



Designers offer advice
to create a festive décor

Dressing up holiday tables



by David Ruiz

photos by
Veronica Weber



Kris Forbes of Zizi Designs, Woodside, incorporated lavender and gold colors in her orchid arrangement with decorative gold pears.

Entertaining at the holidays, from Thanksgiving through New Year's, is an opportunity to introduce seasonal themes, colors and materials into one's home.

More than two dozen designers, florists and interior designers came together last month, putting their heads together to produce "tablescapes" at the Holidays on a High Note fundraiser for the Family Service Agency of San Mateo County.

A key theme this year was use of natural materials, including succulents.

"You don't need to set up a fancy table, you just need to know how to use natural resources," Jenna Bayer, of Jenna Bayer Garden Design in Mountain View, said. Bayer's table used imported vegetation, fresh produce and trimmings from her own garden.

The best way to approach home decoration is to start indexing early, Bayer said. "Create an inventory over the year of what grows best in your area and what you like the most. Use those plants next year for a more intimate setting."

Bayer also chose her materials based on color. The fall season works around a lot of reds, greens, yellows and browns. Many of the trees in this season are naturally going through these colors and can be used to accent the décor, she said. "A good part about these plants is that they are basically zero-care and have such magnificent color," Bayer said, pointing to her green cascade myrtle.

Also important are the senses other than sight. "Smells, textures and even taste are important. Use fruits and veg-



Kris Forbes of Pomegranate Events and Floral Design, Woodside, foraged for the Japanese black pine, painting the pinecones silver and gold and pairing with glass sculptures.

etables whenever you can," Bayer said. Bayer purchases many of her flowers in San Francisco, but also spoke highly of Boring, Ore., the city from which she imports many of her trees. "The quality is astoundingly better," she said.

Her floral arrangement, including dahlias, barberries and pheasant feathers, was collected from cuttings of her own garden, minus the feathers. The apples used were also imported from Oregon.

A year-long inventory isn't possible for many who are expecting the holidays in a

matter of weeks. Kris Forbes, event chair and designer for Pomegranate Designs, Woodside, had a different approach, with similar ideologies.

"Always forage," she said, adding that the materials necessary for in-home design can be found from friends, family and neighbors. Forbes recalled a story in which she needed branch trimmings for an upcoming piece, and simply asked her neighbors for any materials. They were glad to help, she said, and it was entirely free of cost.

Continued on next page

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Continued from previous page

Forbes noted that, due to the fast expiration date on many floral arrangements, a good approach is to have decorations that can be switched out every few weeks around a central element. "Every few days the flowers around it will die, but you can replace it one week with mini-poinsettias, the next week with pinecones," she said.

Indelisa Montoro, of Royal Bloom in Menlo Park, focuses heavily on monochromatic decorations. Her table, a stark silver winter set complete with a 2.5-foot conical Christmas tree and assorted baubles of white and polished silver, stood out with its reliance on one color. The materials are easy to find, she said, and can be purchased at her store in the Allied

Arts Guild in Menlo Park. Montoro finds some of her other materials, such as fake snow, Christmas lights and plastic cones, at Target.

"Vintage is still popular; people like those old-world touches," Montoro said, surrounded by repurposed bracelets, salvaged silver and ornaments of mercury glass hung in her shop.

Montoro said that monochromatic sets work well because small moments of color can gain more prominence. "Bouquets stand out beautifully," she said. For her floral arrangements, Montoro shops at wholesale markets in San Francisco that are not typically open to the public, though she does take



Classic Party Rentals' dining-room table arrangement features a wood table with gold tablecloth accents, along with red and gold stemware.



orders.

Besides those San Francisco markets Forbes suggested that individuals go to their local Trader Joe's or Safeway to look at their cactus selection. "They've really increased their selection this year, people seem to really

like them," Forbes said.

Each designer agreed on the idea of using natural resources for decoration at home. The increased popularity in cacti and other succulents reflects the sustainable aspects of using natural resources.

"Right now you can see people either going for a modern, sleek look or a more natural, organic one," Christine Le of Magnolia Floral Design, Palo Alto, said. Le pointed to a table with rectangular, purple vases filled with water lilies as an example of modern decoration. She hopes the flowers are home grown, she said.

"It's best to go local," Le said, mentioning Roger Reynolds Nursery in Menlo Park as a good resource. Much like Forbes, Le said that arrangements can be switched every few weeks by using flowers that bloom naturally throughout each season.

