine in its annual listing of Top 200 Collectors in the World.

In the beginning, the art was displayed in the Anderson home. As the collection grew, Mr. Anderson, who was one of the principal founders of Saga Foods, asked his partners if he could hang pieces from the collection in the firm’s Sand Hill Road headquarters in Menlo Park. This began a new phase of the collection, with an emphasis on public education. The art work was professionally installed with didactic labeling and other educational materials provided. Lectures about the art were offered and soon a public tour program was put in place.

Even after Saga was bought out by Marriot in 1986 and the Sand Hill Road buildings purchased by the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation in 1987, Mr. Anderson maintained an office in the complex. By now retired, he continued to go to work each day, overseeing the collection (then totaling over 1,000 pieces), deciding upon installations within Quadrus, considering loan applications from museums and requests for tours of both the Sand Hill buildings and the Anderson home. Often, tour groups visiting the home would be greeted by Mr. Anderson in the foyer, where he would urge them to consult the specially prepared art maps, but to mainly “just use your eyes.”

Through the 1990s the Andersons continued to collect, although at a slower pace, becoming familiar fixtures at the seasonal auctions in New York City. They also established friendships with noted gallerists and with the artists themselves. It was not uncommon to find Frank Stella or Ellsworth Kelly joining Mr. Anderson for a walk around the Quadrus complex.

As the collection grew to include the Bay Area Figurative School and other California-based artists, Mr. Anderson would say that it was a “collection of collections” that reflected the family’s interest in artists working in new and innovative ways.

Mr. Anderson credited his daughter for introducing him to cutting-edge contemporary artists (often based in Los Angeles, where she once owned a gallery) and keeping the collection current.

Hunk Anderson once expressed to this writer that “art collectors don’t really own the art; we are just stewards, caring for it for future generations.” In an interview for Gentry Magazine last September, he reflected on the current status of the Anderson Collection, with gifts of the Pop Art collection to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, works on paper to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and the gift of major works to the Anderson Collection at Stanford, saying “All of our art has found happy homes.” He seemed genuinely pleased that his passion for art collecting, which had afforded him so much pleasure, would now be shared with the public.

One of the major paintings in the Anderson’s Pop Art collection (now on display at SFMOMA) is a self-portrait by Andy Warhol, who said, “The idea is not to live forever, but to create something that will.” Hunk Anderson would haveprobably agreed with that sentiment, and his legacy, his cherished art collection, will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

A public memorial for Hunk Anderson will be held at the Anderson Collection at Stanford sometime in April.

Sheryl Nonnenberg was a curatorial associate and collection manager at the Anderson Collection from 1994 to 1999.
you think, ‘We can do that and we should do that,’” she said. “It’s a sign of a good civilization when you have a good library.”

Next, the city hired a consultant to develop a strategic plan for the main library, which also identified facilities as one arena in which the Menlo Park Library could improve — specifically, to add flexible and collaborative meeting areas and to better accommodate programs that align more with “community center” functions such as hosting group meetings, providing maker spaces, and holding classes and other learning-based activities.

According to the strategic plan, the city hired architectural firm Noll & Tam to conduct a space needs study. The results, released last March, indicated that to meet community needs, the library should be expanded to 44,000 square feet from its current 32,000 square feet. Then in July, Mr. Arrillaga made his offer, and in rapid succession, with little discussion, city staff and the City Council dedicated $1 million to conduct studies on public opinion, to hire someone to lead the project (no employee has been hired yet) and to do public outreach to figure out where a new library should be sited on the Civic Center campus and what, if any, other uses should be accommodated there.

Ideas include a new multi-use meeting room that could be used as City Council chambers; a new child care center; if the new library were to overtake the existing Menlo Child Care location; and housing. Mr. Arrillaga has also helped in a similar way with previous city projects, which is why his name is on the gym, gymnastics center and recreation center. Those were built comparatively quickly in the 2000s because the city already had bond money that could go toward those projects.

As of Feb. 7, the city was in the middle of processing a purchase order for $134,066 of the initial $1 million for siting and work expected to begin soon, according to Brandon Cortez, city management analyst.

According to Mr. McIntyre, the terms of the offer are that the city must come up with the first $20 million, plus an estimated $10 million in soft costs, and come up with that money expeditiously.

