

The Almanac

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE MIDPENINSULA

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Read all about it

Silicon Valley is home to a plethora of book clubs

By Karla Kane

For bibliophiles interested in sharing their enthusiasm for reading with others, book clubs can be a great way of creating community and diving deep into the written word in a friendly, yet organized, way. The Peninsula is brimming with book clubs for all kinds of readers and fans of all types of genres and topics.

While some clubs meet privately, there are plenty of others that are open to anyone. Check out a local public library or independent bookshop to find the book club of your dreams near you. Pacifica's Sanchez Library, for example, hosts a monthly morning walk-and-talk book club that combines discussion with a nice stroll, while Feldman's Books in Menlo Park offers a historical fiction club that includes wine and cheese.

We've featured a few more specialty clubs below, including a graphic novel club in Palo

Alto, a novella club in Redwood City, a multi-city cookbook club and a "silent" book club in San Mateo.

Graphic novel book club, Palo Alto

Graphic novels and comic books are wildly popular with young readers, but they have plenty of grown-up fans as well, with no shortage of sophisticated works in all genres to choose from. Graphic novel lovers can find book clubs dedicated to the genre, for example, at Palo Alto's Mitchell Park Library, where Danièle Archambault has been leading a graphic novel book club for readers 16 and up since 2015.

Archambault is a researcher, educator and graphic novelist herself. She teaches a class on the art of visual storytelling at the Palo Alto Art Center, where her students expressed an interest in going deeper into the visually engaging world of graphic novels and comic books than they had time for in class.



Seeger Gray

Graphic Novel Book Club members discuss "In." by Will McPhail at Mitchell Park Library in Palo Alto.

"I started the book club so we could read books and discuss them," she said.

Archambault is originally from Montreal and has always enjoyed comic books and graphic novels. "It's in the French culture to read those books, even for adults," she said.

After taking a Stanford

Continuing Studies course on writing graphic novels, she started creating her own, enjoying the medium as a way of documenting her observations on culture and society.

The graphic novel book club includes a variety of genres as well as fiction and nonfiction works, including biography,

history and memoir. In the club's early years, Archambault selected all the books herself, concentrating on the classics. Now, members help select entries from a long list Archambault puts together annually, usually chosen from books published

See **BOOK CLUBS**, page 14

High school district cites costs, shrinking enrollment for closing TIDE

In marathon meetings, families and teachers say data overlooks STEM school's role as a haven for struggling students

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Low birth rates, lack of diversity, declining enrollment and budget deficits. The Sequoia Union High School District cites these key factors as the reasons TIDE Academy could be shut down, but parents, students and teachers are not satisfied with the data.

"At large schools, students sit invisibly. At TIDE, our student council sees students sitting alone and sends other students to befriend them," said Joanne Yao, an English teacher at TIDE.

The STEM-based school on the industrial side of Menlo Park stands out from traditional high schools, right down to its neon yellow exterior. TIDE was built to provide "an alternative small school to meet the diverse needs of the student population," according to a district mailer. Since opening in 2019, the campus has become a safe place for nearly 200 students, many of whom say they felt like outsiders in larger schools.

Despite pouring \$50 million in bond funds into constructing a modern school focused on science, technology, engineering

and mathematics (STEM), the district is now considering shutting down TIDE after six years of operation. Sequoia Union is facing a projected deficit of over \$6 million by the end of this school year, said Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Janea Marking during a Jan. 15 presentation.

The district spends thousands more per student at TIDE compared to those of its other campuses, according to district staff. SUHSD spends an average of \$39,169 per student at TIDE compared to \$20,758 per

Menlo-Atherton High School student, district data shows.

Faced with an impending school board vote in February, TIDE Academy families and students last week spent three consecutive days listening to Sequoia Union High School District officials present data illustrating the challenges of operating the small high school.

In November, a board subcommittee asked Superintendent Crystal Leach to develop a plan to consider closing TIDE, due to its declining enrollment and the district's structural deficit.

In December, Leach assured

parents and students that they would be presented with data on enrollment numbers and district finances during two community meetings in January.

According to a demographic study conducted by King Consulting, district enrollment has steadily declined across all campuses since the 2021-22 school year, not just TIDE. The enrollment study forecasts a continued annual decrease in students through 2034.

This year the district has a total

See **TIDE ACADEMY**, page 17

INSIDE

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Congratulations!

Francis Lopez

AREAA SV PRESIDENT & DELEON DIRECTOR OF LISTINGS



DeLeon Realty would like to congratulate Francis Lopez on being elected the 2026 President of the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA), Silicon Valley Chapter.

AREAA is a national trade organization with over 19,000 members across 45 chapters. Their members are real estate, mortgage, and housing professionals dedicated to representing the interests of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) real estate market nationwide. Through his role at AREAA SV, Francis has met with real estate leaders across California and the U.S., collaborating and sharing insights while creating valuable connections for DeLeon Realty listings.

Francis' dedication to the AAPI community and the local Peninsula community has pushed him into leadership roles with both AREAA and DeLeon Realty. In addition to his work

with AREAA, Ken DeLeon and Michael Repka have selected Francis to lead DeLeon Realty's listings in Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside. His singular focus, depth of market knowledge and leadership within the industry make Francis an invaluable resource to clients and colleagues alike.

We would also like to congratulate outgoing AREAA National President Jamie Tian, outgoing AREAA SV President Phoenix Chiang, and all AREAA members who devote their time and efforts into strengthening housing opportunities for Asian communities locally, nationally, and abroad.

Francis Lopez (DRE #02119541)

650.407.0160 | francis@deleonrealty.com



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Courtesy Bernard Spragg/Flickr under Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication

This is an example of a powered paraglider, a type of ultralight aircraft that uses a motor in addition to a paraglider wing to fly.

Pilot's report of 'erratically' flying paraglider triggers search at SLAC campus

First responders searched for over an hour before learning the craft landed safely

By Arden Margulis

A false alarm sent Menlo Park firefighters searching for a crashed paraglider on Saturday, Jan. 17, according to a pilot who witnessed the initial incident. The search was called off after the paraglider landed safely in Palo Alto.

According to a pilot in the plane that made the report, a powered paraglider was seen flying dangerously above the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park.

Orlando Nell, a student pilot who was aboard a plane flying into San Carlos Airport, told this news organization that he and another pilot saw

a powered paraglider flying erratically and creating a hazard around noon on Saturday. Their report somehow was miscommunicated, leading first responders to believe there was a crashed aircraft near SLAC's sprawling 426-acre campus, located on Sand

See **PARAGLIDER**, page 10



Courtesy San Francisco Giants

Brandon Crawford played with the San Francisco Giants from 2011 to 2023, earning two World Series titles.

Brandon Crawford joins Bay Area hall of fame

Giants' star with Menlo Park ties joins local luminaries

By Emma Montalbano

Brandon Crawford, the decorated former San Francisco Giants' shortstop and a Peninsula native, is one of five athletes slated for induction into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame this spring.

"Being from the Bay Area, all my favorite players are in the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame, so it's very humbling and a huge honor for me," Crawford said through a Giants' spokesperson.

The Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame announced its 2026 class of inductees on Wednesday, Jan. 14. Along with Crawford, the list featured five-time Olympic gold medal winning swimmer Missy Franklin; two-time track and

field world record holder Eddie Hart; four-time Super Bowl champion Jesse Sapolu; and rugby coach Jack Clark, who has led his UC Berkeley team to 30 national championships.

Crawford was born at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View and spent his early childhood in Menlo Park. When he was around 6 years old, his family moved over to Pleasanton, where he played baseball and football for the Foothill High School Falcons.

Crawford showed signs of athleticism from a very young age, his mother Lynn Crawford said in an interview last year with the Pleasanton Weekly. Growing up,

See **CRAWFORD**, page 13

Mushroom poisonings rise amid rainy season outbreak

Wild death cap mushrooms blamed for three deaths in California

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Three people in California have died after consuming wild death cap mushrooms, a fatal fungus that can cause severe liver damage from amatoxin poisoning. Within two months, the toxic mushroom has sent 35 people to the hospital, with three people needing liver transplants.

The death cap mushroom, also known as *amanita phalloides*, has led to an outbreak of poisonings since December, affecting individuals between

the ages of 19 months and 67 years old. The California Department of Public Health announced on Jan. 14 that the total number of hospitalizations has grown.

State officials are urging people to stop picking or eating wild mushrooms. The death cap mushroom can easily be confused for lookalike mushrooms that are safe to eat. Another toxic mushroom popping up this rainy season is called the western destroying angel mushroom, or *amanita ocreata*.

Reports of mushroom

poisoning have come from across Northern California and the Central Coast, from Sonoma to San Luis Obispo. People have sought medical treatment in several local counties, including San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Contra Costa, Alameda and Monterey.

Mushroom poisonings are more common among people who are new to California and used to foraging similar edible mushrooms in their home countries, according to state health officials.

Expert mushroom foragers

say that this winter's mushroom season has seen an abundance of death cap mushrooms sprouting across California. The deadly fungi grows near oak trees and other hardwoods.

Treatment for amatoxin poisoning can be more difficult once symptoms start, according to the CDPH. Initial symptoms after eating a toxic mushroom can cause watery diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and dehydration within six to 24 hours. Although symptoms will

See **MUSHROOMS**, page 10

State officials are urging people to stop picking or eating wild mushrooms. The death cap mushroom can easily be confused for lookalike mushrooms that are safe to eat.

California investigates Musk's AI company after 'avalanche' of complaints about sexual content

Elon Musk's X and xAI are accused of enabling the spread of nude imagery without consent

By CalMatters

California Attorney General Rob Bonta on Wednesday announced an investigation into how and whether Elon Musk's X and xAI broke the law in the past few weeks by enabling the spread of naked or sexual imagery without consent.

xAI reportedly updated its Grok artificial intelligence tool last month to allow image editing. Users on the social media platform X, which is connected to the tool, began using Grok to remove clothing in pictures of women and children.

"The avalanche of reports detailing the non-consensual sexually explicit material that xAI has produced and posted online in recent weeks is shocking," Bonta said in a written statement Jan. 14. "This material, which depicts women and children in nude and sexually explicit situations, has been used to harass people across the internet. I urge xAI to take immediate action to ensure this goes no further."



Courtesy Office of Gov. Gavin Newsom

California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Elon Musk at Tesla's new global engineering and AI headquarters in Palo Alto in 2023.

Bonta urged Californians who want to report depictions of them or their children undressed or committing sexual acts to visit oag.ca.gov/report.

Research obtained by Bloomberg found that X now produces more non-consensual naked or sexual imagery than any other website online. In a posting on X, Musk promised "consequences" for people who

made illegal content with the tool. On Jan. 16, Grok limited image editing to paying subscribers.

One potential route for Bonta to prosecute xAI is a law that went into effect just two weeks ago creating legal liability for the creation and distribution of "deepfake" pornography.

X and xAI appear to be violating the provisions of that

law, known as AB 621, said Sam Dordulian, who previously worked in the sex crimes unit of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office but today works as a lawyer for people in cases involving deepfakes or revenge porn in private practice.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, author of the law, told CalMatters in a statement last week that she reached out to prosecutors, including the attorney general's office and the city attorney of San Francisco, to remind them that they can act under the law. What's happening on X, Bauer-Kahan said, is what AB 621 was designed to address.

"Real women are having their images manipulated without consent, and the psychological and reputational harm is devastating," the San Ramon Democrat said in an emailed statement. "Underage children are having their images used to create child sexual abuse material, and these websites are knowingly facilitating it."

Bonta's inquiry also comes shortly after a call for an investigation by Gov. Gavin Newsom, backlash from regulators in the European Union and India and X bans in Malaysia, Indonesia, and potentially the United Kingdom. As Grok app downloads rise in Apple and Google app stores, X is facing calls by lawmakers and advocates to ban downloads.

Why Grok created the feature the way it did and how it will respond to the controversy around it is unclear, and answers may not be forthcoming, since an analysis recently concluded that it's the least transparent of major AI systems available today. xAI did not address questions about the investigation from CalMatters.

Evidence of concrete harm from deepfakes is piling up. In 2024, the FBI warned that use of deepfake tools to extort young people is a growing problem that has led to instances of self harm and suicide. Multiple audits have found that child sexual abuse material is inside the training data of AI models, making them capable of generating vulgar photos. A 2024 Center for Democracy and Technology survey found that 15 percent of high school students have heard of or seen sexually explicit imagery of someone they know at school in the past year.

The investigation announced



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See **AI COMPLAINTS**, page 11

Sheriff Binder names new assistant sheriffs for custody, operations

Frank Dal Porto will oversee the county jails, and Mark Myers will oversee patrol and investigations

By Arden Margulis

San Mateo County Sheriff Ken Binder selected longtime sheriff employee Frank Dal Porto as assistant sheriff of corrections and Mark Myers as assistant sheriff of operations.

Dal Porto most recently served as captain of the Sheriff's Office Headquarters Patrol Bureau, where he acted as chief of police services for Portola Valley and Woodside, which contract with the county, and for unincorporated communities including North Fair Oaks and West Menlo Park.

