

The Almanac

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HER DAD'S WORKSHOP
TO A WORKSPACE
OF HER OWN AT SLAC

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2018 Menlo Park

Top Real Estate Agents and Teams Ranking



For the first time
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Name	Brokerage	Total Volume in Menlo Park*	Total Listing Volume in Menlo Park	Total Listing Volume Everywhere	SP/LP on All MLS Transactions**
DeLeon Team 	DeLeon Realty	\$121,824,000	\$75,004,000	\$494,965,500	108.5%
Keri Nicholas	The Parc Agency (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$98,461,000	\$70,336,000	\$107,980,500	99.9%
Judy Citron	Compass (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$64,371,050	\$32,530,000	\$84,833,000	100.0%
Elyse Barca	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$26,671,000	\$19,523,000	\$21,824,000	99.5%
Carol and Nicole Team	Alain Pinel Realtors	\$18,651,000	\$18,651,000	\$80,319,425	105.3%
Billy McNair	Compass (Formerly with Coldwell Banker)	\$23,700,000	\$18,620,000	\$32,825,000	102.6%
Annette Smith	Golden Gate Sotheby's	\$25,695,000	\$17,671,000	\$26,671,000	101.1%
Hossein Jalali	Coldwell Banker	\$22,478,000	\$16,758,000	\$22,158,000	96.6%
Elaine White	Coldwell Banker	\$18,681,000	\$14,175,000	\$22,457,100	105.7%
Jason Sewald	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	103.2%
Maya Sewald	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	103.2%
Mary & Brent Gullixson Team	Compass (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$16,535,000	\$12,535,000	\$175,740,000	93.2%

Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1st, 2018 - December 31st, 2018, Menlo Park, Residential Property: (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse, Manufactured Home, Floating Home, Duet Home, Multiple on Lot, Farm/Ranch, Other Residential, Double Wide Mobile Home, Duplex)

* Total volume includes both the buyer and seller sides in Menlo Park **Sale price to List Price Ratio on all MLS Transactions in 2018

*** Compass acquired Pacific Union . These agents did not proactively leave Pacific Union.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Salt along a shore at Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park.

Reclaiming the Bay

Work underway on 300 acres bordering Menlo Park

By Kevin Forestieri

More than a square mile of former salt ponds north of Mountain View is headed for transformation back into wetland habitat as work begins to return that portion of the bayshore to its natural state after more than a century of industrial salt production.

Construction crews will truck in enormous amounts of dirt to the North Bayshore area of Mountain View — hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of the stuff — to shore up old levees, protect landfills and create new habitats for marsh creatures to thrive in. All of this is in preparation for breaching a man-made barrier to bring tidal flows back to an area parched and cut off from the Bay.

The effort is part of a multi-agency strategy, launched in the early 2000s, to acquire 15,000 acres of privatized Bay Area shoreline used for salt production and restore most of it to its natural state — or at least as close to it as possible. Negotiations headed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein led to acquisition of the land from the global conglomerate Cargill, which had signaled it planned to cease 61 percent of its South Bay operations.

The latest chapter of the regional effort, known as “Phase 2” of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, includes

reversion of salt ponds back to tidal marsh habitat across 710 acres north of Mountain View and 300 acres bordering Menlo Park. Work on the latter is already underway along the edges of Bedwell Bayfront Park.

The future of the entire stretch of the baylands can be previewed at the northeast corner of Bedwell. To the north lies Greco Island, a verdant expanse of tidal marshes home to several protected species, including the endangered California Ridgwayis Rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. To the east lie hundreds of acres of former salt ponds abutting Facebook’s original campus, with a grayish-white cracked crust resembling the surface of the moon. Other salt ponds throughout the Bay Area take on a pink, green, yellow or rust color depending on the algae, minerals or tiny organisms present.

In a multi-step process, these salt ponds are designed to take in limited water from the Bay and circulate it through a system of “evaporator” ponds aimed at gradually increasing salinity. Water fully saturated with salt is then pumped into crystallizer beds, where salt is harvested and sent to a processing plant in Newark. This process has been ongoing in the baylands since the mid-1850s, hitting its peak by 1959, when companies were producing roughly a million tons of salt annually.

Environmental protections were hardly a consideration at the time of rapid development prior to the turn of the last century, said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay. About 90 percent of the Bay’s wetlands have been lost due to human activity, and it took a concerted effort starting in the 1960s to raise awareness that these public assets needed protection, he said.

“It’s not that those original salt-making companies that destroyed the Bay habitat did anything illegal; there were just no environmental laws,” he explained.

Some of that Bay habitat is long gone — diked off and paved over — but Lewis said he and other advocates at Save the Bay began pressuring public officials 15 years ago to restore marshes that remain salt ponds along the shoreline. With more than 15,000 acres now in the hands of public ownership and a new funding source in the Measure AA parcel tax, Lewis said, the region is poised to reverse the damage.

Shoring up levees

Step one in the restoration process is to shore up levees and fill pits dredged for industrial uses, and that means hundreds of truckloads of dirt coming in daily, said Jared Underwood, a

See **SALT PONDS**, page 7

New Menlo Park council reverses decision on Caltrain grade separations

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The wheels of Menlo Park’s grade separation project lurched forward Jan. 15 in a markedly different direction from where plans were headed under the previous City Council.

In the freshly seated council’s first major decision, new members Cecilia Taylor, Betsy Nash and Drew Combs joined Councilwoman Catherine Carlton — who had previously abstained from a vote on the matter — in reversing the previous council’s decision. They voted in favor of separating three Menlo Park roadways that cross the Caltrain line, not only one as the previous council had endorsed, as the “preferred option” moving forward.

The council voted 4-0, with Mayor Ray Mueller absent (he was attending his father’s funeral), to accept “Alternative C” as its preferred alternative in the first stage of the project. That alternative would partially raise the rail tracks and partially lower the roadways, creating a berm along the bulk of the rail line through Menlo Park. Under this plan, drivers, pedestrians and cyclists would no longer have to cross the Caltrain tracks at Ravenswood, Oak Grove and Glenwood avenues.

The alternative is estimated to cost of \$390 million.

In May, the council voted 3-1-1, with Mayor Ray Mueller opposed and Carlton abstaining, to approve Alternative A, a plan to build a single, roughly \$200 million underpass for vehicles at Ravenswood Avenue, tunneling the road 22 feet below the train tracks and restricting access to Alma Street. At the time, Alternative C was not favored, the council majority said, because it was nearly twice as expensive as Alternative A, and because the expected construction time, about five years, at three of the city’s four main east-west crossings, would have major impacts to people moving around the city during that time.

Staff and consultants from the engineering firm AECOM are now working on wrapping

up a “project study report” that essentially describes all the work that has been done so far on the project and identifies a preferred alternative. According to project manager Angela Obeso, the city received a grant for that step of the project from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and needs to complete the report to be eligible for more funds. The city is in competition for these funds with other cities in the county trying to build grade separations on the Peninsula, so, staff says, time is of the essence to make these decisions and ensure that Menlo Park remains eligible for further funding.

Why the change?

In the last cycle of public comment, residents of the Felton Gables neighborhood voiced strong opposition to any elevation of the rail line. That neighborhood sits along the tracks and residents there were extremely concerned about the visual and noise impacts.

They are still opposed, but others in public comment have been more vocal in opposing Alternative A, the Ravenswood underpass plan, because it would cut off access to Alma Street from Ravenswood Avenue, make future grade separations far costlier, and not fully address the imminent problem of Caltrain electrification and the fact that the rails will soon be capable of running many more trains per hour across the tracks, creating more traffic and safety problems for people crossing the tracks than ever before.

Felton Gables resident Marcy Abramowitz told the council that its decision would impact the city’s character, desirability and livability for decades to come. Elevated rails are not compatible with residential areas, she argued, and would have adverse noise, vibration and real estate impacts to nearby homes.

Ike Griffin, who said he represents a group called “Design First,” presented slides showing elevated rail segments in the area, depicting berms and

See **GRADE SEPARATION**, page 8

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NEWS

Former Almanac reporter wins education reporting award

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

The California School Boards Association has named former Almanac reporter Barbara Wood a recipient of its inaugural Golden Quill Award for fair, insightful and accurate education reporting.

The Menlo Park City School District board, which nominated Wood for the award, presented her on Jan. 15 with a certificate of excellence in reporting. Wood wrote for The Almanac from the early 1990s until she retired from full-time reporting last September. She is now an Almanac correspondent.

Wood thanked the board for the nomination during the meeting. Afterward, she told The Almanac: "I am honored and thrilled that the school board and district nominated me for this honor and by their kind words at the meeting. Thoroughly understanding something as complex as public school financing or curriculum issues or teacher tenure laws isn't easy, and it was gratifying to have my years of hard work to fairly and accurately report on all aspects of education in our four local school districts acknowledged."

School district and county boards of education nominate journalists for the award. Criteria for judging nominees include how effectively they help increase the understanding of the objectives, operations, accomplishments, challenges and opportunities of public schools.

Menlo Park district officials and school board members at the meeting thanked Wood for her education reporting. The district noted in a press release that Wood faithfully attended board meetings and the many community input sessions that

were held in the run-up to the district's 2017 parcel tax election and the development of a long-term financial plan.

"You did an incredible job of representing good journalism," Superintendent Erik Burmeister told Wood at the meeting. Some of Wood's stories on the district were flattering, while others weren't, but Wood did her job with "grace, professionalism, commitment to transparency and community engagement," he said.

Former board members Terry Thygesen and Joan Lambert attended the meeting to offer their congratulations. The district was fortunate to have Wood "really dig in and spend the time needed to get to understand the facts and the challenges" the board faced, Thygesen said.

"We didn't need anybody to be our cheerleader," Thygesen said. "Barbara is nobody's cheerleader, she's a straight-up journalist, but we felt like if the facts are accurately reported then that's going to (seep) down to the benefit of our schools."

Board President David Ackerman said that as school principal he had a policy of not talking to the press.

"You (Barbara Wood) turned that around for me," Ackerman said. "You dispelled another one of my prejudices."

Since retiring from full-time reporting, Wood, who has a master's degree in journalism from the University of California at Berkeley, has continued her volunteer work with the Red Cross, traveling to North Carolina to help with the disaster response after Hurricane Florence and to the Camp Fire in Butte County.

She is one of 25 recipients of the 2018 Golden Quill Award. Go to csba.org to see the full list of winners. **A**

Menlo police receive traffic safety grant

The Menlo Park Police Department has received a \$70,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety for a year-long program, which will fund, between now and Sept. 30, activities such as DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols; educational presentations for kids and community members about bike and pedestrian safety and distracted, impaired and teen driving; seat belt and car seat compliance; motorcycle safety operations; enforcement of speed, red light and stop sign violations; and

training for law enforcement to identify and apprehend impaired drivers.

In 2017, 3,602 people were killed on roadways in California, and in 2016, 867 pedestrians were killed on California roadways, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"We know that it is traffic violations that lead to crashes, and with this increased enforcement, we will strive to lower the amount of crashes in Menlo Park and San Mateo County," said Menlo Park Police Chief Dave Bertini.

SALT PONDS

continued from page 5

refuge manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About half a million cubic yards of dirt is needed, he said, and a fortunate side effect of the booming local economy is that there's plenty of it to go around. Private development, including Apple's new "spaceship" campus, left construction companies with huge piles of dirt, and project managers have developed a mutually beneficial relationship with companies willing to have it dropped off by the Bay instead of the dump.

"As they dig out dirt, they're working with us to test it and ensure it's clean," Underwood said, adding that it has to be free of pesticides, hydrocarbons and heavy metals. "It's a very strict standard, and instead of putting it in the landfill they can bring it to the ponds."

While the old channel networks that used to move water around the marshes still remain mostly intact, restoration isn't as simple as breaching the levee and stepping back as plants regrow and birds return. Allowing the free flow of water back into salt ponds amounts to bringing the Bay — and anticipated sea level rise in the coming decades — right to the doorstep of buried landfills, parks and some of Silicon Valley's most prominent tech campuses.

Flood risk to public infrastructure is one of the biggest concerns of project managers, according to Dave Halsing, a consultant working on the restoration project. The existing levees were never engineered to protect the low-lying nearby developments, and efforts need

to be made to shore up their limited protection against the wind and waves of a storm surge.

"All of the salt pond berms were not made as levees; nonetheless, they do provide some protection, and we want to make sure if we open up the ponds that we don't get rid of that protection," Halsing said.

Central to that goal is creating so-called upland transition zones, a gradual slope to act as a buffer between the sloshing Bay waters and shoreline development. Much of the second phase's southern border has an abrupt and vertical edge shaped like a bathtub, which is not only vulnerable to sea level rise but also makes it tough for marsh creatures to survive. During king tides or a big storm, animals like harvest mice, rails and voles find themselves stuck between flooded marshes and developed areas, and they've got virtually nowhere to hide, Underwood said.