Elegance and simplicity also shone brightly. "You can't enjoy anything if you have a house full of everything," Montoro said. ■

EDITH SCHNEIDER JEWELRY & CLOTHING



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The art of celebrating

by Rebecca Wallace

Marking the season with artistic flair can mean many different things in the Peninsula's arts community. There are several performances of the "Nutcracker" ballet, of course, and more than one chance to let your singing voice out to play in the rippling vocal runs of the "Messiah."

For something a little different, families might check out a LEGO-brick holiday display, a latke cook-off or a performance by 20-plus harps. A list encompassing many of the options begins below.

Music

The Ragazzi Boys Chorus sings festive music from the last thousand years (chants, hymns, carols and more modern adaptations) in "Christmas Classics: A Millennium of Song." The holiday show is 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at the First Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 reserved, \$15 general, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Go to ragazzi.org or call 650-342-8785.

Spanish *villancicos* — works that combine the sacred and folkloric — from the 16th to the 18th centuries are the focus of the California Bach Society's holiday concert. "A Belen (To Bethlehem)" will be performed with Richard Savino on Baroque guitar and Peter Maund with Renaissance drums at 8 p.m. Dec. 3 at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students. Go to calbach.org or call 415-262-0272.

"Christmas 3D" means holiday music from composers including Bob Chilcott and William Hawley, sung by Soli Deo Gloria. The audience gets to join in on carols. The concert is at 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at the First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general, \$20 for students and seniors, and free for students up to eighth grade. Go to sdgloria.org or call 888-734-7664.

The San Francisco-based Symphony Parnassus plays a **holiday concert** featuring Respighi's "Trittico Botticelliano," the Viva la Musica! Choir and cellist Amos Yang (in Dvorak's Cello Concerto). The performance is at 3 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Admission is \$22 premium, \$20 general and \$15 for seniors and students. Go to symphonyparnassus.org.

Seasonal carols and sacred works drawn from many Eastern European traditions make up "Wintersongs," a concert given by the Kitka women's vocal group at 4 p.m. Dec. 4. The venue is St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$15-\$27 in advance and \$15-\$32 at the door (\$5 for kids under 12). Go to kitka.org or call 510-444-0323.

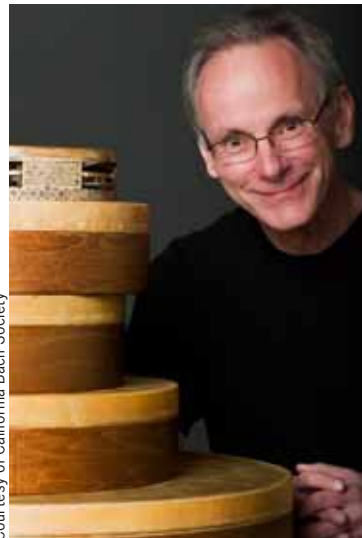
San Francisco Choral Artists looks at the Christmas story from an earthier point of view — that of the animals, shepherds and farmers — in Daniel Pinkham's "Company at the Creche." The group will perform the premiere work with handbells at 4 p.m. Dec. 4 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$12-\$25. Go to sfca.org or call 415-494-8149.

J.S. Bach's epic **Mass in B Minor** will

fill the First United Methodist Church at 625 Hamilton Ave. in Palo Alto at 8 p.m. Dec. 6, presented by the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Philharmonia Chorale and four vocal soloists: soprano Sherezade Panthaki, countertenor Daniel Taylor, tenor Thomas Cooley and baritone Nathaniel Watson. Tickets are \$25-\$100. Go to philharmonia.org or call 415-392-4400.

"Weinachtsfest" is the name of the Bay Choral Guild's holiday program this year, featuring J.S. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" and other works. The Jubilate Baroque Orchestra and four vocal soloists — soprano Helena Zindarsian, alto Dianne Terp, tenor John Davey-Hatcher and baritone Jeff Fields — will perform at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at the First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general and \$20 for students. Go to baychoralguild.org.

Prokofiev and Loesser are among the composers to be represented at the Menlo Park Chorus' eclectic "Welcome Winter" concert. The performance starts



Courtesy of California Bach Society

at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, with refreshments following. Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 for seniors and students, and free for children under 12. The chorus will also perform the program as a free holiday concert at 11 a.m. Dec. 3 in the Menlo Park City Council chambers, 701 Laurel St. Go to menloparkchorus.org or call 408-314-7589.