As assistant sheriff of corrections, Dal Porto will oversee the county's two adult correctional facilities — the Maguire Correctional Facility and the Maple Street Correctional Center. The facilities housed an average daily population of 1,253 people in 2025, according to the Sheriff's Office. In recent years, the corrections division has faced scrutiny over multiple in-custody deaths during the tenure of former Sheriff Christina Corpus.

Dal Porto joined the Sheriff's Office in 1998 as a correctional officer and has held leadership roles in both custody and patrol operations, including overseeing Maple Street and managing major capital projects such as the



Courtesy San Mateo County Sheriff

San Mateo County Sheriff Ken Binder selected longtime sheriff employee Frank Dal Porto, left, as assistant sheriff of corrections and Mark Myers, right, as assistant sheriff of operations.

2024 move to the Sheriff's Office headquarters building.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as assistant sheriff and see it as a true privilege and honor to be entrusted with leading the corrections division," Dal Porto said in a statement. "I look forward to serving our employees, the community and incarcerated persons with integrity and a continued commitment to professionalism and safety."

Binder announced Dal Porto's promotion alongside the appointment of Myers as assistant sheriff of operations. Myers will oversee patrol services and investigations

for contract cities and unincorporated areas countywide, as well as the Sheriff's Office Transit Bureau, which provides law enforcement services for Caltrain.

"I'm very excited to continue serving our contract cities and unincorporated communities in this new role alongside the incredible men and women of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office," said Myers in a statement.

Both promotions took effect Jan. 18. ■

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at amargulis@almanacnews.com.

First measles case of 2026 confirmed in San Mateo County

By Arden Margulis

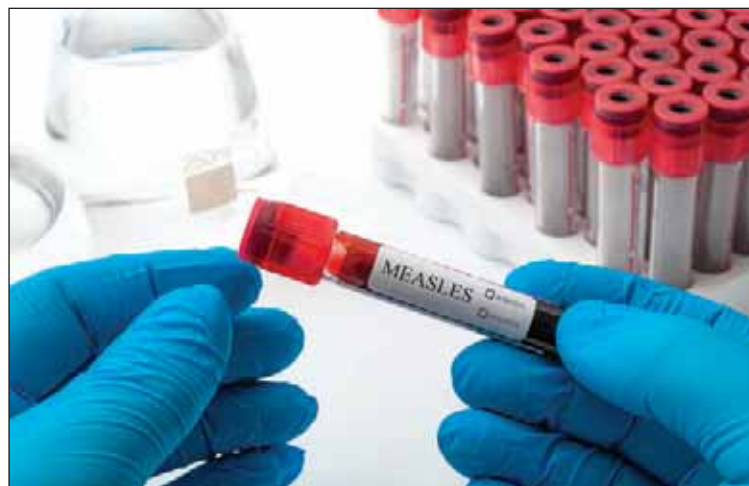
San Mateo County saw the first California measles case of 2026 earlier this month when an unvaccinated adult tested positive after returning from an international trip, San Mateo County Health Officials confirmed on Jan. 15.

While officials did not share any details about the individual due to privacy concerns, Communications Officer Preston Merchant said the county completed its contact tracing and that no one else developed symptoms.

As of Jan. 19, it remained the only confirmed measles case in California.

Merchant said overseas measles exposure is fairly common and since local vaccination rates are high, the county determined the risk to the public was low.

"In this case, we were confident that we were able to identify and reach the persons who



Courtesy Getty Images

San Mateo County reported California's first measles case of 2026 after an unvaccinated adult tested positive for the virus.

may have been exposed by this case," Merchant said.

The county did not issue a proactive statement but the data was shared on the California Department of Public Health website.

CDPH recommends that

travelers ensure they are up to date on all vaccines before international travel.

In 2025, there were 25 confirmed cases of measles in California.

KQED first reported on the 2026 measles case. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Is The Electric Grid Reliable?

Dear Monica: I'm going to be selling my property and wonder if buyers value having a generator or other back up system in case the electric grid goes down?
Linda G.

Dear Linda: The more our homes rely on electricity to run them, the more vulnerable they are to interruptions in service. There are workarounds that can be used if the grid goes down such as solar power, battery power built up and stored, cellular networks, satellite service and gas-powered generators. The more reliant we are on electricity the more buyers appreciate having backup power sources. Consult advisors who can help you determine what would be best for your property.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

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All Saints Episcopal Church invites you to the opening reception of **Icons in Transformation**, an exhibit featuring 150 works of contemporary art installed throughout the church grounds, by **Ludmila Pawlowska**.

The evening includes an opportunity to meet the artist, hear live music, and a raffle of one of the exhibited artworks.

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Ludmila Pawlowska



**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE 2026-648**

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WOODSIDE AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 150: BUILDING REGULATIONS TO ADOPT THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE AND FINDING THAT THE ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.

This Ordinance was introduced on the 9th day of December, 2025, and was passed and adopted by the Town Council on the 13th day of January, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS Aburish, Brown, Goeld, Wall, and Mayor Dombkowski
NOES, None
ABSENT, None
ABSTAIN, None

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE 2026-649**

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WOODSIDE ADDING A NEW MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 94.06, PROHIBITION OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS, OF CHAPTER 94, HEALTH AND SANITATION.

This Ordinance was introduced on the 9th day of December, 2025, and was passed and adopted by the Town Council on the 13th day of January, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS Aburish, Brown, Goeld, Wall, and Mayor Dombkowski
NOES, None
ABSENT, None
ABSTAIN, None

Menlo Park office building goes for 2025's highest sales price

The two-story office building sold for \$103.75 million

By Arden Margulis

A two-story office building in Menlo Park sold for \$103.75 million in December, at a record \$2,271 per square foot for an office sale in San Mateo County in 2025, according to real estate software company Yardi Matrix.

The 45,674-square-foot property at 1540 El Camino Real was sold by Los Altos-based developer Four Corners Properties, which acquired the site in 2019. The company built the office complex, along with the three-story Realm apartment building behind it. The December sales transaction, however, did not include the apartment building, according to documents viewed by this news organization. The office building was purchased by SG Menlo LLC, a company recently registered in Irvine by Hyung Nam Kim, according to the California Secretary of State.

Four Corners Properties sold the office building as part of an effort to reduce financial risk of its portfolio, the Silicon Valley Business Journal reported. The company told the Journal it is on



Arden Margulis

An office building at the former site of Beltramo's Wines & Spirits, 1540 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, recently sold for \$103.75 million.

a buying spree and has recently purchased a 24-acre property in San Jose for \$50.5 million.

The site has a long commercial history. Beltramo's Wines & Spirits operated there for more than 80 years, until the business closed in 2016. Current tenants include investment firm Glynn Capital and law firm Sheppard Mullin.

Office space in Menlo Park is some of the priciest in the United States, with average leasing rates at \$8.72 per square foot according to a 2025 Q4 report by Kidder Mathews. In San Mateo County,

the average lease is \$5.77 per square foot, and the Silicon Valley average (which does not include any part of San Mateo County) is \$4.10.

Menlo Park has a disproportionate amount of office space compared to its population. It has a total office inventory of 7,610,528 square feet, comprising 18.8% of San Mateo County's office space, but it has only 4.4% of San Mateo County's population, according to Kidder Mathews.

Four Corners Properties did not respond to a request for comment. ■

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General Manager's Corner



Sergio Ramirez
General Manager

If 2025 felt like a flash, it was, at least here at West Bay Sanitary District. Our Admin, Engineering, Maintenance, and Water Quality teams have been busy upgrading systems and replacing infrastructure. In 2023, the District completed its 10-year Master Plan, and staff have been busy bringing the plan to life. This past year, the District replaced approximately 1.5 miles of pipeline and eliminated many high-frequency pipeline schedules. In addition, the District's in-house construction crew completed one hundred fifty-seven (157) spot repairs using traditional open-trench and trenchless pipeline point repairs.

The District also entered into its third Operation and Maintenance interagency agreement with the City of East Palo Alto to help operate and maintain the City's wastewater collection system. The agreement requires the District to hydro-clean and video-inspect the entire system to identify needed repairs and minimize sewer overflows. In just twelve months, District staff have cleaned the

City's entire wastewater collection system and have completed 80% of the pipeline video inspections. Just as West Bay does for its system, repairs are routed to engineering to prioritize the repairs and implement full pipeline replacement projects.

At this time last year, the District was beginning construction on the new Bayfront Recycled Water Facility behind Bedwell Bayfront Park. The new facility will bring recycled water to the Menlo Park and Atherton area and eventually to the Menlo Park Government Center, Burgess Park, as well as the Willow Village project. The District broke ground

by demolishing the decommissioned Menlo Park Sanitary District treatment plant, which was constructed in the 1940s and retired in the early 1980s. Demolishing the old facility made way to constructing the one million gallons per day reclamation water facility and distribution system. The new facility will take raw wastewater and convert it to Title XXII clean and clear reusable water for irrigation, cooling towers, commercial, and multi-family toilet flushing.

Another notable project was the installation of a vertical and horizontal ecotone levee system to protect the Bayfront Recycled Water Facility and the District's twenty-acre Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility. The project received a \$4.7 million grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and created natural upland habitat protection. The project raised the levee elevation to fifteen feet, four feet above the FEMA eleven-foot flood elevation. West Bay was recognized for this project by receiving the 2025 Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association (APWA).

In 2026, the District will work with local jurisdictions to address the rapidly growing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) industry and permitting process. Unfortunately, just as in many other agencies across the state, several ADUs have been constructed without the benefit of the local sanitary district's review and the ADUs' impact on the wastewater system. The District will seek to rectify the permitting process and make sure previously installed ADUs are carefully accounted for and are permitted appropriately.

For more information on ADU permitting, reclaimed water, and other projects, please visit our website at WestBaySanitary.org. Thank you, and we look forward to another great year!



WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT HONORED WITH THE 2025 PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

West Bay Sanitary District is proud to announce that it has received the **2025 Project of the Year Award** from the **American Public Works Association (APWA) Silicon Valley Chapter** in the **Sustainable/Green category**. The award ceremony was held in May 2025, where project partners, including Freyer & Laureta, Inc., were also acknowledged for their contributions.



A major part of this project included improvements to the Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility. This facility plays an important role during heavy rain by managing stormwater and wastewater, preventing system overloads and protecting the surrounding environment.

The Levee Improvement Project was supported by a \$4 million grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This funding made it possible for the District to strengthen essential infrastructure while protecting nearby wetlands and wildlife habitat.



Project of the Year Award

LET'S TALK NUMBERS – AND WELCOME OUR NEW FINANCE MANAGER.

We are excited to welcome **Vivian Chu**, our new **Finance Manager**, to the West Bay Sanitary District team! Vivian is a Certified Public Accountant with over 20 years of specialized experience in governmental accounting and finance. Throughout her career, Vivian has served multiple Bay Area cities, providing expertise in financial reporting, budget development, audit preparation, and compliance with GASB standards. Known for a strong command of public sector accounting practices, Vivian has played a key role in improving financial transparency, strengthening internal controls, and supporting long-term fiscal sustainability for local governments. We are pleased to have her!



Vivian Chu

BAYFRONT RECYCLED WATER FACILITY PROJECT

After a year of construction, the Bayfront Recycled Water Facility Project is quickly taking shape. The project will feature a state-of-the-art recycled water facility, a distribution pipeline, and an influent wastewater pumping station. The concrete bioreactor structure walls are now up, and interior work is set to begin soon. Construction is also underway on the Advanced Treatment and Headworks buildings. In addition, construction has begun on the two recycled water storage tanks. The total project cost is \$66 million, which includes a \$5 million grant. The remaining funding will be collected through recycled water connection fees paid by recycled water customers and redevelopment.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE AND COUNTING

This year, we recognized Jed Beyer for 25 years of dedicated service to the West Bay Sanitary District. A Menlo Park native, Jed, joined the District in 2000 and has worked across various areas of wastewater collections and environmental compliance. Over the years, he advanced into the role of Water Quality Manager, where he oversees industrial and commercial wastewater programs, recycled water operations, environmental reporting, and the District's Safety and Health Program.



Jed Beyer

Jed's technical knowledge and experience have played an important role in supporting regulatory compliance and protecting local waterways. We appreciate his long-term commitment and the steady contribution he has made to the District's operations.

Congratulations, Jed, on 25 years of service!

PLAN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

At West Bay Sanitary District, we are committed to providing excellent sewer services to all property owners we serve. This is done through reviewing plans thoroughly before a house, multifamily, office, or commercial building is set for occupancy. To prevent sewage spills, backflows, and increased sewer maintenance from happening, we make it a point to review these plan sets to the best of our ability so that in the end the District and most importantly, the citizens and property owners are all satisfied with how the sanitary sewer system operates.

Here are some examples of current projects being reviewed for sanitary sewer service and recycled water by the District.

1) Moxy Hotel is located at 3723 Haven Avenue in Menlo Park; this project is a 163-room hotel and consists of two stories of podium parking. The project will include a coffee shop, hotel rooms, and other lounge areas which could include an outdoor rooftop garden. The building and outdoor rooftop garden could be supplied with recycled water by the District.



