

# The Almanac

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

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## Woodsiders' horses headed to the Paris Olympics

By Kate Daly

It's always more fun to root for the home team, and at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics Games equestrian fans will have a bunch of opportunities to cheer on several horses and a rider connected to Woodside.

At 33, Woodside native Karl Cook is the youngest member to join this year's jumpers for Team USA. He's an alternate, riding alongside three seasoned veterans of the Games.

Based in Rancho Santa Fe, Southern California, Cook has been competing in Europe since May, and is now training in France to get ready for the showjumping events to be held at Chateau de Versailles in less than two weeks.

His mother, Signe Ostby of Woodside, has owned his horse for a year and a half, and says, "As of last week Caracole [de la Roque] was the number one placed horse in the U.S., and number two in the first six months in the world."

The 12-year-old bay mare is

a Selle Français, which Ostby describes "is basically a French saddle horse."

Caracole was bred in France and previously ridden by a well-known French rider who will be competing on the French Olympic team. Ostby said the Olympics will feel a bit like homecoming for the horse, because she already has a local fan base who applauds when she enters arenas.

Ostby explained that competitors will be scored for two things: how cleanly they clear the jumps, and for speed. The height of the jumps could be as tall as five-foot-nine inches.

She goes on to point out that the rules have changed from the days when four rode on a team and you could drop a score. Now three ride on a team and there are no dropped scores, "so you have to put your best three out there."

The night before each event the chef d'équipe for the team will decide who will ride and in what order for "the best chance



Courtesy Alden Corrigan

Karl Cook and his horse Caracole de la Roque at La Baule France horse show.

See **HORSES**, page 17

## Portola Valley resident Helen Quinn awarded prestigious physics award

Honors follow stellar career in her field

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Since 1868, only four women have been awarded the Matteucci Medal, an Italian award that recognizes physicists around the world. Helen Quinn, a Portola Valley resident, is the latest winner.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Quinn moved to the United States with her family during her third year of college and transferred to Stanford University. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in physics in 1963 and got a Ph.D. in 1967.

Her work in theoretical particle physics is now recognized along with other notable physicists

including Marie Curie and Albert Einstein.

"It feels a little bit as if I'm getting more than my share of recognition, as compensation for the fact that lots of women didn't get the recognition they deserve," said Quinn.

Women who won the Matteucci Medal in the past were awarded with their husbands. It wasn't until 2022 when female physicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell was awarded and acknowledged for her work as an individual.

Many of Quinn's accomplishments were made by being "in the right place at the right time," she said. She got her Ph.D. in physics from Stanford University when

the "fraction of Ph.D.s in physics gone to women in the United States was 2%."

Quinn recalls being one of the only women in her classes but says growing up with three brothers helped her "manage to hold" her own in predominantly male spaces.

With her success in the field of particle physics, it might be surprising to learn that Quinn had initially entered college with the goal of becoming a meteorologist.

When she transferred to Stanford, she had three years of college credit, no major and didn't see meteorology as an option. With the courses she transferred, her choice to major

in physics was merely made by the fact that it "was the easiest major to complete." In 1963 she graduated with her bachelor's degree in physics.

During this time the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center was being built and many people including Quinn were excited about what it could do. She was encouraged to apply for graduate school and got accepted into Stanford to continue her education and obtain her Ph.D. in physics in 1967.

In the years after, she worked at Harvard University, originated the Peccei — Quinn theory, worked as a professor at SLAC, became a member of the National

Academy of Sciences, led a study on changes to K-12 science education and more.

In recent years axions, a consequence of the Peccei-Quinn theory, have been getting a lot of attention as a candidate particle for dark matter. This theory was written by Quinn and physicist Roberto Peccei in 1977, nearly 50 years ago. Dark matter is an invisible substance that makes up about 85% of total matter in the universe and is important to the formation of galaxies.

"The work is getting many more citations today than it ever did before and much more

See **HELEN QUINN**, page 6

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Chip Krauskopf

4-year-old Alice, in green, stars as a walking tree alongside 18-year-old Sofia who plays Fiona in Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory's "Shrek the Musical."

## Students call Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory Summer Camp 'home'

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Community. That's what kids at the Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory say they love the most about summer camp. Over the course of four weeks, children ages 4-18 hone in on their theater skills to put together a production while bonding over their shared passion for music and acting.

This year, the 30-year-old theater company presented "Shrek the Musical," which campers had been preparing for since June.

Some 52 children acted in "Shrek the Musical," playing the notable characters of Shrek, Fiona, Lord Farquaad, the Gingerbread Man, and more. The musical focuses on teaching students the theme "what makes you special, makes you strong," said Maddie N. Zdeblick, PVTc's incoming executive director.

PVTc offered The Almanac a behind the scenes into their last and busiest week of camp, also known as "tech week."

During the final week, campers are busy rehearsing full run-throughs of the

production, running to get on stage, practicing costume changes and dances, and perfecting the technicalities.

Backstage, the student playing the character of Donkey can be found fanning herself in her furry outfit in between scenes. Excitement and chaos fills the air as younger campers are being rushed by older students to get ready to go on stage and staff are shouting out directions.

This is the first production where all age groups are

See **SUMMER CAMP**, page 16

## How to file to run for local elected office in November

By Angela Swartz and Eleanor Raab

Those interested in running for local city councils and school boards were able to begin pulling nomination papers to run for office on Monday, July 15. The filing period closes on Aug. 9.

The San Mateo County Elections Division will hold a candidate filing seminar for the November election on July 24 from 10 a.m.-noon. This seminar will cover topics such as filing deadlines, filing forms, candidate statements, campaign finance reports and voter data.

To RSVP for the seminar and receive the Microsoft Teams link, visit [smcacre.gov/elections/rsvp-candidate-filing-seminars](http://smcacre.gov/elections/rsvp-candidate-filing-seminars).

Also, if you want to "go green," you can sign up to access your sample ballot and official voter information pamphlet online instead of receiving a paper version by mail. Go [smcacre.gov/go-green](http://smcacre.gov/go-green) for more information.

If an incumbent hasn't declared candidacy by Aug. 9 at 5 p.m., the deadline for non-incumbents is extended to Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.

Here's a rundown of how to file for office if you're interested in running:

### Menlo Park City Council

In Menlo Park, seats for District 3 and District 5 of the city council will be on the ballot. Candidates must reside in the district for which they are running. Council members will

be elected for four year terms.

To apply for candidacy, interested individuals must set up an appointment with the City Clerk Judi Herren by email ([jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov)) or by phone (650-330-6621) to begin the candidate filing process. All necessary paperwork must be completed by 5 p.m. on Aug. 9 in order for a candidate to be included on the ballot. Learn more at [menlopark.gov/elections](http://menlopark.gov/elections).

### Atherton City Council

In Atherton, there will be two city council seats on the November ballot. Candidates do not need to live in a specific district to run. Council members will be elected for four-year terms.

To file for candidacy, interested individuals must arrange an appointment with Atherton City Clerk Anthony Suber by email ([asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us)) or by phone (650-752-0529).

Learn more at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us/689/November-5-2024](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/689/November-5-2024).

### Woodside Town Council

The Woodside Town Council consists of five members elected by-district for a four-year term by the voters of Woodside. There will be three open seats in November for:

- District 1
- District 4
- District 5

Any member of the public who wishes to run for these seats must be reside in District 1, 4 or 5.

See **ELECTION**, page 7

## Fire ignites at East Palo Alto vehicle salvage yard, may be linked to theft

By Eleanor Raab

A fire broke out at a vehicle salvage yard on Bay Road in East Palo Alto near Cooley Landing and Ravenwood Open Space Preserve at around 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 14.

The two-alarm fire, which took place at Infinity Auto Salvage, sent a plume of dark smoke into the air over the San Francisco Bay.

The Menlo Park Fire

Protection District responded to the fire with two battalion chiefs, seven engines and two ladder trucks.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, but it may be linked to a theft which occurred at the property.

"We know a theft occurred which is common at this site," said Menlo Park Fire Marshal Jon Johnston in an email to this news organization. "We are unsure if it was arson or a fire

related to theft of vehicle parts. Still under investigation."

The fire was extinguished after about two hours, but fire crews remained on scene until nearly midnight to ensure it did not reignite, and to aid in the investigation.

No firefighters or bystanders were injured in the fire, according to the fire department. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at [eraab@almanacnews.com](mailto:eraab@almanacnews.com).



Courtesy Mark Dinan

A fire on Bay Road in East Palo Alto on July 14.

# San Mateo County: Office vacancy rates still nearly 3x higher than pre-COVID

Office spaces are sitting empty, yet more offices are being constructed

By Eleanor Raab

A new quarterly report from commercial real estate firm Kidder Matthews shows that San Mateo County has continued to experience a decline in demand for office spaces, resulting in slightly lower commercial rents and higher vacancy rates throughout the county. Despite this clear trend, nearly 1.3 million additional square feet of office spaces are currently under construction in Menlo Park and Redwood City.

The report showed that the direct vacancy rates in San Mateo County are sitting at 17.1% as of June 2024, according to preliminary data from CoStar, a real estate information company. The county's vacancy rates are nearly three times higher than they were pre-COVID.

"Going forward, the Peninsula office market is expected to face persistent challenges," states the report from Kidder Matthews. "Limited demand and increasing vacancy rates are likely to put additional pressure on pricing and property values."

Total availability rates in San Mateo County, which include office spaces that are available or will soon be available for leases and subleases, have increased to 27% as of June 2024. These rates are up from 24% in June 2023, and 11% in 2019.

These trends have led to new office construction slowing, but not completely stopping, according to Kidder Matthews' report. San Mateo County has seen two new offices open in the first half of this year, which have added approximately 220,000 square feet of office space.

The construction of new office spaces seems to be concentrated in just a few cities: San Bruno,



Sue Dremann

The South Main Mixed-Use Project, or Elco Yards, 1601 El Camino Real, is a nearly \$600 million multiple-use development covering 8.3 acres and six blocks on multiple parcels.

Burlingame, Menlo Park and Redwood City. Each has over 200,000 square feet of office buildings currently under construction, while many other cities on the Peninsula such as Daly City, Brisbane, South San Francisco, Foster City, Belmont and San Carlos don't have any office buildings under construction.

Menlo Park and Redwood City already have the second and third largest shares of office space in the county, with 7 million square feet and 5.5 million square feet respectively.

