

The Almanac

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

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Menlo Park goldsmith Sharona Wolff makes ancient jewelry with a modern twist

By Kate Bradshaw

“I like old things. I like really, really old things,” goldsmith Sharona Wolff says during a recent interview at the Davide Bigazzi Studio in Menlo Park’s Allied Arts Guild, a cozy metalworking studio where she makes meticulously crafted jewelry inspired by ancient techniques and styles.

When she says “really, really old,” she’s referring to a very specific period of time — namely from 700 B.C. to roughly A.D. 200, which covers a time span in which ancient jewelry was created by the Greek, Roman, Fertile Crescent and Byzantine civilizations, she said.

Wolff, who has only been working with gold since 2014, launched her own jewelry business, Atelier Wolff, in 2018 and this year was represented at the prestigious trade show Metal + Smith, based in New York.

Metal + Smith announced her as “Best in Show” and awarded her for her “originality, designer spirit and unmatched technique,” according to a press announcement.

Wolff said she loves ancient jewelry because it’s beautiful and

provides plenty of inspiration with little risk of being accused of plagiarism. Finding an original jewelry style is surprisingly difficult, she said.

“People have been adorning their bodies with jewelry in some form ... (for) millennia. There’s not a lot that’s new in terms of design under the sun,” she said.

However, she’s carving out a niche in using ancient techniques and styles but adapting them for modern life.

Over the years, the ways that people wear jewelry have changed. While King Tutankhamun may have worn a large intricate breastplate in ancient Egypt, there are few people who would choose to wear the same thing in the same way today, Wolff said. Maybe Beyoncé could pull it off and look gorgeous doing it, she laughed, “but most of us would look a bit silly.” Instead, she’ll take some colors or a motif from an ancient jewelry or art piece and scale it down for a more modern article of jewelry, like a choker or pendant.

Wolff said that she’s still evolving her style. Great designers offer some distinctive element within their work that tells people it’s theirs. “There’s a particular way they put a finish on something,



Magali Gauthier

Sharona Wolff uses a torch to fuse tiny 22-karat gold balls onto a larger gold piece at the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park on Nov. 29.

There’s a particular use of color, or an angle or something,” she said.

One of her signature techniques is fine granulation work on 22-karat gold, or what look like very tiny round balls set upon the edges of a surface of a

jewelry piece. Another technique she uses is eutectic welding, an ancient technique that involves carefully heating a metal until it flashes a “sort of wet look” and removing it from the heat before it melts into a blob, she explained.

The method enables metals to be welded together without the use of soldering — and generates a flame a little bit like a fire-breathing dragon, she said.

See **GOLDSMITH**, page 18

Drew Combs: Being Menlo Park mayor is an honor, but it’s no kindergarten

By Kate Bradshaw

In Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs’ household, he’s in an ongoing debate with his young daughter, he told a mostly online audience at the city’s annual State of the City address on Nov. 30.

The debate is this: Is it a bigger deal to be a kindergartner or a mayor? His daughter’s logic is that being in kindergarten is a bigger deal because it means going to school every day, while being mayor means sitting at home for long, boring meetings,

Combs said.

“I’m not sure of the logic of that reasoning,” he said, adding that the discussion has made him reflect on all that has changed during his tenure as mayor.

He started out 12 months ago leading meetings via Zoom from a makeshift desk in his bedroom, a corner of his home where he hoped his children’s



Drew Combs

voices would carry the least, he said.

Now he’s wrapping up his mayorship under conditions that don’t exactly look like the “return to normalcy I had hoped,” but said there is much that is going well citywide.

He called attention to the fact that he was addressing the public from the City Council chambers. “Of course, these chambers are mostly empty. But this is progress,” he said. “The city hasn’t shrunk from its traditional role or any of its pre-pandemic ambitions. This

leaves me hopeful and it should leave you hopeful.”

During a global pandemic that has threatened lives and lifestyles, Menlo Park residents, instead of turning inward, did the opposite and invested in their community, Combs said.

As COVID-19 altered all of our lives, he’s been impressed by how the community has remained civically engaged and committed to helping those in need, he said. Residents have checked in with elderly and at-risk neighbors, established informal support groups and

learning pods, volunteered for vaccination drives, and supported small businesses and nonprofits. They have continued to advocate for policies that were important to them, and all city commissions have at least one new appointed commissioner, he said.

The city is now back to operating at pre-pandemic levels, and in many cases has adapted new protocols to be able to offer services safely, including in the areas of child care and policing,

See **COMBS**, page 7

INSIDE

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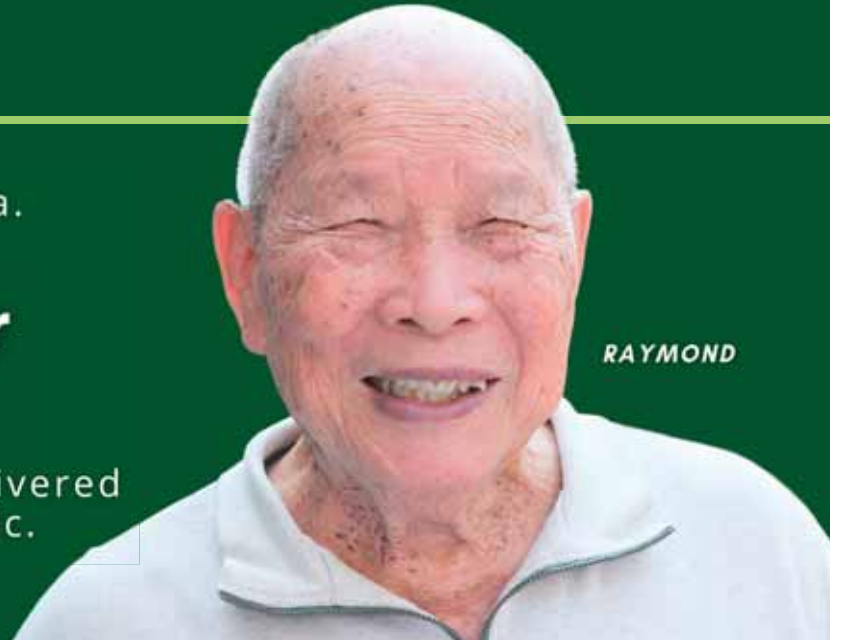
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* A \$500 donation will support: one month of daily Meals on Wheels for two seniors; or full services for a week at Rosener House for an adult with Alzheimer's; or sixteen 30-minute personal training sessions at Little House; or 100 transportation rides at the subsidized rate.



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Off Market

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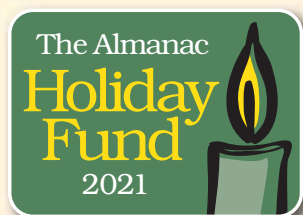
Magali Gauthier

Arién Ford loads a box of Thanksgiving ingredients and recipes into a client's car at Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto on Nov. 22.

Holiday Fund: Ecumenical Hunger Program offers more than food to households hit hard by pandemic

By Kate Bradshaw

During Thanksgiving week, the campus of East Palo Alto nonprofit Ecumenical Hunger Program was bustling as staffers and volunteers worked together to load meal kits into the vehicles and arms of underserved households. In under an hour the morning of Nov. 22, the workers made a significant dent in distributing what



had been an impressively tall box of frozen turkeys, alongside equally tall towers of fresh produce and dried goods.

That morning, people came to the distribution by car, bike and foot at prescheduled time slots for Thanksgiving meals they might not have otherwise been able to enjoy.

See **HOLIDAY FUND**, page 9

First U.S. case of COVID-19 omicron variant found in San Francisco

San Mateo County booster clinics now requiring appointments

By Bay City News Service

After the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Wednesday, Dec. 1, that the nation's first case of the omicron variant of COVID-19 has been reported in San Francisco, city officials said the city won't be updating any health orders for now.

The patient, who had returned to San Francisco from South Africa on Nov. 22, only showed

mild symptoms and is currently recovering. The person is fully vaccinated but had not received a booster shot, according to officials with the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

The person was not hospitalized and has been self-quarantining since testing positive. All of their close contacts have tested negative, public health officials said.

During a briefing outside of San Francisco City Hall on Wednesday morning, health

department Director Dr. Grant Colfax said the city worked overnight with the CDC and the University of California, San Francisco to confirm whether the case was indeed the omicron variant.

Colfax said the city has been preparing for a scenario like this.

"This is not a surprise," he said. "We knew that omicron was going to be here. We

See **VARIANT** page 17

Recount called for narrowly passed Woodside land use measure

Measure A passed by five votes

By Angela Swartz

It's not over yet. A Woodside resident has requested a manual recount of the ballots in the narrowly passed Measure A contest.

Measure A opponent Alan Watkins asked for the recount last week after the initiative to allow two sites in the Town Center area to be considered for outdoor community gathering spaces passed by five votes, according to official Nov. 2 election results. Measure A required a simple majority to pass.

The recount began Wednesday, Dec. 1, Jim Irizarry, assistant chief elections officer for the county, said in an email. Eight staff members were scheduled to conduct the recount over about two days, he noted.

The San Mateo County Elections Office reported that 1,160 people voted yes on the measure, while 1,155 voted no. The race grew closer as votes were tallied, after starting with a 20-vote lead on election night. The results were certified on Nov. 19. Voter turnout was about 54%, according to a county press release, with 2,316 of the 4,270 registered voters in Woodside casting ballots on the measure.

"I think, given how close the election was, we are not surprised at all by a desire to ensure an accurate count," said Measure A co-author Peter Bailey in an email. "We assume that the results will hold up on the recount and are thankful it

looks like this recount can be completed quickly (this week)."

Watkins could not be reached for comment.

There is no provision in California law for an automatic recount in any election.

An application for a recount needed to be filed within five calendar days after the certification of the election on Nov. 19, which was Nov. 24. The county estimates it will cost about \$6,000 to conduct the recount. The requester bears all costs of the recount if the results do not change.

Measure A amends 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 parking lots, 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 respectively, only voters could overturn the restrictions.