Moxy Hotel

2) SRI Parkline located along 333 Ravenswood Avenue in Menlo Park, the old SRI research campus is being redeveloped into a space filled with various residences such as town homes, commercial offices, and other open space amenities. This could be another opportunity to serve the community with the District's recycled water.



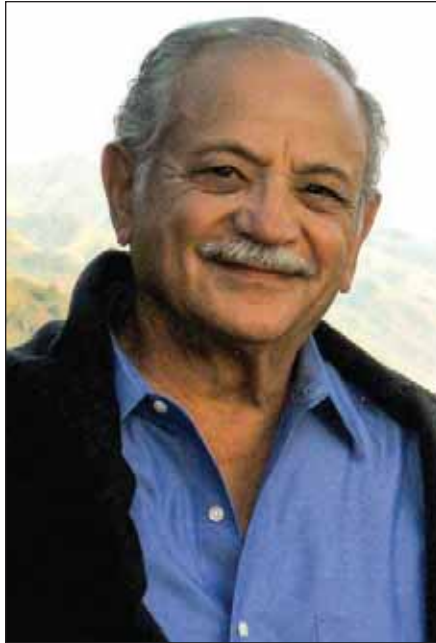
SRI Parkline

CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORTS

For the Point Repair Project 3A, our contractor, Casey Construction, has started work in the Olive Easement area. Crews are installing approximately 250 feet of new 8-inch PVC sewer pipe, along with a new manhole that will help improve access and maintenance. This will help make future maintenance easier and improve the overall reliability of the sewer system.

They've also begun work on Elena Ave. and Park Ave. in Atherton. That portion of the project includes replacing some of the older terracotta clay sewer pipelines with new 12-inch, 10-inch, and 8-inch PVC pipelines. These updates are part of our ongoing effort to improve aging infrastructure and help prevent issues before they occur. West Bay Sanitary District aims to replace approximately \$5 to \$10 million of pipeline infrastructure each year.

For a sewer emergency or sewer-related problems, please call us first! You can reach us day or night at (650) 321-0384. If the main public sewer line is blocked, only West Bay has the authority to clear the system. If the public sewer main line is clear, we may advise you to contact a plumbing contractor to resolve the issue on your property.



Monte William Klein

Monte William Klein, 88, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on December 24, 2025. Born in St. Louis to Ann and William Klein, he grew up in Festus, Missouri where his father, a pharmacist, owned a drugstore. His mother balanced helping to run the business with raising their family which included Monte's older brother Stan.

Monte attended local public schools and later Culver Military Academy (Class of 1955), an experience he credited with instilling lifelong self-discipline and confidence. Thanks to the mentorship of his mathematics teacher Col. Homer Obenauf, Monte realized he had the ability to work with numbers and successfully did so during his entire career. He graduated from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri in 1959.

After college, military service, and early work in St. Louis, Monte moved to California drawn by the ocean and encouraged by friends already living in San Francisco. He began his career in Palo Alto as a residential mortgage agent with Mason McDuffie, later transitioning into commercial lending. In 1975, he founded Monte Klein Company, Inc., working independently as a mortgage broker for 30 years, with his wife Jan serving as his bookkeeper.

Monte and Jan met on a blind date and married in 1964. In fact, Monte passed away just days shy of their 61st wedding anniversary. They settled in the Bay Area, raised their daughters, Ann and Mara, and shared a life filled with travel, home projects, and dogs. They traveled often, including repeated trips to Italy where they traveled and saw friends, spent a week during many summers at Drakesbad Guest Ranch near Mt. Lassen, and an annual birthday trip to Carmel which included walking Carmel Beach. Working from home allowed Monte to pursue his many interests including cooking, opera (especially Puccini), photography, metal sculpture made from found objects, and following the San Francisco Giants.

Grateful for the opportunities he had, Monte and Jan established scholarships at both Culver Academy and Westminster College. In 2011, they created an annual award at Culver honoring Col. Obenauf by recognizing one math teacher every year whose teaching most reflects Col. Obenauf's dedication and generosity.

Monte faced significant health challenges throughout his life, including kidney, heart, and lung disease, meeting them with resilience and discipline. Dialysis sustained him during his final five years.

He is survived by his wife Jan, daughters Mara Klein and Ann Schilling (Rob), and grandchildren Jordan, Natalie, and Adam Schilling. He took great pride in his family. He left behind a home filled with his black-and-white photographs and a yard dotted with his metal sculptures.

Donations in Monte's memory may be made to KQED, American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Leadership Council or a charity of one's choice.

PAID OBITUARY



Courtesy Eleanor Raab

Death cap mushrooms are common in California and eating them can be deadly.

MUSHROOMS

continued from page 5

subside within a day, patients may experience serious or even fatal liver damage days after eating the mushroom.

Mushroom poisonings can also lead to kidney damage, seizures, hallucinations and death, according to public health officials.

The best way to stay safe from potential poisonings is to

not eat wild mushrooms, avoid mushrooms picked by friends or family and to be cautious of pets and young children playing around areas where mushrooms grow.

If you or someone you know has consumed a poisonous mushroom, immediately contact the California Poison Control System hotline at 800-222-1222.

Local mycological societies can help people identify mushrooms properly before

consumption to prevent potential poisonings. Find resources at the San Francisco Mycological Society, Peninsula Mycology Circle, Bay Area Applied Mycology, Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz and Sonoma County Mycological Association.

For more information, visit cdph.ca.gov. ■

*Email Staff Writer
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at*

jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com

PARAGLIDER

continued from page 5

Hill Road in Menlo Park.

"The individual was operating at multiple altitudes, both significantly below us and later above us, while maneuvering unpredictably in busy airspace near San Carlos Airport," said Nell.

Powered paragliders, which typically include a paraglider wing and a motor, are classified as ultralight aircraft. According to FAA regulations, ultralights are not allowed to fly in Class D, and some parts of Class E, airspace without prior approval.

Nell said they were concerned that the paraglider pilot was flying in restricted Class E and Class D airspace near San Carlos Airport without communicating with air traffic control and without a transponder.

As a result of the emergency call, firefighters from Menlo Park, Woodside and Cal Fire spent over an hour searching SLAC's campus and Stanford

University's nearby Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve for a downed aircraft. Fire officials had staged ambulances and used a drone and several helicopters to try to locate the paraglider. Menlo fire officials also requested assistance from the California Highway Patrol.

At 1:29 p.m., fire crews learned

that the craft had landed safely at Palo Alto Airport. No injuries were reported

Representatives of San Carlos Airport and the FAA could not immediately be reached for comment. ■

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at

amargulis@almanacnews.com

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AI COMPLAINTS

continued from page 6

today is the latest action by the attorney general to push AI companies to keep kids safe. Late last year, Bonta endorsed a bill that would have prevented chatbots that talk about self-harm and engage in sexually explicit conversations from interacting with people under 18. He also joined attorneys general from 44 other states in sending a letter that questions why companies like Meta and OpenAI allow their chatbots to have sexually inappropriate conversations with minors.

California has passed roughly half a dozen laws since 2019 to protect people from deepfakes. The latest, Assembly Bill 621, amends and strengthens a 2019 law, most significantly by allowing district attorneys to bring cases against companies that “recklessly aid and abet” the distribution of deepfakes without the consent of the person depicted nude or committing sexual acts. That means the average person can ask the state Attorney

General or the district attorney where they live to file a case on their behalf. It also increases the maximum amount that a judge can award a person from \$150,000 to \$250,000. Under the law, a public prosecutor is not required to prove that an individual depicted in an AI-generated nude or sexual image suffered actual harm to bring a case to court. Websites who refuse to comply within 30 days can face penalties of \$25,000 per violation.

In addition to those laws, two bills (AB 1831 and SB 1381) signed into law in 2024 expand the state’s definition of child pornography to make possession or distribution of artificially-generated child sexual abuse material illegal. Another required social media platforms to give people an easy way to request the immediate removal of a deepfake, and defines the posting of such material as a form of digital identity theft. A California law limiting the use of deepfakes in elections was signed into law last year but was struck down by a federal judge last summer following a lawsuit by X and Elon Musk.

Every new state law helps give lawyers like Dordulian a new avenue to address harmful uses of deepfakes, but he said people still need new laws to protect themselves. He said his clients face challenges proving violation of existing laws since they require distribution of explicit materials, for example with a messaging app or social media platform, for protections to kick in. In his experience, people who use nudify apps typically know each other, so distribution doesn’t always take place, and if it does, it can be hard to prove.

For example, he said, he has a client who works as a nanny who alleges that the father of the kids she takes care of made images of her using photos she posted on Instagram. The nanny found the images on his iPad. This discovery was disturbing for her and caused her emotional trauma, but since he can’t use deepfake laws he has to sue on the basis of negligence or emotional distress and laws that were never created to address deepfakes. Similarly, victims told CNBC last year that the distinction between creating

and distributing deepfakes left a gap in the law in a number of U.S. states.

“The law needs to keep up with what’s really happening on the ground and what women are experiencing, which is just the simple act of creation itself is the problem,” Dordulian said.

California is at the forefront of passing laws to protect people from deepfakes, but existing law isn’t meeting the moment, said Jennifer Gibson, cofounder and director of Psst, a group created a little over a year ago that provides pro bono legal services to tech and AI workers interested in whistleblowing. A California law that went into effect January 1 protects whistleblowers inside AI companies but only if they work on catastrophic risk that can kill more than 50 people or cause more than \$1 billion in damages. If the law protected people who work on deepfakes, former X employees who detailed witnessing Grok generating illegal

sexually explicit material last year to Business Insider would, Gibson said, have had protections if they shared the information with authorities.

“There needs to be a lot more protection for exactly this kind of scenario in which an insider sees that this is foreseeable, knows that this is going to happen, and they need somewhere to go to report to both to keep the company accountable and protect the public.” ■

LEHUA GREENMAN



“The art of life lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings.”

650.245.1845 COMPASS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy Oakland Zoo

One of three mountain lion cubs that were rescued in Portola Valley and transported to the Oakland Zoo on Jan. 25, 2025.

Portola Valley Wildlife Day

The Portola Valley Nature and Science Committee is hosting a Wildlife Day event from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Town Center, 765 Portola Road. The town invites the community to join this family-friendly event focused on education about local nature and wildlife, in honor of the Town Council

designating January as Wildlife Protection Month.

Car seat installation check

The Menlo Park Police Department will have certified child passenger safety technicians available to check car seat installations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25. Learn about how to correctly install

your child’s booster or car seat and receive more information on the appropriate seat based on age and size.

Meet with a technician in the parking lot in front of the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center at 701 Laurel Street in Menlo Park. For more information, visit bit.ly/4sHrxYF.

E-bike Safety Town Hall

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, is hosting a virtual town hall about e-bike safety on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 5-6 p.m. on Zoom. The online event will feature conversations with local leaders about e-bike education, enforcement and legislation.

Hear from District 12 Assembly Member Damon Connolly; e-bike advocate Bob Mittelstaedt; Asha Weinstein Agrawal, director of MTT’s National Transportation Finance Center at San José State University, and Gwen Froh, director of Marin Safe Routes to Schools.

For more information, visit sd13.senate.ca.gov/events.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Pádraig Ó Tuama



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID PUGH

Theologian, poet, and bridge builder

All Saints Episcopal Church brings Pádraig Ó Tuama to Palo Alto for a morning retreat and evening public conversation.



Pádraig is the host of Poetry Unbound from On Being Studios. Profiled in *The New Yorker*, his work has won acclaim in circles of poetry, politics, psychotherapy, and conflict negotiation. He joins Yale Divinity School in 2026 as Professor in the Practice of Spirituality.

Morning Retreat

An exploration on how crossing borders in our lives change us. Borders may be geographical borders, cultural, linguistic, religious, economic, race or others. How can we engage in hope?



Saturday, January 31, 2026 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Ticket required (limited to 75), lunch provided

Evening Conversation

Padraig brings stories from history and his Irish experiences to reflect on today’s pressing questions about how we live with difference, how we define home, and how we build communities that can include rather than exclude.



Saturday, January 31, 2026 6:30-8:00 pm

Ticket required

Location & Details

All Saints Episcopal Church
555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto
www.asaints.org



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Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

Thank you for supporting this annual community fundraising campaign for local nonprofits serving needy children and families in the Menlo Park area. Contributions to the Holiday Fund are distributed in equal amounts to the ten selected agencies listed on the right. Since The Almanac covers all administrative and marketing expenses, all money raised goes directly to these programs. Our thanks to the more than 130 contributors and to the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation for providing matching funds. Donations are still welcomed!

Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of January 21st, 138 donors have contributed \$195,831 to the Holiday Fund.

Anonymous \$38,527	C & B Thompson 600	Roger Witte 50	Austin Grose 500
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Barbara Kent 100	Mary Pless 250	Dorothy SAxe 100	

In Honor Of

Mar and PoPo Russ *
The Liggett Family *
Nancy Stevens *

DONATE ONLINE: AlmanacNews.com/holiday-fund

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed below.

Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, mentoring and mental health services for low-income youth.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing and household essentials to individuals and families in need.

Fair Oaks Community Center

Helps individuals and families meet their most basic needs, offering homeless services and prevention, food distribution, transportation, rental and utility assistance, shelter referrals, and emergency support.

