

# The Almanac

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

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Courtesy Brass Against

## Spotlight on fall arts: A guide to music, theater and more

The music collective Brass Against reimagines politically charged songs, with a blast of brass instruments lending new power and uplifting energy to familiar tunes. Their repertoire spans songs by groups such as Rage Against the Machine, Black Sabbath, Tool and The White Stripes, as well as some originals. Brass Against comes to The Guild Theatre on Sept. 23 on a tour they've dubbed "What Better Time Than Now." See what else is in the lineup for concerts, local galleries, theater companies and author events in our Fall Arts preview on Page 22.

## Developers invited to submit proposals for downtown affordable housing sites

Save Downtown Menlo decries changes

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park has taken its next step toward redeveloping its downtown parking plazas into affordable housing. At its Aug. 26 meeting, the City Council authorized staff to release a request for proposals to six pre-qualified development teams.

The move stems from the city's obligation under its 2023–2031 housing element, which requires Menlo Park to plan for nearly 3,000 new housing units, including more than 1,600 affordable to moderate- and lower-income

households. The parking plazas, located in the heart of downtown, are listed in the Housing Element as some of the city's most significant opportunity sites. However, business owners say losing surface parking, even if some or all of the spaces are replaced in a parking garage, would be detrimental to the downtown area.

While the city's housing element had a goal of unit completion by 2027, it has fallen behind that target; staff emphasized that "all efforts" must be made to have the units constructed within the current housing element cycle, which ends in 2031.

Earlier this year, the city invited developers to submit their qualifications to build on the lots. Seven teams responded and in June, the council selected six to advance: Alliant Communities, Eden Housing, MidPen Housing, PATH Ventures, Presidio Bay Ventures and Related Companies with Alta Housing.

Those teams will now be asked to prepare detailed proposals under the RFP. While much of the RFP was similar to the Request for Qualifications, there was one difference: some "requirements" were removed and replaced with "priorities." One of the



Anna Hoch-Kenney

A Tesla drives past a sign announcing plans to build housing on the city-owned Public Parking Lot 2 in downtown Menlo Park in January.

requirements that was changed to a priority is replacing all surface parking spaces.

Save Downtown Menlo, a group that formed to fight the loss of the parking lots, sees this as the council breaking their

promise. "For 10 months, City Council assured us that lost downtown parking would be replaced. But at Tuesday's meeting, just before approving the RFP, they

See **HOUSING**, page 14

## Former M-A secretary alleges discrimination at hands of school district

Taimani files tort claim

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Another former Sequoia Union High School District staff member has taken legal action against the district. On Sept. 2, Ofa Taimani, a former Menlo-Atherton High School instructional vice principal secretary, filed a tort claim alleging wrongful termination, discrimination and retaliation. She is seeking a minimum of \$70,000 in economic and emotional damages.

Taimani, who had been working for Menlo-Atherton since 2015, had been on medical leave since September 2024 due to work-related stress. In late March, the district terminated her with a letter stating she would be placed on the 39-month medical reemployment list due to her depletion of "sick leave, differential leave and all other available leaves."

"When I went on leave due to

stress in September, I was communicating back and forth with human resources regarding my doctor's appointments and letters," Taimani said. "I actually was blindsided with the termination. There was no warning or anything."

February was the last time she heard from the district before receiving the letter, she added.

Employees placed on the list immediately lose their pay and benefits. If an individual is able to medically return to work during the 39-month period, they will be entitled to any vacant positions in their classification. Former Woodside High School counselor Sharlett Downing was also placed on the 39-month reemployment list by the district before filing a lawsuit.

"The rehire list just feels like a glorified word that they use, because at the end of the day, I

See **DISCRIMINATION**, page 13

INSIDE

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# We Are Buying

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After attending Art Center College of Design Kyle pursued a career in design and advertising that lead him to work at John Moran Auctioneers for 15 years. It was here he became fascinated with American & California Impressionist art, fine jewelry and diamonds. For the last 15 years Kyle has owned a company in Pasadena brokering estate jewelry, fine art, buying and selling diamonds & cutting diamonds.

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Isaiah Narciso

A Waymo robotaxi drives in reverse on the shoulder of Interstate 280.

## Waymo car steered to safety after highway fire

Responding officer calls Waymo's dispatch to disable the car's autonomous mode

By Arden Margulis

A California Highway Patrol Officer needed to take over for “the world’s most experienced driver” off Interstate 280 in Woodside after a grass fire shut down the highway for hours.

The vegetation fire broke out just before 5 p.m. on Aug. 30 on the northbound side of I-280, north of Farm Hill Road, after a car caught fire, according to the CHP. Flames spread

up the hillside to Cañada College and jumped across the highway, forcing a full closure in both directions.

CHP officers directed traffic off at Edgewood Road and Woodside Road, even escorting stranded southbound drivers the wrong way back on the highway to the exit. Among them was a Waymo robotaxi carrying a single passenger in the back seat. The autonomous car initially tried to keep driving southbound.

Isaiah Narciso, a driver who was also stuck in traffic, said the Waymo pulled out of traffic to drive onto the shoulder, apparently attempting to avoid the traffic, before needing to drive in reverse on the road since CHP instructed cars in front of it to turn around and drive back in the breakdown lane to the nearest exit. Narciso videoed the incident as well.

See **WAYMO**, page 12

## Masked man with gun nabbed near Atherton school

Good Samaritan helps restrain suspect

By Arden Margulis

A man was arrested in Atherton while carrying an untraceable “ghost gun” and wearing a mask near Las Lomitas Elementary School on Aug. 25.

Nicholas Garcia, 30, was taken into custody around 8:50 a.m. at the intersection of Camino Al Lago and Barney Avenue after police responded to reports of a fight between Garcia and his father.

Earlier that morning, at about 8 a.m., a San Mateo County sheriff’s deputy went to Garcia’s parents’ home seeking help locating him after reports that he had been walking around Atherton in a mask. His parents told the deputy he struggles with mental health issues and may have a gun, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

The parents later found Garcia at the intersection of Camino Al Lago and Barney Avenue and tried to calm him down.

Authorities say Garcia punched his 60-year-old father several times, then pulled out a gun and said he wanted to kill his father. A bystander who had initially avoided the confrontation helped restrain Garcia and remove the weapon after learning a gun was involved.

“Most people hear ‘gun’ and they head for cover but this individual helped keep the community safe,” Wagstaffe said.

See **SUSPECT**, page 12

## REEL addresses neurodivergent stigmas in Silicon Valley

Nonprofit builds awareness

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Neurodivergent students are often misunderstood and labeled as lazy and disruptive, but a Palo Alto-based nonprofit organization is aiming to destigmatize neurodivergency in Silicon Valley schools and households. REEL, Resilience and Engagement for Every Learner, supported nearly 25,000 people last year.

The organization was founded by Callie Turk and Yael Valek, parents of neurodivergent and twice-exceptional children who they felt were not being well supported within the local public school system. Twice-exceptional learners are students who show advanced skills while also being autistic, dyslexic or have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Turk said her daughter was an amazing writer and thinker at a young age but she was struggling with making friends and following class instructions. Despite teachers wanting to help her, “No one really knew what was going on,” Turk said. It wasn’t until her daughter was in seventh grade that she was diagnosed with autism.

According to REEL, more than one in 20 students are twice-exceptional but yet families and educators lack the proper resources and awareness to support their children’s neurodivergency, missing their potential for success.

The co-founders of REEL wanted to create an organization that could better inform and guide schools and families that might be struggling with the unique circumstances of raising a neurodivergent child.

“A lot of families, especially in the high achieving communities in our area, feel like they’re supposed to be (parenting) in a certain way and when it doesn’t pan out that way, they themselves are feeling ashamed,” said Turk.

Although awareness and discussions around neurodivergency is increasing, there is still a lack of available resources and education that is necessary for sustained impact. REEL’s goal

is to normalize conversations between educators and parents about autism, ADHD and dyslexia to build awareness and let people know that extra support is at hand.

The modern educational system was “designed for an industrial era, based on a set of norms and standards to create an average worker,” Turk said. “We standardized education to meet a level of industrialization in our country that just doesn’t exist in that way anymore.”

REEL is making a local impact through its work with Palo Alto parents, teachers and partnerships with Silicon Valley school districts including Menlo Park City School District and Portola Valley School District.

Schools are not designed to be environments for neurodivergent kids, she added. When students are not meeting school standards and expectations of skill levels by grade levels, it begins to impact their mental health, Turk said.

Studies show that up to 50% of autistic and ADHD students experience depression and more than 70% struggle with anxiety.

Regardless of whether a child has been labeled as neurodivergent, they might be labeled as lazy or frustrating in school. When these labels become internalized, students develop mental health struggles from shame and discouragement, Turk explained.

Even twice-exceptional students who are highly skilled, such as a child reading at the age of 3, are at high risk of anxiety and depression due to their high awareness that they don’t fit in with their peers, she said.

Through its back-to-school initiative “Bridge the Gap, Build the Year,” REEL is working on connecting parents and educators with the right resources and tools to help neurodivergent and twice-exceptional students meet their potential.

Turk said when she saw her daughter struggling, she had many questions running through her mind: Am I doing

See **REEL**, page 10

# Elected officials rally for Prop 50

Supes say new district map justified

By Miranda de Moraes

Eye-for-an-eye politics will be on the ballot in California this November, and San Mateo County supervisors David Canepa and Lisa Gauthier came out swinging Monday in Redwood City.

“They (say) ‘Don’t mess with Texas,’ but we will and we will win,” Canepa said about a rally Monday morning outside of the county building in front of roughly 50 people. “California voters will not be silenced by Trump’s cronies in Texas.”

Gauthier and Canepa called on voters to approve Proposition 50, also called the Election Rigging Response Act, which would change California’s voting maps between 2026 and 2030 and target five of the state’s 52 districts. San Mateo County is not among them.

They will introduce a resolution in support of the proposition at the Board of Supervisors



Miranda de Moraes

Laborers Local 261 union members stand together in support of Prop 50 at a rally hosted by Supervisor Lisa Gauthier and David Canepa Monday outside of the county building.

meeting on Tuesday.

The measure, described by critics as a Democratic power grab, is a constitutional amendment that would redraw district maps in California. Gov. Gavin Newsom introduced the proposition, which he said comes as a reactionary measure to “save democracy” nationwide.

Donald Trump entered into his second presidential term

with a trifecta — the Republican party dominating the presidency, Senate and House of Representatives. Such has enabled the president to maintain a chokehold on the levers of government and pass sweeping legislation.

All of that could change next year, when the outcome of the 2026 midterm elections will decide whether Republicans keep control of the House.

Conscious of the stakes, the president called on the Texas House of Representatives to redraw its congressional maps to favor Republican candidates and potentially lock in another GOP majority at the federal level.

For over a decade, California has championed independent districting, thanks to the work of former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Redistricting Commission. Proposition 50 would do just the opposite.

The Election Rigging Response Act is for “neutralizing Trump’s power grab,” according to Newsom’s press release about the act. His multi-million-dollar ad campaign endorsing the proposition includes ads titled “Emergency” and “Blitzkrieg,” which accuse Trump of “following the dictator’s playbook,” and call on voters to approve the measure to “even the playing field.”

San Mateo County is split between California’s 15th Congressional District, represented by Kevin Mullin, and California’s 16th Congressional District, represented by Sam Liccardo, both of whom are Democrats.

Should the measure pass, CA-15 is expected to gain a stronger Asian American representation, according to the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment. Beyond that, redistricting in the county is expected to be minor. The first map draft of Prop 50 left a handful of districts untouched and fewer than 10% of Californians affected.

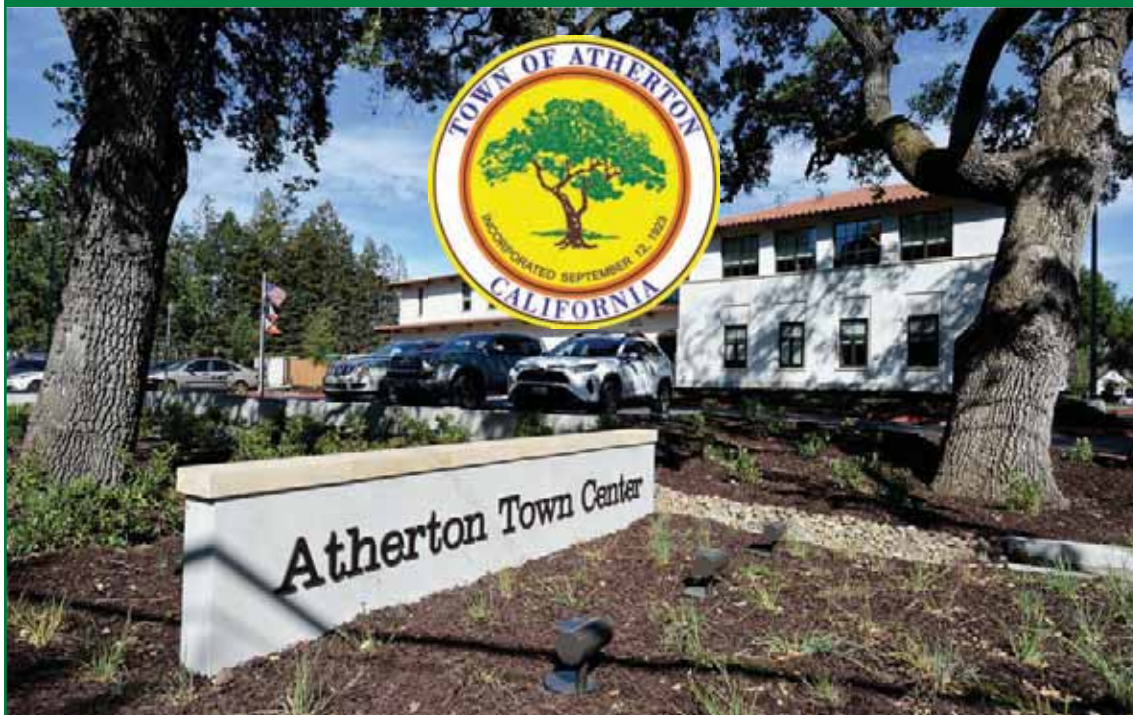
“Right now people feel hopeless, like there’s nothing they can do to combat what is going on with the federal government,” Gauthier told The Almanac. “Every California voter will have an opportunity to show this sitting

## Atherton City Council Vacancy

Serve your Town

Term: October 2025 - November 2026

- Applications are due Friday, September 26 at 11:00 AM
- Interviews will be on October 1 at 4:00 PM - City Council Study Session
- Appointments may be made on October 1 or October 15 - Regular Council Meeting
- Apply here: [atherton.news/Vacancy-2025-Application](https://atherton.news/Vacancy-2025-Application)
- Questions? email [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us)



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



# Midpen outlines year-round efforts to prepare, prevent wildfires

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

**W**ildfire experts say that fire season is now year-round, and with drier weather, higher temperatures and wind, a blaze can occur at any time. Through its Wildland Fire Resiliency Program, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is proactively maintaining open spaces across the Peninsula to prevent widespread fires.

The program, finalized in 2021, is designed to reduce fire intensity and improve fire safety through ecologically sensitive vegetation management, prefire plans, scientific monitoring and prescribed fires.

As climate change drives continuous change in the environment, Midpen works all year to maintain vegetation along roadsides and continue ongoing

preparation for future wildfire prevention projects. Annually, the district evaluates what fire projects will be prioritized and partners with local fire agencies to identify key spaces.

“The prioritization process is really critical,” said Public Affairs Specialist Ryan McCauley. “We help manage more than 72,000 acres of open space, so by looking at GIS (geographic information system) maps and different data layers on where we focus our efforts really helps make sure we get the most bang for our buck in terms of protecting spaces.”

This year, Midpen is focusing on multiple projects, three of which are in the La Honda and Palo Alto region — La Honda Creek Preserve and along Page Mill Road.

Midpen is currently working on expanding existing shaded

fuel breaks at the La Honda Creek Preserve to promote wildfire safety for the town of La Honda. Fuel breaks are a wildfire mitigation technique that strategically removes brush and reduces tree coverings to create defensible landscape without ready fuel to burn. This reduces fire speed and increases the probability of fire suppression if a flame were to spark, according to the San Mateo County Fire Safe.

In early August, the district also completed a project to remove

eucalyptus trees along the shoulder of Interstate Highway 84 to help maintain the roadway as an emergency escape route. For wildland-urban interface communities such as Portola Valley and Woodside, evacuation routes are always among top concerns.

The Page Mill Road project is also aimed at managing vegetation across nearly 27 acres of land around Foothill, Monte Bello and Los Trancos Open Space preserves to maintain an emergency road from vegetation overgrowth.

“Fire does not recognize property boundaries, so doing this proactive work around fire requires a lot of partnership between public and private agencies, fire organizations and individual homeowners creating defensible space on their own properties,” said Midpen spokesperson Leigh Ann Gessner.

