

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 6, 2024 | VOL. 60 NO. 14



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Former Sequoia staffers accuse district of discrimination

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Warning: This story mentions suicidal ideation and other mental health struggles, which some individuals may find distressing.

A movement has been sparked among current and former Sequoia Union High School District staff who claim that the district is promoting discriminatory behavior toward people of color. Since the start of the school year, the school board and district administrators have been under scrutiny as staff allege district-wide corruption amid multiple lawsuits and investigations.

Some staffers say they are leaving the district riddled with anxiety, depression and panic attacks — all as a result of what they say is a hostile work environment. This news organization spoke to eight former employees of color, who are accusing the district of discrimination.

Former staff say that they have been accused of district violations with lack of evidence, have had little to no support in demanding positions and received no acknowledgement of their serious mental health struggles.

Superintendent Crystal Leach

declined to comment on the claims, saying that districts “have a legal obligation to protect the privacy of employees, so we are unable to comment on individual personnel issues.”

Blindsighted accusations

In the heat of this movement, students and parents have also come forward to address the absence of Mike Molieri, a well-known educator and varsity basketball coach at Menlo-Atherton High School.

It’s been over 100 days since Molieri was placed on administrative leave. Some parents of Molieri’s students are asking “when will Coach Mo return?” The district has no response.

Molieri was placed on leave in August after he allegedly “engaged in misconduct which includes, but is not limited to, alleged violations of students rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Act,” according to the district’s leave notice.

Mike Molieri’s brother, Dan, believes that his brother is being accused of releasing a student’s Individualized Education Program without the permission of the student or parent. Dan Molieri is a lead investigator at



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Former Sequoia Union High School District employees Kari Cheng, left, and Jeremy Arey, right, stand for a photo at Stafford Park in Redwood City on Oct. 1.

the Oakland-based Law Offices of John Burriss.

Mike Molieri, a special education teacher of 21 years, was known for mentoring students at M-A and providing students of color with a safe space in his

classroom. Multiple students spoke during board meetings asking why their teacher hasn’t returned.

Since being placed on leave, Mike Molieri has filed a retaliation complaint against the district

with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. His case is being represented by San Francisco-based attorney Harry Stern.

See **SEQUOIA**, page 11

Menlo Park City Council gridlocked on overnight RV parking

By Eleanor Raab

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the Menlo Park City Council held off on voting on a new parking ordinance, which would ban recreational vehicles from parking overnight on Menlo Park streets. The ordinance would also allow the Menlo Park Police Department to authorize towing any vehicles that are parked on city streets for over 72 hours. The ordinance also would make other changes to prevent cars from parking in the sight lines of cross walks.

The council voted 3-2 to delay the vote until after the newly elected council members are

seated, with Vice Mayor Drew Combs and Council member Maria Doerr dissenting.

Doerr was driven nearly to tears with concern over the uncertainty that the council would be causing for Menlo Park residents who live in RVs by not making a decision at the meeting. She asked that the council not pass the RV ban, and instead consider more “creative solutions” to aid those who are living in these vehicles, such as initiating a safe parking program similar to East Palo Alto’s. Doerr did not run for re-election due to a pending move out of the area, and will be replaced by newly elected council member

Jennifer Wise in December.

“It’s quite concerning that we have a sitting council that has been here for a long time and is not able to make a decision about creating some kind of certainty for our community about what will happen to these residents,” Doerr said.

Combs also strongly disagreed with holding off on a decision, but for a different reason. Combs advocated for passing the RV ban to provide relief to the residents and business owners who have been complaining about the RVs that have collected along Bohannon Drive, Campbell Avenue and Scott Drive in Belle Haven.

“This has been a yearslong issue with the city ... if anything the property owners and the people that work (near the RVs) have said that the city’s engagement here has been much too delayed,” he said.

Several council members wanted to see an implementation plan and administrative policies from the police before they felt comfortable voting either way on the ordinance.

“I’m having a hard time seeing how this all plays out — where people go, what happens to their stuff, how do they get it back?” said Council member Jen Wolosin. “Before knowing some of those details, I’m having

a hard time committing to doing anything to these RVs.”

Menlo Park Police Chief Dave Norris, who presented the ordinance to the council, said that the department has a commitment to a “care first” approach to policing, which involves offering resources and aid before ticketing or towing. However, Norris said he did not think writing new staff policies would be productive until a new ordinance had been passed.

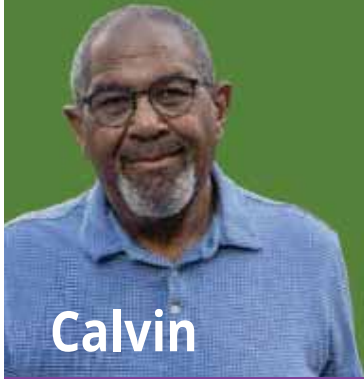
Mayor Cecilia Taylor, Betsy Nash and Wolosin opted to hold the item until January after much discussion over

See **RV PARKING**, page 10

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 15 | ARTS 18 | FOOD 21

LET’S EDUCATE: GUIDE TO CLASSES, CAMPS & MORE 16



Calvin

Seasons change. Hunger doesn't.

A Hidden Crisis: Our senior community faces rising costs, hunger, and isolation.

We wish you a joyous holiday season with family and friends. While we celebrate the season with loved ones, many local seniors face challenges that threaten their well-being.

Behind the region's prosperity, **seniors on fixed incomes** are silently struggling with **soaring costs of food** and other essential daily support needs, leading to increased **hunger and health risks**. San Mateo County and the Surgeon General recognize the **epidemic of loneliness** as a public health crisis. Many older adults live alone, craving connection. **Alzheimer's and dementia** rates are surging, placing overwhelming caregiving burdens on families, yet less than 2% of institutional funding supports aging-related causes. These urgent challenges ripple through our community, **affecting the families of all backgrounds**-- neighbors and friends, parents and grandparents and raising serious concerns for the fastest growing senior demographic over the next decade and beyond.

The holiday season intensifies the challenges for Ruth and others!

Over the holidays, these burdens grow heavier for countless seniors like **Ruth**, who is homebound with a broken hip and cannot shop or cook for herself, or **Calvin**, a widower who lives alone and struggles to afford food. **Joyce** is overwhelmed by her husband's Alzheimer's, while others face loneliness and technology barriers to stay connected with loved ones.

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. provides crucial support to local families.

PVI understands the urgency of the senior crisis and provides life-changing support services for each of these families, bringing hope beyond the season. Your support is essential. Together, we make this possible.

Your local giving drives local impact!

Make your life-changing impact today: Your year-end gift of any amount that is right for you* directly supports vulnerable local seniors and means everything to the **thousands of local families relying on us**. Your gift puts food on plates, helps create new meal routes, eliminates meal waitlists and enables innovative programs to address isolation and dementia care needs. Give securely online at www.1pvi.org/donate or use the QR code. Your generosity makes a meaningful impact.

*Examples: \$500 provides PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors for a month; \$700 supports a week of Adult Day Services; \$1,200 funds an annual premium membership at PVI's Adult Activity Center at Little House; \$2,000 funds 100 round-trip rides for seniors; \$2,500 funds an iPad and training for a year.

Peter Olson
Chief Executive Officer

Georgie Gleim
Board Chair/President

Change a senior's story. Donate Today!

I love the fresh meals and the people who deliver them! - Ruth



SCAN TO DONATE



Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.
800 Middle Ave. Menlo Park, CA 94025
1PVI.ORG | Tax ID # 94-1294939



Ruth

FIND THE BEST HOME THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



FOR SALE



1160 TRINITY DRIVE, MENLO PARK | 3 BD 3 BA 4,220 SF \$5,195,000 1160TRINITY.COM

This extraordinary property offers a rare opportunity to own a spacious home with stunning views of the western hills. Designed for enjoying true California indoor/outdoor living and entertaining, this home features abundant natural light and luxurious amenities.

FOR SALE



395 GOLDEN HILLS, PORTOLA VALLEY | 4 BD 4 BA 1 1/2 BA 4,515 SF \$6,895,000 395GOLDENHILLS.COM

Designed to embrace the sweeping views of the western hills, this sophisticated home exemplifies contemporary elegance with tremendous natural light and volume with views at every turn.

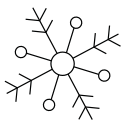


TOM LEMIEUX
650.465.7459
tom@lemieuxRE.com
DRE 01066910



ALICIA YOUNG
415.601.4900
alicia@lemieuxRE.com
DRE 02234525

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season!



Compass is a licensed real estate broker 01527235 in the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdraw without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit properties already listed.





GILEAD = GREED

Gilead has made tens of billions of dollars from drug price gouging.

#PutPeopleFirst

Learn more at
Gilead.org



Eleanor Raab

Erin MacGeraghty poses with one of her designs in her shop at 325 Sharon Park Drive.

Stories and sparkle: Erin Mac Jewelry celebrates 50 years of unique jewelry in Sharon Heights

‘It’s not your typical jewelry store,’
says owner and designer Erin MacGeraghty

By Eleanor Raab

Erin Mac Jewelry is “not your typical jewelry store,” says owner and designer Erin MacGeraghty, who describes her store as a “magical” place. MacGeraghty has run her jewelry business, which has been a staple of the Sharon Heights Shops for 50 years.

Today, her jewelry can be found on the fingers of actresses, over the necks of businesswomen and around the wrists of everyday people throughout the Bay Area, though MacGeraghty said she is too discreet to reveal the names of most of the more famous collectors of her jewelry.

As you walk into MacGeraghty’s shop, you are surrounded by shimmering rings, brooches, necklaces and bracelets made up of diamonds, pearls, lapis lazuli, aquamarine, moonstone and more. Many of her pieces sport playful designs, such

See **JEWELRY**, page 7

San Mateo County sees rise in whooping cough cases

There have been 105 cases so far this year

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Cases of whooping cough, also known as pertussis, are rising in San Mateo County, according to a Wednesday, Nov. 27, county health advisory. Some 105 cases have been reported in 2024, as of Dec. 3, compared to four in 2023.

In Santa Clara County, 59 cases have been reported this year, as of Dec. 3, up from eight in 2023.

San Mateo County Health said the majority of cases have been

reported in individuals 15 to 24 years old. No hospitalizations have been reported.

“Clusters of cases have been reported with increasing frequency in elementary and high school settings,” according to the county report.

According to the California Department of Public Health, 1,744 cases of whooping cough have been reported in the state this year.

Symptoms of whooping cough can resemble that of a common

cold with early symptoms of runny nose, congestion, low-grade fever and mild cough. Severe symptoms include difficulty breathing, coughing fits and a “whoop” sound when inhaling after a cough, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Infants who are too young to be vaccinated are most at risk for severe disease.

The Tdap vaccine for

See **WHOOPING COUGH**, page 14

San Mateo County supes approve March election to decide sheriff’s fate

San Mateo County voters will weigh in on ballot measure on March 4, 2025

By Eleanor Raab

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has finalized plans for a March 2025 special election on ballot measure that, if passed by voters, would amend the county charter to allow the board to remove Sheriff Christina Corpus, who faces mounting allegations of misconduct, including abuse of power and retaliation.

The board voted 4-0 on Dec. 3, with Supervisor David Canepa absent, to pass the ordinance to initiate the special election, which will take place on March 4, 2025.

While supporters of the measure, including the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff’s Association, see it as a necessary step toward accountability, critics argue that it undermines voter choice and sets a troubling precedent. Still, some believe that with Corpus refusing to resign, the measure offers the fastest route to address the growing concerns as calls for her removal intensify.

“For the people working at the Sheriff’s Office, this (March election) is far too late already,” said Supervisor Noelia Corzo, who co-authored the ballot measure. “They have already been harmed over time. ... We need to protect them, and we need to do what is right for our community.”

In recent weeks, the board has been calling on Corpus to resign following the release of the report from a county-commissioned independent investigation by Judge LaDoris Cordell that details alleged retaliation and abuse of power in her office, an alleged multi-year affair between Corpus and her chief of staff Victor Aenlle and possible illegal activity.

The board also voted 3-0, with Corzo abstaining, to formally invite Corpus to provide sworn testimony and answer questions from the board at its Dec. 10 meeting. Corzo said she would abstain because she is “extremely concerned that even under oath, the sheriff will use



Anna Hoch-Kenney

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus takes questions from the press during a last-minute conference at the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office in Redwood City on Nov. 12.

(the testimony) as a platform to continue to lie.”

At a previous meeting, Corpus said that she would not provide sworn testimony to the board unless she was provided with legal representation. Thomas Mazzucco, a lawyer representing Corpus, appeared at the Dec. 3 meeting and asked the supervisors to hold off on voting to give her legal team more time to review the allegations made against her.

“The sheriff has not presented her side of the story yet, probably due to a lack of confidence, potential conflicts of interest, but we’re going to have a serious conversation with the sheriff about doing that,” Mazzucco said.

This news organization reached out to the Sheriff’s Office to see whether Corpus intends to appear at the Dec. 10 meeting, but did not receive a response as of The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon print deadline. As per California’s elections code, the board has until Dec. 11 to vote to take the ballot measure off the ballot and cancel the March 4 election, if testimony by Corpus changes their minds.

