

# Mountain View VOICE

APRIL 20, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 16

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Mountain View  
WEEKEND | P.24



MARJAN SADOUGH

Chihuly's glowing chandelier embellishes the floors of the new site of Camino Medical Group.

## CMG's colorful new look

CAMINO MEDICAL GROUP DEDICATES NEW FACILITY,  
UNVEILS HUGE CHIHULY SCULPTURE

By Alexa Tondreau

Camino Medical Group officials and Mayor Laura Macias were scheduled to formally dedicate CMG's new medical center at a ceremony Wednesday night, giving an early glimpse of the beautiful 250,000-square-foot facility.

Situated on a nine-acre campus at the intersection of El Camino Real and Highway 85, the state-of-the-art facility will host a ribbon-cutting on Monday, and doctors and staff are scheduled to move in throughout the month of May.

An architectural highlight is the center's foyer, a sun-filled, multi-level atrium that greets visitors as they first walk into the facility.

Named the Dowd Pavilion — after benefactor Edward M. Dowd — the atrium is crowned with a two-tiered glass sculpture created specifically for the site by internationally renowned artist Dale Chihuly.

Dowd, a local real estate investor and a patient with Camino Medical Group for 35 years, donated \$4.1 million for upgrades to the atrium and for the art installation.

In an interview with the *Voice*, Dowd said his decision to donate to the organization was due in part to his close relationship with his physician, Philip Brosterhous, who is also CMG's medical director.

"I liked the guy. I maintain that doctors read the same text books, and know the same things, but

some just take it to another level. He was just very human, and I enjoyed the interaction."

And as a 25-year Los Altos resident, Dowd felt that donating to CMG's new facility was enhancing the experience of those in his community.

When Dowd first heard about plans for the building, and of Brosterhous's appointment, he said he mailed CMG a check for \$1,000.

Several phone calls later, the sum had changed. Significantly.

"I got a request to do something more, and I thought it was a good thing. So it went from a check for one thousand to four million," he said with a laugh.

Just over \$1 million was designated for the art instal-

► See **CMG**, page 10

## Rebirth in works for El Camino

COALITION OF CITIES,  
TRANSIT AGENCIES  
ENVISION VIBRANT  
'GRAND BOULEVARD'

By Daniel DeBolt

Representatives from 19 Peninsula cities and several transit agencies have approved a set of guidelines to make El Camino Real a more vibrant, pedestrian-friendly "grand boulevard."

On April 3, City Council member Ronit Bryant and other members of the Grand Boulevard Task Force approved 10 guidelines and over 40 strategies to improve the street from San Jose to San Francisco. Cities will not be forced to follow the guidelines, but Bryant and Mayor Laura Macias said they hope the guidelines will soon be reflected in the city's general plan. The council is scheduled to take up the issue on May 1.

Jessica Von Borck, a Mountain View city planner who works with the task force, said cities may disagree about the guidelines, "but at the end of the day the hope is that after this there is going to be enough consistency that throughout those 19 communities there's this grand boulevard."

The strategies for redeveloping El Camino range from wider sidewalks and cleaner streets to community gathering places, orienting buildings towards bus stops, providing incentives for development, discouraging parking lots along the street frontage, designing buildings to match neighborhood themes and using quality architecture.

The guidelines also encourage higher density, mixed-use

projects. One of the strategies calls for cities to "amend general plans and implement zoning and specific plans that facilitate increases in density, particularly around transit stations and key intersections."

At a council meeting last year, a frustrated Greg Perry, then a council member and strong advocate of higher density housing, asked Macias if there was any place in the city where she would allow a high-density housing project. Macias, then Mountain View's representative on the Grand Boulevard Task Force, answered El Camino Real.

Last February, however, the

► See **BOULEVARD**, page 12

## Firemen, Google oppose station move

By Daniel DeBolt

Several firefighters and an unexpected contingent from Google came to a City Council study session Tuesday to oppose an as yet unannounced plan to improve fire department response times south of Highway 101.

The surprise visit — by two young men wearing matching black T-shirts with a "G" on the front — was made to

► See **COUNCIL**, page 8

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 30 | MARKETPLACE 38 | MOVIES 27 | REAL ESTATE 46 | VIEWPOINT 20

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

**Stephanie Schley**



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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

## Did Don Imus deserve to be fired?



*"Everyone knows Imus is who he is and says what he wants to say always. That's kind of his thing."*

**Erin Ober**, Mountain View



*"I think you have to be held responsible for what you say. I think what he said was inappropriate."*

**Allison Devenney**, Mountain View



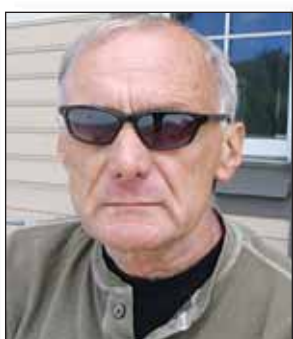
*"Yes. I think it was a racist remark."*

**Ellie Azoulay**, Mountain View



*"To me it seemed he crossed that line years ago. What has changed? To me, I have been offended by him many times."*

**Gary Boulanger**, Mountain View



*"Yes. He's arrogant. I don't know how he lasted that long. And the same goes for Howard Stern."*

**Joe Sziszak**, Mountain View

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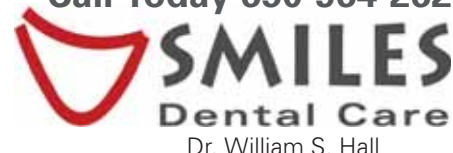
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## FREE SENIOR SEMINAR ON REVERSE MORTGAGE

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- How the loan process works
- The difference between an FHA/HUD reverse mortgage and those that are offered by banks
- Who is a good candidate for a reverse mortgage?
- An example of a reverse mortgage analysis
- Where the reverse mortgage industry is heading

Dan Holden is a long time Mountain View and Los Altos resident. Dan came to California after serving in the U.S. Air Force to attend college. He holds an undergraduate and graduate degree in business from San Jose State University/ He raised his family here with his wife Sally. They have two wonderful grown children who both graduated from UCLA. Dan spent many years as a business and marketing manager, working at a number of high technology firms in Silicon Valley. He is currently a loan officer specializing in reverse mortgages.

\*Dan Holden is indexed in the 2007 Santa Clara County Directory, published by the Council on Aging.

### CRIMEWATCH

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT, 1000 BLOCK N. RENGSTORFF AVE., 4/16

On Monday at 3:30 a.m., a 55-year-old homeless woman was sexually assaulted by a man in the 1000 block of N. Rengstorff Ave. near Hwy 101. The victim was sleeping in a clearing near some bushes when the assault occurred. She received minor injuries from the attack which were treated at the hospital before she was released.

Police describe the suspect as a Hispanic male in his 30s who wore dark clothing with a black and white beanie-type hat. It is unknown whether he was on foot or using a vehicle. The case is currently under investigation.

#### INDECENT EXPOSURE, 2200 BLOCK CALIFORNIA ST., 4/9

Last Monday at 4:56 p.m., a male suspect was observed driving into the parking lot of an apartment complex on California Street. A witness noticed that the suspect was driving by a group of children and he was

masturbating. The suspect did not physically approach the children and drove away from the apartment complex. Police describe him as a Hispanic male adult, wearing a blue uniform with a patch on the front left side of his shirt. He was in a new red compact truck similar to a Toyota with a red shell.

#### CARJACKING, 1900 BLOCK CALIFORNIA ST., 4/9

Last Monday at 8:23 p.m., a female victim was sitting in her vehicle on California Street when a man opened her car door and demanded a ride. When the victim refused, the man indicated he had a gun. The woman gave up her car keys to the suspect, who drove off alone in the victim's 1992 Acura Integra Blue bearing license number 3BJV637.

The suspect is described as a 24-year-old Hispanic male adult, 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing 160 pounds. He was unshaven, spoke Spanish and wore a white shirt and gray jeans.

### POLICE LOG

#### ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

100 block Space Park Way, 4/11  
200 block S. Shoreline Blvd., 4/12

#### ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

600 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 4/15  
2400 block Farley St., 4/16

#### AUTO BURGLARY

Rainbow Drive / Sylvan Avenue, 4/11  
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 4/16

#### BATTERY

Pacific Inn, 4/11  
700 block Pettis Ave., 4/15

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

100 block Grant Rd., 4/12  
100 N. Rengstorff Ave., 4/12  
2400 block Polaris Ave., 4/16

#### IDENTITY THEFT

Post Office, Hope Street, 4/12

#### EMBEZZLEMENT

Mervyns Department Store, 4/11

#### GRAND THEFT

500 block Ortega Ave., 4/11  
2100 block Old Middlefield Rd., 4/16

#### PETTY THEFT

2100 block Wyandotte St., 4/12  
200 block Devonshire Ave., 4/15  
2300 block E. Middlefield Rd., 4/16  
Longs, El Monte Avenue, 4/16  
400 block Stierlin Rd., 4/16  
Mervyns Department Store, 4/16  
8100 block W. El Camino Real, 4/16

#### POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

1200 block Terra Bella Ave., 4/16

#### POSSESSION OF DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE

500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 4/12

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

2500 block Alvin St., 4/16

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

Moffett Boulevard / NB 101, 4/11  
100 block Fairchild Dr., 4/15

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

Shorebird Way / N. Shoreline Boulevard, 4/15  
200 block California St., 4/15  
Calderon Avenue / Mercy Street, 4/16  
2300 block Rock St., 4/16

#### TERRORIST THREATS

1800 block Vassar Ave., 4/11

#### THREATENING A POLICE OFFICER

1300 block W. El Camino Real, 4/15

#### VANDALISM

400 block Palo Alto Ave., 4/11  
500 block Showers Dr., 4/11  
California Street / Del Medio Avenue, 4/12  
600 block Alamo Ct., 4/12  
2200 block California St., 4/15  
1900 block California St., 4/16

### CORRECTION

A photo caption in last week's *Voice*, at the bottom of page 29 in the Health & Fitness section,

misidentified the girl in the picture. Her name is Kayla Melton. The *Voice* regrets the error.



## Bean counters

By Don Frances

**F**RED DUPERRAULT and Tian Harter were seen out front of the downtown post office Tuesday alongside a little demonstration on the Iraq war. They seem to think it amounts to a hill of beans in this crazy world.

All day the pair, wearing sun hats and friendly grins, stood near a table heaped high with pinto beans, each bean representing a million dollars. Altogether the pile depicted, in convenient hill-o'-beans form, the total cost in taxpayer dollars of the war in Iraq, which at this point is \$500 billion.

Hang on while I get my calculator. ... That means there were 500,000 pinto beans sitting on that table. (There might have been fewer as the day wore on, since Duperrault was telling passersby to help themselves to a "million-dollar bean.")

The two were acting as representatives of Mountain View Voices for Peace, which has been a consistent and often creative voice of protest ever since the war began. They also, to my mind, represent a sort of political fusion of the left: Duperrault's a faithful Democratic Party man, while Harter's a Green (he ran for Mountain View City Council last November).

Of course by now you don't have to be much of a lefty to oppose the Iraq war, which may explain why the two protesters seem to have had a friendly reception Tuesday.

If you'd like to know more about MVVP, contact Duperrault at [fredd@freeshell.org](mailto:fredd@freeshell.org) or visit [www.mvvp.org](http://www.mvvp.org).

**LOCAL ARTIST** Dotti Cichon would like everyone to know about a "very special world-renowned performance artist who will be coming to Mountain View."

The object of Cichon's admiration is a dancer/sculptor with

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 11



SAM TENNEY

*Dorothy Shirk, a volunteer at El Camino Hospital, works at the desk in the surgical waiting room.*

## El Camino Hospital seeks more volunteers

WHY ARE FEWER RETIREES DECIDING TO JOIN AUXILIARY STAFF?

By Alexa Tondreau

**E**l Camino Hospital is stepping up its efforts to expand its corps of volunteers, sending recruiters to local senior centers, PTA meetings and other community groups to generate interest in the hospital's many volunteer opportunities.

