Maria Doerr won’t seek reelection for Menlo Park council

Menlo Park Council member Maria Doerr won’t be on the ballot this fall. She’s opted not to seek reelection for her District 5 seat because of a move out of the area, according to a Tuesday, May 28, blog post.

In her post, Doerr explains that next summer, following the conclusion of her current council term, she will leave the city because of both work and personal circumstances. The council appointed Doerr to the seat in January 2023. She replaced former Council member Ray Mueller, who left the council to serve on the San Mateo County

Sims Metal fire began at shredder as employees loaded scrap metal

Sims Metal’s Redwood City recycling facility has been the site of multiple fires

By Michelle Iracheta

A fire on the east side of Sims Metal in Redwood City on May 22 began while employees at the recycling facility were loading a shredder with burning pieces of metal, according to Redwood City Fire Battalion Chief Chuck Lax.

Firefighters arrived on the scene at Sims Metal, located at 699 Seaport Boulevard, around 3 p.m. with five fire engines and one fire ladder, Lax said. By 5:30 p.m., fire crews had contained the fire, he said.

Firefighters and Sims Metal employees were not injured during the May 22 fire, Lax said.

Lax said it’s unclear exactly how the fire started, as placing burning scrap metal into the shredder is not unusual or uncommon.

On the evening of May 22, San Mateo County said that Redwood City fire crews were on the scene at Sims Metal, “battling a fire from a mixed metals pile” at the metal recycling facility near the Port of Redwood City. San Mateo County health officials issued a statement Wednesday advising that while no shelter in place was active, “those who are sensitive to smoke should stay indoors, close windows and doors, and ensure that air conditioners and fans are not pulling in air from outdoors.”

Officials stated that the fire plume was headed south along the Bayside coast of San Mateo County, over the Dumbarton Bridge and into Santa Clara County. The Mountain View Fire Department posted to X regarding the May 22 Sims Metal fire: “Thick, dark smoke is in the air accompanied by the smell of burning plastic.” They also asked that the public do not call 9-1-1 unless they see an active fire.

Lax said the odor came from the scrap metal, which is made up of various metals, including cars and water heaters.

Sims Metal owns over 200 facilities that process scrap metal purchased from other businesses and recyclers, according to its website. Sims Metal’s Redwood City recycling facility has been the site of multiple fires. A large blaze that broke out at the metal recycling plant in 2021 triggered several explosions, damaged multiple vehicles and left one worker injured.

The incident prompted the State of California to issue an order to the recycling
Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The fastest growing age group needs our help.

We hope that Spring finds you in good health and good spirits. We are writing today to spotlight the urgency of the ongoing crisis facing seniors in our local communities, and to invite you to join Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. in creating a future where local seniors can age in place surrounded by the support and care services they need to thrive.

Seniors and their families are struggling to stay afloat right here in our own community.

Rising costs of living and economic uncertainty continue to place immense financial strain on the lives of older adults. Thousands of local seniors in our affluent SF Peninsula are unsure of where their next meal will come from. The “epidemic of loneliness” is equally pervasive, with countless older adults living in solitude, yearning for the warmth of human connection. The U.S. Surgeon General identified loneliness as epidemic in the U.S. and San Mateo County has declared loneliness a public health crisis. We are also confronting the staggering rise in Alzheimer’s and other dementias among our aging population and the caregiving challenge that families face dealing with these devastating diseases. With less than 2% of institutional funding going to causes related to aging, the fastest growing age group needs our help, and we are failing them miserably.

Those who are hurting are not strangers—they are our neighbors, parents, and grandparents!

Those who need support now are our neighbors, our parents, our grandparents; older adults on fixed incomes and often living alone, who have worked tirelessly throughout their lives only to face the impossible choice between buying groceries or other essential needs like rent, medicines, transportation, and utilities. This is not OK.

It is an everyday thing. Not just a holiday season thing.

Right now, Berniece runs out of money to buy food each week. Patrick is homebound and cannot shop or cook for himself. Wendy is struggling to work and manage care for her father who has Alzheimer’s; Fatima no longer drives and needs safe and easy transportation; Lori lives alone with no one to spend the day with. PVI is transforming aging in our local community with meaningful programs for critical needs just like these, enabling seniors to age in place with essential programs that also help address isolation and reduce the use of costly health care services.

Help us restore hope and help reach more seniors in need!

We are grateful that you make it possible for us to serve our community’s most vulnerable, more seniors like Berniece, Patrick, Wendy, Fatima, and Lori. By giving hope and help where you live, you provide the lifeline our local seniors so desperately need and so profoundly changes their daily lives.

Yes, I want to make life-changing impact today: Your special Spring gift of an amount that is right for you* means everything to the thousands of local families relying on us for their daily health and well-being. You may give securely online at www.pvi.org/donate. If you did not have an opportunity to give over the holiday season, we are grateful for what you can do today. And if you have recently given, we thank you from our hearts.

* $500 supports one month of PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors; or a fitness membership for one year; or helps fund Aging Life Solutions; $700 supports one week of Adult Day Services; $1,500 supports an iPad and training for a senior; or Ride PVI transportation services for one month for five seniors.

With hope and gratitude,

Peter Olson
Chief Executive Officer

Georgie Biehm
Board President

*Data Sources: Meals on Wheels America, Council of Aging, County of San Mateo, Surgeon General of the U.S. AARP, Supermarket Demand Census

For over 75 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication, and compassion. Our four core programs serve over 6,000 households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional, and mental health while accomplishing dignity and independence in their lives. PVI’s programs include Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Services at Rosener House; Senior Activity Center at Little House; and Ride PVI, our on-demand transportation service.
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- Western hill views
- 1-bedroom, 2-bath guest house
- Pool house with kitchenette and bath
- 9,480 square feet of total living space

Contemporary Masterpiece
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- Pool and spa
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- Two levels with 3 main-level suites and 4 upstairs suites
- Vast level corner lot
Feelings of warmth and hospitality embrace you from the moment you step inside this spacious 4-bedroom home, nestled along a tree-canopied street in the Flood Park neighborhood. Exuding charm and curb appeal, this home offers more than 2,500 square feet of remodeled space, with an open floorplan conducive to modern living. Enjoy light-filled interiors featuring a large living room with an electric fireplace, the chef’s kitchen equipped with top appliances, and the family room that opens to the backyard for seamless indoor/outdoor living. The primary suite provides luxurious accommodations, while an additional fully contained guest unit includes a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, and private entrance for enhanced versatility. Situated within walking distance of Flood Park and minutes away from downtown Menlo Park and the Meta campus, this home also provides convenient access to Caltrain and Highway 101, with esteemed schools like Laurel Elementary and Menlo-Atherton High within approximately a mile or less (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Woodside hosts ribbon cutting for new Glens pathway

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Friday, May 24, the town of Woodside and residents of the Glens neighborhood gathered to celebrate the completion of the Glens Path Project. Community outreach and planning for the project began in 2017 and through three phases, the path was finally completed on April 17.