The measure allows the property behind Cañada Corners to be outfitted with surface parking to accommodate permanent outdoor dining, trails and play structures, which were previously prohibited. It would also allow for the possible construction of a public building — an amphithe-

See **MEASURE A** page 14



Magali Gauthier

A sign reads "YES on Measure A" along Woodside Road in Woodside on Nov. 9.

Bear Gulch

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)

Beginning January 1, 2022, the water bills of California Water Service (Cal Water) customers in the Bear Gulch District will reflect a pass-through of higher wholesale water charges and higher groundwater replenishment charges by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the state agency that regulates Cal Water, has determined that expenses for wholesale water are not under the company's control, and that a pass-through of those costs to customers is just and reasonable if properly calculated.

In Advice Letter 2435 that will be filed on or around December 3, 2021, Cal Water is requesting authority to increase its annual revenue by \$103,983 or 0.2%. Pending the CPUC's review of Cal Water's calculations, the increase will be effective on January 1, 2022. With the increase, a typical monthly bill for a Bear Gulch residential customer with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter who uses 11 CCF (which is 1,100 cubic feet or approximately 8,228 gallons) of water per month will increase by \$0.18, or 0.2%.

A copy of Advice Letter 2435 is available on the internet at <https://www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters/> (please select the Bear Gulch District from the drop-down menu), and may also be obtained from the company's local office by calling (650) 561-9709. You may also contact the company's headquarters at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, California 95112-4598, or by calling (408) 367-8200.

Cal Water offers many programs to help you manage your water bill including a Customer Assistance Program (CAP), (formerly, low-income ratepayer assistance program (LIRA)), water conserving appliance rebates, and other conservation programs. Please visit our website at www.calwater.com to take advantage of these opportunities.

Protests and Responses. Anyone may respond to or protest this filing. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the Commission in its evaluation. A protest objects to the filing in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based, and shall provide citations or proof where available to allow Commission staff to properly consider the protest. The grounds for protests are:

1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the filing.
2. The relief requested in the filing would violate statute or Commission order, or is not authorized by statute or Commission order on which the utility relies.
3. The analysis, calculations, or data in the filing contains material error or omissions.
4. The relief requested in the filing is pending before the Commission in a formal proceeding, or
5. The relief requested in the filing requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the filing process, or
6. The relief requested in the filing is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the Commission).

A response or protest must be made in writing and received by the Commission's Water Division by December 23, 2021, the end of the comment period. The response or protest should be sent to water.division@cpuc.ca.gov or to the Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd Floor, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Man fires gun into Willow Road apartment

A male suspect fired a gun at someone who had tried to intervene as the suspect was rummaging through the bed of a pickup truck in Menlo Park on Nov. 23, police said.

No one was injured in the shooting reported at 11:12 p.m. in the 1100 block of Willow Road, where someone had been seen lurking around an apartment parking lot.

After someone intervened as the suspect was rummaging through the truck bed, the suspect pulled out a handgun and fired two shots, damaging a vehicle and piercing the interior of an apartment, nearly hitting someone inside, according to police.

The suspect fled and remains at large. He is described as a heavy-set juvenile male who is about 5 feet 6 inches tall and possibly of Pacific Islander ethnicity, police said.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Menlo Park police at 650-330-6300 or an anonymous tip line at 650-330-6395.

—Bay City News Service

Family displaced by Menlo Park structure fire

Firefighters extinguished a structure fire at a residential building near downtown Menlo Park on Monday morning, Nov. 29.

The fire, at 908 Arbor Road in Menlo Park, caused smoke damage and will temporarily displace one of the four households in the building, according to Fire Marshal Jon Johnston of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

Nobody was in the home at the time and there were no injuries, he said.

The fire appeared to originate in the bedroom of the unit, and appeared to have been smoldering for some time, he said.

An investigation is under way to determine what caused it, but it appears to be accidental, he said.

—Kate Bradshaw and Gennady Sheyner

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

M-A's canned food drive

Menlo-Atherton High School needs help to reach its goal of gathering 300,000 pounds of food in its annual canned food drive. Donate non-perishable foods (such as canned tuna, peanut butter and vegetable oil) or checks made out to Second Harvest Food Bank that will be used to purchase fresh produce.

So far, the group has collected 135,000 pounds of food, about 10,000 pounds than it did two years ago, said M-A leadership teacher Mike Amoroso last week.

The food distribution is at M-A on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Find a drop-off location online at lship.org or email CFD@menloathertonleadership.com.

Ravenswood holiday toy drive

The Ravenswood Education Foundation is aiming to collect 1,800 new toys and gift cards by Friday, Dec. 10, for students in the Ravenswood City School District.

Donors may drop off gifts Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2120 Euclid Ave. in East Palo Alto. Ship gifts to the Ravenswood Education Foundation, Attn: Jazmin Sosa, 5778 Chesbro Ave., San Jose CA 95123.

For more information on the drive go to ravenswooddef.org/toydrive.html.

Portola Valley and Woodside Hanukkah Festival

On Nov. 28, the first night of Hanukkah, about 200 Portola Valley and Woodside residents gathered at the Portola Valley Town

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 18

CORRECTION

In last week's issue, the story "Discovering wilderness and watercolors at The Foster," the exhibition "Sacred Places" was erroneously written as "Sacred Spaces." The story omitted that Jane Woodward studied geology at Stanford University as well as at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Stanford pediatrician pleads no contest for sending sexual messages to girl

By Bay City News Service

A Stanford University pediatrician has pleaded no contest to a felony charge for sending sexual messages to a 16-year-old girl, San Mateo County prosecutors said.

Dylan Edward O'Connor, 35, a doctor and clinical instructor at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, entered the plea Nov. 23 to a charge of distribution of pornography to a minor and faces up to three years in state prison when he is sentenced in

February.

O'Connor, a Redwood City resident, contacted the girl through social media and started sending pornographic photos of himself and asked her for photos, prompting her to call police, according to the San Mateo County District

Attorney's Office.

Redwood City police took over communicating with O'Connor, who asked to meet her. An undercover officer set up a meeting for Feb. 5, and O'Connor arrived with a blanket and condoms. He was arrested in the 1800 block of

El Camino Real in Redwood City and acknowledged a sex addiction, prosecutors said.

O'Connor, who remains out of custody on bail, will have to register as a sex offender. His attorney was not immediately available to comment on the case. ■

Atherton City Council appoints Bob Polito to fill empty seat

By Angela Swartz

The Atherton City Council has voted to appoint resident Bob Polito to fill the vacancy left by former Vice Mayor Mike Lempres, who moved to Paris this fall.

The council voted 3-1 to appoint Polito, a town audit and finance committee member for over eight years, on Nov. 15, to serve the rest of Lempres' term, which ends in November 2022.

Polito said he'd be an asset to the council because, as the

town wraps up its \$32 million new civic center project, he can help navigate the "colossal" unfunded pension liabilities the town is facing. He noted he is fairly vested in the whole issue, having served on the Audit and Finance Committee. (The town's anticipated pension liabilities payment for fiscal year 2021-22 is \$1.4 million, an



Bob Polito

increase of \$236,289, according to the town budget.)

Councilman Rick DeGolia said it was important to choose a candidate who isn't planning to run for the seat in November 2022.

"I think the most honest way to be elected to this council is to run in a competitive race," DeGolia said. "Next year we're going to have a race where three of us will run and I think it's important that that be an open and very fair, democratic election."

Each council member voted for his or her favorite candidate. Councilwoman Diana Hawkins-Manuelian was the one vote for Stacy Miles, an Environmental Programs Committee member.

There were two other applicants for the position: Rose Hau, a former Planning Commission member, and Susan Warren, a coordinator for Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (ADAPT). Greg Conlon, who has served on various town committees over the years, withdrew his application before the

Nov. 15 meeting, said City Manager George Rodericks.

Mayor Elizabeth Lewis said she hopes each applicant runs for the council next November.

Polito holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Northwestern University, according to his application.

Lempres served on the council for nearly seven years before resigning his post on Oct. 15. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

Fight against organized retail theft heats up

Bay Area district attorneys form an alliance and local malls boost armed protection

By Olivia Wynkoop/Bay City News Service and Sue Dremann

In response to recent organized theft schemes across the Bay Area, seven Bay Area district attorneys have created an alliance to ensure suspects face proper accountability, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe announced Nov. 23.

The district attorneys from Contra Costa, Alameda, San

Francisco, Marin, San Joaquin and Santa Clara counties say they want to put their heads together and share crime data across district lines to ensure suspects are fully held accountable. The prosecutors also pledged to keep communications with retail stores and state agencies during the process.

"The recent premeditated retail theft mob action in multiple cities across Northern California is intolerable and will not

be accepted by District Attorneys, law enforcement officials and our community members," Wagstaffe said in a statement. "Anyone caught engaging in such criminal conduct should expect to find themselves facing prosecution, conviction and incarceration. There is no leniency for such behavior."

A few of the reported retail heists include: San Francisco's downtown Louis Vuitton store was reportedly cleared out by

20 to 40 people on Nov. 19. One Walnut Creek Nordstrom store was said to have lost over \$200,000 in merchandise on Nov. 20. Forty to 50 people stole an estimated \$40,000 in athletic apparel from a Lululemon store in San Jose on Nov. 21.

"Collaboration and shared strategies with neighboring prosecutors and law enforcement partners are critical to both preventing and responding to organized retail theft,"

San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin said in a Nov. 23 statement. "This alliance of prosecutors is committed to developing strategies to combat these organized crimes. Together, we are determined to stop those who participate in organized retail theft, including by dismantling the fencing networks that make this type of crime profitable."

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COMBS

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Combs said. The city has also worked to safely reopen some facilities for indoor programs, such as libraries and recreation facilities.

Menlo Park is making progress on a number of important projects too, he said. The city has begun construction on a \$45 million project to build a new community center in Belle Haven with funding from Facebook, and has received state and county grants to support child development and day care programs. It is in the final stages of securing what will likely be a \$50 million grant from the federal government to protect the city's bayshore from sea level rise.

