

The Almanac

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

APRIL 29, 2022 | VOL. 57 NO. 34



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Atherton holds town's first Earth Day Festival

Bowling with electric leaf blowers, a bike-powered VW Beetle and more

By Angela Swartz

Armed with electric leaf blowers, Atherton council members, police Chief Steve McCulley and town staff propelled inflatable balls with the goal of knocking over giant, blow-up bowling pins in a standout activity during the town's first Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 23.

Aside from some laughs, the game's intent was to demonstrate how quiet, powerful and odor-free electric blowers can be (their sound is akin to a hair dryer), according to event organizers.

"(Some) 3.8% of the town's greenhouse gas emissions come from gas-powered garden equipment, which is more than the town's combined emissions from wastewater and garbage processing for Atherton, so eliminating gas-powered blowers would have a surprisingly

significant impact," Stacy Miles, a member of the environmental programs committee, which hosted the festival, said in an email. Last month, members of her committee shared their frustration that the council isn't doing more to limit use of gas-powered leaf blowers given their "health effects and climate risks."

The festival at Holbrook-Palmer Park "exceeded even my most optimistic expectations, so I'm riding high," Miles said. "I've received a number of kind emails over the last few days encouraging us to do it again, which is the best compliment."

There are any number of ways to make a difference, and Atherton's event tried to highlight a variety of them, she said.

"As we're coming out of the pandemic, I think everyone is craving a greater sense of community," she said in a Tuesday, April 26, email. "And, Atherton

See **EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**, page 28



Adam Pardee

Atherton Deputy City Manager and City Clerk Anthony Suber and his son use an electric leaf blower to "bowl" with an inflatable bowling ball and pins in a contest with other city officials during Atherton's Earth Day Festival at Holbrook-Palmer Park on April 23.

Neighbor's video captures moment gunshots ring out on residential street

Menlo Park police are investigating exchange of gunfire between SUV and house's occupants

By Lloyd Lee

Multiple gun shots were exchanged between two groups near the Belle Haven neighborhood on Monday evening, according to the Menlo Park Police Department, and the attack was captured by a neighbor's surveillance camera.

The incident occurred near the 1200 block of Windermere Avenue. In a timestamped video from a Belle Haven neighborhood resident, at around 8:20 p.m. on April 25, a sports utility vehicle can be seen

slowly creeping up the road before stopping in front of a house across the street.

About 30 shots can be heard firing, with the muzzle flash clearly visible in the video.

About a dozen shots of return fire can be heard as the vehicle drives off. A woman's voice in the background says, "Get inside."

Officers were on a routine patrol in the area and immediately responded after hearing sounds of "apparent automatic gunfire," police said.

No one was injured during the incident, according to the

press release. Officers searched the area but did not find any gunshot victims.

Police said they believe that this was a targeted incident and not a random act of violence. Because it's an ongoing investigation, no additional information was released, said Nicole Acker, public information officer for the Menlo Park police department, on Tuesday, April 26.

The resident who captured the video footage emailed it to the city, along with a

See **GUNSHOTS**, page 28



2022-04-25 20:20:45
Via City of Menlo Park website

A resident's surveillance camera captured the muzzle flash from gunshots coming out of a vehicle on Windermere Avenue in Menlo Park on Monday night.

INSIDE

ARTS 12 | FOOD 24 | VIEWPOINT 33

Read up-to-the-minute news on AlmanacNews.com



FINE AMERICAN CLASSICS
MP/CA

MENLO TAVERN

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TAVERN

650-330-2790 | 100 EL CAMINO REAL, MENLO PARK

menlotavern.com

**Final
weekend
to vote!**

VOTE FOR US

Menlo Park Barber Shop

650-391-9008
2100 Avy Ave
Menlo Park, CA

www.menloparkbarbershop.com

Ladera Garden and Gifts

3130 Alpine Road,
Portola Valley
650.854.3850

2029 Ralston Ave,
Belmont
650.232.7154

Your continued trust & support is very much appreciated

**Best Nursery
Best Florist
Best Gift Shop**

Full Service Nursery and
Premiere Home Decor

Vote for Us!

Lulu's

Comida Fresca...Salsa Caliente!

- Best Take Out
- Best Casual Dining
- Best Dining with Kids
- Best Mexican Restaurant
- Best Outdoor Dining

Lulu's on The Alameda
3539 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park
650-854-TACD (8226)

www.lulsmexicanfood.com

NEXT STOP

It's time to vote!

VISIT
AlmanacNews.com/readers_choice/

FOOD & DRINK

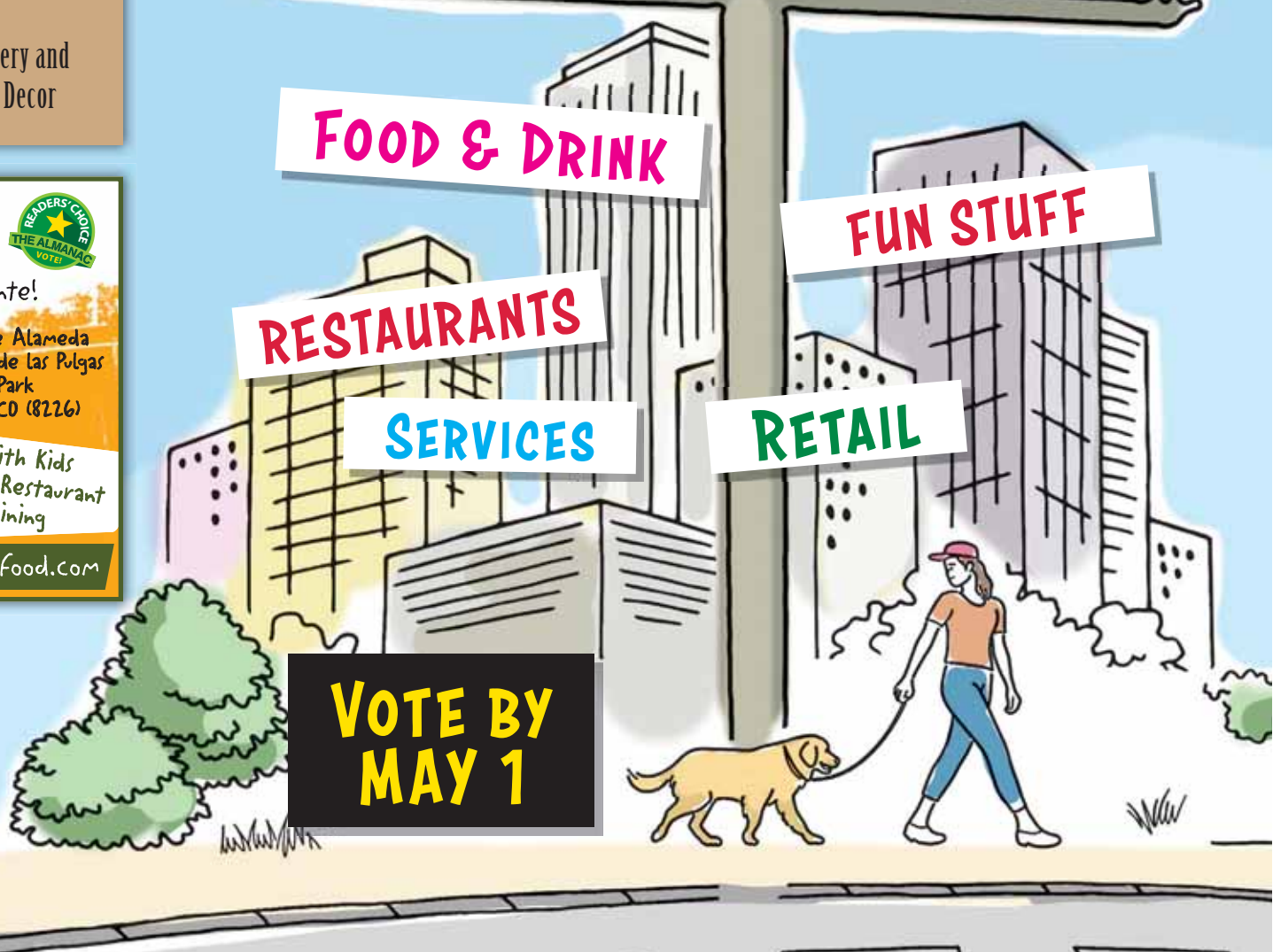
FUN STUFF

RESTAURANTS

SERVICES

RETAIL

**VOTE BY
MAY 1**



94027

ATHERTON



A ONE-OF-A-KIND CONTEMPORARY ESTATE
 81Atherton.com Offered at \$23,500,000



81 ATHERTON AVENUE, ATHERTON

- / Contemporary masterpiece completed in 2017
- / Architecture by Swatt Miers | Builder Gary Lencioni | Landscape Architect Bernard Trainor
- / 5 bedroom main residence on 1.06 acre
- / 1-bedroom, 1-bath guest house
- / Pool / Spa / Sport court / Playground / Vegetable and fruit garden

COMPASS



GULLIXSON.COM



BRENT 650 888 4898
 DRE 01329216
 BRENT@GULLIXSON.COM

MARY 650 888 0860
 DRE 00373961
 MARY@GULLIXSON.COM

Compass is a RE broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License #01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

RANKED #1 COMPASS SMALL TEAM
 IN CALIFORNIA AND #5 SMALL TEAM
 IN THE NATION, PER *The Real
 Trends Report*, JUNE 2021.



OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4PM

Stylish, Contemporary Indoor/Outdoor Living in Ladera

855 LA MESA DRIVE · PORTOLA VALLEY

Offered at \$4,995,000 | 4 Beds | 3 Baths | ±2,340 sf | Lot ±13,500 sf



FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT 855LAMESA.COM



THE DREYFUS GROUP

Golden Gate | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

#1 AGENT SILICON VALLEY

Michael Dreyfus
Golden Gate Sotheby's
International Realty

**TOP 100 AGENT GROUP
NATIONWIDE**
WSJ / Real Trends



Michael Dreyfus

650.485.3476
m.dreyfus@ggsir.com
Lic. #01121795



Noelle Queen

650.427.9211
n.queen@ggsir.com
Lic. #01917593

Visit www.Dreyfus.Group for more • Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Striking nurses from Stanford and Lucile Packard Children's hospitals demonstrate on Welch Road on April 25.

Nurses at Stanford, Packard hospitals go on strike for first time in 2 decades

Union calls action 'the last resort'

By Sue Dremann

Thousands of nurses from Stanford and Lucile Packard Children's hospitals staged a raucous protest on the hospital campus on Monday, April 25, during the opening salvo of their strike.

The nurses, wearing the blue T-shirts with the name of their union, the Committee for Recognition of Nursing Achievement (CRONA), set up picket lines along Welch Road near Stanford's new hospital

at 500 Pasteur Drive and along the street to Packard Hospital.

Frustrated by failed negotiations to renew their contract, which ended March 31, the nurses said they are tired of being ignored, particularly after more than two years of being on the front lines of COVID-19 care. Their demands include greater staffing levels, mental health and wellness support, increased wages and benefits.

Jackie Campbell, a strike leader who is on the union's

negotiating team, said she worked at Stanford during the last strike 20 years ago.

"We seem to be fighting for the same sort of things, including safe patient staffing," she said. "We have some of the sickest patients in the country and in the world. The nurses here are highly specialized. Every time we lose them, we lose the ability to care for patients. Each time, we have to take more time out to train

See **STRIKE**, page 9

How to register your child for transitional kindergarten

By Angela Swartz

With state legislation taking effect this fall that requires all school districts to offer transitional kindergarten, local districts have opened up registration to their programs for next school year.

The law requires districts to add free, and optional, transitional kindergarten (TK) programs for children who turn 5

between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2, 2023.

The **Menlo Park City School District** describes TK as blending "preschool and readiness standards for kindergarten with a focus on hands-on, experiential learning and play."

The district's new TK program is set to open in fall 2022, offering a half-day program with morning or afternoon sessions. Thirty-eight students were enrolled in the new program as of April 14, according to

a staff presentation made to the district's governing board. Menlo Park district staff estimated earlier this year that about 250 to 300 students will enroll.

Based on current enrollment demands, the district will be offering TK at one centralized location: Laurel Lower Campus in Atherton. A TK Parent Information Night is set for May 25 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

See **TK REGISTRATION**, page 10

Menlo Park's most expensive home listing is \$26.5M

Arbor Road mansion's asking price is more than \$11M over previous record-holder

By Lloyd Lee

A home in Menlo Park may have broken a new record in the city with its asking price: \$26.5 million.

"The house is currently on the market and the most expensive home for sale ever in Menlo Park," said Judy Citron, a Compass real estate agent overseeing the listing.

Located in the West Menlo neighborhood at 1340 Arbor Road, the mansion has five bedrooms and seven bathrooms, and totals 8,648 square feet on a 1.49-acre lot.

It's not the largest Menlo Park home ever to be listed. But it has growth potential — for another \$7.85 million, a half-acre piece of adjacent land can be purchased to expand the size of the lot to just over 2 acres.

"You can build a compound if you want," Citron said. "You can build multiple structures, you can build a tennis court. There's optionality with this house and the property."

For anyone asking what makes the home worth more than \$26 million, Citron points to the large open concept of the home, where the kitchen, family room and breakfast room all flow together. It also leads to a yard that she said looks like a park.

"It's incredibly expansive with beautiful, mature landscaping and perimeter trees," making the home feel private, she said. Citron described it as an Atherton-like property but with the convenience of being a couple blocks from Menlo Park's downtown.

Home values in Menlo Park in general have recently skyrocketed, said Citron, who is a longtime local resident. Part of that could

be due to the pandemic.

"It used to be that Palo Alto was the end-all, be-all in real estate," she said. "And I think what COVID did was people started to reevaluate what the meaning of home is."

Across the Peninsula, real estate prices have reached record highs. The median price for single-family homes in Palo Alto reached \$3.71 million, according to the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister paper. In Menlo Park, property prices increased 28% from 2021 to 2022, reaching a median home price for a single-family home for \$3.47 million.

Still, even with skyrocketing home values, Citron agreed that this home is an outlier.

"It is a one-of-a-kind property that you can't replicate," she said.

The structure was designed by Jude Kirik, an architect at Pacific Peninsula Architecture, and built in 2012.

The home underwent major fixes over the past decade or so, Kirik said, completely refurbishing the old home and adding family rooms, garages, a full shell of a basement and more.

Architecturally, Kirik said he would describe it as a mix between the transitional and Mediterranean style with its roof pitches and window fenestrations.

Citron declined to comment on the home's ownership history.

The previous record holder for the most expensive Menlo Park property was \$14.7 million for a seven-bedroom, seven-bathroom home at 1394 San Mateo Drive. The asking price is now \$17.5 million. Citron also holds the listing on that property and said she was involved in its development. ■



Courtesy Todd Clancey

A five-bedroom home on Arbor Road in Menlo Park is the city's most expensive listing, with an asking price of \$26.5 million. Its listing agent says it's the highest asking price in the city's history.

Buyers of Gold, Silver & Unwanted Jewelry

- Fine Jewelry, Gemstones & Custom Design Services
 - Certified Estate Jewelry Appraisals
- Jewelry & Watch Repairs Done on Site**

**MAYERS
JEWELERS**
Family Owned & Operated Since 1969

650.364.4030

2323 Broadway • Redwood City

Free Parking Available in Jerson Street Garage (1-1/2hrs)



CSM is Celebrating its Centennial!

Learn about our history and how to get involved: collegeofsanmateo.edu/100



College of San Mateo

embarcadero media

Join our team!