The new pathway is an elevated concrete sidewalk that connects to a crosswalk at the intersection of Glenwood Avenue and Cañada Road. The construction of the entire path cost $3.6 million. "It's a great neighborhood asset," said Mayor Jenn Wall. "It connects the community and makes it more walkable."

Prior to the construction of the pathway, children and residents of the Glens were walking onto the road as cars were also speeding by. Residents of the neighborhood came up with the idea that a pathway would help with issues around pedestrian safety, said Sean Rose, the town's former public works director.

Glens Path runs a mile down Glenwood Avenue all the way to Alta Mesa Road. Residents can now safely take walks with their dogs and children without worrying about the vehicles that drive down the road.

See GLENS PATHWAY, page 16

I'm ready for the challenge,’ says incoming East Palo Alto Academy principal

By Ashwini Gangal

Changes are in order at East Palo Alto Academy, a public charter high school in the Sequoia Union High School District. After working as vice principal at the school for two years, Veronica Miranda-Pinkney will take over as principal on July 1.

She will replace Amika Guillaume, who has held this position at the school for nine years and is now headed to Peninsula Bridge, where she will work with students from fourth grade through their college and career transitions. "Amika's been here so long, I feel like this is her school, she's totally helped build it; so many of the things we have in place, she helped start them, like our advisory class, our graduate profile — there's so many things that are tied to her," said Miranda-Pinkney in an interview with this news organization. "She has huge relationships with the community; I hope to be half the admin that she is."

Guillaume has a very simple piece of advice for her successor. "One of the things I've told every administrator that I've ever worked with is — you have to make sure the thing that brings you joy is something that you build into your schedule," she said. "It's very easy for a principal to say 'I don't have time' or 'I am overwhelmed' but if you schedule for those moments of joy, you will make sure you take that time and that is a priority.

As vice principal, Miranda-Pinkney was in charge of all the discipline-related duties relating to students' behavior and attendance, as well as school safety. As principal, she will be more of an ‘instructional leader,’ with a much larger operation to run, she said.

"It's a lot more meetings, a lot more work, a lot more responsibility. But I'm definitely ready for the challenge," she said. "I feel all my years of experience and leadership have prepared me for this."

She has been an educator for 26 years and spent a large part of her career at San José Unified School District.

In her new role, she will lead about 65 staff members and 300 students. She will receive coaching...
M-A Robotics team showcases its 2023-24 robot

Team is biggest it’s ever been with 50 members

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On May 22, Menlo-Atherton High School’s robotics team members hosted a showcase presenting this year’s robot and their other accomplishments. M-A Robotics aims to provide students in the community with a space to explore engineering, programming and design with no cost or prior experience required.

With a team of 50 students and 10 mentors, M-A’s robotics team is the biggest it has ever been. In 2018, they started hosting Mechanical M-Ayhem, a competition they created for new members that introduces and trains them on how to use the software and hardware used for the actual FIRST Robotics Competition. In 2022, they began to include other schools such as Carlmont High School to extend this learning opportunity to communities outside of M-A.

“Most people on the team have no experience,” said Paige McGaraghan, a sophomore on the robotics team. “I had never done anything in robotics before and it’s overwhelming at first but you use trial and error to learn.”

The club is not only for students to learn about engineering. Justin Park, a software engineer at Roblox and member of the robotics team. “I had never seen the students on the robotics team. “I had never done anything in robotics before and it’s overwhelming at first but you use trial and error to learn.”

The club is not only for students to learn about engineering. Justin Park, a software engineer at Roblox and member of the robotics team, said, “I had never done anything in robotics before and it’s overwhelming at first but you use trial and error to learn.”

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Sacred Heart Prep student athletes commit to collegiate level sports

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Twenty-nine student athletes at Sacred Heart Preparatory have committed to playing at the collegiate level in 11 different sports, according to a May 22 press release. Athletes in rowing, basketball, football, golf, lacrosse, volleyball and more will be attending universities such as Yale, Cornell University and University of Southern California.

"Over the past four years, these exceptional young men and women have redefined excellence, pushing SHP athletics to new heights through their unwavering commitment and exemplary leadership," said SHP Assistant Principal for Athletics Jason Armstrong in a statement.

SHP has broken a school record of having 13 varsity sport programs being named Central Coast Section Scholastic teams, according to the school.

The Class of 2024 will be sending two rowers to the collegiate level — Benjamin Morganworth, who will be attending Yale University, and Isabella Tapper, who will head to the University of Pennsylvania.

From the boys basketball team, two-time first team all-league player JP Kerrigan will be playing for Macalester College and two-time all-league player TJ O’Brien committed to Chapman University.

The school’s football team will be sending single-season sack records holder Teo Casares to Brown University and starting quarterback Jack Scully to Macalester College.

Luca Suarez, a two-time first team all-league golfer, will be playing for St. Andrews College. The boys’ golf team accomplished nine wins and eight league wins this season — a record for the golf program.

Five players from the SHP boys’ lacrosse team have committed to colleges. Ian Dykes will head to Duke University, Blake Hetherington will play for Harvard University, Graham Kaestner will head to John Hopkins University, Anthony Noto has committed to Brown University and Alexander Shen will play for Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The girls’ lacrosse team will be sending 2024 WBAL all-league honoree Tessa Espinosa to play for Denison University.