During the year, the police

department processed nearly 50,000 calls, responded to 28,000 incidents and received about \$500,000 in grant funding. The city also hired a new police chief, David Norris, and is talking about progressive policing changes, he said.

In the community development department, a total of 923 new homes were approved in three residential developments on the city's Bay side, including 139 that will be dedicated for very low- to moderate-income households. Building permits were issued for a project by MidPen Housing to build 140 new affordable housing units for families on Willow Road, where there had previously been 82. The city has a new website and has switched its building permit application process to be

entirely electronic, he said. The city is also working to update its housing element and create its first ever environmental justice element.

At the same time, Combs said, there are a number of challenges for the city. There are still longer than normal wait times for planning and permitting, key staff vacancies, and a downtown that is not the vibrant hub that many wish it to be, he said. On the downtown front, he added, "I promise that in the months ahead, you'll be hearing more from us on these efforts."

Ultimately, he said, "I can't say conclusively whether being mayor of Menlo Park is a bigger deal than being a kindergartner at Laurel (Elementary). But what I can say is that being mayor during this historic and chal-

lenging time has been an honor and a responsibility of which I'll always be immensely humbled to have been entrusted with."

Combs invited the community to attend a holiday tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, in Fremont Park. The event doubles as a food drive, and people are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item. Donations will be given to

the local nonprofit Samaritan House.

Go to is.gd/holidaytree for more information. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Robert Frank Ferrando, 70, an Atherton resident, died on Nov. 16.

To read the full obituary, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at almanacnews.com/obituaries.

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Day

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$260,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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

Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners — Menlo Park

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars

Empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



www.siliconvalleycf.org



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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As of Nov. 26,
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HOLIDAY FUND

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The nonprofit distributes food, household items and clothing to more than 10,000 people in need each year, according to the program website.

It is also one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac’s Holiday Fund. Because The Almanac and its partner the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to this year’s 10 nonprofit organizations. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

The Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) has been serving the community since it was founded in 1975 and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1978, but in recent years it has changed its slogan to “Neighbors helping neighbors: Food, clothing & so much more!”

As people picked up their Thanksgiving meal kits, Lesia Preston, executive director of EHP, talked to The Almanac about what the nonprofit has been through since the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

“So much more” was added because the program really does much more than feed people — and its mission has taken on additional elements as local families burdened by the pandemic continue to struggle to make ends meet, Preston said.

In addition to food distribution, EHP will deliver free furniture, and offers clothing and household items from a warehouse at EHP’s facility at 2411 Pulgas Ave. in East Palo Alto. That warehouse contains everything from bins of baby and children’s clothes organized by size to extra furniture to bags of toys to be distributed in the upcoming holiday toy drive, opposite an extensive food pantry.

EHP’s campus also has an organic garden that provides fresh produce to clients and teaches children about gardening basics. Before the pandemic, EHP also offered a women’s support group and children’s services, provided classes on financial literacy and healthy living on the campus, Preston said.

Adapting to meet
expanded needs

During the pandemic, EHP saw the needs of those it serves increase significantly, Preston said.

Those needs extended beyond food insecurity to concerns



Magali Gauthier

Volunteers sort food into boxes at Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto on Nov. 22.

about how to pay for utilities and rent, to mental health concerns as the long-term stresses of COVID-19, employment and financial instability continued to weigh on families.

“Our numbers for food doubled,” Preston said. Earlier in the pandemic, lines of cars would stretch for blocks, and EHP staff had to control traffic as well as distribute food, she said. The food comes primarily from Second Harvest Food Bank, with supplemental donations from churches and other food drives. Additional Thanksgiving and Christmas food donations also came from Facebook, according to Preston.

With a growing number of people who needed financial help to pay rent or utilities, the organization rallied to provide financial support and referrals to other service providers, she said. During this time, some households relocated from East Palo Alto to the Central Valley area but continued to work on the Peninsula and seek services from EHP, Preston added. Some individuals EHP serves can’t afford to commute back and forth and sleep in their cars on the Peninsula, she said.

“It never lessens, our number of people that we’re serving in this community. When one moves out, someone else is always going to move in,” she said.

EHP also saw an increase in requests for large home appliances such as refrigerators, washers and dryers, so the organization began collecting appliance donations, she said. It also helped students meet

their back-to-school needs, offering laptops, tablets and student desks to accommodate distance learning, and provided help with internet services and college tuition, she said.

Another significant issue EHP faced during the pandemic was its safety plan for reducing the risk of COVID-19 required halting volunteer activities and relying solely on its core team of about 20 staff members to deliver all of its services. That was a challenge because normally volunteer work is a critical part of operations at EHP, Preston said.

“The pandemic was one thing, but then doing all of the things that we do without the help of volunteers — oh, my, that was a thing in itself,” she said.

Staff members remained dedicated to feeding and supporting the community, braving inclement weather and shouldering additional work. In response, Preston said that EHP has stepped up its efforts to boost staff morale by treating employees to lunch or giving them other recognition, as a way to “let them know that you were on the front lines (of the pandemic) and that we care about you,” she said.

While EHP has been avoiding hosting events on its campus, it has been investing in physical upgrades, installing artificial turf and a large canopy to better accommodate visitors in the future, Preston added.

Preparing for the holidays

As EHP gears up for Christmas, its biggest distribution event of the year, the organi-

zation is asking for gift card donations to streamline the distribution process. While it’s also accepting toy donations, those often take longer to distribute to families because staffers and volunteers must match the gifts to the gender and age-related preferences of each child, which can slow down the process, she said.

Gift cards are also helpful to families who need to buy gas, and those who need prescription eyeglasses, from places like Costco, Walmart or Target. They’re also asking for warm blankets and ready-cooked packaged meals to support those who are unhoused, she added. Access the full wish list at is.gd/ehpholidaylist.

Last year, EHP served about 800 families for Thanksgiving and 1,300 for Christmas, according to LaKesha Roberts, associate director at EHP.

People who don’t have much money still want to celebrate the holidays, Preston said. “Especially with all that has been going on in the world, we have tried our best this year,” she said. “We’re trying to give ... them an extra treat, things that can help them, staples that will help them, and as many gift cards as possible along with it.”

EHP offers distribution hours on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Go to ehpcare.org for more information. ■

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

U.S. News and World Report Names Essence Healthcare a Best Medicare Advantage Plan in California

The popularity of Medicare Advantage (MA) plans among seniors has increased rapidly in recent years. The number of people enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan has more than doubled since 2010 with over 24 million people getting their Medicare coverage through some type of MA plan. Reports indicate that the convenience, savings, and extra benefits available with MA plans are the primary reasons why so many seniors are choosing MA over Medicare Supplements or just enrolling in Traditional Medicare alone.



With so much growth, many areas around the country have seen a notable increase in the number of Medicare Advantage plans available, making the challenge of choosing a plan a daunting task for seniors. Given this challenge, U.S. News and World Report conducted an analysis of all the Medicare Advantage plans available in each state to identify the best plans in each, giving seniors a quick and convenient way to cut through the clutter.

Released in October, the U.S. News and World Report analysis identified Essence Healthcare as one of the best Medicare Advantage plans in California based on its overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars for 2022. Founded in 2003 by a group of doctors, Essence Healthcare credits its success to its collaborative partnership with area physicians and health systems as well as the loyalty and enthusiasm of its members throughout the community.



“We are committed to ensuring our members get great healthcare, great service, and great benefits. I think that commitment is what has led to our success, and ultimately this recognition from U.S. News and World Report,” said Martha Butler, President of Essence Healthcare.

Seniors now have an opportunity to enroll in Essence or other Medicare Advantage plans during this year’s Medicare Annual Enrollment Period which ends on December 7. Industry experts recommend seniors always try and set aside the time to evaluate different Medicare plans before the enrollment period ends. “There may be plans out there with extra benefits and savings available that your current plan may not offer,” said Joel Andersen, SVP Marketing at Essence. “Doing just a little homework can result in thousands of dollars in savings for many seniors.”

More information about Essence Medicare Advantage plans can be found at www.EssenceHealthcare.com/USNews or by calling 1-855-791-5019. In addition, seniors can compare all Medicare Advantage plans in their area by visiting www.Medicare.gov/Plan-Compare.



Essence Healthcare is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Essence Healthcare depends on contract renewal. Essence Healthcare complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system.



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COMPASS

Local author releases new children's books set in outer space and a fantasy foodie town

By Kate Bradshaw

Menlo Park resident Stephanie Lucianovic is currently celebrating the release of two new books for children, just in time for the holiday season.

A longtime picky eater turned food writer, then children's book author, two of Lucianovic's books were recently published: "Hello, Star," a picture book about a child's passion for a dying faraway star, was released on Oct. 19, and "The League of Picky Eaters," a children's novel set in a fictional land ruled by foodies, came out on Nov. 2.

Lucianovic said that while the word count in children's books may be far shorter than books for adults, writing for an underage audience is anything but easy.

"When you're writing for kids, there's not supposed to be an obvious didactic lesson in your book," she said. "What you want to do is try to bring an understanding of children and what they're going through."



Courtesy Sam Breach

Menlo Park author Stephanie V. W. Lucianovic, shown here in 2012 at Land's End in San Francisco, recently saw two of her books for children published: "Hello, Star" and "The League of Picky Eaters."

"It's difficult," she added. "I love the challenge; I love all the picture books that come out and inspire me. It's a lot more fun."

'Hello, Star'

Lucianovic said she started writing "Hello, Star" back in 2015 after being inspired by a

conversation with her son, then a first-grader in the Menlo Park City School District. Her two children are now in seventh and third grade at district schools.

At the time she started writing "Hello, Star," she said, her son was very interested in learning about outer space and facts about planets.

At one point, she recalled, he said to her, "Hey mommy, did you know that stars die? Isn't that sad?"

The conversation made her think of the fondness she'd developed for inanimate objects over her own lifetime — items like her beloved childhood teddy bear and a first car jointly bought with her husband — and then began to imagine how a child might take a fondness for a star and build it into a lifelong love of the cosmos.

That night she developed the first draft of what would become "Hello, Star," but it took years of working through the publishing process before that draft became a hard copy illustrated book.

