

# The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

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## New Guild Theatre announces 2022 lineup

Tour offers a sneak peek of Menlo Park's unfinished live music venue

By Kate Bradshaw

Menlo Park's very own nonprofit music venue and event performance space, the Guild Theatre, is set to open in early 2022 with a robust lineup of acts spanning a variety of genres.

In the first quarter of 2022, the theater announced plans for shows ranging from local bluegrass prodigy Molly Tuttle to '80s pop band Berlin to indie rockers STRFKR.

Drew Dunlevie, president of the Peninsula Arts Guild, the nonprofit behind the project, recently gave a tour to *The Almanac*, outfitted in hard hats and reflective vests, to preview the new, roughly \$30 million facility at 949 El Camino Real that aims to bring big live music events to the small city.

On the ground floor stood the unfinished walls of the box office, lobby, and stage, and workers tiling the new restrooms.

Throughout the tour, Dunlevie pointed out a number of

specific touches planned for the facility: easy access from the side of the building for groups to load their road cases, world-class lighting and sound wiring, a bar, a green room area for performers to relax with a kitchenette, washer, dryer, turntable, two dressing rooms, and a catering kitchen. It's also set up with a high-quality HVAC system to quietly push fresh air throughout the building, or on smoky days, recirculate air indoors. On the upper level, there is a second bar, a lounge area and a flexible rail system to the left and right sides of the stage to permit either dancing or seating, depending on the act.

And, neighboring residents with sensitive ears will be appreciative to know, "no sound will escape when the doors are closed," Dunlevie told *The Almanac*. "It's built to contain sound."

Plus, he added, one of the conditions of the project's approval was that shows will end at 11 p.m.

In working to line up acts, he



Magali Gauthier

**The Guild Theatre** is nearing the end of construction. Pictured is the entrance to the main room and mezzanine on El Camino Real in Menlo Park on Oct. 28.

said that one draw of the venue for big headliners is that the space can be used to help them raise funds for the causes they support.

While the official occupancy

of the building still has to be confirmed with the Menlo Park fire marshal, Dunlevie said he expected the capacity to be around 500 people for general admission — standing

only — and about 200 for seated attendees.

He said that, while the pandemic caused some delays dur-

See **GUILD**, page 15

## Counties open up COVID-19 vaccines to younger children

Broad access to vaccinations for ages 5-11 under way in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties

By Sue Dremann  
and Angela Swartz

COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 5 to 11 are now available in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, health officials announced on Wednesday, Nov. 3.

The announcement comes after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for this age group, long considered a critical component of protecting the community and returning to normalcy after the

nearly two-year pandemic. The availability of the shots for the younger children comes at a time when health officials have expressed concern of another potential surge of cases as holidays approach. The vaccines will also help prevent the spread of the virus in schools, health and public officials have said.

"Our efforts over the last 19 months have been difficult but necessary, as California continues to maintain the lowest case rate in the entire country. However, as we move towards the winter holidays, the pandemic still poses a grave threat. Science has shown that

vaccination continues to be the safest and most effective way to prevent COVID-19 and mitigate the most serious consequences of the disease, such as hospitalization and death," California Assemblyman Marc Berman said in a statement on Wednesday.

The CDC and the Food and Drug Administration authorized the vaccines for younger school-aged children after extensive review. California also required a review by the independent Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, which conducts its own review and approval of the safety and

efficacy of the vaccines.

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine doses are one-third the amount of adult doses and are specially formulated for the younger age group, health officials in both counties noted. The Pfizer vaccine is the only one currently available for younger children, while the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, along with Pfizer, are plentiful and are available for anyone ages 12 and older, including as booster shot for adults ages 65 and older and to anyone 12 and older who has a medical condition or work situation that makes them vulnerable

for serious illness from the virus.

San Mateo County will offer a child-focused, walk-up vaccination clinic on Saturday, Nov. 6, at the San Mateo County Event Center at 1346 Saratoga Dr. in San Mateo, health officials said in a statement. Additional centrally located clinics would be determined by demand. Appointments are required for Saturday's pediatric clinic and can be made on [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov).

"We also hope to offer the pediatric vaccine at some county-operated community clin-

See **VACCINES**, page 15

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Magali Gauthier

**People celebrate** the opening of new faculty housing on the deck of one of the new apartments at Woodside Priory in Portola Valley on Oct. 26.

## Woodside Priory completes \$6 million staff housing project

By Angela Swartz

After 15 months of construction, Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley celebrated the completion of new staff housing

— costing \$6 million, last week.

Faculty and staff moved into the six homes (four with three bedroom and three baths, and two with two bedrooms and two bath) that sit at the

top of Gambetta Lane on Monday, Nov. 1. The Catholic Benedictine school for grades 6-12, which offers both day and boarding school options,

See **PRIORY**, page 11

## Facebook changes its name to Meta

The rebrand marks the company's shift toward a greater focus on virtual reality, Facebook's CEO says

By Lloyd Lee

The iconic blue thumbs-up sign outside Facebook headquarters on Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park came down last Thursday, replaced by a new logo: a slightly compressed infinity sign in varying hues of blue. Facebook and its products have rebranded under the new corporate name Meta.

In an online presentation Thursday, Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the rebrand to emphasize his company's greater focus on what he calls the "metaverse," in which the digital and real worlds will collide.

In one demonstration, Zuckerberg is seen fully immersed in a virtual world, hosting a poker game with digital avatars, presumably controlled by real

people, while simultaneously holding video calls with others from the outside world.

"Facebook is one of the most-used products in the history of the world. It is an iconic social media brand, but increasingly, it just doesn't encompass everything we do," Zuckerberg said in the presentation. "I want to anchor our work and our identity in what we are building towards."

The social media app will still be called Facebook, and Instagram will still be Instagram. But much like Google's restructuring in 2015, which came with a name change to Alphabet, Facebook will use Meta as an umbrella term to encompass all of its products, which include WhatsApp and Oculus, the company's virtual reality headset brand, among others.

"When people buy our products, we want them to clearly understand that all of these devices come from Meta and ladder up to our metaverse vision," Andrew Bosworth, vice president of virtual and augmented reality at Facebook, wrote.

In a Facebook post, Zuckerberg further outlined his vision for the "next chapter for the internet," in which people can immerse themselves into digital versions of the real world rather than, for example, spending time in commute to go into the office.

"In this future, you will be able to teleport instantly as a hologram to be at the office without a commute, at a concert with friends, or in your parents' living room to catch up," Zuckerberg wrote. "This will open up more

See **META** page 15

## A committee tasked with publicizing Menlo Park's housing plan is falling apart

By Kate Bradshaw

A Menlo Park committee created in May has lost five of its 13 members to resignations. Former members of Menlo Park's Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, created to support the city's Housing Element process to zone for up to 3,800 new homes citywide, spoke recently to The Almanac about why they quit.

Vicky Robledo, Soody Tronson, Carol Mayer Marshall, Yadira DiSiena and Nehezi Ollarvia have all resigned from the committee. Among the reasons cited for leaving were the limited role of the committee, feeling disrespected, lost surveys and unfair representation across districts.

### A limited scope

One of the consistent complaints The Almanac heard about the committee was that its purpose was so limited. Other city commissions are tasked with weighing in on policy matters in an advisory role, but members of the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee (CEOC) for Menlo Park's Housing Element process were tasked with serving as a community ambassador for the project, encouraging others to participate, acting as a resource and giving feedback on the community engagement plan.

Committee member Ollarvia, former vice chair of the committee, said that she felt that the committee's purpose was not to provide input at all, but to "be a hype man" for the city.

The city was clear from the beginning that the committee wasn't going to be providing policy direction, Mayor Drew Combs said in an interview.

Instead, the goal was to have the city's existing housing and planning commissions provide that advisory input to the City Council, Combs explained.

Had the city created yet another advisory commission specifically for the Housing Element project, he said, "It was probably going to a little bit too many voices for staff, to then add another dozen or so people to that substantive discussion."

At the same time, "In all honesty, we ended up with lots of committee members who were unhappy," he added.

In her resignation email to the city, District 1 resident DiSiena wrote, "The city of Menlo Park has many voices speaking for it. I was hoping to engage in those conversations to help facilitate, problem solve, build relationships, connections, understanding and support strengthening my community and city. However, my voice and the voices of other members from the CEOC were not heard or respected."

### Unequal representation

Another problem committee members identified was that the process for selecting committee members seemed at first to prioritize equal representation across districts, until all of the people who applied for the committee were then selected. Initially, nobody from District 5 applied, so after the applications were received, the City Council agreed to keep two spots open so District 5 Councilman Ray Mueller could appoint two people from his district. The council accepted the rest of the applicants, installing four representatives from District 4, three from District 2 and two from each of the other districts.

"The way in which the committee was put together was super funky," Ollarvia said. "You're supposed to be appointed, (but) they accepted everyone that applied."

### Disrespect

In an effort to try to enable the CEOC to provide more substantive policy input on the Housing Element, Committee Chair Max Fennell and Vice Chair Ollarvia met with Combs and city staff, including the city manager and city attorney, according to Fennell.

While Fennell remains chair of the committee, he said that he felt disrespected during the meeting, in which he said he was insulted by Combs and was told he wouldn't be able to influence policy.

"I think that a lot of members of the CEOC felt insulted that

See **CEOC** page 16

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Seasonal equestrian trail closures

The Portola Valley Ranch, Blue Oaks and the Hayfields trails system consisting of Larry Lane and Targ trails are now closed to equestrians for the rainy season, according to the town of Portola Valley.

Teachers awarded \$35K in grants for innovative projects

Creating a new outdoor learning space on one school campus for students of all ages and developing a pop-up library are just a couple of the 22 projects that earned grant funding from the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation (MPAEF) this school year.

The foundation, through its annual Jeanie Ritchie Grants, announced on Monday, Nov. 1, that it will award \$35,000 — with grants ranging from \$225 to \$5,000 — to teachers to fund innovative curriculum and projects in Menlo Park City School District classrooms during the 2021-22 school year.

“Jeanie Ritchie Grants have been provided by MPAEF for so many years and yet I never cease to be amazed by the creativity and innovation of our teachers,” said Superintendent Erik Burmeister in a statement. “The engaging and joyful learning that students experience through these grants is what our whole-learner experience is all about. I’m so proud of our child-centered staff and grateful to our generous community.”

The mission of the grant program is to allow teachers to pursue innovative teaching programs in their classroom, grade or school, and to provide educational experiences that students would not have otherwise. The grant program began in 1984 to honor Jeanie Ritchie, a founder of the education foundation.

Some of the other programs funded by the grants are:  
■ **Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Doors:** It enables students to review their classroom library, acknowledge what might be missing and find books that represent those missing pieces to add. This is done with an antiracist lens of creating a greater diversity of voices in classroom libraries.