While vegetation management involves removing plants, cutting tree limbs and clearing brush,

See **WILDFIRES**, page 19

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### CZU Fire survivor speaker at Portola Valley committee meeting

At 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, the Portola Valley Wildlife Preparedness Committee will be inviting guest speaker Betsy Burton Firebaugh, a survivor of the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

During its regular committee meeting, Firebaugh will share her experience evacuating from the fire, losing her and her husband's home and her journey to rebuild it in January this year.

For more details on the committee meeting and remote options visit [tinyurl.com/PVWPC](https://tinyurl.com/PVWPC).

### Woodside Town Center Area Plan update engagement events

The town of Woodside will be hosting various community engagement events throughout September and October for its Town Center Area Plan update. Pop-up events will be hosted around town for community members to stop by and learn more about the project, ask questions and to leave notes.

Pop-ups can be found across Woodside:

- On Sept. 13 from noon to 2 p.m. at Village hub Coffee Bar, 3154 Woodside Road.
- On Sept. 25 from 3-5 p.m. outside of Emily Joubert Home & Garden, 3036 Woodside Road.
- On Oct. 12 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Horse Fair in the Town Hall parking lot, 2955 Woodside Road.

The town will also be hosting its first community open house at Woodside Elementary School on Oct. 9 from 6-8 p.m. This will be an opportunity for the public to share feedback with town staff and the consultant team on how Town Center can be improved. The event will include interactive stations and maps and will focus on key issue and opportunities for enhancement.

An online survey on Town Center is currently open for local residents on [surveymoneky.com/r/WoodsideTownCenter](https://surveymoneky.com/r/WoodsideTownCenter).

For more information on the project visit [woodsideca.gov/TCAP](https://woodsideca.gov/TCAP).

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

### Atherton seeking councilmember

After the resignation of Atherton Councilmember Diana Hawkins-Manuelian on Sept. 1, the Atherton Town Council is seeking applicants to be appointed to her seat for a term of October 2025 to November 2026.

Applicants must be a resident and over 18. The council will interview applicants at its Oct. 1 meeting and may appoint a councilmember on Oct. 1 or Oct. 15.

To apply, either email City Clerk Anthony Suber with a letter of interest and resume or fill out a form on the town's website by Sept. 26 at 11 a.m.

— Arden Margulis

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# Some North Fair Oaks residents resist transitional house

Supervisors to hear from more neighbors

By Miranda de Moraes

The San Mateo Board of Supervisors will consider purchasing a \$2 million property in North Fair Oaks to house youth transitioning out of foster care.

Some residents of the neighborhood are up in arms.

The property in question is located at 3335 Spring St. in North Fair Oaks, the unincorporated district adjacent to Redwood City. The six-bed, four-bath house would host no more than six residents in the first six months. The plan is to eventually expand occupancy to 12, according to the county Interim Director of Strategic Communications Effie Milonis Verducci.

The potential purchase was prompted by the shutdown of StarVista — the San Mateo nonprofit that's offered wellness services to at-risk community members for over 55 years, including a transitional living program for unhoused youth. The organization ceased operations Aug. 1 due to "ongoing financial challenges," according to a press release on its website

in mid-July.

When the county learned StarVista's housing program for up to 10 youth would bolt up, "it moved quickly to secure a new property," Verducci told The Almanac. The former property was at 639 Douglas Ave., which is a three-minute drive from 3335 Spring St.

The purchase of the property was initially on the board's consent agenda for its Aug. 26 meeting, until a tidal wave of opposition by community members prompted Supervisor Lisa Gauthier to request the board save the item for discussion at its next board meeting on Sep. 9.

"I would like to have some additional conversations with these individuals," Gauthier said of the public commenters, who voiced concerns about the lack of details related to the project.

Opponents at the meeting included Alisa Martinez, who asked the board, "If these people are coming from the foster care cycle, why are they 18-24 year olds?" She also wanted to know "what is the vetting process for those individuals who are 19 to 24?"

One woman expressed concern

that property values "will be going down" if the county proceeds with this project.

Concerns ran the gamut from the number of people who'd be housed in this single-family-zoned home, to how they'd be chosen, to the fiscal impact of the purchase (between the use of taxpayer dollars and loss of tax revenue, seeing as the government-owned home could be tax exempt.)

Opponents wonder if purchasing a place less expensive than \$2 million, which already exists in a mixed-use zone, might make more sense for the project.

Verducci explained that the property was chosen for its proximity to its former Douglas Avenue shelter, the Sequoia Union High School District, and access to public transit, as well as its layout that's good for workshops and one-on-one sessions.

Also, because the board hasn't yet chosen an operator, and the previous one for the Douglas Avenue house, StarVista, just shut down for financial reasons, residents worry that they can't vet the security and financial liability of what would be the incoming operator.

Supervisor Gauthier, who's championing this proposal, told The Almanac in the days to follow the Aug. 26 meeting that she understands that the neighbors of 3335 Spring St. "have concerns," but that she believes "it's so important that San Mateo County support our youth aging out of the foster care system."

"These are young adults who could be your child, your cousin, your friend," Gauthier wrote, "many of whom have had a challenging start to life."

The county plans to select one through a "competitive process," per its rules and regulations, which will involve "careful" screening for qualifications, experience, track record, and proposed service plan. Young adults in need of stable housing and supportive services, Verducci said, would be referred through the county's Coordinated Entry System, which prioritizes those with "the greatest needs."

Per San Mateo's Planning Department standards, the Office of Community Affairs notified neighbors within 300 feet of the property of the proposal by inviting them to a community meeting on Aug. 19 at Taft Elementary School, according to Verducci.

However, one commenter at the Board of Supervisors meeting, Teresita Perez, said she lives "less than 20 feet" from the house and that "many" people on her street didn't get the memo.

Disgruntled by what he considered to be limited notice and lack of details associated with the project, long-time North Fair Oaks community member

Alfonso Avila, 33, created a petition on Aug. 20, one day after the community meeting at Taft, to rally neighbors to oppose the progression of the project. The petition has garnered over 120 signatures, which caught him by surprise, as he said he expected no more than 30.

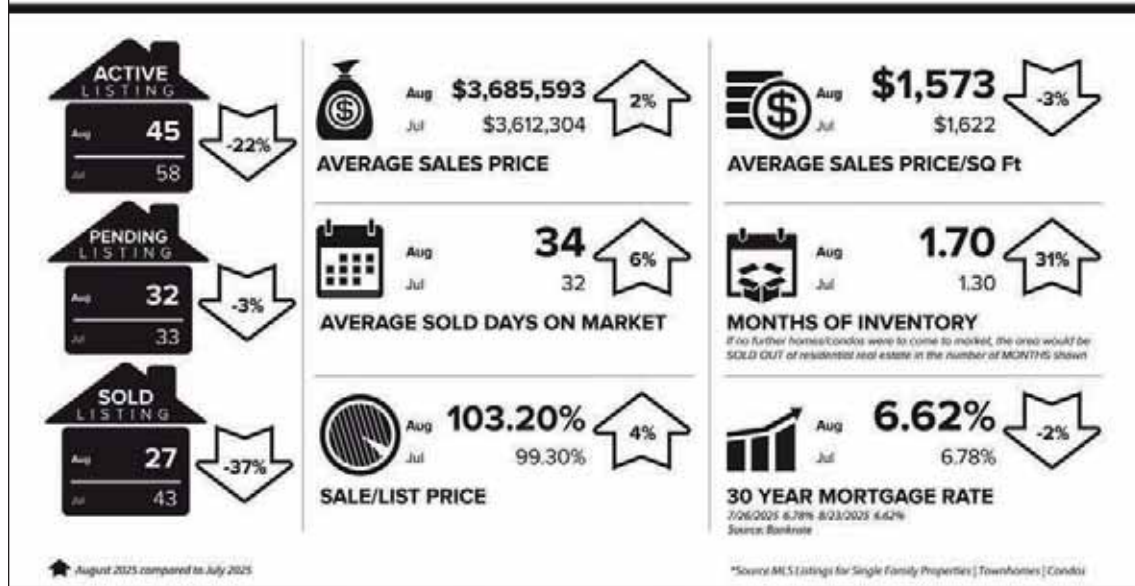
"It seems to me that (the board was) trying to just push this through with minimal people knowing about it," Avila said. "The petition was just to put the brakes on (the project) to ensure the community is more informed about what's going on."

He attributes many of the petition signatures to activism from neighbors in other parts of the county, who worry that "if zoning laws can change" in North Fair Oaks, "what's to stop it from coming" to their areas too?

The program's mission is for participants to transition into permanent housing, such as reuniting with family, shared housing with peers, or moving into their own apartments, with short-term rental assistance from the County, as Verducci explained.

The aim is for residents to stay at 3335 Spring St. for about six months, though some will be able to move out more quickly, and others will be able to stay longer "to get everything in place for their next step," the county's interim director of strategic communications added. The service provider "will be working" to balance shorter stays with more successful outcomes.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the purchase on Sept. 9. ■



**Gail Antoinette Rossetti**  
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## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Jean Johnston**, 99, a Portola Valley resident who had lived in Palo Alto for nearly 40 years, who worked as a travel agent and as an adjunct professor at Foothill College, and who enjoyed going backpacking and hosting dinner parties died on Aug. 30.

**Helen Lechner**, 80, a Palo Alto resident who was nicknamed "Honey," who enjoyed hiking in Yosemite, watching Shakespeare in the park and cooking French cuisine and who had a career in web marketing, including a long stint at Cisco, died on Aug. 23.

**James Van Horne**, 90, a Palo Alto resident who had spent 42 years as a professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, who published three

textbooks and many articles in finance, economic and management journals and who took leave from the university in the mid-1970s to serve as a deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury, died on Sept. 1.

**Bonnie Jean Blythe**, 93, a Palo Alto resident who taught at a Mountain View school and who was known as a charming hostess and supporter of local charities, died on Sept. 7.

**Vivian Jenna**, a Sacramento resident who formerly lived in Redwood City, who taught special education, drove a classic 1965 Mustang convertible, and cultivated roses, died on May 13.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at AlmanacNews.com/obituaries. ■

# Creek authority continues to explore floodwalls

Menlo Park raised concerns

By Riley Cooke

Despite concerns from some city leaders and residents, officials say floodwalls will be part of several mitigation efforts for the San Francisquito Creek as the upstream phase of the plan begins to take shape.

The Palo Alto City Council heard updates on flood control strategies from the creek Joint Powers Authority on Monday night. The JPA includes officials from Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, and it has been tasked with exploring ways to protect neighborhoods in those three cities since a devastating flood in 1998. The first phase of flood mitigation downstream of U.S. Highway 101 was finished in 2019, and the JPA is now focused on the “Reach 2” segment of flood mitigation for the portion of the creek between the highway and the Pope-Chaucer Bridge.

“There is no scenario in which floodwalls are not necessary,” JPA Board Chair Margaret Bruce told the council.

She presented four alternatives that the board will discuss in the coming months, with a recommendation by the end of the year. Fixed floodwalls are part of each alternative, but the aspects that are up for debate are the replacement or modification of the Pope-Chaucer Bridge and the degree to which the creek banks are widened.

Bruce described channel widening as a “no regrets” element of the Reach 2 project because there is “no circumstance where widening would transfer risk somewhere else.”

She also said the JPA Board is considering splitting Reach 2 into two distinct phases so the project can proceed more quickly. The first phase would focus on widening the channel and replacing some of the existing temporary flood-wall near University Avenue. Neither of these would require supplemental environmental review, Bruce said, and would cost an estimated \$20 million.

Meanwhile, the second phase of the project would need an additional environmental review in order to extend the

floodwalls and replace or modify the Pope-Chaucer Bridge — all of which would greatly extend the timeline for the Reach 2 project. This portion alone could also run upward of \$100 million, Bruce added.

The council seemed open to the idea of splitting the Reach 2 project into segments.

“Let’s do as much as we can as soon as we can and continue to reduce risk,” Council member Pat Burt said.

Bruce also explained that the JPA is exploring the idea of bypass tunnels to redirect floodwater, like have been proposed in other flood-prone areas across the country, but that even this strategy would not replace the need for floodwalls.

To address the concerns

about floodwalls, Bruce said they do not have to necessarily be concrete barricades. She offered ideas such as earth or sheet pile floodwalls, but reiterated that they would need to be part of the Reach 2 project in some capacity.

One of the most vocal opponents of the idea is Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs, who Bruce previously said threatened to “blow up the project” if floodwalls were part of the Reach 2 design.

Combs has denied saying that.

Residents who live near the San Francisquito Creek and remember the 1998 flood spoke out in favor of the Reach 2 plan and encouraged further cooperation between the three cities involved in the design.

Hamilton Hitchings said he remembered standing thigh-deep in floodwater, which came within inches of his front door. His neighbors were not so lucky, he said, and their homes were rendered inhabitable after the flood.

“Without the Reach 2 project, most of the risk remains in a world where climate change is becoming more severe over time,” he told the council. “Please continue your thoughtful leadership to make the Reach 2 project a reality.”

Bruce and council members also hope that the Reach 2 project will not just mitigate potential flood impacts but also provide an opportunity to enhance the creek habitat and open new recreation areas along the creek border.

“Together we’re building a safer, more resilient future for all of our residents,” said Council member Greer Stone, who represents Palo Alto on the JPA. ■

Email Staff Writer Riley Cooke at [rcooke@almanacnews.com](mailto:rcooke@almanacnews.com).

## LEHUA GREENMAN

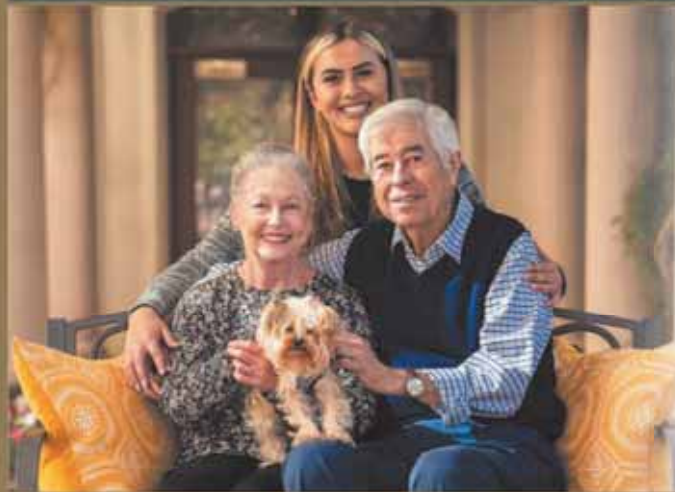


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# Peninsula inspires Liccardo to introduce federal housing legislation

## Act would unlock funds

By Emily Margaretten

It's not often that a Peninsula city gets the chance to shape housing legislation that could have an impact far beyond its borders. But the city of Mountain View recently inspired the introduction of a bipartisan bill that could make it easier for municipalities to use federal funds for affordable housing.

Last week, U.S. Reps. Sam Liccardo, whose district includes much of Silicon Valley, and Mike Flood, a Republican from Nebraska, introduced legislation that would "unlock" restrictions on how cities spend Community Development Block Grants. The federal program gives money to local municipalities for community development, including expanding housing for low- and

moderate-income households.

The Unleashing Needed Local Options to Construct and Keep Housing (UNLOCK) Act would provide local municipalities with more flexibility to use CDBG funds to construct affordable housing.

"Republicans and Democrats have a lot to disagree about these days for good reason, but there's a lot we should be able to agree on with regard to housing," Liccardo told the Voice.

The need for more housing and finding ways to make it easier to build are at the top of the list, said Liccardo, who represents the 16th District.

Seeking input, the House Subcommittee on Housing reached out to local municipalities for ideas on how to cut through the red tape. Mountain

View proposed some recommendations that hit home for Liccardo, including making it easier to spend CDBG funds.

"It started from the ground up, which is the local community of Mountain View saying, 'Hey, we got a problem,'" Liccardo said.

Each year, Mountain View gets an annual allocation of CDBG funds, based on a federal formula. It typically amounts to about \$600,000 per year, according to Mountain View Housing Director Wayne Chen. While Mountain View has been able to use CDBG funds to improve existing buildings, the city has run into challenges using the funds for new construction projects because of particular CDBG conditions, Chen said.

The program requires that cities work with community-based

development organizations, which are local organizations that are federally certified to carry out projects.

The CDBG program also stipulates that local jurisdictions must have an adopted revitalization plan. That's something that Chen said many cities lack, noting that the program was created decades ago largely to address issues of urban blight.

The UNLOCK bill seeks to broaden the types of organizations that could use CDBG funds. It doesn't have to be a community-based development organization, and a city wouldn't need a revitalization plan for a project to get funded, Chen said.

The legislation could help Mountain View further projects in its affordable housing pipeline, Chen said, including projects at 87 E. Evelyn Ave., 57 and 67 E. Evelyn Ave., 1020 Terra Bella Ave., and 96 West El Camino Real, the former Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary site.