In a Nov. 26 letter to Sheriff’s Office staff and the community, Corpus denied the allegations

See **SHERIFF**, page 14

Stuffed animal sleepover at Menlo Park Library

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

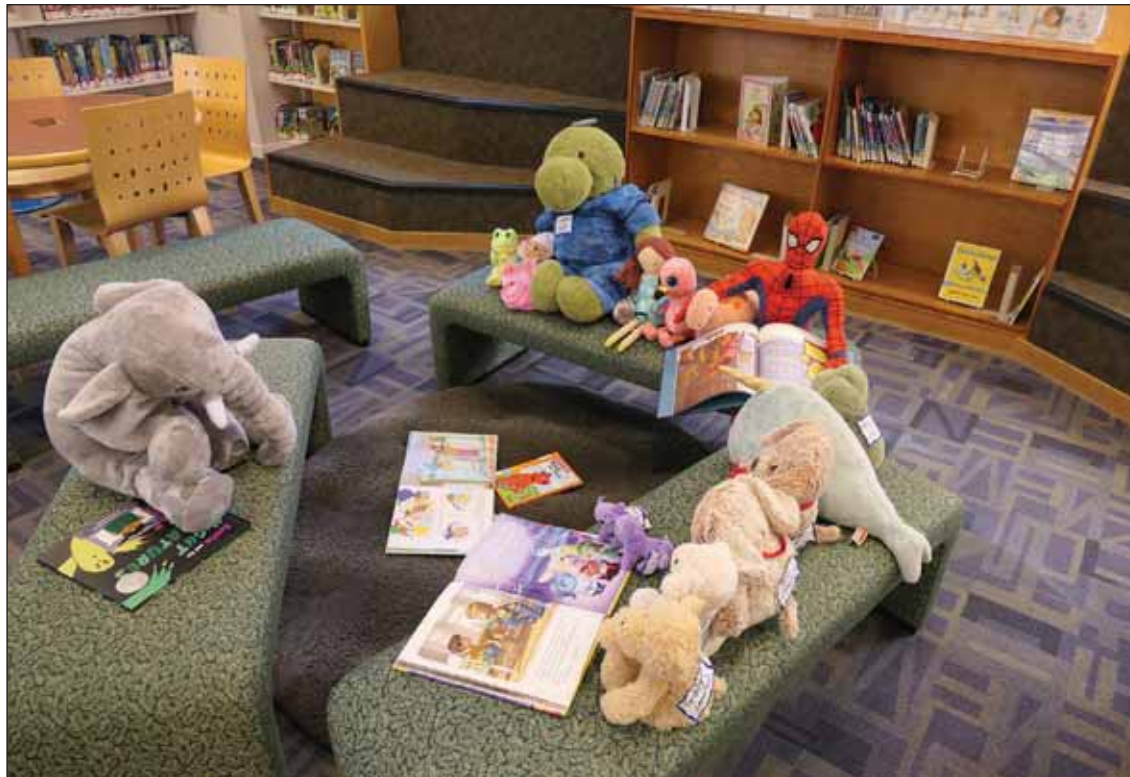
Magic occurred overnight at the Menlo Park Library on Nov. 26 after nearly 20 children dropped off their stuffed animals for an overnight sleepover.

As children walked into the library, they registered their toys and placed a name tag on their stuffed animals. The event began with a storytime led by Menlo Park librarian and storytimer Ella Hadrovic. Adults, children and plush toys gathered on the rainbow carpet as they engaged in song, dance and storytelling.

At the end of storytime, children handed over their stuffed animals for the sleepover and said their goodbyes. During the sleepover, library staff documented the toys' adventures to provide each child with a packet of photos from their toy's night among the books.

The event allows children to engage with the library and tie it into something they already love, said Rose Waldman, library and community services supervisor. It also introduces family members to the many resources and free events that the library offers.

"At Menlo Park Library, we have a very simple storytime for a reason. It's that we're trying to model how to share a storytime at home so that anyone can duplicate what we do," said Hadrovic.



Courtesy Menlo Park Library

Stuffed animals reading books during the Menlo Park Library stuffed animal sleepover on Nov. 26.

Librarians say the storytimes are a fun break from their email and other job responsibilities. Waldman said on days when she feels tired and low on energy, leading a storytime and interacting with the community makes her feel better.

Families who regularly attend storytimes start to become more familiar with the library staff, making them more approachable. Being a storytimer has a "certain celebrity status to it," said Waldman.

In addition to storytimes, local libraries also will host science and music events to provide the community with educational, interactive and enriching activities. Librarians acknowledge that not every child will gravitate toward books as a source of learning, so hosting these events allows them to engage in other ways.

"We're not just for books, we're for all kinds of information and community resources," said Waldman.

Storytimes are hosted Thursday through Saturday at the Menlo Park and Belle Haven libraries and three times a week at the Menlo Children's Center, Belle Haven Child Development Center and Belle Haven Youth Center.

For more information on children's events hosted by Menlo Park and Belle Haven Libraries visit tinyurl.com/menloparkchildrenservices. ■

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

Sheriffs' union alleges intimidation attempt in updated unfair labor practice charge

By Eleanor Raab

The union that represents deputies, assistant sheriffs and other law enforcement personnel under the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has filed an updated unfair practice charge against the Sheriff's Office with the California Public Employment Relations Board.

The updated complaint by the San Mateo County Deputy

Sheriffs' Association alleges that former Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Victor Aenlle, Sheriff Christina Corpus' alleged boyfriend, threatened to sue union leaders for defamation in what the union is calling "clear intent to interfere with, intimidate, restrain, coerce and discriminate against the (unions) because of (their) exercise of protected rights to speech."

The DSA originally filed an unfair practice charge with PERB, a quasi-judicial state agency that is charged with administering public sector labor relations in California, on Aug. 30, 2024, alleging that Corpus and Aenlle had created a toxic work environment, failed to meet and confer with unions in good faith and intimidated and retaliated against union members.

In the updated complaint, the DSA said that Aenlle sent a letter on Oct. 4 to both the DSA and the Organization of Sheriff's

Sergeants through his attorney Deborah Drooz, threatening to sue leaders of the two unions for defamation in response to letters that the two unions sent to their membership announcing a vote of no confidence against Aenlle, and outlining the reasons for taking the vote.

The Oct. 4 letter from Aenlle's attorney said that the unions' claims that Aenlle was not qualified for his position as chief of staff, was not a law enforcement officer, was not entitled to wear a badge and uniform, ignored or refused requests for equipment from certain personnel, mishandled a lease negotiation and engaged in anti-union activity are "falsehoods."

The letter from Aenlle's attorney demands that the unions issue "unequivocal retractions" of their statements about Aenlle or face "remedies in a court of law." In the PERB complaint, the DSA argues that the "clear and

unmistakable purpose of the Aenlle letter is to threaten the DSA into silence."

"I felt threatened by the letter and concerned I could no longer communicate effectively with my membership in fear of being sued," wrote Carlos Tapia, president of the DSA in a sworn statement included in the updated PERB complaint.

On Nov. 12, Corpus arrested Tapia for felony time card fraud shortly before the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors released a 408-page report prepared by independent investigator LaDoris Cordell. The union said that the timing of the arrest suggests "whistleblower retaliation," as Tapia was one of the people leading the charge against Corpus and Aenlle.

Cordell's report sustained many of the claims made by the DSA that Aenlle's attorney

See **SHERIFFS' UNION**, page 8

LEHUA GREENMAN

Pearl Harbor Day
"Let us remember our men & women in uniform who gave their lives for the country."

650.245.1845 COMPASS

Established 1965

The **Almanac**

Serving Menlo Park,
Atherton, Portola Valley,
and Woodside for over 50 years

NEWSROOM

Editor Angela Swartz, 223-6529,
aswartz@almanacnews.com

Staff Writers

Eleanor Raab, 223-6537
Jennifer Yoshikoshi, 223-6536

Audience Engagement Editor

Jamey Padojino, 223-6524, jpadojino@almanacnews.com

Home/Real Estate Editor

Linda Taaffe, 223-6511, ltaaffe@almanacnews.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515,
hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

Features Editor

Julia Brown, 223-6531,
jbrown@almanacnews.com

Food Editor

Adrienne Mitchel, 223-6539, amitchel@almanacnews.com

Audience Engagement Assistant

Editor Zoe Morgan, 223-6519, zmorgan@almanacnews.com

Audience Engagement Assistant Editor/ Visual Journalist

Anna Hoch-Kenney, 223-6530, ahochkenney@almanacnews.com

Lifestyle Assistant Editor

Karla Kane, 223-6521, kkane@almanacnews.com

Embarcadero Media Foundation Staff Writers

Simmerdeep Kaur, 223-6533

Emily Margaretten, 223-6517

Lisa Moreno, 223-6526

Zoe Morgan, 223-6519

Gennady Sheyner, 223-6513

Contributors Kate Daly, Ashwini Gangal,
Neil Gonzales, Maggie Mah, Arden Margulis

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown, 223-6562

ADVERTISING

Major Accounts Sales Manager

Connie Cotton, 223-6571

Multimedia Advertising Sales

Elaine Ogden, 223-6572

Real Estate Manager

Neal Fine, 223-6583

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin, 223-6584

The Almanac is published every Friday at
**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Email letters** to: Letters@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Advertising:** (650) 854-2626

■ **Submit Legal Notices:** AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

■ **Submit Obituaries:** AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to AlmanacNews.com/join to start supporting The Almanac today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558.

Copyright ©2024 by Embarcadero Media Foundation. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

To request delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



Board of Supes votes to raise future supervisor salaries

The raise will go into effect for districts 2 and 3 in January 2027, and for districts 1, 4 and 5 in January 2029

By Eleanor Raab

At its Tuesday, Dec. 3, meeting, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted 3-0 to give future board members a raise. Supervisors also voted to change the metric by which supervisor salaries are set. Supervisor David Canepa was absent and Supervisor Ray Mueller abstained from the vote.

Future board members will have their salaries set at 80% of the annual salary of a State of California superior court judge.

As of July 1, 2024, California superior court judges make \$244,727 yearly, which means that future board salaries will increase to at least \$195,782 plus benefits. Future supervisors will also be provided with an employer-paid deferred compensation plan, where the county would pay 4% of a supervisor's salary into a retirement account similar to a 401(k).

San Mateo County is one of the only counties that did not set its board member salaries as a percentage of the annual salary of a superior court judge. Both

Alameda and Santa Clara counties set their board member salaries at 80% of a superior court judge's as well, while Contra Costa, Marin and Sonoma counties set their board member salaries ranging between 60% to 75% of a superior court judge's.

Sitting supervisors' compensation cannot increase during their terms, so the salary increase will not go into effect until new board members are elected. The raise will go into effect for districts 2 and 3 in January 2027, and for districts 1, 4 and 5 in January 2029.

Mueller abstained from the vote as he has already publicly expressed that he will be running for reelection.

The raise was proposed by Supervisors Warren Slocum and Dave Pine, who are terming out. Supervisor Pine will be replaced by former U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and Slocum will be replaced by East Palo Alto City Council member Lisa Gauthier.

"I think as our board continues to become more diverse, I think it's important that we stay up to date with comparable counties. ... We all have to live

in our districts," said Supervisor Noelia Corzo, whose district covers San Mateo, Foster City and parts of Belmont. "My district is very, very expensive."

Other than salary increases to adjust for inflation, this is the first time the board's base salary has been adjusted since 2005, when the board's compensation was increased by 10%. Supervisors currently make \$173,552 yearly, according to the county's public pay schedule. Supervisors remain eligible for a yearly cost-of-living adjustment to their salaries. ■

JEWELRY

continued from page 5

as a cartoon smiley face, a sun wearing sunglasses, a rearing white stallion or even blue jeans. The walls are adorned with fanciful antiques from around the world, as well as several of MacGeraghty's own paintings.

MacGeraghty has been in business since October 1974, when, as a teenager, she started designing jewelry with broken antique pieces from her mother's antique shop.

The current site of Erin Mac Jewelry in the Sharon Heights Shops was the location of her mother's antique shop, which she opened following the tragic death of MacGeraghty's goldsmith stepfather on a buying trip. MacGeraghty started working in the store with her mother, and found that she was inspired by the rich array of relics from around the world that her mother collected.

"We were selling kimonos, selling African masks, selling paintings," said MacGeraghty. "I started designing jewelry from the antiques, using antique watch chains and cufflinks that I made into earring drops and necklaces."

MacGeraghty is self-taught in

the art of jewelry design, but says she was inspired to begin designing jewelry from her own love of "crazy," "provocative," "neck distracting" statement pieces. Her first large necklace, which she designed when she was still in high school, is made up of ornate watch fobs, locket and antique gold beads strung alongside baroque pearls; she said it is still one of her favorite pieces to wear.

"I just love jewelry — I love wearing it, and I have always worn crazy stuff," she said. "I didn't realize that there was a rule book, so I just made up my style as I went. ... I love contradiction."

In addition to creating her original designs, MacGeraghty says that she also enjoys helping her clients creatively rework broken or chipped family heirlooms, or incorporate sentimental items into jewelry.

"We can take your grandfather's cufflinks, your dad's cufflinks and add stones to them," she said. "For one lady, I just put a snake over a chip ... in her dad's ring."

Though she takes inspiration from numerous sources, including art, architecture and history, MacGeraghty said that one of the

most transformative and inspirational moments in her design journey was the birth of her son.

"He has always been magical," she said.

MacGeraghty recounted the day that her son, who was 6 at the time, took her out to a "business lunch" at a local restaurant with paper and crayons in hand, and told her to start designing for herself. The result of this business lunch was her signature "stitch and stone" rings, which feature a base made to resemble a pair of denim jeans, and a mosaic

of stones on the top.

MacGeraghty says that the heart of her work has always been about empowerment, both of herself and her clients.

"When someone comes into my shop, I want them to leave feeling better than when they arrived," she said. "I like finding out what is upsetting them, and then healing them with a piece of jewelry."

