

# The Almanac

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## Return of the Resistance State: What another Trump presidency will mean for California

By CalMatters

Former President Donald Trump won a second term after four years out of the White House, likely thrusting California back into leading the resistance against him.

The Associated Press made its call at 3 a.m., declaring that the Republican defeated Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, who would have become the first woman president and the most powerful Californian in four decades.

Instead, Californians now face a repeat of Trump's first term from 2017 to 2021 — another four years of governance consumed by combative showdowns between the state's Democratic leadership and Washington, D.C., possibly distracting from or even setting back progress on addressing California's own problems.

Though many were rooting for a Harris victory — which could have taken California's priorities nationwide and brought additional resources home — state officials, industry leaders and activists prepared for this outcome. Trump, after all, routinely made California a punching bag in his campaign.

Across state government,

officials have been gaming out a response to "Trump-proof" California. Gov. Gavin Newsom and his budget team are developing a proposal for a disaster relief fund after the former president repeatedly threatened to withhold emergency aid for wildfire recovery from California because of its water policy.

"The best way to protect California, its values, the rights of our people, is to be prepared, so we won't be flat-footed," said Attorney General Rob Bonta, whose team has been working with advocacy organizations and attorneys general in other states on how they would answer another Trump administration. "We will fight as we did in the past if that scenario unfolds."

During Trump's first term, California sued more than 100 times over his rules and regulatory rollbacks. Bonta said his team has preemptively written briefs and tested arguments to challenge many of the policies they expect the former president to pursue over the next four years: passing a national abortion ban and restricting access to abortion medication; revoking California's waiver to regulate its own automobile tailpipe emissions and overruling



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Da'Shawn Williams casts her vote at the Belle Haven Community Center vote center in Menlo Park on Nov. 5.

its commitment to transition to zero-emission vehicles; ending protections for immigrants brought to the country illegally as children; undermining the state's extensive gun control

laws, including for assault weapons, 3D-printed firearms and ghost guns; implementing voter identification requirements; and attacking civil rights for transgender youth.

"Unfortunately, it's a long list," Bonta told CalMatters days before the election. "We are and have been for months

See **PRESIDENCY**, page 15

## Flynn, Wolter win seats on Portola Valley Town Council

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

With two seats open on the Portola Valley Town Council, Rebecca Flynn and Helen Wolter are leading the race. Semi-official results showed Flynn had received 1,135 votes (34.2%) and Wolter had received 985 votes (29.68%). By the end of election night, Flynn maintained her lead with nearly 34% of the vote and Wolter won nearly 29%.



Rebecca Flynn



Helen Wolter

Carter Warr comes in third with 799 votes (21.29%) and Ellen Vernazza (15.83%) falls last in the race with 594 votes.

Flynn, the founder of PV

Forum, the town's private social media platform, has lived in Portola Valley for 24 years and has experience serving on multiple town committees.

"I really appreciate everyone who supported me, voted for me and volunteered for me," said Flynn.

As results are still not final, she said she's "cautiously optimistic."

Wolter is a Portola Valley native and is a sustainability analyst for the city of Half Moon

Bay. Her family has lived in Portola Valley for 40 years.

Shortly after 8:30 p.m., Wolter said she was excited by early election night results but "until everything is certified, nothing is final."

"Politics is a team effort and I'm grateful for everyone supporting this effort," she said. "I'm grateful for people's support and I'm going to do my best to represent them once things are official."

Warr said he was disappointed by the election results but

believes that the race brought forward public discourse that was positive for the town.

"[The race] gave the public an opportunity to have more issues raised," said Warr. "I look forward to Helen and Rebecca doing a great job on the council."

The next round of results is expected by 4:30 on Thursday, Nov. 7. ■

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# Local News

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Eleanor Raab

Third graders cast their ballots in the cookie election at Laurel Elementary School on Nov. 5.

## Laurel School's cookie election helps third graders learn about voting

By Eleanor Raab

At Laurel Elementary School's Upper Campus in Menlo Park, teachers have put a new question on the ballot for 45 third graders: Oreos or Chips Ahoy?

In order to teach the elementary school students about democracy and the voting process, third grade teachers Jess Greenwald and Kyle Tashman staged a mock cookie election, complete with voter IDs,

ballot boxes and voting booths. Whichever cookie wins the election will be stocked in the classroom for the kids to enjoy.

"I know that this year's election is on every adult's mind this year, and I wanted to give my students a way to engage with and participate in conversations that are happening around them," said Greenwald, who designed the cookie election activity.

Tashman said that the Oreos-Chips Ahoy face off is a good way to teach the third graders

voting vocabulary. Students learned what the words ballot, campaigning, election and candidates meant.

"Yesterday they even made campaign posters," Tashman said. "They argued for who they wanted to win, whether it be Oreos or Chips Ahoy, and drew posters. Then they had a gallery walk where they critiqued how effective each others' posters were at convincing

See **COOKIE ELECTION**, page 15

## Liccardo beats Low in Congress race

By Gennady Sheyner

Former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo was enjoying a strong lead in the heated Congressional race to succeed U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo on election night, with both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County registrars showing him well ahead of Assembly member Evan Low.

With most of the mail-in results tallied by midnight on Election Day, Liccardo had received 91,870 votes in Santa Clara County while Low's had received 63,584. Liccardo had received 59% of the votes in the county while Low had 41%. The total did not include votes that were cast on Election Day or those that were mailed after Nov. 1.

Liccardo also enjoyed a strong lead in San Mateo County, where he picked up 21,847 votes, or nearly 63% of the total vote cast. Low received 12,899 votes, or 37%, election night results showed.

With more results still being released, Liccardo was not ready to declare victory on Tuesday night. He said he was proud of his campaign team but acknowledged the difficult political environment he'd be entering if results hold.

"I'd be lying if I didn't feel a swirl of conflicting emotions about what's happening at the national level," Liccardo said,

alluding to the Republican victories on the national stage.

While Liccardo ran on a platform of pragmatism and pledged his ability to work across the aisle, he noted that the shifting political environment means that he will have to work hard to defend California's values.

"There are going to be times when I'll need to fight to defend Democratic institutions, to defend our immigrant community and to defend our values," Liccardo said. "I'm an experienced criminal prosecutor and I know how to fight."

"When there's an opportunity to work across the aisle to help families, to reduce cost of child care, utilities and housing, I'll do it."

The contentious and at times rancorous race gave Silicon Valley voters a rare chance to choose a new elected leader in a district that U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo has represented for more than three decades. The 16th District stretches from the South Bay, through the Midpeninsula area and to the coastal areas of San Mateo County. It includes a portion of San Jose as well as the communities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, much of Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley, Half Moon Bay and Pacifica, among many others.

The contest to replace Eshoo proved particularly complex, with Santa Clara County Joe Simitian and Low finishing tied



Sam Liccardo

See **CONGRESS**, page 9

## Thompson and Cruz win Sequoia district board seats

Mary Beth Thompson is leading in Area B and Maria Cruz is leading in Area E

By Arden Margulis

Semi-official final election night results show a large lead for Principal Mary Beth Thompson in Area B and a sizable lead for San Jose State Professor Maria Cruz in Area E. These results include vote by mail votes sent in before Nov. 1 and some vote center ballots.

Thompson has declared victory in a statement and her opponent, Jacob Yuryev, has already conceded to her.



Mary Beth Thompson



Maria Cruz

These results include 49.1% of registered voters in Area B and 24.33% of registered voters in Area E.

Cruz has a lead of 1,164 votes

and has 53.74% of the counted votes. Area E includes East Palo Alto and parts of North Fair Oaks and East Menlo Park.

"I feel really shocked and very happy. At the same time, I really thank my opponents for running a good campaign. I know so much work goes into campaigning and I look forward to working with the community and school district," said Maria Cruz after the 8:10 p.m. vote release.

Community organizer Tonga

Victoria is in second with 1,161 votes, 26.84% of votes counted and educator Jon Bryant is in third with 840 votes, 19.42% of votes counted.

"Didn't get the results we wanted, and that's okay! God is still so good! Thank you to all who supported the campaign!" Victoria posted on her Instagram story Wednesday morning, Nov. 6. Victoria could not be reached for comment.

"I'm feeling pretty great right now. I've been campaigning

and canvassing around the polls all day and I'm happy to have talked with a lot of residents," said Bryant after the 8:10 p.m. vote release.

For Area B, which includes parts of San Carlos and Belmont, Thompson has a 4,758 vote lead and 63.55% of the votes so far.

"I am incredibly humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve as a trustee for Area B. The early votes are promising, and

See **SEQUOIA DISTRICT**, page 10

# County says claims of voter interference at Portola Valley polling center unfounded

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A Portola Valley voter told this news organization that he experienced voter interference when he was turned away from the polling location at Portola Valley Town Center at 765 Portola Road. Mike Grant and his wife both experienced difficulties with submitting their ballots on Nov. 5 after a vote center volunteer claimed their signatures did not match the ones on file. The county elections office investigated the incident, but found no wrongdoing on the part of the poll workers at the site.

"It made me feel like my vote wouldn't count," said Mike, who said his experience was discouraging.

Mike's wife, who went to vote in person at 8:30 a.m., had her signature questioned by the same poll worker until she was able to submit a signature that passed the worker's standards.

Mike went to vote in-person at 3:30 p.m. and after facing difficulties with his signature he decided to drop off his mail-in ballot instead, hoping that the signature on his envelope



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The polling center at Portola Valley Town Center on Nov. 5.

sufficed.

Residents were discussing the incidents on PV Forum, the town's private social media platform, on Tuesday evening.

On PV Forum, Portola Valley Town Council candidate Helen Wolter advised voters to call San Mateo County if they encounter any problems while voting. Voters can call the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE or the county at 650-312-5222.

The polling center supervisor declined to comment on the incidents.

San Mateo County District 5 Supervisor Ray Mueller said that he's received complaints from residents and has made a report to the county. He reported the incident to the county elections office, which held an investigation on the situation.

According to Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Chief Elections Officer Mark Church,

the elections office has determined that "the allegation is unfounded and without basis. No voter has ever been turned away."

Church stated that one of the vote center trainers present at Portola Valley Town Center and other vote center representatives confirmed that no such incident occurred.

When a voter's signature does not match the one on file after multiple attempts, they are offered a conditional ballot and an opportunity to update their signature within the county's system, according to Church.

He adds that there was one case in which a voter's signature did not match on two attempt but before the voter was presented with other options, they decided to leave and retrieve their mail in ballot from home.

"All Vote Center representatives are trained to ensure that no voter is ever turned away. Conditional voting is always an option, allowing the individual to cast their vote while their eligibility is verified," Church said. ■

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## Menlo Park residents overwhelmingly approve hotel tax

By Eleanor Raab

Measure CC, a ballot measure that would increase Menlo Park's transient occupancy tax, also known as a hotel tax, by 3.5%, is headed for approval.

Final Nov. 5 election night results show Yes on CC is leading with 8,132 votes, or 83.71% of the votes returned so far. No on CC has received 1,583 votes, or 16.29% of the votes returned so far. Election night results include vote-by-mail ballots received in the mail and returned to ballot drop boxes and vote centers by Friday, Nov. 1.

The Measure CC race has not been very contentious. There were no official committees formed to support or oppose the measure, and no money raised in support or opposition of the measure.

Measure CC was placed on the ballot by the Menlo Park City Council in an effort to raise additional local funds to balance the city's budget,

however, local hotel representatives have expressed concern over the proposed tax increase. They say that it will negatively impact their businesses, which are already struggling in a post-pandemic travel landscape.

An impartial analysis of the measure prepared by Menlo Park's city attorney says that the revenue collected from the transient occupancy tax could be used for "any valid municipal government purpose," such as maintaining and repairing streets, enhancing emergency preparedness, maintaining parks and open spaces and maintaining city recreation programs, among other things.

The measure requires that the revenue generated by the measure be audited by an independent auditor annually.