■ **Speaking with the World:** Through the use of headset microphones, students communicate with French speakers around the world via iPads. The goal of the project is to provide students with opportunities to build their language skills.

■ **Mesoamerican Patio Refurbish:** Students will create a fresh outdoor learning space on one school campus, inspired by the colors and patterns found in Mesoamerica. The secondary goal is to extend the learning of Hispanic cultural awareness month into this full school year.

— Angela Swartz

Water main break triggered City Hall closure

A broken water main prompted the Friday, Oct. 29, closure of Menlo Park City Hall and other city buildings in the area. On Friday evening the city announced that the main had been repaired and all services restored.

City officials said the leak was detected that morning on Laurel Street near City Hall and affected the water supply to most of the buildings in the city’s Civic Center.

City Hall, the city’s main library, the Menlo Children’s Center, and the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium and Arrillaga Family Recreation Center all closed for the rest of the day as a result of the leak.

— Bay City News Service

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Andrea Gemmet (223-6537)

Assistant Editor

Julia Brown (223-6531)

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman (223-6515)

Staff Writers

Kate Bradshaw (223-6536)

Angela Swartz (223-6529)

Embarcadero Media Staff Writers

Sue Dremann (223-6518), Kevin Forestieri

(223-6535), Lloyd Lee (223-6526),

Zoe Morgan (223-6519),

Gennady Sheyner (223-6513)

Contributors

Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

Special Sections Editor

Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

Chief Visual Journalist

Magali Gauthier (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers

Linda Atilano, Kevin Legnon,

Paul Llewellyn, Sam Olson,

Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing

Tom Zahralis (223-6570)

Display Advertising Sales (223-6570)

Real Estate Manager

Neal Fine (223-6583)

Legal Advertising

Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda (223-6597)

Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin (223-6584)

The Almanac is published  
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3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

■ Newsroom: (650) 223-6525

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ Email news and photos with captions

to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ Email letters to:

Letters@AlmanacNews.com

■ Advertising: (650) 854-2626

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Magali Gauthier

**A toppled basketball hoop** and abandoned picnic table are seen at James Flood Magnet School on Nov. 2. The Ravenswood district plans to lease the vacant site at 321 Sheridan Drive in Menlo Park and is seeking proposals.

## Ravenswood district seeks bids to lease two of its properties

District office and vacant Menlo Park school site could be redeveloped

By Angela Swartz

The Ravenswood City School District's governing board voted 5-0 to solicit bids for long-term leases at its district office and a shuttered school, potentially to be used for housing and office space, at an Oct. 28 meeting. The district, which released a request for proposals (RFPs) last Friday, would like to lease the spaces to help bolster revenue to increase teacher pay and fund initiatives like early learning programs.

Declining enrollment — it's fallen nearly 44% since the 2017-18 school year, according to a report by district staff — has changed the district's space needs and its overall facility footprint. The funds raised from the leases are intended to cover general expenses and enable the district to maintain investments it made using stimulus funds during the pandemic, such as smaller class sizes, hiring reading intervention teachers and expanded summer and extended day programs.

"This wasn't just an idea that popped up out of nowhere," said trustee Ana Maria Pulido during the meeting. "We've been considering various options for a long period of time. We're ready to move forward and take action and make something of that site to benefit both the district and the community."

"While the board does not traditionally review and approve RFPs — only contracts — we wanted to bring these two proposed requests for proposals to

the board," according to a staff report. The RFPs reflect the culmination of multiple months of marketing from real estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle who has had conversations with over 70 developers as part of its effort to market the site, the report said.

The district expects to receive about three to five serious proposals for each site, according to a presentation by Chief Business Officer Will Eger.

The district doesn't yet have an estimate of how much it might charge to lease the spaces.

The 110,000-square-foot building space where James Flood Magnet School used to operate, at 321 Sheridan Drive in Menlo Park, is west of U.S. Highway 101 next to Flood Park and sits on an approximately 2.5-acre site. The school has been closed for about a decade.

The district office is located on a 4-acre site at 2120 Euclid Ave. in East Palo Alto, and is about 176,000 square feet of building space. By 2022, the district plans to move out of its office, which will be demolished. Buildings on the site can be up to eight stories, or 100 feet tall, according to a staff report.

The district office is a prime development site thanks to its scale, generally rectangular shape, and flexible zoning, according to a district staff report. The area is zoned for office and residential use with a requirement for ground floor retail, to contribute to an active street front. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

See **RAVENSWOOD**, page 11



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Courtesy Four Way Books

**Antonio de Jesús López**, a Stanford doctoral candidate and East Palo Alto City Council member, is the author of “Gentefication,” a new book of poetry that explores his experiences as a student from East Palo Alto.

## ‘People-fying’ poetry and politics

EPA Councilman Antonio López discusses his new poetry book, “Gentefication”

By Kate Bradshaw

On a recent morning in front of Menlo Park’s Cafe Zoe, East Palo Alto’s 27-year-old City Councilman Antonio López sat down with The Almanac to talk

about his new book of poetry, “Gentefication.”

López grew up in East Palo Alto, where he attended elementary and middle school in the Ravenswood City School Dis-

See **POETRY**, page 14

## Early results show Menlo Park district tax measure headed for approval

By Angela Swartz

Tuesday night election results show Measure B, a parcel tax measure for the Menlo Park City School District, is getting the votes needed to pass.

Some 73.8% of voters have said yes to the measure, which requires a two-thirds, or 66.7%, voter majority, county election officials reported. Some 4,637 voters voted yes, while 1,650 voted no.

The measure, on the Nov. 2 special election ballot, asks for \$598 per parcel annually, a \$193 bump from the current rate of about \$405. It would raise \$4.6 million annually for the district, which serves about 2,700 students in Menlo Park and Atherton.

“We are grateful the community came together once again to show their deep commitment to our great public schools,” said Yes on B Campaign Manager Azadeh Rasmussen on Wednesday morning. “Thank you to the many parents, teachers and school staff members who dedicated their time to support the campaign.”



Magali Gauthier

**Election night results** show a \$4.6 million annual parcel tax in the Menlo Park City School District will likely pass.

District officials say they listened to voters who turned down the district’s past attempts at a parcel tax, measures A and C, in part because they were evergreen taxes with no expiration dates. Instead, Measure B on the Nov. 2 ballot would sunset after 12 years, expiring in 2033. This would replace Measure X, a seven-year parcel tax which expires in June 2024. It has been described as a “stop-

gap” solution and raises \$2.83 million annually.

The semi-official results include vote by mail ballots received in the mail on or before Tuesday (Nov. 2) and vote by mail ballots returned at vote centers, drop boxes on or before Monday (Nov. 1) and all vote center ballots. These early results do not include vote

See **TAX MEASURE**, page 14

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## Sequoia district spokesperson leaves for community college district role

By Angela Swartz

Sequoia Union High School District's communications specialist, Ana Maria Pulido, has left to take a similar role in the county's community college district.

Pulido, an elected member of the Ravenswood City School District board, became San Mateo County Community College District's director of

public affairs on Nov. 1, she said in an email. The hire comes as the community awaits a decision on the alleged financial improprieties of its former chancellor emeritus Ron Galatolo, who was fired from his post amid a criminal inves-



Ana Maria Pulido

tigation by District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

A decision on Galatolo's case was expected at the end of October, the San Mateo Daily Journal reported.

The district has been dealing with the blowback of Galatolo's alleged actions, and recently released documents disclosing that the district continued to pay him while the DA investigated him.

SMCCCD's previous public relations head, Richard Rojo, was placed on administrative leave last May after he was arrested on suspicion of sex with minors. The district terminated Rojo's employment on June 23, according to the district.

### Replacing Pulido

The Sequoia district hired Pulido in 2018. Her last day with the district was Friday, Oct. 29.

Last week, the Sequoia district's governing board approved the job description for the job posting for Pulido's replace-

ment. They also decided to change the job title from communications specialist to public information officer to "better represent and focus on the true nature of the work."

The new public information officer will make between \$132,415 and \$152,756 or more annually, according to an EdJoin listing. Applications are due on Dec. 8. Interviews are planned for Dec. 14-15. Leadership Associates is leading the search. ▀

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## Woodside voters are closely divided on Measure A, with 'yes' leading by 20 votes on election night

By Angela Swartz

An initiative to allow two sites in the Town Center area of Woodside to be considered for outdoor community gathering spaces posted a slim, 20-vote lead (50.6%) in final election night results. Measure A requires a simple majority in favor to pass, and ballots are still being tallied.

The San Mateo County Elections Office reported Tuesday after the polls closed that 848 people voted yes on the measure, while 828 voted no.

Measure A would amend current land use regulations that limit two residentially zoned pieces of land adjacent to the Town Center, a town-owned complex along Woodside Road from Whiskey Hill Road to

Roberts Market that includes government buildings and commercial businesses, and Cañada Corners at the Cañada Road intersection (owned by Roberts Market). Because the rules were established by ballot measures J and 1 in 1988 and 1989, only voters can overturn the restrictions that limit future development on the sites.

The measure would allow the property behind Cañada Corners to be outfitted with surface parking to accommodate permanent outdoor dining, trails and play structures, all of which are now prohibited. It would also allow for the possible construction of a public building — an amphitheater or gazebo — for community events in the residentially zoned Town Center area on

a portion of a 1.65-acre plot called Village Hill. Measure J, approved by the voters in 1988, prohibited development of commercial or office space on a then vacant, town-owned parcel near where Town Hall is now located. It also required residential properties within and adjoining Town Center to remain in residential use unless commercial parking on those properties had been permitted prior to June 1, 1988.

Measure 1, approved by voters the following year, created an exception to Measure J's requirement that residential parcels in Town Center remain in residential use. Upon its approval by the voters, residentially zoned parcels in the Woodside Road Whiskey Hill Road Parking Assessment District were autho-



Magali Gauthier

**Woodside resident Alex Tauber** stands on the undeveloped parcel of land beside the Woodside Community Museum on April 21. Tauber is a proponent of Measure A to change the zoning regulations of the parcel so that it may be developed into an outdoor amphitheater.

rized to be improved to provide access, parking and open space — as shown in the 1989 Town Center site plan — so long as at least 50% of the residential parcels were maintained in open space. Approval of Measure 1 allowed the town to construct

Town Hall parking and access improvements which now serve Town Hall, commercial businesses in the Town Center and the public.

The semi-official results

See **MEASURE A**, page 11

## New three-year police contract approved in Menlo Park

By Kate Bradshaw

Menlo Park police officers will each receive \$2,000 lump sum payments as part of a new police contract the City Council approved unanimously last week.