He said Mr. Arrillaga hasn’t set any deadline, but is used to working on developments that can move quickly, as at Stanford.

Ultimately, Mr. McIntyre said, “If we can’t raise the money, there’s no project.”

So far, two of three public meetings have been held to discuss the siting of a future library. Generally, attendants have appeared to support the current location for the new library, which could mean an added cost to create an interim library, and further implications for future roadway/train track improvements projects, which would also leave the child care center intact.

One option being considered is to separate Ravenswood Avenue from the Caltrain tracks by tunneling the road under the rails, which could eliminate access to Alma Street from Ravenswood Avenue.

There didn’t appear to be a consensus on whether housing should be permitted as part of the project. Adding housing would create further complications to the project, Mr. McIntyre said, and might be treated as separate potential project.

Belle Haven

In recent months, the call to build better, more accessible library facilities in Belle Haven has risen to a higher pitch, especially as the city has considered improvements to the main library on a more expedient timeline. Initially, the main library was prioritized for attention because its facilities are older, Ms. Holmer said. However, a couple of years ago, the Belle Haven branch library began to be operated as a school library and public access was eliminated during school hours.

Complaints about the library included concerns that the collection maintained was juvenile and limited in its general-audience offerings, and about hours. Some said that because of notable traffic increases in the Belle Haven neighborhood in recent years, some families coming home from work could never get home and take their kids to the library before it closes.

The city has responded by extending the library’s evening hours and adding interior improvements. Building a new library in Belle Haven, though, is a process that’s farther behind and more complex than the proposed main library project. To start with, the city doesn’t have a designated place where a new library would go. It is likely that the city would have to acquire land, which alone can cost $8 million to $10 million an acre, according to Mr. McIntyre.

On Feb. 7, the city hosted its first meeting with the Belle Haven Neighborhood Library Advisory Committee, a group appointed to help lead a study to determine the neighborhood’s library needs. After the needs study is done, a space needs study must be completed, a site identified, and funding ascertained before planning and designing the project can begin in earnest.

The City Council has expressed interest in undertaking a new Belle Haven branch library and the principle that progress on that effort should not be hindered by any holdups with the main library project.

Other funding options

Many new libraries in the area have been funded by some mix of voter-approved city funds, grant funding and private donors.

Other organizations could step in and help. Steven Haas of the Friends of the Menlo Park Library, an organization that uses book sales to raise money to fund library operations, said the organization has some money saved in its reserves that might be used for capital projects, if called upon.

And Ms. Corman said the library foundation plans to launch a capital campaign, but needs more concrete plans to work with before fundraising can start in earnest.

The city’s finance and audit committee has also discussed options to come up with the bond measure, according to City Manager John Mahoney.

Mr. Corman said that the city may never accomplish the kind of opportunity that the city may never accomplish a bond measure would likely carry a hefty amount of interest the city has to pay back over time too. The city may also consider raising the utility use tax from its current 1 percent, to 3.5 percent, the maximum level that voters approved in 2006.

Priorities

While there is consensus on the City Council to support a library project in Belle Haven, there is less consensus as to where the main library plan should be on the city’s work plan due to uncertainty about the level of public support for the project.

Councilman Ray Mueller said that although early survey results were conclusive that there isn’t enough public interest to generate the funding for the main library now, “My mind’s not foreclosed on the project,” he said. “I can’t see a way that the project would not get community support and help from city staff to move the project quickly, they would explore options to develop the project elsewhere.

Other council members think the results were less definitive, and that there should be more public outreach.

Councilwoman Kirsten Keith said that this kind of opportunity is rare and could help the city transform its libraries into a “state-of-the-art modern library system.” To her, the survey wasn’t comprehensive enough, nor the public outreach and education sufficient to accurately measure public interest in a bond measure.

Mr. Arrillaga’s offer, to her, represents an offer to do something that the city may never accomplish otherwise because of other priorities and escalating construction costs.

“If we can’t somehow figure out how to take advantage (of the offer), we won’t ever do this,” Councilwoman Kirsten Keith said.

If you have a good library.”

“If we can’t somehow figure out how to take advantage (of the offer),” she said, “We won’t ever do this.”