We're looking for talented,
highly motivated and dynamic people

Full-time Reporter

Embarcadero Media is seeking a full-time reporter with a passion for local journalism. We are an award-winning online news service covering the vibrant city of Mountain View, the home of Google and NASA Ames Research Center, in the heart of Silicon Valley. We're looking for someone with excellent writing and reporting skills, who is self-motivated and eager to learn, and is familiar with the Mountain View area. Being bilingual in Spanish is a plus.

The Mountain View Voice Online is part of Embarcadero Media, which includes the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and three news clips to Editor Andrea Gemmet at editor@mv-voice.com.



450 Cambridge Avenue | Palo Alto | 650.326.8210
MountainViewOnline.com | PaloAltoOnline.com | TheAlmanacOnline.com

Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,
Atherton, Portola Valley,
and Woodside for over 50 years

NEWSROOM

Editor

Andrea Gemmet (223-6537)

Assistant Editor

Kevin Forestieri (223-6535)

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman (223-6515)

Staff Writers

Lloyd Lee (223-6526)

Angela Swartz (223-6529)

Embarcadero Media Staff Writers

Sue Dremann (223-6518), Zoe Morgan

(223-6519), Gennady Sheyner (223-6513),

Leah Worthington (223-6533)

Contributors

Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

Special Sections Editor

Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

Chief Visual Journalist

Magali Gauthier (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers

Linda Atilano, Kevin Legnon, Paul

Llewellyn, Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer

Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

Display Advertising Sales (223-6570)

Real Estate Manager

Neal Fine (223-6583)

Legal Advertising

Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda (223-6597)

Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin (223-6584)

The Almanac is published
every Friday at

**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions
to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Email letters** to:
Letters@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Advertising:** (650) 854-2626
Advertising Fax: (650) 223-7570

■ **Classified Advertising:** (650) 854-0858

■ **Submit Obituaries:**
AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to AlmanacNews.com/subscribe to start supporting The Almanac today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558.

Copyright ©2022 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

To request delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



CRIME BRIEF

Menlo Park pedestrian dies in early morning collision

A Menlo Park man was fatally hit by a car early Monday morning, April 25, in East Palo Alto, police said.

The collision was reported at about 5:09 a.m. on East Bayshore Road at Oakwood Drive.

The man, wearing dark clothing, was pushing a shopping cart in the southbound lane of traffic and was hit by a car that was traveling in the same direction, according to a news release from police. He died at the scene. The San Mateo County Coroner's Office identified him as 71-year-old Juan Barrera Gomez of Menlo Park.

The driver of the car remained at the scene and was cooperating with police.

Barrera Gomez's church has set up a GoFundMe page to collect donations for his funeral expenses at gofundme.com/f/juan-barrera.

Anyone who witnessed the collision or has information about it is asked to contact the East Palo Alto Police Department's Sgt. M. Lualemaga at 650-853-3160, Monday through Friday during regular business hours. Anonymous tips may be sent via email to epa@tipnow.org, by text message to 650-409-6792 or as voicemail messages at 650-409-6792.

—Bay City News Service

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Portola Valley neighborhood clean up Saturday

Portola Valley will host a neighborhood clean-up day on April 30, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Town Center, 765 Portola Road. With some exceptions, the program accepts furniture, appliances, construction debris, green waste and electronic equipment that is no longer working.

The exceptions include liquids, tires, oil- or gas-fueled space heaters, fuel cans and engine parts, hazardous wastes, green waste that includes poison oak or poison ivy, and large amounts of rock, dirt asphalt or concrete.

The event is free but participants will need to bring a copy of their GreenWaste garbage bill or the mailer insert as proof of residency.

The town notes that the lines were a lot shorter after 10 a.m. at previous events.

Go to portolavalley.net for more information.

Animal and pet education event in Atherton

The Atherton Police Department, the Peninsula Humane Society, and the San Mateo County Office of Animal Control will host an educational event on animal safety on Saturday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.

The groups will be providing information on animal control services and programs, volunteer opportunities, animal rescue and control, pet licensing, and veterinarian information.

Mental health scholar to speak at Sacred Heart Schools

Stanford University visiting professor Michael Lindsey, an expert in child and adolescent mental health, will discuss the rise of suicide attempts among Black youth on May 4 at Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton (SHS), according to a school press release.

The presentation aims to raise awareness about mental health struggles in young people and provide access to the community on better comprehending what it means to acknowledge and protect young Black lives.

"During the course of my work I have found that mental health struggles aren't always recognized as such in our young people," Lindsey said in a statement. "I hope to illuminate ways for students and their families to understand each other better and have the tools to support each other in having difficult conversations about mental health."

James Everitt, Sacred Heart's chief mission, culture and strategy officer, said the discussion will provide a safe space for SHS community members — and the greater community — to engage with an expert on the topic of adolescent suicide prevention.



Michael Lindsey

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 32



File photo

Woodside Elementary School third graders perform the May Pole dance on May 3, 2014.

Woodside's May Day parade is back, in time for its 100th anniversary

By Angela Swartz

After the COVID-19 pandemic derailed the past two May Day parade festivities in Woodside, it's only fitting that for its return on its 100th anniversary on May 7, the theme would be "homecoming."

The day will kick off at 8:30 a.m. with a fun run organized by the Woodside Recreation Committee at Woodside Village Church.

Beverly Iverson and Tina Adolph are grand marshals this year. As in years past, the Royal Kindergarten Court, chosen from the 2021-22 kindergarten class at Woodside Elementary School, will ride in on the Woodside Fire Protection District's vintage truck in the centennial event.

Following the parade, the school's third grade class will lead the May Pole dance in the school's amphitheater. May

Day organizers will hand out the Woodside Elward Thomas Citizen of the Year award, to an individual who has contributed constantly to the school community.

There will be homecoming reunions at Woodside Elementary's Sellman parking lot at 11:30 a.m. At 11:45 a.m. there will be lunch from local Woodside eateries, along with four food trucks in the lot.

The town held its first May Day in 1922, taking a route east from Woodside Elementary to Cañada and Woodside roads, returning to the school for the May Pole dance and community picnic, according to the book "Images of America: Woodside."

The event is sponsored by the Woodside School Parent Teacher Association.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at Woodside Elementary, 3195 Woodside Road. As in past years, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department will close

Woodside Road from Cañada Road to Kings Mountain/Albion and Miramontes roads at 8 a.m. Since maneuvering through crowds and cars can be difficult, attendees are encouraged to arrive early.

To nominate someone for the citizen of the year award, email woodsideCOY@yahoo.com with the following information: the person's name, a short description of why this person deserves to be honored and your name and phone number.

Send photos from past May Days to WoodsideMayDay-100th@yahoo.com.

Email May Day Parade Chairman Kari Daheb karidaheb@gmail.com with any questions about the event.

For more on the celebration, go to woodsideschool.us and visit the PTA events page. ■

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



Courtesy Christina Hengehold



Adam Pardee

Left: Woodside Elementary School's Royal Kindergarten Court for the 100th May Day poses with the parade's grand marshals. Bottom row, from left: Soren, Ermes, Isabella and Parker. Top row, from left: Beverly Iverson, Eita, Eliana and Tina Adolph. Right: The Woodside fire department hosted the kindergarten royal court during the May Day parade in Woodside on May 4, 2019.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Are Appraisals Keeping Up With the Market?

Dear Monica:

In talking to my lender, I found out that some appraisals lately have come in at less than purchase price. Should buyers especially be worried about this?

Jack B.

Dear Jack:

It's true that some appraisals are coming in lower than the contract price. In our somewhat overheated market, this is not a surprising turn. Interest rates have risen sharply and even though employment is strong, there is negative economic news making lenders be more cautious. Know that if you are a buyer with no contingencies, you should be prepared to make a higher down payment if the property doesn't appraise at the contract price.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

Join us for a Garden Party

2022 Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement

Sunday, May 15
3:00-5:00pm

You are invited to come enjoy appetizers, wine and music in the private garden setting of an estate home as we celebrate these outstanding community members:

- LaDoris Hazzard Cordell*
- Gary & Jeff Dunker*
- Annette Glanckopf*
- Barbara Gross*
- Judy & George Marcus*

Tickets: \$85

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation in honor of one of our Lifetimes Achievers, visit www.avenidas.org or call (650) 289-5445.

 **Avenidas**
Re-Inventing Aging



Candidates for board of supervisors aren't fans of defunding police

By Lloyd Lee

During a candidate forum for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' race held in Half Moon Bay on April 21, the four candidates, all Democrats, broached topics perennial not just to residents of District 3 they hope to represent, but to most of California — from traffic to public education to affordable housing.

The race to secure a spot in the November general election to represent District 3's 27 jurisdictions, including Portola Valley, Woodside and West Menlo Park, is nonpartisan.

But in a blue state stronghold like San Mateo County, voters might expect candidates to hold one or more progressive angles on some core issues, no matter where they might place themselves on the Democratic spectrum.

Laura Parmer-Lohan, a San Carlos City Council member, wants to look at wraparound services to end homelessness. Ray Mueller, a Menlo Park council member, calls for equity in public education. Steven Booker, a former U.S. Air Force member, supports workforce housing for teachers and other essential workers. Virginia Chang Kiraly, a recent former Republican who calls herself a "fiscal watchdog," said that she wants to turn government property into more housing.

"I believe the government can do a lot better job in terms of efficiency in uses of their property,"



Lloyd Lee

Candidates for the District 3 seat on San Mateo County Board of Supervisors speak in a forum at Half Moon Bay Library on April 21.

Chang Kiraly said.

But when it comes to defunding the police, that's when candidates all drew a line.

Moderator Aisha Baro posed a question that she said had been at the top of mind for many: "What changes, if any, would you make to how the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office operates in the coasts communities? Do you support the establishment of a community oversight committee of the Sheriff's Office?"

"I'm not a fan of defunding the police department," Booker said.

The term that called for local governments to shift funding away from law enforcement agencies and towards public safety and community resources was championed by protesters starting in May 2020, after George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer.

Cities across the nation, especially those in the Bay Area, made

pledges to reform their local law enforcement agencies or, at the very least, re-examine funding decisions. By March 2021, more than 20 major cities reported direct cuts to their police departments, according to a report from the Guardian. A total of \$840 million in direct cuts were made to U.S. police departments and at least \$160 million were invested into community services, the article states, citing a study from the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

But the movement has lost momentum. A month after protests erupted, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors passed a budget that set aside \$1 million for the sheriff's office to purchase 310 new Tasers.

In an interview, Booker explained that he felt the need to emphasize he doesn't support defunding the police because he's often associated

with the movement.

"Because I'm Black, everybody associated individuals like me with Black Lives Matter," he said. He clarified that he supports some of Black Lives Matter's calls for greater police transparency and accountability.

District 3 candidates at the forum agreed that changes have to be made in the Sheriff's Office, but doing so so requires greater investment. All of them backed more funding for training in mental health crisis cases, for example.

"I do think that law enforcement is under a lot of pressure ... but at the same time they are not trained adequately for addressing mental health issues," Chang Kiraly said, later adding that the Sheriff's Office is also not staffed well enough.

Palmer-Lohan, who pointed out that trust between police and communities of color and undocumented workers has eroded, said that she was called upon as mayor of San Carlos to advocate for funding for mental health training and was pleased that the county sheriff's department received \$350,000 in federal funds for its Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training Program.

Mueller, who is endorsed by the Menlo Park Police Association, said that the county should invest in surveillance technology that may help decrease the number of interactions between police and community members. In a brief interview, he added that he would also want investments in

technology to make data on who gets stopped by law enforcement more transparent.

"We have to go ahead and make investments to (the Sheriff's Office) to build that trust in the community," he said, adding that it needs funding to respond to mental health calls and the ability to respond to more domestic violence calls.

Booker said that citizens have a right to know what happens in their local law enforcement agencies.

His demand for transparency and community oversight is informed by a fatal incident with Chinedu Okobi, an unarmed jaywalker who died in Millbrae from cardiac arrest after being struck by Tasers by several deputies. A lawyer representing his family claimed that the Okobi was stopped due to racial profiling. An internal investigation cleared the four deputies and one sergeant involved in the incident.

But when it comes to defunding the police? "It was bad messaging," he said. "It puts our law enforcement on the defensive."

The forum also focused on addressing issues specific to coasts communities, including affordable housing, traffic, funding in local school districts and how candidates would support those in unincorporated areas who don't have other representation.

The primary election will be held June 7. The top two candidates will move on to the general election on Nov. 8. ■

Menlo Park council appoints two new planning commissioners

By Lloyd Lee

Menlo Park City Council appointed two new planning commissioners on Tuesday as the group's chair Michael Doran and commissioner Camille Kennedy conclude their terms at the end of this month.

Linh Dan Do, a Rice University graduate with a bachelor's degree in architecture, and David Thomas, the current chair of the city's parks and recreation commission, will join the Menlo Park Planning Commission on May 1.

The planning commission not only makes recommendations to the City Council on conditional development permits, zoning ordinance amendments and Below Market Rate housing agreements in projects, among other areas, but also can approve developments that require a use permit, architectural control review and an environmental impact report — a state-mandated study of a project.

The planning commission is

currently reviewing the draft environmental impact report for the large Willow Village project by Meta (formerly known as Facebook), which will build retail, offices, a park and potentially 1,730 housing units. Recently, the commission approved an eight-story mixed-use building with 158 rental units and about 15,000 square feet of office and commercial space.

During her interview with the City Council on April 19, Dan Do said that she was particularly interested in joining the commission because the city is currently undergoing rapid development, while it also updates its housing plans for 2023-31.

"This is such a critical time for Menlo Park. Many of us came to live here because of its neighborhood, it's friendly, it's accessible and it's walkable, but with that amount of change, it could go well, it could go less well," she said. "So it seems like a critical time to get involved."

A District 3 resident, Dan Do

moved to Menlo Park in 2018. She wrote in her application that she's had many conversations with families who say there's a "prevalent sense of feeling transitory due to the prohibitively high cost of purchasing a home."

Thomas, a two-year Menlo Park resident and machine learning engineer at a financial tech company, will end his term on the city's parks and recreation commission, where he currently serves as the chair, on April 30.

In his application, Thomas wrote that the commission is facing many challenges, citing the "significant jump in the housing required by the Regional Housing Needs Allocation," changes to El Camino Real and the future use of the U.S. Geological Survey campus, as well as an "increasing number of homes" that are being remodeled.



David Thomas

Thomas said during his interview with the City Council that he sees a gap in the commission in its representation of renters and has personally experienced the challenges of finding a place to live in Menlo Park.

"Trying to find a way for my wife and I to live in this area and have a child — it was really difficult, and it kind of made me want to get more involved," said Thomas, who also ran for housing commission last year.

Dan Do and Thomas will serve four-year terms on the planning commission, which end April 30, 2026.

The City Council also made appointments for five other advisory bodies in Menlo Park: the complete streets, environmental quality, housing, library and parks and recreation commissions. The council did not appoint a member to the finance and audit committee.

The Complete Streets Commission appointees are: Sally Cole, incumbent commissioner and

former Menlo Park Heritage Tree Task Force member; and Christopher Kollmann, Menlo Park Fire Protection District instructor.

Environmental Quality Commission appointees are: Tom Kabat, incumbent commissioner and board member of Carbon Free Silicon Valley; Nancy Larocca Hedley, 18-year Menlo Park resident; Jeffrey Lin, former Berkeley Sustainability Committee member; and Jeff Schmidt, member of Menlo Park climate team of 350 Silicon Valley.