The SHP girls and boys soccer team will be sending Molly Tinley to Loyola Marymount University and Colin Johnson to play for Cornell University.

Cole Ballard has committed to the University of Southern California for swimming. The SHP swim team has claimed 14 straight West Bay Athletic League championships, according to the school.

The boys track and field team will be sending Aneel Bulchandani to Pomona College. He is a recipient of this year’s track and field Gator award.

The SHP girls volleyball team has five students moving on to play at the collegiate level. Sophie Castaillac will head to Sarah Lawrence College, Jillian Amaro will play for MIT, Isabella Marco will go to the University of Utah, Michaela Telf will play for the University of Notre Dame and Naomi Watson will head to Boston College.

The SHP boys water polo team was ranked as the nation’s third best and will be sending three student athletes to college. The team’s captain, Carl Crum, will be going to CalTech. Tyler Hogan will be playing for Harvard University. Andrew Spencer will head to the University of California at Los Angeles.

The girls water polo team finished the year as MaxPreps second-ranked team in the nation. Players Margaret Brandin will head to Princeton University, Jacqueline Hickinbotham will play for Pitzer College and Charlotte Summe has committed to Villanova University.

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

140-unit affordable housing development Gateway Rising opens

By Arden Margulis

On May 24, San Mateo County’s newest affordable housing complex opened blocks from Meta headquarters. Gateway Rising, located at 1345 Willow Road, is a 140-unit apartment complex built by MidPen Housing with a $5.1 million loan from the county’s Affordable Housing Fund and a $250,000 loan from the Housing Authority of San Mateo County, according to a county press release.

Of the 140 units, 81 are filled by residents of the 1960s apartment complex Gateway Rising replaced, seven are set aside for households experiencing homelessness, and the remaining 51 are for households earning up to 80% of the area’s median income.

MidPen Housing President and CEO Matthew Franklin said, "We applaud San Mateo County and the city of Menlo Park for their vision and leadership in committing early and deep support to the redevelopment, and we’re proud to be a partner in bringing safe, high-quality, affordable homes to the Belle Haven neighborhood.”

The complex includes amenities such as a fitness center, bike parking, a communal room, and outdoor areas. Additionally, MidPen plans to provide free educational services such as after-school and youth summer camps, vocational training, health and wellness programs.

The waiting list for Gateway Rising has already closed.

For more information on the project, go to: midpen-housing.org/project/gateway-rising.

Email Editorial Intern Arden Margulis at amargulis@almanacnews.com.
Portola Valley teachers ask school board for pay and benefit increases

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

When Nicole Wright, a special education teacher at Corte Madera School, heard her young daughter tell her that she also wanted to become a teacher, her response was: “No, you can’t be a teacher.”

Wright is one out of several teachers in Portola Valley who are calling for the Portola Valley School District to give educators higher salaries and better benefits. During a school board meeting on May 16, Tim Sato, president of the Portola Valley Teachers Association spoke to the school board, asking it to consider a 6% salary increase.

“We have an opportunity here in Portola Valley to be leaders in this area and to do the things we need to do to make this a profession that is sustainable and that people will want to enter,” said Sato during the meeting. The median income in San Mateo County is $186,600, according to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Sato points out that none of the teachers in Portola Valley make that much money. For the 2023-24 school year, base salaries start at $82,130 and go up to $153,886.

Teachers in Portola Valley are working second jobs and living paycheck to paycheck, according to Sato.

When Wright recounted her interaction with her daughter during public comment, she told the board that she had to explain to her child that being a teacher is not a “financially secure position” and she wanted her to have a job where she could be independent.

“At this time I’m hopeful that the path for educators will allow for that at some point, but I don’t see enough change in the time it would take for her to become a teacher for that to be a viable career option,” Wright said.

In February 2023, the district and union reached a contract agreement to increase pay by 20%. The contract states that “parties may reopen Article 13 (Compensation) plus two additional articles of each party’s selection for the 2024-25 school year.”

PVTAs most recent proposal for a 6% salary increase amounts to about $500,000 per year, according to Sato. At the start of the year, the district moved $1.5 million into a deferred maintenance fund, $500,000 more than the initial budget. Sato suggests that the district use that $500,000 and put it toward educator salaries.

“We need to keep pace with inflation, we need to outpace the cost of health care,” said Sato.

Sato states that the district’s projected revenue is increasing and reserves are steadily growing, but teachers are still struggling to keep up with the increasing costs of living in the Bay Area.

“PVSD must spend today’s dollars on today’s children. We are seeking pay and benefits increases that are fiscally sound and are also essential to ensuring PVSD educators can continue to provide for themselves and their families,” said Sato in a statement to The Almanac.

Teachers in Portola Valley are pushing for the district to invest more in their teachers as they struggle to afford rent, care for their families and to live on their own. Daphna Woolfe, a retiring third grade teacher at Ormondale School, highlighted that as a career that is known to pay less, teaching is also stereotypically seen as a job for women.

“Let’s break out of the mold of paying women’s jobs less because it values them less,” said Woolfe. “We’re all very valuable here. We deserve to be paid for the amount of education we get.”

In a statement to The Almanac, PVSD Superintendent Roberta Zarea said the district “recognizes the invaluable contributions of our teachers, who are the heart of our educational program” and are proud to be paying its teachers one of the highest salaries among neighboring districts.

“We are dedicated to collaborating and finding common ground at the negotiation table — the legally prescribed forum for this process — in the best interest of our students while being fiscally responsible in order to preserve the long-term stability of the district for the benefit of the students, staff, and community we serve,” Zarea said.

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.
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Class of 2024 graduates from Sacred Heart Prep

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

In its 125th year, Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton graduated 149 students at its commencement ceremony on Friday, May 24.

The Class of 2024 will be attending at least 72 different schools within California, out of state and some out of the country, according to a press release. The ceremony was held on the school’s football field as diplomas were presented to students by school officials: Marnie Marcin, chair of the Board of Trustees; Richard A. Dioli, director of schools; Jorge Reyes, assistant principal and Jason Armstrong, assistant president for athletics.


As a century-old school tradition, students who displayed outstanding academic achievements and fulfilled one or more of the school’s guiding “Goals & Criteria,” were presented with the “Blue Ribbons” award. These students were nominated by SHP faculty and ratified by the administration.