That process involved finding

an agent who would advocate for it, then an editor who would advocate for a publishing house to acquire the manuscript, she said.

It also involved finding an illustrator to bring her words to life. Lucianovic said she'd been a fan of Vashti Harrison's work, particularly in how she illustrated light, and was thrilled when the illustrator agreed to take on the project.

'The League of Picky Eaters'

"The League of Picky Eaters," released Nov. 2, is intended for readers who are between 8 and 12 years old and features a sixth grader protagonist who is a picky eater in a fictional town called Muffuletta. The town was founded by foodies and eating is a subject in school, where students are expected to be good at eating, not just vegetables but many types of gourmet, "foodie" foods. The protagonist finds herself in "Remedial Eating To Change Habits" (RETCH for short), while her friends end up in the

"Gifted And Gourmet" track (GAG for short).

"She has to come to terms with who she is as an eater and what a healthy friendship is as well," Lucianovic said.

The book weaves together the lessons that it's OK to find new friends if the ones you have aren't offering healthy friendships, and challenges the notion that people should be judged by their food preferences, she explained.

For locals, much of the novel — Lucianovic's first novel — may have a particular resonance.

Part of the idea behind the town of Muffuletta is drawn from what she saw as a parent of young kids in the region. As someone immersed in the San Francisco foodie scene — though not necessarily in Menlo Park, she said, "There was a level of competitive parenting coming in that I hadn't seen before."

Among the foodie crowd, that parental competitiveness

See **BOOKS**, page 13

Robert Frank Ferrando

April 13, 1951-November 5, 2021

After a courageous 7-month battle with Pancreatic Cancer, Bob died peacefully at home November 5th surrounded by his family. Bob was the oldest of 3 boys born to Ezzio and Margherita "Rita" Ferrando. He lived most of his life in Menlo Park and Atherton. Bob graduated from Nativity School, Serra High School, and University of Portland with a BBA in Accounting. For the last 15 years he was the CFO for Western Roofing Service, A Tecta America Company in San Leandro.



Bob was incredibly thoughtful, kind, generous, and hardworking. Bob was a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, and dear friend to many. He was predeceased by his parents, Rita and Ezzio, his brother, Ron, and sister-in-law, Mary Ann.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Grace, his beloved children, Mary and Alex, his brother, Randy, Mother-in-law Mary Barrett, brothers-in-law, Larry, Brad, Felipe, David and sisters-in-law, Alix, Mary, Patty, and 9 nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated, Friday, December 10th at 11:00am, preceded by recitation of the Rosary at 10:30am, Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park.

Donations in Bob's name can be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Francis Center, or the American Cancer Society.

PAID OBITUARY

CRIME

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Local malls, including Stanford Shopping Center, will have a greater armed protection this holiday season. Gov. Gavin Newsom on Nov. 22 ordered the California Highway Patrol to increase its presence around malls throughout the state.

"We are going to be more aggressive still in this space to help support cities and the prosecution of folks," Newsom said in a statement on Nov. 22. "I have no sympathy, no empathy whatsoever for people smashing and grabbing, stealing people's items, creating havoc and terror on our streets ... they must be held to account."

Newsom's order comes on the heels of multiple smash-and-grab burglaries. Organized groups have gone into high-end retail stores at malls and absconded with hundreds of thousands of dollars in expensive merchandise, including jewelry, handbags and clothing.

While some crime of this sort has been a mainstay in police logs for the past few years, the scope and frequency of these incidents appear to be on the rise. They are also getting larger, with as many as 80 people storming a Nordstrom's store in Walnut Creek on Nov.

20 and multiple incidents in San Francisco and Los Angeles that involved dozens of people, according to those cities' police departments. On Nov. 21, Palo Alto police thwarted 30 to 40 people who attempted to break into The RealReal luxury consignment store downtown.

The increase in the brazen thefts comes as retailers have stocked up for the holiday shopping season. A recent survey by Simon Property Group, which operates Stanford Shopping Center and other malls nationwide, found that 80% of survey respondents considered buying gifts in retail stores as the best way to shop this year instead of making an online purchase. The survey also found that 81% of respondents were worried their holiday gifts wouldn't arrive on time or wouldn't be available at all this year and the best way to guarantee getting the gifts would be through brick-and-mortar stores, the company said in a Nov. 9 press release.

The CHP will patrol the Stanford and Town and Country Village shopping centers in Palo Alto at least through the holidays, CHP spokesperson Officer Art Montiel said.

"The officers will be making the rounds through the malls to show their presence in the areas," he said, noting that they

would be covering Stanford, Town and Country and Hillsdale shopping centers along with others within each CHP jurisdiction.

"We'll just basically show our presence to hopefully deter these robberies," he said.

From large retailers to small mom-and-pop shops downtown, the thieves don't seem to discriminate. On Nov. 18, thieves demolished the door at Palo Alto jeweler De Novo Fine Contemporary Jewelry, grabbing at least \$50,000 worth of gold and silver after smashing three glass cases, according to Palo Alto police.

Since May, thieves have also made big thefts at Stanford Shopping Center, notably a \$150,000 theft from Neiman Marcus and more than \$100,000 in a handbag heist from Louis Vuitton in June.

Stanford Shopping Center security referred questions to the mall's management, which didn't return requests for comment on any plans to beef up security on Nov. 24. Town and Country has a security detail and hasn't been afflicted by the smash-and-grab crimes, according to the center's management office. ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

BOOKS

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appeared sometimes in comparisons over whose kids could eat the most sophisticated foods at the youngest ages, she said. For example: So-and-so is only 5 years old and already eating sardines!

The topic of picky eating is also a personal one for Lucianovic. She said she was a picky eater until around the age of 27, when she transformed into a full-blown foodie. She then attended culinary school, worked at the Cowgirl Creamery cheese counter at the Ferry Building in San Francisco, wrote about food and worked as a cookbook editor.

At that time, she said, "All I wanted to do was be immersed in the food writing culture."

Her first book, "Suffering Succotash: A Picky Eater's Quest to Understand Why We Hate the Foods We Hate," is a nonfiction book for adults exploring the science and psychology of picky eating.

Picky eating, she said, is not a choice. It's a preference, the way many of us naturally gravitate toward certain types of art or music, she explained.

"It's not something you can control," she said. "We like the things we like."

Menlo Park readers of "The League of Picky Eaters" may also find other familiar elements in the story. As a first-time novelist, Lucianovic said, she drew upon the physical settings of her community in Menlo Park to shape her descriptions of the fictional Muffuletta.

The treehouse where the secret society in the story meets was inspired by El Palo Alto Park, near the Alma Street bridge connecting Palo Alto and Menlo Park, while the diner described in the story was inspired by Jeffrey's Hamburgers, down to the plastic oval baskets that the food is served in, she said.

More information

"Hello, Star" is published by Little, Brown and "The League of Picky Eaters" is published by Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins.

Lucianovic encourages people to support local bookstores if possible, such as Books, Inc. in Palo Alto, Linden Tree Books in Los Altos and Kepler's Books in Menlo Park. People purchasing copies as holiday gifts are encouraged to get their orders in early due to supply chain holdups, she added. ■

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

Malcolm Allen McInnis

June 25, 1929 – November 17, 2021

Malcolm Allen "Mac" McInnis of Atherton, CA passed away peacefully on November 17, 2021 after living nearly six years with pancreatic cancer, leaving his family he loved so much.

Mac was born on June 25, 1929 in Seattle, Washington to Merville and Lorraine McInnis. In Seattle, he attended Laurelhurst Elementary and Roosevelt High School. He spent his childhood and young adult summers, all day, every day at the Laurelhurst Beach Club; swimming competitively and for fun, lifeguarding, "rolling the log" Mac loved to sail, and he and his sister, Virginia, had a boat called the Handsome Transom that they raced together in the Flattie races most Sundays for years. The beach club was a wonderful part of his and his family's lives.

He graduated from the University of Washington in 1950 with a degree in Marketing, a member of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity, the Varsity swim team, the freshman rowing team and the Big W Club.

In 1951, he joined the Naval Aviation Cadet program at Pensacola, Florida and was commissioned and received his wings in June of 1952 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. He flew single engine carrier aircraft, Seaplanes and two-engine and four-engine military transport aircraft. He was awarded an Air Medal, the China Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. After 28 years of service, Mac retired with the rank of US Naval Captain. He was extremely proud of his family's military heritage in their participation in the wars of our nation. His father retired a US Army Colonel World War I and World War II; he a Navy pilot, Korea and Vietnam; his son, Marshal, nearly 10 years US Navy SEAL, Persian Gulf War and other conflicts; and his grandson, Tyson, nearly 10 years US Army Helicopter Pilot, Iraq two deployments.

Prior to moving to California with his first wife, Marilyn Dillon of Seattle, and their children, Mac worked with his father at McInnis and Company Inc., an import export firm in downtown Seattle. Mac joined Davenport & Co. "Fine Home Builders" as a general partner, contracting new homes, renovations and remodels throughout the Peninsula. Mac went on to become owner and President and continued to grow the business until his retirement in 2006.

In May of 1981, Mac married Jane deBenedetti Quistgard, at Christ Episcopal Church in Portola Valley. It was "Yours, Mine and Ours" from the start, as he and Jane blended their two families into one. Mac expanded his heart to love every one of his children the same. They spent 40 beautiful years creating memories with friends, family and each other. There were family trips to Tahoe and Hawaii, visits to children on both coasts, worldwide cruises, sailing trips and private yachting trips, and annual trips to their timeshares in Palm Desert and in Mazatlán with family and friends. One of their very favorite trips was to Havana, Cuba sailing with Virginia and Ernie Van Asperen (Mac's sister and brother-in-law) on their yacht, the North Wind.