"There's a little tiny bit of habitat — we're talking 6 feet from the top of the levee down to the marsh, and it's very steep. And what happens now is predators can pick them off a lot easier," he said. "During high tide you can see the hawks kind of lined up along the edges to eat what they can."

This kind of transition zone would typically be adjacent to the salt ponds rather than in it, but most of the nearby land has been developed into housing and businesses or — even worse — former landfills that have been capped and pose a serious risk if they were to erode. The 30-to-1 gradual slope should steel the region for the inevitable sea level rise.

"This is something that we're



Magali Gauthier

The Facebook campus is across from Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park, where a wetland restoration project is already underway.

doing for the survival of the species in the marsh for the next 100 years," Underwood said.

Competing needs

Ambitious plans to restore the Ravenswood pond cluster north of Menlo Park and the ponds north of Mountain View were scaled back during the complex planning process for Phase 2 that started more than a decade ago, due to competing environmental interests. For example, the Charleston Slough to the northwest of Shoreline Park was originally included in the restoration efforts, but was ultimately dropped due to environmental concerns.

At the Ravenswood ponds, the cracked and barren 270-acre pond abutting Facebook's campus was axed from the tidal marsh restoration plans in order to protect wildlife. Birds like the threatened Western snowy plover have come to rely on the large expanses of shallow and dry salt ponds, and restoring the wetland marshes would effectively amount to habitat destruction for them.

"They used to nest on beaches," Underwood said. "Lots of species have come to rely on the ponds."

Despite the narrowed scope of both projects, Lewis said he and his organization were not disappointed, and that it was clear from the start that the huge scope of salt pond restoration had to be "adaptive" based on monitoring data and sensitivity

to protected species. Leaving out Charleston Slough and one of the Ravenswood ponds is a sign that project managers aren't rushing headlong into what should be a deliberative, decadeslong process.

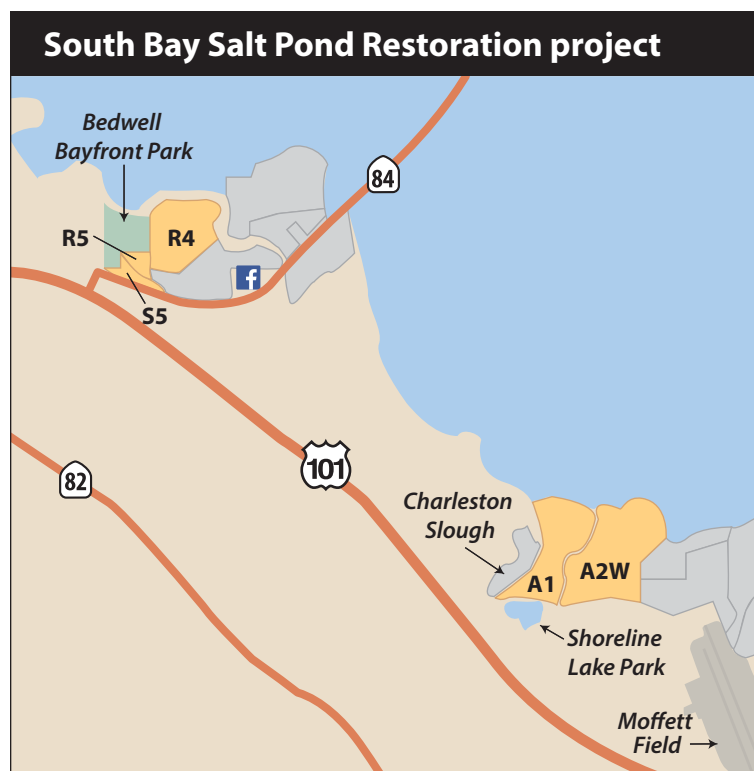
"It's not a setback; in fact, I think it's proof that the effort (can) be modified to adapt to what the species and what the Bay need," he said.

As with any project involving baylands, more than a dozen public agencies, companies and organizations are playing a part in the restoration efforts. Several agencies, including the California State Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, have a hand in managing the project.

Despite planning for Phase 2 beginning so many years ago, Lewis said things are going to

move much faster now that more money is on the table. Up until recently, he said there wasn't much pressure or a need to speed up the planning and permitting process because it wasn't clear how any of the salt pond restoration projects would be financed. But that changed when voters passed the Measure AA parcel tax in 2016, which he said is going to kickstart restoration projects like the ones north of Menlo Park and Mountain View. "There wasn't much public funding available for implementation," Lewis said. "The passage of Measure AA really changed that, and now suddenly there's a half a billion dollars over 20 years that's going to be generated. Things are moving faster now."

Kevin Forestieri is a staff reporter for the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac's sister publication.



Work on the Ravenswood ponds in Menlo Park, dubbed R4, R5 and S5, is already underway. Mountain View's salt ponds will be returned to tidal wetlands starting this year.

LEHUA GREENMAN



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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Real Estate As An Investment

Dear Monica: The stock market has fluctuated so much lately that I no longer feel as committed to it as I once was. Do you think real estate would be a better investment going forward? Ellen G.

Dear Ellen: I can't comment on what the financial market will do now or in the future. No one knows for sure although judging by history, the markets are due for some kind of "correction" in the foreseeable future.

But considering the way Bay Area companies have been

growing and expanding, it's reasonable to predict that that good residential real estate will be in demand for a long time, making it a good investment. Real estate prices are down from the highs of last spring and buyers have more leverage now than a year ago. It's true that interest rates are rising making housing more expensive, but it is a good time to buy and hold for the long term.

Consult your financial advisor to know if real estate makes sense for you but you can be confident that the future for real estate in our area is bright.

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When nightmare becomes reality

Former Columbine principal shares insights on school safety

By **Angela Swartz**

Almanac Staff Writer

Tissue boxes lined the aisles of the Hillview Middle School gym bleachers on Jan. 14 in anticipation of guest speaker Frank DeAngelis, who was principal of Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999 when it became the site of the deadliest school shooting in the nation up to that time.

DeAngelis sat down with Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister in front of about 110 district parents and community members for a conversation about violence in schools. The former Colorado principal noted that in the nearly 20 years since two students at the high school opened fire, killing 13 and wounding more than 20, school safety measures have greatly improved.

There have been scores of violent incidents at schools across the country in the years since Columbine, including a mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, last year.

“People say: ‘Frank, you’re out

there talking about shootings and they keep happening,’” said DeAngelis, who is now a speaker and consultant on school safety and emergency management. “But how many acts of violence have been stopped?”

There are more safety drills and new protocols for police to take immediate action against a potential shooter or other violent person — for example, not to secure the perimeter of a building and wait for SWAT teams to come in and handle a violent school incident, he said. Fewer lives might have been lost at Columbine had this been the protocol at the time, he said.

Schools are also constructed differently, with some adding film over windows to help hold shattered glass in place if there is an intruder.

Burmeister, a former Hillview principal who met DeAngelis when the two were finalists for the National Principal of the Year award, noted that school violence is a topic relevant not only across the country, but locally too. In 2018 there were lockdowns at Menlo-Atherton and Palo Alto high schools in response to safety concerns.

“Superintendents usually like to avoid hard topics like this,” Burmeister said. “But this is an opportunity to sit down with someone who has a place in history.”

A new normal?

During the discussion — “From Columbine to Parkland: Is this the new normal?” — DeAngelis recounted the day of the shooting, an incident he said he would have never expected to happen at Columbine. It was a fantastic school, he said, adding that there was a lot of support from parents, a low dropout rate and a 92 percent graduation rate.

“If you would have told me that ‘a Columbine’ could have happened at Columbine, I would have said, ‘It doesn’t happen in these communities,’” he said.

He was in his office when he heard that there might be a shooting on campus. He thought it was a senior prank.

“I run out of my office and my worst nightmare becomes a reality,” he said. “Because a gunman is pointing a gun at me ... and everything slowed down. And all of a sudden, my mind



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Frank DeAngelis, left, the former principal of Columbine High School, spoke with Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister about school safety on Jan. 14.

starts going to different places ... I remember the strobe lights (from the fire alarm). I remember the glass breaking behind me ... I’m thinking, ‘What is it going to feel like to have a bullet pierce my body?’ I thought of my wife and I thought of my kids.”

DeAngelis said he ran to a group of girls waiting outside a locked gym door to go into a physical education class. He pulled out a set of 35 keys from his jacket and the first key he tried opened the door, allowing the girls to reach safety. He said he still keeps in touch with

them today.

Later that evening, it became his task to tell parents that their children might not have survived the shooting. The school district’s attorneys warned him to be careful about how he spoke with parents because extensive discussions and apologies could put the district at legal risk. But he ignored their advice.

“Sometimes in your life, you have to stand up for what’s right even when you’re standing alone,” he said.

See **COLUMBINE**, page 10

GRADE SEPARATIONS

continued from page 5

vandalism along the rail line. “What we’ve seen is not pretty,” he said. “I think that Menlo Park deserves better.”

According to a staff report, 30 letters were received at City Hall opposing Alternative A, while 20 explicitly described a preference for Alternative C, since the draft report expressing the council’s preference for Alternative A was released. Many people opposed Alternative A because it would eliminate access to Alma Street from Ravenswood Avenue.

Other commenters asked that the council give less weight to visual concerns than concerns involving safety.

With Caltrain electrification around the corner there will be trains running more frequently; hence, the crossing gates will be down and preventing traffic flow more often. “That’ll be a bigger barrier than the physical view of elevated rail,” said Linfield Oaks resident Verle Aebi.

Katie Behroozi, a Complete Streets commissioner, pointed out that separating only one rail crossing — via an underpass at Ravenswood Avenue — precludes the possibility of raising the rails at a later time, meaning that if more crossings have to be separated later, Oak Grove and

Glenwood avenues would also have to be tunneled beneath the tracks, thereby causing additional roads near the tracks to be cut off.

While elevating the tracks has been resisted by some neighborhoods with aesthetic concerns, she urged the council to “look at the big picture,” and account for the needs of residents throughout the city, not just those of people in specific neighborhoods.

Another factor is the passage of the California State Rail Plan in 2018.

That plan states that over the past decade, Caltrain’s ridership has grown the fastest out of any of the state’s four commuter rail operators, nearly doubling its ridership from 2005 to 2015, and that the system already operates at or near capacity at peak hours. “These near-term needs will necessitate new infrastructure investments,” the report says. Grade separations between San Francisco and San Jose are listed as a long-term goal, or by 2040, a priority, in the report.

In other words, funding help from the state may be possible.

Trench or tunnel

Picking a preferred alternative for the project study report doesn’t mean the city can’t do more research, though.

Following requests from council members, staff will set aside funding for researching a viaduct option — or fully elevating the rail line — but not to research a trench or a tunnel unless the city gets a clear indication from neighboring jurisdictions that one those options is something they’re also interested in pursuing.

Trench or tunnel options are far more expensive than other options. A recent white paper analysis conducted in Palo Alto priced a trench or tunnel through that city at between \$2.4 and \$4 billion, depending on the design.

According to Complete Streets Commissioner Adina Levin, the executive director of Friends of Caltrain, the state is unlikely to help foot the bill for a trench or tunnel. Ensuring that local residents won’t have to see the train from their window at home, she pointed out, is not something policymakers in the Central Valley are likely to support if there are other, less-costly options that provide the same mobility benefits. And finding the will to pay the difference as a city, given other capital needs, seems unlikely, she added.

“Raising an extra billion dollars for us is, I think, out of reach,” she said.

Council members present

appeared to reach the same conclusion. “I was a big fan of the tunnel or trenching,” said Carlton. “I don’t think we’re going to come up with the money to do it.”

She said she was willing to support Alternative C, despite the serious construction impacts. “This is a huge decision,” she said. “Sometimes you have to hold your nose and think: This is going to be really inconvenient for a little while, but the benefits are going to be tremendous.”

Nash agreed. “I think, fundamentally, three crossings are more logical than one. ... I also agree that a tunnel, ... while a wonderful pipe dream, is not feasible.”

Combs said he opposes Alternative A, but wants to see further study of the viaduct and trench or tunnel options. “I appreciate that a tunnel or trench may be magical thinking or that a viaduct looks a lot nicer in the European countryside than going up the Peninsula,” he said, before adding, “I would be willing to go down that path so we can close off those options.”

Vice Mayor Taylor said she favors Alternative C for safety reasons.

Mayor Ray Mueller, while not present, has expressed continued interest in pursuing the

possibility of a trench or tunnel option with other cities. He recently sent an email to the Palo Alto City Council stating: “I remain very interested in meeting with representatives of the Palo Alto City Council and other City Councils subregionally, formally, to discuss the viability of a tunnel for high speed rail in our portion of the peninsula. My hope is you will not dismiss this alternative until we have had a chance to discuss this option, collaboratively, together.”