## 'Adding to the already oversupplied market'

However, Redwood City and Menlo Park are on track to add hundreds of thousands of square feet of office space over the next few years. Redwood City has the largest amount of office space under construction in San Mateo County, at just over a million square feet. This includes the Elco Yards mixed-use development along El Camino Real, which will add about 530,000 square feet of office space to the city, and the Broadway Plaza mixed-use development, which will add

another 420,000 square feet of office space.

There are over 295,000 square feet of office space under construction in Menlo Park. This includes the Middle Plaza development, which will add nearly 143,000 square feet of office buildings to El Camino Real, and the Vasara development, which will add just over 34,000 square feet of office space to the city.

The report states that new office building construction is only "adding to the already oversupplied market."

It is likely that construction is concentrated in these two cities because rent prices for office spaces remain significantly higher than the county average. While the average asking rent per square foot in San Mateo County sits at \$5.82, it currently costs an average of \$8.55 per square foot to rent office space in Menlo Park, and \$6.33 per square foot to rent office space in Redwood City.

Vacancy rates in Menlo Park are lower than the county average, at 14%, and vacancy rates in Redwood City are higher than the county average at 21%. However,

total availability rates in both cities are much higher than the county average. In Menlo Park, just over 34% of office spaces are currently available, and in Redwood City 30% of office spaces are currently available.

Despite the negative future outlook on the office market, and the large inventory of available office buildings, there are yet more offices on the horizon for both cities.

Menlo Park has already approved projects that will add approximately 800,000 feet of office space to the city, including Meta's Willow Village campus project, which is slated to add approximately 800,000 square feet of nonresidential space, and the Menlo Flats project, which will add another nearly 15,000 square feet of office space.

Several other developments have been proposed in Menlo Park, including the controversial redevelopment of the former Sunset Magazine headquarters. If approved as proposed, it would add hundreds of thousands of additional square feet of offices to the city.

Redwood City is in a similar position. The city has already approved several new office building campuses, including the Harbor View project, which will add almost 765,000 square feet of office space; the 1 Twin Dolphin Drive project, which will add approximately 200,000 square feet of office space and the 1201 Main Street mixed-use development project, which would add another nearly 100,000 square feet of office space.

Plans for the Redwood Life development, which would reconfigure an existing office park to add approximately 2.3 million square feet of office and R&D space to the city, are currently under environmental and design review.

Read the full report at [tinyurl.com/kidderofficespace2024](https://tinyurl.com/kidderofficespace2024). ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at [eraab@almanacnews.com](mailto:eraab@almanacnews.com).

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## HELEN QUINN

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recognition," said Quinn.

Through receiving awards and getting recognized with her work, Quinn feels "pleasure in the way that the work contributes to the field" and that some of her work has become a standard in physics textbooks.

"It was a great time to be doing particle physics and a lot was happening in the '70s. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time ... and then to get the recognition for it afterwards, it's like the icing on the cake," said Quinn.

Aside from making great contributions to science, Quinn has also

dedicated her time to local government by serving on Portola Valley's Trails and Paths Committee and Conservation Committee.

Quinn and her husband Dan Quinn raised two children in their home in Portola Valley Ranch. They are now empty-nesters living with their 1-year-old dog Bala and enjoying the nature of the town.

"We have always loved living in [Portola Valley] because we can walk out our door and there are trails in all directions and it's beautiful," said Quinn. ■

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Courtesy Dan Quinn

Helen Quinn receives the 2024 Matteucci Medal from the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze in Rome. Professor Corrado De Concini, president of the Academy, hands out the award on May 23.

# Officials investigate Coggins Fire in La Honda

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On July 12, firefighters responded to a fire in La Honda which engulfed a manufactured home, multiple outbuildings and three trailers, according to a Cal Fire social media post. Fire officials call the incident the Coggins Fire and stated that flames did not spread toward nearby wildland and no one was injured.

The fire was reported to have started from a vehicle at approximately 6 a.m. Large amounts of smoke could be seen emitting from the flames. University of California, San Diego's public safety program ALERTCalifornia captured images of the smoke on its live

camera feed from Allens Peak.

Multiple agencies responded to the fire including Cal Fire CZU, La Honda Fire Brigade, San Mateo County Fire, Coastside Fire, Woodside Fire Protection District, Menlo Park Fire District and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The total cost of damages is still under investigation as well as the cause of the fire, according to CAL FIRE CZU Information Officer Cecile Juliette.

"We have already had a very active summer and it's still early in the season especially during periods of dry weather and heat," said Juliette.

She advises residents to sign up for SMC Alerts in San Mateo County, get yard work done

early before it gets hot, and to have important paperwork and a few days of essential items packed near the door.

CAL FIRE officials emphasize the importance of discussing evacuation plans with your family and being aware of all evacuation routes from your home. In case of an emergency, residents should have at least half a tank of gas at all times for possible periods of gridlock during evacuation. Signing up for alerts can allow residents to evacuate early and reduce chances of gridlock. For more information on preparing for wildfire, visit [fire.ca.gov/prepare](http://fire.ca.gov/prepare). ■

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Courtesy CAL FIRE CZU

Coggins Fire burns in La Honda on July 12 destroying multiple buildings.

## ELECTION

*continued from page 5*

Check the Town Council districts map at [woodsidedca.gov/248/Town-Council-Districts-Map](http://woodsidedca.gov/248/Town-Council-Districts-Map) to find which district you reside in.

To pull nomination documents, email Interim Town Clerk Melissa Cardinale at [mcardinale@woodsidedca.gov](mailto:mcardinale@woodsidedca.gov) to set up an appointment.

### Portola Valley Town Council

The town of Portola Valley will have two seats open Town Council for the November election. The town does not have council districts.

Contact Interim Town Clerk Diego Ramirez by email ([dramirez@portolavalley.net](mailto:dramirez@portolavalley.net)) or phone (650-851-1700) for information on how to file papers.

### School districts

#### Sequoia Union High School District

Three trustees — Board President Shawneece Stevenson (Trustee Area E) and trustees Carrie Du Bois (Trustee Area B) and Rich Ginn (Trustee Area

C) — on the Sequoia Union High School District governing board are up for re-election in November.

The seats are broken down by district. Find out which district you belong to at [seq.org/ABOUT-US/Board-of-Trustees/Trustee-Areas-Border-Map/index.html](http://seq.org/ABOUT-US/Board-of-Trustees/Trustee-Areas-Border-Map/index.html).

#### Las Lomitas Elementary School District

In November, three of the five trustee positions (currently occupied by Trustees Jason Morimoto, Paige Winikoff and Laura Moon) will be up for election/re-election.

Two seats will have 4-year terms; one seat will have a 2-year term.

District employees can't serve on the board.

Superintendent Beth Polito hosted board candidate information sessions on May 29 and 30 for anyone interested in serving on the board. The recording can be accessed on the board webpage at [llesd.org/Board/Our-Board/index.html](http://llesd.org/Board/Our-Board/index.html).

Contact Polito at [bpolito@llesd.org](mailto:bpolito@llesd.org) for more information.

#### Menlo Park City School District

Two four-year seats will be open on the Menlo Park City School District Board of Trustees in the fall. Board President Francesa Segrè and Trustee David Ackerman are up for re-election.

For more information, please contact District Office staff at 650-321-7140.

#### Portola Valley School District

There are three four-year seats up for grabs on the Portola Valley School District's governing board in November. Robert Bauer, Gary Hanning and Kimberley Morris Rosen are up for re-election.

Contact Superintendent Roberta Zarea at [rzarea@pvsd.net](mailto:rzarea@pvsd.net) for more information.

#### Woodside Elementary School District

There are two four-year spots on the Woodside Elementary School District governing board this fall. Trustees Neil Sequeira and Dan Simon terms expire in December.

Contact Michelle Ahlstrom at [mahlstrom@woodsideschool.us](mailto:mahlstrom@woodsideschool.us) with any questions. ■



Olivia Treynor

Aurelie Harou drops off her ballot outside of Menlo Park City Hall in 2020.

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# Ladera Community Church affordable housing project makes progress

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Portola Valley's second multi-family affordable housing development is slowly progressing. On June 30, Ladera Community Church, at 3300 Alpine Road, received a 75% approval from church members to pass a resolution to move forward with negotiations with nonprofit Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity plans to build and fund the development.

The negotiation process between the church and Habitat is just getting started and will not be finalized for 12 to 18 months, said Habitat's Chief Executive Officer Maureen Sedonaen. The negotiation will involve conversations around maintaining the three sacred oak trees on the site and removing the land's entitlement from the town.

The affordable housing site will build six units in an open field to the left of the church, aiming to provide housing for families that work in Portola Valley's schools, the Ladera shopping center, The Sequoias



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The leadership of Ladera Community Church, at 3300 Alpine Road, are planning to build affordable housing onsite.

and for those who have a long commute to work in town. The town's first approved affordable housing project is Willow Commons, located at 4388 Alpine Road, and aims to address the housing shortage faced by people who need supported living options because of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Ladera Church's negotiation team is made up of four members of the church who have backgrounds in business and law, according to Karen Turner, a member of the church's Affordable Housing Task Force.

70 church members voted on the resolution with 53 voting yes, 12 voting no and five abstaining.

Turner expressed excitement about the resolution passing with "greater margins than needed," but also said there are church members who are opposing the development.

The contention stems from the church's Sharmila Montessori Preschool's plans to reach their maximum enrollment rate of 60 students. Opposing church members are worried about how the housing development will affect the parking when enrollment increases.

Despite some opposing views, the majority of the congregation supports the housing, as well as the town of Portola Valley, according to Turner. The plans for the development have already been approved by the town and are pending approval by the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

"We're looking to build a really sensible and thoughtful development that can go on this site. I think that for other churches, this is a really good model for how they might think

about partnering with Habitat and other nonprofit housing developers," said Sedonaen.

She looks forward to an affordable housing site being built in a town with nearby child care, a church community, and a resource rich environment for families to "plant roots" and live in Portola Valley for decades.

"We have been so blessed that we've had offers for help and I hope that continues," said Turner. "We are really looking forward to providing homes to working class families."

When the negotiation is finalized between Ladera Church and Habitat the agreement will be presented to the congregation. Two-thirds of the congregation needs to approve of the plan for it to go forward.

"We're hoping that things can turn out favorably for the church and for the community but there is a long row to hoe," said church moderator Mike Smith. ■

Email Staff Writer

Jennifer Yoshikoshi at

jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

## Kepler's Literary Foundation restarts reading series focused on local authors

By Eleanor Raab

After a two-year hiatus, the Kepler's Literary Foundation is restarting its "Story is the Thing" reading series, which highlights emerging writers from around the Bay Area. The first reimaged event, which will serve as a forum for local fiction authors to discuss storytelling and the

writing life with community members, will take place on Aug. 29.