Another perk of working with Mr. Arrillaga, she said, is that the city won’t have cost overruns or construction lawsuits because of the conditions of Mr. Arrillaga’s offer. As nice as the Mitchell Park Library and community center is now, she said, there were major delays and cost overruns associated with the project, which cost about $45 million. Litigation ensued between the city of Palo Alto and a contractor the city hired, before a settlement was eventually reached shortly after the facility’s grand opening at the end of 2014.

Maybe some kind of compromise could be made, Councilman Rich Cline said. What if the city were to make the project smaller, so it costs less? And what happens if the city can’t come up with the requisite $30 million?

He said the proposed project is still in the conversation phase — he said he didn’t think it was realistic for the city to set up a bond measure for 2018, but added that if a bond measure is off the table, the city should continue to look for other funding alternatives.

Mr. Cline said he thinks the city should aim to “get the best for both (libraries) and try not to lose opportunities based on knee-jerk reactions.”

“We all have different approaches on how to solve this,” he said. If there are mixed messages, Mayor Peter Ohtaki said, “That’s because the situation is kind of fluid right now.”

For him, one of the biggest concerns is how to raise the funding without raising taxes and making sure the city can pay back its debt service from the bond in the years to come. And there are broader questions of how libraries will be used in the 21st century. He said he sees the argument that there’s need for more flexible group rooms and community spaces.

To him, the survey was preliminary and public opinion is still not set in stone on the project, since the project itself has so many unknowns. Until consensus is reached on the site and on possible shared uses for a new potential library, Mr. Ohtaki said, the project remains a nebulous concept.

“The main library is not dead, but it needs further work.”

Next Steps

The third sitting meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., in the Civic Center. After that, the plan is to bring the matter back to the City Council for further discussion in March or April, according to Mr. McIntyre.
This notice advises members of the public that the Town’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) required as mitigation in conjunction with adoption of the Town of Woodside’s General Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2012. The CAP outlines a program to achieve targeted greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Annual Report for the CAP documents the Town’s progress in implementing the measures identified in the CAP and highlights measures still requiring attention.

The Annual Report for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2017
Development of the Town of Woodside Climate Action Plan (CAP) was required as mitigation in conjunction with adoption of the Town of Woodside’s General Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2012. The CAP outlines a program to achieve targeted greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Annual Report for the CAP documents the Town’s progress in implementing the measures identified in the CAP and highlights measures still requiring attention.

This notice advises members of the public that the Town’s first Annual Report was accepted by the Town Council on January 9, 2018, and is available for a 30-day Public Review Period between February 14, 2018 and March 16, 2018. The Annual Report is available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, or by appointment. The Annual Report is also available on the Town website at: http://www.woodsidetown.org/planning/climate-action-plan.

Written comments may be submitted during the Public Review Period at the address indicated below:

Town of Woodside
P.O. Box 620005
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062
Or to Jackie Young at: jyoung@woodsidetown.org

FIDELIO
continued from page 16

and ability to pursue happiness.”

And on a hopeful note, he
appreciated that even though individuals, no matter their gender or whether
people are armed or strong physically... has within themselves the ability to stand up to injustice and bring about fundamental change.”

Brent Turner and Meredith Mecum sing the lead roles in West Bay Opera’s “Fidelio.”

Jose Luis Moscovich conducts.

“The place is no place like home.”

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ARTSCENE

Joan Fosette (left) and Jose Luis Moscovich conduct. Construction for ‘Fidelio’

Bay Opera’s “Fidelio.”

Jose Luis Moscovich conducts.

The County of San Mateo’s Sustainability Academy provides NO-COST educational opportunities to San Mateo County community members.

Register for our offerings at www.smcsustainability.org/academy

Fixit Clinics

Bring your broken items and we’ll provide a workspace, specialty tools and volunteer Fixit Coaches to help you disassemble and troubleshoot your items.

February 24: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. San Bruno Library: 701 Angus Ave W., San Bruno

Home Composting Workshop

Learn how easy and fun it is to recycle your fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves, and plant cuttings into compost. You don’t need a backyard to compost!

March 17: 10-12 a.m. William E. Walker Recreation Center, 650 Shell Blvd., Foster City

April 21: 10-12 a.m. South SF Scavenger Company, 500 East Jamie Court, South San Francisco

May 19: 10-12 a.m. Belmont Public Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas

Exploring Sustainability Webinar Series

Deepen your understanding of sustainability topics and gain practical methods to reduce your environmental impact. Turn your lunch break into a learning experience on Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please see website for additional webinars.