Housing Commission appointees: Jackelyn Campos, outreach specialist at Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City; and Adriana Walker, member of Beechwood School parent advisory board.

Library Commission appointees: Alan Cohen, incumbent commissioner; and Sarah Zasslow, 29-year Menlo Park resident.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Kelsey Theriault, former educator at Woodside and Sequoia high schools. ■

Menlo College partners with College of San Mateo on transfer program

The '2 + 2' program allows students to complete their undergraduate degrees

By Angela Swartz

Menlo College in Atherton will soon guarantee admission to business graduates of a local community college.

Menlo College, which had about 750 students enrolled as of last fall, announced April 19 that it will offer College of San Mateo (CSM) students the chance to complete a bachelor's degree in business at Menlo with only two additional years of study.

The program rolls out during the 2022-23 school year. Accounting and business majors will also be offered a two-year scholarship to Menlo up to \$30,000 total (\$15,000 per year).

"Menlo College and College of San Mateo are thrilled for the students and their families who will benefit from this program,"

said Menlo College President Steven Weiner and CSM President Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza in a joint statement. "Many CSM graduates have already successfully transferred to, and graduated from, Menlo College and gone on to see career success in Silicon Valley and beyond. It is time to solidify a seamless transition between our two institutions so that even more students can follow this proven path to success."

CSM's accounting and business courses will meet Menlo College's course requirements, noted CSM Dean of Business and Technology Francisco Gamez.

"This means that not only is there a financial incentive for our students to attend Menlo College, but academically more course units will transfer and meet key major requirements at Menlo College," he said in



Courtesy Menlo College

Menlo College will offer guaranteed admission to business school students from the College of San Mateo. From left: Menlo College Dean of the School of Business Mouwafac Sidaoui; CSM graduates and current Menlo students Raymond Juballa and Moncerrat Barriga; and CSM Dean of Business and Technology Francisco Gamez.

a statement. "This will allow CSM students to seamlessly earn their bachelor's degree at Menlo College."

So called "2+2" degree programs are a pathway to earning a bachelor's degree. Students spend

their first two years at a community college to earn an associate degree and then transfer as juniors to a four-year college to complete a bachelor's degree.

With this new agreement, CSM business graduates must

complete their associate's degree with a minimum GPA of 2.0, according to the colleges. ■

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

STRIKE

continued from page 5

new staff and then they leave for somewhere else. If the hospitals can't recruit and retain people, we are training them for nothing. It all affects patient care," she said.

Colleen Borges, CRONA's president, said the nurses are also demanding for appropriate staffing levels based on acuity care, which is higher levels of care for sicker patients. Nurses want more flexible staffing and better pay to accommodate times of higher patient acuity. Staffing ratios are set by the state, but they are minimum staffing ratios, she said.

Borges questioned the hospitals' claim that they have hired enough replacement staff for the strike to maintain patient care levels.

"We can't even fill the holes that we have now. I don't know how they are having enough staffing. They don't need to staff with traveling nurses who are getting paid twice what we get paid. Instead, invest in your nurses. We are the biggest return on their investment," she said.

Campbell said that mental health and well-being support are also "a big deal" — especially for nurses working in the intensive care unit. The last two years of COVID-19 pandemic and patient deaths have made the emotional strain on nurses even more acute.

"Losing a patient takes an emotional toll and then the nurses are expected to turn around and take care of another

(critically ill) patient the next day," Campbell said.

The nurses want a program that is "not just a facade of mental health care. Right now, it is just a facade. If somebody is in crisis, you don't want to be calling 14 or 15 phone numbers. You want to be able to get someone on the phone right away," she said.

Borges said the nurses want mental health counseling that is more than the six sessions the hospital currently offers and for the hospitals to defray the cost of private counseling. The nurses also want access to their accrued time off when they need it so they can rest and recharge. Instead, the hospitals want the nurses to be even more available, she said.

While hospital leaders claim the nurses are among the highest paid in the country, Borges said if that is so, it's a spurious argument given the Bay Area's stratospheric cost of housing and cost of living. The nurses put in 12- to 15-hour shifts at times and many must travel an hour or more to get to work, she said.

Although the union did win safer conditions a couple of years ago with dedicated sleeping rooms for on-call nurses who were previously sleeping in their cars, Borges said the nurses are still driving long distances from communities outside of the area where they can afford to live and the hospital doesn't have to provide a wage that could allow them to live near where they work.

As a pediatric oncology nurse who has worked at the hospitals

for 27 years, Borges said at some point she will be retiring, but she and the other nurses are fighting for young people who want to enter the profession, such as her daughter, who will come after them. What the nurses gain now will influence the future of patient care, she said.

"Nursing in this country is in trouble. Nurses are leaving the profession faster than we can replace them," Borges said.

"The nurses are tired," said Campbell, as the nurses around her waved signs that read, "From heroes to zeros," in reference to the initial wave of thanks and support they received during the start of the pandemic. They also want medical health care coverage after retirement.

"We spend our whole lives taking care of people and when we retire we want to be able to be taken care of," she said.

The nurses said they will stay on strike for as long as it takes. The union had a bargaining session scheduled for April 26.

Stanford released a statement on Monday from Dale E. Beatty, chief nurse executive and vice president of patient care services for Stanford Health Care, and Jesus Ceperos, senior vice president of patient care and chief nursing officer for Stanford Children's Health. They referred to a website, StanfordPackard-Voice.com, which discusses the hospitals' latest proposal to CRONA.

"Both hospitals remain open, and we have secured the services of qualified, experienced replacement nurses to work alongside other members of our

patient care team to continue providing the safest, highest quality care to our patients," they said.

The strike has caused the hospitals to reduce their volume of services in some areas and to reschedule elective procedures, however.

"We respect our nurses' legal right to take part in a work stoppage but are deeply disappointed that the union chose this path. A union work stoppage is a serious event that is disruptive to our patients, families, and colleagues. The impact can be deep, long lasting, and costly.

"The wellbeing of our nurses and all our staff is a core priority for our hospitals. One of the ways we do this is by ensuring that our nurse-to-patient staffing ratios remain above California standards and are adjusted to patient acuity, which we have done throughout the pandemic. Overtime is entirely voluntary and our overtime utilization is consistently lower than other hospitals nationally," they said.

They said they have worked diligently to reach a mutually acceptable contract agreement and have made meaningful progress at the bargaining table so far.

"We've offered an enriched comprehensive proposal that features only enhancements for our nurses, including wage increases that will keep our nurses among the highest paid nurses in the nation, greater retention bonuses in the first year, funds to help repay loans incurred while seeking a nursing degree, increased

access to paid time off for new nurses, and a new program for retention-incentive payments for our nurses working in units with higher vacancy rates and hard-to-fill positions. We want to reach (an) agreement with CRONA, and we believe we demonstrated that with our latest offer."

The hospitals defended their decision to cut pay and health coverage to any striking nurses.

"Standard national practice is that employer-paid benefits are only provided to employees who are actively working." Striking nurses are eligible to continue their health coverage through COBRA, a federal program that allows employees to temporarily extend their group health benefits.

"This standard practice is not unique to our hospitals and applies to any of our employees who are not working, are on unpaid status, and are not on an approved leave." ■

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com

LEHUA GREENMAN



Lessons from a Tree "Remember your roots, Go out on a limb, Be content w/your natural beauty, Shelter others, Reach for the sky, Stay Grounded."

Happy Arbor Day!

650.245.1845 COMPASS



NOTICE REQUESTING BIDS

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT PROJECT

BAYFRONT PARK SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT

Sealed proposals for the BAYFRONT PARK SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT will be received at the West Bay Sanitary District, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025 until **2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 11, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bids shall be labeled "West Bay Sanitary District, Proposal for "BAYFRONT PARK SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT."

The Work will include the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment, and other appurtenances for new installation and replacement of sanitary sewer mains by Open Trench Construction, installation of a telecommunication main by Open Trench Construction, and installation of a recycled water main by Horizontal Directional Drilling Construction and open cut method, as indicated on the project plans.

The contract documents may be inspected at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District, 500 Laurel St, Menlo Park, California 94025; San Francisco Builders Exchange, Attn: Deanna Johnson, 850 So. Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94110; Peninsula Builders Exchange, Attn: Andrea Nettles, 282 Harbor Blvd, Belmont, California 94002; Santa Clara Builders Exchange, Attn: Kanani Fonseca, 400 Reed Street, Santa Clara, California 95050; Bay Area Builders Exchange Attn: Jeannie Kwan, 3055 Alvarado Street, San Leandro, California 94577; Construction Bidboard Incorporated, Attn: Plan Room, 11622 El Camino Real, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92130.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District upon payment of a check or money order in the amount of \$60.00 for each set. The check or money order must be issued to the West Bay Sanitary District. All payments are nonrefundable.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at **10:00 am on Wednesday, April 27, 2022** via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87868575187?pwd=b2dRMUtWYWxRdW9zOTNXN09mTHNpQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 6857 5187

Passcode: 051489

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87868575187#,,,,*051489# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,87868575187#,,,,*051489# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 878 6857 5187

Passcode: 051489

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or a proposal guaranty bond payable to the order of the West Bay Sanitary District in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid as a guaranty that the bidder will execute the contract if it be awarded to him in conformity with the proposal. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in an amount not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and a labor and material bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

The District ("Owner") reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to determine which proposal is, in the judgment of the District, the lowest responsible bid of a responsible bidder or group of bidders and which proposal should be accepted in the best interest of the District. The District also reserves the right to waive any informalities in any proposal or bid.

Bid proposals received after the time announced for the opening will not be considered. No bidder may withdraw his proposal after the time announced for the opening, or before award and execution of the contract, unless the award is delayed for a period exceeding forty-five (45) days.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Contract Code Section 22300, and upon the request and at the expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract may be deposited with the District, or with a state or federally chartered bank as escrow agent who shall deliver such securities to the Contractor upon satisfactory completion of the contract. Only those securities listed in Government Code Section 16430 or other securities approved by the District are eligible for deposit. The deposit of securities with an escrow agent or the District shall be made in the form and on such terms and conditions as the District may require to protect the interest of the District in the event of the Contractor's default. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities that are deposited and shall receive any interest thereon.

Pertaining to Sections 1770, 1773, and 1773.1 of the California Labor Code the successful bidder shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. Copies of such prevailing rates are on file at the District office of the West Bay Sanitary District and which copies shall be made available to any interested party on request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of such determinations at each job site.

In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code Section 3300, the District has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class A License or a combination of Class C-12 "Earthwork and Paving", C-34 "Pipeline" and C-42 "Sanitation System" licenses at the time this contract is awarded. Failure to possess the specified license(s) shall render the bid as non-responsive and shall act as a bar to award of the contract to any bidder not possessing said license(s) at the time of award.

West Bay Sanitary District

Board of Directors

San Mateo County, California

/s/ Sergio Ramirez

District Manager

Dated: April 4, 2022



Magali Gauthier

Students in Ormondale Elementary School's transitional kindergarten program color in class in Portola Valley on Feb. 15.

TK REGISTRATION

continued from page 5

The district has partnered with its preschool, Early Learning Center, to offer fee-based options for extended, early and late child care.

For questions regarding enrollment, contact the registrar at registrar@mpcsd.org or 650-321-7140 x5600. Register at district.mpcsd.org/Page/2630.

The **Ravenswood City School District** already offers TK, but will expand its program to all 4-year-olds next school year. There are slots at all of its three elementary schools: Belle Haven in Menlo Park, and Costano School of the Arts and Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy in East Palo Alto.

For questions, call or text 650-384-7797, or visit the district office at 2120 Euclid Ave. in East Palo Alto. You can also call each school to schedule a visit. Register at ravenswoodschools.org.

Registration is open in the **Portola Valley School District**, which also will be offering TK to all 4-year-olds next school year.

Register at pvsd.net. The website includes a slideshow and video presentation from a January TK orientation meeting.

Parents or guardians can register for the **Las Lomitas Elementary School District's** new TK program, which will be offered at its only elementary school, Las Lomitas in Atherton, for children who turn 5 by Feb. 2, 2023.

The district estimates it will have about 46 students, spread across two TK classrooms, according to an April 13 staff report. Staff expects the program to grow to about 90 students by the 2025-26 school year.

Visit the district office, 1011 Altschul Ave. in Menlo Park, which is open during the school year from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or call 650-854-2880 with any questions. Register at l-llesd-ca.schoolloop.com.

The **Woodside Elementary School District**, which already offers TK, will expand its program to students who turn 5 before Feb. 2, 2023 next school year.

Contact Cathy Stienstra at 650-851-1571 ext. 4004 or cstienstra@woodsideschool.us for information. Register at woodsideschool.us.

Future TK requirements

During the 2023-24 school year, schools must offer TK to children who turn 5 between September 2023 and April 2023.

The law requires that districts offer free education to all 4-year-olds once it is fully implemented during the 2025-26 school year. Some districts, like Portola Valley, are immediately adopting the 2025-26 requirements. ■

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

A transitional classroom calendar and schedule at Woodside Elementary School in February. The district plans to expand its TK program in the fall.



Magali Gauthier



Real Estate Focused. Artfully Aligned.

Discover the World of Christie's International Real Estate Sereno.

A brand that translates across home, culture, art, collectables, expertise, discretion and service.

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
SERENO

Follow our stride at sereno.com



Sereno
1158A Chestnut St
Menlo Park, CA

Nathalie de Saint Andrieu
650.804.9696
NSAhomes.com
DRE 01351482

Charlene Cogan
650.868.0434
charlenecogan.com
DRE 01380340

Kristin Cashin
650.387.2603
kcashingroup.com
DRE 01438764

Samira Amid-Hozour
650.868.1577
samiraandsue.com
DRE 01445386

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

RECENT HISTORY

'Allegiance' at Palo Alto Players explores a story of family, community and conviction

By Heather Zimmerman

This February marked 80 years since President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, leading to the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in desolate camps by their own country during World War II. Eighty years may sound like a long time, but it's less than a lifetime ago: People who were children in the camps are still alive today, such as film and TV actor George Takei, who was a child when he and his family were forcibly moved to camps in Arkansas and Tule Lake, California.

Takei's childhood in the camps inspired composer Jay Kuo and producer Lorenzo Thione to create "Allegiance," a musical loosely based on Takei's experiences, that debuted on Broadway in 2015, with Takei in the cast. Kuo wrote the music and lyrics, and co-wrote the show's book, along with Thione and Marc Acito.

"Allegiance" was the first show created by Asian Americans, directed by an Asian American and with a predominantly Asian American cast to appear on Broadway, according to American Theatre Magazine.

Palo Alto Players is now bringing the musical to the Peninsula. "Allegiance" runs through May 8 at the Lucie Stern Theatre.

"Allegiance" tells the story of the Kimura family who, after Pearl Harbor, are forced from their Salinas home, along with about 120,000 other Japanese Americans, to live in camps in remote areas of the United States. Young adult son Sammy hopes to show his patriotism by becoming a soldier and fighting in the war, but his sister, Kei, joins with others at the camp to protest the government's unjust treatment of its own people.

The Players' production of "Allegiance" was delayed by two years due to the pandemic, and if anything, during that time, the show seems to have increased in its timeliness, said Director Vinh G. Nguyen.

"This story is ever relevant to what we're experiencing today in our collective society," he said, noting recent attacks on and murders of Asian American people.

"It's frightening to see these crimes still being committed against the Asian American community. That's still happening at a different level of scale, but I hope that this show reminds us that it's not gone yet. But I think the biggest message that I want people to take away is the resilience and the celebration of the human spirit during times of hardship, and really strive to come together as a community."