The Friends of Music at Stanford hosts its yearly "Holiday Musicale" at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10 in the university's Memorial Church. Featured performers include the Early Music Singers, organist Adam Detzner and harpist Alesander Serrano. Admission is \$10 general, \$5 for students and \$9 for seniors. Go to music.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

The local art scene marks the holidays with harps and hymns, concerts and a cook-off



David Allen

Above: The dancers of Smuin Ballet perform their "Christmas Ballet" at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts from Dec. 7 through Dec. 11.

Left: Peter Maund will play Renaissance drums with the California Bach Society in a performance of Spanish music from the 16th to the 18th centuries. A Palo Alto concert is scheduled for Dec. 3, at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

Stanford pipe organist Robert Huw Morgan directs the annual seasonal "Service of Lessons & Carols" at the university's Memorial Church at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 and 10. Admission is free. Go to music.stanford.edu.

A trio of "Ave Marias" (by Poulenc, Biebl and MacIntyre) is featured along with medieval and Renaissance music in the Peninsula Women's Chorus holiday program "Sweet Joy." Concert times are 4 p.m. Dec. 10 and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto; and 4 p.m. Dec. 18 at St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$10-\$35. Go to pwchorus.org.

Irish singer-songwriter Mary Mc Laughlin brings her Irish Gaelic holiday choir to the Vallombrosa Center at 250 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park for the concert "A Gaelic Christmas" at 2 p.m. Dec. 11. The program features traditional Irish carols along with other seasonal songs translated into Irish, with the singers accompanied by Celtic harp, flute and whistle and other instruments. Tickets are \$18 general and \$12 for students and seniors. Go to coraingli.com or call 831-227-6049.

"A Schola Cantorum Christmas" happens at 3 p.m. Dec. 11, with Oxford Street Brass along for the ride. The concert includes "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and takes place at First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road. Adults pay \$20 to get in, and kids pay \$5. Go to scholacantorum.org or call 650-254-1700.

"A Holiday Celebration!" is a program of festive music presented by the Stanford Chamber Chorale, Bay Brass and Stanford pipe organist Robert Huw Morgan. Music includes Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata." Admission is free to the 1:30 p.m. Dec. 11 concert, held at Memorial Church.

Schola Cantorum's Gregory Wait conducts the group's "Messiah Sing" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Loaner scores will be available. Admission is \$20 general and \$16 for seniors, students and children. Members of groups of 10 or more get in for \$12. Go to scholacantorum.org or call 650-903-6000.

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The women of Kitka sing seasonal music from various Eastern European traditions in a Dec. 4 performance at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

Continued from previous page

The Magnificat Baroque ensemble will perform Heinrich Schütz's Christmas oratorio **"Weihnachtshistorie"** together with the Palo Alto-based ensemble The Whole Noyse (which performs on reproductions of 16th-century instruments). The concert is 8 p.m. Dec. 16 at the First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$35 general, \$28 for San Francisco Early Music Society members, \$30 for seniors and \$12 for students. Go to sfems.org or call 510-528-1725.

The ebullient Stephen M. Sano is back conducting the annual **"Messiah" Sing-Along/Play-Along** at Stanford's Memorial Church at 8 p.m. Dec. 16. Attendees bring their instruments and/or voices, with orchestral parts provided. Tickets are \$10 general, \$9 for seniors and \$5 for students. Go to music.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

The clear-voiced men of Chanticleer return to Stanford's Memorial Church for the annual **"A Chanticleer Christmas"** concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 13. Carols, gospel classics and chant are on the program. Admission is \$52 general and \$10 for Stanford students. Go to livelyarts.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

It's a holiday homecoming for violinist Krista Bennion Feeney, who was once music director of the New Century Chamber Orchestra and now returns as a soloist for the **"Celebrate the Holidays"** concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Menlo-Atherton Center for the Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. She will solo in Haydn's Violin Concerto in G Major; the program also includes Corelli's "Christmas Concerto." Tickets are \$29-\$59; go to ncco.org.

Festive tunes played only on trombones — that's the plan for the Gordon Stewart Peninsula Trombone Choir's free **holi-**

day concert, to be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 17. Holiday music with traditional, jazzy and classical flavors will be played at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 4111 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-4257.

The Congregational Oratorio Society and Orchestra, with Joe Guthrie on the pipe organ, will play holiday music by Buxtehude, Charpentier and John Rutter in a concert called **"My Soul Doth Magnify."** The performance is at 3 p.m. Dec. 18 at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Admission is \$15 general and \$10 for students and seniors. Go to fccpa.org or call 650-856-6662.