Haven Family House

Provides interim shelter services and transitional housing in Menlo Park for 23 homeless families with children.

Health Connected

Provides teens and parents with comprehensive sexual health, relationship and digital literacy education programs through local schools.

Literacy Partners

Supports literacy programs that help community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills.

Peninsula Food Runners

Provides food and reduces food waste by picking up from restaurants, caterers and markets and delivering it to nonprofit organizations serving the needs of low-income individuals and families.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for low income, uninsured residents of all ages living in Menlo Park, North Fair Oaks and East Palo Alto.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hot meals six days a week to people in need at its Menlo Park dining room, and provides food and clothing assistance.

St. Francis Center

Helps low-income families become self-supporting through educational and after-school programs, housing assistance, food and clothing at its North Fair Oaks facility.

Upward Scholars

Supports low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education and qualify for higher-paying jobs.

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

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The Almanac

In Memory Of

Gene Chaput	100
Stephen F. Martin	5,000
Ted Heidinger	750
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Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard	1,000
Robert Beresford Williams	200
Alan Mendelson	*
Dr. Ernest Wohler	509
Phil & Lucille Phaneuf	2,000
Marion Softky	250
Jeff Schneiderman	500

Businesses & Organizations

Packard Foundation	15,000
Hewlett Foundation	25,000
Members of the Menlo Park Band	500
Menlo Rotary Community Foundation	10,000
Griffin & Sons Construction	150

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

DONATE ONLINE:
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holiday-fund



CRAWFORD

continued from page 5

he and his family rooted for the Giants, and he always knew it was the team he wanted to play for professionally, Crawford told the Pleasanton Weekly.

Out of his 14 years in major league baseball, he played with the Giants for all but one. During his debut game both in the league and with the San Francisco team in 2011, he hit a grand slam against the Milwaukee Brewers, which proved to be just the beginning of a successful career donning orange and black.

"It was a dream come true to get to play for the Giants and be there as long as I was and accomplish the things I was able to do with the World Series and individual awards," Crawford said. "It was obviously very special."

He played more games at shortstop than any player in Giants' history, according to a press release from the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame. Before he retired from baseball in 2024, he had earned two World Series championships, four Gold Gloves and two Wilson Defensive Player of the Year awards, as well as appearing in three All-Star Games.

Crawford's name will be among more than 200 athletes who have been inducted into



Courtesy San Francisco Giants

Brandon Crawford is among five athletes in the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame's class of 2026.

the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame since its inception in 1979, including his longtime teammate Buster Posey and former manager Bruce Bochy.

The enshrinement dinner and celebration for this year's inductees is scheduled for May 14 at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco. For more information, visit bashof.org. ■

Email Staff Writer Emma Montalbano at emontalbano@almanacnews.com.

Bruno Ferrari

July 11, 1926 – January 5, 2026

Bruno Ferrari, a man of honor, dedication, and resilience, passed away peacefully at the age of 99.

Born in Italy, he immigrated to the United States with determination and a strong work ethic, building a life defined by integrity, perseverance, and devotion to family. Through years of hard work, he provided for his loved ones and earned the respect of all who knew him.

He had a lifelong passion for flying airplanes, helicopters, fishing, and boxing-interests that reflected his adventurous spirit, discipline, and strength of character. Above all, he was a devoted family man who valued loyalty, patience, and responsibility.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Serafina Ferrari; his daughters, Helen Ferrari and Diane Ferrari-Micheletti; and his cherished grandchildren, Lisa Gonia, Michelle Gonia-Helm, Neil Ferrari, and Kevin Ferrari. He is also survived by extended family and friends who will miss him deeply. His legacy of honor, hard work, and love will live on through generations. A life well lived and deeply loved.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at St. William Catholic Church, 611 S. El Monte Avenue, Los Altos, California.



PAID OBITUARY

Visit

Lasting Memories

An online directory of obituaries and remembrances. Search obituaries, submit a memorial, share a photo.

Go to: AlmanacNews.com/obituaries



BOOK CLUBS

continued from page 1

within the last few years.

With so many to pick from, representing a range of interests and topics, “It’s quite a difficult process,” she noted.

At each meeting, “we go around the table, one after the other, so that everybody has a chance to speak,” she said. “Each person gives their idea, their feeling of the book, their analysis of the book, and then we have a general discussion.”

Though the club was originally made up of Archambault’s art center students, membership has since expanded. She is mindful that not everyone has a background in the medium, so the start of the year tends to include some discussion of the technical aspects of how graphic novels work.

“People tend to talk about what moves them emotionally in the content of the book. I try to make sure they discuss also the structure of the book, the style of the book,” Archambault said. In addition to the written content, “In a graphic novel book club, you have the visual aspect and that’s very important because some people have strong ideas about what’s beautiful in terms of visuals.”

Archambault facilitates a French-language graphic novel book club as well, usually held virtually. The English-language graphic novel book club in Palo Alto is generally held in person, but can pivot to online as needed.

“If it’s cold and rainy and dark and they don’t want to drive, we have (a) hybrid meeting,” she said.

February’s meeting of the Palo Alto club will be extra special this year. For the first

time, several club members who are also graphic novelists and/or comic book authors — Devika Joglekar, Kyle Hurlbut and Archambault herself — will present and share their works and processes with the group.

Palo Alto Library’s graphic novel book club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month September through May in the Midtown Room at the Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Novella book club, Redwood City

Downtown Redwood City’s Fireside Books & More is home to numerous book clubs, including one focused on novellas. Organizer Kiera Peacock started the club because she loves sharing books, but understands well the hesitancy some feel about committing to assigned reading, especially when they also have extensive personal to-be-read piles awaiting their attention.

“I always wanted a book club but I was like, ‘I don’t think it’s for me. I want to read what I want to read,’” she said. Past attempts left her frustrated when she didn’t connect with a lengthy chosen book but still felt obligated to complete it. On the other hand, she craved the bookish community and enjoys discovering new reading material.

When Fireside opened in downtown Redwood City in early 2025 and started welcoming book clubs, Peacock was intrigued by the possibilities. She decided to start a club focused on novellas (shorter books, which for her purposes means 200 pages or fewer) in different genres, including sci-fi, horror and fantasy.

The books’ bite-size lengths

mean members aren’t investing too much of their precious reading time, but are still offered a rich and rewarding experience, with stories they may not have otherwise picked up.

“I read a lot, and I’m always on the hunt for things I’ve never read before,” she said.

She especially revels in finding “weird little novellas” that will generate interesting conversations at meetings.

“I’ve had several times people come in (saying), ‘I’m not sure how I feel about this book,’ and then by the end they were like, ‘This discussion helps me,’” she said.

Peacock recently sent a survey to members about the books included so far.

“Every book was *someone’s* favorite. And that’s huge for me. That’s the point of this whole exercise — it might not be for everyone, but it’s going to be for someone, and for that person or those couple people, that’s going to be amazing,” she said.

Peacock is responsible for selecting each month’s novella, but she bases those selections on feedback she receives from members and takes their suggestions. For each meeting’s RSVP form, she includes questions about how the club could be improved or what books they might read in the future. Her surveys also help her drill down to figure out what specific elements of books members liked or disliked.

She gives further recommendations each month based on aspects of that month’s book choice as well.

The club has been running since May of last year with attendance capped at 15, and it’s been so popular some months have had a waitlist. Fireside stocks copies of the club’s selections, but purchasing them is



Photos by Seeger Gray

Above and left: Read Shorter Books Club members discuss “The Narrow Road Between Desires” by Patrick Rothfuss at Fireside Books & More in Redwood City.

not required for participation — sourcing library copies is fine, too.

“It was really important to me to not make this a financially dependent endeavor for people,” she said. “I don’t want there to be any barrier to entry.”

Each book club has its own structure and Peacock likes to come very prepared, creating a handout of discussion topics and questions for each book. The group may not get to all of them, she said, but as a facilitator it’s handy to have ideas to fall back on in case the conversation lulls.

“For me, and hopefully for others, you read some things and you *need* to talk about it,” Peacock said.

The joy of book clubs, she added, is that “you take something that’s inherently a solo endeavor and you make it a shared experience. I think people are really interested in that.”

Fireside Books & More’s novella book club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at 2421 Broadway, Redwood City.

Cookbook book club, Atherton, Belmont, Foster City and San Carlos

Hungry to try new recipes? The San Mateo County Libraries system offers monthly cookbook book clubs at its Atherton, Belmont, Foster City and San Carlos branches. Elena Hobbs-Minor has been a member of the club at the Atherton branch for around a year.

Each month, the librarian facilitating the club selects a cookbook, and members choose a recipe from the book to prepare at home. At the next meeting, “We discuss the recipes, how the cookbook strikes us, what appeal does it have for us, what we learned from the cookbook,” Hobbs-Minor said. Members also often share photos of their recipe endeavors.

Hobbs-Minor, who’s been in book clubs for the past several years and is now also in a library writing group, was first attracted to the cookbook book club because she planned to translate her mother’s handwritten recipe book into English and wanted to encounter a variety of cookbook styles for inspiration — in addition to updating her own home cooking repertoire.

Her mother lived in countries all over the world, each of which left some kind of influence on her family kitchen, she said. With the cookbook book club, Hobbs-Minor enjoys learning about the culinary backgrounds of her fellow members, as well as trying recipes rooted in diverse traditions.

“It’s a nice way of connecting to people through food, learning about everybody’s sort of heritage through food,” she said. Her own mother’s Russian cooking “was always with a twist from whatever country she had lived in. I think that’s partly why I like the cookbooks from different areas too, knowing how much it affects your cooking, your style; you can start changing your cooking with a different flavor from another country.”

She’s gained new favorite recipes thanks to the club, including some from books that on first glance she didn’t expect to enjoy, proving the old adage that you can’t always judge a book by its cover. “It turns out that I really loved so many of the recipes there,” she said. She’s also loved expanding her use of spices and flavor combinations.

As with book clubs in general, there is a sense of community to be found in getting together and sharing in a supportive group, regardless of one’s previous cooking experience.

See **BOOK CLUBS**, page 15

BOOK CLUBS

continued from page 14

“You can make it as interesting a journey as you want to make it,” she noted. “Some people are really into cooking and some aren’t, they’re just kind of learning, and that’s OK for either one. You don’t have to be perfect at cooking to try out recipes and talk about them.”

Atherton Library’s cookbook book club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m., 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Check online for other branches’ meeting schedules.

Silent book club, San Mateo

Many book clubs draw folks who like to chat. But what if you enjoy reading in the company of others without having to stick to an assigned book or partake in a big group discussion afterward? For those types of readers, a “silent” book club may be a good fit, offering a social outlet in a quiet way.

Elsbeth McKee is a librarian who organizes the silent book club at San Mateo’s downtown library branch (she also facilitates a romance book club at the Hillsdale branch.) She’s been a fan of silent book clubs for a while, attending some in Burlingame and Redwood City, and started the San Mateo club about a year ago as she noticed the concept’s popularity.

The San Mateo monthly meeting runs for two hours

starting at 6 p.m. for casual chat and mingling if desired, followed by “personal quiet reading time” from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

“Bring whatever you’re reading; if you want to pick something up at the library you can,” she said. For the last half hour, attendees are welcome to keep on reading, discuss their books with others in pairs or small groups, or go home if they’ve had enough. Sometimes, a special craft is offered as well, such as making bookmarks.

This type of club can feel “less daunting,” McKee said, without any pressure or expectations about reading specific selections or having to share with a big group.

“It’s basically a good opportunity to talk to people about random books, to learn about things you might not have thought about,” she said.

With each session’s sign-up sheet, McKee also gives room for people to list recommendations, offering another way to spread the word on good books.

“I’ve found some things there and I’ve been able to pass on some of my favorites to other people, and that’s been really enjoyable,” she said.

San Mateo Library’s silent book club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month starting at 6 p.m. at the Main Library, 55 W. Third Ave., San Mateo. ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at kkane@almanacnews.com.



Seeger Gray

Graphic Novel Book Club organizer Danièle Archambault discusses “In.” by Will McPhail at a club meeting at Mitchell Park Library in Palo Alto.



Micheala Paasche Grudin

March 11, 1941 – January 12, 2026

Michaela “Micha” Paasche Grudin passed away peacefully in her Menlo Park home surrounded with love by family and friends on January 12, 2026. She was 84 years old, and lived a life full of adventure, learning, and love.

Micha was born March 11, 1941 in Tokyo, Japan, where her family had sought refuge from Germany during World War II. She lived there until 1948, when her family made passage to San Francisco on a cargo ship. She was the third of four siblings - Joan, Gottfried and Vergilia - born to Maria Therese Von Hammerstein Paasche and Jochen “John” Paasche.

Micha was a force in the lives of those she touched - family, friends, students, colleagues - with an energy that extended from her love of hiking in the Santa Cruz mountains and ocean swimming at her favorite Keawakapu Beach in Maui, to throwing pottery in her Oregon backyard, to unearthing new meaning in Renaissance literature and imparting those insights to her students and readers. She was an English professor, despite English being her third language after German and Japanese. She was a mother to three boys - Anthony, Nick and Ted - who she raised with a strong and warm embrace in Eugene, Oregon. She was a friend and mentor whose passion and care extended to the countless college students she taught.

