Country’s biggest apartment owners group joins campaign for Measure D

By Kevin Forestieri

A landlord group that’s long been opposed to rent control is actively campaigning in favor of a Mountain View measure to loosen rent control restrictions, collecting two major donations totaling nearly $77,000 for the “Yes on Measure D” campaign. Measure D, sponsored by the Mountain View City Council, would make significant changes to the city’s rent control law, known as the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA). It would set maximum annual rent increases to 4% on rent-controlled apartments and make it easier for landlords to pass the costs of capital upgrades on to tenants for rent increases of up to 10%. Despite retaining caps on rent increases and other key provisions of CSFRA typically opposed by landlords, the California Apartment Association (CAA) is now campaigning to get Measure D across the finish line in the March 3 election. The organization sent mailers to Mountain View residents last week encouraging voters to support the ballot measure, calling it a “responsible approach that

See MEASURE D, page 6

Man in ‘home invasion’ eviction scheme takes plea deal

By Kevin Forestieri

An San Jose man involved in a brazen apartment break-in intended to force out a family accepted a plea deal and awaits sentencing in March, according to court documents. Steven Carling, 53, pleaded no contest on Jan. 23 to assault with a deadly weapon — a felony — as well as two misdemeanors for making criminal threats and attempting to prevent victims from contacting police. The three counts carry a maximum prison sentence of four years, and do not include a first-degree burglary charge originally sought by prosecutors.

Court minutes and the plea deal form show Carling has agreed to three years of formal probation as well as current time served as of Jan. 23 — about five months. Prosecutors in the case did not immediately respond to the Voice’s request for comment.

Carling was one of five people involved in what police described as a conspiracy to illegally oust tenants from an apartment on Rock Street in August last year. Text messages between two of the suspects, identified as 50-year-old Reenu Saini and 49-year-old Lori Walston, detail how Saini sought to use the confrontation as a chance to “kick them out” or at least “scare them up a bit,” according to an exchange transcribed by officers. The apartment was occupied at the time by a married couple and two children, who had been living in the apartment for only a few weeks. During the attack, the family escaped through a back door and was found a short distance away on Rengstorff Avenue.

Saini allegedly coordinated the plans and arrived with the accomplices outside of the apartment on the evening of Aug. 26, and gave explicit instructions via text message to take the family’s cellphones to keep them from calling the cops, according to a police report. Saini cut the power to the apartment, which she said could help “smoke” them out, according to text messages.

Carling’s role in the operation was one of brute force: Police say witnesses and one of the accomplices — a friend of Carling — confirmed that he tried to force his way into the apartment by striking the front door, though the stories on how this was carried out differ. The friend told officers that Carling did not have
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**CRIME BRIEF**

**WOMAN ARRESTED FOR THROWING PUNCHES DOWNTOWN**

A Southern California woman was arrested Feb. 1 after she allegedly punched someone in the face in downtown Mountain View. Officers patrolling the area spotted the 37-year-old woman, a resident of Rialto, in a Bryant Street parking lot arguing with another woman around 1:40 a.m., according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. During the altercation, the woman allegedly punched the victim in the face, grabbed her hair and pulled her to the ground before striking her again. Officers say the argument may have stemmed from miscommunication: The alleged assailant reportedly believed she heard insulting remarks from the victim about her mother, whereas the victim told police she was talking about her own mother.

The woman was arrested on suspicion of battery and transported to Santa Clara County jail.

—Kevin Forestieri

**POLICE LOG**

**AUTO BURGLARY**

W. Dana St. & Hope St., 1/28
500 block San Antonio Rd., 1/28
100 block Hope St., 1/28
1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/28
200 block Franklin St., 1/30
900 block Villa St., 1/31
400 block Calderon Av., 1/31

**BATTERY**

200 block Castro St., 2/1

**CRIMINAL THREATS**

200 block Castro St., 1/30

**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

1 block Mercy St., 1/28
W. Dana St. & Shoreline Blvd., 2/1

**GRAND THEFT**

1600 block Villa St., 1/28
1600 block Latham St., 1/30
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/31

**ROBBERY**

500 block Showers Dr., 2/2

**VANDALISM**

300 block Castro St., 2/1
200 block Castro St., 2/2

**VANDALISM**

500 block Showers Dr., 2/2

**INFLUENCE DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

200 block Castro St., 2/2

**ROBBERY**

300 block Castro St., 2/1

**VANDALISM**

500 block Showers Dr., 2/2

**INFLUENCE DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

1 block Mercy St., 1/28

**GRAND THEFT**

1600 block Villa St., 1/28
1600 block Latham St., 1/30
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/31

**BRIEF LOG**

**LOS ALTO S TO GET MASSIVE FOOD HALL**

San Francisco has the Ferry Building, San Jose, the San Pedro Square Market, Napa, the Oxbow Market. And soon, the Peninsula will have its own food hall.

State Street Market, a two-story, 16,504-square-foot building, is currently under construction at 160 and 170 State St. in downtown Los Altos. Local developer Los Altos Community Investments, which was founded by Anne Wojcicki (the co-founder and CEO of 23andMe), is behind the project. The company declined to comment on the record at this time.

Plans submitted to the city show an interior and exterior remodel for a mixed-use food hall and market. The ground floor will include a coffee bar, ice cream shop, ramen bar, raw bar, teaching kitchen, arcade, a bar/restaurant and something called “healthy bowl,” according to the project plans. There will also be retail, including a fitness area, lounge and meeting rooms, according to the plans. The second floor is office space.

In 2018, Wojcicki told the Los Altos Town Crier that she envisioned the project as a gathering place with “food and fun” for the Los Altos community.

“I really think of this as being a very open, multigenerational spot where there’s a lot of variety and fun,” she said. “You want people just hanging out in town, you can get food, you have stuff you can do, you can meet your friends — it’s a hub with social activity.”

The company owns numerous downtown Los Altos properties, with food tenants including Bumble, Tin Pot Creamery, Manresa Bread and Asa Restaurant. Since starting Los Altos Community Investments in 2010, Wojcicki has invested in the city of Los Altos with “strategic long-term investments that ignite growth and vitality in the downtown,” the company’s website reads.

—Elena Kadvany

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Cyber attack takes down high school server and phone system

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View-Los Altos High School District was the victim of a ransomware attack last week that took down the phone system and blocked access to files stored on the district's server.

Superintendent Nellie Meyer said in a statement Thursday, Jan. 30, that the attack prevented teachers and students from accessing email accounts and files stored on the district's servers, interfering with both campus operations and instruction. Around the same time, staff received reports of fraudulent activity on credit cards used by district employees, raising alarm bells that it could be related to the attack. Those concerns appear to be unfounded, according to district officials Monday.

The school district is still investigating the cause and extent of the security breach, including whether the attackers had access to sensitive student data that could be copied and transferred.

The phone system and some of the district's file servers remained offline through Tuesday, a week after the attack, according to Bob Fishtrom, the district's director of information services. New antivirus software has been installed on more than 700 devices across all the district's facilities, including the Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School on Moffett Boulevard, with hopes that the ransomware won't proliferate once the servers are back online.

What the district knows so far is that the malware is called Sodinokibi, a sophisticated type of ransomware developed in April 2019, likely in Russia or China, and somehow got into the district's network — potentially in a bogus email attachment.

Sodinokibi is designed so that it repeatedly attempts to replicate itself, and holds victims hostage by encrypting files and demanding money (in bitcoin) in order to get them back.

“We're one of hundreds of districts and entities hit with it,” Fishtrom said.

Since Jan. 29, Chromebooks have been distributed to staff with affected computers as a workaround, Fishtrom said, and the good news is that many teachers are already storing most of their important digital classroom materials on Google Drive — which remain unaffected. The other bright spot is that the district's student information system is hosted elsewhere and hasn’t been affected.

“We know that it hasn't been compromised,” he said.

Kalista Micetich, a freshman at Mountain View High, said everything from the grading system to classroom projectors to the attendance-taking system was affected, and students in engineering classes fell behind because they couldn't use their

Vaping ordinance and youth mental health top council's goals

By Kevin Forestieri

Faced with too many ambitious plans and not nearly enough staff time, the Mountain View City Council took a scalpel to its long list of big-ticket priorities Tuesday night. Transportation initiatives were largely the losers, while a bid for a citywide vaping ban and improvements to youth mental health won coveted spots in the lengthy catalog of council goals.