She says that her favorite part of her job, and the way that she empowers her clients, is by listening to them.

"Most of the women here are amazing, powerful, interesting go-getters that want to be listened to," she said. "I love it, I love that part of what I do. ... If you want to be heard, go to Erin."

You can find MacGeraghty in her jewelry store with her two dogs, Blu and Skye, at 325 Sharon Park Drive, Suite D6, or around town in her signature car — a copy of a 1934 Mercedes. ■

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



Eleanor Raab

Erin MacGeraghty shows off a necklace that she designed in high school, which features antique watch fobs, cufflinks, locket and gold beads strung alongside baroque pearls.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 PLANNING COMMISSION DECEMBER 18, 2024, 6:00 PM

Members of the public that wish to attend and/or participate in a meeting may do so in person or by joining the zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736> public comments will be accepted both in person and via zoom meeting. Any emails sent to jpaping@woodsideca.gov prior to 5:00 p.M. On the date of the hearing will be provided to the planning commission prior to the meeting.

In the event that any member of the commission participates in a meeting by teleconference or video conference, pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953, all votes of the commission shall be by roll call.

Join Zoom Meeting:

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128
+1 346 248 7799

Note: Callers dial *9 to "raise hand" and dial *6 to mute/unmute.

Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736

Weblink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736>

Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Members of the public participating remotely may comment on items during the hearing.

Email: jpaping@woodsideca.gov

PUBLIC HEARING

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Townwide | ZOAM2024-0004 (ADU Regulations) |
| Town of Woodside | Planner: Sage Schaan, Planning Director |

Review of a Resolution of Intention and Recommendation to the Town Council to Amend Municipal Code Chapter 153 (Zoning) expanding provisions for the conversion of barns to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

This resolution is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21080.17 (CEQA is not applicable to local ordinances regulating the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units).

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SAGE SCHAAN AT SSCHAAN@WOODSIDECA.GOV.

SPREAD THE LOVE DURING OUR SEASON OF GIVING CAMPAIGN!

DONATE

TO SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



The Almanac

almanacnews.com



Scan QR code to

DONATE TODAY

www.almanacnews.com/product/donate-one-time/

If you would like to pay for your annual membership of \$144,
or make a donation by check it may be sent to:

Embarcadero Media Foundation, 2345 Yale St., FL 1, Palo Alto, CA 94306

A receipt will be mailed to you.

SHERIFFS' UNION

continued from page 6

dismisses as “falsehoods” in the Oct. 4 letter, including the claims that Aenlle contributed to a toxic work environment and retaliation, claims that Aenlle negotiated a real estate lease while in conflict of the county’s conflict of interest policy and claims that Aenlle improperly wore a badge and uniform.

In a statement on Nov. 27, the unions urged Corpus to step down from her position as sheriff, saying that they would no longer work with her. The Board of Supervisors has also called on Corpus to resign, along with several other elected officials throughout California. San Carlos, which contracts its police services from the Sheriff’s Office, also passed a resolution calling on Corpus to resign.

“Resign now, for the sake of the department, the community, and the integrity of the office you



Anna Hoch-Kenney

President of the Deputy Sheriff’s Association Carlos Tapia gives a statement to the press regarding his arrest earlier on Nov. 12 at the San Mateo County Center in Redwood City.

once swore to uphold,” the DSA and OSS wrote in their statement. “We will no longer work with you. That ship has sailed. All you are doing is playing the role of victim within a disaster of your own making. Quit.” ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Menlo Park holds City Council reorganization meeting on Dec. 10

The city of Menlo Park will hold its City Council reorganization meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. to celebrate outgoing council members Jen Wolosin and Maria Doerr, swear in newly elected city council members Jennifer Wise and Jeff Schmidt and recognize Cecilia Taylor for her service as mayor in 2024. It will also vote on its next mayor and vice mayor.

The meeting will take place at the Belle Haven Community Campus at 100 Terminal Ave. There will be a brief reception after the meeting. No RSVP is required.

— Eleanor Raab

M-A Holiday Gift Drive, Dec. 17-18

The Menlo-Atherton High School PTA is help annual Holiday Gift Drive to brighten the holidays of families in need within its community.

As a donor, you will see a wish list for an M-A family including ages, sizes and gift requests to make your shopping fun and easy. The goal is to provide a minimum of \$30 in gifts to each family member, as well as a gift card for the family (for general needs like groceries).

Sign up to sponsor a family at maptabears.com/m-a-holiday-gift-drive.

Gift drop-off will be on Dec. 17 and 18 at M-A. If you would like to help, sign up here to volunteer. The PTA is also soliciting wrapping paper donations.

— Angela Swartz

Menlo Park: Police to hold DUI checkpoint on Dec. 14

Menlo Park police will be holding a DUI checkpoint on Saturday, Dec. 14, to check for anyone driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The checkpoint will run from 7 p.m. on Dec. 14 through 2 a.m. on Dec. 15, the Menlo Park Police Department said in a statement. It will be conducted in the 500 block of southbound Middlefield Road.

Police said the location was chosen based on data of recorded impaired driving-related crashes.

Drivers are warned that those with a first-time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

— Bay City News Service

Chanukah Village in Portola Valley

The Village Chabad is hosting Chanukah Village from noon to 2 p.m. on Dec. 15 at Triangle Park at the corner of Alpine and Portola roads in Portola Valley. The event is for all ages and will feature live Chanukah jazz music, a kosher food truck, donut bar, menorah lighting, fire truck gett drop and more.

RSVP for the event at thevillagechabad.com/chanukahvillage.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi



DON'T OVERPAY TO SELL YOUR HOME LIST WITH US FOR **3% TOTAL COMMISSION**

We have entered a new era where sellers are no longer permitted to offer any commission to buyer's agents in the MLS, which means that no commission details are advertised on sites like Zillow or Redfin. Buyers also need to sign agreements with their agents outlining the commission they will pay their own agents before they show any properties. If a seller wants to offer additional compensation to the buyer's agent, they can, but it is neither required nor encouraged.

While some listing agents will still try to contractually obligate sellers to pay 2% or more to the buyer's agent, DeLeon Realty has taken a different approach. Our sellers benefit from our industry-leading home preparation, staging, and marketing services while paying a total commission of 3%. Additionally, if a buyer chooses not to pay a buyer's agent, Ken DeLeon and his team will represent them on our listings at no cost to either the buyer or the seller.

Our client-centric business model and policies are just a few of the reasons why we are the leading listing team in all of Silicon Valley!



Contact us today!

Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) **650.488.7325**

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun (DRE #01933274) **650.785.5822**

DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224 | Equal Housing Opportunity



Holiday Fund: Helping ‘neighbors in need,’ one food box at a time

Ecumenical Hunger Program keeps up with the growing demand for food

By Ashwini Gangal

Come holiday season the need for food assistance among low-income communities starts to soar, in turn putting pressure on local food distribution services.

One of the nonprofits grappling with this reality is Ecumenical Hunger Program, an East Palo Alto-based nonprofit that received a \$35,000 grant from The Almanac’s 2024 Holiday Fund.

“The funds allow us to purchase the necessities requested by our community,” said Lesia Preston, executive director of EHP, in an interview with this news organization.

This year, it has been particularly hard to get enough meat for the food boxes that the agency routinely hands out. “Our regular donor (Second Harvest of Silicon Valley) we usually get turkeys from — they’re not giving them this year,” Preston said. “With this money we’ll be able to make sure we have the hams and turkeys and other necessities to make a very nice holiday box for our neighbors in need.”



Lesia Preston

Meeting the needs of families with special dietary requirements continues to be a priority for the team. “They don’t all eat the same,” she said. “We do serve a variety of ethnicities; some



people don’t eat meat, they eat fish.”

Besides their food boxes, help from EHP also comes in the form of gift cards that people can use to purchase the meat or food of their choice. For Preston, the privilege of “choice” is the greatest gift. “It makes people feel a lot better when they’re able to make that choice,” she said.

For the team at EHP, scale has the biggest change this year. “Hectic” is how Preston describes 2024. It’s been a year of long lines, more people to serve and growing demand for food. Besides food, they also give people hygiene products, furniture, clothing and common household items.

“Our numbers have increased,” she said. “We’ve run out of food many times.”

As per data shared by the nonprofit, this year over 15,400 hot meals were given out; over 24,500 individuals were served; over 39,500 food boxes were distributed; over 14,300 pieces of furniture and appliances were distributed; financial assistance of more than \$785,000 was given to 422 high-risk families; more than 5,000 children were given resources; over 1,650 households visited the agency’s community



Devin Roberts

Volunteers clean at the end of the day at Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto in December 2023.

closet; and approximately 10,000 volunteer hours were donated.

New property

Another big change at EHP this year relates to real estate. The team has acquired a new property at Weeks Street at East Palo Alto which is being used as a second warehouse, in adjacent to, and in addition to, its existing property at Pulgas Street.

The new building is being used to store and display their

palletized food. “We’re going to have metal shelving where we can do double level stacking of food,” Preston said. “It’s going to help us open up our food closet and expand it so clients can come in and ‘shop.’” The space is also being used for furniture distribution.

A lot of repairs are in order at the new place. “We need things fixed but we’re going to do it in phases,” she said. “So the blessing is, even though there’s a lot

of work to be done, we are able to use that location for our holiday distribution.”

The space, she said, is taking pressure off their drive-up lines, which is a system they put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic but continued post-pandemic to meet the growing demand for food boxes. These drive-ups made it easy for seniors and people with disabilities to come and get their

See **HUNGER**, page 13

RV PARKING

continued from page 1

how an RV parking ban might affect Menlo Park’s unhoused residents. Wolosin also opted not to run for re-election due to personal circumstances, and will be replaced by Jeff Schmidt in December.

“I don’t know if I have the stomach (to vote) to tow these right now,” said Wolosin. “If we’re just stalling because we don’t want to make a hard decision tonight, that’s just silly. ... I’ve never abstained from a vote in my life, but I’d be delighted to have fresh eyes looking at this.”

Several community members spoke at the meeting, advocating for Menlo Park to develop a safe parking program for people living in RVs who may be displaced by this ban, or to conduct an impact study to see how such a ban might affect people.



Courtesy city of Menlo Park

A photo of RVs gathered along Bohannon Drive submitted to the city.

The issue of oversized vehicles parked for long stretches of time, specifically people living in RVs, has been brought up to the council several times throughout the year during public comment at council meetings. Aileen Lattmann, who

works on Campbell Street in Belle Haven has commented at multiple meetings about the “hazards” caused near her place of work by the “increasing numbers” of RVs parked nearby.

According to a staff report prepared for the meeting, the

Menlo Park Police Department receives “multiple complaints daily” regarding various parking issues, including vehicles parked for over 72 hours, vehicles blocking driveways and crosswalks and oversized vehicles obstructing sight lines.

Combs said that if the RVs were parked in any other part of the city, the council would have already taken action to alleviate the issue. The area where the RVs are located is within the district he represents.

“It’s easy to take principled positions when it doesn’t impact you, when it’s removed to the other side of the city,” he said.

The council also voted 4-1 to pass the section of the ordinance that would allow Public Works to prohibit parking near areas where increased visibility is needed, such as near crosswalks. Combs voted no, as he supported passing the entirety of the ordinance.

There are currently no

regulations in Menlo Park’s municipal codes that directly address oversized vehicles. The proposed ordinance would ban oversized and recreational vehicles from parking on any public street in the city overnight (specifically between 2 and 5 a.m.).

Oversized vehicles are defined in the proposed ordinance as vehicles that are taller or wider than seven and a half feet, longer than 22 feet or heavier than 10,000 pounds, or any camp trailer, camper, house car, recreational vehicle or mobile home as defined by California’s vehicle code.

The proposed ordinance includes exemptions for emergency conditions, governmental operations, residents readying their own recreational vehicles for use overnight or certain commercial and construction operations. ■

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

SEQUOIA

continued from page 1

“Any investigation should have been completed already,” said Stern. “Not only did the district retaliate against him but they are also silencing him.”

This is not the first time that the district has accused staff of alleged violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

In November 2023, Ofa Taimani, who formerly worked as M-A’s instructional vice principal secretary, was also directly accused of releasing IEP files to Dan Molieri without consent. Dan was on campus for work related to the lawsuit involving the former M-A student arrested in April 2023.

Taimani was taken aback when she was accused of this violation during a meeting with Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Todd Beal and Administrative Secretary Rene Alvarez.

“Mr. Todd Beal’s first question was ‘What is your relationship with Dan Molieri?’” said Taimani, who felt she was being targeted for her close relationship with the Molieri family.

An investigation followed and Taimani remembers experiencing her first panic attack. In September, Taimani took medical leave after this confrontation.

When she returned to work, she was shocked to find that the district moved her to the counseling office and assigned her new duties and responsibilities. She received no support or training with her new role, causing her stress to worsen, she said. Taimani feels this is retaliatory for simply knowing Mike as a close friend and colleague.

Beal’s investigation partially sustained the complaint made against Taimani, which she said was based on hearsay. The district confirmed to her in August that all complaints were verbal and no written complaint was prepared.

In the lawsuit involving the arrest of an M-A student, it alleges that an unknown administrator also released the student’s IEP to the Atherton Police Department without consent. Although this is a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, no administrator has reportedly faced any consequences of this action, according to Dan Molieri.

The Atherton police declined to say who it got the report from, citing ongoing litigation. The school district declined to comment due to personnel matters.