The push in recent months is in response to what auxiliary personnel see as a downward trend in the number of volunteers at the hospital, and the potential for a shortage. Though the hospital's volunteer corps is large by any estimation — roughly 700 strong and about evenly split between active and inactive volunteers

— the auxiliary's president, Linda Heider, wants to ensure it stays that way.

As a recruiter of volunteers, Heider is in the midst of an important transition: The World War II generation, which has constituted the bulk of the hospital's volunteers, is declining.

► See **VOLUNTEERS**, page 16

## County to beef up its bus stops

Bay City News

**A** number of bus stops in South Bay cities, including in Mountain View, are getting improvements such as solar panels for lighting and wider sidewalks, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority announced this week.

Solar panels will provide lighting at 30 stops, mostly in Palo Alto and San Jose.

"By installing these solar panels, we will ... save energy and are able to provide more lit bus shelters for

VTA passengers traveling on our routes," VTA Chief Operating Officer Dan Smith said.

"It helps our bus operators during the late evenings when it's dark by making it easier to identify if there is a passenger inside the shelter. Our passengers can also enjoy the solar light and read a book or newspaper while they wait for the bus to arrive."

VTA will also be making \$170,000 worth of improvements, including wider sidewalks and curb cuts, at stops

in Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and San Jose between May and July.

While the improvements are being made, temporary stops will be set up approximately 10 to 15 feet away from the permanent stop. Visible detours will be posted at each of the under-construction stops, according to VTA officials.

More information about the improvements, including the locations of the affected stops, can be obtained by calling VTA at (408) 321-7575.

## 'Facing History' course in limbo

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS ON GENOCIDE MIGHT BE CANCELED AFTER ADMINISTRATIVE RESHUFFLING

By Alexa Tondreau

**A** well-regarded course at Mountain View High School which addresses history's atrocities could be on the chopping block, and some students are upset at the prospect of losing what they say is one of the district's best classes.

Student Ricky Roy, 18, a senior at Mountain View High, said he and a group of students will appear before the district board at the next meeting to ask for them to save Frank Navarro's popular course.

"This class educates people about the world way more than others do," Roy said. "I think everyone in our school should have to take it. It presents a reality that our media doesn't cover."

"Facing History" — offered for a one-semester social studies credit — sets out to expose students to some of the darkest moments in history. With a focus on genocides in Germany, Armenia and countries in Africa, the class relies heavily on eyewitness accounts from the perspectives of survivors, perpetrators and bystanders, and the use of multimedia.

"It's about the universal implications," Navarro said. "I want the students to know that what happened to the Jews in the 1930s is connected to what happened to the Armenians and what is happening in Sudan. What's important is that they see the connections."

Mountain View principal Keith Moody said the school isn't sure yet what it will do. Twenty-eight students have signed up for next year, but Moody said several important curricular shifts are taking place next year that have thrown the whole social studies department for a loop.

Administrators decided to add a three-semester World Studies

► See **HISTORY**, page 14

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

*Hummingbird nesting*



*This Anna's hummingbird was seen nesting on Sunnyview Lane not long ago. Marti Wright, who lives on Sunnyview, took the picture. "These are the smallest birds," Wright wrote. "Iridescent, with needlelike bills for sipping nectar."*

*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](mailto:editor@mv-voice.com).*

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**LEAGUE HOSTS GET-TOGETHER WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Elected representatives from Mountain View and Los Altos will be attending a public reception on Sunday, April 22 in Los Altos in order to meet the public and answer questions.

The League of Women Voters' local chapter is inviting community members to meet with representatives from the state Assembly, county Board of Supervisors, Mountain View City Council, local school boards, El Camino Hospital and Santa Clara Valley Water District, among other governmental organizations.

"This is a rare opportunity for the public to meet with a number of elected officials at a single reception and, in a relaxed environment, question them, make comments and suggestions, and thank them for the jobs they do for us," said local League president Coeta Chambers.

The reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos. For more information, contact Coeta Chambers at (650) 941-4846 or visit [www.lwvlamv.org](http://www.lwvlamv.org).

**CERT HOLDS EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE**

The city's Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, is conducting an emergency preparedness exercise titled "Getting Earthquake Ready" on Sunday, April 22 in downtown Mountain View.

Mountain View Mayor Laura Macias, City Council members Ronit Bryant and Jac Siegel, and fire department office of emergency coordinator Lynn Brown will be among those talking with community members about how to plan for an earthquake, prevent injuries and more. Local CERT members will also be on hand to answer questions and provide information.

Participants will learn about what the city of Mountain View can do in the wake of a disaster. Emergency kits will be available for purchase at the venue.

"Getting Earthquake Ready" will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 22 at 801 California St. (on the corner of Castro and California), Mountain View. For more information about the event, call (650) 248-0655 or visit the "ReadySmart" Web site at [www.readysmart.com/events](http://www.readysmart.com/events).

**DANCERS DOWNTOWN NEXT WEEKEND**

Mountain View is preparing for the relatively new tradition of National Dance Week, which is wrapping up in Centennial Plaza downtown next weekend.

Dance Week begins Friday, April 20 with shows around the Bay Area, and culminates in Centennial Plaza on Sunday, April 29 with Mountain View Dance Festival 2007.

Mayor Laura Macias will inaugurate the Mountain View event. Nearly 30 dance companies including headlining Bay Area talents will be performing on an outdoor stage at Centennial Plaza, and KMVT will record the event for its viewers.

"This event, held for the first time last year, was a huge draw for the broad spectrum of cultures that characterize Mountain View's community," said Mark Foehringer, Dance Week founder.

Mountain View Dance Festival 2007 is free and runs from 1 to 4 p.m. at Centennial Plaza, located at the corner of Evelyn and Castro Street. Visit [www.mfdpsf.org](http://www.mfdpsf.org) for more information, or call Foehringer at (415) 640-2784.

— Zunaira Durrani



## A glimpse of history at Moffett Field

By Daniel DeBolt

More than 40 people assembled at Moffett Field's Shenandoah Plaza last Thursday to open a time capsule buried in 1983 during Moffett's 50-year anniversary.

Unfortunately, newspaper and other paper memorabilia had been soaked by water that somehow penetrated the two plastic capsules. Moffett field historical society members packed much of it up, hoping the paper could be salvaged. Two wine bottles, a glass and two small plaques commemorating the anniversary were still intact.

"I was planning to put it on display," said history museum curator William Stubkjaer about the contents of the capsules. "But there isn't a heck of a lot to display." He said there may be techniques to preserve the soaked paper memorabilia, but "I just don't know if we can afford that," he said.

The gathering still proved to be a worthwhile event for the naval officers, history buffs, local politicians and community members who arrived at the field, in the shadow of Hangar One, at 1300 hours (1 p.m.). Tidbits of history were shared, and the participants had fun. (It seems Charles Lindbergh was the person who originally scouted the location of what is now Moffett Field. And Mayor Laura Macias proclaimed herself an "Army brat.")

Carl Honaker, the last chief naval officer at Moffett Field, said he was surprised at how many people showed up.

"Apparently, there is a lot of interest in the history here," he said.

The capsule was buried at the foot of a memorial to the crew of the USS Shenandoah. Though that airship wasn't stationed at Moffett, every history buff knows the story of the Shenandoah by heart.

The huge dirigible crashed near Caldwell, Ohio, in violent weather, killing Commander Zachary Lansdowne and 13 crewmembers. Twenty-nine others were able to ride parts of the ship to the ground.

The fatal flight was made under protest by Lansdowne, who forewarned that Ohio's late summer winds would not agree with the massive, low-flying airship. But Navy officials pushed the promotional trip forward, eager to show residents in 40 cities and at several state fairs how their tax money had been spent.

The accident triggered harsh criticism of the Navy from another naval officer, Col. Billy Mitchell, who was later court-martialed for insubordination.

The memorial reads, "Lord, guard and guide the men who fly through the great spaces in the sky. Be with them always in the air, in darkening storms or sunlight fair. Oh hear us when we lift our prayer for those in peril in the air."

The USS Macon, the airship once stationed in Moffett Field's iconic Hangar One, was also lost in stormy weather, plunging into the Pacific near Monterey in 1935. Its sister ship, the USS Akron, crashed in the Atlantic off the coast of New England. The man Moffett Field was named after, William A. Moffett, was the rear admiral of the Akron.

Even though it isn't quite 75 years old yet, the time capsule opening was scheduled to help kick off the 75th anniversary of Moffett Field next year. The Navy was apparently thinking there could be another two-year celebration reminiscent of the 50-year anniversary of Moffett Field in 1983. Over one million people attended an air show that year, and 3,200 people, including the Navy's top brass, attended a dinner and dance party inside the huge hangar, which had yet to be declared a toxic site.

On April 12, 2033, another time capsule near the memorial will be opened to commemorate Moffett Field's 100-year anniversary. That one was buried when the Navy disestablished from Moffett Field on July 1, 1994. The Historical society has no record of what's inside. ▣

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)





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**COUNCIL**

▶ Continued from page 1

declare Google's opposition to a supposed plan (though city staff have yet to make the recommendation) to move the Shoreline fire station away from the company's headquarters. Google employees rarely, if ever, make public comments to the Voice or the City Council.

Rather than make comments at Tuesday's meeting, one of the men handed a statement from Google to the council.

Firefighter's union president John Miguel and two other firefighters also attended the meeting to oppose moving the station to Lavenida Avenue near High-

way 101, arguing that it would not be a central location to serve the Bayshore district. They also said that the move would be expensive and that there was TCE contamination in the ground at the Lavenida Avenue site.

Fire Chief Mike Young is expected to propose the move and have the station respond to 25 percent more calls in the downtown district. City manager Kevin Duggan explained that the only reason the move was pursued was to improve response times to calls. He also said city staff had not made this proposal and may never make the proposal. Several council members said they would remain neutral on the subject until they had all the information about it.

The firefighters made their presentation during a study session on next year's capital improvement projects, the city's annual road map for improving its infrastructure. A presentation by city staff that outlined projects and costs for next year included photos of streets in disrepair and a video taken from the inside of a blocked sewer main,

which made members gasp.

Several council members expressed financial concerns about doing all the projects — a proposed Stevens Creek trail crossing alone would cost \$5 million. Council members expressed interest in ranking and delaying some of the projects. Duggan said that could mean unusual delays in adopting the improvement projects, but that it wouldn't be "the end of the world."

Also at the meeting, which was part two of the council's annual goal-setting exercise, interest

waned in a plan to revamp the San Antonio shopping center. The idea had come up in the first session in February when several council members pulled their support for creating a new

precise plan for the center. Five members supported the idea of pursuing a new plan then, but on Tuesday only Mayor Laura Macias strongly supported the idea.

Council members Jac Siegel and Nick Galliotto both made strong statements that it was not the right time to face the challenges in bringing all the center's owners together to create a new plan. Council member Margaret Abe-Koga and several others said the current plan was already pretty good, but the owners were not following it as well as they could be. Council member Ronit Bryant said she still supported the idea but wanted to look at the area as part of a general plan update.

"Of course everyone is happy if we leave it alone," Macias said. "But I don't think it serves our city."

Council member Tom Means said he was all for the idea of creating a Santana Row-type development at the center, but he wasn't sure if doing a precise plan would drive the owners and the "economic engine" necessary to get the project off the ground. ▽

*"Of course everyone is happy if we leave it alone. But I don't think it serves our city."*

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# MV solar group hits its target

DOZENS OF PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOLARCITY'S GROUP RATE DISCOUNT

By Daniel DeBolt

Just last week, the Mountain View Solar Buyers Group grew to more than 58 local participants, more than enough to earn a 30 percent bulk rate discount on home solar panels from installer SolarCity.

"Up until now there have only been 85 systems in Mountain View," said Organizer Bruce Karney. "This co-op is likely to double that and it could go beyond that."

Anyone still interested in the program has until April 30 to sign up.

Karney said the average cost of the solar panels, at the bulk rate, is \$23,000 per home. But after a state rebate, and a \$2,000 tax credit, the cost goes down to \$15,000.

How quickly a homeowner recoups the costs through

energy savings depends on how much electricity is used, Karney said. In an average California household that spends \$85 a month on electrical bills, the panels would pay for themselves in 15 years. Home values may also increase with solar panels.

