

# The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 9, 2024 | VOL. 59 NO. 22



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## Strong winds batter Midpeninsula, knocking out power for thousands of residents

By Angela Swartz

A storm on Sunday, Feb. 4, hit the Midpeninsula hard, with The National Weather Service going so far as to issue a brief tornado warning that day, according to Bay City News Service. The impacts of the weather led to widespread power outages in the Bay Area and throughout the state.

Some Peninsula residents lost power for over 48 hours after heavy rain and high winds struck the region. Others were still without power by The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline.

Winds reached up to 50 mph. By 7 p.m. on Sunday, nearly 400,000 PG&E customers were without power in the Bay Area as fallen trees and high winds wreaked havoc on the grid. Some 81,647 of those customers live on the Peninsula.

The utility company reported that 1 million customers experienced outages because of the storm.

Firefighters put out pole fires and moved trees from cars, houses and roadways in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside throughout the week.

Skyline Boulevard, 2.6 miles north of Highway 84 near Bear Gulch West, in Woodside remained closed on Wednesday afternoon because of downed power lines.

Cities opened their libraries and city halls to residents as warming and charging stations, including in Atherton, North Fair Oaks and East Palo Alto.

Beyond Wednesday, Feb. 7, a drying trend will begin with pleasant weather through the rest of the extended period, according to forecasters. ■

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



Courtesy Arden Margulis / M-A Chronicle

A car buried under a tree in Menlo Park on Feb. 4 after the big storm hit. Some were still without power by The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline.

## Congressional candidates delve into issues in bid for Eshoo's seat, contend with protesters

By Neil Gonzales

Congressional hopefuls vying to succeed U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo squared off on Jan. 31 in Palo Alto on an array of issues from the environment to the Israel-Hamas war but were ultimately disrupted from speaking further to the standing-room-only crowd by a group of protesters who began shouting and demanding a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip.

Nine of the 11 candidates seeking the District 16 seat participated



in the forum, which was sponsored by Embarcadero Media Foundation in collaboration with Palo Alto Neighborhoods,

the Midpeninsula Media Center and the city of Palo Alto. The forum was moderated by Palo Alto Online reporter Gennady Sheyner and Mountain View Voice reporter Zoe Morgan.

The candidates present were technology investor Peter Dixon; former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo; Palo Alto City Council member Julie Lythcott-Haims; Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian; climate investor Joby Bernstein; state Assemblymember Evan Low; women's-rights lawyer

Ahmed Mostafa; former Menlo Park Mayor Peter Ohtaki; and Palo Alto City Council member Greg Tanaka.

Ohtaki and Ryan are Republicans, while the rest are Democrats. Former Saratoga City Council member Rishi Kumar and business owner Karl Ryan were not at the event.

The forum moderators asked candidates their takes on a range of issues, including their voting history, immigration and the environment.

On banning natural gas hook-ups in new buildings as a strategy to combat climate change, Mostafa said the approach to climate change must be done "in a sustainable way to ensure that our communities can do this and thrive. Oftentimes with regard to climate change, the brunt actually is faced by our most marginalized communities," he said. "And so if we do this in a way that is sustainable and takes steps to get there,

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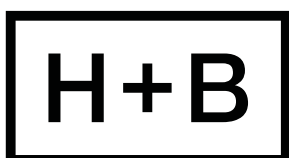
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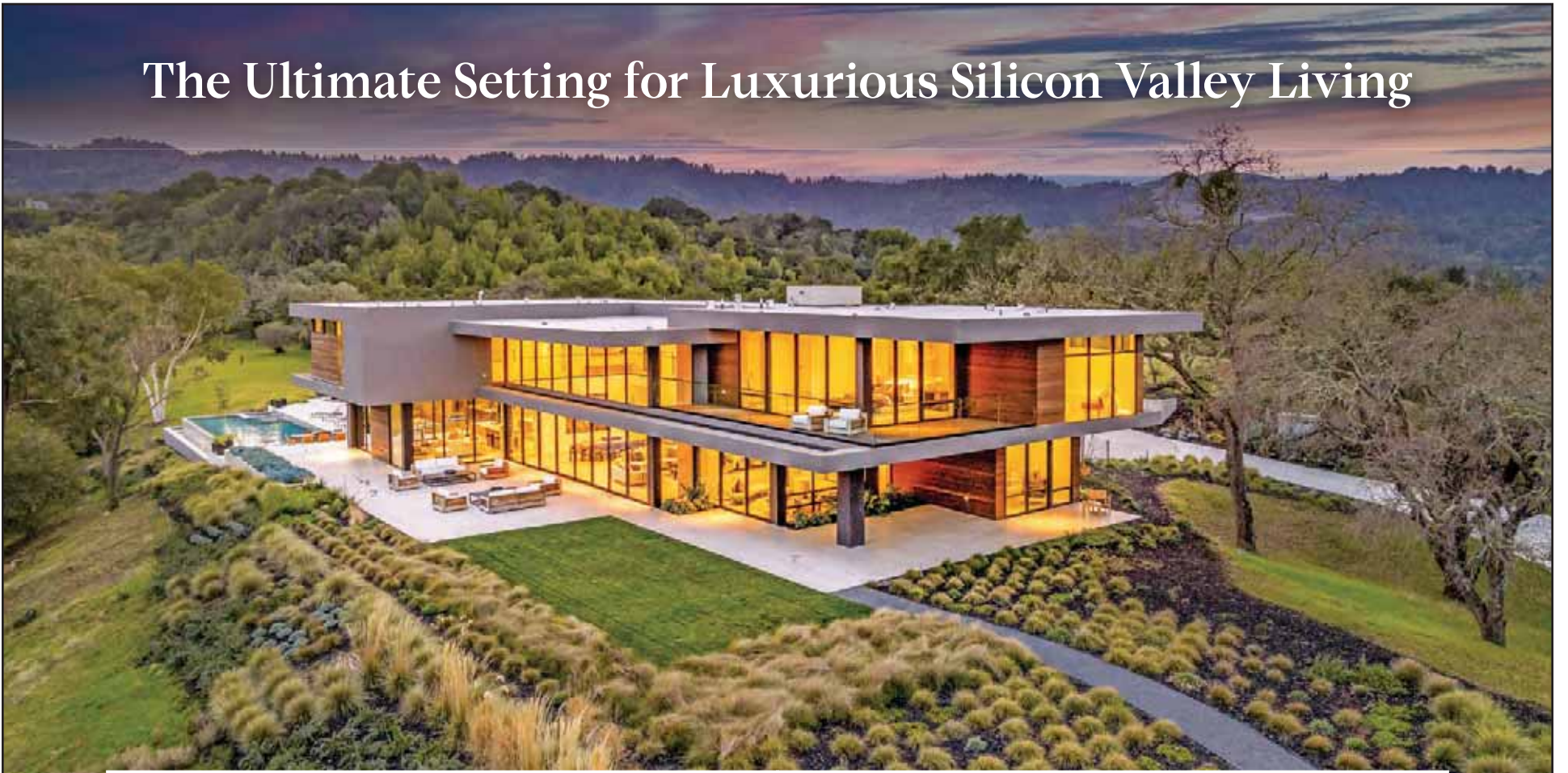
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Nicholas Mazzoni

Domini Hoskins shows inventions by African Americans at the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum and Learning Center on Feb. 2.

## Domini Hoskins Black History Museum receives \$2M from state

State Sen. Josh Becker secures funds for a permanent location

By Nicholas Mazzoni

Ever since Carolyn Hoskins' grandson asked her who else contributed to Black history other than Martin Luther King Jr., it's been her mission to educate and celebrate her culture with the community.

The question her grandson posed more than 20 years ago is the reason she started the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum and Learning Center. But what was once a mobile

pop-up museum is a step closer to securing a permanent home in Redwood City after state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, presented a \$2 million check to the museum on Feb. 2.

Becker negotiated the funds in the state Senate to ensure the museum can establish an interim location while a permanent location is determined, according to a press release.

Becker said he was impressed by the scale of collectibles in the museum.

"I want people to feel the broad range of African Americans in our society, that breath of contribution," Becker said. "My favorite things, entrepreneurship and ideas, music and sports, are all covered. I learned a lot about many African American inventors I didn't know about."

With more than 22,000 square feet of artwork and memorabilia, the museum and learning center has thousands

See **MUSEUM**, page 10

## Local businesses line up to see Caltrain's new electric fleet

High-performance trains will offer faster, environmentally sustainable service for commuters

By Emily Margaretten

Electric trains are coming to the Peninsula this year, with local businesses eager to get on board Caltrain's new high-performance fleet that will offer faster, safer and more reliable services, while also

championing clean energy.

Caltrain's electrification project spans the Peninsula corridor, from San Jose to San Francisco, and is touted as the state's first electrified commuter rail system. Caltrain held an invite-only tour on Feb. 2, to give future riders a sneak peek of the new fleet

set to debut this fall.

Initially proposed in the 1990s, the \$2.44 billion electrification project broke ground in 2017. Since then, major work has been conducted along the 51-mile corridor, with some of the most

See **ELECTRIC FLEET**, page 11

## Five candidates vie for San Mateo County District 4 supervisor seat

By Nicholas Mazzoni

San Mateo County's Board of Supervisors will have a new supervisor representing District 4 this November. The race between the five candidates raises issues concerning affordable housing, police oversight, engaging with underserved communities and climate change.

Thrive Alliance and the Leadership Council San Mateo County hosted a candidate forum on Jan. 30, at the city of Menlo Park's council chambers, where the five candidates vying for Supervisor Warren Slocum's seat, discussed issues of the district and their ideas toward solutions.

The forum was comprised of Paul Bocanegra, a juvenile justice advocate and Redwood City resident; Lisa Gauthier, East Palo Alto council member and two-time mayor; Celeste Brevard, Stanford University project manager; Maggie Cornejo, former legislative aide for Supervisor Warren Slocum; and Antonio López, East Palo Alto council member and current mayor.

The residents in attendance wrote questions for the candidates.

### Climate justice priorities

One resident asked the candidates how they plan to address climate justice issues impacting underserved communities and how they would engage those plans with community stakeholders if they become supervisors.

Cornejo said that during the summer, many families and senior citizens live in overcrowded apartments with no cooling systems, which she knows firsthand because she's experienced it. She said she would like to use Measure K funding to create cooling stations for the community. She has also focused her campaign on the mobile home areas along East Bayshore Road that are impacted by flooding.

Gauthier is a founding member of OneShoreline, an independent government agency, and she said she is committed

to protecting the Bayfront cities from rising sea levels. She added that the Gardens area in East Palo Alto flooded in 1998 and 2012, and as a council member, she helped work with regional agencies and cities to construct a flood wall that protected the city from a 100-year flood.

Brevard said the county needs to work on flooding and rising sea levels, but creating more green spaces for community members can mitigate the urban heat island effect. She said the county needs to increase transportation systems and electrify them. She added that the county's policies need to include all the solutions.

Bocanegra said the number one polluter in the Bay Area is emissions, and 30% of that comes from vehicles. He said the county needs to get creative in its solutions to incentivize residents to take alternative modes of transportation.

López said the county must partner with nonprofits to address various issues ranging from rising sea levels to canopy coverage. He echoed Bocanegra's point and added that residents should be incentivized to be more sustainable by buying hybrid cars.

"East Palo Alto only has 14% canopy coverage. Palo Alto has about 40 plus (%)," López said. "It's going to (take) a multitude of resources to get us across the finish line."

### Engaging with underserved communities

Gauthier highlighted the significance of inclusive representation.

"Part of it is having people see themselves in the process," Gauthier said. "How do we talk to residents? It's getting into the community and making sure we are having dialogues with all communities, not just one community."

Brevard said many of the voices won't be heard because many people in the community can't legally vote. She said she believes the county

See **DISTRICT 4**, page 8

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Youth cultural dance show by San Mateo County hosted at Filoli

Filoli hosted “Dancing Across the World” on Jan. 28 showcasing cultural dances curated by San Mateo County Youth Cultural Ambassador Amelia Lauren Chen. Dances were performed by students of El Camino Ballet, Noorani Dance, and Dance Vita Ballroom.

“I think it is important to highlight intersections of art, culture and society, and the contributions of our youth in our community narrative, and Filoli as a cultural hub,” said Aileen Cassinetto, director of San Mateo County Youth Cultural Ambassadors Program.

### Menlo Rotary Community Foundation opens grant applications

The Menlo Rotary Community Foundation invites local nonprofits to apply for grants towards work for seniors and youth in areas of food insecurity, arts and culture, education and human trafficking in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and nearby communities.

Applications are due by Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. and can be found on [menloparkrotary.org](http://menloparkrotary.org).

The grants range from \$3,000 to \$7,000 but requests for up to \$10,000 will be considered.

For more information call Tom Gibboney at 650-575-2279.

### Town of Portola Valley hosts coffee chat with the mayor

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the town of Portola Valley will host “Coffee with the Mayor” with Mayor Sarah Wernikoff from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the Heritage Room at the Portola Valley Community Center, 765 Portola Road. Community members are invited to join the mayor to talk about town priorities.

### Woodside Fire Protection District offers CERT basic skills classes

Classes to learn about the community emergency response team (CERT) are being offered by the Woodside Fire Protection District. The basic skills classes will touch on disaster preparedness, medical operations, fire safety and utility controls and more.

Classes run for seven Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. through Feb. 8 and March 21 and one Saturday class from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 23. The registration fee is \$35 and scholarships are also available.

For more information on registration visit [woodsidefire.org](http://woodsidefire.org). For scholarships contact Public Education Officer Selena Brown at [sbrown@woodsidefire.org](mailto:sbrown@woodsidefire.org).

### Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital donates to 7 local nonprofits

Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital granted a total of \$149,928 to seven local community based organizations, according to a Feb. 1 press release. These donations come from Dignity Health California’s statewide budget of \$5.2



Courtesy Aileen Cassinetto

On Jan. 28, Filoli hosted “Dancing Across the World,” a cultural dance showcase curated by San Mateo County Youth Cultural Ambassador Amelia Lauren Chen. It included performances by students from El Camino Ballet, Noorani Dance and Dance Vita Ballroom.

million to provide through community grants to nearly 100 organizations. “Addressing critical health needs is not just a responsibility, it’s our commitment to the present and future of our community,” said Sequoia Hospital President & CEO Bill Graham. “Our mission is to give back and provide access to essential resources to help bridge gaps and support the well-being of every individual.” Dignity Health assesses the most pressing health priorities of each county every three years. These grants are intended to address challenging public health issues, such as mental health, food and housing insecurity, and domestic violence. Seven San Mateo County nonprofit organizations were awarded grants, ranging from \$20,000 to \$22,500, including:

Acknowledge Alliance, which was granted \$20,000 to fund the Collaborative Counseling Program (CCP) to provide mental health counseling to underserved and high-risk students. They offer individual or group counseling sessions guided by licensed psychotherapists Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) is an agency dedicated to helping victims of domestic abuse in San Mateo County. Their awarded grant for \$20,000 will fund the Family Centered Mental Health Program (FCMH). Annually, this program supports over 580 individuals that have experienced domestic violence trauma, including children, teens, adults and seniors. Friends For Youth in Redwood City will use their \$20,000 grant to fund The Whole Health for Youth (WHY) Collaborative. This program hosts mentorship groups and peer counseling groups to at least 160 youth between sixth and 10th grade. WHY aims to improve youth mental health and wellness through prevention

and early intervention services. Kidpower Teenpower Fullpower is a global nonprofit with services in California that will use the \$22,500 grant to fund their project addressing the mental health and safety impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters. The project will equip at least 300 skilled people to build resilience, take charge of and act towards the interest of mental, emotional and behavioral health. LifeMoves will use their \$22,428 grant to fund LifeMoves Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). The HOT works with unsheltered individuals to encourage positive decision making, reduce hospital visits and leave homelessness. They assist a minimum of 50 residents around Sequoia Hospital, working to develop a strategy to move them into stable housing. United through Education- Familias Unidas will use the \$22,500 grant for the Familias Unidas Family Engagement Workshop, which will offer engagement classes on educational disciplines such as reading, math, science, technology, art and health through eight-session family workshops. Workshops will also focus on healthy lifestyle practices in exercise, nutrition, diabetes and child obesity prevention.

Villages of San Mateo County will use the \$22,500 grant to fund their projects that are focused on the needs of aging adults in communities around Sequoia Hospital to reduce social isolation and increase access to healthcare. Program organizers work to increase the percentage of Village membership and volunteer growth to increase services for transportation, medical equipment loans, home safety evaluations and home improvements to reduce the risk of falling.

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi

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# Teachers required to release text messages and more amidst ethnic studies controversy

By Arden Margulis /  
M-A Chronicle

Late afternoon on Wednesday, Jan. 31, Sequoia Union High School District Associate Superintendent Bonnie Hansen began an email to all staff: “What follows is a notice I never thought I’d have to send.”

Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) teachers received an email from Hansen instructing them to submit all instructional materials containing the words “Zionism, Zionists, Israel, Israelis, Palestine, and/or Palestinians” taught since September 1st to District lawyers.

In a separate email, ethnic studies teachers were asked to submit all ethnic studies materials as well as any text messages about ethnic studies.

The Deborah Project requested these items through a California Public Records Act (CPRA) request. The CPRA is a law that allows citizens to view records and materials made by government

employees—including public school teachers and District employees. The Deborah Project is a public interest law firm that claims to “assert and defend the civil rights of Jews who face discrimination in educational settings.”

The district is using San Francisco-based educational law firm Dannis Woliver Kelley to comply with this request. In her email, Hansen assured teachers that the request “is not a request coming from the District and materials submitted will go directly to our attorneys for review and submission.”

The district’s additional email asked ethnic studies teachers to submit all of their lesson materials; this includes every lesson plan, assigned readings, and all presented materials. They are also collecting every memo, text message, and electronic communication about ethnic studies since the start of 2022. The district itself will also retrieve all email communications from ethnic studies teachers about ethnic studies to eventually send

to The Deborah Project.

In the first email to all staff, Hansen said, “While this is certainly not the district’s first request for information under the Public Records Act, it is the first time we are receiving requests that require submissions from teachers.”

**‘I’ve seen a lot of crazy things in my 16 years as a teacher, but this records request is a first.’**

M-A HISTORY TEACHER SAM HARRIS

M-A History teacher Sam Harris said, “I’ve seen a lot of crazy things in my 16 years as a teacher, but this records request is a first.”

The Deborah Project’s Legal Director Lori Lowenthal Marcus, who sent the request on Jan. 11, said, “The Deborah Project is trying to prevent

educational malpractice by the presentation of wholly inaccurate and divisive material.”

These requests come after multiple alleged issues with anti-semitism in SUHSD\* including months of coordinated advocacy against a slideshow presented by two ethnic studies teachers.

One of the teachers who presented the slideshow, Chloe Gentile-Montgomery, who is still on leave due to reported threats and harassment over the presentation, said, “These requests are a way to threaten ethnic studies teachers who push their students to think critically and lead with love.”

She added, “I was disappointed when I initially saw the records request, although I was sadly not surprised. Ethnic studies has been under attack since it came to public universities in the 1960s and even more so now that it is a requirement in California high schools.”

Hansen told the *M-A Chronicle*, “I am saddened that we have reached the point in education where blanket

requests can be made of hundreds of teachers to share information from their personal phones and spend the time they don’t have to review lessons and materials going back months and years.”

Montgomery said, “This CPRA is a way to distract teachers from doing the work they actually need to be doing, which is primarily in the classroom.” She added, “I plan to write a letter about how this violates the academic integrity of our teachers,” adding that she will “follow the lead of the Union.”

Many other teachers also felt upset and frustrated by these requests. M-A ethnic studies teacher Lan Nguyen said, “There has been a long history of outside agitators weaponizing the public records request process to tear down ethnic studies as a course. It breaks my heart that the sacredness of our classrooms is being violated.”

Harris said, “I feel somewhat conflicted over this idea that

See **ETHNIC STUDIES**, page 10

## St. Michael statue at long-running Menlo Park retreat haven vandalized

By Neil Gonzales

For decades, the garden-lush, tree-canopied grounds of the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park have inspired serenity and reflection.

But recently, a statue of St. Michael near the entrance left broken in shards has brought a very different feeling.

“Sadness,” said Dominick Peloso, deacon and director of operations at Vallombrosa, which has served as a haven for religious and spiritual retreats since 1947. “This is a beautiful statue to remind us of St. Michael and his work for the Lord.”

Badly damaged, it’s now a reminder of an act of vandalism committed by an unknown interloper. Peloso is seeking the community’s help to find the perpetrator and raise funds to replace the statue.

The center at 250 Oak Grove Ave. was in the process of fundraising to beautify the area around the statue, Peloso said. The project would add a tile path and some benches to create a kind of shrine.

“Now this is a \$1,500 setback,” he said of the vandalized statue, which measured about four feet in height and depicted the archangel

with a sword trampling Satan.

“We would like to have the public assist in finding the person or persons who did this, whom we pray for, and assist in restoring the shrine,” Peloso said.

About a month ago, he said, a Vallombrosa employee found the statue demolished. It looked as if someone took a large tree branch to the statue, shattering it into pieces. The branch was left next to the statue.

The sword was taken as well. “The sword is missing,” Peloso said. “So if anybody sees somebody wandering around with a sword in their belt, call the police.”

What also bothered Peloso was that it appeared the offender first tried to light the statue on fire. “There were some matches there,” he said, “but the burning didn’t work.”

Vallombrosa has had the statue for about five years, he said. “I found it on the Internet. There is a company that produces that particular statue.”

An online search turned up the same-looking statue made by specialty-décor company Design Toscano in Illinois.

The company offers a St. Michael garden statue made of polyresin with a finish to resemble marble and harkening to a

Baroque work by Italian painter Guido Reni (1575-1642).

Vallombrosa reported the vandalism to police. Menlo Park police spokesperson Nicole Acker said the case remains under investigation.

Peloso noted that a similar vandalism incident occurred several months ago at nearby St. Patrick’s Seminary & University at 320 Middlefield Road. He wondered if there could be a connection.

But Acker said it’s unlikely. “They do not appear to be related at all,” she said. “They’re different circumstances.”

On Easter weekend last year, a transient allegedly vandalized the statues of Biblical figures Mary and Joseph at the seminary. Vatical was arrested and accused of burning the statue of Joseph by igniting a Durafume log at the base and throwing an egg on Mary.

For those wishing to donate to help Vallombrosa replace the St. Michael statue or pursue its beautification project, email Peloso at dominick@vallombrosa.org. ■

Email Contributing Writer  
Neil Gonzales at [ngonzales92@yahoo.com](mailto:ngonzales92@yahoo.com).



Courtesy Dominick Peloso

A statue was broken into shards at Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park around a month ago.

**DISTRICT 4**

*continued from page 5*

should promote Civic Bell, a phone app that lets residents directly communicate with officials. She said it is similar to NextDoor. She imagines having language salons in the county where people could come and practice different languages. She said it's also important to provide equitable access to information, meaning there needs to be access to information in languages that people in the community speak.

Bocanegra said the decision makers in the county are disconnected from its residents. Last week, the county approved an ordinance, Hopeful Horizons, that will criminalize transients who refuse housing.

"The underserved here continue to be impacted by these policies and resolutions that are passed by people who are disconnected," Bocanegra said. "We have over 30 kids attending Kennedy Middle School from vehicles."

He added those kids are at a disadvantage to their classmates living in a \$2 million home.

López said that to move people forward and engage with them, they need to have better conversations and be in the places where people are. He said representation doesn't mean much if it isn't backed by a conversation, and he plans on having those difficult conversations to understand what the community needs are.

Cornejo said she has gained support from the community because she has been at residents' doors talking with them and educating them on what the District 4 supervisor does to impact daily life.

She wants to offer citizenship classes in North Fair Oaks and the neighboring cities.

"There are residents out there that are perhaps undocumented, but there is a pathway and they don't know that because they are too afraid. So having that education," Cornejo said.



**Housing policies to prevent eviction**

Brevard said if she were the supervisor, she would focus on policies limiting rent increases and giving tenants the right to move back into their homes after renovations are completed.

Bocanegra said he believes the county needs to implement a rental oversight program to protect tenants, and he is against the eviction of youth and senior citizens.

"Seniors can't continue to be bled out by taxes," Bocanegra said. "If you are exposing the community to living conditions like those in Half Moon Bay, you will be criminalized."

López said the county must work with state and regional agencies to prioritize housing over developer's profits. While he said there isn't a silver bullet to fix the issue, he believes it will take multiple approaches to ensure everyone in the county is housed affordably, and that will involve passing policies that can move the needle.

"I believe housing is the civil rights of our time," López said.

Cornejo said passing a tenant protection ordinance is important to protect the most vulnerable community members.

Gauthier said East Palo Alto has a rent stabilization program, displacement ordinances, and policies to protect the community. It also has rent assistance.

"Things are just too expensive, so we have to continue to build housing first of all, and we need to build housing for all," Gauthier said.

She added that creating jobs that will allow people to stay in the county is important.

**Independent Civilian Oversight**

The candidates were asked what they think of Independent Sheriff's Office Oversight. While some of the candidates are taking a wait-and-see approach, others feel like the county's decision needs to be reevaluated.

Bocanegra said it means partnering and trusting in the community and public. He claims what the supervisors previously passed earlier this month was an advisory committee, he said.

"If you trust your



Screenshot via Zoom

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 4 forum was hosted by Thrive Alliance and the Leadership Council San Mateo County on Jan. 30.

community, you will partner with your public and give the public the trust that they can uphold accountability in the Sheriff's Department (Office)," Bocanegra said.

López said he echoed Bocanegra's comments and added that the building blocks of the nation were built on checks and balances, and the community needs the power to hold those institutions accountable.

"So no more Black and brown people are suffering in this community when it comes to police deaths," López said.

Cornejo said she supports the county's version of the civilian oversight commission and that she also supports the Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Christina Corpus who she believes is engaging with the community.

Gauthier said every organization needs transparency. She supports the Board of Supervisors' decision to engage with the civilian oversight committee as needed. She said it needs to be allowed to see how it goes. But she is glad that there is an opportunity to review the committee after a year to reevaluate.

Brevard said she believes oversight and establishing trust within the community and police is important. She thinks creating partnerships with safety alliance committees is equally important to empower citizens.

**'Hopeful Horizons' ordinance and alternative**

North Fair Oaks Community Council member Ever Rodriguez asked the candidates to take a stance on the county's decision to issue misdemeanor violations to homeless individuals who refuse to take an available bed in a county shelter. Rodriguez asked the candidates to offer

their solutions to the homeless issue.

Brevard said she disagrees with the ordinance. She said it creates another barrier and makes it more difficult for people to receive the help they need. She said in Austin, Texas, the community has created a tiny house community for the formerly unhoused and she thinks it's a model that she would like to see recreated in the county.

Bocanegra said the community needs home buyer programs and tenant protections, not the criminalization of the poor.

López said it's not only morally wrong, he also believes it will be ineffective.

"Racking up misdemeanors doesn't seem like it's going to prove effective, and if anything it's going to be a barrier to the resources they desperately need," López said.

Cornejo said the Board of

Supervisors was trying to be innovative in coming up with its solutions, but she disagrees with its decision. She thinks it would be better for the county to invest its time in more interim housing, such as the Navigation Center in Redwood City.

Gauthier said the way East Palo Alto provided wrap-around services to people who were living in the park. Figuring out what services they need, providing them, and then giving them opportunities to find housing.

The primary election is set for March 5, with a possible general election on Nov. 5 if no candidate secures more than 50% of the primary vote.

Watch a video of the candidate forum at [tinyurl.com/SMC-D4-forum](https://tinyurl.com/SMC-D4-forum). ■

*Email Staff Writer Nicholas Mazzonei at [nmazzonei@rwcpulse.com](mailto:nmazzonei@rwcpulse.com).*

**Woodside Elementary School campaign finance reports are in**

**By Jennifer Yoshikoshi**

**Y**es on E for Woodside School, the campaign in support of a \$36 million bond measure on the March 5 ballot to raise funds for the Woodside Elementary School District, didn't receive any contributions or spent any funds for the period of Jan. 1 to Jan. 20, according to a campaign finance report.