Measure CC will raise the city's transient occupancy tax by 3.5%, from the current rate of 12% to 15.5%, over a two-year period. The transient occupancy tax would increase by 2% on Jan. 1, 2025 to 14%, and by



Almanac file photo

The managing director of Stanford Park Hotel in Menlo Park has been outspoken against a proposed hotel tax in the city.

another 1.5% to 15.5% on Jan. 1, 2026.

A transient occupancy tax is a type of short-term rental tax that is paid by guests of hotels, Airbnbs and other short-term stays. This tax is not charged to the residents of the city. The proceeds of the transient occupancy tax remain under local control, rather than going to the state.

Proponents of the measure argue that the measure will help Menlo Park maintain its "essential local services and quality of life without taxing residents."

The arguments in favor of the measure were submitted by a group of Menlo Park residents.

A July 9 city staff report about the proposed transient occupancy tax rate increase states that a 15.5% transient occupancy tax will provide an estimated \$3.6 million in additional tax revenue for the city.

The city's 2024-25 budget included a deficit of about \$820,000, and forecasts indicate that the city will continue to have budget issues in the future.

See **HOTEL TAX**, page 11

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## Local school measures easily pass

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi/  
Neil Gonzales

Two local school parcel taxes and a bond measure easily passed on election night.

Early election night results show the Menlo Park City School District's Measure U is leading with 70.68% approval, according to final election night results. Measure U needs 55% voter approval to pass.

Measure U would authorize a \$123.6 million bond measure to fund facilities improvement projects across all district campuses. The bond would be used to install new electric air conditioning units, replace 65-year-old classroom buildings and upgrade campus security systems.

"We are feeling really happy and proud of all the work that we did," said Campaign Chair Katherine Bicer. "We ran a really good campaign with committed volunteers and community members."

### Measure S

Ravenswood City School District's Measure S, aimed at increasing an existing parcel tax from \$223.90 per property to \$434 for another eight years, had



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Yes on Measure S for Ravenswood City School District lawn sign in front of Costaño Elementary School.

78.11% voter approval, according to semi official final election night results. It needs two-thirds to pass.

The measure would fund the expansion of affordable preschool and early-childhood education, living wages for educators, and instruction for elementary and middle-school students in East Palo Alto and

eastern Menlo Park. It would also go toward maintaining small class sizes, building facilities for early-education programs and helping low-income families afford childcare.

The measure would raise an estimated \$2.7 million annually, starting July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2034. The total would be subject to inflation

adjustments but amount to roughly \$21.6 million.

If approved, Measure S would extend the tax from Measure Q, which expires in June 2026 and was aimed at improving elementary and middle-school students' learning and achievement in reading, writing, math and other educational programs; funding classroom computers and technology; increasing safety; keeping class sizes small; and attracting and retaining staff.

### Measure Y

Woodside Elementary School District's tax-renewal Measure Y, a \$5 million measure, had 75.61% voter approval by the end of election night. It needs two-thirds to pass.

"I'm very excited and pleased," district board President Jenny Hayden said of the apparent victory. "It's just a great win for our school. I'm grateful for the support from the community. The measure supports core academic programs — math, reading and science — and is an investment in our teachers."

The measure would raise an estimated \$392,000 each year, supporting instruction, teacher retention, low student-to-teacher

ratios, and arts and physical-education programs.

In 2017, the district was able to pass existing Measure Z with 72% voter approval. That measure replaced a previous \$290-per-parcel tax, which has since been adjusted based on inflation.

### More coverage

Results from the end of the night are semi-official. The next round of results will be released by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline.

Read full coverage of these races at [AlmanacNews.com/Election](http://AlmanacNews.com/Election). ■

### LEHUA GREENMAN



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## Aburish elected to Woodside Town Council

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside District 5 candidate Hassan Aburish had a landslide victory against write-in candidate Alayna Van Dervort Wagner. Running unopposed, District 1 candidate Jenn Wall and District 4 candidate Paul Goeld have secured their seats on the Woodside Town Council.

Wall received 346 votes for District 1 and Goeld garnered 359 votes for District 4.

Final election results show Aburish had 345 votes, or 94.78%, while Dervort Wager has 19 votes, or 5.22%.

"I think I can relax now," Aburish told The Almanac after initial results were released at 8:10 p.m.

Aburish had initially entered the race unopposed but when Dervort Wagner filed papers as a write-in in September, he said he felt a stronger urgency to campaign and get his name out into the community.

Over the last month, Aburish said he knocked on doors, put out lawn signs, banners and attended local events to meet the community face-to-face. He was happy to gain the support of

town residents and Council members Ned Fluet and Paul Goeld.

"I think it's important to have the voice of a parent, someone who lives on the [Western Hills] and deals with the unique issues that we have," said Aburish on what he looks forward to represent on the council. "I want to make a priority for fire safety, flooding and just keeping the town rural."

Dervort Wagner also held up a strong campaigning effort as the town's only write-in-candidate for the November election. Her campaign slogan "write my name" could be read on lawn signs posted across town.

"As a write-in-candidate, I know I never really stood a chance, but I was happy to see my opponent engage, come to at least one town council meeting and come door-to-door to meet some of the community, prior to taking a Town Council member position. I wish him all the best, and I am excited to run again in four years," said Dervort Wagner. ■



Hassan Aburish

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## Jennifer Wise wins Menlo Park's District 5 City Council seat

By Eleanor Raab

Final election night results show Jennifer Wise in the lead for Menlo Park's District 5 City Council Race, the only contested City Council district on Menlo Park's Nov. 5 ballot.

The two candidates vying for the District 5 seat are Wise, a family planning and estate lawyer and member of Menlo Park's Library Commission, and Greg Conlon, a CPA and former member of Atherton's

rail committee.

According to semi-official election night results, Wise has received 1,723 votes, or 75.14% of the votes counted, while Conlon has 570 votes, or 24.86% of the votes counted.

"These preliminary results are very encouraging, I'm incredibly grateful to the people of Menlo Park District 5 for placing their



Jennifer Wise

trust in me to represent them. It is truly an honor and a privilege that I do not take lightly," said Wise in an email to this news organization. "You cannot run a campaign alone, and I am so grateful for each person that volunteered, shared their expertise, educated, and encouraged me along the way. ... Now, the real work begins. I am excited to continue to get to know our community members, and do my very best to represent them."

Wise also thanked her opponent for the race.

"I would like to thank Greg Conlon for his efforts and a great campaign season," she said.

In a statement to this news organization, Conlon said that though he is disappointed with the results, he intends to keep working toward achieving a quiet zone for Menlo Park's four railroad crossings.

"I definitely want to stay involved with the quiet zone," he said.

District 5 includes the neighborhoods of Sharon Heights, Stanford Hills and parts of West Menlo Park.

### District 3

Jeff Schmidt ran uncontested for the District 3 City Council seat. Early voting results show that there are no write-in votes; Schmidt is likely to be the next District 3 City Council member replacing incumbent Jen Wolosin, who opted not to run for reelection. Schmidt has received 1,440 votes as of 2 a.m. on Nov. 6.

In an email statement, Schmidt said he was grateful to

See **MENLO PARK COUNCIL**, page 10

## Gauthier beats López in San Mateo County District 4 supervisor race

By Neil Gonzales

What couldn't be determined several months ago was finally being decided Tuesday night in the race for the San Mateo County District 4 supervisor seat.

Lisa Gauthier was winning handily over Antonio López in early election results for a spot on the Board of Supervisors. Gauthier, ahead with 4,923 votes, had 60.20% of the votes, and López had 39.80%.

Neither secured a majority

to win in the March primaries, but the current East Palo Alto City Council colleagues were the top two finishers out of five candidates then to advance to these November elections.

Gauthier topped that field in March with 45% of the votes, while López was second with 25%.



Lisa Gauthier

Gauthier was pleased with the starting tally but felt many more ballots remained to be counted.

"I'm very optimistic and hoping that it will continue to trend the way it's going so far," she said.

She believed her experience in local government played a key role in the race.

"I've been an elected official longer than my opponent," she said. "My experience was really important to people when I talked to them."

López could not immediately

be reached for comment.

In her campaign, Gauthier focused on her extensive public service experience and commitment to tackling affordable housing issues and homelessness.

She has spent a dozen years on the East Palo Alto council, serving multiple terms as mayor and vice mayor.

Gauthier acknowledged a growing homelessness crisis on the Peninsula, particularly in Redwood City, and believed that collaboration among city,

county and nonprofit groups is critical to address the challenge effectively.

She also touted her environmental advocacy. Protecting the environment has been "my history and background," Gauthier said, noting that she is a founding member of the climate-change mitigation organization OneShoreline. She also cited her involvement with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and

See **GAUTHIER**, page 11

## Efforts to build wildfire resilience are heating up

Stanford's campus has become a living lab for testing innovative fire management techniques, using tools like AI-powered environmental sensors, the BurnBot firebreak machine, and goats to reduce wildfire risks. Collaborating with local agencies and drawing on expertise across disciplines, Stanford's Wildfire Resilience Program focuses on

land stewardship, fire risk reduction, and conservation. Techniques include controlled burns, fuel removal, and AI-based early detection. Researchers are also exploring fire-resistant materials and studying the environmental impacts of wildfires, aiming to develop comprehensive fire resilience strategies. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



PRESENTED BY



# State launches investigation into Sequoia board candidate after 2 anonymous complaints about 'fraudulent' ID number

Area E candidate Tonga Victoria claims complaints are 'mischaracterizations' and 'inaccurate'

By Arden Margulis

The California Fair Political Practices Commission launched an investigation on Oct. 16 into Sequoia Union High School District governing board Area E candidate Tonga Victoria after receiving two anonymous complaints alleging campaign finance violations.

The complaints, filed on Sept. 30 and Oct. 7, allege that Victoria used a nonexistent committee with a "fraudulent" FPPC number to collect donations, mixed campaign and business funds, and did not gather required donor information.

Victoria said in a statement to this news organization: "We are actively looking into this matter to ensure full transparency and accuracy. My campaign is a grassroots effort managed solely by myself, and I am prioritizing this issue, as the language in these complaints contains mischaracterizations and is, in fact, inaccurate."

Victoria did not clarify what parts of the complaints are inaccurate.

This news organization previously raised questions to Victoria about the FPPC number on her website. The number, 99-4657615, does not match FPPC formatting, and both the California Secretary of State and the San Mateo County Elections Office confirmed no record of it.

Victoria told this news organization in September that the number on her website is her company's Employer Identification Number. She said at the time that her application for an FPPC number was rejected due to a paperwork error and she was planning on fixing it shortly.

As of Nov. 4, the EIN still appears on her website labeled "FPPC#," and the site states it is paid for by the "Tonga Victoria

for Trustee Area E Political Committee," which neither the county nor state has a record of.

Candidates who neither raise nor spend over \$2,000 are not required to file with the state for an FPPC number. Victoria said at The Almanac and RWC Pulse's candidate forum last month that she is under this threshold.

However, candidates are required to file a Form 501 with the county before soliciting any donations. The county's campaign finance portal has no record of Victoria filing this form, and in September, Victoria told this news organization she had not filed it.

The Oct. 7 complaint also alleges Victoria mixed campaign funds with personal funds and

failed to collect required donor information.

Every candidate that collects donations is required to open a campaign bank account and keep campaign funds separate from personal even if the campaign is self-funded. Additionally, campaigns are required to collect the name and street address of any contributor who donated at least \$25 and the occupation of anyone who contributed more than \$100.

Victoria's website does not appear to collect that information apart from the name and billing address for credit card purchases.

Victoria is not the only candidate with a complaint filed against her. On Oct. 9,

a complaint was filed against Area B candidate Mary Beth Thompson, based on reporting from this news organization that she plans to maintain her position as principal of Summit Prep if elected.