The Feb. 4 meeting marked the council's biennial goal-setting process, which sets a road map for addressing the city’s most pressing issues. It also gives council members a broadly defined forum to spottideas, rapidly taking on a bevy of disparate topics in a small theater inside the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts. Council members “voted” by placing colored stickers on easel pads next to favored items.

Gaining the sticker of approval from all seven council members was a new plan to help address gaps in youth mental health care in Mountain View. The idea, put forth by Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga last year, would have the city bring together school districts, nonprofits and county health officials to figure out what services are lacking and what can be done about it. It could also usher in a boost of funding from the city to mental health providers.

Abe-Koga said she believes the city could become an important “conduit” between health care agencies and local schools. The idea comes after the deaths of two high school students by suicide since August 2018.

The council was cautious, however, of overstepping boundaries, and agreed that the work should be done primarily by council members themselves through the Youth Services Committee. Councilwoman Lisa Matchak said the city doesn't have the expertise to champion mental health initiatives that have long been the purview of Santa Clara County and local nonprofits, and worried it would take up too much staff time.

“I would prefer the city not take the lead, given how much we have on our plate,” she said.

Also getting added to the priority list is an ordinance restricting the sale of electronic cigarettes and vaping products within city limits, which could come back to the council for a vote in June. The decision follows recent calls by county officials and local school districts urging the city to do more to curb a troubling rise in teen vaping.

Mountain View does not have an ordinance restricting the sale of tobacco products near schools and in pharmacies, and does not prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products that appeal to teens. A study last February found a reduction in tobacco use among youth and young adults in areas that adopted robust compliance checks and enforcement programs to monitor illicit sales to minors.

Though the Tuesday meeting was a chance to add new priorities, the bulk of the discussion was spent trying to find a middle ground with city staffers seeking to postpone time-consuming tasks or items that require new hires. A study originally slated to begin this month on an automated trash system into North Bayshore got bumped to November, pending the hiring of a new assistant public works director. The launch of the city's new electric scooter program got postponed...
rent increases under CSFRA by 4%. In fact, the current law ties annual rent increases to the rate of inflation, not to exceed 3% and, since its inception, has not gone higher than 3.6%.

It also points out that the council’s measure does not remove just-cause eviction protections, even though such protections are now largely enshrined in state law under AB 1482, and does not tamper with the balance between tenants and property owners who serve on the Rental Housing Committee charged with administering CSFRA. However, the measure would open membership to nonresident property owners. Campaigning by the landlord lobbying group was dormant through the end of 2019, with recent campaign finance documents showing no fundraising activities and just $3,930 spent on legal services. Though reports for the first half of January have yet to be filed, campaigning appears to have jumped-started this week with two major donations: $26,950 from Mountain View-based real estate company Acco Management and $49,500 from Richard Tod Speik, who owns and operates thousands of multifamily units, mostly in Santa Clara County. Both donations went to a campaign committee called “Mountain View Residents for Renter, Homeowner, & Taxpayer Protections, Yes on D, Sponsored by the California Apartment Association.”

The active role in campaigning for Measure D comes from a desire to end the “divisive rent control fights” that Mountain View residents have engaged in since 2016, said Joshua Howard of the California Apartment Association, who filed a now-withdrawn lawsuit in 2017 seeking to overturn CSFRA. He added that the group appreciates the leadership of Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga for seeking to bring the community together on the contentious issue.

While Measure D is far from perfect, it does try to strike a balance between state law and the measure that CAA helped qualify for the November ballot,” Howard said.

In 2018, the CAA sought its own revisions to Mountain View’s rent control law by collecting signatures for an initiative currently slated to appear on the November 2020 ballot. The measure would have given significant concessions in favor of landlords and contains a poison pill provision that would effectively end rent control in Mountain View. Rent control increases would be tied mostly to the vacancy rate and units and become unenforceable when it hits 3% or higher. Even in the city’s booming housing market, the vacancy rate hasn’t dropped below 5% in over 13 years.

Last month, the CAA announced that it would withdraw its support for the November ballot initiative if Measure D passes, short before it began actively campaigning for the measure.

Opposition outspent

A relatively lean campaign opposing Measure D also picked up steam last month, with the latest round of filings showing the Mountain View Housing Justice Campaign raised nearly $4,500 in donations from the start of the year through last month.

The campaign received contributions ranging from $99 to $1,000 from 14 people, a dozen of whom are Mountain View residents. Former Santa Clara County Supervisor Abel Maldonado, who served as a former school board member Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

The campaign spent nearly $3,000 over the same period on flyers, cards, yard signs and door hangers. Overall, the campaign called Measure D “deceptive, unfair and unnecessary,” slamming the argument that the measure would reduce rents or be needed for earthquake safety.

picture, describing how Carling got up to the door and splintered the wood. At one point he began thrusting a knife through a crack, nearly stabbing the father of the family who was bracing the door from the other side. Police arriving at the apartment saw Carling still holding a metal object that matched the description of the knife, and officers say his actions amounted to assault with a deadly weapon.

Carling was released from county jail on his own recognizance on Jan. 23 on condition that he agree to appear in court for sentencing on March 20. He served a previous prison term after his 2012 conviction for felony possession of a stolen vehicle in Santa Clara County.

The case against Saini, who is accused of burglary and unlawfully turning off the apartment’s power, is still ongoing, and she is due to appear in court on March 16 for a preliminary hearing. In an interview with the Voice last month, Saini defended her eviction attempt and described how she was a lessee of the apartment and rented the unit out to others for short-term stays. Up to the Aug. 26 break-in, she said she had been losing money because the tenants had not been paying rent.

Saini said she was seeking $10,000 in monthly rent for the two-bedroom apartment, significantly higher than the $3,900 the family claims it had originally agreed to pay. He added that the measure was an attempt to reduce rent control over the next several years in Mountain View’s rent control campaigns.

The campaign spent nearly $3,000 over the same period on flyers, cards, yard signs and door hangers. Overall, the campaign called Measure D “deceptive, unfair and unnecessary,” slamming the argument that the measure would reduce rents or be needed for earthquake safety.

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**Josh Becker**

**Key issue:** Environment

**Age:** 50

**City:** Menlo Park

**Education:** Williams College, B.A.; Stanford University, J.D., M.B.A.

**Career:** former CEO at Lex Machina, founder of the Full Circle Fund, co-founder of New Cycle Capital

**Years in district:** 20

**Family:** wife; two children

**Key endorsements:** Gov. Gavin Newsom, U.S. Senator Ed Markey, key sponsor of the Senate bill to require changes in the state's climate change laws.

**Campaign funds raised:** $932,379

**Independent spending:** $506,000 from Reid Hoffman through the Committee for a Positive Change in Support of Josh Becker for Senate 2020

**Local News**

**I'm running to be not just a good vote on climate change, but to be the environmental climate leader in the state Senate.**

Josh Becker

After college, he went into consulting before he left to work in war-torn Guatemala and El Salvador. There, he helped rebuild homes, open a market and build a school.

"That experience, for me, made me want to make my life about service," he said.

Back in the U.S., he worked in Washington, D.C. as a press secretary before heading to Stanford, where he completed a joint law and business schools program. While there, he helped create the "Board of Fellows" program, which trains MBA students to serve on nonprofit boards.

In 2000, he created the Full Circle Fund, focused on making grants to innovative nonprofits throughout the Bay Area working on housing affordability, economic opportunity, education and technology and also supporting the environment.

Becker ran unsuccessfully for the state Assembly in 2010, then started campaigning again in 2015 for the District 24 Assembly seat. He dropped out of the race after his father fell ill. After his father later died of brain cancer, Becker helped to start a biotech company to research cancer.

He said he's a collaborator and an innovator who, over the years, has taken on a number of varied challenges facing the state. He was fundraising trustee at the University of California at Merced, serves on the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council, is an appointee to the California Workforce Development Board, and is a board member of the local environmental nonprofit Menlo Spark.