The title "Allegiance" has several meanings, Nguyen said — not just loyalty to country, but also emphasizing the ties between family members.

"I think it's about how, despite differing paths, different beliefs, that the connection of family is something that is very important, it binds us all together," said actor Ron Munekawa, who plays the dual roles of Ojii-chan, who is the grandfather of Sammy and Kei, and an older version of Sammy, now called Sam, whom we meet in 2001.

"That's one emphasis of the show. I think the other is one of conviction. You have two opposite characters. Sammy, who like many Japanese Americans decided to enlist in the army to prove that, in fact, they are Americans — that they have allegiance to the United States — but there's also a character, Frankie Suzuki, who also has a very strong conviction that being incarcerated is not right," Munekawa said.

The difference in beliefs among the Kimuras, made even more stark by a government "loyalty questionnaire," tests family bonds.

A musical with such a setting may seem unexpected, but Kuo's music helps bring a complex story to life, said Nguyen.

"The music is incredibly smart, very intricate, very plot-driven and character-driven. ... I think if anything, the music really helps punctuate the emotions of very real people in these circumstances," he said, noting that the music also cleverly underscores various aspects of the characters, emphasizing for example, generational differences.

"Any time that an elder character from the show sings, it is woven in with taiko drums with

traditional musical instrumentation to really portray that very traditional voice of the character, and then when a younger character sings, it's what we know as typical musical theater songs. And so I think that's a really cool way to kind of help flesh out characters or give hints to who these characters are and what they're feeling at the time," Nguyen said.

Takei originated the roles of Ojii-chan and Sam in the Broadway production that Munekawa is playing for the Palo Alto Players. Portraying two characters who are grandfather and grandson, at roughly the same age, was a challenge, Munekawa said.

"Ojii-chan observes more than he speaks, although he certainly does have his own convictions that are expressed in the show. And then of course, Sam is much more demonstrative, much more open with his emotions. For Ojii-chan, what I do try to think of are my grandparents who were isseis (first-generation immigrants), who were born in Japan and came to the United States, and use that as a model for the character," he said.

To portray Sam, Munekawa said he also did a lot of research on the soldiers who served in the 442nd regiment, a segregated army unit made up of Japanese American soldiers, commanded by white officers. But he said he also looks to his castmate, Jomar Martinez, who plays the same character as a young adult.

"I do like to watch as he works in the scenes as Sammy to gain a greater understanding of what makes him tick, what causes him to express himself in certain ways. (I look at) how ironclad he is in his convictions, and once he finds that some of those convictions may not be exactly what he thought, how devastating that is to him," Munekawa said.

As a director, Nguyen has particular insight into the show, having played Sammy in the Bay Area premiere production of "Allegiance" in 2018 at Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

"When I was doing that show, I wanted to make sure that I was the most knowledgeable person about my character in the room at all times, so I did a lot of research



Courtesy Scott Lasky/Palo Alto Players

Pictured, left to right, Ron Munekawa as Ojii-Chan, Marah Sotelo as Kei Kimura, Bryan Pangilinan as Tatsuo Kimura, and Jomar Martinez as Sammy Kimura in Palo Alto Players' "Allegiance." The company shot this photo at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose's Barracks Room, an accurate recreation of living quarters at an internment camp.

then. And with this, we wanted to make sure that the cast has access and resources about the historical context of the show so that we can tell the story in a respectful and dignified way," Nguyen said.

Research for the show included bringing the cast for a tour of the Japanese American Museum in San Jose, which has an exhibit on the camps, and bringing guest speaker Rev. LaVerne Sasaki, who is a camp survivor, to talk to cast members. The cast also worked with dialect coach and cultural consultant Patrick Chew.

Underscoring just how recent history the camps truly are, Munekawa is one of three actors in the cast who have family members who were imprisoned there.

"My parents, my grandparents, my aunts and uncles, extended family, cousins, were all incarcerated during the war," he said.

Performing in a show with such a strong tie to his family history has set apart this production for him.

"I think there is much more of a personal connection, that this is really a story that is in part the story of my family's legacy. To me, it is much more important that I am as authentic as I possibly can be. Even though I didn't go through those times, being authentic is key to me. And that's the way I really respect my family story — the story of 120,000 people of Japanese descent who

were incarcerated during the war. Through that testimony, I'm hoping to bring a measure of respect and appreciation for what they went through," Munekawa said.

He said that the hard work that it took for his family to rebuild their lives after their incarceration is what has enabled him to be an actor.

"It's not because my parents were incarcerated, it's more about what they did after the war to reconstruct their lives, to make sure that their families were provided for," Munekawa said. "That really opened up an opportunity for a Japanese American, me, to be on stage. They really set a framework that was supportive for me and my brothers, the rest of my siblings, to pursue activities that I think probably would have been something that was unforeseeable for my parents."

The Palo Alto Players present "Allegiance" in person through May 8. The company is also offering a virtual option May 5 through 8. The Lucie Stern Theatre is located at 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. In-person tickets are \$27-\$57 and on-demand tickets are \$20. For more information, visit palyplayers.org. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.



IN GOOD COMPANY

*The Agency welcomes Quezta Grimm as
Managing Director in Los Altos, Palo Alto
and Woodside.*

Quality over quantity. That's a non-negotiable at The Agency. We carefully select our partners, working with the best local experts and advisors in the business. This is how we maintain our boutique approach even as we expand across the globe. Real connections can take you far.

50+ Offices | 6 Countries | 1 Connected Community

[THEAGENCYRE.COM](https://www.theagencyre.com)

Author appearances, special activities mark Independent Bookstore Day

By Julia Brown and Heather Zimmerman

Local independent bookstores have helped keep many a restless mind grounded during the unpredictability of the past couple years with a steady supply of compelling reading material, along with hosting a variety of online author talks and events.

And for the first time in two years, there's ample opportunity to celebrate these special places in person, on Independent Bookstore Day, which takes place on Saturday, April 30.

This year's events feature many in-person appearances and signings by authors, and some stores are also featuring activities for grownups and kids. At participating stores, visitors can also pick up special Independent Bookstore Day items,

which typically include signed books, special prints and stationery items.

Books Inc. Palo Alto Local authors Judge LaDoris Hazard Cordell, Diana Farid, Erin Gleeson and Joanna Ho will be on hand to autograph books. Visitors are invited to get a free advance copy of a book and write a review about it that will be posted in the store. Other events include a raffle and exclusive Independent Bookstore Day items.

When: April 30

Where: 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto

Info: booksinc.net

Kepler's Books The day kicks off with a recycled paper craft, followed by a variety of children's activities, crafts, coloring and treats. Authors will be on

hand to sign their books, starting with John Markoff signing "Whole Earth: The Many Lives of Stewart Brand" at 10:30 a.m.; Kai Harris signing her novel "What the Fireflies Knew" at 11:30 a.m. and Grace D. Li will sign her bestseller "Portrait of a Thief" at 2 p.m. Special Independent Bookstore Day items include: a Neil Gaiman coloring book, limited edition Curious George stuffed toy and an illustrated "perfect burger" guide signed by Anthony Bourdain.

When: April 30, doors open at 9 a.m.; activities take place 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, #100, Menlo Park
Info: keplers.com

Linden Tree Books Throughout the day, the children's bookstore hosts storytimes with local authors including Tim McCanna, Vicky Fang, Caroline Pritchard, Joanna Ho and Darshana Khiani. Visitors can also spin a "mystery wheel" for giveaways and discounts. Special Independent Bookstore Day items include: mugs, journals, tote bags, Blackwing pencils and special edition Mad Libs.

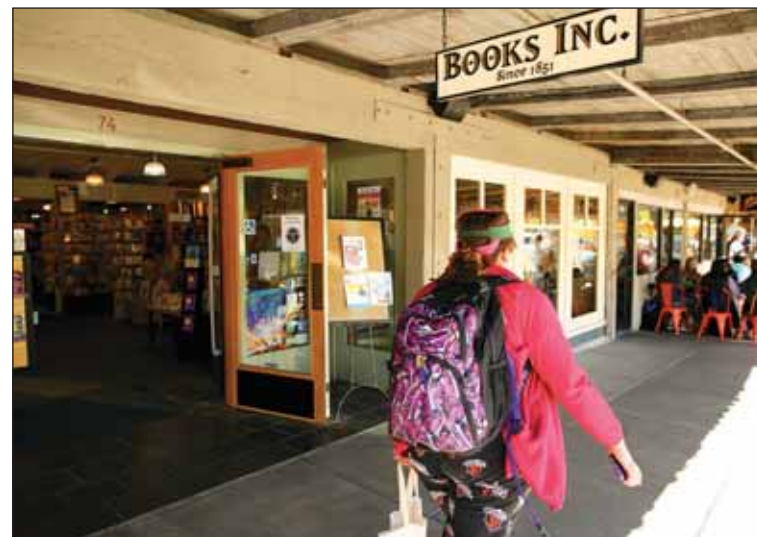
When: April 30, story times from 10 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Where: 265 State St., Los Altos
Info: lindentreebooks.com

Feldman's Books The local bookstore will host live piano music during the afternoon.

When: April 30 between noon and 5 p.m.

Where: 1075 Curtis St., Menlo Park.



Sammy Dallal

Books Inc. in Palo Alto, seen here in October 2019, will host author signings and activities for Independent Bookstore Day.

Info: 650-326-5300

Leigh's Favorite Books, Bookasaurus The neighboring sister bookstores in Sunnyvale will be celebrating Independent Bookstore Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, with a treasure hunt for kids at Bookasaurus and one for adults at Leigh's Favorite Books. Prizes will be awarded to those who complete the hunt, including gift cards and "mystery books" (books wrapped in paper with only a description available). Owner Leigh Odum plans to have a Jane Austen tea table with cookies set out and a book-themed cornhole game out front. Bookasaurus will also have someone on hand making balloon animals from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

When: April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: 121 and 125 S Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale
Info: leighsbooks.com

Ink Spell Books The Half Moon Bay bookstore will host a scavenger hunt at 3 p.m., followed by a trivia contest at 4 p.m., and plans to give away prizes.

When: April 30, with activities at 3 and 4 p.m.

Where: 500 Purissima St., Half Moon Bay
Info: inkspellbooks.com ■

Julia Brown is the editor of The Almanac's sister publication, The Six Fifty. Email her at editor@thesixfifty.com. Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.



Art by Olena McMurtrey

Take an Art Tour on Coastside Trail!

See original art and talk with the artists during Open Studios!

Just follow the Yellow Signs!

Pacifica | Half Moon Bay
El Granada | Moss Beach
Montara | La Honda

Visit svos.org to see Artist Galleries & the Interactive Map.



Will your gas car be the last on your block?

Don't get left behind as San Mateo County embraces a cleaner, smarter EV future. Your neighbors are switching to EVs and saving thousands through rebates and lower fuel and maintenance costs over the vehicle's lifetime.



Learn more about EVs and available rebates at PenCleanEnergy.com/EV3





OUR SPRING COLLECTION OF HOMES

You deserve a home that matches your budget and lifestyle. Explore our exclusive inventory with the Peninsula's best-in-class agents guiding you home every step of the way.

compass.com

578 University Avenue, Palo Alto

361 Lytton Avenue #200, Palo Alto

1377 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

1706 El Camino Real #220, Menlo Park

2930 Woodside Drive, Woodside

167 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

1440 Chapin Avenue #200, Burlingame

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

13113 BYRD LANE, LOS ALTOS HILLS



\$10,998,000 • 6 Bed • 5 Full 2 Half Bath • 13113byrd.com

Kathy Bridgman
650.868.7677
kathy@kathybridgman.com
DRE 01189798

Susan Sims
650.743.1838
susan.sims@compass.com
DRE 01408349

380 CERVANTES ROAD, PORTOLA VALLEY



\$10,500,000 • 4 Bed • 4.5 Bath • 380cervantes.com

The reSolve Group
415.300.7122
team@theresolvegroup.co
DRE 01527235

385 WESTRIDGE DRIVE, PORTOLA VALLEY



\$7,500,000 • 3.253 Acres Lot • 385westridge.com

The reSolve Group
650.380.0220
team@theresolvegroup.co
DRE 01527235

1585 EDGEWOOD DRIVE, PALO ALTO



\$7,200,000 • 5 Bed • 5.5 Bath • 1585edgewood.com

Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron & James Steele
650.740.7954
carolnicoleandjames@compass.com
DRE 00946687 | 00952657 | 01872027

16 STOCKBRIDGE AVENUE, ATHERTON



\$6,980,000 • 5 Bed • 3.5 Bath • julietsailaw.com

Julie Tsai Law
650.799.8888
julie@julietsailaw.com
DRE 01339682

1650 BRYANT STREET, PALO ALTO



\$6,498,000 • 5 Bed • 3 Bath • 1650bryant.com

Lori Buecheler
650.387.2716
lorib@compass.com
DRE 01859485

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



1365 RANCHITA DRIVE, LOS ALTOS



\$6,395,000 • 4 Bed • 5 Bath • staceywoodsrealestate.com

Stacey Woods
650.793.4583
stacey.woods@compass.com
DRE 02002137

45 STADLER DRIVE, WOODSIDE



Call for Price • 4 Bed • 4.5 Bath • 45stadler.com

Erika Demma
650.740.2970
erika@erikademma.com
DRE 01230766

135 SEALE AVENUE, PALO ALTO



Call for Price • 6 Bed • 5 Bath • 135seale.com

Derk Brill
650.814.0478
derk@derkbrill.com
DRE 01256035

776 ROSEWOOD DRIVE, PALO ALTO



\$5,695,000 • 4 Bed • 3.5 Bath • ksparerer.com

Kathleen Areias Sparer
650.464.3248
kathleen.sparer@compass.com
DRE 01165140

12650 VISCAINO COURT, LOS ALTOS HILLS



\$5,500,000 • 4 Bed • 3 Bath • compass.com

Arti Miglani
650.804.6942
arti@artimiglani.com
DRE 01150085

3187 DAVID AVENUE, PALO ALTO



\$5,498,000 • 5 Bed • 3 Bath • julietsailaw.com

Julie Tsai Law
650.799.8888
julie@julietsailaw.com
DRE 01339682

compass.com

2365 SOUTH COURT, PALO ALTO



SOLD

\$5,410,000 • 5 Bed • 4 Bath • 2365southcourt.com

Sophia Xu
650.666.5988
sophia@sophiaxu.com
DRE 01945147

2388 WAVERLEY STREET, PALO ALTO



\$4,798,000 • 4 Bed • 2.5 Bath • 2388waverley.com

Lori Buecheler
650.387.2716
lorib@compass.com
DRE 01859485

3452 CORK OAK WAY, PALO ALTO



SOLD

\$4,600,000 • 6 Bed • 4 Bath • umanghomes.com

Umang Sanchorawala
650.960.5363
umang.sanchorawala@compass.com
DRE 01471341

978 AMARILLO AVENUE, PALO ALTO



SOLD

\$4,500,000 • 4 Bed • 3 Bath • sophiaxu.com

Sophia Xu
650.666.5988
sophia@sophiaxu.com
DRE 01945147

467 GARY COURT, PALO ALTO



PENDING

\$4,388,000 • 4 Bed • 4.5 Bath • tourfactory.com/2953379

Jenny Teng
650.245.4490
jenny.teng@compass.com
DRE 01023687

637 ALVARADO ROW, STANFORD



\$3,998,000 • 6 Bed • 4.5 Bath • 637alvarado.com

Shari Ornstein
650.814.6682
shari.ornstein@compass.com
DRE 01028693

Pamela Culp
415.640.3293
pamela.culp@compass.com
DRE 00896337

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

COMPASS

927 WILMINGTON WAY, EMERALD HILLS



\$3,995,000 • 5 Bed • 4.5 Bath • 927wilmington.com

Erika Demma
650.740.2970
erika@erikademma.com
DRE 01230766

147 WALTER HAYS DRIVE, PALO ALTO



\$3,928,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 147walterhays.com

Arti Miglani
650.804.6942
arti@artimiglani.com
DRE 01150085

1420 CARLTON ROAD, HILLSBOROUGH



\$3,800,000 • 5 Bed • 5.5 Bath • sophietsang.com

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
sophie@compass.com
DRE 01399145

