

The Almanac

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

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Missing-dog mystery sparks police investigation

A Palo Alto woman gave her German shepherd to a trainer. The dog she got back wasn't hers.

By Sue Dremann

Carolina Bruchilari wants her dog back.

The Palo Alto resident thought her beloved German shepherd, Scott, would only be gone for two weeks when she entrusted him to a trainer in mid-December to help him get over a few nervous habits he exhibited after the family relocated from Brazil.

But instead of getting back a well-behaved Scott, Bruchilari says the trainer brought a totally different German shepherd — wearing Scott's Apple tag tracking collar.

An honest mistake? Bruchilari doesn't think so. In fact, she now claims the trainer "stole" her 7-year-old purebred, and she's worried she'll never see Scott again. Police departments in two California counties have gotten involved.

The situation had seemed promising at the start. Bruchilari and her family had brought Scott to Palo Alto from Brazil,

where they previously lived, six months ago. But Scott exhibited signs of anxiety, and he pulled on his lead. So Bruchilari searched Thumbtack, an online home services app that lists professionals, for a suitable dog trainer. The one she chose had many good reviews, a 4.9 rating and was "verified" on the website, she said.

She and her husband interviewed and liked the trainer and felt she would be a good match for Scott. The trainer departed with Scott from Bruchilari's home on Dec. 18, saying she would bring him back on Jan. 2. The trainer sent updates on Scott's progress along with photographs. But on Jan. 2, the trainer called to say she had a family emergency and would bring the dog back on Jan. 4 instead.

When it came time for Scott's return, the trainer came with an imposter, Bruchilari said. Scott has rich, tan fur with some



Magali Gauthier

Carolina Bruchilari holds a photo of her missing dog, a 7-year-old pedigreed German shepherd named Scott, in Palo Alto on Jan. 12.

See **MISSING DOG**, page 18

After weeks of protests, Atherton might limit picketing outside of homes

A series of demonstrations on Carolina Lane spurred the proposed law

By Angela Swartz

After weeks of protests in front of an Atherton home on Carolina Lane in November and December, the town is considering an ordinance that prohibit picketing within 300 feet of a residence.

During the last two weeks of November and the first two weeks of December, organized protesters demonstrated in front of a residence on Carolina Lane in Atherton, according to a Jan. 18 report written by Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley.

A person involved in a business-related dispute with the resident on Carolina Lane hired

the protestors to picket and target the resident and his family, McCulley told The Almanac. He said protesters were holding signs, but he doesn't know what the signs said.

"The resident feared for his safety, the safety of his family, and temporarily moved from their residence during these protests," the report states. The protests took place daily for up to eight hours per day, according to the report.

The order is aimed at "protecting the peace and tranquility" of Atherton residents in their homes, McCulley wrote.

"This is a content-neutral, narrowly tailored time, place,

and manner restriction on picketing in a limited public forum that will preclude picketers from targeting individual residences by remaining at least 300 feet from any individual residence, while leaving open ample alternative channels for communication available to picketers," according to the code amendment. "It also enables people targeted picketing to bring an action against any person who violates the code to recover an award of a civil penalty of up to \$1,000, as well as costs and reasonable attorneys' fees."

McCulley said the homeowner is trying to stay out of the media out of fear of further protests.

Similar laws

Atherton is not the only California city to consider such restrictions.

The Los Angeles City Council approved a similar law in 2021, which also limited protesters from being within 300 feet of a private home and also includes a \$1,000 fee for violations of the rules.

In the Bay Area, Los Gatos passed an ordinance in October 2021 after anti-LGBTQ groups protested outside of Mayor Marico Sayoc's home. The 300-foot buffer and \$1,000 fine also apply.

The San Francisco Chronicle

noted that the leading case for restrictions on residential protests in California came in 1995 when an appellate court rejected a challenge by abortion opponents to a San Jose ordinance that limited demonstrations within 300 feet of residence targeted by the protests.

The Atherton council was set to vote on the code change at a Wednesday, Jan. 18, meeting taking place after The Almanac's Wednesday press deadline. ■

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

INSIDE

ARTS 20 | FOOD 22

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Local News

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Magali Gauthier

The boarded-up house at 2 Lowery Drive in Atherton is slated to be torn down as part of a lot-splitting project allowed under new state law SB 9.

What it's like to do an SB 9 lot split in Atherton

The owners behind the first town-approved project share insights on the process

By Angela Swartz

Historically, Atherton has been known as a single-family home town. In the 1920s, town officials coined the term the “Atherton acre” for its roomy minimum lot size of slightly less than an acre — 0.92, to be exact.

But with Senate Bill 9, the

new state duplex law enacted in 2022, Atherton began to see applications trickle in for property owners wanting to split their lots and build up to four homes.

The first property approved by the town for such a split is 2 Lowery Drive. The final map for the property is expected to be recorded by San Mateo County this week. On site

currently is a one-story, five-bedroom, three-bathroom home, built in 1960 on a 1.22-acre lot adjacent to an elementary school. It last sold for \$5.6 million on Dec 13, 2021, according to Zillow.

Two of the partners who own the site, Mircea Voskerician and Melanie Griswold, spoke

See **SPLITTING LOTS**, page 16

Menlo Park Mayor Jen Wolosin wants to look at the big picture in 2023

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park Mayor Jen Wolosin got into politics with her sights set on safe streets, but she's come to realize that city governance, and all of the issues it faces, are heavily interconnected.

When Wolosin's children were young, she didn't know who to contact about making Menlo Park's streets safer, so she sent out an email blast to several different branches of the city government. She heard back from both county and city staff as she tried to navigate the jurisdictions. From there, Wolosin went on to get involved in advocating for pedestrian safety.



Jen Wolosin

Wolosin founded her own advocacy group, Parents for Safe Routes, and served on the Bicycle Commission and Complete Streets Commission, which brought her to Menlo Park City Council meetings for the first time.

“When you're sitting in a City Council meeting, waiting for ... your agenda item of interest to come up, other agenda items come up that perk your ears,” Wolosin said. “And then I started having opinions about those, and started understanding the

intersectionality of topics like safety on the streets, and transportation and land use and housing and climate.”

Wolosin ran for City Council in 2020, as a safe streets advocate amid a pandemic. When talking about her priorities during her year as mayor, Wolosin stands by the values she ran on three years ago. One of the ideas she finds interesting is the “15-minute city,” a concept of municipal planning where all day-to-day tasks can be accomplished by walking or biking from one's home.

“I was very clear on my priorities ... and that was first safe streets for people of all ages and abilities, kind of my bread and butter,” Wolosin said. “The second was housing at all income levels throughout the city and third was bold climate action at the local level, and then doing all of this with an eye towards equity and taking care of our most vulnerable, and making sure that voices that haven't historically been in the room are elevated and strongly considered.”

Wolosin states that while she has her own priorities, this year is not only about what she wants to see for Menlo Park but what Menlo Park wants to see for itself. She refers to herself as a part of an “ecosystem” of staff, residents and council members

See **WOLOSIN**, page 15

Menlo Park Planning Commission seeks to fill city-owned parking lots with affordable homes

Renter protections being weighed to prevent displacing residents

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park's Planning Commission wants the city to focus on putting affordable homes on city-owned parking lots and find ways to reduce displacement, agreeing at a Jan. 12 meeting that both should be an emphasis in the city's housing element.

The meeting marked the final meeting before the draft housing element comes back to

the City Council for possible approval on Jan. 30. The document has to be submitted to the state by Jan. 31 or the city risks repercussions.

The housing element requires cities to accommodate projected growth, with an eye toward balancing jobs and housing. Menlo Park's housing target, also known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), requires the city to plan for close to 3,800 new

housing units by 2031.

Though Menlo Park submitted a draft of its housing element to the state in July, with a prediction that the city would not only reach its RHNA requirements but exceed them by over 2,000 units, the plan was rejected by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on Oct. 9 for having unattainable goals.

Anti-displacement measures have been at the forefront of

housing element discussions for months, with a subcommittee that comprises Jen Wolosin and Cecilia Taylor specifically created to address displacement in the city.

The Planning Commission recommended speeding up the timeline of suggested anti-displacement measures, such as increased tenant protection and no-cost tenant's rights classes and legal aid, with a focus on the Belle Haven neighborhood. The

timeline of these measures was already accelerated to 2024 at the Dec. 22 City Council meeting on the housing element, but the commission sought to expedite the process. The Planning Commission also suggested that the city include methods of limiting rent increases.

“People are moving out like every day,” Commissioner Michele Tate said. “We need to

See **HOMES**, page 18



Las Lomas Elementary School District Bond Oversight Committee

The District is currently searching for a member of the Las Lomas Elementary School District Community to serve on a Citizens' Oversight Committee for Bond Measures to fulfill the criteria of:

- **One (1) active member of a bona fide taxpayers' organization**

Individuals interested in being appointed to the Bond Oversight Committee can access application information online at www.llesd.org, by emailing mchan@llesd.org or calling 650-854-6311.

Position is open until filled

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given for the purpose of pre-qualification; sealed Responsibility Questionnaires will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Portola Valley School District up until the close of business on the date indicated below for:

Project Description:

Corte Madera & Ormondale – Modernizations

Pre-Qualification Packages Due Date and Time:

Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 5:00pm at RGM Kramer, Inc., attn.: Contracts Department, 4020 Moorpark Avenue, #220, San Jose, CA 95117.

Pre-Qualification of Trade Contractors

To receive plans and bid, Trade Contractors must possess a current and active license to perform the work listed, submit and certify the required Responsibility Questionnaire information, and be pre-qualified by the District.

| | |
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| A. General Trades | A or B License Required |
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| C. Flooring Trades | C-15 License Required |
| D. Painting Trades | C-33 License Required |
| E. Landscaping Trades | C-27 License Required |

Only Pre-Qualified Contractors will be permitted to bid.

Pre-Qualified Contractors will be required to attend a mandatory Pre-bid Conference scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 10:00am at the Corte Madera School, 4575 Alpine Rd, Portola Valley, CA 94028. Confirm your attendance at the pre-bid conference to zohrat@rgmkramer.com and djhalbert@rgmkramer.com as soon as possible. Opening of the sealed bids submitted by pre-qualified bidders is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Portola Valley School District Office, 4575 Alpine Rd, Portola Valley, CA 94028. Pre-qualified contractors are advised to verify dates and times of the mandatory pre-bid conference and bid opening prior to the above listed dates. Responsibility Questionnaires and instructions for submission can be obtained by emailing Zohra Taghizade at zohrat@rgmkramer.com. Contracts will require a 100% Performance Bond, a 100% Labor and Materials Bond and a Bid Security in the amount of 10% of the submitted bid. The project is subject to the State Labor Code. Labor Code 1720-1861 regarding DIR registration, the payment of prevailing wages and submission of certified payroll statements will be enforced. No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. Contractors are allowed, according to PCC sec. 22300, to submit securities in lieu of retention. Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise, in accordance with Education Code Section 17076.11, the Portola Valley School District has "a participation goal of at least 3% per year of the overall dollar amount expended each year by the school district for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise". Thus, all contractors bidding on this project are required to make a good faith effort to achieve this 3% participation goal. Requirements for demonstrating that this good faith effort has been made are included in the Project Manual.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Police officer injured in shooting

An East Palo Alto police officer was injured in a shooting during a struggle with a suspect who fled from authorities during a traffic stop on Jan. 12. The officer's injury was not considered life-threatening.

At 11 p.m. that evening, the officer conducted a traffic stop on a Dodge Charger in the area of Fordham Street and Purdue Avenue for a vehicle code violation, according to a police press release.

Police said the driver fled from the stop, and officers chased the suspect on foot to the 2700 block of Fordham Street, where a struggle ensued and the suspect shot an officer.