Lack of concern over mental health

Taimani has been prescribed three medications to help her manage her mental health struggles, all of which she said comes from the trauma she experienced

with Beal and the district.

A separate ongoing lawsuit was filed by former Woodside High School counselor Sharlett Downing, a Black woman, for wrongful termination after she was denied accommodations for her mental health disabilities.

Former district social worker Kari Cheng says she developed severe anxiety and depression after beginning to work with SUHSD in 2022.

Although Cheng had interviewed for the mental health social worker position, she was hired as a 504 coordinator despite lacking proper license and qualifications for the position, she said. A 504 coordinator is responsible for helping students with accommodations for disabilities. Cheng proceeded to work for the district as a 504 coordinator with no training or support, followed by hostility from district administrators, she said.

She took a mental health leave as a result but never clarified to the district that it was for her mental wellbeing because she feared she’d be fired.

Her mental health worsened when the district alerted her again that she would be switched into a different role after she was making progress as a 504 coordinator.

“I stopped sleeping and I couldn’t drive anywhere. I eventually wasn’t able to come to work,” said Cheng, who tried to take unpaid family leave in January.

The district informed her that if she went on unpaid leave for more than 30 days she would lose her benefits, which Cheng made sure not to exceed.

The district was unable to clarify the standards to maintain benefits when employees take leave because “each situation is unique.”

Other inconsistent policies arose when Cheng realized her associate license had expired and took immediate action to schedule a meeting with Stephen Emmi, the district’s wellness coordinator. Meetings continued to be canceled and rescheduled, Cheng said.

Emmi had mentioned to her that they should meet to talk about next steps, but the process accelerated when Cheng was called to a meeting with Beal. Cheng was pressured to meet with him despite her clarifying she was uncomfortable meeting him in private. Her discomfort came from her knowledge that complaints filed by her colleagues were not being investigated properly by Beal.

Cheng agreed to have him speak with her with colleagues present. During this meeting on May 4, 2023, he confronted her about being unlicensed and told her she can no longer work in classrooms. Immediately after, Cheng said she was locked out of her district

email account without notice and was put on unpaid leave.

She said Beal’s actions felt retaliatory. Since the incident she has sent multiple emails to the school board on her worsening mental health conditions but has not received any acknowledgement from the board or district. The school board did not provide a comment.

“My mental health just got worse and I started having suicidal ideation because I just felt really hopeless in this situation and no one was really addressing my mental health. I hospitalized myself for safety reasons,” she said.

Cheng’s contract with the district ended in 2024.

Alleged history of racism

M-A has a diverse makeup of students. There are wealthy students from Atherton and West Menlo Park and students who come from historically disadvantaged areas of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven.

The school motto is “strength in diversity,” yet former M-A paraprofessional and Black Student Union adviser Jeremy Arey claims that the school doesn’t support minorities. Arey is Cheng’s husband.

“I’ve seen situations where students, if they’re rich and their parents threaten the school with a lawsuit, they (administrators) move instantly,” said Arey. “Other students that were poor or a minority, would get no solutions. It’s all based around what the school feels like is going to come back on them as a lawsuit or consequence.”

From 2021 to 2023, Arey also volunteered on the district’s Equity Committee, African American Leadership Council and worked with the Student Voice and Advocacy Club at M-A.

As he started to get to know the school, he began to witness issues such as student starvation, guns on campus, drug use, sexual assault and frequent use of racial slurs among staff and students. Despite bringing it to the attention of administrators, Arey said that actions were never taken to address these issues.

Arey ultimately decided to resign from M-A after witnessing no progress.

Arey alleges that there is corruption among the administration, using the district’s promotion of Emmi from M-A’s vice principal to the district wellness coordinator as an example. Emmi is involved in the M-A student lawsuit for allegedly using physical force.

Another former M-A math teacher, who requested to not be named in this report for fear of retribution, resigned when he began to see the district’s lack of racial equity.

He resigned after a districtwide diversity, equity and inclusion training hosted by the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center in September and March 2023. Arey and the former math teacher both recall a shocking moment where staff made racist and insulting comments during the training sessions.

In March, the USC training presenter withdrew from continuing their work with SUHSD after the negative comments had gotten to be too much.

The USC Race and Equity Center did not respond to a request for comment.

“It felt like some were drinking the Kool-Aid too much and were not addressing the issues,” the former teacher said. “There were more white-allies than allies for people of color.”

This news organization acquired four additional complaints filed against the district with the California Civil Rights Department from 2010 and 2022.

Heated public comments

Public commenters have spoken at school board meetings with shaking voices and tears as they recounted their traumatic experiences.

“I know staff of color who did not feel safe walking to their car after one of our largely attended and at moments, hostile meetings,” said Abbie Korman, an English teacher at M-A during a Sept. 11 board meeting.

As a white educator, Korman has been voicing her concerns about the district’s treatment of staff of color since November 2022 when the school board voted to “oust the district’s first Black superintendent, Darnise Williams,” she said.

“Instead of listening and then making changes based on diverse input, our district has continually ignored ... and sadly gone as far as vilifying and firing folks who have sincerely brought up their issues and concerns,” Korman

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Any person who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal can call 988, the mental health crisis hotline, to speak with a crisis counselor. Spanish speakers can also call 888-628-9454.

People can reach trained counselors at Crisis Text Line by texting RENEW to 741741.

said in an email to this news organization.

Public commenters have also received legal letters from school district attorneys claiming their words were threatening or were in violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

In August, Dan Molieri was sent a 14-day “stay away order” by the district for making what administrators deemed as threatening comments toward Beal during an Aug. 21 board meeting.

In September, school district attorneys sent Arey a cease and desist letter after he made a comment about board member Shawneece Stevenson’s daughter during the Sept. 11 board meeting that the district determined was a FERPA violation.

“Even board President Shawneece Stevenson’s daughter found refuge and support in [Mike Molieri’s] class and I worked with her,” Arey commented during the meeting. His comment was to advocate for Mike Molieri’s return to school.

Shortly after Arey’s comment Stevenson said, “I’m sorry that there’s been a lot of investigations but that is not the board’s fault. ... Talking about someone’s child without their parents’ consent is absolutely wrong.”

Community members also created an Instagram page for this movement: @investigatingsuhd. ■

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

Event Center to shelter homeless during severe winter weather

By Bay City News Service

The San Mateo County Event Center will open its doors to provide shelter to homeless individuals and families during severe winter weather, the County Executive’s Office announced.

The program is in partnership with the county’s Human Services Agency.

Cypress Hall at the Event Center will serve as a refuge for up to 53 of the most vulnerable during periods of extreme cold or heavy rain, offering warm beds, meals, hygiene kits, and

emergency clothing, according to county officials.

Referrals are required through one of the county’s eight Core Services Agencies. Additionally, no walk-ups will be permitted, officials said.

“Adding warm beds at the Event Center can literally save lives this winter,” said Claire Cunningham, director of the Human Services Agency.

The emergency shelter service is funded through the local Measure K sales tax and will be activated for one to three days when the county’s Inclement Weather Program is triggered. ■



Give back locally

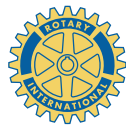
WITH A GIFT TO THE HOLIDAY FUND

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$310,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

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

DONATE ONLINE:
AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund

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



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, college and career access, and mental health programs to more than 5,000 low-income youth at 29 locations from East Palo Alto to Daly City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

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

Health Connected

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

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 26 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners

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

Ravenswood Family Health Center

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

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

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

St. Francis Center

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

StarVista

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

Upward Scholars

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

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

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)


In my name as shown above

In the name of business above

OR: In honor of: In memory of: As a gift for:

(Name of person)

The Almanac



All donors and their gift amounts will be published in The Almanac unless the boxes below are checked.

I wish to contribute anonymously.

Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
 Embarcadero Media Foundation

Send coupon and check to:
The Almanac Holiday Fund
c/o Embarcadero Media Foundation
2345 Yale Street, 1st floor
Palo Alto, CA 94306

The Almanac Holiday Fund is sponsored by the Embarcadero Media Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Both are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations, allowing your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



The Almanac Holiday Fund

**THANK YOU
FOR DONATING
TO THE
HOLIDAY FUND**

Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of December 3rd,
34 donors have contributed
\$21,130 to the
Holiday Fund.

7 Anonymous	\$3,255
Linda Keegan	1,000
Lucy Reid-Krensky	100
Don & Catherine Coluzzi.	*
Roger Witte and Patricia Bredehoft.	100
Bill & Melba Rogoway	*
James Esposto.	*
Sybill Katz.	200
Paul Perret.	*
Jim Lewis.	*
Jane Paulson.	4,000
Melanie Austin.	*
Barbara & Carl Jacobson	150
Margaret Melaney	1,000
Betsy & Frank Stockdale	200
Dennis Ruby	300
Mayling Dixon	*
Kathy Mueller	100
Gisela Brugger.	1,000
Joyce Pharriss	*
Dennis Monohan	100
John and Shirley Reiter	150
Carol & Leif Langensand	500
Dave & Dolores Glendon	150

In Memory Of

Alex Park	2,000
Nancy Stevens	*
Our son Craig Carlson	*

Businesses & Organizations

Wealth Architects.	*
----------------------------	---

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

Holiday Fund: Upward Scholars removes barriers to education for local immigrants

By Linda Prieto

Despite being in one of the country's wealthiest and most prosperous regions, many of our neighbors are stuck working low-wage jobs because they can't access the education and resources they need to move up in the U.S. Upward Scholars works to change that.

With our community's support, we help adult immigrants overcome obstacles as they navigate their chosen pathways to English proficiency, college success, career development, and better jobs. Every year, our wraparound support — aided by dedicated volunteers and community members — impacts the lives of hundreds of students and their families.

Darlyn is one such student. Despite graduating at the top of her class for early childhood education (ECE) in Guatemala, Darlyn's wages as a preschool teacher couldn't even cover her minimal expenses for food, transportation, and classroom supplies. Making a living doing what she loved was impossible, so at 20, she left Guatemala seeking better opportunities in the U.S.

Though determined, Darlyn faced challenges that sidelined her studies on multiple occasions — she couldn't drive, had her eldest son, and financially supported her family in Guatemala. After years of pausing her education, Darlyn finally enrolled in and completed English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at Sequoia Adult School. She then transferred to Cañada College, continuing



Contributed photo

Darlyn at her Cañada College graduation with President Lopez in 2023.

her English studies and joining Upward Scholars.

Darlyn needed financial and academic support, so Upward Scholars paid for her textbooks and matched her with a tutor who helped her improve her

In 2023, Darlyn received her English proficiency certificate from Cañada College, a milestone accomplishment for ESL students. Her sons, now 8 and 10 years old, attended her graduation and beamed with pride over her accomplishment. Darlyn's journey has had a significant impact on them, too. Her oldest son said, "Mami, I want to be like you one day. I want to graduate, too."

When she started ECE courses at Cañada, Darlyn joined TeacherUp, an academic and career development program by Upward Scholars that provides specialized support for aspiring early educators. With TeacherUp's guidance, Darlyn feels confident she is on the right track to becoming a preschool teacher here.

This fall, while she works toward her associate degree in early childhood education, Darlyn started a TeacherUp internship at Family Connections. This is a pivotal moment in her journey to becoming a licensed teacher in

Upward Scholars is unique in embracing the needs of adult immigrant scholars and providing what is necessary to bolster students' paths to success.

English and ace her courses. Darlyn also receives monthly food assistance to help offset the costs of groceries for her family, increasing their food security and her chances of staying and doing well in school. She says, "Upward Scholars changed my life. If I hadn't found them, I probably would have stopped my studies because everything is very expensive."

HUNGER

continued from page 10

boxes because it spared them the trouble of parking far away and walking. The new building, though, has ample parking space, Preston said, glad that it will help the team go back to the way things were pre-COVID.

"We were holding up traffic, inconveniencing the bus line... a lot of complaints were coming in — it was horrible," she admitted. And things only get worse in the holidays. "Even though we've

been increasing our numbers each month, in November and December we always serve way more than we do the entire year."

New clients

EHP was founded in 1975. Today, its primary service area includes East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park, but they frequently extend their programs beyond the local area. Recently, Preston shared, they served some families in the Fremont area and a few others who live as far as San Joaquin Valley, but work closer

to the agency.

New people from different backgrounds have been coming into the community and consequently, onto EHP's radar. "That's always been a constant thing with East Palo Alto," she said. The newer lot includes a lot of undocumented people who have migrated to the area. "We also see multiple households and multiple families in one address — that continues to increase all the time."

The objective is to help these communities achieve social mobility. "We do a lot of advocacy and communication with clients about what we can do to help them get to another level in life," she said.

Preston, who has been with EHP for around 30 years, takes pride in the fact that the agency is known for keeping people



the U.S. and signals she is close to having her own classroom one day. Even though it has taken over a decade, Darlyn didn't give up on her dream, and Upward Scholars never gave up on her.

Students in our local community urgently need your help. Usually, they need a laptop, food assistance, or other financial support. Other times, they need academic or career advice. And sometimes, all a student needs is to feel seen, heard, and supported by someone like you.

Upward Scholars is unique in embracing the needs of adult immigrant scholars and providing what is necessary to bolster students' paths to success. We are honored to be one of this year's beneficiaries of The Almanac Holiday Fund. Donations can be made online at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

Learn more about us at upwardscholars.org. You can tutor or help a student like Darlyn practice their English skills, lend your specialized skills to our team, or contribute funds to support our vital work. For information about donating time, talent, or treasure directly to Upward Scholars, contact Angie Briones, development director, at angie.briones@upwardscholars.org. ■

Linda Prieto is executive director of Upward Scholars.

afloat during rough times.