Mac offered quiet acts of kindness, lived his life thoughtfully and faithfully, and gave himself fully to everything he was



a part of. He was actively involved with the Seattle International Trade Fair and Seattle Japanese Tea Garden. He was a supporter of the Peninsula Center for the Blind, a board member for 10 years at Stevenson House, a retirement community in South Palo Alto, an usher at Christ Episcopal Church in Portola Valley, and a Chaplain for 10 years at Stanford Hospital. He was a member of the Menlo Country Club and of the Menlo Circus Club, where he served on the Board of Directors for six years. He also served for over 20 years as the Board Liaison to the Buildings and Grounds committee.

Mac was an exceptional host, known for making a strong drink including his infamous "Morning Thing" (gin

fizz) and his "Mazatlán Margarita." He was a life-long sportsman, engaging in sailing, skiing, and playing squash, tennis and golf. He looked forward to his Acorn Investment Group and his "Tuesday Dinner Group" that met monthly for over 30 years. He especially enjoyed joining the Saturday morning "Z Group" for tennis, playing golf with his Wednesday and Thursday golf group, and playing bridge with his close friends every Friday... and oh, how he enjoyed reading the funnies and winding his grandfather clock every Sunday!

Mac lived a full life of 92 years, complete with great loves and great endeavors. He was a man of exceptional character with a solid moral compass. He was extremely devoted to his wife Jane and was a loving, supportive, father always taking an interest in his children's and grandchildren's lives. He was a patient listener; no one listened like Mac. He spoke with intention and was fully present. He took a genuine interest in people of all ages. He was modest and always a gentleman. He cherished his friendships. He was our patriarch, a pillar of strength for the family who always inspired us to choose the right.

He is survived by his wife, Jane; seven children, Mac McInnis Jr. (Tammy) of Twin Falls, WA, Mike McInnis (Kitty) of Sonora, CA, Mitzi McInnis of Hyde Park, VT, Marshal McInnis of Hailey, ID, Brooke Quistgard Larkins of Menlo Park, CA, Allison Quistgard Scherer of Sun Valley, ID, and Cameron Quistgard (Melissa) of Sisters, OR; 14 grandchildren, Kelley McInnis Gibeon (Peter), Tyson McInnis (Jenny), Megan McInnis Wood (Dan), Scott McInnis (Brittany), Stuart Speer (Sarah), Tucker Speer, Madeline McInnis, Flint McInnis, Victoria Blair Larkins, Jane Larkins and Jack Larkins, Jack Scherer and Paige Scherer and Hunter Quistgard; and eight great grandchildren, Nolan, Stowe and Drew McInnis, Rush and Maclyn Wood, Evie McInnis, and Rosie and Ellie Speer.

Mac was preceded in death by his parents, Merville and Lorraine McInnis; first wife, Marilyn Dillon; sisters, Mitzi (died at age five) and Virginia Van Asperen; and brothers-in-law Ernie Van Asperen and John L. (Jay) deBenedetti III.

In loving memory of Mac, a private family Episcopal service will be held in the chapel at the Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, followed by Military Honors.

PAID OBITUARY

Eric Anderson Young

February 3, 1956 – October 23, 2021

Of all the things Eric was involved with, accomplished and enjoyed – and there were many of each – his role as father and husband was, for him, by far the most important and fulfilling. He met his wife, Jean, on a blind date in 1989. They married August 3, 1991, and built a partnership and family that was absolutely at the core of their 30+ years together. Their son, Ryan was born in 1994, and Connor followed in 1997. Nothing brought Eric more joy or pride than this foursome.

Eric loved the role of teacher and mentor across his life, and particularly with his sons. He shared and instructed Ryan and Connor in the outdoor activities he loved so much, and the family spent much of their spare time fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking and traveling. He taught them golf, the etiquette and mechanics, analyzing swings and hole play and providing tips for improvement. He shared his love of music with live concert attendance starting when the boys were very young, evolving from jazz, ZZ Top and Earth Wind & Fire concerts to Metallica and AC/DC. He also loved all things fast, riding motorcycles and racing cars, and introduced dirt biking to his sons.

Like everything else his boys showed an interest in, Eric embraced Boy Scouts, becoming a Troop 57 Assistant Scoutmaster, leading annual backpacking trips to the Sutter Buttes, and guiding fishing expeditions. He taught the shotgun merit badge for years and helped in the development of a rifle range at BSA's Camp Oljato. A former Scout himself, Eric was incredibly proud of his two Eagle Scout sons. He also traveled to many, many sports matches in which his boys played, always serving as an informal "team photographer." A SJ Sharks season ticket holder since their inaugural season and hockey player in his youth, Eric especially loved watching Connor in goal for Bellarmine College Prep and his club team.

Born in Michigan to Gerald and Shirley Lund Young, Eric grew up in the Midwest and western New York with his parents and sister, Heidi. The family moved seven times in five states as his father pursued a steel industry career, after which Eric lived in six more cities before settling in Palo Alto in 1987. Eric attended high school in Ohio and New York. At Cornell University, he earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering and was a proud member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. Then, knowing he was interested in a more broad-based business career, Eric attended Northwestern's MBA program.

At Northwestern, Eric was recruited by General Electric, initially working in sales, marketing, and as General Manager for one of their Bay Area turbine companies. When offered a role in GE's brand-new venture capital group, Eric jumped at the chance. He opened their West Coast office, returning him to the Bay Area he loved, and Silicon Valley, which held so many tech-based investment opportunities. Five years later, he and three partners spun out of GE and founded Canaan Partners, where he was a General Partner for 32 years.



At Canaan, Eric loved helping build organizations and developing leaders – both internally at Canaan, and with the firms in which they invested. Culture was incredibly important to him, and he fostered organizations built on positive values and a belief that every person should be listened to, respected and appreciated. He set a standard of excellence and integrity. Per his colleagues, "Eric was and will always be the heart and soul of Canaan."

Eric's passion for entrepreneurship, experiential education and mentoring along with his venture capital mentality informed a broad range of involvements – including many for which he saw a need, developed a plan and provided seed funding to get the opportunity going. At Bellarmine, where he regularly spoke to students about venture capital, he identified a need for more technical education and hands-on experience, so worked with school administration to create an Innovation and Design Program with both curriculum enhancements and a student Innovation Lab.

At his and his son Connor's alma mater, Cornell, Eric was a pillar of the entrepreneurship community for 25+ years. He served as an active Advisory Council member to the Entrepreneurship at Cornell program, most recently as vice-chair. His input was deemed invaluable, and he helped lead the fundraising efforts to build a new co-working space for student entrepreneurs. Noting that PhD students often lacked opportunities to get out of the lab and do real customer discovery on their inventions, Eric also helped define and establish the Cornell PhD Commercialization Fellows program to directly address this deficit. He served on several other advisory boards including the College of Engineering Council and Red Bear Angels. Eric was also a top-rated guest lecturer on entrepreneurship for two decades and mentored undergraduate and graduate students through six different Cornell programs.

At Northeastern University, where his son, Ryan, studied, Eric was introduced to Scout, a student-led design studio providing design services to early-stage ventures in the university's entrepreneurship program. Eric believed Scout's designers should think of

themselves as entrepreneurial leaders, not just great designers. Over many years, he mentored Scout's leaders on using an entrepreneurial mind-set to drive their organizations as they helped clients develop distinctive brands and take products to market. The students responded with great innovation and energy. Eric always delighted in their personal growth; they were honored by the keen interest he showed in them. Eric was also one of the founders of Mosaic, the network of student-led organizations bringing innovation and entrepreneurship across Northeastern. He served for many years on the Mosaic Council and the President's West Coast Council.

At both universities, as well as Stanford and Northwestern's Kellogg, Eric showed clearly how much he loved to interact with students-- often staying well past a scheduled talk to answer questions and discuss their business ideas both ad hoc and via structured programs. He continued to actively mentor individual students after they graduated college as they became successful entrepreneurs.

Across his involvements and successes, Eric was known for his kindness, generosity, humility and integrity. Colleagues, entrepreneurs and students alike uniformly commented on the genuine interest he took in projects, opportunities and hurdles, giving generously of both time and knowledge. He listened intently and respectfully, absorbing and analyzing information until the end, then offered insightful comments and always-constructive feedback. He was honest without judgment, and made people feel like valued equals. These were the key attributes that made people seek him out.

Retirement was prime time for Eric to do all the things he loved: spending time with their black lab, Maverick, taking numerous fishing and hunting trips every year, and traveling, all with Jean, their sons, and friends. Eric's face beamed with unmitigated joy as he shared his passions with those most important to him.

Eric's sons have benefited from a lifetime of lessons and love and will always remember his teaching the importance of a strong work ethic, being accountable, and, again, acting with integrity. When asked about his accomplishments, Eric replied "proud father of two fine young men."

Eric is survived by his love, partner, and wife of 30 years, Jean, his sons, Ryan and Connor, his sister, Heidi Young Nash (Tim), and nephew and nieces Sean, Kristen, and Meredith Nash. He will be remembered and missed by many friends, colleagues, and others who had the chance to interact with him across his many involvements.

The memorial service will be private, by-invitation only due to space constraints. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to one of his favorite causes: Cornell University [Entrepreneurship @ Cornell], Northeastern University [Scout Fund], BSA Camp Oljato [Fund #1442 through Silicon Valley Community Foundation] or California Wildlife Foundation [Wetlands Fund- Lower Klamath Refuge Project].

MEASURE A

continued from page 5

ater or gazebo — for community events in the residentially zoned Town Center area. Measure J prohibited development of commercial or office space on a then vacant, town-owned parcel near where Town Hall is 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 before June 1988.

Measure 1 created an exception to Measure J, allowing residentially zoned parcels in the Woodside Road Whiskey Hill Road Parking Assessment District to be improved to provide access, parking and open space, so long as at least 50% of the residential parcels were maintained in open space. It allowed the town to construct parking and access improvements for Town Hall, commercial businesses and the public.

The Woodside Town Council's emergency ordinance allows the town to waive the restaurants' parking requirements that are part of a conditional use permit, something allowed thanks to Gov. Gavin Newsom's executive order that extends parts of his March 4, 2020, COVID-19 emergency proclamation through March 31, 2022.

Mayor Brian Dombkowski said outdoor dining is likely to be extended (assuming the council continues to renew the 60-day resolutions) through March 2022, which was set to occur regardless of the outcome of Measure A.