The officer was able to help take the suspect into custody. No shots were fired by officers, according to police.

The injured officer, a five-year veteran of the East Palo Alto Police Department, suffered an injury to a lower extremity, police said.

The suspect, a 44-year-old man from East Palo Alto, was taken into custody.

Police said the firearm used to shoot the officer was a "ghost gun" converted to be fully automatic with a high-capacity magazine.

"We are grateful that our officer was not more seriously injured, and that the suspect and firearm are in custody," interm police Chief Jeff Liu said in a statement. "This is a stark reminder of the danger police officers face, and the ongoing dangers of gun violence. We must never forget the risk our police officers take every time they leave their families to serve our community."

The shooting comes as the department recently marked 17 years since Officer Richard May was shot and killed in the line of duty on Jan. 7, 2006. He's the namesake of a full-sized soccer field on Bay Road created in his memory.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call acting Cmdr. Angel Sanchez at 650-853-3154.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 18

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Openings on Woodside board and commission

There are two openings on the Woodside Planning Commission, one for District 2 and District 3. The terms are for four years each, starting in February 2023 and ending in February 2027.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. An interactive district map is online at woodsidesidtown.org.

The Woodside Architectural and Site Review Board (ASRB) is also recruiting to fill positions. The board reviews and makes recommendations to the planning director regarding community character, site planning, building design and landscape elements on residential and commercial applications.

The ASRB meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

Interested residents may check residency requirements, request information and submit applications to the Town Clerk Jennifer Li at jli@woodsidesidtown.org. Applications are due on Friday, Feb. 3, at 5 p.m.

The Town Council will interview and appoint board members at a meeting starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

The town is also seeking applications for other volunteer positions, which can be found on the town's website: woodsidesidtown.org.

Talk on disrupting hate speech

The Menlo Park City School District has partnered with the Anti-Defamation League for a talk about what hate speech is, how children may be exposed to it, especially while online, and how to talk to kids about building ally behavior.

This parent-focused presentation will introduce concepts and offer takeaways to use at home and when difficult issues arise.

The talk takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at Hillview Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park. Free childcare will be provided.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 16

Under pressure, Atherton puts multifamily housing back into its plans

By Angela Swartz

After hearing feedback from town consultants, local housing advocates, some residents and even a former council member, the Atherton City Council opted to put multifamily housing back into its state-mandated housing element plan, but some sites were left on the cutting room floor.

The council opted to include a stretch of lots along El Camino Real and an empty lot on Oakwood Boulevard that the owner plans to develop, during a Jan. 11 meeting. The revised plan is due to the state Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) on Jan. 31.

Bob Polito, who finished his council term last month, attended the meeting via Zoom to urge the City Council to ditch its mostly accessory dwelling unit (ADU) strategy to meet the state's requirements to plan for 348 new units, affordable to various income levels, over the next eight years. The state rejected this initial plan in a 16-page letter in October. He said he "begrudgingly" went along with the draft as a starting point for a housing plan when he was on the council.

He suggested lots along the El Camino Real corridor would be best for development. He said the current plan at best would get a "D" grade from HCD.

"A handful of well-planned, well-located and carefully controlled projects with multifamily will be much more impactful and will lead to an approved housing element from HCD," he said. "Time is of the essence. ... We need to be ready with a well-vetted plan before our housing element is denied and before litigation and a builder's remedy have a chance to blossom."

During the meeting, town consultants said the plan that was submitted to HCD over the summer will not get approved without adding multifamily housing.

Meeting lower income housing goals with ADUs is not going to fly with the state, said town consultant Diana Elrod.

Council member Rick DeGolia was more hesitant to add multifamily housing to the plan, as he's previously said that because of the high cost of land in Atherton (about \$8 million per acre), there's no way to build new affordable housing through townhouses. He has supported the ADU strategy.

"I personally don't think HCD is going to approve anything that we submit," he said.

Residents and council members described the planning process as a bit of a "whack-a-mole" as once a housing site is proposed in town whoever lives around that area objects to development there.

Others are concerned about the so-called builder's remedy, which allows for residential projects to move forward even if they do not comply with local development standards, taking effect come Feb. 1. With the builder's remedy, cities and towns could be required to approve any project that has 20% of its units designated for affordable or low-income households, or 100% moderate income households, even if the project exceeds the zoning and general plan density requirements.

Several residents wrote a Jan. 11 letter telling the town it can be part of the regional housing solution while maintaining its character as a family-oriented, residential community. They said they support strategies including reducing minimum lot sizes and dimensions, adding multifamily overlay zones, and allowing higher density at sites on Oakwood and Atherton Avenue, especially where owners are interested in developing denser or multifamily housing.

"We also support the idea of exploring multifamily housing on town property including a portion of Holbrook-Palmer Park," wrote Ellen Jamason, Giacomo Marini and Serena Marini. "We believe that even if the state accepts our housing element in January without these features, it is likely that the town will need to identify additional housing units before the end of this eight-year cycle, and that the town should start preparing for that situation now. More importantly, we believe that we all benefit by welcoming neighbors of diverse income and cultural backgrounds, and that there is room for more here in Atherton."

Not everyone was thrilled about the prospect of upzoning Atherton.

Toward the end of the meeting, one resident had an angry outburst against multifamily housing in town, and Mayor Bill Widmer urged the resident to settle down.

"There are five people up here who have to make this decision," he told the resident. "Everybody has said, 'Yeah I support it (multifamily), but anywhere but here.' We're not going to have any more public comment, please."

23 Oakwood Blvd.

The council's biggest fear going into the meeting was the builder's remedy applying to 23 Oakwood Blvd., a 1.52-acre property where the owner has expressed interest in building townhouses. There's currently a three-bedroom, two-bath, 2,370-square-foot home on the property, according to Zillow.

The owner, David Arata, wants to upzone his land and is interested in moving the project forward. Although he doesn't want to pursue a builder's remedy, he's well aware of state requirements of the town if the remedy is enacted, town staff said.

Arata, who inherited the land from his mother, originally brought his plan to develop the site for townhouses, to the Planning Commission about two years ago. He said he knew that townhouses, which he plans to sell, wouldn't fly in Atherton. Then plans froze as the town began figuring out how it would meet its state-mandated housing goals. He had planned on building the housing for teachers, but quickly realized that with land values in Atherton, it would be difficult to offer them at affordable rates. Now, he's hoping to offer more housing options in town.

"It would be more a little village than a big apartment building," he said. "Housing element" when you mention that people snap; they think it's going to be low income and it's going to be massive buildings stuck together."

Initially the council voted 4-1 to rezone 23 Oakwood Blvd. to 20 units per acre, the number of units per acre that HCD deems necessary for affordable housing. The council had designated it for 16 units per acre in a previous draft of the element. With 20 units per acre, Arata could have built up to 30 units.

With DeGolia dissenting in the initial vote, the council voted again, 5-0, to zone it 10

See **MULTIFAMILY HOUSING**, page 17

LEHUA GREENMAN



"I sincerely wish you happiness, cheerfulness & success in the upcoming year. I wish you luck in the Year of the Rabbit."
Happy New Year!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Sump Pumps and French Drains

The rains we have just had were the heaviest in years and many clients asked for advice on water issues. Water seeped into many basements, especially in older homes. Some owners wonder how water gets inside the basement at all. The answer is that water is absorbed into the ground and then naturally finds pathways through the concrete foundation and into the basement. If the basement has a working sump pump, the water is pumped out before it can accumulate.

An upgrade to a sump pump system is a French drain around the perimeter of a house. The drain collects water and carries it to a collection point so that it doesn't seep into the basement at all.

The rains have shown that it is important to have an adequate drainage system and check on it often.

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

Re-Inventing Aging After 50 Conference

Join us to enjoy new ideas and experiences!

Saturday, Jan. 21, 9:15am - 4pm

Attendees will have their choice of one morning session and one afternoon session.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

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- Relationships
- Roadmap to retirement

- Try something new (Jazzercise, Feldenkrais, Pickleball)

- Learn something you've always wondered about (photo editing, composting)



Exhibitors will include Lululemon, Good Vibrations, Dr. Dabb, Muttville, Stanford Continuing Education, and more! Many will offer product discounts for attendees.

Lunch will be provided by Chef Julien's Redwood Cafe, and we'll wind up the day with a wine and cheese reception.

This NEW conference is geared towards the 50 to 70 crowd, but all ages are welcome! Attendees should dress comfortably, wear sneakers or workout shoes, and bring a water bottle.

Register at www.avenidas.org or call (650) 289-5400 if you have questions.

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Start the new year with the Peninsula's best personal growth deal

Free college classes and a deeply discounted gym membership

By Kate Bradshaw

For the first time, the San Mateo Community College District has waived the tuition and enrollment costs for all of its classes as part of a new pilot program for county residents. The district includes three community colleges: Cañada College in Redwood City, College of San Mateo and Skyline College in San Bruno.

The community college district is the only one in the state offering free tuition for San Mateo County residents. The new fee reduction is the result of legislation from state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, Senate Bill 893, which was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in September. The bill waives the normal statewide \$46 per credit enrollment fees for community college classes for San Mateo County residents only — partly because it is an area with such a high cost of living, Bay City News reported. Additionally, students with demonstrated financial need can also be exempt from having to pay other fees and supply costs. There are an estimated 6,000 students who stand to benefit from waiving the enrollment fees.

"It is my hope that this bill will help families use community college as a stepping stone to improving their economic mobility and their future," Becker said in a statement.

So far, the cost reduction has

boosted student enrollment by about 13% compared with a year ago, according to San Mateo County Community College District spokesperson Ana Maria Pulido.

And for other county residents not looking to nab a career certification, the biggest perk of free tuition and enrollment may be the ability to access the colleges' gyms by just signing up for a couple of classes.

By taking just six credits or more — the equivalent of about two classes — county residents are eligible for the district's student rates at its two top-tier athletic facilities at Cañada College and College of San Mateo.

For students 18 and up, the first two months of gym membership are free, and for students who check in 15 times per month, the gym membership is entirely free. If students visit less than 15 times a month, the fee is \$15 per month, according to Pulido. Otherwise, the fees for community members are about \$72 a month with additional enrollment fees.

And the gyms are beautifully maintained. At Cañada's new athletic center — visible from Highway 280 as the giant glowing, modern-looking building on the hill near the Farm Hill Road exit — there are two outdoor pools, classrooms and rows of cardio equipment and weights looking out into the Santa Cruz Mountains. Reservations are required for group exercise classes,

swimming lanes and pickleball courts, but as of mid-January, few gym classes or pool sessions had reached full enrollment numbers. Additional discounts are available for San Mateo County school employees.

I scoured the course catalogs to find some of the most interesting courses on offer this semester and compiled my top 20 for your consideration. Access the full catalog at web-schedule.smccd.edu. Note that some courses may have costs associated with digital textbook access and other campus fees. Many are offered online.

American Sign Language, College of San Mateo

"A beginning course designed to introduce students to the visual-gestural richness of American Sign Language as it is used within the Deaf culture. Introduces students to ASL's basic structure and vocabulary while developing students' expressive skills and understanding of fingerspelling and basic conversational strategies. Provides an introduction to the Deaf community and culture. Equivalent to two years of high school ASL."

The Anthropology of Death, Skyline College

"Examination of cross-cultural perspectives on beliefs and practices around death and dying. Selected topics may include funerary practices, cannibalism, bereavement and concepts of the afterlife."

Art History Goes to the Movies, Cañada College

"A cultural and historical survey of great masters of art history, and how their creative process is depicted in film. This course includes the unique political, social, economic, and religious environment of artists in their age, and how this shaped the forms and ideas of their art. The depiction of the historic setting, demonstrations of the artists at work, and re-creation of the artistic milieu of the time through film illustrates the process of artistic production and creativity."

