Citizen scientists are on the watch for migrating birds taking a break in local park

PAGE 14
Going out of Business.  
Everything Must Go!

With the owner of The Oriental Carpet preparing to retire next year, everything in stock at the downtown Menlo Park store is on sale – with the steep discounts ranging from 50% to 80% off.

Owner Bruce Good amassed an incredible collection of high-quality hand-knotted rugs in his nearly four decades in the business, and he has more than 2,500 pieces left to sell in his Santa Cruz Avenue store. The store's entire inventory is priced to sell. “As I get closer to retirement, there will be more reductions – but less choice,” said Good. “The best pieces will go quickly.”

He’s seen some customers come in and buy a rug for every room in the house, he said.

All the rugs the store sells are hand-woven and knotted from traditional producers and cooperatives in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The store has pieces in every standard size and offers an array of designs including traditional, contemporary and “transitional” – rugs that can be formal or casual, depending on the furnishings they’re paired with. The store offers rugs made from wool, silk and viscose, a material that looks and feels like silk but is more affordable. Good says the majority of the rugs he sells are made of wool, which is the strongest and hardiest material. Viscose offers the soft feeling of silk but is easier to clean. “I personally really like it,” he said. “You can put it into a family room without worrying about it.”

The store’s selection also includes a large number of antique rugs. Collectors appreciate how a rug’s colors soften over the years, giving the piece a fine and distinctive patina.

The traditional handcrafted method makes the rugs both beautiful and durable, said Good. The Oriental Carpet has been serving Peninsula residents for 46 years, helping homeowners and designers achieve the look and feel that a beautiful, high-quality carpet can bring to a room. Good said the handcrafted rugs last forever – but his sale won’t. If you're looking for an attractive rug at an even more attractive price, now is the time to go shopping.

Come check out their selection at their showroom at 707 Santa Cruz Ave. or call (650) 327-6608 for more information.
Peninsula Real Estate Decisions
Require a Strategy and a Dedicated Team

Recent Sales
/ 126 Stockbridge Avenue, Atherton
/ 712 Waverley Street, Palo Alto – represented buyer
/ 627 Lytton Avenue #4, Palo Alto – represented buyer
/ 359 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
/ 988 Menlo Avenue, Menlo Park
/ 873 Partridge Avenue, Menlo Park
/ 626 Partridge Avenue, Menlo Park
/ 1020 Windsor Drive, Menlo Park – represented buyer
/ 15 Oliver Court, Menlo Park
/ 203 Leland Avenue, Menlo Park
/ 481 Vine Street, Menlo Park
/ 2367 Sharon Road, Menlo Park
/ 212 Santa Margarita Avenue, Menlo Park
/ 810 Cedro Way, Stanford – represented buyer
/ 1098 Cathcart Way, Stanford
/ 120 Minaret Avenue, Mountain View

Active Listings

1700 Bay Laurel Street • Menlo Park
5 Bed | 2.5 Bath | $5,895,000

58 Northgate • Atherton
4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | $3,395,000

2450 Sharon Oaks Drive • Menlo Park
3 Bed + Office | 3 Bath | $2,175,000

555 Byron Street, 309 • Palo Alto
2 Bed + Office | 3 Bath | $2,150,000

555 Byron Street, 109 • Palo Alto
2 Bed + Office | 3 Bath | $1,998,000

555 Byron Street, 307 • Palo Alto
2 Bed | 2 Bath | $1,995,000

555 Byron Street, 307 • Palo Alto
2 Bed | 2 Bath | $1,995,000

58 Northgate • Atherton
4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | $3,395,000

2450 Sharon Oaks Drive • Menlo Park
3 Bed + Office | 3 Bath | $2,175,000

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2 Bed | 2 Bath | $1,995,000

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Coffeebar was born in the granite of the High Sierras in 2010. Since then, we’ve been on the pursuit to raise the bar of sustainability through excellent food & coffee. We believe that everything should be made from scratch and with love. From vertically sourced coffee to pastries crafted in-house daily as well as a seasonal menu developed by our expert culinary team, we are excited to serve you an experience that gives you everything you need to feel welcome in our world.

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Location is open to the public

THE 34TH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY
Short Story Contest

Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners in each category:
Adult, Young Adult (15-17) and Teen (12-14)

FOR OFFICIAL RULES & ENTRY FORM, VISIT:
www.paloaltoonline.com/short_story

ENTRY DEADLINE: March 27, 2020 at 5pm

Sponsored by: BELL’S BOOKS, KEPLER’S BOOKSTORES, Linden Tree BOOKS, Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto online Express

ALL stories must be 2,500 words or less

From the Mountains to the Bay
Secrets of the gardens

Visitors to the historic Filoli estate in Woodside enjoy the sprawling gardens on the grounds they can freely roam. But a more uncommon view of the estate’s lush greenery and flowering glory is found in the greenhouses where many of the plants take root. Guided greenhouse tours are available through March. See the story and more photos on Page 19.

Is separation ahead for Atherton and the fire district?

Town begins public outreach about possible exit from fire agency

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Town of Atherton officials will begin gathering feedback from residents on the town’s 2016 fire services study, which showed a disparity between the fixed percentage of tax revenues the town’s property owners hand over to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District in return for emergency response services, and how much it actually costs the district to provide those services to the town.

During a Jan. 15 meeting, the City Council directed staff to begin a two-to-three-month process of public outreach pertaining to the study. This process is to include one or two community meetings, along with a four-page edition of the Athertonian Newsletter dedicated to fire service issues, according to City Manager George Rodericks. The newsletter is mailed to all residents.

“The goal of the outreach would be to inform residents regarding the issues that have been raised in the study and to seek resident input regarding how to respond to those issues,” said Mayor Rick DeGolia in an email. “The discussion at this month’s meeting was to focus that outreach on the next few months and to limit the process so that it doesn’t take a long time.”

It will cost $2,000 for the newsletter and $200 for each community meeting, according to a staff report. (The $200 covers the cost of providing refreshments at the meeting.)

The community meetings will be led by the town’s fire services ad hoc subcommittee, which is made up of council members Bill Widmer and Cary West.

Staff will write the newsletter, which West and Widmer will review before it goes back to the full council for review at its Feb. 19 meeting, Rodericks said.

The community meeting dates are still to be determined, Rodericks said.

The council also had the option to host a special meeting dedicated to the issue, but chose not to do so, according to the staff report.

Fire services study

The 2016 fire services review, commissioned by the town and released in 2018, found that Atherton taxpayers pay more than twice as much as what fire services cost, paying about $7 million more than the cost of services. The study shows that in the 2015-16 fiscal year, Atherton, which has 8% of the residents in the fire district, provided 31.7% of the fire district’s total property tax revenues.

At its Dec. 18 meeting, the council opted to consider the following options:

- Pursue further public education and outreach.