Micha’s early childhood in Japan during World War II was full of memories she vividly recalled until her last days, but were also mixed with trauma. She talked about childhood walks in Japan with her older brother to get ice cream, meeting friendly American soldiers they got to know on a nearby U.S. military base, but also sheltering under her bed during air raid bombings. Her family originally emigrated to Japan to escape persecution in Germany, where her mother, Maria Von Hammerstein Paasche, had been an anti-Nazi activist who helped transport Jews out of Germany in the early years of Hitler’s regime; Micha’s uncles later participated in the Resistance to Hitler and the 20th of July Plot in 1944 (Operation Valkyrie). Her mother, Maria, once gave her advice that echoed throughout her life: “You should memorize poetry, because you never know when you’re going to need it,” as a reminder that studying literature could transcend wartime hardship.

After arriving in San Francisco, Micha’s family later settled in Menlo Park, where she attended The Peninsula School and Menlo-Atherton High School. During those years, her parents struggled to make ends meet.

Micha was taken in by Josephine Duveneck, founder of the Peninsula School, who invited her to live on the Duveneck family farm in Los Altos Hills, Hidden Villa Ranch, where Micha learned to ride horseback on the same trails that she would decades later help her sons and grandchildren to navigate.

Micha then attended Antioch College, in Ohio, where she developed her literary expertise, which would become her professional calling. She subsequently attended UC Berkeley for her PhD in English Literature, and where she met her husband, Robert.

As a professor, Micha taught at University of Oregon, and finished her career at Lewis & Clark College, where she was tenured and named professor emerita upon retirement. She published two books and many academic papers. Her books were *Chaucer and the Politics of Discourse* (1996), and *Boccaccio’s Decameron and the Ciceronian Renaissance* (2012), the latter of which she co-authored with Robert. When she researched the Renaissance and Boccaccio, she learned Italian to study the original texts, and traveled to Italy several times, including starting a study abroad program in Siena, Italy with Lewis & Clark College.

Micha and Robert were married for more than 57 years. They shared a love of literature, history, and natural beauty, and spent chapters of their life together in the communities of Eugene, Oregon; Berkeley, Carmel Valley, and Menlo Park, California; and Kihei, Hawaii; and traveled extensively in Europe. Throughout their marriage, they would spend mornings and evenings discussing, debating, and collaborating on their literary explorations.

In retirement, Micha filled her days with reading and hiking with her friends and her sons (and their dogs), and doting on her six grandchildren, from whom she cherished visits and updates, observing every new photo and inch of growth, and always inquiring to hear any and all new experiences.

She is survived by her husband, Robert, and her three sons, Anthony, Nick and Ted; six grandchildren: Max, Michaela, and Mateo in California, and Jasmine, Daphne, and Clio in Vermont; her brother Gottfried and sister Vergilia; her many nieces and nephews and an international diaspora of cousins she remained close to throughout her life.

If you would like to make a contribution in Micha’s honor in lieu of flowers, please contribute to one of her favorite places in the world, Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills, CA.

PAID OBITUARY



Elise Boots Liddle

December 10, 1931 – December 14, 2025

Elise (“Boots”) Liddle passed away on December 12th, 2025, at a residence in San Jose, two days after her 94th birthday. Present at her passing were sons George Jr. and Marshall. Elise will be interred next to her husband George Sr. at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto. A memorial will take place at 11am on January 30th at Menlo Church.

Elise was born on December 10th, 1931, in Paris, France, to Elliott and Elizabeth Schieffelin. The parents were Americans living abroad, as father Elliott pursued graduate education in Paris. Elliott was the seventh of nine children of William Jay and Maria Louise Schieffelin, a leading New York City family at the turn of the last century. Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Lucien Brunswig, the founder and longtime president of the Brunswig Drug Company.

Elise grew up in Los Angeles, CA, along with her younger brother Richard (“Dickie”), until Richard succumbed to a sudden illness at age five. The strain of this and Elizabeth’s developing tuberculosis led to Elliott and Elizabeth’s divorce and Elliott’s subsequent lifelong estrangement from his surviving child, Elise. Elizabeth spent eighteen months in a tuberculosis sanatorium in Prescott, AZ, during which Elise was cared for by her grandmother, Anne Brunswig Wellborn, in Los Angeles.

After Elizabeth recovered, they continued to reside at the Wellborn house. Elise attended Marlborough School through her junior year of high school, but for her senior year was sent to Brillantmont, a Swiss finishing school in Lausanne. There she encountered various young royals (Princess Ragnhild of Norway, Princess Hush of India) and made lifelong friendships with several girls from England. She learned to ski, which she continued to enjoy for much of the rest of her life. More importantly, she learned French, which proved to be a future asset.

Upon her return to the States in 1948, she was enrolled in Mt. Vernon Junior College near Washington, DC, which she found intellectually unsatisfying. A teacher suggested that she go back to California and attend Stanford’s summer session, as it accepted all students, and those that passed their courses were eligible to enroll as full-time students. She passed and entered Stanford as a sophomore in 1949, majoring in French. Soon after, she met her future

husband, George R. Liddle, Sr., of Pasadena, CA. They were married in 1953 and enjoyed 69 years of marriage until George, Sr.’s passing in 2022. Elise’s marriage with George provided the bedrock for her adult life.

George, Sr. and Elise lived in west Menlo Park and raised four children – she is survived by John (now 70), Susan (now 68, married to Mark Wahlgren Summers), George (now 65, married to Jane (nee Nighswonger) and Marshall (now 62). In addition to her four children, Elise was blessed with six grandchildren: Ariel, George Galen, and Wes Summers, and Caroline, William, and Alexander Liddle.

Elise had a lifelong passion for art history. She fed that passion by traveling and by serving as a docent and Head Docent at the Stanford Museum (now known as the Cantor Arts Center) for decades. She became a local expert in Rodin sculpture and gave dozens of tours through the Rodin sculpture garden, including a tour in French while hosting the French Minister of Culture in the 1970’s. Being a docent allowed her access to any course in the Stanford Art History Department, and it is believed that she audited all of them. In the course of these activities, she became friends with Lorenz Eitner (Museum Director), Don Kennedy (Stanford President), and Leo Holub (acclaimed photographer).

At the start of her marriage Elise had elevated taste in food from travel in France but no cooking skills. She practiced, took classes and became a first-rate chef.

Another lifelong passion was Elise’s participation in the Current Events Club, a small group of women in the Menlo-Atherton area originally founded by Jane Stanford as a discussion club for wives of Stanford faculty members. Elise was a club member from the ‘00’s into the ‘20’s, and she earned particular appreciation for her report on the epic path to the decipherment of Linear B in 1952. (Linear B was the mysterious script of the ancient Mycenaean civilization on Crete around 1400 BC, and deciphering it required decades of effort).

Elise lived a long, interesting, and accomplished life, and she will be profoundly missed by her surviving friends and family. Many of us take comfort in her Christian faith, knowing that her soul now resides in heaven.

Memorial service will be held at Menlo Church At 11 AM on Jan. 30.

PAID OBITUARY

Dr. Patricia (Pat) Morrissey

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Dr. Patricia (Pat) Morrissey, co-founder of Morrissey Compton, Inc., on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Pat’s passion, vision, and unwavering commitment were instrumental in shaping our mission and the community we continue to serve. She is survived by her brother, Dan Morrissey, and his wife, Kathryn, of Omaha, NE; her nephew, Joe Morrissey, of Minneapolis; and her niece, Dr. Colleen Morrissey, her husband, Dr. Sean Kamperman, and their daughter, Nora, of Lawrence, KS.



To read more about Pat’s distinguished career & beautiful life, Scan QR Code:



Please Join Us In A Celebration of Life Honoring Dr. Pat Morrissey
January 23, 2026 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
The University Club of Palo Alto
3277 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94304
We kindly request that you RSVP by 10/20. Scan QR Code:



PAID OBITUARY

Bengt Ibsen Henriksen

August 30, 1937 - January 11, 2026

Bengt Henriksen, 88, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Bengt is survived by his loving and caring wife Kirsten, 3 children, Charlotte, Sanne, and Martin, and 6 grandchildren. Bengt was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1937 to Helge Ibsen Henriksen and Anna Linea Karlsson. He grew up with his younger sister Anita in the port town of Kolding.



Bengt joined AP Moller/Maersk Line Copenhagen in August 1956, and dispatched to Indonesia. He returned to Denmark to complete his 16-month military service in the Royal Guard. After, Maersk reassigned him back to Indonesia. While in Jakarta he won the Indonesian Open Golf Championship. He then transferred to Japan, and at the same time, was appointed Danish National Golf team Captain for the World Championships. In 1965 Bengt was promoted to GM at Maersk Denmark, where he designed the current Maersk logo with approval from owner Maersk McKinney Moller.

One day in 1965, Bengt met Kirsten out on the golf course and fell in love. On April 8th, 1967, Bengt and Kirsten married at a quintessential church in Søllerød, Denmark, with the reception held at the Royal Danish Yacht Club.

Bengt was promoted to VP, while graduating PMD of Harvard Business School. At this time, shipping was mostly bulk cargo, and so Bengt helped to develop full container service for Maersk. He then moved to San Francisco as GM for North America. In 1979, after a 23-year career at Maersk, Bengt left when he was asked to transfer to Japan. He became VP at American President Lines. He left APL and founded Woodside Consulting Group. WCG started a shipping line, Seawinds, with Nike as a minority shareholder. Later, Bengt founded Quality Logistics Inc to serve Pepsico Foods. He secured additional contracts with Adidas and Hyundai, becoming the dominant logistics provider for US fireworks industry.

The Golfer’s Prayer: May I Live Long Enough To Shoot My Age. On October 18, 2018, at the age of 81, Bengt played one of his favorite golf courses, Kawana, just outside Tokyo, Japan. He shot an 80, fulfilling a golfer’s dream of shooting their age.

PAID OBITUARY

TIDE ACADEMY

continued from page 1

of 9,187 students enrolled — Sequoia Union's smallest student population since 2011.

"We simply have fewer students today than we did in 2015 when TIDE was being planned," said Public Information Officer Naomi Hunter during the Jan. 12 community meeting. "The anticipated growth, especially growth at M-A, did not occur and that was for a variety of reasons."

District officials believe that a number of factors have played a role in declining enrollment at TIDE, including COVID-19, changes in the school's leadership and staffing, demographic shifts and family transiency, and modifications to its career technical education program offerings.

TIDE Academy has the district's third-largest percentage of Latino students after Redwood and East Palo Alto high schools. The school also supports the largest percentage of special education students and is "overrepresented with male students," according to district data that officials say points to a lack of diversity.

"TIDE is located next to East Palo Alto, a historically redlined community," said Adriana Stone, a TIDE teacher. "Neighborhoods like Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks have limited nearby public school options. Students attend TIDE because it is accessible. Not because of a demographic imbalance."

In previous board meetings, students have shared their stories of finding community at TIDE after dealing with bullying and a lack of academic support in the district's larger high schools.

"I've been witness to students' tears and pain through this process, including students worrying that, if forced to move schools, they'll experience resurgences of social anxiety, depression, bullying and academic failure that they've been able to overcome through our close-knit, inclusive community and wraparound support," said Lauren Reiser, a therapist at TIDE.

TIDE alumni parent Ken Parekh pointed out that the district's data presentations highlight a district-wide issue. He questioned why the board does not take a more "strategic approach at establishing TIDE as a center of excellence," especially for neurodivergent students.

The district will hold a study session on Monday, Jan. 26, at Sequoia High School's Carrington Hall before the superintendent's final recommendation is presented to the board for a vote on Feb. 4. ■

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



Donald Hugh Mac Millan

1935 – 2025

Donald Hugh Mac Millan died peacefully at home on December 9. He was the beloved son of Kathryn and Hugh, brother to Janet and Joyce, and devoted father of Deborah and David from his first marriage to Donna. In 1986 he was joined in marriage with Judy, and became stepdad to Andrea, Dave, Suzy, and Dana. The following 39 years brought 15 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Born in Buffalo, NY, Don moved with his family to Edina, MN, as a teen. He loved sports, excelling in ice hockey, baseball, and especially football—which he continued to play in college. Don served in the U.S. Army from 1954-1956, and was stationed in France where he played football for the Verdun-Meuse Cardinals in the competitive USAREUR league—composed of former college and pro athletes—which boosted the morale of the troops and local communities during the Cold War.

Upon his return, Don completed his economics degree at Colorado College on a full-tuition football scholarship. For his "scholarship, leadership and personality," Don was selected as the 1957-1958 exchange student at the Netherlands College for Representation Abroad (now Nyenrode Business Universiteit), where he studied international trade. Don went on to earn his Master's degree in business administration at the University of Minnesota. During an internship in San Francisco, he was inspired to relocate and launch his career in California.

Don built a successful 55-year career in commercial real estate marketing, development, and management centered in San Jose and surrounding cities. As a Rotarian in downtown San Jose, he helped pave the way for a permanent location to house the Club.