Kepler's originally began putting on the event in 2017, but hasn't held an in-person local author feature event since February 2020.

Heather Birchall, the program manager for premier events at Kepler's Literary Foundation, helped get the "Story is the

Thing" program restarted. She is excited to see local authors back on Kepler's stage.

"The only reason the program lapsed was really due to a change in personnel," said Birchall. "But now we're ready to get started again championing some magnificent local authors that live right on our doorstep."

There will be four local

authors featured at the first installment of the reinvigorated reading series.

Katherine Lin, a Bay Area attorney and writer, will be discussing her debut novel "You Can't Stay Here Forever," which was released in June 2023. Author and former science journalist Claire Oshetsky, who penned the acclaimed novel "Chouette," will read from her most recent release, "Poor Deer." Susanne Pari, an Iranian-American writer whose work focuses on themes of displacement and belonging, will read from her latest novel, "In the Time of Our History." Zach Williams, a local author and lecturer at Stanford University, will discuss his short story collection, "Beautiful Days."

Birchall said that picking the featured authors is a collaborative process for the Kepler's staff.

"We have a conversation internally, and colleagues suggest authors that have written books recently which they have loved," said Birchall. "Our sales reps from the publishing houses also sometimes weigh in as they know about this series and which authors would do well on the stage. ... We like to have a mix of debut and more established authors."

Attendees at the events won't just listen to the authors speak, they will have the opportunity to speak with the authors and learn more about their work. There will be a reception starting at 6 p.m. for attendees to have a glass of wine and some snacks, and mingle with the authors, Birchall said.

Birchall says that this event is just the tip of the iceberg, and that Kepler's is excited to continue expanding its community programs.

"I think community outreach has been integral to Kepler's mission, and there have been many programs with local schools and libraries in the past," she said. "We are gradually building those programs back up again."

First event is 7 p.m. on Aug. 29 (reception at 6 p.m. before program); Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$15-20; keplers.org. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.



### CITY ADVISORY BODY CURRENT VACANCIES

The City has openings on several commissions and committees! Help examine issues of community concern and provide guidance to the City Council.

#### CURRENT ADVISORY BODY VACANCIES

- Housing – 1
- Library – 1
- Parks and Recreation – 2

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Apply by 5 p.m., Fri., Aug. 2
- Menlo Park resident
- Over 18 years of age
- Committed to attending scheduled meetings

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit [menlopark.gov/commissions](http://menlopark.gov/commissions)
- Email [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov)
- Call 650-330-6620

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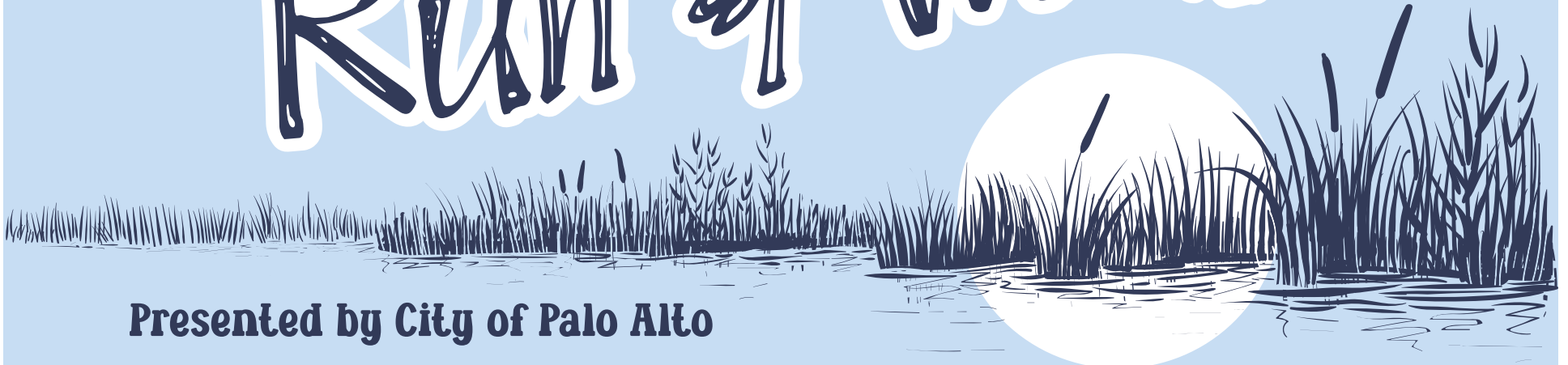
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*Palo Alto Weekly*

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**REGISTER [PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight-run/](https://PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight-run/)**

# Meet Menlo Park's new disaster preparedness coordinator, Brandon Bond

By Eleanor Raab

Emergency preparedness was identified as one of the Menlo Park City Council's top priorities for the year, and to achieve that goal, Menlo Park has created a new position to help the city develop a streamlined system to tackle emergencies and disasters.

The city's disaster preparedness coordinator is in charge of developing and reviewing disaster preparedness and response plans, coordinating emergency response between departments and helping the community stay informed and prepared, among other things.

Menlo Park chose Brandon Bond, a leading disaster preparedness professional with 25 years of experience helping companies and cities develop

maintain and implement emergency preparedness plans. Bond started in the role in May.

## Bond's background

Bond has worked as a disaster preparedness coordinator at several Bay Area companies. He was the director of the office of emergency management at Stanford Healthcare, and helped the hospital respond to disasters such as the Asiana Airlines crash. He also worked as Meta's Operational Solutions Manager.

Beyond just helping companies and cities prepare for disasters, Bond has an extensive history of responding to emergencies and disasters as a volunteer firefighter and member of state and federal disaster response teams.

He was on the scene helping people at the 2010 Haiti

earthquake as well as hurricanes Katrina, Ike, Maria, Irma and more. He has been a certified EMT since 1995, and served with the National Guard.

Additionally, he has served as a deputy team commander for the Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team, a federal disaster response team.

"I immediately became excited about the opportunity to develop a best-in-class emergency services program for the city of Menlo Park when I learned of the new opening," said Bond.

Bond himself is always prepared for an emergency. Even his dog knows what to do during a disaster. His dog Kylo, a 5-year-old Labrador retriever, is a FEMA-certified live-find disaster dog.

"He is trained to search collapsed structures and alert on



Courtesy Shelby Wise

Brandon Bond, Menlo Park's new disaster preparedness coordinator, with his dog Kylo, a FEMA-certified live-find disaster dog.

live human scent, which focuses rescue operations," said Bond. "(He) loves to work and spend time with the family."

Kylo isn't Bond's first search and rescue dog.

"My wife and I adopted a shelter dog, Max, who had some

aggression issues, and as we learned more about his challenges, we realized he needed a job to focus his energy positively," said Bond. "Given my background in fire and rescue,

See **BRANDON BOND**, page 14

# Local political leaders react to Trump assassination attempt

Bay Area and California elected officials expressed alarm after the former president was shot

By Glenn Gehlke / Bay City News Service

Bay Area and California political leaders expressed alarm after former President Donald J. Trump was shot and wounded at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13.

The FBI confirmed Saturday that the suspected shooter was killed by Secret Service agents. One

member of the crowd was fatally shot, and two were wounded.

The news of the assassination attempt reverberated across the nation, including in the Bay Area where political leaders took to social media with statements condemning the violence and sending prayers for Trump and those attending the rally.

"As one whose family has been the victim of political violence, I know firsthand that political

violence of any kind has no place in our society," said former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, whose husband was attacked by a conspiracy theorist with a hammer in their home in 2022.

"I thank God that former President Trump is safe," Pelosi said in a statement. "As we learn more details about this horrifying incident, let us pray that all those in attendance at the

former President's rally today are unharmed."

California Gov. Gavin Newsom echoed Pelosi.

"Violence has NO place in our democracy," Newsom, a Democrat, said in a statement. "My thoughts are with President Trump, and everyone impacted at the rally today."

"Political violence has no place in our democracy," U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, said in a statement. "I condemn this shooting, and am grateful for first responders, Secret Service and law enforcement."

"I wish former President Trump (and others shot) good health and a fast recovery," she said.

U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Santa Clara, said he was "absolutely appalled by the gunshots fired at Donald Trump."

"Violence is never acceptable in our democracy," Khanna said in a statement. "I pray he was not seriously hurt and for our deeply divided nation."

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, said he was "horrified by this apparent assassination attempt."

"There is no place for political violence in our democracy," Schiff said in a statement. "Absolutely none. Grateful for the swift response by law enforcement and Secret Service. Wishing President Trump a swift recovery."

U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, chairman of the Gun Violence Prevention Task

Force, said that while more information is needed, "one thing remains clear: Gun violence of any kind is unacceptable."

"I unequivocally condemn today's act of political violence against the former president, and I am grateful to hear he is safe," Thompson said in a press release. "My thoughts remain with the former president and those in attendance. I urge my colleagues who are speaking out in horror to join the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force in its efforts to pass the commonsense laws that help prevent these threats."

State Assemblymember Diane Papan, D-San Mateo, said she was "grateful for the rapid response of the public safety personnel today and deeply grieved for our nation at this moment."

"Political violence has no place in our democracy and I denounce it in the strongest of terms," she said in a statement. "The United States of America is the oldest democracy in the world, and we must maintain it through the ballot."

Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln, a Republican candidate for California's 9th Congressional District, said his "thoughts and prayers" were with Trump and his family.

"We extend our heartfelt support to him and his loved ones during this challenging time," Lincoln said in a statement. "May they find strength, comfort, and a swift recovery in the outpouring of well-wishes from across the nation." ■



## VACANTES ACTUALES DEL ÓRGANO CONSULTIVO DE LA CIUDAD

¡La Ciudad tiene vacantes en varias comisiones y comités! Ayude a examinar los problemas de interés de la comunidad y proporcionar orientación al Concejo Municipal.

### VACANTES ACTUALES DEL ÓRGANO CONSULTIVO

- Alojamiento – 1
- Biblioteca – 1
- Parques y Ocio – 2

### REQUISITOS DE ELEGIBILIDAD

- Aplicar antes de las 5 p. m., viernes 2 de agosto
- Debe ser residente en Menlo Park
- Mayor de 18 años
- Comprometido a asistir a las reuniones programadas

### PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

- Visite [menlopark.gov/commissions](http://menlopark.gov/commissions)
- Escriba a [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov)
- Llame al 650-330-6620

Desarrollando líderes dentro de la comunidad

# The Almanac takes home 8 state journalism awards

CNPA winners were announced during a ceremony on Saturday, July 13

By Embarcadero Media staff

The Almanac scored eight California Journalism awards, announced over the weekend at a ceremony in Los Angeles.