See ATHERTON EXIT, page 10

Town’s departure would be a ‘tremendous blow,’ says fire board president

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

As Atherton considers a separation from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, which has provided the town’s fire services for decades, the town’s leaders assert that there’s good reason to consider such a move: Atherton contributes far more revenue to the fire district through its property taxes than it receives in benefits, they maintain, citing a survey commissioned by the town for fiscal year 2015-16.

The fire district, on the other hand, maintains that such a move would be a Gordian knot that would be difficult to untangle and would have serious repercussions for the district if it were carried out.

Although Atherton has 8% of the residents in the fire district, it provided 31.7% of the district’s total property tax revenues, which led to a subsidy by the town of more than $7 million in tax revenue for the fire agency’s coffers, according to the 2015-16 survey.

“This is the double-edged sword that residents of Atherton and neighborhoods like West Menlo Park have to deal with,” district board member Virginia Chang-Kiraly told The Almanac. “When you live in the wealthiest zip code in the country sometimes you have to pay for things that primarily benefit other people.”

Atherton also pays a higher share of taxes to the Las Lomitas and Menlo Park City school districts and the Sequoia high school district, even though not very many Atherton residents have children who attend schools in the districts, she noted.

Atherton could conceivably contract out its fire services, but some sort of arrangement would have to be made with the district about what to do with Fire Station 3, which is in Atherton, Chang-Kiraly said.

“Station 3 is the fire district’s property, and we also own the neighboring property next to the station,” she said. “Five stations out of seven are located outside of Atherton but also serve the Atherton community.”

Losing Atherton as a region in its service area would be a tremendous blow to the district and, depending on how the exit is handled, would result in major budget cuts, said Robert Jones, who was elected board president earlier this month.

“We would have to adjust, and we would have to make it work for us with less funds,” he said. “Hopefully, we wouldn’t have to go out of business or consolidate.”

Former fire board member Peter Carpenter thinks that Atherton’s concerns represent an ethical issue because the taxation

Street safety advocate announces council bid to fill District 3 seat

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Jennifer Wolosin, the founder of the Parents for Safe Routes organization, has announced she is running for the Menlo Park City Council to represent District 3.

“I really see it as an extension of the work I’m already doing,” she told The Almanac.

Four years ago, she sent her first email to the City Council asking for safer walking and biking routes for children in the community, she said.

Shortly thereafter, she started the community group Parents for Safe Routes, which is an advocacy organization focused on making Menlo Park easier and safer to traverse on foot and bike, particularly for children going to school.

Since then, she has become a familiar fixture in the council chambers as a regular council meeting attendee who comments on public matters.

She has also served on the Transportation Master Plan Oversight and Outreach Committee, an advisory committee assembled to provide feedback on the city’s years-in-the-works Transportation Master Plan; been involved with the new local advocacy organization Menlo Together; and served on Menlo Park’s Safe Routes Task Force, San Mateo County’s Santa Cruz Avenue Corridor Community Task Force, the county’s safe routes advisory committee, the Menlo-Atherton Traffic Task Force, Safe Kids Coalition, Community Trust and Dumbarton Corridor Coalition.

She’s lived in Menlo Park for...
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROJECT/PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Las Lomitas School District is requesting the submission of statements of qualifications for program/project and construction management services from companies interested in providing professional Program/Project and Construction Management Services to the District.

This RFG is to identify a qualified program/project and construction management company to assist the District with program and project management services for its Measure R Renovation construction program.

Potential PM/CMs wishing to submit a Statement of Qualifications must be licensed, insured and maintain a full-service office.

Interested proposers can find complete information on submittal requirements and timelines at www.iliesd.org or by contacting Steven R. Fuentes, Chief Business Officer at sfuentes@iliesd.org.

All responses to this RFG must be received at the District office on or before FEBRUARY 12, 2020, no later than 4:00pm.
Menlo Park Council to consider mandate on safe gun storage

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Vice Mayor Drew Combs has proposed that the City Council consider an ordinance requiring all community residents who own guns to store them in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock.

The council indicated on Jan. 14 that it’s interested in taking up the topic; when it will be discussed is still to be determined.

Former teacher sentenced to nearly seven years in prison for sex acts with minor

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

A former teacher charged with engaging in sex acts with a minor was sentenced to six years and eight months in state prison on Jan. 17, according to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Judge Jeffrey Finigan handed down the sentence in concluding the case against Redwood City resident Dawn Giannini, 50, who pleaded no contest to four of the 19 felony charges she faced, according to the DA’s office. Those charges included Lewd acts with a child and sexual penetration with a foreign object.

During the sentencing hearing, Wagstaffe said, Judge Finigan stated that this was “one of the worst such cases he has seen,” and that he considered allowing withdrawal of the no contest plea in order to set a higher sentence, but decided against it.

Giannini was arrested on Oct. 18, 2018, after a Woodside High School student alerted the school’s principal of several online videos of a female classmate engaged in sexual acts with Giannini, Wagstaffe said.

The DA’s office initially charged Giannini with 24 felony counts on Oct. 24, 2018. “My deputy DA dismissed the other charges as part of the negotiated plea bargain,” Wagstaffe told The Almanac this week.

The videos were shot from 2014 to 2015 in Redwood City and Santa Cruz County when the victim was 16 or 17 years old, according to the DA’s office. The girl is related to Giannini.

Giannini taught at schools in Redwood City and Palo Alto. She was substitute teaching when she was arrested, Wagstaffe said. He did not know the name of the school where she most recently worked.

The victim’s father delivered a victim impact statement and the prosecutor read a statement written by the victim during the sentencing hearing, Wagstaffe said. Giannini’s attorney, Eric Hove, noted that she had “no criminal record, that the defendant had been a prior sexual abuse victim and that the defendant confessed to the conduct very early, and asked for a four-year prison sentence.” Wagstaffe said. The defendant addressed the court and apologized for her actions, according to the DA’s Office.

As part of her sentencing, Giannini will also have to register as a sex offender and pay $700 in restitution to the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office; she is also barred from contacting the victim for 10 years, according to the DA’s office.

People who report the loss or theft of a firearm to law enforcement within five days of knowing it was missing are not prosecuted. At the time, county officials reported that there had been 301 gun-related deaths in the county over the past 10 years, and cited a 2008 report in the New England Journal of Medicine that concluded that living in a home where guns are kept increases an individual’s risk of death by homicide by 40% to 170%.

Combs’ idea has already gained some traction among community members voicing support for the ordinance through the City Council’s email inbox.

Leah Elkins of Peninsula Moms Demand Action, an advocacy organization opposed to gun violence, wrote: “The County ordinance was motivated by the need to close the gaps in state law which provides an unclear definition of ‘secure storage’ and does nothing to prevent access to guns by thieves, suicidal persons, those suffering temporary mental crises or those with dementia. Such laws have already been adopted locally by Burlingame, San Carlos, Foster City, Portola Valley and Redwood City.”

