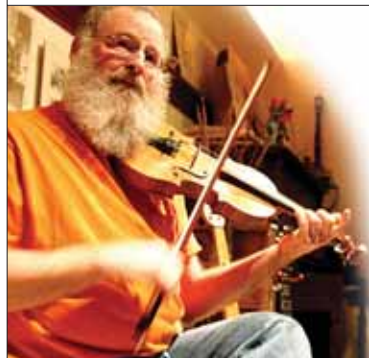


Mountain View VOICE



Fiddler under his roof

Local musician hosts monthly music series
A&E | P.22

FEBRUARY 23, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 8

INSIDE: HOME & GARDEN | PAGE 29

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City finally traps a squirrel

DECOY BABY STROLLER USED TO LURE PRIME SUSPECT IN SCRATCHING CASE

By Daniel DeBolt

After setting its sights on a small band of aggressive squirrels in Cuesta Park, the city has succeeded in trapping and euthanizing one squirrel so far — by using a baby stroller as bait.

Going on the assumption that the squirrels responsible for a dozen attacks since May are also the few rummaging through strollers for food, the city placed a live capture cage next to a stroller with food inside. After

“The one we caught was literally in the stroller.”

DAVE MUELA

the squirrel searched the stroller, it made its way into the trap to take the bait.

“The one we caught was literally in the stroller,” said Dave Muela, community services director.

The city is pursuing six Cuesta squirrels that a city-hired wildlife biologist believes are responsible for several bites and scratches to children last year. At least

► See **SQUIRRELS**, page 12



KARNA KURATA

GETTING ACQUAINTED: Jeffrey Walker talks with painting student Douglas Darrah during a class Monday at Community School of Music and Arts. Walker was recently named CSMA's new executive director.

A series of fortunate events

WRITERS WEEK RETURNS TO LOS ALTOS HIGH, WITH 'LEMONY SNICKET' THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

By Alexa Tondreau

Los Altos High School was overrun last week by that most enigmatic of crea-

tures, the professional writer.

For its 22nd year in a row, the high school put normal curriculum on hold and celebrated “Writers Week” by welcoming nearly 40



Daniel Handler

writers to discuss their work and craft with students. The program culminated in a community assembly Thursday evening with author Daniel Handler, better known as Lemony Snicket, author of “A Series of Unfortunate Events.”

The writers visiting Eng-

► See **WRITERS**, page 8

Dustup over BMR funds

DISPLACED EVANDALE RESIDENTS LIKELY TO GET HELP — IF THEY STAY IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Daniel DeBolt

When 144 pricy condos displace 250 of the city's poorest residents at 291 Evandale Ave., residents may get substantial help from the city, but with one big caveat: They must find a home they can afford in Mountain View.

The issue was debated at an intense City Council study session Tuesday, with a majority of members clearly in favor of using below market rate housing funds to help relocate tenants displaced by the project — to the tune of \$2,000 per unit.

Under city law, BMR funds can only be given to those who are able to find another affordable home in Mountain View, a feat which city staff said would be unlikely.

Affordable housing advocates once again criticized the use of BMR funds for this purpose because, they say, those funds were created to build more affordable housing, not to make it easier for developers to give renters the boot.

► See **COUNCIL**, page 14

INSIDE

Tap water cloudy? Not to worry. See story, p. 5

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 26 | MARKETPLACE 37 | MOVIES 24 | REAL ESTATE 44 | VIEWPOINT 17

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Jack Earl



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Mary Marley



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Susan Sims



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Annette Hull



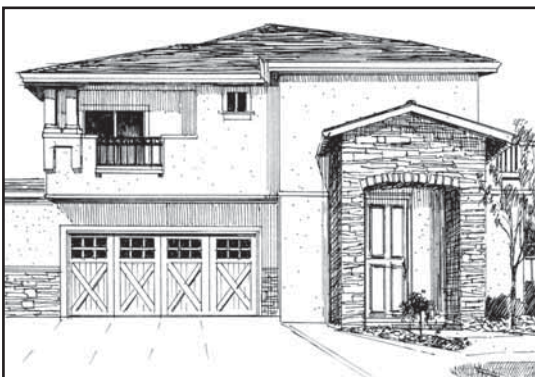
SUNNYVALE ■ Corner penthouse condo with great views! 2bd/2ba (2 master suites). Easy access to restaurants and shopping. Gated pool and spa. **\$498,500**

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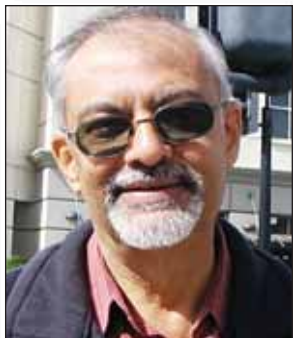
PALO ALTO ■ Charming English cottage-style home. 2bd/1ba with updated kitchen, LR/DR with fireplace, hardwood floors + French doors. **\$1,295,000**

Voices

AROUND TOWN

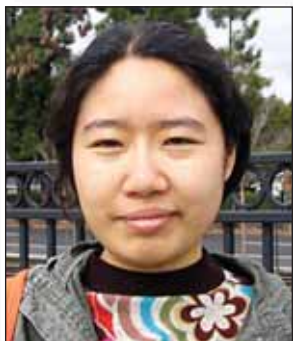
Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Zunaira Durrani.

Have you read any books recently that you greatly enjoyed?



“‘Pride and Prejudice’ by Jane Austin is a favorite. I’ve read it 20 times. I’m waiting to read ‘The Innocent Man’ by John Grisham.”

Vinesh Hindia, Los Altos



“‘The World Is Flat,’ by Thomas Friedman. It’s worthy of reading. It talks about how we are all connected closely in this world despite living very far apart.”

Chunyia Zhao, Mountain View



“‘The Bridge to Terabithia’ by Katherine Paterson is a Newbery Medal Award winner. It was written for children but has a story that appeals to children and adults. Paterson wrote the book for her son’s friend who died when lightning struck her at a very young age.”

Denise Tom-Sera, Redwood City



“Right now, I’m reading a lot of medical literature. My final is coming up and I have four exams to go. No time for reading anything else.”

Anna Morenkova, Sunnyvale



“I was at the East West Bookstore on Castro Street yesterday. What interested me most were the books by the Dalai Lama.”

Hannah Tran, Sunnyvale

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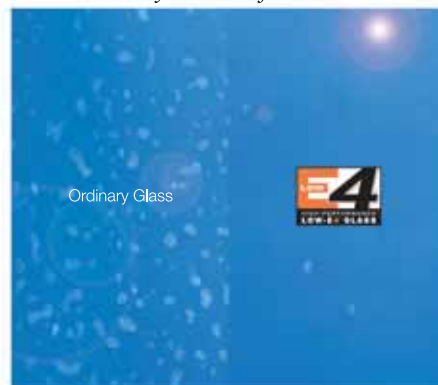
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■ QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It's like banging a square peg into a round hole. It's doubtful you'll be helping all the residents you are trying to help."

— **ROY HAYTER**
AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATE,
ON A COUNCIL PLAN TO USE BMR FUNDS TO HELP DISPLACED TENANTS

■ CRIMEWATCH

ROBBERY, 800 BLOCK E. EL CAMINO REAL, 2/13
Last Tuesday at 2:13 p.m., two men wearing dark hooded sweatshirts entered a liquor store brandishing a gun. They snatched lottery tickets and cash before fleeing from the store. Police officers located footprints outside the store. The suspects are at large. Both suspects are described as black males approximately 25 years old, 5 feet 7 to 5 feet 10 inches tall, and weighing between 100 and 150 pounds.

FORGERY, 570 N. SHORELINE BOULEVARD, 2/17
On Jan. 20, an Asian male walked into Bailey Plaza Liquors and cashed three checks totaling \$16,000. The store owner said at that time he had recognized the suspect as a relative of a regular customer. The

owner asked for photo identification and the suspect produced a driver's license. All three payments were cancelled later, at which point the victim reported the case to the police. Officers checked the driver's license number, which turned out to be fraudulent. The case is under investigation.

BATTERY, COMMUNITY CENTER, 2/17
On Saturday at 2:50 p.m., police were called to the Community Center on N. Rengstorff Avenue when a fight broke out between a large group of girls. Police say 10 girls were involved in the fight, which broke up at 2:59 p.m. Authorities have a name for a main suspect believed to have started the altercation, and were searching for her as of press time.

■ POLICE LOG

ARSON
2200 block Showers Drive, 2/16

AUTO BURGLARY
300 block Camille Court, 2/16
300 block Easy St., 2/17
800 block Leong Drive, 2/17
100 block Thompson Avenue, 2/18

BATTERY
1200 block Bryant Avenue, 2/15
700 block Alice Avenue, 2/15
Community Center, 2/17

FORGERY
1000 block N Rengstorff Avenue, 2/16
Bailey Plaza Liquors, 2/17

PETTY THEFT
100 block W El Camino Real, 2/14
Graham Middle School, 2/14
Sears Dept. Store, 2/14
Pacific Inn, 2/14
Wolf Camera, 2/15
400 block San Antonio Road, 2/15
1000 block N. Rengstorff Avenue, 2/15
Sears Dept. Store, 2/15
200 block Bush St., 2/16
1900 Colony St. 2/17
800 block Leong Drive, 2/18
2200 block California St., 2/19

STOLEN VEHICLE
California St./Ortega Avenue, 2/14
1400 block Wildrose Way, 2/14
2600 block N. Shoreline Boulevard, 2/15

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON
1500 block W El Camino Real, 2/14
900 block San Clemente Way, 2/14
1400 block Plymouth St., 2/15
1000 N Rengstorff Avenue, 2/16

THEFT BY FRAUD
1800 block Van Buren Circle, 2/15

ROBBERY
800 block E El Camino Real, 2/14
Crisanto Avenue/Escuela Avenue, 2/17

VANDALISM
2300 block Rock St., 2/14
100 block Alley Way, 2/14
800 Church St., 2/14
3500 block Truman Avenue, 2/16
100 block Evandale Avenue, 2/16
500 block Tyrella Avenue, 2/16
300 block Sierra Vista Avenue, 2/17
700 block Astor Court, 2/19



Special writers' edition

By Don Frances

JOE GOLD is no stranger to Mountain View, having worked for a high-tech company on Castro Street during the dot-com boom. That's why he specifically came to Books Inc. earlier this week to give a reading from his new science fiction novel, "The Lamp Post Motel."

The novel, Gold's first, is about a "shy man who's got more faith in circuits than people ... and I thought in Silicon Valley people would identify with that."

Gold is referring to the novel's main character, Elmo, a sad little Norman Bates-type fellow — minus the murder, but with a voyeuristic streak — who uses high-tech equipment to spy on the guests while they have sex. Then some kids from the future arrive and throw Elmo's consciousness into the heads of the people he's spying on. Then things really get weird.

"Suddenly this very lonely man is experiencing sex through another person, and finding out what their thoughts are, and they're not what he expected," Gold said.

"There's a lot of disillusionment in it," he added, noting later that "I'm trying to look at sex intellectually, instead of as pure titillation."

Although I haven't read the book myself, he told me that it's "definitely an adult book." Sounds pretty kooky, too.

"It is, but then, I am," Gold said.

Gold, who lives in San Francisco, used to work for a Mountain View company called OneChannel.net. Before that he had a successful career in journalism, he said, and was twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize while a

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 8



MARJAN SADOUGH

Mountain View resident Audrey Shafer's first novel, "The Mailbox," is available at Books Inc.

Winding road for local author

AUDREY SHAFER SET OUT TO WRITE A STORY FOR GROWN-UPS, BUT PUBLISHED A CHILDREN'S BOOK

By Alexa Tondreau

Mountain View resident and author Audrey Shafer can vouch for the fact that the road from writing a book to getting it published can have unexpected detours.

Shafer's first novel, "The Mailbox," published last October, is a children's book that tells the story of Gabe, the novel's young protagonist, and his relationship with his great uncle Vernon, a Vietnam veteran. Published for readers in the 9-to-12-year-old age range, "The Mailbox" is a coming-of-age story set in Virginia in which characters realize the importance

of reaching out to one another for help and support.

"It taught me to have faith in the characters and not write to a certain end."

AUDREY SHAFER

All of that worked out just fine for Shafer, who had previously

published several poems, but she's the first to admit that when she turned in the initial draft to Random House, the novel was intended for an adult audience.