The statewide competition sponsored by the California News Publishers Association honors work published in 2023.

Reporter, now editor, Angela Swartz took home second place in the youth and education category for her series “Empty desks: Getting chronically absent students back to class is no easy feat.” Judges said: “Clear and thorough reporting on an important topic, with a strong variety of sources and perspectives. Reflects humanity as well as the bureaucratic and educational challenges involved.”

Former Visual Journalist Magali Gauthier won two awards. She landed second place in the photo story/essay category



Magali Gauthier

Attendees listen to council members speak about the housing plan at a City Council meeting in Atherton in 2023.

for “Menlo School’s flag football team is revved up to take the field” about the school’s new girls flag football team led by former San Francisco 49ers’ quarterback Steve Young. She

won third place in the news photo category for an image for the story “Atherton guts most of multifamily housing from plan it’s sending to state.”

“The photographer did a great

job focusing on the people who I assume are the most impacted or some of the most vocal of the group,” judges wrote. “The image is sharp and we can easily read the subject’s face.”

Lizzy Myers won two awards. One third place award for her photos taken for the 71st Woodside Junior Rodeo and a second place award for her feature photo in the story “Pre-K expansion, steady enrollment and facility upgrades: Here’s what’s happening at local schools this year.”

Abigail Van Neely won fourth place in the environmental reporting category for her story “Community organizations turn to rain gardens to prevent flooding in East Palo Alto.”

Judges commented that Neely explored “a fresh and fairly easy way to possibly head off flooding: rain gardens. Neely gives the pros and cons, shares the optimism and the skepticism of

this way to ‘maybe’ safeguard neighborhoods.”

The story “Terminated Meta content moderators worry about fake news flourishing in their absence,” by Malea Martin and Cameron Rebosio, won fifth place in the business category.

Rebosio and Swartz also won fifth place for their housing and land-use reporting.

In CNPA’s competition, which recognizes outstanding work to inform and enlighten their readers through reporting, design, photography and multimedia in print and online, The Almanac competed in the 4,301 to 11,000 print circulation division and/or 200,000-299,000 monthly unique visitors.

There were 2,964 entries submitted in the 2023 competition, according to CNPA. This was the first year that print and online entries were not separated.

View the full list of winners at [cnpa.com/2023-cja-contest](http://cnpa.com/2023-cja-contest). ■

## Local brewery hosts mini music festival benefitting Pets in Need

By Eleanor Raab

On July 13, 200 revelers and animal lovers showed up to the Loustock: Louchella music festival at Freewheel Brewing, a local craft brewery and live music hotspot, to listen to local music and support local animal shelter Pets in Need.

This is the fourth mini music festival organized at Freewheel by Lou Leon, a local musical artist. Each year, he names the event in honor of other famous music festivals. The yearly gatherings have been named Loustock, Louloupalooza, and this year, Louchella.

“I’ve been playing music at Freewheel for about 10 years in some form or another,” said Leon. “Then there was the pandemic, and in 2021 during the

recovery, when we finally started to move around and the restrictions were being lifted, I wanted to get all my musical friends together and let them have a day of playing music. So I organized them, got Freewheel on board and we had our first Loustock.”

The event, which lasted seven hours and featured eight artists, drew large crowds to the small brewery in Redwood City.

“I almost ran out of glassware,” said Freewheel Brewing General Manager Brian Ressler. “Good crowd and lots of libations.”

“The part that always catches me off guard is how long (the event) is but at the same time, over in a flash,” Leon said. “Lots of music, bands coming and going. I run the event like a Swiss train conductor.”

The lineup is chosen by Leon and composed of various local

bands and artists who played everything from country jams to This year, the lineup included Leon’s band, Scott Bell and the Cool Ranchers as well as the Pilgrims of Stoke, Roxy and Jonny, John Henry’s Farm, Ryann Barnes and Luna Brosamer, Pete Sommer and the Sommeritme Blues Band, Sean Lynch and Mark Whidden.

“Each year I try and do a little different line up, but truth be told, I recruit my friends,” said Leon “As I seek out the line up, I try to balance out between the new up-and-comers, who just need a shot to be heard, and some bands that are established local music scene friends who I will watch play all the time.”

Leon and Freewheel Brewing both have close ties to Pets in Need, so it was the natural choice for a charity to benefit.

“Our family has adopted animals and have worked with Pets in Need before,” said Leon. “When Brian (Ressler) and I were deciding on a benefit, his relationship with Pets in Need made it a quick decision. As for future benefits, I’d like to say we could help and be a partner where we can make a difference.”

Pets in Need, a local non-profit pet shelter that operates in Redwood City and Palo Alto, brought several animals in need of adoption to the event, and a portion of the proceeds from the festival were donated to the shelter.

Freewheel hosts several live music shows every week, and

Leon helps the brewery organize live music events for other holidays throughout the year. Ressler said that the brewery hosts live music every Friday and Saturday evening, and sometimes gets booked out for shows on Thursday nights during the summer.

“I’ve been very fortunate to have had a partnership with Freewheel,” said Leon. “For the


last 10 years, they’ve allowed me to have a residency of putting on the annual Halloween show called Skullfest in the fall and then I put together an Irish band to do the annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration in the spring. ... Freewheel has had domaine on the musical venue in this little hamlet.” ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at [eraab@almanacnews.com](mailto:eraab@almanacnews.com).



Courtesy Brian Ressler

Lou Leon (left), organizer of the Loustock: Louchella music festival, plays with his band Scott Bell and the Cool Ranchers at Freewheel Brewing on July 13.



**TOWN OF ATHERTON**

**NOTICE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that General Municipal Election will be held in the Town of Atherton, County of San Mateo, California, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, for the election of the following Officers:

**Two (2) Council Members for a term of four years.**

The filing period for nomination papers, candidate statements and related documents will be available in the Office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA, on Monday, July 15, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. The last date and time for the submission of nomination papers for the aforementioned offices is Friday, August 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. except that in the event an incumbent for any such office does not file nomination papers by that date and time, the period is extended for five days to Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. for said office.

The last day to register to vote in the election to be held November 5, 2024, is Monday, October 21, 2024 (EC §§331, 3500-01).

On Election Day the polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

/s/ Anthony Suber  
City Clerk  
Town of Atherton

Dated: June 21, 2024



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## Lucia E. Gegan

November 5, 1941 – July 12, 2024

Lucia E. Gegan, 82, of Menlo Park was a woman who brought sunshine and a love for the arts to everything she did, she passed away peacefully on July 12, 2024 with her brother Ron, sister Lillian, brother-in-law Joe, daughter Lauren, and dog Daisy, beside her. She was active up until the week before, going out to dinner and always having a glass of her favorite red wine.



Lucy's passion for art began early in her life. One of her first jobs was at the esteemed De Young Museum, where she was surrounded by beauty. Later, she and her husband, Michael, shared their love of art and history as docents at the stunning estate and gardens of Filoli.

Her professional life thrived at SRI International in Menlo Park, where she excelled as an executive assistant. And after work, she could usually be found basking in the sun at the back patio of Rossotti's with her colleagues, always engrossed in lively conversations and eagerly willing to debate with anyone who dared disagree with her until she'd won them over.

Adventure and love intertwined when she met Michael, while on an AYH trip. Their love story began with a ski date on the slopes of Alpine Meadows, and blossomed further when he proposed on a trip to Yosemite. Together they bought a home in Menlo Park, where they lived for 46 years. Their weekends were spent exploring all the local hiking trails, with her favorite being the trail around Lake Lagunita, at Stanford.

After graduating from San Francisco State University, with a degree in Art History, she embarked on a European adventure with her best friend Nancy, they even conquered the Half Dome hike together. And raised their daughters to have the same love of travel and discovery.

Holidays were a time when Lucy truly shined. Christmas was her masterpiece, filled with big parties hosted at our house in Menlo Park. She loved to create a festive atmosphere, complete with exquisite dinnerware and dazzling decorations. Fashion was another canvas for Lucy's creativity. She possessed an uncanny ability to dress impeccably for any occasion. She loved to dance, often twirling with Michael to the music at Bistro Vida or Left Bank on Saturdays. And Sundays were filled with song, as her voice was always heard at Nativity church singing hymns.

Lucia's life was deeply rooted in her San Francisco upbringing. Growing up in the Sunset District with her older brother Ron and younger sister Lillian, she loved spending time in Golden Gate Park. The California Academy of Sciences, the Japanese Tea Garden, and the paddleboats of Stow Lake were all her happy places. Lunch dates with girlfriends at Cliff House and shopping sprees culminating in a luxurious lunch at Neiman Marcus with Beryl and Jane were cherished traditions.

Lucy's legacy is a tapestry woven with a love for art, a thirst for adventure, a passion for hosting, and an unwavering love for family and friends. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made in Lucia's name and mailed to Nativity Church: 210 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

PAID OBITUARY

## BRANDON BOND

continued from page 10

search and rescue seemed to be a natural fit. We were fortunate to have strong mentors and K9 Max became a certified Wilderness Search and Rescue dog. He participated in over 50 searches in California to save lives and bring closure to families."

### Disaster preparedness goals

Bond said that his preparedness goals for the city involve a lot of face-to-face interaction,

and stressed that the best thing Menlo Park residents can do to be prepared for any emergency or disaster is to be community oriented, and get to know their neighbors.

"It's important to recognize that all disasters are local and goals are driven by the community," he said. "This means ensuring communities are prepared to help support each other, neighbors helping neighbors. The more we can focus on whole-community resilience, the more prepared Menlo Park will be for a major disaster."

Bond suggested that Menlo

Park residents who want to become involved in community disaster preparedness can sign up for a free disaster training through Menlo Park Fire District's Community Emergency Response Team at [menlofirecert.com](http://menlofirecert.com), or by getting involved with MPCReady, a volunteer-based nonprofit organization dedicated to building neighborhood-level disaster resilience in Menlo Park.

"Take action, get to know your neighbors, have basic emergency supplies available," he said. "Preparedness starts with you."

Though Menlo Park has not experienced many major natural disasters, there are several risk factors within the city that Bond wants to help the residents and city staff prepare for. Some of these risks will only become more extreme as the climate changes.