Composting Made Easy: February 28
An expansive driveway clad with handsome pavers and newly planted palm trees forms an impressive entrance to this home that presents the very best of Silicon Valley living. The inviting, brand-new property completed in November 2017 is nestled in a private setting, creating a luxurious European-inspired retreat with three levels of top-quality craftsmanship. Scrupulous detail was poured into every room, providing warm, versatile spaces where classic refinement meets modern necessity. Sizable and richly landscaped, the backyard is appointed with a beautiful terrace, perfect for outdoor entertaining. Within walking distance of the enchanting Allied Arts Guild, serene parks, and world-class shopping and dining at Stanford Shopping Center, residents will also be near highly desired schools, Stanford University, and lively Santa Cruz Avenue.

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www.763Cambridge.com
Atherton couple: They’ve been Valentines since 1942

By Barbara Wood

Patricia Robertson still remembers the day she met William Robertson 76 years ago.

It was 1942, and the U.S. had recently entered World War II after the Pearl Harbor attack. Pat had gone to a swimming party at what is now the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, but was then known as the Old Hearst Ranch. She was there with a friend who was one of Bill Robertson’s fraternity brothers, but, she says, the date “wasn’t anything serious at all.”

Meeting and chatting with Bill Robertson was a whole other story: “It just clicked as far as I was concerned,” Pat Robertson says. “I don’t think he felt that way, but I did.”

“After I got home, I told my mother, ‘I just met the fellow I want to marry,'” Ms. Robertson says. “She said, ‘Tell me more!’”

The tall and handsome young Oakland native was the president of his fraternity at the University of California, Berkeley, studying agricultural economics and ROTC in training to be an Army officer. Ms. Robertson recalls telling her mother.

Ms. Robertson was a receptionist at the J. Walter Thompson ad agency on the 25th floor of the Shell Building in San Francisco. “You come out of the elevator and you walk a few feet and you meet me,” she says. She routed calls by plugging and unplugging phone lines into a switchboard.

It just went from there

Ms. Robertson, who had lived in Berkeley most of her life, managed to convey her interest in another meeting with the man she was smitten with through a girlfriend in his sister’s sorority. “He eventually asked me out,” Pat Robertson says. “It just went from there,” says Bill Robertson.

The courtship was compressed, as was his education, as more young men were sent off to war. “They were actually pushing to get you through,” he says of his 3-1/2 years at Cal.

The two announced their engagement at a party at her parents’ house the night of Cal’s annual Big Game against Stanford University.

They were married in Berkeley’s University Christian Church on Jan. 29, 1943, but only after Mr. Robertson took three finals the morning to finish the classes he needed for his degree. They honeymooned in Palm Springs.

“Two weeks after that I was in the Army,” Mr. Robertson says. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and eventually became a captain.

He wasn’t sent overseas immediately, so the young couple spent the first years of their marriage traveling from posting to posting, crossing the country four times.

When word came Bill Robertson would be sent overseas, “we decided I would try to get pregnant and that would keep me busy,” Ms. Robertson says. Just as her husband was about to be shipped out, she told him the good news. She moved in with her parents in Redwood City and sent her husband photos of her steadily expanding belly.

Bill Robertson didn’t see baby Linda until she was 9 months old. The couple later had two more children, sons Scott and Brad.

After the war ended, Mr. Robertson remained with other U.S. troops in Tokyo for nine months. “The Japanese people were in really bad shape at that time. They didn’t have food,” he says, and would board trains from Tokyo hoping to find something edible in the countryside.

Eventually Mr. Robertson returned home to a job as an insurance broker, and the family moved to a duplex in Menlo Park. In 1954 they moved to a 1908 bungalow off El Camino Real in Atherton that had been part of a larger estate. They never left.

“We just love this house,” says Ms. Robertson, 97. The bungalow has high plastered ceilings with dark wood beams, several lovely brick fireplaces and floor-to-ceiling pocket doors.

Their children attended Encinal School and Menlo-Atherton High, and Ms. Robertson became a prize-winning floral arranger, working with plant materials from her own garden. Son Scott Robertson grew up to be a Menlo Park Fire Protection District firefighter. He has been retired for more than a decade and now lives in Shingletown. Brad Robertson is an accountant and still lives in Atherton.