Priyanka Rajagopalan wrote: “I am writing to let you know that as a longtime Menlo Park resident, my neighbors and I strongly support laws that will keep us and our loved ones safe from gun violence. A secure storage law which closes the loopholes in California state law is one way we can do that.”

Combs said he favors a civil penalty for violations of the ordinance instead of criminal charges.

Access additional gun safety information at the California attorney general’s website at oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips.
Rick DeGolia holds the mayor's gavel in Atherton for 2020, his second time in the role.

The Atherton City Council unanimously voted to name DeGolia mayor during its Dec. 18 meeting.

DeGolia, who joined the council in 2013 and whose current term ends in 2022, held the vice mayor chair in 2019. He last served as mayor in 2015.

During the meeting, he outlined eight of his goals as mayor. These are to:

- Improve traffic safety and reduce traffic congestion. The town needs greater neighborhood engagement to identify solutions to growing traffic problems, he said.
- Greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the town’s future energy use at its new civic center.
- Continue to monitor, and advocate against, state control of local zoning that could affect Atherton’s “single-family home environment.”
- Design quad gates to improve safety at the Watkins Avenue railroad crossing.
- Begin construction on the Caltrans-sponsored water treatment facility at Cartan Field.
- In an interview with The Almanac, DeGolia answered questions about challenges Atherton faces, how the town has changed over the years and how his priorities have changed since joining the City Council. Here are his answers, with some minor edits for length and clarity.

What are your top three goals?

It’s the responsibility of every city council to practice conservative fiscal management.

It’s tough not to give people everything they want; that’s why there’s a pension issue (in many California cities). Atherton has done a particularly good job of being fiscally conservative.

Safety and supporting the police are priorities. ... We’re (also) really focused on the unique building of a new civic center. It’s taken 20 years to get the support to build it and I want to make sure it’s properly managed.

Tell me about your decision to hold office hours?

It’s the obligation of anybody who’s on a council or (serving as) mayor to enable people to have contact with you. People want to be informed. ... One resident came in (to office hours during DeGolia’s last term as mayor) with a problem with train horns and we established a quiet zone on the (Atherton Fair Oaks) tracks after that.

What are the three biggest challenges facing Atherton?

Making sure the civic center project remains on time and on budget. This is the biggest project by an order of magnitude in Atherton. Before this, our biggest project was a $4 million drainage project along Marsh Road (a 2016 rebuild of the Marsh Road portion of the Atherton Channel, which involved installing a safety wall to keep cars out of the channel). The council tasks the city manager (George Rodericks) with that (the civic center project) being his top priority. We have a report on the project at every (City Council) meeting and walk through the site. We have financial and construction experts to advise him (Rodericks).

Congestion is a problem.

Atherton is a small residential community that sits between Redwood City and Menlo Park — each of which is very actively developing office buildings and housing. We have almost no ability to do anything about it. Regionally, we need to figure out how to manage this. I hope to have a joint meeting between Redwood City and Atherton city councils this year. (Atherton held a joint meeting with the Menlo Park City Council in 2019.)

There’s a public meeting on Jan. 21 to discuss the water capture facility at Cartan Field that’s important. This project can be approved by the end of the year and work could begin (then). I hope that the Caltrans-sponsored water treatment facility is expanded to clear up our persistent drainage problems along El Camino Real. This is important for Atherton and to protect the Bay.

How has Atherton changed since you first moved here in 1999?

A big change has been a lot of residential construction. Everyone has construction on their street.

See MAYOR’S GOALS, page 21
UNRIVALLED EUROPEAN CONTEMPORARY

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• Pool, recreation room, fitness center with sauna
• Corner lot of approximately two-thirds acre (28,690 square feet)
• Premier Peninsula location midway between San Francisco and Silicon Valley

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ATHERTON EXIT
continued from page 5

Complete an application to the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for detachment from the fire district. Should the town proceed with a detachment process through LAFCo, that process would include various public meetings and could ultimately include a public vote.

Discuss possible legislative relief with county and/or state legislators. This would involve a change in the law, reallocating revenues derived from the town’s property taxes, since the allocation to fire services is based on a state formula. The allocations of property taxes were set soon after Proposition 13 was passed in 1978, and as the property taxes generated in the areas the fire district covers — Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton and nearby unincorporated areas — increased, so did the fire district’s revenue. Based on the results of the study and subsequent conversations with the district and LAFCo, it is unlikely that a tax agreement could be negotiated and unlikely that special legislation would be supported, according to the Dec. 18 staff report.

The town’s fire services subcommittee met with LAFCo representatives in November to explore possible steps the town might take to detach from the fire district or pursue other solutions, according to the staff report. Those representatives made clear that LAFCo doesn’t support the town’s breakaway from the fire district, and that the consolidation of services.

The fire district and the City Council last met publicly in January 2019. During the joint meeting, officials agreed to form a subcommittee to talk about ways to address Atherton’s concerns about its financial contributions to the district.

The subcommittee, which consists of two people from each agency, was to discuss three options for the town: continue with the status quo, detach from the fire district and seek an alternative for emergency services, or find a mutually agreeable way to increase services to the town.

Council members Widmer and Weist, and fire board members Virginia Chang Kira-ly and Jim McLaughlin, an Atherton resident, serve on the subcommittee.

While no one from the fire district disputed the disparities presented in the report during the joint meeting a year ago, fire board member Chuck Bernstein did argue with the methods the consultant used, including the calculation of service calls to Atherton based on where the calls originated. Bernstein also noted that the study implied that if Atherton were to detach itself from the fire district, there’s an assumption that the fire district would still cover a third of the town where emergency response times from the two Atherton fire stations would not be acceptable. “That isn’t fair either,” he said.

A staff report and analysis of the cost to detach from the fire district will likely return to the council during its March 4 study session, according to staff.

TREMENDOUS BLOW
continued from page 5

system is based on ability to pay rather than on the value of the services that are received. “We live in a society that says that people who are better off pay higher taxes than people who are not better off,” Carpenter told The Almanac. “What the Atherton Town Council has said is that we don’t think we should pay more than what the cost of our services are.”

Atherton residents pay more for every public service than they receive in direct benefits from (the providing agencies), not just fire, Carpenter added.

Fire Chief Harold Schapelhou- man said in an interview that the effect on the fire district and the remaining communities in the district could be “devastating.” “The amount of money we would have might not cover all the costs of providing the services to other communities, and there would need to be a dramatic reduction of those services,” he said.

If Atherton were to proceed with an exit plan, it would have to get the permission from the San Mateo County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo), which “has not been encourag- ing of the idea up to now,” said Martha Poyatos, the commis- sion’s executive officer.

“We encourage dropping boundaries and becoming larger rather than becoming smaller,” she said. What the town is talking about isn’t consistent with anything I see in LAFCo law.”