Dance

The Western Ballet Company leaps into its performances of **"The Nutcracker"** on at 7 p.m. Dec. 2, at 1 and 7 p.m. Dec. 3, and at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Tickets are \$25-\$30; go to westernballet.org or call 650-903-6000.

Another **"Nutcracker"** will be presented by Dance Connection of Palo Alto at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 through Dec. 4, at Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Admission is \$15-\$25. Go to danceconnectionpaloalto.com or call 650-322-7032.

Smuin Ballet dancers will take the stage to gospel singer Mahalia Jackson's version of "Oh, Holy Night" as part of the company's annual **"Christmas Ballet"**. The eclectic program will be performed at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. from Dec. 7 through Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. weekdays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$23-\$65. Go to smuinballet.org or call 650-903-6000.

Arts & crafts and exhibits

Artistic nativity scenes from a wealth of nations, incorporating such materials as bamboo, crystal, driftwood and eggshells, are on display in the 24th annual **Christmas creche exhibit** at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 3865 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. The free exhibit can be viewed noon to 9 p.m. Dec. 3 through Dec. 7. Periodic special events during that time will include choral performances and daily marionette shows. Go to christmascreche.org or call 650-856-3781.

Gallery House is holding a **holiday show** through Dec. 24, with extended holiday hours for showing and selling art beginning after Thanksgiving: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday and Monday. The gallery is at 320 S. California Ave. in Palo Alto; go to galleryhouse2.com or call 650-326-1668.

Palo Alto's Cubberley Artists and the Palo Alto Art Center team up to hold a **family day and open studios** at the Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, from 1 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 3. Artwork will be shown and sold, with artists available to answer questions, and craft activities for kids will be held. Admission is free. Go to cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter or call 650-329-2366.

Peninsula School welcomes its annual December **craft fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 4 at 920 Peninsula Way in Menlo Park. In the company of strolling singers, artisans will show and sell textile art, jewelry, ornaments, handmade toys, body products, ceramics, glass art and other items. Admission is free. Go to peninsulaschool.org or call 650-325-1584.

Kids and families

Hanukkah arts and crafts, carnival games and, of course, lots of prepared potatoes will abound at the **"Whole-Lotta-Latke Cook-off"** at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Intended for families with preschool or school-age children, the event goes from 2 to 5 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall. Admission is free; latke-tasting tickets are a quarter each. Go to paloaltojcc.org.

The trains will be rollin' again soon at Palo Alto's Museum of American Heritage. The annual **"LEGO Holiday Extravaganza"** exhibit, a huge layout

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featuring Bay Area landmarks done up in LEGO blocks with model trains passing through, will be open 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 9 through Jan. 15, Friday through Sunday. The museum is at 351 Homer Ave.; admission is \$2 general and free for members of the Bay Area LEGO User Group and the Bay Area LEGO Train Club. Go to moah.org or call 650-321-1004.

More trains are planned for the free holiday **model-railroad show** put on by the West Bay Model Railroad Association at 1090 Merrill St., Menlo Park. Trains in three scales will run along, with railroad memorabilia on exhibit, 7 to 10 p.m. Dec. 9, noon to 6 p.m. Dec. 10, and noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 11. Go to wbmrra.ning.com or call 650-322-0685.

For a **puppet "Nutcracker" version**, families can attend several holiday puppet shows at Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. The shows are intended for children ages 3 and up, with light refreshments served; performances are at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 10. Admission is \$15 general and \$10 for members. Reservations are required; go to gamblegarden.org.

Potpourri

The Filoli mansion and gardens hosts its yearly **"Holiday Traditions"** event from Nov. 25 through Dec. 3 at 86 Canada Road in Woodside. Festivities include a holiday shopping boutique, and a formal dinner party on Nov. 26. Go to filoli.org or call 650-364-8300.

Holiday-bedecked homes in Atherton will be in the spotlight during the Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula's **"Finishing Touches: A Holiday Tour of Fine Homes and Boutique."** Tours are planned from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3. Tickets are \$40-\$65. Go to juniorleaguehometour.com.

Ever since 1940, a two-block stretch of Fulton Street between Embarcadero Road and Seale Avenue has taken on a different name this time of year: **Christ-**

mas Tree Lane. Festive trees, lights and other decorations will proliferate this season from Dec. 10 through New Year's Day. Drive carefully. More information is at christmastreelane.org.