The complaint alleges that it is a conflict of interest and violates Gov. Code 1099 and Ed. Code 1006. The FPPC did not launch an investigation but that is likely because they only investigate violations of the Political Reform Act.

As initially reported, it is an open question as to whether Thompson could serve on the Sequoia board if she is principal. Thompson claims multiple lawyers she consulted said that she could. ■

**CONGRESS**

continued from page 5

for second place after the March primary election. Both were set to appear on the November ballot with Liccardo, who finished first, before a supporter of Liccardo filed a last-minute request for a recount. Low finished five votes ahead of Simitian after the recount.

Since then, Liccardo and Low have exchanged barbs and accusations, with Low complaining about the recount, which was filed under his name, and assailing Liccardo's mayoral record when it comes to crime and homelessness. Liccardo has criticized Low for his legislative record, the support he has been receiving from oil companies and PG&E and his practice of shifting funds from his state Assembly campaign account to his Congressional campaign account, which prompted a lawsuit from the group Defend the Vote.

Liccardo has positioned himself throughout the campaign as a moderate problem solver who will be able to work with both parties, while Low has characterized himself as a Democratic standard-bearer who has been endorsed by Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Democratic Party. ■


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# Menlo Park office that shattered national sales record in 2015 acquired by world's largest sovereign investment fund

Norges Bank Investment Management pays \$222 Million for Sand Hill Commons

By Embarcadero Media staff

Sand Hill Commons, the Menlo Park office complex on Sand Hill Road that shattered sales records nationally in 2015 when it sold for \$1,800 per square foot, changed hands in an all-cash deal on Oct. 28.

Norges Bank Investment Management, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, paid \$217 million, or \$1,632 per square foot, for a 97.7% stake in the

two-building, 133,449-square-foot office campus at 2882-2884 Sand Hill Road. San Francisco investment firm DivcoWest, which owns about 44% of the commercial space along Sand Hill Road, purchased the remaining 2.3% interest in the office campus and will perform the asset management for the property, according to a press release.

The wealth fund said the property, which it purchased

from Clarion Partners and Invesco Real Estate, is valued at \$222 million.

The 12-acre campus includes two office buildings, a fitness center, a conference room and a restaurant and has plans filed with the city for exterior improvements, including the addition of outdoor shade structures.

The Sand Hill deal marks Norges Bank Investment Management's latest joint venture in the United States.

The wealth fund is the investment arm of Norway's central bank and manages the country's \$1.4 trillion Government Pension Fund Global. It has real estate investments around the world and owns about 1.5% of all globally listed shares, with stakes in more than 9,000 companies, according to its website. Its top holdings include Silicon Valley companies Apple, NVIDIA and Alphabet.

Sand Hill Commons made headlines in 2015 when Invesco Real Estate paid \$240 million — or the equivalent of about \$1,800 per square foot — for a 49% stake in the complex, setting a national per-square-foot sales record for suburban office deals larger than 50,000 square

feet, the Silicon Valley Business Journal reported.

At the time, that amount was considered staggering even for Sand Hill Road, known as the epicenter of venture capitalists and often listed as one of the most expensive streets in the United States. In April, the 5.6-mile stretch of roadway topped the list of most expensive streets in the nation with average full-service gross asking rents reaching \$167.74 per square foot, according to a 2024 study by commercial real estate and investment management company JLL that analyzed more than 50 U.S. markets. Palo Alto's University Avenue ranked fourth on the list with rents reaching \$109.04 per square foot. ■

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Sudden Oak Death survey results meeting, Nov. 12

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 6-8 p.m. at Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside, there will be a meeting to share results from the Sudden Oak Death blitz results. Researchers will share where SOD is locally and to hear the results of the strain testing program.

Every year, hundreds of volunteers canvas forests to survey the distribution of SOD.

Recently, a different SOD-inducing strain was identified in Northern California, posing a new and different threat to those forests. Since then, University of California at Berkeley tests all SOD Blitz collections to determine the SOD strain infecting them.

### Atherton Police Department's annual safety and security community meeting, Nov. 13

The Atherton Police Department will host its annual safety and security community meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 7-9 p.m. in Atherton Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Fair Oaks Lane.

During the meeting, police would cover a range of topics, including recent crime trends, neighborhood watch programs, emergency preparedness, and strategies for enhancing security in our community.

Residents can bring up any specific questions or issues they'd like police to address or email Police Chief Steve McCulley at [SMcCulley@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:SMcCulley@ci.atherton.ca.us) ahead of the meeting.

— Angela Swartz

### Applications open for MPCSD Early Learning Center

Menlo Park City School District's Early Learning Center is accepting applications for the 2025-26 school year lottery for Laurel School's Lower campus and Oak Knoll Elementary School. The ELC offers preschool education and a 2-year-olds program.

Applications for the initial lottery are open until Jan. 8, 2025. Families can also sign up for a tour of the ELC online.

Find the application and information about tours on [earlylearning.mpcsd.org](http://earlylearning.mpcsd.org)

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

### PG&E to hold virtual Bay Area Town Hall on Nov. 13

PG&E will hold an interactive, virtual town hall for Bay Area customers to learn more about safety as well as winter bill savings tips from

5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Presenters from PG&E will share information on wildfire safety, as well as what the utility provider is doing to operate more efficiently in the Bay Area. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and connect with PG&E's regional leadership team, including regional Vice President Jake Sigelman. Join the webinar and learn more at [pge.com/webinars](http://pge.com/webinars).

### Learn how to create cleaner air and better wetlands at Wetlands and Watts event

The cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, along with several local nonprofits are hosting a family-friendly environmental event called "Wetlands and Watts" at Cooley Landing in East Palo Alto on Sunday, Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kids and parents will learn alongside each other how to create safer homes and cleaner air in their communities at age-appropriate activity stations.

Attendees will also tour the unique and beautiful wetlands on a walk led by Grassroots Ecology, and are encouraged to bring binoculars to watch the birds. Local organizations will provide resources and information about healthy and sustainable living. Food will be provided, and there will be a drawing for prizes.

The event is free for all attendees. Registration is encouraged. Register at [tinyurl.com/wetlandswatts](http://tinyurl.com/wetlandswatts).

### Flows to Bay offering discounted rain barrels to San Mateo County residents until Nov. 30

Flows to Bay is offering discounted rain barrels to San Mateo County residents for the fourth year in a row. The program offers San Mateo County residents the opportunity to purchase up to two high-quality 50-gallon rain barrels at a discounted price of \$80 each, instead of the barrels' retail price of \$155.

Additionally, Menlo Park Municipal Water (MPMW) customers can receive a rebate of up to \$200 for the purchase and installation of a rain barrel or cistern. With Flows to Bay's price reduction along with the city's rain barrel rebate program, MPMW customers can get their rain barrels completely free.

The program is open until supplies run out. Learn more and apply for a discounted rain barrel at Flows to Bay's program webpage [flowstobay.org/bulk-rain-barrel-program](http://flowstobay.org/bulk-rain-barrel-program). Contact [water@menlopark.gov](mailto:water@menlopark.gov) with any questions about the program.

— Eleanor Raab

### MENLO PARK COUNCIL

continued from page 8

have the opportunity to serve on City Council.

"I'm so grateful to the folks who supported my campaign and I'm most excited about all the people that I'll get to work with while serving on city council," he said. "I want to hear the views of more residents from across the city and I'll be setting up office hours starting in December."

He also expressed his excitement to serve with the current City Council members, and likely District 5 winner Wise.



Jeff Schmidt

"Cecilia (Taylor), Drew (Combs), and Betsy (Nash) are amazing civic leaders and it will be a privilege to serve with them," he said. "Jennifer Wise will be an excellent addition to the group. And I'm excited to work with Justin and the exceptionally talented city staff he's assembled. It's going to be a challenging four years, but I'm ready to help everyone get more things done for our community."

District 3 includes the section of Menlo Park between Palo Alto and Atherton. It includes the Caltrain station, the Civic Center, and the neighborhoods of Felton Gables, Linfield Oaks, Vintage Oaks and parts of Menlo Oaks. ■

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

### SEQUOIA DISTRICT

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I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and working alongside our community to support every student's success. I am eager to get to work and make a meaningful difference for our students, families, teachers, and staff," Thompson said in a statement after the 10 p.m. vote release.

Incoming Stanford University freshman Jacob Yuryev conceded to Thompson.

"I just got off the phone with Mary Beth where I congratulated her on her win," said Yuryev after the 8:10 p.m. vote release. "We ran a robust, professional, positive campaign with a message of academic excellence and transparency. We are proud of the campaign we ran and that our message resonated with some voters."

Yuryev is in second with 3,620

votes, 27.46% of the total. In third is former tech executive Daniel Torunian with 1,185 votes, 8.99% of the total.

Torunian could not be reached for comment.

Area E is currently held by Shawneece Stevenson, who has generally supported the district's detracking initiative and Area B is currently held by Carrie Du Bois, who has avoided publicly taking a stance on detracking. Victoria and Thompson were both endorsed by the Sequoia District Teachers Association.

Incumbent Rich Ginn ran unopposed for his Area C seat.

The next vote release will come sometime before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

Email Contributing Writer Arden Margulis at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto:amargulis@almanacnews.com).

# Emerald Hills author shares his story about surviving childhood trauma

By Kate Daly

After spending 15 years writing his first book, “Riding the Elephant Unraveling the Mystery of My Childhood Trauma,” Philip March sat in his home office in Emerald Hills and named his self-publishing business Overcome Press.

That is a telling choice based on the story behind his recently released memoir, which begins: “The following events are true,” and then states some names and identities have been changed to protect privacy.

The next page quotes an Anonymous survivors’ group: “While most societies have maintained a sense of taboo regarding incest, in point of fact, the sense of taboo has not been in committing incest, but rather in talking about incest, especially by those who have experienced it.”

In his book March openly writes about his own experiences with incest, recounting the decades of therapy and treatments he has gone through to help him understand “how did I have an entire section of my childhood erased?” after a therapist told him he was likely a survivor of sexual abuse.

His efforts as a middle-aged man to regain access to repressed childhood memories take him on a long journey

through his past where he unearths uncomfortable family secrets in his Christian Science household.

At 64 he explains, “I grew up in Los Altos Hills. Behind this façade of affluence there was some very negative stuff going on behind the scenes. And so the point is it’s not just inner-city people who have trauma, it’s in all walks of life.”

He hopes by sharing his story he “could be a lifesaver” for others in similar situations.

After he graduated from Gunn High School, where he excelled in math and physics, he attended Principia College in Illinois before earning his MBA at Santa Clara University.

March went on to work in technology in Silicon Valley, got married and started a family.

He writes about that and goes into more detail on incidents that impacted him such as getting a divorce, losing his aging parents, and receiving the news that his older brother died suddenly in a boating accident on the San Francisco Bay.

Looking back, March notices some disturbing patterns developing over time — his outbursts of rage when dealing with authority figures, getting fired from several jobs, taking unhealthy risks windsurfing on the bay, and binge drinking to the point of blacking out. When he hits rock bottom he seeks out

professional help.

These days March meditates, does yoga, kite surfs, cycles, and still attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every week. Out of the 10 different therapies he tried over the years, two stand out as most successful for him in solving his personal mystery and understanding “what the brain will do to protect itself.”

He describes “riding the elephant” as a “known metaphor for how the subconscious and conscious brain interact.”

He found Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) helped him uncover some old memories, yet warns for some patients the therapy can retraumatize them.

And he unearthed more past experiences when he used psychedelics with a life coach in “a very controlled and measured” setting during one weekend.

March also credits both a dear friend from business school and his wife, Kathy Jones, with supporting him throughout his search for answers to what happened to him and his quest to heal.

“I consider myself a survivor. Yes, I was victimized, but I’m a survivor,” he declares.

March’s research points to FBI statistics that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused in the United States.



Courtesy Philip March

Author Philip March recently released his memoir, “Riding the Elephant Unraveling the Mystery of My Childhood Trauma,” in October.