He said he would like to be the environmental leader in the state Senate.

"I think what we do here has an impact well beyond our borders, if we get people like me up there," he said.

Becker is a 30-year resident of the district, in line with his policy of who should represent him.

**Key endorsements:**

- Central County Firefighters, California Refuse Recycling Council Northern District, San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa

**Campaign funds raised:**

- $815,203

**Independent spending:**

- $460,000 from his mother, Linda Brownrigg, through Californians Supporting Brownrigg for Senate 2020

**Democrat Mike Brownrigg** is a venture capitalist who now works in social impact investing and sits on the Burlington City Council.

"I'm voting in this election, and I think I know what makes this place special, and I think that gives me an advantage as we start to think about how to grow in a way that protects what's special, and yet makes room for people, which is the most important thing," he said.

**Campaign strategy has involved:** meeting constituents at nearly 100 house parties across the district, in line with his campaign hashtag on Twitter, #NeighborhoodStateSenator.

"On the Burlington council, he's been the city through thick and thin: He talks about how, early in his tenure, during the recession, he negotiated with labor groups to defer raises to bridge the economic downturn and got the community to step up philanthropic contributions to the library."

More recently, he said, and his council colleagues worked to implement zoning for a new neighborhood and supported an affordable housing development in the heart of downtown Burlingame.

The city is now on target to expand its housing stock by 20% over the next decade, he said. This aligns with a city council member's emphasis on providing affordable housing for local residents. Becker's focus on environmental issues is aligned with the council's goal of becoming a "green city." He is seen as a voice of environmental concern and a community leader in Burlingame.
by 2030. That would require creating carbon-free energy and reducing demand for fossil fuels while taking aggressive steps to sequester carbon in the atmosphere, he said. To start, he wants to put together an 18-month blue ribbon task force to figure out how to create or store 10 gigawatts of energy in seven years. He also wants to require the meetings of public agencies that spend more than $50 million to $100 million to be televised, with recordings that are searchable; create a permanent funding stream for early childhood education and early child care; and add a four-year degree program to a community college in District 13. It’s often “a bridge too far, no pun intended,” for local working kids going to community college who then want a four-year degree to have to commute to San Jose, Oakland or San Francisco, he said.

He said he’s guided in his decision-making by asking himself questions such as “What is true north? What are we trying to accomplish?” and “What’s best for the kids?” — giving extra weight to the last of those questions. “That helps you make decisions. You’re not trying to solve for multiple variables,” he said. 

**Alexander Glew**

**Key issue:** Infrastructure

**Age:** 56

**City:** Los Altos

**Education:** U.C. Berkeley, B.S. and Masters in Mechanical Engineering; Stanford University, Masters and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering

**Career:** Engineer

**Years in district:** 25

**Family:** Wife and three golden retrievers

**Key endorsements:** California GOP, Santa Clara County GOP and San Mateo County GOP

**Campaign funds raised:** $3,100

**Independent spending:** None

The sole Republican candidate in a predominantly Democratic district, Alex Glew is an engineering consultant who sits on the Los Altos Design Review Commission and is part of the South Peninsula Area Republican Coalition. He’s also not a newcomer to local politics: In 2018, he ran for the District 24 state Assembly seat and lost to Marc Berman.

Glew said his guiding principles are his values of freedom, liberty and choice and that he believes problems should be “first addressed by the people closest to the problem.”

A big part of choice, he said, is getting to choose one’s neighborhood.

“People buy into a neighborhood and raise their kids there or retire there based on choices, but these choices are being removed for them,” he said. He said that cities should be able to control their own densities — voicing opposition to the premise of the controversial housing bill SB 50.

The state should be investing in big infrastructure projects, like dams, trains and highways, he said.

Talking about the high-speed rail project, he said: “That a government the size of California… can’t figure out how to plan for a train that nobody will use, is truly a government to think in a long-term and disciplined manner. … It would be laughable if it weren’t our state and our people and our problems and so much money. It’s just sort of sad.”

Sacramento, he asserted, is out of touch and spends too much time on “minuscule things that sort of pander to popular culture” instead of focusing on the basics of investing in transportation and water systems.

“People like cars; politicians say cars are bad. People like single-family homes; politicians say single-family homes are bad. People want lower taxes; the politicians really don’t listen,” he said.

The lack of investment in infrastructure, even while cities have continued to grow, he said, has worsened the quality of life and made the average commute in the area more than an hour each way.

“California has a net outflow of people who were born and raised here,” Glew said. “They just get fed up with the low quality of life. It attracts people who are used to a much lower quality of life, you know — we have a vast number of immigrants coming here. For them, this is perhaps heaven. But for the people who are here, it’s not.”

Regarding private sector growth, he said that the state and counties need to have clearer plans for infrastructure investment.

Cities continue to attract more jobs without creating that infrastructure, he noted. “The big companies are smarter than the local municipalities; they seem to always come out ahead on the deals,” he said. “As a Republican, I run a business. I’m very pro-business. But I don’t believe that there is an unbridled right to increase population just to feed workers to these entities.”

If a county doesn’t have an infrastructure plan to accommodate job growth, then another county should be eligible for that infrastructure funding.

He favors the state staying out of health care, preferring a marketplace approach. Citing “The Care that Works,” a book by economics professor Sean Flynn, he supports widespread health savings accounts and more competition to give people choices about where to seek medical services. Those services should come with clear price tags so that people make decisions about how and whether to save costs in seeking health services, he added.

Some of his other policy goals include changing the state pension system to a defined contribution program that functions more like a 401(k) system and to allow PG&E to face more competition.

**Sally Lieber**

**Key issue:** Tackling poverty

**Age:** 58

**City:** Mountain View

**Education:** Attended City College San Francisco and Foothill College, Stanford B.A.

**Occupation:** Volunteer and community organization

**Years in district:** 26

**Family:** husband, dog

**Key endorsements:** National Nurses United - California Nurses Association, SEIU California, Sierra Club California

**Campaign funds raised:** $252,085

**Independent spending:** None

Democrat Sally Lieber, former Mountain View City Council member, stands out among the candidates as the only one with experience as an elected official in the state Legislature. She served in the Assembly from 2002 to 2008.

Her path was a nontraditional one: She worked as a wallpaper hanger in Michigan and San Francisco for 10 years, earned a GED and attended community college, focusing on helping individuals in her district of about 440,000 constituents. For example, she once got Caltrans to remove tread marks on the road that a constituent believed resulted from her husband’s fatal car accident and found traumatizing.

If elected to the Senate, she said, her first bill would be an anti-poverty measure. “It doesn’t do anyone good to have so many kids growing up in poverty in our state,” she said.

Regarding housing, she said she didn’t support SB 50 because there wasn’t enough affordable housing tied to it. But she wants to focus on other policies that don’t “suck all the air out of the room.”

The service workers who are now commuting in from the Central Valley and south Santa Clara County won’t always be so willing to endure the schlep, she said.

“We can’t solve all of our housing needs by having spillover into agricultural areas of the Central Valley,” she said.

A good start would be to invest in rail infrastructure so it takes less than two hours to commute by BART to the Peninsula from the East Bay, she said. That includes a better connection to Caltrain in the South Bay to serve affordable housing growth in communities like Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

Tech companies should permit more people to work remotely, she said, and there should be a faster pathway established for how they can be involved in helping solve the problems to which they contribute. It shouldn’t be considered an act of philanthropy but rather a reliable source of funding, she said. And, just as cities today have to prove that there will be enough water available to support new growth, they should also be required to demonstrate that is housing available before they permit new job centers to be built, she said.

She wants the state’s surplus properties, particularly the surface parking lots of public agencies, studied and considered for affordable housing development. One place she’s wary of developing, though, is on areas that have historically been part of the Bay or will be part of it in the future.

“We have to have the Bay wetlands as our shock absorbers for sea level rise,” she said.

RVs, Lieber said, are likely to remain a part of the region’s housing mix “for the foreseeable future,” so she favors the development of safe parking facilities, as well as other initiatives such as Oakland’s “Tuff Shed” program to rapidly offer housing for the homeless.