If Atherton applied to LAFCo for permission, it would trigger a property tax exchange in which the county Board of Supervisors would negotiate with the town on the proportion of property tax revenue to be transferred into its coffers to provide fire protection service, Poyatos wrote in an email.

“The most that the town could get is what the fire district currently receives from property taxes generated by the town of Atherton, but it could get less because it’s subject to negotia- tion,” Poyatos said.

If LAFCo were to approve the application, Atherton residents would be entitled to a protest period. If more than 50% of residents protested, the approval would be canceled; if 25% to 50% protested, the Board of Supervi- sors would call an election and a simple majority would be needed for approval.

State Senate Candidates Debate

Wednesday, February 5
7:30 – 9 p.m. at Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto

Featuring

Josh Becker (D)  Michael Brownrigg (D)  Alex Glew (R)  Sally Lieber (D)  Shelly Masur (D)  Annie Oliva (D)  John Webster (L)

PANEL: Jocelyn Dong, Editor, Palo Alto Weekly
Kate Bradshaw, Reporter, Embarcadero Media
Ben Christopher, Political Reporter, CalMatters

Who will fill the 13th District State Senate seat when Sen. Jerry Hill is termed out this year?

California’s open primary election is Tuesday, March 2. Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of party affiliation.

The top two in the primary will face off in November unless one candidate receives more than 50%.

The 13th District runs from South San Francisco to Sunnyvale.

Sponsored by Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and CalMatters
On priorities and applying a pediatrician’s mindset to making change

In an exclusive interview, Dr. Priscilla Chan talks about her philanthropic initiative, her concerns about housing, and her commitment to transparency

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) has come a long way in the four years since Dr. Priscilla Chan and her husband, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, announced their plan to transfer 99% of their Facebook shares to create the philanthropic limited liability company. Working in the fields of science, education, and justice and opportunity, the organization is behind new research on rare, neurodegenerative and infectious diseases; investments in teacher development and efforts to improve student learning outcomes; support for criminal justice reform initiatives across the U.S.; and more locally, the new $500 million Partnership for the Bay’s Future aimed at preserving, protecting and producing affordable housing in the region.

On Jan. 9, CZI also announced it will grant $3.5 million to nonprofits meeting people’s basic needs in Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks and Redwood City this year in its annual grant cycle.

After moving locations several times in the past few years, the organization moved into its new headquarters just this month in the heart of downtown Redwood City at 801 Jefferson Ave.

On Jan. 23, CZI announced that a significant part of that building’s ground floor, about 8,500 square feet, is being dedicated for use as a community space for nonprofits serving San Mateo County — as well as for the city of Redwood City and San Mateo County government entities — to host meetings and events.

In conjunction with the announcement, The Almanac had a rare opportunity to speak with Chan, CZI co-founder and co-CEO. Responses have been mildly edited for clarity and length.

What would you say is one of the biggest challenges you’ve experienced so far in developing the initiative?

I think one thing that’s really interesting about CZI and excites us is that we bring together people from all different backgrounds. It feels right and natural for us: Mark’s an engineer and I’m a pediatrician and educator. (The challenge is) really acknowledging that there’s no silver bullet, and lots of pieces have to come together.

I’ll give you a funny example. We, years ago, internally were talking about how we’ve taken on too much, and we need to sequence our priorities.

Right? Makes sense. But the scientists were like, “Build a wet lab. Work on genetic sequencing.”

It was like, no, that’s not what we meant! But sometimes little versions of that, even internally, happen because we’ve got engineers, people from government, educators, traditional grant-makers, and all different backgrounds. …

We’re trying to encourage that outside of our four walls. We give a lot of grants that are about collaboration.

This question comes from my mom, who’s a pediatrician on her local school board (in rural Northern California) who has been interested in CZI’s work. How has your medical training, specifically as a pediatrician interested in kids and their well-being, affected your approach to philanthropy?

I trained at the General (referring to the Zuckerber San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center) in San Francisco and worked as a primary care pediatrician there for some time. My big takeaway from that experience is that I had a lot of ability to name things, diagnose things, but I was in a little silo. (Children) would come and see me for 15 minutes; as frequently as every three months would be (and) not sleeping well at night, but the regulations say that they have to wake up from nap at this time for their afternoon lessons. What do you do? All of these things are well-meaning, but we need to figure out how to care for the whole child.

We try to replicate that philosophy throughout our work. How do we encourage health, social-emotional learning, identity, purpose? All those things are important to us.

On the basic science side, people often get confused and think because I’m a pediatrician, we work on health care, and I think it’s very intentional that we don’t. In the UCSF training program, you’re both at the General Hospital (where you see really challenging cases, socially, but also at UCSF, where you see the highest end (and) the deepest reach of what medicine is capable of. And that training has taught me that we’re not capable of a lot.

There’s a lot we can’t do, and I’ve seen so many families (and) kids suffer, sometimes die, because we just don’t know what else to do. I believe in basic science, investing in basic science and making scientists better because that’s where hope comes from.

All of these things about increasing our knowledge base, (and) increasing our ability to build strong systems (are) about hope, because, as a front-line practitioner, I’ve seen where there’s nothing more. … You have to believe that there are folks in the lab, on the school boards, who are looking to build a better system for kids so you don’t have to hit against the same wall over and over again.

If you had one policy recommendation for Sacramento right now to make your mission easier, what would it be?

It’s hard. The one that we’ve spent a lot of time on, for the Bay Area, is actually housing. It’s become so hard in so many ways for families to live here, and we need to make it easier for people

See PEDIATRICIAN, page 17
BRIGHT, STYLISH, AND CLOSE TO IT ALL IN SHARON HEIGHTS

2146 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park

Stylish living awaits in this desirable townhome, boasting a prime location in the coveted Menlo Park neighborhood of Sharon Heights. Comprising 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths across 2,030 sq. ft. of living space (per county), this two-level home has it all - bright living areas, a sparkling community pool, and easy access to everything Sand Hill Road has to offer, from Venture Capital firms to the exciting amenities of Stanford Shopping Center. Enjoy newly refinished hardwood floors, spacious formal rooms, and the well-designed kitchen, plus experience indoor/outdoor living with two large balconies that provide excellent space for alfresco entertaining. Upstairs, the master suite offers a private retreat, while two additional bedrooms ensure comfort for the entire family. Adding the finishing touch, this home offers access to acclaimed schools Las Lomitas Elementary and La Entrada Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics* using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: [www.2146Sandhill.com](http://www.2146Sandhill.com)

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For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.765Cotton.com
Offered at $6,788,000

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics* using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.906.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

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We’re in the middle of winter, which means it’s the best time of year to see a variety of migrating birds. And if you head to Bedwell Bayfront Park, you’re bound to see bird watchers equipped with scopes and binoculars admiring a yellow-rumped warbler or an American avocet.