On Jan. 16, Mueller told The Almanac that he agrees with “the council’s consensus that all three roadways crossing the rail line need to be separated and I appreciate their concern of whether or not tunneling may be feasible.”

Interim City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson said she and the city’s rail subcommittee — currently made up of council members Combs and Mueller — would meet with the rail subcommittees in other cities and report back their interest at a later meeting.

The matter is expected to be returned to the council in February to formally approve Alternative C and discuss the revised scope of further research into the viaduct, trench and tunnel alternatives. ■

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Court updates on local murder cases

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

2011 murder suspect pleads not guilty

A 27-year-old man formerly of East Palo Alto pleaded not guilty on Jan. 17 to murder charges related to the 2011 fatal shooting of Cate Fisher, a 19-year-old from Menlo Park.

In September, Christian Fuentes was extradited to San Mateo County from Colorado. According to the county District Attorney's Office, Fuentes was convicted and sentenced to prison for the murder of a rival gang member in Colorado.

He was arraigned on Sept. 18 on charges of murder, attempted murder, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, being a felon in possession of a firearm, driving or taking a vehicle without consent and driving a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license.

Fisher, 19, was a college student who taught at the Menlo Park Gymnastics Center and had graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School. At 2 a.m. on July 13, 2011, she was sitting in a Chevrolet Tahoe parked in a driveway in the 2500 block of Annapolis Street in East Palo Alto with a man and another

woman when three people, one of whom was later identified as Fuentes, allegedly pulled up next to them in another vehicle.

Two of them got out of the car and began firing a 9mm firearm and .40-caliber rounds at the Chevrolet. Investigators later determined the incident to be a "gang execution shooting," according to prosecutors.

Fisher was struck multiple times by the gunfire and was pronounced dead at Stanford Hospital. The two other occupants of the Chevrolet were not hit by bullets, police said at the time.

The other two suspects in Fisher's shooting, the driver and the second shooter, are still at large, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Fuentes faces a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

He is being held without bail, and his preliminary hearing has been scheduled for May 22 at 9 a.m., according

to court records.

Valparaiso Avenue homicide: Wolke plea delayed

Francis Wolke, the man suspected of fatally stabbing 62-year-old Kathy Hughes Anderson in her Menlo Park home on Dec. 12, was scheduled to enter his plea in court on Friday, Jan. 18.

But Wolke, 36, of Cincinnati, Ohio, did not enter a plea because he was reportedly at the San Mateo

Medical Center, formerly Chope Hospital, according to online court records. The arraignment was rescheduled to Feb. 14.

According to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, Wolke had arrived in the Bay Area from Cincinnati just a few days before the homicide, and there is no known relationship or contact between Wolke and Hughes Anderson, nor a motive for the crime.

Wolke is in custody on \$10 million bail. ❏



Catherine
"Cate" Fisher



Francis Wolke

COLUMBINE

continued from page 8

The shooting took an emotional toll on DeAngelis and his staff.

Within four years of the incident, more than half of Columbine's employees had left the school, but DeAngelis received advice to seek therapy or counseling, and that helped him remain at Columbine for 15 more years, he said.

"The best piece of advice I received was that I was going to find every reason to help everyone else, but if you don't help yourself, you can't help anyone else," he said.

Making schools safer

Aside from minimizing harm when a violent attack breaks out, there are other measures communities can take as a whole to prevent such incidents. The community needs to care about the collective health of all children, Burmeister said.

"When you see a kid riding his bike without a helmet, roll down your window and say, 'Hey bud, I care about you, and I want you to stay safe — you need to wear a helmet,'" he said.

DeAngelis noted that it's important to encourage kids to tell adults if they see troubling behavior by other students.

Parents themselves need check in with their children, even as they might request more privacy as they get older, he said. Had the parents of one of the Columbine shooters gone into their child's bedroom — where weapons and plans were laid out in the open — they could have prevented the incident, he said.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has an anonymous tip line at 800-547-2700 to report suspicious behavior, Burmeister added.

Talking about school violence

One audience member asked DeAngelis and Burmeister how to have conversations about violence with her children without instilling fear in them.

Burmeister said that he understands it can be difficult for parents to strike the balance of informing their kids while not scaring them. Parents should feel free to contact school guidance counselors for advice on navigating the conversation.

For younger children, he said, schools should focus on preparation in safety drills rather than the details of what could or couldn't happen.

A video recording of the discussion is on the district's website at mpcsdspeakerseries.com/videos.html. ❏



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M-A freshmen connect through Challenge Day

Event has 'powerful impact' on students

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

For more than a decade, freshmen, facilitators and parent volunteers have gathered annually for six hours in a room at Menlo-Atherton High School for what has become a rite of passage for M-A ninth-graders.

The school is one of many around the country that take part in Challenge Day, an annual event that includes icebreakers, trust-building exercises and an opportunity for students to share personal stories.

With a freshman class of about 600 students, M-A spreads Challenge Day over three days in early January, holding the event in the school's two basketball gyms and enlisting the help of parents and teachers. This year's program was held Jan. 9 through 11.

The program is intended to "break down barriers and promote empathy, respect and cooperation" among students, according to Challenge Day, the organization that coordinates the event across the country. It has received national recognition on television programs such as "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and on MTV.

The day provides a unique opportunity for students to focus on something besides academics, said Sarah Eisner, a co-chair of this year's Challenge Day at M-A.

"So many people, especially in Silicon Valley, are focused on metrics, grades and getting into college," Eisner said. "It's nice to

have a day about empathy, love and connection."

A particularly memorable moment for students who take part in Challenge Day, according to program alumni, is the "cross the line" activity, in which facilitators ask students, parents and teachers to cross a line if they've experienced certain situations. For example, a facilitator might say, "Cross the line if you've experienced bullying."

During the day, students meet in small groups of about four to six peers and each gets three minutes to share something personal. Facilitators ask students to complete the phrase: "If you really knew me, you'd know ..." Students can choose to stay silent during the three minutes.

The event has stuck with some M-A graduates.

"I heard stories from extremely different backgrounds than myself," said Michael Culhane, who graduated in 2011 and is from Menlo Park. "It opened my eyes to be understanding of different cultures and backgrounds. ... To this day, I try to use the things that I learned that day in that gym. Mostly being accepting of others and trying to understand people before casting any judgment on them."

Vuki Mataele, who graduated in 2017, echoed Culhane's sentiments. He said that during Challenge Day he learned to apply the saying "never judge a book by its cover" to everyone he meets. "You should always just keep a smile because you don't know what someone is hiding," he said.

"It (Challenge Day) opens you up to a lot of people that are

'quote unquote tough people,'" said Mataele, who is from East Palo Alto.

M-A officials said in a November email to parents that the event has reduced bullying and created more cohesive and positive relationships among students. Empathy is important to the M-A community, and Challenge Day has helped foster empathy at the school, Principal Simone Rick-Kennel said in an interview with The Almanac.

The day has a powerful impact

on students, Eisner said. "At the end, they (students) always are given a chance to say what they experienced and there's always at least one (student) who says they realized they have been unkind to someone in the room and want to apologize," she said.

The M-A Parent Teacher Association pays for substitutes to cover the teachers who participate in Challenge Day, and it also pays the Challenge Day organization to put on the program, Rick-Kennel said.

Challenge Day charges schools \$3,575 per day for the program, according to the organization's website.

M-A is expanding its community-building programming with more events like Challenge Day, Rick-Kennel said. The school hosted a service learning day on Jan. 9, sending 60 students out to locations like the Belle Haven Community Garden to volunteer.

For more on Challenge Day, go to challengeday.org. ■

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Spelling bee winner heads to regional competition

Seventh-grader Nina Barman won the La Entrada Middle School annual spelling bee earlier this month, according to a press release from the Menlo Park school.

To clinch the top spot at the Jan. 10 competition, Nina correctly spelled "status quo."

This came after five championship rounds against runner-up Kiran Singh, a fifth-grader. Both contestants correctly spelled words such as "oleander" and "habitus."

Nina will compete in the Bay Area Regional Spelling Bee on Feb. 17, with a chance to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May.

Fourth-grader Linh Nguyen, sixth-grader Heidi Chen, and eighth-grader Adrian



Jon Ververloh

Nina Barman won the La Entrada Spelling Bee on Jan. 10.

Deutscher-Bishop tied for third place in the competition.

— By *Angela Swartz*

2018/2019

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INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 5:00 p.m.; 2-year term; strengthens community involvement by initiating, sponsoring, and celebrating local art and cultural activities including, art, photography, design, music, horticulture, culinary arts, literature, drama, and dance; organizes and supervises events showcasing local creative talent.

CIRCULATION COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; 2-year term; supports the General Plan goal to foster a community of all users of the public roadway system; works with the Town Engineer, Sheriff’s Department, and local and regional organizations to encourage “share the road” programs; develops educational programs on traffic safety, promotes safe, convenient access to schools, businesses, public and private institutions, and neighborhoods.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; 2-year term; supports the General Plan Policies related to education on natural hazards and emergency preparedness; develops and maintains appropriate plans and procedures with staff to respond to disasters and emergencies; supports the Citizens’ Emergency Response and Preparedness Program.

ENVIRONMENT: OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 5:30 p.m.; 2-year term; advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on implementing the goals and policies of the environmental elements of the General Plan: Open Space, Conservation, and Sustainability.

LIVESTOCK AND EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; 2-year term; reviews applications for professional stable permits and forwards recommendations to the Planning Commission; reviews applications for exceptions to the private stable regulations, forwards recommendations to the Planning Director, and conducts stable inspections in accordance with the Municipal Code; develops and supports education and information programs which aid the community in sustaining, protecting, enhancing, and enjoying equestrian activities and facilities.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 1st Thursday at 6:00 p.m.; 3-year term; guides the activities of the community recreation program. The Committee provides organized and supervised community recreation services in all areas of the Town and makes recreation budget recommendations to the Council.

TRAILS COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 3:00 p.m.; 2-year term; reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission; advises on trail maintenance projects and on rules, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the trails.

WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 10:30 a.m.; 2-year term; advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies and plans relating to historic preservation; plans and recommends means for ensuring the security and public accessibility of the Town’s historic archives; gathers and catalogues historic material.

These are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. Interested residents may request information and applications from the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town web site at www.woodsidetown.org. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 1, 2019, by 5 p.m.

Published: The Almanac on January 16, 2019, and January 23, 2019.

Posted: January 10, 2019 - February 1, 2019



Photo by Michelle Le

Kids read at the Belle Haven Library in February 2018. The current Belle Haven Library shares a site with Belle Haven Elementary School, and only students are permitted there during school hours.

Council considers pairing main and Belle Haven library projects

By **Kate Bradshaw**
 Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council voted 3-1 on Jan. 15 to move forward with a strategy and timeline to build a new Belle Haven branch library and rebuild or renovate the main library, as well as combine elements of the two projects to streamline efficiency.

Councilwoman Betsy Nash cast the dissenting vote and Mayor Ray Mueller was away attending his father’s funeral.

Between August 2017 and October 2018, the city of Menlo Park scrambled to take advantage of an offer by billionaire philanthropist John Arrillaga to help fund the construction of a new main library after the first \$20 million in capital costs. The council agreed to set aside \$1 million to jump-start the needed studies and hire someone to oversee the project amidst community outcry that the public outreach process was being sped through or circumvented. Arrillaga ultimately

rescinded his offer.

Where these projects will fall on the council’s work plan remains to be seen; the council still needs to hold its annual goal-setting meeting, which is when priorities for the calendar year are set. That meeting has been postponed until Friday, Feb. 8.

The main question of the Jan. 15 discussion was whether the city should be authorized to couple the two library projects in some phases for cost and efficiency reasons, or whether the Belle Haven Library project should be completed separately first.

“Belle Haven is a little bit of a book desert,” former library commissioner Jacqui Cebrian noted in supporting the option to make the Belle Haven project the first priority while combining efforts on the two library projects when possible.

Council members agreed that building a new Belle Haven Library should be the city’s first library-focused priority. The city is now working on a space needs study for the Belle Haven branch.

Staff and consultants are now collecting feedback for that study and have so far received about 800 responses. People who want to weigh in should complete an online survey in English or Spanish at is.gd/survey468. All residents who live east of Bay Road were also sent surveys by mail, according to a staff report. The deadline to respond is Jan. 31.

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New leader takes the reins at equine therapy nonprofit

By Kate Daly
Special to The Almanac

“This is the best job I’ve ever had — I can’t imagine anything better,” Gari Merendino said upon retiring as executive director of the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy in Woodside, a title he held for the past decade.

He didn’t exactly handpick his successor, but he knew Nancy Contro when she was director of the family guidance and bereavement program at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital and brought out groups to experience the healing power of horses at NCEFT’s 12-acre facility.