She supports Medicare for all and having a state Medicaid to cover undocumented adults. The state should also consider increasing reimbursement rates for community organizations that provide health care, she added.

“I feel like we should have the same health care security that Canadians do,” she said.

**Shelly Masur**

**Key issue:** Education

**Age:** 55

**City:** Redwood City

**Education:** B.A. University of California, Berkeley; M.A. Yale University; M.S. California State University, Chico

**Occupation:** nonprofit executive

**Years in district:** 21

**Family:** husband; three adult children; two dogs

**Key endorsements:** Scott Wiener, state senator; Marc Berman.

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**See SENATE RACE, page 10**
Yet California continues to chronically underfund its schools, she said. “We’ve got to continually work toward moving from the bottom 10 to the top 10 in public education,” she said.

But at the same time, rather than work on writing new education programs right now, she said, the state should continue to pay down pension liabilities for teachers and other government employees. When the state shifted pension costs to cities, school districts and employees, it created “havoc for all of us in local government,” she said. “It’s the real responsibility of the top to come back and fund what it took away.”

As a council member in Redwood City, a Peninsula leader in housing production, Masur said that another key opportunity is getting affordable housing built to address the region’s housing crisis.

The intersection of housing and education strikes home for Masur: Her daughter, a first-year teacher, is currently living home because she can’t afford the local housing.

Masur is apart from the other candidates as the sole supporter of the revised version of SB 50.

She said that the bill’s author, Sen. Senate leader, who has endorsed her, was responsive to her input and that of other leaders in Peninsula cities when he made a revision to allow cities two years to develop their own zoning plans to allow increased housing, as well as to not exempt the less populous counties.

Another way the state could help communities to build more housing is through a strategy of housing tax credits and increased support for construction of middle-income housing, which is generally difficult to finance, she said.

To tackle homelessness, Masur said, she favors a “housing first” approach, which provides housing to homeless people without requiring that they adhere to regulations such as being clean, sober or employed.

“If you don’t have a home, how are you going to go to a regular appointment with a therapist? How are you going to make sure you take your meds every day? How are you going to make sure you have regular food? ... The list is endless because you have to spend all your energy to think about where you’re going to be.”

Masur, who has served as Redwood City’s representative on Caltrain’s Local Policy Maker Group, also said that her priorities is to fund grade separations, for traffic and safety reasons. Masur said she wants to declare a climate crisis and move up the state’s goal to reach zero carbon emissions by 2030. She also wants to make health care more affordable and accessible.

“California is the fifth largest economy in the world. We should be able to move forward in ensuring that everyone has access to health care in some way,” she said. In part inspired by in her family’s experience with homelessness.

Her son has been homeless and struggled with mental health and addiction problems.

“When those bring you down, they bring you all the way down,” she said. After her son got on board with her run for office, Oliva proposed a seven-step approach for tackling homelessness in California.

Key among these policy proposals are to expand conservatorship, through which people in some situations would be required to use shelter or undergo treatment, and to promote transitional jail-diversion programs that give low-level offenders who are mentally ill or struggle with substance abuse the option to receive treatment instead of being incarcerated.

Another component of tackling homelessness is decreasing the cost of building housing, she said. She favors streamlining permitting and project review processes at the city level to expedite development and reforming the California Environmental Quality Act to limit when people can file lawsuits over development proposals as part of the environmental review process.

“It’s pretty incredible to think that it takes an IPO to put a down payment on a home today,” she said.

Oliva said these incidents happened while she was visiting her son, who was receiving treatment, and the bureau reported to her a number of steps to ensure that it wouldn’t happen again: changing business practices; taking courses in trust fund handling, ethics, risk management and office management; and getting assistance from industry professionals.

“He did this very, very seriously, and I did everything that they told me to do, I made a mistake, and nobody was hurt, thankfully, and we fixed it. ... It was a painful time. I didn’t take it lightly. I still don’t take it lightly.”

Among the Democratic candidates, Oliva has spoken most strongly in support of preserving property rights. She opposed SB 50 and favors leaving zoning decisions up to local jurisdictions.

She opposes the state’s new laws that set restrictions on rent increases and added the reason there are so few rental opportunities on the market is because landlords are hesitant because of the new laws.

She favors investing in transportation instead — and suggested a train line to run between San Bruno and Tracy. That would allow more workers to be able to get to Peninsula jobs from the East Bay and beyond.

“If we can accomplish better public transportation for people that need to come into the district, and they can use that other than a car, I think that would be great for the environment as well,” she said.

For Oliva in particular, the call to reform PG&E carries personal resonance. In the 2010 San Bruno pipeline explosion that gutted a neighborhood and killed eight people, several of her childhood schoolmates died and three of the agents in her San Bruno real estate office were displaced, she said.

“My mom (lives) about a half-mile away from the explosion,” she added. “It was horrific. It was scary as all heck. So you can only imagine from the experience we had that night how I feel about PG&E. People in the state want to know for what happened. People that died in that explosion I went to grade school with. They need to be watched.”

When asked what should be done to reform the utility, she said, “I don’t want to comment on what I think the solution is.”

If she were elected, the average resident in the district would be paying about $40 a month more in taxes, except perhaps, an accentuation of positive aspects of Peninsula life, she said. She identifies her politics as “very moderate.”

Common sense, I guess, would be the biggest change,” she said. “There’s just so many laws that come into effect that don’t make sense, and I’d like to be the one that listens to everybody.”

John Webster

Key issue: Big government

Age: 74

City: Mountain View

Education: University of Washington, BS; Santa Clara University, Masters in computer science

Years in district: 12

Occupation: Software engineer

Key endorsements: None

Campaign funds raised: None

Independent spending: None

Webster said he doesn’t think the free market will fix everything. “I don’t have concrete responses to a number of proposed laws, like SB 50, because, as he put it, “Since I’m not actually in the Legislature now, I don’t get the wording of intended laws.”

At nearly every level, he favors letting the free market work. “If we can accomplish better public transportation for people that need to come into the district, and they can use that other than a car, I think that would be great for the environment as well,” she said.

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The Grand Dame of Crescent Park
The grace and elegance of the Victorian era blend seamlessly with the very best of modern amenities in this stunning Queen Anne Victorian home, an architectural masterpiece in prestigious Crescent Park. Boasting 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on 4,516 sq. ft. of living space (per independent third party measurement) on a 9,984 sq. ft. lot (per county), this home affords a rare opportunity to own a piece of Bay Area history while still enjoying a contemporary lifestyle. Alluring appointments such as coved and coffered ceilings, antique windows, and embossed wall coverings whisk you away to a bygone era, while the brilliant kitchen, updated baths, and superb master suite are firmly rooted in the present. Third-level bonus space includes a kitchen and bath, offering flexible use for a variety of household needs. Adding the finishing touch, this home enjoys a location close to the excitement of downtown Palo Alto, and provides access to top-rated Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
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OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

Patricia Floyd
December 23, 1924 – November 12, 2019

Patricia Cooling (Pat) Floyd passed away peacefully on November 12, 2019, at the age of ninety-four, after spending her last fifty-five years in Mountain View. She was born December 23, 1924, to Horace and Edna Cooling on the south side of Chicago. Growing up, she attended Saint Felicitas School and Mercy High School, both in Chicago.

She was very active in a teen club hosted by her parents and welcomed new members. During one get together, she noticed a tall young man standing with friends and asked him to dance. That was how she met her late husband, Jim Floyd, Sr. Together, they raised five children who, in turn, gave them eleven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Her family was her life’s purpose and she helped raise most of her grandchildren and even some of her great-grandchildren.

She lived a life to the fullest and was always ready for another adventure: as a teenager, unbeknownst to her parents, she took a barnstorming ride on a biplane. After moving to California with her family, she enjoyed volunteering at El Camino Hospital’s maternity ward, as well as many trips to Martin’s Beach, Half Moon Bay, Santa Cruz and to her special bench in Shoreline Park. She decorated her house for every holiday. When spouses and grandchildren joined the family, she always had a pot of Christmas soup simmering on the stove to accommodate everyone’s schedules.