As tax rebates are scheduled to decrease over the next few years, Karney believes now may be the best time to buy solar panels. The high initial rebates were designed to jumpstart the solar industry, and apparently 2007 will be a busy year for solar panel installers. Atherton, Menlo Park and Woodside are in the early stages of organizing buyers groups, Karney said. Local community colleges, such as De Anza College, are offering classes for people wishing to learn the trade.

SolarCity is reportedly expecting a rash of last-minute participants before the deadline.

"It's hard for me to explain how good a deal this is," Karney said. "I think it's going to be at least five years before the bottom-line price is lower than it is

[now]."

Because of a shortage of silicon, Karney said, the price of solar panels may not come back down for several years. New technologies from companies like Nanosolar could lower the price of panels, but probably not for some while.

The average home array provides about 3 kilowatts of power. Google, meanwhile, has just installed a 1,600-kilowatt solar array at its Amphitheatre parkway campus. Karney believes Mountain View may soon have more solar panels per capita than any other city.

Karney is keeping a blog about the buyers group at mvsolar.blogspot.com. There is also a Yahoo group for participants, Karney said, and a picnic celebration may be scheduled in May.

Those wishing to participate in the buyer's group can call SolarCity at (888) SOL-CITY before April 30.

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)

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A close up of Chihuly's glowing chandelier installed at the new site of Camino Medical Group.

MARIAN SADOUGHI

**CMG**

► Continued from page 1

lation. Dowd said he was interested in giving something to CMG patients that could make

the experience of visiting their doctor's office — often fraught with worry, as well as boredom — more enjoyable.

“What doctor's office isn't unappealing?” he asked. “I want-

ed more of an uplifting thing, something entertaining and relaxing.”

The installation, called “Joyous,” consists of 442 individual pieces of hand-blown glass

mounted in two tiers. The entire piece is nearly 16 feet tall and 20 feet in diameter.

The intricacy and size of the installation, coupled with the way the light flowing through

the atrium windows hits it, leaves a strong impact.

“I think it's stunning,” Dowd said. “When you walk in, you have a chance to think more about the glass sculpture than your problems.”

Dr. Richard Slavin, president of Camino Medical Group, wholeheartedly agreed: “The beautiful Chihuly sculpture is an uplifting contribution to our new medical care center, and is a great complement to our focus on supporting the well-being of our patients.”

Dowd's other philanthropic interests include assisting people with disabilities, providing housing for the disabled and working with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to create outreach programs that enhance the quality of life for people with multiple sclerosis.

Dowd is a former member of the board of fellows of Santa Clara University, his alma mater, and he was vice chairman of the California State Athletic Commission, at the appointment of former Gov. Jerry Brown. ▀

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at [atondreau@mv-voice.com](mailto:atondreau@mv-voice.com)

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**EDITOR'S DESK**

► Continued from page 5

the incredibly cool name of Sha Sha Higby. Higby specializes in designing and building her own wild costumes, including beautifully elaborate masks, which she then wears on stage. The effect, I'm told, can be mesmerizing.

Higby will be doing a show at Community School of Music and Arts' Finn Center on May 5, and she'll lead a mask-making workshop at CSMA on April 28. The visit is sponsored by the World Council for Arts and Culture, a Mountain View-based nonprofit with funding support from The Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

"Her art form is so unique," wrote Cichon. "It is a rare treat to have such an internationally recognized performer come to Mountain View."

To learn more, visit Higby's Web site at [www.shashahigby.com](http://www.shashahigby.com).

**FINALLY**, congratulations to Henry and Veronica Fagundes of Mountain View, who have been married 70 years as of April 14.

"A successful marriage requires the ability to adapt," says Henry. "Common sense tells you that marriage is not a 50-50 proposition. Sometimes it is 75-25 that keeps things on an even keel."

Obviously he knows what he's talking about. But I wonder who gets the 75 and who gets the 25. ... Anyway, as the *Voice* reported last year in a profile on the couple, they "met in 1936 in a dance hall in San Diego, where Henry was a U.S. Navy sailor. Veronica was a student at San Diego High School. A year later, they married."

They have been busy in the 70 intervening years, building a large family of three children, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. That alone is worthy of congratulations.

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## LocalNews

### BOULEVARD

► Continued from page 1

council voted 4-3 to reject a high density, mixed-use project at 1984 El Camino Real where the Pacific Inn hotel now stands. The developer had proposed a zoning change from R3 to R4, which would have allowed up to 130 units and 5,700 square feet of retail on the 2.5 acres. Macias and Bryant joined council members Jac Siegel and Margaret Abe-Koga in rejecting the project due to its high density and distance from transit stops.

Several city officials said this month that the developer was planning to resubmit the project next year, with less density to avoid a zoning change.

The area along El Camino near the Pacific Inn is one of the most crowded parts of the city, Macias said, with about 10,000 people per square mile. The city average is 6,000. By comparison, San Francisco has 16,600 people per square mile, according to the 2000 census.

As for the proposal for that site, "I saw the work these guys have done and it's good quality work," Macias said. "We'll certainly give them a chance to come back and talk to us."

### Opportunities abound

At last week's zoning administration hearing, city staff members recommended a mixed-use development at 1701-1707 El Camino Real near El Monte Avenue. If approved by the City Council, 16 condo units and 3,350 square feet of commercial retail space will replace 11,116 square feet of vacant commercial buildings.

High density, however, doesn't always mean mixed-use housing projects. Von Borck mentioned the BMW dealership on El Camino and Grant Road, where service bays are on the bottom floor of a multi-floor parking garage built instead of the traditional, sprawling parking lot. And the new Camino Medical Group building on El Camino Real just east of Highway 85 sits atop a two-level parking garage. The complex will open later this month.

More opportunities for redevelopment exist all the time as the street's lower density buildings age and lose value. On the corner of Castro and El Camino Real, considered a valuable gateway property to downtown, a vacant lot was left behind by the fire that destroyed Super Fluff Cleaners last year.

The council had made it a top priority this year to start the slow process of redeveloping San Antonio shopping center, which

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► Continued from previous page

may soon include a Home Depot at the Sears site. Several council members had expressed interest in creating Mountain View's version of San Jose's Santana Row at the shopping center, which would mix housing and retail.

"We need more places for people to live and not need many cars," Bryant said.

On Tuesday, however, the council backed off those plans, citing the difficulties in bringing the shopping center's different owners together.

Macias was excited to report that at least four new businesses have opened up on El Camino

***"The question should be, 'Do our existing zoning and ordinances meet the guiding principles?'"***

JESSICA VON BORCK

Real in the last month, signaling the opportunity for redevelopment. Betsy Dwyer, membership sales director of the Chamber of Commerce, confirmed this, adding that new businesses seem to be serving a more upscale clientele, such as the "Luxury for Less" car dealership approved by city staff in February for the 1000 block of El Camino Real.

Von Borck said the city may already be well on track with developing along the grand boulevard guidelines.

"The question should be, 'Do our existing zoning and ordinances meet the guiding principles?'" she said. "They do."

Achieving a more vibrant El Camino Real will have to be done "little by little" Bryant said, and it may not change significantly for years. But that doesn't keep her from being passionate about it.

"We need to start thinking in new terms," Bryant said. "There is so much we can do there in terms of housing, retail and transit-oriented development." ▀

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)

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**HISTORY**

► Continued from page 5

course, Moody said, which fulfills all students' social studies requirements. They also opted to bring on an Advanced Placement history course for sophomores, and already 120 students have signed up.

Moody said "Facing History," as well as social studies electives like the gender studies class, face diminished enrollment in light of these changes.

"It's a really great class, and we

like it and support it," he said. "But all of these [social studies] classes have taken a significant hit." Moody added, "We weren't anticipating or planning to have that sort of impact."

For his part, Navarro thinks the class has always had to contend with the fact that it presents difficult subject matter.

"I just think what I am teaching makes some people uncomfortable," he said.

Navarro ran into problems with the class when he brought it to the school 10 years ago, after becoming acquainted with the

Facing History Institute in Massachusetts. Mountain View's principal at that time, Tom Baer, wasn't supportive, Navarro said.

"He told me he didn't like the idea of a non-Jew teaching a class like this about the Holocaust," Navarro said.

The dispute gathered significant attention from the press and public, and after the protests of parents and students, "Facing History" was given the green light.

It's remained popular ever since, Navarro said, with full or nearly full enrollment every semester.

Roy said students take the class because of the way Navarro teaches it.

"It's not text-based. There are a lot of primary sources used in objective and enriching ways," he said.

Last week the class brought in documentary filmmaker and photojournalist Mark Brecke, who showed students his most recent work, a film on the Sudan massacres called "They Turned Our Desert into Fire."

Brecke — whose photographs have been shown across the U.S., with a current exhibit in the gallery of the U.S. Senate Building in Washington, D.C. — plans to bring his documentary back to Mountain View for a community-wide viewing. At last week's class, he presented a series of photographs of survivors and refugees living in Darfur, as well as personal anecdotes of his time spent in Africa covering the war.

"He told us about the camps, victims and people who had been injured; he talked in detail about their lives," Navarro said.

Brecke said he was impressed by Navarro's students and by the classroom environment cultivated by Navarro.

"Frank's students are very aware and engaged in current affairs," he said, adding, "his classroom is a good argument for how well public schools work."

As for the fate of "Facing History," Moody said it will be determined in the next several weeks, and the school hopes it can at least offer the 28 students who have signed up a chance to take it.

"We will see if we can salvage a semester," he said. "But there are no guarantees." ▀

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# Palo Alto group wants Mandarin supporter ousted

FIGHT WITH GRACE MAH SPILLS INTO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AFTER SHE'S PICKED FOR OPEN SEAT

By Alexa Tondreau

A small group of parents and constituents in Palo Alto is demanding that Grace Mah — a lightning rod for her support of the Mandarin Immersion program there — be removed from her newly appointed seat on the county Board of Education.

Instead, the group says, residents in Mah's district — which includes Mountain View — should vote to fill the vacant seat. Mah was given a provisional appointment two weeks ago when the former trustee, Bill Evers, left to take a position in Washington, D.C.

The group, Voters for Elected Education Governance, has until April 27 to gather 1,400 signatures of residents living in the Trustee Area 1, which includes Mountain View Whisman and a portion of Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District.

Mah, a leading proponent for the Mandarin Immersion (MI) program that ultimately was voted down by the Palo Alto school board in January, has had a contentious place in that city's school politics over the past few years. She and other MI supporters have said they are exploring creation of an MI charter school.

Faith Brigel, the group's organizer and one of Palo Alto's loudest critics of the MI program, said the problem with immersion is that it serves a small minority of students — roughly 5 percent.

"My concern is do we really need to give immersion to a small group of kids and nothing to the rest," she said.

Brigel said that, because of Mah's contentious place in the

Palo Alto community, people don't feel she will serve the community well on the county board.

"I do have concerns that if she doesn't represent Palo Alto very well — which is where she lives — she won't represent other areas very well either," Brigel said.

Brigel also thinks Mah has neither the experience nor the credentials to have been appointed to the position. Mah, a 23-year Palo Alto resident with degrees in electrical engineering and computer science, counters that "I don't think she's an authority on what it takes to be a school board member."

She added that "It would be nice" if the opponents of Mandarin Immersion "would do something constructive instead of destructive."

Larry Slonaker of the Office of Education said the board has already ordered a legal review of the group's request for a special election.

"We are asking legal counsel to review what our options are and, if a petition is submitted [and] validated, what recourse we should take. I feel like it's premature to say definitely when an election would be held, what the cost would be, what the most cost-effective way to do it would be."

A special election would cost the county an estimated \$1 million, according to Elma Rosas, spokeswoman for the county Registrar of Voters. A mail-in election is estimated to cost half that. Brigel has said she does not want the district to pay such an expense.

If Mah were to keep her appointed seat, she would be up for reelection in November 2008. ■

The Palo Alto Weekly contributed to this report.