Mayor Ellen Kamei said that Mountain View is particularly well positioned to build more

affordable housing, given its robust queue of projects. The CDBG funds could help get some of the projects over the finish line. Kamei also noted that housing shortages and affordability were not just issues in Mountain View or even California.

"This is something on a national level, and so hopefully, with bipartisan support, this will be able to move forward," she said.

For Liccardo, while the UNLOCK bill could help cities break ground on affordable housing projects, it's more like a single hit, not a home run. He added that he was working on other housing legislation as well.

"This is not a Congress that is particularly adept at bipartisan action," Liccardo said. "The hope is that by hitting a few singles, we might actually be able to create opportunities and build relationships to do much more important things like avoiding a shutdown of the government." ■

Email Staff Writer Emily Margaretten at [emargaretten@almanacnews.com](mailto:emargaretten@almanacnews.com).

### REEL

continued from page 5

this right on her behalf? Am I really setting her up to live the life she's going to want to live? Is she going to be OK?

"Especially when you live in a community that has the kind of suicide rates that we have and the accessibility to the train tracks, it starts at a really young age for parents to start thinking about, 'Is my child going to be OK?'" said Turk.

The pressures of Silicon Valley are felt by students and parents who are trying to conform to the high achieving standards of the community. Turk said one lesson that many parents learn at the start of their neurodivergent journey is

that the assessments and check list of what they need to do to "fix their child" are actually harmful to the parent and child.

REEL is working on shifting the approach that parents take to supporting their child by offering tools that are free or little to no cost. It also provides consulting, coaching and support groups for parents. Parents and educators can also attend one of REEL's various workshops, panels and events to learn more about neurodivergence, mental health and neurodiversity-affirming practices.

For more information on REEL and its resources visit [reel2e.org](http://reel2e.org). ■

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



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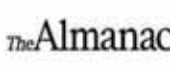
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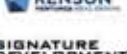
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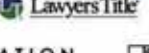






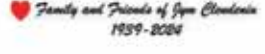


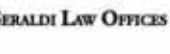








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Courtesy REEL

Community members during a presentation at REEL's K-12 Strengths Fair in March.



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## Town of Atherton

Planning Commission, September 24, 2025  
REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.

*This is meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers  
80 Fair Oaks Lane*

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **Atherton Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the items listed below during their regular meeting.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **September 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

**Topic:** Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting  
**Time:** September 24, 2025, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
**In person Option:** 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027  
**Zoom Meeting Option and Details:**  
<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>  
**Meeting ID:** 841 5024 9099  
**One tap mobile:**  
+13017158592 (Washington DC)  
+13052241968 (US)  
**Find your local number:** <https://ciathertonca.zoom.us/j/kglcVN4cq>

**Remote Public Comments:**  
Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.  
**Email:** [planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

#### Projects under Public Hearing:

- A. Requests for a **Front Setback Variance (VAR25-005)** and **Heritage Tree Removals (HTR25-0008)** to construct a new single-family dwelling with an accessory building (gym) at **84 Elena Avenue (APN 070-212-080)** within the R-1A Zoning District. The subject property is on a 1.24-acre flag lot and under the same ownership as the neighboring flag lot at 70 Elena Avenue (APN 070-212-160). Given the relationship between the two properties, the proposed development is situated closer to the shared property line. Pursuant to Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Section 17.32.040 the required front setback for the main building is 60 feet from the "front" property line (the property line shared with 82 Elena). Pursuant to AMC Section 17.40.040 accessory buildings must be located 30 feet behind the main building or 120 feet; whichever is less. The proposed main building includes a portion of the eave that projects into the required front setback area up to 3-feet. The proposed accessory building provides a front setback of 30-feet 2-inches. Both structures require approval of a variance by the Planning Commission. Pursuant to AMC Section 8.10.020 and 8.10.040 the project also proposes to remove two heritage trees, one (1) 30-inch Atlas Cedar (Tree #2) and one (1) 23.5-inch Deodar Cedar (Tree #3), to accommodate the construction of the new accessory building. Staff has determined that the subject trees are not dead or dangerous; therefore, removal requires consideration and approval by the Planning Commission.
- This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). If you have any questions on the item, please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at [bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us) or (408) 688-2432.
- B. Pursuant to Atherton Municipal Code Section 17.36.050, **Menlo School**, located at **50 Valparaiso (APN 070-360-080)** and in the Public Facilities and Schools (PFS) zoning district, will provide its **annual Master Plan Report (MPL25-002)**. This report does not include any development requests for consideration by the Planning Commission. If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at [bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us) or (408) 688-2432.
- C. Consideration of a resolution recommending **amendments to Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Chapter 17.52** related to development standards and definitions for **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior ADUs** with the purpose of aligning with current state legislation – Assembly Bills (AB) 130, 462 and 2553 and Senate Bills (SB) 543 and 1211. After the Planning Commission meeting the amendments may proceed to the City Council for consideration and final adoption. Additional information on the Town's ADU program is available on the Town's website at: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/651/Accessory-Dwelling-UnitsADU>

If you have any questions or comments on the item please submit them to Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at [bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us) or (408) 688-2432.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, September 19, 2025**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the listed projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision. If you have any questions on an item please contact the Planning Commission Contact: [planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

/s/ Brittany Bendix  
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

## NEWS

### WAYMO

*continued from page 5*

"If I were a passenger in that car in the scenario I captured on video (and there was no way I could independently take control of the wheel myself to get out of it), it would certainly be a traumatic experience," Narciso said. "Perhaps it's just me, but at this point, I won't be ditching my car and jumping into a self-driving one anytime soon."

At some point following the video, a CHP officer called Waymo's dispatch, which authorized him to take the wheel. He climbed into the driver's seat and personally steered the car the wrong way off the freeway before parking it at the Edgewood Road park-and-ride lot, according to CHP. "The Waymo was never in autonomous mode while driving wrong way on I-280," CHP spokesperson Jovita Ojeda said. Waymo later arranged for a private tow to collect the vehicle.

It was an uncommon human assist for the nation's only fully-autonomous ride-hailing service. Waymo, a subsidiary of Mountain View-based Alphabet Inc., the parent company of Google, has been steadily expanding its self-driving taxi service across the Bay Area, including into Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Los Altos Hills earlier this summer for select users only. The company says its California service now covers more than 80 square miles of the Peninsula as part of its third expansion in less than a year.

Waymo also operates in Los Angeles, Phoenix and Austin, and claims it is providing more than a quarter of a million paid trips per week nationwide. Company officials point to their safety record with fewer and less significant collisions

than human drivers, and say the service particularly benefits seniors, people with disabilities and others facing mobility challenges.

But its Peninsula rollout has not been without bumps in the road. Local officials expressed concern when Waymo cars first appeared in Daly City, Colma and Broadmoor last year without advance notice. More recently, Peninsula drivers have shared sightings of Waymos all over the area.

In late August, Waymo said it was starting its next chapter and accelerating its expansion. It says when residents see more Waymos on the road, it means the company is working hard to expand in those areas. Before Waymo allows autonomous driving in an area, it says it maps roads and its surroundings.

"I think that self-driving vehicles in general have a long way to go before the wider public accepts them as an alternative form of transportation. Perhaps Waymo will form new test cases from this incident and will hopefully account for the unpredictability of both human behavior and the environment," Narciso said.

Waymo says it does not currently operate a ride-hailing service in Woodside, Portola Valley or the area where the Waymo car was on 280. The company did not say whether the passenger was a Waymo employee.

Local emergency responders have conducted some training with Waymo. Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Chief Tom Cuschieri said the district, which led the firefighting efforts on Aug. 30, and local agencies have attended a training jointly with other fire departments. ■

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

### SUSPECT

*continued from page 5*

Police recovered the firearm, which had no serial number and showed no sign that one had been removed, indicating it was not made by a gun manufacturer. Guns without serial numbers are known as "ghost guns." Authorities have increasingly seen them manufactured with 3D printers, Wagstaffe said. Garcia told investigators he got the gun from a friend.

Garcia's father suffered cuts to his head, facial bruising and a bloody nose, along with other injuries from the altercation.

Atherton police arrested Garcia, a Redwood City resident, on suspicion of attempted murder, battery with serious injury, carrying a concealed weapon, carrying a loaded firearm in public, possessing a firearm in a school zone and carrying a ghost gun.

Wagstaffe said the case does not meet the threshold for attempted murder because there was no actual attempt to fire the weapon. Prosecutors instead charged Garcia with felony criminal threats, felony assault likely to cause great bodily injury, felony carrying a loaded firearm in a public place when not the registered owner and felony carrying a concealed loaded firearm that is not registered.

Garcia's parents reportedly want him to receive treatment for his mental health.

"The reality is that if the son is willing to get mental health help, and that's the core of the problem, we want to see that happen," Wagstaffe said.

Garcia was arraigned on Aug. 26 and was held without bond. His next hearing is on Sept. 24. ■

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



Magali Gauthier

Ofa Taimani, an administrative vice principal secretary at Menlo-Atherton High School, has filed a claim against the school district.

DISCRIMINATION

continued from page 1

was fired. My benefits and my pay — all terminated,” Taimani said.

Taimani only began to experience what she describes as discriminatory and retaliatory actions from Menlo-Atherton administrators in recent years.

In November 2023, she was accused by the district of releasing confidential special education student records, Taimani told The Almanac. Because of the sudden accusations and a district investigation that ensued, she began to experience panic attacks, she said.

‘I actually was blindsided with the termination. There was no warning or anything.’

OFA TAIMANI,  
FORMER MENLO-ATHERTON  
HIGH SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

She said that along with being a woman of color, she believes she is being retaliated against for her close relationship with former Menlo-Atherton basketball coach Mike Molieri, who was placed on paid administrative leave in August 2024 and filed a claim in May. Molieri is also being investigated by the district for mishandling student files.

Since 2023, Taimani has been struggling with severe anxiety and depression and had to go on medical leave after the district investigation in November that year. When she returned to work in April 2024, her job duties significantly changed and administrators did not provide

her with training for her new duties, according to the claim.

In her new position, she was given the responsibility of handling special education files despite previous accusations alleging she had mishandled them. As her duties in the role increased without training, Taimani began to experience higher levels of stress, leading to her to go on medical leave in September 2024.

In November 2024, she filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint. This year, she received a “Notice of Right to Sue” letter from the EEOC, which investigated her discrimination claims, according to legal documents.

Taimani said she “felt defeated” when she received the termination letter. Over the past year, she had been receiving psychiatric and medical help to ease her anxiety, making an attempt to “be more present and to move forward,” she said.

Without pay and benefits, Taimani is experiencing financial difficulties and is paying for her treatments out of pocket.

Now, Taimini said she’s having to adjust to a new life as a stay-at-home mom but with a son who is currently attending Sequoia High School, she’s finding it difficult to be near the district office, located down the street.

“I, as a parent, am trying to be involved (but) there’s times where it’s a little hard because of the district office being there. It just brings back little memories and I tense up,” said Taimani. “I’m still finding more triggers here and there, but a lot of it has to deal with (the fact) that my son’s still in the school system.

The district will have 45 days

to accept or reject the tort claim. If the claim is rejected or action is not taken by the district, Taimani will be able to file a lawsuit.

The district did not respond to a request for comment. ■

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

CRIME BRIEFS

Man arrested after chase for stolen vehicle

A 42-year-old man on probation for stolen vehicle offenses was arrested Thursday morning after fleeing police in a stolen car and attempting to escape on a bicycle, authorities said.

The Menlo Park Police Department said San Bruno police notified them around 9:15 a.m. that a stolen vehicle was heading toward the city, tracked by automatic license plate readers.

Officers said they attempted a traffic stop. However, the driver ran into a residential neighborhood and allegedly stole a bicycle to flee.

The man was detained with the help of community members who pointed officers in his direction, police said. He was booked into county jail on suspicions of possession of a stolen vehicle and resisting arrest.

The vehicle was returned undamaged to its owner, police said.  
—Bay City News Service

PUBLIC NOTICE  
WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the public hearing for the adoption of the final budget, originally scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025, has been continued to September 30, 2025, at 7 o'clock p.m. on said day. The hearing will take place at the Woodside Fire Administration Building, located in Portola Valley. At that time, the Board of Directors will meet for the purpose of finalizing the final budget. Any person may appear and be heard regarding the increase, decrease, or omission of any item in the budget, or the inclusion of any addition items.

Woodside Fire Protection District  
by Fire Chief Tom Cuschieri



Town of Atherton  
Town Administrative Offices  
80 Fair Oaks Lane  
Atherton, California 94027  
650-752-0500

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 10 relating to Vehicles and Traffic.

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

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786  
Dial by your location+1 669 900 6833  
Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:  
Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be saved for the record.  
Email: [council@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:council@ci.atherton.ca.us)

Description: The purpose of the amendments is to adopt Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 10.06 relating to speed limits. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft amendments to the Ordinance can be found online, by Friday September 12, 2025 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said ordinance is set for public hearing and first introduction by the City Council at its meeting on September 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any amendments to the Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 10 in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Anthony Suber at [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0500. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk's Office at (650) 752-0500 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: September 1, 2025  
Date Posted: September , 2025

/s/ Anthony Suber  
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

# Esther Jean Florence Heslop

March 9, 1932 - August 6, 2025

Esther Heslop died peacefully on August 6, 2025, in Bend, Oregon at the age of 93. Known as “Mummy” to her children and their friends alike, and “Grummy” to her grandchildren, Esther’s life was marked by grand adventures, generous hospitality, and life-long friendships that spanned the globe. Her enthusiasm was contagious, her energy boundless and her laugh unforgettable to the end.

Born in Romford, England in 1932, Esther was the daughter of two Scots, highlander John (Jack) Thomson and Glaswegian Dorothy Foster, and baby sister to brother Ian. When Esther was seven, Jack set off for British Honduras (Belize) to assess a job opportunity, and then sent for the family to join him. With WWII breaking out, U-boats targeting Allied convoys, and the German bombing campaign beginning, Dorothy and the two children set sail from Bristol Harbor to cross the Atlantic on a lone banana boat, zig-zagging their way to their new home.

Despite the war, those years were filled with joy and adventure. Sisters Kay and Diana were born, and the children enjoyed exceptional freedom to sail and swim, ride horses and explore the beaches and tropical forest. After the war, Esther traveled to and from England via boats, planes and trains to attend boarding school at Milton Manor College in Sussex.

Esther met her beloved Rosse Heslop in Oxford, where he was earning his doctorate and she trained as an occupational therapist. They were married at Mansfield College, Oxford in 1955, and moved to Scotland, where their daughter, Jacqueline, was born. Over the next eight years, they would move many times, with stops in Evanston, IL, Boston, MA and Menlo Park, CA, where Dorothy was born. After a 3-year return to Ipswich, England, the family settled in Atherton, CA, where Elizabeth and John were born. Esther and Rosse’s California home was a magnet for guests, hosting family, friends and total strangers — all were welcome.

Esther immersed herself in a wide range of activities, including PTA and Scouts, her children’s athletic endeavors and teaching school children about the wonders of nature as an Environmental Volunteer. She was skilled at dressmaking, crafts and needlework, culminating in her magnum opus, eight exquisite needlepoint chair covers which her children now cherish. Esther put her nursing expertise and cheerful spirit to good use as a Pink Lady volunteer with the Stanford Hospital.

Gardening brought special joy to Esther and Rosse during their 65 years of marriage. The two created a magnificent English garden in Atherton, full of color and fragrance, and tended with love. When their garden was featured in the Country Almanac, Esther was asked how she planned out the colors and she quipped “flowers don’t clash”.

Esther’s cultural passions included the San Francisco Symphony, bridge, opera and museums. She worked with Stanford’s



Committee for Art managing the Museum Bookstore, then took on the enormous task of running Stanford’s Treasure Market with her dear friend Lucille Lanza Hagstrum. The two paired up again to organize the first Rodin by Moonlight gala fundraiser in 1987, which continues to be held bi-annually, now called Museums by Moonlight.

Esther’s adventurous nature set her apart. An avid skier, hiker and beachcomber, she skydived at 69. With her grandchildren, she continued to mountain bike, river raft and outpace everyone well into her eighties. She was the original Energizer bunny. She traveled to six continents, embracing no-frills adventures along with luxurious ones, including a trip to Africa to see her “favorite” animal, the giraffe.

Her British roots were never forgotten, with summer holidays visiting family and friends abroad, and some say Esther’s English accent grew stronger through the years. She celebrated English traditions, with Christmas crackers, real fruitcake, flaming figgy pudding, and trunks of dressing up clothes for English Charades. Esther joined the Daughters of the British Empire in the 1980s with her sister Diana. Her accent was much appreciated on Sundays at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, where she served as a lay reader. She threw wonderful tea parties and was quite attached to her nickname, Queen Esther, always accompanied by a crown on her birthday.