700 BERKELEY AVENUE, MENLO PARK



\$3,650,000 • 3 Bed • 2.5 Bath • 700berkeley.com

Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron & James Steele
650.740.7954
carolnicoleandjames@compass.com
DRE 00946687 | 00952657 | 01872027

686 MAYBELL AVENUE, PALO ALTO



\$3,525,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • denisesimons.com

Denise Simons
650.269.0210
denise.simons@compass.com
DRE 01376733

440 PEPPER AVENUE, PALO ALTO



Call for Price • 2 Bed • 2.5 Bath • 440pepper.com

Kathleen Wilson
650.207.2017
kathleen.wilson@compass.com
DRE 00902501

compass.com

973 ROUND HILL ROAD, REDWOOD CITY



\$3,498,000 • 4 Bed • 3 Bath • 973roundhill.com

Lynn Wilson Roberts
650.255.6987
lwr@wilsonroberts.com
DRE 01814885

Anne Wilson Roberts
650.279.5358
awr@wilsonroberts.com
DRE 02033636

847 WEBSTER STREET, PALO ALTO



\$3,300,000 • 4 Bed • 3.5 Bath • 847webster.com

Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron & James Steele
650.740.7954
carolnicoleandjames@compass.com
DRE 00946687 | 00952657 | 01872027

3190 MANCHESTER COURT, PALO ALTO



\$3,202,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • denisesimons.com

Denise Simons
650.269.0210
denise.simons@compass.com
DRE 01376733

555 HILBAR LANE, PALO ALTO



\$2,998,888 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • julietsailaw.com

Julie Tsai Law
650.799.8888
julie@julietsailaw.com
DRE 01339682

3661 PARK BOULEVARD, PALO ALTO



\$2,998,000 • 5 Bed • 4 Bath • 3661park.com

Lori Buecheler
650.387.2716
lorib@compass.com
DRE 01859485

John Forsyth James
650.218.4337
john@johnforsythjames.com
DRE 01138400

4212 SUZANNE DRIVE, PALO ALTO



\$2,998,000 • 4 Bed • 2 Bath • 4212suzanne.com

The reSolve Group
650.336.8530
team@theresolvegroup.co
DRE 01527235

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



1055 EMBARCADERO ROAD, PALO ALTO



PENDING

\$2,995,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 1055embarcadero.com

Umang Sanchorawala
650.960.5363
umang.sanchorawala@compass.com
DRE 01471341

Denise Simons
650.269.0210
denise.simons@compass.com
DRE 01376733

839 DURSHIRE WAY, SUNNYVALE



SOLD

\$2,860,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 839durshire.com

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
sophie@compass.com
DRE 01399145

1610 CHANNING AVENUE, PALO ALTO



SOLD

\$2,850,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 1610channing.com

Michael Hall
650.465.1651
michael.hall@compass.com
DRE 01133676

Tricia Soliz
650.833.9442
tricia.soliz@compass.com
DRE 01836700

4126 WISTERIA LANE, PALO ALTO



SOLD

\$2,701,000 • 3 Bed • 2.5 Bath • 4126wisteria.com

Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron & James Steele
650.740.7954
carolnicoleandjames@compass.com
DRE 00946687 | 00952657 | 01872027

111 DUNSMUIR WAY, MENLO PARK



SOLD

\$2,514,000 • 5 Bed • 2 Bath • 111dunsmuirway.com

Colleen Foraker
650.380.0085
colleen.foraker@compass.com
DRE 01349099

Carolyn Keddington
650.946.8122
carolyn.keddington@compass.com
DRE 01490400

678 HAWTHORNE AVENUE, PALO ALTO



\$2,395,000 • 2 Bed • 2 Bath • 678hawthorneavenue.com

Colleen Foraker
650.380.0085
colleen.foraker@compass.com
DRE 01349099

Carolyn Keddington
650.946.8122
carolyn.keddington@gmail.com
DRE 01490400

compass.com

301 TADLEY COURT, REDWOOD CITY



\$2,288,000 • 4 Bed • 2.5 Bath • 301tadley.com

Lizbeth Rhodes
650.722.3000
liz.rhodes@compass.com
DRE 01179852

1414 W. SELBY LANE, REDWOOD CITY



\$2,250,000 • 2 Bed • 1 Bath • 1414westselbylane.com

Colleen Foraker
650.380.0085
colleen.foraker@compass.com
DRE 01349099

Carolyn Keddington
650.946.8122
carolyn.keddington@compass.com
DRE 01490400

3746 DUNFORD WAY, SANTA CLARA



\$1,998,000 • 4 Bed • 2 Bath • 3746dunford.com

Lynn North
650.703.6437
lnorth@compass.com
DRE 01490039

424 DELL AVENUE, MOUNTAIN VIEW



\$1,998,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 424dellave.com

Nadr Essabhoy
650.248.5898
nadr.essabhoy@compass.com
DRE 01085354

Sam Essabhoy
650.788.7192
sam.essabhoy@compass.com
DRE 02139787

1543 ORIOLE AVENUE, SUNNYVALE



\$1,988,888 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • sophiaxu.com

Sophia Xu
650.666.5988
sophia@sophiaxu.com
DRE 01945147

857 ALTAIRE WALK, PALO ALTO



\$1,928,000 • 3 Bed • 2.5 Bath • julietsailaw.com

Julie Tsai Law
650.799.8888
julie@julietsailaw.com
DRE 01339682

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



1020 16TH AVENUE, REDWOOD CITY



Call for Price • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • compass.com/agents/lynne-merc

Lynne Mercer
650.906.0162
Lmerc@compass.com
DRE 00796211

493 CYPRESS STREET, REDWOOD CITY



\$1,688,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 493cypress.com

Adela Gildo-Mazzon
650.714.0537
amazzone@compass.com
DRE 01371327

8089 PARK VILLA CIRCLE, CUPERTINO



\$1,500,000 • 2 Bed • 2 Bath • 8089parkvillacircle.com

Colleen Foraker
650.380.0085
colleen.foraker@compass.com
DRE 01349099

Carolyn Keddington
650.946.8122
carolyn.keddington@compass.com
DRE 01490400

1266 CROMPTON ROAD, REDWOOD CITY



\$1,495,000 • 3 Bed • 1 Bath • 1266crompton.com

Marybeth Dorst
650.245.8890
marybeth.dorst@compass.com
DRE 01345542

152 TILTON AVENUE, SAN MATEO



\$1,195,000 • 2 Bed • 2 Bath • 152tilton.com

Marybeth Dorst
650.245.8890
marybeth.dorst@compass.com
DRE 01345542

111 MISSION DRIVE, EAST PALO ALTO



\$1,020,000 • 2 Bed • 2 Bath • 111mission.com

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
sophie@compass.com
DRE 01399145

compass.com

Food & Drink

A pizza competitor's next chapter

The Pizza Series debuts on the Stanford campus

By Anthony Shu

Walk into The Treehouse on Stanford University's campus, and you might witness a disc of dough flying through the air and spinning like a basketball on the finger of World Pizza Champions team member Matt Driscoll. Opening his first brick-and-mortar pizzeria is the latest stop on a pizza-making journey that has included stints at Domino's, opening a food truck with Google's help and serving pineapple on a pie at an international pizza competition.

The Pizza Series is the latest addition to Stanford's dining options and initially started as an Instagram feed where Driscoll would share his pizza creations. When the pandemic derailed his plans to open a food truck, he turned The Pizza Series into a pop-up based in Scotts Valley. Now, the competitive pizzaiolo is serving New York-style pizzas with creative topping combinations and crispy but airy Detroit-style square pies on the Peninsula.

Then 19 years old, Driscoll took his first job in the pizza industry at an Aptos Domino's in 1997. While this experience laid a foundation for his eventual career, Driscoll moved onto exploring other industries like construction and music. He even formed

a record label named S.A.F. Records, which he still leads.

"Pizza kept finding me," Driscoll says. In 2004, a car crashed into Driscoll's home, and he scrambled outside in a panic. Although the two had hardly ever spoken, Driscoll's neighbor invited him in and the conversation eventually turned to pizza, as Driscoll's neighbor had taken over Aptos' Straw Hat Pizza and was looking for cooks. Driscoll accepted an offer to work there and fell in love with pizza when given control over the dough recipe and even the eatery's decor. "It was almost like I was running my own restaurant," Driscoll says. The duo eventually shed the franchise label and rebranded as Brando's Pizzeria.

When Brando's closed down, Driscoll moved to Pizza My Heart, learning to manage a high volume of orders and learning how to toss dough by hand. Three years later, in 2009, he opened the pizza station at Whole Foods' Santa Cruz location, a job that would enter him into the world of competitive pizza-making.

Pizza competitions generally take place at international trade shows and events and serve as a way to promote the pizza industry. While competitions include events judging taste and presentation, they also incorporate unexpected categories like pizza box folding and dough

acrobatics. Harnessing tough, salt-rich doughs free of yeast, dough acrobatics competitors perform elaborate tricks that go far beyond the up-and-down tosses one might witness at a pizzeria.

Whole Foods Market sponsored Driscoll's participation at these competitions, including the International Pizza Challenge in Las Vegas. Driscoll, who learned to toss dough by flinging kitchen towels around, developed choreographed, four-minute routines and practiced tricks including shoulder rolls, where the disc of dough spins down one arm, across his back and into his other hand, and tosses that launch the dough 15 feet into the air. (Visit the Peninsula Foodist's Instagram account for a video of Driscoll in action.)

While dough acrobatics may have been Driscoll's signature event, he also competed in fastest box folding (he assembled five boxes in 18 seconds), largest dough stretch and the taste and visual-based categories. With access to Whole Foods' entire selection of specialty items, Driscoll experimented with countless cheeses and toppings, many of which can be seen in The Pizza Series' offerings.

One combo, which earned him third place in his region, was a raw vegetable pizza that incorporated paper-thin slices of cucumbers,



Magali Gauthier

Matt Driscoll, owner of The Pizza Series, is serving up New York- and Detroit-style pizzas on the Stanford University campus.

peppers, tomatoes and carrots layered on top of goat cheese. It was then finished with pine nuts, prosciutto and balsamic glaze. Even when competing in the traditional category, which restricts competitors to two common toppings, Driscoll turned peppers into a medley sauteed with Calabrian sausage and finished just short of first place. He even served pineapple on a barbecue Hawaiian pizza and was surprised by the wary responses he received from some pizza purists.

Since 2018, Driscoll has been a part of Tony Gemignani's World Pizza Champions, an international team that serves as "ambassadors of pizza" through competitions and public events. Overall, Driscoll appreciates

how competitions provide culinary inspiration from throughout the world (he's still amazed by a poke pizza topped with raw fish) and an opportunity to dive into dough science in order to make the most minute improvements in his recipes.

"It's not necessarily just winning competitions. It's who has the passion for the craft and demonstrates that love for pizza," he says.

After seven years at Whole Foods Market and opening pizza counters at stores throughout the Northern California region, Driscoll took another break from the industry with a year in construction. Still, he continued

See **THE PIZZA SERIES**, page 26



Magali Gauthier

Matt Driscoll performs a dough-tossing trick using a practice disc made of silicon on April 21.



Magali Gauthier

The spinach and ricotta pizza is topped with roasted garlic cloves, mozzarella and red sauce at The Pizza Series.



7 Lassen Court | Menlo Park

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1:30 – 4:30 PM



UNPARALLELED PANORAMIC WESTERN VIEWS & PRIVACY IN SHARON HEIGHTS

Extensively remodeled with designer style
 Unobstructed views of Windy Hill and western mountains
 5 spacious bedrooms and 5.5 baths on two levels
 Dedicated office ideal for work-from-home needs
 Approx. 4,370 sq. ft. of living space
 Upper and lower decks wrap around 3 sides of the home
 Fully fenced lot of approx. 17,424 sq. ft.
 Las Lomas School District

Price upon request | 7Lassen.com

518 San Benito Avenue | Menlo Park



OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR DREAM HOME

Vacant land ready to build new
 Over one-quarter acre (approx. 12,027 sq. ft.)
 Flag lot affords privacy from the street
 Approved plans from 2015; buyer to confirm with San Mateo County regarding permit status/renewal
 Approved plans included a 2-story home with 5 bedrooms, office, and 5 baths; approx. 3,688 sq. ft. plus garage of 398 sq. ft.
 Located on the edge of Atherton in unincorporated San Mateo County
 Less than 1 mile to cafes and restaurants, 2 miles to downtown Menlo Park, and 3 miles to Meta headquarters

Offered at \$2,880,000 | LemieuxRE.com

Considering Buying or Selling?

Contact us so we can help you plan now for the future.



Tom LeMieux, MBA
 650.465.7459
tom@lemieuxRE.com
 License #01066910



Jennifer Bitter, MBA
 650.308.4401
jennifer@lemieuxRE.com
 License #01847627



#59 Small Team in the U.S., 2021, Real Trends in WSJ
 Over \$3 billion in sales since 1998

lemieuxRE.com | [@lemieuxRE](https://www.instagram.com/lemieuxRE)

COMPASS

Rankings provided courtesy of Real Trends. The Thousand list of individual agents by total sales volume. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

Erin Lynn Bentham

October 12, 1959 – April 10, 2022

Erin Lynn Bentham (Morra), a professional organizer and resident of Redwood City, California, succumbed to her battle with cancer on Sunday, April 10, 2022, at the age of 62 in the comfort of her home.



Erin was born October 12, 1959, Huntington, NY to Eduardo and Marlo Morra. An avid student, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Long Island University with a degree in Business Administration. She went on to earn her master's degree in Business Administration at Hofstra University followed by her Juris Doctor degree from Lincoln Law School of Sacramento.

A world traveler, Erin explored and documented much of the world throughout her life. She was a skilled cook and party planner, and organized hundreds of private events for the enjoyment of her friends and family. Erin enjoyed crafting and scrapbooking and created a large collection of memory books including family, friends, and travel. Additionally, Erin was very involved in several organizations including The Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Association, and the John Howland Society. Her warm heart and outgoing personality will be sorely missed by her family, friends and all whom she shared a table with.

Erin is survived by her son Justin Macedonio, his wife Elizabeth, grandson Greyson, brothers Dean and Brian Morra. She is predeceased by her mother Marlo Morra, father Eduardo Morra, and her husband Wilfred Bentham II.

PAID OBITUARY

Eric Karl Spangenberg

October 31, 1945 – November 28, 2021

A long-time resident of Portola Valley and Palo Alto, Eric Karl Spangenberg passed away at his home on November 28, 2021. A proponent of life-long learning, he enjoyed practicing simultaneous careers during his lifetime. He graduated with a Masters in Physics from San Diego State in 1969, and worked with the injection group at Stanford Linear Accelerator. He completed a Master of Science in Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering and Management from Stanford University in 1979 and earned his Juris Doctor, School of Law from Santa Clara University in 1985. He was licensed as a Real Estate Broker, Civil Engineer and a Member of the Bar. He applied his broad background to Real Estate Construction and to practicing law from Portola Valley over the last three decades.