The new three-year contract, set to start retroactively on Sept. 1 and last through Aug. 31, 2024, also provides police

officers two 3% pay increases to cover increases in the cost of living, with the first starting July 1, 2022, and the second starting July 1, 2023, according to Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros. While no official pay increase was approved for the current fiscal year, each employee will be provided with a \$2,000 lump sum payment.

The new contract will increase flexible benefits contributions

starting in 2022 and 2023 between 2% and 4%, depending on the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area. For the next year, the adjustment was set to cost a little under \$17,000.

The contract also sets aside \$8,000 in funding annually to cover educational leave and tuition reimbursement for police officers. The city plans to reimburse tuition, books, lab fees,

equipment and curriculum fees for classes or approved trainings related to earning an academic degree or gaining job-related skills, according to the contract.

In all, the three-year contract is expected to cost an additional \$780,905 in city funds, according to a staff report.

Within the contract, there are also stipulations that note that within 30 days' notice from the city, the agreement

can be reopened to discuss topics of holiday pay, as well as police reform, "including ways to increase transparency and public accountability, and consideration of the disciplinary and disciplinary appeal process."

"Any changes will be by mutual agreement only," it adds. ▀

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@almanacnews.com](mailto:kbradshaw@almanacnews.com).

## Measure A opponents spend nearly \$4K on yard signs, mailers

By Angela Swartz

Opponents of Measure A spent \$3,879 to fight Woodside's Measure A, an initiative to allow consideration of developing outdoor

community gathering spaces, campaign finance reports show.

Save Rural Woodside, a group opposed to the Nov. 2 ballot measure that would change zoning on two parcels of land in the center of town, spent the funds

on yard signs and campaign mailers, according to a filing that covers the period between Jan. 1 to Oct. 12.

Resident Jerry Anderson spent \$1,758 on yard signs, while the campaign lists "various individ-

uals" as responsible for \$2,068 of in-kind donations for yard signs and mailers.

Proponents of Measure A have received about \$1,632 in in-kind donations for yard signs, banners and stickers, according to the

campaign's Oct. 16 filing. Before that, Bacchus Management Group and the owner of Robert's Market gave donations to the Yes of Measure A campaign. ▀

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## PRIORY

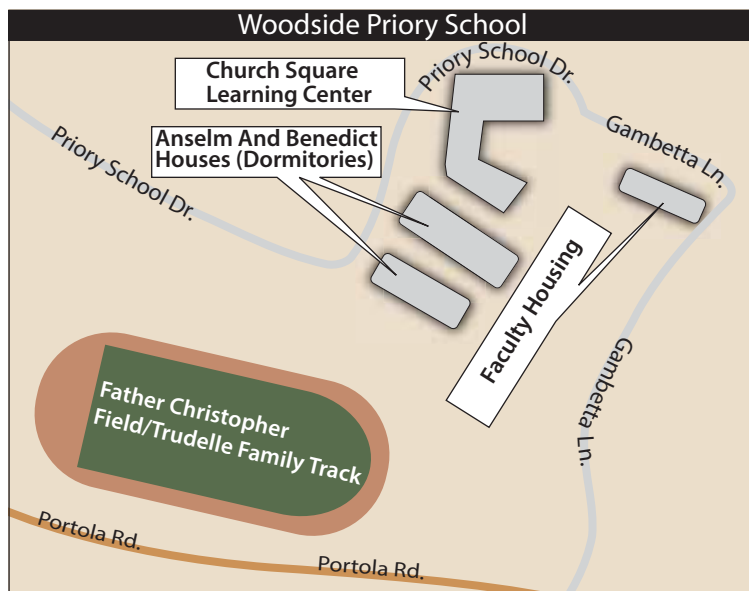
continued from page 5

offered the housing at a reduced rate.

Construction at the 302 Portola Road school began in July 2020 and was completed in October 2021, according to Kelly Sargent, the school's director of communications.

The on-campus housing helps satisfy the affordable housing requirement for the town of Portola Valley and brings the total of housing units on campus to 23. The school's conditional use permit (CUP) calls for 30 units to be built on campus, Sargent said.

The school plans to demolish and rebuild another home on campus, according to Sargent. The town's architectural & site control commission gave the go ahead to approve demolishing the unit to build new housing, said Town Manager Jeremy Dennis in an email.



Kevin Legnon

**New staff housing** at Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley opened this week. The housing is located on Gambetta Lane.

Faculty and staff filled out a housing application and the housing committee, overseen by Head of School Patrick Ruff, alongside the school's monks,

reviewed the applications, Sargent said. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## RAVENSWOOD

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will likely be expedited thanks to recent studies completed for nearby projects. East Palo Alto's development approval includes a pre-application and application stage, concurrent with CEQA analysis, and is anticipated to take nine to 12 months, according to district staff.

In 2013, the San Jose Mercury News reported that the district wanted to lease out the Flood campus for at least \$660,000 annually, but ultimately backpedaled on the decision.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 17, to [weger@ravenswoodschools.org](mailto:weger@ravenswoodschools.org) and [Tatiana.Hodapp@am.jll.com](mailto:Tatiana.Hodapp@am.jll.com).

The district will review proposals and invite those behind selected proposals to participate in a panel on Nov. 29 and 30. The board plans to review recommended contracts by the Dec. 9 meeting. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## MEASURE A

continued from page 10

include vote by mail ballots received in the mail on or before Tuesday (Nov. 2) and vote by mail ballots returned at vote centers, drop boxes on or before Monday (Nov. 1) and all vote center ballots. These early results do not include vote by mail ballots received in the mail after Nov. 2, conditional voter registration or provisional ballots and vote by mail ballots dropped off at vote centers or drop boxes after Nov. 1. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## Oscar (Oz) Robert Pieper

October 13, 1935 – October 21, 2021

Resident of Portola Valley

Oz Pieper passed away after a long 12 year battle with Alzheimer's disease on Thursday morning October 21st. He was surrounded by family. Oz was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His parents were Ruth Fehr and Robert O. and late sister Ruth Thwaite and brother Fred. Oz met his wife, Janice, at the University of Colorado in 1955. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.



When Oz graduated from the University of Colorado his first employment was with the Bank of America's training program in San Francisco. He then moved into technology working for RCA computers.

Oz sold a computer to Cooper and Lybrands, a well known consulting firm. They were so impressed with Oz's knowledge they hired him to be a consultant. After his consulting career he founded Identicator Corporation leading in fingerprint technology. Oz opened offices in Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1998 Oz sold Identicator and began consulting once again and joined Menlo Country Club and took up the game of golf and spent countless hours in his garden. He also enjoyed traveling and cherished family get togethers.

Most of all Oz's family meant everything in the world to him. He is survived by his wife Janice of 66 years, his daughter Susan (Grant), son Chris (Elana), and five incredible grandchildren, Lauren (Marc), Kameryn (Aaron), Scott, Gwendolyn and Reed. 'Papa' is famous for his games of dominos, cards, paddle tennis and pancakes.

The family requests in lieu of flowers please make a donation in Oz's name to either Part the Cloud with the Alzheimer's Association (research), The Women's Alzheimer's Movement (research and education) or HFC (education and caregiver support).

There will be a Celebration of Oz's Life in the near future.

Thank you to all of you who have supported us through these challenging years.

PAID OBITUARY

## Mary Helen Armstrong

January 2, 1927 – October 26, 2021

Mary Helen Armstrong passed away peacefully on October 26 at the age of 94 after a long and successful life as an impressionist artist devoted to her family and political and social causes. Deeply admired and beloved by all who knew her, Mary Helen lived her life with intention, generosity and humility. It will come as no surprise to those who knew her that in her final days, she spent every waking moment organizing a show of her remaining art to raise money for charitable causes she holds dear.



Mary Helen was born in New York City, the daughter of Henry Morgan Post and Mary Riker Haskell Post. She grew up during the Great Depression and attended The Chapin School and Parsons School of Design, where she showed significant artistic promise. In 1945, she met Conrad Gustav Hurlimann, a dashing businessman from Zürich, Switzerland, and they were wed in 1949. In the following decades, she devoted herself to raising her family and serving as a volunteer leader both on political campaigns and for the Red Cross. She was also deeply committed to Carver Center, a community center founded by African American parents in Port Chester, NY, where she helped raise the funding to substantially expand their programs and buy their first building, and she remained a steadfast supporter throughout her life.

Only in 1971, when her beloved Conrad died of pancreatic cancer, did Mary Helen return to her art. She began with pastel portraits but quickly moved to garden and landscape watercolor and oil paintings reminiscent of Monet and the Impressionists. She remarried in 1977 to John C. Armstrong and began painting under the name MH Hurlimann Armstrong. As her paintings grew in popularity and were more broadly reproduced, she partnered with her daughter Mary Ann to create Hurlimann Armstrong Studios, producing beautiful cards, mugs and products that featured Mary Helen's art alongside similar artists. She continued to paint – and experiment with different styles and approaches – throughout her life. Her paintings hang in the Bruce Museum in Connecticut and the Farnsworth Museum in Maine, as well as in the homes of collectors across the country.

Later in her life, Mary Helen separated from John and moved to California where she met George Cator, who was her constant companion and dearest friend later in life. She became an active member of the Menlo Park Rotary, the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, and Trinity Church in Menlo Park. She taught art to veterans at the VA Hospital and moved into The Vi in Palo Alto, where she sought to create new dining opportunities with the M&Ms and was a dedicated member of The Flamingoes.

Mary Helen is survived by her three daughters, Mary Ann Hurlimann, Lily Hurlimann, and Sandy Hurlimann Herz, whom she described as her three greatest masterpieces, and their partners James Bassett and Peter Herz. Additionally, she is survived by six beloved grandchildren – Eric Perret, Cassandra Perret Solberg, Brandon Bassett, William Bassett, Henry Herz, and Conrad (Jack) Herz – and three great grandchildren – Wesley Bassett, Alexis (Lexi) Bassett, and Logan Solberg – who collectively were the light of her life. She cared deeply for the children and grandchildren of both John Armstrong and George Cator and was exceptionally fond of Andrea Herz, all of whom she considered extended members of her immediate family.

A memorial celebration for Mary Helen will take place in early January at The Vi in Palo Alto.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations in Mary Helen's memory to Carver Center, Fountain House, and California Clubhouse, all of which held a special place in her heart.