Her editors, who identified the protagonist as one who would appeal to young children, encouraged her to revise the book for the younger set. As luck would have it, Shafer's daughter Rebecca — to whom the novel is dedicated — was 12 years old, and was able to assist her mother in the transition.

"I would read it to my sixth grade daughter every night, and something in my head knew that it

► See **SHAFER**, page 10

Cloudy water has some residents worried

STAND-IN FLOWS FROM LOCAL TAPS WHILE HETCH HETCHY AQUEDUCT SHUT FOR MAINTENANCE

By Daniel DeBolt

The Peninsula's main water source, the massive underground Hetch Hetchy aqueduct, has been temporarily

shut off for routine maintenance, leading to unfamiliar water in local taps which has alarmed some residents.

Authorities said the use of another water source has some residents upset because it looks different — particularly its cloudiness due to air bubbles — and has a slightly altered taste. But they said the new water, which will run for a few weeks, is perfectly safe.

The bubblier-than-normal water receives extensive treatment

in Sunol after coming out of reservoirs in the Alameda watershed. In comparison, the famously clear Hetch Hetchy water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains is clean enough to be exempt from most water treatment processes by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Peninsula normally gets 85 percent of its water from the Hetch Hetchy.

Darin Duncan, district man-

► See **WATER**, page 6

Yew Chung School rings in Chinese New Year

By Zunaira Durrani

Students at Mountain View's Yew Chung International School celebrated the Chinese New Year last week with dances, piano recitals and even an opera.

Parents and visitors to the school were treated to two programs on Feb. 15, performed separately by preschool and elementary students. The Year of the Pig officially began last Sunday.

"We had a fairly large turnout this year. The students did a wonderful job with the cultural performances, especially the dragon dances," said school representative Vanessa Scudder. "We had a Chinese food banquet in the afternoon for the preschoolers and a potluck for elementary students and their parents at night," she added.

Preschool students took center stage at 11 a.m. and performed several dances such as "Little Wooden Stool," in which they played small wooden blocks by clapping them together. Two students gave solo piano performances, followed by a preschool group opera.

At 6 p.m., the elementary school students and teachers joined in a program of popular Chinese songs, poems and dances. Students from the third, fourth and fifth grade pooled their energies in a short play titled "The Story of the 12 Zodiac Signs," while the teachers performed a classic Chinese song called "Tomorrow Will Be Better." A group violin performance by the students concluded the celebration.

The Yew Chung International School specializes in bilingual early and adult education with branches in Hong Kong and China. For more information, visit the school's Web site at: www.ycef.com. ■

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Burrowing owls at Shoreline



Tahir Naim, a Sunnyvale resident, sent in this photo of two burrowing owls near their nest in Shoreline Park. The photo, taken last month, suggests that Mountain View is home to at least a few of these native birds.

If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

WATER

► Continued from page 5

ager of the California Water Service Co., explained recently that the milky water is caused by treatment processes at the Sunol plant, but added that it's "purely an aesthetic problem."

"When a glass or pitcher is filled, the air is then released from the solution and tiny bubbles form and rise to the top of the water. In a minute, the air clears and the water is clear," Duncan wrote in a letter to the *Almanac*, the Voice's sister paper in Menlo Park.

"Some people notice a slightly different taste to this water," he continued, "but that is because it is from Calaveras and not Hetch Hetchy, and those two supplies have slightly different characteristics, such as hardness, pH, and alkalinity."

Duncan said the new water meets all federal and state health requirements.

Betsy Rhodes, spokesperson for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which operates Hetch Hetchy, confirmed that for the next few weeks, Mountain View and other nearby cities will get tap water only from the Calaveras and San Antonio reservoirs in the Alameda watershed. Both reservoirs are owned and run

**"In a minute, the
air clears and the
water is clean."**

DARIN DUNCAN

by the SFPUC and flow to the Sunol water treatment plant, where the water goes through several processes, including sedimentation and filtration. Cities in the northern part of the Pen-

insula are temporarily receiving water from the Crystal Springs and Pilarcitos reservoirs.

The SFPUC is able to shut off the Hetch Hetchy system for routine maintenance in the winter because demand is lower and reservoirs are higher, Rhodes said.

She also acknowledged concerns that the aging Hetch Hetchy aqueduct could be in need of some very serious repairs soon — which could mean water shortages in the future. These concerns are one reason why Mountain View decided to spend \$19.8 million to put an eight million gallon reservoir under the playing field at Graham Middle School. That project was completed in December.

Rhodes said that chloramine, the disinfectant used in all area tap water that hundreds of Bay Area residents have reported sensitivity to, will continue to be used in the interim. ▀

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

Mountain View Tennis Club celebrates 40 years

By Alexa Tondreau

The Mountain View Tennis Club, a local institution and a regular presence on the Cuesta and Rengstorff tennis courts, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and spreading the word that it always welcomes new members.

Today the club is 325 members strong, with a mix of new and old players, some of whom have been loyal to the club since it first began in 1966.

"One of the reasons you would want to join the club is for the organized activities," said club board member Pat Frischmann. "Often it's for people who play casually with friends and then want to get more involved with tournaments," she said.

Annual dues for Mountain View residents are \$25 for new members and \$20 for returning members. Non-residents are welcome to join as well, with annual dues of \$40, but a resident majority is always maintained.

The club offers many activities, including the opportunity to join a U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) league team. But its mainstay is a series of monthly tournaments at Rengstorff Park running from March to October.

The tournaments typically last two days, and for a \$10 entry fee participants receive food, beverages, balls and trophies.

Butch Logan, a longtime MVTC member who joined the club in its first year and served as club president in 1971, said he remembers the social events surrounding the games as much as the games themselves.

"I remember being part of the usually-filled stands at Rengstorff on a Sunday, with the beer flowing, watching Alex Swetka outlast a guy 30 years younger in three sets, on a very hot day," he said.

"I enjoyed attending parties on the Saturday nights of tournaments," he continued, "swapping stories, and trying to figure out who might win the semi and final matchups the next day."

A prime incentive for many of the club's members is to get to know other players, who may live just down the block or have children attending the same school.

"It's a really great way to meet people, especially if you are new in town and don't know anybody yet," Frischmann said.

The "umbrella tennis" program in particular affords an opportunity to become acquainted with other members. Players who show up at one of the two reserved courts at Cuesta Park on Friday nights (from April to October) are guaranteed rotation into a game. One of the courts always holds a mixed doubles game, so couples can participate.

Logan recalls the early days of the "umbrella tennis" program, when the club was still small and looking to add numbers. An apartment complex adjacent to Cuesta Park housed several single women, and the club took to recruiting many of them.

"Naturally, when we got the women to play, the men soon followed," he said. "Quite a few people who were single when they joined the club had relationships, and some of those led to marriage."

Club members say that all skill levels are welcome, and anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to join. The club uses informal self ratings and computer-generated USTA ratings to try to pair players of equal ability in matches and tournaments.

Logan stressed that "people can set their own goals, doing as much, or as little, as they want to do."

Jere Schaefer, whose husband Don formed the club, and who continues to play seven days a week, says there is very little judgment about skill level.

"I've played with people who were better than me, and I've played against people who I was better than, and no one says anything about it," she said.

"Tennis is a terrific sport," she added. "It's a sport you can play throughout your life at any age. There is still a lot of the old guard playing. We're like a family."

For those interested in joining or leaning more, information and application forms are available at the Cuesta Park Tennis Center, Swetka's Tennis Shop on El Monte Avenue, or on www.mvtc.net.

"Often it's people who play casually with friends and then want to get more involved with tournaments."

PAT FRISCHMANN

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

COLLEGE NIGHT AT GRAHAM

Graham Middle School is holding a college awareness night for all Mountain View residents on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 6 to 8 pm.

Parents and students are invited to learn about the A-G requirements for California universities, grants and loans for college, and opportunities for special scholarships. A panel will speak on these topics and more, and refreshments and giveaways will be provided.

Sponsoring the event are

the Mountain View Whisman School District's AVID program and the Campaign for College Opportunity.

FOOTHILL ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTIAL FINALISTS

A nationwide search has resulted in the selection of three community college vice presidents as finalists for the presidency of Foothill College. Each candidate will spend a day on campus later this month to meet with members of the college community and participate in an open forum.

The forums, which are open to the public, will be held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Appreciation Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 27-March 1.

A 16-member selection committee recommended the three finalists: Daniel P. Larson, Anita Martinez and Judy C. Miner. A final selection is expected sometime in March.

The position became vacant with the retirement in June of Bernadine Chuck Fong, Foothill's fifth president, who had led the campus since 1996.

—Alexa Tondreau

WRITERS

► Continued from page 1

lish classrooms from Monday through Friday represented an array of professional careers. Two of them, Suzanne Marmion and Jocelyn Wiener, were Los Altos alumni with backgrounds in journalism.

Marmion is currently based in sub-Saharan Africa as an international journalist, reporting on Nigeria, Malawi and Zambia for BBC World. Wiener works as a reporter at the *Sacramento Bee*, focusing on poverty, homelessness and youth violence. Both shared their experiences with students and provided insight on following leads, interviewing subjects and meeting difficult deadlines.

Michele Greenfield, a volunteer who helped organize the program, said the tradition is to "make it fun by having mostly local writers come to the school."

Locals included Kevin Fagan, a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* who writes about homelessness; Betsy Franco, a fiction writer for children and young adults with more than 50 books published; and Keith Raffel, author of "Dot Dead: A Silicon Valley Mystery" who also works as a high-tech executive in Silicon Valley.

While some of the writers had students put pen to paper, Green-

field said they mostly intended "to focus on the life of a writer. They talk about why they became a writer and how they first fell in love with writing and their approach to writing. And they talk about how they got where they are today."

For his part, Handler told the students that he knew he wanted to be a writer at around age 6. But he added there was quite a lot of struggle from age 6 to 29, when he got his first novel, "The Basic Eight," published.

"I received 37 rejections before anyone became interested in the novel," he told the students. And when the book was finally published, "It was the least amount of money [the publishing company] had ever paid for a first novel," he said.

Handler treated the audience to the story of the origin of his pen name, which came about years before the famed "Unfortunate Events" series was published.

For research purposes on his first novel, Handler said, he had contacted many organizations concerned with "teen issues" in order to get their take on the problems plaguing teenagers. Many of the organizations diverged from his personal political and religious beliefs, he said, and not wanting to give out his real name, he was forced one day to make something up on the fly when a representative asked to put him on a mailing list.

"So I opened my mouth and said 'Lemony Snicket.' And then I paused and thought, 'Of all the fake names,'" Handler told the laughing crowd. "She asked me, 'Is that spelled how it sounds?' and I said, 'Yes, it is.' And then I asked her to spell it back to me, because I had no idea how it would be spelled."

Handler decided to use Snicket as his pen name for "A Series of Unfortunate Events," which he described as "13 books about terrible things happening to orphans."

"I wanted to write books for children that didn't go the way they were supposed to go," he explained. "Most children's books have the good, brave child rewarded in the end and the bad one punished. We all know it doesn't go that way."

Handler's latest book is a departure, both in tone and intended audience. "Adverbs," which is geared for adults, is a book about the different sorts of love that happen to different sorts of people, he said.

Handler said he based many of his characters and their experiences on conversations he overheard while writing the book in a San Francisco coffee shop.

"Most of writing is theft," he said. "Did they tell you that in Writers Week? You steal from other books and from life." ■

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

reporter at the *Arizona Daily Star*.

It's no wonder he became a novelist: "Successful career in journalism" is an oxymoron, like "aspiring poet." Even so, Gold said it's hard breaking into novel writing, "because the publishing business these days is mostly about people who are pretty surefire best-sellers."

For those who missed his reading at Books Inc., Gold gives a chapter-by-chapter podcast reading on the book's Web site, www.thelamppostmotel.com. ...

And so, between Gold, Audrey Shafer (see story, this page), and whoever the kids met during Writers Week at Los Altos High School, there should be plenty of new fiction writers in circulation around here.