Measure E for Woodside Elementary School has a \$36 million bond measure to fund for creek stabilization, fixing building damages and improving classrooms

and facilities. Woodside Elementary school board President Jenny Hayden is running the campaign.

Those in opposition to the measure did not file a report.

The next round of campaign finance reports are due on Feb. 22.

The County Elections Office began mailing Vote by Mail ballots for the primary election to all registered voters on Monday, Feb. 5. ■

*Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).*

**LEHUA GREENMAN**



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# Much ado over ADUs: How accessory dwelling units are giving rise to new cities of longevity

By Bay City News Service

Toast on a napkin, a cluster of pill bottles, extra reading glasses, a candy bowl full of cough drops. These are the traces of life found in the dwelling of someone in their senior years. Someone's parents are cooking less, going to the doctor more and avoiding talk of the future. Gatherings of grown children start to feel more like meetings. They share fears about everything that might happen if mom and dad go on living in the old house with increasing disabilities. They brainstorm, they argue, they research options, which are few.

Residential assisted living facilities can cost around \$7,000 a month. In-home health care providers are in extreme short supply. How can grown daughters and sons possibly manage to care for ailing parents in the same home where they are raising babies, building careers and searching for fleeting intimate moments?

One solution may lie in accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, which are playing a bigger role in the lives of seniors and their adult children in California. For decades, cities largely obstructed their development due to suburban codes and attitudes. In-law houses, garage buildouts, attic and basement additions are all increasing in numbers since the California Legislature passed over a dozen bills to encourage their production.

A 2017 law streamlined their permitting, and in 2020 the state required local governments to boost them. Homeowners could get help through city, county and state programs connecting to ADU designers. They could download architectural drawings that cleared local building codes. Grants of \$40,000 to cover starter costs were offered by the state Housing Finance Agency through 2023, but they have not appeared in the 2024 budget.

Life expectancy in the United States has risen from 39.4 years in 1860 to 78.9 years in 2020. By 2050, 22% of the U.S. population is expected to be over age 65.

In the decades after WWII, children constituted up to 36% of the U.S. population. They grew up watching The Smothers Brothers and the Vietnam war on television. This generation of Americans, which as always thought of itself as "a new idea," is now entering their 70s and 80s. When they came of age

in the 1960s, the spotlight of popular culture shifted from the ballrooms of Guy Lombardo to the love-ins of John Lennon. The artistic mood was future-thinking and utopian, which permanently changed social and political narratives. Baby boomers are more likely to own homes and have finance capital, and they may be more open to the alternative lifestyles that ADUs can offer.

Parents rent ADUs to grown children who want to start families but cannot afford to buy homes of their own. Seniors rent to tenants for extra income and have some flexibility in a fixed retirement budget, maybe travel. Grown children can build ADUs for parents, who can in turn help to reduce another spiraling cost — childcare.

Architectural critics point to other countries, where age-diverse neighborhoods have more safe places within walking distance, more opportunities for multi-generational engagement and more accessible buildings and streetscapes. The troubles of aging may not magically disappear with ADUs, but their ripple effects in architecture and urban planning could make cities more livable for everyone. Physical changes done well could ignite behavioral changes and create cities of longevity.

Whether or not these housing arrangements contribute to a longer life is hard to measure. A 2023 working paper published by the Hoover Institution showed that relief from financial anxiety can improve mental health, perhaps add years. Research from Stanford's Center on Longevity indicates that loneliness and lack of a sense of purpose can subtract years.

For three San Francisco Bay Area seniors, ADUs have reduced financial stress and social isolation.

## Carol Nemiro, Castro Valley:

Carol Nemiro, age 74, earns a teacher's pension from Hollister Public School District and describes her economic status as lower middle class. She lives in a one-bedroom ADU in her son's backyard in Castro Valley. Big windows face a courtyard where grandchildren ride trikes.

"I had a lot of friends in Hollister. It was hard to leave them," Carol said. "It's hard to see them now because most people my age don't like to drive a lot."

Her roommates live in four cages that frame the living

room. They are two macaws, 8-year-old Tapestry and 17-year-old Hearsay. Then there is Lightning, an 18-year-old cockatoo, and Irony, a 12-year-old African grey parrot who talks to her when she's on the phone with someone else. Carol's birds are clearly the souls with whom she is spanning time. They have been with her through it all.

Her younger son died in a car crash in 2017, the same year her first grandchild was born. The following two years, her children's father died and then her second husband. She and her second husband were great travelers. They once flew to Venice, Italy, and bought exotic glass birds.

Carol was denied her husband's Social Security because of her teacher's pension, and she began to accumulate debt. She contracted a melanoma in 2020. Immunotherapy damaged her lungs. She was alone in the four-bedroom family house surrounded by the memorabilia of a full life. That old house, where she once hosted parties where everyone and the dog ended up in the pool, had to go. It sold at

the market peak for \$765,000.

"I am still getting rid of that stuff," Carol spoke from her new ADU. "It was hard going through it all. I filled two dumpsters. I had a garage sale. You know, people want stuff for nothing. A lot of it was stuff I hated to get rid of. They want to pay you \$2 for it."

After paying off the mortgage, Carol had \$225,000 to invest in a new home. Her son, Brandon Kemp, 47, was a paralegal and good at research. He started to piece together a vision.

"November 2021 is when things took off," Brandon said. He got \$40,000 from the California Housing Finance Agency to cover pre-development costs. They found Hello Housing, an ADU developer, and started to design and build.

To finance it, Brandon took out a \$125,000 line of credit on his house, which his mom is paying back like rent for \$1,500 a month. The ADU was a \$300,000 investment, but Brandon said his property, which he purchased in 2017 for \$665,000, is now worth \$1.2 million.

"It's perfect for me, it's a relief to get rid of the big house," Carol said. "There's not a lot of cleaning here. It's easy to take care of." She recently learned from her doctor that her melanoma is back. "It's a comfort to have them nearby, with health issues or anything."

The 2020 change in the California Health and Safety Code mandated that all cities and counties develop a plan that incentivizes and promotes the creation of ADUs. This spawned a wave of businesses that specifically enabled ADUs — architects, developers and non-profits. They connected homeowners to public resources, walked them through permitting and got the building done. Sometimes they expanded their menu to help guide clients all the way through their transition into a new life.

"What makes us different is that we are a full white-glove service, meaning if you need services, we'll get it for you," said Bakari Grant, founder of WellNest, an ADU builder

See **ADU**, page 14



## 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 Chapter 8.28 related to Swimming Pool Fences.

*The public may participate via: Zoom Meeting or in-person.*

#### Join Zoom Meeting:

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

**Meeting ID:** 506 897 786

**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 saved for the record.

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

**Description:** The purpose of the amendments is to adopt Atherton Municipal Code amendments to Chapter 8.28 brining it in compliance with state law. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft amendments to the Ordinance can be found online, by Friday February 16, 2024 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 February 21, 2024 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 8.28 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 at [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0500. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk's Office at (650) 752-0500 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**Date Published:** February 9, 2024

**Date Posted:** February 9, 2024

/s/ Anthony Suber  
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

**ETHNIC STUDIES**

*continued from page 7*

teachers are being asked to ‘turn over’ their lesson materials, and it feels like a violation of our public trust to be the arbiters of educational knowledge. But I also believe that as public school teachers, we should be transparent with parents and community members who have every right to know what we’re teaching students in our classrooms.”

In reference to teachers who feel their classrooms should be private, Lowenthal Marcus said, “That’s not a correct response. When you’re a public school teacher, you work for the government, which means you work for the people. It’s really quite astounding that some teachers feel that way; they probably shouldn’t be working as a public school teacher.”

English Department Chair Liane Strub, who has taught at M-A for 29 years, said, “When you’re being your authentic self in the classroom as a teacher, maybe even revealing your own feelings or your own thoughts about things, it’s very personal. And then, to feel like ‘Oh my god, am I going to get a call or email, get called into the front office because I said something today’ is really uncomfortable.”

She continued, “It’s a factor for me in whether or not to retire this year. It’s that disturbing. There is this sense of insecurity, which I guess I’ve lived with all my career, but now I feel more insecure than I ever had before. And it’s not just because of the CPRA request, but it’s the entire atmosphere of cancel culture, of critique, and of the glee people have if they ‘catch’ you.”

Lowenthal Marcus said, “If

teachers feel like they need to hide the materials they are teaching, they should not be teaching it.”

Strub concluded with, “I love the classroom and I love my students, but I don’t know that I want to be exposed in that way.”

In July, The Deborah Project sent similar PRA requests to Mountain View-Los Altos High School District (MVLA) and Hayward Unified School District (HUSD). They claimed to have filed the request to MVLA to “seek information about the use of overtly antisemitic ethnic studies teaching materials.” In the lawsuit against HUSD, the request sought to learn what is “actually being taught ... relating to the subject of ethnic studies in general, and about the Jewish commitment to Zionism, and Israeli-Americans, in particular.”

Marcus said, “We have found

[at other schools lots of jaw-dropping materials that should not be distributed or taught in any way to public school children.”

At MVLA, the district delayed its response to the request, leading The Deborah Project to file a lawsuit alleging that the district did not comply with its records request.

Although The Deborah Project can receive communication between parents and students with staff members, whether emails between teachers can be released depends on the content. The Supreme Court of California ruled that public agencies do not have to provide communication between government officials that are part of a “deliberative process.”

In all records the district releases, they must censor all “personally identifiable information” of students in compliance with

the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This includes student names, addresses, ID numbers, and other similar information.

For teachers, however, if the district decides not to share the names of the educators who submitted each material, then it is up to the courts to decide whether or not to release them. To keep teachers’ names private, the district will have to prove in court that the harm to the district in its public duty “clearly outweighs” the public’s benefit from including teachers’ names.

Throughout the email, Hansen made it clear that support would be given to teachers by site and district administrators. She wrote in her email to all teachers, “district and site administration are available to support, so don’t hesitate to ask for assistance.” ■

**MUSEUM**

*continued from page 5*

of artifacts and collectibles from genres ranging from music, politics, toys, history, inventions and sports memorabilia. Most of the collectibles are items Hoskins has collected. And they all have a story.

An hour before the check

presentation event, Domini Hoskins, the museum’s namesake, walked the aisles of the museum. He points out one of his toys, a play doll, which he said he named C.J. Years later, he had a son and called him C.J. In the next few weeks, C.J.’s gift corner will open with memorabilia and little trinkets for kids to buy.

Domini Hoskins said he is

proud of his grandmother and what she has built. While he could never have imagined 25 years ago that a question for his grandmother would blossom into a museum, he chuckled and said it wouldn’t surprise him.

More than a dozen people celebrated the event, and Carolyn Hoskins said she wanted it to be


an intimate gathering to share the moment with her family. She said she wants everyone in the museum to leave having learned something about Black history.

“The whole point is education,” she said. “I am here to toil and tell my story about my history, which is so rich, and to let people know that African Americans have contributed so

much to this great country.”

The museum and learning center is located at 890 Jefferson Ave. It is open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Tickets for the exhibit are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children under 12 or seniors over 65.

Visit [hoskinsblackhistorymuseum.org](http://hoskinsblackhistorymuseum.org) for more information. ■



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**ELECTRIC FLEET**

*continued from page 5*

visible upgrades occurring above the tracks.

Caltrain installed 2.5 million feet of overhead wire, as part of a catenary system, that will supply electricity to 19 seven-car train-sets, replacing 75% of Caltrain's existing diesel fleet.

"Children that are growing up on the Peninsula now will never see a diesel train again after September 2024," said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard, who spoke to a crowd of local officials and business representatives at San Jose's Diridon Station at the Friday event.

The crowd convened at the station to get a first-hand view of an electric train that will be running as part of Caltrain's regular service, starting in September. The ride will be faster than before, with trips between San Jose and San Francisco taking less than 60 minutes. The top speed, however, will remain the same at 79 mph.

The big difference will be improved acceleration and deceleration, according to Caltrain, making it possible to add more stops to the service schedule without needing to add more trains to the tracks.

For Nancy and Kobad Bugwadia, who own a math learning center in Mountain View, the

faster and more frequent service was especially welcome news, as it meant they could tap into a wider pool of employees. Right now, they have one employee who commutes from San Francisco. "Anything that helps speed up the commute for people or makes it easier for them is great," said Nancy Bugwadia.

But not just about convenience, the Bugwadias also noted the environmental benefits of the electrified service.

The trains produce zero greenhouse gas emissions, and further reduce emissions by relieving traffic congestion. The sound of the engines is about 20 decibels lower than diesel-powered trains, reducing noise pollution too, according to Brent Tietjen, Caltrain's External Affairs Manager.

The transit agency also touted the comfort and convenience inside the trains as a highlight during the tour. The trains can accommodate between 800 to 1,000 passengers and include dedicated bike cars, Tietjen said.

Wi-Fi will be available on the trains, and each seat is equipped with electric outlets. Other amenities include onboard digital displays, more storage space and accessible bathrooms that have baby-changing stations.

Jessica Burton, who attended the Caltrain tour as part of a LinkedIn

delegate, said she was excited about the upgrades and intended to promote the new train service to company employees.

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan drew attention to the importance of the business community in promoting Caltrain's electrified fleet, while also describing its wider significance.

"It's a visionary, generational investment that will help us achieve our climate goals, will help

people get to their jobs (and) will make life more convenient and productive for our workforce. This is the commuter rail for Silicon Valley," he said.

Caltrain eventually plans to extend its electrified service area further south, from San Jose to Gilroy. Until then, it will pilot a dual electric and battery-equipped train to help facilitate the change-over from diesel-powered engines, Tietjen said. ■



Federica Armstrong

San Jose Council member Devora 'Dev' Davis presents the new electric Caltrain cars at Diridon Station in San Jose on Feb. 2.

**OBITUARIES**

Local residents who died recently include:

**Joseph Anthony Aiello**, 84, a resident of Mountain View, who emigrated from Italy in 1956 and, after obtaining his electronics technician certificate, worked for many Silicon Valley companies throughout his career, and who served in the Army National Guard at Fort Ord, on Jan. 25, 2024.