Many of these birders use eBird, a joint program by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Audubon Society that allows birders anywhere in the world to report sightings through an app. Local bird watchers reported 143 unique species in Bedwell Bayfront Park from the months of December to February over the past decade, on average over double the amount of bird sightings over the rest of the year.

According to Andrew Farnsworth, a researcher with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the start of the cold season marks a time when many species fly down from the northern regions to the south in search of warmer climates. When spring rolls around, they’ll return to their original territories to breed.

“Some of the early ones start coming in August,” said Chris MacIntosh, an avid birder and founding member of Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park who also serves on the board of directors of the Sequoia Audubon Society. “And then it builds up to a crescendo around December and January — starting in February or March, they’ll start disappearing again.”

Some species are also more noticeable due to behavioral changes in the cold months, said Farnsworth, who gave as an example waterfowl forming groups.

To introduce locals to the wide variety of wintering birds, Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and the Sequoia Audubon Society are leading a series of free guided bird walks on the first Saturday of every month through March. Beginners are welcome, and the guides always bring extra binoculars to share with attendees.

“We have the wonderful treasure of wintering waterfowl,” said MacIntosh, who leads some of the walks. “You can see birds pretty close up here. If you go out in July, there are not as many birds.”

The walks informally started around 2008, when members of Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park would set up scopes and invite passersby to get a close-up look at the birds, said MacIntosh. In the winter of 2017 to 2018, the organization partnered with the Sequoia Audubon Society to offer more structured tours.

On a sunny and slightly breezy morning this month, The Almanac and about 15 attendees saw 29 unique species over two hours on one of these guided walks. Year-round residents including Canada geese honked as they glided overhead, and the bright colors of Anna’s hummingbirds’ plumage wooed by.

“The primary equipment is eyes and ears,” said MacIntosh. “It’s noticing. It’s starting to observe. It’s listening and hearing any birds. If you want to get into [bird watching] more, a pair of binoculars is helpful.”

Along the trail lining the paved road through the park, the group paused to admire a paddling of ducks floating on an inlet of the Bay at high tide, exhibiting the seasonal behavior that Farnsworth described. The canvasbacks were easily identifiable with their red-brown heads and white backs. The bright emerald glint along the male green-winged teal...
shone through a large scope.

We stood watching for about a half-hour. A group of white-crowned sparrows came out of hiding from a fennel brush.

Bay Area native Christin New, who became a serious birder about five years ago after bumping into Audubon Society members in the Bay side park and peeking through their scope, said the activity involves a tremendous amount of waiting. More than people might initially expect.

"Most people who go bird watching are pretty against interfering, so it's really an emphasis on observation," New said. "It's a passive observation. We have a difficult time being bored and bird watching — there's a lot of quiet watching and waiting. It's an activity of patience."

While walking around one of the marshes directly across Bayfront Expressway, MacIntosh spotted three black-necked stilts wading in the shallows. She spun around and pointed towards the top of the grassy hill.

"There are the meadowlarks!" she said. About a half-hour earlier she had identified the bird from a different vantage point. In lightning-fast-unison, the walkers raised their binoculars to watch the small birds dive in and out of the tall grass. One teenage boy rifled through his guide book.

"The chance of seeing a rare or uncommon good bird is the appeal," said Cedrik von Briel, a 16-year-old birder who attended the walk. "It's always a treasure hunt, kind of."

Data from the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC), an international effort powered by citizens around the world, shows that the population of the western meadowlark along the California coast has steadily decreased by about 2 percent each year since 1967. By contrast, Canada geese are becoming very common in our area.

According to Farnsworth, bird populations vary tremendously depending on the day, season or year for a multitude of reasons. Canada geese, for example, could be staying in the area for longer than they once did because there are now more resources available to them locally throughout the winter.

"This said, there are changes happening in the species composition as a result of changing climate and habitat," said Farnsworth, though it's not necessarily occurring with the same intensity in all locations. "Birds returning in greater or lesser numbers each year — this is the stuff of research that is actively occurring."

When asked how consequential citizen science is to the field of ornithology, Farnsworth used a single word: "Extremely." He then directed me to the eBird site to see for myself.

In 2018, eBird reported that 420,000 users had recorded over 590 million observations. This January, about 250 peer-reviewed publications had drawn from the data since 2003.

See BIRDS page 16
“It’s very accessible,” said New about reporting bird sightings. “You don’t have to be a postdoc in ornithology. In recent years, there has been a decrease in western meadowlarks. I’ll be driving to work and see one and enter it in.”

Von Briel said that he does most of his birding on his walk to school, Woodside High. He enjoys listening to their calls and keeping track of the species he identifies on lists.

The Sequoia Audubon Society provides a list of birds in Bedwell Bayfront Park. New, who identifies birds when walking between work meetings at Stanford, finds the experience meditative.

“It’s not like I set out to look for movement — it’s so ingrained in me now,” New said. “Every time it brings a smile to my face. You almost feel like you have a secret window into a secret world.”

Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and the Sequoia Audubon Society’s next guided walk through the park is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8. Attendees will meet by the parking lot restrooms around 10 a.m.

For more information, email Chris MacIntosh at chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu, or call 650-839-1523.

Kindergarten registration begins in local districts

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Kindergarten registration for the 2020-21 school year for children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 is now or soon will be underway in local school districts.

The Portola Valley and Woodside Elementary school districts also offer a two-year transitional kindergarten program for children who turn 5 between Sept. 2 and Dec. 1. The Woodside and Menlo Park City school districts also offer preschool programs.

Preschools

The Menlo Park City School District began registering incoming preschoolers in November. Registration is open at the Early Learning Center (ELC), a fee-based preschool that first opened in 2018. Eligible children must be 3 years old by Dec. 1 and fully potty trained by the first day of school. The preschool, which has sites at Lower Laurel School in Atherton and Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park, serves children who are just under 3 years old to 5 years old.

The school has full- and half-day options.

Enrollment is by lottery. The application deadline for the first lottery has passed, but applications received before Feb. 20 will be included in a second lottery on Feb. 28. The lottery for students requesting tuition assistance will be conducted Jan. 31. Deadline for tuition assistance applications was Jan. 27.

Parents can apply on the district’s website at mpcsd.org. For more information, email ELC Director Jessica Mihaly at jmihaly@mpcsd.org. For information and enrollment, call Wendy Valencia at 650-324-0186, ext. 8900.

More information on ELC registration is available at district.mpcsds.org/earlylearning.

Woodside Elementary School will hold its preschool open house on Fri., Jan. 31, at 8:30 a.m. at 3195 Woodside Road in Woodside. The district’s two-week “priority enrollment” period begins that day.

The Woodside Preschool application will be available online and at the orientation. Minimum preschool age is 3 years old. The openings are for Feb. 1, 2021, and the minimum age for prekindergarten is 4 years old by Dec. 1, 2020. Email Director Tom Limbert at timlimbert@woodside-school.us for more information.