BACK IN REALITY, the Little League people would like me to

announce something related to their 50th Anniversary season, which is this year:

At the opening ceremony next month, organizers hope to introduce some of the players and coaches from Mountain View Little League's earliest days. To that end, anyone who played or coached in Mountain View Little League between 1957 and 1970 is urged to contact events coordinator Eric Johans-

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 10

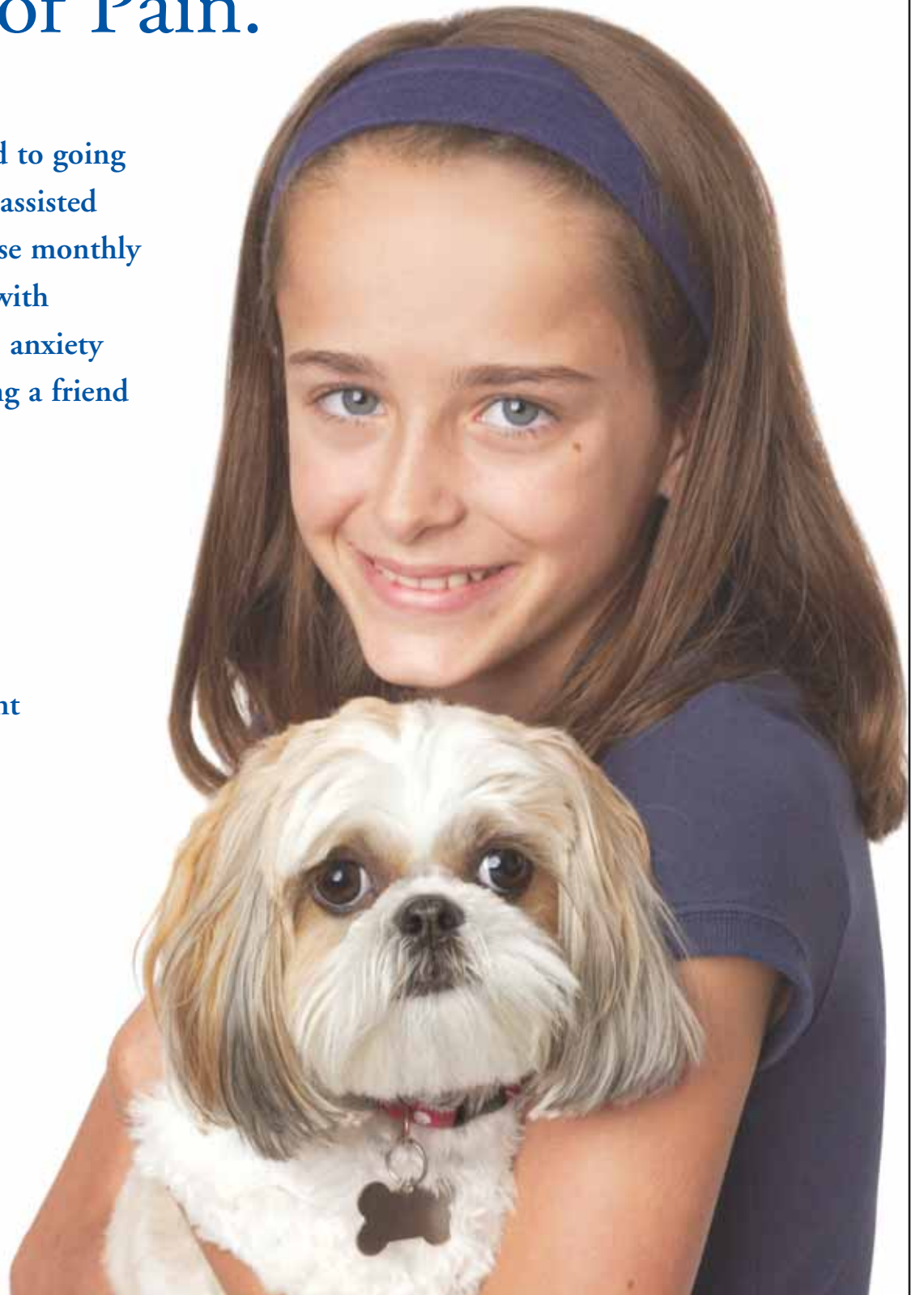


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LocalNews

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

AVENIDAS HOLDS CONFERENCE ON RETIREMENT PLANNING

Avenidas and speaker Nancy Goldcamp will cast a fresh outlook on retirement with “Transforming Tomorrow: A Life Planning Conference” this Saturday, Feb. 24, in Palo Alto.

Visitors will learn about maintaining a healthy physical and mental lifestyle, managing the sale or purchase of a home, traveling and other issues. Conference sponsors will also set up information booths and conduct prize drawings at the event.

The conference is from 8:45

a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at Avenidas, 450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto. Registration is \$45. Visit www.avenidas.org for more information.

RED CROSS SEMINAR REEXAMINES GENEVA CONVENTION

International law specialists are meeting to deliberate the relevance of the Geneva Convention at an upcoming seminar in Los Altos titled “International Humanitarian Law and the Limits of State Authority.”

Speakers at the Wednesday, Feb. 28 event include legal experts and professors from Stanford

University and elsewhere. Community members are jointly invited to attend by the Affairs Council of Northern California, the American Red Cross and the Los Altos Public Library.

The free event begins with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. at the Los Altos Public Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. For more information, reach the Red Cross at (650) 688-0423 or www.paarc.org; the library at (650) 948-7683 or www.santaclaracountylib.org/losaltos; or the World Affairs Council at (415) 293-4600 or www.itsyourworld.org.

— Zunaira Durrani

SHAFER

► Continued from page 5

was appropriate for that age group. My daughter has great opinions and she was a great editor. Plus she was an expert on how kids would really talk,” Shafer said.

Although she started out writing the novel without a clear ending in sight, Shafer said that the characters and the themes she was dealing with allowed the story to naturally and easily unfold.

“It taught me to have faith in the characters and not write to a certain end. I was just very devoted to it, and I really loved writing it.”

The relatively easy task of reshaping the story was a good thing for Shafer, whose busy life includes two children, an associate creative writing professorship at Stanford and a full-time position as an anesthesiologist at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System. How to find time for it all?

“Any parent has juggling issues,” she said with a laugh.

Shafer grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Harvard University and the Stanford School of Medicine. She used her work at the Veteran’s hospital as the initial incentive for the story itself. In the months leading up to the beginning of the Iraq

war in 2003, Shafer was struck by the number of veterans who expressed anxiety and fear about the impending war as well as the vivid, recurring memories of their own service.

“I only meet patients 15 minutes before they go into the operating room, and I have just a very brief time to speak to them. But quite a few patients started telling me about their experiences,” she said. “It was not just isolated to Vietnam veterans. I had a veteran from World War II talk about his field experience as if it had happened the day before. I felt they needed to talk, and I was a witness.”

In her book, the character of uncle Vernon is inflicted by haunting memories of his service in the Vietnam War in such an intense way that, in Shafer’s mind, he suffers from post traumatic stress disorder.

“I feel very deeply that it is a book about the veterans’ experience,” she said, “and the way these things affect them for the rest of their lives.”

Revisions to make the book more child-friendly meant scaling back some of the psychology surrounding Vernon’s character — as well as his saltier language — so that he would be appropriate for young readers.

“The Mailbox” isn’t all heavi-

ness and life lessons. It also offers an old fashioned mystery plot concerning the mailbox that gives the book its title. Gabe exchanges letters with a secret correspondent who offers advice and friendship, and it’s a guessing game up until the very end to see who the secret correspondent is.

And there’s the lovable character of Guppy, Gabe’s loyal dog, who Shafer said is based in some part on her own family’s dog, Xerox.

“Physically they are the same, but unfortunately [Xerox] is a lot more uncontrollable. I think that must have been wishful thinking on my part, that she could be as well-behaved as the dog in the book.”

Though certainly Shafer has her hands full, she says she’ll probably write another book in the future or continue work on one that’s been around for awhile.

“I have this whole other 600-page behemoth, but that’s probably unpublishable,” she said.

“The Mailbox” is available at most major book retailers, but Shafer encourages readers to pick up a copy at Books Inc. on Castro Street. For additional information on the author, visit www.ashafer.com. ■

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

Let Us Hear From You



Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

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EDITOR’S DESK

► Continued from page 8

son at either ejohanss@altera.com or (408) 735-7450.

The opening ceremony is coming right up — Saturday, March 17th at noon — so please contact him soon.

ALSO, it’s not too early to buy tickets for next weekend’s Mardi Gras celebration, a yearly party which doubles as a fund raiser

for the Mountain View Library Foundation.

The event runs all day next Saturday, March 3 at the downtown library, and includes good food, festive music and all the other fun stuff we associate with Fat Tuesday. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$70 at the door. Call (650) 526-7014 or visit www.mvlf.org for more info.

Don Frances can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	Truffles, Truffles, Truffles... 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 2	3
4	Stress Reduction for the New Year 7:00-8:00 p.m. FREE 5	6	7	Simple, Healthy Lunches in Minutes 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$15 8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	Oaxacan Antojitos 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 21	22	23	24
25	Healthy, Hearty Delicious Soups 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$18 26	A Gluten-Free Taste of Tuscany 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$10 27	28			

Truffles, Truffles, Truffles and More Truffles...

Friday, February 2, 6:30-8:30pm \$34
Have a great time learning the fine art and technique of making chocolate truffles and confectioneries. Experience how to temper chocolate, hand dip centers, and use several different kinds of molds. We will make over ten varieties of confectioneries using a variety of methods to flavor the ganache. You will learn the very best recipes for fabulous chocolate truffles; Amaretto Truffles; Ivory Truffles (with white chocolate centers); Crème de Menthe Truffles; Bourbon-Pecan Truffles; Milk Chocolate; Cappuccino Truffles; Rum-Raisin Truffles; Rocky Road and more.

Stress Reduction for the New Year

Monday, February 5, 7:00-8:00pm FREE
Learn a simple practice that you can do to relax, quiet your mind and body and feel better fast. Instructor Dana Ben-Yehuda, M.AmSAT, teaches you to undo everyday stresses using the Alexander Technique. Come learn ways to move that can help ease back pain. Be balanced and poised and reduce strain on your back. This is a hands-on educational method that has been in practice for over 100 years. It is recognized by health services in England, Switzerland, Australia, Germany and Israel. Here in the U.S., it is offered at chronic pain clinics, cancer centers, and physical therapy offices, as well as Universities and music and drama conservatories.

Simple Healthy Lunches in Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 6:30-8:30pm \$18
Wonder how to find time to make a healthy lunch in the morning and still be on time for work? Samia McCully, ND, will show you how to assemble quick, nutritious lunches. Includes simple ingredients like hummus, olives, tomatoes, crackers, and cheeses. Great for busy moms, working professionals and those of you who just want more ideas for healthy lunches. Also included is a store tour and sampling of lunches.

Oaxacan Antojitos

Wednesday, February 21, 6:30-8:30pm \$34
Diverse regional wonders. Ron Kent, expert on Oaxacan cuisine, helps you master authentic antojitos all made with fresh stone ground masa: Corn Tortillas a Mano, Memelas, Empanadas and other Oaxacan specialties. Some other items on the menu will be Molotes con Chorizo and Potatoes, Empanadas with Amarillo and Chicken, Mole Amarillo, Atole Blanco and Champurrado, the pre-Colombian drinks made of corn and chocolate. Black Beans and Spanish rice will be offered to round out the meal.

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Healthy, Hearty, Delicious Soups!

Monday, February 26, 6:30-8:30pm \$18
With Samia McCully, ND. Make way for soups from scratch! Learn to make 3 scrumptious soups - included are Black Bean, Moroccan Spiced Vegetable Lentil and Italian Tomato. These can be used as a side or a meal. Included is a store tour and of course - soup sampling!

A Gluten-Free Taste of Tuscany!

Tuesday, February 27, 6:30-8:30pm \$34
Join Personal Chef, Daniela Magozzi, and Gluten-Free Baker, Kathryn Guy, as they prepare a delicious and gluten-free Taste of Tuscany! Enjoy traditional dishes with a gluten-free twist. Items on the menu include:

- Torta de Ceci: Authentic Tuscan Garbanzo Bean Pizza
- Salsa delle Melanzane con Verdure Crude: Eggplant Spread with Raw Veggies
- Risotto con Funghi Salvatiche: Wild Mushroom Risotto
- Filetto di Maiale Arrostito: Roast Pork Tenderloin
- Pane/Bread: Focaccia
- Patate al Forno con Rosmarino e Salvia: Rosemary and Sage Roasted Potatoes
- Piselli con Pancetta e Salsa di Pomodoro: Peas with Pancetta and Tomato Sauce
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SQUIRRELS

► Continued from page 1

one incident involved an infant, who was scratched several times below his eye while he held a juice box which a squirrel apparently wanted. The uniquely aggressive behavior has not been reported anywhere else, experts say.

Muela said there have been no scratching or biting incidents since the last one was reported Jan. 7, which involved a child. The city followed the attack with an announcement that its plans to trap and kill the squirrels had not gone away since the controversial September announcement.