**Gary George Lapid**, 78, a resident of Mountain View, who was a physician, professor and humanitarian, possessed a magnetic personality, boundless energy and a drive to succeed, created a full and satisfying life in spite of sudden quadriplegia at age 49, relished watching the Warriors and 49ers and took his greatest

pleasure in spending time with his children, on Jan. 14, 2024.

**William Roger Dawson**, 80, a resident of Palo Alto and active member of the Palo Alto Men's Club, who as an attorney practiced business and international law, whose love of hunting and wildlife conservation led him to be inducted into (and later knighted by) the International Order of St. Hubertus, and who showed his love for his daughter by writing and mailing her a letter to her every day after she left for college in 2003, on Nov. 23, 2023.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at [AlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://AlmanacNews.com/obituaries). ■

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Michael Repka  
DRE #01854880  
**650.488.7325**



# New bill proposes all businesses carry opioid antidote in first aid kits

By Bay City News Service

It's a scene that is growing more common. Someone slumps over in a public place, say a nightclub or a city park. They have intentionally or accidentally taken an opioid like fentanyl, which can be deadly upon first use for some people.

As their pupils constrict and they struggle to breathe, people scatter for help, call the cops or an ambulance, but the response is too late.

On Jan. 31, state Assemblymember Matt Haney, D-San Francisco, introduced Assembly Bill 1976, a bill that would require all employers to keep naloxone nasal spray in first aid

kits. Current regulations require all businesses who employ people to have a first aid kit in the breakroom or common space. Its contents are checked by inspectors from the city or county health department and regulated by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, or Cal/OSHA.

"So, if I see somebody who looks like they're overdosing, I can run into a store and ask for the first aid kit and pull it out," said Haney's spokesperson Nate Allbee. "Hopefully using that one to two minutes that they have to get someone naloxone before they die."

Naloxone is the life-saving ingredient in the overdose

antidote brand Narcan. It has no significant side effects, even when mistakenly given to a person who has not taken opioids. In today's prices, it would cost \$40 for the required two doses, which have a shelf life of four years.

According to Albee, that price may drop when the state begins to create their own supply, along with insulin, in the next five years.

"It's very similar to what happened with condoms in the 80s around the HIV epidemic. Previously, you had to go to the pharmacist and ask for the condoms," Allbee said. "We decided as a culture that we needed condoms to be ubiquitous and get

them everywhere."

If AB 1976 is signed into law by the governor later this year, it would go into action Jan. 1, 2025. Businesses would then have another year to abide by the new law before any penalties go into effect.

Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use as a pain reliever and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California reported 7,510 deaths from synthetic opioids in a 12-month period

ending August 2023, a dramatic rise from 1,175 in 2019.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reports that more than half of the counterfeit prescription pills being trafficked in communities across the country now contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl.

The bill does not yet have co-sponsors, but Haney's office feels it is a no-brainer.

"Traditionally opponents of this kind of bill would be special business organizations like the chamber of commerce. But to be honest, at this point in the process, people are pretty much all in agreement that this is something that we need to do," he said. ■

## ADU

continued from page 9

that specializes in fast, accessibly designed, affordable units for families in crisis, like his.

### Bob Grant, Dublin:

Bakari's father, Bob Grant, 72, sat up straight when his 12-year-old granddaughter Naomi entered the room. She began talking about exercises. Perched at the foot of his bed, she spoke in a mature baritone, a voice beyond her years. Bob's eyes brightened in recognition of an awakened spirit.

"Her voice is deep, just like her mother's," he said.

In 2012, Bob was living in Las Vegas, where he moved to get a divorce from his wife. Then there was another woman. Then some business involving loans and dishonest men. Then the stroke.

"I didn't know I had a stroke until years later," he said. "I can guess it happened in 1979." It happened in 2014.

In 1979, Bob and his wife were living in Oakland, raising five children. He worked as a lab tech for Chevron.

His oldest child, Bisa, grew up to become an engineer. Bob's ADU now stands in her backyard in the East Bay suburb of Dublin.

His youngest child, Bakari Grant, grew up to become a professional athlete, a wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers. He studied interior architecture at UC Davis and knew enough about materials to build an ADU. The family had previously lost a grandmother to mistreatment in a nursing home. So together, for less than \$100,000, the siblings constructed the ADU from scratch in Bisa's backyard while "Pops" recovered in the house. Connecting the ADU to the same water lines as the big house saved money, but city permits and electrical hookups cost another \$15,000.

Transitioning Bob from a hospital in Las Vegas to an independent home in Dublin was a three-year family ordeal. But the work they put into solving that crisis was repurposed as a new business model in 2020.

"If you need an engineer, we'll do that for you. If you need house cleaning, maintenance or any of those things, we will do that too," Bakari said. "We've created a network of partnerships to do all that — estate planning, legal work, financial assistance. We pretty much run the gamut of anything in the senior space."

"There's a ton of programs in every county, but they are scattered, or people feel like they shouldn't get it because they do have some income" he said. "So, they feel guilty about it."

WellNest employs a certified senior advisor, a credentialed professional who offers strategic advice for aging. A typical base package for a senior includes companionship service, cleaning, food preparation, transportation and laundry.

From a showroom warehouse in Dublin, they offer four ADU designs, ranging from the Express Unit priced at \$150,000 to the two-bedroom custom unit for \$240,000. They use paneled architecture, a semi-modular system with complete walls that can be carried through a backyard fence. Many of their clients are adult children, some holding babies, whose lives have been halted by a parent's health crisis. To reduce decision-fatigue, there are just a few options for things like cabinets and tile.

Accessible interiors have enough safety features for a person with increasing disabilities to live independently for years. Levers, instead of doorknobs, are easier on arthritic hands. Walk-in showers and handrails come in all units.

"Our senior package is going

to have things like grab bars, handheld showerheads that can be placed at adjustable heights. Laminate is more forgiving in a fall than stone. Soft-fall flooring to keep from breaking a hip," said Bakari. "We consider how people of all abilities can use our space."

Bob has improved since moving into the ADU from the main house in 2017. He has friends at the senior center, where Open Heart Kitchen provides free meals — Polynesian meatloaf on Tuesday, chicken parmesan on Thursday. He drives his car on short errands around the neighborhood, and he works out at the gym four times a week. On Friday his son-in-law takes him to IHOP.

Bob's granddaughter Nina, whose voice brings him home, studies dance. She helps Bob with stretching. She counts to 10 as he follows her lead and aims for his toes.

"He feels like he's in charge of his life again and he feels like he can make decisions for himself," said Bakari. These daily multi-generational activities might be adding years to Bob's life.

Regular interaction with young people leads older people to feel more valued, included, and appreciated. One 2011 study showed seniors who experienced multi-generational engagements had reduced instances of depression, improved self-esteem and reported enhanced subjective health.

The doctor tells Bob that his health is pretty good.

"But what do they know," Bob said. "I feel pretty good. I have trouble remembering names, but it's good. I see my daughter once a month. I see my grandkids almost daily. We have dinners together."

The average lot in Dublin is about 6,000 square feet (about twice the area of a tennis court). It is typical of the suburban code used in most California developments, even in big cities. Los Angeles has embraced the ADU

movement. The state reported 7,160 ADUs permitted in Los Angeles in 2022, compared to 662 in San Diego, the city with the next-highest total.

According to a study by New York University's Furman Center, ADUs in both the Bay Area and Southern California tend to be in census tracts that have relatively low rents and are typically sited on parcels with good access to jobs.

"The single-family house is a family's greatest asset, but it also can be their greatest liability," said Bo Sundius, an ADU architect in Los Angeles. "And then it's inherently inflexible because you can't move out of it. It's literally the roof over your head. So, it's hard to renovate, hard to change, can't move out. If you're underwater, you're stuck."

Once an ADU arrives, underutilized backyards start teeming with possibility.

"Immediately people start thinking about their property as this long-term investment," Sundius said. "They see it not as a house, but more like a compound with many uses. Mom is in it for three quarters of the year, then she visits another sibling for three months. Then you use it as your home office for a spell. Or it's a little bit of storage and an outdoor shower. You need extra cash? You can rent it out. If you just want to legally convert your garage into a studio so you can have your midlife-crisis-garage-band-dream-come-true, the ADU can do that."

"One of the biggest problems with single-family zoning is that it's a very rigid kind of code," said architectural writer Christopher Hawthorne. "It's sort of all or nothing, single family house or bust, without a lot of options for seniors who would like to stay in their immediate neighborhood. They need opportunities to downsize to smaller units."

Hawthorne worked 14 years as the architectural critic for the Los Angeles Times. He left the paper in 2018 to join the mayor's office as the city's first chief design officer, where he worked for four years before joining the faculty at Yale University. When he arrived at the mayor's office, he said, nearly 20% of all new permitted residential units were ADUs, with that number likely reaching over 25% today.

To propel the city's enthusiasm for ADUs, Hawthorne called a national competition for architects to design ADUs that could be pre-approved through the Department of Building and Public Safety, which covered the bulk of the required codes. Through a city website, people could connect to architects and use their plans. The city eventually offered a set of drawings for free.

L.A. was once age-friendly, according to Hawthorne. In the late 19th and early 20th century, it had an excellent public transit system, for example.

"We had a really rich tradition of innovative multi-family housing, particularly small-scale apartment buildings, starting with courtyard apartment bungalow courts and other complexes wrapping around gardens," he said.

After World War II, due to changes in federal housing and transportation policies, demographic change and some local policy shifts, Los Angeles became synonymous with freeways, single family neighborhoods and privatized backyards.

With ADUs, seniors can stay in their communities and live on the same piece of property, Hawthorne said. They can even move to the smaller ADU and rent out the main house, maybe allow their children to move into

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## ADU

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the larger house while they're building a family.

**Spring Verity, Orinda:**

"My daughter had just given birth to her second child, and she could not afford to live in Oakland," said Spring Verity, 83, from her one-bedroom ADU in Orinda, where every room was adorned with floral prints and patterns. "It was just after the banks had made that ridiculous mess and everybody's house had dropped in value, so they had no equity."

Spring's house is sited in a parallel relationship to her daughter's, not behind it. They sit balanced across an eastern slope and face the morning. In the courtyard between their homes is a sheltered dining table, autumn-blooming azaleas and a fallow garden. The outdoor bridge creates a third space, making the whole arrangement feel like a world within a world.

"We see some lovely hawks and we have deer, a lot of raccoons and skunks," Spring said in an English accent. "And we have a cougar who's decided recently to take up his residence here, which is rather tiresome because he wants to eat the chickens."

Moving to the property in Orinda brought back memories of her childhood in England, close to nature.

"The last part of my childhood we lived in Henley-on-Thames," she said holding up her iPhone to show a photograph someone had recently sent her of the same house today. "It was a house by the river. We had ponies, and we were about a mile from the Henley. We could walk along the towpath to the grocery or to go rowing and boating."

Spring was a 23-year-old bride when she moved to Chicago in 1963. Her first husband, the father of her three children, was studying to become a doctor. His education brought them to Boston, then California in 1971.

"Back in those days, you know, if you wanted to go to Yosemite, you didn't have to have a reservation or anything," she said. "You drove in, you chose your campground, and you settled yourself down there with very few people around."

After divorcing her first husband, she was working as a student counselor at UCLA when she met and married a geology professor, John, in 1989.

They were living in Pacific Palisades in 2004 when she nursed John through a losing battle with cancer. She did not tell him about the lump in his breast. Timing for a mastectomy is never good, but she managed through with the help of a sister.

The Pacific Palisades house sold high, for \$1.25 million, which rendered a handy down payment for a new life with her grandchildren.

In 2010, she suggested to her daughter that they pool their resources. They purchased just under an acre of land with two structures on it for \$980,000 and started working with the ADU developer New Avenue Inc. There was a larger home for the family, but the cottage had no foundation. It was full of rats and had to be torn down and rebuilt. Her one-bedroom ADU cost \$230,000. Today, she lives on \$6,000 a month, which pays for a cleaner and other needs.

"I made the down payment, but they took on the mortgage," she said. By the time they all moved to the new place, her daughter and son-in-law had full-time jobs and two young sons.

"I could help with babysitting and chauffeuring," she said. "Gabe was just a baby when we

came. He was just one. And Toby was five. It was lovely."

Having such an important role in her daughter's family may have given Spring some additional years. A 2020 study published by Preventative Medicine shows evidence that a higher sense of purpose in life is associated with lower risk of chronic conditions and premature mortality. People with purpose might have more incentive to do the time-consuming and difficult activities of health screenings and exercise regimens, because sustaining better health might help them meet their purpose.

Alternatively, the health risks of loneliness and social isolation can increase a person's risk of premature death from all causes, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Social isolation was associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia, 29% increased risk of heart disease and a 32% increased risk of stroke.

"When I moved up here, I

didn't know anybody. And it's really difficult to get to know people when you're my age," she said. "When you're younger, you have children, and you take them to the park and you meet people. Or you're working and you meet people and so on. But it's very difficult when you're retired to meet anybody."

Spring said the COVID-19 pandemic increased her isolation. No more mahjong club. No more volunteering at the Tilden Park Botanical Garden. As the grandkids became teenagers, babysitting tapered off.

"Toby's started college now, so

we miss him very much," she said.

ADUs, of course, cannot eliminate the encroachments of age. Health issues limit Spring's ability to go out and she easily tires.

"I seem to be getting weaker all the time, and it's getting harder and harder to do all the simple things. I go down and take care of the chickens every day, and that's pretty much my exercise."

But she's taken up knitting and likes to read. She sees her daughter daily and comes over for dinner sometimes. Overall, Spring said, her spirits are good.

"I'm very happy. I'm very content." ■

*Kenneth W. Anstey**May 29, 1946 – September 18, 2023*

Kenneth W. Anstey passed away on September 18, 2023 in Hapeville, Georgia at age 77.

Ken was born to Effie and Wilson Anstey on May 29, 1946 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The young family moved to Sudbury, Ontario, Canada where Ken grew up and graduated high school.