“They’re based on reports, and a lot of people think they’re on the low side,” he adds.

He wonders why “less than 1% who’ve been through that participate” in support groups for sexual abuse survivors? Why, he asks, aren’t the groups reaching more people? Is it stigma, or a broader issue of society not wanting to talk about this?

When March retired three years ago he ramped up his focus on writing his memoir. He took four continuing education courses at Stanford University to learn about writing dialogue and nonfiction, non-fiction publishing, and marketing. He took the chapters he’d written earlier in his self-discovery days and then set aside time every morning to write more.

He used the software word-processing program Scrivener to organize his 221,000 words, and

with editorial assistance, pared down his final draft to 85,000 words.

Now that he’s busy running his own advertising and marketing campaigns he is pleased to see a five-star review on Amazon complimenting him on conveying the “resilience of the human spirit.”

“I want the story out there and for it to resonate with the people it could help,” he said. At the end of his book, he lists resources. Three he found particularly helpful are: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Voices of Recovery (San Mateo County) and the book “The Body Keeps the Score” by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk.

Find out more about March and purchase his book at [philipmarchbooks.com](http://philipmarchbooks.com). ■

## HOTEL TAX

continued from page 6

According to the arguments in favor, the measure will help Menlo Park retain local control over local dollars. “The state can’t take a penny of Measure CC funds. Yes on CC gives you, the Menlo Park taxpayer, control over local funds to maintain our safety and infrastructure.”

Though there are no committees that were formed in opposition to the measure, several hotel representatives have publicly expressed their opposition to the measure at city council meetings.

During the July 9 City Council meeting, several representatives from local hotels told council members that the tax increase proposed is “extremely high.” They also said it will contribute to furthering low hotel occupancy rates in the city, which have been flagging since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Avi Haksar, managing director at the Stanford Park Hotel,

said that his hotel’s room occupancy rate was 76% in 2017, which is a “healthy” level for an upscale hotel, but that in 2023 it was only 65%. Haksar said that business travel, a staple clientele for Menlo Park hotels, has particularly declined since 2020.

Haksar also said in an interview with this news organization that local hotels are worried that raising the transient occupancy tax to be in line with Palo Alto’s — the highest in the region — will ultimately negatively impact the amount of taxes that the city can ultimately collect.

Philip Meyer, the managing director of the Rosewood Hotel on Sand Hill Road echoed Haksar’s concerns, saying that keeping the tax rate lower in Menlo Park gives local hotels a competitive advantage over nearby hotels in Palo Alto, which helps them recover from the pandemic travel slump. ■

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

## GAUTHIER

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other sustainability efforts.

Regarding law enforcement, she took a measured approach when referring to statewide Proposition 36, which would increase sentences for certain drug and theft offenses.

While criminals need to be held accountable, she said, overcrowding jails isn’t the solution.

She expressed concern over allowing offenses to go unchecked but was cautious about immediately upping charges to felony status. The severity of charges needs to be carefully considered, she said.

López, the current mayor of East Palo Alto, campaigned to tackle homelessness, close economic disparities, and boost public services.

Like his opponent, López was concerned about an increase in homelessness in the county and wanted to see cities collaborate and share resources such as shelters and meal programs.

López also believed that the county is not paying enough attention to childcare issues. Investing in childcare is a way to ease the burden on families and unlock opportunities for people to stay in the workforce, he said.

If elected as a supervisor, López said, he planned to focus his first 100 days in office on priorities such as supporting economic and infrastructure development in cities like Redwood City, aiding small businesses, especially those struggling post-pandemic, and addressing wildfire mitigation.

District 4 covers an area of approximately 33 square miles and encompasses Redwood City, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the unincorporated community of North Fair Oaks. More than 142,000 people reside in the district.

Among the issues particular to the district are sea-level rise, housing, public safety, the ongoing gap between the affluent and poor, and the expanding technology sector. ■

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Laszlo Fono**, 94, an Atherton resident who, in 1958, won the US National Cross Country Skiing Championship in 30km and who cofounded The Magic Pan restaurant in 1965, introducing French crêpes to America.

**Ruby Inouye**, 104, a Redwood City resident who loved to travel and worked at the greenhouses of Sequoia Nursery with her family and became a numerical control programmer at Lenkurt Electric Company, running the computer programs for the machinery making equipment used in satellites and defense systems.

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



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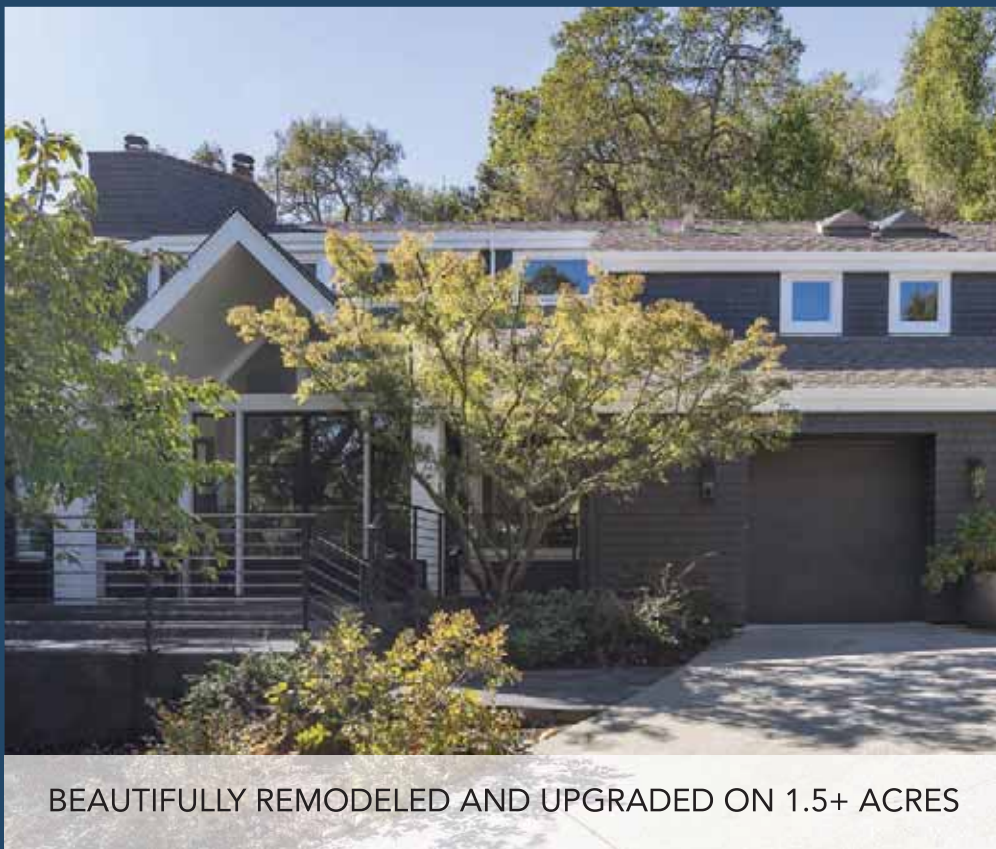
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# During National Family Caregivers Month, local organizations celebrate helping hands

Caregivers can look to local groups like Peninsula Volunteers for resources and assistance

By Lisa Moreno

In 1997, former President Bill Clinton officially designated November as National Family Caregivers month, calling caregivers “everyday heroes.”

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, National Family Caregivers Month aims to celebrate those who provide care to their loved ones and the people they care for while raising awareness about the challenges they may face. This year, local organizations Peninsula Volunteers and Avenidas have plans to achieve these goals.

In 2020, over 53 million people were caregivers across the country — or provided assistance to someone in need due to aging, illness or disability, according to AARP.

But more than half of those people don’t recognize themselves as “caregivers,” so they often don’t access the necessary

tools they need to relieve stress, according to the Caregiver Action Network, the organization that first pitched November’s celebration.

The network themed this year’s honor “I Care,” and focuses on self-identification in order to obtain helpful caregiving resources.

Peninsula Volunteers, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit that aims to empower older individuals, is celebrating the month and honoring local caregivers with multiple events like “Caring for Caregivers,” which will offer live music and a raffle on Nov. 22 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Little House senior center at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park.

The event also aims to help attendees learn more about the group’s adult day services at Rosener House.

The adult day services offer people with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, early memory loss, stroke and Parkinson’s disease

a chance to engage in activities like music therapy and arts while allowing caregivers to rest, according to the nonprofit. In particular, the program aims to promote independence and dignity for those with chronic conditions.

Once people arrive at the day service, they split off in different groups and engage in activities that suit them best, whether it be going on a walk or playing games, said Chief Operating Officer at Peninsula Volunteers Artemis Rong.

What makes this program unique is that the services are tailored to each person, Rong said, based on assessments, communication with family and even, at times, one-on-one work.

“There’s a lot of heart going into this,” she said.

Program workers and volunteers also speak a variety of languages like Spanish, Chinese and Tagalog, among others.

Every second Tuesday of the

month, Peninsula Volunteers also hosts Caregivers, Coffee and Connections to discuss the services at Rosener House and provide support to caregivers. This year, the event will run from 9:30-11 a.m. at 500 Arbor Road in Menlo Park on Nov. 12.

For more information or to schedule a tour of Rosener House, people can contact outreach specialist Yolanda Chavez, Outreach Specialist at 650-322-0126 or ychavez@lpvi.org.

Another resource available to local caregivers is PVI Quiescence, a part of Rosener House, which creates customized plans for caregivers that provide “non-medical” support to older adults like free home safety assessments, emergency resource development or weekly in-person visits to check-in on appointment, medication-use and more.

Also this month, Avenidas — the Palo Alto-based community center for older adults — will

host a free caregiver celebration event on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at its Rose Kleiner Center at 270 Escuela Ave. in Mountain View. The celebration invites caregivers and their families to enjoy light refreshments, a surprise gift and to learn more about local resources.

Apart from monthly events, other local entities like Stanford Health Care offer year-round services under its Caregiver Program, to help navigate resources and to provide a sense of ease for caregivers and their families.

Peninsula Volunteers also offers a weekly caregiver support group for anyone in the community, which people can learn more about by contacting Chavez, Rosener House outreach specialist.

“These programs can save lives,” Rong said. ■

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

## Romero, Lincoln and Dinan frontrunners in East Palo Alto council race

By Lisa Moreno

Incumbent Carlos Romero, Webster Lincoln and Mark Dinan secured the early lead in the race to take the three open seats on the East Palo Alto City Council, according to preliminary election results, which are set to change as more ballots are counted.

At the start of the night, Dinan was leading the pack, but by 2 a.m., Romero and Lincoln had each surpassed him by under 100 votes each.

Romero would retain his seat on the council and other winners would take the spots of current council members Lisa Gauthier and Mayor Antonio López.

Candidates spent their evenings watching the results in their homes and throughout East Palo Alto, many stopping by the local YMCA, like Mark Dinan, who showed promising early returns with nearly 16% of the vote and more than 1,200 votes, according to preliminary results.

Dinan was cautiously optimistic, he said on the phone, and said there was plenty of “ballgame left.”

“I’m very happy with the support I’ve received so far,” he said. “But I’m not celebrating yet.”

In his second time running for council, he raised the most money out of nine candidates. Dinan



Carlos Romero



Webster Lincoln



Mark Dinan

believes he can create forward momentum — establish a parks and recreation department, increase local business and infrastructure and build more housing with years of experience on the Public Works and Transportation Commission.

Lincoln, who also stopped by the YMCA, also led the pack, with 1,320 votes — a little over 16% of votes, according to early results.

He echoed Dinan’s sentiment that results are likely to swing as Election Day results continue to pour in, but wants people to know he’s committed to helping the community.

“I’m really running to serve all residents of East Palo Alto; this is a public servant role at the end of the day,” he said.