But instead of using body-crushing traps recommended by the state Department of Fish and Game, the city is now using live traps, and the squirrels will be transported elsewhere to be euthanized with chloroform gas. City officials said the traps will be set while few visitors are in the park.

An online petition opposing the killing of the squirrels started circulating last year, after the story received coverage in the national news in September. The number of signatures has grown from 680 to 850 since the city re-confirmed its plans last month. Of the 850 signatures, 20 are from Mountain View residents.

Local resident Traci Terluin wrote that she signed because "the residents of Mountain View caused the problem by choices they made and shouldn't be killing innocent animals that do not have the ability to make choices. And, parents should be keeping an eye on their kids."

Last year the city began a series of efforts to stop the attacks, including park ranger patrols, squirrel-proof trash cans and large signs in several languages declaring the children's play area a no-food zone. Laws prevent the city from simply moving the squirrels elsewhere, despite frustrated calls from petition signers to do so.

Kevin Duggan, city manager, has said that above all else, the safety of children is the city's top priority.

Muela said it is hoped that once the aggressive squirrels are removed, other measures will prevent the remaining squirrels from developing the same behavior. ▀

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at
ddebolt@mv-voice.com

**ANOTHER
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Jimmy Kang is congratulating his wife, Moria Kang, on her new home for her business WFG/Citinet Mortgage – Silicon Valley, which offers a wide range of financial services, including insurance, investments, and mortgages. The business is moving into the Vineyard, a private professional office park in Mountain View near 101 and Ellis St.

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■ OBITUARIES

GENEVIEVE VERA SAUNDERS

Genevieve Vera Saunders, a former employee at Moffett Field, died Feb. 11 after a battle with stomach cancer. She was 88.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Saunders was born on July 27, 1918, and moved to San Francisco where she met and married her husband Howard Friesell. Saunders moved back to Chicago eventually, where she opened the Rosemoor Vogue Lingerie Shop.

Saunders made a distinctive appearance as the Headless Woman at the 1939 World's Fair held on San Francisco's Treasure Island. She remarried in 1961, and moved with her husband Bob to California. The couple set up a wholesale florist business called Robert Saunders & Co., and Saunders also worked at the Moffett Field Ames Research facility, helping with top-secret projects such as the "vertical takeoff experimental aircraft."

A member of the Los Altos Country Club, Saunders enjoyed playing tennis, bridge and golf. She was also a member of the Los Altos Hills Women's Club and did charitable work for the city.

Saunders is survived by her sons Jon and Gary, five grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. A service will be held Sunday, Feb. 25 at 12:30 p.m. at the Los Altos Chapel of Spangler Mortuaries, 399 S. San Antonio Rd.

MARIA J. SERPA

Active Mountain View and Los Altos community member Maria J. Serpa passed away on Feb. 15 at Stanford Hospital. She was 49.

Serpa was a busy member of the St. Nicholas Catholic Church and School. She was also a member of the Portuguese organization I.F.E.S. and the SFV Lodge in Mountain View.

Serpa is survived by her mother Maria; husband Fernando; daughters Stefanie and Stacy; and siblings Manuel, Marta, Isaias, Fernanda,

Odette, Americo and Joe. She is predeceased by her son Fernando.

Visitation was held on Feb. 19 at the Cusimano Family Mortuary in Mountain View, followed by a vigil at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 473 Lincoln Avenue, Los Altos. A funeral Mass was arranged Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Los Altos.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be sent to a cancer charity of the sender's choice.

FRANK EVERETT WEEKS

Mountain View resident Frank Everett Weeks passed away on Feb. 15. He was 80.

Born on Mar. 23, 1925, Weeks grew up on his parents' ranch and apple orchard along the Pescadero Creek in San Mateo County. In 1943, he graduated from Pescadero High School.

During World War II, Weeks served with the 87th Infantry Division of Gen. George Patton's Third Army. As a medic, Weeks served his country in France, Belgium and Germany, eventually fighting in the famous Battle of the Bulge. He received two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star.

In 1949, he married Gail Elliot and had four daughters with her. He later moved to Mountain View and started a business under the name of Commercial Backhoe Service.

Weeks is survived by his wife of 57 years; his sisters Connie and Alyce; his daughters Cynthia, Merry, Sherri and Janet; and several grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to St. Francis High School, 1885 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View, or to a charity of the sender's choice.

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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

Only council member Ronit Bryant argued against the plan, favoring another that would require the developer to pay the relocation fees regardless of where tenants were able to find a home. Council member Matt Pear was not present.

Several council members, including Mayor Laura Macias, said they were baffled by affordable housing advocates who

opposed using BMR fees.

"It's the very least we could do," Macias said about using BMR funds. "I hope we don't have to look at another development like this where 250 people are kicked onto the street."

Affordable housing advocates Roy Hayter and Alicia Crank said developers should be required to pay the tenants a set amount, a practice done in several large cities, including Berkeley and San Francisco, but not in any of Mountain View's neighboring cities of similar size, such as

Sunnyvale, Santa Clara or Palo Alto. No cities surveyed used BMR fees to relocate tenants.

Hayter called the plan to use BMR funds convoluted, inefficient and ineffective. He criticized the administrative costs for the Community Services Agency to distribute the funds, which would only be given to those who to people who applied and qualified for them.

"It's like banging a square peg into a round hole," he said. "It's doubtful you'll be helping all the residents you are trying to help."

A staff report said that if tenants had to apply for relocation funds, it was unlikely all of them would. Last year, when an apartment building burned down at 1970 Latham St., 25 percent of its residents did not apply for relocation assistance. Of those that did apply, only a fourth were able to find housing in Mountain View.

The city's rents average \$1,500, according to the Tri County Apartment Association, while the rents at 291 Evandale range from \$750 to \$1,100. There are currently no vacancies in subsidized affordable housing projects.

Council member Tom Means, an original proponent of the idea, said he was "antsy" to spend some of the large BMR fund, and that this would be a simple and direct way to do it. He said everyone had seen how hard it was to use the money to actually build affordable housing.

But a visibly emotional Bryant pleaded with her colleagues to consider the tenants who would not be able to find a home in Mountain View.

"Maybe you are not going to be spending any BMR funds," she said.

Council member Jac Siegel pointed out that the maximum the city would contribute would be \$128,000, which is 2 percent of the \$2.47 million in BMR funds generated by the project, and tenths of a percent of the total

amount in the fund in a few years. The money usually goes towards subsidized affordable housing, and affordable housing advocates were wary of setting a precedent.

"Sometimes you need to do something even though it's not the perfect solution," Siegel said.

Abe-Koga said she didn't think it was fair to ask the developer

to pay more than he already was to relocate tenants. Even though it isn't currently required to provide any assistance, Abe-Koga pointed out that the developer is providing free

last month's rent, a \$500 moving allowance, bilingual moving advice and subscription to a rental guide.

Siegel agreed. "You shouldn't hurt the horse while it's mid-stream," he said about asking the developer to pay more after zoning had already been approved.

The council had decided to check the feasibility of using BMR funds in this way last December, but did not seem to have enough support for it until new members Siegel and Abe-Koga took office in January.

City staff also asked the council for direction on a long-term policy for developments that displace low-income residents, but few council members were clear about what their ideal policy would be. ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

"Maybe you are not going to be spending any BMR funds."

RONIT BRYANT

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More chloramine problems reported

NEARLY A DOZEN MOUNTAIN VIEW RESIDENTS NOW SAY TAP WATER DISINFECTANT IS HARMFUL

By Daniel DeBolt

News coverage by the *Voice* and other local papers since last summer has caused a significant number of Mountain View residents to come forward with health problems they say are caused by the region's chloraminated tap water, according to a local group which tracks the issue.

Citizens Concerned about Chloramine says that so far 11 complaints have been reported in Mountain View alone, up from zero about eight

months ago. The group says hundreds of people have reported problems — from mild to severe — on the Peninsula.

One of the new reports came from Beth Wilson, a swimmer and Mountain View resident who says she has coughing spells after breathing tap water vapors.

"Either we're the canary in the mine or we're just more sensitive," said Wilson, 46, who is also worried about increasing respiratory problems with her children. "I can't believe it affects someone as healthy as I am. It's hard for me to believe it's not affecting the general population."

A day after Wilson and her family moved to Mountain View, the long-time distance swimmer developed a hoarse voice and a very deep cough that sounded like a "seal bark" she said.

Wilson searched for a solution to her respiratory problems for three months until she read an article about chloramine and called her doctor in Boulder, Colo. The doctor guessed right away that chloramine was the problem, she said.

Wilson said anyone who doesn't believe her can watch her run the dishwasher without a door or window open. The water vapors will put her into a coughing spell, she says.

Mountain View resident Bijan Haghighi told the *Voice* that his wife has similar reactions while the coffee machine runs in their kitchen.

Respiratory problems and dry, bleeding skin have been reported by hundreds of Peninsula residents since 2004, when the San

Francisco Public Utilities Commission replaced chlorine with chloramine — a chemical consisting of chlorine plus ammonia — to meet more stringent EPA water disinfection standards.

Wilson, who was a competitive swimmer throughout much of her life, travels to Morgan Hill regularly to shower and swim in that area's non-chloraminated water. She said she's never had a problem with straight chlorine in a pool, but once ammonia is added to make chloramine, the problems emerge.

Once in a while Wilson forgets while brushing her teeth and puts her toothbrush under running tap water. The next day, she said, she'll have a stomach ache.

Gunjan Chakravarty, a former San Jose State University physicist, told the *Voice* that her 8-year-old daughter has had to steer clear of chloraminated water or suffer from dry, bleeding skin. She and her husband also get red skin after bathing, she said, but the symptoms are not as bad their daughter's.

She added that the family has had the problem while living in two different residences in Mountain View.

State Assembly member Ira Ruskin, who represents several mid-Peninsula cities, plans to author a bill this year that would pay for a study on the human health effects of chloraminated tap water.

"I'm concerned about the people who have relayed the difficulties they have had as a result of the water," Ruskin said two weeks ago. "My research shows there have not been sufficient studies of this." ■

"Either we're the canary in the mine or we're just more sensitive."

BETH WILSON,
MOUNTAIN VIEW RESIDENT

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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Santa Clara Valley Water District's
**Clean, Safe Creeks and
 Natural Flood Protection Plan**

A Five-Year Report from the
 Independent Monitoring Committee



The Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) is pleased to report the completion of five years of the Clean, Safe Creeks & Natural Flood Protection Plan which was strongly supported by Santa Clara County voters in November 2000. The IMC, composed of Santa Clara County residents, has accepted the challenge of monitoring the progress of the plan being implemented by the Board of Directors and employees of the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

We are proud to report that all activities within the plan are on schedule for their targeted completion over a 15-year period. The plan contains four outcomes and their accomplishments are outlined in this report.

Members of the IMC take our voter-mandated task very seriously. We carefully evaluate and report on the progress of promises made to the Santa Clara County residents.

David Ginsborg | Chair, Independent Monitoring Committee | imc@valleywater.org

1. HOMES, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS ARE PROTECTED FROM FLOODING

There are nine flood protection projects planned to protect approximately 16,000 homes, businesses and schools, preventing more than \$600 million in potential flood damage. In addition, the Water District removes sediment from creeks to maintain stream capacity and carry floodwaters away. Highlights of the progress made towards meeting the program goals include:

PERMANENTE CREEK *From San Francisco Bay to El Camino Real, protecting 1,664 parcels in Mountain View*

- Planning under way with completion by December 2007.
- Design to be completed by December 2009; and construction slated to begin in June 2010.

SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK *Planning and design only from San Francisco Bay to Searsville Dam in Palo Alto*

- Feasibility study being conducted by the federal partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Project design will be delayed at least five years due to low levels of funding appropriated by Congress.

SUNNYVALE WEST AND EAST CHANNELS *Protecting 1,629 parcels in Sunnyvale, Cupertino and San Jose*

- Planning and environmental review phases of Sunnyvale West and East channels being combined to increase cost effectiveness.
- Construction of Sunnyvale West Channel improvements slated to begin in 2012 and improvements on East Channel are expected to begin in 2013.

CALABAZAS CREEK *From Miller Avenue to Wardell Road, protecting 2,483 parcels in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and Cupertino*

- Planning phase currently under way with completion by December 2007.
- Feasible alternatives analysis initiated.
- Design to be completed by June 2010, followed by two to three years of construction.

UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER *From Interstate 280 to Blossom Hill Road, protecting nearly 6,989 parcels in San Jose*

- Construction of the Willow Glen Way Bridge began in May 2006.
- Completed design of a second fish barrier removal project on Guadalupe Creek, near Hicks Road.
- Project on schedule, though construction of channel improvements has been delayed due to lack of congressional construction authorization.

BERRYESSA CREEK *From Calaveras Boulevard to Old Piedmont Road, protecting 1,814 parcels in Milpitas and San Jose*

- Federal partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, proceeding with planning works.

- If congressional appropriations are provided for this project, construction is estimated to begin in 2010.

COYOTE CREEK *From Montague Expressway to I-280 (Planning, design and partial construction), protecting 1,400 parcels in San Jose*

- Conceptual alternatives development under way.
- Initiated baseline fishery study and sediment transport modeling.

UPPER LLAGAS CREEK *From Buena Vista Avenue to Wright Avenue, protecting 1,397 parcels in Morgan Hill*

- Completed District and City of Morgan Hill cost-shared project work.
- Acquiring properties for the project.
- Project at risk due to a recent reevaluation of its benefit/cost ratio by the federal project partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

SEDIMENT REMOVAL TO KEEP FLOOD PROTECTION CAPACITY

- Removed 44,824 cubic yards (5,600 dump truck loads) in the first five years of the program compared to the target of 40,000 cubic yards.

2. CLEAN, SAFE WATER IN OUR CREEKS AND BAYS *Improving the quality of water in our creeks and bays and the aesthetic features of our stream corridors is vital to the quality of life in Santa Clara Valley. Some of the major accomplishments of the District during past five years are:*

- Eliminated 25 kg of mercury in the Guadalupe Watershed and piloted a treatment system in Lake Almaden for reduction of methyl mercury. / Removed more than 30,000 cubic yards of trash and debris from neighborhood creeks. / Cleared bridges and floodwalls of more than 1.2 million square feet of graffiti. / Cleaned creek channels of illegally dumped chemicals in more than 300 incidents countywide.

3. HEALTHY CREEK AND BAY ECOSYSTEMS *The health of a creek reflects the conditions throughout the watershed, not just those along its banks. Birds and wildlife need to come to the creek bank to forage and drink. Fish and amphibians need to make the creek their home. The District has:*

- Repaired and strengthened nearly five miles of stream banks to improve property protection, creek side vegetation and water quality. / Enhanced habitat for endangered species, including salt marsh harvest mouse, by creating nearly 300 acres of tidal wetlands in South San Francisco Bay, exceeding the 15-year goal of 100 acres. / Removed nearly 60 acres of invasive plant species from local waterways.

4. TRAILS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ALONG WATERWAYS *Watersheds, stream corridors and flood protection levees offer hundreds of acres of land for the entire community to use and enjoy. The District has:*

- Instituted a grant program to partner with cities and the county for construction of up to 70 miles of trails or for the purchase of open space. / Constructed more than 30 new miles of trails along Coyote, San Tomas Aquino, Berryessa, Lower Silver, Saratoga, Calabazas, Penitencia, Regnart and Uvas creeks and the Guadalupe River.

INDEPENDENT MONITORING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert J. Baldini - Building and Construction Trades Council / **Margaret Bruce** - Silicon Valley Leadership Group / **Don Burnett** - City of Cupertino / **Pat Dando** - San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce / **James Foran** - Santa Clara County Open Space Authority / **Danny Garza** - Plato Arroyo Eastgate Neighborhood Association / **David Ginsborg** - Santa Clara County Assessor's Office / **Joe Gonzales** - Calero Ranch Stables / **Nancy Hobbs** - League of Women Voters / **Galvin Jackson** - American Residential Funding Corporation / **Trixie Johnson** - Mineta Transportation Institute / **Mark Lazzarini** - DAL Properties, LLC / **Terry Trumbull** - San Jose State University / **Susanne Wilson** - Solutions by Wilson

Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC): The November 2000 ballot measure created a countywide special parcel tax to fund the Clean, Safe Creeks & Natural Flood Protection Plan. Additionally, the ballot created the IMC, appointed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors. In the process of fulfilling its duty to monitor the results of the program, the IMC meets twice a year as a full committee and relies on four working subcommittees, one for each outcome, to review the progress and assess all activities within each outcome.

For more information or a copy of the annual reports, please contact Karna Carlson at (408) 265-2607, ext. 2944, or visit the District's website.

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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Don Frances

Staff Writers

Daniel DeBolt

Alexa Tondreau

Intern

Zunaira Durrani

Contributors

Angela Hey

Sheila Himmel

Forrest Linebarger

Elaine Rowland

Kathy Schrenk

Photographers

Norbert von der Groeben

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editor@MV-VOICE.com

E-mail Classified

ads@MV-VOICE.com

E-mail Circulation

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

How big is too big?

When Mayor Laura Macias threw out the “M” word at a City Council meeting two weeks ago, it struck a sour note with builders and developers, who said such a posture could possibly upset heavy hitters like Google, who want more local housing for their growing work force.

And then there was a spokesperson from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group who said the group’s 200 members are most interested in obtaining housing and transportation for their workers, a goal presumably not in sync with a building moratorium.

The implication from these and other speakers was clear: Halting all new housing construction would not be a good message to send to the many high-tech companies that do business in Mountain View.

And besides, the votes to do it were not there. All signs pointed to opposition from council members Nick Galitto and Ronit Bryant, as well as Margaret Abe-Koga, Tom Means and Matt Pear. However, Bryant and Abe-Koga would probably agree to reexamine at least parts of the city’s general plan, which (with Macias and Jac Siegel) could add up to the majority needed to approve better tools for evaluating the cascade of new housing applications and other proposed developments.

And even though a moratorium did not fly last week, approval for some new projects will be harder to come by due to a pair of unfilled vacancies in the planning department. Planning manager Aarti Shrivastava asked that any projects needing a zoning change be postponed until next year, and the council agreed. By then, she said, it is likely that some of the larger jobs — like the 530 homes at Mayfield Mall and the conversion of the Sears store at San Antonio Mall to a Home Depot — will be processed by the department.

This natural interruption in the planning cycle should give council members plenty of time to decide how they want to regulate future requests for development. At the meeting, members were reminded that during last year’s council election, when candidates were asked what the city’s maximum population should be, the consensus was 10 percent growth, or a total population of 80,000.

That milestone is within sight, if all the proposed housing units are built. In 2006, the city said its population was 71,995. If the 3,598 proposed housing units are completed, with the current average of 2.2 persons per unit, the city would gain 7,915 more residents, for a grand total population of 79,910 sometime in 2008 or ‘09.

If a majority of the council really believes that 80,000 is the ideal population for Mountain View, it may be time for the community to talk about revising that number upward, and give the council time to do the work on the general plan that would be needed to guide that growth. The alternative is to start thinking about some way to keep population growth in check, whether it be a building moratorium or some other device that could gain council support.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SHORELINE PARK TREES IN DANGER

Editor:

I love to drive along the beautiful, tree-lined entrance road to Shoreline Park. Now work is underway to raise that road. During this process I noticed workers were careful when dumping dirt to raise the roadbed to leave space around the tree trunks. This is very important as packing dirt, even a few inches, around tree trunks could kill the trees.

Unfortunately, the holes in the dirt around the trees have been filled in. If not corrected, this does not bode well for those wonderful trees.

Mike Murnane
Palo Alto

POPULAR RESTAURANT SHOULD BE SAVED

Editor:

I would like to thank the *Voice* for its Jan. 12 article and opinion piece on Fiesta Del Mar. It’s sad to think that this wonderful Shoreline Boulevard restaurant may be replaced with office buildings. I hope the property owner will reconsider his plan.

Fiesta Del Mar is a gold nugget in a Valley crowded with fast-food joints and chain restaurants. For my money, Fiesta

Del Mar serves up the best Mexican food on the planet. Moreover, manager Gilberto Figueroa and the entire Shoreline staff are incredibly hospitable and attentive.

As a local business, Fiesta Del Mar has earned and deserves the support of all of the customers who love its food.

Tim Orlando
Marilyn Drive

SMACKING AND SPANKING AND LIEBER

Editor:

I recall the uproar in the 1960s when it was first proposed to ban the long-lived tradition of the husband smacking the wife around “for her own good.” Back then, spousal abuse was routinely viewed as a private matter.

Well, the critics were right. We had to change the paradigm, and to do this, government “interference” was needed. Definitions were resolved; legislation was written and passed at the local, state and federal levels; and eventually laws were even enforced. Courts decided which laws worked and which laws didn’t.

Today, spousal abuse is against the law, and two generations

► See **LETTERS**, page 18



■ GUEST OPINION
VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Global change begins with each individual

VALLEY'S BUSINESS LEADERS FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE— ONE COMMUTER AT A TIME

By Carl Guardino

It would be fair to ask, "Will anything short of an international initiative curb climate change? The answer — no, and yes.

No, because to achieve the radical results needed to significantly reduce greenhouse gases, we truly need national and international action.

Yes, because proactive changes in people's behavior rarely occur globally or simultaneously. Rather, real change is measured in meaningful efforts by concerned communities and individual initiative.

That is why, after 18 months of effort, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group has stepped forward with a comprehensive, 12-point "Clean & Green" alternative energy action plan — a regional response to a global problem.

For companies, communities and individuals, Clean & Green offers practical and positive opportunities for engagement. While all 12 initiatives are being enacted, each of us can easily and immediately implement several:

■ "Cool Commutes." In car-crazy California, our automobiles account for 40 percent of greenhouse gases. Finding a different way to

work — even one day each week — makes a mark.

Rather than a fossil-fuel-burning single-occupant automobile, consider a carpool, vanpool, bus, light rail, Caltrain or BART train, or perhaps walking, biking or telecommuting. There are alternatives that fit every lifestyle.

The "Cool Commutes" challenge, under the leadership of Lockheed Martin executive Len Kwiatkowski, encourages all employers — large or small, public or private — to engage employees in low- or no-cost commute options.

■ "CEO/Celebrity Cycle to Work Challenge." Mark your calendar for May 17. On national "Bike-to-Work-Day," Silicon Valley leaders are trading in four wheels for two wheels.

In the Bay Area, four of every 10 workers have commutes of five miles or less. Studies show that three in 10 workers who bike to work even once continue to ride to work at least once a week. Instead of burning both cash and gas, burn a few calories instead.

■ "Energy Watch Partnership." PG&E is making a \$6.4 million proposal to Silicon Valley employers.

The Energy Watch Partnership offers that sum to employers as rebates for projects reducing energy use. In addition to the Leadership Group's 210 members, the program is also open to any employer — private, public or nonprofit — who joins Sustainable Silicon Valley, at no charge.

■ "Un-Pollute your Commute." For some, an alternative commute may not be feasible, but an alternative vehicle might be. Buying a hybrid, electric or flex-fuel vehicle can significantly reduce your emissions.

Hyperion CEO Godfrey Sullivan of Saratoga leads by example. His "Drive the Change" campaign allows any Hyperion employee, worldwide, to receive \$5,000 for purchasing an alternative fuel vehicle that gets at least 45 miles per gallon.

Stanislau Lec once stated, "No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible." It is all too easy — and incorrect — to assume individual action is inadequate or unnecessary.

Rather, we side with archeologist Margaret Mead, who remarked, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Yes, many are frustrated by a lack of international and national action. But global warming requires a regional response and individual action. We can either get engaged or get enraged.

Carl Guardino is CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and was recently appointed to the California Transportation Commission by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. For more information on the Clean & Green Action Plan, visit www.svlg.net or call (408) 501-7864.

LETTERS

► Continued from page 17

think it was always that way. But laws remain vague or silent on what is abusive or non-abusive "spanking" of children within the family. Remember, "smacking" of spouses hid a whole range of assaults. I think "spanking" of children hides a similar range of problems.

Not every parent is abusive — just as in the 1960s not every man abused his spouse — but some are. Every day, some children need protecting from some parents, which is where Assembly member Sally Lieber's recent anti-spanking proposal comes in.

We must deal with this sometime; why not now?

Kate McDermott
El Camino Real

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

The first days of Pompeii

NEW ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN LOS ALTOS HAS ALREADY WON OVER THE LOCALS

By Elaine M. Rowland

Set back a few blocks from the bustle of San Antonio Road, the business district of Los Altos is a compact mother lode of restaurants. One of the latest finds here is the three-month-old Pompeii on State Street near Fourth.