California History, Skyline College

"The history of California from the Indian period to the present. Topics to include the social, economic, political, and cultural development of the state. Emphasis on contemporary California."

"Composition, Literature and Critical Thinking" with novelist Emil DeAndreis, College of San Mateo

"This course is designed to promote critical thinking about diverse social, historical, and cultural contexts through inquiry into literature. As part of this inquiry, students will engage with distinctively literary ways of exploring human experience. Writing a minimum of 5000 words of finished prose, students will learn to articulate their own views in a meaningful conversation between

themselves and the literature. All course sections, each with its own theme, will explore poetry, drama, and fiction."

Creativity and Innovation in Entrepreneurship, Skyline College

"Emphasis on creativity and innovation as a strategic process. Includes the role of risk-taking in entrepreneurship, opportunities that lead to successful business ventures and the examination of personality traits of successful entrepreneurs. For potential or present entrepreneurs with no prior business experience." Skyline College.

Electronic Music, College of San Mateo

"Learn to create, produce and record music in a variety of genres using current music technology. Gain hands-on experience in electronic music studio techniques including: digital recording, audio editing, signal processing, mixing, sampling, MIDI, synthesizers and drum machines. Acquire a historic perspective of the development of electronic music and an understanding of acoustics as applied to music production. Develop your listening skills and your appreciation for a wide variety of electronic music and for the world of sound. Great introductory course for aspiring singer/songwriters, musicians, composers, producers, sound designers and sound artists. No previous musical experience necessary."

Filipinos in America, Skyline College

"A historical and cultural survey of Filipinos in America from early settlements in Louisiana, Hawaii and the West Coast to the present. Emphasis will be on a critical evaluation of the main social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual and historical trends that shaped the various Filipino communities in the United States."

General Paleontology, College of San Mateo

"The origin and evolution of the planet and life on earth through the past 4.6 billion years. Includes the study of fossils, rocks, geologic time, dating methods, evolution by natural selection, modern and ancient ecosystems, plate tectonics, speciation and mass extinction."



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See **FREE CLASSES**, page 10

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FREE CLASSES

continued from page 8

History of Video Games, Cañada College

“Explores the origin and history of ancient to modern games including board games, card games, arcade amusements, and video games of all kinds. Includes game companies, historic platforms, and common jargon used in the industry.”

Introduction to Astronomy, Cañada College

“Survey of modern astronomy:

study of what our civilization knows about the universe and our place in it, including the Earth-Moon system, the Solar System, extrasolar planetary systems, the birth and death of stars, the Milky Way galaxy, and cosmology. Emphasis is also placed on how astronomers learn about the universe, such as the nature of light, telescopes, and the scientific method.”

Intro to Video Game Design, Cañada College

“Introduction to the essentials of game design using industry-standard game engine,

spreadsheets, presentation slides, photo editing, 3D modeling, and reference art to convey game design ideas and specifications. Practical application of skills learned to develop games.”

Intro to Interior Design, Cañada College

“Examination of the interior built environment with emphasis on residential design. The elements and principles of design along with historical and cultural influences are examined as they relate to the functional and aesthetic aspects of interior spaces. Students develop skills in critical analysis of interiors and create individual solutions through design projects.”

Magic, Witchcraft and Religion, Skyline College

“Cross-cultural exploration of the supernatural belief systems, focusing on non-literate, tribal and ethnic cultures; history and methods of the anthropological approach to religion; the dynamics of myth, magic, totem, taboo, cults, and sects.”

Oceanography, College of San Mateo

“Introduction to marine geology, chemistry, and biology. Includes the hydrologic cycle and properties of sea water and marine organisms; currents, waves, tides,

coastal processes, and ecology of the ocean; continental drift; and sea-floor spreading.”

Plein-Air Painting, College of San Mateo

“Students will learn the art of plein air by painting landscapes at various outdoor locations as well as attending lectures, demos and working on projects in the studio. All painting mediums are welcome. Students are responsible for their own transportation.”

Public Speaking, Cañada College

“Provides a practical and theoretical introduction to the fundamental principles of public speaking through an audience-centered approach, and a forum for practicing public speaking skills. Students discover, develop, and criticize ideas in public discourse through research, reasoning, organization, composition, presentation, and evaluation of various types of speeches, including informative and persuasive speeches. Critical thinking & listening skills are realized through speaker and audience analysis. Speeches are delivered in both impromptu (spontaneous) and extemporaneous (prepared) modes.”

Self-Defense, Skyline College

A beginning level course

designed to teach the principles and skills of self-defense. Areas covered will be mental preparation, avoidance of situations conducive to assault, punching, kicking, pressure points and defenses. Includes instruction in both non-violent and violent defenses.

Stress Management, Cañada College

“The stress process and its relation to health and disease, lifestyle, and the sociocultural environment. Analysis of physiological, psychological, sociological, and environmental parameters of stress, emphasizing development of personalized stress management strategies to enhance academic, personal, and social development across the lifespan.”

Zoology, College of San Mateo

“Introduction to principles of animal biology Includes molecular basis of life, structure, function and behavior as seen in invertebrates and vertebrates; ecology; zoogeography and animal evolution. One or more field trips may be required. Extra supplies may be required.” ■

Email Associate Digital Editor Kate Bradshaw at peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.

January 20, 2023
4th Quarter 2022

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al sistema de agua para pedir una copia

The O’Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Company has levels of manganese above the secondary drinking water standard.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Our water system is in violation of a secondary drinking water standard. Violation of a secondary standard does not pose an immediate threat to health.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 51 ppb in well #1 and 145 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb.

Manganese concentrations above the standard may have an effect on taste and tend to leave black deposits in some plumbing systems.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).** There is no health risk.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

O’Connor Water has been above the secondary standard for manganese for many years, and this has been described to members in the annual Report on Water Quality Measurements. Recent state regulations have imposed stricter requirements for complying with the secondary standard for manganese. The state has issued the company a citation for noncompliance. The state ordered the company to start quarterly monitoring in February 2012, and this monitoring is still ongoing at both wells. The state also required that manganese monitoring be continued quarterly and that the results of these tests be reported to all water consumers.

The Company has been working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility and construction has begun at the Company’s property.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information contact:
Secretary-Treasurer Telephone 650-321-2723
Email: oconnorwater@gmail.com
O’Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Co., System 4110019
P.O. Box 1375, Palo Alto, California 94302-1375



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to Atherton Municipal Code Title 9, Chapter 9.18 related to Targeted Residential Picketing.

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

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

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Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The purpose of the amendments is to adopt Atherton Municipal Code amendments to Title 9, and adopt Chapter 9.18 Targeting Residential Picketing. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft amendments to the Ordinance can be found online, by Friday January 13, 2023 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said ordinance is set for public hearing and first introduction by the City Council at its meeting on **January 18, 2023, at 6:00 PM** and a second hearing and adoption on **February 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM** via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any amendments to the Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 9.18 in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

Date Published: January 11, 2023

Date Posted: January 11, 2023

/s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, City Clerk



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WITH A GIFT TO THE HOLIDAY FUND

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$309,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

DONATE ONLINE:
almanacnews.com/holiday_fund

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



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula

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

Ecumenical Hunger Program

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

Health Connected

Serves over 5,000 students and their families each year through comprehensive sexual health education programs. Students learn to have ongoing communication with parents and to make informed decisions that will apply to their lives, now and in the future.

LifeMoves

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

Literacy Partners

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

Ravenswood Family Health Center

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

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

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

St. Francis Center

Helps low-income, working families become self-supporting members of the community by providing long-term solutions through educational programs for children and parents, as well as after-school programming at Siena Youth Centers. St. Francis Center also provides housing, food and clothing services to address short-term needs.

StarVista

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

Upward Scholars

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

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is:
almanacnews.com/holiday_fund

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The Almanac



The Almanac
 Holiday Fund
 2022

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2022

**Thank you for your generous
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Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of January 18th, 182 donors have contributed \$302,730 to the Holiday Fund.

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* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

**Lynda Brothers, Ron Krashinsky
appointed to Portola Valley
Planning Commission**

By Angela Swartz



Lynda
Brothers



Ronny
Krashinsky

Two new members are joining Portola Valley's Planning Commission, replacing commissioners recently elected to Town Council seats. Retired attorney Lynda Brothers will fill the one-year term, while computer engineer Ronny Krashinsky will serve out the two-year term.

The council spent two and a half hours interviewing candidates for the five-member commission, which is responsible for addressing land use policy and development in town, as well as the Architectural & Site Control Commission (ASCC) during a Jan. 9 meeting.

The Planning Commission is in the midst of helping the town finalize its state-mandated housing element update. The town needs to submit a compliant housing element to the state by the end of this month. Judith Hasko and Craig Taylor both stepped down from the Planning Commission in December when they were sworn in as Town Council members.

The ASCC has two openings with the same term lengths, but a decision on those seats has been delayed until the week of Jan. 30.

The five-member ASCC is charged with approving design review applications and site development permits, including applications for new homes, second units, larger additions, second-story additions and commercial buildings, among other duties.

**Nomination for the Planning
Commission one-year term**

In a 4-1 vote on Jan. 11, the council voted to appoint Brothers to the one-year seat, with Vice Mayor Sarah Wernikoff opposed. Brothers moved to Portola Valley about a year ago. Wernikoff was the only vote in favor of Krashinsky for the one-year term.

Before the vote, Council member Mary Hufty nominated Brothers for the one-year Planning Commission seat, which Taylor seconded. Wernikoff nominated Krashinsky, which Mayor Jeff Aalfs seconded.

Hasko nominated technology company founder Karen Vahtra, but no one seconded her nomination.

**Nomination for the Planning
Commission two-year term**

In a 3-2 vote, the council voted to appoint Krashinsky,

who moved to town two years ago, for the two-year seat. Aalfs, Taylor and Wernikoff voted for Krashinsky. Hasko and Hufty voted for architect Carter Warr.

Taylor nominated Krashinsky, which Aalfs seconded. Hasko nominated Warr and Hufty seconded it.

Aalfs nominated PV Forum founder Rebecca Flynn, which Wernikoff seconded.

Hufty nominated Vahtra, but no one seconded the nomination.

**Architectural & Site Control
Commission vote delayed**

Council members decided to take more time to make a decision on who they'll appoint to the ASCC, pushing the vote until the week of Jan. 30. The two candidates up for vote on Wednesday were Lucy Neely, who is up to chair the Race & Equity and Finance committees, and Warr, who also applied for the Planning Commission.

Hasko, referring to Neely, said she doesn't think someone who is already a committee chair should be on the ASCC.

"I think we should go back out and get a bigger pool," Hufty said. "I don't think we've done our due diligence with recruiting. ... Everyone is saying there's interest out there we're not tapping into."

Wernikoff agreed, noting that those who weren't selected for the Planning Commission could be good candidates for the ASCC.

"The urgency for (filling) the ASCC is less so than the Planning Commission," she said.

Applications for the ASCC seats are due Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. The council will select interview and appointment dates after they determine times that work for candidates.

To apply, submit a letter of interest to the council at towncenter@portolavalley.net. Email Town Clerk Melissa Thurman with any questions at towncenter@portolavalley.net. ■

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

Iraida Buso Espinosa

February 22, 1918 – January 5, 2023

Iraida Busó Espinosa, a longtime resident of Stanford and Los Altos, passed away peacefully in her Los Altos home on January 5, 2023, a month shy of her 105th birthday. A musician, mother, teacher, and community volunteer, Iraida had boundless energy, loved spending time with family and friends, and believed in taking full advantage of the opportunities that life presented.