After the loss of her husband in 1973, she and her closest friends started gathering on the first Tuesday of every month to go to dinner, chat and help each other through life’s challenges. The Tuesday Night Bunch was commemorating more than twenty-five years of Tuesday nights.

Life took some of her children out of state but, for her 80th birthday, everyone came to Mountain View and converged in front of her house. After the initial surprise and pleasure of greeting them, her first thought was, “how am I going to feed everyone”? That was just the way she was: a wonderful, thoughtful, kind human being.

She is survived by her five children: Linda Dupre of Phoenix, AZ; Lynne Floyd of Sunnyvale, CA; Jim Floyd Jr of Saratoga, CA; Michael Floyd of Overland, MO; Ted Floyd of Glendale, AZ; eleven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations to The Salvation Army would be appreciated.

Edwin Hale
March 21, 1933 - January 6, 2020

Edwin Hale passed away peacefully in Mountain View on January 6, 2020 at the age of 86 after a long illness, from complications of Parkinson’s Disease.

Ed was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois and attended Oak Park River Forest High School. He went on to MIT where he lettered in track (pole vault) and soccer. After graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he started his engineering career working on the design and testing of the Mercury and Gemini modules for NASA in St. Louis.

He moved to Chicago to work for Liquid Carbonic in research and development of cryogenic technologies in food processing and recycling applications. He was a past president of the American Cryogenic Society and was considered an “icon” in the industry.

He was a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) and of the Palo Alto Friends Meeting. He was a pacifist and an advocate for military tax reform. He served on the Board of the American Friends Service Committee (Chicago) and was committed to the support of programs of social justice.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Janet Hale of Mountain View; his son David Hale and daughter-in-law Laura Torres and grandchildren Jonathan and Madeline of Los Altos; his daughter Katie Hale and her partner Lia Milhoan of San Jose; and his sister Marjorie Kipper of Hoover, Alabama. A private family service is planned. Memorial donations may be made to: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC - Quakers), ACLU, or the Southern Poverty Law Center.
Why Vote Yes On Measures G & H? Support Foothill And De Anza Colleges!

The cost to attend California’s public universities has risen to FIVE times that of attending a community college.

**YES on G & H** increases opportunities for local students to earn college credits, certifications, job skills or transfer to a university at a reasonable price at Foothill or De Anza College.

**ENDORSED BY:**

The League of Women Voters
Cupertino - Sunnyvale

**ENDORSED BY:**

MARGARET ABE-KOGA
Mountain View Mayor

ELLEN KAMEI
Mountain View City Councilmember

LUCAS RAMIREZ
Mountain View City Councilmember

LAURA BLAKELY
Mountain View – Whisman School District School Board Member

League of Women Voters Endorse YES on G & H as comprehensive, accountable education plans.

For full texts of both measures and Oversight Committee Reports, visit: [fhda.edu/MeasuresGandH](http://fhda.edu/MeasuresGandH)

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Paid for by Friends of Foothill-De Anza CCD for Yes on Measures G & H – FPPC# 1424567. Committee major funding provided by the Foothill-De Anza Community Colleges Foundation and Hon. Franklin P. Johnson, Jr.
TURN-KEY DUPLEX IN DOWNTOWN PALO ALTO

250 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

Located in desirable Downtown Palo Alto, this 2,451 sq. ft. duplex (per county) totaling 5 bedrooms and 4 baths is turn-key ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs, while offering great investment and rental opportunities on a 2,480 sq. ft. lot (per county). Exuding all the warmth and character of its early 1900s heritage, this spacious home is well-equipped for a modern family, offering comfortable formal rooms, a chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances from Wolf and Sub-Zero, office space, and a master suite with a private balcony. The downstairs level presents excellent space with a large living area, full kitchen, plus a bedroom and bathroom. Just blocks away from the amenities of University Avenue, and just steps to Johnson Park, this perfectly centralized location adds the finishing touch to this wonderful home, which also offers access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

LISTED ON DAHLIA

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Complimentary Refreshments

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.250Cowper.com

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun 電話：650.785.5822 | DRE #01933274
BRIGHT, SPACIOUS, AND A COVETED LOCATION

1400 Holly Avenue, Los Altos

On a peaceful corner lot of nearly one-third acre (per county) in the sought-after Heritage Oaks neighborhood, this wonderful home offers 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, and over 2,100 sq. ft. (per county) of bright, luxurious living space. Enjoy the comfort of the inviting fireplace centering the spacious living room, inspire your inner chef in the superb kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, and appreciate the convenience of a large office for all work-from-home needs. The master suite provides a welcoming retreat, while also accessing the expansive and private backyard, which has ample space for outdoor enjoyment. Adding the finishing touch, this home boasts a wonderful location within walking distance of numerous parks, near the exciting amenities of Rancho Shopping Center, and with access to acclaimed schools including Oak Avenue Elementary, Blach Junior High, and Mountain View High (buyer to verify eligibility).

Offered at $2,988,000

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 pm
Complimentary Refreshments

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

*As ranked by REAL Trends 2019 Team Volume Inc. Published in the Wall Street Journal in June 2019.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.1400HollyAve.com

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

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1738 Pilgrim Avenue, Mountain View
5 Bed | 5.5 Bath | $4,798,000 | baronianteam.com

Vohe Baronian
650.906.0198
DRE 01375114

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-4PM

1927 Colleen Drive, Los Altos
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | $3,195,000 | 1927colleen.com

Kathy Bridgman
650.868.7677
DRE 01189798

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4PM

1052 Bigleaf Place, Unit 102, San Jose
3 Bed | 3 Bath | $1,249,000 | compass.com

Vicky Wang
408.771.9191
DRE 01917792

OPEN SATURDAY 1-4PM

653 Modern Ice Drive, San Jose
3 Bed | 2 Bath | $754,888 | 653modernice.com

Gretchen Swall
650.810.5678
DRE 01890796

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-4PM
LANDLORD GROUP SUPPORTS MEASURE D

In 2018, the California Apartment Association (CAA) led a coalition of concerned housing providers and residents in a campaign to fix the city’s 2016 rent control law through the initiative process. The Mountain View Homeowner, Renter, and Taxpayer Protection Act (the “taxpayer initiative”) has qualified for the November ballot and ensures the city’s 2016 rent control law benefits low-income tenants and stems the exodus of units from the local rental market — and resulting renter displacement — caused by the 2016 law.

The tenant initiative also helped the Rental Housing Committee from paying itself a salary, misusing taxpayer money, and extends anti-gouging protections to more Mountain View renters, as the 2016 law only applies to renters living in units built before February 1995.

Things have changed since the taxpayer initiative was drafted and qualified. For one, AB 1482 was introduced and ultimately signed by Gov. Newsom. This statewide legislation provides strong renter protections to more renters than the taxpayer initiative.

Two, the Mountain View City Council, in an effort to bring landlords, tenants, and the community together, crafted its own measure to address issues with the 2016 rent control law and is placing it before voters in March as Measure D.

The tenant initiative and Measure D both aim to keep units on the market, make it easier to improve aging rental housing, protect taxpayers, and keep the city’s older rental units affordable, safe, and available.

Accordingly, the coalition applauds the leadership of Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga and council members Chris Clark and Lucas Ramirez, who spent many hours developing what is now known as Measure D. The coalition believes it is the community’s best interest that costly, divisive ballot fights be avoided if possible.

As such, should the voters adopt Measure D in March, the coalition will withdraw all support for the taxpayer initiative.

While no law is perfect, Measure D seeks to protect renters, encourage investment in the community’s housing units, and ensure a good quality of life for all residents. We appreciate the City Council’s efforts to work with all stakeholders and try to find some elements of common ground.

With Measure D’s passage, the community, housing providers and elected leaders can focus on real solutions to the region’s housing crisis — the addition of affordable homes for the working families of Mountain View. Joshua Howard, California Apartment Association executive vice president

MEASURE D LOOPHOLES

We oppose Measure D. It unnecessarily increases rents for those struggling to remain in Mountain View. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters local chapter also opposes Measure D.

The Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA) was passed by voters in Mountain View in 2016 to slow down runaway rent increases for those living in older apartments. This law has been fair for both tenants and landlords. Measure D would disrupt this balance with hidden loopholes.