Local folks who don't celebrate Christmas often spend Dec. 24 at **"Chopshticks,"** an annual comedy night. This year's event features comedian Brad Zimmerman, who

has performed in New York comedy clubs and appeared on "The Sopranos." The event, which includes hors d'oeuvres and dessert, starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall of the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Admission is \$55 general and \$50 for JCC members in advance, and \$65 at the door. Go to paloaltojcc.org or call 650-223-8609. ■



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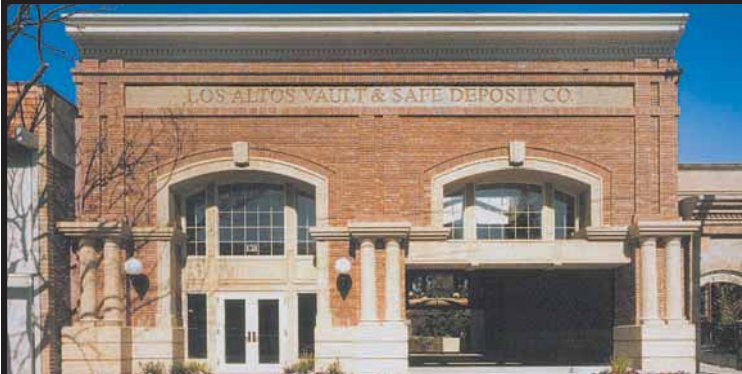
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Photo by Tina G. Conway

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room serves a warm and nourishing meal to all who come.

Community resource helps its neighbors

By Patricia Papalian, development committee volunteer, St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.

Since 1974 the mission of St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room has been to provide a hot, nutritious meal to anyone in need. There are no fees, no questions, and no one is turned away.

Six days a week this bustling Menlo Park soup kitchen serves 600 guests a complete hot meal while providing take-home groceries, health services and a free clothing store.

The Dining Room is not only a place of refuge, but also a community resource hub where patrons can network and share important information concerning social services, training and job openings.

Who do we serve?

Guests include working and non-working singles, families, seniors, the homeless, newcomers to the Bay Area, the disabled and others.

Nan, a former guest, recently shared the harrowing story of how she escaped Communist Vietnam in the 1970s. She will never forget the meager provisions and wretched conditions aboard the boat in which she sailed toward her uncertain future.

When pirates raided the vessel, the terrified young woman, fearing

■ HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to the Holiday Fund benefit St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room and nine other community-service organizations. St. Anthony's is at 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Go to paduadiningroom.com or call (650) 365-9664 for more information.

assault, hid in a crevice, slathering mud on her face to "make herself as ugly as possible."

Noting the austere conditions aboard, however, the marauders promptly fled.

The Dining Room is not only a place of refuge, but also a community resource hub where patrons can network and share important information concerning social services, training and job openings.

In California, Nan — already traumatized — was now in the throes of culture shock. St. Anthony's offered her much-needed stability while she struggled to assimilate.

In the years that followed, she learned English, made friends, gained citizenship and found work. Three decades later, Nan lives an edifying life of employment, family, and giving back to the community that helped her.

Not every guest at St. Anthony's has a story as dramatic and far-reaching as Nan's, but each, like

Nan, has great vulnerability and desperately needs sustenance. Noting her experience, Nan expresses how comforted she is "to know a place like St. Anthony's exists" for those who have fallen on hard times.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are among the busiest days of the year, when the Dining Room serves as many as 1,000 meals. The Menlo Park Fire Protection District collects toys throughout the holiday season for St. Anthony's to distribute to underprivileged children at Christmas. This heartening collaboration results in some 2,000

poverty stricken children receiving toys at St. Anthony's annual Christmas giveaway.

St. Anthony's is funded by donations and grants from many individuals, local businesses, and

foundations. The cost of serving over 175,000 meals this year is enormous. Donations are welcome and needed.

At St. Anthony's — "We do not believe in miracles. ... We count on them." ■

On the cover

In the picture on the cover, volunteer Erin Shitama cleans food trays during lunchtime at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room. Each year she organizes a volunteer day for employees at her company, Sunset magazine in Menlo Park.

Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac.



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Giving to the Holiday Fund

For the 19th year, the Almanac offers readers the opportunity to increase their charitable donations through matching gifts to the Holiday Fund.

The Almanac has chosen 10 local nonprofit organizations to benefit from donations to the Holiday Fund. These organizations help the most vulnerable of our neighbors, be they children, the aged, homeless, hungry, sick or abused.

Starting with this issue and over the next several weeks, the Almanac will publish stories about these organizations.

For every dollar donated to the Holiday Fund, the Almanac seeks matching funds from foundations and private donors. The total amount donated is divided equally among the 10 organizations.

The Holiday Fund could not happen without the help of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the donors that provide the matching grants.