<https://carvercenter.org/>

<https://www.fountainhouse.org/>

<https://californiaclubhouse.org/>

PAID OBITUARY

Jeff Aalfs  
Jane Aaron  
Nancy Aaron  
Alison Abbo  
Marcy Abramowitz  
Daniel Abrams  
Dolly Adams  
Judy Adams  
Susan Adams  
Louise Addis  
Verle Aebi  
Douglas Aguilera  
Cindy Akard  
Monica Albers  
Ulrich Aldag  
Karen Alden  
Jennifer Allen  
Dara Alleyne-Levy  
Loretta Allred  
Joel Amos  
Maria Amundson  
Mary Andeen  
Susan M Anderes  
Anne Anderson  
David Anderson  
Deborah Anderson  
Joanne Andrew  
Richard Andrews  
Judith Annan-Roberts  
Thomas Anthony  
Cass Apple  
Phyllis Apple  
Carolyn Arbuckle  
Susan Arbuckle  
Karen Arimoto-Peterson  
Brian Armer  
Diane Armstrong  
Gayla Armstrong  
Katherine Armstrong  
Kristina Armstrong  
John Arnold  
Stephanie Ashworth  
Karen Askey  
Robert Atchison  
Frank Atkinson  
Melanie Austin  
Peg Austin  
Susan Austin  
Edward Avak  
Matthew Avery  
Britt B  
Liz Babb  
Martha Bacon  
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Bryan Bagnall  
Shanda Bahles  
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Deborah Baker  
Gina Baldwin  
Valerie Baldwin  
Royal E Bales  
Sean Ballard  
Sylvia Bambra  
Lynore Banchoff  
Cecilia Barajas  
Michael Barclay  
Sandy Bardas  
Nancy Barnby  
Fiona Barner  
Doris Barnes  
Susan Barnet  
Scott Barnum  
Karen Barr  
Tricia Barr  
Jerry Barrack  
Marie Barry  
Sue Bartalo  
Karen Bartholomew  
Elizabeth Bartlett  
Alexis Bartlo  
Rob Bartoli  
Preetha Basaviah  
Jim Bassett  
Darlene Batchelder  
Hilary Bates  
Roberta Baxter  
Bernard Bayuk  
Megan Beachler  
David Beaver  
Josh Becker  
Allan Bedwell  
Catherine Behroozi  
Teresa Beltramo  
Tom Bennett  
Mark Berg  
Lee Berger  
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Kristin Berman  
Janet Bernadico  
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Chuck Bernstein  
Pamela Bernstein  
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Gale Bitter  
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Steve Blank  
Nancy Blears  
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Kelly Blythe  
Bette Bohler  
John Bolger  
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Michele Bollier  
Wayne Bonde  
Sue Borg  
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Gisela Bruggger  
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Courtney Bryant  
Elizabeth Buck  
Jennifer Buddin  
April Buhl  
Heather Buhr  
Caroline Bulkeley  
Christina Bullock  
Terry Dale Bullock  
James Bunch  
Carol Bunker  
Stephen Bures  
Barbara Burgelin  
Leslie Burke  
Erik Burmeister  
Graham Burnette  
Sharon Burns  
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Nancy Burrus  
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Eric Butler  
Helene Butler  
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Don Caddes  
Sally Cadigan  
Barbara Calbert  
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Anne Call  
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Leon Campbell  
Robert Campodonico  
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Dudley Carlson  
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Eileen Carp  
Peter Carpenter  
George Carr  
Barbara Carroll  
June Casey  
Kimberley Cashin  
Joyce Castellino  
Jon Castor  
Ralph Castro  
Marty Cattaneo  
Kathleen Cattani  
Jacqui Cebrian  
Don Cecil  
Catherine A. Cernhy  
Sarah Chai  
Deborah Chait  
Doug Chance  
Julie Chandik  
Katherine Chappelear  
Grace Chen  
Kevin Chen  
Sherwin Chen  
Sidney Chen  
Albert Cheng  
Renee Chevalier

Jeffrey Child  
Margaret Chilton  
Dexter Chow  
Gavin Christensen  
Maren Christensen  
Danielle Chritchley  
Joyce Chung  
Susan Chung  
Maira Cisneros  
Christine Clarke  
Martha Claypool  
Matt Clements  
Douglas & Janet Clendenning  
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Stacy Clinton  
Julie Clugage  
Patricia Cluss  
Vicki Coe  
Lillian Coehlo  
Wim Coekaerts  
Marian Coffey  
Susan Coffman  
Dupi Cogan  
Susie Cohen  
Martha Cohn  
Elizabeth Colby  
Edith Collin  
William W Collins  
Kit Colman  
Drew Combs  
Arlen Comfort  
Paul Comita  
Lance Conn  
J E Conrad

Kirby Conrad  
Marcia Cook  
Lydia Cooper  
Marianne Cooper  
Mary Cooper  
Kristi Corley  
Nina Cornil  
Judson Cornish  
Laura Cornish  
Christine Couch  
Jean Covell  
Tracy Cox  
Bruce Cozadd  
Kathleen Craig  
Linda Craig  
Sue Crane

Ginger Creevy  
Linda Creighton  
Howard Crittenden  
Kim Crockett  
John Cronin  
Robert Cronin  
Joni Cropper  
Franklin Crow  
Alisyn Crowder  
Lee Crowley  
Sapphire Cui  
Joe & Marianne Cullen  
Celia Cummings  
Christine Curry  
Michael Curry  
Clay Curtin  
Mary Ann Cusenza  
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Marcela Del Alcazar  
Steven Delaet  
Amy L Delson  
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Paul Demers  
Thierry Depeyrot  
Chandler Evans  
Irwin Derman  
Corinne Derringer  
Shirley Des Marais  
Margaret Destaeblar  
Susan Detrick  
Scott & Lisa Dettmer  
Kathryn Dewitt  
Michelle Dewolf  
Tara Dhillon  
Ann Dickinson  
David Dickinson

Sylvia Dickinson  
John Diekman  
Susan Diekman  
Michelle Dillabough  
Jim Diller  
Matthew Disibio  
Robert And Mary Dodge  
Debbie Doherty  
Maria Doktorczyk  
Dolores Dolan  
Bob Dolin  
Erin Dolinko  
Ashley Dombkowski  
Henry Donald  
Joanne Donsky

Janet Dore  
Marybeth Dorst  
Julie Douglass  
Mary Ann Draeger  
Stan Drobac  
Mark Drury  
Richard Duda  
George Duesdieker  
Karen Duncan  
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Martin Dunsby  
Cynthia Dusel-Bacon  
Lorraine Duval  
Richard Dwigings  
Hillary Easom  
Catherine Eastham  
Francesca Eastman  
Dana Eckert  
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Judi Eichler

Steve Eisner  
Robert Ekedahl  
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Karyn Ellis  
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Marie Encrantz  
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M. E. Engelbrecht  
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Yvonne Deggelman  
Rick Degolia  
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Raymond Demere  
Paul Demers  
Thierry Depeyrot  
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Susan Detrick  
Scott & Lisa Dettmer  
Kathryn Dewitt  
Michelle Dewolf  
Tara Dhillon  
Ann Dickinson  
David Dickinson

Jennifer Farrell  
Nancy Federspiel  
Patrick Feehan  
Kathy Feldman  
Jeffrey Fenton  
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Kathleen Fickle  
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Mary Finkel  
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Joyce Firstenberger  
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Carol Fischer  
Jeanne Fischer  
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Catherine Fitzloff  
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Alan Forrest  
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Laura Foster  
Lynne Fovinci

Jane W Fox  
John Fox  
Laurel Francesconi  
John Francis  
Michael Frank  
Kenneth Frederick  
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Kent Frewing  
Frances Freyberg  
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Marilee Gardner  
Deana Fabbro  
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Sally And Craig Falkenhagen  
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Elizabeth Gillbrand  
Mary Gilliland  
Susan Gillman  
Rich Ginn  
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Ann Girard  
Erin Glanville  
Lezlie Glare  
Karen Glaser  
David Glover  
Dean Glover  
Teresa Godfrey  
Paul Goeld  
Robert Goland  
Evan Goldberg  
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Barry Goldblatt  
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Vera Goldsmith  
Linda Golub  
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Noelle Gonsalves  
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Russ Hall  
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Sherman Hall

Suzan Hall  
Sarah Halsey  
Lorraine Hancock  
Gary Hanes  
Timothy Hanretty  
Susan Hansen  
Jean Harman  
Joshua Harmssen  
Stephen Harrick  
Cynthia Harris  
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## POETRY

*continued from page 8*

trict before attending Menlo School, followed by Duke University, Rutgers University — Newark and the University of Oxford. Now, he's returned to East Palo Alto where he's pursuing a doctoral degree at Stanford. Last year, he was elected to East Palo Alto's City Council.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

### Tell me a little bit about your backstory.

I don't come from a political family or anything like that. My dad worked in dishwashing for a very long time, then he became a waiter. My mom was a stay-at-home mom for many years. ... At that time, East Palo Alto was going through a lot of violence. The crack epidemic was in full boom. People were afraid of leaving their homes. We would keep our curtains down, our blinds drawn, it was that kind of environment.

I was young enough to experience the change of the recovery, of people coming together in community groups to make the streets safer. But I'm old enough to have remembered that violence and that shift.

### How has your political work informed your poetry and vice versa?

I think East Palo Alto has always been fed this narrative, and we've internalized it, unfortunately, that we can only do a certain amount of things; that our community can only accomplish this amount because of income level. That we can't enter into certain jobs in Silicon Valley. And no question, right? At some point, it's a question of structural inequality, that the individual can only do so much.

However, if you look at our track record, there have been so many moments when you think, 'These guys aren't gonna make it,' and yet we've done it. ... When we look at the current gentrification we're facing, I think people of color and working class folks, or both, can't afford to be cynical. Optimism is a form of social justice, it's the lifeblood of being able to keep insisting on something better for your children and for your generation.

Poetry, in its most distilled fashion, teaches you to have honesty. ... It's about challenging the speaker and the reader to revisit an image, a topic, a person or ethnic group that they once dismissed. It's about suspending and staying. ... It teaches you to take a look at something and really meditate on its beauty, its shock, its

aspects, and then presenting that to the reader.

...A poem, if it is successful, is not about being pretty, is not about hitting you in the gut. It's about transforming. It's about changing the world, changing yourself, and the world starts with yourself. ...

Poetry is a lens above all for me. And that allows me to look at the fruit and look at the beauty and look at the challenges in a way that is honest, but also expands our vision of what's possible.

### Tell me about your book, *Gentefication*.

This book is about my own personal journey from coming from my Title I K-8 to higher education, the "academy" or ivory tower. I think black and brown kids, first-gen(eration) especially, are taught from an early age that education is success. It is the epitome of the American dream. It is the vehicle through which you access mobility, and not just for yourself but for your family.