Los Altans are familiar with this location, as it's housed several eateries in the recent past, including a pizzeria. You can still order pizza here — hand-tossed pies and calzones as big as a folded LP. You can also find gorgonzola to your heart's content, and some tried-and-true Italian favorites like linguini with clams and bruschetta.

A small space that benefits from its sidewalk tables, Pompeii is great for lunch with a friend, but a little tight with a group on a rainy, winter Saturday night. It's walled on two sides by plate



MARJAN SADOUGH

Panini Pompeii with prosciutto, salami, grilled apples, gorgonzola tomatoes and red onions, with house salad.

► See **POMPEII**, page 19

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MARIAN SADOUGH

Gilmara Santos serves clients at Pompeii in Los Altos.

POMPEII

► Continued from page 19

glass that helps open up the space during daylight hours. But the glass makes it substantially louder as the room fills up — a distinct possibility, as Pompeii is proving popular for dinner.

The “help wanted” sign in the window explains the slightly hurried vibe during busy times, but the wait staff doesn’t make patrons feel hurried. I found lunch more relaxing; the food arrived faster (of course), and the dishes themselves had more panache. After eating the fried calamari and tomato dip appetizer (\$7.25) twice, I found it tender and tasty at lunch, but

tough at dinner.

The moderate-sized menu has an appealing variety of wine, appetizers, pastas, pizzas and salads. Presentation is clean and simple on oversized dishes, and foods generally have very good flavor. Both lunch and dinner are prefaced by fresh-made bread and a rich olive-basil oil dip that’s subtler than the garlic-basil dips elsewhere.

Carpaccio with capers (\$6) and sliced, aged parmesan is a large enough appetizer to share with another carnivore, and has just the right amount of mustard piquancy to enhance, not overwhelm, the beef. Here is a good place for first-timers to try carpaccio, as it’s done right.

The house sandwich panino Pompeii (\$7.75) is an excellent, hearty choice for lunch. A hot

sandwich of salty prosciutto, grilled sweet apple slices, gorgonzola cheese, tomato and red onion on a large panino roll (an Italian sandwich roll), it’s a wonderful combination of flavors.

One afternoon, Pompeii’s daily special was sole with lemon and capers (\$15) and a side of steamed winter vegetables. It looked fantastic, but the texture of the sole was mush. An owner, waiting tables that day, replaced the dish with apologies and no hesitation, substituting a very good, buttery salmon filet. He also threw in a dessert and coffee, on the house. You sure can’t fix a problem any better than that.

Salads at Pompeii are copious, fresh and crispy. Insalata alla Cesare (\$7) has a creamy dressing that doesn’t draw much attention to itself other than to cause a brief discussion at the table on whether there was only a smidgeon of anchovies in the dressing, or none at all. Spinach salad here includes bacon and gorgonzola. In fact, several dishes on the menu use gorgonzola, so consider before ordering just how much of this expressive cheese you’d like to consume. Spinach salad followed

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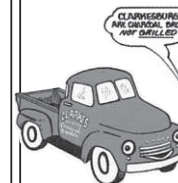
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Weekend

by gorgonzola gnocchi (\$11.95) in a heavy cream sauce, for example, proved to be too much blue cheese for one friend.

The gnocchi was pretty good, by the way, with some variation in the tenderness of the individual pastas, but my friend said he'd enjoy it even more after a short recess for his taste buds.

The most popular dish at our dinner table turned out to be the enormous barbarian calzone (\$12.25), with pepperoni, salami, ham, and ricotta. Some dishes, like this one, seem designed to share, while others are one-person portions, so it's worth checking with a waiter before ordering.

The wine list has wines by the glass and bottle, and includes a couple from Montevina vineyard in California's Gold Country. I liked their choice, as the wines stood up to the food without upstaging it. Pinot grigio can be a wallflower, but Montevina's (\$6) is fuller-bodied than usual. Their Zinfandel (\$6) may not have the same complexity as, say, a Lodi Zin, but the Zins of the Sierra Foothills appellation have a robust style of their own.

If you save room for dessert at Pompeii, save a lot for the fluffy, creamy slab of tiramisu (\$5.50). A more moderate dessert (compared to the tiramisu) might be the red wine-poached pear (\$4.50) filled with vanilla ice cream and surrounded by a strawberry sauce

moat. The New York cheesecake has good flavor and a lively fruit sauce, but needs more thawing before serving. However, the one I like best (and an owner favorite, apparently), is the creme Catalan, a silky creme brulee with a beautifully caramelized top.

Felipe and Gabriel Gutierrez, owners and chefs of Pompeii, are brothers familiar with the neighborhood, having worked in a previous business at this very address. Los Altos is obviously glad to help them pursue their dream of running their own business, and they're off to a good start, doing all they can to ensure you enjoy your meal. **M**



Poached pear with red wine and vanilla ice cream.

MARJAN SADOUGHI

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MARJAN SADOUGH

Dan Levenson plays old-timey tunes on his violin, clawhammer banjo, guitar and Appalachian fiddle during a World Concert Series held in Daniel Steinberg's house in Mountain View earlier this month.

The coziest venue in town

FOR 11 YEARS, DANIEL STEINBERG HAS HOSTED TRADITIONAL MUSIC IN HIS MOUNTAIN VIEW HOME

By Alexa Tondreau

MUSIC EVENT

When Bay Area residents think of Mountain View, they probably don't imagine a thriving independent music scene. But for a life-long music lover like Mountain View resident Daniel Steinberg, that simply isn't acceptable.

Eleven years ago, Steinberg — a musician whose musical tastes veer sharply away from Top 40 and toward traditional world music and vocal ensembles — decided in the midst of a remodel to build a large room onto the back of his house. Ever since, he has held a monthly concert series there, featuring an incredibly diverse array of his favorite musical acts.

Steinberg favors traditional music from around the world, particularly styles that fuse different elements together. Among the acts he has welcomed in his home are a quintet from Madagascar called Tarika Sammy; a klezmer ensemble of Eastern European Jewish and gypsy music called Klez-X; and a Venezuelan mandolin virtuoso, Cristobal Soto.

Almost all of the music is acoustic — typically banjos, fiddles and guitars, as well as accordions, bagpipes and a variety of ethnic instruments. Steinberg also has a special penchant for choir ensembles and a cappella singing groups that hail from Eastern Europe, South America and Africa.

Most of the performers are Steinberg's friends or are recommended through other musicians.

"I personally think I know some

of the absolute best musicians in these types of genres," he said. "I really like that I can provide a venue for them and help them to make a living with their music by supporting their touring."

There is no fee to see a concert at Steinberg's home, but donations

are appreciated and go directly to the performers. Steinberg says around 50 to 60 people usually show up, at least a third of them frequent concert-goers. Most are residents of Mountain View and neighboring towns, and Steinberg says all ages are welcome. Many people bring their children.

Some regulars say they attend just as much for the atmosphere as the music itself. Mountain View resident Meryl Ginsberg, who has been going to the concerts for 10 years, said the appeal for her is "the intimacy of the venue, and the sense of being an arm's length away from what the musicians are doing and how they communicate with one another."

Many friendships have blossomed in the 11 years since the series started. "There is a community that develops around house concerts," said longtime attendee Barbara Haas, a Menlo Park resident. "You see familiar, music-loving faces and you have an instant bond with the other audience members. It's conducive to meeting people with similar interests."

The experience has created many favorite moments and memories, Steinberg said. He fondly remembers one show that acted as a 70th birthday celebration and benefit concert for Olatunji, whom Steinberg had heard since he was a child. The event was an unprecedented success, and the concert featured many guest performers, including Joan Baez.

For Haas, her favorite concert was on Feb. 8, which featured ban-



MARJAN SADOUGH

Bob Carlin of Winston-Salem, N.C. performs at Steinberg's house Feb. 8.

INFORMATION

Those interested in attending the concerts can e-mail Daniel Steinberg at daniel@instantharmony.com. The next concert is scheduled for March 15, featuring jazz vocalist Dina Blade.

► Continued on next page

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ART BRIEFS

ESCHER ON DISPLAY IN SAN JOSE

The perspective-bending work of world renowned Dutch artist M.C. Escher is currently on display at the San Jose Museum of Art through April.

In addition to Escher's Rhythm of Illusion, a collection titled

Optical Art Revisited from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery is also showing. Museum director Dan Keegan said the exhibition — a selection of 70 prints and drawings — depicts the development of the artist's ideas over the course of his career, which spanned from the 1920s through the 1960s.

The exhibit runs through April

► Continued from previous page

jo masters Dan Levenson and Bob Carlin. Levenson's wife, Barbara, spontaneously got up to perform a few songs with the duo, much to the delight of the audience.

"I feel like I participated in something good versus spacing out in front of my fuzzy TV where I am a passive observer. It's a much better alternative," Haas said.

Steinberg, a choir director at the

Community School of Music and Arts who also plays flute and piano, agrees that the concert series fulfills a need for people wanting to take part in a community-based experience, and so he plans to keep it going for the foreseeable future.

"People are thirsty for connection: for each other, for music and musical traditions," he said. "Our society around here is increasingly alienating, and this gives people some sense of place that enriches their lives." ▣

22 at SJMA, 110 S. Market St., San Jose. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5-\$8. Call (408) 271-6840 or visit www.sjmu-art.org for more information.

JAZZ CONCERT, ART LECTURE COMING TO CSMA

World class jazz musicians and a local art scholar will be making appearances at the Community School of Music and Arts in March. CSMA has invited professor

Johanna Domela Movassat of San Jose State University to discuss Islamic art in a lecture titled "Islamic Art: Metaphor for the Infinite" on Mar. 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

A week later, the Argentinean duo of Marcelo Moguilevsky and Cesar Lerner will perform Mar. 8 at 6 p.m. in a concert titled "Klezmer en Buenos Aires." The duo blends Eastern European folk music with jazz, contemporary music and tango, with Moguilevsky singing and playing clarinet

and saxophone while Lerner plays piano, accordion and percussion.

Both events will be in the Tateuchi Hall in CSMA's Finn Center, located at 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Open seating is available for all free programs on a first-come, first-served basis, with tickets given out beginning one hour prior to show time. For more information, call (650) 917-6800 or visit www.arts4all.org.

— Zunaira Durrani



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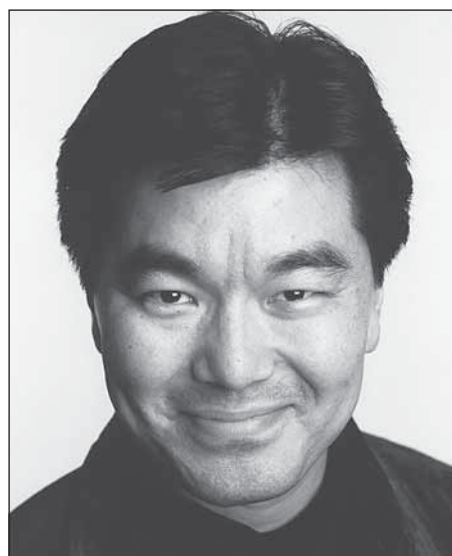


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Friday, April 6 – 7pm

K. Lance Tyler, MA

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Weekend

MOVIE TIMES

THE ABANDONED (R) Century 20: 12:30, 1:40, 3, 4:10, 5:30, 6:40, 8, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m.

AMAZING GRACE (NOT RATED) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:50, 4:45, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. Century 12: 1, 4, 7 & 9:50 p.m.

THE ASTRONAUT FARMER (PG) Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:50 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 10 p.m.

BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m. Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:20, 4:55 & 7:25 p.m.

BREACH (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:30, 7:25 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2:25, 5, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m.

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA (PG) Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 4:35, 6:55 & 9:15 p.m. Century 20: Fri., Sun.-Tue. at 11:30 a.m.; 12:55, 1:55, 3:15, 4:35, 5:45, 7:10, 8:10, 9:35 & 10:30 p.m.; Sat. at 11:30 a.m.; 12:55, 1:55, 3:15, 4:35, 5:45, 8:10, 9:55 & 10:30 p.m.

CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 12: 12:15 & 6:20 p.m.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) ★★1/2 Century 12: 12:25, 2:50 & 5:25 p.m.

CHILDREN OF MEN (R) ★★★1/2 Century 12: 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS (PG-13) Century 16: 12:10, 2:35 & 5 p.m. Century 12: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55 & 10:20 p.m.

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 12:35 & 7:20 p.m. Century 20: Fri., Mon. & Tue. at 1:10, 4:05, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m.; Sat. at 1:10, 4:05 & 10:05 p.m.; Sun. at 1:10, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m.

EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) Century 12: 12:05, 2:15 & 4:30 p.m.

FACTORY GIRL (R) ★★ Century 16: 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 7:10 & 9:30 p.m.

GHOST RIDER (PG-13) Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 12:25, 1:45, 3, 4:20, 5:35, 7, 8:10, 9:35 & 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 12:40, 1:35, 2:30, 3:25, 4:20, 5:15, 6:15, 7, 7:55, 8:55, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m.

HANNIBAL RISING (R) Century 12: 12:40, 3:45, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m.

HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG) Century 12: 12:30, 3 & 5:15 p.m.

HAPPY FEET (PG) Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15 & 4:45 p.m.

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: 1:15, 4:25, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m.

LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2:40, 6:25 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 3:35, 6:45 & 9:45 p.m.

THE LIVES OF OTHERS (R) ★★★★★ Guild: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.

THE MESSENGERS (PG-13) Century 20: 4:50, 7:20 & 9:25 p.m.

MISS POTTER (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: Sat. at 7 p.m.; Sun. at 4 p.m. Century 20: Sat. at 7 p.m.; Sun. at 4 p.m.

MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4, 5:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:20 & 10:15 p.m. Century 12: 12:20, 1:45, 3:20, 4:45, 6:15, 7:20, 9 & 10:10 p.m.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) Century 20: Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

NORBIT (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:35, 4:15, 6:50 & 9:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 12:45, 2:20, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05 & 10:35 p.m.

NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: 7:20 & 9:50 p.m. Aquarius: 9:15 p.m.

THE NUMBER 23 (R) ★ Century 16: Noon, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 10 p.m.

THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13) ★★★ Century 12: 12:35 & 6 p.m. Aquarius: 1, 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.

PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:20, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 3:45 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 3:30 & 9:40 p.m.

THE QUEEN (NOT RATED) ★★★★★ Century 20: 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:25 & 9:45 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.

RENO 911!: MIAMI (R) Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 1:50, 3:55, 6, 8:05 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 12:45, 1:50, 2:50, 3:55, 4:55, 6, 7:05, 8:10, 9:15 & 10:20 p.m.

SMOKIN' ACES (R) ★★ Century 12: 3:25 & 9:10 p.m.

VENUS (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri., Mon. & Tue. at 11:20 a.m.; 1:40, 4:05, 7:05 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat. at 11:20 a.m.; 1:40, 4:05 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun. at 11:20 a.m.; 1:40, 7:05 & 9:30 p.m.

VOLVER (R) ★★1/2 Century 12: 7:50 & 10:35 p.m. Guild: 1:30, 4:15, 7 & 9:45 p.m.

WILD HOGS (PG-13) (SNEAK PREVIEW) Century 20: Sat. at 7:30 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)

CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

★ 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.



MOVIE REVIEWS



BREACH ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Powerhouse performances by Chris Cooper and Laura Linney highlight this taut political thriller about America's most corrupt — and clever — federal agent. Ambitious young FBI trainee Eric O'Neill (Ryan Phillippe) earns a chance to become a full-fledged agent when he's assigned to work alongside operative Robert Hanssen (Cooper). Hanssen's unparalleled knowledge of Internet security has earned him accolades within the department, but there's something more sinister behind his straight-laced facade. When O'Neill's superior, Kate Burroughs (Linney), informs her eager charge that Hanssen has been dealing federal secrets to foreign powers for years and is considered the most dangerous spy in U.S. history, a seemingly dull job suddenly sparks. "Breach" escapes being a hollow exercise in political espionage, instead emerging as one of the most compelling tales of the new year. *Rated: PG-13 for violence, sexual content and language. 1 hour, 50 minutes.* — T.H.

FACTORY GIRL ★★

(Century 12, Century 16) Sienna Miller lights up an otherwise mediocre recounting of the rise and fall of Andy Warhol muse Edie Sedgwick. From the moment he lays eyes on Edie Sedgwick (Miller) at a bohemian free-for-all, Warhol (Guy Pearce) knows that he wants her in his orbit, an integral part of his revolutionary culture that's rife with sex, drugs and avant-garde style. For her part Sedgwick loves the limelight, which tames the internal beasts of her brother's tragic suicide and her aristocratic father's sexual advances. Sedgwick pours ample amounts of daddy's money into Warhol's Factory projects and turns starlet and media darling. At the top of her game Edie makes nice with a popular Bob Dylan-esque folk star (Hayden Christensen, billed simply as the "Musician") who actively dislikes Warhol and his posse of rag-tag weirdoes. Her budding relationship with the Musician puts Warhol in a snit; torn between two lovers, she's ultimately rejected by both. This awakens her demons and sends Sedgwick into a crash and burn of intoxicated insanity. The period clothes are a dazzling homage to the '60s but can't salvage this poor-little-rich-girl tale from its cheap provocations. *Rated: R for sex, language and drug use. 1 hour, 31 minutes.* — J.A.

THE LIVES OF OTHERS ★★★★★

(Guild) Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (say that 10 times fast) crafts a personal drama about the nightmarish years of East Germany's creative cold war. The German Democratic Republic circa 1984

is still a place of exploitation and evil. Loyal dramatist Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch) is the darling of the regime, churning out cultural hits while others of his ilk are shunned or worse. Such political allegiance isn't above suspicion, according to Stasi officer Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Muhe), whose unwavering belief in his country's political philosophy clouds his judgment and steeps him in paranoia. Thus when the ruthless Secret Police officer attends a performance of Dreyman's new play he determines to expose the chinks in the playwright's Socialist armor. A thrilling and compelling work extremely worthy of its nod for a Best Foreign Film Oscar. *Rated: R for violence, language and mature themes. In German with English subtitles. 2 hours, 17 minutes.* — J.A.

MISS POTTER ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) With her bee-stung lips and rosy cheeks, Renne Zellweger twinkles and charms as children's book author-illustrator Beatrix Potter. Miss Potter's narration opens the film, welcoming the viewer into the imagination that fuels her creativity and fills her lonely life with make-believe friends both furry and feathered. "There's something delicious about writing the first words," says the author, wondering where the story may take her. And you may wonder the same when the 30-something spinster dabs paint on a lovely watercolor of a resting brown bunny — and his eyes spring open in an animated sequence that takes you totally by surprise. Such moments of whimsy enliven the simple narrative of Miss Potter peddling her wares to a publisher, finding success, and falling in love with the endearing Norman Warne (Ewan McGregor), who believes in her work. Flashbacks wonderfully convey how Beatrix came under the spell of the English Lake District during the summers of her childhood. Pretty as a Beatrix Potter picture, director Chris Noonan's charmer will surely put a smile on your face. *Rated: PG for brief mild language. 1 hour, 32 minutes.* — S.T.



MUSIC AND LYRICS ★★★

(Century 12, Century 16) Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore make some beautiful music in this romantic laughter that trolls for big Valentine's box office. Grant is has-been pop star Alex Fletcher, whose fame and fortune from the kitschy '80s group Pop! have gone the way of acid-washed denim. Alex makes ends meet by playing county fairs and stag parties, creaking his way through trademark hip thrusts. A chance meeting with professional plant doctor Sophie Fisher (Barrymore) alters the landscape. Alex is offered the opportunity to pen a hit for spiritual teen sensation Cora Corman (Haley Bennett) but his creative juices have all but dried up. When Alex discovers that Sophie has a knack for snappy

lyrics he persuades her to team up in the name of showbiz. Naturally the relationship blossoms; even less surprisingly, narrative misunderstandings threaten to destroy it: the tried-and-true formula for silver-screen affection. "Lyrics" screams mainstream, but it's a sweet enough holiday confection. *Rated: PG-13 for some language and sexual content. 1 hour, 36 minutes.* — J.A.

NORBIT ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Norbit Rice (Eddie Murphy) is a tender-hearted man whose Poindexter appearance and orphan upbringing have turned him into a socially awkward pariah. But Norbit's biggest problem is his wife, the aptly named Rasputia (Murphy again, sporting a fat suit created by legendary make-up man Rick Baker). Abusive, adulterous and obese, Rasputia bullies and berates Norbit at every turn. Meanwhile, her three enormous brothers intimidate and extort the local merchants with mob-like attacks. Things begin to look up for Norbit and the townsfolk with the appearance of Kate (Thandie Newton), Norbit's old flame from his orphanage days. Kate returns to town with her shallow fiancé (Cuba Gooding Jr.) to buy the orphanage from the fatherly but foul-mouthed Mr. Wong (Murphy). But Rasputia's brothers and their lawless construction company have other plans for the property. Murphy's finest example of multi-role playing is still his first, 1988's "Coming to

America." Compared to that comedic gem, "Norbit" is little more than excess weight. *Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, some nudity and language. 1 hour, 42 minutes.* — T.H.

VENUS ★★1/2

(Century 16) Peter O'Toole crafts a May-December "romance" with geriatric fervor and self-effacing humor. O'Toole is fading British soap star Maurice, weary of his staid existence and open to last-chapter adventure. He pals around with persnickety crony Ian (Leslie Phillips) — and then meets Ian's 19-year-old grandniece Jessie (Jodie Whittaker), a cheeky commoner whose presence is a breath of fresh air. A late-life crisis rears its ugly head as Maurice confronts the fact that he doesn't really know himself — and hopes to discover more through the companionship of Jessie, who sullenly accepts his meals and shopping sprees but spurns his more lecherous advances. O'Toole's charisma has waned little since he heated up the silver screen as Lawrence of Arabia, though he appears far older than his 74 years. As a last hurrah, "Venus" is a distinguished farewell. *Rated: R for nudity and language. 1 hour, 34 minutes.* — J.A.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

S.T.-Susan Tavernetti,
J.A.-Jeanne Aufmuth, J.S.-Jim Shelby,
T.H.-Tyler Hanley

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GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

NIGHTBLOOMS: PRINTS BY MARK BROWN

A series of digital art works which explore the space in which Nature and Technology collide, merge and multiply. Through Feb. 26, Free. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 903-6000. www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/mvcpa/visualarts.html

SPECIAL EVENTS

3RD ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION FUND-RAISER Sat., Feb. 24, 7-10 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and music. Meet the U.S. National Team Women's Lightweight Double Renee Hykel and Julie Nichols. Also, head technical director Kris Korzeniowski. \$15 at the door. Mitchell Park Center, 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call (415) 990-0604. www.paloaltorowclub.com

MARDI GRAS 2007 MOUNTAIN VIEW Mountain View Library Foundation's Annual fundraiser. Ticket price includes dinner, dancing, silent auction and full bar beverages. New Orleans Southern cuisine by JW Catering. Music from Vicious Groove, McCarty and Lohun Duo. March 3, 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$60 advance/\$70 at the door. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 526-7014. www.mvlf.org

ART GALLERIES

NEW IMAGES BY NANCY WULFF Watercolors by Bay Area artist, Nancy Wulff, include images from the waterways and woods of the Sierra Nevada to the world of Tango and partner dancing. Showing through Feb. 24. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. <http://www.gallery9losaltos.com>

"FIVE PAINTERS" Featured works by Nicole Buffett, Mitchell Confer, Catherine Dudley, Kenna Moser, Ryan Reynolds. Exhibition on display through Feb. 28. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Stellar Somerset Gallery, 539 Bryant St., Palo Alto. www.stellarsomersetgallery.com

DAVID REINTERPRETED An exhibit showing the recent interpretations of the legend by the sculptors of the Bay Area. Through Feb. 22. Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 325-6679.

LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN Reflections on a trip to Norway highlighted in watercolor by artist Betty Dennis. On display through March 3. Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com/

TERCERA GALLERY New jewelry by Dahlia Kanner, Brooke Battles, and Julia Turner. Large cast glass bowls by John Lewis. Through Feb. 28. Tue.-Sun., 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free. Tercera Gallery, 534 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 322-5324. www.terceragallerypaloalto.com

BENEFITS

DEFENDING THE BILL OF RIGHTS Civil rights attorney Lynne Stewart and Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, non-profit human rights litigation organization will be speaking about Muslims' free speech rights and other related topics. Feb. 25, 2 p.m. \$12-\$25 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 326-8837. www.PeaceandJustice.org

PENINSULA YOUTH ORCHESTRA BENEFIT RECITAL An "All Star Cast" of professional musicians present a benefit recital for the PYO 2007 Summer Tour. Fri., Feb. 23, 8-10 p.m. Chamber music by SF opera orchestra players, Michael Galisatus Jazz Quartet, vibraphone and harp duo with Peter and Karen Thielen, and Hawaiian Music

by Ka'Ala Carmack. \$20 adults/\$10 students/seniors. Palo Alto First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Call 325-6967. www.peninsulayouthorchestra.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

ISLAMIC ART: METAPHOR FOR THE INFINITE-LECTURE A discussion demonstrating art's ability to act as a bridge to cultural understanding. March 1, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. www.arts4all.org

JOB SEARCH STRATEGY GROUP Session facilitated by an expert in the field. Group works together to strategize about job search techniques and overcoming challenges. Feb. 23, 1-3 p.m. Free. Jewish Family and Children's Services - Palo Alto, 200 Channing St., Palo Alto. Call (415) 782-6253. www.jvs.org/JEN

TRANSFERS ONE-DAY ART WORKSHOP Transfer ink from photos and photocopies to different surfaces: glass, paper, wood, clay, metal, painted surfaces, even beeswax. For ages teen to adult. For materials list go to www.arts4all.org/artworkshops. Bring lunch. March 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$85 plus \$30 materials fee. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. www.arts4all.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

"MEDICAL CONSEQUENCES OF WAR"

Feb. 23-25, 4-midnight. Featuring plenaries and small group sessions on the Iraq war, small arms violence, the environment, and more. \$60. Sherman Fairchild Auditorium, Stanford University Medical Center, 291 Campus Dr., Palo Alto. Call (310) 433-3850. www.psr.org/student

DISCOVERING SHERLOCK HOLMES Stanford University will release 12 weekly facsimiles of Sherlock Holmes stories, as first seen in The Strand Magazine. Mailings through April 13. \$20 for newsprint copies; free pdf access. Discovering Sherlock Holmes, 482 Galvez St., Stanford. Call 724-9588. <http://sherlockholmes.stanford.edu>

CONCERTS

"THUNDER FROM ASIA" Presented by the Stanford Symphony Orchestra and Asian Drums. Sat., Feb. 24, 8 p.m. The orchestra with guest artists Kenny Endo and Jin Hi Kim. Program includes a world premiere by Jin Hi Kim, Monk Dance for Korean barrel drums and orchestra, Beijing Drum for pipa and orchestra by Zhou Long, and Let Freedom Ring by E. Takeo Kudo. \$10/\$5. Campbell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu>

KUMARAN ARUL, PIANO Fri., Feb. 23, 8 p.m. A faculty recital featuring works from Bach, Poulenc, Scriabin, and Schumann, including Papillons and the Abegg Variations. \$10/\$5. Campbell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu>

PALO ALTO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT III Sat., Feb. 24, 8 p.m. Symphony No. 2; Hovhaness: Symphony No. 2, Op. 132; Gershwin: An American in Paris. \$16/\$14/\$7. Cub-

berley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call (408) 359-2911. www.paphil.org

PENINSULA POPS ORCHESTRA "BROADWAY SING-ALONG" SHOW Presented by The Peninsula Pops Orchestra and Conductor Kim Venaas. Tickets available online. Feb. 25, 3-5 p.m. Adults \$20/seniors \$16/students \$10/kids free with paying adults. Spangenberg Theater, 780 Arastradero, Palo Alto. Call 856-8432. www.peninsulapops.org

STANFORD JAZZ ORCHESTRA WITH JOHN WORLEY AND WORLDVIEW Wed., Feb. 28, 8 p.m. The SJO and Fred Berry host trumpet virtuoso John Worley and his friends. \$10/\$5. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu>

DANCE

BALLROOM DANCING Thursdays, through March 1, 7-9 p.m. \$7. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING Traditional and modern set dances to live music. Beginners welcome; no partner required. Wednesdays, through June 20, 8-10 p.m. \$9/\$7 members/\$5 students. Flex-It Studio, 425 Evelyn Ave, Mountain View. Call 493-6012. www.bacds.org/series/english/mountain_view/

ENVIRONMENT

EFFECTS OF AEROSOLS ON CLIMATE Dr. Strawa, an atmospheric scientist at NASA Ames



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will discuss what aerosols are, their sources and trends, how they affect climate, and the difficulty in assessing their effects. Email sslouis@mail.arc.nasa.gov to reserve. March 1, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. NASA Ames Conference Center, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field. Call 604-6810. environment.arc.nasa.gov

PENINSULA HOME AND GARDEN SHOW "Going Greener" featuring ways to be energy efficient and stylish. Presentations by eco-stylist Danny Seo. Feb. 23-25, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. \$10 adults/children 12 and under are free San Mateo Expo Center, 2495 S. Delaware St., San Mateo. Call 548-6700. www.cahomeshows.com

EXHIBITS

"CORRESPONDENCE: MASAMI TERAOKA UKIYO-E" Through April 29. Explores the contemporary work by Japanese American artist Masami Teraoka in juxtaposition with Ukiyo-e woodblock prints by Japanese masters. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 329-2366. www.cityofpaloalto.org

"JUST PAINT" Paintings by 15 member artists in all media will be shown, through March 3. On exhibit will be watercolors, oils on panel and canvas, batik and mixed media. Landscapes, figurative, still life and abstracts. Gallery House, 320 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 574-4654. www.galleryhouse2.com

"THE LANDSCAPE OF" STANFORD FIRST YEAR MFA EXHIBITION Through March 18, 5-7 p.m. Gallery Hours: Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery - Stanford University, 419 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-3404. <http://art.stanford.edu>

ART DIALOGUES Free docent-led tours of current exhibitions. Saturdays, 2 p.m.; no tour April 7. Call 329-2370 to arrange private tour. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

ART OPENING: IMMERSION OF COLOR Abstract acrylic paintings by Kathryn Rone. Through March 16. Colors move in wavelike patterns, displaying emotions and internal flow. Free. Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, 1069 E. Meadow Circle, Palo Alto. Call 493-4430 ext. 254. www.itp.edu

CARMEN LOMAS GARZA: PAINTINGS AND PRINTS Paintings and prints by Chicana narrative artist Carmen Lomas Garza, depicting special and everyday events in the lives of Mexican Americans. Presented by Heritage Bank of Commerce. Special exhibition partner: Castellano Family Foundation. Through March 28, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org

IN THE AMERICAN WEST: PHOTOGRAPHS By Richard Avedon. Assertive, controversial, and graphically striking, Avedon's oversized images of working-class Westerners provide the opportunity to reexamine the group of photographs and to explore the realities and myths of the American West. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Through May 6. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-3469. <http://museum.stanford.edu>

REPETITIOUS ANTICS Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30

p.m. through March 23. Photographs and collages by Jessica Walker and Cyane Tornatzky, blending gender issues and technology to blur the edges of the natural and the artificial. Free. Serra House, 589 Capistrano Way, Stanford. Call 723-1994. <http://gender.stanford.edu>

VISIONS OF DHARMA: THAI CONTEMPORARY ART Exhibition highlights the work of two of Thailand's artists. Works are contemporary and explore a wide range of subjects and styles. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Through March 4. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-3469. <http://museum.stanford.edu>

FAMILY AND KIDS

CAT IN THE HAT'S 40TH BIRTHDAY FAMILY STORY TIME Sun., Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR Make reversible dolls with artist Beth Karpas. Pre-registration suggested. Feb. 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$5. Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 325-2450. www.alliedartsguild.org

PACT SCHOOL TOUR Accepting K-5 students from all districts. Feb. 28, 10-11 a.m. Free. Mariano Castro School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. www.pactschool.net

FILM

"EXPIRATION DATE" Movie Night at Unity presents this beguiling romantic fable about a young man whose father and grandfather were both killed in bizarre accidents on their 25th birthdays, as his own 25th birthday approaches. Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. \$10. Unity Palo Alto Community Church, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 434-7222. www.unitypaloalto.org

FRENCH CINECLUB: "SUR MES LEVRES" BY JACQUES AUDIARD Deaf secretary Carla is tired of being treated as a dog's body at the property development company, where her office colleagues invariably take the credit for her hard work. Feb. 28, 7-10 p.m. \$8/\$6. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 575-6816. www.frenchcineclub.com

MIDDLE EAST FILM SERIES: MASUMIYAT Middle East Film Series presents a classic Turkish film noir by master director, Zeki Demirkubuz. In Turkish with English subtitles. Hosted by David Giovacchini. Feb. 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Pigott Hall, Bldg 260, room 113, Stanford University. Call 725-3426.

HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP POTLUCK Wednesdays, through March 14, 6:15-8:30 p.m. Free. Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 493-4661. www.betham.org

LIVE MUSIC

EVENING WITH WESLA WHITFIELD Cabaret singer will perform Fri., March 2, 8

p.m. Accompanied by pianist/arranger Mike Greensill, and bassist Dean Reilly. \$35/\$30 for Bus Barn Stage Company subscribers. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 941-8135. www.busbarn.org

FLUTE AND PIANO RECITAL Greer Ellison, flute and Anne Taffel, piano. Playing music from the 19th through the 20th Centuries. Music is by Tailleferre, Takemitsu, Taktakishvili, Barber Schubert/Liszt. Former Oberlin classmates join together to make dynamic, beautiful music. Feb. 24, 4-5:30 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 326-9008.

ON STAGE

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" Four young lovers meet in a moonlit forest filled with mysterious magical creatures and a "moonshining" bunch of novice actors. Southern version of Shakespeare's romantic comedy. Through Feb. 24, 8 p.m. \$22-\$32. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 941-0551. www.busbarn.org

"SECRET LOVE IN PEACH BLOSSOM LAND" Created in 1986 by Stan Lai and his theater group performance workshop. Thu., Sat., through March 3, 8-10 p.m. \$15 general/\$10 faculty, staff/seniors \$5. Memorial Auditorium, Stanford. Call 725-5838. <http://drama.stanford.edu>

WEST BAY OPERA'S "THE QUEEN OF SPADES" In Russian with English titles. Through Feb. 25. Fri-Sat, 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Ernest F. Knell, conductor; David F. Ostwald, director. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call (415) 424-9999. www.WBOpera.org

MORE LISTINGS

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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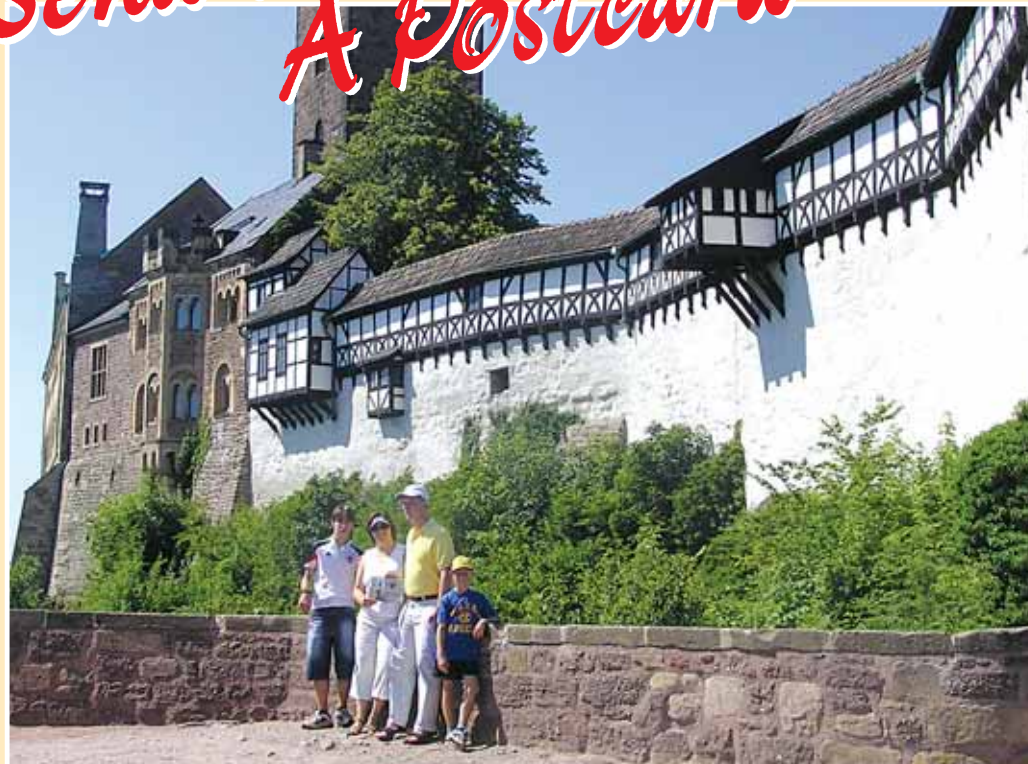
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