Last spring, he asked if she was interested in applying for his job, and after a couple of weeks of self-reflection she replied that she might be ready to make a change.

Contro became NCEFT’s executive director on Jan. 7; Merendino plans to stay on the board of directors.

This is a “dream job” for Contro, where she gets “to join an unbelievable team in an incredible setting,” and combine serving families and working with animals outdoors “in a very healing place,” she said.

As for Merendino, he is looking forward to a more leisurely pace with his wife, Ellen, at their home in Southern California. He grew up there and is already involved with a public-benefit nonprofit — this one also involving horses — in Pasadena.

The couple have lived in Menlo Park for the last 34 years. She retired in June as business manager for Stanford University’s alumni magazine, so now they are both able to travel more.

Merendino, 68, started out volunteering at NCEFT in 2005. At the time, after working for Levi Strauss in San Francisco for 13 years, he discovered one day that his job was gone.

“I had two kids in college, was making mortgage and car payments,” and had never had the time to volunteer, he said.

He remembered how much he liked riding horses after college, and came across NCEFT, a program whose mission is to help people with neuromuscular, cognitive and sensory-processing disorders move beyond their boundaries with horses, hope and healing.

He started out as a side walker, a person who stands at the ready when patients are on horseback,



Photo by Cherie Hammer

Nancy Contro and Gari Merendino pose with Scooter, an NCEFT therapy horse.

Barbara Collins Gray

September 4, 1922 – December 24, 2018

Barbara “Barb” Collins Gray of Menlo Park passed away peacefully surrounded by family members. Her passing at the wonderful age of 96 was due to complications from surgery.

Barbara was born in San Francisco and was a third generation Californian. She was the first daughter of Earnest and Muriel Collins and was raised in Burlingame. She attended Notre Dame High School in Belmont and Lone Mountain Girls College in San Francisco. While at Lone Mountain she met the love of her life, William Thomas Gray. William “Bill” went off to serve as a Merchant Marine Officer in World War II and upon returning from the war, he married Barbara Collins in June of 1945.

They raised four children together and were married for 65 years. The Gray’s initially resided in Menlo Park and ultimately moved to Atherton for 35 years. In their golden years Barb and Bill retired to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico during the winter months where they enjoyed golf and the warm weather. Eventually they permanently moved back to Menlo Park where they lived out their remaining years together.

Upon raising her four children, Barbara decided to enter the professional world and worked as a Histology technician at Stanford Hospital. Her avocations varied and she was fond of photography, golf, and tennis, and reading mysteries was a favorite pastime passion.

Barbara was a volunteer for the Peninsula’s Volunteer Organization of Menlo Park and was an active member of St. Raymond’s PTA, while her two sons attended school there. Later in life she visited the Little House Senior Center in Menlo Park to attend workout sessions. One of her last true enjoyments was her participation in the St Pius Senior Friendship Group, meeting every Friday for mass and lunch.

Barbara is survived by sons William Thomas Gray Jr. and Steven Gray, daughters Teri Gray McKelvy (Dorian) and Lauren Gray Koenig (Brad), brother-in-law Thomas Gray of San Jose, and grandchildren Todd Gray, Matt Gray, Austin Koenig, Max McKelvy, Kyle Koenig, Jessica Koenig and Taylor McKelvy, four great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. A private family service is planned for February.



PAID OBITUARY



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California on the following:

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY AMENDING SECTION 18.12.040 [ACCESSORY USES PERMITTED IN R-E DISTRICT], SECTION 18.36.040 [ACCESSORY USES PERMITTED IN ALL DISTRICTS], AND SECTION 18.48.030 [ONE TIME INCREASE TO PARCEL AREA, OPEN SPACE AND BULK REQUIREMENTS] OF THE PORTOLA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE AND A FINDING THAT THE ACTION IS EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA).

The Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to the Town Council regarding amendments to the Portola Valley Municipal Code related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Proposed Municipal Code amendments include:

1. Move the regulations for ADUs from Section 18.12.040 to Section 18.36.040
2. Amend Section 18.48.030 describing the maximum size allowed for an ADU for consistency with other Sections
3. Amend the ADU regulations to make the following policy changes:
 - Increase the allowed ADU size
 - Allow a separate address for ADUs
 - Create a streamlined review process for certain ADU applications

Information pertaining to the proposal may be viewed at Town Hall Building and Planning Department, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Additional information can be found at <http://www.portolavalley.net/housing> or email housing@portolavalley.net.

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Planning Commission to be heard at the time and place mentioned above. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the Public Hearing(s).

Publication Date: January 23, 2019
Laura Russell, Planning & Building Director

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Districts 2 and 6 - Terms from February 2019 to February 2023 and District 4 – Unexpired Term from February 2019 to February 2022

The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending to the Town Council ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan and adopted development policy. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions, and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

To obtain information on residency or addresses of residential properties located in Districts 2, 4, or 6, please check the Town website at www.woodsidesidtown.org, under “What’s New”, and “Town Council and Planning Commission Districts and Map.”

Interested residents may check residency requirements, request information, and submit applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062. The Town Clerk may be reached by calling (650) 851-6790, or e-mailing jlj@woodsidesidtown.org. **The deadline for applications is Monday, February 4, 2019, by 5 p.m.**

Published: The Almanac on January 16, 2019, and January 23, 2019

LIBRARY

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The draft space needs report is expected to be reviewed by the council on March 12 and the final version reviewed on April 9.

After April 9, both libraries will be at the same phase in their plans for the future, which could create the opportunity to streamline the projects and ease administrative burdens by including both in a request for proposals for architectural design, according to Sean Reinhart, interim library services director.

According to a timeline he presented, preliminary designs for both libraries could be completed between June 2019 and June 2020, with preliminary cost estimates completed in September 2019 and financing options and mechanisms developed and approved by early 2020. The rest of the design work would be completed by February 2021. Construction could then take place between August 2022 and August 2025.

The council emphasized that combining design processes for the main and Belle Haven

libraries would be permissible only if it does not slow down progress on the Belle Haven Library.

Councilman Drew Combs said he was skeptical that there are synergies or economies of scale that could be attained by combining both project processes, but continued, "I think we do have to trust staff in this instance."

The council has delayed determining the specific funding mechanisms that would be used for the library projects, such as a bond measure or a tax.

"I got beat up by a lot of people who felt pretty strongly they absolutely wanted a (new) Belle Haven Library, and don't want as much change for the main library at Burgess Park," said Councilwoman Catherine Carlton. "I don't want to see us spend a lot coming up with a grand final decision without substantial research into whether or not people really want us

to do this."

Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor made it a condition of her vote that staff emphasize more clearly in writing that the Belle Haven Library will be the first priority moving forward.

"I want to see this process started before I turn 60," she said.

Nash expressed concerns about staff constraints and wanted to emphasize the Belle Haven project as a priority.

Foundation help to come

Monica Corman, president of the Menlo Park Library Foundation, announced that the foundation plans to release a request for proposals soon to find a fundraising firm that would advise the foundation on organizing a capital fundraising campaign and completing an "advocacy feasibility study."

"We are trying to be ready for whatever is next for the library," Corman said. ■

NCEFT

continued from page 15

and found satisfaction helping others. In addition to his volunteer work, he managed a design company, did some consulting, and then "everything pretty much fell into place" when NCEFT asked him to ride the horses it uses in its therapy program, he said.

Merendino went from the position of horse handler to barn manager, and then director of operations in 2007 when NCEFT moved to its current site at 880 Runnymede Road.

The following year he became executive director, and found himself always fundraising to keep the 14 therapy horses fed and taken care of, the staff of 21 paid, and the approximately 5,000 annual sessions for patients running smoothly year-round.

Founded in 1971, NCEFT has a long waitlist of people seeking physical, occupational and speech therapy. The fee is usually \$113 for a half-hour session, "but it costs us close to \$300 to do this," Merendino said.

How does the nonprofit fill the funding gap? By lining up private donations, applying for grants, and renting out stall space to about 17 boarders.

"I'm proudest of the relationships we've developed with other nonprofits," such as the Lava Lake Injured Veterans Equine Program in Idaho, the Veterans Administration in Palo Alto, Children's Health Council, Abilities United, Hope Services, and various school groups, Merendino said.

In the spring, veterans suffering from traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder spend time at NCEFT to train for a summer trail ride in Idaho.

One day Merendino drove by an accident on Sand Hill Road where a firetruck, an ambulance and sheriff's personnel were swarming the scene. He figured they see trauma every day, and decided to add an equine-assisted therapy program for first responders at NCEFT.

"We never charge veterans or first responders because they've given so much for us," he said.

About 75 percent of NCEFT's patients are kids, the youngest being 2 years old. So far the oldest special needs patient has been 95.

"Everybody we talk to says what a difference this place has made to them ... the relationship between patients and horses — it is amazing," he said.

Merendino enjoyed being able to ride his quarter horse, Keys, at NCEFT every day, and smiles when he explains how grateful he is for a job that kept him emotionally and physically well for so many years. ■

Elizabeth "Betty" Tight

July 23, 1926 – December 30, 2018

Betty passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family at her home at the Sequoias of Portola Valley, CA on Sunday, December 30th at the age of 92. Known for her exceptionally kind, selfless, and compassionate personality, Betty now reunites with her beloved husband, Dexter "Ted" of nearly 70 years, who passed away in April 2018.



Betty was a native San Franciscan, born to Dr. Curle and Sara Callander in 1926, and predeceased by her brother Dr. John Callander (survived by wife Barbara). She attended Miss Burke's School, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University where she was Chairperson of the Woman's Council and named to the Cap and Gown honor society. She pursued post-graduate studies at the ArtCenter College of Design, and was an accomplished artist.

Betty was keen for any outdoor adventure, and in her youth would ride horses throughout the hills of Woodside. Later in life she could often be found hiking the hills of the Bay Area with her long-time "Walkie-Talkie" group of friends or puttering in her beautiful garden. Betty raised her family on the ski slopes and backpacking in the Sierras, playing tennis, and spending many years on the McKenzie River fly-fishing with friends and family. Betty passed her love for the great outdoors down to her children and grandchildren.

Active in lifelong service to both the church and community, Betty was an Elder at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco before moving to Woodside, CA where she was involved with Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley. She was a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames, and was active in the Junior League of San Francisco, The Heritage on the Marina, Peninsula Family Services, and a number of other local charities. Through her life-long association with Stanford University she was recognized as a Stanford Associate for her continued service to the University.

While Betty's contributions and accomplishments with organizations in San Francisco and the Peninsula were abundant, her legacy to those who knew her was one of unlimited kindness and grace. Her generous spirit and devotion to her numerous friends and close-knit family will live on in all the lives that she touched. Her knowing smile and intuitive warmth will be missed but not forgotten for all those she leaves behind. Betty is survived by her four children and their spouses: Dexter "Tim" (Jane), Kathryn Loken (Stephen), Steven (Chris) and David (Janet); and known as a proud and loving "Nonnie" to her ten grandchildren: Dexter "Elliot" (Elizabeth), Andrew, Riley, Peter, Connor, Charlotte, Griffin, Madeleine, Delaney and Sophie.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Betty's name to: "That Man May See", "Peninsula Open Space Trust", or a charity of your choice. A private family celebration of life will be held in the spring, Betty's favorite season.

PAID OBITUARY

Nancy Marion Lower Lobdell

December 16, 1929 – August 19, 2018

Nancy Marion Lower Lobdell, a Long Beach native who was active in a variety of community organizations in her hometown before spending her later retirement years in Palo Alto, passed away at the Vi in Palo Alto on August 19, 2018. She was 88.

Born on December 16, 1929, Nancy attended Los Cerritos Elementary School, Washington Junior High School, and Long Beach Poly High School. At USC, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and graduated with a teaching degree.

Nancy taught the fourth grade in the El Segundo Unified School District and lived in Hermosa Beach, where she met her future husband, Robert Charles Lobdell. The couple married in 1952 at the First Congregational Church in Long Beach and remained together until Robert passed away in 2008.

In 1957, the Lobdells moved with their two young children, Terri and John, to Ohio. The couple had two more sons, Bill and Jim, there before resettling in Long Beach in 1965.

After more than a decade as a stay-at-home mom, Nancy began her second career in the 1970s as a public relations specialist for California State University, Long Beach and was eventually promoted director of community relations, working for the Office of the President. She retired in 1986.

Nancy played an active role in Long Beach philanthropy, with the Junior League of Long Beach (she served as its president), St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Long Beach Museum of Art and Fine Arts Affiliates (which supported the arts at California State University, Long Beach) among her favorite nonprofits.

In her retirement years, Nancy and her husband led annual art tours to Florence and the Tuscan countryside and became doting grandparents to their 12 grandchildren. In 2004, the couple moved to the Palo Alto area, where two of their children live.

With Robert's passing, Nancy lived out her years at The Vi in Palo Alto, where she was an active member of the community. She also was a Sunday fixture at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto.