Iraida was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico, on February 22, 1918. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico at nineteen with majors in French and Spanish, but her musical talent led her to continue her education in Boston. She studied at the Boston Conservatory and completed a Master's Degree in Music at Radcliffe. In Boston, Iraida also met Aurelio M. Espinosa Jr., an instructor at Harvard, who would become her partner for life. They were married in June 1942 and shared the next 62 years together, until Aurelio's passing in 2004.

In the summer of 1942, Aurelio was commissioned to teach languages at the US Military Academy and the couple moved to West Point, NY. Following the end of the war, Iraida and Aurelio moved to California, where Aurelio accepted a position at Stanford University. In the 1960s, as her children Margarita, Maria, and Ramon grew older, Iraida began her focus on education. From 1960 to 1963, she taught Spanish at Woodside Elementary School. In 1963, she moved to the Palo Alto Unified School District and coordinated foreign language instruction at the primary school level. In the late 1960s, she became a classroom teacher at Walter Hays Elementary School. Throughout these years, Iraida loved finding creative ways to motivate her students and retained her love of languages, often leading groups of teachers on summer trips to Mexico and Europe.

When Iraida retired from teaching in 1983, she focused her energies on community service. She was an active member of Neighbors Abroad, Palo Alto's Sister City Organization, and served as the organization's President in 1983-84. She developed a special interest in Palo, Leyte, Palo Alto's sister city in the Philippines, and worked to raise funding for a children's library and vocational training center there. The Catholic church also played a major role in her life. She was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and helped organize Christmas Bazaars and other fundraisers for St. Elizabeth Seton School. She was also an active member of the Peninsula Radcliffe Club and AAUW.

Iraida is survived by her three children: daughters Margarita Smith (Walter Smith) of Boise, Idaho, and Maria Shipley (Wayne Shipley) of Redwood City, CA, and son Ramon Espinosa (Rita Seymour) of Palo Alto, CA. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. A Memorial Mass in her memory will be celebrated at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Palo Alto, on Saturday, January 21, at 10 am. In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to Neighbors Abroad, 355 Alma St, Palo Alto CA 94303.

<https://www.neighborsabroad.org/donate.html>

PAID OBITUARY

Holiday Fund: St. Anthony's offers a free meal in a safe, friendly place

By Ruth Gilroy

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room was founded 48 years ago with the mission of feeding the poor and the fundamental principle that we charge no fees, ask no questions, and turn no one away. All guests are welcomed with dignity and respect and received in a spirit of hospitality. We serve, on average, 9,000 meals per month, six days a week, 52 weeks per year.

Each day one of our homeless guests rides his bike to the Dining Room and requests 12 lunches plus groceries to take back to a homeless encampment where he lives. We watch as he consolidates the food and loads it onto a cart which he pulls behind his bike to take back to share with others in need.

Another of our guests shared her story with us of how she and her family received help from our program. They lived in northern Vietnam under the oppressive communist regime. In 1981 they decided to leave Vietnam and the family of six adults and eight children



boarded a small boat and left in stormy weather and rough seas. After four days at sea, they arrived in Malaysia where the Red Cross sent them to a refugee camp for six weeks and then to a second camp in the Philippines where they spent a year waiting to be processed.

Eventually they were sponsored by a family in the U.S. and arrived here in 1982 with very little support and not knowing the language or understanding the culture. Procuring enough to feed themselves was difficult until someone told them about St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room where meals were served to the homeless and low-income families. Every day they would walk to the Dining Room for lunch and groceries, which allowed them to have food security while they were learning the language and working on how to support themselves.

Thanks to all the help they received, the family is now in a position to support themselves and help others in the community who are struggling. In appreciation for the help afforded to her family, the individual in this story has now been a volunteer at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room for the past 11 years.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among 10 nonprofit organizations and 100% of the funds raised go directly to the recipients. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, located at 3500 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, serves from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, except Sunday. In addition to a full, hot meal, guests may take home a bag full of food items that includes fresh produce.

We have a clothing distribution center which is adjacent to the Dining Room, that provides shoes, and clothing for men, women and children, blankets, sleeping bags, and baby and infant wear and diapers.

St. Anthony's is funded by donations and grants from many individuals, local businesses and foundations. The cost of serving over 100,000 meals plus take-home groceries in the past year is huge and additional donations are welcomed and needed. We operate through the work of seven paid employees and a dedicated group of volunteers, many of whom have been with us for years. For information, call 650-365-9664, send email to paduadiningroom@gmail.com or go to paduadiningroom.com. ■

Ruth Gilroy is a Volunteer at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.

Ruth Irene Wood

June 25, 1933 - January 11, 2023

Ruth was born on June 25, 1933, in Astoria, Illinois to Howard Russell Dickey and Fanny Mae (Foreman) Dickey. She attended high school in Deer Creek, Illinois following which she married Leonard Lancaster. Together they had three children: Teresa Dawn; Dianne Lynn; and Laura Ann. In 1970, Leonard was killed in a motorcycle accident. On December 15, 1973, Ruth married Weldon Wood. They lived in Atherton until 2000 when they moved to Redwood City, CA.

For more than 40 years, Ruth served as a volunteer for the Palo Alto Auxiliary to the Allied Arts Guild which raises money for the Lucille Packard Children's hospital at Stanford. She served as President of that Auxiliary and as Head Hostess on Wednesdays. During that era her auxiliary served lunches and teas during the week and hosted weddings on weekends at the lovely Allied Arts Guild complex in Menlo Park, CA.

Ruth died in her sleep on January 4, 2023, just a few months before her 90th birthday. She and Weldon had been happily married for 49 years.

A Celebration of Ruth's life is scheduled on Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Menlo Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made in Ruth's name to the Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health: www.lpfch.org/supportlpch



PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Marie La Barbera Zahn**, 98, an Atherton resident, on Jan. 9; **Suzanne MacMeekin Mitchell**, 68, a former Portola Valley resident, on Nov. 6, 2022.

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

LifeMoves helps a Navy vet and his son get a new start

By Shannon Titus

Rez is a Veteran of the U.S. Navy. He served his country for four years on the USS Nimitz, learning the electrical trade — a trade he knew could secure him well-paying employment. Soon after receiving his honorable discharge from the service, Rez found a job at Stanford University as an electrician. After two years of diligently building his savings and careful planning, Rez was able to get a loan from the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and bought his own home in San Jose.

Soon after, Rez got married and started a family. “Life was really good,” said Rez. But things soon changed. Rez and his wife split and Rez became a single father, raising his young son on his own.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic followed by a slowing, uncertain economy, Rez was laid off from his job. After months of financial struggle, he finally found himself unable to make his mortgage payments and soon, Rez lost his home.

With nowhere left to turn, Rez and his son moved to a friend’s farm and began living in a small RV camper. But Rez wanted a safe and stable home environment for his child. That’s when he called on his resources at the VA for help.

LifeMoves, headquartered in Menlo Park, is the largest provider of homeless shelters and services in Silicon Valley and is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac’s Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among this year’s 10 nonprofit organizations and 100% of the funds raised go directly to the recipients. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

Last year, more than 7,200 homeless children and adults received support through Life Move’s 26 shelters and programs. One of these shelters is Haven Family House in Menlo Park. Here, 23 unhoused families and up to nine veteran



Courtesy LifeMoves

LifeMoves case manager Craig Billman talks with Rez, a U.S. Navy veteran and single parent who became homeless during the pandemic.

families each night are provided with interim shelter and supportive services — all with the goal of helping families become self-sufficient again.

In April 2022, LifeMoves case manager Craig Billman received a referral from the VA for Rez and his son. Billman reached out to Rez to arrange safe, stable shelter, food, and wraparound services like childcare and financial counseling for his family. “I got a call from Craig. Everything he said was so amazing that I thought it was too good to be true, but I thought it was worth a shot,” said Rez.

Rez and his son were referred to Haven Family House, a transitional housing complex that offers private apartments, an on-site food pantry, a computer center, education and employment resources, and an atmosphere designed to make families feel at home.

“When Rez and his son arrived at Haven Family House, they were thrilled with what we had to offer,” said Billman. Rez and his son moved into a two-bedroom apartment with access to a kids’ playground, summer camp, community barbecues and other family-friendly activities.

“We came here, and I felt like my son and I mattered. Anytime I needed something,

Craig responded right away,” said Rez.

With Craig and Rez both being veterans, they had a great rapport that was based on mutual respect.

“Rez is a good man. His motivation is off the charts,” said Craig. “Rez’s whole priority in life is making sure his son is raised right and safe.”

After working together on a case plan, Rez received a housing voucher, which has given him some breathing room to better support his growing son and find new employment.

“With help from LifeMoves, everything is falling back into place, and I’ll be able to work back in my field,” said Rez.

With Rez’s hard work and commitment, he has reached his goal to become fully self-sufficient again and regained his and his son’s stability. Father and son planned to move into their new apartment in Mountain View just before the winter holidays — a gift that’s priceless.

Are you facing or experiencing homelessness, or would like to support the LifeMoves mission to end homelessness in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties? Visit LifeMoves at lifemoves.org or call 650-685-5880. ■

Shannon Titus works for Menlo Park-based LifeMoves.

Park,” Wolosin said. “Our geography and our our population hide the complexity and level of stuff we have going on.”

Wolosin is optimistic about the coming year, saying that she has high hopes for the city as the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Wolosin also names new City Manager Justin Murphy and the recent hires to fill staff vacancies as another reason to be hopeful.

Still, Wolosin says that she’s

ready to be nimble and adaptive as the year begins, since there’s no way to know what the future holds.

“Menlo Park is so beautiful, and I think we can retain that beauty and so many of the qualities that drew us to this wonderful city, while also embracing the future,” Wolosin said. ■

Email Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.

Ronald Anthony Seltzer

March 7, 1935 to December 2, 2022

Ronald Anthony Seltzer passed away on December 2, 2022 at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City from complications from a medical procedure. He was 87 years young.

Ronald was born in Washington, D.C. March 7, 1935 to Dr Lawrence Seltzer and Sara Seltzer. He was raised in Detroit, Michigan and received a B.S. cum laude from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and his M.D. summa cum laude from Wayne State Medical School in Detroit. He was President of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honorary Society and the Aesculapians Honorary Society. Ronald interned at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital where he met his wife Adele. He did his residency in Radiology at Harvard’s Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Mass. He also completed two years in the United States Public Health Service at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio working in Nuclear Medicine and was a Fellow in Radiology.



After his residency they moved to Palo Alto where Ronald took the position in the Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at Stanford Medical Center. He consulted with the advanced Imaging Division of Xerox Medical Systems at SRI. He was assistant Professor of Radiology at Stanford University before taking the position with the Sequoia Hospital Radiology group where he was Director of the Department of Radiology where he practiced for thirty years. He was a member and president of the Western Angiography Society. It was during his last years before he retired from Sequoia Hospital that he was involved with NIA, National Imaging Associates. He continued his involvement after retirement and also served on its board of directors and was a consultant to Magellan Health Services.

After retirement Ronald became a wood turner. He was an avid reader and was a long standing member of several men’s book groups. He enjoyed squash, hiking, biking and loved traveling. He and Adele enjoyed traveling when he did peace core work in Chiang Mai, Thailand where he helped modernize the Radiology department at the University of Chiang Mai Hospital. They traveled to Nepal with friends and he trekked to the Mt Everest base camp. Ronald was a caring and loving husband during all their many adventures.

Ron shared his love of his family with his love for travel and took his two children, their spouse and five grandchildren on a number of family vacations including Hawaii, Mexico and France. But his and Adele’s favorite place was at their second home at Stinson Beach, where the 5 grandchildren shared their love of the beach, ocean and mountains and the family spent nearly 30 consecutive Thanksgivings with all in attendance.

Ronald is survived by his wife Adele, his two children Lauren, her husband Rob Roskoph, and Jeff, his wife Marilyn Hartnett, and his grandchildren, Adin, Myles, Shayna, Mia and Cameron.