Don's love of golf filled his leisure time. He and his pals from many clubs played their way up and down the East Coast from New York to Florida, as well as memorable trips to Ireland and Scotland. Photos and trophies reflect his excellent game. Don and Judy's years of travel embraced numerous countries across 6 continents and endless islands—enjoying safari, scuba, cruises, cultural tours and, of course, golf.

Strong, enduring friendships were Donnie Mac's most treasured gifts, and he had many. His positive attitude and generosity, his approach to life, and dedication to doing it well, drew together all types of personalities. He found joy in each of them. A celebration of Don's 90th birthday was held on a beautiful afternoon this past fall, with many family and friends attending. It was a truly special time for all.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, and son. A private celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Gifts of remembrance may be made to The First Tee or PGA HOPE.

"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." —A. A. Milne.

PAID OBITUARY

Alina Liniecki

September 21, 1931 - December 31, 2025

Alina Maria Liniecki, née Skupin, age 94, died on December 31, 2025, leaving behind a life defined by determination, intellect, elegance, and an unwavering devotion to family and work.

Alina was born in Gniezno, Poland, to Pelagia and Jan Skupin and grew up in Poznań with her younger brother, Janusz. Her childhood unfolded amid the hardship and fear of World War II, during the German occupation of Poland. From an early age, Alina was a serious and driven student, shaped by both necessity and ambition.

She earned her degree in dentistry in 1954 at the Medical Academy in Poznań. While on holiday in Sopot, on Poland's Baltic coast, she met Alexander (Alex) George Liniecki, whom she married in 1955. Together they settled in Łódź, Poland, where they began their family. Alina and Alex had two daughters, Margaret and Katherine.

In 1964, amid the gray scarcity and political constraints of communist Poland, Alina's initiative and courage changed the course of her family's life. After overhearing a casual remark in a Warsaw café about teaching contracts in Ghana, Africa, she pursued the opportunity with resolve. That single act of curiosity and determination led her family to relocate to West Africa, where Alex taught mechanical engineering at the university in Kumasi.

In Ghana, Alina flourished. She was a gracious and generous hostess, renowned for the warmth of her gatherings and the abundance of food. Faculty families from around the world met in their home, drawn by Alina's belief that hospitality was measured not by formality, but by comfort, conversations lasting late into the night, and shared enjoyment.

In 1969, the family immigrated to California. Alina immediately set to work rebuilding her professional life, undertaking full-time training to obtain her U.S. and California dentistry licenses while managing the essential demands of family life. In 1970, she earned her dental certificate from the American Dental Association, and in 1972, the State of California Board of Dental Examiners granted her license to practice dentistry. She first worked at the Charles Drew Center in East Palo Alto and later established her own dental practice at the Cupertino Town Center. Dentistry was not merely her profession; it was a source of pride and purpose. She retired in 2004 after decades of service to patients.

Alina, Alex, and their daughters became naturalized United States citizens in 1975, a milestone that represented not only legal status, but the culmination of a long journey of self-determination and toward security.

Alina was deeply engaged with innovative technology, aesthetics, and loved modern design. She was an early adopter of Macintosh computers, introducing digital record-keeping in her dental practice in the late 1980s – long before electronic records were commonplace. She also had a keen eye for fashion and was well known for her distinctive and stylish eyeglasses. Alina loved red: red sweaters, red nails, and even a red Tesla.

Alina and Alex shared a love of travel, spending summers exploring the United States, Latin America, Europe, and many other parts of the world. These journeys reflected Alina's lifelong appreciation for freedom, culture, and learning.

Alina is survived by her daughters, Margaret Laporte and Katherine Gregory; their husbands, Léo Frederic Laporte and Philip Lawrence Gregory; her grandson, Noel Alexander Laporte; and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alex.

A celebration of Alina's life will be scheduled soon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Kaiser Permanente Hospice – Redwood City, 1718 Broadway St, Redwood City, CA 94063. Donations help support compassionate end-of-life care for patients and families.

Alina's strength, independence, and love of life remain a guiding presence. She will be deeply missed, and her force is with us.

PAID OBITUARY

Public Notices

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 2025-454 Ordinance No. 2025-4545 repeals and replaces Chapter 15.04 of Title 15 [Buildings and Construction] of the Municipal Code and adopts by reference the 2025 California Building Standards Code with local amendments to the Portola Valley Municipal Code.

This Ordinance was introduced on November 12, 2025, and was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley on January 14, 2026 by the following 5-0 vote: Ayes: Wolter, Flynn, Hasko, Hufty, Taylor; Noes: None; Absent/Abstain/Recuse: None. The 2025 CBCS goes into effect on January 1, 2026 and all applications of building permits submitted after January 1, 2026 will be subject to the 2025 CBCS. The local amendments shall go into effect 30 days after the date of adoption. The full text of the Ordinance is available for review at the Town Clerk's Office, 765 Portola Road, Valley, CA and with the agenda materials for the January 14, 2026 Town Council meeting at <https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/town-council/minutes-and-agendas>.
Published: January 23, 2026
Veronica Dao Town Clerk Portola Valley
1/23/26
CNS-4001860#
THE ALMANAC
(ALM Jan 23, 2026)

BLUEBIRD EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302490
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BLUEBIRD EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING , located at 2560 Sherborne Drive, Belmont, CA 94002.
Registered owner(s):
ELIZABETH HARVEY-GUEDES
2560 Sherborne Drive
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 December 24, 2025.
(ALM Jan 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2026)

FERNANDEZ PSYCHIATRY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302571
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FERNANDEZ PSYCHIATRY , located at 120B Santa Margarita Ave, Suite 112, Mailbox 62006, Menlo Park, CA, 94025.
Registered owner(s):
LUIS FERNANDEZ
120B Santa Margarita Ave, Suite 112, Mailbox 62006
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 January 05, 2026.
(ALM Jan 16, 23, 30 and Feb 6, 2026)

KIRANA
KIRANA BAKEHOUSE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302651
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) KIRANA , 2.) KIRANA BAKEHOUSE , located at 339 Trenton Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Mailing Address: 555 Bryant Street, #932 Palo Alto, CA 94301
Registered owner(s):
KIRANA LLC
555 Bryant Street, #932
Palo Alto, CA 94301
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 13, 2026.
(ALM Jan 23, 30, Feb 6 and 13, 2026)

COASTSIDE MARKET
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: 302444
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) COASTSIDE MARKET , located at 501 VIRGINIA AVE, MOSS BEACH, CA 94038.
Registered owner(s):

MOSS BEACH MARKET INC
2420 Magnolia Court
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
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 12/17/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 17, 2025.
(ALM Jan 23, 30, Feb 6 and 13, 2026)

PREMIER PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: 302540
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PREMIER PROPERTIES , located at 251 Park Rd #4000, Burlingame, CA 94010. Mailing Address: PO BOX 2273 South San Francisco, CA 94083
Registered owner(s):
ROVAI ENTERPRISES INC
251 Park Rd #4000
Burlingame, CA 94010
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 04/29/1997.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 31, 2025.
(ALM Jan 23, 30, Feb 6 and 13, 2026)

DAVID JACOBS BUSINESS BROKER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302598
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DAVID JACOBS BUSINESS BROKER , located at 209 Durham Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
DAVID JACOBS
209 Durham Street
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 January 07, 2026.
(ALM Jan 16, 23, 30 and Feb 6, 2026)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR RURAL SCHOOLS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302606
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR RURAL SCHOOLS , located at 903 Arnold Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Mailing Address: PO BOX 4012 Menlo Park, CA 94026
Registered owner(s):
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
903 Arnold Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 05/15/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 08, 2026.
(ALM Jan 23, 30, Feb 6 and 13, 2026)

EMILY JOUBERT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302419
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) EMILY JOUBERT , located at 818 Charter Street, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
IN ANY EVENT, INC.
818 Charter Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
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 04/30/2004.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 15, 2025.
(ALM Jan 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2026)

CASPIAN SOLUTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: FBN721758
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CASPIAN SOLUTION , located at 2047 Foxworthy ave, San Jose, CA , 95124.
Registered owner(s):
SHIVA ADLI
2047 Foxworthy AVE
San Jose, CA 95124

This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/15/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 02, 2025.
(ALM Jan 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2026)

HUSH LINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302341
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HUSH LINE , located at 1025 Alameda de las Pulgas, Ste 708, Belmont, CA 94002.
Registered owner(s):
SCIENCE & DESIGN, INC.
1025 Alameda de las Pulgas, Ste 708
Belmont, CA 94002
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 December 04, 2025.
(ALM Jan 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2026)

REPOSADO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302483
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) REPOSADO , located at 311 Baldwin Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401.
Registered owner(s):
ROBERT SCOTT FISCHER
311 Baldwin Ave
San Mateo, CA 94401
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 22, 2025.
(ALM Jan 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 25CIV09962
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Tepora Lang and Lau Tivania Faamausili filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
SALA POUONO FAAMAUSILI to SALAMOCEENAH ITAGIA JEANNE MALAE
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: February 24, 2026 , 9:00 am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, California, 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: December 22, 2025
Rachel Holt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Jan 23, 30, Feb 6 and 13, 2026)

SUMMONS **Case No. 25CV479506** (CITACION JUDICIAL)
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (A VISO AL DEMANDADO): **GREGORY GROUP EVERGREEN, a former California partnership; CHRISTOPHER J. TREBLE, individually, and as an owner or equitable owner of partnership interests, property and assets of GREGORY GROUP EVERGREEN; JAMES SIEVERS, individually, and as an owner or equitable owner of partnership interests, property and assets of GREGORY GROUP EVERGREEN ; DOES 1 through 30, inclusive; and ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT**
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): **PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, a California corporation**
The property that is the subject of this eminent domain action is described as APN 676-06-015, Santa Clara County, located at the intersection of Aborn Road and Brigadoon Way, San Jose, California.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard

unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desecher el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Santa Clara County Superior Court
191 North First St.
San Jose, CA 95113

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el numero de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Elizabeth K. Hwang
Hwang Law Group LLP
420 Kit Fox Ct.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-818-8375

DATE (Fecha): **11/06/2025**
Y. Chavez, Clerk, by /s/ Y. Chavez, Deputy Clerk (Secretario) (Adjunto)
Publication Dates: _____
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**
(ALM Jan 16, 23, 30 and Feb 6, 2026)

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER: **25CV123745** (Numero del Caso)
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): **MATTHEW PEREIRA, an individual and known heir of**

ELMER PEREIRA aka ELMER PEREIRA, JR. (DOE7)

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: **NISSA QUANSTROM** (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The Court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la infomación a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS CALENDARIO después de que la entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que las corte pueda desecher el caso. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): **Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, California 94612**
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): NAME: Gina Arico-Smith
ADDRESS: 2999 Oak Road, #550, Walnut Creek, CA 94597
SBN: 139645
Tel: 925-817-3715
Fax: 925-930-9588
DATE: 05/19/2022 (Fecha)
Clerk (secretario)
By: Chad Finke
Deputy (Adjunto)
By: **M. Cortez**
(ALM Jan 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2026)

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

A musical fellowship

Longstanding traditional jazz band Cafe Borrone All-Stars celebrates 35th anniversary

By Heather Zimmerman

When young Peninsula musician Clint Baker and his band began performing at Menlo Park's Cafe Borrone in fall of 1990, it was the start of a gig that would evolve into a tradition in its own right.

Barely a year out of high school, Baker founded the longstanding monthly jam, now known as the Cafe Borrone All-Stars. Over the years, the group, which plays traditional jazz from the 1920s through the '40s, has welcomed well-known musicians from that scene, as well as young artists just getting their start.

The All-Stars will celebrate their 35th anniversary at their longtime home, Cafe Borrone, on Jan. 23.

Baker is a Peninsula-based multi-instrumentalist and jazz historian. He hosts a regular show on area jazz radio station KCSM and is a guest lecturer at San Mateo Community College.

He plays trumpet in the band's current lineup, which also features Robert Young, saxophone; Jeff Hamilton, piano; Mikiya Matsuda or Tom Wilson, bass; and Jessica King, vocals and washboard.

"Cafe Borrone (has been) the nucleus and the place where we learned how to play together, you know, and that tradition, we just try to keep it going," Baker said. "It's amazing to me. As you get older, you get to a point where you start having people come up to you and say they saw the band when they were kids."

In the band's early days, Baker recalled that there were many students from Menlo-Atherton High School hanging out at the cafe. The crowd at shows these days is a broad mix of generations, including older adults from Baker's jazz history class, families and students. Performances sometimes also draw swing dancers.

Oakland-based vocalist and



Courtesy Clint Baker

Over the years, the Cafe Borrone All-Stars have brought musicians from many generations to play together, including some of the members' children. This shot from a few years ago shows, from left, Robert Young, Jeff Hamilton, Clint Baker, Mikiya Matsuda, Riley Baker, Nathan Tokunaga, Bill Reinhart and Jessica King.

washboard player Jessica King has been playing with the band for six or seven years. King is also a swing dancer and befriended Baker at one of his regular gigs at another venue. "Eventually I decided with a group of dancer friends that we wanted to play music also, and (Baker) mentored us," King said.