Nancy was survived by her brother, Bill; four children, Terri, John, Bill and Jim; son-in-law Bill Johnson; daughters-in-law Leslie MacDonald and Colleen Anderson; twelve grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Donations can be made to Nancy's favorite charity, the Episcopal Relief & Development Fund, a national nonprofit that provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering.



PAID OBITUARY

Draeger's Market to undergo 'extensive' 8-week remodel

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Draeger's Market, which has operated as a gourmet food market in downtown Menlo Park since 1955, will undergo an "extensive remodel" to expand many departments' offerings and improve energy efficiency, according to Richard Draeger, one of the owners.

The remodel will be the most comprehensive at the store since 1990 and is expected to last between seven and eight weeks. During that time, he said, food products will be rearranged as new refrigeration fixtures are added and departments are expanded.

"It'll be a little bit of a treasure hunt," he said, asking shoppers for patience.

With the changes, the store will increase energy efficiency, highlight local products, increase the amount of space dedicated to fresh food and offer faster grab-and-go meal options, Draeger said.

"We're bringing a lot of ideas and things that we believe our customers have been wanting for a long time," he said. "I think by the time we get to the middle of March, people will be happy."

Draeger also informed The Almanac that in contrast to previous plans to relocate the upstairs coffee bar downstairs to the bakery section, the store's owners have instead decided to leave it in its current place, with a remodel.

"Due to the outpouring of customer feedback (and the democratic process), we will instead be remodeling the coffee bar area and leaving it open," he said in an email. "It was very apparent that this is a popular space for many in the Menlo Park community."

He added that the store's produce department will be improved, its salad bar expanded, and new displays prepared for produce, fresh sauces and juices.

In addition, the sushi department will be expanded, as well as the deli. A hot bar with fresh entrees and more grab-and-go meal options will be added. The bakery will get a new display with more grab-and-go desserts and "small portion sweet treats."

Finally, he added, a new beverage display will offer beers from craft brewers and microbreweries.

"If there's a general theme through this remodel, it's in order to add fresh food and craft products," he said. ■



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac.

Draeger's Market, which sits at the corner of University Drive and Menlo Avenue in Menlo Park, will undergo an extensive remodel over the next two months.

Barbara N. Crawford

December 19, 1922 - December 24, 2018

Barbara Norris Crawford passed away peacefully on December 24, 2018. She was 96.

Born to Jean & Grace Norris, and raised in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1944 with a Bachelor of Mathematics degree. Following graduation, she moved to Schenectady, N.Y. to work for General Electric as an engineering assistant. It was there she met her future husband, Robert Crawford. In June of 1946 they were married and settled in Menlo Park, CA.

Barbara was an active volunteer, serving in local schools as PTA President, Girl Scout leader and math tutor. She was a member of Allied Arts Auxiliary serving the Children's Hospital at Stanford, Palo Alto Garden Club, Gamble Garden Center, and Cantor Arts Center where she was a docent for 25 years. She was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto and Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. Barbara sang in both church choirs and with the Clef Hangers, a local women's choral group.

She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who created a warm and welcoming home for family and friends. She enjoyed cooking, decorating and gardening and was an expert party hostess. Barbara and Bob traveled the world, visiting 6 continents. For years, they enjoyed a shared cottage with life-long friends in Carmel and annual trips to Hawaii.

Barbara is pre-deceased by her husband of 59 years, Robert Crawford and a sister, Joanne Buckley. She is survived by her son David (Christine) Crawford, daughter Jane (Stephen) Grundmeier, daughter Nancy (Russell) Werner, and daughter Susan (Daniel) Lockwood; grandchildren Elisabeth, Kathryn, Carla, Eric, Nicholas, MaryAnn, Raleigh, Thomas, William and Peter; and great-grandchildren Kaden, Eliana, Brooke, Soren, Adeline, Jonathan, Charles, John Robert, and Catherine. She is also survived by her brothers Edward Norris and Roger Norris.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 2:00pm at Menlo Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park.



Rotary Club accepting grant applications

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation is now accepting 2019 grant applications from nonprofits. The application deadline is Feb. 6.

Grants will be awarded to education programs serving low-income kindergarten through eighth-grade students in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and adjacent unincorporated areas, according

to a Rotary Club press release. The club will give preference to smaller, locally focused organizations.

There is about \$20,000 available to support qualified applicants this year. Only 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible.

The grant application is available at menloparkrotary.org.

Hope Freeman Johnson

May 14, 1928 - July 14, 2018

Former Woodside resident, Hope Johnson, passed away on July 14th, surrounded by family and friends. She was born to Hilda Reuter Freeman and Benjamin Freeman in Antigo, WI. Her parents, brother Leslie, husband Hobart, son Clinton, and daughter Tulla preceded her.

She grew up in Antigo in the house where her father ran a trading post, supplying loggers and others. After attending high school in New London, she attended Lawrence University. During a summer school course at University of Wisconsin, she spied a young gentleman named Hobart, whom she eventually married.

They honeymooned in Europe and eventually settled there so that Hobart could manage the European operations for Gisholt Machine Tool. In 1963, She and her family (now including daughter Tulla, and sons Ben, Fletcher, and Hobart Clinton) returned and settled in Woodside while Hobart attended Sanford University.

She then adopted 2 more daughters - Sonia and Vangie. Over the years, she managed the household and all the ups and downs of living with Hobart and a household of rambunctious children. She supported Hobart as he explored religion (as a deacon at Woodside Village Church) and other adventures including the Human Awareness Institute and Heartmath. A highlight of her life was appearing on the Phil Donahue show with Hobart, a show she had watched for years.

She found pleasure in the community, becoming active in New Commers - where she met many of her friends as well as Atherlons and other organizations. Both she and Hobart enjoyed playing bridge and she was active in the Bridge community up until the end. But she also found joy in participating with Woodside Community Theatre and especially the Woodside Village Church Rummage sale. And, of course, her love of playing cards that she shared with all, especially cribbage and bridge.

She loved animals and was very active in supporting such causes, being one of the early members of Pets In Need as well as many other animal support charities. She always had pets around, three dogs (Max, Rosie, and Yoda) and two cats (Leia and Padme). Her other love was supporting the Lucile Packard Foundation and Hospital.

She leaves behind her best friend and soulmate, Ken Rutherford, children Ben, Fletcher, Clint, Vangie, Sonia, grandchildren Kaia, Tiana, Chris, Clinton (Tulla), Alex, Sam, Makayla, Lucas (Ben), Travis, Brandon (Fletcher), Emily, Tom, David (Clint), Devrick (Vangie), along with 3 great grand daughters (Maci, McKenzie, Naomi (Travis), not to mention so many friends that were so dear to her.

A celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26th, at 2pm at the Woodside Village Church. If possible, let the family know you will be attending using the email ID HopeCOL@FJemail.com or <http://evite.me/rgxTCWQH3b>. Donations can be made to any organization that supports animals and/or the Lucile Packard Foundation.



PAID OBITUARY

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Selling your Menlo Park home?

First, meet with Michael Repka
of the DeLeon Realty team.

Unlike most real estate agents, Michael holds two law degrees, including an LLM in taxation from NYU School of Law, and has years of experience as a real estate and tax attorney, giving his clients a unique advantage. Further, Michael studied negotiation and conflict management in graduate school at Rutgers School of Law and Rutgers Graduate School of Business, as well as Harvard University. In addition, the expertise and marketing available through the team at DeLeon Realty are the very best in the business.

Meet with Michael to discuss any preliminary tax and legal questions about selling your home, and let him tell you more about what makes DeLeon Realty's innovative approach to real estate so successful. There is no cost or obligation for this consultation.

650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224



MICHAEL REPKA

CEO & GENERAL COUNSEL AT DELEON REALTY

In addition to Michael's love for real estate and tax law, he also enjoys many recreational hobbies, including piloting the DeLeon plane around the Bay Area, to Napa for world-class dining with DeLeon teammates and clients, and around the state for real estate and legal events. Michael and his wife Rachel are members of the Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club, where they enjoy dining, socializing, and embarrassing themselves on the golf course. In Michael's spare time, he also loves riding his Harley Davidson along the Pacific Coast Highway. Michael dabbles in adrenaline sports, has run eight marathons, including the NY City Marathon (twice) which was his favorite, and has climbed both Mount Kilimanjaro and Yosemite's Half Dome! He loves taking cruises to beautiful destinations such as the Caribbean, Mexico, Israel, Greece, Russia, South America, and Dubai.

Michael appreciates the opportunity to travel the world for business, especially to China and India for international real estate shows and seminars. However, his favorite place to go is Japan and his favorite food is Japanese cuisine, especially sushi.



650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224



Margery Morse, a mechanical designer with SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park, is designing a cylindrical trunk to protect the utilities and electronics powering a camera inside a telescope that will photograph the night sky of the entire Southern Hemisphere over and over for years from its perch in the high desert in Chile.



Designing for discovery

Margery Morse graduated from her dad's workshop to a workspace of her own at SLAC

By Dave Boyce | Photos by Magali Gauthier



Drafting ability is a fundamental skill when working as a mechanical designer at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, a research powerhouse run by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Margery Morse admires good design. She likes the hidden efficiencies incorporated into IKEA furniture, toggle switches, Oxo kitchen utensils, and the design of the websites of the Internal Revenue Service and online hardware vendor McMaster Carr — “Amazon.com for engineers,” she says.

An appreciation of industrial design is what you’d expect from someone in Morse’s profession. She is a mechanical designer at Menlo Park’s SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, where she works with engineers and other members of a deep bench of manufacturing expertise to make machines for scientists exploring the behavior of subatomic particles.

Morse’s most recent project is designing a trunk about 3 feet in diameter and 6 feet long to house utilities, pumps, coolant equipment and many electronic components for a camera SLAC is building for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. Two immediate design challenges: making the trunk easy to assemble on site in the Atacama Desert in Chile, and providing room inside for maintenance in a “really tight” space, says Morse, a North Fair Oaks resident. If a part or assembly needs to be removed for maintenance, “we have to make sure that we have an easy method of taking it out,” Morse explains. A good solution, she says, would be

a simple process, such as loosening a couple of screws and having the room to reach in and pull the assembly out.

The telescope, when it’s up and running, will photograph the sky above the entire Southern Hemisphere during three or four nights, and repeat that process for 10 years, SLAC experimental cosmologist Aaron Roodman has said. In collecting 15 terabytes of data every night, the camera will eventually provide 800 to 1,000 sets of night-sky images, enabling scientists to observe, for example, phenomena that might not be noticed without such a detailed and consistent record, including some 20 billion galaxies, 17 billion stars in the Milky Way, and between 5 million and 6 million solar-system objects, Roodman said.

The camera’s sensor — which will be about 250 times larger than its counterpart in a smartphone camera — will be extraordinarily flat, varying from perfect flatness by no more than 11 microns — a small fraction of the width of a human hair, Roodman said.

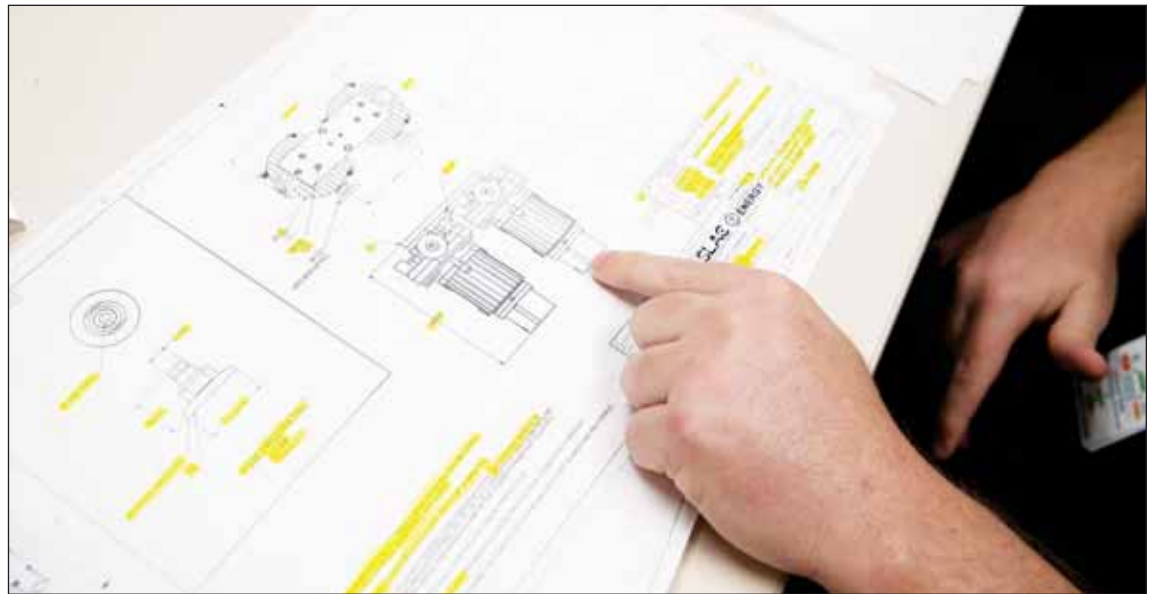
Morse had a hand in designing a frame that supports the grid that holds the sensor. The original plan had the frame composed of many of interlocking parts. To achieve the necessary flatness, the assembly would be machined after it was put together.