It is Lincoln’s third time running for council after he was narrowly defeated in 2022. He grew up in East Palo Alto, and as a former tech worker for the California Department of Public Health and Genentech, he hopes to connect local companies with residents to promote workforce

development and support local youth through civil engagement. He was also an active supporter in the fight to keep the East Palo Alto

sanitary district independent. Romero, the only incumbent, who first joined City Council in 2008, was neck-and-neck with the top two before surpassing them early Wednesday morning, securing more than 1,300 votes, or nearly 17% of the vote.

He did not respond to a request for comment.

Romero has spent decades serving East Palo Alto, starting with the fight to establish it as a city and continuing to support residents through affordable housing measures and renter protections — as a candidate, he hopes to continue working toward those priorities, he said.

Deborah Lewis-Virges fell in fourth, according to preliminary results, with over 1,000 votes, capturing just over 13% of the vote.

She did not respond for comment.

Lewis-Virges, who raised the second-most amount of money in this race, moved to East Palo Alto in 2015 and became a pastor at Saint Mark church two years later. Her experiences

there and on the Community Safety Team, Climate Change Community Team and East Palo Alto’s Public Works and Transportation Commission inspired her to lead a candidacy based in small business growth and accessible housing.

Maria Rocha trailed a bit further behind, with 867 votes, at around 10.5%.

She did respond to a request for comment.

Rocha works in data security at Stanford University and is a former Ravenswood teacher who grew up in East Palo Alto. Rocha, sister of current councilmember Martha Barragan, prioritizes care for elders, youth and pets and improving emergency preparedness.

Ofelia Bello, who told this publication that she bowed out of the race, still received 867 votes, around 10%.

Bello could not be reached for comment.

Ravneel Chaudhary, a recent college graduate who spent years working for his student government at UC Merced, received 579 votes so far, or over 7% of the vote.

Chaudhary did not respond to requests for comment.

He ran a candidacy aimed at youth civic engagement, affordable housing and climate change initiatives, which he hoped to bolster as someone who understands the

struggles of East Palo Alto youth firsthand.

Gail Wilkerson, an attorney with a background in tax work, rounded out the votes with 412 votes, at more than 5% of the total, according to preliminary numbers.

Wilkerson did not respond for comment.

If elected, she hopes to fight gentrification, traffic and increase access to local amenities like grocery stores.

Dennis Scherzer followed behind with 353 votes, nearly 5%, according to election night results.

Scherzer could not be reached for comment.

He sat on the East Palo Alto Sanitary District’s board for over a decade and aims to bring that expertise to City Council. Rather than prioritize more office or business space, he hopes to encourage senior housing development and focus on the people that already live in East Palo Alto, rather than newcomers.

In the past, East Palo Alto City Council election results have taken weeks to verify and results are subject to change.

The next round of results were released Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. after The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

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

**PRESIDENCY**

*continued from page 1*

developing strategies for all of those things.”

**California takes on Trump**

In many ways, California is more protected from swings in federal regulations than other states, because it has a robust regulatory framework of its own that often goes much further than the federal government.

Lorena Gonzalez, president of the California Labor Federation, said unions see an ongoing challenge to the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Board as a much bigger threat than any actions Trump might take. California law is already stronger than federal law on minimum wage, overtime pay and wage theft protections.

“He can’t do anything through the Department of Labor that would undo that,” she said.

But with Democrats in control of every state office and holding supermajorities in both chambers of the Legislature, Trump’s victory could completely upend policymaking in California.

“The best way to protect California, its values, the rights of our people, is to be prepared, so we won’t be flat-footed.”

During his first term, legislators focused on counteracting his federal agenda — though not always successfully. California’s governors in that period, Newsom and Jerry Brown, took executive actions to limit the fallout of his rollback of environmental regulations,

including launching a pollution-tracking satellite and negotiating with auto companies to maintain higher mileage standards.

Newsom’s office declined to discuss the stakes of the presidential election — although at a press conference last week, he

**‘The best way to protect California, its values, the rights of our people, is to be prepared, so we won’t be flat-footed.’**

ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA

said “no state has more to lose or gain in this election” than California. Nor did representatives make Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire or Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, both Democrats who will shape the legislative agenda and state budget next year, available for interviews.

A return to open conflict is a worrisome prospect for the business community, which was often caught in the middle of federal and state rules during Trump’s first term — such as with a 2017 law that restricted employer participation in workplace immigration raids.

“Having the state react, it sort of puts things in limbo,” said Jennifer Barrera, president and CEO of the California Chamber of Commerce. “When the two aren’t aligned, it creates some

problems for our members that operate on the national level.”

**How far will California go?**

As Democrats look to protect California’s liberal values, there is concern they will resist Trump’s plans by going further in the opposite direction, in potentially counterproductive ways.

Federal regulations make only a marginal difference in the cost of housing in California, according to Dan Dunmoyer, president and CEO of the California Building Industry Association, but he fears the state’s response could unintentionally undermine its efforts to boost construction. In 2019, as the Trump administration narrowed federal water protections, California adopted even more expansive state regulations that developers complained made it more complicated and costly to get building permits.

“The anti-Trump factor is real,” Dumoyer said. “I expect that if Trump says the sky is blue, they’ll say it’s black today.”

Divided partisan control could also further gridlock Congress, setting up the nation’s largest state as the battleground for major policy fights, especially in areas that are not of interest to Trump.

Adam Kovacevich, founder and CEO of Chamber of Progress, a left-leaning tech industry association, said advocacy groups seeking more oversight of the industry have been very active in Washington,

D.C., for the past four years and enjoyed a lot of success with the Biden administration. Under Trump, they will turn to California to lead the way on regulating artificial intelligence and children on social media, as well as enforcing antitrust law.

“Congress is an environment of legislative scarcity,” he said. “California is an environment of legislative abundance.”

Trump is also viewed by the tech industry as a wild card who might punish major companies that he believes opposed him, Kovacevich said. Such a contentious relationship could hurt their profits — and then California’s tax revenue.

“It’s tech industry success that plays a huge role in funding the state’s social safety net,” he said.

**Immigrant community on the defensive**

With Trump’s campaign heavily emphasizing tougher enforcement of the U.S.-Mexico border and mass deportations, California’s large immigrant community — millions of whom are undocumented — has been plunged into an especially uncertain and terrifying moment.

As Newsom put it last week, “the impacts from valley to valley, Silicon Valley to Central Valley, will be outsized” — particularly if Trump also revives his push to limit legal immigration, including by refugees, foreign workers and international students.

The California Immigrant

Policy Center, an immigrant rights advocacy group, has already led 15 scenario-planning exercises with hundreds of people from organizations across the state to prepare. “We know that the Trump administration is going to target California. They’ve been targeting California throughout this election cycle,” Masih Fouladi, executive director of the group, said. “We need to do a lot in California to make sure that we are defending, protecting our communities.”

Under Trump, Fouladi said, immigrant rights groups would lobby to make sure state and local resources are not used to detain and deport people and that non-citizen residents continue to have access to health care and other public services, which the state has significantly expanded over the past decade.

One likely priority is strengthening the California Values Act, the 2017 “sanctuary state” law that limited police cooperation with federal immigration authorities. After a contentious legislative battle, the version that passed was scaled back from what supporters originally envisioned, exempting people convicted of hundreds of more serious crimes from the protections and allowing state prison officials to continue handing over individuals facing deportation orders.

“What we hope for is to address the rights of the immigrant community in a humane way,” Fouladi said. ■

**COOKIE ELECTION**

*continued from page 5*

them to vote.”

Laurel Elementary School’s Principal, Alicia Heneghan, said she thinks the cookie election is a great way to make somewhat abstract concepts like voting, campaigning and elections tangible for young kids.

“When we think about democracy and elections, those feel like big, important adult concepts, but they’re really the foundation of our country,” she said. “I

think this is a great way to bring a complicated topic to a student level, and then they grow up knowing about the importance of elections and that their vote counts and matters.”

The students cast their ballots around 1 p.m. on Election Day in mini voting booths created by their teachers. The cookie votes

will be tallied on election night, and results will roll in on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 6. Pre-election class polling shows that Oreos are favored to win over Chips Ahoy.

“On Wednesday, we’ll reveal the results to students by graphing the data as a visual for them to understand. They will look at

it two ways — a popular vote ... and as an electoral college-like process,” said Greenwald.

The electoral college process will be based on the tables that each kid is assigned to in the classroom.

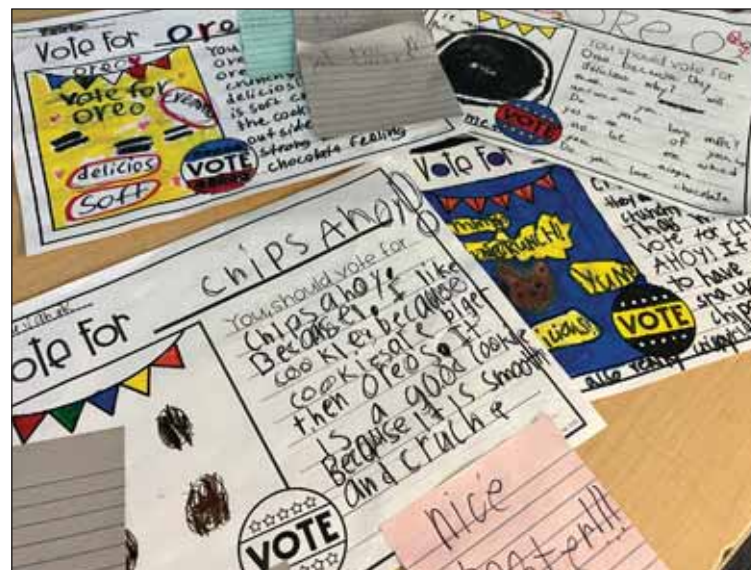
“I love that the teachers took a real world opportunity and brought it to the classroom in

a way that is really impactful,” said Heneghan. “It’s important to talk about current events, but there’s not really a curriculum for that. I’m really proud that they decided to do something special like this.” ■

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

**‘This is a great way to bring a complicated topic to a student level, and then they grow up knowing about the importance of elections and that their vote counts and matters.’**

ALICIA HENEGHAN,  
LAUREL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Photos by Eleanor Raab

Left: A third grader casts his ballot in the cookie election at Laurel Elementary School on Nov. 5. Right: The third graders created campaign posters for their preferred cookie.

# Home briefs: Atherton hosts 'ADU mixer' to connect potential tenants with landlords

By Linda Taaffe

Whether you're looking to tour historic gardens, get some gardening tips or learn about ADUs, you'll find plenty of opportunities on the Peninsula this month. Check out our November home & garden events calendar.

## Find housing matches at ADU mixer

6-8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, Atherton Town Council chambers, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton | Free. Event is focused specifically on Atherton, but anyone is welcome to attend

Are you a San Mateo County resident, worker or student seeking affordable housing on the Peninsula? Or perhaps you're an Atherton property owner interested in adding an Accessory Dwelling Unit to your property and renting it out — or already have one but are hoping to find a good tenant match. The town of Atherton, in partnership with HIP Housing, is holding a free "ADU mixer" event that aims to bring together locals in need of a new place to live with those who may have spaces to offer, and provide information on ADUs as housing solutions.

ADUs, also known as in-law units or granny flats, are small homes or apartments that share single-family lots with a primary residence. These small residences allow for more square footage on a single plot of land.

The mixer is a chance for "local home seekers and providers to have an opportunity to meet face to face," Anthony Suber, Atherton deputy city manager and city clerk, said.

Attendees will learn about ADU benefits and requirements from housing experts and urban planners, hear from community members with ADU housing experience, and be able to access resources on ADU construction, financing and legal requirements, he said.

HIP Housing is a San Mateo County nonprofit with a mission to maximize affordable housing opportunities. Atherton's free ADU Match program connects Atherton homeowners with ADUs to renters who already live, work or go to school in San Mateo County, according to the organization's website. The town's website also offers a link to a sample list of people seeking housing in Atherton, as of September 2024.