"(Menlo Park) sits along the San Andreas Fault and parallel to the Hayward Fault, which presents the risk of major earthquakes," he said. "In addition, the Sharon Heights community is within a wildland-urban interface — which means a risk of wildfire — and the Belle Haven community is at risk of flooding and sea rise. We have also experienced the impacts of climate change that bring extreme heat and atmospheric rivers."

Menlo Park is also in the process of reviewing and adopting its new safety element, the part of the city's general plan that identifies risks in the community and potential strategies for mitigation. Bond's disaster expertise will help the city implement these plans and ensure that the city of Menlo Park is ready for anything.

"I am honored and excited to work with all the people in the community of Menlo Park to become better prepared to respond to and recover from potential disasters," said Bond.

Menlo Park residents can learn more about disaster preparedness at San Mateo County's upcoming 20th Annual Disaster Preparedness Day on Aug. 3. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at [eraab@almanacnews.com](mailto:eraab@almanacnews.com).

## Robert L. Katz

January 8, 1926 – June 30, 2024

Robert L. Katz, a lifelong Bay Area resident, World War II veteran, university professor, business executive and environmental leader, died peacefully on June 30, 2024. He was 98 years old.

A fourth generation Californian, Bob was born January 8, 1926 in San Francisco. He attended Montezuma School for Boys, UC Berkeley, Stanford and Harvard. While at Cal he enrolled in Naval ROTC and after graduation served as an officer in the Pacific during WWII.

In 1953 he married Susan Goldsmith of San Francisco. The couple moved east as Bob taught in the graduate schools of business at Dartmouth and Harvard before returning back home to teach at Stanford. He authored several business text books and articles including a Harvard Business School Classic "Skills of an Effective Administrator". He was a favorite speaker for the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) and provided leadership to corporations worldwide such as Petro-Lewis, Newell Brands and Pratt Industries.

With a lifelong love and appreciation for ecology and conservation, Bob moved his family to Portola Valley in 1959 for its natural beauty and proximity to Stanford. He was on the organizing committee to incorporate the Town to protect against rapid unchecked growth. After incorporation he served as Chairman of the Town's first Planning Commission.

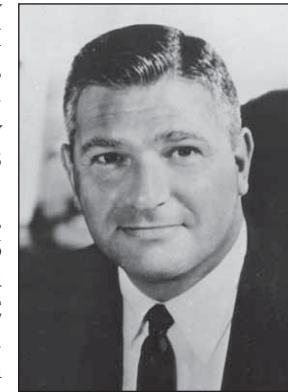
He also served as President and CEO of US Natural Resources Inc., a subsidiary of which ran the concession operations for Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Under Bob's leadership, a number of important conservation and preservation undertakings were completed in Yosemite Valley, including limiting car traffic, the introduction of propane buses, and transforming paved roads to hiking trails.

Bob was involved with many environmental organizations and nonprofit boards which included the Board of Trustees for the California State Parks system, Sempervirens Fund and BUILD.

Bob loved family, friends and community. He was an avid golfer and member at Sharon Heights and Stanford Golf Clubs. He also took great pleasure in skiing, backpacking, fly fishing, horseback riding and especially traveling with family.

He was married to Susan for 44 years until her death in 1997, and is survived by three sons: Andrew (Nancy) of Portola Valley, Peter (Meg Marks) of Menlo Park and Jeffrey (Maureen Weingeist) of San Antonio, Texas; nine grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Any donations in Bob's name may be made to your favorite charity.



PAID OBITUARY

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# East Palo Alto teacher creates middle school tutoring program to tackle education gaps

High school peer tutors work to bridge the student-teacher disconnect

By Lisa Moreno

In 2020, Harriette Huang left behind an engineering and tech-related career to become a teacher in East Palo Alto's Ravenswood City School District, where her goal was to minimize education gaps between Ravenswood schools and schools just outside the city.

But she quickly realized that students might benefit from working with a different kind of teacher, one who might relate to them a little better — their peers.

"High schoolers definitely have a big advantage when connecting with students," Huang

said. "Students don't have that same trust with adults, the people that bring in punishment and discipline."

Huang, now a math teacher at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School, took that philosophy and created an after-school tutoring program connecting her students to peer student tutors in Palo Alto in an effort to increase math and English proficiency levels in the district, and in just a year's time, she says some students have increased grades by as much as two letters.

According to recent state test scores, a little over 10% of Ravenswood middle school students were proficient in English

and about 5% in math.

In the neighboring Palo Alto Unified School District, students were over 80% proficient in English and over 70% in math.

Huang said her dream is that all of her students who want and need tutoring can have easy access to it.

"When I observe my students, I see students who are just waiting to put in hard work."

Huang started seeking high school volunteers from Palo Alto schools last year and currently has 15 tutors.

Every Saturday, she graded school work, assessed scores, coordinated with the high schoolers and then paired

students with tutors for a Sunday night Zoom session. So far, some students have gone from Fs to Cs and even Bs, she said.

But aside from grading, Huang has noticed a difference in student morale.

"I saw much more motivation, much more confidence," she said.

Jason Luo, rising Gunn High School senior and student-lead for the tutoring group, said students benefit most from one-on-one tutoring.

"Making personal relationships will inspire the students to succeed even more," he said.

Because he only has one year left in high school, Luo hopes

to lay a good foundation for the program to continue by gathering more tutors and planning social events for students to meet tutors.

The East Palo Alto tutoring group mainly recruits volunteers through word of mouth, but Luo recently created a website and social media page to spread the word about their work.

Particularly as math education wanes across the country, Huang said, there is a major local demand for tech workers — where Huang sees opportunity for her students.

"You have more job openings than people qualified," she said.

But with time, Huang said, she hopes East Palo Alto Tutors can create a butterfly effect of success. ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at [lmoreno@almanacnews.com](mailto:lmoreno@almanacnews.com).

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Jean Emanuelson Dugan**, 94, a beloved longtime resident of Palo Alto, who was an accomplished vocalist teaching classical and opera singing in her home for over 50 years, who performed with the Palo Alto West Bay Opera and Palo Alto Singers Forum, and who was a dedicated member of Our Lady of the Rosary Church Choir for over 30 years, and who was known for her love of singing at family weddings. She died on June 27.

**Myrtle C. Carey**, 97, of Portola Valley, who was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and community volunteer, who served as a secretary at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and later as an office manager for Weidlinger Associates, and who was deeply involved with the Ladera Community Church and local art leagues, died on July 11 surrounded by her family and close friends. She pursued watercolor painting in retirement, participating in the Palo Alto Writers Workshop, Peninsula Outdoor Painters, Menlo and Ladera Art Leagues, and the Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society, with many of her works featured in local shows and private collections.

**Mary Agnes Early (Valentine)**, 100, a beloved longtime resident of Palo Alto, who was a gifted artist, dedicated homemaker, and devout Catholic, died on July 10. Born on December 25, 1923, in Logan, West Virginia, Mary Agnes studied at Parson's School of Design and earned a Bachelor

of Arts at St. Mary of the Woods College. She later studied Occupational Therapy at Ohio State University, where she met her husband, James M. Early, a pioneer in the semiconductor industry. They shared a partnership that lasted 55 years until his passing in 2004.

**Rosemary V. Alguard**, 79, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt, who died on July 4 at her home in Palo Alto with her husband Mark and dog Jack-O by her side, who had a kind heart, beautiful smile, wit, boundless curiosity, and love, was born in Surrey, England on Oct. 17, 1944, in the final months of the war. She pursued life experiences abroad before settling in Palo Alto, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech pathology and enjoyed a 20+ year career as a speech therapist. Rosemary discovered a passion for biking at 46, leading to many adventures, including completing the Davis Double Century Ride. She later joined a senior center hiking club, enjoying the outdoors with new friends. She appreciated good food and wine, hiking, biking, traveling, and cherished time with her family and friends.

**Karen Jacobsen Mora**, 78, of Menlo Park, who died on June 5, after battling a long illness, who was known for her bold intellect, love of nature, and

outgoing personality, was a cherished member of St. Athanasius Catholic Church and a longtime 49ers fan. She had a fondness for good food, selecting the sweetest strawberries and sharing her cherished Italian olive oil. An adroit stock picker, she generously shared her insights. Karen's unfailing generosity to those in need will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

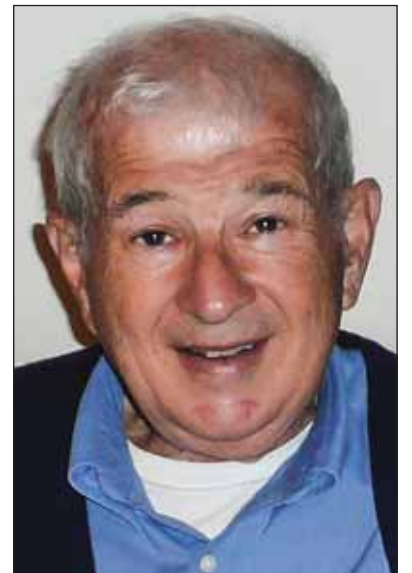
**Ursula Moore**, 101, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, who died on May 21 at her home where she resided for 74 years. She was born in Breslau, Germany, where she fled the Nazis in 1938, settling in Berkeley, where she graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA and a master's in psychiatric social work. She met her husband, Ernest J. Moore, at UC's International House. They moved to Maryland during WWII, where Ernest joined the US army and Ursula became a Red Cross driver. After the war, they settled in Palo Alto and raised a family. Ursula lectured at the Stanford University Child Psychiatry Clinic and worked in private practice until age 95. A life-long Democrat and member of the League of Women Voters, Ursula was a true matriarch with a fierce moral compass.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to [LastingMemories.atAlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://LastingMemories.atAlmanacNews.com/obituaries). ■

## Morris Brown

November 27, 1938 – February 2, 2024

Morris Brown was a scientist, entrepreneur, aviator and community activist. As a young boy in Bremen, Indiana, Morris showed the determination and curiosity which he would carry with him throughout his life. He built his own radios and loudspeakers and is remembered to have once pointed to the moon and said "I'm going to fly there one day." His rigorous academic determination earned him a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in three



years, a Master's of Science from the University of Wisconsin the following year, and a PhD in chemistry from Stanford just two years later, in 1962. He continued his research in organic chemistry at Harvard, working with Nobel Laureate Robert Woodward, and went on to teach briefly at Caltech. While at Caltech, he obtained his pilot's license and met his wife Denise. Returning to Menlo Park, where he would reside for over 50 years, Morris worked briefly in the pharmaceutical industry before launching the avionics company Moavco, channeling his passions for flying and electronics into a business housed at the San Carlos Airport. In the early 1980s, Morris bought an original IBM PC and taught himself how to program. Moavco slowly transitioned into a small computer consulting business and moved to downtown Menlo Park. Morris was an avid ham radio enthusiast, known by his callsign N6DJM and, later, W6NP. In retirement, Morris was known as a champion of local civic causes and focused his energies on sensible development and reducing government waste. In the late 2000s and early 2010s, he became a vocal opponent of California's high-speed rail project, which he considered to be a boondoggle destined for failure. In 2022, to be closer to family, he moved to Santa Barbara where he passed away peacefully in his favorite chair on February 2 at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife Denise, his sons Frank and Benjamin, his grandchildren Jacob, Liam, Gena and Yuna, and his siblings Lewis, Harriet, and Enid.