Ken loved competition and was a gifted athlete. He received an Ice Hockey scholarship to Michigan State University, where he met his future wife, Mary Jo. He was Team Captain going on to win the National Championship. He received offers from the Detroit Red Wings and the St. Louis Blues to come to their training camps. Rather than pursue an Ice Hockey career, he opted for graduate school receiving an M.B.A. in Business. His business career was exciting and demanding. It took him to Canada (American Hospital Supply), Germany and Switzerland (Mertz and Dade). In the U.S. Ken took his large company experience into early stage venture-backed companies, including Mitek Surgical Products and ORATEC Interventions. He was a well-respected leader among his peers, with his employees and in the investment community. He served on the Board of several companies.

In retirement he traveled extensively. Most notable was Ken and Mary Jo's 500 mile walk, the "Camino de Santiago" from France to Spain, in 40 days. When not traveling, Ken pursued his favorite sports of running marathons, most notably Boston's 110th Year Marathon, golfing, skiing, and later snowboarding. Ice Hockey was always a part of his life, he played into his 60's! Ken was also part of numerous organizations that helped many people. He coached Little League Ice Hockey. He volunteered with The Order of Malta in Lourdes, France and at home in San Mateo with The St. Vincent de Paul Society. Ken graced the lives of many and was loved by all he encountered. His laughter and smile will forever live on in everyone's heart and will be missed by all.

Ken is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Jo; his children, Mark Anstey, and Melissa & George Lewis; grandchildren, Eva, Charlie, and Dominick Lewis; his six sisters and their spouses, Joyce & Lee Baikie, Shirley Anstey, Peggy & Colin Anstey-Stone, Nancy & Craig Bailey, Annie & Pat Murthy, Dorothy Anstey; a brother & sister-in-law, Steve & Colleen Anstey; and many nieces and nephews.

The family gratefully acknowledges with sincere gratitude our many friends for the acts of love and kindness shown at the passing of our "Loved one". Words are inadequate to truly express the peace and joy you have brought to us through your expressions of love and prayer. Special thanks go to The Reverend Michael Onyekuru, Michael Misale and the St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church community, Amedisys Hospice, and Donehoo-Lewis Funeral Home for their love, care and direction.

A memorial service will be held for Ken at 12:00 Noon on Friday, February 16, 2024, at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, 600 Columbia Drive, San Mateo.

*Carolyn Cutler Riches**June 9, 1945 – January 29, 2024*

Carolyn Cutler Riches passed away peacefully at age 78, on January 29, 2024 in Monterey California. She was born on June 9, 1945 to Guy Raymond and Martha Norma (Pyne) Cutler in Provo, Utah. She was the second of their four children: Herb (Sharon) Cutler, Maggie (Bill) Wright and Diane (Steve) Keller.



Carolyn was married and sealed for time and all eternity to Lawrence Victor Riches, Jr. on June 18, 1965 in the Oakland California Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They had four children: Michelle (Ted) Helvey, Kevin (Melissa) Riches, Kenneth (Katherine) Riches, and Angela (Derek) Banks; twelve grandchildren: Brittany (Corbin) Smith, Michael (Annie) Helvey, Cameron (Mckenzie) Helvey, Lindsay (Calvin) Millett, Nathan (Gillian) Riches, Jordan Riches, Hannah Riches, Rebecca Riches, Porter Banks, Calvin Banks, Brandt Banks, and Simon Banks; and ten great-grandchildren: Will, Cooper, & Sam Smith, Gwennie, Ollie & Jack Helvey, Lyla, Russell & Que Helvey, and Grace Millett.

Carolyn was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where she loved to serve. During her life she led in many ways both individually and at her husband's side. Her service had a great impact on many in her community. She will be remembered for reaching out to the one, as the Savior did. She provided meaningful and personalized care to many of Heavenly Father's children.

Carolyn loved collecting beautiful things. She had a keen eye for color, design, and detail, drawing inspiration from her travels. Everything she touched became beautiful. She and her husband Vic made an incredible team, enjoying working on grand projects together.

Our family would like to give special thanks to all her caregivers at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) for their tender and loving care.

Carolyn's final resting place is at Alta Mesa Memorial Park near her parents and son, Kevin, who passed before her.

In lieu of flowers, family and friends are welcome to consider making a donation in Carolyn's honor to the American Cancer Society.

PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

CRIME BRIEFS

**Menlo Park Police Department asks for community's help in investigation**

A man reached out of his car window to try to grab a Menlo-Atherton High School student walking home from school on Monday afternoon at Santa Cruz and Orange Avenue, according to a Menlo Park Police Department press release.

The driver, described as a Hispanic male in his 30s pulled over at about 3:20 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5, and asked the 15-year-old girl if she needed a ride. When she declined he began to reach toward her across the passenger seat, according to police.

The student immediately called her dad on her cell-phone and the driver never made physical contact with her, according to police. He was seen driving off, in a car

described as older and black, northbound on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Police are investigating the incident and will be patrolling the area during commute hours before and after school. The police department encourages parents to remind their children to be aware of their surroundings and contact the police or an adult when they see or experience something that is out of the ordinary.

To report any information

regarding this incident call the police department at 650-330-6300 or the Anonymous Tip Hotline at 650-330-6395.

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi

**Burglary reported in Atherton on Fletcher Drive**

Someone broke into a home on the 300 block of Fletcher Drive on Jan. 31, according to an Atherton Police Department news alert.

Around 9:08 a.m., burglars smashed a rear window to gain

entry into the house.

The vehicle and suspects are still outstanding, according to police.

The resident reported that nothing was taken, Sgt. Dan Larsen told The Almanac in an email. The house was alarmed, but there is no surveillance footage, he said.

Police ask those who live in the area to check their surveillance video and report any possible leads by calling 650-688-6500.

—Angela Swartz

Public Notices

**PENINSULA LACTATION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296261

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PENINSULA LACTATION , located at 12 Berenda Way, Menlo Park, CA 94028.  
Registered owner(s):  
FORTY DAYS MIDWIFERY, INC  
12 Berenda Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94028  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on September 16, 2023.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 08, 2024.  
(ALM Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

**GLS LAWN CARE AND LANDSCAPE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296515

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) GLS LAWN CARE AND LANDSCAPE , located at 364 3rd Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
GUILLERMO LOMBERA-SANCHEZ  
264 3rd Ave  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/6/2021.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 31, 2024.  
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

**LA TAPATIA NEVERIA PALETERIA Y RASPADOS R&C FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: 296314

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) LA TAPATIA NEVERIA PALETERIA Y RASPADOS R&C , located at 2398 University Ave, East Palo Alto, CA, 94303. Mailing Address: 443 Center Street, Redwood City, CA 94061.  
Registered owner(s):  
SEBASTIAN ESCOBEDO  
443 Center St  
Redwood City, CA, 94061  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/23.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 12, 2024.  
(ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

**CRUZELIA'S HOUSE CLEANING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296336

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) CRUZELIA'S HOUSE CLEANING , located at 1133 Berkelie Ave , Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
CRUZELIA OROZCO AGUILAR  
1133 Berkelie Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2004.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 17, 2024.  
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

**MR G HANDYMAN FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296389

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) MR G HANDYMAN , located at 3706 ROLLISON RD, #3, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
GONZALO HERNANDEZ  
3706 ROLLISON ROAD #3  
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/23/2024.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 23, 2024.  
(ALM Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

**BEARS CLEANING SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296369

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) BEARS CLEANING SERVICES , located at 2761 FLEETWOOD DR, SAN BRUNO CA. 94066.  
Registered owner(s):  
OSCAR OSORIO NAVA  
2761 FLEETWOOD DR  
SAN BRUNO CA. 94066  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2024.  
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

**WALNUT 1DESIGN FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296365

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) WALNUT 1DESIGN , located at 79 Santa Maria Ave, Portola Valley CA 94028.  
Registered owner(s):  
LISA ANDERSON HILL  
79 Santa Maria Ave

Portola Valley CA 94028  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/1/2023.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2024.  
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

**ELIO ACADEMY OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296313

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ELIO ACADEMY OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES , located at 2108 N ST, STE N, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816, SAN MATEO COUNTY.  
Registered owner(s):  
SOL SCIENTIFIC LLC  
2108 N ST, STE N  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/12/2024.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 13, 2024.  
(ALM Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

**TECH BIZ ADVISORS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
FILE NO.: M-296263

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) TECH BIZ ADVISORS , located at 14 Somerset Ct, Belmont, CA 94002.  
Registered owner(s):  
LAURENT K. GHARDA  
14 Somerset Ct  
Belmont, CA 94002  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/1/2023.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 08, 2024.  
(ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

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

Case No.: 24CIV00251  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Brooke Dorothy Weisenfluh filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
BROOKE DOROTHY WEISENFLUH to BROOKE WEISENFLUH TEOBE  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/18/2024, 9:00 am, Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records, Dept. 17, Room 2K of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
ALMANAC  
Date: 01/17/2024  
Hon. Elizabeth K. Lee  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

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

Case No.: 24CIV00158  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Anne DeRuyte Bipes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
ANNE DERUYTE BIPES to ANNE MARIA TERESA DERUYTE  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/21/2024, 9:00 a.m., Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
ALMANAC  
Date: 01/25/2024  
Elizabeth Lee  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

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

Case No.: 24-CIV-00017  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Juan Angel Almanza-Pulido filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
JUAN ANGEL ALMANZA-PULIDO to JUAN ANGEL PULIDO  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the

petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/11/2024, 9:00 AM, Superior Court Of San Mateo County of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
ALMANAC  
Date: 01/09/2024  
Hessen Ladcani  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

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

Case No.: 23CIV06120  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Cara Patricia Vistnes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
CARA PATRICIA VISTNES to CARA PATRICIA DOVE  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/04/2024, 9:00am, MC of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
ALMANAC  
Date: 01/04/2024  
Hessen Ladcani  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

**The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.**

- Fictitious Business Name
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## CANDIDATES

continued from page 1

then we can actually protect those very communities that are precisely affected by the harms of climate change.”

Ohtaki also saw climate change as a high-priority issue.

“I believe climate change is real. It’s an existential threat,” Ohtaki said. “But I also believe that climate change incentives are far more powerful than climate change mandates. ... I believe as a congressman we have to do federal incentives to get renewable energy in our grid.”

Bernstein, meanwhile, called for a nuanced approach in contending with climate change.

“The problem is that people who are still on gas pipelines, they will see their gas prices skyrocket,” Bernstein said. “So the individuals who can afford to build new homes or can afford new construction, they’ll benefit and see decreases, and we have a grid that’s reliable enough to get it done. The problem is everyone else who gets

left behind. ... We need to be very thoughtful about a policy that’s going to work for everyone in this state.”

Candidates fielded questions specific to their past decision-making as well. For instance, Low was asked for his response to the recent repeal of legislation he authored banning publicly funded travel to states with laws aimed against the LGBTQ+ community.

“As an openly LGBT candidate, I refuse to be discriminated against based on sexual orientation,” Low said. “That is the essence of what we’re talking about — how to protect public taxpayer dollars going to supporting states (with anti-LGBTQ laws). ... You cannot legislate people like me out of existence, and that’s what we’re standing up fighting for.”

Other forum questions covered tax policy, where Ohtaki took a stance against increasing the capital-gain tax.

“That’s a double taxation,” he said. “To settle that, I do think it’s important to incentivize long-term holdings and to

encourage investment.”

Another asked whether candidates who have held public office have any regrets about a decision they made while in that role.

Tanaka, who has served on Palo Alto City Council since 2016, stood firm in his past decisions.

“Due to my diligent approach and research and community engagement, I can happily say that every decision I made I’ve no regrets,” he said. “... In public service, it’s vital to avoid hasty decisions. “My commitment to being well-informed and considering diverse opinions is critical.”

The candidates got through most of the prepared questions posed by forum moderators before protesters in the packed audience erupted in shouting.

The clamor in the City Council chambers went on for about 20 minutes before the forum was able to resume.

However, jeers and cheers from protesters and other audience members continued depending on how the

candidates addressed the question of whether they support a congressional call for a ceasefire, for which negotiations seem to be advancing overseas.

“Regardless of which side you’re on, we all here as Americans are coming from a place of wanting to make sure that civilian lives are not lost in the battlefield,” Dixon said. “I think all of us as Americans are praying that these negotiations go well and that the Israeli and American hostages can come home.”

Liccardo expressed similar sentiments.

“One thing I’m confident everyone in this room should agree on is that we want to end the fighting for the sake of 2 million Palestinians who’ve been rendered homeless — 600,000 of whom are on the brink of starvation — and 9 million Israelis, who fear for their lives,” Liccardo said. “I support the continued negotiation and hope and pray that there will be an immediate cease to all hostilities.”

Lythcott-Haims denounced the Hamas attack on Israel but also criticized Israel’s response in Gaza.

“(Hamas) butchered people, murdered people, raped people,” Lythcott-Haims said. “I am also gutted by what the Netanyahu government has chosen to do in response to innocent Palestinian civilians, raining devastation down upon innocents, who now face starvation, disease and surgery without anesthesia, and bombing people in their homes does not set Israel on a long-term path to peace. It is abhorrent what is happening to the innocent

people of Gaza.”

Simitian described the war as a path to dehumanization.

“It’s not going to get us to a place where the suffering in Gaza no longer exists,” Simitian said. “It’s not going to get us to a place where folks in Israel feel safe and secure. The United States should be playing a constructive role in bringing peace to Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and the larger Middle East, and that starts with stopping the inclination to dehumanize.”

In another foreign-affairs question, candidates gave their thoughts on whether they would be willing to support changes in immigration policy if connected to continued funding for Ukraine.

“It is extremely important that we continue to support (Ukraine’s) democracy and we stand up against dictators,” Bernstein said. “When it comes to immigration, though, we don’t really need to compromise.”

The crowded race is sprinting toward the March 5 primary elections, known as Super Tuesday. The top two vote-getters will advance to the Nov. 5 general election. Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, is retiring at the end of the year after three decades representing Silicon Valley in Washington, D.C. The district encompasses the South Bay, the Midpeninsula and coastal San Mateo County.