Left to remember the happy times are her children, Jacqueline Heslop McCook (Peter), Dorothy Pacini (Ken), Elizabeth Sheehy (Tom), and John Heslop; grandchildren, Anson (Zoë), JT (Erin) and Peetie McCook, Bryan Pacini, Emma, TR and Jackson Sheehy; great-grandchildren Calvin, Jack, and George, and many cherished family and friends worldwide.

A Celebration of Life will be held November 14, 2025 in Atherton.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you send memories, stories and photos of Esther to [esther.heslop.memories@gmail.com](mailto:esther.heslop.memories@gmail.com).

PAID OBITUARY

## HOUSING

continued from page 1

quietly removed the replacement requirement,” it said in an email newsletter. “Now, parking replacement is just a ‘priority.’ Translation: optional.”

The council also changed other requirements involving units of housing and size to priorities. The change was made after the meeting’s agenda went out.

Councilmembers were previously concerned when Eden Housing, one of the seven developers, said it would not be able to fund replacement parking. The council included Eden in the RFP process since it did not want to risk punishing a developer for providing an honest assessment.

The city has already received more than 140 written public comments on the project, raising concerns about parking loss, building scale and construction impacts. The draft RFP seeks to address those issues by requiring

developers to present comprehensive plans covering design, circulation, sustainability features and construction mitigation.

Proposals will be evaluated on several factors: the strength of the development concept, the team’s experience and financial capacity, the project’s community benefits and engagement plan, and the quality of long-term property management. The city may hold public open houses and developer interviews before making a final selection.

Staff expects to release the RFP in September with a 90-day response window, leading to council review and developer selection in early 2026.

While city staff stressed that neither an ongoing lawsuit nor a proposed ballot initiative legally prevents issuing the RFP at this stage, both could complicate future steps. ■

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

## Robert (Bob) Bostwick Beim

Robert (Bob) Bostwick Beim, affectionately known as “Bear,” passed away peacefully surrounded by family on August 26, 2025. He was 82.

Born in Minneapolis and raised in California, Bob attended Menlo High School in Atherton before graduating from UC Berkeley in 1966 with a degree in Biological Sciences. A proud Golden Bear and member of Beta Theta Pi, he rarely missed a Cal football game. He served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, spending most of his tour in South Korea as a Field Artillery Officer—an experience he remembered with pride. Afterward, he earned an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, concentrating in finance and investments.

Bob began his career at Arthur Andersen & Company in San Francisco, specializing in tax and financial planning. He went on to co-found Beim & James, a real estate firm that developed and managed properties across the western U.S. In 1989, he joined Woodside Asset Management as Managing Director, later continuing his distinguished investment career with Osborne Partners Capital Management. A trusted advisor and mentor, he guided clients and colleagues for over four decades.

His professional accomplishments were matched by a deep commitment to education and healthcare. He served more than a decade on the Board of Directors at Lucile Salter Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford, chairing both the Finance and Investment Committees. He was also a UC Berkeley Foundation Trustee, Chair of its Investment Committee, and a member of the UC Regents’ Investment Advisory Committee.

Bob was an active member of the San Francisco Golf Club, Menlo Country Club, The 200 Club, and The Bohemian Club (Hermits). An avid golfer, he traveled the world to play celebrated courses in Scotland, Ireland, Portugal, and across the U.S.

He is remembered as a humble, diplomatic leader who sought solutions benefiting all, and for his intelligence, integrity, generosity, quick wit, and gift for making others feel valued.

Bob is survived by his wife, Nancy Cummings Beim; his children Tucker (Amy), Carter (Kelly), and Margaret (Gregorio Santiago); grandchildren Lauren, Mariah, Colin, Christopher, Katelyn, and Olivia Rose; his brother John Pierson; and his sister Barbara Russell.



PAID OBITUARY

**For nearly 80 years,  
Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.**

has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication, and compassion. Our core programs serve over 6,000 households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional, and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives.

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**PVI's Little House**

*Senior Activity Center*

**PVI's Adult Day Services at  
Rosener House**

*Adult day program for adults  
living with dementia and  
cognitive impairments*

**RIDE PVI**

*On-demand transportation*

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*Customized solutions for  
family caregivers*

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*Nutritious and affordable meals*

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**Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. 800 Middle Ave. Menlo Park, CA 94025**



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PALO ALTO

\$1,288,000 | 2 Bd | 2 Bth  
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12540 ROBLEDA ROAD  
LOS ALTOS HILLS

\$3,488,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
12540Robleda.com



976 LAUREL GLEN DRIVE  
PALO ALTO

\$8,499,000 | 6 Bd | 6.5 Bth  
976LaurelGlen.com



927 CONTINENTAL DRIVE  
MENLO PARK

\$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
927Continental.com



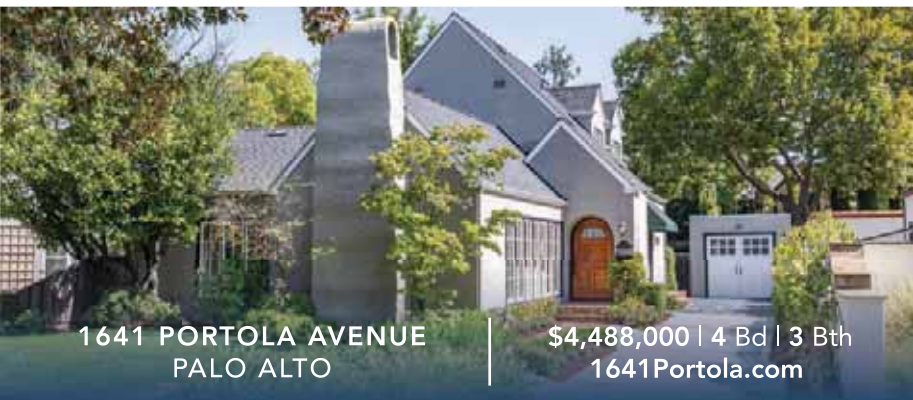
653 WILDWOOD LANE  
PALO ALTO

\$5,490,000 | 6 Bd | 4 Bth  
653Wildwood.com



140 FARM ROAD  
WOODSIDE

\$10,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
140FarmRd.com



1641 PORTOLA AVENUE  
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\$4,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth  
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58Marymont.com



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LOS ALTOS | \$5,288,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
706NSanAntonio.com



11722 PUTTER WAY  
LOS ALTOS | \$2,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
11722Putter.com



240 3RD STREET #301  
LOS ALTOS | \$5,988,000 | 2 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
240Third.com



23171 MORA GLEN DRIVE  
LOS ALTOS | \$7,500,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
23171MoraGlen.com



579 GLENBROOK DRIVE  
PALO ALTO | \$5,988,000 | 6 Bd | 4 Bth  
579Glenbrook.com



756, 758, 760 WAVERLEY ST  
PALO ALTO | \$2,888,000 | Triplex  
756-760Waverley.com



850 ARROYO COURT  
PALO ALTO | \$3,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
850Arroyo.com



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# Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. M-295628  
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
MAGIC CLEANING SERVICES  
1885 E. BAYSHORE RD. SPC #66  
E. Palo Alto CA., 94303  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: 10/17/2023  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
OLGA LILIA GUTIERREZ  
1885 E. Bayshore Rd. SPC #66  
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303  
ALBA JUDITH SEVILLADESIERRA  
1271 Poplar Ave. Apt. #410D  
Sunnyvale CA, 94086  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY Co-Partners.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on August 28 2025.  
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

CLAY'S HAULING  
CLAY'S HAULING & JUNK REMOVAL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301331  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) CLAY'S HAULING , 2.) CLAY'S HAULING & JUNK REMOVAL , located at 784 ALTA VISTA DR, PACIFICA, CA 94044.  
Registered owner(s):  
CLAYTON RUSSELL TALLMAN  
784 ALTA VISTA DR  
PACIFICA, CA 94044  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/08/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 11, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

REDWOOD CITY ART STUDIOS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301431  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) REDWOOD CITY ART STUDIOS , located at 643 Scott Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
RITA MELAMUD  
643 Scott Ave  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
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 August 22, 2025.  
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

RONY'S DREAM CONSTRUCTION  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301496  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) RONY'S DREAM CONSTRUCTION , located at 15 S Broadway Apt. 7, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County. Mailing Address: 1875 Mission Street STE 103 #308, San Francisco, CA 94103.  
Registered owner(s):  
RONY WILFREDO RODRIGUEZ  
15 S Broadway Apt. 7  
Millbrae, CA 94030  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 29, 2025.  
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

CENTURY 21 MASTERS LUXURY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301137  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) CENTURY 21 MASTERS LUXURY , located at 26305 Jefferson Ave, Suite G&H, Murrieta, CA 92562.  
Registered owner(s):  
FULL REALTY SERVICES, INC.  
26305 Jefferson Ave, Suite G&H  
Murrieta, CA 92562  
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 July 17, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

MAGIC CLEANING SERVICES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301483  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) MAGIC CLEANING SERVICES , located at 1885 E. Bayshore RD. Spc#66, E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
OLGA LILIA GUTIERREZ  
1885 E. Bayshore Rd. SPC#66  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
FRANCISCA SILVANA FRANCO  
1885 E. Bayshore Rd. SPC #66  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: Copartners.  
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 August 28, 2025.  
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

INTEGRAND PRESS  
KATIE ANDERSON CONSULTING  
KBJ ANDERSON CONSULTING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301303  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) INTEGRAND PRESS , 2.) KATIE ANDERSON CONSULTING , 3.) KBJ ANDERSON CONSULTING , located at 231 CANYON DRIVE, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028.  
Registered owner(s):  
INTEGRAND LLC  
231 CANYON DRIVE  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Partnership.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on JUNE 1 2020.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 06, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

FRANKS AUTO SERVICES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301502  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) FRANKS AUTO SERVICES , located at 701 Harbor Blvd, Belmont, CA 94002.  
Registered owner(s):  
FAHED FRANKIE EID  
701 Harbor Blvd  
Belmont, CA 94002  
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 August 29, 2025.  
(ALM Sep 12, 19, 26 and Oct 3, 2025)

SQA SOLUTION  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301275  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) SQA SOLUTION , located at 140 San Pedro Rd, Daly City, CA 94014.  
Registered owner(s):  
ASIAN INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
140 San Pedro Rd  
Daly City, CA 94014  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 01, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY OF PALO ALTO  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301267  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY OF PALO ALTO , located at 325 Sharon Park Dr, #D3, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):

J. M. HURNG, DDS, MPH, INC.  
2081 Camino Al Lago  
Atherton, CA 94027  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/19/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 01, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

JB TILE & STONE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301343  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) JB TILE & STONE , located at 509 Howland St., Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
JB TILE AND STONE LLC  
509 Howland St.  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
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 August 11, 2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 12, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

EIRENIKON PRESS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301470  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) EIRENIKON PRESS, located at 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
MATTHEW SANFORD HORWITZ  
250 Oak Grove Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
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 August 27, 2025.  
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

BAYFRONT LANDSCAPE INC.  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301349  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) BAYFRONT LANDSCAPE INC. , located at 2795 Hunter Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.  
Registered owner(s):  
BAYFRONT LANDSCAPE INC.  
2795 Hunter Street  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/29/2023.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 12, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

TASTEBUDS LECHON  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-301333  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) TASTEBUDS LECHON , located at 169 San Bruno Ave, San Bruno, CA 94066. Mailing Address: 2321 Oakmont Drive San Bruno, CA 94066.  
Registered owner(s):  
CHON LE INC.  
2321 Oakmont Drive  
San Bruno, CA 94066  
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 August 11, 2025.  
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
Case No.: 25-CIV-06055  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Thomas Greenberg and Julie Sherman filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
SOPHIA BESS GREENBERG to KYLE MAX GREENBERG  
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: 10-15-25, 9:00 AM, Southern Division 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: 08/14/2025  
Stephanie Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
Case No.: 25CIV05630  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Rebecca Miranda Remmer filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
REBECCA MIRANDA REMMER to MIRANDA REMMER TANOUS  
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: 10/2/2025, 9am, M/C 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: 7/29/25  
Stephanie G. Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
Case No.: 25-CIV-04072  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Eden Noelle Cahill filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
EDEN NOELLE CAHILL to EDEN NOELLE KINSELLA  
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: 09/29/2025, 9:00 A.M., Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records 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: July 24, 2025  
Stephanie G. Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CIV05788  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Kristine Cam-Tu Luong filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
KRISTINE CAM-TU LUONG to KRISTINE CAM BRADOCK  
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: 10/09/2025, 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: 08/06/2025  
Stephanie Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
JANE WONG, JANE DEBORAH WONG, JANE D. WONG, JANE DEBORAH LAULUSA, JANE D. LAULUSA, JANE LAULUSA  
Case No.: 25PRO01151  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JANE WONG, JANE DEBORAH WONG, JANE D. WONG, JANE DEBORAH LAULUSA, JANE D. LAULUSA, JANE LAULUSA.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: BRENT LAULUSA in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: BRENT LAULUSA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on September 23 2025 at 9:00 AM in Dept 3 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Petitioner in Pro Per:  
Brent Laulusa  
118 Hillside Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
801-949-0757  
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

**To place a legal notice visit**  
**AlmanacNews.com/legal\_notices/**

**WILDFIRES***continued from page 7*

Midpen explains that clearing vegetation in open spaces and maintaining healthy ecosystems are not mutually exclusive.

"It's easy to see trees getting cut down and think it's bad for the environment, but the way that we do that is by removing non-native species that are more fire prone and really encouraging and making sure that those native plants that are adapted to California are able to thrive," said McCauley.

He added that Midpen also supports legislative work that advocates for funding and policies that support the local communities' ability to prepare and prevent fires while also protecting the balance of the ecosystem.

Recently, state Sen. Dave Cortese (D-Silicon Valley) proposed a bill that aims to promote environmentally sensitive vegetation management to reduce wildfire risk while also protecting native plants and wildlife. On Sept. 8, the bill passed the state Senate. Cortese has authored various bills around fire safety since the Los Angeles fires in January.

**Wildfires across the state**

This year, Californians witnessed the tragic impacts of multiple wildfires in Los Angeles, during a time of year that typically sees more rain. Gessner said with evolving weather patterns, it's important for everyone to be preparing and thinking about wildfires throughout all months of the year.

According to Cal Fire, there have been

over 6,800 wildfires reported this year, burning more than 515,000 acres of the state. Currently, firefighters are responding to widespread flames in Fresno, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

The Garnet Fire in Fresno began on Aug. 24 due to a lightning strike and has burned over 54,000 acres. Flames are threatening a grove of historic sequoia trees in the Sierra National Forest, some of which are about 2,000 years old, according to The Guardian. As of Sept. 9, the fire was 15% contained.

The Gifford Fire in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara county has been burning for over a month, starting on Aug. 1, damaging nearly 132,000 acres of land and is almost entirely contained. Flames sparked near a highway.

While these fires may be miles away from San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, the chances of local wildfires are unpredictable. In late August, the Edgewood Fire near Woodside burned 10 acres after flames from a vehicle fire spread to nearby vegetation. Firefighters contained the flame a couple of feet away from Cañada College's campus. Woodside Fire Protection District officials stated that hot and dry weather conditions paired with wind contributed to the spread.

**Funding and staffing for wildfire projects**

Midpen funds its fire-related projects through their annual operating budget and grants and since 2017 has secured \$7.5 million in funding. As the needs for wildfire prevention and preparedness increase,



Arden Margulis

Firefighters douse a tree with water and dig the ground around it after a fire.

the need for skilled staff also becomes necessary.

While the district helps fire agencies plan and prepare for wildfires, Midpen also has trained staff and equipment to be able to respond to serve as first responders as well. According to Gessner, rangers who work in the field receive annual training and certification to be able to act as responders until firefighters arrive on scene. Midpen ranger trucks are also equipped with water pumps.

Since 2020, additional staff has been added specifically for fire-related work including field resource specialists, rangers, equipment mechanic operators and open space technicians.

Midpen's work around fire projects

involves many sectors of the district. Before each annual project begins, Midpen biologists and archaeologists survey the land to identify sensitive plants, animals and cultural sites. In the office, the grants department is hard at work applying for funding to support Midpen's fire program.

"We're working really hard all year-round proactively, to prevent and prepare to respond to fire. It involves a lot of great partnerships," said Gessner.

To learn more about Midpen's Wildland Fire Resiliency program visit [openspace.org/fire](https://openspace.org/fire). ■

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

**PROP 50***continued from page 6*

president what they value on Nov. 4."

Speakers at the rally, beyond Gauthier and Canepa, included Assembly member Diane Papan, D-21, Assembly member Marc Berman, D-23, and State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park. Over a dozen organizations endorsed the event, including the San Mateo County Democratic Party, and many of whom are labor unions whose work is directly affected by congressional districting.