So I've gone to these schools. I've gone to these prestigious institutions. My work tries to complicate that narrative and ask what are the underpinnings of that system? What are the effects of that on a student, on a first-gen kid, the kind of transgressions and microaggressions, and just violence in general of the academy? It also celebrates. There's a lot of love and humor. I'm just trying to complicate the story of a first-gen son of immigrants and his experience in higher education.

The book is designed like a course book. Gentrification is crossed out, because that's where we start. This is what the community is facing: gentrification. We know what it is; we know it's a pervasive force in our cities, including EPA.

But then, using language, using English, using poetry, to transform our sense of what we can do, now I turn it from gentrification to gentefication — coming from gente meaning people. I'm trying to people-fy, trying to repopulate. That's on many levels, not just about the English canon itself, what people read and deem as literary as worthy of study, but also about gentrification, about changes in neighborhood and landscape.

### Can you share some of the contents of the book?

If you grew up in EPA or cities like it you'll feel this experience resonate with you, but if you haven't and you want to learn more, I hope that this book will allow people to immerse themselves to get a better understanding of the city; to go beyond stereotype and acknowledge

that some of these statistics were true, but how do individuals and families and communities overcome those obstacles? It tries to paint a complicated picture.

### What role did school and educators play in your decisions to pursue poetry and politics?

My family didn't have a college degree. But they saw the need of education. And they never questioned my desire to go to this camp, go to this program, this summer opportunity. My dad would drive me back and forth.

A handful of teachers took the time to invest in me to say, 'This kid has gaps in his education, he's going through some struggle, but I can see the potential in him and I'm going to take time out of my salary, out of my payroll to get this kid on track.'

Really, education does transform people. It really frickin' does. I'm an educator first and foremost. .... I'm trying to advocate and change my community and represent the people that raised me.

### How did you become involved in writing poetry specifically?

The circumstances of my life compelled me to write. From K through eight, I went to the public school system, went to Edison Brentwood Academy. Then I went to Ronald Edison McNair. (Then) I applied to Menlo School because I was part of a summer program called Center for a New Generation that was spearheaded by Condeleezza Rice.

It was hosted in James Flood Magnet School here in Menlo Park. It was a lot of us EPA kids that were there. They took us on field trips to other schools. And you gotta imagine me, a wide-eyed 13-year-old kid, caught up in the culture of East Palo Alto, wearing these long white tees and sagging pants, looking like a little rebel troublemaker. I had never set foot in Atherton. My first time, I thought that Menlo School was the White House, because it was so big and I never seen mansions like that, at least not on TV.

Class inequality is everywhere, but there are few places where it is so in proximity with the lack thereof. People need to understand that when you're one freeway exit away from having a working class, being on WIC, being on food stamps, versus people who have literally the wealthiest zip code in the country, that's really gonna mess with your head. I call it a violence.

Here, class is so racialized. I understand that there are poor white people — I know that's a thing. But I hadn't met any

white people until I was in high school. There were two or three teachers that we had that were in McNair for a little bit, but most of my life revolved around East Palo Alto and being a kid there. Black, brown, Polynesian kids, Latino kids. My encounter with whiteness was in a very wealthy space....

There were these things that would happen to me. I had no idea if they were slights against me, people being untoward to me, if they were being disrespectful. And so writing came at a time in my life where I needed to tell my story, because I felt like other people were telling it for me, or they didn't know my story. Or I just had these frustrations about all these issues.

The reason I'm so invested in advocacy is because at one point in time, I was a 14-year-old kid that thought no one was telling my story. No one was doing justice to what I was going through.

To this day, I'm still trying to make sense of the crazy stuff that I went through as a younger kid. In middle school, there was one point where we didn't go to school for like a month because we kept having bomb threats. As a kid, we didn't take it as scary or a violent thing that we're losing all that education. It was like, 'Yeah, we don't got school!'

I think there's a lot of these things where people, even people from EPA, don't grasp how short-handed we've been. I don't say that to be cynical, I'm saying it because, as Jay-Z says, "You can't deal what you don't reveal." I think we owe it to ourselves to understand.

So little of what we're going through has to do with our own individual merit. As a city, we don't have institutionalized resources or wealth. It's up to us to shape it. But that's going to be painful; you're gonna make mistakes.

So writing was a response to all these structural issues. ...Knowing that I bring something unique to the table, this experience, in a place where there's still such divides — the land of innovation here and the land of scarcity on the other side, it's really important that we understand how we can grapple with this as a community, that we're not just having the same people preaching to the choir who are getting fatigued. We have to have everybody involved. And that involves raising awareness, advocating, and writing. ...

People say I'm funny — it's because that's how I respond to trauma. I look at trauma, and I'm like, I don't want us to wallow in our misery. I want us to laugh.

In my poetry you'll see a lot of humor, you'll see a lot of those

kinds of effed-up moments, but then you'll laugh. You gotta laugh as a human being.

### So what are you working on now? Is it too early to ask if there are other books on the way?

So there's a couple things I'm working on. (I'm writing) about what it's like being councilman ... I want to give people a glimpse into that, but also make sense of all this shit that's happening.

I'm 27. These things I'm dealing with involve serious money and serious issues. And it's not easy. Like, on Tuesday, we had to talk about the homeless encampment on Beale Street, and I'm dealing with people's lives. ... Those are big things to hold.

There's all these contradictions throughout my life...And poetry allows me to like make sense of it all. It allows me to step back and say, is there beauty? Is there revelation? Is there insight that I can give to my community about myself? I think I'm slowly working toward ... writing a poetry book about what it's like running, what it's like now and what are the things that are frustrating me.

### As a poet and politician, how are you juggling your responsibilities? What is your life like right now?

It's hell a busy. I have to remind myself what it's for all the time. It's like a hill — there are moments when, going upslope, it's just really tough. I ask myself, have I given enough to the community? Have I voted on this thing? ... I have to really acknowledge and affirm the support I've had in my family. ... I'm so fulfilled — I'm so full, as a person, as a son, as a citizen, as a partner, as a brother, as a resident, as an elected. I'm advocating the best way I can.

### Where can people find your book?

You can go to my publisher directly, fourwaybooks.com, or my website, barrioscribe.com. 

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@almanacnews.com](mailto:kbradshaw@almanacnews.com).

## TAX MEASURE

*continued from page 8*

by mail ballots received in the mail after Nov. 2, conditional voter registration or provisional ballots and vote by mail ballots dropped off at vote centers or drop boxes after Nov. 1.

The county released the latest results on Thursday afternoon after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline. 

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## META

continued from page 5

opportunity no matter where you live. You'll be able to spend more time on what matters to you, cut down time in traffic, and reduce your carbon footprint."

While Meta may better reflect the company's new priorities, the name change also comes when the social media giant is mired in mounting government and public scrutiny — perhaps the most since the company's inception in 2004.

Recently, after the company was already facing calls to be broken up into smaller companies by lawmakers, Frances

Haugen, a former Facebook employee, leaked troves of confidential documents, revealing how her employer was aware that its social media products like Instagram help spread disinformation and negatively impact teenagers' mental health. The company has the tools to fix the problems, but chooses not to do anything about it, Haugen said.

"Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety," she said in a "60 Minutes" interview on Oct. 3.

Haugen, who joined Facebook in 2019 and was part of its civic misinformation team, testified in a Senate Commerce Committee hearing on Oct. 5, urging

federal lawmakers to further regulate the company.

Zuckerberg and his company have since maintained that Haugen and the barrage of media reports that followed it have mischaracterized their intentions.

"It's disheartening to see that work taken out of context and used to construct a false narrative that we don't care," Zuckerberg wrote in a Facebook post.

The announcement did not indicate if Facebook will be restructured along with the name change. The company stock will start trading under a new ticker, MVR5, starting Dec. 1. **A**

Email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@pawekly.com.



Magali Gauthier

**The Facebook sign** outside its Menlo Park headquarters, long a magnet for tourists taking thumbs-up selfies, was replaced by the new Meta sign and logo last week.

## VACCINES

continued from page 1

ics, with convenient access for residents in the most impacted neighborhoods. Residents can check MyTurn to book appointments at these clinics and see the other offerings near where they live, including local pharmacies," San Mateo County Health wrote. Information will also be updated on the County Health website at smhealth.org/vaccine-clinic-calendar.

The county is also partnering with the County Office of Education to support school-based vaccination clinics in four elementary school locations that will be available to families in the North, Central, South and Coastside communities during the week of Nov. 15. "We will continue to identify gaps in the reach of the vaccine to ensure that vulnerable communities have convenient access to vaccination opportunities," the county statement said.

The county sites would be in the Redwood City, Pacifica and San Mateo Foster City school districts and Jefferson Elementary School District, said Patricia Love, spokeswoman for the County Office of Education, but other schools districts are already setting up their own clinics.

Menlo Park City School Dis-

trict administrators are hosting vaccine clinics, with Safeway Pharmacy, for the age group on Saturday, Nov. 6, and Sunday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hillview Middle School, 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park. Visit district.mpcsd.org/Hillview for information. Nearly 1,700 kids have signed up and the district is at maximum capacity, said Parke Treadway, the district's public information officer, in an email.

"As a parent of young children myself, the day they can be vaccinated is one I have been looking forward to for a long time," said Superintendent Erik Burmeister in an email. "I think we all feel this is a momentous milestone in reaching the end of this pandemic."

Dayna Chung, executive director at Community Equity Collaborative, a Menlo Park resident and parent to students at Oak Knoll, Hillview and Menlo Atherton schools, said she is glad the vaccines are finally approved for the younger students.

"I am so grateful for the extraordinary efforts by the Menlo Park City School District to organize this weekend's vaccine clinic for children ages 5 to 11. When my son, who hates shots but has been eager for this day, learned I got him a vaccine appointment at Hillview, he was overjoyed!"

Getting her son vaccinated

will open doors "big and small" that have been out of reach for nearly two years, she said.

"He can go inside a friend's house or eat at a restaurant. We haven't gotten on a plane since the pandemic began but once he is fully vaccinated we can travel more. My husband's entire family is in Singapore, so I hope we can see them soon."

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District will host a youth vaccine clinic at Cano Hall at Las Lomitas Elementary School, 299 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton, on Wednesday, Nov. 10, on Wednesday, Nov. 10, from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Safeway Pharmacy. Flu shots and COVID-19 Pfizer booster shots will also be available at the clinic.

Local pharmacies, including CVS, Safeway, Lucky Supermarkets, and Walgreens, also plan to offer vaccines for the 5- to 11-year-old group at some of their locations. Residents should check MyTurn and the pharmacy chain's websites to confirm availability. As of Wednesday, Costco and Rite-Aid had not indicated a plan to offer these pediatric vaccines, the county noted.

Vaccine appointments are already being scheduled, with many starting to fill up.