When the emergency declaration ends, the town must once again enforce the parking requirements, he said.

Results of the recount were not available by The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline. Visit almanacnews.com for updates. ■


Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

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PAID OBITUARY



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OMICRON

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thought it was already here, but we just hadn't detected it yet. This is a cause for concern, but it's certainly not a cause to panic."

Colfax said, "There's still a lot we don't know about omicron. We don't know how infectious it is, although there is a strong likelihood that it is more infectious than the delta (variant)."

Colfax said because the city's vaccine rate is high at 81%, and residents continue getting booster shots, among other factors, the city is equipped to handle COVID-19 variants.

"At this time, we do not anticipate changing any of our health orders or changing any current restrictions or imposing new restrictions on activities in San

Francisco," he said. "We're obviously following these developments very closely. We'll share additional information as we have it."

Just last week, the World Health Organization classified the omicron variant as a "variant of concern" for COVID-19.

Dr. Charles Chiu with UCSF said of the case, "This particular sample, I heard about it yesterday at 3 p.m. and we were able to receive the sample in the laboratory by 8 p.m."

After running tests, Chiu said two hours later the sample was identified as potentially being omicron. Then, using genomic sequencing technology, UCSF officials confirmed the sample to be omicron around 4 a.m. Wednesday, according to Chiu.

"The overall message to the public is get vaccinated," Mayor London Breed said.

"Very much thank you to the individual themselves. They recognized they had traveled, they recognized that they had symptoms, and they did what we should all do, which is get tested," said SFDPH Health Officer Dr. Susan Philip. "We really appreciate that person's awareness and collaboration on this case."

Drop-ins no longer allowed at county booster shot clinics

High demand for COVID-19 booster shots has prompted San Mateo County to require appointments for those 12 and over getting shots at the county-operated vaccine clinic at the San Mateo County Event Center.

Appointments were previously encouraged, but on-site

registration was allowed. As of Wednesday, Dec. 1, walk-ups will be turned away. Appointments are available through the state vaccination registration site, at myturn.ca.gov.

First and second vaccine doses are available at the drive-thru clinic, as well as boosters for people 18 and older. Even with an appointment, attendees should expect to wait. Boosters are also available at community clinics, health care providers and pharmacies, many

of which do not require an appointment. A schedule of county-operated clinics can be found at smhealth.org/vaccine-clinic-calendar.

Pediatric vaccines for ages 5-11 are still available at the children's clinic, also located at the event center. Appointments through MyTurn are strongly encouraged but pediatric walk-ins are accepted.

The San Mateo County Event Center is at 1346 Saratoga Drive in San Mateo. ■

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Courtesy Mellissa Katarina

Rabbi Mayer Brook of Chabad Portola Valley lights a menorah on the first day of Hanukkah on Nov. 28 in Portola Valley.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Center for a Hanukkah festival. The new organization, Chabad Portola Valley & Woodside, hosted the event, which included a “decorate your own doughnut” bar, all-you-can-eat latkes and applesauce, arts and crafts for kids, and a face painter.

Woodside Fire Protection District firefighters hosted a gelt chocolate drop from atop their truck. Ice carvers sculpted an ice menorah, which Mayor Maryann Derwin lit.

“There was a real sense of Jewish pride and community in Portola Valley and Woodside, and everyone felt it,” according to organizers Rabbi Mayer Brook and Dassi Brook of Chabad Portola Valley & Woodside. “The menorah’s power is especially felt when it is lit with joy and enthusiasm, as it was this year, with added appreciation for the blessing of being able to gather as a community and celebrate together for the first time.”

—Angela Swartz

Sanitary district gets federal grant to boost sea level rise resilience

The West Bay Sanitary District, which provides wastewater services to Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and parts of other neighboring communities, has received \$3.9 million in federal funding for a project to raise the levee near Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park.

The project, aimed at protecting the sanitary district’s facilities near Bedwell Bayfront Park, involves building about 1,200 feet of living shorelines and 3,400 feet of sheet pile walls, according to a district statement.

Ultimately, the project aims to create about 3.5 acres of habitat along the San Francisco Bay near Menlo Park and conserve about 0.8 acres of salt marsh, according to the statement. The \$9.4 million project will be funded with about \$3.9 million from the grant and about \$5.5 million in matching funds from the district.

“It is necessary for the district to perform the levee work in order to protect the site, particularly as we explore building a second water reclamation facility in the Bayfront Area. This grant will also allow the district to continue to replace and rehabilitate old clay sewer pipe rather than tying up its resources completely on the levee,” District Manager Sergio Ramirez told *The Almanac* in an email.

The grant comes from the National Coastal Resilience Fund, which includes as its partners the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency among other partners such as AT&T, Shell and TransRe. The grant is one of 49 grants nationwide totaling \$39.5 million, according to an announcement from NFWF and NOAA.

“NOAA is proud to support critical projects in coastal communities, helping them to adapt to coastal change and better prepare for climate-driven hazards,” said Rick Spinrad, NOAA administrator.

The grant program was started in 2018 and aims to address “growing risks from coastal storms, sea-level rise, flooding, erosion and extreme weather through strengthening natural ecosystems that also benefit fish and wildlife,” according to a press statement.

—Kate Bradshaw

GOLDSMITH

continued from page 1

She said she draws a lot of inspiration from both nature and history, drawing upon tribal jewelry and museum collections of ancient jewelry for ideas.

As the daughter of a gold geologist, Wolff has lived in 34 places throughout her life, including in rural areas of Australia, Africa and Asia, bringing a unique background to her work. She studied cartography at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and worked around the world before coming to the U.S. and reconsidering her career, according to a press announcement. She decided in 2014 to become a jeweler and began to study with Davide Bigazzi, a Florentine jeweler whose California studio is located in the Allied Arts Guild.

Growing up in the mining industry, she said, she saw firsthand some of the problems with it, which has shaped how she approaches her work making jewelry.

“I use recycled metals,” she said. “I know where my (gem)stones come from. I know where they’re mined. I know who cuts them. I often buy directly from the mines. And I don’t use those that come from conflict areas. ... I know exactly the mines that they come from.”

“Mining ... is an extractive industry so you can’t pull it sustainably in that sense. But what is important (is) that the people that work in it are paid fairly.”

“That’s something the industry has to work on,” she said. “Most people that buy jewelry aren’t really aware of where their gold, their silver and their gemstones come

from, and I think they should be. They should be better educated.”

During the pandemic, she said, she’s also had to adjust to some changes in what customers want. Bracelets and rings generally were less in demand because people couldn’t see them over Zoom. Engagement rings have increased in demand, as did talisman-style jewelry, she said.

“Maybe when terrible things happen in the world, where times become really tough, people want to wear something that’s really meaningful,” she posited.

Looking ahead, Wolff said, she’s committed to continue to make everything she sells herself.

“If you buy a piece from me, it’s made by me, and I want to keep it that way,” she said. “You hear of the Slow Food movement; I guess this is the slow jewelry movement.”

“It is time consuming ... to do all of this intricate work. But I do think there is beauty in this intricate work. And I do recognize that it’s not a style that is for everyone.”

“I’m making the jewelry that I like and I know that there are people that do like this style, that do find beauty in hidden details or tiny details,” she said. “I ... want to keep making the jewelry that I’ve always wanted to wear myself.”

Atelier Wolff and the Davide Bigazzi Studio are located at 75 Arbor Road, Studio K in the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. Both Bigazzi and Wolff also offer jewelry-making classes. ▣

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



Magali Gauthier

Sharona Wolff takes her inspiration from ancient and tribal jewelry, adapted to modern tastes.

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Winter Class Guide

With the holiday season and new year approaching, gift yourself or your loved ones a new learning opportunity. Registration for adult courses, horse riding lessons and dance classes, among others, are just opening up for the winter. There are also many year-round opportunities. Most programs continue to support a mix of online and in-person sessions, but be sure to check each listing's COVID-19 protocols before signing up. The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice.



Dance

Captivating Dance by Nona
1923 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park
650-980-8555
captivatingdancebynona.com

Captivating Dance by Nona instructs youth of various ages and abilities in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical,

hip-hop and other styles and skills. Classes are in person or virtual. Registration online.

Dance Expressions
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park
650-450-3209

DanceExpressionsMP@gmail.com/
danceexpressions5678.com

Dance instruction for students ages 3 and up, focusing on jazz technique at various experience and skill levels. Winter session begins Jan. 4.

Sports & Fitness

One Heart Yoga

Little House Activity Center, Fitness Room, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
415-494-7021 / oneheartyyoga.com

Weekly classes in Kundalini yoga and meditation, aimed at helping students increase flexibility and strength, learn breathing techniques to calm and focus and reduce anxiety and depression. The studio offers classes via Zoom. View schedules and register for classes online. After Dec. 14, next class begins Jan. 11.

Menlo Park Tennis

Nealon Park tennis courts
800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
650-814-6734
menloparktennis.com

Tennis classes for adults and children ages 5 and up and at all levels. Lessons include tips, strategy, drills and entertaining games. Check the website or call to register.

Spring Down Equestrian Center

725 Portola Road, Portola Valley
650-851-1114 / sdecenter@aol.com
springdown.com

Spring Down Equestrian Center educates children (beginning at age 3) and adults on horses and horseback riding. Instruction in basic riding, jumping, dressage, western riding and horsemanship is offered. Classes and camps held year-round. Registration for Holiday Camp now open.



Music, Arts & Crafts

Music Together Menlo Park
75 Arbor Road, Suite N, Menlo Park
650-799-1624 / admin@mt-mp.com
mt-mp.com

Music Together holds classes exploring music and movement for children from birth up to age 5 and their guardians at the Allied

Arts Guild. Winter semester begins Jan. 10.

Old World Designs

727 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-321-3494
info@oldworlddesigns.com
oldworlddesigns.com

In addition to stocking supplies and giving private lessons in stitching, Old World Designs organizes project classes and "stitch-ins." Year-round group and private lessons are available. Some events and private instruction will be in person.