Morse had a different idea, one that might not have been possible had she not been employed at this particular national laboratory. “What’s unique about (SLAC) is that everything is here,” she says, referring in particular to the manufacturing group. Importing parts is unnecessary, she says. When a scientist needs a new piece of equipment, it’s made from scratch on site. “You can talk to welders. You can talk to machinists. You can talk to (metal) platers,” she says. “It’s pretty amazing.”

Morse suggested that the frame for the sensor be made of a single piece of stainless steel, with the excess removed by means of a water-jet cutter, a precise cutting tool. A one-piece frame would save money and be easier to machine, she said. “I’m just putting this on the table,” she recalled



Mechanical engineer Shawn Ossier and Margery Morse confer about her designs for components of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope at SLAC offices in Menlo Park.



The finger of SLAC mechanical engineer Shawn Ossier points to one of two pumps designed and drafted by Margery Morse.

saying. “Is it possible? It’s just a wild idea.”

It was possible, Morse says, recalling the view of a SLAC manufacturer, and so the frame came to be made of one piece. “It’s much better to machine something out of a solid piece, if you can,” she says. “I felt like it was a feather in my cap.”

It probably helps your career at SLAC to be adding feathers to your cap, and to let it be known that you’d like the chance to add more. A tone of excitement behind the questions, “What’s the next project?” and “What’s next?” helps her keep her presence known, Morse says. “In a place like this, you have to constantly kind of prove yourself ... because if you don’t impress people, you may not get assigned to anything. Sometimes you have to seek out your next assignment.”

‘Form follows function’ is a popular notion of good design. ‘I think form follows function (at SLAC).’ Though ‘function is number one. ... If it doesn’t function, you’re out of the game.’

— MARGERY MORSE —

Working in “a place like this,” among so many high-achievers, can present another challenge: “I always feel like I’m not creative enough, especially when (I’m) working with a really smart engineer,” she says. “That person always has a better way to do something.”

Morse notes that she is a minority as a woman in mechanical design at SLAC, but adds: “This

is a great place to work. This is the best job I’ve ever had.” After a pause of several seconds, she concludes: “I think women have a problem sometimes instilling confidence.”

Which is better: praise or criticism? “I find that when I have praise, I want to work harder and do more,” she says. “But you do need criticism because that helps you grow. And that’s painful to get criticism, but it’s necessary. You need it. Especially if it’s constructive.”

A life in mechanics

Morse grew up in Belmont in an environment amenable to an interest in machines: There was a woodworking shop in the basement. Her dad, an engineer who designed vacuum tubes, allowed her to use the shop equipment, including the band saw and the drill press, which she says she employed with her friends to make mobiles and necklaces out of seashells.

They were made conscious of the dangers of using power tools. “My dad used to say, ‘The machines always win,’ so you have to make sure your limbs are out of the machines. ‘And if you lose a limb, make sure you retrieve it because a doctor may want to sew it back on,’” she recalls him saying, laughing with the memory.

Morse, a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, earned an associate’s degree in drafting technology from the College of San Mateo and a bachelor’s degree in industrial technology from San Jose State University. She came to SLAC in 2009 after 17 years in the private sector designing equipment associated with semiconductors.

Morse was married to Stephen Morse, a musician, sculptor, roller-coaster designer and craftsman. Her husband died last September at the age of 66 when the motor scooter he was riding collided head-on with a truck on La Honda Road in Woodside.

Margery Morse’s career at SLAC, besides design work on the telescope’s camera, includes design work on an ultra-fast electron camera — specifically, a viewing chamber for materials testing. The camera is capable of such feats as capturing photosynthesis in action and analyzing proteins to find evidence of disease.

Morse, who is 58, says that when she retires, she plans on exploring her interest in acrylics and painting landscapes, painting with wax — known as encaustic —, making mosaics, and gardening. She used redwood and stainless steel screws — which SLAC uses exclusively — to craft a worm bin and a cover for her irrigation system.

Solving problems

A career in design is a career in solving problems, Morse says. Among the key questions to keep in mind: Can the object be successfully assembled? Can it be easily machined? When different types of materials are placed next to each other, are they compatible? How many tool bits are needed to make it? Fewer is better to keep costs down and manufacturing time to a minimum, she says.

“Form follows function” is a popular notion of good design. “I think form follows function (at SLAC),” she says, though “function is number one. ... if it doesn’t function, you’re out of the game.”

In general, it’s obvious how to assemble and use a well-designed item, a principle sometimes lost on manufacturers today, she says. Small print is bad design, whether in prescriptions or user manuals, and is the bane of members of the baby-boom generation whose eyesight is worsening, as well as anyone with impaired vision, she says.

Furniture maker IKEA uses pictures, not print, to accompany its products and therefore escapes Morse’s scorn. “Most people don’t



A model of the camera’s cryostat — a compartment designed to maintain extremely cold temperatures — includes a grid for mounting the camera’s sensors

like IKEA products,” she says. “I like IKEA products because everything is done without language. It’s all pictures. I would like to see more pictures.”

She says she’s assembled many pieces of IKEA furniture and hasn’t had a problem. “You have to pay attention (to the pictures). The furniture is well designed, she says, so long as you don’t try to get more out of it than is intended. “What’s funny about IKEA is that they design things just strong enough,” she says. “It’s hard to modify something.”

Online, the IRS has a well-designed website, Morse says. “I had to get a tax ID number,” she says. “I did it in, like, 15 minutes.”

The website of hardware vendor McMaster Carr “is amazing design,” she says. “They have drawings available of every part they supply, and if the drawing isn’t available on the website, they will get it to you in an hour,” she says.

She likes Oxo, the manufacturer of fat-handled kitchen utensils. Oxo handles are ergonomic and easier for people to hold, she says, and an example of industrial design reflecting ergonomic

thinking.

Morse says mechanical buttons, a favorite of hers, are losing favor in industrial design, perhaps because touchscreens are easier to manufacture and program. “I like knobs,” she says. And toggle switches? “Toggle switches are on-off,” she says, laughing. “What’s not to like?”

Morse is skeptical of adding “smartness” to everyday machines, and of the Internet of Things. A smart thermostat may be useful, she says, “but I don’t want my appliances talking to each other.” The necessary software will add complexity, and ongoing customer support for that software will become a problem, she says, adding, “It just means that the product is going to become ... waste sooner than it needs to be.” ■

On the cover: Margery Morse is designing mechanical parts for a telescope’s camera at SLAC in Menlo Park. Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Marketplace

The Almanac offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural and Site Review Board reviews and makes recommendations to the Planning Director regarding community character, site planning, building design and landscape elements on residential and commercial applications.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. Appointments are for a four-year term, expiring February 2023.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m and 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062, or online at www.woodsideside.org.

The Town Clerk may be reached by calling (650) 851-6790, or e-mailing jl@woodsideside.org. **The deadline for applications is Monday, February 4, 2019, by 5 p.m.**

Published: The Almanac on January 16, 2019, and January 23, 2019

Posted: January 10, 2019 – February 4, 2019

We're Hiring Full-Time News Reporter

The Almanac, an award-winning community newspaper and online news source that covers the towns of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, is looking for an enterprising full-time news reporter with a passion for local journalism.

The ideal candidate will have experience covering local government and community news, and the skills to dig up and write engaging news and feature stories for print and online. Our reporters produce monthly cover stories that highlight issues and people in our community.

We're seeking someone who is motivated, eager to learn, able to quickly turn out finished copy, and who lives in or near the Almanac coverage area. Social media skills are a plus.

This is a fully benefited position with paid vacations, health and dental benefits, profit sharing and a 401(k) plan.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three samples of your journalism work to Editor Renee Batti at editor@AlmanacNews.com.

The Almanac



Photo by Devin DeHaven

Pianist and composer Taylor Eigsti, who was raised in Menlo Park, will reunite with some of his mentors for two local concerts.

Pianist Taylor Eigsti holds a local 'Reunion' with pair of concerts

Pianist to perform with mentors, Peninsula Symphony

By Yoshi Kato

The new year is a time for reflecting back and looking forward, and both were a theme for Menlo Park-raised Taylor Eigsti as he returned to the Peninsula to finish moving things out of his childhood home.

The pianist/composer/child prodigy emeritus was back in town earlier this month to help organize the possessions left behind by his mother, Nancy Eigsti, who relocated to North Carolina to live near her brother and on the same coast as her New York City-based son.

While he's here, Eigsti will perform a pair of concerts with the Peninsula Symphony, reuniting with a trio of mentors: fellow pianist/composer David Benoit, and brothers Chris (bass guitar, trombone) and Dan (drums) Brubeck. The multi-generational all-star concerts on Friday, Jan. 25, at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City and the following night at the Flint Center for Performing Arts in Cupertino, will feature works by Eigsti, Benoit, Bill Evans, Juan Tizol, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin and Dave Brubeck, Dan and Chris' famed late father.

Though only 34, Eigsti has already enjoyed a two-decade musical career. These Peninsula Symphony "Reunion" concerts will be the first retrospective

shows he's had, acknowledging and reconnecting with three elders.

"I've had gigs with guys I haven't played with in a long time, but it's never been anything official like this," Eigsti said. "Mitch (Sardou Klein, Peninsula Symphony's music director) and I were brainstorming about what to do for this program and the number-one thing people here in the Bay Area come up and say to me after shows is that they were at one of the dates I did with Dave (Brubeck) and David (Benoit)," he said.

Eigsti had also done gigs with the Brubeck brothers performing as his rhythm section. So it was just as natural to include them. "We wanted to celebrate the three families with these concerts," he said.

"Chris is the reason I got into composing," Eigsti noted. "We were on the road, and I saw him writing music on his laptop and thought I wanted to do that myself. David is the reason I wanted to start playing with orchestras. I saw him with the San Francisco Symphony when I was a kid, and it really made big impression on me." (Benoit was such an early role model that Eigsti dressed as him for Halloween in second grade, much to the confusion of his classmates.)

"And Dave taught me early on that you could do this for

your whole life and don't have to retire. You could also be well-known and famous and have a legacy and still be nice to everyone.

"Chris, Dan and David are like three uncle characters. I consider them very much like family."

The symbolism of this coming back together just as he's helping his mother uproot from Menlo Park isn't lost on Eigsti.

"I never thought 18 years would go by before I played with Chris and Dan again," he said. "Since then, I've been divorced and had good and bad things happen in my life. It's been crazy, and we're all in different life situations now. There will be a great sense of positivity coming back and doing these. It feels like it will add to the positivity of the new year."

Looking ahead, Eigsti is excited to release his first album in eight years. "Tree Falls in a Forest" is just over half instrumental with vocalists Becca Stevens, Gretchen Parlato and Casey Abrams (Postmodern Jukebox) singing on the other tracks. It ranges from solo piano to quintet with a layered strings and woodwinds orchestra.

The two non-originals are a brief duo version of "Nancy" with tenor saxophonist/multi-reed player Ben Wendel (dedicated to his mother, naturally)

See **TAYLOR EIGSTI**, page 23

'Freedom Rings' — along with the music — at benefit concert

African American composers spotlighted in annual event

By **Renee Batti**
Almanac Editor

The African American Composer Initiative, which presents the works of African American composers and is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, presents its annual concert, a benefit for Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto, on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 26 and 27.

The concert, "Where Freedom Rings: The Music of African American Composers," will feature numerous local musicians, including Eastside Prep's school choir, and spotlight music composed by William Grant Still, Zenobia Powell Perry, Duke Ellington, Margaret Bonds, Valerie Capers, Jacqueline Hairston, Shawn Okpebholo, Bill Withers and others.

The African American Composer Initiative (AACI) was co-founded by Menlo Park pianist Josephine Gandolfi, Judge LaDoris Cordell of Palo Alto, and Deanne Tucker of Los Altos.



Photo courtesy of African American Composer Initiative

Musicians join on stage after a past African American Composer Initiative concert.

Since 2009, the AACI has presented the music of 35 African American composers, commissioned more than 15 new compositions, released two CDs, and "established an eagerly anticipated annual community event," Gandolfi said in a press release.