"We might not be able to pull them out of the water immediately, but we try to sustain people so that they don't drown further into what they're going through," she said, fondly recalling a time when one of their clients, who came from a home with a single mother, said to her: "EHP is the father."

Ecumenical Hunger Program is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among this year's 10 nonprofit organizations and 100% of the funds raised go directly to the recipients. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund. ■

*Email Contributing Writer
Ashwini Gangal at
ashwinigangal@gmail.com.*

It's been a year of long lines, more people to serve and growing demand for food. They also give people hygiene products, furniture, clothing and common household items.

SHERIFF

continued from page 5

made against her and said that she will not resign. As she is an elected official, the board of supervisors currently has no power to remove her from office.

However, the charter amendment proposed by the board of supervisors, if passed by San Mateo County voters, would grant them the power to oust the sheriff under certain circumstances, including violation of laws relating to her duties as sheriff, neglect of duties, misappropriation of county funds or

property, falsification of official statements and/or obstruction of an official investigation into the conduct of the Sheriff's Office. It would take a four-fifths vote to remove her from office, and she would have to be given the opportunity to defend herself to the board before they can vote to remove her.

The charter amendment would expire after the 2028 general election.

Following the supervisors' vote, the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff's Association issued a statement saying that the union believes the

special election is a "necessary, if unprecedented, step toward regaining trust and transparency in the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office." The DSA said that they "stand fully behind" the vote to hold the election.

Estimating the costs for special elections is challenging due to limited historical precedent.

Jim Irizarry, San Mateo County's assistant chief elections officer, cited the 2021 California Gubernatorial Recall election, which cost the county \$3.7 million, or \$8.44 per voter, with a similar voter base of 440,817. As of Oct. 21, 2024, the county has 443,350 registered voters.

Opposition to the ballot measure

At the meeting, several commenters expressed their support for Corpus, alleged that the report commissioned by the Board of Supervisors was biased against the sheriff and expressed concerns that the ballot measure process was being rushed. Others expressed concerns that giving the Board of Supervisors the power to remove the sheriff would override the will of the voters.

"I am neither in favor of or against the current sheriff; I'm just concerned about preserving election integrity," said

commenter Anne Pat. "Why not have a recall election of a public official rather than going through this type of process? I'm concerned about setting a precedent for the future and giving the board exclusive power over an elected position."

Additionally, the California State Sheriffs' Association wrote a letter to the board opposing the proposed ballot measure, arguing that giving the board the ability to remove a sheriff would "unnecessarily inject further political considerations into the work done by the sheriff and county supervisors."

Supervisors addressed concerns about the ballot measure overriding the will of the voters, saying that the public would still ultimately decide whether or not to grant the Board of Supervisors the power to remove the sheriff.

"The public will have the opportunity to assess all the facts and circumstances and consider whether this is a power it wants to grant to us," said Supervisor Dave Pine.

Supervisor Ray Mueller, co-author of the ballot measure, defended the speed with which the board is moving forward with the charter amendment process, and said that he is worried about the county's readiness

for a public safety emergency given the "dysfunction" in the Sheriff's Office. He said that the board is moving forward with the special election to protect the employees in the Sheriff's Office that have complained about toxic working conditions.

"Absent this charter amendment process, they would be in those working conditions, possibly until 2026," he said.

The Board of Supervisors' ballot measure, if passed by voters, would be the fastest way to remove Corpus from office, as the earliest a citizen-initiated recall could be organized is likely November 2025 or April 2026, according to County Attorney John Nibbelin. Corpus has four years left in her six-year term.

A separate movement to recall Corpus, which is being led by former SamTrans CEO and former Redwood City Council member Jim Hartnett, has been initiated. To get a recall on the ballot, the recall campaign must gather signatures from approximately 46,000 people, or 10% of the registered voters in San Mateo County. ■

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

WHOOPIING COUGH

continued from page 5

whooping cough is available to protect against the contagious disease however immunity after a vaccination decreases after a few years. This vaccine also protects against tetanus and diphtheria.

County health officials advise every pregnant woman to receive a Tdap vaccine at the earliest opportunity, starting at 27 weeks of pregnancy to protect their babies. Family members and individuals who are involved with infant care should also be up-to-date on whooping cough vaccinations.

Pharmacies across the country offer Tdap vaccines including Costco, CVS, Lucky, Rite Aid, Target and Walgreens. Prices and availability vary at each location, but insurance carriers often cover the cost of the vaccine.

"Individuals with whooping cough are considered contagious for 21 days after the onset of cough or until five days of antibiotic treatment have been completed," according to the county health report.

To report a confirmed or suspected case of whooping cough, call 650-573-2345. For more resources on whooping cough visit smchealth.org/whoopingcough. ■

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

James (Jym) Edwin Clendenin

June 10, 1939 – November 26, 2024

James (Jym) Edwin Clendenin, 85, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on November 26, 2024, after a brief illness. He leaves behind a legacy of love, intellect, and service. Born in Paris, Tennessee, on June 10, 1939, James lived a life filled with adventure, learning, and dedication to family and community.



The firstborn son of a military family, James grew up moving throughout the United States, spending most of his youth in southern Virginia. A 1957 graduate of Norview High School in Norfolk, Virginia, James went on to study electrical engineering at the University of Virginia. It was there, in 1960, that he met the love of his life, Judith E. Poole.

Following his graduation, James entered the U.S. Navy as an ensign in 1962, and in December of the same year, he and Judith were married in Arlington, VA. He served honorably and left as a lieutenant in 1966, when he transitioned to pursue his passion for education and discovery. James earned a Master of Religion degree from Union Seminary in 1968 and later embarked on doctoral studies in atomic physics at Columbia University, completing his Ph.D. in early 1975.

In the spring of 1975, James moved with Judith and their young daughter, Anne, to Menlo Park, California, where he began a 33-year career at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). His groundbreaking work in physics earned him the respect of colleagues and a reputation for brilliance, dedication, and humility.

While in California, James embraced an active lifestyle, becoming an avid runner, completing numerous marathons and 10k races. After retiring in 2008, he discovered his love for cycling, logging an impressive 5,000 miles a year right up until his passing.

James was a man of many talents and passions. He was an enthusiastic cook, a gracious host, an adventurous traveler, and a connoisseur of fine food, wine, and classical music. A longtime subscriber to the San Francisco Symphony, James's curiosity and love of culture knew no bounds. He also gave generously of his time, actively participating in the Menlo Park Historical Association, the dedicated Stanford Angell Field Ancients, and various cycling, cooking and book clubs.

James is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Judith; his daughter, Anne and son-in-law George; feline "daughter" Casey; his East Coast siblings - younger sisters, Mary (Helen), Elaine, and Julie; and his younger brother, Steve, along with multiple nieces & nephews. He was deeply loved and will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the many communities he touched.

A celebration of Jym's epic life will be held in the new year.

In Jym's memory, please consider a donation to a cause near & dear to his heart: Abundant Grace Coastsider Worker (www.abundantgracecw.org), a local nonprofit transforming the lives of homeless people through meaningful work.

PAID OBITUARY

Recia Kott Blumenkranz

Nov. 2, 1954 – Nov. 22, 2024

Recia Kott Blumenkranz died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on November 22, 2024, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Montreal, Canada, on November 2, 1954, she was a devoted mother, wife, and daughter and an accomplished and beloved physician. After attending Brown University and completing her medical training at Stanford University and the University of Miami, she maintained a private dermatology practice in Menlo Park, California for more than thirty years, where she was known as a "doctor's doctor" and a gifted clinician who cared deeply about her patients.

She was a brilliant and compassionate person, who loved literature, music, travel, and her gardens. She approached every endeavor and relationship with diligence, humility, and kindness. Her many friends knew her to be selfless, considerate, and always there in times of need. Her family loved her beyond measure; for them, she was both a role model and a source of unstinting care and support.

She will be mourned by her husband of fifty years, Mark Blumenkranz; her children, Carla, Scott (Sydney), and Erik (Margaret); her grandchildren, Simon, Nora, Ansel, Seth, and Reece; her brother, Michael Kott (Monica); and her mother, Rhoda Davis Kott. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. The family will host a gathering in her memory.



PAID OBITUARY

Viewpoint

IDEAS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

LETTERS

Our readers write

Don't enrich Putin oligarchs

We are writing to you because as long-time Menlo Park residents, we are dismayed and disgusted by the plan for the Lane/Sunset property on the corner of Willow and Middlefield roads, and the apparent abdication by our elected officials about defacing one of the best small towns in the state, following the downward spiral of dis-functional San Francisco that we once enjoyed and respected.

As Menlo Park residents for more than 55 years before moving to "Senior Living" across the creek in Palo Alto, my wife, a newly minted teacher and I met while living in apartments on Encinal Avenue. We loved our many years as residents in the city as it grew in an orderly way under local government.

The disgusting proposal for the Lane Sunset property, allegedly purchased by a wealthy Russian oligarch, is an insult to Menlo Park property owners past and present. It is incompatible with both the two-story residential and commercial buildings in that area. The so-called "builder's remedy" was allegedly intended to encourage affordable residential housing growth compatible with the community, not projects like this obscenity, and not to enrich Putin oligarchs. The project is not only a disgusting display of greed and infringement of property owner rights in the neighborhood, but would create major traffic problems for a much wider area.

We expect you (local elected officials) to *effectively* fight with every means possible to limit the height and density of buildings on that site to no more than

two stories consistent with the existing residential and business properties of the neighborhood bounded.

Kudos to the (Palo Alto) Daily Post and Almanac reporters who have laid this crime bare,

*L. David Montague
Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto*

Trim your trees

Cold, sunny days are back with the shortest day of the year around the corner. Do we want to be upbeat or depressed, motivated or lazy, productive, innovated, secure, content, energetic, warm, comfortable, full of vitality, joy and happiness? Do we want to just let our hard-earned money fly through the door and pay PG&E to keep us warm and comfortable? Neighbors may not be happy with that attitude. They may be trying hard to keep their utility bills down, and in doing so, remain cold and nonproductive through the winter months, even though their house is well insulated and the sun shines brightly during the day, but neighbor's trees block out the precious nonpolluting light, warmth and energy.

Branches of trees, any time of the year, but especially in the winter time can break and cause damage to one's own property, or someone else's, a house, shed or push a fence over. Some trees can be quite messy. How many of us enjoy getting on the roof, or a tall ladder and cleaning our gutters out? If one does not want to hire a professional tree trimmer, one should plant trees that do not grow out of reach of the property owner's ability to trim them.

*Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
Walnut Avenue, Atherton*

Send your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Employment

The Almanac offers
employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

Public Notices

PLACE4NAILS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299003
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PLACE4NAILS, located at 218 PRIMROSE ROAD, STUDIO #18, BURLINGAME, CA 94010, San Mateo County. Mailing Address: 2848 Canyon Road, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
PLACE4NAILS LLC
2848 CANYON ROAD
BURLINGAME, CA 94010
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
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 November 07, 2024.
(ALM Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

GRANDVIEW/ESPINOSA ROAD FUND
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299094
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GRANDVIEW/ESPINOSA ROAD FUND, located at 166 Grandview Dr, Woodside, CA, 94062.
Registered owner(s):
JOE LANGE
166 Grandview Dr
Woodside, CA, 94062
PAMELA STRATTON
166 Grandview Dr
Woodside, CA, 94062
LAURA SCHAEFER
166 GRANDVIEW DR
Woodside, CA, 94062
CHRISTIN NEW
166 Grandview Dr
Woodside, CA, 94062
This business is conducted by: an Unincorporated Assoc. Other Than a Partnership.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on April 10, 2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 21, 2024.
(ALM Dec 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

PACIFIC SHORES LANDSCAPING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-298679
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PACIFIC SHORES LANDSCAPING, located at 303 Twin Dolphin Drive Suite 600, Redwood City, California 94065. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1029 Redwood City, CA 94064.
Registered owner(s):
PACIFIC VISTAS GROUP, INC.
303 Twin Dolphin Drive Suite 600
Redwood City, CA 94065
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA
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 02, 2024.
(ALM Nov 15, 22, 29 and Dec 6, 2024)

FIFTH SUN VETERINARY IMAGING PC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299005
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FIFTH SUN VETERINARY IMAGING PC, located at 1265 Eaton Ave, San Carlos, CA, 94070. Mailing Address: 1401 21st St STE R Sacramento, CA 95811
Registered owner(s):
FIFTH SUN VETERINARY IMAGING PC
1401 21st St STE R
Sacramento, CA 95811
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 November 07, 2024.
(ALM Nov 15, 22, 29 and Dec 6, 2024)

TUTTI MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299040
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TUTTI MANAGEMENT SERVICES, located at 1141 Whipple Avenue, Suite 201, Redwood

City, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
CLARISSA ANN NICOSIA PRENTICE
1141 Whipple Avenue, Suite 201
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 14, 2024.
(ALM Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

COCOLAB
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-298981
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) COCOLAB, located at 2335 Skyfarm Dr, Hillsborough, CA 94010. Mailing Address: 548 Market Street, PMB 77304, San Francisco, CA 94104.
Registered owner(s):
COCOFLOSS, INC.
548 Market Street, PMB 77304
San Francisco, CA 94104
State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware
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 November 05, 2024.
(ALM Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

EXPRESS CARWASH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-298740
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) EXPRESS CARWASH, located at 339 Dumbarton Ave, Redwood City CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
ISELA GARCIA
339 Dumbarton Ave
Redwood City CA 94063
NOE GARCIA
339 Dumbarton Ave
Redwood City CA 94063
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/02/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 09, 2024.
(ALM Nov 15, 22, 29 and Dec 6, 2024)

LAVINIA RECORDS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299008
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) LAVINIA RECORDS, located at 520 Midway Ave, Colma, CA 94015.
Registered owner(s):
TATIANA BOOKBINDER
520 Midway Avenue
Colma CA 94015
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/4/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 07, 2024.
(ALM Nov 15, 22, 29 and Dec 6, 2024)

RED WHALE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-298995
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) RED WHALE, located at 123 Escalona Ave, EL GRANADA, CA 94018. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1541, EL GRANADA, CA 94018
Registered owner(s):
NICHOLAS GOLDSWORTHY
PO BOX 1541
EL GRANADA, CA 94018
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 06, 2024.
(ALM Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

TEA FRIENDS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-298783
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TEA FRIENDS, located at 993 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):

EIFFEL DONUTS & CAFE LLC
993 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 10/10/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 11, 2024.
(ALM Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY
Case No.: 24C1V04198
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Bertha Alicia Arreguin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
BERTHA ALICIA ARREGUIN to BERTHA ARREGUIN CONTRERAS
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 1-9-2025, 9:00AM, MC of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo County located at 400 County Center, Redwood City CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: 11-15-2024
Elizabeth K. Lee
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 24CIV07026
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Sally Louise Slate Lee filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
SALLY LOUISE SLATE LEE to SALLY LOUISE SLATE
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 01/21/2025, 9:00am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: 11/18/2024
Hon. Elizabeth K Lee
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.
Visit AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/
For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

Let's educate!