Las Lomitas Elementary School District

Las Lomitas district registration began Jan. 27. Parents should bring the following information to the Las Lomitas School office at 299 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays: an original birth certificate or passport; proof of residency (the originals of two utility bills or a utility bill and lease or mortgage contract) and current immunization records. Cellphone bills do not qualify as proof of residency.

Families will then register online through InfoSnap, the district’s online registration system. Parents must bring a copy of their child’s birth certificate to finalize registration. Students will not be placed in a class until all immunizations are completed.

The school will host a tour for students who turn age 5 between Sept. 2 and Dec. 1. Kindergarten is open to those whose fifth birthdays fall on or before Sept. 1. Registration procedure packets are available in the main office.

Call 650-851-1777, ext. 2652, for more information.

Woodside Elementary School District

Woodside school district kindergarten registration begins March 2. The school has scheduled a transitional kindergarten and kindergarten informational meeting and tour on Jan. 29 from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. It will also host tours Feb. 7, March 20, April 17 and May 29 from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Call 650-851-1571 to reserve a spot.

Go to the district’s website at woodsideusd.com/District/New-Student-Enrollment/index to find the packets and more information.

A birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records and a physician’s report will be required before a child enters school in the fall.

For more information, contact Elvira Ramirez Martinez at elviramartinez@woodsideusd.org or 650-851-1571, ext. 4002.
Nonprofit honors 9 who exemplify the meaning of being selfless

By Palo Alto Weekly staff

This year’s Avenidas Lifetime Achievement honorees have gone beyond the call of duty to create positive changes in their communities by donating countless hours of hands-on service to local organizations and programs aimed at improving education, health care, the environment and services for seniors, among other areas.

The recipients of the annual award are Fran Codispoti, Besty Gifford, Bill and Gay Krause, Armand and Eliane Neukermans, Alma and Jim Phillips and Steve Player.

The honorees were announced at an evening reception on Thursday at Avenidas@450 Bryant in Palo Alto. They will be formally celebrated at an afternoon garden party on May 17, the main annual fundraiser for Avenidas, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit organization that offers tools for positive aging to seniors and their families on the Midpeninsula.

“The treasure trove of outstanding seniors who have made so many contributions to our community makes our honorary selection process very challenging, and this year was no exception,” Avenidas President and CEO Amy Andonian stated in a press release. “Each individual’s story is so interesting and rich and their accomplishments give us all quite a high standard to shoot for in our own lives.”

Armand and Eliane Neukermans actively support social entrepreneurial and environmental efforts. The Portola Valley couple initiated the Jai-purKnee project at Stanford University to encourage students to design a low-cost prosthetic knee for the Jaipur-Ranch, Global Women’s Leadership Network, the Jai-pur Foot Organization and Amici Lovaniesiens.

Fran Codispoti is a Los Altos Hills philanthropist who has spent years raising funds for and improving the wellbeing of people young and old. She turned her attention away from a career in tech and consulting to work with organizations to meet benefit education, medical research and the community’s aging population after recovering from Hodgkin’s lymphoma. She was instrumental in raising funds for facilities at Gunn High School, which her children attended. She later went on to co-chair two capital campaigns for Avenidas after joining the board of directors. Other organizations she currently works with include: Stanford Cancer Institute, where she serves on the Cancer Council of advisors for the School of Medicine; and the Advancement Office at ColleCge Education, where she serves as an advisory board member; Bay Area Cancer Connections, where she serves as chair of the Emeritus Board; Human Rights Watch; Stanford Women’s Cancer Center; and the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Betsy Gifford has spent hundreds of hours lending a hand to nonprofit organizations large and small over the past 5 decades, from raising money for the construction of the YMCA in East Palo Alto to maintaining the grounds at Gamble Gardens each week for the past 30 years as a member of the group’s “Dirty Knives” volunteers. She began her longtime role as a community volunteer in 1963, shortly after moving to Palo Alto in the fall of 1966. She has served on numerous public and private boards, including CommScoope, Forward Networks and Smartcar. She is also a senior adviser to investment firm The Carlyle Group and a board partner at venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz.

Bill and Gay Krause have spent decades working to improve local education. The Los Altos Hills duo launched the Krause Center for Innovation at Foot hill College, which has helped more than 21,000 teachers integrate technology into their classrooms over the past two decades, and are recognized as the Foothill-De Anza Communi
ty College District’s largest private donors.

‘Their accomplishments give us all quite a high standard to shoot for in our own lives.’

Avenidas President and CEO Amy Andonian

Bill has spent the past 25 years mentoring business entrepreneurs since retiring from a long tech career during which he co-founded networking pioneer company 3Com, which introduced Ethernet to the world. He has served on numerous public and private boards, including CommScoope, Forward Networks and Smartcar. He is also a senior adviser to investment firm The Carlyle Group and a board partner at venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz.

The Palo Alto Weekly is The Almanac’s sister publication.
Behind-the-scenes tours of the Filoli estate’s greenhouses offer a glimpse of the place where its elaborate gardens take root

by Heather Zimmerman

W
oundside’s historic Filoli estate might be equally well known for its sprawling, lush gardens as for its stately 1917 Georgian revival mansion. But other, more humble structures on the grounds fill an essential role in making the estate what it is. Filoli’s greenhouses are central to the creation and maintenance of the property’s 16-acre gardens.

Around 50,000 plants a year begin life in the greenhouses, according to Jim Salyards, Filoli’s director of horticulture. And a number of plants grow in the greenhouses year-round.

Visitors can get a unique behind-the-scenes look during docent-led tours of the greenhouse complex. The tours, offered year-round, provide glimpses at scenes look during docent-led tours of the greenhouses year-round.

The oldest plant in the complex, he said, is a cycad (which resembles a low-growing palm tree) that dates back to the Bourn family, who built Filoli. Due to its large size, the plant had to be moved from the main greenhouse and into the production greenhouse, where it’s taken up permanent residence. “It never gets moved because it’s huge,” Salyards said.

Visitors to the greenhouses can pick up some insider tips on how Filoli’s staff mixes potting soil and fertilizes plants, and controls pests — a particular issue for greenhouses, Salyards said.

“Sometimes there are plants that are historic that may have such a short blooming window that you may only catch them as part of a greenhouse tour. They won’t necessarily make it down to the mansion every year,” he said.

The tour also includes a peek at the greenhouse system that we have covered in moss, Salyards said, noting that the area also includes some carnivorous plants.

“Sometimes there are plants that are historic that may have such a short blooming window that you may only catch them as part of a greenhouse tour. They won’t necessarily make it down to the mansion every year,” he said.

The greenhouses, so they live on a piping system that we have covered in moss, Salyards said, noting that the area also includes some carnivorous plants.

“Sometimes there are plants that are historic that may have such a short blooming window that you may only catch them as part of a greenhouse tour. They won’t necessarily make it down to the mansion every year,” he said.