Linda Robertson Burns worked in the Persian cat show world before her death in 1999.

Bill Robertson, 96, still drives himself daily to breakfast at Cafe Borraine in Menlo Park, where he often is the first customer.

Although the two have traveled all over the world, Mr. Robertson says he still thinks the Peninsula “has the best weather year-round in the whole world.”

Pat and Bill Robertson share memories in the living room of their 1908 bungalow in Atherton, where they’ve lived since 1954.
PARK LANE ATHERTON  Prime Menlo Circus Club location | 1.25 acre lot | 5 bedrooms, 7 full and 3 half baths
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Make your voices heard on new main library proposal

By Osnat Loewenthal

When a rich developer from Portola Valley came to the city of Menlo Park and offered to donate a minimum of $25 million to rebuild the already quite sufficient main library on the west side of Menlo Park, people started salivating. The City Council did not even question the merit of contemplating such an offer, although the contingencies that were placed on it were neither aligned with the city’s priorities nor with its values, and would require the city to first secure a hefty $30 million of public money to launch the project and receive the donation. It is a good sign to see that the City Council has started to come to its senses and the main library reconstruction was not identified as one of its top priorities for 2018. However, oddly enough, and despite the city’s being short on staff, it is still on the work plan and moving forward.

One idea that has been floated lately is to push the city to accept the questionable donation, hoping to couple it with affordable housing at the library site. There are many problems with this idea:

1. The donation was designated for a new library. The donor has refused to even consider reassigning the money to renovate the much-needed east-side library, and no one has heard promises that if the main library project goes through, he will assign the donation or top it for housing. This means that the city of Menlo Park will have to commit even more public money.

2. Do we really want to see houses take over every green space that we have? While having affordable housing is not a bad idea, removing trees (estimated between 15 to 35, depending on the site that is chosen) and taking up communal open park space to build a mega-library and top it with housing is a horrible idea. Burgess Park is heavily used by the community, People enjoy the outdoors, the trees and the little lung of nature that we have amid what is quickly becoming a developed and congested city.

3. One of the areas being proposed to site the mega-library/housing would involve encroaching on two currently operating child care programs: Menlo Children’s Center and After School Care. Those services give an answer to pressing needs of working parents. So far, there hasn’t been any information as to what would happen to the current and future users of those facilities once construction begins, should site be chosen.

A library siting session is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at the main library to gather community input on the location of the expanded mega-library. If you think that there are other priorities in the city than having the main library rebuilt, then you should come and voice your opinion. So should all users of the park, current and future users of the child care facilities. Come to voice your opinions and hopefully we can preserve the character of Burgess Park.

Support our mission. Donate today.

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Donors needed to keep nonprofit from closing

Editor:
Thank you for your recent article on the impending closure in Menlo Park of a wonderful organization, Random Acts of Flowers. As a volunteer, it is hard to understand how it failed in Silicon Valley, one of the wealthiest areas in our nation. We need large donations on a regular basis to come to its rescue.

In its short presence here, Random Acts of Flowers delivered bouquets to almost 30,000 patients in local hospitals, hospices, and nursing homes. RAF is environmentally minded because the recycled flowers were saved from landfill. Over 400 volunteers made this their mission for more than two years. RAF will close at the end of March, unless a few generous patrons will come to aid our cause. One can always hope.

Margaret H. Carney
Claremont Way, Menlo Park

Write us
Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters and guest opinions to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.
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60 Monte Vista Avenue | 5bd/6+ba
Mary & Brent Gullixson | 650.888.0860
LIC #00373961/01329216
BY APPOINTMENT

ATHERTON $11,500,000
54 Serrano Drive | 5bd/5ba
Valerie Soitsau | 650.464.3896
LIC #01223247
BY APPOINTMENT

PALO ALTO $10,493,000
650 Lowell Avenue | 5bd/6.5ba
Judy Citron | 650.543.1206
LIC #01825569
BY APPOINTMENT

ATHERTON $9,280,000
180 Magnolia Drive | 5bd/6.5ba
Mary & Brent Gullixson | 650.888.0860
LIC #00373961/01329216
BY APPOINTMENT