The upcoming ADU event is part of Atherton's ongoing efforts to harness the potential of ADUs as housing stock. The



Courtesy Inspire ADUs

Atherton is hosting an ADU mixer on Nov. 14 to connect potential tenants with landlords as part of town's push to provide more affordable housing options.

town hopes to fulfill approximately 80% of its state-mandated housing requirements through construction and rental of ADUs, which town officials say are often used for housing for senior family members, employees of the homeowner and students who otherwise would be unable to find similar accommodations locally.

"We have a goal in our housing element to have a certain number of units in the next eight-year cycle," Suber said of the motivation behind the mixer. "This is an initiative to help us make that goal. We need our residents to not only build ADUs but also be open to considering renting them to potential renters."

As reported by the Almanac, the town had to adopt a revised housing element by its Oct. 16 meeting last month or face consequences from the state, which mandates that each California city develop a housing plan that adequately addresses the housing needs of everyone in their community. The California Department of Housing and Community Development rejected two previously submitted versions of the town's housing element in 2022 and 2023.

According to the town's ADU brochure, Atherton estimates that about 35 new ADU and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units — smaller ADUs that are 500 square feet or smaller and can share a bathroom with the main house — will be developed each year during the next housing element cycle, with a goal of 280 new units by 2031, 124 of which are projected to be

affordable at the low and very-low income levels.

## How to make your own rain garden

Noon - 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto | Free | Registration required

Learn the critical role rain gardens can play in urban stream restoration while also adding beautiful landscaping to your yard. The class will cover how to site, plan and build your own rain garden.

## Roses: Winter care and pruning

11 a.m. - noon, Saturday, Nov. 9 | Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St. | Registration required

Now is the time to buy bare root roses. Learn how to care for all types of roses from new, easy-care introductions to old favorites during this one-hour class. Master Gardener Martha Carpenter will tell you how to choose and plant bare root roses. She also will discuss rose diseases and give a pruning demonstration.

## Fall farm volunteer days

9 a.m. - noon, Wednesdays & Saturdays, Nov. 9, 13, 16, 20 | Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills | Registration required

Help Hidden Villa's farm team care for food grown in the fields for the local community. Volunteers are needed to help remove weeds from the farm fields as well as assistance with other tasks. Participants should come ready to get dirty.

The farm recommends wearing clothes that you're okay with getting dirty, sturdy boots and a sun hat. Bring a water bottle and snacks, if you like.

Volunteers meet at the front of the property at 9 a.m. and then head out to the fields from there.

Hidden Villa grows on about 7 acres of land, producing food for the community and donating 25% of the harvest to the food bank at the Community Services Agency of Mountain View. Anyone under the age of 18 will need to be accompanied by a guardian.

## Seeds, berries and bling

2-5 p.m., Saturday, Saturday, Nov. 16 | Lone Ridge Preserve, La Honda | Free

Look for seeds, berries and other fruits on this 4.5-mile loop hike with docent naturalists Susan Bernhard, Ann Reisenauer, Noa Doitel and Maureen Draper. You'll see native plants poised for new growth at the start of the cool wet season and potentially find fungi, acorns and seeds — if the wildlife hasn't already harvested this year's crop. You'll hike along the Peters Creek Trail, pass Jikoji pond and absorb views of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the ocean if the afternoon is clear.

Meet at Peters Creek Roadside Parking (off Skyline Boulevard, near Portola Heights Road).

## Native Gardens celebrates 20th anniversary

1 -5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 17, Mayer Theatre, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara | \$50

The Golden Gate Bird Alliance and the California Native Plant

Society's Santa Clara Valley Chapter are holding a conference in Santa Clara on Nov. 17 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Bringing back the Natives Garden Tour, which is held annually in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to encourage residents to be better stewards of the environment.

Doug Tallamy, the New York Times bestselling author of "Nature's Best Hope" will be the keynote speaker. Tallamy advocates for using home gardens and landscaping to bridge the gaps between parks and preserves in providing habitat for native species. As a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, Tallamy will share photographs and stories of individual caterpillars, the native plants they evolved to eat, and how important insect populations are to the survival of our birds. In addition, various regional habitat changemakers will speak throughout the conference. (The first day of the event in Oakland on Saturday, Nov. 16, is sold out.)

## Holidays at Filoli

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Nov. 16 - Jan. 12, Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside

Celebrate the holiday season Filoli. From Nov. 16 through Jan. 12, the historic home and its surrounding gardens will be decked in holiday cheer. During the day, enjoy warm drinks by a fire pit or stop for lunch at the Quail Café. In the evening, enter a dazzling world of holiday cheer as immersive displays and historic, natural beauty bring magic to returning favorites and new experiences.

## Learn how to make a 'bountiful centerpiece'

9:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 23 | Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto

Learn how to design a low, horizontal arrangement for your Thanksgiving dinner table. Participants will incorporate seasonal elements such as pods, grasses and cones to create a textural visual feast. Gamble Garden floral arranger Katherine Glazier will share ideas on how to add botanical elements to your holiday table decor, as well as tips on how to best care for your arrangement. Glazier co-led the floral design program at Filoli for eight years and has exhibited at Bouquets to Art at the deYoung Museum.

Bring floral clippers; all other materials are included. Registration for the event ends on Monday, Nov. 18.

See HOME BRIEFS, page 17



Courtesy Filoli

The Filoli estate's gardens and historic mansion are decorated for the holidays, with more than 25 miles' worth of lights strung throughout the gardens. and activities that include Santa visits, holiday teas and more.

**HOME BRIEFS**

*continued from page 16*

**Flora party: 'Thanksgiving table centerpieces'**

2-4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 25 & 10 a.m.- noon and 2-4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 26 | Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside | \$150

Create a stunning centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table

during Filoli's "Flora party." Expert instructors will guide participants on crafting an elegant focal point using materials sourced from Filoli and local vendors. Admission to Filoli, sparkling wine and snacks and all materials needed to create one wreath will be provided.

**Free seeds at local libraries**

Not sure what to plant as you

prepare your garden for next spring? Head to your local library. Several public libraries on the Midpeninsula include seed libraries stocked with vegetable, fruit, herb and native flower seeds that residents can bring home and plant for free. You can find the seeds stored in old library card catalogs at most libraries that offer this service — and you don't need a library card. Available



Eleanor Raab

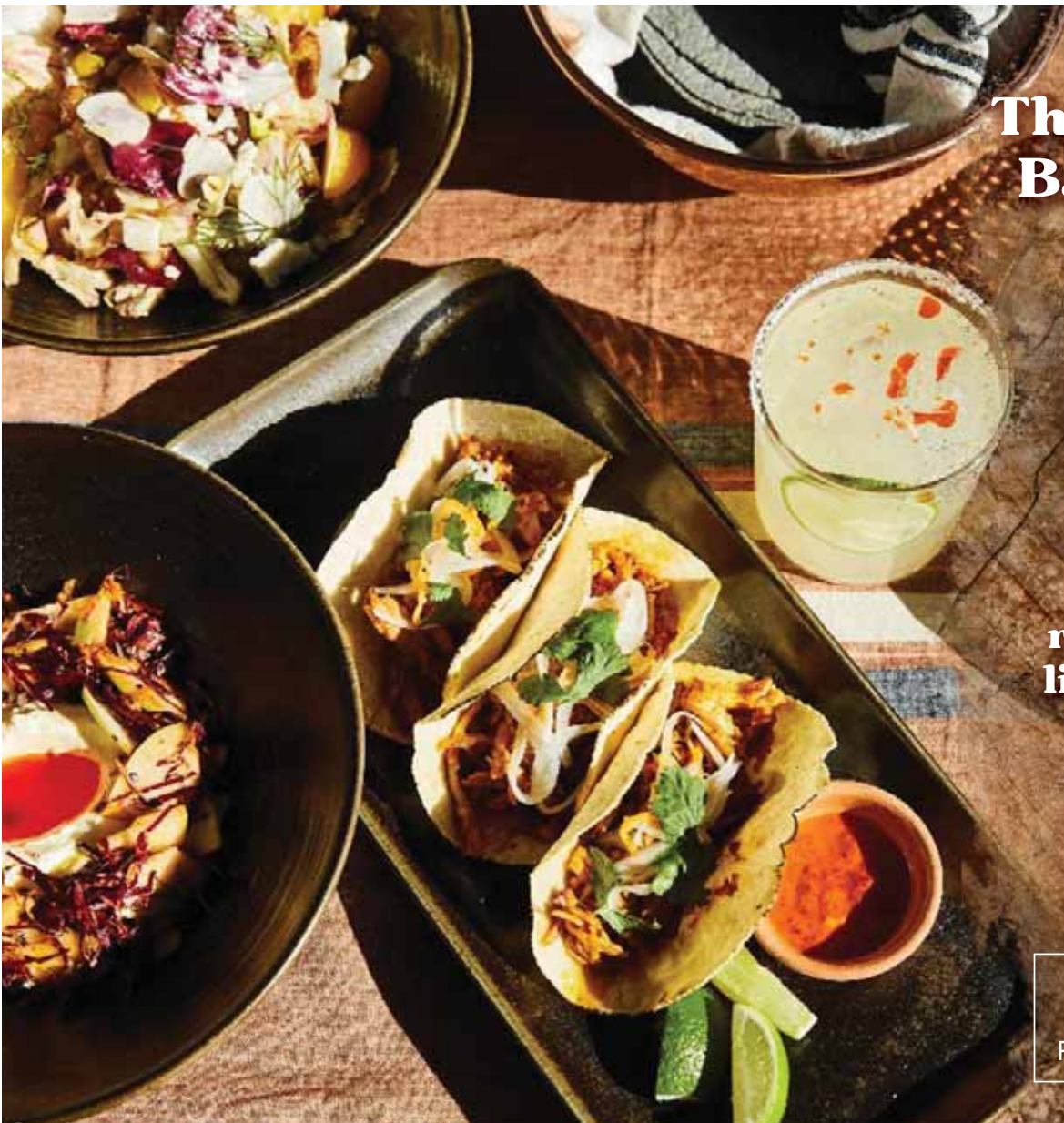
Cubbies hold seed packets at the Menlo Park Seed Library.

seed varieties are rotated seasonally according to optimal planting times for our area.

Rinconada, Menlo Park, Belle Haven, Mountain View and Redwood City public libraries are among those that

operate seed libraries in the area. Contact your local library for more information. ■

*Email Home/Real Estate Editor Linda Taaffe at ltaaffe@almanacnews.com.*



**The local's guide to the Bay Area food scene.**



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**Stay tasty,**

*Adrienne*

Editor, Peninsula Foodist

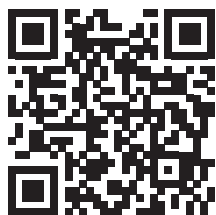
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# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## Woodside will miss its housing numbers, and it's not its fault

By David Mittelman

### GUEST OPINION

As it turns out, San Mateo County has the most restrictive septic ordinance in the Bay Area. It is constraining the development in rural areas of more housing, ironically where there is the space to do so, perpetuating unsafe living conditions for farmers, publicized in the aftermath of the shootings in Half Moon Bay in 2023.

#### Some background first. What is a septic system, and why does this matter regarding housing?

Where there is no access to centralized sewer systems, a septic system consisting of a septic tank and a drain field is used. The septic tank separates solids and liquids. The treated liquid is then dispersed into the drain field, where the soil further filters it before reaching groundwater. Sometimes, there is a requirement for a dual system: a primary and a secondary field. The secondary field is a backup to the primary field, ideally allowing alternating use between the fields to allow each field time to “rest” and recover between uses. Finally, a “reserve” refers to an area of land set aside for potential future use in case the existing septic system needs to be expanded or replaced.