A light blue ribbon was awarded to 12 students for the embodiment of the school’s goals:
• Graham Kaestner and Evelini Mila were awarded for Goal I: A personal and active faith in God
• Samir Ravi and Thalia Stavropoulos received blue ribbons for Goal II: A deep respect for intellectual values
• Redmond Averbuck and Yana Gulati were awarded for Goal III: A social awareness which impels to action
• Tyler Hogan, Megan Sweeney, and Makena Tom were recognized for displaying Goal IV: The building of community as a Christian value
• Avery “AJ” Noto, Ravuama Savali, and Charles Lafaele Tangitau received the award for the fulfillment of Goal V: Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom

Dark Blue Ribbon was awarded to Donna Garcia Ramirez and Carl Crum for “embodiment of the values implicit in a Sacred Heart education.”

Thirty-two students within the graduating class have been at Sacred Heart Schools since preschool, spending over 12 years of their academic journey on the Atherton campus.

Twenty-nine students were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program and an equal number of 29 student athletes have committed to intercollegiate sports.

The Class of 2024 will be moving forward in their education with plans to pursue programs in STEM, performing and visual arts, humanities, business and more.

At the end of commencement, Stavropoulos left her peers with some advice: “Be open and be yourself, because sharing our distinctive gifts is what has made our SHP community so special, and it is what will make our next communities so remarkable too.”

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at jjyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

Stanford University brings high school students from low-income communities to the campus as part of a dual-credit course program that provides talented students with access to advanced material while encouraging them to apply to selective colleges.

“The school is very prestigious and looking around, it’s more diverse than I thought it would be, and so far, everyone’s been really nice and welcoming,” said visiting student Jared Garcia, a high school junior. “It’s inspirational, and it helps for students to see a different environment.”

Scan to read the spotlight

Class of 2024 graduates from Sacred Heart Prep

Sacred Heart Preparatory class of 2024.
Class of 2024: TIDE Academy graduate hones in on entrepreneurial spirit

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Shiloh Lopez is among TIDE Academy’s second graduating class since the school’s inception in 2019. The 17-year-old’s entrepreneurial spirit shone through when she took part in the creation of the school’s student government system during her freshman year. In the fall, she plans to study economics at California State University at Fullerton.

Despite her accomplishments, Lopez didn’t have college in her future plans. It wasn’t until her junior year that college became a possibility. “There’s been so much struggle with the economy today and I’ve been looking for jobs, but it appears that if you want to get a good paying job, you need a college degree,” said Lopez, who lives in Redwood City. “I even have a whole plan to get a doctorate at this moment.”

Growing up, Lopez moved frequently. At the age of 9, she moved from a small town in Mexico to the United States and throughout middle school she switched schools every year. Her experience at TIDE was different and allowed her to develop relationships with the community. She’s grown close to her teachers and counselors, Lopez was finally accepted into four universities. Whether she can keep her grades, whether she can keep her grades, and event she worked on felt like going on “and so every project and event she worked on felt like going on” and so every project and event she worked on felt like going on”

As a first-generation student, Lopez navigated the college application process on her own, which she described as a “struggle” and “complicated process.” It took her several months to get through but with the help of her teachers and counselors, Lopez was finally accepted into four universities.

When it came to choosing a school, Fullerton seemed to be the perfect fit. After touring the university, Lopez felt that it had a similar environment to TIDE: “Chill, calm and nerdy.”

She’s hoping to join clubs for entrepreneurs, start-ups or even starting her own. Along with the excitement comes nerve-racking emotions. “I even have a whole plan to get a doctorate at this moment.”

Lopez is finally taking in the reality of leaving for college soon. With worries about struggling in classes, what her social life will be like and whether she can keep her grades, Lopez is finally taking in the reality of leaving for college soon. Through her struggles and accomplishments, she thanks her parents for being supportive of her throughout her life. Lopez feels appreciative she had the ability to concentrate on her academics and to be involved in school activities, while also learning practical skills in budgeting, management and leadership from her responsibilities at home.

Reflecting on her younger self, she wishes she could tell herself to put her personal goals first, “because how can you improve something else when you can’t improve yourself.”

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at jjoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

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Over a quarter-acre of land on a peaceful, tree-lined street plays host to this expansive 4-bedroom home with more than 2,400 square feet of living space. Recently updated with fresh paint, modern fixtures, and a blend of refinished and brand-new flooring, the interiors are bathed in natural light and provide ample room for both entertaining and everyday living. Highlights include two cozy fireplaces, expansive gathering areas, a charming eat-in kitchen, and comfortable bedrooms, including the primary suite with outdoor access. Outside, a flourishing backyard oasis awaits with lush lawn, a serene patio, and stunning foliage, while additional amenities include air conditioning and a convenient 2-car garage. Situated mere moments from the Rancho Shopping Center and a short drive to downtown Los Altos, this home also enjoys close proximity to scenic parks, preserves, and the esteemed Los Altos Golf and Country Club, along with access to acclaimed schools such as Montclaire Elementary and Homestead High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE
SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

1395Montclaire.com
Listed at $3,488,000

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... We only wish there were more of you.

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If you would like to mail us a check to make a tax deductible donation, please send to 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306. Write “donation” in the memo. You will receive a letter in the mail that serves as a receipt for the tax deduction.
Peninsula doctor left stranded in Gaza returns home

Sheikholeslami was set to return to the United States in early May

By Joshua Picazo

A San Carlos-based doctor who was scheduled for a two-week humanitarian trip to Gaza has finally returned to the Bay Area four weeks after arriving in the war-torn region.

Dr. Haleh Sheikholeslami, who is a specialist in family medicine at Sutter Health - Palo Alto Medical Foundation in San Carlos, departed four weeks ago to help civilians in Gaza during the Israel-Hamas war on what she anticipated to be a two-week trip, according to the Council on American-Islamic Relations — California San Francisco.

Sheikholeslami was set to return to the United States in early May. However, her humanitarian trip was unexpectedly extended due to a lack of timely communication regarding the evacuation arrangements.

She relocated to the coast in early May following the closure of the Rafah border with Egypt.