Currently, increases for tenants in rent-controlled apartments can be no higher than inflation. Apartment owners’ profits are also protected. Since rent control doesn’t apply when a tenant voluntarily moves out, the new rent on that apartment can be raised to market rate. For continuously occupied apartments, landlords can petition for increases above the inflation rate if their necessary costs prevent them from making the profit that they made prior to rent control.

This is the "fair rate of return" provision in CSFRA that protects financial interests of apartment owners.

Measure D is backed by the deep pockets of the California Apartment Association’s corporate apartment owners and their supporters on the City Council. Their claim to "protect rent control" is a deceptive smoke screen.

Measure D introduces significant loopholes to increase landlord profits and as a consequence would lead to higher rents, forcing out more teachers, nurses, families, seniors and service workers from Mountain View.

The most serious loophole allows landlords to pass through to tenants costs of non-essential improvements that “extend the life of the building.” These additional rent increases would be allowed even when the landlord is already making their customary profit without these increases. The City of Mountain View community from more displacement, which would surely occur. Vote no on Measure D.

Dave Offen and Gail Nyhan, homeowners, Barbara Avenue

QUESTIONING MEASURE D

The main thing I don’t get about Measure D is why our City Council believes that any landlord investments that “extend the useful life of the property” depend on incremental rent increases. Doesn’t the bulk of monthly rent provide for those upgrades? Are landlords taking out all profits each year without setting aside funds for their foreseeable upgrades to buildings and grounds? I can understand extraordinary rent increases for mandated safety improvements, which may not be foreseeable, but our current law already allows for them!

Also, I’m concerned that Measure D and the anticipated landlord’s measure in November both have backers who publish misinformation in their public materials. That’s unsupportable.

Frances Johnson, renter, Sierra Vista Avenue

IT’S TIME TO GET COUNTED

We are less than two months from an important date: Census Day on April 1. Counting everyone is imperative for California and Mountain View to get proper representation and essential funding per the United States Constitution. In my April 1, 2019, guest opinion in the Voice “The countdown to being counted,” I highlighted that California is a “hard to count” state. In particular, Santa Clara County ranks as the ninth toughest to count in the nation. This is also the first time the census questionnaire will be primarily online.

Full participation is critical. Census data is used to allocate nearly $700 billion in federal program funding and designates political representation at various levels of government. States use this funding for essential programs like health care, social services, education grants and infrastructure. California’s political representation in the United States Congress is decided through the census, and there has been talk of California losing a seat if there is an undercount. This information is also used to rezone and local district boundaries.

Now is the time for an accurate count, one in which each and every person is counted.

Every individual regardless of age, immigration status or residency counts. The Santa Clara County Complete Count Steering Committee, of which I am a member, has been focused on community engagement, particularly with families of children under 5, seniors, individuals with disabilities, immigrants and the unsheltered housed. Statewide, California leaders have invested $187 million toward an outreach and communication campaign.

As April 1 approaches, keep an eye out for your census postcard. This postcard will contain your unique census ID number for your household. There are four ways to complete your census information: internet self-response form, paper form, by phone and in-person via enumerator visits.

I invite you to join the city of Mountain View and Santa Clara County’s joint “Multicultural Census Party” on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Rengstorff Community Center, Maple Room, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to learn more about the census. Refreshments, games, and translation services will be available.

Let’s make sure Mountain View counts.

Ellen Kamei, Mountain View vice mayor and Santa Clara County Complete Count Steering Committee member

What’s on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Voice aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters to letters@MV-Voice.com. Or mail them to Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042-0405.
When Steve Yen opened Bushido on Mountain View’s Castro Street a decade ago, he wanted to expand local appreciation for the then-relatively unfamiliar concept of izakaya. Sometimes described as Japan’s version of a tapas restaurant, izakaya establishments offer a convivial gathering spot for shared plates, drinking and socializing, often after work.

Bushido takes its name from the samurai code of honor, emphasizing attributes like loyalty, compassion and courage. “Flexibility” might not be one of the eight virtues of bushido, but the quality seems to have served Yen well as a restaurateur. “I originally conceived Bushido with the intention of showing people how much more there is to Japanese cuisine than sushi,” he said. “We didn’t plan to serve sushi. But customers just kept asking for California rolls.”

So he put in a sushi bar. And then went full throttle on sushi and sashimi, with an expansive, creative menu and a commitment to using only sustainable seafood. “You have to adapt to what the customer wants,” said Yen, a San Francisco resident who grew up in Los Altos and graduated from the San Francisco Culinary Academy. Ten years on, Bushido still feels energetic and fresh. The place is often jam-packed, especially at happy hour, when trendy cocktails run $6 and patrons share reasonably priced and generously portioned small plates. Live jazz during Saturday dinners adds a festive vibe.

Diners are handed a stack of menus upon sitting down in the simply appointed dining room: happy hour food, happy hour drinks, a sushi menu and a full dinner menu. In short, there are a lot of choices at Bushido, from ramen to yakitori (including tendons, cartilage and chicken hearts) to the house specialty, okonomiyaki, a savory, sizzling, saucy pancake. There are a number of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

All meals begin with otoshi, a chef’s choice nibble to whet the appetite. One visit started with a diminutive bowl of sautéed cabbage and pear, topped with ponzu. At another meal, we received smoky, bite-sized chunks of grilled eggplant.

Service during all three visits was warm and attentive, with one server going above the call of duty during a happy hour visit to ensure my gluten-free dining companion was well cared for. An elderflower sour cocktail made with Maker’s Mark whiskey, St. Germain, yuzu

When Steve Yen opened Bushido on Mountain View’s Castro Street a decade ago, he wanted to expand local appreciation for the then-relatively unfamiliar concept of izakaya. Sometimes described as Japan’s version of a tapas restaurant, izakaya establishments offer a convivial gathering spot for shared plates, drinking and socializing, often after work.

Bushido takes its name from the samurai code of honor, emphasizing attributes like loyalty, compassion and courage. “Flexibility” might not be one of the eight virtues of bushido, but the quality seems to have served Yen well as a restaurateur. “I originally conceived Bushido with the intention of showing people how much more there is to Japanese cuisine than sushi,” he said. “We didn’t plan to serve sushi. But customers just kept asking for California rolls.”

So he put in a sushi bar. And then went full throttle on sushi and sashimi, with an expansive, creative menu and a commitment to using only sustainable seafood. “You have to adapt to what the customer wants,” said Yen, a San Francisco resident who grew up in Los Altos and graduated from the San Francisco Culinary Academy. Ten years on, Bushido still feels energetic and fresh. The place is often jam-packed, especially at happy hour, when trendy cocktails run $6 and patrons share reasonably priced and generously portioned small plates. Live jazz during Saturday dinners adds a festive vibe.

Diners are handed a stack of menus upon sitting down in the simply appointed dining room: happy hour food, happy hour drinks, a sushi menu and a full dinner menu. In short, there are a lot of choices at Bushido, from ramen to yakitori (including tendons, cartilage and chicken hearts) to the house specialty, okonomiyaki, a savory, sizzling, saucy pancake. There are a number of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

All meals begin with otoshi, a chef’s choice nibble to whet the appetite. One visit started with a diminutive bowl of sautéed cabbage and pear, topped with ponzu. At another meal, we received smoky, bite-sized chunks of grilled eggplant.

Service during all three visits was warm and attentive, with one server going above the call of duty during a happy hour visit to ensure my gluten-free dining companion was well cared for. An elderflower sour cocktail made with Maker’s Mark whiskey, St. Germain, yuzu
Dining

Employees tidy Bushido’s main dining room following lunch service.

and angostura bitters ($11; $6 at happy hour) indeed made me happy. This bold, creative libation would have been at home in the trendiest hotel bar at double the price.

Sushi and sashimi might have been something of an afterthought at Bushido, but Yen and his executive chef Iwao Suzuki (formerly of Blowfish Sushi) elevate the experience — and lessen the guilt — through their focus on sustainable sourcing. Instead of the normally ubiquitous salmon, for example, they employ ocean trout: pink, delicate and sustainably farmed in Tasmania. Salmon is served occasionally, when it is in season. They procure bluefin tuna from Japanese purveyors that have pioneered methods for farm-raising the open-ocean fish.