Performers, including many returning musicians who have revved up audiences over the

last nine years, include soprano Yolanda Rhodes, tenor Othello Jefferson, pianists/vocalists LaDoris Cordell and Deanne Tucker, clarinetist Carol Somersille, percussionist Jim Kassis, trumpeter John Worley, trombonist John Monroe, flutist Stephanie McNab, bassoonist Rufus Olivier, and

saxophonist Oscar Pangilinan. The Picasso Ensemble — pianist Josephine Gandolfi, violinist Susan C. Brown, and cellist Victoria Ehrlich — will also perform.

Featured guest artists, in addition to the Eastside Choir directed by Jansen Verplank, are Valerie Capers on piano and

John Robinson on bass.

The concerts will be held at the arts center at Eastside Prep, 1041 Myrtle St. in East Palo Alto. They begin at 3 p.m. both days, and a reception will follow the Sunday performance.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for students. Go to tinyurl.com/AACI-27. ■

St. Lawrence String Quartet performs in Woodside Jan. 27

The four professional Stanford resident musicians who teach and play as the St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform the music of Haydn and Brahms at the Village Hub in Woodside on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 3 p.m.

After the concert the audience will have a chance to meet

the artists at a wine and cheese reception.

Go to the website thevillagehub.org to buy tickets, which cost \$50. A portion of the proceeds will go toward funding future programs at the Village Hub, which is located at 3154 Woodside Road.

— By *Kate Daly*

TAYLOR EIGSTI

continued from page 22

and a "funky, mysterious, playful" version of the standard "Skylark" that features Abrams.

After spending nearly five years in superstar trumpeter Chris Botti's band (which tours up to 260 days a year), Eigsti says he's looking forward to focusing on his own music and playing with other bandleaders in a more limited time scope. He still has friends and musical colleagues in Northern California and anticipates that he'll continue to return several times a year.

The Woodside Priory alumnus also has his annual teaching job at the Stanford Jazz Workshop, where he started as

a precocious camper.

"I've been lucky to be able to have a nice following, which has given me the ability to perform pretty frequently in the Bay Area," he said. "So I think I'll still be coming out here for the rest of my life, even if my mom's not living out here."

Yoshi Kato is a freelance writer.

■ INFORMATION

What: "Reunion (David Benoit, Taylor Eigsti, Chris and Dan Brubeck with the Peninsula Symphony.)

Where: Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City.

When: Friday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.

Cost: \$10-\$75.

Info: Go to peninsulasymphony.org or call 650-941-5291.



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

The County of San Mateo's Sustainability Academy provides **NO-COST** events and workshops to San Mateo County community members.

To register for our offerings, please visit: www.smcsustainability.org/academy

Master Resource Conservation Course: Registration Now Open!

Thursday evenings 6:00 - 9:00 pm during February 21, 2019 - April 18, 2019 Room 101, 455 County Center, Redwood City. Space is limited!

Application found at www.smcsustainability.org/academy and due February 15th.

The Sustainability Academy's Master Resource Conservation Course is a no-cost 9-week course. This year, the course will use a study of the food system to look in depth at the following topics:

- Climate change and sea level rise
- Energy and water efficiency and conservation
- Solid waste management
- Transportation
- Communication strategies and instructional skills you can use to teach others about sustainability



Fixit Clinic Workshops

Join us for a hands-on Fixit Clinic workshop! Coaches will help you assess and troubleshoot your broken household items such as electronics, appliances, computers, toys, sewing machines, bicycles fabric items, etc. Learn skills to prolong the life of your belongings and reduce waste.

Home Composting Workshops

- Learn how easy and fun it is to recycle your fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves and plant cuttings into compost with a backyard or worm compost bin.
- You don't need a backyard to compost! Discounts and rebates for compost bins available for County residents.

Saturday, February 2nd, 2019

1:00 - 4:00 pm East Palo Alto Public Library, 2415 University Ave

Saturday, March 30, 2019

12:00 - 3:00 pm, 840 W Orange Ave., South SF

Saturday, March 30, 2019,

2:30 - 4:30 pm San Carlos Public Library, 610 Elm Street

Saturday, April 27, 2019,

10:00 am - 12:00 pm South City Scavengers, 500 E Jamie Ct, SF

Questions? Visit: www.smcsustainability.org • Call: 1-888-442-2666 • Email: sustainability@smcgov.org



2018 Menlo Park Top Real Estate Agents and Teams Ranking



For the first time
The DeLeon Team is

#1 in Menlo Park

Name	Brokerage	Total Volume in Menlo Park*	Total Listing Volume in Menlo Park	Total Listing Volume Everywhere	SP/LP on All MLS Transactions**
DeLeon Team 	DeLeon Realty	\$121,824,000	\$75,004,000	\$494,965,500	108.5%
Keri Nicholas	The Parc Agency (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$98,461,000	\$70,336,000	\$107,980,500	99.9%
Judy Citron	Compass (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$64,371,050	\$32,530,000	\$84,833,000	100.0%
Elyse Barca	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$26,671,000	\$19,523,000	\$21,824,000	99.5%
Carol and Nicole Team	Alain Pinel Realtors	\$18,651,000	\$18,651,000	\$80,319,425	105.3%
Billy McNair	Compass (Formerly with Coldwell Banker)	\$23,700,000	\$18,620,000	\$32,825,000	102.6%
Annette Smith	Golden Gate Sotheby's	\$25,695,000	\$17,671,000	\$26,671,000	101.1%
Hossein Jalali	Coldwell Banker	\$22,478,000	\$16,758,000	\$22,158,000	96.6%
Elaine White	Coldwell Banker	\$18,681,000	\$14,175,000	\$22,457,100	105.7%
Jason Sewald	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	103.2%
Maya Sewald	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	103.2%
Mary & Brent Gullixson Team	Compass (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$16,535,000	\$12,535,000	\$175,740,000	93.2%

Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1st, 2018 - December 31st, 2018, Menlo Park, Residential Property: (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse, Manufactured Home, Floating Home, Duet Home, Multiple on Lot, Farm/Ranch, Other Residential, Double Wide Mobile Home, Duplex)

* Total volume includes both the buyer and seller sides in Menlo Park **Sale price to List Price Ratio on all MLS Transactions in 2018

*** Compass acquired Pacific Union . These agents did not proactively leave Pacific Union.



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www.123Tennyson.com

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

MMACCH ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279721

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mmacch Architectural Drafting, located at 287 Hedge Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
MARIA ELENA PERRETTI
287 Hedge Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 6, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2019)

THOR HAULING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279722

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Thor Hauling, located at 2115 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
RODRIGO COTRIN PERRETTI
2115 Jefferson Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 6, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2019)

ANGEL EYES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279771

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Angel Eyes located at 1402 Stafford Street, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
ANGELITA VALLE
124 B Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/05/2014.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 11, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2019)

STANFORD MENLO PARK RENTALS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280000

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Stanford Menlo Park Rentals, located at 115 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 8 Sandpiper Street, Irvine, CA 92604.

Registered owner(s):
RANJEET KUMAR PANCHOLY
8 Sandpiper Street
Irvine, CA 92604

VIJAY JAYA PANCHOLY
8 Sandpiper Street
Irvine, CA 92604

This business is conducted by: Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 8, 2019.

(ALM Jan. 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 2019)

IPSY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280005

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Ipsy, located at 201 Baldwin Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
PERSONALIZED BEAUTY DISCOVERY, INC.
201 Baldwin Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94401
Delaware

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/03/2011.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 9, 2019.

(ALM Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 2019)

POINTS PASSPORT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280014

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Points Passport, located at 655 Oak Grove Avenue #782, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
MOON BOUND VENTURES LLC
655 Oak Grove Avenue #782
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California

This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/9/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 9, 2019.

(ALM Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 2019)

A & A HOME IMPROVEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280069

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
A & A Home Improvement, located at 1327 Henderson Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
ALEJANDRO ARGUELLO
1327 Henderson 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 above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 15, 2019.

(ALM Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 2019)

ROBERT J. HOFFMAN AND CO. CPAS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279997

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Robert J. Hoffman and Co. CPAS, located at 295 89th St., #200, Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
JUSTIN HETSLEER
2261 Market St. #625
San Francisco, CA 94114

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/2/19.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 8, 2019.

(ALM Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 2019)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 18-00063-2 Loan No: ZILKA APN 080-040-080-6 NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED. (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will not be recorded pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(a). It will be mailed to the Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil

Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, ASSIGNMENT OF LEASES AND RENTS AND SECURITY AGREEMENT (INCLUDING FIXTURE FILING) DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2017. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On January 29, 2019, at 01:00 PM, at the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94061, FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY, as the duly appointed Trustee (the "Trustee"), under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust, Assignment of Leases and Rents and Security Agreement (including Fixture Filing) recorded on February 10, 2017, as Instrument No. 2017-012987 of official

records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, CA, executed by: ARIK ASLAN ZILKA, AN INDIVIDUAL, as Trustor (the "Trustor"), in favor of 1125 BC2 LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, as Beneficiary, and any modifications thereto are collectively referred to herein from time to time as the "Deed of Trust", WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A PORTION OF THAT CERTAIN 77.58 ACRE TRACT CONVEYED BY DEED FROM RUDOLF ISENBERG, ET UX, TO MELVYN E. PRATT, ET UX, DATED AUGUST 20, 1948 AND RECORDED AUGUST 25, 1948 IN BOOK 1561 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS AT PAGE 239, RECORDS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT STATION 23-15.92 OF THE SIMONIC TRAIL AS SAID STATION AND TRAIL ARE SHOWN UPON MAP ATTACHED TO DEED FROM RUDOLF ISENBERG, ET UX, TO L.E. MCCLELLAN, ET UX, DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 1950 AND RECORDED OCTOBER 6, 1950 IN BOOK 1953 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS AT PAGE 376; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY 660 FEET, MORE OR LESS, IN A DIRECT LINE TO STATION 95-27.40 OF THE RAPLEY TRAIL AS SAME IS SHOWN ON MAP ATTACHED TO SAID DEED TO PRATT; THENCE ALONG SAID RAPLEY TRAIL NORTH 73°27' WEST 145.43 FEET AND NORTH 11°17' WEST 30 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE CENTER OF CARBONATO GULCH; THENCE WESTERLY UP SAID GULCH 430 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE MOST WESTERLY CORNER OF SAID TRACT SO CONVEYED TO PRATT, SAID CORNER BEARING S. 43°20' EAST 340 FEET FROM STATION 40-36.62 OF SAID RAPLEY TRAIL; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY OF PROPERTY SO CONVEYED TO PRATT S. 43°20' EAST APPROXIMATELY 1350 FEET TO A POINT WHICH BEARS NORTH 46° EAST FROM STATION 17-09.94 OF SAID SIMONIC TRAIL; THENCE NORTH 46°40' EAST APPROXIMATELY 335 FEET TO THE PROLONGATION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED COURSE JOINING STATION 23-15.92 OF THE SIMONIC TRAIL WITH STATION 95-27.40 OF THE RAPLEY TRAIL; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID PROLONGATION 250 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. GRANTEEES SHALL HAVE NO RIGHT TO DIG OR USE WATER FROM ANY WELL IN THE OTHER SAID LANDS CONVEYED TO THE GRANTORS IN THAT CERTAIN DEED FROM RUDOLF ISENBERG ET UX TO THE GRANTORS RECORDED IN VOL. 1561 PAGE 239, SAN MATEO COUNTY RECORDS AND THE GRANTORS SHALL NOT, NOR SHALL ANY GRANTEE OR GRANTORS, HAVE ANY RIGHT TO DIG OR USE WATER FROM ANY WELL HEREAFTER EXISTING IN THOSE LAND HEREBY CONVEYED, EXCEPT IN EITHER CASE SUCH WELL MAY BE DUG OR WATER BE USED WITH THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER OF THE LANDS ON WHICH SUCH WELL MAY BE LOCATED. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL

BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the Property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the Property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the Property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this Property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the Property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this Property, you may call 714.730.2727 or visit this Internet Website www.servicelinkasap.com, using the file number assigned to this case 18-00063-2. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The real Property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real Property described above is purported to be: 5922 ALPINE RD, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 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 made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining unpaid balance of the obligations secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust (together with any modifications thereto). The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the Property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$889,843.74 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a 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 specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The Property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the Property receiver, if applicable. DATE: December 21, 2018 FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY, TRUSTEE 18-00063-2 1101 Investment Blvd., Suite 170 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 916-636-0114 Sara Berens, Authorized Signor SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.servicelinkasap.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714.730.2727

A-4680485 01/09/2019, 01/16/2019, 01/23/2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 18CIV06688

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: KOUROSH RICHARD DALILI-SHOAIE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: KOUROSH RICHARD DALILI-SHOAIE to KOUROSH RICHARD DALILI.

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: February 6, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ 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: December 18, 2018

/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 18CIV06836

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: JAMIE RICARDO AYON-FACUNDO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JAMIE RICARDO AYON-FACUNDO to SANTIAGO RICARDO AYON FACUNDO.