WINTER 2024 – GUIDE TO SCHOOLS, CAMPS & CLASSES

Cooking

La Toque De Cindy

904 Cowper St., Palo Alto
650-308-6937

cindytoquecooking.com

La Toque De Cindy offers cooking camps and classes for kids (with a specialty in chocolate), plus cooking experiences for folks of all ages.

Nourish & Flourish

2011 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park
415-272-5596

nourishflourish.org

Nourish & Flourish offers cooking classes for youth, with an emphasis on sustainable food practices in addition to culinary skills.

Sur La Table

Town & Country Village,
855 El Camino Real, Suite 57,
Palo Alto / 650-289-0019
slt073@surlatable.com /
surlatable.com

Sur La Table offers hands-on cooking classes, guiding students in making regional cuisines, themed meals and baked goods.

Taste Buds Kitchen

2775 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto / 650-485-2684

tastebudskitchen.com/palo-alto

The Palo Alto franchise of Taste Buds Kitchen offers cooking classes, camps, parties and events for all ages.

Culture

Joy Culture Foundation

934 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite A,
Menlo Park / 650-272-6915
info@thejoyculturefoundation.org /
thejoyculturefoundation.org

The nonprofit Joy Culture Foundation operates the Little Bookworm Library to provide

families a place to immerse in Chinese culture and language. The center has children's books in Mandarin and English available for check out, as well as bilingual language and culture classes.

Dance & theater

Dance Connection

Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto / 650-322-7032
info@danceconnectionpaloalto.com /
danceconnectionpaloalto.com

Dance Connection offers combination and graded classes for youth (age 3 and up) and adults. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, and other instruction are available for students at various levels of ability. Dance Connection offers two seasons of dance: fall-spring and summer session (plus special camps and intensives).

Mannakin Theater and Dance

en Avant School of Dance,
1841 Bay Road, East Palo Alto
415-519-7171
info@mannakindance.org /
mannakindance.org

Mannakin Theater and Dance offers youth ballet and other dance classes at en Avant School of Dance studio in East Palo Alto.

Victoria Ballet

370 California Ave.,
Palo Alto;
151 Main St., Los Altos
650-720-2643

webmaster@victoriaballet.dance /
victoriaballet.dance

The classes offered at this ballet school (teaching children and

adults) include all experience levels — from beginners to pre-professional dancers.

Zohar School of Dance & Company

Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road,
Room L-4, Palo Alto
650-494-8221
zohardance@gmail.com /
zohardancecompany.org

With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes including jazz, modern, ballet and tap.

Music & visual arts

EPACenter

1950 Bay Road, East Palo Alto
650-313-2626 / epacenter.org

The 25,000-square-foot space offers a wide range of creative disciplines for East Palo Alto youth ages 6-25. Students can participate in classes such as music, visual arts, dance and skateboarding.

Music Together Menlo Park

75 Arbor Road, Suite N,
Menlo Park / 650-799-1624
admin@mt-mp.com / mt-mp.com

Music Together Menlo Park holds classes exploring music and movement for children from birth up to age 5 and their guardians at the Allied Arts Guild, as well as two locations in Palo Alto — Lucie Stern Community Center and Unity Church.

New Mozart School of Music

2100 El Camino Real, Suite C,
Palo Alto / 650-324-2373

info@newmozartschool.com /
newmozartschool.com

New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons and group classes in a variety of instruments year-round to students of all ages and abilities.

Pacific Art League

668 Ramona St., Palo Alto
650-321-3891

info@pacificartleague.org /
pacificartleague.org

Pacific Art League offers a range of classes for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many media, including drawing, painting, watercolor, digital art and more. In-person and live online classes are offered year-round.

Palo Alto Art Center

1313 Newell Road,
Palo Alto / 650-329-2366
artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org /
cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Community-Services/Arts-Sciences/Palo-Alto-Art-Center

Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops — teaching children, teens and adults — cover such areas as ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, sculpture, Adobe PhotoShop and more.

Older adults

Avenidas

450 Bryant St., Palo Alto
Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road, Room H-5,
Palo Alto / 650-289-5400
info@avenidas.org / avenidas.org


Avenidas offers many classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for Midpeninsula seniors focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing.

Little House Activity Center

800 Middle Ave.,
Menlo Park
650-326-2025
lphvi.org/littlehouse

Little House Activity Center offers classes for adults of all ages on various topics and activities, including health and wellness for seniors; fitness exercises like line dancing and Pilates; ceramics,

PLAY IS OUR WORK!




JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING TOUR ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

The Menlo-Atherton Cooperative Nursery School (est. 1951) is a play-based preschool located inside Nealon Park. Here, parent participation helps children and families learn, grow, and build lasting connections.

Play-based learning that sparks creativity and joy
Community-driven focus that bring families together
Passionate teachers who inspire every day

www.maco-op.org

Visit us online to learn more!



LET'S EDUCATE

continued from page 16

drawing and other arts; languages; history and culture; and computer skills.

Schools

Castilleja School

1310 Bryant St., Palo Alto
650-328-3160 / castilleja.org

Castilleja is an independent school for girls in middle and high school with a goal of inspiring young women to become confident leaders and changemakers.

The Girls' Middle School

3400 West Bayshore Road,
Palo Alto

650-968-8338 / girlsms.org

A progressive school with a focus on hands-on and project-based learning, The Girls' Middle school strives to empower and educate middle school girls with a holistic approach.

Lydian Academy

815 El Camino Real,
Menlo Park

650-338-2312
staff@lydianlink.com /
lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering year-round individualized instruction to prepare students for college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also offers tutoring and after-school programs. Both in-person and online instruction available.

Menlo-Atherton Cooperative Nursery School

802 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
650-434-COOP / maco-op.org

The long-running Menlo-Atherton Cooperative Nursery School offers play-based learning for preschoolers, with families playing an active role in the school.

Menlo School

50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton
650-330-2000
menloschool.org

Menlo School is open to students in middle and high school, with a goal of challenging and empowering its students to fall in love with learning.

Mid-Peninsula High School

1340 Willow Road, Menlo Park
650-321-1991 / mid-pen.org

Mid-Peninsula High School aims to prepare its students for successful college careers and provide an inclusive and collaborative learning environment.

Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park
650-325-1584

info@peninsulaschool.org /
peninsulaschool.org

Peninsula School is a progressive institution teaching students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience.

Phillips Brooks School

2245 Avy Ave., Menlo Park
650-854-4545

phillipsbrooks.finalsite.com

This independent day school offers child-centered learning for children from preschool through fifth grade.

Silicon Valley International School

151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto
475 Pope St., Menlo Park
650-251-8500

school@svintl.org / svintl.org

Silicon Valley International School offers bilingual immersion day school with two nursery-to-fifth-grade programs in French, German and Mandarin as well as middle and high school programs.

Synapse School

3375 Edison Way, Menlo Park
650-294-4570

synapseschool.org

Synapse is a TK-eighth grade independent school. Parent education is an integral part of Synapse's experience for families, as is social-emotional learning.

Woodland School

360 La Cuesta Drive,
Portola Valley / 650-854-9065
woodland-school.org

Woodland School is an independent school offering small classes and an emphasis on student-driven projects for children in preschool up through middle school.

Woodside Priory

302 Portola Road,
Portola Valley
650-851-8221 / prioryca.org

Woodside Priory is a Catholic Benedictine college preparatory school that offers education for students in sixth through 12th grade and a residential boarding program for high school students.

Something for everyone

JobTrain

1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park
650-330-6429

info@jobtrainworks.org /
jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults — providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care and more — as well as programs specifically for young adults, to help with GED diploma preparation, job placement and vocational training. The center also offers onsite preschool with income-based fees. Open entry GED/high school equivalency classes run on weekdays.

The Riekes Center

3455 Edison Way,
Menlo Park
650-364-2509

info@riekes.org / riekes.org



The Riekes Center offers year-round programming in fitness, arts and nature for individuals of all ages and abilities. The center also provides programs for home-schooled students.

Sequoia District Adult School

3247 Middlefield Road,
Menlo Park
650-306-8866

seqsas.org

Sequoia District Adult Education holds classes in English as a second language and computer and business skills. Students can also earn a high school diploma or GED certificate. Counselors are available to help students transition to college programs.

Stanford Continuing Studies

Littlefield Center,
365 Lasuen St., Stanford.
continuingstudies@stanford.edu /
continuingstudies.stanford.edu

Stanford Continuing Studies organizes in-person and online classes in liberal arts and sciences, creative writing, and

professional and personal development.

Sports

Baylands Golf Links

1875 Embarcadero Road,
Palo Alto / 650-856-0881
baylandsgolflinks.com

Private lessons and clinics teaching golf techniques, rules and etiquette are available for sign-up at any level of experience throughout the year.

Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto

650-752-8061

admin@kimgranttennis.com /
kimgranttennis.com

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children at multiple locations, including in Palo Alto and Woodside. Pickleball clinics are also offered at some locations.

Spring Down

Equestrian Center

725 Portola Road,
Portola Valley / 650-851-1114
springdowneqcenter@gmail.com /
springdown.com

Spring Down Equestrian Center educates children

(beginning at age 6) and adults on horses and horseback riding. Classes and camps held year-round.

Webb Ranch Riding School

2720 Alpine Road,
Portola Valley
650-854-7755

webbranchinc.com

Instruction for beginning and intermediate horseback riders in both group and private settings, including camps for kids age 7-18.

Let's Educate is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly and the Almanac. Descriptions of classes and schools in Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley and Woodside are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes and schools in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Let's Educate, email editor@paweeekly.com. To place a paid advertisement in Let's Educate, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210. ■



COMING DEC. 20

Don't miss our special

END OF YEAR DOUBLE EDITION!

We're planning to deliver something special later this month.

We will wrap up the year with a special double edition combining the Dec. 20 and 27 issues.

The Dec. 20 edition of The Almanac will be the final newspaper delivered in 2024. We'll be back in print on Jan. 3.

Unlike Santa, though, our journalists will not rest for long after the big day. Just because there will be no paper delivered Dec. 27, our staff will still be working and you can **keep up with the local news on AlmanacNews.com.**



Happy Holidays!

The Almanac

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Actor returns to TheatreWorks after performing there as a child

Sophie Oda, who's appearing in 'Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley' feels a 'deep sense of home' on TheatreWorks' stage

By Ashwini Gangal

Well over two decades ago, TheatreWorks founder Robert Kelley stopped a 7-year-old girl frolicking in the hallway of his theater and asked her to sing him something. She was performing in one of the company's plays and he wanted to know whether she could sing too. And sing she did, for Sophie Oda was a natural.

This is one of her early memories of her time at TheatreWorks as a child actor. "I felt like I had a special relationship with Kelley and his partner Ev, they kind of just took me under their wing," said Oda, who is now part of TheatreWorks' "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," written by Bay Area playwrights Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon.

The play, which is a romantic sequel to "Pride and Prejudice," runs through Dec. 29 at Palo Alto's Lucie Stern Theatre.

Oda, who grew up in Danville in the East Bay, has moved back to the Bay Area after spending around 10 years in Los Angeles,

where she worked in film and TV; she appeared in shows like "NCIS: Los Angeles," "The Big Bang Theory" and "The Suite Life of Zack & Cody," among several others.

She moved back to be closer to her family and is presently delighting in her incidental rediscovery of theater. "I forgot how much I missed it, I forgot the level of community and sense of team," said Oda, who didn't do much theater in the last decade. Then last year, being part of a production called "Starmites" in L.A., rekindled her love for the stage.

"It means a lot to me to be back at TheatreWorks as an adult," she said. "As a child I always felt separate from everybody else. It feels very new being fully a member of the cast, more of an equal part ... I didn't know what that meant. It's interesting to be in the same place and to have an entirely different experience."

Some familiar faces she knew as a child, "like the props manager, the assistant stage manager and the costumer," are still there. Reconnecting

with the staff, now as an adult, is an adjustment that she finds "lovely, familiar but also a little bit strange, awkward at times."