Since the Holiday Fund started in 1993, donors have contributed more than \$3 million to a wide range of local nonprofit organizations.

Nothing else matters when you're hungry

By Caitlin Kerk, public relations manager at Second Harvest Food Bank.

Arletta Jorgenson doesn't always know where her next meal is coming from. She has been unemployed for three years and struggles to put food on the table. She had a good job at a law firm before the recession hit. Now Arletta and her two daughters depend on the food they receive from Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Hunger is a growing problem in our community as the economy continues to take its toll. The number of people who receive food from Second Harvest Food Bank has increased by nearly 50 percent since the recession started. People who thought they would never need help are seeking food assistance. They are your friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

Second Harvest Food Bank hopes to raise \$11.3 million and 1.6 million pounds of food during its Holiday Food and Fund Drive. This is a critical drive for Second Harvest, which raises half its annual revenues during the holidays.

"We want to make sure everyone in our community has enough to eat this holiday season and beyond," said Kathy Jackson, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. "When you're hungry, nothing else matters — you can't concentrate, you can't learn, you can't work, you can't

get through the day."

To ensure that everyone has access to the nutritious food they need, Second Harvest Food Bank partners with about 300 nonprofit agencies to provide food at more than 650 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and after-school programs throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Last year, the Food Bank provided 35 million meals. More than 40 percent of what the Food Bank distributes is fresh produce.

Second Harvest provides food to nearly 250,000 people each month — that's one in 10 people in the two-county region. Anyone who needs food can call Second Harvest's Food Connection hotline at (800) 984-3663 to learn about local food resources.

You can help Second Harvest feed hungry people this holiday season and throughout the year by donating to the Holiday Food and Fund Drive. Every dollar you give provides two meals. You can also host a food drive at your company or organization. Or you can drop off food at one of the many food barrels you see in your community. ▴

■ HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Holiday Fund benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank and nine other community-service organizations.
> Visit SHFB.org for more information.

Giving to the

Holiday Fund

Your gift helps children and others in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed more than \$95,000, and with available matching grants, \$138,678 was raised for 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous com-

munity corporations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. No administration costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed below.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 1,100 youths each day, ages 6 to 18. Operates clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City and after-school programs at schools in these communities designed to extend the learning day and supplement the schools's curriculum.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides comprehensive primary medical, dental, behavioral and preventive health care for all ages at clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. Of the more than 30,000 registered patients, over 97 percent are low-income and uninsured from the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week in a social and friendly atmosphere to anyone in need. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions from the community, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers groceries to take home and distributes clothing to families.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributes 45 million pounds of food each year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 250,000 people each month through more than 650 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Project Read Menlo Park

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one to one or in small groups to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work, and in the community.

Shelter Network

Provides short term-shelter and transitional housing services to more than 4,500 homeless men, women and children each year. Offers a range of housing and support programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.

Teen Talk

Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its iTeen Talki program serves more than 3,500 youth at public school sites in San Mateo County.

StarVista

Formerly Youth and Family Enrichment Services, StarVista provides many programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

Fair Oaks Community Center

Provides housing assistance, childcare programs, older adult nutrition, emergency shelter referrals, legal services for low income tenants and low-cost exercise programs for youth and adults.

Name of donor _____ Amount \$ _____
 Street address _____
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The organizations named below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.

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www.siliconvalleycf.org

The William and Flora
 Hewlett Foundation
 The David and Lucille
 Packard Foundation



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2010, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

Margot Lockwood presents...

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21 Starwood, Woodside



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Gorgeous views from this lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on 12.5 acres w/wrap around deck. Approx. 3500 sq ft built in 1989/remodeled in 2009. Open kitchen w/center island, breakfast bar and large dining area. Large office/bonus room on lower level plus 4000 bottle wine cellar. Excellent Portola Valley Schools.