PAID OBITUARY

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Courtesy of Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory

Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory campers rehearsing for "Shrek the Musical."

## SUMMER CAMP

*continued from page 5*

involved in one show but PVTC's Executive Director Noëlle Gibbs said "the community building across generations" has been a part of the company's history for a long time.

Zdeblick adds that PVTC's summer camp is creating strong intergenerational bonds in campers between 4-years-old through graduating high school seniors. Campers and staff say that PVTC is a family.

"I feel like [PVTC] became a second home to me," said 15-year-old Avery who plays the Gingerbread man. This is her eighth summer at PVTC.

Children are finding a passion for theater and acting through their experiences at PVTC's summer camp and many say they want to pursue acting when they're older.

Avery's character as the Gingerbread Man calls for a high pitched voice. "I get to experience different voices and characteristics," she said. She hopes to act in theater when she's older and is already aware of the difficulties getting into the industry.

Zdeblick has been working at PVTC since 2014 and has had the pleasure of seeing young children transform into confident people and performers.

Eighth grader Theo is one camper who grew from being timid to a now confident aspiring comedic actor. "I was really shy and hid under chairs," said Theo, who started PVTC summer camp when he was in the first grade. He said through the support of the camp's community he started to feel more comfortable

and began to really enjoy acting and theater.

His confidence shows as he tackles the two roles of Lord Farquaad's father and a guard in "Shrek the Musical."

Along with putting together a production, students are also gaining skills in storytelling, music knowledge, design, and acting techniques. Part of a camp day involves rotating through workshops to learn about different aspects of theater. Campers also participate in team building games, warm-ups and "centering time" where children learn about the importance of taking care of their mind, body and health.

Students audition and get assigned their roles for the summer production before camp begins.

"I was very honored that they trusted me with the main role," said 18-year-old Johnny who plays Shrek. He has been at PVTC since 2018 and said the company's inclusivity is one aspect that he appreciates the most.

As a graduating senior, Johnny will be leaving for Hampshire College in Massachusetts to pursue dance but said he might be back at PVTC next summer. Many of the theater company's alumni return as teachers, volunteers and hold workshops for camp, said Gibbs.

Older campers like Johnny serve as role models for younger children who simply appreciate being in the same spaces as them. He said the little ones would always be following 18-year-old Sofia who plays the main role of Fiona.

"What I saw offstage was just so much love from the high schoolers with those smallest

campers, letting them sit on their laps and helping them with music rehearsals," said Gibbs.

Alice, 4, who stars as a walking tree said her favorite part of her role is "getting hugged by Fiona."

The final week of camp ended with four successful showings from Thursday, July 11, through Saturday, July 13.

### Handing off the baton to a new executive director

This summer camp will be the last for Gibbs in her position as executive director as she hands off the position to Maddie N. Zdeblick in September. Gibbs said she will still be on the PVTC board and hopes to be involved as an advisor, teacher, director and writer.

Gibbs took over as executive director in 2015 from her mother Cheryl Goodman-Morris who founded PVTC in 1994. This new transition is the first time that the executive position will be in the hands of someone outside of the family, but Gibbs said her family has known Zdeblick since she was 15 and "couldn't be happier that she wanted this role."

Gibbs had been working at PVTC since 2007 and has been involved with her mother's theater company since she was 8 years old. The community value of PVTC truly shines when Gibbs told *The Almanac* that she maintains friendships with people that she met at PVTC when she was 8 across all ages.

"I always tell people that once they've done one thing at PVTC they're always part of the community, so I think that's something that sets us apart from other theater companies locally," said Gibbs.



Photos courtesy Chip Krauskopf

14-year-old Avery, above, plays the Gingerbread Man and 18-year-old Johnny Clark, top, stars as Shrek in Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory's summer camp production of "Shrek the Musical."

Zdeblick has a Ph.D. in education from the University of Washington and carries a passion for disability justice in theater. She grew up with an older brother who has cerebral palsy and said she often felt embarrassed by his loud screams of enjoyment when she would perform in school theater. Zdeblick came to understand that theater was flawed and lacked inclusivity for people with disabilities to enjoy and participate in the arts.

In 2015, she spearheaded the implementation of access previews that are open to all types of audience members. This special set is during the day, is a more relaxed performance, has softer lighting and aims to provide a non-judgmental space for the audience to enjoy the show.

Zdeblick believes in "creating spaces where everyone belongs." She said that younger children are also beginning to understand the importance of inclusivity with the implementation of access previews and accessible theater.

"I'm just really excited [PVTC's] going to continue in the community," said Gibbs. "I'm looking forward to seeing the partnerships [Zdeblick develops and the faces she brings to the community that maybe haven't traditionally been able to be part of what we do. This is truly a place where people can be their full selves and I think that's a niche that we want to keep cultivating." ■

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

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Pottery workshops at Menlo-Atherton High School**

Menlo-Atherton High School, at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton, is hosting a series of pottery workshops this summer. One-day workshops will be held on July 27 and Aug. 3 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The class on July 27 will focus on mug making but is sold out. Spaces are still open for Aug. 3 where participants will learn how to make decorative wind chimes. Classes are \$85 per person and will be held at M-A High School.

M-A is also offering two sessions of three-day wheel throwing workshops for \$350 per person. The first session will be from July 23-25 from 10 a.m.-noon. The second session will be from July 25- Aug. 1 from 10 a.m.-noon.

These workshops will teach participants the basics of using a pottery wheel as well as finish the session with a project that is fired in the kiln and glazed. Finished projects will be available for pickup after two to three weeks.

All workshops are open for beginners and are appropriate for 12 years and older. If children are under 18, an adult must accompany them. Sign up for workshops online at [tinyurl.com/mapottery](http://tinyurl.com/mapottery) or email [mapotteryworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:mapotteryworkshops@gmail.com).

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

**Menlo Park seeks applicants for city commissions**

If you are considering applying for a spot on a city commission in Menlo Park, now is the time. There are currently two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission, one vacancy on the Library Commission and one vacancy on the Housing Commission.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age or older, and reside in Menlo Park. The specific time requirements will vary by committee, but applicants must be committed to attending one scheduled monthly meeting.

Learn more about each commission at [menlopark.gov/government/](http://menlopark.gov/government/)

commissions-and-committees.

Interested applicants can complete the application form at [menlopark.gov/government/commissions-and-committees](http://menlopark.gov/government/commissions-and-committees), or request a paper application from City Clerk Judi Herren by email, [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov), or phone, 650-330-6612.

**Environmental nonprofit Acterra acquires Sustainable Silicon Valley**

Environmental nonprofit Acterra, which is based in Palo Alto and focuses on local solutions to environmental challenges, has acquired nonprofit “think and do tank” Sustainable Silicon Valley, which focuses on water and air quality in the Bay Area.

“The combination of Acterra and SSV will enable the organizations to mutually reinforce each other’s work, greatly amplifying their capacity to serve the Bay Area residents and drive positive change on a broader scale,” says a July 8 press release from Acterra.

“We are thrilled to welcome Sustainable Silicon Valley into Acterra,” said Lauren Weston, executive director at Acterra in the press release. “This acquisition not only expands our reach but also deepens our expertise and resources in water, air pollution, transportation and policy. Together, we are better positioned to address the pressing needs facing our communities of service, all while creating lasting social and environmental impact.”

— Eleanor Raab

**La Honda Flea Market, July 21**

From 9 a.m.-4 p.m. the La Honda Fire Brigade will hold a flea market on the field next to the fire station, at 8945 La Honda Road in La Honda, with local vendors.

Sellers: \$25 for a space at the market. To be on wait list if there are cancellations, contact [pat.ocoffey@lahondafire.org](mailto:pat.ocoffey@lahondafire.org).

Admission is free.

— Angela Swartz

## Menlo Park updates its recreation scholarship policy

By Eleanor Raab

At its meeting on Tuesday, July 9, the Menlo Park City Council approved, as a consent agenda item, updates to the city’s recreational scholarship policy to clarify eligibility criteria and make the document easier for residents to understand. Since April 2021, Menlo Park has provided need-based recreation scholarships to low-income residents to help reduce barriers to participation in recreational activities in the city.

Updates included clarifying that only residents of Menlo Park are eligible for the scholarships, adding criteria to determine the level of discounts that residents are eligible for and listing all facilities that provide recreation scholarship-applicable programs.

These facilities include the Arrillaga Family Recreation

Center, the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium, the Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, the Belle Haven Community Campus and the Menlo Park Library.

Among other updates, aquatics programs and summer camps, which were previously excluded from scholarship eligibility, have been removed from the exclusions list in order to facilitate the possibility of expanding city recreation scholarships to cover these programs at a later time. Exclusions still apply to facility, field, court and park rentals, as well as senior center programs and child care or afterschool programs.

Eligibility for recreation scholarships are determined through enrollment in another income-based subsidy program such as Menlo Park Municipal Water’s reduced rate program, Cal Water’s Customer Assistance Program, PG&E’s

CARE program or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Menlo Park residents may qualify for discounts of 50% off of resident registration fees for most recreational programs. If a program is particularly expensive, with registration fees that are significantly higher than the average program fee, residents may qualify for scholarships of up to 75% off.

According to Menlo Park’s recreation catalog, resident registration fees for city-run recreational programs include \$370 for a season of youth aerial silks classes, \$354 for a season of youth tennis instruction and \$465 for a season of youth piano instruction. Gymnastics classes range from \$112 to \$160 for the summer season at full resident price.

According to a city staff report, there were only 24 total recreation scholarships provided in fiscal year 2023-24, all of which

were for the gymnastics program. With an average of \$80 reduction in fees per scholarship, this only cost the city \$1,915 in fees for this previous fiscal year.

Menlo Park staff increased promotion of the scholarship program in anticipation of the opening of the new Belle Haven Community Campus, hoping that more eligible residents would enroll in the program. According to a staff report, city staff estimate that participation in the program could potentially increase to a high of 100 participants.