Carlos Alvares, 61, a journeyman laborer with the union Local 261, was one such attendee.

"What scares me the most is losing work," Alvares voiced. "Redistricting means fighting for more work at other districts. 261 in SF has our back."

Another union member, a business

representative part of the Operating Engineers Local 3, Ethan Lester, said most of his group's membership voted for Trump, and now "they're like woah, what's happening." He noted the loss in federal funding for public works projects, which directly impacts his livelihood. He sees Prop 50 as a means to reject the president's policies.

Attendees included community leaders as well, like Ashely Rhodes, 75, of Aboriginal Blackman United.

"(Newsom) is the only one that's punching Trump back in the nose," Rhodes said. "This is a real fight for Democrats. Maybe (Prop 50) will wake up his other constituents."

The proposition will go before California voters in a special election Nov. 4. ■

Email Staff Writer Miranda de Moraes at [mdemoraes@almanacnews.com](mailto:mdemoraes@almanacnews.com).



Miranda de Moraes

San Mateo County's Prop 50 rally drew nearly 50 folks from unions, government and the public to support an act they believe is an imperative to save American democracy.





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# Public Notices

**SUMMONS (Family Law)**  
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): RONALD LEE O'BRIEN  
VISED AL DEFENDANT/Respondent

You have been sued. Read the information below and on the next page.  
You have demanded. See information a continuance or on the page adjacent.

Petitioner's name is: ALICE KIT HA WU  
Respondent's name is: RONALD LEE O'BRIEN

**NOTICE—RESTRANING ORDERS ARE IN PAGE 2.**  
These restraining orders are effective against both parties in domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.

**FEES WAIVER:** If you cannot pay this fee, ask the court for a fee waiver form. The court may, upon a showing of need, waive all or part of the fees and costs that the court would have you pay in the other party.

1. The name and address of the court are 25-FAM-00185  
Superior Court of San Mateo County  
400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063

2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (If neither attorney's name or address is known, do not attempt to fill out this information, or not attempt to fill out this information, or not attempt to fill out this information.)  
Lee Office of Hong Kong Thengsammuth  
400 S. White Road, Suite 100  
San Jose, CA 95148 (510) 893-5205  
Neil I. Tanguchi  
for Christine Delibers  
Deputy Clerk

Date filed: 1/29/2025 10:20 AM  
Filed by: Christine Delibers  
Deputy Clerk

Page 1 of 1  
SUMMONS (Family Law)

**PETITION—MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)**

PETITIONER: ALICE KIT HA WU  
RESPONDENT: RONALD LEE O'BRIEN  
CASE NUMBER: 25-FAM-00185

Petitioner requests that the court make the following orders:

1. **LEGAL GROUNDS** (Family Code sections 2201-2210, 2210-2212)  
a. ☐ Domestic, or ☐ legal separation of the marriage or domestic partnership based on ground(s):  
(1) ☐ irreconcilable differences, (2) ☐ permanent legal incapacity to make decisions.  
b. ☐ Nullity of void marriage or domestic partnership based on:  
(1) ☐ incest, (2) ☐ bigamy.  
c. ☐ Nullity of voidable marriage or domestic partnership based on:  
(1) ☐ petitioner's age at time of registration of domestic partnership or marriage, (2) ☐ fraud.  
(3) ☐ prior existing marriage or domestic partnership, (4) ☐ physical incapacity.  
(5) ☐ unknown mind.

2. **CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)**  
a. Legal custody of children to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Joint ☐ Other  
b. Physical custody of children to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Joint ☐ Other  
c. Child residence (parenting time) to be granted to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Joint ☐ Other  
No objection to: from FL-202, from FL-212, from FL-341.2, from FL-341.2, Attachment B-1.

3. **CHILD SUPPORT**  
a. If there are minor children born to or adopted by Petitioner and Respondent before or during the marriage or domestic partnership, the court will make orders for the support of the children upon request and submission of financial forms by the responding party.  
b. An assignment of support may be issued without further notice.  
c. Any party required to pay support must pay at least an amount at the "legal" rate, which is currently 10 percent.  
d. ☐ Other (specify):

4. **SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT**  
a. ☐ Spousal or domestic partner support payable to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Terminate (and) the court's ability to award support to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
c. ☐ Reserve for future determination the issue of support payable to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
d. ☐ Other (specify):

5. **SEPARATE PROPERTY**  
a. ☐ There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be confirmed by the court.  
b. ☐ Confirm as separate property the assets and debts in: ☐ Property Declaration form (FL-200), ☐ Attachment B-1.  
Be the following list: (s) (s) Confirmed to:

See attached list.

6. **Other (specify):**

Page 1 of 1  
PETITION—MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)

**PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:** Hongkay Thengsammuth (255440)  
3240 S. White Road #104  
San Jose, CA 95148  
HONGKAY THENG SAMMUTH  
1/29/2025 10:20 AM  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063  
NORTHERN DISTRICT, 1000 Mission Road, South San Francisco, CA 94080  
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: ALICE KIT HA WU  
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: RONALD LEE O'BRIEN

**Case Number:** 25-FAM-00185

**Electronic Filing:** 1/29/2025 10:20 AM  
By: Christine Delibers  
Deputy Clerk

## The San Mateo County Superior Court recommends Alternative Dispute Resolution options in lieu of formal court litigation.

"Mediation" or "Appropriate Dispute Resolution" (ADR) is a general term for methods of resolving a dispute without going through the formal court process. ADR can save you time, money, and increase your overall satisfaction with the outcome of your case.

ADR can be used at any point in your case to resolve disputes regarding property division, child support, spousal support, custody, visitation, parenting time, and many other family law issues.

Did you know that the vast majority of cases filed in court (95-98%) do not go to trial? Most cases are settled or decided in some other way. In many cases, the settlement comes only after considerable resources have been expended. This is why the San Mateo County Superior Court supports the use of dispute resolution alternatives at the earliest possible time. Local Rule 5.5(A) states:

California Rules of Court and the Family Law Act strongly encourage alternative dispute resolution (ADR) of family matters. The Family Law Department recognizes that formal litigation of legal claims and disputes is expensive and time-consuming. The goals of this Court are to reduce animosity between the parties, facilitate the early resolution of issues, and provide parties with an opportunity to maximize their satisfaction with the resolution of their case. To this end, the policy of this Court is to promote and encourage the parties to settle their disputes by the use of appropriate dispute resolution options which include mediation, arbitration, collaborative practice, joint supervised settlement conferences and/or joint case management.

The court strongly encourages the use of ADR but does not favor any particular form of ADR, endorse any particular attorney, nor guarantee the outcome in any particular case.

**Instructions:** All parties and counsel shall read the Notice, sign on page three, and have this Notice served on the other party with any Petition or Response under the Family Law Act, Uniform Parentage Act, Order to Show Cause, Response to Order to Show Cause, Notice of Motion, Response to Notice of Motion, or any other family law pleading which will result in a court hearing or trial unless a notice has previously been filed within the past 180 days. A proof of service shall be filed with the Court. (Local Rule 5.5(B))

Local Court Form FL-2 (Rev. 1/2018) Page 1 of 1 www.smcourt.ca.gov

**STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRAINING ORDERS**

Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic partner are restrained from:

- removing the minor children of the parties from the state or keeping for a week or longer, or more, a child of the parties from the state without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court;
- contacting, harassing, abusing, threatening, transferring, disposing of or changing the location of any real property, insurance or other coverage, including life, health, automobile, and disability, held for the benefit of the parties and their minor children;
- transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, conveying, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasi-community, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the satisfaction of a debt;
- creating a nonexclusive transfer of real property or separate property in a manner that affects the disposition of property held for the benefit, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, before execution of a nonexclusive transfer or other act in a right of ownership to property, can be obtained, notice of the change must be filed and served on the other party.

You must notify each other of any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made after these restraining orders are effective. However, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or joint separate property to pay an attorney to help you or to pay court costs.

**NOTICE—ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE:** Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply to Covered California, Covered California is a state website where you can get help with health insurance. For more information, visit [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com) or call Covered California at 1-800-330-1000.

**WARNING—INFORMATION IMPORTANT**  
California law provides that, for purposes of division of property upon dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership or upon legal separation, property acquired by the parties during marriage or domestic partnership in joint tenancy is presumed to be community property. If either party to this action wishes to establish that the property held in joint tenancy is separate property, the party must file a declaration of separate property with the court, and not the community property presumption. You should consult your attorney if you need the community property presumption to be written into the recorded title to the property.

1. The name and address of the court are 25-FAM-00185  
Superior Court of San Mateo County  
400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063

2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (If neither attorney's name or address is known, do not attempt to fill out this information, or not attempt to fill out this information, or not attempt to fill out this information.)  
Lee Office of Hong Kong Thengsammuth  
400 S. White Road, Suite 100  
San Jose, CA 95148 (510) 893-5205  
Neil I. Tanguchi  
for Christine Delibers  
Deputy Clerk

Date filed: 1/29/2025 10:20 AM  
Filed by: Christine Delibers  
Deputy Clerk

Page 1 of 1  
SUMMONS (Family Law)

**PETITION—MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)**

PETITIONER: ALICE KIT HA WU  
RESPONDENT: RONALD LEE O'BRIEN  
CASE NUMBER: 25-FAM-00185

Petitioner requests that the court make the following orders:

1. **COMMUNITY AND QUASI-COMMUNITY PROPERTY**  
a. ☐ There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be divided by the court.  
b. ☐ Determine rights to community and quasi-community assets and debts. All such assets and debts are listed in: ☐ Property Declaration form (FL-200), ☐ Attachment B-1.  
Be the following list: (s) (s) Confirmed to:

2. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

3. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

4. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

5. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

6. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

7. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

8. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

9. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

10. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

11. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

12. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

13. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

14. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

15. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

16. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

17. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

18. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

19. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

20. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

21. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

22. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

23. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

24. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

25. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

26. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

27. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

28. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

29. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

30. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

31. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

32. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

33. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

34. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

35. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

36. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

37. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

38. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

39. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

40. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

41. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

42. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

43. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

44. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

45. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

46. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

47. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

48. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

49. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

50. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

51. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

52. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

53. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

54. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

55. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

56. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

57. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

58. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

59. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

60. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

61. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

62. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

63. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

64. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

65. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

66. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

67. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

68. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

69. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

70. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

71. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

72. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

73. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

74. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

75. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

76. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

77. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

78. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

79. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

80. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

81. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

82. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

83. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

84. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

85. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

86. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

87. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

88. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

89. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

90. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

91. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

92. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

93. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

94. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

95. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

96. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

97. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

98. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

99. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent  
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored (specify):  
c. ☐ Other (specify):

100. **OTHER REQUESTS**  
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent

# HARKER<sup>®</sup> CONCERT SERIES 2025-26

The arts are integral to a complete education at Harker, and we are honored to share the remainder of this year's lineup of outstanding performers and speakers with the community. Plan to join us!



## Calder Quartet

**Fri., Nov. 7, 7 p.m.**

Hailed as “superb” and “imaginative, skillful creators” by the New York Times.



## Dickinson Artist-In-Residence Ana Teresa Fernández

**Tues., Nov. 18, 7 p.m.**

An artist of border erasure, she elevates the intersectionality of place, person and politics to create a common human vernacular.



## Walter D. Greason, Ph.D., with musical guest Kev Choice

**Fri., Jan. 23, 7 p.m.**

Part of our annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations.



## Seraph Brass

**Fri., Feb. 27, 7 p.m.**

Founded by trumpet soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden, with a mission to showcase the excellence of women brass players.



**Rothschild Performing Arts Center  
The Harker School - Upper School Campus  
500 Saratoga Ave., San Jose**

**Harker Speaker Series  
Free Admission**

**Harker Concert Series  
\$25 per concert  
\$15 students/seniors**  
Reception one hour prior to each performance. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks. Cash bar for wine and beer.

**Information & tickets:**  
[www.harker.org/concerts](http://www.harker.org/concerts)  
[www.harker.org/speakers](http://www.harker.org/speakers)



# A SEASON FOR FANS

Fall brings classics and big names to the Peninsula

By Heather Zimmerman  
and Karla Kane

What better time to check in with the classics than fall? As the 2025-26 fall arts season shows, there's plenty of room to revisit earlier favorites and celebrate some marquee names while also exploring new ground, too.

This fall sees the return of many well-loved musicals to local stages, from "Gypsy" to "Cabaret" to "Little Shop of Horrors," plus reimaginings, such as popular playwright Lauren Gunderson's updated take on "Little Women."

At venues large and small, there are famous names in music and comedy, from arena acts like The Who, Judas Priest and Alice Cooper to Cheap Trick, Jefferson Starship, Rosanne Cash and comedian Sandra Bernhard.

On the literary side of things, we'll hear from plenty of big names, including musician and activist Joan Baez and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich.

There are also familiar personalities popping up in new spaces, such as venerable actor Morgan Freeman and his Symphonic Blues Experience, Emmy Award-winning comedian and actor Michael Richards ("Seinfeld") in conversation about his memoir — even a virtual appearance by author and activist Malala Yousafzai.

As always, there are lots of new ideas on tap, as well, such as interactive media festival Code:ART which returns to Palo Alto with new, intriguing pieces, while The Pear Theatre delves into the life of computing pioneer Ada Lovelace, and composer and DJ Mason Bates drops by the Redwood Symphony's 40th anniversary celebration. Read on for a look at what's coming up this fall.

## Stage

**Los Altos Stage Company:** "Cabaret," Kander & Ebb's classic musical follows a romance between an American writer and an English cabaret dancer, in 1930s Berlin and Naziism



Courtesy Scott Lasky

**'GYPSY'** This favorite musical based on the memoirs of burlesque artist Gypsy Rose Lee goes to show that not everything is coming up roses in show business, despite the title of one of its most famous songs. Palo Alto Players kick off their 95th season with "Gypsy," which sees ambitious stage mom Rose trying to live vicariously through the stage careers she engineers for her two daughters, only to push them farther away. Set in the 1920s and '30s, as vaudeville's popularity was declining, "Gypsy" looks at the excitement and the pitfalls of showbiz life. The show features music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Arthur Laurents. Whitney Hisako Moore, above, portrays the musical's title character. Through Sept. 21 in Palo Alto. [paplayers.org/event/gypsy](http://paplayers.org/event/gypsy).

is on the rise (Sept. 4-28); "A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas," Michael Wilson's adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic holiday tale of spirits and redemption (Nov. 28-Dec. 21). [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org).

**Palo Alto Players:** Classic musical "Gypsy" offers a backstage look at early 20th-century showbiz and the pitfalls of chasing stardom that's loosely based on the life of striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee (Sept. 5-21); "Annie,"

the well-loved musical based on a 1920s comic strip finds plucky redheaded orphan Annie outsmarting a cruel headmistress and befriending a billionaire (Nov. 7-23). [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org).

**The Pear Theatre:** "The Art of

Murder," Joe DiPietro's thriller about a successful and eccentric artist plotting the murder of the art dealer he believes has wronged him (Oct. 3-19); "Ada and the Engine" (Nov. 21-Dec. 7) Lauren Gunderson's drama about Ada Lovelace, a pioneer in math and early computing who was also the daughter of famed poet Lord Byron (Nov. 21-Dec. 7). [thepear.org](http://thepear.org).

**Mountain View Center for**

**Performing Arts:** Smuin Contemporary Ballet presents its fall program, featuring "Extremely Close" by Alejandro Cerrudo, the West Coast premiere of "Partita" by Justin Peck and "A Long Night" by Smuin Artistic Director Amy Seiwert (Sept. 12-14); "Silicon Valley Twelfth Night," a retelling of Shakespeare's comedy set in a future where artificial intelligence thrives (Oct. 17-18). [mvpca.com](http://mvpca.com).

**Stanford Live:** "Humans 2.0," an acrobatic performance exploring the experiences of being human from Australian circus company Circa (Nov. 1-2); "Burnout Paradise," show from Australian experimental theater company Pony Cam (Nov. 12-15); "Dökk," a multimedia performance of light, sound and movement by Italian digital art studio fuse\* (Dec. 5) [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

**Sunnyvale Community Players:** B-movie horror musical spoof "Little Shop of Horrors" (through Sept. 28); "Dracula," a new adaptation of Bram Stoker's vampire novel, tells of the mysterious Count Dracula's time in London and how the people he meets try to unravel his identity before it's too late (Oct. 25-Nov. 9). [sunnyvaleplayers.org](http://sunnyvaleplayers.org).

**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley:**

Lauren Gunderson reimagines Louisa May Alcott's timeless novel "Little Women" about the trials and triumphs of the four March sisters and their mother during the American Civil War (Sept. 24-Oct. 12); "A Driving Beat," world premiere by Jordan Ramirez Puckett, about a cross-country road trip that brings a mom and son together (Oct. 29-Nov. 23). [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org).