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at [atondreau@mv-voice.com](mailto:atondreau@mv-voice.com)

**"I do have concerns that if she doesn't represent Palo Alto very well ... she won't represent other areas very well either."**

FAITH BRIGEL

**Send Us A Postcard**

*Photo of Hossein Esfehiani and daughter Christina Esfehiani in Beijing, China at the Summer Palace.*

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to [dmartin@mv-voice.com](mailto:dmartin@mv-voice.com) or mail to Postcards, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.



*El Camino Hospital* volunteer Doris Sedgwick wheels Rafuio Padillo out from the hospital after his discharge. SAM TENNEY

ing in numbers, and the Baby Boom generation is just beginning to retire.

Retirees are by far the largest number of hospital volunteers. And Heider said she just isn't seeing as many new volunteers walk through the door.

She can only speculate as to why,

**Retirees are by far the largest number of hospital volunteers.**

but wondered if there are generational trends at play. She said the World War II generation may think of volunteering as a matter of duty. But for subsequent generations, she speculates that perhaps there isn't the same impulse.

"We've been called a dying breed," she said. Heider believes that

"external social pressures" have mounted to make people feel they have to live in a certain way, and to acquire certain things, and it may have realigned some people's priorities.

Heider also isn't seeing many working professionals coming in to volunteer. She thinks that may be due to the fact that so many families now have two working parents, resulting in much less of an opportunity to spend time volunteering.

"I do understand that they are in the throes of raising their children" while juggling careers, she said.

Judy Van Dyke, who has practically made a career of volunteering at the hospital for 24 years, logging 19,000 hours as one of the most loyal volunteers, concurs that times have changed.

"Young women today have to work — we didn't," she said. But she also thinks that people volunteer in areas that correspond to their life. Many volunteers at the hospital, she said, had been admitted or had loved ones there for care.

Van Dyke, a Los Altos resident, became interested in volunteering at the hospital because her husband worked at El Camino as a

physician and because she herself was a cancer survivor who knew the importance of a strong, supportive hospital environment.

"I try to find ways to keep morale up. If I can help make one person feel better, it's worth it," she said, adding, "and I count my blessings."

But Van Dyke admits she took a break from volunteering at the hospital between 1968 and 1988, in order to give time to her two sons and to volunteer at their schools.

Mountain View's volunteer services coordinator, Rae Blasquez, who oversees the city's nearly 600 volunteers, agrees that people volun-

teer where they feel some affinity. "They are going to give their time where their focus is," she said.

She said the city's volunteer corps is strong and fairly diverse. The "middle group" of working adults represents the smallest contingent, Blasquez said, but she thinks that is par for the course. She added that the city's oldest volunteer is 97.

But no matter the age, Blasquez says, the key to engaging men and

**"Young women today have to work — we didn't."**

JUDY VAN DYKE

► Continued on next page



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► Continued from previous page

women is to work with them to find ways to accommodate their lives.

"We try to have some flexibility, and we try to give the volunteer a feeling of choice," she explained. "But I'm not going to have something for everybody's needs. So you have some people come in and some people go out. But for everyone you lose, you have someone else."

Heider said an important part of recruitment is to spread the message that the auxiliary is willing to work with peoples' schedules and other competing interests.

Margie Bradley, who at one month is one of El Camino's newest recruits, said she appreciates the hospital's willingness to work with her schedule.

"They didn't force me into a commitment, and I heard they'd revised their policy on that. They're hoping you'll stay a year, but they don't require it."

Heider said incentive for the new policy is the fact that she under-

**"I try to find ways to keep morale up. If I can help make one person feel better, it's worth it,"**

JUDY VAN DYKE

stands retirement these days is a whole new ballgame.

"Older adults in this area have more disposable income. They want to spend more time traveling. But they can have the best of both worlds. No one has ever not traveled because of their work here. We really try to support one another."

Van Dyke said she will happily continue with her three shifts a week at El Camino Hospital for as long as possible.

"It's such a nice way to stay involved," she said. "I have someone to eat lunch with three days a week, and I get to move around a lot. It's really my favorite thing." ■

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at [atondreau@mv-voice.com](mailto:atondreau@mv-voice.com)

■ INFORMATION

There are several dozen volunteer opportunities the auxiliary is offering, including positions in the maternity ward and ER, as a hospital guide, greeter or receptionist. Shifts tend to last around three hours and occur between 8:30 a.m. and 9 p.m.

For more on volunteering at El Camino Hospital, visit [www.elcaminohospital.org](http://www.elcaminohospital.org) or call (650) 940-7214.



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## Geologist N. King Huber dies at 81

By Zunaira Durrani

A memorial service will be held Friday, April 20, for geologist emeritus and Mountain View resident N. King Huber, who died at his Mountain View home Feb. 24. He was 81.

The service will be held at the USGS Science Center in Menlo Park, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Huber had been battling cancer since last summer and died in his sleep at his home on Diablo Avenue where he had lived for 51 years.

For years, Huber was considered the de facto geologist at Yosemite National Park, a position he honored with significant scientific contributions.

He received his doctorate degree from Northwestern University and then worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for 40 years. He went on to author two notable classics on

Yosemite, his area of expertise and a personal passion. "The Geologic Story of Yosemite National Park" and "Yosemite National Park Geological Map" are highly regarded for their geological investigation and simple narrative. The former has sold 24,000 copies and been reprinted three times.

Before he died, Huber completed a new book titled "Geological Ramblings in Yosemite," which is currently in press.

Huber was born in Duluth, Minn., where as a child he nurtured a curiosity in natural science, amassing agates (semi-precious stone) along the shore of Lake Superior and building a collection of stones, insects and tropical fish.

He served in the Army during World War II and returned home to earn undergraduate and doctorate degrees in geology at Franklin and Marshall College. He met and married Martha Ann Barr, who goes by "Nan," at the college, and they remained married until his death.

Huber was transferred to California in 1955, four years after joining the USGS as a summer field assistant. A trip to Yosemite with his wife in June of that year gave Huber his first brush with the

Sierra Nevada mountain range that became the focus of his career.

His 50 years of working in the central and southern Sierra Nevada culminated in Yosemite National Park, where he was involved in the publication of a geologic map of the entire park, a more detailed geologic map of Yosemite Valley, and the popular book "The Geologic Story of Yosemite."

Among other achievements, Huber served in the director's office of the USGS in Reston, Va., and conducted geological mapping of Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior. As of his retirement in 1994, he had over 60 scientific publications to his credit. But his love of geology led him to produce several technical and layman's guides even during a 13-year retirement as USGS Scientist Emeritus.

Huber is survived by his wife Nan; sons Steven and Richard; sister Shirlee; and grandchildren Christopher and Nathaniel. Friday's memorial service begins at 1:30 p.m. in the courtyard patio of Building 2, USGS Menlo Park Science Center, 345 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Huber's name to the Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, or online at [www.yosemite.org/helpus/donations.html](http://www.yosemite.org/helpus/donations.html). ■



Huber



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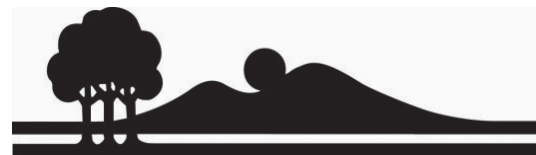
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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Mountain View City Council has scheduled a study session for Tuesday, May 1, 2007 to consider the Fiscal Year 2007-08 budget for the Revitalization Authority, Shoreline Regional Park Community, Water, Waste Water and Solid Waste Management Funds and Reserves, including various city fees. In addition, the study session will include follow-up from the April 3, Narrative Budget – General Operating Fund study session. The study session will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like the City Council and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council at P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, CA 94039 or an e-mail to [city.clerk@mountainview.gov](mailto:city.clerk@mountainview.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27.

Copies of the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Narrative Budget Report – Other Funds will be available for review after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd floor, Mountain View, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View. This report can also be found on the City's website at [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov)

### City of Mountain View Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget Schedule:

**May 8 Council Meeting:** Adoption of CIP, Adoption of Annual Goals, CDBG Hearing (Part II)

**June 5 Council Meeting:** Annual Budget Public Hearing

**June 12 Council Meeting:** Public Hearing regarding increases in City Utility Rates and Budget Adoption

# Ben Calbo, tennis guru and beloved friend, dies at 75

By Daniel DeBolt

Numerous local tennis players expressed their sorrow this week at the loss of Ben Calbo, a fixture on Mountain View tennis courts who died in his sleep March 22 at 75 years of age.

Known as "Battling Ben" in his younger, faster days, Calbo played tennis and instructed players up until a few days before he died. He had no family living nearby, but the *Voice* heard from several friends who spoke of him in glowing and heartfelt terms.

Calbo's cause of death could not be immediately determined. He had a heart valve replacement several years ago, and some thought he might have died of heart failure or a stroke.

"He touched so many people's lives," said Mountain View Tennis Club tournament chair Nancy Pizzo. "He was always there and he was always encouraging somebody. In a very low-key way he kind of promoted the club and tennis in general."

No ceremony was held after his passing, as was his wish. Friends held an informal ceremony at Cooper Park on March 25.

Calbo was of Indonesian and Dutch descent. He was born in Indonesia and lived in Holland before coming to the U.S. on his own as a young man.

Friends said he enjoyed teach-

ing tennis and was always on the lookout for his next protege. Apparently he had the tennis bug for most of his life, and coached several "real champions of the sport," Pizzo said. Several friends noted wryly that his favorite students were young, attractive women.

"He was always doing his best to find a way to help you in your life," Pizzo said. "Whether it be playing tennis better, practicing with you, or figuring out a means to attain a personal goal, like buying a home. He always was hooking people up with others whom he thought might be of help to them."

Before retiring several years ago, Calbo ran a restaurant on Moffett Boulevard called "Sir Loins," known for its steaks and sangrias. In his later years he was employed by medical equipment manufacturer Zonare. Since he had a special heart valve that was a challenge for ultrasound machines to read, the company found him to be a valuable tester of its ultrasound equipment as well as a good salesman.

Calbo lived by himself and was found after he passed by a neighbor who happens to be a nurse, Pizzo said.

Friends say they still feel his presence on the courts. They still imagine the man who patiently and kindly helped tennis players at Rengstorff, Cuesta or Cooper tennis courts watching their games and practices from above.

Around noon on April 28, the Mountain View Tennis Club is holding a tennis tournament and barbecue at Cuesta Park in Calbo's honor. ▀

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)



Calbo

## OBITUARY

### BETTY M. HESSION

Betty M. Hession, a native of England and longtime resident of Mountain View, died March 30 at El Camino Hospital after a short illness. She was 94.

Hession was born Betty Evans on Feb. 2, 1913, into an entertainment family from Teddington, England. As a young girl, she was a Max Factor makeup artist for stage and screen and a dance instructor for Arthur Murray Studios. During World War II, she put her talents into the war effort by teaching burn victims to apply makeup and amputees how to dance. She also volunteered her time at the Canadian Beaver Club in London,

where she met her future husband, Major John R. Hession.

In 1968, Hession, her husband and their daughter Deborah moved to Shady Spring Lane in Mountain View, where she lived until her death. She was active in the Gamma Club, several art clubs and was a volunteer at El Camino Hospital, serving over a thousand hours as a Pink Lady. She became a U.S. citizen in 1996.

Hession is survived by her daughter, Deborah Hession-Clark; son-in-law Bob Clark; and many nephews, nieces, grand-nephews and grand-nieces. A reception was held in her honor on April 15 on Shady Spring Lane.



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- YOUR LETTERS
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The Voice is published weekly by Embarcadero Publishing Co. and distributed by U.S. Mail to residences and businesses in Mountain View.

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### ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

## Time to revisit general plan

Like any well-managed community, Mountain View needs to have a general plan that sets down issues and trends in the community and establishes a framework for future decisions.

The plan carefully looks at the city's goals and aspirations for growth in housing, business, transportation and environmental management, the major elements that guide the city from year to year. The last major rewrite of the plan was completed in 1992, 15 years ago, and some members of the City Council believe it is time to look at some elements again.

That is why we believe our City Council members should welcome the opportunity to square the current general plan with the forces that now are shaping the city's future. As council member Ronit Bryant said last week, "We need a conversation in Mountain View about the issues that are important to us."