The All-Stars started off as an ensemble of young musicians and in keeping with that, has continued to welcome new generations, such as Baker's daughter and

son, Ramona and Riley. Other recent young members include Peninsula clarinet and saxophone player Nathan Tokunaga.

"One of the things that's been important to me over the years is getting younger people playing. Nathan was probably the youngest All-Star. I think he started playing with us when he was 14. We weren't much older when my band started at Borrone, I think my youngest guys were probably about 16, 17," Baker said.

Baker was 13 when he started

his first band, which served as the foundation for the one that would go on to play at Cafe Borrone.

"I've had a band continuously since 1984," he said.

Baker grew up in Mountain View and began playing clarinet in fourth grade, as part of the school band program.

He credits his junior high music teacher and his parents for supporting him in starting a band at such a young age.

"There were a couple of people who started with me who were

playing with me when I graduated high school and became a professional musician," Baker said. "I was playing gigs on the side, and I was taking the money that I was making from my gigs and putting it towards funding my band. We were able to get Cafe Borrone at that time, thanks to Roy Borrone, who was the founder of the cafe. He was very encouraging to us."

All-Stars bassist Tom Wilson has been performing with Baker since he was in high school in the early '90s.

"He had already been kind of working in the Bay Area and got to know people, and he found the Cafe Borrone gig, and then hired a handful of us to play with him. That all happened when I was a senior in high school," Wilson recalled.

Not long into the band's tenure at the cafe, the musicians had a chance to perform in New Orleans, invited by one of the city's most famous music groups.

"We ended up having the gig at Cafe Borrone for about a year, and then we got invited by one of the guys at Preservation Hall to play the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Huge deal. I was just 21 years old. A gentleman named Dr. Michael White brought our whole band to New Orleans, and I still don't know why he did it, but I'm not disappointed he did, because it was a huge thing for all of us," Baker said.

In its early years, the group was known as the Clint Baker New Orleans Jazz Band. Around the year 2000, some of the band members began moving on and the group took the name the Cafe Borrone All-Stars. The group has had a somewhat fluid lineup since then.

"It's been cool that Clint has brought in so many of the old

See **MUSICAL FELLOWSHIP**, page 21

Review: Theology meets thriller in Palo Alto Players' 'The Da Vinci Code'

Production melds complex conspiracies with plenty of action

By Michael J. Vaughn

The Da Vinci Code" as a play? Those who know Dan Brown's novel recall a detective thriller that features an extremely complex debate about two millennia of theological history. That amount of exposition, on a stage, can be pure kryptonite. Given this intriguing challenge, director Jennifer Copaken and Palo Alto Players do their damndest, and in the end it's much like Orville and Wilbur's flight. It's hell getting that thing up in the air, but once you're up it's quite a view.

A large part of the attack comes in the form of motion — two dancers and several cloaked figures who swirl about with geometric blocks, assembling them into formations that give clues about the coming scene. The most notorious image is Louvre curator Jacques Saunière (Stephen Sammonds), freshly murdered and lying naked on the museum's floor in a peculiar posture (no worries, all the crucial "parts" are covered). Detectives Bezu Fache and Collette (Dane Lentz and Setareh Greenwood) arrive on the scene with Robert Langdon (Christian Vaughn-Munck), an American professor they commandeered from a TED talk on symbology, to take a reading of this very strange scene.

After settling his nerves, the professor realizes that the victim lies in the position of the Vitruvian Man, a famed drawing by Leonardo da Vinci. But apparently the dying Saunière arranged *himself* that way, in an effort to deliver a deeply encoded message to his granddaughter, police cryptographer Sophie Neveu (Alli Gamlen).

After discovering a number of anagrams and mathematical clues written on the glass over the Mona Lisa in the victim's blood, Langdon is hustled off by Neveu, who seems certain that no one, including the detectives, are trustworthy.

Thus, we have our odd couple, and they couldn't be better cast. Gamlen is a fast-talking spitfire who wends her way through the labyrinthine clues while delivering some fine moments of martial artistry (apparently, in the Paris Police, even the cryptographers kick butt). Vaughn-Munck plays Langdon with just the right bookworm awkwardness, and it's great fun to watch him light up when he solves the various anagrams, formulas and paintings. He also provides much-needed moments of humor, as when he delivers a sincere apology to the bad guys he and Sophie have just tied up. (I hate to draw comparisons, but the similarity of both actors to Audrey Tautou and Tom Hanks from the 2006 film is hard to miss.)

Fortunately, the lengthy discussions of Jesus' lineage and secret theological forces are broken up by stimulating fights. Director Copaken, who also works as a choreographer, does not pull her punches. In one scene, the very petite Gamlen jumps on a larger opponent's back and drives him into the ground. I hope she's getting hazard pay.

David Boyll contributes some eccentric fun as British Grail scholar Sir Leigh Teabing. He's accompanied by his oddly surly servant Rémy (George Alexander K.). Brandon Dean invests the homicidal monk Silas with palpable intensity. The dancers, Hannah Oviatt



Courtesy Scott Lasky

Police cryptographer Sophie Neveu (Alli Gamlen) flashes back to a cult ritual she witnessed in her youth.

and Arjun Sheth, are excellent — especially Sheth, who possesses a Tommy Tune-ish combination of height and grace. (Their costumes, on the other hand, need to be more flattering.) The projections by Tasi Alabastro are both helpful and entertaining, as numbers, artworks and anagrams fly about the stage.

The play is a good reminder of how provocative the mega-selling novel was. More orthodox patrons might find the various theories a bit upsetting. But keep this in mind: Dan Brown himself has said that he was operating from a buffet of scholarly theories, picking and choosing which ones might fit his narrative, and that the conclusions in the book were not meant to be understood as fact. What does stand out, however, is that the various councils that determined which gospels would be included in or omitted from the New Testament, along with the writings of St. Paul and the dogma of the Roman Catholic church, succeeded in virtually erasing the importance of female figures in the Jesus story.

I'm not the only critic to conclude that this, more than anything, was what all those "Da Vinci Code" readers were responding to — the hunger of women to be better represented in their own churches. In this way, Brown's book is



Courtesy Scott Lasky

An ensemble (Arjun Sheth, front, and Hannah Oviatt) helps tell the story of "The Da Vinci Code" through movement.

one of those rare novels ("Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Jungle," "Grapes of Wrath") that actually moved the dial on a major social issue.

The big payoff, then, of all the duress this adaptation places on its performers (including several different accents) is an intellectual buzz that will stay with the viewer for days and weeks after the curtain drops. ■

Email Contributing Writer
Michael J. Vaughn at
michaeljvaughn@hotmail.com.

"The Da Vinci Code" runs through Feb. 1 at the Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$35-\$60. 650-329-0891 or paplayers.org/event/davinci-code.



Courtesy Scott Lasky

Robert Langdon (Christian Vaughn-Munck) and Sophie Neveu (Alli Gamlen) discover a cryptex as their next clue in "The Da Vinci Code."

Palo Alto author writes his own 'ticket'

Lawyer, startup CEO, scholar and writer Keith Raffel publishes first collection of political columns

By Heather Zimmerman

When it comes to that famous piece of writing advice, “write what you know,” Palo Alto author and columnist Keith Raffel has a lot to choose from. His wide-ranging résumé includes a stint as counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee, Congressional candidate, tech startup CEO and Harvard University resident scholar.

Raffel added “author” to that list 20 years ago, when he began writing thrillers, setting several of his five mystery novels in Silicon Valley. Raffel, who grew up in Palo Alto, said that he never planned on a writing career.

In 2023, he began writing a nationally syndicated column on U.S. and international politics that runs weekly, called The Raffel Ticket, and in November, he published a collection of his first two years of columns, called “The Raffel Ticket: Betting on America.” He recently appeared at the Oshman Family JCC to discuss the book.

Raffel’s columns draw on a wide range of references, including Superman, (both the comic and the 2025 superhero movie) and Leo Tolstoy’s famously massive novel “War and Peace.” He also discusses his time in Washington, D.C., in the 1970s and ‘80s, including work with then-Senator Joe Biden on legislation aimed at allowing prosecution of spies and rogue agents while protecting classified documents.

He splits his time between the Peninsula and Harvard University, his alma mater. As

a resident scholar, he advises students, and in a full-circle moment, while on campus lives in the same dorm that he did as an undergraduate, which he describes as both “weird” but also ultimately inspiring. He has also been a lecturer at Harvard’s engineering school, where he taught a class on technology and ethics.

This conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

Embarcadero Media: You have a wide range of experience in politics, tech and academia. How did you get into writing?

Keith Raffel: It was kind of a fluke. I worked on the Campanile at Palo Alto High, and back when there was a Palo Alto Times, I was their on-campus correspondent.

But after that, I was working at a startup, and everything was fine, but it was getting a little stale. One of the things I did for people who worked with me is that UC Berkeley Extension puts out a big fat catalog of classes. And I would say, “you know, you really want to polish up your Java. You really want to get better at presentations. Go take a class and the company will pay for it.”

I was just leafing through it, and there was a course on writing a mystery. And that’s really how I got started.

Embarcadero Media: You’ve worked in many fields. Does that help provide some ideas for your columns?

Raffel: I write a weekly column. People have said, “Aren’t you worried about being able to find a topic each week?” Can I say “yes, of course, I am.” Because when it comes to

fiction, I have some (ideas). I have a friend named Sue Ann, and she says she has so many ideas she can never write all those books. Not me — it’s hard for me to figure out the subject for a novel. On the other hand, I have a Word file that is approaching 200 pages of ideas for columns. And as I’ve said, this is for better or for worse, that as long as you have Trump in the White House, John Roberts as chief justice and a war in the Middle East, I am not going to run out of things to say.

Embarcadero Media: With political events unfolding so quickly these days, when do you know: “this is the subject I’m going to commit to writing about this week?”

Raffel: I start thinking about it on Sunday, my column is due at 10:30am Pacific Time on Wednesday. Usually I write a rough draft on Tuesday, show it to my wife and then I finish it up on Wednesday morning. So I’m thinking about the topic maybe starting Sunday. But you know, Joan Didion has one of my favorite writers’ quotes of all time. In a paraphrase, because I’m not going to get it exactly right. But she said, “I don’t know what I think. I haven’t written it yet.” So, I mean, I could come up with an idea, you know, halfway through I might swerve and find myself on the different side of this subject that I thought I knew where I stood.

So it’s like writing novels. In my very first novel, I was very surprised to find out that the murderer wasn’t the person I thought.

Embarcadero Media: You had to revisit almost two years worth



Courtesy Doug Peck

Keith Raffel recently published a book collecting the first two years of his nationally syndicated column.

of columns to compile the book. What did you learn about your work in that process?

Raffel: During the school year, I live with 19- to 22-year-olds, and having written the columns and having read them over, I said to them, “I might look old to you, and I’m sitting here in the dining hall talking to you, but I’ve discovered that there’s an angry young man inside of me, and that angry young man is actually angrier, younger than any of you are.” I’m not crazy all the time with where the world is going. So I revisited what had happened over time. Philip Graham, (husband

of Washington Post publisher) Katharine Graham, said that “journalism is the first draft of history.” I think if you go read through two years of weekly columns, you are sort of saying, “so this is so this is what it was like. This is what I was thinking.” It’s kind of interesting, it’s kind of fun, and it’s kind of scary. ■

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For more information, visit keithraffel.com.

MUSICAL FELLOWSHIP

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guards, the guys that played jazz in the ‘50s and ‘60s, with some of the greats that we always looked up to,” Wilson said.

“We even had (cornet player) Leon Oakley, who played with us for a decade. He was part of Turk Murphy’s band in San Francisco for a long time in the ‘60s and ‘70s.”

King notes that the group’s longevity is unusual.

“They have been there for so long, but a lot of the same guys are still playing and that is amazing to me, because being in a band is like being in a relationship with multiple people, right? For that kind of relationship to last for that long is amazing to me.”

But King also describes the band’s community spirit in supporting each other as working professionals, such as ensuring they can get to gigs. A band member gave Baker his car, and Baker then gave King his car when she needed transportation. Recently, King was able to pass the car onto another musician who needed it.

Looking ahead as the band marks this milestone, Baker said that he aims to keep doing what the All-Stars have been doing along: just keep playing together, mentoring younger musicians and keeping the fun evenings going at Cafe Borrone.

“It’s a cliché, but it is very much like a family. One of the things my banjo and guitar player friend who’s helped me manage the band, Bill Reinhart, says, you

know, it’s really about a certain kind of fellowship. The thing is, there’s so much stuff that transcends music. Yeah, the music is the reason we’re all there. But so much of what actually makes things click there is the music, plus the community, plus the fellowship that we have as a band working together all these years,” Baker said. ■

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

The Cafe Borrone All-Stars perform Jan. 23, 6-8 p.m., and monthly on Friday evenings at Cafe Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; free admission. For more information, visit clintbakerjazz.com/allstars.html.



Courtesy Clint Baker

The Cafe Borrone All-Stars, seen here performing at the cafe in the 2010s, with, from left, Clint Baker, Leon Oakley, Sam Rocha, Jim Klippert and Jason Vanderford.