When 17 medical professionals evacuated Gaza on May 17, Dr. Sheikholeslami and two other doctors were left stranded in Gaza. Her family and CAIR-SF launched a campaign to assist in her return.


Her family said that she was finally able to secure a return on May 24 and returned home on May 25.

Email Contributing Writer Joshua Picazo at joshuadpicazo@gmail.com.

Sims Metal

center asking it to investigate the degree to which its operations may have caused pollution in the area from its facility and to clean it up.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has conducted multiple inspections of the recycling facility and had determined that “releases of hazardous waste and hazardous waste constituents have occurred. Lax said that the staff at Sims Metal are committed to preventing fires.

“They will be having follow-up meetings with them like we do anytime we have an incident there, Lax said. “They want to work with the city to continue to be able to conduct business and not have an impact on the community.”

Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at miracheta@rwcpulse.com.

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Local homeowners only banded together in recent weeks to discuss the proposal, Ferguson said, and many had not heard about the decision. "The protest period opened in February, so it was open for 100 days," said Rob Bartoli, LAFCo executive director. "We have worked diligently to send out newspaper notices, and have a whole webpage on our LAFCo site dedicated to this. There's been articles in the paper."

Within 30 days of the hearing, the commission will decide whether or not to approve the proposal. The city would only terminate the proposal if at least 50% of landowners and voters submit written objections. If at least 25% of voters submit objections, the city would call an election on the matter. And if it receives less than a quarter of resident votes, the city takeover proposal would move ahead, according to Bartoli.

If the proposal were to lead to an election, only East Palo Alto residents within the sanitary district’s boundaries would be able to vote, spurring concerns from protesting residents like Ferguson.

"The sewer district covers both Menlo Park and East Palo Alto," Ferguson said. "If the City of East Palo Alto takes over the district, Menlo Park residents will not have a vote at all. We are completely cut out of the vote.

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@paweekly.com.

GLENS PATHWAY
continued from page 5

"My wife uses the path all the time," said Darrell Batchelder, a Glen resident of 38 years. "It’s also safe for the children."

Residents are excited about the new pathway since it makes it safer for the community and the children who can use the path to walk to school. Some residents however, are not entirely satisfied by the project.

"We were promised a 4-foot wide county path but we ended up with a 7-foot wide sidewalk freeway," said Don Pugh, a resident of the Glen’s who has spoken out about the design numerous times.

Yazdan Emrani, the town’s new public works director started all his presentations saying he helped with the final push to get the project done.

"This was a great project and truly a team effort from the town and the community," said Emrani. "The path provides great amenities."
Senate approves legislation to allow consumers to use self-generated solar energy

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On May 21, the state Senate approved legislation allowing entities such as schools, apartments, shopping centers and farms to consume their self-generated solar energy and save on utility costs, according to a press release. The bill now heads to the state Assembly for consideration.

SB 1374, which was authored by state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, would allow utility customers with multiple meters the ability to be fairly compensated for their solar generation.

"SB 1374 removes a burden-some barrier and restores the ability for customers to self-consume the energy they produce on their property," said Becker in a May 21 statement. "This effort took over a year and is the result of a great partnership with the Sheriff's Office, said Correctional Health Services Director Michael del Rosario in a statement. "As we strive to make improvements in the services we provide to our incarcerated persons and to the community, we hope that we can help save a few lives with this project."

In response to the growing public health threat posed by cheap opioids such as fentanyl, the county Board of Supervisors recommended in May 2023 that the county expand access to naloxone, among other efforts. The machine provides a box with two doses of Narcan in the form of a nasal spray. The machine also has a touchscreen with information about food, housing, substance use treatment, mental health, probation and parole services.

The California Department of Public Health recommends that friends and family members who know someone at increased risk for opioid overdose — especially those with opioid use disorder — carry the drug and keep it at home, according to the bulletin. People who are taking high-dose opioids prescribed by a doctor, people who use opioids and benzodiazepines together, and people who use drugs should carry naloxone and let others know they have it in case they experience an overdose, according to the state.

Go to the county website, smgov.org, for more information on the vending machine.

Commnunity Briefs

Take Two and Call Me in the Morning: Menlo Park Library exhibit on aspirin

The Menlo Park Library is hosting a special exhibit on the story of aspirin. Aspirin is a synthetic version of the active ingredient found in willow bark, which has been used for centuries by physicians and healers alike. The library's display is an expanded version of the National Library of Medicine's 1959 exhibit titled "Acetylsalicylic Acid: The Story of Aspirin." The exhibit is open from May 28 through July 6.

Menlo Park Library Garden Talk on perennial edible plants

From blackberries and rhubarb to artichokes and collard greens, there are many easy, delicious plants you can grow in your garden. Lori Caldwell, owner of CompostGAL: Consulting, Landscaping & Education, will discuss tips to increase yields and share the best — and easiest — plants to grow on the Peninsula.

Register for this one-hour online webinar on June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at menlopark.gov. Garden Talk is a monthly online series hosted by the Menlo Park Library on the first Wednesday of each month.

"Whether through my office hours at Woodside Bakery, visits with school classrooms and Scout troops, canvassing door-to-door on local issues, or participating in community events, I have cherished every opportunity to connect with Menlo Park neighbors to listen, learn, and share how folks can make a difference locally," she said. "I'm eager to continue engaging with residents of all ages in the coming months."

For the remaining months of her term, Doerr will focus on addressing the community's priorities, especially improving street safety, advancing sustainability and climate action, and making the city a vibrant, healthy and inclusive place for all residents, she said.

She also invited residents to contact her if they are interested in running for the District 5 seat to offer insights and answer questions. Read her full post on her website, mariadoerr.com.

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Burgess Park reopening set for June 1

The city of Menlo Park will celebrate the reopening of Burgess Park, 701 Laurel St., on Saturday, June 1, at 10 a.m., according to the city. Burgess Park closed in late January for upgrades. Upgrades included a new accessible playground equipment, a rubberized surface around all play areas and an ADA parking stall.

Additionally, there is a new play area sign, benches, picnic tables and fences decorative laser-cut oak leaf designs, according to the city.

---

Angela Swartz
WHOLE KID SCHOOL

ROCKET CONSULTING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297439

EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303.