128 Huckleberry, Woodside



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

BAY MENLO GROUP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247417
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bay Menlo Group, located at 445 Santa Monica Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
YONG-SHING CHEN
445 Santa Monica Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 31, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2011)

TOM WING & SONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247432
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Tom Wing & Sons located at 888 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park Calif., 94025.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
TOM BROS. INC.
888 Santa Cruz Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025-4610
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 09/20/1972.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 1, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2011)

STRATEGIC FASHION SYSTEM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247336
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Strategic Fashion System, located at 45 Hallmark Circle, Menlo Park, California, 94025, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
KEVIN KRAMER
45 Hallmark Circle

Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 26, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2011)

PRIVATE CAPITAL ADVISORS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247606
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Private Capital Advisors, located at 230 Golden Oak Dr., Portola Valley, CA 94028.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
P.J. YAM & ASSOCIATES, INC.
230 Golden Oak Dr.
Portola Valley, CA 94028
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 01/01/1991.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 14, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2011)

FRED WEBSTER ASSOCIATES, INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247600
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Fred Webster Associates, Inc., located at 1027 Del Norte Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
FRED WEBSTER ASSOCIATES, INC.
1027 Del Norte Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 07/21/2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 14, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2011)

OLIVER LUXURY REAL ESTATE
OLIVER LUXURY REAL ESTATE PENINSULA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247637
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Oliver Luxury Real Estate, 2.) Oliver Luxury Real Estate Peninsula, located at 1050 Doyle Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MENLO PARK OLRE CORP.
1050 Doyle Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 15, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2011)

FREE PLAY PRESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247652
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Free Play Press, located at 226 Yale Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
MIKE LANZA
226 Yale Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 16, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2011)

MIND IN MOVEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 247688
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Mind In Movement, located at 18 Greenbrier Ct., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the follow-

ing owner(s):
KATHARINE SALERA
18 Greenbrier Ct.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 17, 2011.
(Almanac Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2011)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S No. 1331435-02 APN: 060-282-620-8 TRA: 73023 LOAN NO: Xxxxxx5636 REF: Olsen, Richard IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED December 03, 2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On November 29, 2011, at 12:30pm, Cal-Western Reconveyance Corporation, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded December 15, 2004, as Inst. No. 2004-245718 in book XX, page XX of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, State of California, executed by Richard Randal Olsen, An Unmarried Man, will sell at public auction to highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank At the main entrance of the city hall of records 401 Marshall Street Redwood City, California, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: Completely described in said deed of trust The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 27 Loyola Avenue Menlo Park CA 94025 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the

trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$577,284.00. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. For sales information: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 4:00pm (619) 590-1221. Cal-Western Reconveyance Corporation, 525 East Main Street, P.O. Box 22004, El Cajon, CA 92022-9004 Dated: November 03, 2011. (R-394439 11/09/11, 11/16/11, 11/23/11) Almanac

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Case No.: CIV508694
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner MELANIE GAIL HAYDEN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MELANIE GAIL HAYDEN to MELANIE GAIL HAYDEN-GEHPART MATTHEW STEVEN HAYDEN to MATTHEW STEVEN HAYDEN-GEHPART AMELIA ROSALYNN HAYDEN to AMELIA ROSALYNN HAYDEN-GEHPART CYRUS GLENN HAYDEN to CYRUS GLENN HAYDEN-GEHPART.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: December 2, 2011, 9:00 am., Dept.: PJ, Room 2E of the Superior Court of California, County

of San Mateo, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC.
Date: October 3, 2011
/s/ Beth Labson Freeman
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(Almanac Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2011)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: CIV509155
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: JESSICA ELIZABETH FERRO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JESSICA ELIZABETH FERRO AKA JESSICA ELIZABETH FERRO to JESSICA ELIZABETH FERRO.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: December 21, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2E at the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC
Date: October 26, 2011
/s/ Beth Labson Freeman
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(The Almanac Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 2011)

Public Notices
continued on Page 27

“The Almanac has been a trusted part of my Real Estate marketing strategy.”

— Ed Kahl

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Cavalier King Charles Puppies
Dance Classes in Menlo Park
Dance Expressions
Kindergarten Readiness Panel
Stanford music tutoring

120 Auctions

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Redwood City, Quartz St. ONGOING

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Mitchell Johnson Painting
Mitchell Johnson painting, 30"x40", "Near San Giovanni D'Asso", 1999. Have signed "Proof of Ownership". Picture forwarded upon request.

220 Computers/ Electronics

BRAND NEW CD player for car, for - \$75

230 Freebies

Desks - FREE

235 Wanted to Buy

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240 Furnishings/ Household items

FINE LINEN KING-QUEEN SIZES; - \$19-

245 Miscellaneous

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500 Help Wanted

Systems SW Architecture Eng
Tintri, Inc. has an opening in Mountain View, CA. Systems SW Architecture Engineer: Develop architecture & functional design specifications. Submit resume (principals only) to email address provided. EOE

Hotel Desk Clerk
Relief, 1 day/week. MUST SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND ENGLISH. 650/322-7666