Redwood City Vice Mayor

Giselle Hale booked COVID-19 vaccine appointments for her 5- and 7-year-old daughters for next week. She took to Walgreens' website Tuesday night after she heard other parents had luck signing their kids up through the pharmacy. She looks forward to the girls resuming indoor playdates, going to movies and eating out, she said, Hale has limited their interactions with others outside of school to limit exposure to COVID-19 and keep them in school, her main priority.

"It's a huge sigh of relief," she said, noting she's heard an "eagerness" and "willingness" from parents to have their children inoculated against the virus.

Some pediatricians will also provide the vaccine, and parents should check with their provider for availability.

Santa Clara County said it planned to serve 2,000 children in the 5- to 11-year-old age group on Wednesday and another 2,000 on Thursday, said Dr. Jennifer Tong, associate chief medical officer for Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

"We feel very confident that we can vaccinate over 20,000 kids this week," she said.

Santa Clara County reports having 167,000 children in that age group. Six vaccination sites opened Wednesday and others

are expected as needed. Because of expected high demand, the clinics require an appointment at this time but it might allow drop-ins at a later date. Residents can sign up at sccfreemvax.org and also find updates on the website.

The county is using its mobile vaccination clinic to provide shots on site at 80 schools in higher-risk zip codes throughout the county, she said.

Stanford Children's Health is also offering the vaccines at 25 pediatric clinics throughout the Bay Area. Information and scheduling links are available online at stanfordchildrens.org/en/landing/covid-vaccine, while Sutter Health/Palo Alto Medical Foundation hasn't yet started scheduling, according to its website.

Tong said that while the number of hospitalizations from COVID-19 have gone down, there are children in the 5- to 11 age group, mostly who have underlying health conditions, who have been hospitalized. She urged parents to vaccinate their children.

"We don't yet know the long-term effects of infection," she said, noting the people who experience long COVID syndrome. **A**

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@pawekly.com, and Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

## GUILD

continued from page 1

ing the initial shutdown last spring, the construction project hasn't been too delayed otherwise.

"We're going as fast as we can," he said.

As for the team financially supporting the nonprofit theater, he said, "They're all fairly ecstatic."

"There's a lot of goodwill in this thing. I think the donors are happy."

The Guild's opening lineup is: STRFKR (Jan. 18); Son Volt

(Jan. 26); Molly Tuttle (Jan. 29); SuperBlue: Kurt Elling featuring Charlie Hunter (Feb. 5); Three Dog Night (Feb. 6 and 7); Aaron Lee Tasjan (Feb. 16); The Samples (Feb. 18); Berlin (Feb. 19); Robert Glasper (Feb. 25); Eric Krasno + Son Little (Feb. 27); Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Dance Party (March 1); Low Cut Connie (March 4); The Blasters (March 26); and Sarah Shook & The Disarmers (March 31).

Tickets go on sale at noon on Dec. 1. The venue is currently hiring. More information is at guildtheatre.com.

The Peninsula Arts Guild is

also exploring whether there is a separate market for weekday Peninsula concerts and weekend bigger-city concerts, and thereby opportunities for cross-promotion, rather than competition with other Bay Area venues, said Dunlevie.

"We believe that there's enough music to go around," he said.

"We're going to be Switzerland," he added. "We'll keep smiling and being as sweet as we can." **A**

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

# Employment

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## CEOC

continued from page 5

the purview of the committee wasn't expanded," Combs responded.

"If he feels insulted, then I'm sorry he feels insulted, but I was not going to let a situation (happen) where we were going to be rewriting the plan and process when ... we were always completely transparent about what this committee was about," he said.

## Lost surveys

Robledo, a Belle Haven resident, said she joined the committee after some encouragement because she and her fellow commissioners believed that they would be tasked with helping to create surveys to engage the community and to participate in a more advisory position.

Robledo said she made it a goal to try to collect at least 50 surveys in her district, Belle Haven.

"I busted my butt," she said. "I went and I volunteered a couple of days doing outreach."

She said she was told to drop off the completed surveys at the police substation in Belle Haven, which she did.

"Four days later, I get a call saying mysteriously, the surveys got lost, and, believe it or not, they had the audacity to ask me to backtrack," she said.

After the surveys were completed, she said, the committee hasn't heard anything.

"I just expected a follow-up," she said. "I just sort of felt used. I felt like I was there so the city could say, 'See, we reached out.'"



**Menlo Park's** Community Engagement and Outreach Committee (CEOC) holds a meeting June 3 to discuss public outreach for the city's housing element process.

Later, Deanna Chow, assistant community development director and the staff person leading the CEOC, told the City Council that the surveys had been accidentally thrown away.

## Growing frustrations

Ollarvia resigned on Oct. 25.

"It seems like it (the CEOC) was created to check a box. We had no influence on policy, no influence on the process," she said.

She also said that the committee faced trouble in getting answers as to why the city was doing things differently than in previous zoning processes in Menlo Park.

Other recent city zoning processes,

such as the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update, have had advisory committees made up of commissioners alongside community members and City Council members.

"This time, they separated it," Ollarvia said, noting that the committee hasn't been in contact with the other commissions who are empowered to advise the City Council on policy matters related to this project.

"We felt like we were handcuffed ... we felt like it was a complete charade," she said. "... This should have been a commission, not a committee," she said.

She added that she wanted some answers about why the city's last housing element failed, but hasn't been able to get answers.

Tronson, a former member of Menlo Park's Finance and Audit Committee, also recently quit the CEOC. She said she experienced pushback from staff and consultants for asking questions that she felt would have enabled her to better fulfill her community engagement and outreach role.

"Every time I and others would bring up any questions asking for information, we were told, 'Oh, you're discussing policy, you don't have the authority, it's not in your zone of responsibilities to discuss policy,' which is totally outrageous," she

said. "Asking for information so you can then engage the community is not policymaking."

She added that while she and others on the committee disagreed with the city's approach to bifurcate the policy advisory work from the community outreach efforts, the committee has worked to complete its assigned role. Yet responses to questions some members have asked has been limited, she said.

For instance, she said she raised questions about the design of the survey that was used to collect input from the community, arguing that it lacks credibility and was "designed to get the answers they want to get."

"Even a car salesman has to have a sales sheet," she said. "I'm not going to parrot (something) unless I understand the information behind it."

## Lessons learned?

In an email, Chow said she appreciated the committee members' participation, adding, "our outreach is better because of their input."

"We hope the former members continue to stay involved and consider working with the city on future efforts," she added. "The project team will look to the City Council for guidance on the CEOC and plans on having a discussion at a meeting in the near future."

Combs said he plans to discuss the topic of the CEOC resignations with the City Council before the committee's next meeting.

"We do have to assume that Menlo Park is filled with lots of really accomplished and talented and skilled people, and they really want to dig into substantive issues," he said.

"I would be in favor of not doing any outreach or communication committees like this in the future," he added. "Residents are very clear that when they engage with the city, they want to engage substantively. They don't want to engage just about communication, or just about outreach. I definitely think we should take that and respond accordingly." ■

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@almanacnews.com](mailto:kbradshaw@almanacnews.com).



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|                                |                    |
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## A letter from the editor on Measure A

By Andrea Gemmet

In our endorsement editorial for Woodside's Measure A, a fairly straightforward initiative that allows consideration of future development on a couple of plots of land in the center of town, we included a paragraph discussing the anti-"outsiders" argument used by some of Measure A's more vocal opponents and drew connections to a long history of factors that contributed to Woodside being

less racially and economically diverse than some its neighbors. By doing so, we created a distraction from the issue at hand: whether Woodside ought to loosen a blanket ban on new land uses for two parcels near the Town Center and enable town officials to consider proposals that seek to add amenities like permanent outdoor dining or a gazebo or amphitheater.

We have heard from several readers who were greatly and understandably upset by the connections drawn in that paragraph of the editorial between discriminatory-sounding language about "outsiders" and the wider history of decisions and circumstances that have shaped small Bay Area towns like Woodside. We regret that by detouring into the optics and history of

exclusionary language, we sidetracked the community conversation about Measure A. We are sorry for casting aspersions on the measure's opponents.

Our goal at The Almanac is always to inform and foster respectful debate about important community issues, not create a more polarized electorate or divisive rhetoric. We apologize for not living up to that standard. The criticisms have been taken to heart, we have reexamined our editing processes and we pledge to do better.

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

## The Menlo Park housing element update represents an opportunity and a challenge

By Bob Dickinson

Menlo Park residents are grateful to the City Council for clearly and emphatically removing parks from consideration as sites for new housing in the 2023-2031 housing element update. It is important to recall, though, that institutional memory can be short and that a more enduring form of protection for parks will still be needed well before the next housing element update. Meanwhile, there are other aspects of the current update, beyond the question of parks, that also urgently deserve attention.

It's hard to understate the importance of this update, which will transform the city. The total new housing units recommended by the Housing Commission and the staff, including pipeline projects and ADUs is 4,203, a 35% increase in housing stock. Assuming the ratio of residents to housing units remains unchanged at 2.78 and the percentage of school-age children at 17.3%, this implies 11,768 additional residents and 2,020 additional school-age children. While this is not necessarily the final number, it illustrates the sheer magnitude of the challenge facing the city. With thoughtful planning, the outcome will be a better Menlo Park we can all enjoy. Done poorly, it can result in yet another urban planning disaster.

### GUEST OPINION

In this process, we need to be guided by clear, overarching goals for the city we want Menlo Park to be, and a vision of what that will look like, as we decide how to meet the state's mandates for additional housing. One goal that has been explicitly articulated during the planning process, and enjoys considerable support, is greater housing equity. Some others worth considering that are consistent with the city's master plan and climate action plan include:

- A more livable city.
- Ensuring that people who work in Menlo Park can afford to live here.
- Lower emissions and greater climate resilience.

There are very livable, high-density cities in Europe and North America that can serve as examples for us. They feature neighborhoods that combine housing, stores and shops, public transit and abundant green space, all within walking distance of one another. The concept of "15 minute" sustainable neighborhoods is gaining momentum and was mentioned in a recent New York Times article on Clement Street in San Francisco. And "urban villages," described as "walkable, bicycle-friendly, transit-oriented, mixed use settings that provide both housing and jobs" play a prominent role in San Jose's master plan.

What are the implications of taking this approach for the housing element update planning process? Simply identifying a large enough number of parcels throughout the city that can be rezoned and developed to meet the state mandates is a recipe for potential disaster. Adopting the urban village concept as a basic principle to guide planning, on the other hand, will provide a pathway to a revitalized and vibrant city.

New housing in Menlo Park should be located in proximity to jobs, schools, stores and other amenities in order to reduce the number of people who need to commute to work and to minimize added local car trips, consistent with the goal in the city's climate action plan to "Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 25%...". And, the number of new housing units planned for each of the four geographic areas should be consistent with the number of jobs nearby to which people currently have to commute, as the ideal commute is walking to work or a short trip on public transit.