A video recording of the forum in full can be seen at [youtube.com/@TheMidpenMediaCenter](https://youtube.com/@TheMidpenMediaCenter). ■

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Neil Gonzales at [ngonzales92@yahoo.com](mailto:ngonzales92@yahoo.com).*

## Publisher’s note on the Jan. 31 Congressional Candidates’ Debate

By Adam Dawes, CEO, Embarcadero Media Foundation

Regarding the disruption of Embarcadero Media Foundation’s Jan. 31 Congressional Candidates’ Debate after an hour and 15 minutes of respectful proceedings, I’d like to explain the decisions we made to try to continue the event in spite of the interruptions by protesters.

Given the state of political discourse in the country and especially the current strong divisions regarding the Israeli-Hamas conflict, we anticipated the possibility that organized protesters might attend and disrupt the debate. Meetings were held in the days leading up to the debate with city staff and the police about how to respond in the event this happened. The police made clear that they would not intervene unless there was a physical altercation or an imminent danger to the safety of attendees and advised us to have a plan for pausing or terminating the event if we decided that was necessary.

Seeing as the event was an open public forum being held in a public/government facility, the protesters had a legal right to be present and to engage in the

behavior we all witnessed. (The alternative would have been to hold the event in a privately owned facility and hire security personnel who would physically remove protesters. We thought this was not a wise or practical option.)

Although we had many staff members present in the chambers who spoke calmly to protesters as they began and continued their shouting, those individuals would not stop their disruption when requested. Attempting to physically remove all of them would have undoubtedly resulted in an even more confrontational and dangerous situation.

Part of the plan for handling a disruption of the sort that occurred was for the candidates to be escorted from the dais and remain in a room behind the council chambers until the crowd quieted, and then to return to resume. If the crowd would not quiet, we would stop the debate and send people home. The candidates were all aware of this but preferred in the moment to not leave the chambers.

Some people who attended observed me and others speaking with individuals who appeared to be the leaders (or the most vocal) and erroneously assumed that a “negotiation” was taking place. This is not

so. We were explaining that the very next planned debate question was on the Israeli/Hamas/Gaza situation and that if they stopped their protest everyone could have the benefit of the candidates’ comments. That eventually did help to quiet things down, but several loud members of the group were determined to heckle the candidates rather than listen to what they had to say.

While removing the protesters seems like it would have been a logical natural consequence for their behavior, no laws were being broken. Our staff was told not to touch any protester or attempt to escort them out by force. So that left our available options as persuasion and stopping the debate.

It is obviously disappointing that the candidates did not have the opportunity to make their closing statements. But I hope the hour and 15 minutes of discussion that took place before the protest provided useful insights into the candidates and their views.

As an organization, we are committed to the idea of live, in-person political debates. Zoom can only go so far in connecting voters with candidates. Events such as the one last night serve an important democratic and community-building purpose. We believe these town-hall style debates can and must continue — peacefully — to be part of the fabric of our community going forward. ■



Adam Dawes

## Employment

### ENGINEERING

Mainspring Energy Inc. is accepting resumes for Supplier Quality Engineer in Menlo Park, CA. Develop and execute quality plans. Utilize the APQP process, FMEA, 8D, and root cause analysis to develop quality plans. Position requires 40% domestic and international travel. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: \$133,515-\$150,000/year. Submit resumes via email to: [careers@mainspringenergy.com](mailto:careers@mainspringenergy.com). Must reference Ref# GO-KAN.

Genesys Cloud Services, Inc. seeks Senior Business Systems Analyst in Menlo Park, CA to collaborate w/ the key stakeholders to develop the BI (Business Intelligence) processes, strategy & analytics roadmap for Genesys Organization. Position allows for telecommuting from home from anywhere in the U.S. Salary range: \$116,646 to \$166,646. Send resume to: [Miriam.Graeff@genesys.com](mailto:Miriam.Graeff@genesys.com). Include job code JR103204 in reply. EOE.

### PRINCIPAL

Threshold Management, LLC has job opp. in Menlo Park, CA: Principal. Source, conduct due diligence, & negotiate terms for new investments, & assist w/ exist'g portfolio. Salary: \$295,000 to \$315,000 per year. To apply email resumes referencing Req. #PRC95 to [careers@threshold.vc](mailto:careers@threshold.vc)

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## What's at the root of local antisemitism?

By Claude Ezran

On Jan. 11, I attended a meeting of the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission. The main agenda item was "Voices of Our Community: Local Jewish Experiences in the Face of Rising Anti-Semitism." About 45 people spoke, a record for an HRC meeting.

I was stunned. I never expected to hear what I heard, not in Palo Alto! Speaker after speaker testified about their newfound fear of being a Jew in



Palo Alto or at Stanford. Many described how, after the events of Oct. 7, they had been verbally assaulted with antisemitic slurs, harassed on social media and ostracized by some of their friends.

These attacks were not even triggered by disagreements about the origins of the conflict; they were caused by one thing only, the fact that the aggressors knew they were encountering Jewish people. Other participants talked about their profound distress in discovering local antisemitic acts in Palo Alto such as swastikas displayed in public places or bomb threats targeting local synagogues.

The numerous testimonies concerning the antisemitism

experienced by Jewish students from Palo Alto schools and Stanford University were particularly disturbing.

Palo Alto and Stanford are supposed to be beacons of enlightenment, places where people are highly educated and therefore, so I thought, much less likely to descend into the abyss of antisemitism.

Therefore, one critical question begs a response: What caused some seemingly smart, nice and socially conscious young people that may have never engaged in antisemitism before Oct. 7 to suddenly behave in such abhorrent ways towards their Jewish classmates? To be clear, it is not known how many students were involved in these acts and whether it is a vocal minority or the problem is more pervasive.

So what might have caused this unexpected turn of events? I believe that three distinct root causes combined to prompt it: extreme wokeness, ignorance and latent antisemitism in society.

### Extreme wokeness

I believe that much of this new phenomenon is due to wokeness having progressively gone out of control, especially among a few young people. These people are probably, for the most part, well-intentioned and might have accomplished many positive things in their lives, but some aspects of their personality are

### GUEST OPINION

causing their new antisemitism.

Some of the young people on the radical left are obsessed with the concepts of identity and victimhood. They want to combat racism against African Americans, fight for LGBTQ+ causes, defend Native Americans' rights, improve the fate of immigrants — all worthwhile causes, of course. But sometimes good intentions can be pushed so far out that they progressively cross into a domain paved with a lack of judgment and a form of extremism.

I have then heard idiotic pronouncements such as "Defund the police" and "Abolish borders." The oppressive language policing also kicks in: Do not say "homeless" anymore, say "unhoused"; do not say "pregnant women," say "pregnant people," and please note that nobody is "illegal."

In the 21st century, there are not that many idealistic causes left standing that are worth fighting for when you are young and want to put your energy to good use. Socialism, communism — all of the "isms" are pretty much dead in the Western world. The only important idealistic causes left are identity/victimhood and climate change, causes which happen to go very well together since poor people are often the first victims of climate change.

### Ignorance

Students who commit antisemitic acts may in fact be ignorant of the extreme complexity of Middle Eastern history and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They may not understand the very long and convoluted chain of events that led to the present situation. If their knowledge of other important world events from the past is limited, it would be no surprise that their critical thinking skills when applied to Middle East matters are mediocre.

For them, things may seem easy to understand; they could view the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Manichean terms: good guys vs. bad guys. They may even assume Israelis and therefore all Jews (ignoring that important distinction between the two) are the oppressors. They may see Jews as members of the dominant and oppressive white race; assuming they are affluent, capitalists, colonizers, etc.; and the darker-skinned and poor Palestinians the obvious victims. I doubt that these students even know that many Jews around the world, as well as many Israelis, are appalled by the extreme policies of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

### Latent antisemitism in society

Therefore, the mission for these students may now seem obvious: Condemn, vilify and

attack the despicable oppressors and defend the oppressed. The latent antisemitism that has always existed in our society, sometimes half-asleep, is thus re-awakened and provides all the ammunition that they may feel they need.

Stunningly, these genuine anti-racists are now turning into anti-semites. Moreover, these people are also confusing belonging with identity, which leads to racism. People belonging to the Jewish faith are being reduced to that one and only fact of their identity. They are just Jews and nothing else, and in these anti-semites' hideous logic, all Jews are perpetrators who need to be dealt with.

The task now at hand is complex and time-consuming. It involves responding to the root causes of this deplorable situation by pushing back against extreme wokeism, improving the teaching of world history as well as of critical thinking skills in schools and fighting antisemitism wherever it raises its ugly head. ■

*Claude Ezran is a resident of Palo Alto, the founder of Palo Alto World Music Day, and a former chair of the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission. He can be reached at cezran@gmail.com.*

### LETTERS

Our readers write

### California's coming 'gold rush' of inexpensive solar power

Solar prices decreased 170% in the last 20 years and will decrease far more in the future if we take the right steps to expand solar.

California is one of the 10 sunniest states in the country and we're fortunate to be part of the western electrical grid that includes many other sunny states. This gives California an unparalleled opportunity to generate far lower cost power than any other means from solar farms located within the western grid on inexpensive non-agricultural land. It would produce a vast amount of cheap power to lower everyone's power

bills, and not just those who can afford rooftop solar.

For when the sun doesn't shine, we can use excess solar power on sunny days to make and store hydrogen for later use in existing power plants to generate power until battery prices become affordable. California's new "gold rush" could be for inexpensive solar power.

Ed Kahl

Whiskey Hill Road, Woodside

### What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com), or call 650-223-6537.



## Life, death and 'Peter Pan'

The Pear Theatre tackles existential questions in 'For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday'

By Karla Kane

**T**o die," according to J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan," "will be an awfully big adventure."

Death — that ultimate, unknowable and indeed "awfully big" endeavor — along with the complicated business of growing up and growing old — is a major theme of playwright Sarah Ruhl's "For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday," which the Pear Theatre will present with a six-person cast Feb. 9 through March 3.

"The play is about facing death, finding joy in life and what happens when we die," director Austin Edgington said. The plot follows Ann (Monica Cappuccini) and her fellow adult siblings as they grapple with the dying of their father, amidst their sometimes conflicting religious philosophies and political views. Ann's memory of playing Peter Pan — the boy who refuses to ever grow up — on stage long ago links Barrie's tale to her own childhood past, as well as to her and her siblings' emerging feelings and thoughts on some pretty big existential questions.

Ruhl, Edgington said, wrote the play as a gift for and tribute to her own mother, who played the role of Peter Pan in a local community theater production.



Courtesy Pear Theatre

"It's a very complex play. Very tender, very emotional," said Monica Cappuccini, who plays Ann/Peter Pan. She's seen here at right with castmate Ray Renati as The Father.

"The play is sort of an homage to her family," he said.

The setting moves from a hospital room in Act 1 to the family home in Act 2. "And in the third act," he noted, "they go to Neverland."

While Neverland is the realm of fantasy, Edgington said the show, nevertheless, "is really a very realistic story about what these people are going through," full of moving and serious moments but not, he said, without some belly laughs.

"It's a really interesting show to work on because it blends different styles and different philosophies," he said. Ruhl's show draws on Eastern and Western theater styles, as well as Eastern and Western religious elements, he explained. In particular, it takes influence from Japanese Noh drama, with its tradition of a ghost character that engages with the protagonist, as well as the Western idea of a guardian angel helping to shepherd one through life and death.

"It's a very complex play," Cappuccini said. "Very tender, very emotional ... I think people are going to be very, very moved by this play."

The character of Ann at the play's start, according to Cappuccini, is a proud intellectual and an agnostic who, unlike her siblings, lacks faith in an afterlife.

"She doesn't want to die; she can't wrap her mind around it," she said. "She misses her father tremendously and she wants to believe that he still exists in some way, shape or form." And while the siblings butt heads and disagree philosophically and politically, ultimately, family love shines through.

"They all come together to support their dying father and each other, and then they become characters in 'Peter Pan' and they support each other there too," she said. "They fly together, they fight together, they laugh together; it's wonderful."

"Peter Pan" is a rip-roaring adventure for kids, of course, but for grown-ups, with its idea of a land outside the normal bounds



Courtesy Pear Theatre

John Mannion as Captain Hook/Jim spars with Monica Cappuccini as Ann/Peter Pan in "For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday" at the Pear Theatre.

of life and time, it can bring up questions about innocence and maturity, the inevitability of aging, and the shadow of death.

"I think you get more out of 'Peter Pan' as you get older, the underlying themes of it," Cappuccini said. "You don't think about these things when you're small; you take it on a literal level."

She hadn't been particularly attached to the story as a child, but "after I found I had been cast in this show, everything I came across was Peter Pan," she said, from the pantomime production running in London during a visit to her family to the Peter Pan BMW dealership on the side of the freeway in Burlingame. Now, she's watched every adaptation she could find, plus, "I love the green tights," she said.

"It's a lot of joy to work with these actors," said Edgington of his "dynamite" cast (joining Cappuccini are Bill Davidovich, Ronald Feichtmeir, Tannis Hanson, John Mannion and Ray Renati). "For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday" is a challenging show in some ways, he said, because of its near "non-stop dialogue," but that makes it "truly

an actor's dream. Everyone's on stage pretty much all the time and there's always a conversation that everyone's in and out of."

"At this stage of my life I love to be in an ensemble play, where everybody's there having your back all the time," Cappuccini added.

This is Edgington's first production with the Pear, whereas Cappuccini has history with the Mountain View theater company, which she credits with helping her get back into the game after taking a two-decade break from acting. Years ago, Pear founder Diane Tasca "cast me as a dominatrix outside a virtual sex store," she recalled. "My career took off after that; what can I say?" she joked. Recently, she wrapped up a stint on the Pear's board of directors. "I love that little theater," she said. ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at [kkane@almanacnews.com](mailto:kkane@almanacnews.com).

"For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday" runs Feb. 9-March 3 at the Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$38-\$40. [thepear.org](http://thepear.org).