Septic systems are sized based on the number of bedrooms planned. Conversely, the size of the system dictates the number of bedrooms possible. The EPA assumes that an average person uses roughly 75 gallons of water daily. San Mateo County assumes two people will be in every bedroom, or 150 gallons of water per day per bedroom. However, the county does not

have a legal definition of a bedroom. Often, it comes down to the discretion of the local planning department to determine what is or is not a bedroom based on, among other things, the width of the door or proximity to a bathroom.

San Mateo County alone requires BOTH a dual system and then 100% reserve for primary and secondary fields, essentially creating a 300% reserve requirement. The next highest reserve requirement is Sonoma County, at only 200%. Additionally, San Mateo County is the only county that requires a property owner to plan and prove a conventional system before planning an alternative. This has the effect of reducing the number of bedrooms possible on a site. Traditional systems require vastly more space than alternative systems that utilize newer technologies. Theoretically, a lot might support a conventional system sized for a three-bedroom home. However, an alternative system in the same space could support 11 bedrooms across a three-bedroom primary residence and four two-bedroom ADUs (accessory dwelling units). However, because of the way San Mateo County has written its ordinance, it doesn't matter. That property could only be built as a three-bedroom home.

Santa Cruz County has no dual system requirement; it is just a reserve field. Put another way, the same land area used for a conventional system could support twice the bedrooms in Santa Cruz County over San Mateo County. In Contra Costa County, you only need your

primary field! That equates to four times the bedrooms of an identical lot in San Mateo County. Also, Sonoma County is the only county with provisions for incinerating toilets, which is a fantastic, time-proven way to avoid the entire problem of septic drain fields altogether.

#### How can San Mateo County fix its septic policies to create more housing opportunities?

1. Create a legal definition of a bedroom. Sonoma County has a definition, and so should San Mateo County.

2. Remove the requirement to plan a conventional system before planning an alternative one. The current language in the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual effectively binds the size of the alternative system to that of a conventional one.

3. Expand the types of systems allowed in San Mateo County to align with the rest of the bay, including recirculating sand filters, mounted beds, at-grade systems/raised sand beds, and pre-approved proprietary treatment technologies. Additionally, San Mateo County should join other counties in allowing alternative systems to support subdivisions.

4. Allow for composting/incinerator toilets in agricultural settings and parks.

5. Remove the dual system requirement.

6. Remove the reserve requirement, or at the very least, allow a secondary field to count as the reserve.

7. For proprietary systems, adopt third-party standards and accept any system that meets/exceeds them. The county should adopt the following standards,

get away from people broadcasting their experiences. Nothing is PRIVATE anymore.

We are entertained by this unnecessary loudness everywhere. Often people flop down in the seat of a bus or train — or while they are waiting for the transit, pull out their audio devices, including cell phones and share it with those near and far. There are better ways to spend our time while we wait or relax. Sometimes this loudness can just turn the person off one

is talking to. It can also bring out the worst in people, which does not help to bring health and peace to the world, let alone those nearby. People need to use their voices and audio devices like gardeners have had to learn how to use their leaf blowers in a respectful, considerate, gentle, and kind manner. Let's help bring out the best in each other, instead of the worst.

Jackie Leonard-Dimmick,  
Walnut Avenue, Atherton

requiring any system to meet the requirements of at least one of these certifications: NSF/ANSI 40 and 245, EN 12566.

8. Maintain a list of proprietary systems that pass muster to facilitate adoption and permitting.

Woodside could support many more ADUs than are being pursued; however, many property

owners cannot construct them because they cannot expand their septic systems. It is time for San Mateo County to support Woodside and other rural communities by aligning its septic ordinance with the rest of the Bay Area. ■

David Mittelman is a Woodside resident.

## Public Notices

GOLDEN STATE VALLEY CONSTRUCTION  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298748  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) GOLDEN STATE VALLEY CONSTRUCTION, located at 1775 Tulane Ave, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.  
Registered owner(s):  
V J PALO ALTO CONSTRUCTION  
1775 Tulane Ave  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
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 October 09, 2024.  
(ALM Oct 25, Nov 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

CULTIVATE GROWTH MARKETING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298845  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) CULTIVATE GROWTH MARKETING, located at 1065 Lupin Way, San Carlos, CA 94070.  
Registered owner(s):  
PROPERTIES ON THE PENINSULA LLC  
1065 Lupin Way  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/8/2024.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 21, 2024.  
(ALM Nov 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

WELCH ROAD APARTMENTS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298925  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) WELCH ROAD APARTMENTS, located at 3603 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
ROBINSON FINANCIAL CORPORATION  
3603 Alameda de las Pulgas  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
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 October 28, 2024.  
(ALM Nov 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2024)

EVERGREEN WEAR  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298836  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) EVERGREEN WEAR, located at 731 Claridge Dr., Pacifica, CA 94044.  
Registered owner(s):  
MAE AAITKO  
731 Claridge Dr.  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
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 October 21, 2024.  
(ALM Nov 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
DARRELL BROOKS  
Case No.: 24-PRO-01336  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DARRELL BROOKS.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Suzanne Nourmand in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: Suzanne Nourmand be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on December 04 2024 at 9:00 AM in Dept. 1 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at Southern Branch 400 County Center Redwood City, CA 94063. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Marty J. Nicholson, Esquire  
P. O. Box 891593  
Temecula, CA 92589  
951-219-5230  
(ALM Nov 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

To place a legal notice visit  
[AlmanacNews.com/legal\\_notices/](https://AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/)

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### Less audio sharing

Has anyone noticed how loud our community, maybe the world, has become? People no longer talk with each other in a gentle, quiet peaceful volume. They seem to SHOUT or YELL at each other, ever if the people are within two or three feet of each other. There is no place to go to

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

We catch up with two members of the long-running rock band, which is still flying high after all these years

By Karla Kane



Onward  
and  
upward  
with  
Jefferson  
Starship

Courtesy Primary Wave

Jefferson Starship plays at the Guild Theatre on Nov. 14, 2024.

**I**conic Bay Area rock band Jefferson Starship is 50 this year and shows no signs of slowing down. The group officially started in 1974, with roots in the also-iconic Jefferson Airplane, and the current lineup includes founding member David Freiberg (who left the group in the 1980s and returned in 2005), drummer Donny Baldwin, keyboardist Chris Smith, lead vocalist Cathy Richardson and lead guitarist Jude Gold. While on tour in Europe, Freiberg and Richardson took the time to respond to a few questions emailed by this news organization in advance of their upcoming show at the Guild Theatre.

*The Q&A has been edited for clarity and space.*

**Embarcadero Media:** Jefferson Starship is a band with such a long history, with deep roots. I know there have been a lot of changes in the membership, and even band names, over the years. Looking back now, what do you see as the key elements of the band that still shine through to this day, and how would you describe the current vibe and sound?

**Cathy Richardson:** I think this band has always been about great songs and great singing. Even in all the different incarnations, Jefferson Airplane and Jefferson Starship and Starship, which are all different bands, essentially, with overlapping personnel, as time went on. And those songs have such an imprint on the

psyche of people that have grown up listening to that music. So when we play it live, it literally is like taking people on a time machine trip and it's the magic of music and the spirit of (the late band founder) Paul Kantner; of onward; just keep it going, keep it going forever.

**David Freiberg:** The band today is an outshoot of Paul Kantner's restarting of Jefferson Starship after the plain old Starship disbanded in, like, 1989, I think. So, he started it over, as it was his name anyway to start with. And it carried on from there. One of the things (that) was noticeable, even from Jefferson Airplane, there are a few key members, but other people could change, you know? They were always, I mean, all of a sudden, you could find an Afriamerican violin player being in Jefferson Airplane, which is how it was when I joined Jefferson Airplane in '72. The drummer was their, like, fourth drummer that they had since they started... So things could change and also the music changed with who was playing it, and as Paul would say, 'Well, when we recorded it we didn't know how it went.' So, the recorded version is really, you know, as he says, but as we got out and played it on the road we figured out how it was supposed to go. So usually, the way you would hear Jefferson Airplane play, even right back in the '60s, it would be nothing like the record when they got out and played it live. It was a real adventure. It was really nice.

**Richardson:** And we don't try to sound like the record at all. It's like, Paul never wanted this to be exactly like it was because it would never be. And so, he brought us all in on the strength of our ability to be an artist, not just a side person or ...

**Freiberg:** ... Play somebody else's guitar.

**Richardson:** Yeah, like, make it yours, you know? And we do, and our versions are really cool and they evolve through time.

**Freiberg:** And they still are. And I expect evolvement.

**Embarcadero Media:** Cathy, you've had a very interesting career as well, with a lot of different projects. What made you want to get involved with Jefferson Starship and how do you balance stepping into a very well-known band like this with putting your own unique spin on things?

**Richardson:** Well, I, of course, jumped at the chance. Jefferson Starship is one of my favorite bands. I jumped at the chance. Are you kidding me? Yes, I didn't even think about it. And didn't really know even what I was getting myself into at the time.

**Freiberg:** I'm glad you didn't know.

**Richardson:** Yeah, so it was a rough few years, but for me it made the most sense in the world because I grew up listening to this music, and I have all the vinyl and I listened to all of it when I was a teenager and I thought, 'Oh, I was born too late, man,' because I was born in '69. I missed the

whole thing, and I really thought that I was supposed to be a hippie in San Francisco in the '60s, and maybe I was. And maybe I just reincarnated. Just for this specific purpose.

**Freiberg:** I would believe that.

**Richardson:** It was a perfect match for me, and having that freedom to, like, you don't have to do it like Grace (original member and former Palo Alto Grace Slick) ... of course, I borrow from Grace, I borrow from (former Jefferson Starship singer) Mickey Thomas, I borrow from (former singer) Marty Balin. Because they're the iconic voices of the song, so I just do the best that I can with what I have to work with. And it seems to work. It seems to work.

**Freiberg:** Boy does it. Says I.

**Embarcadero Media:** What can audiences expect at your upcoming Menlo Park show? What do you hope they take away from it?

**Richardson:** I just hope that they have a great time warp, and, you know, feel that feeling of what it's like to hear these songs that you haven't heard for so long live. And we're up here, you know, we're playing all over the world. We're in Luxembourg right now playing in arenas with Deep Purple. So this Menlo Park show is going to be really, really special because it's not a big place and I think it's going to be a really intense and awesome show. And we love all of our Bay Area friends to come out.

**Embarcadero Media:** When you're not busy touring,

performing, and recording, what do you like to do in your spare time?

**Freiberg:** Staying in shape. I take walks. Work out a little bit. So that I don't fall apart.

**Richardson:** I love to be at home with my family and my kids, my cats, my squirrels. I have a whole squirrel community that I commune with and all the birds, all my tree friends. I really actually miss them, and I'm so mad that my wife is not feeding them while I'm gone. ... But I love to be at home and I love nature and I live right next to a nature area and I'm in the suburbs of Chicago. ... I have a great friend network and great family life.

**Freiberg:** I like to hang with my wife, and she's got a little music career going on her own, which is only little because we were doing some stuff together, and now I'm always away, so I try to help her get along with that. Linda Imperial. That girl can sing.

**Embarcadero Media:** What's next for the band, now that it's past the half-century mark?

**Freiberg:** Onward.

**Richardson:** Onward.

**Freiberg:** That's the word. ■

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

Jefferson Starship performs Nov. 14, 8 p.m., at the Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$78.80-\$194.67; [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

# Nina Sharma discusses her book 'The Way You Make Me Feel: Love In Black and Brown'

The memoirist stopped by Books Inc. Palo Alto last month

By Ashwini Gangal

Picture an interracial couple in love. If one of the two lovers your mind conjured up is white, then author Nina Sharma might have a thing or two to say about that. Lately, she's making her point through her book "The Way You Make Me Feel: Love In Black And Brown," her debut essay collection about her own Afro-Asian love story.

"Who gets the love story in America? The white characters!" said Sharma, in an interview with this publication on the sidelines of a recent promotional event at Books Inc. Palo Alto, part of a multi-city book tour. "The Black or brown character is like 'the quirky best friend' — super under-written and under-represented, and I wanted to tell this story to combat that erasure and portray us with more humanity than we're often given."