Language

Language Pacifica
1528 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo
650-321-1840
languagepacificacom
esl@languagepacificacom

Language Pacifica teaches English to non-native speakers in both

See **CLASS GUIDE**, page 20



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- Mandarin as a World Language
- A personalized learning experience via whole group, small group, and independent learning experiences



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

MARY M SCHMIDT FUNDRAISING COUNSEL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289342

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

Mary M Schmidt Fundraising Counsel,
located at 75 El Vanada Road, Redwood City,
CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

MARY M SCHMIDT
75 El Vanada Road
Redwood City, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 1, 2021. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 28, 2021.

(ALM Nov. 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 2021)

LIFE-HYPNO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289404

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

Life-Hypno, located at 624 Berkeley Ave.,
Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

MARIE PIERRE MATHEVON
624 Berkeley Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 8, 2021.

(ALM Nov. 26; Dec. 3, 10, 17, 2021)

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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, via Zoom on the following:

URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY AMENDING SECTION 15.04.010 [BUILDING CODE], AND SECTION 15.04.020 [AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDING CODE] OF CHAPTER 15.04 [BUILDING CODE] OF TITLE 15 [BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION] OF THE PORTOLA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ENHANCE FIRE RESISTANT MEASURES IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

This Urgency Ordinance will amend the building code to require enhanced fire-resistant measures to provide additional wildfire protection. This ordinance is being passed on an urgency basis to ensure that any new development authorized under SB 9, which goes into effect on January 1, 2022, will be fire resistant. This ordinance is also being passed on an urgency basis to enhance the town's wildfire resiliency during wildfire season. Information pertaining to the proposed ordinance may be viewed by contacting Laura Russell, Planning & Building Director at lrussell@portolavalley.net. The agenda and staff report will be published at <https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/town-council/minutes-and-agendas> in advance of the meeting.

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

Publication Date: December 3, 2021

Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk

HAS YOUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE BEEN CANCELLED OR INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY?

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Holiday Wish List



Have you been naughty or nice?

Either way, it's time to create your holiday wishlist of things that would bring you joy, such as:

- A support network you can rely on
- More opportunities to make new friends
- Home safety checkup & handyman help
- Educational activities geared to your interests
- Access to pre-screened vendors & service providers
- Social gatherings & holiday celebrations
- Guidance with the latest technologies
- Transportation assistance



Avenidas Village offers their members all of the above and more!

Consider joining Avenidas Village, a lively community of like-minded seniors focused on making it easier, safer, and more enjoyable to stay in your own home.

To learn more, visit us at <https://avenidas.helpfulvillage.com> and sign up to attend an informal "Coffee Chat" session, or call us at (650) 289-5405.



Avenidas
Village

Class Guide

CLASS GUIDE

continued from page 19

full-time and part-time intensive courses. Classes are well-suited for Test of English as a Foreign Language exam preparation and learning English for business or personal enrichment. Classes are in person.

Career Prep

JobTrain

1200 O' Brien Drive, Menlo Park
650-330-6429

info@jobtrainworks.org / jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults — providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care, web technology, construction and other fields — as well as programs specifically for youth, to help with GED preparation, job placement and vocational training. View available workshops online.



Sequoia District Adult School

3247 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
650-306-8866 / seqsas.org

Sequoia District Adult Education holds classes in English as a second language and computer and business skills. Students can also earn a high school diploma or GED certificate. Counselors are available to help students transition to college programs. Winter session begins Jan. 11.

Seniors

Little House, Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
650-272-5000

penvol.org/littlehouse

Little House Activity Center offers classes for adults of all ages on various topics and activities, including health and wellness for seniors; fitness exercises like line dancing and Pilates; ceramics, drawing and other arts; languages; history and culture; and computer skills. Most classes remain virtual. Check online.

Enrichment

The Riekes Center for Human Enhancement

3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park
650-364-2509

info@riekes.org / riekes.org

A nonprofit organization, the Riekes Center provides a number of programs focused on self-enhancement for youth and adults: strength and speed fitness courses, adaptive sports, a class for musical bands, photography workshops and nature exploration, among other opportunities. In-person programs are available.

The Class Guide is published quarterly in The Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside are free, subject to editing and given priority.

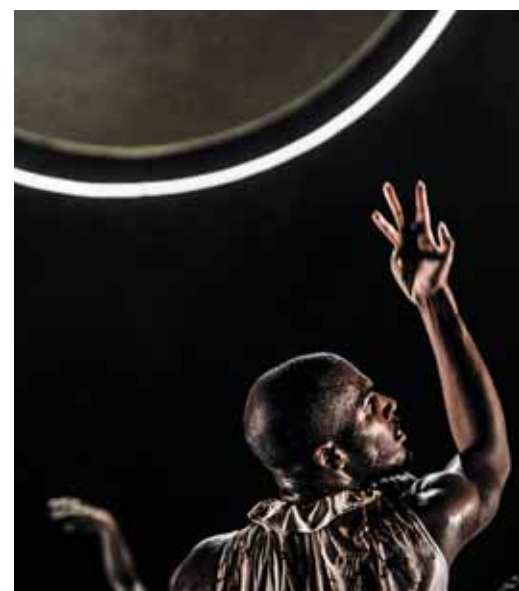
To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@almanacnews.com or call 650-223-6526. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



ELEMENTAL



'REQUIEM: FIRE IN THE AIR OF THE EARTH' AT STANFORD REIMAGINES MOZART'S LAST WORK

STEPS

By Karla Kane

Wolfgang Mozart's centuries-old "Requiem in D minor," which was unfinished at the time of the great composer's death in 1791, has been reborn as a powerful new dance piece making its North American premiere at Stanford on Saturday, Dec. 4.

"Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth," led by renowned choreographer and MacArthur Fellow Kyle Abraham in collaboration with the musician Jlin, gives new life to Mozart's final composition as a production that ponders ritual and mourning and celebrates transformation and resurrection.

In musical terms, a requiem is a piece played for a funeral mass.

"The concept for 'Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth' emerged from a period of personal grief for Abraham and his deep engagement with death and the afterlife that resulted," according to a press release from Stanford Live.

Referring back to its roots as a funeral mass, "the piece is playing on these ideas of reincarnation and rebirth and death," said Keerati Jinakunwiphat, one of 10 dancers performing in "Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth."

While the production draws on themes steeped in mythology and folklore, there's also room for pop culture references amongst the more traditional ones.

"Me and Kyle get along because we love superheroes and 'The Avengers' and the Marvel universe," Jinakunwiphat said, describing her character in "Requiem" as "a newer superhero who's trying to discover their powers, and the challenges of it."

The subtitle — "Fire in the Air of the Earth" — is a reference to

Abraham's consideration of the astrological signs of its participants, Jinakunwiphat noted.

Representing a range of diverse perspectives and a multitude of artistic influences, the mission of Abraham's artistic company, A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham, "is to create a body of dance-based work that is galvanized by Black culture and history," A.I.M.'s website states. Abraham's choreography represents a mix of dance genres, including modern, ballet, street and hip-hop. Collaboration is also a hallmark of A.I.M.'s process.

Composer and producer Jlin is perhaps best known for her critically acclaimed albums "Dark Energy" (2015) and "Black Origami" (2017). For "Requiem," Jlin transforms Mozart's mournful classic into an electronic opus, partly inspired by 1990s Chicago and house-dance styles. According to Stanford Live, she'll perform live from Memorial Auditorium's orchestra pit.

Other collaborators involved with "Requiem" include English costume and couture fashion designer Giles Deacon and set and lighting designer Dan Scully.

"It really is a high-level production, which is awesome," Jinakunwiphat said. "There's an abstraction level to it; it's definitely open to interpretation, which I always think is a special thing. All of us are very different individually so we each brought a lot to the piece."

Jinakunwiphat, who's now a choreographer as well as a dancer, has been working with A.I.M. since 2016, first as an apprentice and as a full member since 2018. Dance Magazine featured her on the cover of this year's "25 to Watch" issue.

A.I.M.'s passion for social justice, in addition to the company's artis-

tic excellence, resonates with her as an artist and a person.

"I was definitely drawn to Kyle and his movement language and what he stands for, and the dancers are so inspiring," she said.

Jinakunwiphat said that despite the hardships of the pandemic period, she has considered herself lucky in that she was able to keep working, albeit in different formats.

There was "a lot of Zoom stuff; we kind of worked in a new way, talked in a new context," she said.

"For me personally, I also appreciated the pandemic as self-care down time, time to recognize my identity outside of being a dancer."

Stanford Live's premiere of "Requiem," like many planned arts events, was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Abraham and company are scheduled to be at Stanford for a weeklong residency culminating with the Dec. 4 performance.

Jinakunwiphat said she hopes audiences come away from "Requiem" with a sense of the

transcendent and transformative power of the collective spirit. The piece highlights the energy of "people individually but especially together, and how we exchange that energy," she said.

"Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth" will be performed Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium, 551 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford. Tickets are \$15-\$68. Visit live.stanford.edu. ■

Email Contributing Writer Karla Kane at karlajkane@gmail.com.



See your pediatrician,
right in your kitchen.

Virtual visits or in-person visits at
Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group

 **Stanford**
Children's Health

genpeds.stanfordchildrens.org

Courtesy Peter Hönnemann/Stanford Live

Top left, members of A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham appear in "Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth," which explores themes of reincarnation and rebirth and death. **Top right**, Donovan Reed, a member of A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham, dances in the piece.

Food & Drink

Winter holiday feasts: 14 Peninsula eateries where you can celebrate the season

By Sara Hayden

There's no shortage of excellent Peninsula eateries that are providing feasts throughout the winter holiday season. Whether you want to enjoy a longtime favorite or try something new, we have a few ideas to whet your appetite as we step into December.

If you're planning on dining out, be sure to snag your own reservation soon. On-site dining is making a comeback since the pandemic started. Data from OpenTable indicates that in the U.S., people are making even more restaurant reservations compared to before the pandemic: In October of this year, there were 44% more bookings in the first half of October for December compared to the same time period in 2018, and 42% more compared to 2019. But if you'd rather stay cozy at home, pickup and delivery options abound.