There will be a service later in the spring for the family and friends. Contributions can be made in his Honor to Sequoia Hospital Foundation, San Francisco Symphony through the Silicon Valley League and Theater Works Silicon Valley.

PAID OBITUARY

Employment

The Almanac offers
employment advertising.

To learn more or get a quote,
please call 650.223.6597 or email
digitalads@pawekly.com.

WOLOSIN
continued from page 5

who all impact the decisions made for the city.

Menlo Park has several projects coming down the pipeline, as the city’s housing element has to be submitted by Jan. 31 and several large development projects are underway, such as SRI Parkline at the research campus across from Burgess Park.

“That’s the thing about Menlo

SPLITTING LOTS*continued from page 5*

with The Almanac about the process of splitting a lot in Atherton.

Voskerician, a Palo Alto-based real estate developer, joined the project in June 2022 after meeting Griswold, a developer based in San Jose, at an open house in Los Altos. His portion of the property, now 77 Edge Road, is about 22,000 square feet.

“SB 9 opens up to more opportunities to use land in California in different ways,” Voskerician said. “I don’t agree with the concept that you’re going to change how Atherton looks or how Palo Alto looks or how Mountain View looks (with SB 9),” Voskerician said, adding that the lot split will still generate expensive homes. “It’s not going to be an affordable house. It’s going to be \$3 million to \$4 million, \$5 million or more.”

Property owners must complete an application, create a map of what the split will look like and pay a \$1,519 fee.

This particular development also had an upside for neighbors, according to Voskerician.

“Neighbors were very interested to see a house developed there,” he said. “It was an unmaintained house for a long time. They’d like to see something new and a family there. Nobody said anything like, ‘Oh my God there are going to be two homes.’”

Griswold, who purchased the property in 2021, said she and her partners were able to help remove a lot of overgrown trees on site as well. Much of the site was undeveloped, she said.

“It’s a great example of how SB 9 could work,” she said. “Otherwise you could have a 10,000-square-foot home. Now you can have two good-sized homes that are going to look really nice with all the setbacks. It will give two families the opportunity to live in a really beautiful property.”

What SB 9 does

SB 9 took effect in January 2022 and requires local agencies to grant so-called ministerial

approval to certain lot splits and up to two primary housing units on each resulting lot, with 4-foot minimum side and rear setbacks. Ministerial approval means projects don’t need to be approved by the Planning Commission or City Council and are handled by town staff without discretionary review or a hearing.

Owners are already allowed to add accessory dwelling units (ADUs) or junior ADUs to their properties, but SB 9 allows an owner to create a new lot. The owner can subdivide an existing parcel to create two new parcels of approximately equal size. The newly split lots must be at least 40% of the original parcel’s size.

Owners must sign an affidavit that states they will live in one of the units as their primary residence for at least three consecutive years, a requirement added to the law to reduce investor speculation. The law also prohibits the development of small subdivisions and prohibits SB 9 lot splits on adjacent parcels by the same person.

If the lot splits are approved, then the applicants can then apply for building permits, according to the town.

An owner could also split a lot and sell the second one.

Plans for the site

For now, 2 Lowery’s brick-and-wood-slat home with a shake roof is boarded up. It will be demolished to make way for new ones.

Voskerician plans to meet with architects and finalize his plans for his lot, which is about 0.51 acres, in the first half of this year. He said he plans to start designing the home in the next month and build throughout 2024. He can build up to a 4,500-square-foot home above ground, plus an ADU of up to 1,200 square feet.

Voskerician and his wife are still considering whether they’ll build a house for themselves at 77 Edge or just build it and sell it.

Griswold will start designing the home for her about 0.69-acre lot this year and hopes to start construction this year. She can also build up to a

4,500-square-foot home and said she also plans to build an ADU. She noted that SB 9 doesn’t increase the overall square footage allowed on the site, so you’re basically taking the original square footage allowed and splitting in half between the lots.

Because of SB 9 rules, one of the owners is required to live in one of the homes for three years. Their third partner, Stephanie Yi, has agreed to do so.

YIMBY critique of SB 9 adoption in Atherton

Rafa Sonnenfeld, a policy director at YIMBY Action, a housing advocacy group, said that Atherton’s SB 9 ordinance is fairly restrictive.

“Atherton should be a poster child for SB 9 projects because they have so much land and such high land values,” he said. “They’ve been completely resistant to the law and done the bare minimum. ... It’s clear from reading the ordinance they’re not willingly going along with state law.”

The town noted that it was adopting the law “under protest, as it is the council’s position that in enacting these laws, the legislature has improperly usurped local land use authority.”

There are some required setbacks, limitations on size of new units built (just up to 800 square feet in some cases) and the same impact and development fees as a standard single-home building project are required. Those fees could be waived to encourage development, Sonnenfeld said.

“Atherton is the kind of place SB 9 was designed to be useful,” he said. “Residents have the financial ability that a lot of other communities do not have to fund a project out of pocket. ... I’m sure you’d see a lot more interest if the restrictions were eased. But even with those restrictions, it speaks to the demand and interest people have to live in Atherton.”

People can also use SB 9 for tear-downs because it may be an easier path to get approval in the city, thanks to its ministerial approval process.

Town Manager George Rodericks said that while he

agrees with the premise that there would be more SB 9 lot splits if the town relieved setbacks, limits on the size of units and other restrictions, the council felt that it was in the best interest of the community to try and retain the community’s character of large lots and large setbacks.

School district’s interest in lot

This past fall, the Menlo Park City School District considered purchasing 2 Lowery Drive to help accommodate enrollment growth, but ultimately decided the property was too expensive to justify buying. At the time, the district wasn’t yet sure if its enrollment was expected to decline or increase over the next five years. Its demographer reported in December that enrollment is forecast to decline by about 7.4% in 2027.

Its location was ideal for expansion given that it is next to the Lower Laurel School campus, former Superintendent Erik Burmeister said.

Complexity of SB 9 lot splits

Yi and Griswold turned in a tentative map in February, which was approved by the town in July. The town approved the final map in December.

“It shouldn’t take 10 months,” Voskerician said. “I understand it’s a new process.”

Griswold, who has other SB 9 projects in cities like Los Altos, Campbell and Monte Sereno, said learning the SB 9 process has been an education for her. Griswold, who is working on SB 9 projects in other cities, said Atherton did a good job of adapting a very specific ordinance.

“When you know what you need to do it makes it easier,” she said. “It’s become more clarified in months since it’s been adopted. ... It’s been a bit of starts and stops and trying to figure out the process. I’m really pleased with the outcome.”

Voskerician said the partners worked with a civil engineering firm on the map because doing it is complicated.

Most planning in California

is pretty complicated, she noted.

“There’s a lot of things that can trip up people,” she said. “There’s a lot of things you don’t anticipate with utility connections. It’s hard to know whether a property is a good candidate for SB 9.”

Rodericks said that the town has begun to streamline the SB 9 process for owners through the basic application, standardized forms, review checklists and required affidavit process.

Other lot splits under consideration

Town staff is reviewing final maps for two other lot splits in Atherton, at 78 Cebalo Lane and 125 Glenwood Ave.

The 78 Cebalo Lane site is located near the intersection of Selby Lane and El Camino Real, bordering Redwood City. The site has a four-bedroom, 2.5-bath home built in 1964 on a 0.84-acre lot and was last sold for \$4.5 million in November 2021, according to Zillow.

Tentative maps for two other lot splits in Atherton have been approved by staff. These sites are 94 Palmer Lane, a 0.28-acre lot, and 1 Gresham Lane, a 0.32-acre lot.

The 1 Gresham site is included in a town sites inventory of lots to rezone to become multi-family housing as part of its 2023-31 housing element. It’s unclear how this potential rezoning could impact the owner’s plans.

Rodericks said that if the lot is split by the time the town completes the upcoming element draft, he’d add both lots into the upzoned area.

“One never knows what a developer might choose to do,” he said.

The town is also reviewing an SB 9 split for 197 Glenwood Ave., but no tentative map for the site has been approved yet. The home is on a 1.29-acre lot last sold for \$4.95 million in December 2020, according to Redfin.

Once a final map is approved by the town, it goes to San Mateo County for final recording. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS*continued from page 6***Local Boy Scouts troop sign up**

Learn more about Boy Scouts Troop 109, which serves Menlo Park, Atherton, Redwood City, and the surrounding communities, at a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hillview Middle School

library at 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park.

Visit mptroop109.com to learn more about activities. Contact troop recruiter Caitlin Darke at Caitlin.darke@gmail.com for more information.

—Angela Swartz

Suburban Park to host blood drive

Suburban Park and Stanford

Blood Center is hosting a community blood drive on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 207 Oakhurst Place. Anyone who donates will be entered into a raffle to win a two-night stay at a Ritz-Carlton hotel of their choice. Walk-in availability may be limited so those interested are encouraged to sign up at stanford.io/3vD866Z, via the Stanford Blood Center app, or call 888-723-7831.

Menlo Park Library seeks poster submissions for Black History Month

The Menlo Park Library is seeking submissions from grades K-12 students for its Black History Month poster exhibit. All students who submit a poster will be entered into a drawing for three \$100 gift cards, and the posters will be displayed in the Belle Haven Branch Library.

There will be an artists’ reception and community celebration on Feb. 11, and a presentation to the City Council on Feb. 14. Posters must be delivered to the Belle Haven Branch Library at 413 Ivy Drive or the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St. by 4 p.m. on Feb. 5. Posterboard and supplies are available at both libraries.

—Cameron Rebosio

Atherton equestrian trainer arrested for alleged sex crimes

Trainer Alec Lawler worked with minors in Portola Valley and elsewhere, police say

By Sue Dremann

An equestrian coach who worked with minors in Portola Valley and other locations throughout San Mateo County has been arrested for allegedly intending to seduce a minor for sex and other related charges, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Alec Lawler, 30, of Atherton,

was arrested on a warrant in Riverside with the help of the Riverside County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 5 following an investigation that spanned several months.

He was taken into custody at the Desert International Horse Park in Thermal, California, according to the website horsenet.com.

Lawler, who previously studied earth systems, graduated from

Stanford University in 2014.

Detectives discovered that Lawler allegedly sent sexual photographs to one of his juvenile equestrian students. He also allegedly requested and received sexual photographs from the student and contacted the student with intent to engage in sexual acts. The alleged incidents occurred between May and September 2022, according to the court records.

He has been charged with 11 felony counts: five for distributing harmful matter with the intent to seduce; two for contact with a minor for sex; and two counts of distribution or possession of obscene matter, according to San Mateo County Superior Court records.

Lawler posted \$140,000 bail and is currently out of custody.

"Due to Lawler working closely as a coach with many juveniles,

detectives are concerned there are potentially more victims," the Sheriff's Office said. Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Det. C. Barker at 650-474-1243 or CBarker@smcgov.org. Anonymous tips can be sent to 1-800-547-2700. ■

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

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING

continued from page 7

units per acre instead. The town would require 20% of the units to be affordable. This means Arata could build up to 15 units.

"We would probably make it up by just making bigger units, which is OK," Arata told The Almanac on Jan. 16. He said he understands the council is under a lot of pressure from residents who don't want multifamily housing in town.

Rodericks noted that 10 units per acre does show that Atherton is building multifamily housing and lets the town have more control of the space.

Neighbor Scott Wylie urged the council to not let the owner change the residential nature of the neighborhood. He also worries about the traffic impact on the neighborhood, which he described as "country-like."

El Camino Real corridor from Stockbridge Avenue to Cebalo Lane

The council voted 4-1, with DeGolia opposed, to rezone 17 lots along the western border of El Camino Real, from Stockbridge Avenue to Cebalo Lane, to allow up to 20 units per acre, and to start a program to encourage the consolidation of parcels.