PORTOLA VALLEY $5,498,000
165 Fawn Lane | 5bd/6ba
Keri Nicholas | 650.533.7373
LIC #0198898
BY APPOINTMENT

ATHERTON $4,695,000
197 Glenwood Avenue | 5bd/3ba
Judy Citron | 650.543.1206
LIC #01825569
BY APPOINTMENT

MENLO PARK $3,700,000
175 Gloria Circle | 5bd/3ba
C. Carnevale/N. Aron | 650.543.1195
LIC #00846687/00952657
BY APPOINTMENT

Palo Alto $2,998,000
650 Toyon Place | 4bd/2.5ba
Jack and Jolaine Woodson | 650.740.9694
LIC #01732438/01080402
BY APPOINTMENT

MENLO PARK $2,800,000
21 Bishop Lane | 3bd/3.5ba
Joe Bentley | 650.867.0199
LIC #01082626
BY APPOINTMENT

PALO ALTO $2,998,000
650 Toyon Place | 4bd/2.5ba
Jack and Jolaine Woodson | 650.740.9694
LIC #01732438/01080402
BY APPOINTMENT

MENLO PARK $2,498,000
1315 American Way | 3bd/2ba
Keri Nicholas | 650.533.7273
LIC #01198898
BY APPOINTMENT

REDWOOD CITY $1,398,000
1120 17th Avenue | 3bd/2ba
Suzie Soden | 650.315.8922
LIC #01968975
BY APPOINTMENT

SAN JOSE $1,295,000
2111 Hicks Ave | 4bd/2ba
Tim Trailer | 650.333.3833
LIC #00426209
BY APPOINTMENT

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors®. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.
The City is Atherton
The Leader is Alain Pinel

Volume shown in millions of dollars. Source: TrendGraphix, January 1 through December 30, 2017. Displaying the top 5 brokerages in Atherton based on closed sales volume.
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- JOBS 500-599
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-699
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Woodside | 4/4.5 | $13,500,000
135 Ram Road
Classic estate on 4.5+ acres w/ equestrian facilities, pool and tennis court 135RamRoad.com

Woodside | 5/5.5 | $8,900,000
3870 Woodside Rd
Custom Home on approx 2 acres w/ vineyard, vast lawns & next to Wunderlich Park.

Woodside | 4/4.5 | $8,495,000
3970 Woodside Rd
Custom Home on approx 2 acres w/ vineyard, vast lawns & next to Wunderlich Park.

Menlo Park | 5/5.5 | $5,800,000
625 Hobart St
Contemporary award winning Masterpiece home. 5 bd suites. Gorgeous gardens.625HobartSt.com

Woodside | 5/5 | $8,250,000
401 Selby Ln
This property offers numerous opportunities on over one acre in sought-after Atherton.

Atherton | 5/4.5 | $1,897,000
157 Watkins Ave
Beautifully remodeled 1-level home w/ resort-like backyard. Nearly 1 acre on a private lot

Menlo Park | 3/2 | $1,897,000
Sat/Sun 1 - 4
243 Oakhurst Place
Bright warm Suburban Park. Charming home, family room, French doors to patio, gleaming hardwood floors, great street!

Woodside | 4/3.5 | $2,850,000
580 Old La Honda Rd
Custom-built home on 9.5+ acres with splendid views is worth the drive - 580OldLaHonda.com

Emerald Hills | 4/2.5 | $2,295,000
1070 Paradise Way
This property offers numerous opportunities on over one acre in sought-after Atherton.

Menlo Park | 3/2 | $938,000
400 Davey Glen Rd #4705
Walls of glass offer views of nature’s tranquil beauty & abundance of light all on 1 level

Palo Alto | 4/3 | $3,595,000
525 Jackson Drive
Premier location in Green Gables. Great remodel and additions. Palo Alto schls. 4BR/3BA.

Redwood City | 5/4 | $3,195,000
718 Canyon Rd
Brand new Modern Style yet traditional home. Top of the line finishes & sun-filled yard.

Palo Alto | 4/3 | $3,595,000
525 Jackson Drive
Premier location in Green Gables. Great remodel and additions. Palo Alto schls. 4BR/3BA.

Woodside | 4/3.5 | $2,295,000
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Redwood City | 2/2 | $2,195,000
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3870 Woodside Rd
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