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: February 13, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ 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: December 28, 2018

/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Jan. 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 2019)

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The deadline is Friday
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CALENDAR

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

Palo Alto Players Presents: 'Shakespeare in Love'
Adapted from the Academy Award-winning film, "Shakespeare in Love" is a witty romance. In this fictional story, young playwright William Shakespeare is in love with a woman who pretends to be a man to perform onstage. Directed by Lee Ann Payne. Through Feb. 3, times vary. \$42-\$52. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. paplayers.org

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'Frost/Nixon'
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley kicks off the new year with Tony and Olivier Award-nominated drama 'Frost/Nixon.' With America caught in the riptides of Watergate and Vietnam, Nixon and a British talk-show host clash in a series of TV interviews that will determine the president's legacy. Through Feb. 10, times vary. \$40-\$100. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org/201819-season

Film

Documentary Film Screening: 'They Played for Their Lives'
Through interviews and live performances, "They Played for Their Lives" portrays how music saved the lives of young Jewish musicians through the years of the Holocaust. Jan. 27, 2 p.m. Free. Cubberley Auditorium, 485 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

Documentary with filmmaker Jon Else
Since winning at Sundance in 2000, "Sing Faster: The Stagehands' 'Ring Cycle'" has become a cult classic. It tells the story of union stagehands at the San Francisco Opera, wrestling giant sets and scenery. Award-winning filmmaker Jon Else set to be in attendance. Jan. 29, 5-7 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

Film Screening: 'Birders: The Central Park Effect'
The Menlo Park Library screens a documentary about the hidden world of America's most famous park, and the wild birds, and equally colorful New Yorkers who schedule their lives around the rhythms of migration. Jan. 23, 7-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/birds

Talks & Lectures

Mike Chen with Maggie Shen King
Local writer Mike Chen discusses his debut novel, "Here and Now and Then." Chen speaks with Maggie Shen King, author of one of "An

Excess Male." Jan. 30, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. booksinc.net

A Conversation on Hans Hofmann
Alexander Nemerov, Stanford's professor in the Arts and Humanities, and Lucinda Barnes, former chief curator and director of programs and collections at the Berkeley Art Museum, discuss the Anderson Collection's Fall Euphony by Hans Hofmann. Jan. 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu/event

Joel Simon: This is Now with Angie Coiro
Joel Simon has spent nearly two decades working on dozens of hostage cases with the Committee to Protect Journalists. Kepler's hosts an ethical, legal and strategic exploration as he discusses his latest book, "We Want to Negotiate," with Angie Coiro on This Is Now. Jan. 29, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free, RSVP requested. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Docent lecture: 'Jewels of the Maharajas'
Explores the cultural and material exchanges between India and Europe through jewelry and different objects from the 17th century to the present. These objects include jewelry worn on ceremonial occasions, and weapons such as swords. Jan. 24, 11:15 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

Maggie Nelson Colloquium: part of the Lane Lecture Series
Stanford University's Creative Writing program presents Maggie Nelson, a poet, critic, and the author of five books of nonfiction and four collections of poetry. Jan. 29, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Stanford University's Margaret Jacks Hall, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu/event

Outdoor Recreation

'Walk This Why'
In this class, participants learn about the history of dairy animals, take one of Hidden Villa's dairy goats on a stroll around the farm and end by tasting milks and cheeses from different types of dairy animals. Jan. 26, 10-11:30 a.m. \$25. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

Adults Paint a Birdhouse
Adults can register for the opportunity to paint and decorate their own birdhouses to take home. The program is hosted by Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Jan. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/birds

'Warlords of the Air: Raptors'
The Menlo Park Library hosts a presentation by wildlife photographer Joan Sparks, who shares images and information on the warlords of the air: owls, hawks, falcons, vultures and eagles, collectively referred to as raptors. The free event is funded by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Jan. 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/birds



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2019
Happy New Year

As we reflect, we are grateful for the relationships we have built this year. We look forward to working together to achieve great things in 2019. From our Rossetti Realty family to yours, we wish you a Happy New Year filled with happiness, health, and prosperity.

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas | Suite C
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New council on right track with rail separation decision

There is no ideal solution to the challenge of separating the Caltrain tracks from the east-west roadways in Peninsula cities — no single option that will please all residents and businesses in any community. But the commitment to explore the safest and most efficient of viable options is of utmost importance as transportation agencies charge ahead with plans to bring electric trains and high-speed rail service to the Bay Area within the next decade.

Menlo Park City Council members for years have studied grade-separation options, but were unable to come to a consensus on a way forward on this difficult question until last spring. That consensus, however, was in support of a highly unsatisfactory solution.

But earlier this month, a City Council with a fresh majority, in its first major action as a newly formed body, took a welcome step forward in reversing the previous council's decision naming a preferred grade-separation option. With a unanimous vote (with Mayor Ray Mueller absent to attend his father's funeral but later indicating support for the action), the council

endorsed a bigger-picture solution by essentially stating that roadway separation from the train tracks must occur at three crossings, not just one.

To be fair, the previous council's choice last May of Alternative A, which would have built a single underpass for vehicles at the Caltrain tracks at Ravenswood Avenue by lowering the street 22 feet, came with a caveat: The council directed staff to continue exploring options involving a trench or tunnel, or a viaduct, which would fully raise the tracks above all the city's roadways, obviating the need for trenching, and left open the possibility that one of those options might be substituted for Alternative A.

What that council rejected, however, was Alternative C, which separates tracks from roadways at three crossings: Ravenswood, Oak Grove and Glenwood.

Overtuning the previous decision, the current council named Alternative C as the new preferred option. In doing so, the council made clear to regional transportation officials, and agencies that control the distribution of grants to help pay for these costly grade-separation projects, that Menlo Park is committed to

addressing traffic flow and safety at multiple crossings, not just at Ravenswood.

At the same time, council members also indicated a commitment to exploring other options, and staff continues to research them. But the choice of a three-crossing option, Alternative C, shifts the balance in terms of decision-making criteria. Whereas the Alternative A choice was based in large part on what would be least costly and most agreeable to commercial interests and neighborhoods near the tracks — most notably Felton Gables — a three-crossing option is based largely on concerns of safety, efficient traffic flow, and the best interests of the overall community.

With electric trains and high-speed rail service in our not-so-distant future, many more trains will be passing along the Caltrain line through Menlo Park. A plan to allow unhindered passage for east- or west-bound motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists at one crossing only is a shortsighted solution. The new council's decision to address the challenge with a costlier but more effective plan while continuing to look at other possibilities positions the city for a better future in the long term. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Let's step up affordable housing funding

By Josh Becker

Almost anywhere you travel on the Peninsula these days, the issue of affordable housing is raised. Schools can't find enough young teachers who can afford to live here. Nurses are sleeping in their cars rather than driving four to six hours round-trip between shifts. Restaurant workers, retail workers, auto mechanics, park rangers, child care providers, librarians, and so many others — the people who make up the middle class and backbone of our communities — are being priced out.

And it's especially acute for the most vulnerable of our communities: the elderly, the poor or the homeless.

For 15 years, Nils Wright lived on the streets. Today, he is a resident of an affordable housing community in Menlo Park.

Nils says: "I lost everything when my wife died. I didn't have anything left to live on. But here I've actually made a home. I can lock the door and have my own space, which I

didn't have when I was on the streets for 15 years. If I wasn't here, I'd still be on the streets. My place is the perfect size, and I can afford the rent. Once they got me in here, I thrived. I changed. I'm productive."

Nils was one of the more than 1,250 people sleeping unsheltered on any given night in San Mateo County. Every

For others like Nils, enough affordable housing simply hasn't been built. But the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors can continue to change that through Measure K funding. Measure K is the half-cent sales tax that was extended by voters in 2016 partly to respond to the housing crisis. This county fund has dramatically increased our ability to build more affordable homes. Over the last five years, 1,758 affordable homes have been created by county funds, many with Measure K funds. I applaud the board for its leadership and get-it-done attitude.

The board is currently discussing how much money to allocate to affordable housing in the 2020-22 budget cycle. Last year affordable housing builders applied for \$50 million in subsidies, but only \$23 million could be budgeted. We voters approved using these funds to build affordable housing. Let's make sure we do more. I respectfully urge the board to increase the allocation for the creation of affordable homes because we know that they make it possible to break the cycle of homelessness.

two years the San Mateo County Human Services Agency in collaboration with community and county partners conducts a point-in-time homeless count. They walk and drive around our cities to determine how many people are sleeping on our streets. They will conduct this count again at the end of this month in order to determine whether we've made progress in reducing homelessness.



Menlo Park resident Josh Becker is a former venture capitalist and CEO of Lex Machina. Last fall he announced his intent to run for the state Senate District 13 seat now held by Jerry Hill, who will be termed out of office next year.

GUEST OPINION

LETTERS

Our readers write

GOP proving that it can't govern country

Editor:

What is happening right now with the government shutdown is that Trump and McConnell and the current Republican Party are teaching the American people at a very fundamental level that they cannot govern our country.

Oh for the days long gone of responsible Republicans working alongside Democrats for the good of all.

Don Barnby

Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.773and775Partridge.com

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**370 Mountain Home Court
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4 br/5.5 ba, \$17,988,000



**1087 Fife Avenue
Palo Alto**
5 br/2.5 ba, \$3,988,000



**3233 Greer Road
Palo Alto**
3 br/1 ba, \$2,288,000



**3632 Arbutus Avenue
Palo Alto**
4 br/2 ba, \$2,998,000



**437 College Avenue
Palo Alto**
4 br/4 ba



**717 & 723 Ellsworth Place
Palo Alto**
4 br/2 ba, \$2,488,000



**2281 Byron Street
Palo Alto**
5 br/5.5 ba



**108 Durham Street
Menlo Park**
3 br/2 ba



**3880 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park**
6 br/4 ba, \$3,488,000



**4238 Rickeys Way, Unit W
Palo Alto**
3 br/3 ba



**2154 Saint Francis Drive
Palo Alto**
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FEB

9th - 10th

16th - 17th



**487 Tyndall Steet, Unit 5
Los Altos**
2 br/1 ba, \$998,000



**60 Winchester Drive
Atherton**
6 br/4 ba, \$7,988,000



**2040 W. Middlefield Rd, Unit 20
Mountain View**
3 br/3 ba



**1262 Socorro Avenue
Sunnyvale**
3 br/2 ba, \$1,298,000



**460 Las Pulgas Drive
Woodside**
6 br/7.5 ba, \$5,988,000



**3281 Benton Street
Santa Clara**
4 br/2.5 ba, \$898,000



**106 N. Springer Road
Los Altos**
5 br/5 ba



**438 King Street
Redwood City**
3 br/3 ba, \$1,599,000

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

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1066 Metro Circle, Palo Alto

Newly-Built Modern Masterpiece in Palo Alto

Just completed construction in October 2018, this stunning 6 bedroom, 5.5 bath estate of 4,068 square feet (per county) showcases a stunning range of modern innovations blended beautifully with classic midcentury virtues. Andersen windows, vaulted ceilings with skylights, Nest-controlled HVAC, LaCantina folding doors, and Carrara and Calacatta marble finishes reign throughout three bedroom suites, a jack-and-jill unit, luxurious master suite, great room, and dedicated home office. Liebherr and Thermador appliances command the chef's kitchen, which creates a striking indoor-outdoor connection to the large patio, lush backyard, and expansive lot of 13,072 square feet (per county). In this prestigious location, residents are moments away from 22-acre Greer Park, vibrant Midtown Shopping Center, world-class schools, and award-winning restaurants.

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Offered at \$4,488,000

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Mountain View | \$2,635,000

Welcome to this beautiful, impeccably-maintained three bedroom, three bath home in sought-after Waverly Park. Features include an updated eat-in kitchen with hardwood floors, a bay window, gas range, butler's pantry and wine fridge. The expansive master suite offers a walk-in closet and French doors leading to a private deck. The beautiful backyard features a kitchen and a fire pit.

Alan Huwe
650.941.7040
alan.huwe@cbsnorcal.com
CalRE #01706555



Menlo Park | \$2,190,000

This magnificent four bedroom, two bath Menlo Heights home features hardwood flooring throughout a bright, open floorplan. A formal dining room sits adjacent to a comfy den with a second fireplace. An elegant gourmet kitchen includes custom maple cabinetry brightened with skylights. A brick patio and lush foliage line the home. Don't miss the chance to make this spectacular property your home!

Steed Ahn
415.682.6666
steed@steedahm.com
CalRE #01860593



Mountain View | \$798,000

This beautiful two bedroom, one bath home is a serene oasis in the middle of Silicon Valley. Beautifully remodeled, it offers a balcony overlooking mature oak and maple trees. The kitchen features granite counters, stainless steel appliances and newer cabinets. There is a detached one-car garage, and the community offers a pool and clubhouse.

Naseem Faria
650.325.6161
naseem.faria@cbsnorcal.com
CalRE #01809674