Pediatric Office
Solo Pediatric office seeks front office help. Medical experience required. Should be comfortable with EMR and computer based scheduling. Flex time or 20-30 hours a week. Excellent interpersonal and phone skills, as well the ability to multi-task. Interested individuals should send a resume and contact information. Salary commensurate with experience and ability

560 Employment Information

Driver : Stable Career
No Experience Needed! Sign On Bonuses Available! Top Industry pay and quality training. 100% Paid CDL Training. 1-800-326-2778. www.JoinCRST.com (Cal-SCAN)

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West coast reefer, scheduled home time, late model equipment, paid vacation, health, dental, life insurance available. Call Chuck to qualify at (800)645-3748. (Cal-SCAN)

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Career Central. No Money Down. Work for us or let us work for you! Unbeatable Career Opportunities. *Trainee *Company Driver *Lease Operator Earn up to \$51k *Lease Trainers Earn up to \$80k 1-877-369-7126. www.CentralDrivingJobs.net (Cal-SCAN)

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California PE registration. Innovative solution oriented professional, exceptional customer support in consulting engineering industry. Leadership, Project Management experience. Principals only/ no recruiters 707-307-1520. (Cal-SCAN)

JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

Get paid to train in the California Army National Guard Up to 100% tuition assistance. Part-time work. Full-time benefits. www.NationalGuard.com/Careers or 1-800-Go-Guard. (Cal-SCAN)

Business Services

640 Legal Services

Social Security
Disability Benefits. You Win or Pay Us Nothing. Contact Disability Group, Inc. Today! BBB Accredited. Call For Your FREE Book and Consultation. 877-490-6596. (Cal-SCAN)

645 Office/Home Business Services

Advertise Truck Driver Jobs
in 240 California newspapers for one low cost of \$550. Your 25 word classified ad reaches over 6 million+ Californians. Free brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

Business Card Ad

Advertise a display business card sized ad in 140 California newspapers for one low cost of \$1,550. Your display 3.75x2" ad reaches over 3 million+ Californians. Free brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

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715 Cleaning Services

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TODAY! ca1cleaning@yahoo.com

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730 Electrical

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Bob 650-343-5125.
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ROGER: 650.776.8666

751 General Contracting

NOTICE TO READERS It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

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Mountain View, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1850/mont
Palo Alto, 1 BR/1 BA - \$2,295/mo
Sunnyvale - \$1,795/mo
Sunnyvale, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1,895/mo

803 Duplex

Palo Alto, 2 BR/2 BA
Beautiful front duplex, within walking distance of Stanford University & Palo Alto shopping. 2 bed/2 bath with off street parking. No pets/no smoking. \$2200/mo. Contact Al at 650 328 0745 or Tricia 408 253 5004

805 Homes for Rent

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809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

PA: Furn. Room
Furn. RM quiet Palo Alto neighborhood. Priv. bath entrance, shared cooking. No Smoking or pets. 6 month lease. \$625/mo 650-493-3747

820 Home Exchanges

Home Exchange Wanted

825 Homes/Condos for Sale


East Palo Alto
2589 Emmett Way. \$335K. OWNER FINANCE! FHA OK! Complete remodel!
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Public Notices
continued from Page 25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: CIV509479
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: CATHERINE LEIGH ORDONEZ
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
CATHERINE LEIGH ORDONEZ to CATHERINE LEIGH FRANCIS.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: December 28, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2E of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC
Date: November 7, 2011
/s/ Beth Labson Freeman
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(The Almanac Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 2011)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: CIV509503
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: SUSAN BLAKE ROWLAND
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
SUSAN BLAKE ROWLAND to SUSAN STOLL BLAKE.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written

objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
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Date: November 7, 2011
/s/ Beth Labson Freeman
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(The Almanac Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 2011)

Call Alicia Santillan
(650) 326-8210 x6578
to assist you with your legal advertising needs.
Or e-mail her at:
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- Valley Road, Atherton (buyer)
- Lakeview Way, Emerald Hills (buyer)
- Altaire Walk, Palo Alto (buyer)
- Altaire Walk, Palo Alto (buyer)
- Stockton Place, Palo Alto (buyer)
- Lane St., Belmont (seller)
- Sherman Ave., Menlo Park (buyer)
- Edgewood Road, Redwood City (buyer)



ERIKA DEMMA

650.740.2970
edemma@cbnorcal.com
erikademma.com

DRE# 01230766

- #1 Agent, Woodside Office, 2008 - 2009
- Top U.S. Realtor, *The Wall Street Journal*
- Relocation Specialist
- #11 Agent, Coldwell Banker, SF Peninsula - 2010



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