Emphasizing mixed-use development will help to create more self-contained, and more sustainable, neighborhoods. Schools, streets and transit will all need additional capacity to accommodate the additional residents, which won't just magically appear. It needs to be planned for, with the agencies responsible for them, the school districts and transit

agencies such as Caltrain and SamTrans, actively participating from the outset. More parkland and open space will also be a critical need. And, where housing and the other key elements are out of balance, there need to be explicit plans for bringing them back into balance.

In addition, an economic analysis should be an integral part of the planning process. The downward pressure on housing costs of the additional capacity, due to market elasticity, will be substantial given the number of additional housing units targeted and will significantly improve affordability across the entire range of income categories.

Wisely, in its meeting on Oct. 26 the City Council called for a pause in the planning process to give it an opportunity to gather more information and consider the guidance it wishes to give to the planning team further. This will be discussed in a council meeting to be scheduled sometime in November. This meeting will provide an opportunity for you to have a say in our future. I hope you take it.

*Bob Dickinson and his wife Sylvia have lived in Menlo Park since 1983 and are founding members of Save Menlo Park Green Spaces. A former tech CEO, Bob has consulted on climate impacts and adaptation since 2011.*

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PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS  
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## Centered on the community

EPACENTER opens after decade of work  
by young activists in East Palo Alto

By Heather Zimmerman

In the earthquake-prone Bay Area, an epicenter is usually not the place to be when things start shaking, but the opposite is true of EPACENTER, a new youth arts center in East Palo Alto. The name may share its pronunciation with “epicenter,” but the new facility offers a rock-solid foundation in arts and leadership for local young people — created by the community, for the community.

The center brings together visual and performing arts, technology and makerspaces, and youth resources in a 25,000-square-foot building with state-of-the-art facilities at 1950 Bay Road. Construction of the center, which began in 2018, is completed, but with the pandemic still a concern, the official opening will be in 2022, though the center is already featuring virtual classes.

The culmination of the vision of local youth to create a center for the arts in East Palo Alto, EPACENTER offers free classes in a wide variety of artistic disciplines for youth ages 3 to 25.

The arts center represents over a decade of work by the Youth Action Team, and other groups of dedicated East Palo Alto youth activists, such as Live in Peace and Youth United for Community Action, said EPACENTER Executive Director Nadine Rambeau.

The efforts of these groups to support arts programs in East Palo Alto began around 2010, with youth and adult allies organizing art programs and projects in the city and surveying the community to find out how an arts center would best serve residents.

And from the center’s name, to the choice of renowned architect Kulapat Yantrasast to design the building, to planning the facility’s diverse course offerings, the process to make EPACENTER a reality was driven by local youth and their families.

“Not everyone has the opportunity to see what they envision come alive. That’s what this building is, it’s a symbol of the fact that youth in this community had a

vision for what they needed and it is now coming alive and it’s going to benefit other kids way into the future,” Rambeau said.

EPACENTER features a variety of spaces for learning, creation, performance and exhibition: studios for dance, recording, art, and music, with adjoining practice rooms; a black box theater; art gallery; makerspace; technology lab and design studio; cafe and indoor gathering area; and an amphitheater. The building is also environmentally sustainable, earning a LEED Platinum certification.

The center was created as a unique place to bring high-quality arts education to East Palo Alto, a community often left out of the big paydays of Silicon Valley, but greatly affected by its powerful economic forces, Rambeau said.

“We’re committed to making sure that everyone in Silicon Valley — in this wonderful place where there’s a lot of innovation and talents — that everyone has access to become that person who makes the next thing that the whole world will be able to benefit from. So at a place like EPACENTER, that’s what we want to have happen, where students can become that person.”

The purchase of the land where EPACENTER sits, and the building’s design and construction were funded by the John & Marcia Goldman Foundation, which focuses on grants in the areas of youth, health and the arts. John Goldman said that the community’s youth led the project, and it represents their vision.

“We were not the ones that were telling them what we wanted, they were telling us what they needed. And we were there to make it happen,” Goldman said.

A council of youth advisers shaped both the design of EPACENTER and its programming, ensuring that both the facilities and programming would truly reflect the needs of the community they were created for.

Students on the advisory council represented various artistic disciplines, from music and dance to



Courtesy Christopher Bagley/EPACENTER

EPACENTER’s amphitheater area offers plenty of space for students to gather.

digital media, said sisters Elizabeth and Keitlan Wallace, who currently serve on the advisory council and both study dance.

Keitlan Wallace, 20, who’s been active with the center for about four years, said that in the planning process, some priorities for her and Elizabeth, 14, were ensuring there was a sizable dance practice room.

“It was a major thing because we used to practice in a very small room. We really needed a big space — a private space — for us dancers to do choreography and performances.

The theater was a big one for all of us,” she added.

Elizabeth and Keitlan Wallace also agreed on the importance of having a place to eat at the center, where students can both refuel and gather.

When considering the programming, the Wallaces said that one challenge was thinking about how to accommodate a wide range of ages and interests, but when it came to finalizing classes, there were more course offerings than originally expected.

“We were shocked to see that they had given the community a lot more options. They added some programs, like college admissions for high school students who are thinking about going to college,” Keitlan Wallace said.

Staci Edwards, 18, a music student who plays guitar and upright bass, is a current member of the center’s Youth Advisory Council and has been active in the center’s planning for about four years. She described her hopes for EPACENTER as a safe place where the youth of East Palo Alto can gather, connect with mentors and develop both their artistic talents and leadership skills.

Edwards said she was mindful of the need for “a way for the youth to safely express themselves, to have a space where they can be

vulnerable and be creative.”

But in addition to arts education, she emphasized broader skills to help navigate the challenges brought by the Bay Area’s economy and the ever-increasing expense of living here.

The center is also about “helping the youth be better leaders, and allow the youth to step through different opportunities and be able to stay here in Silicon Valley, without having to leave — so, finding a job here, knowing how to live here and not being forced to go,” Edwards said.

Students ages 14 and up can not only take art classes at EPACENTER, but also learn how to parlay creative skills into livelihoods, with internships and apprenticeships that provide real-world experience, as well as learn essential behind-the-scenes skills, such as marketing and business planning.

Since 2010, as the group of students involved in the project has slowly changed, with some “aging out” and other students getting involved, the vision for the center itself has continued to evolve, Rambeau said. The center plans to broaden programming beyond strictly an arts focus, at the request of the youth advisers and the community.

“They were thinking about how they would like to see us respond now, in the face of COVID and in the face of the murder of George Floyd and other individuals,” she said,

To help support local economic needs, EPACENTER will offer workforce development classes such as career skills and job training.

Rambeau said that youth also raised concerns about racial, economic and social status divisions in East Palo Alto, seeking a way to bring people together.

To that end, the center is currently holding art therapy classes and has plans to offer music and drama therapy, to help find some

healing in the midst of numerous stressors and crises like COVID.

EPACENTER recently received a \$500,000 “adaptation grant” from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to help address the challenges brought about by the pandemic. The funds will also help in planning and implementing programming longer term.

“This organization is becoming fluid and responsive to a cohort of students that is constantly going to be changing,” Rambeau said.

The pandemic has meant that the center has pivoted both in what programming is available, but also how it’s offered, with classes still online for the time being. EPACENTER is offering a variety of online courses this fall, including art, dance, design, film and music classes, with plans to begin holding in-person classes in January.

Although classes aren’t in person yet, the process of planning EPACENTER and seeing it realized has already made it an important presence in the community — one likely to make an impact for years to come, thanks to the vision of local youth leaders.

“I would like EPACENTER to be like a home for the community to be creative, to look at EPACENTER, and be motivated to make new things, to have the opportunity and the resources to express yourself,” Edwards said.

“People have different passions and I think this program will give them opportunities to reach those goals. That’s what I want for the future, I want it to get known for helping individuals reach their passions and their goals,” said Keitlan Wallace.

For more information, visit [epacenter.org](http://epacenter.org). ■

Email Arts & Entertainment  
Editor Heather Zimmerman at  
[hzimmerman@paweekly.com](mailto:hzimmerman@paweekly.com).

# Food & Drink

## Chef Martin Yan talks wok hei and noodles for longevity in a climate crisis

Yan joins Bay Area food movers and shakers for Acterra Holiday reFresh event

By Sara Hayden

I'm waiting on a feature-length biopic movie of legendary chef Martin Yan (filmmaker friends, take note!), but until that gets produced, I'm glued to a YouTube clip. Almost as impressive as Yan's deboning a chicken in 18 seconds, this particular clip leaves me on the edge of my seat: It cuts just as Master Chef Yan starts to cook one of his favorite dishes in a wok, not over a volcanic gas-fueled flame, but on an induction cooktop. "You get all the responsiveness of cooking with gas, but it's better for you and the environment," Yan tells the camera. And I want to know — "How does this possibly work?"

That's the point of this cliffhanger. I'm going to have to tune into an upcoming cooking demonstration to see what happens next. This teaser leads up to a Nov. 7 event that features Yan of Yan Can Cook and other acclaimed Bay Area food movers and shakers, including Crystal Wahpepah of Wahpepah's Kitchen, Kenny Annis of Sky Cafe, Shruti Boddu of Shru's Kitchen and Alicia Casas of Jaguar Baker. They'll all demo some of their favorite plant-based dishes during the Holiday reFresh event sponsored by Acterra, a Palo Alto nonprofit dedicated to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. A couple of steps to that include reducing meat production and consumption (eat more plants), as well as reducing fossil fuel use (use renewable resources).

Acterra's Robbie Brown said in a statement: "Bringing people together around the table, especially over the holidays, opens up new conversations about how we fuel our bodies each day, and how small incremental changes add up to a much greater impact. We hope our virtual cooking event will show people how fun and creative plant-based cooking can be, with the benefits of better health and a cleaner environment."

So I want to know, can you get that distinctive caramelizing

wok hei effect on an induction cooktop? As some local energy code changes took effect a year ago requiring use of all electric in new builds, is investing in an induction cooktop feasible and desirable for restaurateurs and home cooks, particularly those that have a tradition of using fuels like gas or wood? It's a dream to have the opportunity to discuss these questions with Yan, a chef, culinary consultant, food scientist and TV personality.

In a more than 40-year career, Yan has connected with audiences across the world. With thousands of cooking show episodes, dozens of cookbooks, a list of honors (including James Beard awards and an Emmy Award) and influential restaurants, he's played a pivotal role in shaping the contemporary culinary landscape.