The harakiri roll ($13; $9 at happy hour) is a crunchy, fusion extravaganza, stuffed with crab, spicy tuna and shrimp tempura, wrapped in a delicate soy paper and topped with toasted rice for a delightful crunch to each bite. But be warned. This roll hides a devious little secret. One of the six pieces contains ghost pepper.

The fun is supposed to be in seeing who at the table will happen upon that fiery morsel — and subsequently gulp down a half pitcher of water, eyes bulging, as I did.

The miso marinated cod ($24.50) was a far more subtle and refined experience. The serving was on the skimpy side, but the fish was delicate and beautifully caramelized, reminiscent of Nobu’s famous (and much pricier) dish. A small skewer of tender beef tongue ($24.50) was met initially with trepidation, but then appreciation around our table.

Savory and fragrant, the three-mushroom fried rice ($10) was a favorite, studded with enoki, shiitake and shimeji mushrooms. Deeply flavorful and moist without being oily, the dish still could have benefited from a more generous hand with the mushrooms.

The house specialty okonomiyaki, a savory, frittata-like dish, is made with flour, eggs, shredded cabbage and a host of other ingredients, fried and served on a hot skillet. Diners can order it traditional ($12) or Hiroshima-style ($15), layered with eggs and egg noodles. Add-ons such as shrimp, kimchee, crab, bacon or bonito flakes and other sauces. I didn’t care for this saucy, somewhat mushy pizza-pancake hybrid, but my hunch is okonomiyaki is a bit of an acquired taste. It is not a dish one sees often in local Japanese restaurants, and it certainly speaks to Yen’s original goal of showcasing lesser-known Japanese specialties. Freelance writer Monica Schreiber can be emailed at monicahayde@yahoo.com

Dining Notes

Bushido
156 Castro St., Mountain View
650-386-6821
bushidoizakaya.com

Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Dinner: Tuesday-Thursday & Saturday-Sunday, 5 to 9:30 p.m., Friday 5 to 10:30 p.m.

Credit Cards •
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Limited
Parking Street & garage
Alcohol Full bar
Happy Hour Tuesday-Friday; 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Corkage $15 per bottle
Bathroom Excellent
Noise Level Moderate

Employees tidy Bushido’s main dining room following lunch service.

Okonomiyaki, a savory pancake, can be ordered traditional style (pictured) topped with a soy-and-vegetable sauce, mayonnaise and bonito flakes. It can also be ordered “Hiroshima style,” layered with fried eggs and noodles.
Down to clown

‘BIRDS OF PREY’ SINGS A BRUISING LOONEY TUNE
IN THE KEY OF COMIC-BOOK ACTION

★★★ (Century 16 & 20, Icon)

“Birds of Prey and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn” may be about as shallow as a puddle, but that’s still enough to make a splash. Based on a DC Comics team-up property that dates back almost a quarter-century (and characters that have existed even longer), “Birds of Prey” spins off from the 2016 film “Suicide Squad.”

In this story, it turns out that blondes do have more fun, especially when they sport pigtails and carry a big mallet — I refer, of course, to Harley Quinn, a.k.a. Dr. Harleen Quinzel.

“Suicide Squad” introduced Margot Robbie in the role of the Joker’s girlfriend, a psychologist gone head over heels. Robbie easily stole “Suicide Squad,” and the timing couldn’t be better for her character to step out as the lead in this spinooff directed by Hollywood first-timer Cathy Yan.

“Birds of Prey” tells a liberation narrative of the deeply co-dependent Quinn stepping out of the long shadow cast by Batman’s nemesis the Joker. “Mr. J and I were dunzo,” Quinn narrates before decimating the “romantic comedyoking” of making their origin as a couple — fittingly, the toxic Ace Chemicals factory — and announcing her “fresh start, the chance to be my own woman.”

The film’s R-rated gusto strongly suggest a grrrl-power spin on “Deadpool,” but Yan puts her own stamp on the material, giving it a momentum that feels more like a cross between “Fight Club” and Tim Burton’s “Batman.”

Where “Deadpool” heaped snark on top of its dark emotional undercurrents, “Birds of Prey” heaps insanity, with Quinn holding the batty, psychoanalytic center of what’s typically been a superheroic team. “A lot of people in this city want me dead,” Quinn confesses, and with the protection of Joker removed from the equation, Quinn discovers she could use the help of a few other rule breakers. Ewan McGregor makes a meal of the scenery as smarmy psychopath Roman Sionis, a.k.a. Black Mask. The club-owning mob boss and his killer henchman Vincent Zsasz (Chris Messina) set their sights on the dirty underworld cloud of cocaine, fueling the film’s hottest beatdown. That’s a good metaphor for the whole picture, which for better and worse, refuses to get bogged down with details but rather proceeds to let its characters collide like bumper cars in the service of hyperactive plotting, a gale of action, sight gags, saturated colors and appealing nutty production design.

“Birds of Prey” practically dares its audience to make the mistake of taking it seriously, and yet it’s a bizarrely uplifting story of credibly tough women, Gotham City survivors all vanquishing a sniping, preening abuser whose time’s up. R for strong violence and language throughout, and some sexual and drug material. One hour, 49 minutes. — Peter Canavese

EMPLOYMENT

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Dolemite (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
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Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
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The Rhythm Section (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
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Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa
Century 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/c16Century16
Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20
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☆ Skip it  ** Some redeeming qualities  ★★★ A good bet  ★★★★ Outstanding
For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.
**TEATRE**


*Oso!* Winner of the 2017 Tony Award for Best Play, “Oso!” tells the true and widely unknown story of how a Norwegian diplomat and her husband planned and orchestrated top-secret meetings between the Israeli and the Palestine Liberation Organization, culminating in the historic 1993 Oslo Accords. Through Feb. 16; dates and times vary. $30; discount for students. San Jose Stage, 939 Market St., San Jose. tickets.mountainviewca.gov

*The Pianist of Willesden Lane* TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents “The Pianist of Willesden Lane,” a true story about a young Jewish pianist escaping Nazi-occupied Austria at the outset of World War II. Concert pianist Mona Golabek recounts her mother’s poignant saga of hope and resilience to illustrate the power of music. Through Feb. 16; dates and times vary. $25-$45; discounts available. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

*Taking Steps* Director Troy Johnson and Bay Area comic actors take on Alan Ayckbourn’s farce “Taking Steps,” a comedy about four newlyweds. Feb. 13-16; dates and times vary. $25-$55; discounts available. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

**MUSIC**

*Macbeth* West Bay Opera stages Giuseppe Verdi’s four-act opera, “Macbeth,” based on one of Shakespeare’s most famous plays. Feb. 12-23; dates and times vary. $35-$92; discount for students and seniors. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1050 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. wbopera.org

*Open Mic* Performers sing in front of a supporting audience and meet fellow musicians and artists during Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee. Ongoing; Mondays, 7 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.com

**TALKS & LECTIONS**

*How U.S. the Destroyed the Marshall Islands* Los Angeles Times investigative journalist Susanne Ruat provides a presentation on how nuclear waste from the U.S. made the Marshall Islands uninhabitable and what people can do. Feb. 16, 7-9 p.m. Free. First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. facebook.com

*Is a Sustainable Conservatism Still Possible?* Political analyst, commentator and founding director of Defending Democracy Together William Kristol talks about the viability of conservatism in today’s polarized climate and where it might stand in the future. Feb. 13, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Cumberley Auditorium, 485 Lasuén Mall, Stanford. ethincetx.stanford.edu

*Feed the Future* This Arts with a Heart presents “Feed the Future: The End Hungry Tomorrow,” raising awareness of food insecurity in Silicon Valley’s communities through dance. Feb. 7-9; times vary. $5-$15; discount for students. Cumbre de la Frontera, 4131 Bryant St., Palo Alto. artswitheart.com

**FAMILY**

*A Day at the Farm* Visitors can reserve a day at the Hidden Villa farm and tailor the reservation to include private farm tours for up to 30 people and one of three activities: farm tours for groups (Mar. 29); family fun day (Mar. 28); or lavender picking and lavender fields tour (Mar. 22; times vary. $50-$250. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvila.org