Oda has vivid memories of being part of TheatreWorks productions as a child. She remembers the "bouncy, curly wig" she wore for "Jane Eyre," and the "chaotic" backstage atmosphere while working on "A Little Princess" because the cast included several little girls like herself. She still remembers some of the harmonies she learned for that play. "We would practice our harmonies in our carpool on the way there," she said fondly.

She clearly remembers stalling on stage, instead of running off like she was supposed to, just to watch the actors who played her parents in "The Joy Luck Club" kiss — "I felt I was misbehaving by staying a second or two longer!"

Another play she worked in as a child was "Pacific Overtures," which was set in imperial Japan. "At one point I am the emperor being puppeteered with sticks attached to my costume," she said. Backstage, in the dressing room, she recalls standing on a stool as an 8-year-old, helping women tie up their "obis" or kimono belts.

"I really enjoyed it, I had a great time being a part of something," she said, remembering with a chuckle what it felt like being among professional adults at such a young age. "I remember being on stage when I was a child and feeling — 'wow I have agency here.' If I wanted to, I could just run across the stage and ruin the whole show! I remember thinking that a lot when I was on stage ... of course I always did what my role was, but I remember thinking that I had power, I had a say, I was contributing to this picture, to this team."

Other Bay Area companies she worked with as a child actor include American Musical Theatre of San Jose, the San Jose Repertory Theatre and The Willows, among others, but her time at TheatreWorks is the most memorable. "TheatreWorks



Courtesy TheatreWorks

Sophie Oda, who performed with TheatreWorks as a child, returns to the company's stage as Lydia in "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley."

became my second home when I was growing up," she said, crediting the "sense of family" that Kelley pushed forth.

A few years ago, the opportunity to work with TheatreWorks did come her way, but things didn't work out, because she was waiting for a call-back for a film she was advised to prioritize at the time.

That film didn't pan out either. "It made me very sad," she said, about missing the chance to be part of TheatreWorks' "The Four Immigrants," a play written by Bay Area-based Min Kahng. "I was stuck in indecision; it was a confusing time ... that has been hovering over me a long time, wanting to come back."

Which is why, when she had the chance to be part of "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," she was thrilled. As an added bonus, she discovered that the director, Jeffrey Lo, is someone she went to University of California, Irvine, with.

In the show, Oda plays the bubbly Lydia, the youngest sister of the Bennet family who caused such upheaval in the original tale of "Pride and Prejudice." In this holiday-themed sequel set two years after the events of Jane Austen's novel, the Bennets and their extended family come together to celebrate Christmas at the home of the novel's main character Elizabeth, now married to Mr. Darcy.

For now, Oda is busy reliving old memories — "I remember running down the hallway from one end of the stage to the other!" — and looks forward to creating new ones, both on — and back — stage. "I love how theater flows very naturally... so much of the theater experience is not seen."

She admires the way she can see all the parts coming together in theater, unlike in film or TV, where the actors are privy only to their part in the larger scheme of things. "It is a more stilted process," she said.

To unwind, Oda enjoys solving puzzles, playing board games and pole dancing, a relatively recent hobby. "Right now I'm just trying to lean into what feels good," she said.

About TheatreWorks in particular, she lauds the fact that the team has professional mental health support on the premises. "It's a kind and inclusive place," she said. "It just feels like a soft place to land." ■

Email Contributing Writer
Ashwini Gangal at
ashwinigangal@gmail.com.



Courtesy Reed Flores

"Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley" is set two years after the events of Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" and focuses on shy, overlooked Bennet sister Mary (Elissa Beth Stebbins), who makes a connection with fellow houseguest Arthur (David Toshiro Crane) while visiting her sister Elizabeth for Christmas.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley" runs through Dec. 29 at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$34 - \$115. For information visit theatreworks.org.

The plot thickens

Redwood City author Ellen Kirschman publishes the fifth book in her mystery series about a sleuthing police psychologist

By Heather Zimmerman

Psychologist and author Ellen Kirschman is open about the fact that she has a few things in common with the protagonist of her Dot Meyerhoff Mysteries book series, including giving the fictional sleuth names from her family.

But beyond that, her own life story could be fit for a novel, springing from her training as a dancer to working as a modeling school teacher, a probation officer, a police psychologist and now mystery author. In addition to her fiction books and some short stories, Kirschman has also penned several nonfiction titles in her work as a psychologist.

Born and raised in New York, she has lived in Redwood City off and on since 1967, including for the last 24 years.

Kirschman began writing the Dot Meyerhoff series a little more than a decade ago. “Call Me Carmela,” the fifth book in the Meyerhoff series, published Nov. 26. Ahead of the book’s publication, Kirschman sat down with us to talk about her diverse career, her love of storytelling and her book series.

Long before Dot Meyerhoff came into being, Kirschman started her professional life pursuing dance, the field for which she earned a degree at Adelphi University in New York. But her future career was already in the mix: she minored in psychology.

She moved to the Bay Area and began working at the John Robert Powers modeling agency, teaching classes in



Courtesy S. Hollis Johnson

Author Ellen Kirschman.

visual poise. Kirschman said that the modeling profession could pose a challenge to students’ body image and mental health. She not only voiced her concerns, but also took a psychology class to better support her students’ mental wellbeing.

“I’ve always been interested in how people tick. I enrolled myself in a class with a very famous psychologist by the name of Eric Berne. He wrote ‘Games People Play,’” Kirschman said.

Several women in her class happened to be probation officers, and they encouraged her to try their line of work. She made the leap to working for a time as a probation officer in Oakland, but ultimately, she said, it was “not for me.”

“I decided to go back to school and get my master’s in social work at (University of California) Berkeley, and then I went to work at Kaiser, right here in Redwood City. That’s when some police wives started coming in to see me and telling me what was going on,” Kirschman said, noting at the time, most police officers were men.

“What I would say — as you were taught to say — was ‘perhaps ask your husband to come and join you here,’ and not only would the husbands never come, but pretty soon, the wives would drop out of therapy, too,” she said.

Kirschman approached Cañada College administrators about offering a class to help police spouses gain a better understanding of the job and its stresses. The class was called “I Love a Cop,” and Kirschman said she knew she had “struck a need” when the

See **ELLEN KIRSCHMAN**, page 20

Worth a Look



Courtesy Leslie Ryan McKellar

Shovels and Rope plays Dec. 7 at The Guild Theatre.

Shovels & Rope

Indie folk, rock and Americana combo Shovels & Rope (spouses Michael Trent and Cary Ann Hearst) have toured extensively and released numerous albums over the years. The latest, “Something Is Working Up Above My Head,” just came out this September and, according to the duo’s website, “encapsulates, more than anything we’ve done before, the sound of our live performance.” Local audiences can get a taste of that live performance style soon, when Trent and Hearst come to the Guild for a concert. Opening the show is singer-songwriter Al Olender, whose debut album, “Easy Crier,” is described on her website as “a celebratory and beautiful rumination on grief.”

Dec. 7, 8 p.m., The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$46.35-\$106.61; guildtheatre.com.

Jazz Commons

The first weekend of each month, Little Green hosts Jazz Commons — an evening of community jazz jamming featuring local jazz musicians. The Dec. 7 lineup features Isaac Stevenson, Kimiko, Chris Cortez, and Jeff Saxton and a holiday theme, according to an Instagram post.

Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Little Green, 1101 Main St., Redwood City; suggested audience donation \$10; littlegreenaplanbar.com/classes.

Ráyo Furuta and Hiroko Mizuno

Flutist Ráyo Furuta and pianist Hiroko Mizuno join forces for a free community concert for the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA), titled “Songs Without Words.” The performance showcases Furuta’s arrangements of selections including art song, lieder, arias and popular music. Furuta, who was called “The Rockstar of the Flute” by the Informador de Guadalajara, explores styles including classical, pop and jazz, and is also a professor of music at San Jose State and Santa Clara universities and the executive artistic director of Chamber Music Silicon Valley. Mizuno earned her degree from Japan’s Toho Gakuen Conservatory and has released several recordings, according to CSMA.

Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Community School of Music and Arts; free; arts4all.org/concerts/rayo-furuta-and-laura-ward-songs-without-words/.

PACO’s Holiday Extravaganza

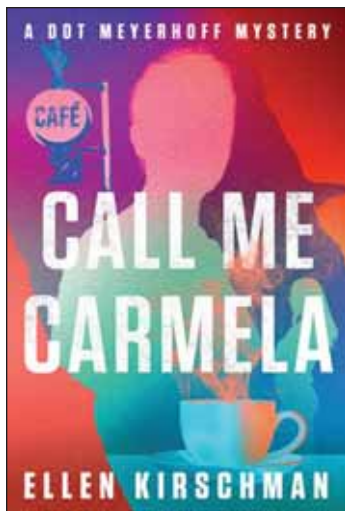
Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO) is celebrating the season with a holiday show featuring all five of its ensembles and conducted by music director Scott Krijnen, plus headliner violin soloist Ariana Kim playing with the group for a performance of “Four Seasons of Buenos Aires” by Piazzolla. Kim, a professor at Cornell University, earned a 2019 Grammy nomination for the album “Blueprinting.” PACO is a long-running program for youth string musicians. A pre-concert reception starts at 1:45 p.m.

Dec. 8, 3 p.m., Carrington Hall, Sequoia High School, 1201 Brewster Ave., Redwood City; \$50 general admission, \$25 students and seniors; pay what you can option also available. pacomusic.org.

Stanford’s Fall 2024 Open Studios

Stanford University’s Department of Art & Art History opens its classroom and studio doors to the community to share the work of undergraduate students, including in the media of drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, video and more. This long-running tradition takes place on the last afternoon of classes during the fall and winter quarters and gives visitors the chance to see students’ work right where it was created.

Dec. 6, 3-5 p.m., The McMurtry Building (355 Roth Way) and Stanford Art Gallery (419 Lasuen Mall); free; events. stanford.edu/event/fall-2024-open-studios.



Courtesy Ellen Kirschman

“Call me Carmela,” the fifth book in author Ellen Kirschman’s Dot Meyerhoff series, published in late November.

ELLEN KIRSCHMAN*continued from page 19*

class was not only filled, but it also had 40 students on the waiting list. Soon after, she began receiving invitations to come speak to other classes.

Seven years later, Kirschman decided to pursue her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley.

"I'd like to say my dissertation was a combination of Sigmund Freud and Mickey Spillane. It was an intensive case study, so I looked at three cops who hired on as healthy people and went out on stress-related disability," Kirschman said. She interviewed everyone, from the officers themselves to their spouses and exes, supervisors, even worker's compensation investigators — aiming to put together a picture of what happened. It became a foundation for her work as a clinician that has taken her to 22 different

states and four countries. She went on to write a nonfiction book on the subject, borrowing the name of that first class she offered years before at Cañada College: "I Love a Cop." That book is now in its third edition. Kirschman went on to write the book "I Love a Firefighter" and she co-wrote "Counseling Cops" with two retired officers.

"My nonfiction books are filled with stories of real people. I'm interested in people's stories. That's partly why I became a psychologist," she said.

Eventually, Kirschman turned her focus to writing fiction. "I was delusional, and I thought it'd be easier to make this stuff up," she joked, saying that at the time, she believed writing fiction would be easier than putting so much time into research and fact-checking.

"Even when you write narrative nonfiction — meaning it has a novel-like quality to it — it's still like writing 24

term papers and putting them together. And the reader can say, 'well, I'm interested in this chapter, but that doesn't apply to me.' But when we're reading fiction, most of us want to be swept away by the story. I like teaching myself new things so I really had to learn the craft of doing that," she said.

It was Kirschman's penchant for storytelling that helped bring Dot Meyerhoff to life, building on her many experiences. She called the character after mother's first name, Dot, and her maternal grandmother's last name, Meyerhoff.

"I've always been a reader — not necessarily of mystery, just of everything. And I thought, 'wow, some of the things that I've seen that have happened to me would make great stories, and I could make my central figure a police psychologist,'" she recalled.

Though Kirschman draws some inspiration from cases she's

worked on, she changes numerous details for her books. More than anything, she takes on big-picture topics that she's encountered in her work. The first Dot Meyerhoff book, "Burying Ben," tackles the subject of police officers dying by suicide. Kirschman said she wanted to highlight that cops are twice as likely to die by suicide as to be killed in the line of duty. Her second book in the series, "The Right Wrong Thing," explores the struggles and hostility that a young female rookie faces in a male-dominated workplace. The officer is shocked to find the dynamic with co-workers has flipped after she shoots a suspect.

Stories in the news have also sparked Kirschman's inspiration, as with her most recent book, "Call Me Carmela." The story that inspired the book took place in England and concerned a young woman who seeks out her birth parents after learning

she's adopted. She discovers some dark news about her birth father, but finds that her birth mother doesn't want to hold him accountable for what he's done. In the book, the young woman is the goddaughter of one of Dot's closest friends. Dot promises to help her find her birth parents and her investigations lead her into the shadowy world of illegal adoptions.

"There are so many conflicts. Imagine that she finally finds her mother, and the mother doesn't want to help and wants it all to go away," Kirschman said.

"This book is not as cop-oriented as the other books. There are cops in it," she added.

Since the character of Dot isn't a cop, Kirschman said she sometimes will give Dot a personal connection to a case to provide a premise for her investigation. That level of personal involvement — and Dot's lack of work-life balance — are not things she's borrowed from her own life.

But there's one aspect of the books that Kirschman said that she's almost copied from real life: cribbing from her husband, S. Hollis Johnson, to create the character of Dot's love interest, a photographer named Frank. So how does he feel about being immortalized in print?