City manager Kevin Duggan as much as said so when he included \$500,000 in next year's budget just to start the process, should the council agree to move ahead. We hope there is five or more votes to at least discuss the pros and cons of how far any general plan revision might go.

At one extreme, the entire document could be reassessed and rewritten, an exercise that could cost millions of dollars and tie up development in the city for years. The alternative and more sensible direction would be to look at specific elements of the plan.

That includes the so-called housing element, which must be updated in the next few years anyway, frequently comes into play if owners seek to convert industrial or agricultural land to residential, a major question that often comes before the council.

An updated general plan could help the council decide:

■ What areas of the city are open to high density housing development, including those that might be converted from industrial tracts.

■ The city's guidelines for developing new parks, particularly in areas north of El Camiino Real.

■ What accommodations the city will offer to encourage a "grand boulevard" concept that would make El Camino Real a more walkable and vibrant place to live, work and shop.

■ What changes would be encouraged to redevelop the San Antonio shopping center.

There are plenty of reasons to revisit a plan that was last updated 15 years ago, long before the Silicon Valley bust and well before the current resurgence of the city's high-tech economy. (It was also before the city's population hit 70,000, before Bill Graham Presents left Shoreline Amphitheatre, and before Google was even the germ of an idea in the minds of its creators.)

At a minimum, we urge the City Council to conduct an open discussion so members can state their positions about updating the plan. We already know that Mayor Laura Macias and council members Ronit Bryant and Margaret Abe-Koga are ready to look at revising the general plan. Jac Siegel is undecided, but might also consider it.

But we also know that the remaining three members, Matt Pear, Tom Means and Nick Galiotto, have criticized the idea, and represent enough votes to kill it. We hope Macias and her colleagues can broker a compromise that will at least jump-start a discussion on the subject.

They could start by agreeing that there is no need to tackle the entire general plan. Such a huge and time-consuming effort is not what is needed now. What is needed is a council that is ready to reach out to the community and hear what their constituents think about the direction the city is headed. The obvious hot topics are those mentioned above.

As Bryant says, it is time to have this discussion. We hope the naysayers have the political courage to let the process go forward.

### ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### STRESS AFTER SQUIRREL ATTACK WILL SOON SUBSIDE

Editor:

The Packard family suing the city ("Squirrel attack sparks lawsuit," April 13) should know two things about their child's supposed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

First, the psychologist treating their son cannot have diagnosed Andrew with PTSD, because one of the main criteria for this diagnosis is that the symptoms must last at least one year. Thus, because Andrew was attacked in September, he cannot be said to have PTSD until September '07.

Second, and far more important, in the intervening months

his parents should do their best to put this incident behind them. They should stop talking about it in front of Andrew, not aggrandize the incident when Andrew mentions it to them ("Yes, it was very, very scary, but luckily it won't ever happen again") and should go about their normal lives.

Having had a child who was similarly attacked, I can pretty much guarantee that the supposed PTSD will be gone by September. Children are amazingly resilient — it is we parents who are not.

Jan Johnston-Tyler  
Bryant Avenue

► See **LETTERS**, page 22



**GUEST OPINION**  
VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

# Farm compromise is a win-win

COUNCIL SHOULD ALLOW STUDY OF FARMLANDS GROUP'S PROPOSAL FOR GRANT ROAD SITE

By Robin Iwai,  
Chris Hildebrand  
and Vicki Moore

A recent *Voice* article covered the economic feasibility study prepared by Bay Area Economics for the Mountain View Farmlands Group ("Study: More lucrative to save farm," April 6). The purpose of this study, available at [www.mvfarmland.org](http://www.mvfarmland.org), is to show one way that the proposed "Mountain View Heritage Farm" could be saved that would be an asset to the neighborhood and community and be fair and financially feasible to the owner/developer.

We'd like to clarify a few points about our compromise proposal for both a new farm and new homes on Grant Road:

The economic feasibility study is not "proposing 48 larger homes to be built on smaller lots ..." as stated in the article. Our proposal shows a scenario in which 48 homes of a size similar to those likely to be built by SummerHill (meeting the city's floor area ratio standards) could be built on 6,500- to 8,000-square-foot lots while allowing a 5-acre parcel for a farm.

This scenario is estimated to provide equivalent or greater monetary return to the landowner than the SummerHill proposal of 55 homes on 8,000-square-foot lots, primarily due to a significant federal income tax credit available to donors of conservation easements on farmland. Our scenario is consistent with the lot sizes of the surrounding neighborhoods, which range in size from 6,000 to 8,000 square feet.

The study compares "apples to apples" scenarios in which two different average home values (\$1.4 million and \$1.8 million) are used to calculate the value of the land with and without the farm. We do not know how much the homes will ultimately

sell for, and some have suggested that even the \$1.8 million figure is too low. If this is the case, the landowner would likely enjoy an even higher land price than the \$50 million estimated in our report.

These calculations are conservative because they do not include any variances that could result in further financial benefit such as narrower street widths, dedication of a partial Levin Avenue right-of-way to the farm, reduction of city fees, or increased floor-area ratio allowances. If the city were to consider granting any variances, that would further increase the profitability of the subdivision/farm proposal.

This compromise proposal has broad community support: 1,300-plus petition signatures; endorsements from local entities such as Google, Bon Appetit, Sierra Club, Hidden Villa, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Los Altos City Council; and more than 130 local residents who have written letters to the City Council.

A farmer has been identified; Full Circle Farms of Sunnyvale has publicly stated its commitment to run both farm operations and educational programs.

The only thing needed now is the political will of a City Council that recognizes the multiple benefits of a local working/educational farm will provide for our entire community. We hope the council will decide at the May 8 study session that the Farmlands Group proposal is worth further study by city staff before any decisions are made regarding the future development of the property. ■

Robin Iwai, Chris Hildebrand and Vicki Moore are members of the Mountain View Farmlands Group. More information is available at [www.mvfarmland.org](http://www.mvfarmland.org).

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## What we want vs. what we take

AUTHOR DEBUNKS 'MORE IS BETTER'  
PHILOSOPHY DURING TALK AT BOOKS INC.

By Mark Gilkey

Although our material standard of living has tripled over the last 50 years, our happiness has not gone up with it. To the contrary, "The number of Americans who say they are very happy peaked in 1956 and has gone steadily downhill ever since," author Bill McKibben told an audience at Books Inc. recently.

McKibben was there to talk about his latest book, "Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future."

The book takes issue, he said, with "the most powerful idea in our world, the idea that more is better, and that the basic idea of our society is to grow its economy."

"If this book has one theme, it is that we haven't thought deeply enough about what we want out of the world."

McKibben says our economic policies are a double failure, increasing environmental damage while decreasing satisfaction with our lives. The U.S. is "near the bottom of the developed world, and behind a surprising number of developing countries, in levels

of happiness," he said. This is due to "a loss of social connection and a loss of community." It seems that the richer we become, the less social interaction we have.

Here's one measure: Americans have, on average, half as many close friends as they did 50 years ago.

But instead of being discouraged, McKibben sees opportunity. If happiness is not closely linked to material consumption, then redesigning our economy can simultaneously increase happiness and decrease environmental damage. McKibben sees Europe — where happiness and leisure time are higher, yet energy usage is 50 percent lower — as a model.

The author does not support "turning back the clock." Rather, he says, technology allows us the best of all worlds; the Internet, for example, provides ideas from around the globe, while connecting us to goods produced close to home.

On that second point, McKibben encourages the development of farmers markets like Mountain View's. We should meet more of our needs from local producers, he said. The average food item travels about 2,000 miles from farm to fork, but food in farmers markets requires, on average, less than a fifth as much fuel to transport.

When an audience member asked about buying "carbon offsets," used to offset fuel burned on car or plane trips, McKibben was lukewarm. He warned that there have been scams in the industry,

and said that, to some extent, offsets allow people to feel less guilty without solving the problem.

McKibben says that if we do not act, we face a dark future. "The dimensions of our ecological crisis are larger than we would have guessed even a few years ago." We have only just come to understand, he said, how a small increase in global temperature can alter the global systems.

Yet McKibben sees hopeful signs, and believes we may be on the edge of major change. Last Saturday, nationwide demonstrations, organized in part by McKibben, pressured politicians to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to the group's Web site ([www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org)), "In all 50 states, at more than 1,400 iconic places across the nation, we have united around a common call to action: 'Step it up Congress: Cut carbon 80 percent by 2050.'"

"I'm quite willing ... in the dark hours of the night to be discouraged," McKibben said at Books Inc., "but I don't think it's a particularly useful way to look at the world. If we have a shot, we should take it." ■

Mark Gilkey lives on Franklin Street in Mountain View.

## LETTERS

► Continued from page 20

### HOSPITAL AUXILIARY PROVIDES VALUABLE SERVICE

Editor:

The recent articles about innovations and recognition for achievement at El Camino Hospital reinforce community pride in our hospital.

As an auxiliary member for over 40 years, I'm keenly aware of the many levels of support by which the volunteers contribute to the fine care given to ECH patients. There's a hand-and-glove connection between hospital staff and auxiliaries.

Thus it was disappointing to discover that the auxiliary now is advertising for new members, although I applaud the outreach. Volunteerism provides major benefits to the giver and the recipient. The "warm glow of service" can enhance healing while enriching the individual who selflessly contributes the small gift of time.

The hospital dispenses great medical care — supplemented by caring volunteers. Our hospital has always served our community well. Our community should come forward to serve El Camino by joining our hospital auxiliary.

Jane Seaman  
Arroyo Oaks Drive

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■ GUEST OPINION  
VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

# A true city embraces density

MAYFIELD PROJECT SHOULD CONTAIN  
A MINIMUM OF 4,000 UNITS

By Matt Karnes

Elna Tymes doesn't like the plan for the old Mayfield Mall site ("Smart growth doesn't mean no growth," March 23). Like her, I think it is the wrong plan for the site. But agreement stops there. Her several objections to the plan boil down to one thing: an objection to Mountain View transforming itself into a city. And that is very sad.

Cities are the most desirable places to live. Compare San Francisco to San Jose. San Jose, a "suburban city," has almost a quarter million more people than San Francisco, but San Francisco has three times the density of San Jose. What is the effect of that density?

Answer these questions and you will know. Which city has more restaurants, churches, small businesses, banks, cabarets and newspapers? Which has the most interesting and beautiful architecture? Which has the higher real estate values? Which has more stuff for kids to do at 3 p.m. and more stuff for adults to do at 3 a.m.? The answer to all of these questions is San Francisco, the denser city.

But there are still Ms. Tymes' objections to deal with. Here are the solutions.

■ She wants more parks. We have enough parks. This is not an objection.

■ She wants below market rate (BMR) housing units for teachers and cops. The police department and the school districts can pay more. Or we can take a page from the history books and build barracks for our young unmarried police officers and in-school housing for teachers. If the people of Mountain View really want police and teachers to live in the city limits (I'm not convinced that we do) we will find a solution. The BMR issue is a just a tactic to increase a developer's costs and keep urbanization at bay.

■ She's worried about the development fitting in with the surrounding neighborhood. I've

walked through that neighborhood. It is just another example of automobile-centric design. It should be bulldozed and turned into brownstones.

Am I worried about the present plan? You bet I am. I worry about Toll Brothers, known for building single-family detached houses, being the general contractor on a medium-density semi-urban development. I worry about one builder being responsible for the whole site. We've all seen strangely homogenous developments like the Fillmore Center in San Francisco or Santana Row in San Jose.

I worry about the cap on the number of residential units. Instead of a cap around 600 there should be a minimum of 4,000 units. There is enough land at the Mayfield Mall site for a dozen 10- to 20-story buildings.

They should be designed by different architects and, hopefully, from the amalgamation of their designs will emerge something beautiful.

I worry about the store fronts and streetscapes. Look at King Street in San Francisco or the "redeveloped" area in downtown San Jose and you will see store fronts designed for efficiency, and it shows. They are ugly and discourage human activity. But the older storefronts on Castro Street in Mountain View, the upper Fillmore in San Francisco, and MacDougal Street in New York City promote commerce and civilized living.

I worry about valuable space being given over to parking when there is a train station literally across the street. What we need is high-density mixed-use development that will make public transportation more efficient, bring the price of housing into line with incomes (via the supply and demand curves), provide for commerce and entertainment, and build a critical mass of people.