The greenhouses not only are home to young plants being raised for the gardens, but also numerous plants that need a more controlled environment: a variety of tropical plants, some succulents and delicate or historical plants.

And like the mansion itself, three of the four greenhouses in the complex are historic — dating to the early 1920s, Salyards said, noting that only the propagation greenhouse is newer, built in 1985, though the other greenhouses have had some renovations.

The main greenhouse is the biggest in the complex and is dedicated to tropical plants, a purpose which goes back to the Bourns and the Roths, the two families that lived on the Filoli estate in the early and mid-20th century, according to notes used by greenhouse tour guides. Both families used this greenhouse to keep tropical plants that would then be displayed in the house.

Its three rooms shelter tropical plants with various shade and temperature requirements. One room houses orichids, including plants that the Roth family brought back from Hawaii, according to the tour notes. Another of the rooms is home to plants such as anthuriums, ginger, begonias and tropical vines, again with some plants from the Roth era.

The third room has shade-loving tropics including philodendrons and ferns, Salyards said.

The oldest plant in the complex, he said, is a cycad (which resembles a low-growing palm tree) that dates back to the Bourn family, who built Filoli. Due to its large size, the plant had to be moved from the main greenhouse and into the production greenhouse, where it’s taken up permanent residence. “It never gets moved because it’s huge,” Salyards said.

Tours offer a chance to see this roughly century-old plant, along with other permanent or longterm greenhouse residents that don’t usually make it out to public view, for a variety of reasons.

“We have collections of air plants — phyladarias — that have been mounted in the greenhouses, so they live on a piping system that we have covered in moss,” Salyards said, noting that the area also includes some carnivorous plants.

“Sometimes there are plants that are historic that may have such a short blooming window that you may only catch them as part of a greenhouse tour. They won’t necessarily make it down to the mansion every year,” he said.

Though the winter weather means Filoli’s gardens themselves aren’t at their showiest right now, preparations are well under way for the big blooming seasons to come — spring and summer — so there’s plenty of activity at the greenhouse complex.

“They’ll see some of the spring annuals that we’re growing for display pots. The tail end of the spring season are pansies that we grow for potting into terra cotta pots that will go out into the garden. Very soon, within the next couple weeks, we’ll start propagating seeds and cuttings for the summer display,” Salyards said of the tour.

Currently on standby in the greenhouse complex area: roughly 3,000 containers of spring bulbs that will be brought down into the gardens as they begin to bloom.

Tours are offered year-round, plus the cost of admission: $22 adults; $18 seniors (65+); $15 student, teacher, military; $11 children (5-17 years old); free to children (under 5 years old).

Filoli is located at 86 Cañada Road, Woodside. For more information, call 650-364-8300 or visit filoli.org.
Poignant ‘Pianist’ shares a mother’s gift

Mona Golabek brings family history alive in TheatreWorks production

by Karla Kane

When teenage Lisa Jura left her home in Vienna, Austria, in 1938 and traveled, unaccompanied, to London, England, her mother told the budding concert pianist to “hold on to your music.” It would be advice she would heed after leaving her parents and two sisters behind, amidst the horrors of the Holocaust and the Blitz, and that would carry her through her darkest days.

“The Pianist of Willesden Lane,” TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s latest production, is Jura’s story, told by her own daughter, pianist Mona Golabek, who also wrote the book “The Children of Willesden Lane,” upon which the live performance is based.

In the 90-minute, one-woman show, Golabek embodies Jura, as well as many other memorable characters she meets along her journey as one of the more than 10,000 Jewish child refugees who fled from Nazi-occupied Europe thanks to an operation known as kindertransport (“children’s trains”). Jura, whose parents were only able to secure one kindertransport ticket, chose her out of their three daughters in part because of her great musical talent, believing in London she’d be safe and able to continue her education. This proved more difficult than imagined, but in keeping her promise to her mother, Jura managed to hold on to her dreams despite great adversity, modeling remarkable resilience.

Jura’s story is certainly a compelling one. It’s not only, as Golabek said after opening night, a story of how music can provide light and hope in terrible times, but also about the importance of holding on to shared humanity in those times, as Jura did with those around her, including her fellow refugees, the British volunteers who took them in, and more. It’s also a story of sacrifice, of parents’ love for their children. It would be a powerful tale regardless, but the fact that it’s true and that it’s the protagonist’s own daughter telling it makes it all the more touching to audiences. Anyone not moved by the bittersweet ending words must be made of stone.

“The Pianist of Willesden Lane” was adapted for the stage and directed by TheatreWorks favorite Hershey Felder and his influence comes through strong and clear. Just as Felder does in his own one-man shows, Golabek combines her spoken narrative with gorgeous piano playing, highlighting pieces of significance to her mother’s life — most importantly, Grieg’s Piano Concerto in A Minor — and using the music to underscore the emotional tone. The show’s structure, style and even Golabek’s manner of speaking resembles Felder’s. And, like Felder, she does a wonderful job in blending music and heartfelt storytelling (I’m always especially impressed with how they can perform complicated piano parts with ease while talking to the audience).

Felder also designed the set (along with his frequent collaborator Trevor Hay) and it’s simple but beautiful: Gilded picture frames on a black backdrop, into which are projected various images and videos, set the scenes and give an understated, old-world elegance.

With the added personal connection Golabek brings making it especially poignant, “The Pianist of Willesden Lane” certainly seems to have all the elements that have made Felder’s productions so successful for TheatreWorks in the past. I’d be surprised if it wasn’t another big hit for the company.

Mona Golabek, at the piano, portrays her mother, Lisa Jura, in “The Pianist of Willesden Lane.”

Encouraging children to be self-motivated is topic of Jan. 30 talk at M-A High School

By Angela Swartz

Parents interested in learning about the science behind helping their children take more control over their lives might want to attend a presentation on Thursday, Jan. 30, at Menlo-Atherton High School.

Bill Stixrud and Ned Johnson, co-authors of “The Self-Driven Child: The Science and Sense of Giving Your Kids More Control Over Their Lives,” will present the talk, providing research-based advice about how to help children and teens become more resilient, balanced and motivated, according to the event description posted online by the sponsoring organization.

The two authors theorize that a sense of control is the “antidote to stress,” touching on common stressors for American kids such as social media, homework and lack of sleep.

The book offers a combination of “cutting-edge brain science,” the latest behavioral therapy methods and case studies drawn from the thousands of children Stixrud and Johnson have guided on a “real” road to success, according to the event announcement.

The presentation is hosted by The Parent Education Series, a Sequoia Union High School District program in which experts in subjects like academic success and student wellbeing discuss their fields with district parents, staff and community members.

The event is scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in M-A’s Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

Admission is free; there will be light refreshments. Spanish interpretation will be available. For more information and tickets, go to selfdrivenchild2020ma.eventbrite.com. Contact Charlene Margot, founder and director of the The Parent Education Series, at cmargot@csconsulting.net with questions about the event.
COUNCIL BID continued from page 5

seven years. Before that she was a San Mateo resident for seven years, and was involved in that community as a leader for a number of parenting organizations.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master’s in business administration from the University of California, Davis.