Eric Karl Spangenberg was born in Palo Alto on October 31, 1945, the loving son of Karl Rudolph Spangenberg and Ruth Beahrs Spangenberg and brother to Kristin L. Spangenberg (John E. Gilmore), Karen Spangenberg (Gloria D'Alessandro), Karla Lane (Bix Lane and family and Cleo Lane-Bailey and family), Kathy Spangenberg (Kimberly Aldinger) and Rudolph (Rudy) Spangenberg. He will be dearly missed by his family, many cousins and friends.

He served as Chairman of the Committee for the Arts at Spangenberg Theater, enjoyed outdoor activities, travelling nationally and internationally, and the pursuit of knowledge in history and science. He has endowed a scholarship in electrical engineering in the name of Karl Rudolph Spangenberg at Stanford University and a scholarship in physics at San Diego State University.

A memorial gathering will be held Saturday April 30th from 3-5 pm at the Portola Valley Community Center (Buckeye Room) located at 765 Portola Rd in Portola Valley.

PAID OBITUARY



Magali Gauthier

Customers order from The Pizza Series on Stanford University's campus on April 21.

THE PIZZA SERIES

continued from page 24

experimenting with pizza at home in Santa Cruz. He built up The Pizza Series Instagram account to chronicle his creations, and was surprised by its popularity (it now has over 12,000 followers). His most elaborate pizza was a breakfast pie with a sausage gravy stuffed crust that was topped with 15 eggs.

Holding onto his goal of running his own pizzeria, Driscoll applied for and was accepted into the Instructtional food truck incubator program run by Google and Off the Grid. Driscoll, a Michigan native, pitched a concept centered around Detroit-style pizza, which has recently gained popularity across the country. Driscoll credits the late Shawn Randazzo, who showcased Detroit-style pizzas at competitions, with helping to popularize their thick, square-cut slices, crispy bottoms fried in oil, and caramelized cheese that extends to the edges of the pie. Often, toppings are placed with the cheese underneath the sauce.

Driscoll says that good Detroit-style pizza is all about fermentation and hydration levels and prefers a slightly airy dough that looks heavy but feels like a feather. "It's like picking up a grilled cheese sandwich," he says.

While The Pizza Series food truck was wrapped and branded in the spring of 2020, COVID-19 induced the cancellation of the Instructtional program. Driscoll, who takes life's challenges in stride, quickly pivoted to launching The Pizza Series pop-up, serving both New York and Detroit-style pizzas in a Scotts Valley business park. "I don't overthink things too much ... The more fun you keep it, the more opportunities come knocking on your door," he says.

The pop-up caught the eye of restaurateur and retired real estate executive Ray Klein, who runs three restaurants on Stanford's campus and has developed notable eateries including Tartine Bakery. Originally seeking a consultant on Detroit-style pizza (Klein's The Treehouse was already serving pizza on campus), Klein befriended Driscoll and the

two became business partners.

The Pizza Series has started serving its New York-style pizzas on Stanford's campus and had its grand opening with Detroit-style pizzas on Thursday, April 28. Customers can expect vegetarian and vegan choices among the slices and whole pies. Toppings include simpler choices like buffalo and barbecue chicken and veggie combos, and will eventually include The Pizza Series' more elaborate options like "The Hidden Forest" with spinach, sauteed mushrooms, roasted garlic and whipped ricotta cheese. Driscoll will then introduce his Detroit-style breakfast pizzas topped with runny yolks, cheese and bacon.

Set in the heart of campus where students can sit and enjoy their slices in front of the pizza ovens, Driscoll and his team can watch customers devour their creations. "Their faces and their happiness, their positivity towards everything we're doing is probably the greatest thing," he says.

The Pizza Series will also open a full restaurant in Scotts Valley soon.

Matt Driscoll isn't the only pizza competitor with a local restaurant: Lars and Cristina Aceves Smith of State of Mind Public House & Pizzeria and State of Mind Slice House just had strong finishes at the World Pizza Championship, earning recognition in the Pizza in Pala and Pizza Classica categories. ■

The Pizza Series, 459 Lagunita Drive, Stanford (inside The Treehouse); 650-723-4500, thepizzaseries.com. Instagram: @the_pizza_series. Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

Email Associate Digital Editor Anthony Shu at peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Carol Skogstrom

October 18, 1955 – March 28, 2022

Carol Ann Skogstrom, born in Hawthorne, CA passed away unexpectedly on March 28, 2022. Carol was predeceased by her parents Marguerite and Richard Skogstrom. She leaves behind her brother Michael (Karen), nieces Marguerite, Annie and Emily Skogstrom, and her much loved cat Annie.

A memorial service will be held for Carol at Nativity Church 210 Oak Grove Avenue Menlo Park on May 11, at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, friends are invited to make donations in Carol's memory to the ASPCA or any agencies helping animals in Ukraine.

COMING SOON! MAY 13-21



PENINSULA Restaurant week

PRESENTED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO Peninsula

SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO · NORTH OF EXPECTATIONS

9 DAYS OF DINING DEALS TO SUPPORT LOCAL RESTAURANTS

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

- Amoura Restaurant
- Aurum
- Barterra Winery
- Basque Cultural Center
- Bevri. Georgian Restaurant
- Bistro Vida
- BISTRONOMIE by Baume
- Breakers Breakfast, Brunch & Lunch
- Broadway Masala
- Celia's Mexican Restaurant, Palo Alto
- Celia's Mexican Restaurant, Menlo Park
- Celia's Mexican Restaurant, San Bruno
- Coconut Bay Thai Restaurant & Bar
- Cudos (Frozen Custard & Mini Donuts)
- Dim Sum King
- Eats Meets West Bowls

- Fattoria E Mare
- FEY
- Flights Restaurant
- Gilman Brewing Company
- Daly City Taproom
- Half Moon Bay Brewing Company
- Hobee's Belmont
- Igvey Taqueria
- Jacks Prime
- Jettywave Distillery
- Jing Jing Gourmet
- Kanpai Sushi Japanese Restaurant
- Kirks Steakhouses
- Kitten and Pinky
- La Viga Seafood & Cocina Mexicana
- LuLu's at Town & Country Village
- LuLu's on Laurel

- LuLu's on Main Street
- LuLu's on The Alameda
- LV-Mar Tapas & Cocktails
- Mazzetti's Bakery
- Mediterranean Delite
- Menlo Tavern
- Osteria at Domenico Winery
- PAPA RAY'S PIZZA
- Par 3 at Poplar Creek
- Pinstripes, Inc
- Pizzeria Delfina
- Pokeworks
- Porterhouse Restaurant
- Primo Pizza
- Red Hot Chilli Pepper
- Rise Pizzeria
- Rise Woodfire

- Rosalind Bakery
- Round Table Pizza
- San Agus Cocina Urbana & Cocktails
- Sapore Italiano Ristorante
- Seahorse Brewing Company
- Sharp Park Restaurant and Golf Course
- Subway
- TAVERNA
- The Barn
- The Fish Market Restaurant, Palo Alto
- The Fish Market Restaurant, San Mateo
- The Refuge Menlo Park
- The Refuge San Carlos
- The Refuge San Mateo
- Tin Pot Creamery
- Whispers Cafe & Creperie
- Wild Onion Bistro & Bar
- Wingstop
- Yama sushi
- Zareen's Redwood City

... AND MORE TO COME!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SPONSORED BY



PeninsulaRestaurantWeek.com

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

continued from page 1

showed up! The peddling car, the art show, so many of the green vendor tables, e-bikes and EVs (electric vehicles) — all were brought by Atherton residents.”

Miles met a few people who came for the art exhibit but walked away more interested in buying an EV. Some came for the e-bikes then tried vegan food for the first time.

During the event, people rode



Adam Pardee

Eric Schmidt of Use Less Car. Bike. operates his converted Volkswagen Beetle that's powered by two bicycles at Atherton's Earth Day Festival.

around in a Volkswagen Beetle that had been converted into a bike.

Attendees peeked into electric cars — Ford, Rivian, Tesla and more — that lined the park's lawn, from both dealers and private owners. Americans' interest in electric cars has increased in recent months as gas prices have skyrocketed, according to The New York Times.

There were plenty of activities for kids. Children dropped in on a pop-up bug museum from The

Beetlelady. She brought a real tarantula, along with models of other insects. Outside Jennings Pavilion, kids gathered for story-times. They also hopped onto a Menlo Park Fire Protection District fire truck and ambulance.

Kids visited with chickens, including some very soft silkie chickens. High-efficiency sprinklers were on display on the lawn.

There were also food trucks and samples of a plant-based ice cream from Oakland-based Eclipse Foods.

A vendor fair featured the San Mateo County Bee Guild, UC Master Gardeners, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and more.

The Earth Day art exhibit featured work from climate artist Sukey Bryan, local artists and students from Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton.

The day ended with speeches. U.S. Senator Alex Padilla spoke over video on the key climate provisions of the state's infrastructure bill. SFO Director of Sustainability Erin Cooke, Stanford Woods Institute's Rob Jackson and food scientist Eric Schulze also spoke. ■

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

GUNSHOTS

continued from page 1

letter urging City Council members to hold a special meeting on public safety. He described it as “another shooting” that occurred near his home. When contacted by The Almanac, he said he was not immediately able to comment.

His email was removed from the city's website shortly after The Almanac reached out to the police department and the resident about it on Tuesday.

The incident led to the arrest of two people on Monday, but they were not directly related to the shooting, according to police Chief Dave Norris, speaking at the Menlo Park City Council meeting Tuesday.

“While the overall shooting investigation is ongoing, two of the subjects we contacted at the scene last night were arrested for warrants,” Norris

said in an email. “This does appear to be a targeted act focused on one residence in particular.”

Norris added that the police and the city attorney, in the past week, have made progress in their investigations regarding the area where the shooting occurred.

A 25-year-old woman from Menlo Park and a 31-year-old man from Redwood City were detained at the scene and arrested for outstanding warrants, police said. Officers also said they recovered an unattended ghost gun from the scene, referring to the untraceable guns made from kits that are becoming increasingly common at Bay Area crime scenes.

Police are asking anyone with information on the incident to call 650-330-6300. ■

Email Lloyd Lee at llee@almanacnews.com

**VERY
REAL
LOCAL
NEWS**

Print or online subscription starts at only \$12/month

Visit: AlmanacNews.com/join

#PressOn

**SUPPORT LOCAL
JOURNALISM**



PILLOW SALE · April 21st – May 5th

Enjoy 20% off all Scandia Down & Down-Free Sleep Pillows

Scandia Home Palo Alto

261 Hamilton Ave, Suite 130 · 650.512.3533 · paloalto@scandiahome.com

Open Monday - Saturday: 10am-5pm, Sunday: Closed

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

BUBBLES HOUSE CLEANING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 290669

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bubbles House Cleaning, located at 6500 Pescadero Creek Rd., Pescadero, CA 94060, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 3143 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

Registered owner(s):
ALMA DELIA MARTINEZ MORALES
6500 Pescadero Creek Rd.
Pescadero, CA 94060

This business is conducted by:
An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2022.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 4, 2022.
(ALM Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022)

4-GOOD FOUNDATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 290602

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

4-Good Foundation, located at 217 Camino Al Lago, Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
THE DAVID AND HEIDI WELCH FOUNDATION

217 Camino Al Lago
Atherton, CA 94027
CA

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

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 March 23, 2022.
(ALM Apr. 15, 22, 29; May 6, 2022)

DISTILLÉ
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 290778

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Distillé, located at 25 Tagus Ct., Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
FACADE SHOE DESIGN, LLC
25 Tagus Ct.
Portola Valley, CA 94028

Delaware
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.

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 April, 14, 2022.

(ALM Apr. 29; May 6, 13, 20, 2022)

AMERICA'S ICE CREAM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 290811

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
America's Ice Cream, located at 451 Dumbarton Ave., Redwood, CA 94063, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 1344 Windetmere Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):
ANA LAURA CORONADO HERNANDEZ

1344 Windermere 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 04/19/2022.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 19, 2022.
(ALM Apr. 29; May 6, 13, 20, 2022)

**For legal advertising call
Alicia Santillan at
650-223-6578.**

Camp Connection

Learn more at PaloAltoOnline.com/camp_connection.

ACADEMICS

7EDU Impact Academy

Cupertino

7EDU's summer program provides a great summer learning, fun and effective experience for your kids from K-12. For lower grades, 7EDU offers critical reading and writing with PBL hands-on STEM exploration and performance arts. For upper grades, 7EDU offers: unique Individual Research with university professors; Entrepreneur Summer Camp in real Silicon Valley startup companies, and Academic Boost under top college counselors' guidance to have a jumpstart in the fall. Multiple sessions, flexible online/on-site options. \$50 special discount for Camp Connection.

7edu.org

(408) 216-9109

Athena Academy

Palo Alto

Athena Academy is proud to offer two, week-long academic skills programs for dyslexic and twice exceptional students entering grades 1-8. This program uses our unique strengths-based teaching approach to help our students build foundational skills for learning. June 20-24, July 18-22. Join us for one week or two!

athenaacademy.org/summer

(650) 543-4560

Early Learning Institute

Palo Alto, Pleasanton

Emerson Montessori School offers three Write Now!® courses — camp-like sessions designed to improve students' writing and public presentation skills. Each one-week course features a different genre: Expository Writing (prose forms used in school assignments), Creative Writing (stories, plays, poems), and Presentation Skills ("Persuasion" this year).

headsop.org

Emerson: (650) 424-1267
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

Harker Summer Programs

San Jose

Harker summer programs for preschool - grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment.

harker.org/summer

(408) 553-5737

Pinewood School

Summer Festival of Learning

Los Altos

Pinewood's two- or four-week program offers half-day or full-day options in both academic and enrichment classes. Specialized teachers and small academic classes maximize the summer school experience for grades K-8. Our curriculum emphasizes academic achievement as well as participation in the arts, technology, and athletics.

pinewood.edu/summerprograms

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

Stanford

Explore biomedical science at Stanford through lectures from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science including bioengineering, neuroscience, immunology and other topics.

explore.stanford.edu

explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer at Sand Hill School

Palo Alto

Our program balances fun group activities that promote social growth with academic remediation and a focus on student interests and talents. Appropriate for students who have completed Grade 2, 3, 4 or 5 and who have language-based learning differences, attention challenges and/or school-based anxiety. Learn to love school again. Camp dates: June 14-June 30.

sandhillschool.org/summer

(650) 688-3605

Summer@Stratford

Palo Alto/Bay Area

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers engage in hands-on learning projects, while elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems. At the middle school level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

stratfordschools.com/summer

pa@stratfordschools.com

(650) 493-1151

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Camp Integem

Palo Alto

Camp Integem is the #1 AR camp for kids and teens (ages 5-18). It is a magical and unique experience for K-12 students who love STEM, Art, Coding, AI, Design, 3D Fashion, Animation, or Game Design to turn your imagination into cutting-edge designs.

camp.integem.com

(408) 459-0657

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls

Palo Alto

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

castilleja.org/summercamp

(650) 470-7833

City of Sunnyvale Recreation

Sunnyvale

Offering 80+ camps for ages 3-17 featuring traditional camps, art camps, dance camps, theater camps, sports camps and STEM camps. Camps begin June 6 - Aug. 12. Check out swim lessons and recreation swim at three aquatic facilities with lessons opening early May.

sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities

(408) 730-7350

Community School of Music & Arts

Mountain View

50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Financial aid offered.

arts4all.org

(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Hope Musical Theatre

Palo Alto

1 WEEK FULL DAY CAMPS: June 6 - July 29. This summer camp is an intensive musical theatre program where students, ranging in age from 6 - 15 years old, put on a Broadway style musical with high caliber sets, props, costumes, a professional choreographer, a director and a live band.

hopemusicaltheatre.com

(650) 568-3332

Midpen Media

Palo Alto

Midpen Media Center is hosting a series of media-making summer camps, including Studio Television Production, News & Journalism, Sports Broadcasting, Filmmaking, and Acting for the Camera.

midpenmedia.org/summercamp

(650) 494-8686

Oshman Family JCC Camps

Palo Alto

At J-Camp, we build a spirited community where campers are immersed in joyful camp activities and develop meaningful relationships with others while engaging in individual personal growth. Our exciting day camp offers programming for incoming grades K-10.

ofjcc-jcamp.com

(650) 223-8622

Riekes Center

Bay Area

Explore all your interests with the Riekes Center this summer! Enrolling now for programs in Creative Arts, Nature, and multifaceted AFCANA including Athletic Fitness. For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.

riekes.org/summercamps2022

(650) 364-2509

Stanford Jazz Workshop

Stanford

Stanford Jazz Workshop on campus of Stanford University. Week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 5), high school (Jazz Camp, July 10 and July 17), and adults/advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 24). All instruments and vocals. Jazz Camp tuition reduced by 1/3 for our 50th Anniversary Season!

stanfordjazz.org

(650) 736-0324

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

Atherton, Palo Alto

Campers bring their plays to life, make new friends and practice collaboration skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's PlayMakers Camp (grades K-5). Campers learn acting, playwriting, movement and stagecraft from professional teaching artists from the Tony Award-winning local company.

theatreworks.org/education

(650) 463-7146

ATHLETICS

Bald Eagle Sports Camps

Bay Area

The first camp ever approved by *The Positive Coaching Alliance* for message and *Development Zone* programming. We offer 4 camps: Non-Traditional MultiSports (TK-5th), Sports Leadership & Field Trips (6th-8th), Basketball Camp (3rd-8th) and Coach In Training (free, 9th-10th). Healthy lunch included for all. Extended Care 7:30 am - 6 pm.

baldeaglecamps.com

(888) 505-BALD

Dance Connection Palo Alto

Palo Alto

Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a "home away from home" for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up including Teen Jazz, TikTok, and Hip Hop Camps. A summer session for ages 3 to adults will be offered from June 13-July 30.

danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps

(650) 322-7032

Decathlon Sports Club

Los Altos

Decathlon Sports Club's environment we have created and fostered feels a lot like that "old neighborhood". Games and socializing, in combination with structured sports and instruction, creates the simultaneously relaxed, crazy, fun and educational feel of our program. Children play, get tons of exercise, and develop socially, physically, and athletically.

dsclausalos.com

Text or Call: (650) 314-9775

Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps

Palo Alto
Monterey Bay

Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay.

KimGrantTennis.com

Text: (650) 690-0678
Call: (650) 752-8061

Maccabi Sports Camp

Atherton

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports.

maccabisportscamp.org/wp

(415) 997-8844

Camp Cardinal

Stanford

We hope you're ready for engaged and safety-focused staff, phenomenal facilities, and innovative programs. Our camps will empower your camper's physical, and mental skills in a social environment. Our main camper program is for kids 5 years old to 6th grade. Our Counselor-in-Training Program for kids 7th-10th grade for aspiring camp counselors.

campcardinal.org

campcardinal@stanford.edu

Stanford Baseball Camps

Stanford

At Sunken Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. A variety of camps are offered to benefit a wide range of age groups and skill sets. Campers will gain instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play.

stanfordbaseballcamp.com

(650) 725-2054

Stanford Water Polo Camps

Stanford

Whether you're new to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

stanfordwaterpolocamps.com

(650) 725-9016

Please check directly with camps for updates and remote offerings. To advertise in print and online, call (650) 326-8210.

UPDATED, LIGHT AND BRIGHT TOWNHOUSE



OPEN SAT. & SUN.
April 30 & May 1, 1:00 – 4:00pm

1115 CONTINENTAL DRIVE | MENLO PARK | \$2,595,000 | 1115CONTINENTAL.COM

Updated single-story townhouse in desirable Sharon Heights | 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths | Approx. 2,990 total sq. ft.
Living room, dining room, family room, den/office | Oversized 2-car garage | Proximity to Sharon Park “Duck Pond”, Stanford University,
downtown Menlo Park | Las Lomas Elementary School District



**HUGH
CORNISH**
& ASSOCIATES

HughCornish.com

Over \$3 Billion in Sales



For a private showing of this extraordinary property, please contact:

HUGH CORNISH

650.619.6461
hcornish@cbnorcal.com
CalRE#00912143

#1 Agent in SF Peninsula
Coldwell Banker, 2019 - 2021

**STEPHANIE ELKINS
VAN LINGE**

650.400.2933
stephanie.elkins@cbnorcal.com
CalRE#00897565

#7 Agent in SF Peninsula
Coldwell Banker, 2021



**COLDWELL
BANKER**
REALTY

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2022 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. CalRE #01908304.



TIMELESS CAPE COD TRADITIONAL HOME

98 UNIVERSITY DRIVE | MENLO PARK | \$3,995,000 | 98UNIVERSITY.COM

East-Coast-styled home in sought-after Allied Arts | 4 bedrooms, 3 baths on two levels | Approx. 3,215 total sq. ft.

Formal living room and dining room, large kitchen, family room | Detached 2-car garage | Approx. 0.25 acres (11,025 sq. ft.)

Space to add a pool, lawn, sport court, or possible additional structure | Less than one-half mile to Nealon Park and Downtown Menlo Park
Menlo Park schools



**HUGH
CORNISH**
& ASSOCIATES

HughCornish.com

Over \$3 Billion in Sales



For a private showing of this extraordinary property, please contact:

HUGH CORNISH

650.619.6461
hcornish@cbtnorcal.com
CalRE#00912143

#1 Agent in SF Peninsula
Coldwell Banker, 2019 - 2021

**STEPHANIE ELKINS
VAN LINGE**

650.400.2933
stephanie.elkins@cbtnorcal.com
CalRE#00897565

#7 Agent in SF Peninsula
Coldwell Banker, 2021



**COLDWELL
BANKER
REALTY**

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2022 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. CalRE #01908304.

Mademoiselle Colette picked to run new cafe in Atherton's town center

By Angela Swartz

Local French patisserie Mademoiselle Colette will run a cafe in Atherton's soon-to-open library.

This will be the fourth location for Mademoiselle Colette, which has cafes in Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Redwood City that serve breakfast and lunch, as well as pastries to go. Its proprietor, Debora Ferrand, is an Atherton resident, according to a town staff report.

"Mademoiselle Colette can bring an elegant, cozy, delicious, and high quality service cafe to the residents and employees of Atherton," according to the cafe's proposal to the town, which was selected during an April 20 City Council meeting.

Mademoiselle Colette will begin making \$151,000 in improvements to the 250-square-foot space in May or June, and the town expects that work to take a few months,



Veronica Weber

Debora Ferrand, owner of Patisserie Colette, places raspberry eclairs in the display case at Mademoiselle Colette on Nov. 10, 2015. She plans to open her fourth cafe at Atherton town center this fall.

said City Manager George Rodricks in an email. The plan is for the cafe to open by early fall, he said.

The library is part of Atherton's \$32 million civic center

project. The town plans to host a grand opening event on Saturday, June 4, from noon to 3 p.m.

Ferrand opened the local company's first cafe on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park in

2015. Born in Brazil but raised in France, she attended Le Cordon Bleu culinary school and studied at the School of Alain Ducasse in France.

Details on the deal

The cafe is located in the \$19.1 million, 10,000-square-foot library. Some \$30,000 of the planned \$151,000 in renovations would be for food equipment, according to the cafe's proposal. An approximately 2,000-square-foot deck and terrace fronts the cafe space.

Rent will be free for the cafe's first year of operations, then after, it would pay 4% of the cafe's prior month's earnings, capped at \$35,000 annually.

Mademoiselle Colette plans to sign a five-year lease with the town.

It's anticipated that the cafe will initially be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

During an April 20 meeting when the council chose Mademoiselle Colette, town officials said they would be fine with the cafe serving wine. The owner would have to obtain the necessary liquor licenses.

Second go at gathering proposals

In March 2021, town staff asked for proposals from vendors to finish and operate the 250-square-foot space under a contract to operate it for three years. By the May 2021 deadline, no one had applied.

The council put out another request for proposals at the end of January after seeing renewed interest in the cafe. Proposals were due on March 15. One other business, SiliconValley.coffee, applied. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

A key focus of the presentation will be on "helping teens and families speak candidly on what it means to navigate depression together."

Lindsey holds a doctorate and master's degrees in social work and public health from New York University.

The lecture is open to the public and takes place in person at 6:30 p.m. in Harman Auditorium in the

Homer Science Center at SHS, 150 Valparaiso Ave., in Atherton. It will also be streamed online. Register at tinyurl.com/michaellindseylecture.

Any person who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal can call 1-800-784-2433 to speak with a crisis counselor. People in Santa Clara County can call 855-278-4204. Spanish speakers can call 1-888-628-9454.

People can reach trained counselors at Crisis Text Line by texting 741741.

Additional resources can be found at tinyurl.com/paw-resources.

Woodside-Atherton Garden Club plant sale

After a six-year hiatus, the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club is resuming its popular plant sale on Saturday, May 14.

There will be hundreds of California native and drought-tolerant plants — such as such as yarrow, salvias, succulents and hellebores — as well as

gardening essentials and planted containers. Flowering plants, vegetables, gardening gear, fertilizer and avocado honey will also be on sale. Barron's Mobile Sharpening Service will be there to sharpen knives and tools.

Students from Woodside schools will be on hand to help buyers transport their purchases to their vehicles. Proceeds from the sale go to maintaining the Woodside Library Native Plant Garden and other civic projects the club supports.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Woodside Library Native Plant Garden, 3140 Woodside Road, in Woodside. Admission is free.

Go to woodsidthathertongc.org for more information.

Oak Knoll class is a runner up in Cal Water's H2O Challenge

A class at Oak Knoll Elementary in Menlo Park took the runner-up spot in the eighth annual Cal Water H2O Challenge classroom competition, according to a press release.

The project-based competition invites fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade classrooms in Cal Water service areas to develop and implement solutions to local water issues.

Kim Nero's fifth-grade class at Oak Knoll won the fourth-place prize, which includes a \$1,000 classroom grant and student prizes, for its project "Watershed Warriors!"

The class learned about their

local watersheds and donated supplies to a local nonprofit organization for creek restoration work, according to the release. The students also removed invasive species, planted new trees and shrubs, and educated the community about the need to keep their local water supplies clean.

Vaccine clinic on May 22 in Menlo Park

The Menlo Park City School District will partner with Safeway Pharmacy to host a vaccine clinic at Hillview Middle School, 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park, on Sunday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be COVID-19 vaccine shots available. The clinic will also offer school-required shots and additional vaccines for: HPV; MMR; meningococcal; Hepatitis B; Tetanus/Diphtheria; pneumonia, polio, shingles and varicella. ■

—Angela Swartz

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

ATHERTON

303 Atherton Avenue **\$17,900,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 7BD/8.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

MENLO PARK

1115 Continental Drive (T) **\$2,595,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 2BD/2.5BA
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-619-6461

1172 Santa Cruz Avenue **\$5,695,000**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 3BD/2BA
Compass 650-400-8424

376 McKendry Drive **\$2,450,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA
Compass 650-796-2523

MOUNTAIN VIEW

336 N. Whisman Road **\$1,998,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-785-5822

49 Showers Drive **\$1,415,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

PALO ALTO

1221 Waverley Street **\$5,500,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA
Compass 650-740-7954

PALO ALTO

1469 Dana Avenue **\$3,895,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 3BD/2BA
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-400-5800

171 Everett Avenue **\$3,798,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

2261 Saint Francis Drive **\$3,500,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

744 Guinda Street **\$5,000,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-862-2122

1420 University Avenue **\$8,988,000**
Sat 1:30-4:30 6BD/6.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

637 Alvarado Row **\$3,998,000**
Sun 2:00-4:00 6BD/4.5BA
Compass 650-814-6682

PLEASANTON

7 Deer Oaks Drive **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 5BD/5BA
Compass 925-596-8731

PORTOLA VALLEY

855 La Mesa Drive **\$4,995,000**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 4BD/3BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T). Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

I reported my harassment in the California Legislature. Then state investigators went after me

By Ruth Ferguson

GUEST OPINION

In a recent interview, California Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins said it was “disappointing and hard to hear that there are (legislative staffers) who still have concerns” about the harassment reporting process in the Legislature.

“I would just encourage staff to reach out,” she said. “We want to make sure they’re being addressed.”



But I can tell you what really happens when victims “reach out” to the California Legislature after they experience harassment. And I can assure you it has little to do with making sure the concerns of victims are being met.

The harassment

In 2017, almost 200 women signed a letter detailing pervasive harassment issues in the Capitol. In response, the Legislature created the Workplace Conduct Unit (WCU) — hailed as an “independent” investigatory body free of political interference — to probe all allegations of harassment and discrimination. The Legislature also passed a new Policy on Appropriate Workplace Conduct that created clear guidelines for what constitutes misconduct and mandated that supervisors report any allegations of harassment to the investigatory unit.

Requiring supervisors to report all allegations of misbehavior directly to the WCU may seem like an insignificant change, but it was considered an essential reform. As Assembly Member Laura Friedman, D-Glendale (Los Angeles County), explained in a 2018 interview: “In the past, you were asking HR people (who work for the Legislature under partisan leadership) to make a determination ... which will always be seen as being biased.”

The goal wasn’t just to hold Harvey Weinstein-like predators accountable, but also to adjudicate smaller workplace incidents before they spiraled into something bigger — and to prevent favoritism from clouding the waters of an

investigation. Legislative leaders touted this essential reform and accepted the accompanying accolades when they were lauded for providing the greatest worker protections of any state legislature in the country.

In March 2019, shortly after these policy changes were implemented, I joined the district office of Menlo Park Democratic Assembly Member Marc Berman as a field representative. I was 24 years old.

Our district office was just four full-time staffers and a rotating series of interns. From the very beginning, I was told to view our office as a group of friends, rather than co-workers, since we would be spending long days, nights and often weekends, together.

The district director of our office — my direct supervisor — made me uncomfortable almost immediately. My experience working under this district director would ultimately be the subject of WCU investigations and of a workplace harassment, discrimination and retaliation complaint that I filed with the state agency charged with investigating such claims.

I noticed the way my supervisor behaved with another female subordinate employee, who has since moved to Berman’s Capitol office in Sacramento. In front of other staff, my supervisor flirted with this other female employee by, for example, paying for her lunches, eating from the same container as her as if they were on a date and sitting next to her desk all day. He’d subtly but overtly touch her hair, arm and hand. He’d asked her to apply a pain therapy pad to his bare back. In one instance, she asked him to unknot part of her necklace that dangled off the chain. I watched as he pinned her up against his desk, in between his legs, and worked on the necklace for minutes while it lay on her chest.