What we don't need are more parks. ■

Matt Karnes lives on Wyandotte Street.

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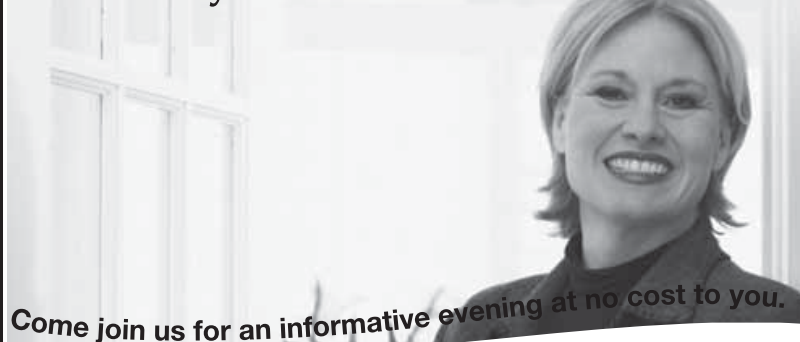


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A pesto pizza from Tony & Alba's in Mountain View. Pesto is mixed with pine nuts and tomatoes.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Your hometown pizza

TONY & ALBA'S IN MOUNTAIN VIEW HAS BEEN TOSsing FINE PIES SINCE '82

By Elaine M. Rowland

Remember the hometown pizza parlor you always ate at while growing up — the one near the university? It had plain walls, maybe some sports pictures up, a TV hanging somewhere, and arcade machines in the back room.

Well, some things just never go out of style, and

► Continued on next page



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► Continued from previous page

your hometown pizza parlor lives on in Mountain View.

Tossing pies since 1982, Tony & Alba's Pizza & Pasta endeavors to keep both good pizza and pleasant service in style. Though you can order pizza pretty nearly everywhere (and cheaper, too), you can't order good pizza everywhere. Here they knead herbs into the dough and let it ferment for days before making the crust; brush the pizzas with olive oil, garlic and herbs; and top them with fresh, locally grown ingredients.

Do all these details result in anything different from, say, a Mountain Mike's pizza? You betcha. The crispy crust has an unusual, almost beery taste from having the chance to sit and meld, and the toppings pack a lot of flavor.

For a recent lunch, I tried several pizzas — a very satisfying, if outsized, meal of three small pies. I could have ordered a larger pizza and split the toppings, but I wanted the unadulterated experience of the Tony gourmet, the pesto, and the Western specialty pizzas (\$11.99 for an 8-inch pizza).

The sweet barbecue sauce Western pie, with tender strips of chicken and red onions on a thin crust, was very good if you bit into a section slathered with the sauce. If you didn't, as my colleague didn't on his first bite, you might have thought, "This doesn't taste very barbequey." But it averaged out to a good pizza, despite the irregular saucing.

The pesto, a "white" pizza with a pesto sauce instead of tomato, still delivers your dose of lycopene, because it's topped with slices of fresh tomato, as well as pine nuts, on a thin, herby crust. The gourmet pizza best accentuated the crust's unique flavor: green and black olives,

prosciutto, pepperoni, garlic, and provolone are the major players on this hearty pizza. It was a close call, but I'd have to say this one was my favorite.

You can create your own pizza, too. And if you just need a lot of pizza, you can order a multi-person calzone.

Unlike the college pizza parlors of yore, however, Tony's offers more menu choices, from appetizers like wings to a variety of breads like garlic or bruschetta. There's salads, a dozen sandwiches, even a sweets section with cannoli. Lunch specials will run you \$6.45.

You'll also find a wide selection of pasta dishes, so, ignoring the old adage that you shouldn't order pasta at a pizza place, I ordered Alba's baked rigatoni (\$9.99). I think as a reviewer I'm supposed to venture into the uncharted, perhaps even the unadvised. Sometimes it pays off. Sometimes I just pay for it. In this case, I ordered a dish that simply didn't seem a house specialty: a moderately sized serving of mildly chewy pasta in an average tomato meat sauce. It wasn't bad, but it wasn't as exciting as the pizza, and didn't come with any sides such as a salad.

Meanwhile, the person across from me was smirking, thoroughly enjoying his Anthony's meatball pizza of sliced meatballs, caramelized onion and provolone cheese (\$16.99 for a 12-inch pizza). It was a darn good pizza (though I'm still favoring the gourmet). Someday, though, I'll give their pastas another chance. After all, I only tried the one and there is such a thing as an off night.

The folks at this Tony & Alba's (there are seven locations in all, in Scotts Valley, Capitola, Santa Cruz, Redwood City, San Jose and Mountain View) are quite

► See PIZZA, page 26

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■ DINING NOTES

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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

*Javier Valdez tosses a pizza at Tony & Alba's.*

**PIZZA**

► *Continued from page 25*

friendly and helpful, bringing you a basket of soft, warm and herby pizza bread at the start of dinner.

Drinks include beer (\$3.25 a pint, draft; \$4.25 a pint, import draft), wine (we are in California), juice, and soda.

Decorated in the Italian flag's green, white and red, with olive oil

cans and sports memorabilia on the walls, Tony & Alba's does look like a college town pizza joint (albeit cleaned up and smelling good), but the prices are higher. That's fine — it's very good pizza, and cheap pizza isn't hard to find elsewhere if that's what you require. When I visited at lunch and again for an early dinner, the restaurant was very low-key and quiet, with only the sounds of conversation and a tennis match on the overhead TV. Maybe the college-town pizza joint ambience includes sports night crowds and noise, but I didn't see it. ▣

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MOVIE TIMES

**300 (R)** ★★☆☆1/2 **Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.

**AFTER THE WEDDING (R)** ★★☆☆ **Aquarius:** 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:40 p.m.

**AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE (R)** **Century 20:** 11:40 a.m.; 1:50, 4, 6:15, 8:25 & 10:35 p.m. **Aquarius:** 9 p.m.

**ARE WE DONE YET? (PG)** **Century 16:** 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:20, 6:45 & 9:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:40 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 6:55 & 9:10 p.m.

**BLACK BOOK (R)** ★★☆☆ **Palo Alto Square:** 1:30, 4:50 & 8:10 p.m.

**BLADES OF GLORY (PG-13)** ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 12:10, 2:35, 4:55, 7:55 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:55 a.m.; 1, 2:20, 3:20, 4:45, 5:55, 7:15, 8:15, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m.

**DISTURBIA (PG-13)** ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:40, 2, 3:20, 4:35, 6:15, 7:25, 8:50 & 10:15 p.m.

**FIREHOUSE DOG (PG)** **Century 16:** 11:35 a.m. **Century 12:** 12:50, 3:35, 7 & 9:35 p.m.

**FRACTURE (R)** ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 11:05 a.m.; noon, 1:45, 2:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:10, 8, 9:50 & 10:40 p.m. **Century 12:** 1, 2:15, 3:40, 4:55, 6:20, 7:40, 9:05 & 10:20 p.m.

**GRINDHOUSE (R)** ★★☆☆1/2 **Century 16:** 2:15, 6:15 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 12:** Noon, 4 & 8 p.m.

**THE HOAX (R)** ★★☆☆1/2 **Century 16:** 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.

**HOT FUZZ (R)** ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m.; 12:50, 2:15, 3:35, 5, 6:25, 7:45, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m.

**IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (PG-13)** **Century 16:** 11:40 a.m.; 2:25, 5:05, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:05, 2:30, 5:05, 7:35 & 10 p.m.

**THE LAST MIMZY (PG)** **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.

**THE LIVES OF OTHERS (R)** ★★☆☆ **Guild:** 2, 5 & 8 p.m.

**MEET THE ROBINSONS (G)** **Century 16:** 12:05, 2:30 & 5 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m.; 12:40, 2, 3:10, 4:30, 5:35, 7, 8, 9:30 & 10:20 p.m.

**MEET THE ROBINSONS (IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D) (G)** **Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:35, 4:15, 6:55 & 9:20 p.m.

**MISS POTTER (PG)** ★★☆☆1/2 **Aquarius:** 1:30, 4 & 6:30 p.m.

**THE NAMESAKE (PG-13)** ★★☆☆ **Century 20:** 1:30, 4:20, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 1:35, 4:25 & 7:20 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:20 p.m.

**PATHFINDER (R)** **Century 16:** 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 12:45, 1:45, 3:15, 4:25, 5:40, 7:10, 8, 9:35 & 10:20 p.m.

**PERFECT STRANGER (R)** ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 11:25 a.m.; 12:15, 2, 2:55, 5:30, 7, 8:05, 9:35 & 10:40 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:15, 1:40, 3, 4:20, 5:50, 7:10, 8:40 & 10:10 p.m.

**PREMONITION (PG-13)** ★★☆☆ **Century 12:** 2:40 & 7:55 p.m.

**THE REAPING (R)** **Century 16:** 4:35 p.m. **Century 20:** Noon, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m.

**REDLINE (PG-13)** **Century 20:** 12:05, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.

**REIGN OVER ME (R)** ★★☆☆ **Century 12:** 11:55 a.m.; 5:10 & 10:25 p.m.

**THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (1975) (R)** **Guild:** Sat. at midnight.

**SHOOTER (R)** ★★☆☆1/2 **Century 12:** 5, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m.

**SLOW BURN (R)** **Century 20:** 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

**TMNT (PG)** **Century 12:** 12:30 & 2:50 p.m.

**VACANCY (R)** **Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:45 & 10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 12:30, 1:15, 1:55, 2:40, 3:25, 4:05, 4:50, 5:35, 6:15, 7:05, 7:55, 8:30, 9:25, 10:05 & 10:35 p.m.

**WILD HOGS (PG-13)** ★★☆☆ **Century 12:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.

**YEAR OF THE DOG (PG-13)** **Century 16:** 11:35 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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MOVIE REVIEWS



**BLACK BOOK** ★★☆☆

(CineArts) Melodrama runs thick as molasses in this epic tale of a woman's struggle to survive the atrocities of World War II. How far to go in order to secure one's life and the God-given right to freedom? That's the question facing Rachel Stein (Carice von Houten), a beautiful Dutch Jew who worked as a nightclub chanteuse before the onset of war. Rachel begins her perilous journey as a virtual slave in a strict Christian safe-house where she hides out with fellow refugees. Forced into the open, she is offered passage on a boat to independence with her reunited family. The promises end in tragedy and, not for the last time, Rachel barely escapes with her life. Next step is the Communist underground and a group of intrepid souls who fight the good fight for liberty and the secure future of Europe. Insisting she be put to work on the front lines, Rachel — now freshly monikered as Ellis de Vries — is offered placement of the most delicate kind, as spy and lover to one of the Gestapo's top agents (Sebastian Koch as Ludwig Muntze) stationed in Berlin. As the masquerade gains steam — literally and figuratively — a genuine affection grows between Rachel/Ellis and the surprisingly conflicted Muntze. Heavily plotted and mainstream to the max but irresistibly entertaining. *Rated: R for some strong violence, graphic nudity, sexuality and language. 2 hours, 25 minutes. In Dutch, Hebrew, German and English with English subtitles.* — J.A.

**DISTURBIA** ★★☆☆

(Century 12, Century 16) "Rear Window" gets a facelift for the iPod generation with "Disturbia," which is not so much a remake as a retreat. A traumatic car crash leaves 17-year-old Kale (Shia LaBeouf) a distraught mess. One morning, Kale lashes out at his Spanish teacher, assaulting the educator and landing Kale in juvenile court. But the judge takes pity and sentences him to three summer months of house arrest, where an ankle bracelet will alert police if he steps outside a stringent 100-foot perimeter. Extreme boredom soon sets in and Kale turns to a pair of binoculars and his neighbors' varied habits for entertainment. Alongside pal Ronnie (Aaron Yoo) and gorgeous new neighbor Ashley (Sarah Roemer), Kale begins to spy on a quiet resident (David Morse as Robert Turner) whom the trio suspects may be a serial killer. Director D.J. Caruso ("Taking Lives") lures the viewer into a false sense of security before slamming home a pulse-pounding climax. Still, re-visiting familiar territory along the lines of "Rear Window"

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, page 29

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Halle Berry, Bruce Willis in Perfect Stranger.

MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Perfect Stranger' thrilling, flawed

By Susan Tavernetti

Screenwriting guru Robert McKee claims that powerful, clever antagonists put the thrill in thrillers. That's certainly the case in director James Foley's "Perfect Stranger," as characters play cat-and-mouse with each other, and the narrative toys with viewer expectations.

Who doesn't like a thriller with a twist?

From the opening scene, Todd Komarnicki's script introduces today's shape-shifters — from

duplicious politicians to ordinary people — harboring secrets or reinventing themselves behind the cloak of Internet anonymity. Identity partners with deceit, enabled by modern technology. Things are not what they seem.

Investigative reporter Rowena Price (Halle Berry) makes a living uncovering scandal and lies. Her childhood neighbor Grace (Nicki Aycox) suggests that big-time ad executive Harrison Hill (Bruce Willis) has something to hide. But Price doesn't probe until Grace turns up dead, a victim of belladonna poisoning.

Posing as a temp, Price infiltrates Hill's New York advertising agency and assumes yet another identity as she instigates an online flirtation with the married man. Miles (Giovanni Ribisi), her associate, provides technical support and more than professional interest in their relationship.

Unfortunately, the Academy Award-winning actress of "Monster's Ball" can't seem to look glamorous and act at the same time. The closer the camera comes to Berry's beautiful face, the more wooden the performance appears.

In contrast, although Bruce Willis smirks his way through the movie, he does so convincingly and with a modicum of charm.

With the exception of some clunky but essential flashback scenes, the narrative moves at a fast clip. Think like a screenwriter, and you'll figure out where the story must be headed. Observe like a director, and you'll note that the eyes have it — biometric scans, dilated pupils photographed and hung as art — emphasizing the act of watching and the fear of being watched. The plot provides enough suspense to keep you worried for Rowena's safety and wondering what will happen next. Although the thriller lays the groundwork for the ending, a quick series of surprises spirals to a satisfying climax.

"Perfect Stranger" reflects contemporary fears about trust issues. These themes may have lost their edge, but the thriller will keep you edgy most of the time. ▀

MOVIE NOTES

Stars: \*\*\*

Rating: R for sexual content, nudity, violent images and language

Run Time: 1 hour, 55 minutes



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MINI REVIEWS

► Continued from page 27

demonstrates a certain lack of imagination. *Rated: PG-13 for sequences of terror and violence, and some sensuality. 1 hour, 44 minutes.* — T.H.

**GRINDHOUSE** ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino buddy up to deliver a double bill that pays tribute to the low-rent exploitation flicks that they grew up on. Rodriguez's "Planet Terror" is a riotous mash-up of over-the-top absurdity, edgy violence and dark wit. Go-go dancer Cherry Darling (Rose McGowan) walks off the job in hopes of changing her life and walks into a nightmare. Things go awry among those (Bruce Willis, Naveen Andrews) at a nearby military base, causing a local epidemic of citizens sporting blood-filled boils and flesh-eating appetites. The sheriff (Michael Biehn) partners with Wray (Freddy Rodriguez), a legendary gun-twirling hero, to protect Cherry and the rest of the uninfected from the George Romero-like proliferation of zombies. Compared to Rodriguez's pitch-perfect, outre-horror homage, Tarantino's "Death Proof" seems tame. He relies on his signature stylistics of combining an almost-forgotten actor (Kurt Russell) with his favorite music and pop culture-heavy dialogue. Both filmmakers playfully and outrageously ape the source material rather than push into new directions, as they did so astonishingly with "El Mariachi" and "Pulp Fiction." *Rated: R for strong graphic bloody violence and gore, pervasive language, some sexuality, nudity and drug use. 3 hours, 5 minutes.* — S.T.

**THE HOAX** ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Literary aficionados are likely well aware of the early-1970s "hoax" that had author Clifford Irving (Richard Gere) penning an apparent autobiography of reclusive tycoon Howard Hughes. It begins in 1971, as Irving suffers the news that a promising book deal has crumbled. But the struggling writer finds inspiration in the paint-spattered newsprint beneath one of his wife's (Marcia Gay Harden) many art pieces — an article about Hughes. Bing! A light bulb all but hovers over Irving's head as he begins to concoct plans for a faux "autobiography" about the isolated billionaire. Enlisting the aid of his friend and fellow author Richard Susskind (Alfred Molina), Irving quickly masters Hughes' penmanship and vocal inflections, and soon has an over-eager publishing company throwing \$1 million his way for the rights to "the book of the century." Not so fast, Cliff. Despite expert (and often underhanded) research, Irving and Susskind lack the key component — consent. This must be what it feels like to bite off more than you can chew. Although the picture's pacing lulls at times, the core intrigue, multi-dimensional characters and top-notch portrayals make up for any fleeting drags. "The Hoax" is by far one of the most compelling films of 2007. Would I lie to you? *Rated: R for language. 1 hour, 56 minutes.* — T.H.

**THE LIVES OF OTHERS** ★★1/2

(Guild) Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck 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 steeps him in paranoia. Thus the ruthless Secret Police officer determines to expose the chinks in the playwright's Socialist armor. A thrilling 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

(Aquarius) With her bee-stung lips and rosy cheeks, Renne Zellweger 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. "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 watercolor of a bunny — and his eyes spring open in an animated sequence that takes you by surprise. Such moments of whimsy enliven the narrative of Miss Potter peddling her wares to a publisher, finding success, and falling in love with the endearing Norman Warne (Ewan McGregor). 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.

**THE NAMESAKE** ★★1/2

(Century 20, CineArts) No one seems better suited to transform Jhumpa Lahiri's touching prose into film than director Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding"). The narrative unfolds differently than the story in the best-selling 2003 book. Starting with the tragic train crash that spares bookworm Ashoke's (Irrfan Khan) life in 1974 India, Sooni Taraporevala's script initially favors the male point of view. Then time leaps forward to the meeting between Ashoke and Ashima (Tabu), whose parents have arranged for their marriage. When asked if she will be lonely living halfway around the world from her family, the shy beauty looks at her future husband and replies, "Won't he be there?" Humor and humanity go hand in hand, as the newlyweds embrace each other and life in America. Capturing the nuances of such a complex novel is impossible. Nair conveys its spirit, creating a saga that speaks to anyone caught between cultures. *Rated: PG-13 for sexuality/nudity, a scene of drug use, some disturbing images and brief language. In Bengali, Hindi and English with English subtitles. 2 hours, 2 minutes.* — S.T.

**REIGN OVER ME** ★★1/2

(Century 12) Alan Johnson (Don Cheadle) is a successful dentist and family man who isn't feeling the satisfaction he thinks he should. In a quirky Manhattan

moment he spies long-ago roommate Charlie Fineman (Adam Sandler) on a motorized scooter looking disheveled and forlorn. Charlie, a thriving oral MD in his own right, had the rug pulled out from under him when his wife and three young daughters went down on a 9/11 aircraft. Unable to cope with his loss, Charlie lives in a peculiar fugue state, haunting late-nite Chinese diners, banging drums at an alt-punk club and incessantly remodeling his kitchen. Stunned at the turn of events, Alan resolves to help his old friend regain his balance, in the process secretly coveting Charlie's freedom and pulling away from his own professional and familial burdens. The unlikely alliance at the center of it all is dark, edgy and saturated with history and sentiment. As is the poignant concept of 9/11's post-traumatic stress cases. *Rated: R for language and sexual references. 2 hours, 4 minutes.* — J.A.

**SHOOTER** ★★1/2

(Century 12) Mark Wahlberg turns a hackneyed action-adventure into a stand-up-and-take-notice thriller. Special Forces Marine Bob Lee Swagger (Wahlberg) buries himself in retirement after an Ethiopian intelligence mission goes south and his shooting partner ends up with a bullet in his brain. Three years into Swagger's exile in the Rocky Mountains, the government comes calling and begs his crack-shot services as a protection expert for the current president. Naturally it's a cover for a more fiendish scheme and Swagger suddenly finds himself on the wrong end of the law. But what's a little conspiracy when you've got the skills to take down the entire operation? Paranoia, betrayal and testosterone are all accounted for as Swagger takes one for the team. Multiple climaxes finally settle on a way to end the damn thing and not a moment too soon. Bottom line, the bad guys are bad and the guns are smokin' hot; hey, that's why they call it a thriller! *Rated: R for language and loads of violence. 2 hours, 6 minutes.* — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

MOVIE REVIEWS

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■ HIGHLIGHT

## "CHARLOTTE'S WEB"

Peninsula Youth Theatre will present a Stories on Stage dramatization of E.B. White's classic about friendship and the circle of life. April 27, 9:30 and 11 a.m.; April 28, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets: \$5-\$7. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.pyt.net](http://www.pyt.net)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**AFFECTION DEFICIT DISORDER** John Merrow, Education Correspondent for the News-Hour with Jim Lehrer will discuss finding the balance between accountability and affection in our schools. Video clips from his documentaries will be shown. Reservations required. Event sponsored by the Peninsula Bridge Board of Directors. April 24, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Call (408) 358-8805. **AN EVENING WITH KITKA** "To benefit Ecogardening in Eurasia." The "Chernobyl 20" film and songs by Kitka will benefit ecogardening teachers in Eurasia and children with cancer in Belarus. Sat., April 21, 6:45-10 p.m. \$20. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 856-9751. <http://biointensiveforrussia.igc.org> **TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE** Presentations on intelligent robots, space commercialization, voice-activated and wireless communications, and more. Exhibits by technology companies currently partnering with NASA Ames. April 24, 1-4:30 p.m. Free. NASA Ames Research Center, Bldg. 3, Moffett Field. [www.researchpark.arc.nasa.gov](http://www.researchpark.arc.nasa.gov)

## ART GALLERIES

**"SUGAR AND SPICE"** "The Wonderful World of Little Girls" presented by Watercolor Artist Berni Jahnke. Through drawings done on site over the past year. Through April 28. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. [www.viewpointsgallery.com](http://www.viewpointsgallery.com)

**AT THE WATER'S EDGE** Landscape and oil paintings by Los Altos artist, Carol Hake on display through April 28. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. [www.gallery9losaltos.com](http://www.gallery9losaltos.com)

**EARTH AND SKY** Through April 28. Cassandra Gay makes original monotype prints that are painterly in feel. Free. Gallery House, 320 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 328-1835. [www.galleryhouse2.com](http://www.galleryhouse2.com)

**JERRY UELSMANN: DREAM THEATRE** A career-spanning look at the work of photographer Jerry Uelsmann. Through May 30, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Modernbook Gallery, 494 University Ave., Palo Alto. [www.modernbook.com/jerryuelsmann.htm](http://www.modernbook.com/jerryuelsmann.htm)

## AUDITIONS

**PENINSULA YOUTH ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS** The Peninsula Youth Orchestra invites instrumentalists, ages 6-18. Schedule an audition appointment April 25-26, or 29 for its performing orchestras and chamber ensembles at the beginning through advanced levels. Applications are online, or call the PYO office for more information. John Gill School, 555 Avenue Del Ora, Redwood City. Call 325-7967. [www.peninsulayouthorchestra.org](http://www.peninsulayouthorchestra.org)

## BENEFITS

**"PARTY FOR THE PLANET" ACTERRA'S EARTH DAY DINNER AND AUCTION** Sat., April 21, 6-10:30 p.m. Reservations required. \$75/\$140 couple Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 962-9876 ext. 346. [www.acterra.org/earthday](http://www.acterra.org/earthday)

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

**FOLK DOLL MAKING** Learn a style of doll making originating from early Native American and African-American sources. Process uses found objects, scrap remnants of cloth, beads and yarn. For ages teen to adult. Bring lunch. April 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$65. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. [www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org)



"LIFTING FOG, NOVATO CALIFORNIA" PASTEL, 12 X 16, BY KIM FANCHER LORDIER

**SUBTLETY OF LIGHT: LANDSCAPES:** *New work by Lordier explores narrow passages of light filled spaces within intimate settings of the California and southern Colorado landscape. Through April 30. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. [www.portolaartgallery.com](http://www.portolaartgallery.com)*