**West Bay Opera:** Camille Saint-Saëns' "Samson et Dalila," based on the biblical story about

## FALL ARTS PREVIEW

the supernatural strongman and the woman who engineers his downfall. (Oct. 10-19, with a free informal preview with piano on Oct. 2) [wbopera.org](http://wbopera.org).

### Film

**Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival:** A festival of feature films and documentaries. Most screenings held online, with select special screenings and events held in Palo Alto. (Oct. 19-25). [svjff.org](http://svjff.org).

**Stanford Live:** Bassist, composer and vocalist Mali Obomsawin and her quartet play live accompaniment for the National Geographic documentary “Sugarcane,” for which she wrote the score. The film tells of the abuses of the Canadian Indian residential school system. (Nov. 7). [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

**United Nations Association Film Festival:** A documentary festival highlighting films that explore various issues of human rights. Various venues in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford and San Francisco (Oct. 16-26). [unaff.org](http://unaff.org).

### Concerts

**Community School of Music and Arts:** “Everything Old is New Again: A Cabaret Concert & Conversation” with countertenor and sopranoist Von Bringham, vocalist Adesuwa O, and pianist Paola Rapaj Kraja features songs from diverse genres such as opera, musical theater, jazz and world to explore how they influence each other (Nov. 7); pianist Matthew Ball, AKA the Boogie Woogie Kid, plays boogie-woogie piano, swing dance hits and New

Orleans standards and more (Nov. 16). [arts4all.org](http://arts4all.org).

**The Fox Theatre:** Pop stars and actors from the Philippines Daniel Padilla and Ian Veneracion together in concert (Sept. 19); Filipino reggae singer Elias J. TV (Sept. 26); Afghan singer Sediq Shabab (Oct. 10); classical music and flamenco with Lebanese-born violinist Ara Malikian (Oct. 16); The Graduates: The Sound of Simon and Garfunkel (Sept. 17); country singer-songwriter Sara Evans (Oct. 18) Filipino pop rockers Aegis, with Inigo Pascual (Oct. 24); Deadwood Halloween with Alex Jordan and Friends (Oct. 31); Filipino singer-songwriter Juan Karlos; musician James Garner’s tribute to Johnny Cash (Nov. 23); Fleetwood Mac tribute band Fleetwood Mask (Nov. 29). [foxrwc.com/event-schedule](http://foxrwc.com/event-schedule).

**Club Fox:** Folk singer-songwriter Suzie Daines celebrates her new album, “Grass Stained Dreams,” with Jenner Fox and Jeremy Elliott (Oct. 5); music of The Eagles with Illegals (Oct. 11); Pink Floyd tribute band Pete Floyd (Oct. 25); Riff Raff, a high-voltage tribute to AC/DC, shares the bill with The Butlers, who play favorite ‘70s tunes, from Thin Lizzy, Tom Petty and others (Nov. 22). [clubfoxrwc.com](http://clubfoxrwc.com).

**Earthwise Productions:** Khachapuri Trio, featuring Beth Custer, David James and Jess Ivry, plays an eclectic jazz set with arrangements of music by Chick Corea, Julius Hemphill and Kurt Weill (Sept. 21). [tinyurl.com/KhachapuriTrioPA](http://tinyurl.com/KhachapuriTrioPA).

**The Guild Theatre:** Mustache Harbor plays yacht rock favorites from the 1970s and ‘80s (Sept. 12); Music for the Masses Dark



Courtesy Community School of Music and Arts

**‘THE KOMBOS COLLECTIVE: 100 YEARS OF HADJIDAKIS’** The Kombos Collective is a chamber ensemble dedicated to championing the music of Greece and the Greek diaspora. In honor of the centennial of Greek composer Manos Hadjidakis, Kombos Collective, featuring Katerina Clambaneva on vocals, Ellie Falaris Ganelin on flute and Mary-Victoria Voutsas on piano, presents a free concert of Hadjidakis’ songs and piano works at the Community School of Music and Arts. According to the event listing, Hadjidakis combined classical and folk styles and helped transform popular music into a respected art form. Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. in Mountain View. [arts4all.org](http://arts4all.org).

New Wave ‘80s Nite (Sept. 13); Jimi Hendrix and Grateful Dead tribute band Jimi’s Dead (Sept. 18); Power pop rockers Cheap Trick (Sept. 19); Hits from the 1970s, ‘80s and ‘90s with Neon Velvet (Sept. 20); Brass band Brass Against plays politically charged rock covers (Sept. 23); ‘80s favorites with Thompson Twins’ Tom Bailey (Sept. 25); French rock guitarist Louis Bertignac (Sept. 24); Folk rockers Dawes (Sept. 26) 1980s pop singer Debbie Gibson’s Newstalgia Live Greatest Hits and Beyond (Oct. 2); ‘80s alt-rockers Dramarama (Oct. 3); Petty Theft plays the music of Tom Petty (Oct. 4); Blues, soul and funk with Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears (Oct. 7); alternative

country, roots, rock and folk with singer-songwriter The White Buffalo (Oct. 9); Rebirth Brass Band melds soul, funk, jazz and R&B with New Orleans’ traditional brass band sound (Oct. 10); Rocker and former Men at Work frontman Colin Hay (Oct. 11-12); Louisiana soul singer-songwriter Marc Broussard (Oct. 14); Bluegrass with The Brothers Comatose (Oct. 17); Etu plays pop and rock celebrating island heritage, singing in a variety of languages including English, Tongan, Samoan and Fijian (Oct. 19); Past Curfew plays cover songs by one-hit wonders (Oct. 24); Pink Floyd, Talking Heads and Phish tribute band Pink Talking Fish (Oct. 30); Eclectic jam band Spafford (Oct. 31); Fleetwood Macramé plays music by Fleetwood Mac and classic rock (Nov. 1); ‘80s favorites with Tainted Love (Nov. 8); Classic rockers ZZ Top (Nov. 9); Organist Melvin Seals and JGB, “keepers of the flame” of the Jerry Garcia Band (Nov. 14-15); Country with Brent Cobb and the Fixins’ (Nov. 16); Jefferson Starship 50th anniversary tour (Nov. 21); Big Bad Voodoo Daddy’s Wild and Swingin’ Holiday Party (Nov. 22); Andy Bell of 1980s synth-pop band Erasure (Nov. 26); ‘80s new wave band Flock of Seagulls (Nov. 28-29); organist Melvin Seals and JGB, “keepers of the flame” of the Jerry Garcia Band, (Nov. 14-15); All-female Led Zeppelin Tribute Band Zepparella (Dec. 6). [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

**Little Green A Plant Bar:** Water, experimental electronic music (Sept. 12); “Guitar Guitars Guitaring,” with professional guitarists Robert Miller and Christopher Mallett, Carlos Rivera, Gianfranco Baltazar, and Sebastian Quintero (Sept. 19). [littlegreenaplantbar.com/classes](http://littlegreenaplantbar.com/classes)

**Meyhouse Palo Alto:** “The Full Spectrum of Black Music,” featuring Anthony Wonsey Trio, led pianist Wonsey (Sept. 12); vocalist Jenna Mammina pays tribute to women in music with the program “From Joni Mitchell to Abbey Lincoln” (Sept. 13); “Groove, Rhythm and Soul” with Ray Obiedo Latin Jazz Ensemble playing West Coast funk, Afro-Caribbean beats and Brazilian soul (Sept. 19); “Let’s Go to Brazil,” samba, bossa nova, Brazilian jazz and more with pianist Tammy L. Hall (Sept. 20); vocalist Suzanna Smith performs midcentury tunes in a program honoring a favorite vocalist of the time with “Peggy Lee Project: A Tribute to an Icon” (Sept. 27); Hilary Gardner and The Lonesome Pines play songs of the American West (Oct. 4); Flubby Dubby Jazz Night with 7-string guitarist Ron Jackson and Friends (Oct. 10); Grammy-winning Latin percussionist Giovanni Hidalgo and LeHCats play jazz, Latin fusion and global music (Oct. 11); Vocalist Paula West performs jazz standards and more with “From Bob Dylan to Cole Porter” (Oct. 17-18); Vocalist Jonathan Poreta and a trio perform favorites made famous by Frank Sinatra with “Sinatra My Way” (Oct. 24); “Andrea Claburn Sings Ella: A Tribute to the First Lady of Song,” featuring jazz vocalist Claburn celebrating legendary vocalist Ella Fitzgerald (Oct. 25); Turkish jazz night with Sinem Sen Trio with vocalist John R. Burr (Nov. 15); Flamenco guitarist Teresa Jiménez performs a variety of traditional flamenco songs (Nov. 28-29). [meyhousejazz.com](http://meyhousejazz.com).

**Shoreline Amphitheatre:** Neil Young and the Chrome Hearts (Sept. 12); KIDZ BOP Live (Sept. 19); The Who (Sept. 21); Thomas



Courtesy Chris Hardy Photography

**‘A TASTE OF IRELAND’** Get a touch of the Emerald Isle right here on the Peninsula when “A Taste of Ireland – The Irish Music & Dance Sensation” makes a stop in Redwood City as part of a major tour. Featuring Irish dance champions and dancers from “Lord of the Dance” and “Riverdance,” the show brings to life Irish history through movement, music and wit, including via folk mash-ups, a cappella tap battles and storytelling. The music includes classic Irish songs such as “Danny Boy” and “Wild Rover” in a reimagined, contemporary score. Dancer Ella Giammichele is seen here in a number called “Vikings.” Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., in Redwood City. [tinyurl.com/TasteofIrelandRWC](http://tinyurl.com/TasteofIrelandRWC).

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Rhett (Sept. 27); Conan Gray (Oct. 3); Above & Beyond (Oct. 4); Judas Priest and Alice Cooper (Oct. 14); The B-52s and DEVO (Oct. 16); Junior H \$ad Boyz & Broken Tour (Oct. 18); Matt Rife (Oct. 19). livenation.com.

**Stanford Live:** Jazz and Latin vocalist Lucia (Oct. 3); Rosanne Cash performs country, blues and Americana with her husband and longtime recording partner John Leventhal (Oct. 5); All-women jazz collective Artemis performs music from their album "Arboresque," featuring original compositions and arrangements by Wayne Shorter (Oct. 12); Contemporary Portuguese fado music with singer Mariza (Nov. 5); Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience features a live appearance from the legendary actor and multimedia narration of music performed by respected Delta blues musicians (Nov. 19). live.stanford.edu

Classical

**Bay Choral Guild:** The choir pays tribute to the patron saint of music with "Celebrating Cecilia," Britten's Hymn for St. Cecilia, Handel's Ode for St. Cecilia's

Day and Jacob de Haan's Missa Santa Cecilia (Nov. 23 in Palo Alto; also Nov. 22 in Campbell). baychoralguild.org.

**California Bach Society:** "Cori Spezzati," a program highlighting the "split-choir" sound with a choir singing in parts that respond to each other, featuring works by Willaert, Gabrieli and Phinot, plus Bach's double-choir motet "Singet dem Herrn" (Oct. 4 in Palo Alto; with other Bay Area performances Oct. 3 and 5). calbach.org.

**Community School of Music and Arts:** Pianist Sarah Cahill presents "The Wood So Wild," a program of music celebrating nature by 19th- and 20th-century composers. (Sept. 19); "Chamber Music Dreams," a concert featuring CSMA faculty performing music with themes of dreaming, longing and spiritual introspection (Oct. 3); The Kombos Collective marks the centennial of Greek composer Manos Hadjidakis with a program of his works (Oct. 17). arts4all.org.

**Coast Live Music:** "Wines and Winds at Fogarty Winery," a wind ensemble performs a program of Mozart's Serenade No. 11 in E-flat Major, K 375; Ruth Gipps "Andante doloroso" from Wind Octet, Op. 65; and Smetana's Suite from The Bartered Bride. Wine

and hors d'oeuvres precede the concert (Oct. 2). coastlivemusic.com.

**Ives Collective:** The ensemble of Hrabba Atladottir, violin; Susan Freier, viola; Stephen Harrison, cello; and Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano, performs Jean Cras' String Trio; Leo Ornstein's Cello Sonata, Op. 52, No. 1, SO 612 and Brahms' Piano Quartet in G minor, Op. 25 (Sept. 27 in Palo Alto and Sept. 28 in San Francisco). ivescollective.org.

**Music at Kohl Mansion:** Bennewitz Quartet performs Haydn's String Quartet in F Major, Op. 77, No. 2, Janáček's String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters" and Dvořák's String Quartet in A-flat Major, Op. 105 (Oct. 19); Trio Bohémo performs Haydn's Piano Trio in A Major, Bohuslav Martinů's Piano Trio No. 2 in D minor, Jan Vičar's cycle of folk songs, "From Moravia," and Smetana's Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15 (Nov. 16). musicatkohl.org.

**Music@Menlo:** "Romantic Reverie: From Bohemia to Hollywood," featuring Gramophone Young Artist of the Year, violinist Stella Chen and a chamber ensemble performing Dvorak's Miniatures for Two Violins and Viola, op. 75a; Fritz Kreisler's String Quartet in A minor; and Korngold's Piano



Courtesy Opus 3 Artists

**MASON BATES** and Redwood Symphony's 40th Composer and DJ Mason Bates, who won a Grammy Award for his 2017 opera "The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs," will be on hand to help the Redwood Symphony mark its 40th anniversary with a concert that both looks back to the classics and ahead to what's next. Bates (pictured here), will perform the electronic elements in symphonic piece, "Alternative Energy," which draws on other nontraditional instruments, such as car parts used for percussion. Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. (pre-concert talk 6:45 p.m.), in Redwood City. redwoodsymphony.org.

Quintet in E major, op. 15 (Oct. 4) musicatmenlo.org.

**Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO):** This all-strings chamber orchestra for youth presents concerts from its five student ensembles. Cellist Christopher Costanza teaches a master class

as part of the orchestra's Leder Master Class series (Oct. 19); PACO's senior ensemble performs works by Dvořák, Barber and Coleridge-Taylor (Nov. 1); The Debut Orchestra performs music by Mozart, Shawn Hsieh and Britten (Nov. 8, 2 p.m.); the Sinfonia



Wines & Winds

Music of Mozart, Gipps and Smetana

October 2, 2025

Thomas Fogarty Winery

6pm | Wine & hors d'oeuvres

7pm | Performance

Tickets | \$195

Ticket price includes Thomas Fogarty Winery wines, hors d'oeuvres and a roundtrip shuttle service from Portola Valley Town Center.

www.coastlivemusic.com





Dr. Fatima Zuberi, © Shahzia Sikander

### 'SHAHZIA SIKANDER: COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR'

For three decades, Pakistani American artist Shahzia Sikander has been "reframing South Asian visual histories through a contemporary feminist perspective," using a range of media and traditions, according to Stanford's Cantor Arts Center, which is hosting "Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior," a career-spanning exhibition of Sikander's works this autumn and into winter. "She considers diasporic experiences, histories of colonialism, and Western relations with the global south and the wider Islamic world, often through the lens of gender and body politics," the Cantor's website notes. The exhibition premiered at La Biennale di Venezia and appears at Stanford in connection with the museum's Asian American Art Initiative. Seen here is the 2022 piece "Fixed, Fluid," created from glass mosaic with patinated brass frame. Sept. 17-Jan. 25 at Cantor Arts Center, Stanford. [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu).

ensemble performs works by Mozart, Dvořák and Gabriela Lena Frank Leyendas (Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.); PACO Academy Chamber Concert, with program TBA (Nov. 16). [pacomusic.org](http://pacomusic.org).

**Palo Alto Philharmonic:** Baroque concert, with select soloists and small ensembles performing music from the 16th-18th centuries (Sept. 13); a program with Augusta Read Thomas' "Of Paradise and Light," Ralph Vaughan Williams' Suite for Viola and Small Orchestra with guest violist Jenny Douglass, and Brahms' Symphony No. 1 (Oct. 18); Fall Chamber Concert features Philharmonic musicians and friends in wind, string and brass ensembles (Nov. 8). [paphil.org](http://paphil.org).

**Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale:** "Fury and Heartbreak," an Italian baroque program featuring Galuppi's Concerto a quattro No. 4 in C minor; Marcello's Cantata

for Soprano and Strings Arianna abbandonata; Handel's Cantata for Soprano and Strings Armida abbandonata; Durante's Concerto a quattro No. 2 in G minor and Vivaldi's In furore iustissimae irae, with soprano Maya Kherani (Oct. 19). [philharmonia.org](http://philharmonia.org).