*FAMILY Celebration* Celebrate the Lunar New Year with guided garden tours, nature hunts and a variety of hands-on activities. Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. gamblegarden.org

**OUTDOORS & SPORTS RECREATION**

*Silicon Valley Basketball* Silicon Valley Basketball organizes weekly, year-round, pick-up basketball games, welcoming all skills, ages, genders, etc. Ongoing: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. Silicon Valley Basketball, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainviewbball.com

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

*Seven Factors of Awakening* As part of Insight Meditation Society’s February program, Sharon Salzberg guides a session of meditation and provides tips on how to practice mindfulness. Feb. 11, 7:30-9 p.m. Free; donation accepted. St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 2004 Grant Road, Mountain View. imls.org

**COMMUNITY GROUPS**

*Bay Are Games Day* Active since 1998, Bay Area Games Day invites everyone to try a new board game or play classics like Catan or Pandemic. Feb. 15, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 135 San Antonio Road, Los Altos. ecoevolved.info

*Friends of Library Used Book Sale* Friends of the Los Altos Library hosts a book sale with their 30,000 inventory of books, including audiobooks, CDs and new and used books. Feb. 7-9; times vary. Free. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losalloslibraryfriends.org

*The Mountain View Public Library Book Sale* Friends of the Mountain View Public Library hosts a book sale to raise money for the Mountain View Public Library’s programs. Feb. 8-9; times vary. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainviewlibcal.org

**WRITING Wednesdays** A casual writing space for writers of all levels. Feb. 12, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 135 San Antonio Road, Los Altos. lcc.evolved.info

**AUTHOR EVENTS**


*Niloofar Talebi* Author Niloofar Talebi shares her new memoir “Self-Portrait in Bloom” and considers what it means to be an outsider and insider of the #MeToo era. Feb. 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $5-$20. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplersbooks.com

**AGGEOSE Authors** Four local senior authors read their award-winning stories and poems from “Dang! I Wish I Hadn’t Done That,” a new anthology of best works from the 2018 Ageless Authors writing contest. Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 313 Castro St., Mountain View. booksinc.net

*Julian Guthrie* Julian Guthrie, one of this year’s Silicon Valley Reads authors, talks about her latest book “Alpha Girls,” a biography about four women who scored the deal of a lifetime while competing in the male-dominated world of tech. Feb. 4, 8-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainviewlibcal.com

**ARTS & CULTURE**

*Here for Good* The Stanford Storytelling Project hosts an evening with Sarah Broom, author of “The Yellow House,” which won the 2019 National Book Award. Broom leads her work and discusses how it blends memory, curiosity, and humor to provide a way to recover from the mythologies that distort people’s understanding of themselves and their country. Free. Cumberley Auditorium, Stanford University, 485 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. eventbrite.com

*Peggy Orenstein and Donovann Somers Ysraeil Author Peggy Orenstein and health educator Donovann Somers Ysraeil talk about the sexual desires of young men, sharing how they can understand and negotiate the new rules of physical and emotional intimacy. Feb. 2, 7:30-8:30 p.m. $5-$20. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplersbooks.com
A truly special home on one of Mountain View’s most coveted locations — the 500 block of Bush Street, which is lined by elegant homes and mature trees. This home was expanded and remodeled in 2007 with 2,404 square feet living space. It features a seamless balance of original charming touches and modern living including a spacious front living room boasting arched windows and a focal point fireplace, formal dining room, great-room style kitchen and family room combination complete with casual dining area stylish touches, 4 bedrooms (including one downstairs), 3 elegantly appointed bathrooms, partial basement, 2 car attached garage and much more! Excellent location close to the many attractions of downtown Castro Street, local parks, the library, the train and light rail. Perfect for folks wanting an impressive home to entertain in or the family!

**Old world charm meets modern living in this beautifully expanded Downtown Mountain View home**

575 Bush Street
$2,938,000

A truly special home on one of Mountain View’s most coveted locations — the 500 block of Bush Street, which is lined by elegant homes and mature trees. This home was expanded and remodeled in 2007 with 2,404 square feet living space. It features a seamless balance of original charming touches and modern living including a spacious front living room boasting arched windows and a focal point fireplace, formal dining room, great-room style kitchen and family room combination complete with casual dining area stylish touches, 4 bedrooms (including one downstairs), 3 elegantly appointed bathrooms, partial basement, 2 car attached garage and much more! Excellent location close to the many attractions of downtown Castro Street, local parks, the library, the train and light rail. Perfect for folks wanting an impressive home to entertain in or the family!

Hosted by Tori. Tori Ann Atwell
650.996.0123tori.atwell@com-
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**1064 Clark Avenue, Mountain View**

Beautifully Updated Home

3 Beds 2 Baths | $2,000,000

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on the Mountain View/Los Altos border has been updated throughout with new flooring, freshly painted interior and fixtures. Galley-style kitchen with built-in Sub-Zero refrigerator, two greenhouse windows, gas cooktop, and additional multi-function counter space. The living/dining area has a fireplace and sliders that lead out to the newly landscaped backyard. The laundry area with utility sink and washer and dryer hook-ups are located in the attached 2-car garage. Convenient location is just down the street from El Camino with its many shopping and dining options. Neighborhood schools include Bubb Elementary, Graham Middle and Los Altos High (buyer to verify placement with school district).
CLASSIC CHARM, MODERN AMENITIES IN CRESCENT PARK

640 Fulton Street, Palo Alto

Offered at $3,488,000

Emanating classic Palo Alto charm and steeped in modern amenities, this 4-bedroom, 3-bath, two-level home in coveted Crescent Park is ready to meet a variety of household needs. Offering 2,163 sq. ft. of living space (per county) on a 4,335 sq. ft. lot (per county), this home enjoys timeless features and appointments including a wraparound porch, crown moldings, wainscoting, and intricately carved entryways. Bright, light, and inviting, this delightful home has been updated to cater to a contemporary lifestyle, with sparkling baths, a superb kitchen, and office space for all work-from-home requirements. Adding the finishing touch, the home’s location puts you just moments to the excitement of University Avenue, within easy reach of Bay Area commute routes, and grants access to top-rated Palo Alto schools (buyer to confirm eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.640Fulton.com

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun 電話：650.785.5822 | DRE # 01933274
2342 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD, PALO ALTO
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4 bedrooms | 2.5 bathrooms | 2,281 sq ft living, 7,100 sq ft lot | Listed for $3,400,000

4001 HACIENDA STREET, SAN MATEO
Open House Sat 2/8 & Sun 2/9 1:30-4:30 PM
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Open House Saturday & Sunday, February 8th & 9th from 1:30 - 4:30pm
480ErlinDrive.com

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February 7, 2020 • Mountain View Voice • MountainViewOnline.com • 25
Modern Technology, Supreme Luxury in Old Palo Alto

Gorgeous Italian design blends seamlessly with the very best in modern luxury and technology in this 6-bedroom, 5-bath home, boasting 3,250 sq. ft. of living space (per permits) over three levels on a lot of 5,000 sq. ft. (per county) in sought-after Old Palo Alto. Recently completed in September 2019, no expense was spared in crafting this exquisite residence. Hardwood floors, walnut doors, sculpted wall panels, and marble baths enrapture the senses and surround you in elegance. Spacious formal rooms ideal for entertaining, a flexible floorplan, soundproofing, and seamless indoor/outdoor living spaces ensure this home meets the demands of a modern lifestyle. Plus, CAT 7 wiring puts everything you need in the palm of your hand, as appliances, home security, thermostat, and entertainment are all controlled via smart phone/tablet. With a location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer, and with access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools, this home is the epitome of Silicon Valley living.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.142Kellogg.com
Offered at $4,988,000

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics* using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

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Los Altos | $2,980,000
Luxury chic and enchanting 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath remodeled home, top Los Altos Schools, must see! This is an ideal place to call home in Silicon Valley.
Anni Chu
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Palo Alto | $1,550,000
Contemporary townhouse, with high ceilings, cook’s kitchen, hardwood floors, 2 en-suites, 2-car attached garage.
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