# Where to celebrate Lunar New Year on the Peninsula

Welcome the Year of the Dragon with music and dance, crafts and more

By Julia Brown and  
Heather Zimmerman

Peninsula cities, libraries and community groups are celebrating the arrival of Lunar New Year. From music and dance performances and martial arts demonstrations to special meals and hands-on crafts, here's a variety of ways to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

## San Mateo County Libraries, ongoing

The San Mateo County Library hosts events at various branches, including presentations on Lunar New Year customs, Urisawe performing traditional Korean dances (Feb. 11 in Foster City), calligraphy classes (Feb. 15 in Atherton and Feb. 27 in Brisbane), storytimes, puppet shows and crafts. Plus, an online art talk (Feb. 12) with an Asian Art Museum docent about the meaning of Lunar New Year symbols and traditions. Throughout February at various county library locations. [smcl.bibliocommons.com](http://smcl.bibliocommons.com).

## Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley, ongoing

The hotel is hosting Lunar New Year events throughout the month of February, including an afternoon tea every weekend, a dim sum brunch with lion dance performances Feb. 17-18 and a wine dinner on Feb. 29. Throughout February at the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley, 2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto. Prices vary. Visit [OpenTable](https://www.opentable.com) or [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) for reservations. [fourseasons.com/siliconvalley](http://fourseasons.com/siliconvalley).

## South San Francisco Library, Feb. 9-10

The Cultural Arts Commission hosts its first art gallery event of the new year with artworks reflecting themes related to the moon, Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dragon. A two-week extended exhibit will follow the show.

Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m. and Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South San Francisco Library, 901 Civic Campus Way, South San Francisco. Exhibit schedule to



Magali Gauthier

An attendee feeds a red envelope to a lion during a performance at the Lunar New Year celebration hosted by Avenidas Chinese Community Center at Cubberley Community Center in Palo Alto on Jan. 26, 2023.

be announced. Free. [tinyurl.com/ssflibraryexhibit](http://tinyurl.com/ssflibraryexhibit).

## Sunnyvale Library, Feb. 9

Elementary schoolers can celebrate Lunar New Year by making dragon puppets.

Feb. 9, 4-5 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Library, 665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale. Free. No registration required but space is limited. [tinyurl.com/sunnyvalepuppets](http://tinyurl.com/sunnyvalepuppets).

## Linden Tree, Feb. 9

The bookstore hosts a party with authors Gene Luen Yang and LeUyen Pham, celebrating the launch of their new graphic novel, "Lunar New Year Love Story." They're featured in

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conversation with bestselling author Abigail Hing Wen. The event also includes a signing, Q&A and appetizers from Palo Alto's Tai Pan.

Feb. 9, 6 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley, Palo Alto. \$25 admission includes copy of book. [bit.ly/3HRQ2fm](https://bit.ly/3HRQ2fm).

### Redwood Shores Branch Library, Feb. 10

The library hosts a Lunar New Year storytime with crafts. Feb. 10, 11 a.m.-noon at the Redwood Shores Branch Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood City. Free. [tinyurl.com/rwslibrary](https://tinyurl.com/rwslibrary).

### Palo Alto Library celebration, Feb. 10

Chinese opera singer Cathy Pan performs, local martial arts studio Taekwon Tigers present a special demonstration and Joyous Spring Lion Dance Troupe performs a two lion dance. Plus crafts and light refreshments. Suited for families with children ages 3-11, but all ages welcome.

Feb. 10, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. [paloalto.bibliocommons.com](https://paloalto.bibliocommons.com).

### Gamble Garden, Feb. 10

Visitors to Gamble Garden's Second Saturday program can enjoy a Chinese lion dance and hands-on activities and crafts in honor of the Year of the Dragon. Also, garden tours and nature hunts.

Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-noon at Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Free. Advance registration is required at [gamblegarden.org](https://gamblegarden.org).

### Mountain View, Feb. 10

The city of Mountain View's Lunar New Year celebration includes live performances, games, crafts and food trucks. Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Free. [tinyurl.com/lunarnewyearmv](https://tinyurl.com/lunarnewyearmv).

### Hillsdale Shopping Center, Feb. 10

Head to San Mateo for an afternoon of lion dance and acrobatic performances, fortune-telling readings, calligraphers, red envelope giveaways and more. Feb. 10, noon-3 p.m. at Hillsdale Shopping Center, 60 31st Ave., San Mateo. Free. [tinyurl.com/hillsdale-1ny](https://tinyurl.com/hillsdale-1ny).

### Belle Haven Library, Feb. 11

Wayne Huey of Red Panda Acrobats performs feats of acrobatics, balancing and contortion. Feb. 11, 11-11:45 a.m. at Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive,

Menlo Park. Free. [menlopark.gov](https://menlopark.gov).

### Stanford Shopping Center, Feb. 17

The center hosts performances by local community groups including Viet Steps, Stanford Taiko and Lion Dance Me! Feb. 17, 2-4 p.m., at the center pavilion, Stanford Shopping Center, El Camino Real and Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. Free. [simon.com/mall/stanford-shopping-center](https://simon.com/mall/stanford-shopping-center).

### Millbrae Lunar New Year Festival, Feb. 17

Millbrae Cultural Committee hosts an all-day celebration that brings together arts and crafts and food vendors, dragon and lion dancers, Chinese martial arts and traditional dance performances.

Feb. 17, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 300 Broadway, Millbrae. Free. [bit.ly/486RNA4](https://bit.ly/486RNA4).

### Palo Alto Children's Library, Feb. 20

Kids 5-11 can participate in a step-by-step craft workshop making a puppet to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

Feb. 20, 3-4 p.m. at the Palo Alto Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Free. Registration is required. [tinyurl.com/tinyurl.com/paloaltolibrarycrafts](https://tinyurl.com/tinyurl.com/paloaltolibrarycrafts).

### Downtown Redwood City, Feb. 24

Redwood City's 13th annual celebration includes performances by lion dancers, martial artists and taiko drummers. The event also includes free admission to the San Mateo County History Museum, which is hosting children's activities.

Feb. 24 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Free. [redwoodcity.org](https://redwoodcity.org).

### Rotary Club of Millbrae banquet, Feb. 29

Enjoy a 10-course Chinese banquet from Yan Peninsula Restaurant and watch the colorful Gee Yung Lions dance. Enter a raffle for a chance to win prizes. Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Millbrae's programs for youth.

Feb. 29, 6-9:30 p.m. at Yan Peninsula Restaurant, 1190 El Camino Real, Millbrae. An individual ticket is \$88 per person or \$850 for a table of 10. [tinyurl.com/millbraebanquet](https://tinyurl.com/millbraebanquet). ■

Email SixFifty Editor Julia Brown at [jbrown@embarcaderomedia.org](mailto:jbrown@embarcaderomedia.org).

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

# Worth a Look



Courtesy Concerted Efforts

Nefesh Mountain plays Feb. 9 at Earthwise Productions.

## Nefesh Mountain

Singer Doni Zasloff and multiinstrumentalist Eric Lindberg, the married couple and driving forces behind the band Nefesh Mountain, write and perform songs that incorporate Americana, folk, blues, bluegrass and jazz influences, along with infusing "Jewish tradition and soul into the beautifully diverse tapestry of American roots music," according to their website. Touring year-round with their collective of instrumentalists, they've performed at the Grand Ole Opry and at many other venues and festivals across the country. On Feb. 9 they'll roll into town to perform at an Earthwise Productions event at the Palo Alto Art Center, part of a series of four California shows. Their most recent release is this month's EP "The Cabin Sessions," a collection of covers and re-recorded originals.

Feb. 9, 8 p.m., Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, \$4.25-\$18, [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com).

## Music@Menlo Launch

Summer seems months away right now thanks to February's sodden start, but Music@Menlo is looking ahead to that sunniest time of year. The group holds a concert Feb. 10 unveiling what's ahead for its monthlong chamber music festival held each summer. Festival founders and artistic directors Wu Han and David Finckel will announce the festival's theme and lineup. Audiences will also get to hear Music@Menlo International Program alumni perform works by Edvard Grieg and César Franck and enjoy a reception with refreshments afterward.

Feb. 10, 4 p.m. at Spieker Center for the Arts, Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. \$40. [musicatmenlo.org](https://musicatmenlo.org).

## Julius Eastman's 'Femenine'

Contemporary music ensemble Wild Up takes on composer Julius Eastman's 1974 piece "Femenine" as part of a long-term project to perform and record Eastman's works. The group will perform at Stanford Feb. 10. Eastman was "an activist who deployed his life experiences as a gay African American as the impetus to question what it means to be American and an artist, and the ideals of United States and western classical music," Stanford Live's website states. Stanford Live is also hosting two related events. On Feb. 9, Stanford music students will join Wild Up at Bing Concert Hall for "Gay Guerrilla: A Julius Eastman Community Experience," performing Eastman's "Gay Guerilla," "Buddha," and "Joy." And on Feb. 11, Stanford New Ensemble, Marisol Montalvo, and Seth Parker Woods will perform "Gay Guerilla: A Hands-On Experience

of the Life, Music, and Legacy of Julius Eastman" at Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford, ticket prices vary. [live.stanford.edu](https://live.stanford.edu).

## Yangsze Choo

California-based author Yangsze Choo comes to Books Inc. Palo Alto to celebrate her latest novel, "The Fox Wife," which takes place in 1908 Manchuria and spins a tale of intriguing fox folklore, a family curse, a mother seeking vengeance, mysterious deaths, and an intrepid detective. Choo is also the bestselling author of "The Ghost Bride" and "The Night Tiger."

Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto. [booksinc.net](https://booksinc.net).

## Jazz Mafia

Valentine's Day gets most of the love this time of year, but there's another holiday that falls right before Feb. 14 on the 2024 calendar: Mardi Gras. To mark that famously over-the-top celebration, The Guild hosts Jazz Mafia's Annual Fat Tuesday Git Down on Fat Tuesday itself. And what could be better for Mardi Gras than a New Orleans staple, the brass band? San Francisco-based musical collective Jazz Mafia brings its 10-piece brass band to the Peninsula, with guest artist Nicki Bluhm and featured vocalists Yvette Pylant, Erin Honeywell and Sólás B. Lalgée. It's a fusion of Bay Area and Crescent City traditions, beads and king cake optional. Huney Knuckles opens.

Feb. 13, 8 p.m. at The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. \$38-\$78. [guildtheatre.com](https://guildtheatre.com).

# Food & Drink

## A NEW HOME FOR WATERFRONT DINING



### Redwood City restaurant *Hurrica* opens at Westpoint Harbor



Hurrica Restaurant & Bar features waterfront dining, a floor-to-ceiling jellyfish aquarium and a menu featuring seasonal modern American cuisine. From left to right: The current menu includes yuzu kosho cured king salmon, broiled live sea scallop, big eye tuna sashimi and kombu-wrapped 1.5-pound lobster.

By Adrienne Mitchel  
Photos by Magali Gauthier

A waterfront restaurant with a floor-to-ceiling jellyfish aquarium, custom 6-foot hearth, glass kitchen and second-floor clubhouse is now open at Westpoint Harbor in Redwood City.

For a restaurant boasting all the bells and whistles, Hurrica Restaurant & Bar is not trying to be an exclusive dining experience — it aims to build community and give back to local organizations while keeping prices more affordable.

“We want everyone to be able to come, whether you own a boat or you’re a member of a yacht club or not, but be on the water and have fun and have a great destination for your family and your friends,” said co-founding partner MeeSun Boice.

Departing from traditional yacht club culture, Hurrica is not owned by The Club at Westpoint, a nonprofit club for boaters and water sports fans operating out of Westpoint Harbor. Instead, Hurrica is open to the public and run by the same team behind San Francisco restaurants Waterbar, EPIC Steak and Mersea Restaurant and Bar. The classic Hurrica V sailing yacht, which was featured in the movie “The Great Gatsby” and is the namesake of the restaurant, was docked in front of the restaurant for the opening Jan. 26.

Hurrica serves seasonally evolving modern American fare, with many dishes cooked over live fire. While you won’t find the menu on Hurrica’s website due to frequent changes, entrees on the current dinner menu go for \$38-\$55. It’s not a seafood restaurant; it’s a restaurant for water lovers.

“I love just doing anything on the water, but I’ll probably never be able to afford a boat,” Boice said. “How cool is it that if you want to go kayaking, come on out and go kayaking and then come have a beer at Hurrica?”

Boice, co-founding partner Parke Ulrich and executive chef and partner Justin Baade all share a love of water sports, a

connection that led them to the opportunity to open Hurrica. Ulrich and Boice met Mark Sanders, who built the Redwood City marina, through the West Point Regatta, an annual yacht-racing event in the San Francisco Bay. Sanders wanted to have a yacht club and a restaurant on his marina, but he didn’t want the restaurant exclusive to the club.

“The culture of the yacht club is they don’t even want to be called a yacht club,” Boice said. “They call themselves The Club at Westpoint because they didn’t want to have that sense of exclusion where, ‘You don’t have a boat, you can’t be part of our club.’”

Boice, who focuses on sales and marketing, designed Hurrica and also co-founded Mersea with Ulrich. While Ulrich is the executive chef of EPIC Steak, Waterbar and Mersea, he is not taking on the role at Hurrica, leaving that to Baade.

For executive chef Baade, who has been cooking in San Francisco for the last 20 years, coming to Redwood City is an exciting opportunity to partner with farms in Santa Cruz, Salinas and Half Moon Bay.

“I just went and toured a ranch in (San Gregorio), Pomponio Ranch, that does a super regenerative agriculture model for beef and pork,” Baade said. “I’m new to this area, so I’m looking for those partnerships, but that’s the exciting part of it for me.”

He defines modern American cuisine as local ingredients cooked with techniques used throughout the world. Hurrica’s signature dishes include kombu-wrapped 1.5-pound lobster (\$110), seared yellow-tail jack (\$39) and pan-roasted black cod (\$42). Small plates include warm milk bread (\$8), Mendocino uni (\$10) and shellfish chowder (\$16).

“There’s this misconception about fine dining and elevated cuisine that it needs to be stuffy and formal in order to be good,” Baade said. “And my approach to it is very simple: Find the best ingredients and cook them simply, but with intention and technique...we want our food to be

approachable, but have the level of quality and ingredients and technique that you would find in much higher-end and fancier places.”

A custom-made 6-foot hearth stands behind a glass wall separating the kitchen from diners. Many of the dishes on the menu feature components cooked on the hearth, ranging from beets to dry-aged tomahawk steaks.