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

FILE NO.: M-297356

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 02, 2024.

AMANDA MITCHELL RINKOFF

1.) FULLBRAND LEGAL, located at 2806 Hillside Drive

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 02, 2024.

AMANDA MITCHELL RINKOFF

42x191

FILE NO.: M-297426

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 29, 2024.

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 24, 2024.

FILE NO.: M-297368

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 30, 2024.

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 20, 2024.

FILE NO.: M-297311

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 14, 2024.

FILE NO.: M-297274

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 11, 2014.

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 21, 2024.

FILE NO.: M-297241

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Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 30, 2024.

FILE NO.: M-297373

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FILE NO.: M-297270

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FILE NO.: M-297262

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FILE NO.: M-297219

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FILE NO.: M-297218

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FILE NO.: M-297217

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 29, 2024.
The city of Pacifica’s third annual celebration kicks off with a car parade, followed by a festival with performances, food trucks, a youth music area, family zone and booths from area artists and community groups. Local bars and restaurants host a variety of after-parties.

Palo Alto libraries

The city of Palo Alto’s libraries host a variety of events for Pride, including family storytimes (Mitchell Park Library, June 1; Downtown Library, June 14; and a STEAM and Pride-themed storytime June 27 at the Children’s Library); “Queer is Natural,” an online talk by Megan Nguyen of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and Dr. Christine Wilkinson who delve into the complexities of queerness in nature (June 5); a screening of the documentary “Every Body,” which follows the stories of three intersex individuals and examines how intersex people have been treated and are still being regarded in today’s society (Mitchell Park Library, June 5); a STEAM lab for kids making spectroscopes and exploring rainbows (Children’s Library, June 15); and Karaoke with Pride for teens and young adults (Mitchell Park Library, June 22).

Throughout June at various Palo Alto branch libraries, paloalto.bibliocommons.com.

San Mateo County Libraries
The San Mateo County Library hosts events at various branches, including “Pride and Self-Expression Through Adornment” jewelry-making workshops (Foster City, June 1; Pacifica Sharp Park, June 2; Belmont, June 24) a pronoun and Pride pin crafting workshop for tweens (San Carlos, June 4); LGBTQ+ Book Club (in person at San Mateo County Pride Center and online, June 5); authors Carolyn Edson and Kristine Poggioli discuss their book, “Walking San Francisco’s 49 Mile Scenic Drive” (San Mateo County Pride Center, June 8); LGBTQ+ Identities: Awareness and Inclusion Training to learn and explore how to be an ally and advocate (Pacifica Sharp Park, June 17; Half Moon Bay, June 27); an art and protest workshop exploring the history of the Stonewall Inn riots (North Fair Oaks, June 23; San Carlos, June 24); and “Dear Queer Community,” a workshop in which participants make greeting cards with messages of support for the LGBTQ+ community to take home or to mail to the organization Point of Pride (Millbrae, June 26).

Through June at various county library locations and San Mateo County Pride Center, smcn.bibliocommons.com.

San Francisco Pride
The city of San Francisco hosts its first citywide Pride celebration, featuring the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, a roller-skating rink, drag performances, local high schools’ dance teams and jazz bands, plus food, craft and nonprofit vendors.

June 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., on Grand Avenue (between Maple and Spruce avenues), South San Francisco. instagram.com/cityofsouthsanfrancisco.

Redwood City Pride
Redwood City celebrates Pride Month with a special progress pride flag raising and proclamation ceremony. The event features guest speakers, including special guest Nicole Adler, and city officials. Also visitors can view a pride display on Courthouse Square, June 1-4.

June 4, 5:30-6 p.m., at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City, redwoodcity.org.

CuriOdyssey First Friday
Pride is the theme for the June edition of First Fridays at the children’s science museum. Families can enjoy live music, a food truck, science activities and animal presentations. Members of San Mateo County Pride Center will also be on hand.

June 7, 5-8 p.m., at CuriOdyssey, 1651 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo, $21.95-$25.95, curiodyssey.org.

Pride Lightning Talk
Hacker Dojo hosts a lightning talk focusing on LGBTQ+ individuals in the tech industry and their innovative ideas and projects. Lightning talks are timed presentations of five minutes or less in which participants might discuss ideas or tech projects, share a coding skill and more.

June 7, 7-9 p.m., at Hacker Dojo, 855 Maudie Ave., Mountain View, free, meetup.com.

San Mateo County History Museum
Librarian Michael Flanagan discusses LGBTQ+ history on the Peninsula from the early 20th century to the present. The program is part of the museum’s First Free Friday program.

June 7, 1 p.m., at San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City, free admission, historiesmc.org.

San Mateo Pride Celebration and Parade
The 12th annual event kicks off with a parade, followed by a celebration at Central Park with entertainment, DJ music, resource and vendor booths, food trucks and family-friendly activities.

June 8, parade begins 10 a.m. at 2nd and B streets; celebration takes place 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at San Mateo Central Park, 50 E. 5th Ave., San Mateo, free, smcpridecelebration.com.

Bay Area Pride
With Prince tribute band Red Corvette, plus other music and activities. See PRIDE AND joy, page 21.
An artful pairing: Los Altos gallery combines owner’s passion for art and wine

Madsen Gallery highlights paintings and sculptures by regional and international artists

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

It’s a familiar story in Silicon Valley: after long and successful careers in high tech, executives who have then pursued more creative passions during their second act. For Danish-born Benny Madsen, it was buying Byington Vineyard and Winery. For his wife Amy, it was opening an art gallery in Los Altos. How the two have used their entrepreneurial skills to mesh and manage their new endeavors is a classic example of how it is never too late to follow a dream.

Amy Madsen, who holds degrees from Columbia University and Dartmouth College, had a career as a marketing consultant before stepping away in order to work with her husband in the Santa Cruz Mountain winery. They are Los Altos residents and decided to open a tasting room for their artisan wines on Main Street, which they ran for four years. Realizing that their lease was about to expire, Madsen began to look around for another location.

“We live here and wanted to stay in Los Altos,” she said.