The staff report states that this program is not anticipated to have a significant effect on the city’s operating budget. At max enrollment, the program is likely to result in the city collecting about \$30,000 less per year in registration fees for city-run recreational programs. The most recently adopted budget anticipates collection of \$1.67 million in total revenue from recreation registration fees across all city facilities. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at [eraab@almanacnews.com](mailto:eraab@almanacnews.com).

**HORSES**

continued from page 1

to win a medal.”

Laura Kraut returns to jumping for Team USA after winning silver in the Tokyo Olympics four years ago. This time around she’ll be riding Baloutinue, a 14-year-old bay Hanoverian gelding owned by former Woodside resident Barb Roux.

Like Ostby, Roux has competed at the amateur level and breeds horses at her barn, St. Bride’s Farm in Upperville, Virginia.

Dressage rider Akiko

Yamazaki of Woodside and Four Winds Farm owns high performance dressage horses, including Suppenkasper, a bay gelding Dutch Warmblood born in 2008. That’s the same year Yamazaki started sponsoring Steffen Peters in international dressage competitions on her horses. He won a silver for the US Dressage Team at the Tokyo Olympics and this summer hopes to come home a winner on Suppenkasper.

Another Woodside rider and horse owner, Karie Thomson, and her husband David, a New Zealander, are also thrilled

to be traveling to France to watch their horse compete. Their Dutch-bred 12-year-old bay mare will be eventing for Team New Zealand.

These Games will be Jonelle Price’s fourth and she is excited to be riding Hiarado, whom she calls “gutsy, determined, feisty and strong-willed.”

Olympics.com has the schedule for all of the events, with eventing starting on July 27, dressage on July 31, and jumping on Aug. 1. ■

Kate Daly is a Contributing Writer.

## Public Notices

AMIGAS FOOD TRUCK  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297826

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

1.) AMIGAS FOOD TRUCK, located at 326 Shaw Rd., South San Francisco, CA 94080. Mailing Address: 10 S. Magnolia Ave. # 2 Millbrae, CA 94030.

Registered owner(s):  
SHARON MARIANA VELASQUEZ QUIROA  
10 S. Magnolia Ave. # 2  
Millbrae, CA 94030

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 June 28, 2024. (ALM Jul 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

PROAM SPORTS  
RAD ATHLETICS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297832

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

1.) PROAM SPORTS, 2.) RAD ATHLETICS, located at 2196 QUEENS LANE, SAN MATEO, CA 94402. Mailing Address: 205 De Anza Blvd #16, San Mateo, CA 94402.

Registered owner(s):  
ALFRED SHIGEMI MURANAGA  
2196 QUEENS LANE  
SAN MATEO, CA 94402

This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/1997.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 01, 2024. (ALM Jul 12, 19, 26 and Aug 2, 2024)

LEGALEASE PARALEGAL SERVICES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297829

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

1.) LEGALEASE PARALEGAL SERVICES, located at 888 N. San Mateo Dr., APT #A424, SAN MATEO, CA 94401.

Registered owner(s):  
INGRID FABIOLA MOSCOSO ROJAS  
888 N. San Mateo Dr. Apt #A424  
SAN MATEO, CA 94401

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 June 28, 2024. (ALM Jul 12, 19, 26 and Aug 2, 2024)

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# Viewpoint

IDEAS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### Continued 'broadcast spraying' in San Mateo County

Despite promises from the Board of Supervisors, Caltrans has continued its broadcast spraying of pesticides around La Honda and the Coastside — thus endangering our watersheds and health. There is no reason to continue doing this when there are viable alternatives — such as mowing. I would like to see real action from the BOS instead of lip-service.

Lynnette Vega  
Pope Road, La Honda

### Unexplained departure of San Mateo County Undersheriff Chris Hsiung

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent departure of Undersheriff Chris Hsiung and the announcement of a change in strategic direction at the sheriff's office. This move is troubling and raises questions about what led to this decision, and what the new strategy is.

When Sheriff (Christina) Corpus took office, she promised transparency and a change in culture. The unexplained and abrupt departure of the undersheriff, a nationally recognized expert who had been brought in to promote a culture of positive policing, was not handled transparently. This undermines public confidence in

our law enforcement leadership and creates uncertainty within the organization.

Such changes, implemented with no notice or explanation, may create risks to public safety. The community needs to know what the new strategy is and why it changed. Transparency and accountability are essential to restoring public trust and ensuring that our law enforcement can effectively serve and protect our community.

Jim Lawrence, Board Chair,  
Fixin' San Mateo County

Send your letters (less than 300 words) to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

## Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival & Institute

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## A French revolution: *Music@Menlo's Gallic-themed festival gets underway*

Among the festival's many concerts, co-artistic director Wu Han will step in for a performance with soprano Erika Baikoff

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

**M**usic@Menlo artistic directors Wu Han and David Finckel begin planning the annual summer chamber music festival, set to start July 19 on the campus of Menlo School in Atherton, two years in advance. The three-week musical extravaganza, now in its 22nd season, involves myriad decisions about schedules, programs, repertoire and the hiring of dozens of musicians. But even the most careful advance planning can go awry when the unexpected, in the form of a musician's departure, happens.

Renowned pianist Ken Noda was scheduled to perform with soprano Erika Baikoff in one of the Carte Blanche Concerts. According to Wu Han, these afternoon concerts were created, "to give our extraordinary artists a bit of breathing room to create their own programs which somehow fit into a Menlo festival." When Noda had to cancel earlier this

spring, Wu Han calmly sprang into action.

"Fortunately, there is a lot of talent around and our Rolodex is full of artists qualified to step into any role." Why then did she decide to take on the position herself?

"I guess you could say I was a bit selfish because I adore this repertoire and to have the chance to even be in the same room with Erika when she opens her mouth to sing is like going to heaven."

The theme of this year's festival is "French Reflections" and includes examples of French chamber music as well as music from other European countries that were influenced by French culture. The Aug. 4 Carte Blanche concert will have Wu Han and Baikoff performing works by Debussy, Bizet and Saint-Saens.

What is the thought process when there is a late change of performers? Wu Han emphasized that the program, as listed in the printed brochure, has



Courtesy Alex Irvin

Music@Menlo co-founders and artistic directors David Finckel and Wu Han.

not changed. "Erika's choices were perfect from the start," she said.

For her part, Baikoff explained how important the role of the accompanist is to a singer. "Without the pianist, there would be no harmony, so we really depend on our partner to help us build a multi-dimensional sound world that embraces the audience."

Baikoff has performed numerous times at Music@Menlo and explained why she enjoys returning. "First and foremost, I enjoy making music with the inspiring musicians that gather here each summer. Every artist that comes to perform at Menlo is not only an accomplished soloist, but also an innovative and creative collaborator,

open to new musical ideas and interpretations." She added that she loves the diversity of repertoire that Wu Han and Finckel select.

Wu Han explained that she is not worried about stepping into the accompanist role rather late in the game. "A musician has to be able to adapt themselves to produce at the schedule the world throws at them," she said.

She and Baikoff will begin rehearsing once they are both in California. Baikoff, who majored in French Language and Culture as an undergraduate, said she hopes that the audience "will walk away with inspiration for introspection and creativity, and a stronger sense of human connection."

Wu Han and Finckel, who

have been married since 1985, are both highly regarded performers and educators. In addition to founding and directing Music@Menlo, they are also artistic directors of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York City, where they live. They decided to explore establishing a festival on the West Coast and, thanks to some local connections, everything fell into place when they entered into a contract with Menlo School. Musicians stay in the dormitories and classrooms are used as rehearsal spaces. The larger concerts are held in the Spieker Center for the Arts.

The arrangement has been advantageous to both parties,

See **MUSIC@MENLO**, page 21



Courtesy Dario Acosta

Soprano Erika Baikoff performs at Music@Menlo with Wu Han, the festival's co-artistic director, in a concert on Aug. 4.



Courtesy Music@Menlo

Pianist Wu Han is Music@Menlo's co-founder and artistic director.

## MUSIC@MENLO

continued from page 20

as the festival utilizes the quiet campus during the summer months and Menlo School students benefit from an annual Winter Residency program that brings classical music into the classrooms.

Music@Menlo has grown and expanded over the 22 years but Wu Han said that the original objectives have not changed.

"As artists and performers, we only think about artistic excellence. When we first became presenters, back in the late 1990s, we didn't know any other way to do it than to mimic our personal artistic methods. So, Music@Menlo has been about quality first, quality second and quality third, and it seems to work."

When asked about her hopes for the future of the festival, Wu Han seemed to indicate that there is an inexhaustible well of inspiration.

"There is so much great music to experience for the first time, as well as repeatedly, we will never run out. On top of that, like athletes, artists in droves are breaking new artistic records in terms of virtuosity, enthusiasm and interpretational skill. We have an abundance of product. The music itself is free to us to use. There is no reason Music@

**'There is so much great music to experience for the first time, as well as repeatedly, we will never run out.'**

WU HAN - MUSIC@MENLO'S  
CO-FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Menlo, like so many cultural institutions founded on great principles, cannot continue to evolve long into the future." ■

*Email Contributing Writer  
Sheryl Nonnenberg at  
nonnenberg@aol.com.*

The 2024 Music@Menlo festival highlights French music with the theme, "French Reflections." The festival runs July 19-Aug. 10 at Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Music@Menlo also offers livestream options. Erika Baikoff and Wu Han perform Aug. 4, 4 p.m., tickets are \$85 general admission/\$25 for under audience members under 30.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit [musicatmenlo.org](http://musicatmenlo.org) or [tickets@musicatmenlo.org](mailto:tickets@musicatmenlo.org)

# Worth a Look



Courtesy Peninsula Lively Arts

Chitresh Das Dance Institute will perform on July 21 as part of the Peninsula International Dance Festival taking place in San Mateo.

## Peninsula International Dance Festival

Catch more than 250 dancers and musicians, with guest artists representing more than 20 Bay Area dance companies, performing in Peninsula Lively Arts' Peninsula International Dance Festival. Over the course of the weekend, audiences can view performances in a wide range of traditional styles from all across the globe (see online program for each day's complete lineup), with participants including Antara Asthaayi Dance, Ballet Nlolo Kongo, The Minoan Dancers, Feng Ye Dance, Halau O Keikiali'i / Kaululehua Hawaiian Cultural Center, Peru Expressions, Ensembles Ballet Folklorico de San Francisco, Peninsula Ballet Theatre and more, with an opening welcome from Association of Ramaytush Ohlone.