Yan also fulfills a critical role as a public educator. In addition to teaching at culinary institutions and consulting, Yan has been a mainstay in home cooks' living rooms since 1978 with "Yan Can Cook." It first aired in Canada, and then in the U.S. on PBS in 1982 as one of just three cooking programs, presenting one of the first Asian ones.

To tune in for the cooking demonstration, register at [bit.ly/acterra-nov7](http://bit.ly/acterra-nov7).

**Peninsula Foodist:** Your work

has opened up the world of Chinese cooking for so many, including myself. And you shaped the conversation about the art of cooking overall. I'm thinking about the call, "If Yan can cook, so can you," and that's given me the confidence that I can indeed cook.

**Martin Yan:** You are too kind ... In the past, we do it on the television screen. And then later on, the live events all over the world, filming. But that takes a lot of time. And then you have to do on-location scouting, just like a movie. To do a show like that, it takes a lot of money, it takes a lot of time, a lot of headaches, a lot of logistics.

In the past, I traveled all around the world to bring the best of food and culture and travel and heritage from different parts of the world to the U.S. audience. That was the same show that was broadcast to 60 countries around the world.

With these kinds of (virtual) events, once we've recorded, we can put it back in all kinds of social media platforms.

Now, I just sit and stand in the comfort of my own kitchen in the Bay Area (in San Mateo), and I can reach people around the world.

**Foodist:** And it sounds like the Acterra Holiday reFresh event is one of those. I'm par-



Courtesy of Yan Can Cook

**Chef Martin Yan** of Yan Can Cook features a dish of rainbow vegetables over a noodle pancake as part of Acterra's Holiday reFresh program.



Courtesy of Yan Can Cook

**Martin Yan**, an acclaimed chef, culinary consultant and TV personality, is highlighting plant-based dishes for holiday tables and induction cooktops at a Nov. 7 event sponsored by Palo Alto nonprofit Acterra.

ticularly interested in the idea of using an induction cooktop.

**Yan:** For everybody, including this G-20 summit, one of the most important subject matter is global warming and climate change. The traditional cooking method is in the early days wood, and later on is charcoal and mesquite and coal. Later on, it was electricity. But all of these you need to use fossil fuel to generate the power.

Then induction on the other hand, it helps to alleviate some of these problems, because you have zero emissions and very minimal waste of energy. Because an induction burner has a magnetic field, it only heats up where contact is, and around it is cool — so you don't waste energy.

When you use wood fire, when you use gas, a lot of radiant heat, you use a lot of energy.

About eight to 10 years ago, I worked with an induction cooktop manufacturer. Nowadays, you go to all the cruise ships, you go to all the five-star hotels, they have induction. It's nothing new, it's been around a long, long time.

But the thing is, sometimes an induction burner is more expensive, so it was never really as popular. Nowadays, most housing (and building) projects, they are starting induction burners. It's all induction cooking. The government is doing it, and the whole world is watching because of global warming and climate change.

**Foodist:** I remember about a year ago, hearing about this especially in San Gabriel Valley around Los Angeles. For restaurants, it sounded like there was some concern, both for getting wok hei and that really hot cooktop to get the texture and the taste, and also the

cost to switch out, especially for smaller restaurants. How do you think about balancing all these concerns?

**Yan:** First of all, I think there's a misconception. A lot of people are resistant. With a gas burner, you can see the flame. You can hear the noise when you cook. With an induction burner, you cannot hear, you cannot see. Mentally and psychologically, you might say, "Hey, it's not heating." But theoretically, scientifically and technically, an induction burner is not only efficient and energy-saving, but it's a lot more powerful than a lot of people think.

That's why in Hong Kong and China, they've developed a wok induction unit that is round. In the old days, all the induction burners were flat for frying pans, but now they've developed a concave, bow-shaped induction burner so you can put a wok on top of it. It heats up a lot faster than gas and electric. A lot of people don't realize that.

The only thing is aluminium will not work on an induction burner, but nowadays pots and pans in the market are induction cooktop applicable.

**Foodist:** The first part of that question was actually from my

See **MARTIN YAN**, page 20

**LEHUA GREENMAN**



*"Dream Big,  
Live Simply,  
Give Love,  
Laugh Lots,  
Be  
Grateful!"*

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## MARTIN YAN

continued from page 19

mom, so thank you, she'll be glad to hear this.

**Yan:** Of course. Tell your mom to try to heat up the same amount of water. Turn it up to high with an induction cooktop and a gas cooktop. She'll be very impressed, because with induction burners, the heat is instant.

**Foodist:** For home cooks or restaurants considering making the switch, do you have tips on offsetting the cost? Is this an upfront investment?

**Yan:** In the short run, an induction cooktop is much more expensive. But in the long run, if you believe you're running your business in the long haul, not one or two years, then you save a lot of energy. That means your gas bill, your electric bill, is a lot less.

Not only that, but the heat of the kitchen, you don't waste as much energy, because you don't have to turn on a huge fan and air conditioning.

All in all, it's a lot cleaner energy, and more controllable.

But of course, the drawback is for smaller business the cost. It's probably a bit of a burden for the initial investment. I know that is pretty true.

**Foodist:** Are there ways that

you have to adjust your cooking technique?

**Yan:** You just have to get used to it. I'll give you an example: In the old days, in the burner they used wood chips to heat it up, and you constantly have to add wood to balance it out. You keep adjusting, because it's not consistent.

And then (it was) gas. But gas, it's a natural resource, so eventually that will be depleted, that will be gone.

So for future, that's why you have renewable energy. An induction burner, all you need is electricity. That can be generated by wind, by solar. So that's why I personally believe renewable energy is the future, and induction cooking is part of the equation.

**Foodist:** Is there still a place for heritage practices like cooking with wood and meat? I think of the Chinese character for "home," which has a pig at its center, and I think of that as being central to a lot of home life.

**Yan:** Part of the solution is cutting down consumption of meat ... With the population explosion, there's a loss of arable lands. You drive around (Highway) 101, you drive around (Interstate) 5, you drive on 99 or 80 ... I went to UC Davis, I remember everything is farmland. Now you look around, there's a lot of high rises, a lot of

development, a lot of housing.

Eventually you have to find a way to do it. The world is changing, and we have to adapt to it.

Talking about plant-based products — the Asians were practicing this a long, long time, because meat is very precious in many parts of the world.

Personally ... I eat a lot of vegetables. In the entire meal, meat is basically used as a flavoring component, to give texture and flavor.

Even now, when I go to a steakhouse, me and my wife always order a small steak and we share. I never finish 12 ounces.

**Foodist:** When my grandma first came from Guangdong area, she didn't eat beef at all, until her neighbor in Wyoming said, "This is an American delicacy. You have to eat it." So she'd get a steak for the whole family and then she'd cut it up and serve it with their vegetables over rice.

**Yan:** In Chinese cooking, you have celery, you have Napa cabbage, you have gailan — all these are loaded with a lot of nutrients and trace minerals and fiber.

You go to a lot of restaurants, and the vegetable is the sidekick. They are not main players, they are supporting cast. You order a steak, and maybe you pick a side vegetable ... and it's overcooked.

But in a good Chinese dish, in

a good Asian dish, there are four elements: One is appearance. If you cook the vegetable to death, you lose the color, you lose the texture, you lose the nutrients. They look dead. The color (should be) vibrant. Secondly is aroma. Stir-fry uses a high temperature for a short time, very, very quick. They don't destroy much nutrients. And then you get the aroma — the wok hei — the breath of the wok.

And then, the taste. When you cook vegetables along with meat, the umami flavor permeates and flavors the vegetables.

And then, texture contrast. When you bite into something, you gotta have texture.

So it's appearance, aroma, taste and texture contrast.

**Foodist:** You can get all that with an induction cooktop?

**Yan:** You can get all that with an induction cooktop. You can toss the way you toss on top of a gas burner or an electric burner. (On induction,) you lift it up and it's disconnected, and so it's energy efficient. But as soon as you put it back, BOOM — it's hot and bubbling again. It brings the boil again.

**Foodist:** Can I ask what dish you'll be preparing for the event?

**Yan:** I'm doing a vegetarian mushroom, assorted vegetable stir-fry with a stir-fry sauce over

a noodle pancake.

I want to tell people it's symbolic. Whenever you celebrate something, you always serve noodles. Noodles are long, so it's a symbol of long life, longevity — so we want to promote the longevity of Earth. We want to promote the longevity of human, mankind — so we won't be extinct, running out of natural resources.

And also it's a celebration of life. That's why noodles are always served for weddings and anniversaries and birthday parties.

It's a symbol of long life, longevity and long lasting. **A**

Email Associate Digital Editor Sara Hayden at [peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com](mailto:peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com).

*Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at [almanacnews.com/express/foodist](http://almanacnews.com/express/foodist) to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.*



## NOTICE OF ORDINANCE PROPOSED ADOPTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ATHERTON

The City Council of the Town of Atherton, at its meeting of **November 17, 2021**, will consider the adoption of an Ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Atherton, State of California, adding Chapter 18 Solid Waste and Edible Food Waste Recovery to the Atherton Municipal Code.

*This meeting is being held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(1)(B) and in compliance with the Brown Act. Section 54953(e)(1)(B) permits the Town to hold a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency via teleconference in order to determine whether as a result of the emergency meeting in person would present an imminent risk to attendees' health or safety. The meeting will be held by tele or video conferencing. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via:*

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### Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

**Email:** [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us)

**Description:** The purpose of the addition is related to edible food waste recovery in Town and practices are set to be fully compliant with State and County regulations. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft ordinance can be found online, by Friday November 12, 2021 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=41>

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said ordinance is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on November 17, 2021, at 6:00 PM via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk, at [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0529. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk's Office Building Division at (650) 752-0529 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**Date Published:** November 5, 2021

**Date Posted:** November 5, 2021

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL  
/s/ Anthony Suber  
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

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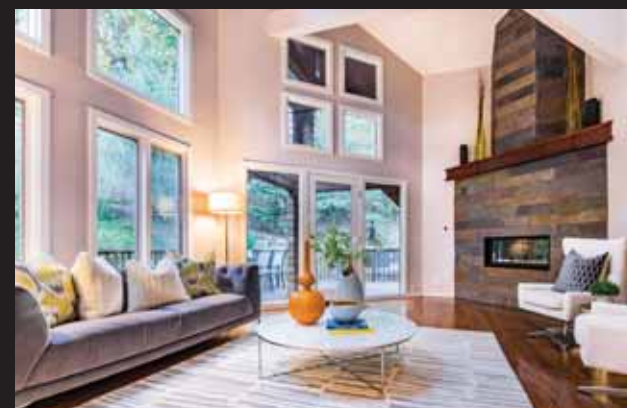
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