The book is about more than just love; her story comes wrapped in layers of legal and socio-cultural history of race in the country — she writes about the Lovings, among other hard-hitting truths.

Despite the serious subject, though, humor jumps off nearly every page as she lays bare different aspects of her inner monologue, from lust to lunacy and everything in-between. For a trained memoir writer, of course, being scandalously honest comes with the territory. Or does it? "I want to break the silences that hold me back from living my life," she said. "Break a silence or say something that is otherwise unspeakable."

The book is intensely personal and in equal measure, perilously political. To Sharma, the two are inextricably bound. "I don't think I'd be able to tell my personal story without a broader political landscape being part of the book," she said. "It's that combination that felt like my story in its most authentic form was coming forward."

Other than delighting readers with the 'rom-cominess' of her interracial marriage, Sharma also hopes to make a dent on society with this book. "I feel like anti-Blackness is baked into our process of assimilation; by 'our' I mean South Asian Americans or South Asian immigrants," she said. "And I really just want to pull



Ashwini Gangal

Author Nina Sharma poses with her book, "The Way You Make Me Feel: Love in Black and Brown."

that awareness up, say the quiet part out loud."

Sharma's parents came to this country through the 1965 Immigration Act, which lifted race-based barriers to immigration. "That was just on the heels of the Civil Rights Movement," she said. "All of that made their lives so much easier than they would have been as immigrants in America. We owe a great debt to Black Americans."

But ironically, Afro-Asian allyship was not what ensued. "Instead, what happened was we were split apart into archetypes of the 'model minority myth' of the 'passive,' 'docile,' upwardly mobile Asian American immigrant, positioned up against the 'problem minority myth' of the 'loud' or 'hostile' Black American ..." she said. "For South Asian Americans so much of our experience is running toward those archetypes because they felt safer, but it's a false notion of safety, one that keeps us quiet and in pain."

It took Sharma around a decade to write and publish this book, which, despite its social relevance, is at its very core, a real life love story between a brown woman and a Black man. "White America wants to position race as a story of pain, but we're more than our pain," she said. "Race can be a love story and I really just wanted to embrace that." ■

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Nina Sharma's "The Way You Make Me Feel: Love In Black And Brown" is published by Penguin Press.

## Worth a Look

### Stephanie Chou

Composer, saxophonist, singer and educator Stephanie Chou blends Chinese musical influences with Western jazz and pop. She comes to Palo Alto with her quintet (Andy Lin on erhu and viola, Hyuna Park on piano, Bryan Copeland on bass and Ronen Itzik on drums) for a performance presented by Earthwise Productions. Chou holds a BA in mathematics and completed graduate studies in music composition, according to her website. Her song cycle "Comfort Girl," which is being developed into an opera and a studio recording, about the lives of Chinese "comfort women" forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese army during WWII, "is not only a groundbreaking fusion of East-West musical traditions, but has also sparked public dialogue on a formerly taboo subject that still resonates globally for women today," her website says.

Nov. 10, 8:30 p.m., Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto; \$20; [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com).



Courtesy Emra Islek

Musician Stephanie Chou performs Nov. 10 in Palo Alto.

### 'Fiddler on the Roof'

Tradition! For its next production, Palo Alto Players presents one of the giants of the musical theater pantheon, "Fiddler on the Roof," which boasts classic songs such as "Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man." The show follows Tevye (played in this version by Joey McDaniel), a poor milkman living with his wife and five daughters in a tight-knit, traditional Jewish community in increasingly antisemitic imperial Russia. As his eldest daughters come of age, Tevye must grapple with a changing world while trying to honor his traditional values.

Nov. 8-24 (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays), Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; \$35-\$60; [paplayers.org/event/fiddler-on-the-roof/](https://paplayers.org/event/fiddler-on-the-roof/).

### Mads Tolling

Grammy-winning jazz composer and violinist Mads Tolling plays two shows at Palo Alto's Meyhouse. Currently a member of Bob Weir's Wolf Bros/Pack Band (for which he's written arrangements of Grateful Dead tunes) and formerly a member of Turtle Island Quartet, he's also formed his own groups: Mads Tolling Quartet and Mads Tolling & The Mads Men. Tolling grew up in Copenhagen, Denmark, is now based in San Francisco, and has performed widely.

Nov. 8, shows at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Meyhouse, 640 Emerson St., Palo Alto; \$50 (requires a \$20 food/drink minimum); [meyhouserestaurant.com](https://meyhouserestaurant.com).

### Gallery House Homecoming

Gallery House, which relocated to downtown Menlo Park in May after 65 years in Palo Alto, marks its grand re-opening with a reception. The cooperative gallery features works by 23 local artists in a variety of media, including painting, photography, ceramics, jewelry and textile arts. The reception showcases the work in the gallery's latest show, "In the Moment," which opened earlier this week.

Reception takes place Nov. 9, 6-9 p.m., at Gallery House, 826 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. [galleryhouse.art](https://galleryhouse.art).

### Springline's Festival of Light Diwali Celebration

Springline Menlo Park's Festival of Light event, in celebration of Diwali, includes all-you-can-eat food and drinks from Burma Love and New Delhi Restaurant; live entertainment by Deepa (Dhol drum), The Noorani Dance Company (Kathak dance), (Hindustani classical musician) Shayanthi and Reddy2dance (dancer Shruthi Reddy); music from DJ Dinnu; and a marketplace including henna artists, handcrafted clothing by VAHN Designs, contemporary Indian jewelry by Studio Anai and Maujh, and a photo opportunity hosted by Parivar Bay Area, which according to the event website is America's only transgender-led, transgender-centering South Asian organization. The event is 21+.

Nov. 8, 6-10 p.m., Springline Menlo Park, 1300 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$45; [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com).

# Food & Drink

## Transitioning tastes

A Bay Area restaurateur steps away from her prominent ramen chain as a new sushi spot opens under its name

By Adrienne Mitchel

After a 14-year reign as a top ramen spot in the Bay Area, Orenchi Ramen is down to one location — and its founder has stepped away from the brand entirely.

“We had great moments with Orenchi,” said Kuniko Ozawa, Orenchi Ramen founder and longtime owner. “It’s about time, because there’s so many other great new ramen places. I think Orenchi’s golden days were over. After COVID, I felt like we were just running it because it makes money. But in the true feelings, I think I was done with it.”

Ozawa founded Orenchi Ramen in Santa Clara in 2010, expanding the shop into San Francisco’s Mission District in 2014, downtown Redwood City in 2018 and Los Altos’ State Street Market last year. But in

2022, the San Francisco outpost closed. Last year, the Redwood City location shuttered to make way for Ozawa’s fine-dining concept Ogiku Kaiseki, which permanently closed in August. And on Oct. 26, the original Santa Clara location closed as well.

“We are shrinking our businesses ... The main reason was we are getting old and my husband is thinking about retirement,” Ozawa wrote in an email.

Last month, Ozawa transferred ownership of the last remaining Orenchi Ramen to Yasu Yamamoto and Masato Arimitsu, co-owners of Sunnyvale’s Rokko Restaurant and Ramen Seas and San Jose’s Fugetsu Market, Dan Izakaya Restaurant, Kahoo Ramen and Curry Life.

“We have so many Orenchi customers, so I just felt sorry for customers to take away the

brand,” Ozawa said. “I asked (Yamamoto and Arimitsu) to keep the same recipe, same menu, and then continue Orenchi for my customers.”

Arimitsu said he’s committed to keeping Orenchi’s recipes the same and is open to the idea of opening additional locations of Orenchi Ramen later on. Arimitsu and Yamamoto have already expanded Orenchi’s brand presence with the addition of Orenchi Sushi in State Street Market in October. State Street Market was looking for a sushi spot to fill its former oyster bar (most recently Little Sky Bakery, which just moved into Ikuka’s former spot), and Arimitsu and Yamamoto already had experience with sushi restaurants, Arimitsu said.

The head chef of Orenchi Sushi is Sataro Hiramatsu, who worked at high-end kaiseki spots in Japan for the majority



Veronica Weber

Kuniko Ozawa, owner of Sumika and Orenchi Ramen restaurants in Mountain View and Redwood City, sits in the dining room at Orenchi Ramen on March 22, 2018.



Adrienne Mitchel

Orenchi Sushi is the newest addition to Los Altos’ State Street Market.



Adrienne Mitchel

Kuniko Ozawa transferred ownership of Orenchi Ramen to Yasu Yamamoto and Masato Arimitsu in October.

of his career and is specialized in oshizushi, a pressed sushi that predates sushi rolls. Orenchi Sushi's menu features classic rolls (\$9-\$22) like California and spicy tuna, oshizushi (\$12-\$20) with salmon and roasted eel, and sushi cups (\$7-\$9) with yellowtail and crab. "Since this is a food court, we wanted to have people easily come here and easily take something, (like) grab-and-go items," Arimitsu said. "So we created a menu item called sushi cups. And it's in a cup with rice on the bottom and ingredients on the top. And people could even walk and eat with this too, if they wanted to."

In addition, find sushi bowls (sashimi over sushi rice), unagi don (roasted eel over rice) and three Orenchi sushi sets, which include a selection of

various items. Vegetarian options include avocado rolls, tamago rolls, avocado tamago sushi cups, tamago oshizushi and veggie oshizushi.

Outside of State Street Market, Ozawa continues to operate three restaurants — Sumika Grill in Los Altos and La Casa Mia in Santa Clara and Milpitas (formerly Obaitori Ramen). Ozawa's start in the restaurant industry began in 2004 when she opened upscale izakaya restaurant Sumika Grill. She was formerly a sales rep for high-tech companies and moved from Japan to the Bay Area 27 years ago, after meeting her husband in Tokyo.

"When I came here to the United States ... we had some good sushi restaurants, but that was it," Ozawa said. "I really missed the food in Japan, and

that was the only thing that I really didn't like about living in the Bay Area. So I was always craving for quality food."

A mother of three, Ozawa initially hoped her daughters would take over her restaurant empire.

"My two daughters were helping me to run the seven restaurants, but they wanted to move on to the new career," Ozawa said. "For me and my husband to run seven restaurants was really too hard, so we decided to scale it down to three."

One of her daughters, Miyuki Ozawa, opened Japanese bakery Ikuka in State Street Market last year. Ikuka scaled down operations when its main pastry chef became pregnant, shuttering its State Street Market location on Aug. 31 and relocating to La Casa Mia Santa Clara and



Courtesy Orenchi Sushi

Salmon sushi cup with salmon sashimi, salmon roe and tamago over sushi rice (\$7) at Orenchi Sushi in Los Altos' State Street Market.

Milpitas. Miyuki Ozawa will continue to spearhead Ikuka and hopefully will expand the bakery into its own brick and mortar, Kuniko Ozawa said.

During her two decades in the Bay Area restaurant industry, the biggest change was the pandemic, which altered consumer eating habits, Kuniko Ozawa said. There's been a significant decrease in the weekday lunch crowd, a moderate decrease in the weekday dinner crowd and a huge rush on weekends, she said.

"It's really hard to schedule full-time workers, because everybody wants to work five days, but people just want to eat on those three days: Friday, Saturday, Sunday," she said.

Despite these difficulties, Ozawa said she's not looking to retire anytime soon.

"I really love this restaurant business and being the owner, so I'm going to continue my restaurant business until I get really old," she said. ■

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

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram and subscribe to the newsletter to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.

Orenchi Ramen & Sushi, 170 State St., Los Altos; 650-823-0933, Instagram: @orenchi.ramen\_sushi. Orenchi Ramen open Sunday to Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Orenchi Sushi open Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.



Courtesy Orenchi Sushi

Salmon oshizushi with salmon sashimi and salmon roe over pressed sushi rice (\$16) at Orenchi Sushi in Los Altos' State Street Market.

# Employment

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For assistance email [LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com).

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