“A lot of people endorsing me are doing so because they’ve seen me in action,” she said. “They know I’m an authentic, sincere, community-minded person.”

It makes sense, she said, to use her background, knowledge, and experience “to serve the residents of Menlo Park.”

She acknowledges that it’s early to start a campaign, but said she plans to spend the first part of her campaign listening to District 3 residents, as well as taking a tour of neighborhoods from other districts within the city.

She said she supports safe and accessible streets for people of all ages and modes of travel; housing policies that permit people of all ages and incomes to live in the community; and local efforts to tackle climate change.

District 3, as Wolosin describes it, is the “belt” of Menlo Park. The district includes the neighborhoods of Vintage Oaks, Felton Gables, Linfield Oaks, part of the Caltrain line and a small square of Menlo Park west of El Camino Real bordered by Santa Cruz Avenue, Valparaiso Avenue and Crane Street.

District 3 has historically been underrepresented on the City Council, according to an analysis by Menlo Park blogger Stu Soifer. He reports that since 1980, there have been only two elected

Menlo Park goal-setting workshop set for Jan. 30

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Just as many people set New Year’s Resolutions, many cities also set goals each January. The city of Menlo Park will be honoring this tradition with the City Council’s annual goal-setting workshop set for the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 30.

At these meetings, the City Council usually reviews its work plan with the city’s management and department leaders and establishes formal priorities for the calendar year. It often also involves a review of the city’s financial situation, and a review of the city’s accomplishments of the past year.

Typically, the council maintains an ongoing list of 60 or 70 goals across city departments, but narrows its top do-or-die priorities each year to around five.

It’s also the time of year when the council is generally most open to community members’ requests to consider taking up a new project, so such meetings are generally well-attended and involve the city’s community groups advocating for their various causes and initiatives.

The meeting is set to run from 1 to 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 701 Laurel St. in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

Go to is.gd/mpgoals_agenda to access the agenda or is.gd/mpgoals for more information about the past goals set by the Menlo Park City Council.

COUNCIL BID continued from page S

Jennifer Wolosin has announced that she plans to run for a seat on the Menlo Park City Council to represent District 3. Council members who resides within the boundaries of what is now the district: Peg Gunn, who was on the council from 1980 to 1988, and Andy Cohen, who served from 2004 to 2012.

Wolosin is the only District 3 resident to announce her candidacy so far. Sofer also lives in District 3, and said he is undecided about running.

Wolosin follows Councilman Ray Mueller in making an early announcement for a 2020 council bid. Mueller announced earlier this month that he plans to run for a third council term, though this time the election process will be different because he is seeking to represent District 5, the Sharon Heights and Stanford Hills neighborhoods, while his first two campaigns were for an “at-large” seat.

Menlo Park switched to district elections in 2018 because the city was threatened with a lawsuit that would have challenged the $260,000 additional analysis that the council approved Jan. 14 to explore a fully elevated alternative to separating the Caltrain line from the city’s roadways.

The current preferred alternative is a “hybrid” option that would involve partially elevating the rails and partially lowering the roads, but would cause years of major construction impacts.

“At this point, I want to make sure that the study that just got approved is robust and answers the lingering questions out there so we can move forward as quickly as possible,” Wolosin said.

She added that she’s committed to remaining accessible during her campaign and asks people interested in talking to her to contact her through her campaign website, jenwolosin.com.

Only residents of Districts 3 and 5 will be eligible to vote for their council representatives this year. Voters in the November 2018 ballot included elections only to the Districts 1, 2, and 4 seats.

According to demographic information compiled in advance of the city’s switch to district elections, District 3 has a more substantial proportion of households that are middle-class, working, and living in apartments than the other districts and a more even split between homeowner and renter households than the others.

District 3’s biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge that District 3 faces, though, is how the city chooses to tackle grade separations, Wolosin said.

She’s been following the process closely for some time now, she said, and while she is paying attention to the $260,000 additional analysis that the council approved Jan. 14 to explore a fully elevated alternative to separating the Caltrain line from city roadways.

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How has the City Council changed since you joined in 2013?

The council was extremely contentious when I joined. Over the last six years it’s become incredibly collaborative. The change came from the commitment to work together and not pigeonhole each other.

How have your priorities shifted since you first joined the council?

My biggest priority when I first joined was to get the civic center project (project) approved and I wanted the city to establish a (Caltrain) quiet zone. Those were achieved so I feel great about that. I would love to find a solution to cut through traffic and congestion. This year, I would like to enable neighborhoods to get together and decide on traffic calming devices.
The Art of Falling” Laura Anderson, a renowned artist known for her use of technology in art, presents her work. This is a documentary of the Serbian performance artist Marina Abramovic’s 2010 visual piece that was showcased at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Jan. 30, 6 p.m. Free, Anderson Hall, Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Oddlands” A collaboration between Matchbox Pictures and Back to Black Theatre. “Oddlands” is a tale about two unlikeable harpies who find hope in a toxic wasteland. This screening prepares for Stanford Live’s presentation of “The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes.” Feb. 4, 4-5 p.m. Free, St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. sbdsm.menlopark.org

The Quest to Live Forever: Science journalist Chip Walter talks about the groundbreaking research and visionaries who are trying to answer the continuing question of immortality. Jan. 30, 7 p.m. $8-$10 discount for students. Schultich Cultural Hall, Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. commonswealthclub.org

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Concerts
Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne The Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne, presents a diverse program of choral artistry featuring Frank Ferko’s “American Folk Songs” and many more, with the Stanford Chamber Choir joining to perform two works together. Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m. Free, Memorial Church, 450 Santa Clara Ave., Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events/845/84530

Paviel Fleckman, Russian pianist Vladimir Fleckman plays works by dissident composers of his homeland, from Alexander Scriabin to the forgotten composers that Scriabin influenced. Feb. 5, 7-9:30 p.m. $15-$39; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Perfect Strangers.” Jan. 30, 5:30-7:15 p.m. Free, Oshman Hall, Stanford University, 355 Roth Way, Stanford. Live.stanford.edu

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Buki the Clown Buki the Clown puts on a bilingual, slapstick comedy show for children.

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.565Olive.com

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European Country Villa Built in 2010
5 bedrooms, office, 5.5 bath, 6,935 sf
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Menlo Park schools
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725 EVERGREEN STREET, WEST MENLO PARK
Mid-Century 4 bed, 2.5 bath home | 2,310 sf
10,010 sf lot | Menlo Park Schools
$3,800,000

196 PATRICIA DRIVE, CENTRAL ATHERTON
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RANKED #25 TEAM NATIONALLY, PER THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2019 REPORT OF THE TOP RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS (Published in June 2019).

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