"He likes it because he's a really good guy in the book, just like he is in real life," she said. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.

FIRE MARSHAL'S SAFETY CORNER

HOLIDAY SAFETY



Tree Safety

- If you have a natural tree, water it to keep it fresh and safe. Real trees can dry up and turn into kindling in no time.
- Get rid of the tree after the holiday. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage.
- Turn off all tree lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

Prevention Strategies

- Keep decorations at least three feet away from heat sources — especially those with an open flame, like fireplaces and candles. And remember to blow out your candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Keep a household fire extinguisher nearby.
- Keep the floor clear to avoid tripping over children, toys, or bags
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year.
- If you're using a space heater, switch it off before leaving the room. It only takes seconds for a fire to start if a space heater tips over or comes in contact with something combustible, like a blanket or curtains.

Celebrate the Christmas Season Together



DECEMBER 8 @ 4PM

ADVENT 2ND SUNDAY,

LESSONS & CAROLS, AND PARISH PARTY

CONTEMPLATE THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS
THROUGH READINGS, SONGS, & PRAYERS

DECEMBER 13 @ 7:30PM - 9:30PM

MESSIAH SING-ALONG WITH
THE ENSEMBLE CONTINUO SINGERS

FREE TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE
DOORS OPEN @ 7PM



DECEMBER 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30PM CAROLING IN THE COURTYARD

5PM CANDLELIGHT FAMILY CELEBRATION

LIVESTREAM - FACEBOOK.COM/ASAINTPALOALTO
YOUTUBE @ALLSAINTSPALOALTO

555 WAVERLEY STREET, PALO ALTO ~ WWW.ASAINTS.ORG



"Call Me Carmela" and the other books in the Dot Meyerhoff series are available at major online retailers. For more information, visit ellenkirschman.com/fiction.

Support your community

The Almanac
Holiday
Fund

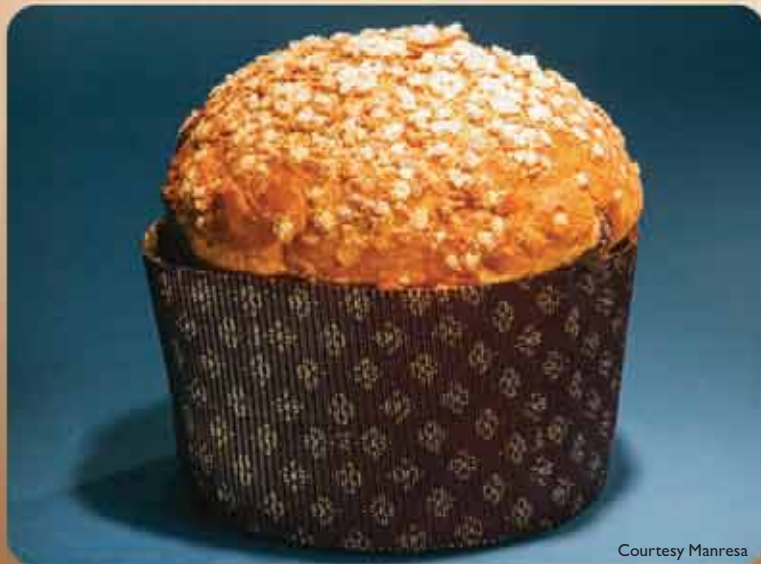
Donate online:
AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund



Food & Drink

BREAKING

BREAD



Courtesy Manresa



Courtesy Backhaus

Where to find freshly baked panettone, stollen and other holiday breads along the Peninsula

For the holidays, Manresa Bread is offering triple chocolate and candied orange panettone, Backhaus is selling stollen, Croissante is offering galette des rois and Little Sky Bakery will have wild-yeast panettone with golden raisins and dried cherries.

By Sophia Markoulakis

There's no shame indulging in holiday bread this time of year, especially when it's studded with dried fruit and nuts and coated with a sugary crust. But why indulge in those mass-produced European sweets that are baked and packaged months ahead of the holiday season and travel via container ship, when you can snag one at a Peninsula bakery? (I'm looking at you, industrial panettone!)

Augustine Buonocore, who owns Redwood City's La Biscotteria with his wife Angela, makes thousands of panettones every holiday season. Though Angela doesn't hate the imported brands too much, she said,

"They were baked months ago and it takes so long for them to arrive." Speaking about their ingredients, she said, "You really need to read the ingredient list. Some brands use seed oil, which isn't good. We use eggs and butter and bake them continuously. Fundamentally, you should eat foods that are as close to nature as possible."

According to Smithsonian Magazine, the first panettone was produced in Milan in the 1500s and was a feast-day treat due to its coveted ingredients like white flour, eggs and butter. Today, Italy produces tons of panettone a year, and Italian brands must follow ingredient, production and packaging rules. Stollen, which originated in Germany, has a similar lineage, though first linked to religious fasting until a couple hundred

years later, when leaders realized the oblong-shaped bread would taste better with a little butter and eggs.

And galette des rois, or king's cake, pays homage to the epiphany and the three wise men. This frangipane-filled puff pastry treat celebrates the new year and is enjoyed in France throughout January. Some bakeries insert an edible or non-edible charm before baking; if you find it in your slice, you're said to have good luck for the year.

The Peninsula has a plethora of bakeries that make sweet breads that celebrate the holiday season. We rounded up several that will keep your candied fruit and powdered sugar cravings satisfied while supporting your local bakery and reducing your carbon footprint.

Panettone

La Biscotteria, Redwood City:

The Buonocores offer three sizes of their traditional Milanese panettone with liquor-soaked raisins and housemade candied fruit along with their special "Triple P"



Courtesy Croissante

panettone, a 38-ounce leavened bread that is filled with pineapple, pear and papaya. Order online and pick up in store to guarantee availability. Check their social media for other holiday treats such as panforte (fruitcake), torrone (nut nougat), stroufoli (honey balls) and cuccidati (Sicilian fig-stuffed cookies).

La Biscotteria, 2747 El Camino Real, Redwood City; 650-366-4888, Instagram: @labiscotteria1. Open Wednesday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Special holiday hours include Dec. 24 from 6 a.m. to noon; closed Christmas Day.

Manresa Bread, Campbell, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Palo Alto:

Manresa will offer a housemade triple chocolate and candied orange panettone. Preorder for the best chance of availability here.

Manresa Bread, locations in Campbell,

Los Gatos, Los Altos and Palo Alto; Instagram: @manresabread.

The Midwife and The Baker, Mountain View:

Midwife's popular panettone is filled with chocolate and hazelnuts and is similar to the East Bay brand From Roy but less expensive.

The Midwife and The Baker, 846 Independence Ave., Mountain View; 650-336-7697, Instagram: @themidwifeandthebaker. Open Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Little Sky Bakery, Menlo Park:

Tian Mayimin will sell her wild-yeast panettone at her Menlo Park location and the several farmers market stands where she operates. It's filled with golden raisins and dried cherries and has the classic sugary crackle top.

Little Sky Bakery, 506 Santa Cruz Ave.,

Menlo Park; 609-906-1241, Instagram: @littleskybakery. Panettone available starting the week of Dec. 9. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See **BREAD**, page 22



Courtesy Little Sky Bakery



Courtesy The Baker Next Door

The Baker Next Door in Redwood City is offering panettone with housemade candied citrus peel for the holidays.

BREAD

continued from page 21

The Baker Next Door, Redwood City:

The Midpeninsula bread pop-up turned storefront, The Baker Next Door, is baking and selling panettone. Co-owner Brian Clarke is excited to produce panettone again this year and said, “We’ll be leavening our panettone with only sour dough

like the Italians have done for hundreds of years. The wild yeast gives the finished bread a wonderful flora. It will include candied citrus peel, house made from our own fruit and currants.”

The Baker Next Door, 851 Main St., Redwood City; Instagram: @thebakernextdoor_rwc. Panettone available on Dec. 9. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stollen

Backhaus, Burlingame and San Mateo:

German native Ann Moser first started baking bread almost 10 years ago out of Burlingame’s KitchenTown. Her intention wasn’t to open a German bakery, but to open a bakery with German influences. Every holiday she makes a traditional stollen with raisins and candied fruit to honor her heritage. Mini stollen nuggets will also be available.

Backhaus, 261 California Drive, Burlingame and 32 Third Ave., San Mateo; 650-200-9493, Instagram: @backhausbread. Open Tuesday through Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ludwigs Biergarten, Mountain View:

After you’ve enjoyed your Bavarian dumplings and washed them down with a fresh hefeweizen, have a slice of housemade stollen (or a few gingerbread-like lebkuchen cookies). Mulled wine, glühwein, is also available.

Ludwigs Biergarten, 383 Castro St., Mountain View; 609-282-5342, Instagram: @ludwigsmv. Open Tuesday to Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Croissante, Santa Clara:

All flours are not alike according to Croissante owner Sean

Kang. “Panettone flour is a high-protein flour that we import from Italy,” he said. Croissante’s version is filled with raisins and candied orange and lemon and topped with an almond glaze. His stollen is made with foricher flour, imported from France, and is filled with liqueur-soaked dried fruits and housemade marzipan.

Croissante, 2908 El Camino Real, #100, Santa Clara; 408-564-5092, Instagram: @croissante_bakery. Open Monday to Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Babka and challah

Krembo Baked Goods, San Mateo:

Krembo, located within the Chabad North Peninsula, will offer chocolate babka, challah (wheat and gluten-free) and suf-ganiyot (jelly-filled donuts). All baked goods are kosher (Vaad certified) and non-dairy. Head

to their website to preorder before Hanukkah, which starts at sundown on Dec. 25.

Krembo Baked Goods, 650-980-1989. Contact them for pick up address. Open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Woodside Bakery & Cafe, Menlo Park:

This old-school European bakery in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center takes creative license with challah. Besides the traditional plain version, the bakery offers raisin, sesame, poppyseed and frosted varieties, all in a round shape.

Woodside Bakery & Cafe, 325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park; 650-854-6207, Instagram: @thewoodsidebakery. Open Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Galette des rois

Maison Alyzée, Burlingame and Mountain View:

Laurent Pellet and his team will offer two versions of galettes des rois: a traditional one with frangipane cream and a hazelnut version with hazelnut-lemon confit frangipane cream topped with crushed hazelnuts. These will be available starting January 1, 2025 and available through the end of the month.

Maison Alyzée, 212 Castro St., Mountain View, 650-960-1212; 1208 Burlingame Ave., Burlingame, 650-425-7294, Instagram: @maisonalyzee. Mountain View open Monday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Burlingame open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Croissante, Santa Clara:

Croissante’s galette des rois will roll out on New Year’s and be available through January 2025. Look for the traditional and possibly a new flavor akin to last year’s which incorporated mandarin orange.

Croissante, 2908 El Camino Real, #100, Santa Clara; 408-564-5092, Instagram: @croissante_bakery. Open Monday to Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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. ■

EVENT	DATE	HOUR
LCC 70th Anniversary Celebration	Dec 7	2:00-5:00 PM
Madrigals Holiday Concert	Dec 8	10:15-10:45 AM
Christmas Music Concert	Dec 15	9:30-10:30 AM
Lunch Serving @ Redwood City Navigation Center * Registration required	Dec 15	11:45 AM-1:00 PM
Blue Christmas Service	Dec 21	10:00 AM
Christmas Eve Service	Dec 24	5:00 PM
Redwood Symphony Messiah Sing	Dec 28	6:00 PM

***ALL EVENTS AT LADERA COMMUNITY CHURCH UNLESS NOTED**

***VISIT LADERA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION**

3300 ALPINE RD. PORTOLA VALLEY



A graze for every occasion

Artistically blending food and floral



Feast and Floral opens wine bar, marketplace and catering kitchen in Redwood City.

Since 2019, Feast and Floral has provided elegant and colorful cheese and charcuterie boards, grazing tables, snack boxes, floral arrangements, gift baskets and other festive goodies to the Bay Area.

On Oct. 1st, the company opened its new space in Redwood City's Marsh Manor Shopping Center, which houses not only its catering business but also a wine bar and gourmet marketplace selling goods by small California brands.

Feast and Floral

3770 Florence Street, Redwood City

650-313-3616 | www.feastandfloral.com

Mon & Sun Closed | Tues - Sat 1:00 pm - 09:00 pm

Anderson Collection celebrates 10 years of 20th-century American art

The Anderson Collection at Stanford celebrates its 10th anniversary as a home for 20th-century American art. Donated by Harry W. and Mary Margaret Anderson, the collection invites visitors to experience masterpieces in a welcoming environment. To mark the milestone, the museum features student-curated exhibitions like *An Expanded Lens*, exploring perception and context. Highlights include reimagined arrangements blending permanent works with contemporary loans. The *Bringing It Home* exhibit recreates the Andersons' home setting, showcasing their close connections with artists. Upcoming programs, including *The Journey Continues*, will spotlight contemporary women artists, charting a path for the museum's next decade of innovation. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT** 



PRESENTED BY  **Stanford University**

Agents—not algorithms.



50+

COMBINED
YEARS EXPERIENCE

\$2B+

RESIDENTIAL
REAL ESTATE SALES

700+

RESIDENTIAL REAL
ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

In real estate, relationships are as important as market knowledge and expertise. When you're ready to make a move, rely on our insights as well as our strong reputation, broker and community ties.

When it comes to local real estate, we've seen and covered it all...

We've got this.

PACIFIC TRUST
REAL ESTATE

Visit us at: pactrustrealestate.com
DRE 02014153

Pacific Trust Real Estate is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 02014153. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.