**Redwood Symphony:** "Virtuosii!" celebrates the 100th birthday of composer Kirke Mechem, who will be on hand for a program featuring his work "The Jayhawk: Overture to a Mythical Comedy," along with Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 with guest soloist Daniel Glover, and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra (Sept. 27); "Scary music from Disney, movies and the classics" is a family-friendly concert featuring Stephen Schwartz's Suite from "Wicked," Paul Dukas' "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," Danny Elfman's "The Nightmare Before Christmas Suite" and John Williams' "The Imperial March (Darth Vader's Theme)." It kicks

off a tour of the orchestra and concludes with 10 raffle winners getting a chance to briefly guest conduct the symphony (Oct. 26); "40th anniversary concert with Mason Bates," the symphony marks a milestone with a program of Emmanuel Chabrier's "España," Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with guest soloist Karen Bentley Pollick; and Mason Bates' "Alternative Energy" with Bates as a soloist (Nov. 22). [redwoodsymphony.org](http://redwoodsymphony.org).

**Schola Cantorum:** "Amor! 2: Music from Brazil," contemporary and traditional music, including sambas and folk melodies, with special guest, Brazilian conductor and composer Daniel Alfonso (Nov. 2). [scholacantorum.org](http://scholacantorum.org).

**Stanford Live:** Classical pianist Michelle Cann performs works by Ravel, John Sylvanus Thompson, Mendelssohn and others (Oct. 8); Viano String Quartet, joined by pianist Vienna Teng, performs Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10 in E-flat major, Op. 74, "Harp" and originals by Teng (Oct. 19); Classical pianist Hayato Sumino plays selections by Chopin, Ravel, Debussy, Gershwin, Hans Zimmer and original works (Oct. 26); Colombian cellist Santiago Cañón-Valencia performs selections by Henri Dupack, Debussy, Ravel, Poulenc and Stravinsky (Oct. 22); Rob Kapilow's What Makes it Great series looks at Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition (Nov. 9); Vienna Boys Choir performs Johann Strauss' waltzes and polkas (Nov. 12). [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

**Woodside Village Band:** Fall concert with James Barnes' "Autumn Soliloquy," Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf," Vaughan Williams' "English Folk Song Suite" and Sousa's "The Gallant Seventh," (Sept. 13). [windband.org/woodside](http://windband.org/woodside).

## Comedy

**Club Fox:** Russian-born stand-up comedian Dan the Stranger talks about exile, political satire and more (Nov. 23). [clubfoxrwc.com](http://clubfoxrwc.com).

**The Guild Theatre:** An Evening of Conversations, Questions and Answers with Emmy-winning actor and comedian Michael Richards, best known for his role on "Seinfeld" (Sept. 27-28). [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

**Stanford Live:** Sandra Bernhard performs a blend of cabaret, standup and social commentary (Oct. 4); "Hysterical: Hair Situation," a new show by ALOK (Oct. 25). [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

## Museums and Galleries

**Anderson Collection:** "Spotlights" installations focusing on

works by Susan Rothenberg, Sean Scully, and Robert Therrien (through Feb. 15); the first West Coast museum exhibition of New York-based artist Alteronce Gumby (Sept. 24-March 1). [anderson.stanford.edu/programs-exhibitions](http://anderson.stanford.edu/programs-exhibitions).

**Bryant Street Gallery:** "Something Blue" (through Oct. 18). [bryantstreet.com](http://bryantstreet.com).

**Cantor Arts Center:** "She Never Dances Alone," a video work by Jeffrey Gibson that pays tribute to the matriarchal roots of many indigenous communities (through Oct. 19); "Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior," a career-spanning exhibition focusing on Pakistani American artist Shahzia Sikander (Sept. 17-Jan. 25); "Edmonia Lewis: Indelible Impressions," marble carvings by 19th-century American sculpture Edmonia Lewis (Sept. 17-Jan. 4); "Cunning Folk: Witchcraft, Magic and Occult Knowledge" explores magical practice, practitioners and their persecution in

European artwork and culture circa 1500—1750 (Oct. 15-Feb. 22). [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu).

**Center for Creativity:** The following exhibitions are on view through Nov. 2: "Art of the Community: Redwood City 2025," a juried exhibition of Redwood City artists; "The View," an installation by Violet May Tutt; "The Librarian," an installation by Beatrice Hull; "Recovery Happens Art Show 2025" from Voices of Recovery San Mateo County; Disabilities Showcase. The following exhibitions will be on view Nov. 6-Jan. 4: "Refuge," guest curated by Na Omi Shintani; "The Secret Life of Maxine Mays." [rwcfc.org/exhibitions](http://rwcfc.org/exhibitions).

**Djerassi Resident Artists Program:** Fall sculpture hikes, guided hikes highlighting sculptures built over the years into the natural environment on the Djerassi property by artists from

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## BAY CHORAL GUILD

Join us for our next concert season!



### Celebrating Cecilia November 22 and 23, 2025

Honoring the patron saint of musicians with works including Britten's *Hymn for St. Cecilia*, Handel's *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*, and Jacob de Haan's *Missa Santa Cecilia*

### Collaborations March 7 and 8, 2026

Solo instruments ranging from cello to flute accompany a selection of choral works by contemporary composers including Jake Runestad, Reena Esmail, and Joan Szymko

### Outside the Bachs June 6 and 7, 2026

Exploring beyond the Western European tradition with choral works from Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa

Season or single concert tickets online at [baychoralguild.org](http://baychoralguild.org)

SATURDAY concerts: 7:30 pm, Campbell United Methodist Church  
SUNDAY concerts: 4:30 pm, First Congregational Church of Palo Alto

### AUDITION FOR OUR 2025-2026 CONCERTS

We invite singers to join us for our next season. Auditions will be held by appointment on September 3 and 8 in Palo Alto. For more information, please visit our website, [baychoralguild.org/auditions](http://baychoralguild.org/auditions). We rehearse Monday nights, 7:30-10:00pm, at First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto.

There will be a pre-concert talk by Sanford Dole, 30 minutes before each performance.

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the residency program (Sept. 13, 20, 27; Oct. 11 and 18); sunset/full moon sculpture hikes (Sept. 21; Oct. 6 and Nov. 5); Sound immersion experiences (Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 7); Artful Harvest, a benefit gala supporting Djerassi's mission (Sept. 28) [djerassi.org](http://djerassi.org).

**Gallery House:** Abstract paintings by Renata Aryanti (through September). The gallery also features works in a variety of media by the cooperative gallery's member artists. [galleryhouse.art](http://galleryhouse.art).

**Gallery 9 Los Altos:** "Half Dome and Elsewhere," paintings by Daniel Meehan (through September); paintings by Maria Pazos (Sept. 30-Nov. 2); painting and collage work by Joyce Savre (Nov. 4-30). [gallery9losaltos.art](http://gallery9losaltos.art).

**Los Altos History Museum:** "Building El Sueño: Isabel Merriman, Sarah Winchester and the California Dream," an exploration of the life of Isabel Merriman, the sister of Sarah Winchester (of Winchester Mystery House fame) and her impact on the Peninsula (through Nov. 30); plus a variety of permanent exhibits exploring the history and culture of the Los Altos and Silicon Valley region. [losaltoshistory.org](http://losaltoshistory.org)

**The Main Gallery:** Group shows highlighting works by the gallery's member artists in a variety of media. [themaingallery.org](http://themaingallery.org).

**Museum of American Heritage:** "Honoring 35 Years of Collectors" (through Sept. 21). [moah.org](http://moah.org).

**Pacific Art League:** Solo exhibition by painter Judith Gaulke

(through Sept. 23); "California Dreaming," group exhibition featuring works in a variety of media highlighting artists' various takes on what California means to them (through Sept. 23); solo exhibition by abstract artist Simeon Dumas (Oct. 3-28); "Abstraction," a group show featuring a variety of abstract art (Oct. 3-28); 104th anniversary group exhibition and fundraiser (Nov. 14-Jan. 13). [pacificartleague.org](http://pacificartleague.org).

**Palo Alto Art Center:** "Pushing Boundaries: Ceramic Artists and Identity," an exhibition of contemporary California-based artists whose work with clay explores themes of identity and more (Sept. 13-Dec. 7); "Ashwini Bhat: Being, Longing ..." a site-specific installation that complements the themes of the Centering: Clay and Community series exhibition (Sept. 13-Aug. 23, 2026). [paloalto.gov](http://paloalto.gov).

**Pamela Walsh Gallery:** "Cloud Songs," nontraditional landscapes by Don Scott Macdonald and Jeffrey Beauchamp (through Oct. 4). [pamelawalshgallery.com](http://pamelawalshgallery.com).

**Portola Gallery:** Fused glass artworks by Cindy Kennaugh (through Sept. 30); impressionistic landscapes and still-life paintings in soft pastels by Mary K. Stahl (Oct. 1-31); nature-inspired watercolors by Yvonne Newhouse (Nov. 1-30); group show featuring the gallery's member artists (Dec. 1-31). [portolaartgallery.com](http://portolaartgallery.com).

**Qualia Contemporary Art Gallery:** "At Ease With Hand and Mind: Calligraphy, Literature and Contemporary Art," group show featuring 19 artists whose



Courtesy Pneuhaus/City of Palo Alto

**CODE:ART** The fourth installment of the city of Palo Alto's biennial interactive media festival returns with unique pieces installed throughout downtown. From Oct. 16 through 18, Palo Alto's city hall will be transformed by 8-story 3D projection artworks. The festival also features "urban interventions" that will be installed in various spaces such as parking lots, alleys and storefronts and will be on display through Oct. 25. These works include "Grove" (seen above) a "forest" of glowing columns inspired by the subterranean networks that trees use to communicate. Many pieces pair light or video with movement, to ensure that visitors can get in on the act. Sound plays a role in some pieces as well: There's even a special interactive photo booth that encourages participants to "scream into the void." Projections on view Oct. 16-18, 6-10 p.m. at City Hall; all other pieces on view Oct. 16-25 at locations throughout downtown Palo Alto. [tinyurl.com/PACodeArt2025](http://tinyurl.com/PACodeArt2025).

works explore the interchange of Chinese calligraphy and painting (through Sept. 27). [qualiacontemporaryart.com](http://qualiacontemporaryart.com).

**Redwood City Art Kiosk:** Installation by Casa Circulo Cultural (Sept. 21-Nov. 10). [fungcollaboratives.org](http://fungcollaboratives.org).

**Viewpoints Gallery:** Plein-air cityscapes, still-lives, interiors and portraits by oil painter Maura Carta (September); layered and textured paintings by Sylvie Levesque (October); blown glass works by Ronen Vainish (November); landscape paintings by Julia Seelos (December). [viewpointsgallery.com](http://viewpointsgallery.com).

## Festivals and events

**Art Battle:** A live painting competition featuring 10 artists going head-to-head in three rounds to create original artworks in just 20 minutes in each round. Sept. 19 at Springline Menlo Park. [tinyurl.com/SpringlineArtBattle](http://tinyurl.com/SpringlineArtBattle).

**Art for All Family Day:** The Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection host a day of free hands-on art activities, live music on the lawn, storytime and a scavenger hunt in the galleries Oct. 12 on the lawn between Cantor Arts Center and the Anderson Collection, Stanford. [tinyurl.com/ArtforAllFamilyDay](http://tinyurl.com/ArtforAllFamilyDay).

**Cubberley Artist Open Studios:** Visitors can see works in a variety of media by artists in the city of Palo Alto's artist residency program at the Cubberley center. Other organizations based at the center will take part, with a book sale hosted by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library and a fall market presented by

Imagination Lab School, Nov. 8 at Cubberley Artist Studio Program, Palo Alto. [tinyurl.com/PAopenstudiosFall2025](http://tinyurl.com/PAopenstudiosFall2025).

**FabMo Artisans Market:** Fine art, accessories, decor, gifts and holiday items sustainably crafted by nearly 40 local makers using fabric, notions, wallpaper, tile and other items diverted by FabMo from being sent to the landfill. Oct. 5 in Los Altos. [fabmo.org/artisans-market](http://fabmo.org/artisans-market)

**Great Glass Pumpkin Patch:** This sparkliest of pumpkin patches has been bringing glittering glass gourds to the Palo Alto Art Center's lawn for three decades. Pick your perfect glass pumpkin or other objet d'art from the patch and catch glass-blowing demonstrations at this favorite Peninsula event.

Sept. 27-28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Palo Alto Art Center. [greatglasspumpkinpatch.org](http://greatglasspumpkinpatch.org)

## Author events

**Books Inc. Palo Alto:** Sex educator, urologist and podcaster Kelly Casperson discusses her book "The Menopause Moment" (Sept. 18); Yiming Ma shares his new dystopian novel "These Memories Do Not Belong to Us," about a land where memories are bought and sold (Sept. 22) [booksinc.net](http://booksinc.net).

**Books Inc. Mountain View:** Author Emily Jane shares "American Werewolves," her new novel satirizing our capitalist



Courtesy Polydor Records

**THE WHO** Seminal British band The Who, known for iconic songs such as "My Generation," has been rocking since the 1960s, going on even after the deaths of original drummer Keith Moon and bassist John Entwistle. Now, lead singer Roger Daltrey and lead guitarist Pete Townshend are on what they're calling their North American farewell tour, including a stop at Shoreline Amphitheatre (with opening act Candlebox), along with the current touring lineup of Simon Townshend (Pete's baby brother) on mandolin, guitar and backing vocals; Loren Gold on keyboards and backing vocals; Jon Button on bass; Scott Devours on drums; John Hogg on backing vocals and percussion; and Jody Linscott on percussion. Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m., at Shoreline Amphitheatre, Mountain View. [shorelineamphitheatre.com/shows](http://shorelineamphitheatre.com/shows).

## FALL ARTS PREVIEW



Courtesy High Road Touring

**AN EVENING WITH JOAN BAEZ** Iconic musician and activist (and longtime local) Joan Baez recounts her time at Kepler's – then a counterculture headquarters – in the 1950s and '60s, and her love of literature and music, at a fundraising event for the bookstore, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. Baez will be in conversation with former University of California, Berkeley, adjunct professor Kimberly Ford. Other longtime Kepler's supporters, including author V.R. Feroze, are also scheduled to speak, and there will be refreshments at a reception before and after the event. Each admission ticket comes with a signed copy of Baez's book "Am I Pretty When I Fly?" Oct. 29, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at Kepler's Books, Menlo Park; [keplers.org](http://keplers.org).

society (Sept. 20); Bal Khabra discusses her latest romance novel, "Revolve," about a figure skater and hockey player falling in love (Oct. 15); Kimberly Bea presents "The Changeling Queen," her novel based on mystical Scottish folklore and tragic romance (Oct. 28). [booksinc.net](http://booksinc.net).

**Computer History Museum:** Author Victor Petrov discusses his book "Balkan Cyberia," about the many innovations in electronics and computing in Bulgaria during the Cold War era (Sept. 18). [computerhistory.org](http://computerhistory.org).

**Feldman's Books:** The Literature of War & Peace: A Symposium Part I (Oct. 11) and The Literature of War & Peace: A Symposium Part II (Oct. 18). [feldmansbooks.net](http://feldmansbooks.net).

**Fireside Books and More:** Wendelin Van Draanen, author of the Sammy Keyes mysteries and "Flipped," shares her latest young adult thriller (Sept. 12); Rebecca Bloom, author of "When Women Get Sick," is featured in conversation with Erika Bell, Director of Cancer Information and Education at Bay Area Cancer Connections, about how to improve women's health (Sept. 18); Storytime magician Mr. Horsefeathers Mr. Horsefeathers (Sept. 20); Indie Author Week (Sept. 22-26). [firesiderwc.com/events](http://firesiderwc.com/events).

**Linden Tree Books:** Abigail Hing Wen discusses her middle-grade debut novel "The Vale," about a 13-year-old who has built an immersive AI-generated

world using technology created by his inventor parents (Sept. 13); Penny Nolan shares her latest picture book, "Maverick's Ride," about a carousel horse who longs for freedom (Sept. 14); Shafaq Khan celebrates the launch of her debut novel, "Zeyna Lost and Found," about 12-year-old Zeyna, who must clear her parents' name after they are accused of a jewel heist during a family visit to Pakistan (Sept. 14); Bethanie Murguia shares "Wagnificent: A New Dog in the Den," the second in her graphic novel series about a pooch named Thunder and her human, Sage (Oct. 4); Scott Campbell marks the launch of his graphic novel, "Cabin Head and Tree Head," which captures the escapades of two unusual buddies (Oct. 7); Nidhi Chanani is featured in conversation with Booki Vivat about her newest book, "Super Boba Cafe: Home Sea Home" (Oct. 8). [lindentreebooks.com](http://lindentreebooks.com).

**Oshman Family Jewish Community Center:** An evening with Michelin-trained chef and dad David Nayfield, author of "Dad, What's for Dinner?" (Sept. 15). [palaltojcc.org](http://palaltojcc.org).

**Mountain View Library:** Author talks are virtual unless otherwise noted. Sci-fi author Ray Nayler discusses his latest book, "Where the Axe is Buried" (Sept. 23); science fiction author, activist and journalist Cory Doctorow discusses his newest book, "Picks & Shovels" (Sept. 25); education

activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai talks about her new memoir, "Finding My Way" (Oct. 22). [mountainview.libcal.com](http://mountainview.libcal.com).