The total acreage is roughly

6.7 acres, said Town Manager George Rodericks in an email. Development and aggregation would be up to the property owners.

One hiccup in the plan is that the lot sizes along El Camino Real are fairly small compared to others in town.

"Any site less than half an acre can not be included in affordable housing," said town consultant Diana Elrod. The town would have to aggregate the sites in some way, they said. Most of the sites are under 1 acre, with several being about 0.3 acres.

"The town would encourage lot aggregation through policy programs such as waiver of fees, ministerial processing, etc.," he said. "But development would be property owner-dependent. A develop(er) could, of course, purchase property from willing sellers and move things forward that way; but absent that — it is up to the underlying owners."

Polito said the town could buy property. It could be no more than an \$8 million investment and an affordable housing group could lease the space, he said. If the town just purchased two parcels and helped develop housing, it could lead to "significant number" of affordable housing units, he said.

"This is all part of the vetting that needs to be done," he said.

DeGolia said he doesn't think the town has the funds to build property on the corridor. Widmer also expressed some hesitancy.

"How much liability are we taking on?" he said, noting that the town still has to pay off the costs of the redeveloping the Town Center and work on the Atherton Channel.

The town sent a letter to residents on Jan. 12 explaining that upzoning, under consideration in multiple locations, does not "discontinue" current uses of a property, but opens the door for redevelopment under revised zoning requirements.

"Properties highlighted on the attached map are being considered by the City Council for inclusion in the housing element as properties that could be upzoned to allow for the development of multifamily affordable units," the letter states. "As part of the process, the town would develop specific development standards for those properties to ensure harmony in surrounding land uses and protect the interests of adjacent properties."

Housing at Menlo College

Both council members and housing advocates voiced concerns during the meeting that a good portion of the housing plan banks on 40 moderate- to

low-income homes being built at Menlo College along El Camino Real, which hasn't yet committed to building the units.

The four-year, private college's president, Steve Weiner, expressed strong interest in building more housing on campus, but he has previously said that building the homes depends on the school getting financing for an estimated \$20 million.

DeGolia previously said that a letter from the college with an update on its commitment to housing could be expected this month, but no such letter has yet surfaced. DeGolia said the latest he's heard is that the college has been offered funds for a schematic design plans.

Elrod said that there could be a potential issue with fair housing if only people affiliated with the school are allowed to live in the units.

Housing advocates said HCD might have doubts the development will come to fruition since a similar housing project at the college was included in past housing element cycles and was not built.

Sites off the table

Hawkins-Manuelian again brought up building on the nearly 1 acre property where the Gilmore House currently stands near the exit of Holbrook-Palmer Park, which is town property. DeGolia warned that building housing in the park could put the town's ownership of the park in jeopardy.

Again, the majority of council members pushed back against the idea and ultimately it was taken off the table.

Widmer said he'd be open to the idea if the housing were restricted to workforce housing.

Olive Holbrook Palmer deeded her family's 22-acre Elmwood Estate to the town of Atherton after her death in 1959 on the condition that

the town use it only for recreational purposes. If Atherton did not want the property, or if it ceased being used as a park, it would go to Stanford University, according to the deed. The deed specifies that the park should not be used for "commercial or housing" purposes.

"It hasn't happened with the one house (Gilmore house)," he said "I don't think our residents want to risk losing the park."

In May, the town approved four sites for upzoning, with split votes, including the 23 Oakwood Blvd. site, but these were ultimately scrapped from the housing element.

The council previously designated an approximately 1.42-acre empty field at 97 Santiago Ave. for 6 units per acre. The site is located off Valparaiso Avenue and sold last month for \$9.3 million, according to Redfin.

The property at 170 Atherton Ave., which was formerly part of the Gap founders' Doris and Don Fisher's estate in West Atherton, which is about 4 acres, was set at eight units per acre. The lot was listed for sale along with the 2-acre 154 Atherton Ave. and 2-acre 178 Atherton Ave. for \$100 million in 2021, according to Trulia. The current property owner at this site expressed interest in developing high density housing, according to the town.

The approximately 5-acre property at 290 Polhemus Ave. near Alameda de Las Pulgas and Stockbridge Avenue was set at eight units per acre. The overlay was approved unanimously. This site was removed because the owner isn't interested in developing it.

The City Council will discuss revisions of the housing element during Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m., after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

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

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

| ATHERTON | | MOUNTAIN VIEW | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 18 Cowell Lane | \$11,988,000 | 751 Lola Lane | \$2,488,000 |
| Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 | 5BD/7.5BA | Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 | 3BD/2BA |
| DeLeon Realty | 650-900-7000 | Coldwell Banker - Kelly Kim | 650-917-7961 |
| LOS ALTOS | | PALO ALTO | |
| 490 Torwood Lane | \$4,988,000 | 4149 El Camino Way (C) | \$895,000 |
| Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 | 4BD/3BA | Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 | 2BD/2BA |
| DeLeon Realty | 650-900-7000 | JLee Realty | 650-857-1000 |
| LOS ALTOS HILLS | | 817-819 Kipling Street | \$2,580,000 |
| 13581 Wildcrest Drive | \$4,988,000 | Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00 | 2BD/2BA |
| Sat 1:30-4:30 | 5BD/4.5BA | COMPASS | 650-888-0860 |
| DeLeon Realty | 650-900-7000 | 1005 Parkinson Avenue | \$5,998,000 |
| | | Sun 2:00-4:00 | 6BD/4.5BA |
| | | Christie's International Real Estate - Sereno | 650-269-7266 |

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

MISSING DOG*continued from page 1*

black and a somewhat comical expression. The faux Scott was mostly black and had a leaner body profile. Bruchilari was out of the country at the time.

“My two sons, ages 17 and 20, were in my house, and they called me and discussed the situation. I spoke to (the trainer) on the phone. I told her that wasn’t our dog because of the photo my son had sent me ... I wanted to know what was happening,” she said.

The trainer — who is not being named in this article because she has not been charged with any crime — came to the house when Bruchilari returned home and promised to bring Scott in two days. As the trainer left with the dog who was not Scott, Bruchilari said, she allegedly removed the tracking collar from the faux Scott’s neck and threw it in Bruchilari’s yard.

Scott hasn’t come back, and the mystery of what happened to him has only deepened.

Bruchilari contacted the Palo Alto police, who called the trainer. The officer learned that Scott had been left with a person in Humboldt County while the trainer was out of town.

Because of that, the trainer

now is claiming no responsibility for Scott. She sent Bruchilari a text message in which she said the missing dog is a matter between Bruchilari and the third party who was dog-sitting.

What’s more, the trainer said, Scott isn’t ever coming back.

“There’s no return to facilitate,” the trainer wrote in the text message. “The dog is most definitely dead. Broke through a window screen in the middle of the night, and (the dog sitter) didn’t see until the morning. It was during the big storm, he searched all over and found blood streaks and clumps of the dogs (sic) fur, as well as part of a paw/arm, so we can only imagine,” the text stated.

The trainer said she had used the dog sitter before without incident.

“When I returned I was not informed of any of this and he loaded up my dogs when I went to use the restroom. He told me the details yesterday when I pressed him and told me that he panicked and is coordinating with the police,” the trainer said.

The trainer hasn’t given Bruchilari the third party’s name nor the contact information. Police are also not providing the information since the case is under investigation, she said.

But Bruchilari is skeptical of the story.

“I think because my dog has a pedigree and is a pure German shepherd, maybe someone is trying to sell him or to use him for breeding. It costs about \$5,000 for a dog with that pureness,” she said.

The trainer denied in the text message to Bruchilari that she stole the dog.

In a text message to this news organization, the trainer confirmed that the dog sitter talked to the police.

“There is really nothing to tell as I wasn’t there during the incident and I can’t personally speak to it,” she said.

Bruchilari is looking into possible legal action. She said she and her children miss the dog.

“It’s like my son,” she said.

Dog trainer removed from Thumbtack

Bruchilari had trusted the Thumbtack service because it had “verified” the trainer and because she had satisfactorily used the app for another situation, she said.

A spokesperson for Thumbtack said in an email that Thumbtack, which introduces customers to service providers, takes the integrity of its professionals seriously.

“We adhere to industry standards for background checks,

which are processed through a nationally accredited third-party provider,” the spokesperson stated. “In the rare event we receive a concerning report, we take immediate steps to address the situation.

“As soon as we were made aware of the situation, we took action against this service provider and removed her from the Thumbtack platform as a result of their violation of our terms of service,” she said. “We are working with the local authorities to help them with their investigation.”

The company didn’t respond to a follow-up question about which violations the trainer allegedly engaged in.

Thumbtack can require professionals who use the service to participate in mediation, arbitration, or other resolution processes with customers; charge the professional’s credit card to compensate the company or a customer for funds owed, damages or other payments; begin court, insurance or collection proceedings; or permanently cancel the professional’s account, according to the company website.

Are dog trainers certified?

Dog trainers aren’t required by states or the federal government

to be certified or have a professional license, according to the Animal Humane Society. Some organizations do certify trainers, however, such as the The Association of Professional Dog Trainers and The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers.

The Certification Council requires 300 hours of dog-training experience and passing an exam “to demonstrate mastery of humane, science-based dog-training practices,” the organization said on its website. Trainers and behavior consultants must be periodically recertified.

The organization’s certified-dog-trainer-directory includes local and Bay Area sources. Its website also offers tips for choosing a dog trainer, including avoiding a trainer who focuses on a dominance-and-submission model or primarily punishment-based methods, the website noted.

Palo Alto police Lt. Brian Philip said the department is investigating the alleged dognapping.

“I can say that this is not a common occurrence,” he said. ■

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

Public Notices**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

J CAFE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-292928

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
J Cafe, located at 246 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
J CAFE, INC
1246 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: A Corporation, State of Incorporation: CA. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 9, 2022.
(ALM Dec. 30, 2022; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 2023)

MOUNTED PATROL FOUNDATION
MP FOUNDATION
MPF

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293018
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Mounted Patrol Foundation, 2.) MP Foundation, 3.) MPF, located at 521 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MOUNTED PATROL OF SAN MATEO COUNTY FOUNDATION
521 Kings Mountain Road
Woodside, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: A Corporation, State of Incorporation: CA. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2012. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 22, 2022.
(ALM Dec. 30, 2022; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 2023)

LAMARQUE'S
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293063

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Lamarque's, located at 1139 Carlton Ave, Menlo Park, 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
MARTIN LAMARQUE
1139 Carlton Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
SILVIA LAMARQUE
1139 Carlton Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/04/2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 28, 2022.
(ALM Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023)

REYES LANDSCAPING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293064

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Reyes Landscaping, located at 641 Warrington Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
ISMAEL REYES SOTO
641 Warrington Ave
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 28, 2022.
(ALM Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023)

To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices.
The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

HOMES*continued from page 5*

slow that down.” She encouraged the City Council to implement some protections sooner than 2024 — “if not there won’t be any people in underserved communities left.”

Some of the locations picked by the city for future housing growth were problematic, as some “opportunity sites” listed in the housing element update aren’t viable. Sites along Sand Hill Road, currently an office building and parking lots, seemed unlikely to become housing any time soon.

“With (the Sand Hill Road)

sites in particular, there’s even in the public record ... a conversation between the planner and the developer Divco where they say they’re not interested in building housing,” resident Misha Silin said.

Developer DivcoWest owns several properties along Sand Hill Road and has previously said that it is not interested in building housing on their properties.

The Planning Commission also recommended prioritizing city-owned lots to build affordable housing, as this would be one of the more immediate and direct ways the city could get affordable units built. Commissioners said they wanted commitments to

build on city-owned downtown parking lots, as the current language in the housing element says the city will only “consider” this. Members recommended changing the language to say these lots will be “prioritized.”