July 20 at 7 p.m. and July 21 at 2 p.m., San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware St. San Mateo; \$39-\$69; [peninsulalivelyarts.org/pdf](http://peninsulalivelyarts.org/pdf).

### Anat Cohen

Clarinetist and tenor saxophonist Anat Cohen has become a favorite at the Stanford Jazz Festival over the years for her joyful style, impressive skills and mix of global influences. This time around, she's bringing her bass clarinet and her Quartetinho (featuring Vitor Gonçalves on piano and accordion, Tal Mashiach on bass and guitar and James Shipp on vibraphone and percussion) for an intimate, chamber-style concert with Brazilian jazz influences, including compositions by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Egberto Gismonti. "Everyone contributes some original music, and everyone has an affinity for Brazilian music, but with open space for improvisation and more folkloric sounds," she states on the festival's website.

July 20, 7:30 p.m., Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford; \$12-\$62 depending on membership and ticket type; [stanfordjazz.org](http://stanfordjazz.org).

### Old 97's with Kimmi Bitter

Long-running (since 1992) alt-country and pop-rock group Old 97's, headed by lead singer and primary songwriter Rhett Miller, may be best known for its 1999 hit "Murder (Or a Heart Attack)" and has released 13 albums including this year's "American Primitive." Opening for the band at its Menlo Park show will be San Diego's Kimmi Bitter, whose style emulates classic country and retro, '60s-style sounds and who's drawn comparisons to Patsy Cline and Nancy Sinatra. Her album, the nostalgic "Old School" was also released in 2024.

July 20, 8 p.m., The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$39-\$93; [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

### Leslie Mendelson

Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Leslie Mendelson released her fourth studio album this summer: the rock, folk, Americana and pop-inflected "After The Party," which includes the single "Other Girls." Mendelson comes to Redwood City's new social club, music studio and live venue Sound Union to perform this week, part of a run of several California shows in celebration of the new record. "Leslie is one of these very rare singers who can combine elegant precision with the soul and emotional resonance of a deeply moving writer and performer," producer Peter Asher, who worked with her on "After The Party," states on Mendelson's website.

July 19, 8 p.m., Sound Union, 2625 Broadway St., Redwood City; \$38.65; [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

### Leonardo@Djerassi open studios

The Djerassi Program and Leonardo/ISAST (International Society for Arts, Sciences and Technology) each year bring together artists and scientists to collaborate, exchange ideas and push boundaries in their fields. Participants in this year's open studios event — the 10th anniversary of the Leonardo@Djerassi partnership — are invited to hear artist talks and readings, visit studios and installations, feast on a meal from the Djerassi Program chef and hike around the scenic landscape. This year's residents include Anthony Acciavatti, Coral Pereda, Dan Paz, Julie Zhu, Ranran Fan, Rob Jackson, Sanna Fogelvik, Sue Huang and Zander Porter.

July 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Djerassi, 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside; ticket prices vary; [djerassi.org/events/openstudios/](http://djerassi.org/events/openstudios/).

# Food & Drink

## Eats on the streets

What's up with outdoor dining?

By Karla Kane

**A**lthough we in the Bay Area are lucky enough to be able to dine outdoors for much of the year, in the summer months you may find yourself wanting to enjoy the warm evenings and spend mealtimes outside all the more. During the COVID-19 pandemic, some public sidewalks and streets became a location for those wanting to safely patronize local eating and drinking establishments. Since then, cities have been contemplating the ongoing status of businesses offering seating in the public right-of-way, and of keeping key areas closed to cars (while balancing concerns about accessibility, parking and aesthetics). Here are the latest policies from several cities on the Peninsula.

### San Mateo

San Mateo first adopted a permanent outdoor dining program in 2021, with amendments made in 2022 and 2023.

San Mateo has three different types of permits for outdoor dining areas: One for businesses wanting to include outdoor seating on the sidewalk or in the street within

the downtown pedestrian mall (B Street between 1st and 3rd avenues); one for restaurants to wanting to build seating in parking spaces in front of their business; and one for ground-level food services businesses to construct a dining platform in the pedestrian mall.

There are currently 29 restaurants enrolled in the outdoor dining program, city staff said.

Rafat Haddad, the owner of 3 Bees Coffee on 3rd Avenue, has been in business for 22 years and is glad to see San Mateo become more pedestrian-friendly. He'd long been interested in offering outdoor seating for his downtown cafe, even pre-pandemic, and said his was the first business to go through the program after it was approved by the city (3 Bees is currently listed on the city's website as an example of an approved parklet.)

"This opportunity came and I jumped on it right away," he said.

But the process wasn't easy, Haddad said, and it included an architect, a contractor, the city and multiple inspections.

"It was kind of a tough process, but I was willing to take it on because I believed in it," he said.

He eventually joined forces with his neighboring business, Avocado Toast, to apply for a shared parklet space. He said so far, the headaches that come with the regulation process have been worth it. Currently, 3 Bees has room for about 10-15 to dine outside, and it's proven very popular with customers, Haddad said, noting that a patron recently held her neighborhood association meeting in the outdoor area.

"That is something that a lot of residents of San Mateo are welcoming," he said. "I have a lot of regular customers, and in the summer, they ask (to sit) outside."

### Redwood City

Downtown Redwood City has long been popular with outdoor diners. This year, the City Council approved a permanent pedestrian mall on the 2000 block of Broadway and Redwood Creek, between the Main Street parking lot and Marshall Street garage. According to Amanda Anthony, Redwood City's economic development manager, restaurants wanting to offer outdoor dining via sidewalk tables or parklets must apply through the city's Outdoor Business Activity program (which consolidated three previous programs).

"As with any permit, they will need to submit plans for review, make any adjustments per the feedback from our planning, building, and engineering staff, and once approved from a design and safety perspective, get an encroachment permit



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Customers dine in streetside restaurants and cafes along Broadway in Redwood City on June 24.

(basically a permit to use the public right-of-way), and finally sign a license agreement (one year). This is renewable annually," she wrote in an email to this news organization.

There are currently 47 businesses that have applied, with three more on hold due to changes in ownership.

"We're still working through many of the applications to the new program, and there have been some unforeseen challenges," such as bringing some cafes up to current code, businesses not being able to get consent from their property owners, and businesses pushing back against guidelines, she said.

At the June 24 City Council meeting, modifications to the program were approved that give businesses a bit more flexibility.

"Businesses can, with adjacent property owner and business owner consent, go into the adjacent frontage," Anthony said. "They can also move forward with their parklets in their own frontage without their landlord's consent — only notification — which should allow about 8-10 additional businesses to move forward with their parklet."

While downtown hotspot Vesta has always offered outdoor dining, co-owner Courtney Borrone said that public interest in dining al fresco has increased exponentially since the pandemic and she is glad the city is working to maintain the outdoor dining scene.

"There is a definite benefit to the quality of community life

when outdoor dining is present; there is a pervasive vibrance in a downtown area when restaurants and businesses flow into the outdoors and engage with the community," she said in an email. "We are so grateful that Redwood City has embraced this new lean towards permanent outdoor dining."

### Palo Alto

Palo Alto has three efforts underway that relate to the future of outdoor dining in the downtown and California Avenue areas, said Meghan Horrigan-Taylor, the city's chief communications officer.

The Car-Free Streets program is an evolution of the temporary Uplift Local Summer Streets program that closed parts of the California Avenue and downtown areas to cars during the pandemic. California Avenue is currently closed to vehicles from El Camino Real to Birch Street and Ramona Street is closed between Hamilton and University avenues. Debate over how to proceed with California Avenue has proven contentious over the years, with frustrations mounting over what some have seen as the haphazard look of the street and slow progress improving it. Recently, the design firm Urban Field Studio has been meeting with the Cal Ave. community to discuss improvements and future design of the car-free zone.

"Over 100 workshop participants shared ideas about design concepts to help inform the work ahead," and more engagement is being planned, Horrigan-Taylor said in an email.



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Outdoor dining on California Avenue in Palo Alto on June 25.

The city is also working to formalize its parklet program, including the development of a preapproved parklet design. A user guide including the preapproved designs will become available to restaurants in August. Restaurants with existing parklets need to comply by November with the city's revised rules. The regulations apply to businesses in downtown and parts of California Avenue, but not the car-free areas, which have their own rules.

"By 2025, all parklets will transition to the new regulations, with the City continuing enforcement and permitting through the new ongoing parklet program," Horrigan-Taylor wrote.

Palo Alto is also exploring other improvements to University Avenue, including wider sidewalks and more public gathering spaces, she said.

For Palo Alto restaurateur Maico Campilongo, co-owner of California Avenue's Terún and iTalico, outdoor dining on the Peninsula is something that's always made perfect sense — both from a restaurant owner's perspective as well as on a personal level. He said he knows a lot of people adore

dining al fresco, "because I'm one of those people."

He grew up in southern Italy and said in the summer there it can become too hot to eat lunch outdoors. In the Bay Area, though, "We have the best weather in the world," he said. And as a father to three kids, he also enjoys being able to sit outside and eat with his family in the safety of areas closed off to traffic.

Since the city began experimenting with closing parts of California Avenue during the pandemic, the streetscape of the neighborhood is "a work in progress," Campilongo said, and he looks forward to the planned improvements.

"We need this street looking better as soon as possible," he said.

### Mountain View

Mountain View launched its Outdoor Patio Program last fall (replacing its previous Sidewalk Cafe and Castro StrEATs programs). The policy lets downtown businesses that have been approved for an outdoor patio license extend their seating and operations into the public right-of-way (while conforming to the program's design standards and guidelines).



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Customers dine at Vesta's outdoor street seating on Broadway in Redwood City on June 24.

As of this spring, 30 businesses have been approved for outdoor operations on Castro Street and the surrounding sidewalks, said Mountain View's Chief Communications Officer Lenka Wright in an email. The city charges an annual fee for the patios, based on square footage.

"In addition, the city provides and installs the fences that define the outdoor patio

areas under the license agreement, and the city is also providing grants to businesses to purchase new outdoor furnishings in compliance with the standards/guidelines," she wrote.

According to the city's website, patio areas of up to 750 square feet are permitted for businesses in the area covered by the Downtown Precise Plan, including the pedestrian malls

(Castro Street between the east part of West Evelyn Avenue and Villa Street, Villa Street and West Dana Street, and West Dana Street and California Street).

"Usage by patrons has been increasing steadily. We expect that trend to strengthen into the summer," Wright said. ■

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