An expanded version of this list can be found at almanacnews.com.

Back a Yard

At this Caribbean grill in Menlo Park, have a feast of jerk chicken, salmon or steak, oxtails, barbecued spare ribs, curried goat, coconut curried tofu, rice and beans, fried plantains and more. Takeout, delivery and catering options are available. Closed Christmas Day.

backyard.net

1189 Willow Road, Menlo Park
650-323-4244



Courtesy of The Mandarin

Whole rock cod in spicy black bean sauce at The Mandarin in Menlo Park.

Baumé

Even though the dining room in Palo Alto will be closed the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, you can still get a gourmet feast from the fine dining destination Baumé. A holiday prix fixe menu is available to go.

For Christmas and New Year's, there are options for several special menus featuring Ora King salmon or wagyu beef. Tasting menus include a combination of bread and butter, caviar, soup, Périgord truffle, lobster, salmon, beef, cheese, sorbet and dessert.

maisonbaume.com

201 California Ave., Palo Alto
650-328-8899 (text only)

Bevri

Dig into Georgian fare in downtown Palo Alto. Make a reservation to dine in, or place an order for pickup or delivery.

On the menu is khachapuri, a hot gooey boat-shaped bread containing cheese, butter and egg, khinkali — juicy dumplings perfectly wrapped and twisted — slow-cooked soups, spiced and marinated meats, and a traditional salad with cucumbers and tomatoes, creamy burrata, grilled bread and pesto. For dessert, try a caramel pudding or a winter pear cooked in wine and served with cream, fresh mint and walnuts. To drink, there are wines, juices and sodas from Georgia, as well as Czech beers.

Note that the restaurant will be open for regular hours throughout December and closed around New Year's.

bevri.com

530 Bryant St., Palo Alto
650-384-6500

Bay la Soul

Palo Alto's Bay la Soul by Chef Darius is planning special multi-course menus that will be available for pickup for the holidays.

The Christmas Eve menu features herb-crusted prime rib with au jus and horseradish, twice-baked potatoes with sour cream, butter, smoked Gouda, Parmesan, green onions and bacon; broiled root vegetables and Brussels sprouts; and baked tomatoes stuffed with spinach and Parmesan. For a sweet, fresh dessert, there's raspberry cheesecake with sweet mint chimichurri.

For New Year's Eve, indulge in surf and turf. The menu includes Dungeness crab and New York strip steak, herb mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables and mushrooms and, for dessert, apple-strawberry pie.

Chicken and vegetarian plates are available upon request.

To preorder, get in touch with Chef Darius by phone or social media.

[instagram.com/chefdarius_36](https://www.instagram.com/chefdarius_36)
650-439-4529

Fish Wife Sweets

After spending the autumn at Farmer John's Pumpkin Farm, the cottage bakery Fish Wife Sweets has moved to 4C's Christmas Tree Farm off Highway 92 in Half Moon Bay. If you plan to pick up a Christmas tree, you can stop by the Fish Wife Sweets cupcake cart to warm up with hot cocoa and homemade marshmallows.

You can also stock up on treats like cupcakes, take-and-bake cinnamon rolls (there may even be a Mexican hot chocolate variation this year), Yule logs and a Deck the Halls pack, a sweet accompaniment for Christmas tree decorating. The pack is a trove of cocoa bombs, marshmallows, cookies and bars.

You can preorder for pickup on Christmas Eve. For the latest details, follow Fish Wife Sweets on Instagram @fishwifesweets.

fishwifesweets.com

Left Bank Brasserie

Choose from a number of Christmas Eve delicacies at Left Bank Brasserie in Menlo Park. On the menu for these four-course prix fixe meals:



Veronica Weber

The eggplant rolls at Bevri feature grilled eggplant with a nutty, herbal filling.

- Rack of lamb with parsnip puree, baby carrots and lamb jus

- Pan-roasted duck breast with orange-cranberry gastrique, baby turnips and wild rice

- Filet mignon with black truffle potato gratin and Madeira mushroom sauce

- Butter-poached lobster tail with truffle risotto and winter vegetables

- Bouillabaisse with prawns, clams, mussels, scallop and saffron tomato broth

- Black truffle and wild mushroom risotto with shaved Parmesan and goat cheese

The restaurant has options for dining in, pickup and delivery.

leftbank.com

635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

650-473-6543

The Mandarin

Gather round the table for a meal at a Pan-Asian restaurant in Menlo Park that takes time to make delicacies like salt and pepper Dungeness crab, tea-smoked duck and rock cod in spicy black bean sauce. Coming up, The Mandarin will be hosting a special Christmas dinner featuring traditional Chinese dishes. At the time of writing, the team is finalizing a menu, but you can make reservations via Yelp to dine in now, or place an order for pickup or delivery.

[yelp.com/biz/the-mandarin-menlo-park](https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-mandarin-menlo-park)

1029 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

650-391-9811

Quattro

Quattro at the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley is open Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Special menus are available with or without a welcome drink and wine pairing.

The Christmas Eve menu includes delicata squash salad, celeriac and truffle soup, and a choice of porcini mushroom risotto or wagyu beef tenderloin, served with a dessert called the Santa Sleigh with hazelnut cake and raspberry, chocolate cremeux and hazelnut praline.

The Christmas Day menu also features several courses, including options for cacio e pepe and seared scallops. But you'd best save room for dessert: There's a Christmas dessert buffet by new pastry chef Guillermo Soto.

The New Year's Eve celebration menu includes a midnight toast, and there will be a New Year's Day brunch with a mimosa and bloody mary bar as well.

Make reservations through OpenTable, or call the restaurant.

fourseason.com/siliconvalley/dining/restaurants/quattro

2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto

650-470-2889

Son & Garden

Famed for breakfast, Son & Garden by Farmhouse Kitchen is offering a special Winter Tea Set. Make a reservation 48 hours in advance for this three-tiered afternoon tea. The Wonderland Dessert collection features collections of sweet bites like pate de fruit, pistachio cup praline, and macarons, clotted cream and homemade jam. There are also homemade pastries, as well as savory finger sandwiches with cucumber and dill, salmon and cream cheese, and smoked ham and cheddar. To request a reservation, email love@sonandgarden.com.

sonandgarden.com

1195 Merrill St., Menlo Park
650-665-7963

Sweet Diplomacy

Find gluten-free, dairy-free baked goods for Hanukkah at Sweet Diplomacy. The menu includes sufganiyot-inspired mini donut muffins filled with strawberry jam and hand-decorated almond cookies. Preorder a day in advance for delivery or pickup.

sweetdiplomacy.com

209 First St., Los Altos
650-800-3816

Vaso Azzurro

In Mountain View, Vaso Azzurro is open for lunch throughout the December holiday season. Plan ahead and make a reservation to dine upon Italian fare. The menu includes items like steamed

clams and stewed eggplant, salads and bruschetta, saffron risotto with salmon stromboli or sauteed scallops and prawns, lasagna, fettuccine, ravioli, gnocchi, linguine, and penne, and chicken or veal marsala.

vasoazzurro.com
108 Castro St., Mountain View
650-940-1717

Zareen's

With locations in Mountain View, Palo Alto and Redwood City, Zareen's serves contemporary Pakistani and Indian fare that includes a la carte items, sandwiches, salads, bowls and meal platters. The meals present a gorgeous spread of vibrant basmati rice and daal, crisp salads and tamarind chutney and curry, accompanied by paneer, potato or meat.

During the holidays, Zareen's is offering 10% off eGift cards. There's also a special promotion for catering orders: with any \$400 order through December, receive

a \$25 gift card.

The Redwood City location will be open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Dine in or place an order for pickup.

zareensrestaurant.com
1477 Plymouth St., Mountain View
650-628-6100

365 S. California Ave., Palo Alto
650-562-8700

2039 Broadway, Redwood City
650-747-6400

Zipote's Restaurant

In Redwood City, the team at this family restaurant cooks up Salvadoran and Mexican dishes, including pupusas, tamales, soups, omelettes, burritos, quesadillas, atole, empanadas and more.

You can preorder and pick up before the restaurant closes for Christmas at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 24.
restaurantzipotes.com
828 Fifth Ave., Redwood City



Michelle Le

Zola's pork belly and loin, with apples, turnips, Brussels sprouts, maple and sage.

650-216-0010

Zola and Bar Zola

Zola's is offering special menus for both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, as well as an updated cocktail menu for the holidays.

From the bar, the Pagan Holiday cocktail incorporates gin, chai-spiced yogurt, Jägermeister, lime and egg white. Zola's Christmas Eve menu includes a choice of prime rib or a salmon, prawn and scallop cake, smoked trout salad or leek and

potato soup, flourless chocolate cake or truffled cheese from Nicasio Valley.

Reservations are available on OpenTable. Keep an eye out for the upcoming New Year's Eve menu there.

zolapaloalto.com
565 and 585 Bryant St., Palo Alto
650-521-0651

Email Associate Digital Editor Sara Hayden at *peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com*.

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at *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.

HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS

The Ladera Country Shopper Merchant's Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 11th * 11 am-12:30 pm

Konditorei: Photos with Santa

First 20 people receive Konditorei gift card and *
Surprise gifts for kids for the first 20 people

~Plus~

Ladera Garden & Gifts: Holiday Planting
Bianchini's Market: Candy
UPS Store: Holiday Cards – First 20 people receive gift cards worth 100 copies

Ladera Cleaners and Diane's Beauty: Ivy's Nails, Holiday Candy
Chase Bank: Cookies, Drinks, and Gifts

787 SOUTHAMPTON DRIVE, PALO ALTO



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Kathleen Wilson
650.207.2017
DRE 00902501

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Erika Demma
650.740.2970
DRE 01230766

625 COTTON STREET, MENLO PARK



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Katy Thielke Straser
650.888.2389
DRE 01308970

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Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron & James Steele Team
650.465.5958
DRE 00946687 | DRE 00952657 | DRE 01872027

555 BYRON STREET, PALO ALTO



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Erika Demma
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