Luckily, she did not have to look far. Just across the street a vintage bath store had closed and Madsen saw the potential immediately. With its white walls, high ceilings and three large, connecting rooms she knew exactly what she wanted to do: fill the space with art and also make it an event venue where Byington wines could be served.

Madsen Gallery opened in May of 2022 with the objective of showing paintings and sculptures by regional and international artists. But how does someone with little or no background in the arts become a gallery owner?

“I had to learn by doing,” Madsen said.

Keeping in mind that COVID was still a concern, Madsen did what many artists and gallery owners did at the time — became adept at using Instagram.

“I fell in love with the sculptures of Oleg Lobyn and counted him until he agreed to be part of my first show,” she said. Lobyn, who is a classically trained stone sculptor, works in an abstract style in stone, bronze and stainless steel.

Madsen realized that Instagram was an amazing resource in finding new artists — and also as a place where artists could find her gallery. When she sees a promising artist whose work fits in with the contemporary focus of the gallery, she will contact them and discuss the possibilities of an exhibition. Sometimes she does studio visits, but she has also taken the risk of inviting artists without actually seeing their work in person. So far, it has paid off, probably because Madsen is very open to allowing artists to make major decisions.

“I would say that the artists are also the curators,” she said. She is willing to allow the artists to select the work they want to show and encourages them to do the actual installation work themselves. She does enjoy selecting the artists for each of the three distinct rooms in the gallery, explaining that “I really consider them as three solo shows.”

It is obvious that Madsen loves making personal connections with artists and combining artists with disparate styles in the gallery. Her current show (on view until June 1) includes the hard-edge minimalist paintings of Angela Johal, the pristine white architectural sculptures of Bartosz Janczak and the typographic abstraction paintings of Jared Michael. Madsen has also renovated an outdoor patio area behind the gallery as a space for the fun and funky figural sculptures of local artist James Moore.

All of these artists and those in her growing roster meet the main criteria that Madsen has established: “They have to be serious artists,” she said. “They have to be serious about their craft and have spent a serious amount of time doing it.”

Madsen Gallery is, after all, a sales gallery located in one of the wealthiest suburbs in the country. Madsen acknowledged that the business is well-located. “There are lots of collectors in Los Altos with contemporary homes that are perfect for Minimalism-type art,” she said.

Madsen originally anticipated that it might take five years to become established but said that the last year was really a turning point. “I think I quadrupled sales this year.”

Beyond the obvious financial benefits, Madsen revels in the networking possibilities of the business. “I love to promote people and make connections,” she said, adding that she has been pleasantly surprised at how many good friends she has made through the gallery. “For me, this is important because I really value relationships.”

In addition to presenting opening receptions for the gallery shows, Madsen Gallery also participates in many of the city-sponsored events such as the recent Spring Bubbly Stroll. The gallery is also available for corporate events, recently hosting a reception for Google employees visiting from out of state.

“We offer three wines for tasting, and we have a very large grazing board,” Madsen said. “Recently we held two-hour receptions, we try to have at least one exhibiting artist present to mix and engage with participants. While events like this are revenue-producing, Madsen also pointed out that she has hosted receptions for nonprofits like Child Advocates of Silicon Valley.”

When not in the gallery, Madsen is an avid traveler. She has created an extensive online newsletter that provides information about the artists she represents but also reviews of exhibitions she has visited in museums all over the United States. It is clear that Madsen has thrown herself wholeheartedly into this new artistic endeavor and that it is a success.

“I have been pleased with the reaction so far and have gotten some good feedback from both collectors and artists.”

Although the gallery has limited hours (she is the sole staff), Madsen is available for private appointments and happily opens the door to visitors anytime she is in the space. She anticipates that the business will continue to grow and laughed when asked about her goal for the gallery.

“When people walk by, I want them to say ‘Wow! I can’t believe she’s doing that! I can’t believe that here.’”

“Hopefully,” she said, “I am bringing world-class art to Los Altos.”

Madsen Gallery’s summer exhibition takes place June 6 through Aug. 31 and will feature work by California artists: Sofia Shu (paintings), Angela Johal (paintings), Jon Krawczyk (sculpture), Anki Gelb (paintings), Nancy Ilg (sculpture) and John Contreras (sculpture).

Email Contributing Writer Sheryl Nonnenberg
nonnenberg@al.com.

Madsen Gallery is open Thursday-Saturday, noon-3 p.m. The gallery is located at 351 Main Street, Los Altos, apmadsen.com.
**Worth a Look**

Kepler’s Books hosts Joan Baez on May 31.

**Joan Baez**

The legendary — and local — Joan Baez, who graduated from Palo Alto High School back in the late 1950s, is well known for her music as well as her long commitment to social justice and activism, and for many she’s an icon of the 1960s folk scene. But in addition to her storied musical career, she’s also a visual artist (her book of drawings “Am I Pretty When I Fly?” was published last year) and a poet as well. “When You See My Mother, Ask Her to Dance,” a collection of Baez’s poems drawing on her personal experiences over the years, was published this April. Baez will discuss the new book in conversation with journalist Angie Coiro at an event hosted by Kepler’s Literary Foundation.

May 31, 7 p.m., Hillsdale High School, 3115 Del Monte St., San Mateo; $20-$65; keplers.org

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**‘Young Frankenstein’**

It’s alive! Live theater, that is. Los Altos Stage Company presents the stage musical adaptation of Mel Brook’s beloved comedy “Young Frankenstein” (which is itself, of course, a humorous sequel of sorts to Mary Shelley’s classic sci-fi story). When young Frederick Frankenstein (that’s pronounced “fronk-en-steen,” by the way) inherits the estate of his infamous grandfather, he soon finds a penchant for mad science and making monsters may run in the family. Joey Dippel plays the title role in most performances, with a few starring understudy Ian Catindig (who plays other roles most of the time), while Bryan Moriarty plays The Monster.

May 30-June 23, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos; $22-$35; losaltosstage.org/young-frankenstein/

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**Feldman’s Books’ 28th Birthday Party**

Feldman’s Books, Menlo Park’s venerable used-bookstore and community gathering place, is turning 28, and marking its “Saturn return” anniversary with a birthday bash. Performances by local musicians including Redone Record’s Justin Phipps, Abshir Miller, Emma Catherine, Nitya Rajeshuni, Chandran Sankaran, Kyle Alden, Susie McKee, Rory McNamara and Effie Zilch are planned over the course of the evening’s celebration, along with artwork by Lasana. May 31, 6-9 p.m., Feldman’s Books, 1075 Curtis St., Menlo Park; $5 donation suggested; feldmandbooks.net/events.