**Palo Alto Libraries:** The Rinconada Library hosts a virtual event with Zach Rausch, researcher and co-author of the book "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing An Epidemic of Mental Illness" (Sept. 20); the Mitchell Park Library hosts a virtual discussion with Dr. Lisa Damour, author of "The Emotional Lives of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents" (Oct. 30). [paloalto.bibliocommons.com](http://paloalto.bibliocommons.com).

**Kepler's Books:** Sen. Josh Becker helps celebrate the launch of "Practicing the Art of Becoming: Embracing Risk and Discovering Your Authentic Being," a book by his longtime friend Patty Elvey (Sept. 16); Katherine Applegate discusses her new children's book, "Pocket Bear," about a teddy bear created as a good luck charm in World War I and his second chance at life a century later (Sept. 17); Kepler's throws a 70th anniversary block party, with live music, food and children's activities (Sept. 20); Kiran Desai talks about her latest novel, "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny," a love story and a family saga (Sept. 21); Political economist, former cabinet member and author Robert Reich shares his new memoir, "Saving Capitalism and The Common Good," Sept. 24 presented by Kepler's Books at the Fox Theatre; Amanda Uhle, publisher and executive director of McSweeney's, shares her memoir, "Destroy This House," in conversation with author Dave Eggers (Sept. 30); authors Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro share their new fantasy novel "The Court of the Dead," from the world of Percy Jackson (Oct. 1); Randi Weingarten, author of "Why Fascists Fear Teachers," discusses the importance of public education (Oct. 3); Alexandra Brown Chang shares her debut novel, the young adult romance "By Invitation Only" (Oct. 4); With "Replaceable You," author Mary Roach explores the groundbreaking territory of regenerative medicine (Oct. 7); Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, discusses the past and future of his invention in "This is For Everyone" (Oct. 8); Oliver Burkeman shares his new book, "Meditations for Mortals: Four Weeks to Embrace Your Limitations and Make Time for What Counts" (Oct. 9); Stanford University scientist Daria Mochly-Rosen and author Emanuel Rosen discuss their book "The Life Machines" (Oct. 17); editor John Freeman explores the current

landscape of California writers and what they can reveal about the state's past and future with "California Rewritten" (Oct. 21); in her memoir, "Like a Wave We Break," Jane Chen, inventor of a groundbreaking incubator that saved newborns in vulnerable communities, explores the journey of self-reflection she embarked on after her company shut down (Oct. 22); musician and activist Joan Baez recalls her time at the progressive bookstore in conversation with Kimberly Ford (Oct. 29); Drew Daywalt shares his new graphic novel, "No Sam! And the Meow of Deception," about Sam the pug, who strives to protect his humans from suburban evil (Nov. 2); author Gary Shteyngart discusses his latest novel, "Vera, or Faith" (Nov. 3); Pulitzer Prize-winning author Adam Johnson shares his newest novel. "The Wayfinder," set in the Polynesian islands, about a young girl who is chosen to save her people from

starvation (Nov. 5); nonfiction author Bruce Henderson discusses his latest book, "Midnight Flyboys," about a long-classified top-secret mission in Europe during World War II (Nov. 11); Story is the Thing features readings with local authors Richard Osborn, Lori Ostlund, Raj Oza and Shobha Rao (Nov. 12); Nicholas Thompson, CEO of The Atlantic, shares his experiences with distance running in "The Running Ground" (Nov. 22). [keplers.org](http://keplers.org).

**Stanford Live:** Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times investigative reporter Jodi Kantor, author of "She Said," about the Harvey Weinstein investigation, is featured in conversation with Stanford professor Pamela S. Karlan (Oct. 9) ■

For more fall arts events, visit [almanacnews.com/arts-culture](http://almanacnews.com/arts-culture).

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# Food & Drink

Le Petit Chef uses digital projections to create an immersive dining experience. Courtesy John Stephens/IRIS AND LIGHT.

## Larger than LIFE

### 3 immersive dining experiences on the Peninsula

By Karla Kane

This week, we are highlighting three Peninsula dining experiences that include playful, immersive and entertaining elements during their multi-course meal offerings: one focused on fine art, one involving an animated mini chef and one celebrating the food of beloved films.

Representatives from each extolled the events as fun ways to feel like a kid again (and actual kids are also welcome at all three). Read on to learn a bit about what to expect from 7 Paintings in Mountain View, Le Petit Chef in Santa Clara and Fork n' Film in Redwood City.



### 7 Paintings at The Ameswell Hotel

To see Leonardo da Vinci's original "Mona Lisa" in real life, you need to go to Paris. But to eat dinner while a digital version of Mona Lisa speaks? For that, you can go to Mountain View.

Mona Lisa is part of 7 Paintings at the Ameswell Hotel, a dining experience that pairs food with information about renowned artists and their work using immersive technology. Digital projections, narration, props, music and activities enhance the experience.

"It's a seven-course dinner that is inviting guests to have this journey through the art storytelling, and each course is dedicated to a certain artist," said Ksenia Gavrysh, the hotel's director of sales and marketing.

Over the 2.5-hour meal (offered regularly most Fridays and Saturday nights and on other nights by special reservation), in addition to meeting Mona Lisa, guests learn about the work of Michelangelo, Banksy, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol, Salvador Dali and Vincent van Gogh.

There are interactive elements to the show: For some courses, guests are tasked with solving puzzles, or invited to make art with their food.

"You have to put a little work in before you're actually allowed to eat," Gavrysh said with a laugh (but waitstaff can help if you get stuck on a clue).

For the Jackson Pollock course, diners create their own "vegetable paintings" out of purees and sauces, which veggies can then be dipped into.

"Every adult in the room enjoyed doing it," Gavrysh said of the hands-on activity during her first time experiencing the meal. "I think it brings us all to childhood."

Starting prices for the classic menu are \$195 per person, and there are vegetarian (\$179) and children's menu (\$85) options available as well.

Guests find nods to the styles and cultural backgrounds of the various artists not only through the projections and information about their artwork, but also through the food, the paired musical selections and certain props. The Michelangelo course (tomato praline, basil gel and watercress in shell crostini), for example, is served in a dish shaped like a hand, referencing the Sistine Chapel.

The Andy Warhol course (fillet of beef, sweet potato mash, glazed sugar snap peas and balsamic jus, or grilled mini peppers with couscous for vegetarians and a "grill cheese bite" and tomato soup from the kids' menu) comes covered by a Campbell's Soup can.

The surreal Dali-inspired course on the classic and vegetarian menus features Crema Catalana, mint and berries and salted caramel ice cream all served in a potato, which Gavrysh called "mindblowing," adding that waiters also apply dry ice "to create this effect of fog on your plate and on your table."

The dining part of the experience is helmed by Ameswell's executive chef, Chad Bayless, along with the hotel's food and beverage team, which is currently developing a program to pair wines with the courses as well. The experience is expected to be an ongoing one at Ameswell, although it is possible that the menu — or the featured artists — may eventually change, Gavrysh said.

7 Paintings started in Europe and has expanded internationally. The Ameswell was the first 7 Paintings venue in the U.S., according to Gavrysh.

These types of immersive meals reflect a desire to make dining out a special occasion beyond just eating quality food. "People are seeking ... experiences," she said.

Check online for reservation dates; Ameswell Hotel, 800 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View; [7paintings.com/en/mountain-view](http://7paintings.com/en/mountain-view). Instagram: @7paintings\_com, @theameswellhotel.

### Le Petit Chef at Santa Clara Marriott

At the Santa Clara Marriott, executive chef Nelson Ramirez rules the kitchen. But he has a little help these days — *really* little — thanks to the hotel's new immersive dining experience Le Petit Chef.

The titular tiny chef is just 6 centimeters tall and is, in fact, a digital animation. Le Petit Chef diners follow the little guy's adventures as he sources and prepares their five-course gourmet meals timed to the serving of the actual dishes. The animations appear using 3D projection mapping onto the dining tables via overhead projectors. The experience also includes themed music and props.

"You feel that you're sort of in a theater-type atmosphere," said Santa Clara Marriott's director of hotel sales Kevin Thompson. "It brings the kid out of you, at least it did for me when I experienced it."

Diners can choose between several menu options: "Le Grand Chef," which includes burrata; cioppino with fresh crab and caviar; lobster; filet mignon with potatoes and mushrooms; and Meyer lemon tart (\$159 per person); "Le Petit Chef Classic" (similar, minus the crab and caviar plus wagyu flat iron steak instead of filet mignon, \$129 per person); "Le Petit Chef Vegetarian" (featuring tomato gazpacho, risotto and potato fondant in lieu of the seafood and meat dishes, \$129 per person); and "Le Petit Chef Kids" for children 12 and under (including kid-friendly courses such as macaroni and cheese croquettes and s'mores for dessert; \$69 per person). According to Le Petit Chef's website, dietary restrictions, including vegan and gluten-free, can be accommodated upon request.

No matter which menu is selected, the visual experience is the same and is based on the "Grand" option.

"You get all enthralled with the chef, and all the

See **IMMERSIVE**, page 30

## IMMERSIVE

continued from page 29

obstacles that he's having to go through just to prepare the dish," Thompson said. "It's a little comical, so you really are entertained before the dish is set in front of you."

Thompson's personal favorite is the final course.

"I love when the desserts come out because I love sweets more than anything," he said with a laugh.

Like 7 Paintings, Le Petit Chef started

in Europe and now operates in locations around the world. Before bringing it to Santa Clara, Marriott staff ventured to San Francisco to experience a Le Petit Chef meal there.

"The entire executive staff, we just sort of fell in love with it and we felt like this would be a really good thing for our guests, and for an option just for locals as well," Thompson said.

Something that makes each Le Petit Chef location unique is the in-person presence of the emcee who guides the storytelling,

explaining where the little chef is and what he's doing on each adventure. At the Santa Clara Marriott, that person is restaurant manager Sayed Zaky, and right away Thompson knew he'd be the right person for the job.

"You definitely have to have an emcee that is theatrical, that is over the top, and we definitely found that in Zaky," Thompson said. "When we approached him he was like, 'Oh my God, I'd love to do this!'"

The hotel is currently taking reservations through the end of the year, and Thompson

said Ramirez has expressed interest in changing up the menu later on in autumn. There are several different Le Petit Chef themes for venues to choose from, and once a space is configured it's easy to shift between themes, he said. "All it is is just a flip of a switch and you've got a totally different video that comes over."

*Tuesdays-Saturdays (times vary); Santa Clara Marriott, 2700 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara; lepetitchef.com/santa-clara. Instagram: @lepetitchef, @santaclaramarriott.*

## Fork n' Film at Grand Bay Hotel San Francisco

When it comes to planning an evening out, "dinner and a movie" is hardly a novel concept. But how about dinner completely inspired by — and served alongside — a movie?

"Fork n' Film is an immersive culinary experience that recreates dishes from iconic, nostalgic movies, and serves them as they appear on screen," co-CEO Francesca Duncan said in an email. "Guests enjoy a six-to-eight course meal with cocktails, starting with champagne and, of course, popcorn. Once the movie begins, each time a food moment is shown on screen, the exact dish or drink appears in front of them."

As the company's website puts it, it's "cinema you can taste."

The Los Angeles-based Fork n' Film was founded in 2023 and is growing quickly, with events around the U.S. and

internationally. Bay Area events began in May.

Duncan said she curates each menu herself.

"I watch each movie tons of times, picking out the best food moments, or most iconic scenes. Then, I create a meal or drink out of it," she said. "I sketch my ideas and send them to our executive chef (Raine Carter), who turns my ideas into recipes. We send these recipes to all of our locations for the hotel staff to execute."

Grand Bay Hotel San Francisco in Redwood City is the current Bay Area venue for the events (the location is listed on the website as San Francisco; click through to buy tickets to find the venue name and address.) Upcoming film screenings at that location include "Ratatouille" (Sept. 13-14), "Coco"

(Sept. 19-21), "Wicked" (Sept. 26-28), "Hocus Pocus" (Oct. 5, 10 and 12), "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (Oct. 17-19) and "Frozen" (Nov. 7-8), with more to come, according to Duncan.

"With 'Coco,' we've crafted a truly authentic Mexican menu in collaboration with our partners in our Cancún location, bringing guests a genuine Mexican experience," Duncan said. "We also recently launched Fork n' Sing, where we encourage guests to sing along to each song in 'Wicked.'"

Being surprised by the food and drinks is part of the fun, according to Fork n' Film's website, so menus are not posted online, but photos on Instagram offer some peeks into past events. Guests can select vegetarian or vegan options when making reservations, and gluten-free items are noted on the menu, the website states. Tickets to the Grand Bay Hotel San Francisco events are \$199.99 per person.

According to Fork n' Film's website,

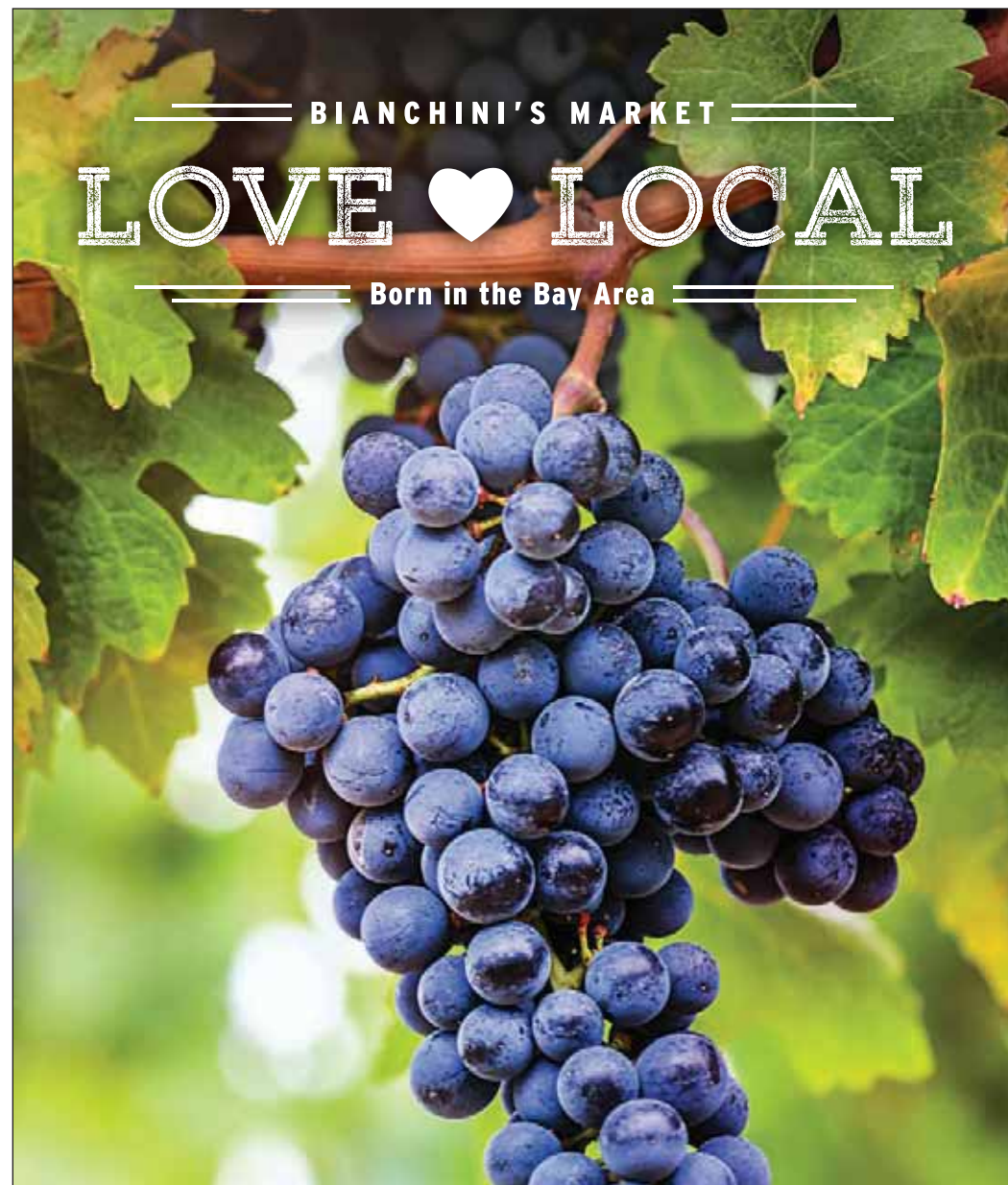
events often sell out quickly. The company also offers yearly memberships at various levels and can also host private events.

Fork n' Film's goal, Duncan said, "is to make our guests feel young again. Many of the films are childhood favorites, evoking warm and fuzzy nostalgic feelings." ■

*Various dates, Grand Bay Hotel San Francisco, 223 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City; forknfilm.com. Instagram: @forknfilm, @grandbayhotel.*

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