“This is going to be a massive public outreach priority as well, and it will need to be done thoughtfully and well,” Chair Chris DeCardy said.

The measure passed unanimously and the draft version of the housing element will return to the City Council on Jan. 30. ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.

CRIME BRIEFS*continued from page 6***Man sentenced to life in prison for 2011 fatal shooting**

A 31-year-old man convicted of first-degree murder for a fatal shooting in East Palo Alto in 2011 has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Christian Fuentes, one of the suspects in the killing of 19-year-old Catherine Fisher on

July 13, 2011, was found guilty by a jury in September and was sentenced Jan. 12 to the life sentence, prosecutors said.

Fisher was sitting in a parked vehicle with two other people on Annapolis Street when two suspects approached and opened fire. She was struck multiple times in the shooting, which investigators had said targeted one of the other people in the vehicle.

Authorities identified Fuentes, Jaime Cardenas and Fidel Silva as the two shooters and driver in the case and learned that the trio had fled after the shooting and went to Grand Junction,

Colorado, where Fuentes committed another fatal shooting on July 16, 2011.

Fuentes then returned to the Bay Area and was arrested three days later, East Palo Alto police said. Cardenas and Silva remain at large.

Fuentes was convicted for the Colorado killing and was sentenced to 84 years in prison, then was extradited to San Mateo County to face charges in the killing of Fisher as well as the premeditated attempted murder of the other people in the vehicle, prosecutors said.

—*Bay City News Service*



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10 AM - 1 PM

2327 OLYMPIC AVENUE MENLO PARK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022
10 AM - 1 PM



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- All cash



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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

All 'wrong'

Palo Alto Players stage a comedy about a theater production falling apart in all the right ways

By Karla Kane

Ordinarily, a theater company tries its best to minimize mishaps and mayhem in its productions. For Palo Alto Players, however, those elements are exactly what make "The Play That Goes Wrong," running from Jan. 20 to Feb. 5, the right choice for those looking for amusement this winter.

The show, by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, follows the misfortunes of an earnest amateur drama society that's working very hard and going to great expense to produce what its members hope will be a high-quality whodunit — "The Murder at Haversham Manor." However, "things do not go as planned," said Katie O'Bryon Champlin, director of the Palo Alto Players production. Hilarity ensues.

Audiences follow the production's escalating misfortunes, including malfunctioning props, missed entrances, forgotten lines and scenery breakdowns, as the increasingly desperate characters strive to keep it all going as smoothly as possible.

"It's an exercise in controlled chaos," said Brad Satterwhite, who plays Chris, a character with much invested in the play-within-the-play, serving as both its director and lead actor.

"This is his baby. It's the first show he's directed with the troupe, he wants everything to go very well, and he's consistently trying to get everything back on track and move the show along," he said.

Satterwhite and Champlin, both familiar faces on the local theater scene, have worked together before, including in the uproarious "One Man, Two Guvners" with Palo Alto Players in 2019, and said they are delighted to reunite for more carefully crafted tomfoolery.

Champlin was approached by Palo Alto Players about leading the show, as she has expertise

in its physical and farcical style of comedy, including training from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre.

"When I'm cast in shows in this area they often have those elements to it," she said. "I get so interested in the craft of this kind of comedy; it's really satisfying that you can break it down into timing, emotion, tone ... so it just clicks."

"The Show That Goes Wrong" is not an easy one to produce. Champlin said she laughed out loud when she first heard the proposal to stage the show locally. Having seen (and loved) the professional production, she wasn't sure a smaller theater company would be able to pull it off, technically. She's been pleasantly surprised.

"It has so many complicated elements that would be daunting for anyone not working with Broadway-level resources, but I have been really well supported," she said.

Champlin noted that typically, actors rehearse offsite and don't get to work with the set and in the theater until right before opening. For this show, a functional (to appear dysfunctional) set, designed by Palo Alto Players' Artistic Director Patrick Klein, is critical for delivering all those meticulously manufactured bits of slapstick magic (Satterwhite referred to the set as a member of the cast in its own right, so crucial is its role).

"We've been lucky enough to have our set 80% built for most of our rehearsal process; it's really helpful," Champlin said. "There's a lot of timing and engineering going into making those mistakes happen when we want them to happen."

In addition to the technical challenges, it's also a very demanding show for its actors. Champlin said that while on most productions, the cast will run a few of the trickiest physical bits right before each performance, "in this show, everything is a tricky bit," she laughed.

"More than any other show I've done, I continue to laugh



Courtesy Scott Lasky

Clockwise from left, Christopher Mahle as Jonathan, Damaris Divito as Annie, Brad Satterwhite as Chris, and Michelle Skinner as Sandra in Palo Alto Players' production of the comic murder mystery farce "The Play That Goes Wrong."

in rehearsals," she said. "The actors are really invested in their characters and bring a lot of spontaneity."

Mindful of the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact events, the production's 13-member cast includes several double-cast roles, with options to cover other characters should the need arise.

"We wanted to make sure we had people who really knew the show in case we had someone who needed to step out," Champlin explained.

By day, Champlin teaches theater to middle schoolers, and said her work with young performers, who may not have much previous experience, has been helpful in informing her work on "The Play That Goes Wrong" as well.

"In many cases, when you're first starting out as an actor, you don't have a bag of tricks

of how to handle things when they go wrong," she said.

While the hilarious woes that befall "The Murder at Haversham Manor" are exaggerated for comedic effect, pretty much all theater veterans can commiserate about things not going exactly as planned in one way or another. In fact, at the first rehearsal, everyone took time to share some memories of less-than-perfect moments in past productions.

For Satterwhite, what came to mind was his time starring in "Romeo and Juliet" in Southern California, when, during the famously romantic balcony scene, the light cues went awry (and remained that way for the rest of the performance).

"This show is kind of a love letter to show business in that way, and how hard sometimes actors take it when they

rehearse so long and work so hard and things don't work out," Champlin said.

"I do think this play has a special appeal to people who are involved in theater," she said, "but anyone looking for a good laugh — even if you've never seen a play or done a play before — this show has a lot to offer."

"It's a lot of fun; a good kind of escape," Satterwhite said. "You don't have to think too hard, you just show up and you laugh."

"The Play That Goes Wrong" runs Jan. 20 to Feb. 5 at the Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$10-\$60. More information, including on Palo Alto Players' current health and safety policies, can be found at paplayers.org. ■

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

Putting it on the 'lines'

From SNL's earliest days to a long career in TV and film, comedy writer Alan Zweibel has helped funny people be funnier

By Heather Zimmerman

Comedy writer Alan Zweibel spent a short time in his early career on stage doing standup at clubs, but his words have gone on to reach audiences on a much larger scale through his work in film and TV. The multiple Emmy-winning writer was a member of the original writing staff for "Saturday Night Live," where he formed a lifelong friendship with comedian Gilda Radner, about whom he later wrote a book, "Bunny Bunny," that was adapted into a Broadway play.

Likewise, he and Billy Crystal have always had a close working relationship and friendship as they came up together in TV and film, teaming up on numerous projects, including Crystal's Broadway show "700 Sundays."

From theater to TV to film, he has collaborated with everyone from David Letterman and Martin Short to writing (and an acting cameo) with Larry David on "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and co-creating "It's Garry Shandling's Show" with comedian and dear friend Garry Shandling.

Zweibel's most recent film, 2021's "Here Today," which he co-wrote with Crystal, and starred Crystal and Tiffany Haddish, was inspired by a charity auction lunch date with Zweibel that went spectacularly wrong.

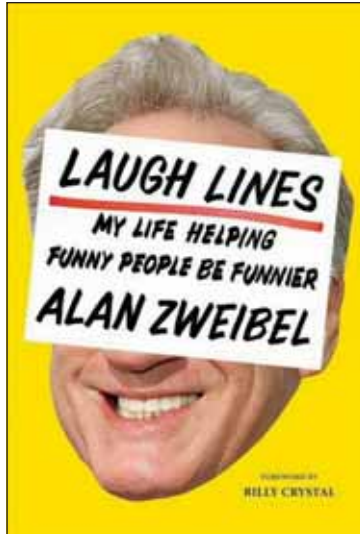
He recently published a memoir, "Laugh Lines: My Life Helping Funny People be Funnier," and is currently working on a film adaptation of director Barry Sonnenfeld's memoir as well as a film adaptation of "Lunatics," a book that Zweibel co-wrote with humor columnist Dave Barry. Zweibel also is finishing up work on another book.

He shares some memorable moments from his career Jan. 22 in an evening at the Oshman Family JCC.

The Almanac spoke with Zweibel about his career and some of the memories he captures in "Laugh Lines." This conversation has been edited for brevity and clarity.

The Almanac:

You started your career writing jokes for comedians working at the resorts in New York's Catskill mountains. What drew you to writing comedy for a living?



Courtesy Alan Zweibel

Comedy writer Alan Zweibel's book reflects on many of his film and TV collaborations with comedians such as Billy Crystal and Martin Short, as well as his time on the original writing staff of Saturday Night Live.

Alan Zweibel:

I wanted to be a TV comedy writer, even as a boy. I used to watch the 'Dick Van Dyke Show' with my parents. It was this good-looking guy in a nice house in New Rochelle who is married to Mary Tyler Moore, he had a family. At the office all he did for work was lying on a couch joking around with Buddy and Sally, and I thought, 'Gee, I want to do that.' And I didn't know how to do it. There was no internet — it was a different world back then. When I graduated college, I learned that writing jokes for the Catskill guys was, just was prior to my arrival, an entree into TV writing, because when the Catskills were enjoying their heyday, to write for Red Buttons and Alan King and Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis and Totie Fields — that generation — once those comedians became famous and got their own TV shows, they took their writers with them. So I thought, okay, that's the route that I would go. Then it didn't work out because by the time I got there in the early '70s, the Catskills were not the breeding grounds anymore. But I started writing jokes because I was given the opportunity to do so. I thought that that was a baby step towards the biggest thing.

The Almanac:

In a way it was, because then that led you to standup, which led you to SNL?

Zweibel:

It was a means to an end. I got tired of the Catskill guys. I knew that there weren't going to be any movie or TV executives looking to get the guys who were basically the also-rans and also they were twice my age. I didn't want to write jokes (like "My wife won't sleep with me because she just had her hair done.") I took the jokes those guys wouldn't buy from me and I had a plan to get up at some of the showcase clubs in New York, like the Improvisation and Catch A Rising Star, tell my jokes with the hopes that a manager or an agent would come in and like my material and want to represent me to get a job writing television. One night Lorne Michaels came in. He liked my material. I had a meeting with him a few days later, because he was looking for actors and writers for this new show that would be called "Saturday Night Live." I typed up 1,100 jokes and gave him the binder, and he liked my material and he gave me a job on this brand new show.

The Almanac:

What was it like to work on SNL in the early days?

Zweibel:

It was great. It was a prolonged adolescence. We worked in the RCA building — 30 Rock — which was very corporate. Here we are in our jeans and flannels, and tube socks that don't exactly match. The only rule that Lorne had was: let's make each other laugh. If we make each other laugh, we'll put it on television. So it was very, very freeform. We made friendships that last to this very day.