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**Music on the Square**

Downtown Redwood City’s Music on the Square is back, so that must mean summer is nearly here.

**PRIDE AND JOY**

continued from page 19

The series, now in its 18th year, according to the city’s website, brings live music to Courthouse Square on Friday evenings through the end of August. This week, Santana tribute band Carnival will perform. In future weeks, reggae band Native Elements, Tom Petty tribute Petty Theft, R&B/soul group Paton Leatha, Latin jazz band Orquesta Dharma, Journey tribute Faithfully Live, Eagles tribute Boys of Summer, Fleetwood Mac tribute Fleetwood Macrame, Steely Dan/Chicago tribute Steel N’ Chicago, dance band Groove Ride, yacht rock favorites Mustache Harbor, Michael Jackson tribute Foreverland, 80s covers group Careless Whisper and soul/pop band Pride & Joy are lined up to play.

May 31 and subsequent Fridays through Aug. 30, 6-8 p.m.; Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City; free; redwoodcity.org

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**Joey Dippel plays The Monster.**

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**Yoorhi Choi**

Community School of Music and Arts faculty member Yoorhi Choi will perform a free community concert of violin compositions based on Korean folk music, as well as pieces by Brahms and Beethoven. The performance, titled “Yoorhi Choi: Harmony of East and West,” aims to showcase both Eastern and Western musical traditions. Choi, originally from South Korea, moved to the United States at age 15 to attend The Juilliard School (she also went on to receive degrees from Yale University and Northwestern University). In addition to her work as an educator, the award-winning artist performs as a soloist as well as with numerous ensembles and orchestras.

June 1, 7:30 p.m., Tateuchi Hall, Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View; free; arts4all.org
Isela Qasim was the breadwinner of her family when she lived in Germany. That all changed when she moved to Silicon Valley.

"Every door was closed," she said. Qasim, a technical project manager, decided to put her career on pause to take care of her 4- and 5-year old children when her husband invented a product Google was interested in.

"I thought, 'I've never stayed at home with them. Let's switch — you do the work, I stay home with the children. And as soon as I'm settled in, I will go back to work,'" she said. But she couldn't get back in, at least not in a similar role, she said. As she talked with other mothers at the German International School of Silicon Valley in Mountain View, where her children attended, she realized this experience wasn't unique to her. Silicon Valley was full of international women who paused their careers to support their husbands in tech and to take care of their children. Qasim calls these women "family managers" or "evolution managers."

"We have creative plans and ideas, and we want to do something special," she said. "We can do more than be family managers."

In February, Qasim started the Creative Collective of Silicon Valley, a team of seven women working together to uplift family-owned startups in fields like food, art, health and education. The collective's long-term goal is to lobby for more part-time work to allow "family managers" to pursue their careers. The intermediate goal is to help with relocation services, as many collective members felt the relocation services they used were less than adequate.

The collective also seeks to create a sense of community and belonging, a goal that manifested itself as the World Kitchen at Ava’s Market in downtown Mountain View.

"In German, you say 'Liebe geht durch den Magen;' the way to a person’s heart is through their stomach," Qasim said. "We have people and food from all different countries and we bring them together to eat, and we can take care of their maybe not food-related needs, but also the sense of belonging and information and how we can help them get settled."

The World Kitchen at Ava’s Market, which opened April 26, offers a rotating selection of international cuisines for lunch made by members of the Creative Collective Tuesday through Friday, with sourdough bread offered Saturday mornings. Find Colombian dishes like ajiaco soup with pan de yuca (chicken and potato soup with flatbread), Mexican dishes like pibil tostadas, Portuguese dishes like shrimp curry, Peruvian dishes such as lomo saltado empanadas and Bavarian bratwurst. Guests can dine in at the tables next to the deli counter or order their meals to go.

"We can do more than be family managers."

Qasim met Juan Origel, the owner of Ava’s Downtown Market and Deli, in August, when she began using his commercial kitchen space to produce bratwurst for her company FrankoniYUM.

"Most of my professional work life, I was a consultant in different projects for DHL in Germany, and my success was based on I would take on the work nobody else would like to do," she said. "And so this is kind of how I operate — what is needed, I can do it. And it happens to be sausages that are needed here."

Using a recipe for Franconian brats given to her by a butcher in Herzogenaurach, Germany, she began catering for private and public Oktoberfests as well as at corporate events for companies like Audi and ChargePoint. When Origel expressed interest in having the deli section of Ava’s Market revived, Qasim had just the solution for him, and World Kitchen was born.

Mexican lunch day at World Kitchen, was a historian in Mexico before moving to Silicon Valley for her husband’s career with their 2-year-old daughter.

“I think we find ourselves in this position where now we want to go back to work, and it’s really hard to find a part-time job, (which is necessary to) keep doing what we want, which is take care of our kids and at the same time work,” she said.

Like Qasim, she remembers her relocation services were less than satisfactory.

“He was not very sensitive to our needs at the moment and the needs of what a mom with a 2-year-old needed,” Mateos said.

Mateos feels the initiative gives her the opportunity to share her culture with others and bring people together.

“For me, cooking is just my connection with my roots and my identity,” she said. “And it’s not just the cooking — it’s the way you go grocery shopping, what kind of products you select, the cloth I choose to cover my tortillas with. Everything has history. It’s like ancient tradition. Our knowledge of what we eat is because of where we were born and how humans respect the environment. And I think it has come together in this kitchen because we all have such a deep connection with our cooking.”

The Creative Collective isn’t just for women — all interested “family managers” are encouraged to participate. Stop by in person or send them a direct message on Instagram, said Qasim.

“I would like to collect enough to at some point open up shop the full day at Ava’s, so serve breakfast, have lunch, have an afternoon appetizer, coffee and cake thing, and have dinner,” she said. ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchell at amitchel@embarcaderomedia.org.
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