**MAGIC OF WATERCOLOR** Learn techniques including: mixing color; brush techniques; using white paper; achieving luminous transparent washes and more. For teens and adults. April 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$110. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. [www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org)

## CLUBS/MEETINGS

**MID PENINSULA WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS ASSOCIATION** Non-profit, peer support group for widows and widowers of all ages. Tuesdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m. Free to visitors. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave., Los Altos. Call 961-0931.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**STANFORD HISTORIC HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR** The Stanford Historical Society opens 5 historic faculty homes and gardens on campus. Tour celebrates the publishing of Stanford Historic Houses, Book IV, featuring houses on tour. April 29, 1-4 p.m. \$25. Stanford University, Stanford. Call 324-0200. <http://histsoc.stanford.edu>

## CONCERTS

**"THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT"** Presented by San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. April 22, 3 p.m. Igor Stravinsky's masterpiece, "The Soldier's Tale" narrated by Joel ben Izzy, and the Mark Foehringer Dance Project/SF performing "Duets" to music by Heitor Villa-Lobos, performed live by the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. Free. Foothill College Theater, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos. [www.sfcchamberorchestra.org](http://www.sfcchamberorchestra.org)

**CAPITOL STEPS CONCERT** To benefit Gunn Robotics Team. April 26, 8 p.m. \$35/\$50 reserved. Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Ave., Palo Alto. [www.capsteps.com](http://www.capsteps.com)

## DANCE

**ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING** Traditional and modern set dances to live music. Beginners welcome; no partner required. \$9. First, third and fifth Wednesdays, through June, 8-10 p.m. Flex-It Studios, 425 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 493-6012. [www.bacds.org/series/english/mountain\\_view/](http://www.bacds.org/series/english/mountain_view/)

**SPRING FLING EVENING DANCE** Wed., April 25, 6-8 p.m. \$4 advance. \$5 at the door. Tickets are available for purchase at the front desk. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 903-6330.

## ENVIRONMENT

**ATHERTON'S EARTH DAY EXPO** Free electronic waste recycling drop off. Learn about solar and other environmentally friendly products and services from our green exhibitors. Rides in the Tesla electric car. April 21. 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. Call 752-0526. [www.athertongreen.net](http://www.athertongreen.net)

## 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](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

**100 YEARS AT THE WILLIAMS HOUSE** Exhibit celebrates the 100th birthday of the Williams House through revisiting the life and times of the family who built and occupied the home. Exhibit examines life from 1907 to the 1930s. Through June 3. Fri.-Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org)

**ARCHITECTURE AND GARDENS FROM AROUND THE WORLD** An invitational fine

art photography exhibition showcasing images of architecture and gardens from around the world. Through April 29. Free with paid admission to Filoli. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org)

**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.

**BARE WITNESS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY GORDON PARKS** Exhibition comprised of 73 photographs that were selected by the artist African American photographer, filmmaker, and author Gordon Parks. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Through July 1. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-3469. <http://museum.stanford.edu>

**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>

**PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE** Exhibition of works by artist Robert Poplack explores the possibilities of invented forms that rely on an internalized vision culled from years of experience painting directly from nature. Mon.-Sat., through May 28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800 ext. 305. [www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org)

**SPRING MIX WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT** Santa Clara Watercolor Society member show includes 60 paintings with a springtime focus. California and European landscapes, gardens, spring flowers. Through April 29. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Main Street Cafe and Books, 134 Main St., Los Altos. Call 917-1929. [www.scvws.org](http://www.scvws.org)

**STAINED GLASS BY JUDY MILLER** Memorial retrospective exhibit of stained-glass pieces by the late Palo Alto artist Judy Miller, along with works in oil by Cheryl Pope, acrylics

by Szn Kraft and photography by Jean Slocum. April 22-July 31, reception April 22, 4:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Sheridan Apartments, 360 Sheridan Ave., Palo Alto. Call 473-1179.

## FAMILY AND KIDS

**DEER HOLLOW FARM TOURS** April 21, May 19 and June 16, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tour a working homestead farm with trained docents. Benefits scholarship fund. Includes short film. \$5 adults/\$2 children/under 2 free. Deer Hollow Farm, Rancho San Antonio County Park, Los Altos Hills. Call 965-FARM. [www.fodhf.org](http://www.fodhf.org)

**PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE GARDEN** Parent and children ages 8-12 activity. Wendy Hopfenberg will give an overview of garden photography. April 22, 2-4 p.m. \$20 members/\$25 non-members/\$5 per child. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 329-1356 ext. 0. <http://gamblegarden.org/>

**STORYTELLER SPREE AND BENEFIT DAY FOR SAN MATEO COUNTY READING ASSOCIATION** Presented by local area storytellers Becky Zeren, Sue Mickiewicz, Kathy Shepler, and Carol Webster. Sun., April 22, 11:30 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com)

**TODDLER STORYTIME** Wednesdays, 11 a.m. For ages 18-36 months. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 851-0147.

## FILM

**"CRUEL STORY OF YOUTH"** Nagisa Oshima's new wave classic. Portrait of Japan's new generation of cynical youth. April 27, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Cubberley Auditorium, 485 Laussen Mall, Stanford. Call 725-2742. <http://www.japan1960.blogspot.com>

**"WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE"** April 22, 7-9 p.m. As part of its monthly "Schmooze and Views" series, Keddem Congregation presents a Spike Lee documentary. Free. Kehillah Jewish High School, 3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 494-6400. [www.keddem.org](http://www.keddem.org)

**IRANIAN FILM "CEASEFIRE"** Iranian woman master director Tahmineh Milani's latest meditation on the war between the sexes. April 25, 7:30 p.m. Free. Pigott Hall, Stanford. Call 725-3426.

**MONDAY MOVIES** April 23: "Borat"; April 30: "For Your Consideration" 1:30-3 p.m. \$1 members/\$2 non-members. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. [www.peninsulavolunteers.org](http://www.peninsulavolunteers.org)

## LIVE MUSIC

**MARGIE BAKER** Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Singer Margie Baker performs live. Free. Cafe Fino, 544 Emerson St., Palo Alto. Call 326-6082. [www.madalenasrestaurant.com/](http://www.madalenasrestaurant.com/)

**PALY CHOIR** Palo Alto High School choir will sing during the Complines service. April 22, 9-10 p.m. Free. Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford. Call 329-3856. [www.homepage.mac.com/palychoirs](http://www.homepage.mac.com/palychoirs)

## ON STAGE

**"ENCHANTED APRIL"** Four English women break free of their rain-drenched sorrows with a holiday in a rented castle in Italy surrounded by wisteria, sunshine, and unexpected love. Wednesdays-Sundays, through May 5, 8 p.m. \$22-\$32. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 941-0551. [www.busbarn.org](http://www.busbarn.org)

**"JEKYLL AND HYDE" THE MUSICAL** Palo Alto Players presents Frank Wildhorn's Broadway musical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's tale of the duality of good and evil in the human soul. April 27-May 13, Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. \$20-\$30. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

www.paplayers.org

**"THE GRAND DUKE"** Presented by The Stanford Savoyards. Gilbert and Sullivan's final collaboration. April 20-21 and April 28, 8 p.m.; April 29, 1 p.m. \$18/\$12/\$8. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Dr., Stanford. [egroups.stanford.edu/savoyardswin07](http://egroups.stanford.edu/savoyardswin07)

**ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL'S "GREASE"** April 20-21 and 26-28, 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$10. Raskob Gym Theater, 1885 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. Call 968-1213 ext. 244. [www.sfhs.com](http://www.sfhs.com)

**THEATREWORKS PRESENTS "MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG"** An American story about dreamers and dreams. Through April 29. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m.; no performance April 24; April 28, 8 p.m.; April 29, 2 p.m. \$20-\$60. Mountain View

Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)

**OUTDOORS**

**KID AND PET SAFE GARDENS** April 28, Palo Alto recycling program 10:30 a.m.- noon; safe pet control 1-2:30 p.m. Free registration by call 496-5910. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 493-6072. [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org)

**SENIORS**

**SENIOR HEALTH CHAT** "New Orleans Habitat." Larry Kavinoky and Dona Smith-Powers will share stories of their recent trip

and work with Habitat for Humanity. April 20, 10 a.m.-noon. Sponsored by the local non-profit Senior New Ways. Free. Free. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Creekside Center, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 209-1119. [www.seniornewways.org](http://www.seniornewways.org)

**SPORTS**

**LOS ALTOS MOUNTAIN VIEW AQUATIC CLUB** Swim team assessment April 24-26, 4-5 p.m. Ages 5-18 comfortable in deep water and able to swim freestyle. Swimmers will be assigned a practice group after being evaluated by coaching staff. Free. Eagle Park Pool, 625 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 599-2213. [www.lamvac.org](http://www.lamvac.org)

**PALO ALTO RUN CLUB WEDNESDAY NIGHT RUN** Wednesdays, meet at 6:15 p.m. A

run between 5 and 7.5 miles. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

**TEEN ACTIVITIES**

**NATIONAL TESTING DAY** The Princeton Review is inviting students to take practice SAT, ACT, or PRA. May 19, students can review their score report at a follow-up Strategy Session with an instructor. April 28, 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Free. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 328-7737. [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com)

**VOLUNTEERS**

**MY NEW RED SHOES** Volunteers needed to organize back-to-school fundraising drives at their offices, churches, country clubs and other

organizations during the month of July. For more information, email [heather@mynewredshoes.org](mailto:heather@mynewredshoes.org) or visit [www.mynewredshoes.org](http://www.mynewredshoes.org) Call 283-5112.

**SENIOR CENTER VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONIST** The Mountain View Senior Center is currently seeking substitute volunteer receptionists. Duties include answering phones, giving information, money handling, and making appointments. Through April 30. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 903-6330.

**■ MORE LISTINGS**

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com).

**Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction 8-WEEK PROGRAM**

Call 650-940-7000 ext. 8745 for date of next **FREE** Introductory Session

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*Learn lifelong skills to deal with stress, chronic pain and illness*



**Friends of Foothills Park Preserve, Protect, Enjoy**

3300 Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills  
Volunteer info: [www.FoFPark.org](http://www.FoFPark.org)  
650.321.7882

In conjunction with "National Stroke Alert Day", the Stanford Stroke Center presents a community education program:

**Stroke Awareness & Health Fair**



Tuesday, May 8, 2007  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center  
326 Galvez St., Stanford University Campus

Registration \$10 (includes refreshments & lunch)

- Physicians and health professionals will present information on stroke prevention and treatments
- Health fair activities include blood pressure and stroke risk assessments as well as a variety of health-related information from Stanford Hospital & Clinics and community organizations

To register online, go to [strokecenter.stanford.edu](http://strokecenter.stanford.edu) or call 650-723-0876

Please register by May 1



**LONDON'S 2001 OLIVIER AWARD WINNER—BEST NEW MUSICAL**

**MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG**

Music & Lyrics by Stephen

Book by George

**SONDHEIM FURTH**

Based on the original play *Merrily We Roll Along* by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

**"AS GOOD AS IT GETS magnetically performed...beautifully sung... Sondheim aficionados...descend on Mountain View"**

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ROBERT BREWER, DAMON KIRSCH, MOLLY BELL / PHOTO BY DAVID ALLEN



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**JUST ANOTHER REMARKABLE DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.**

Jackie Seki has a smile that lights up a room. But things weren't always so bright for the little girl. By three months of age, Jackie was suffering from end-stage intestinal failure and her liver soon began to fail. Her only option: a combined small intestine and liver transplant.

Jackie joined the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Transplant Program and became one of the few patients to receive the groundbreaking procedure. Ten years ago, an operation like this was experimental at best. Today, with the commitment and pioneering spirit of the doctors, nurses and researchers at Packard Children's, patients like Jackie are thriving after such surgeries.

It's this kind of innovative thinking, as well as sensitive, nurturing care, that makes Packard Children's a world-class hospital. And these days, Jackie is a world-class doll, enchanting everyone she meets—people and animals alike. Visit [www.lpch.org](http://www.lpch.org) for more information.

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