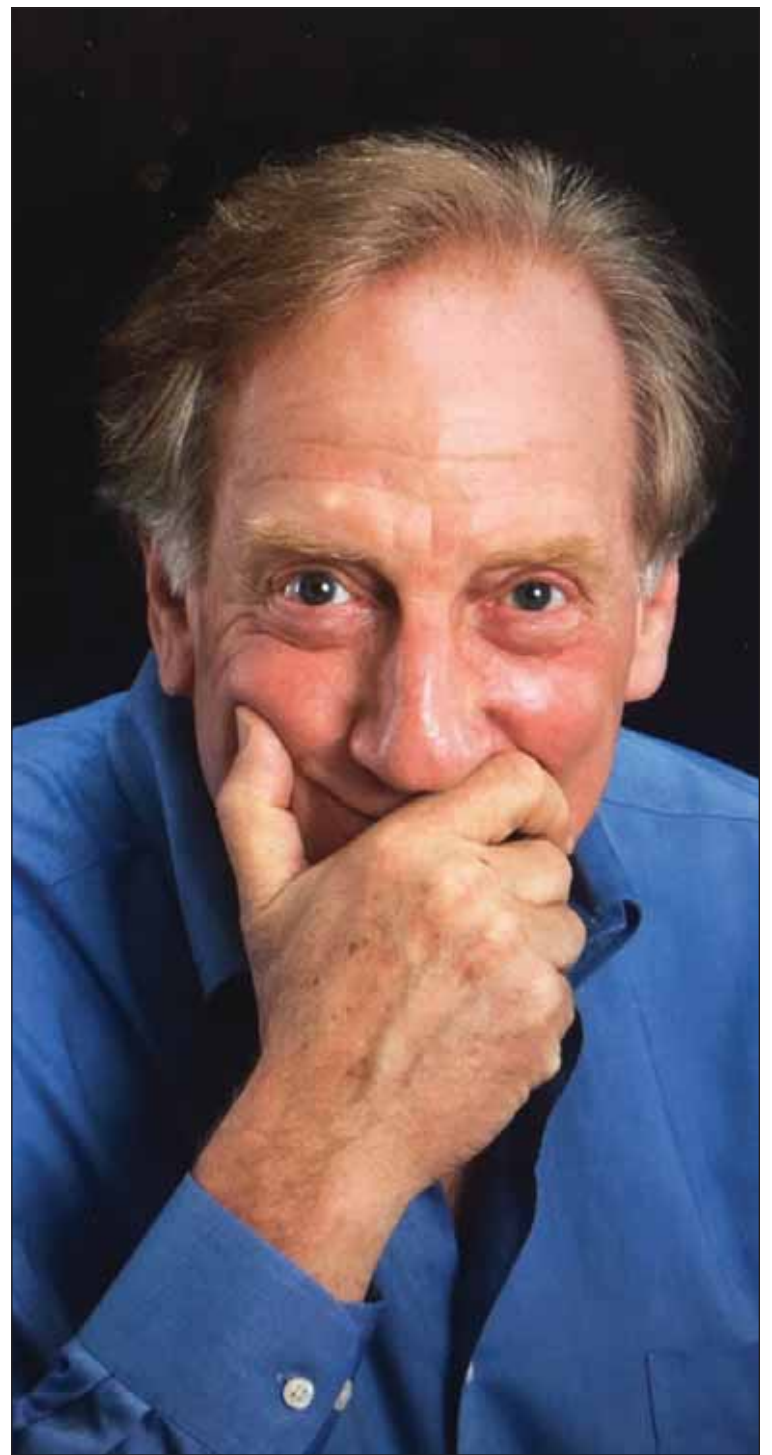
Gilda (Radner) and I became especially close and she and I created a few characters for her. She became the godmother of our three children (with wife, Robin Zweibel). When she got sick, her last TV appearance was on a show that I co-created called "It's Garry Shandling's Show." So I look back at those years with incredible fondness.

The Almanac:

The subtitle of your book "Laugh Lines" is "helping funny people be funnier." As a writer, how do you channel like the voice of each comedian that you're working with?

Zweibel:

When I got out of college ... I



Courtesy Alan Zweibel

Comedy writer Alan Zweibel shares moments from his career as a film and TV writer in an evening at the Oshman Family JCC on Jan. 22.

knew I wanted to write scripts, and I wanted to have different voices. So I made up an exercise where I say, "Okay, this week, the subject is buying a house." So on Monday I would write a monologue as if Rodney Dangerfield was talking about buying a house, on Tuesday as if Joan Rivers was, on Wednesday as if Robert Klein was, and by the end of the week I had five different monologues about the same subject. When I write for all these different people, if we find the same things funny enough, (even) if I didn't capture their voice but put something in their mouths that they feel comfortable saying, that's what it is.

The Almanac:

What can audiences expect from your show?

Zweibel:

I love doing these shows because I tell them who I am, I make them laugh. I'll also make

them cry a little bit when I (talk about Gilda). The Q&A's are always very interesting because they lead to anecdotes that I don't even think about while delivering my talk. Then there will be a book-signing afterwards and if (audiences) want to talk or schmooze, I'm there for that too. I love coming out from behind the laptop to be human beings again, especially now after a couple of years. These were all Zooms and now to have a live audience, what a pleasure.

An Evening with Alan Zweibel takes place Jan. 22, 7 p.m. at the Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$65. Best suited for ages 15 and up. For more information, visit paloaltojcc.org. ■

Read a longer version of this interview at almanacnews.com/arts.

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Food & Drink

Rising to the Challenge

A Los Altos teen and his sister started a baking business. Then Food Network came calling.

By Kate Bradshaw

Two years ago, Los Altos siblings Naiel and Punhal Chaudry started their culinary adventure with great intentions and some help from YouTube. During the COVID-19 lockdown, they wanted to do something nice for their mom, a front-line doctor, and dad, an entrepreneur and engineer. They had been watching some cooking shows and wanted to try it themselves, so they took on the challenge of becoming the chefs for a date night for their parents.

Their parents were game, but at the back of their mother Aifra Ahmed's mind was a concern.

"We were really nervous," she says. "How are we going to pretend that we like it?"

To her surprise, she says, she didn't have to pretend: The soufflé they whipped up for dessert was spectacular. "We were just blown away," she says.

Satisfied with their first project, the kids kept at it, and word spread to friends and family. When a neighbor paid them for a loaf of banana bread, they decided to try to make a business out of it.

They launched their first batch of sales in advance of Valentine's Day 2021, starting out with simpler recipes like cupcakes and crème brûlée before moving on to more complex dishes like their signature cake, a fusion ras malai tres leches cake. The cake is made with cardamom sponge layers and uses ras malai, a popular dessert in India and Pakistan made with rose water, saffron and pistachio flavors soaked into the cake to

give it the moist texture of a tres leches.

Naiel, who's 13, says that their logo was something he pieced together in a few minutes on the computer the day of their first sale. It pays homage to the artistic style of Pakistani truck art, in which trucks around Pakistan are elaborately decorated in bright colors and intricate calligraphy. The business name, Lá Jawab, means "matchless" in Urdu.

Over time, the Bullis Charter School students developed their own flair for Asian fusion desserts and built their specialties — Naiel specializes in the science of baking, while Punhal focuses on cake decorating and fusion boba drinks. When asked whether sibling tensions ever arise during their baking projects together, Punhal, now 11, replies with a laugh: "Yeah, we have experienced that a lot. Like, almost every time we bake." But, she adds, "When we're in a good mood, we help each other out."

And for their big projects, including wedding cakes, they put aside their differences and team up. One of their scariest moments, they say, was when they had been tasked with baking their first wedding cake. As they were initially assembling their first two-tier confection, the fondant began to bulge from the cake's softness and the cake began to lean. But they managed to fix it, and said that the bride ended up loving the cake. On another more recent wedding cake order, they had to innovate because their client wanted

figs on the cake, but they couldn't find any because they weren't in season. So they went with candied blood oranges instead.

Behind the children's business is a dedication to community service that comes from their upbringing. The family has a tradition of traveling to Pakistan



Courtesy Food Network

Above: Los Altos resident Naiel Chaudry, 13, is the first Pakistani American contestant on "Kids Baking Championship." Right: A three-tier wedding Naiel and his younger sister Punhal made for their business, Lá Jawab.

each year to visit a school that they raise funds to support. While in Pakistan a couple of years ago, the family was eating at a fine-dining restaurant when Naiel looked out the window and saw children begging for food.

At the time, their father Moazzam told them, "You can keep feeling bad about it or you can be part of a solution and do something."

The experience stuck with him, so when he and Punhal started their business, the two committed to donating 20% of their proceeds to charity. Among the nonprofits they support are the APPNA Free Clinic in San Jose, which their mom heads as chief medical officer, homeless service nonprofits and the Human Development Foundation in Pakistan.

As they began marketing their wares on Instagram, Naiel was approached by a casting agent for Food Network's "Kids Baking Championship." He went through several rounds of the casting process before getting on the show, making him the first Pakistani American kid to compete in its 11 seasons. The winner receives

\$25,000.

"It was just super crazy and really surreal to me that I got selected for a show I'd been watching since I was really young," he says.

Four episodes have aired so far. In the latest, contestants were asked to prepare desserts in a jar as one might for a food festival. Naiel baked a lemon rosemary cheesecake with a graham cracker crust and a blackberry compote and made it to the next episode on Jan. 23.

While Naiel can't reveal how he did overall on the show — the season was filmed months ago but is being aired each Monday — he says the experience has helped him grow as a baker, especially when it feels like things aren't going right.

"Before the show I used to panic in situations like that. But when I got on the show, I said 'I'm not going to panic on the show, I'm just going to bake and whatever happens, happens,'" he says. "I've carried that from the show to my business."

The experience helped him meet another childhood goal: to be on TV. While his earlier



Courtesy Aifra Ahmed

dreams were to be on the Disney Channel, he says he's happy to have made it on the air on a different channel for his baking skills.

At first, his mother Ahmed says, she was apprehensive about how Naiel would manage the criticism on the show — the judges are kind, but they don't hold back their critiques when the children mess up.

"I was just so proud," Ahmed says. "He (managed) it much better than I thought he would, which was for me a learning experience."

Lá Jawab Treats: Lajawabtreats.com; Instagram: @lajawabtreats. ■

Email Associate Digital Editor Kate Bradshaw at peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.



Courtesy Rabiaz Art Photography

Punhal and Naiel Chaudry are siblings who started a baking business together.

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Magali Gauthier
VISUAL JOURNALIST

Hear from visual journalist, Magali Gauthier

I'm Magali Gauthier and I'm the staff visual journalist for Embarcadero Media, the small local news organization on the Peninsula that covers news for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac, and Redwood City Pulse.

During the recent string of storms in early January, our newsroom covered power outages, downed trees and flooding across all our coverage areas, from Mountain View to Woodside. On some days, I was on the ground with reporters at the San Francisquito Creek speaking with local residents about how floods had impacted their homes and what they were doing to protect them from further damage. At the same time, other reporters were in touch with city officials and public works departments to give you all the most up-to-date news on power outages and impacted roadways. On other days, I was driving around Woodside and Portola Valley, in constant communication with reporters about downed trees and street closures to photograph and film. All the information and visuals we gathered were then sent to our editors who were updating stories online. It was a really collaborative and time-consuming effort. But we knew it was important to tell and show our readers how current events were impacting them as quickly as possible.

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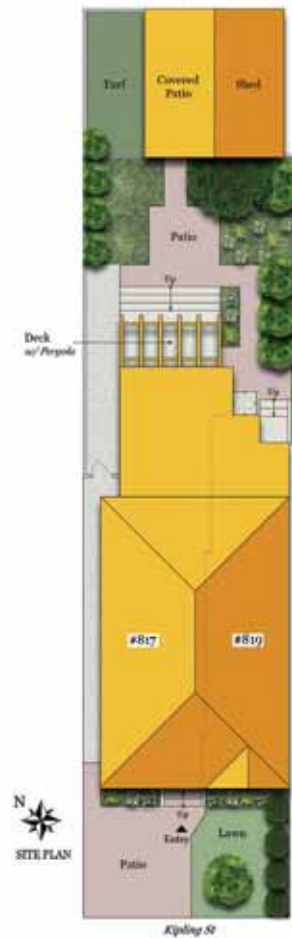
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