“That hearth was custom designed to Justin’s exact specifications,” Boice said. “So Justin can’t leave or he’ll have to take the hearth with him because that’s his hearth right there.”

And speaking of customization, Hurrica is happy to accommodate all types of diets and create made-to-order dishes.

“We will accommodate anybody,” Baade said. “Servers will be trained to engage with the guests and say, ‘What do you like? Are you looking for something richer and satisfying?’ And we will pull from different aspects of the menu to create whatever we need to create for somebody... That’s part of the fun of cooking.”

The main dining room overlooks the marina through large patio doors, and diners can also watch chefs behind the glass kitchen. The dining tables are custom-made from redwood as a nod to Redwood City. The jellyfish aquarium separates the main dining room from the bar and currently has 100 baby jellyfish. Another 100 will be added to the tank, and the jellyfish will grow in size over time. A secondary dining room and patio seating are also available.

Just outside of the restaurant, construction is underway for a harborfront pool for The Club at Westpoint. The second floor clubhouse, also exclusive to yacht club members, has its own bar, floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the marina and ample skylights. The clubhouse is opening soon, awaiting final elevator checks.

Private dining and events will be available to book starting Feb. 15.

Built in a corner of Hurrica is a to-go

cafe, cleverly named the H2Go Cafe, which is expected to open in mid-February. The reasoning behind this cafe is threefold, said Boice: to serve those who live on their boats in the marina, people who dock at the marina as a destination and don’t have a car and the large youth community that uses the marina, like the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation and the LEMO Foundation.

Hurrica plans to partner with investor the LEMO Foundation, a nonprofit that provides resources to student athletes, to run food education programs.

Giving back to the community isn’t new for Ulrich and Boice. Waterbar has raised over \$132,000 for the Marine Mammal Center since 2009, EPIC Steak continues to host its annual fundraiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and Mersea Restaurant and Bar partnered with One Treasure Island to provide meals to struggling residents during the pandemic.

“When you’re in the restaurant and you’re about feeding, you’re not just feeding the stomach, you’re feeding the soul and the spirit,” Boice said. “Being an orphan, if it were not for the kindness of strangers, I wouldn’t even be in America building this crazy restaurant.”

Whether you arrive by land or sea, love fish or hate it, have a boat or don’t, Boice welcomes everyone to come by.

“We really want people to know that Redwood City is not Deadwood City,” Boice said. “We wanted to create a place that everyone feels included and to give back. And that’s what we hope to build in the heart of Redwood City.” ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at [amitchel@almanacnews.com](mailto:amitchel@almanacnews.com).

**Hurrica Restaurant & Bar,**  
150 Northpoint Court, Redwood City;  
650-499-4858, Instagram:  
@hurricarestaurant. Open Wednesday  
through Sunday from 5-9:30 p.m. Lunch  
service starting soon.



Magali Gauthier

## How to spend SF Beer Week in Silicon Valley

Special events are taking place across the Bay Area Feb. 9-18. Here's what's in store for the Peninsula.

By Zack Fernandes

San Francisco Beer Week is back with a bang. The celebrations, which run from Feb. 9-18, will see tap takeovers, special releases and more taking place all across the Bay Area.

After a prolonged pandemic-induced hiatus, SF Beer Week's massive kickoff gala returns to San Francisco this year, taking place on Friday, Feb. 9, at Pier 35 from 6-10 p.m. Tickets to the gala start at \$85 and get you access to beers from over 100 craft breweries. A VIP ticket is available for \$140, which includes commemorative Beer Week merchandise and a dedicated check-in line for entrance, while a top-tier \$275 ticket guarantees early access to the festival at 4 p.m. plus entrance to the Astro Lounge, featuring limited-edition beers and wine.

Throughout the week, bars and restaurants in the 650 are hosting a wide range of events that demand space on your calendar, from a pet adoption drive to a bread-baking class and beer-themed trivia. Here's our roundup of all of the Beer Week events on the Peninsula.

Cheers!

### Alpha Acid Brewing Company, Belmont

Alpha Acid is kicking off SF Beer Week on Saturday, Feb. 10, with the release of **Barrel Constrictor**, a heady imperial stout. As in years past, the brewery is offering a bevy of Barrel Constrictor options, Æi eight on draft and six in bottle. Among this year's lineup are versions of the cult-favorite beer aged in whiskey casks and a draft-only Old Fashioned Constrictor, barrel-aged for 16 months and spiced with orange peel and biters. If you're eager, bottles of Barrel Constrictor are available for preorder on Alpha Acid's website. Food from pop-up burger shop Shmash'd Burgers and baked goods from Made out of Dough will also be available.

On Sunday, Feb. 11, Alpha Acid is releasing **Final Final**, a triple IPA which clocks in at a

whopping 11% ABV. Hop lovers will be pleased to note that Alpha Acid produced the beer with four different hops to deliver a citrusy, bitter brew that fans of IPAs are sure to enjoy. If you're hungry, barbecue will be available from Dom's Nom's.

On Valentine's Day, Alpha Acid is hosting a **singles mixer** for craft beer lovers to find their perfect match, Æi or at least, their perfect pint. The event begins at 5 p.m., and tickets are available for free on Eventbrite.

On Feb. 15, Alpha Acid is offering a palate-cleansing break from beer with a **seltzer and cider celebration**. The brewery will release four different hard ciders, Æi pineapple, boysenberry, apricot, and blood orange, Æi as well as four hard seltzers inspired by the flavors of Jolly Rancher candies. Food will be available from MB's Place.

On Feb. 16, Alpha Acid is celebrating the **release of three separate collaboration beers**, brewed with partner breweries from across the Bay Area. There's Secrets of the Booze, a hazy double IPA brewed with Barebottle Brewing Company; Can You Handle the Jandal?, a New Zealand-style pilsner brewed with Out of the Barrel taproom; and Flower Punch, a three-way collaboration between Alpha Acid, Clandestine Brewing and Fox Tale Fermentation. Food will be available from fried chicken pop-up JustEatZ.

Finally, on Feb. 18, Alpha Acid is closing out Beer Week with an **event featuring the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA**. Stop by for a drink and to meet (or adopt) a new furry friend. Food will be available from Amelia's Mexipino Cuisine.

Alpha Acid Brewing Company; 121 Industrial Road #11, Belmont; 650-394-4728, Instagram: @alphaacidbrewingco.

### Blue Oak Brewing Company, San Carlos

Blue Oak Brewing Company is throwing its seventh birthday bash on Feb. 10. The San Carlos

brewery will be tapping **special releases** to mark the occasion, including a barrel-aged quadruple IPA. There will be live music from Bay Area funk band Sinister Dexter and food from Rock Club Burgers.

Blue Oak Brewing Company; 815 Cherry Lane, San Carlos; 415-273-9676, Instagram: @blueoakbrewingcompany.

### The Refuge, San Carlos and San Mateo

The Refuge's San Carlos location begins Beer Week with an **Alvarado Street tap takeover** Feb. 10.

On Feb. 13, beer geeks can compete in **Beer Trivia**, with prizes available for the winning contestant, as well as second and third place runners-up.

And on Feb. 17, The Refuge will feature a **tap takeover from the famed Russian River Brewing Company**.

In San Mateo, The Refuge is hosting a **tap takeover from Anderson Valley Brewing Company** Feb. 10. The event will feature special sour beer releases from the brewery, and customers who order a flight of beer will get some free Anderson Valley Brewing Company merchandise while supplies last. On Feb. 12, The Refuge will feature a **tap takeover from Dutch brewer La Trappe** and Belgian breweries Delirium and Rodenbach. Brush up on your beer history: The bar's usual Monday night trivia will include questions about the histories of these breweries.

On Feb. 16, The Refuge will host the East Bay's **Shadow Puppet Brewing Company** for a tap takeover, including flights of special releases from the brewery. Customers who order flights will also receive merchandise from Shadow Puppet while supplies last, and cans of Shadow Puppet beer will be available to go for 20% off.

The Refuge, 963 Laurel St., San Carlos, 650-598-9813; 66 31st Ave., San Mateo, 650-458-3044; Instagram: @refuge\_pastrami.

### State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria, Redwood City and Los Altos

State of Mind in Los Altos is celebrating the Super Bowl Feb. 11 with the **Sour Bowl**, featuring flights of sour beers.

On Feb. 14, the pizzeria will feature a **takeover from Russian River Brewing Company** with special releases on draft, as well as a selection of bottles from the brewer.

On Feb. 17, State of Mind is hosting its fifth annual **Hazy vs. West Coast IPA Showdown**. The event will pit the two beer styles against each other, with customers invited to blind-taste flights — three beers of each style — and vote for their favorites.

State of Mind's Redwood City outpost will begin its Beer Week events Feb. 15 with a **tap takeover from Russian River Brewing**. As in Los Altos, there will be special releases on draft and in bottles.

On Feb. 17, State of Mind will turn its taps over to Oakland's **Original Pattern Brewing Company**. The brewery will feature its Fear the Reaper triple IPA alongside a series of collaboration beers brewed with Bay Area brewers Altamont Beer Works, Barebottle Brewing Company, Tenma Beer Project and Cellarmaker Brewing Company.

State of Mind Public House, 101 Plaza N, Los Altos, 650-383-5210; 3710 Florence St., Redwood City, 650-995-7478; Instagram: @stateofmindpub.

### Devil's Canyon Brewing Company, San Carlos

This year will mark the 10th annual **West Coast Craft Can Invitational** at Devil's Canyon Brewing Company Feb. 10. As the name suggests, the event will feature cans from over 30 craft breweries pouring more than 75 different beers.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite for \$50 and include access to 4-ounce tastes of any beer, plus a 16 ounce commemorative pint glass. Designated drivers and non-drinkers get access to the event for \$20, which includes an unlimited supply of Devil's Canyon's housemade root beer. If you're hungry, there will be a selection of food trucks in the outdoor beer garden.

Devil's Canyon will be donating proceeds from the event to the Code 30 Foundation, a nonprofit benefiting the families of San Mateo County Sheriff's Office officers who are injured or have died.

On Feb. 16, Devil's Canyon is hosting Grainbakers, a **pop-up bread-making class** which teaches you how to bake loaves with spent grain, Æi a byproduct of the beer-making process that usually goes to waste.

During the class, students will learn how to prepare a rosemary and sea salt, dark chocolate and cherry or Italian tomato and herb loaf and will leave the class with a raw loaf they can finish baking at home. Tickets are available on Grainbakers' website for \$50 and also include a recipe and instruction guide, as well as some extra grain to bake more bread at home.

Devil's Canyon Brewing Company, 935 Washington St., San Carlos; 650-592-2739, Instagram: @devils canyon.

### Gourmet Haus Staudt, Redwood City

Gourmet Haus Staudt has lined up a dizzying list of events throughout Beer Week, celebrating both domestic and international breweries.

On Feb. 9, Gourmet Haus Staudt

will feature **Southern California brewers**, pouring beers from Green Cheek Beer Company, Burgeon Beer Company, Highland Park Brewery and GOAL Brewing.

On Feb. 10, the bar will pour beers from **East Bay breweries** Cellarmaker Brewing Company, Ghost Town Brewing, Original Pattern Brewing Company, Wondrous Brewing Company, Tenma Beer Project and Drake's Brewing Company.

On Feb. 11, it's time for Gourmet Haus Staudt's **Lambic Extravaganza**. The event will feature lambic beers, Æi a style of Belgian beer fermented from wild yeasts, Æi on tap and in bottles from cult producers Cantillon, Tilquin, Het Boerenherf and many more. Gourmet Haus Staudt's grocery store will also be offering 15% off bottles of lambic beer to go, with over 60 bottles to choose from.

On Feb. 13, Gourmet Haus Staudt will be serving an assortment of **triple IPAs**, as well as beers from **Russian River Brewing Company**.

On Feb. 15, the bar will feature brews from **Shred Beer Company** in Rocklin.

On Feb. 16, the bar will be pouring beers from **Boulevard Brewing Company** in Kansas City, Missouri, **Brewery Ommegang** in Cooperstown, New York, and **Firestone Walker Brewing Company** in Paso Robles.

On Feb. 17, **Firestone Walker** takes the main stage with a tap takeover including new and vintage releases of their beers.

Gourmet Haus Staudt, 1615 Broadway, Redwood City; 650-364-9232, Instagram: @gourmethausstaudt.

### Barebottle Brewing Company, Menlo Park

Barebottle Brewing Company is releasing **Doom Bloom**, a triple IPA made with prickly pear cactus, on Feb. 10. The limited-release beer will be available on draft and in cans to go.

On Feb. 14, Barebottle is celebrating Valentine's Day with **Sweetheart Night**, an event featuring the brewery's barrel-aged stouts and barleywines.

Barebottle Brewing Company, 550 Oak Grove Ave. Suite B, Menlo Park; 650-714-0506, Instagram: @barebottle.

### Freewheel Brewing Company, Redwood City

Freewheel Brewing Company is hosting its annual **Firkin Friends Fest** on Feb. 15. The brewery, which focuses on English-style beers, will feature cask-conditioned ales from a number of other breweries.

Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City; 650-365-2337, Instagram: @freewheelbrew. ■

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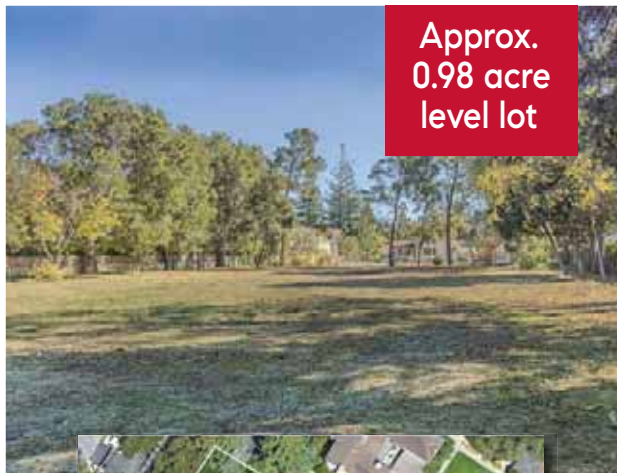


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