Food & Drink

Innovative spins on sushi

These 2 new Peninsula businesses are redefining what a Japanese restaurant looks like

Story by Jake Hutchinson | Photos by Seeger Gray

The Bay Area has been a haven for Japanese food for more than a century. One of the oldest Japanese marketplaces along the Peninsula was established by Tokutaro Takahashi in 1906. Takahashi Market in San Mateo is still in operation today. Over a century since its founding, Japanese food has grown into a staple cuisine around Silicon Valley.

But the market for Japanese food is not monolithic, and the U.S. market for Japanese food is growing. 7-Eleven is investing billions to bring Japanese fast food to the U.S. and announced in early December that it has started selling its egg salad sandwiches in America given their popularity at its Japanese markets. Market research firms identify fast-casual sushi and other Japanese offerings as part of a rapidly growing market.

Anyone who's spent much time adventuring through the online food landscapes of TikTok and Instagram is likely to have seen trendy Japanese convenience store offerings, ranging from those egg salad sandos to onigiri and an overwhelming range of milk breads, pastries and candies, plus shops that offer bento boxes, omakase and more.

Two new Peninsula restaurants

are embracing that appetite, leaning into the aestheticism and marketability of delicately curated portions.

Kazu Sushi & Sando in San Mateo specializes in milk bread sandos and affordable omakase, all to go. Buri Buri Burlingame — originally a food truck specializing in eponymous donburi rice bowls — is adapting its approach with its first brick-and-mortar location, specializing in single servings of sushi rolls and bento boxes.

Kazu Sushi & Sando

(Editor's note: Jennifer Yoshikoshi is a reporter for The Almanac. This article originally appeared in the Peninsula Foodist, a sister publication at Embarcadero Media Foundation.)

Necessity often breeds creativity. Chef Shigekazu "Jay" Yoshikoshi and his daughter, Jennifer, created Kazu Sushi & Sando initially as a pragmatic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jay Yoshikoshi began his own catering business, Yoshi's Catering, in 2008, and worked as a vendor for Bon Appétit Management Company. But as offices emptied in 2020,



Chef Shigekazu "Jay" Yoshikoshi of Kazu Sushi & Sando cuts sushi rolls in his ghost kitchen at San Mateo Food Mall in San Mateo on Jan. 17.

his clients — including major Bay Area entities ranging from Stanford University and Electronic Arts to Amazon — no longer had a need for catering.

As that business cratered, the Yoshikoshis adapted.

Jennifer Yoshikoshi helped her father start Kazu while still in school at UC Santa Barbara. She builds the Instagram-oriented business' social media presence while her father cooks and fulfills orders.

She also helped her father create Kazu's logo: a koinobori, which is a carp flag that's typically used as a symbol for Children's Day in Japan, a holiday celebrating the growth and joy of children.

"The koi is very symbolic of family," Jennifer Yoshikoshi said. "It's usually displayed in three koinoboris in a row, and each one has their own representation of the father, mother and the children. So we thought it was the perfect way to embody what our business is, which is family run, and (it) symbolizes courage and strength within families, to show what my dad and I have gone through to put this business out here."

The business was put on hold in 2023 as her father's catering work picked back up. But that work has slowed again, and the opportunity to bring Kazu back in earnest made sense.

After months of work to overcome permitting hurdles that delayed an intended fall opening, Kazu Sushi & Sando opened Dec.

17 as a ghost kitchen operating in the San Mateo Food Mall.

The new venture represents the continuation of Jay Yoshikoshi's life in pursuit of cooking. His early love of cooking began as a 12-year-old helping his mother in the kitchen. He channeled that passion into a career in 1971, training as a 22-year-old sushi apprentice for three years. After working as a Benihana chef in Hawaii, he established his Bay Area roots, becoming a sushi chef at Kansai Restaurant in San Francisco in 1979.

After taking time away from cooking to work in sales, Jay Yoshikoshi returned to the food service industry in 2008, when he founded his own catering business, Yoshi's Catering.

During the pandemic, Kazu's menu had a wider focus on milk bread sandwiches. With Jay Yoshikoshi as the only chef in the kitchen, they slimmed down the menu to provide the most popular options and keep operations streamlined.

Their sando offerings come in flavors such as mixed fruit and whipped cream, egg salad and a katsu trio of pork, shrimp and unagi (\$14-\$17). The sushi offerings are varied, with the 16-piece omakase set featuring uni, caviar and truffle serving as the crown jewel of the menu (\$62).

Ultimately, Jay Yoshikoshi wants to open his own shop, a grab-and-go style establishment where customers can see his offerings in a display case. For now, he's happy to serve the community with a craft he

prides himself in.

"We want to make it affordable for you to enjoy our omakase sets," Jay Yoshikoshi wrote in an email. "There's a joy in being able to create beautiful sushi with my own hands. Our goal is to hear our customers say, 'This is delicious!'"

Kazu Sushi & Sando, 66 21st Ave., San Mateo; Instagram: @kazumenu. Open Monday and Wednesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.

Buri Buri Burlingame

Buri Buri was founded five years ago as a food truck by chef Anne Li, Katrina Fang, a former Italian cafe manager, and Nikki Ma, a caterer who ran her own food truck. The food truck, which specializes in donburi rice bowls and frequently caters corporate events, will remain active.

Li is the main chef. A graduate of Le Cordon Bleu, she became a pastry chef, following in the footsteps of her father, Hon.

Buri Buri opened its brick-and-mortar eatery in Burlingame Dec. 1, allowing its founders to try a different concept than the food truck — a cafe where sushi can be ordered by the piece for build-your-own boxes so customers can try a wider variety of offerings.

Their concept is simple, but distinct, from the consumer side: bento boxes and mix-and-match pieces of sushi and nigiri priced by the piece. Buri Buri



Chef Shigekazu "Jay" Yoshikoshi of Kazu Sushi & Sando carries delivery orders from his ghost kitchen at San Mateo Food Mall in San Mateo on Jan. 17.



Customers eat inside and outside Buri Buri in Burlingame on Jan. 17.

offers specialty rolls, nigiri, inari (a sweet-and-savory tofu pouch) and pressed sushi, with everything priced at \$2.35-\$3.25 per piece.

Buri Buri offers four different bento boxes for \$16.95-\$19.95 — teriyaki chicken, pork katsu, unagi don or corn croquette — that come with shishito peppers, tomato, lotus root and potato salad. All are available with curry for \$2.50 more. The eatery also offers a weekly special.

Its specialty drinks include housemade matchas and sodas using Japanese citrus, including yuzu and hiramimi lemon (\$7.50).

Li said the menu won't be stable: It will evolve depending on what ingredients are available and in season.

"We have at least 15 sushi rolls daily; 15 different rolls and nigiris and inaris," Li said.

She said she's inspired by the

colors and art of sushi making.

"It looks beautiful," Li said. "You see rice, nori, shrimp, crab and different fish on top and the toppings. It's almost eight to 10 things going in one bite."

Li said her favorite roll is the Scarlet Wave, which includes crab, salmon, spicy tuna, tobiko, garlic, avocado, cucumber and scallion. It's a spin on a volcano roll, topped with spicy tuna.

Li said some customers have been a bit confused because the concept of one-bite rolls is new to them. She urged feedback from diners to streamline their model.

Since opening at the start of December, Li said they've hosted a private event every weekend. She has aspirations of Buri Buri becoming an izakaya in the evening, a place to eat and drink and host her friends. The space has a 20-person capacity, which Li characterized as

"minimalistic and cafe style."

"In the future, I wanted to extend the hours longer or even earlier to have a breakfast, and then the nighttime will start at like izakaya," Li said. "Some small food and small dishes, more cooked food."

Li's hope is for Buri Buri to become a staple of the Burlingame community.

"(I take pride in) the product that I put out," she said. "That it's beautiful, and I see customers coming back with happiness, and they bring their friends and families."

Buri Buri Burlingame, 1100 Howard Ave., Suite D, Burlingame; 650-336-8146, Instagram: @buriburiburlingame. Open Monday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ■

Email Contributing Writer Jake Hutchinson at jake@hutchinson.net.



A customer points out nigiri to add to their order at Buri Buri in Burlingame on Jan. 17.

DOCUMENT 00 1113 NOTICE INVITING BIDS

1. INVITATION TO BID

- 1.1. **Notice Inviting Bids:** Owner will receive sealed Bids at the Town's Public Works Department Office, located at 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, California 94062 until **2pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2026** for the following public work:

TOWN OF WOODSIDE OLD LA HONDA ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

- 1.2. **Project Description:** The work will include the furnishing of all labor, materials, equipment and services necessary or required to perform storm drain modifications and improvements including existing storm drain system removals and installation of concrete aprons, rock rip-rap, inlet structure, headwall, storm drain pipe, concrete aprons, and asphalt concrete (AC) gutter. Work shall be completed within **40 Working Days** from the date when Contract Time commences to run.
- 1.3. **Procurement of Bidding Documents:** Bidding Documents contain the full description of the Work. Bidders may examine a complete hard-copy set of the Bidding Documents at the Town's Public Works Department, located at 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, California 94062. Bidders may purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents on a CD, at Town Hall, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Town will accept payment by credit card, cash, or check, made payable to the "Town of Woodside." Bidding Documents need not be returned to Town. Bidder is responsible for printing any and all of Bidding Documents.
- 1.4. **Instructions:** Bidders shall refer to Document 00 2113 (Instructions to Bidders) for required documents and items to be submitted in a sealed envelope for deposit into the Bid Box in the Town Clerk's Office, located at 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, California 94062 no later than the time and date set forth in Paragraph 1.01 above.
- 1.5. **Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Site Visit:** Owner will conduct a Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit at **9am on Thursday January 22, 2026 starting the intersection of Old La Honda Road and Portola Road, Town of Woodside, CA 94062**. The contact person for the pre-bid site visit shall be Sean Rose, who can be reached at (650) 400-1462 the day of the pre-bid site visit. The Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit will last approximately **one** hour.
- 1.6. **Bid Preparation Cost:** Bidders are solely responsible for the cost of preparing their Bids.
- 1.7. **Reservation of Rights:** Owner specifically reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all Bids, to re-bid, or to waive inconsequential defects in bidding not involving time, price or quality of the work. Owner may reject any and all Bids and waive any minor irregularities in the Bids.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. **Required Contractor's License(s):** A California "A" contractor's license is required to bid this contract. Joint ventures must secure a joint venture license prior to award of this Contract. Specialty work may require a specialty contractor's license "A" held by Bidder or a listed subcontractor.
- 2.2. **Required Contractor and Subcontractor Registration**
- A. Owner shall accept Bids only from Bidders that (along with all Subcontractors listed in Document 00 4330, Subcontractor List) are currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5.
- B. Subject to Labor Code Sections 1771.1(c) and (d), any Bid not complying with paragraph 2.02A above shall be returned and not considered; provided that if Bidder is a joint venture (Business & Professions Code Section 7029.1) or if federal funds are involved in the Contract (Labor Code Section 1771.1(a)), Owner may accept a non-complying Bid provided that Bidder and all listed Subcontractors are registered at the time of Contract award.
- 2.3. **Bid Alternates:** N/A
- 2.4. **Non-Substitutable Materials, Products, Things, or Services –** N/A
- 2.5. **Substitution of Securities:** Owner will permit the successful bidder to substitute securities for any retention monies withheld to ensure performance of the contract, as set forth in Document 00 6290 Escrow Agreement For Security Deposits In Lieu Of Retention and incorporated herein in full by this reference, in accordance with Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code.
- 2.6. **Prevailing Wage Laws:** The successful Bidder must comply with all prevailing wage laws applicable to the Project, and related requirements contained in the Contract Documents. Copies of the general prevailing rates of per diem wages for each craft, classification, or type of worker needed to execute the Contract, as determined by Director of the State of California Department of Industrial Relations, are on file at the Town's Public Works Department, may be obtained from the California Department of Industrial Relations website [<http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/DPreWageDetermination.htm>] and are deemed included in the Bidding Documents. Upon request, Owner will make available copies to any interested party. Also, the successful Bidder shall post the applicable prevailing wage rates at the Site.
- 2.7. **Prevailing Wage Monitoring:** This Project is subject to prevailing wage compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

2025 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR OUR CLIENTS



250 Atherton Ave, Atherton



220 Golden Hills Dr, Portola Valley



1205 Trinity Dr, Menlo Park



55 Serrano Dr, Atherton



8 Reyna Pl, Menlo Park



370 Atherton Ave, Atherton



6 Arastradero Rd, Portola Valley



275 Eleanor Dr, Woodside



87 Fair Oaks Ln, Atherton



22 Oakwood Blvd, Atherton



3 Oak Forest Ct, Portola Valley



83 Tum Suden Way, Woodside



1260 Sherman Ave, Menlo Park*



300 Cervantes Rd, Portola Valley



3570 Tripp Rd, Woodside



587 Sequoia Ave, Redwood City



243 Echo Ln, Portola Valley*



3 Wyndham Dr, Portola Valley



410 Sand Hill Cir, Menlo Park



1144 Los Trancos Rd, Portola Valley



207 Pearl Ln, Menlo Park



315 Homer Ave #105, Palo Alto

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