Some of his misconduct was directed toward me. Once, when I asked him why he treated the other staffer more favorably, he said it’s because she did not have a husband to care for her. I, on the other hand, was recently married — and I understood him to mean that

he was interested in women who were willing to flirt with him. My “unavailability” meant that I was not. Beyond that, he would comment on the physical attractiveness of female colleagues — both legislators and staff — including, for example, ranking their bodies on a scale of 1 to 10.

My supervisor reduced me and the other professional women in our proximity to our sexual appeal and availability. It was clear to me through this behavior that for women to advance in the office, we’d need to at least tolerate these exploits, if not play along.

And the degree to which I could choose to play along would come to haunt me down the road.

The stonewalling

After four months on the job, I called my chief of staff in the Sacramento Capitol office to file a complaint. I poured out what I had been holding in: the behavior, the discomfort, my confusion, pain and shame — as well as similar stories our interns had shared with me.

There was a palpable silence once I stopped speaking. He told me it sounded like “cliqueness” instead of harassment, and that he’d need to ask my supervisor — whom I had just reported — about my allegation. I begged him not to. He finally agreed and said he would escalate the complaint to Berman and an Assembly human resources consultant. I felt reassured, as I understood that he was obligated to report my allegation to the WCU as well: The Legislature’s new protocol, which is available on the WCU’s website, states that “supervisors,” which includes chiefs of staff, “must report any complaints of misconduct to the Workplace Conduct Unit immediately so that the complaint can be resolved.”

After I hung up with my chief of staff, I sent a follow-up text thanking him. I was genuinely grateful. I didn’t want my supervisor fired. I just wanted his misbehavior to end — and for him to be held accountable if it didn’t. The WCU was created for this very reason.

I waited for weeks, months and eventually over a year. No one from the Assembly or the

WCU contacted me.

Because prematurely leaving a job in the Legislature can make it nearly impossible to be hired again in the Capitol, I stayed in my position and kept a smile on my face in the office. But I’d frequently sob on my drive home, at times having to pull over to regain my composure. I’d spend nights awake replaying the conversation with my chief of staff. I wondered if I should follow-up but was paralyzed by the thought of jeopardizing my career further.

Over time, I began to convince myself that I was the problem.

But then, a year into the job, I was denied a significant pay increase I was promised. And what I was told as the reasons why raised red flags.

Former Assembly staff member Ruth Ferguson is now a public policy graduate student at UC Berkeley.

The retaliation

Before I accepted my job offer — in an attempt to convince me to join the office despite the low pay — Assembly Member Berman said I could receive a “considerable raise” at my one-year mark if the budget allowed and performance merited. But when that time came around, I was denied anything resembling a considerable raise.

That’s when I began to think that the problem wasn’t with me. And I wondered if the same tactics that the Legislature has allegedly used for decades to push out women who report harassment were now being used against me.

In April 2020, I was working from home during the COVID-19 shutdown and decided to anonymously call the WCU to ask for advice. When I explained the situation to an investigator, she asked if I would file a formal complaint. I was terrified, confused and felt like I needed an exit plan before I could report anything to the WCU officially. I refused to file a formal complaint at that time but said I would call back in the future.

Three months later, I answered a phone call from a private number. It was another WCU investigator.

She informed me that her office received an anonymous complaint of misconduct in

Berman’s office. The way she phrased things made me believe that someone else had come forward with similar allegations as my own, especially since I had previously refused to file an anonymous complaint. And I understood that my chief of staff — a mandatory reporter — was required to report my complaint from the previous year. Comforted that I wasn’t alone, I explained everything to the investigator on the record.

And yet there were no other complainants.

Despite my saying that I wasn’t ready, the unit got me to believe that someone other than me had contacted them. I felt like I had been tricked into reporting to the WCU.

On that call, the WCU investigator told me that the unit opened a preliminary investigation into my allegations. Two months later, I was told that the unit opened a formal investigation and had notified my district director and chief of staff of my allegations. Despite previously telling me that the WCU would do everything to keep my identity anonymous, I was informed my name had been shared with my chief of staff.

I asked why they hadn’t investigated when I reported to my chief of staff in July 2019. That’s when she told me they didn’t have any record of the complaint I made.

The WCU investigator’s admission confirmed that my allegations were not properly submitted to the WCU in July 2019 when I first reported them — inaction that is inconsistent with the California Legislative Policy on Appropriate Workplace Conduct, as published by the WCU itself. I felt like I had been manipulated into silence. And I complied, embarrassed by what I trained myself to believe was a problem with me.

Once a formal investigation opened, my chief of staff and the Assembly Rules Committee engaged in what I perceived to be clear cut retaliation against me. For the first time, just one month after the investigation opened, I received a critical written review of my job performance. Responsibilities for which I had been complimented on just days earlier were swiftly

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

taken away. When I asked specific questions about these slights over email, I received no answers in writing. Instead, my chief of staff tried to force me into a meeting with only him and a human resources consultant with the Rules Committee. When I said that I intended to bring my father-in-law, who works as a lawyer, as an observer, my chief of staff canceled the meeting.

I now believe this to be textbook retaliation, but at the time I was terrified and unsure of where to turn. Human resources didn't offer to transfer me to another office. Nor did they place me or my supervisors on administrative leave.

On Oct. 28, 2020, the stress became unbearable, and I successfully qualified for medical leave.

While on leave I participated in a grueling 12-hour interview process with the WCU, during which investigators questioned my memory, sensitivity and work product. Among the things I told the investigators was how my supervisor would tell the office that I was sexually attracted to male colleagues when I was friendly to them — suggestions that I was deeply uncomfortable with but eventually learned not to make a big deal about in an effort to stay on his good side. Investigators asked me to do other things like film myself making a sexualized tongue gesture.

I provided the WCU with screenshots of text messages and photos that showed the behavior, a detailed timeline, contemporaneous texts with my spouse that outlined the harassment and time-stamped notes on my phone that documented the report I made to my chief of staff (including harassment issues that were shared with me by our interns).

Put simply, my case wasn't an example of what is often discounted as merely "he said/she said."

I largely hid out during the entire year it took for the WCU to complete its investigation. I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder on top of the debilitating depression I was experiencing.

Almost two years after I first reported the harassment to my chief of staff and after a full year of the official WCU investigation, I received a letter signed by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon stating that the Legislature could not substantiate my allegations of retaliation, that I was treated unfairly or that my supervisor had had a flirtatious relationship with my co-worker. Rendon, D-Lakewood

(Los Angeles County), also noted that I was not allowed to see the report that ruled against me, because it was subject to attorney-client privilege. This stunning admission contradicts claims made by leadership and the WCU that the unit is "independent" from the Legislature. This formal relationship means that the WCU literally represents the interests of the Legislature and not the public.

Although the WCU did not substantiate my allegations, it did concede that evidence showed my supervisor behaved inappropriately when he did things like touch my co-worker's hair and body, comment on the attractiveness of individuals and engage in "overly familiar conduct" with staff. (The WCU did not, to my knowledge, find that the other female employee had behaved inappropriately.)

My supervisor's punishment? Counseling. He remains on the job to this day.

To my knowledge, my chief of staff also wasn't held accountable for his role in failing to appropriately report my allegations or the retaliation I believe ensued. I later learned that an intern corroborated elements of my story to the WCU, telling investigators about their discomfort over what they perceived to be an inappropriate relationship and behaviors. Still, the WCU unsubstantiated my allegation.

That's when I filed my workplace discrimination complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing in May 2021, detailing the experience I just described. It named as respondents the Assembly, the WCU and its independent panel, Berman's chief of staff, my district director, Speaker Rendon and a human resources consultant. At the same time, I asked the department to grant me the immediate right to sue — that is, it would close its case without a response from the respondents so that I can instead pursue my case in state or federal court. I have not sued, and although I have until May 21 to do so, I don't intend to.

But the matter doesn't end there. Also in May 2021, I received a letter from the WCU notifying me that it would now investigate my conduct.

The allegations against me largely concerned instances in which, as I had previously reported, my supervisor had harassed me, including whether I said I was sexually attracted to a pastor with whom I worked. Or the water delivery person. These were examples of the harassment I was forced to endure, I told the investigators. But in the WCU's version of the story, I was the instigator.

This is a strategy so commonly employed by harassers that the acronym DARVO (Deny Attack Reverse Victim and Offender) is used for shorthand.

I sent the WCU text messages from my supervisor which, I explained, contradicted these claims and backed up my story. But the WCU instead substantiated the allegations "based on a preponderance of evidence."

This episode raised questions in my mind about the Legislature's willingness to facilitate retaliation.

Again, I was not allowed to see the report.

I fully participated in both investigations because I wanted to believe in this system, in the California Legislature and in the many promises made by Rendon and Atkins.

But the Legislature didn't just let me down — it punished me for coming forward.

The intensity of the betrayal and undeserved shame I felt throughout this process has been all-consuming. I hadn't previously understood how devastated and scared I could feel. There were any number of times I considered that things might be better for me and those I love if I no longer existed. Without the privilege of my personal safety net — a network of people who buoyed me both emotionally and financially — I can honestly say I would not still be here.

Since I took my leave in October 2020, I have privately lobbied several legislators in the Senate and the Assembly and asked them to address inequities in the system. I shared painful details of my story with each member and offered incremental policy alternatives that could improve the process. Eventually, my case and policy change suggestions were brought to the attention of the Legislative Women's Caucus as a formal agenda item during its December 2021 retreat.

I was later told that I was not the first person to share concerns about the WCU, as members had heard several complaints — but they felt like there was nothing they could do.

To be clear, protecting marginalized staffers cannot and should not be the sole responsibility of female elected officials. However, that is the fight to which the Legislative Women's Caucus has committed. In fact, two days after the caucus told me its hands were tied, Atkins, D-San Diego, said in a press conference that the caucus would "never, never back down from attacks on the civil and human rights of women in America."

That promise was again put to the test just weeks later when staffers took matters into

their own hands and shared hundreds of complaints that showed the Legislature's so-called #MeToo "reckoning" had failed. An anonymous Instagram account that shared allegations of abuse was mysteriously shut down within just a few days, but the allegations reverberated throughout the Capitol.

Yet, the Women's Caucus and legislative leadership have remained silent.

These stunning displays of apathy underscore the crisis described by advocates for years: the Legislature knows what happens to those who try to report harassment, yet still it refuses to take actions that would stop the alleged abuse.

And so now, I am refusing to let it silence me.

The solution

Oversight and transparency are the immediate first steps to addressing this institutional crisis. And victims and advocates aren't the only ones who believe that. The Assembly Judiciary Committee tried to address this lack of transparency and oversight four years ago. In 2018, at the height of #MeToo scrutiny in the Legislature, the Assembly Judiciary Committee introduced AB2032, which would have allowed narrow public access to the Legislature's misconduct records. This bill would have amended a law passed by the Legislature in 1975 to shield its own records from transparency, ironically named the Legislative Open Records Act. Committee Chair Mark Stone, D-Santa Cruz, argued that changes like simply creating the WCU couldn't be effective without oversight and "that's why changing (the open records act) is so important."

Despite Stone's efforts, AB2032 died in the Assembly Rules Committee without ever receiving a hearing.

Four years later, victims like me can clearly see why the same committee that enforces the outcomes of WCU investigations wouldn't be keen on giving the public access to its records.

To empower the public, protect survivors and begin to correct the abusive culture in the Capitol, the Legislature must amend the open records act to require the release of all of its misconduct records — including cases that are unsubstantiated by the WCU.

Members of the Legislature had no problem approving the opening of police misconduct records in 2020 and again in 2021. Why won't they live up to the standards they set for other institutions?

Advocates have been patient with the Legislature's leadership

as it has deflected responsibility over and over on this issue. Yet, all signs point to the uncomfortable conclusion that the Legislature is not as focused on truth and justice as it is on protecting the institution.

Better to pretend that victims like me don't exist or count on the likelihood that the system will silence us.

We're tired of being made invisible.

I ask Senate Pro Tem Atkins and the other members who have spoken loftily on this issue to live up to your public promises to protect all victims — including the Legislature's employees.

We await your response. ■

Ruth Ellenberg Ferguson is a graduate student at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and a board member of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee.

This piece was originally published in the San Francisco Chronicle.

EDITORS NOTE

Assembly Member Marc Berman provided this news organization the following statement: "I deeply regret that Ms. Ferguson had a negative experience working in my office. The Workplace Conduct Unit (WCU), an independent investigatory authority that was proposed by the Joint Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response in the wake of the #MeToo movement, conducted a remarkably thorough and extensive investigation into the allegations brought by Ms. Ferguson as well as additional issues that were identified during their investigation. I respect the conclusions reached by the WCU, and I support the remedial actions that were taken as a result. Due to the active threat of litigation from Ms. Ferguson against my office and the legislature, as well as the laws protecting the confidentiality of personnel matters, I am unable to comment further on the specifics of this matter."

The state's Legislative Counsel Bureau, in response to a request for the Workplace Conduct Unit report on Ferguson's allegations and supporting documents associated with the report, declined to disclose any documents.



1172 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park

OPEN SAT & SUN 2:00 - 4:00pm



Resort-Inspired Luxury with Remarkable Privacy

Whole-home remodel inside and out with exceptional private grounds

Over one-third acre (approximately 15,675 square feet)

3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths in the main home

1-bedroom, 1-bath guest house

Freshly painted interiors, tray or vaulted ceilings, and beautiful hardwood floors throughout

Formal living room with fireplace and formal dining room

Tremendous kitchen and family room combination beneath a cathedral ceiling

Vast, rear grounds feature a sparkling pool, towering palm trees, fire pit, outdoor kitchen; half-bath

Excellent Menlo Park schools

3
BEDS

2.5
BATHS

15,675
SQ FT LOT



\$5,695,000

1172SantaCruz.com



judycitron.com

Judy Citron DRE 01825569
650.400.8424 | judy@judycitron.com

Talia Citron Knapp DRE 01987761
650.400.8424 | talia@taliacitron.com

#1 Agent ENTIRE Bay Area
#1 Market Share in Menlo Park
#5 Agent California

COMPASS



MENLO PARK | \$4,188,888

Spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch style home in a great location on a great lot! Large family room/kitchen opening to huge backyard. Formal entry opens to living room with fireplace. Formal dining room and primary suite with French door to backyard. Hardwood floors throughout most of home. Attached two-car garage. Convenient to downtown Menlo Park, Stanford and Sand Hill Road. Award-winning schools.

Elaine White 650.465.4663
CalRE #01182467

Hossein Jalali 650.740.2233
CalRE #01215831



PORTOLA VALLEY | \$3,695,000

NOW PENDING - One of a kind expansive views of the Bay Area greet you as you step inside the front door of this light-filled Ladera home located in the younger section of upper Ladera. First time on the market, this 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home with a studio apartment is brimming with opportunity. Enjoy as-is or turn it into a dream home for a lifetime. Take a tour at www.770lamesa.com.

Michele Morhenn
650.471.9066
michele.morhenn@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #02006379



PALO ALTO | \$2,298,000

Peaceful 3BR/1BA original Eichler home on a quiet circle with no through traffic. Short distance to Greer Park, the largest park in Palo Alto. Highly coveted Palo Alto schools.

Wendy B. McPherson
650.619.4044
wmcpherson@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00572958



PALO ALTO | \$949,000

www.4250ElCaminoReal-A307.com | This top floor, end unit, chic condo is located in the sought-after Palo Alto Redwoods.

Julie Lau
650.208.2287
JLau@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #01052924