

Mountain View VOICE



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MICHELLE LE

The storied career of Sally Lieber

LOCAL-GROWN POLITICIAN TELLS OF HER EXPLOITS IN STATE AND CITY GOVERNMENT

By Daniel DeBolt

It's arguable that Mountain View has never given rise to a more improbable political success story than that of Sally Lieber, the wallpaper hanger from Detroit who surprised everyone in her election to City Council in 1998 and to the state Assembly in 2002.

Lieber was recognized by the council last month for her accomplishments over the decade. In just the last two years, she saw 58 of her bills pass the state Legislature. Her proudest achievement was raising the state's minimum wage, but her myriad other bills include third rail issues that other legislators wouldn't touch, like improving conditions for pregnant women in prisons and criminalizing human trafficking.

Her blunt style ruffled plenty of feathers in Mountain View, and she even faced a recall campaign while on the council, but election results would indicate that she made more friends than enemies. Her local accomplishments include fending off commercial flights at Moffett in the 1990s as a resident—and that was before she was elected to City Hall. While on the council, she helped build Avenidas Senior Day Care Center and pushed for a child care center at Rengstorff Park.

Even though the final term of her six-year run in the Assembly ended in December, Lieber isn't done with politics. She says she will run for Elaine Alquist's state senate seat in 2012.

Meanwhile, there's another issue on her agenda: reforming the state budget process. Last weekend she was at the down-

"If a congressional seat opens up, I would run for it."

SALLY LIEBER

town farmers market with her trademark ironing board, passing out information about her plan for a bipartisan budget reform group called California Forward.

"I feel like I have a responsibility to not just walk away from the crisis," she said.

Campaigning is Lieber's passion, and she can't seem to stop. She's walked up and down Caltrain cars and knocked on doors with a sprained ankle in the final days of a race.

"If a congressional seat opens up, I would run for it," she said last week in an interview at Books Inc. on Castro Street.

It's a big statement from someone who never graduated from high school (she earned a GED instead) and learned about politics by listening to NPR all day while hanging wallpaper for a living. "I still listen to NPR all the time," she laughs.

"I think people do underestimate her," says council member Mike Kasperzak, who served on the council with Lieber from 1998 to 2002.

But as many politicians from here to Sacramento have found out over the years, they do so at their peril.

School and politics

Lieber was apparently interested in politics from an early age, wearing glasses to look like feminist icon Gloria Steinem in junior high. Before moving to Mountain View she worked as a wallpaper hanger for 10 years in Michigan and in San Francisco. She attended City College of San Francisco, and later Foothill Community College, where she served on the student government.

She had trouble with school in her younger years, and has said that upon her return to college as an adult, she broke into tears when she finished her first course with a B+.

► See **LIEBER**, page 8

Leagues abuzz over field fee

CITY CONSIDERS CHARGING TEAMS BY THE HOUR TO DEFRAY MAINTENANCE COSTS

By Daniel DeBolt

As it faces a \$6 million budget deficit, Mountain View may soon start charging local sports leagues a fee for the use of its playing fields throughout the city.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department surveyed several nearby cities and found that many already charge sports organizations a fee to help offset the costs of field maintenance. The average hourly fee is \$6 an hour, said recreation manager Dave Muela.

Letting leagues use the fields for free has "been a longstanding practice in the city," Muela said. "But the financial landscape has changed significantly. There are many municipalities doing this."

► See **FIELDS**, page 11

Danger in debits

'SKIMMING' SCAM AT ATMS CAN KNOCK A HOLE IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

By Casey Weiss

Nick Elvitsky had his debit card with him all last week. And he certainly never shared his pin number with anyone.

That's why it came as a surprise to the Mountain View resident when \$500 was deducted from his account at the Washington Mutual ATM on El Camino Real on Monday, Jan. 26.

"I did not take that money out,"

► See **SKIMMING**, page 6

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Tuesday, February 17th	Wednesday, February 18th	Thursday, February 19th	Tuesday, February 24th	Tuesday, February 24th
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Andrea Nott.

Are you skeptical about global warming or do you believe it exists?



"I believe it. We are at a critical point with global warming."
Dana Craft, Mountain View



"Oh, yes I believe it, because of all the evidence of changing climates and ice caps melting. Seasons aren't what they used to be."
Erin Barrite, Sunnyvale



"This is not normal. The situation is sad. I'm 100 percent positive it's global warming."
Amaury Hernandez, Mountain View

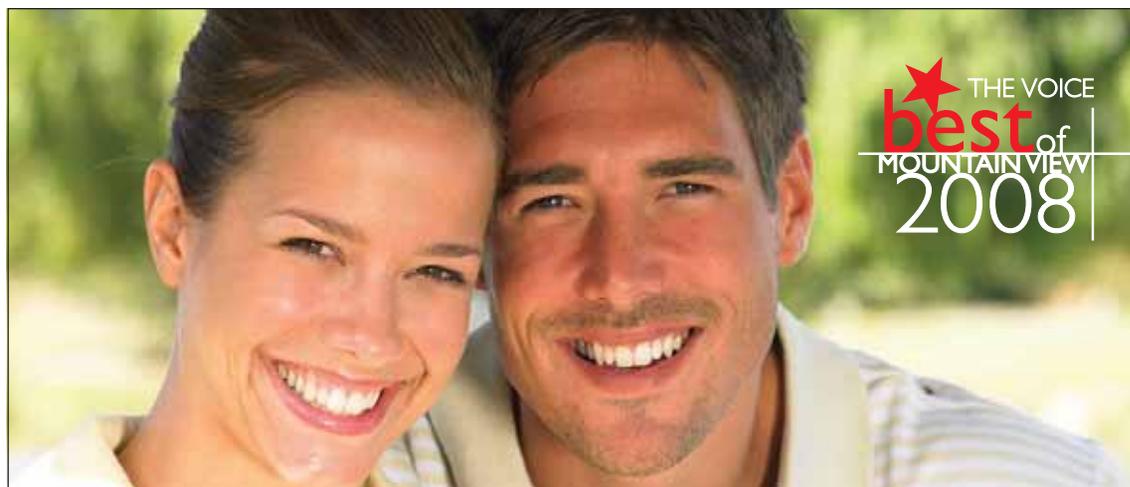


"As a scientist I am very skeptical. I do believe in weather pattern change, but not caused by humans. I love how humans think we control everything. It's very arrogant of us."
Sophia Block, Los Altos



"I really don't know what to believe. On the radio I heard someone say, I think it was Joel Kovel, that maybe it's not true. He seemed very knowledgeable. Whatever the case, I try to conserve and not be wasteful."
Linda Ahmad, San Ramon

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2008

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POLICE LOG

- AUTO BURGLARY**
700 block Continental Cir., 1/28
700 block Continental Cir., 1/29
700 block Palo Alto Ave., 1/30
- BATTERY**
2500 block Old Middlefield Way., 1/28
0 block Murlagan Ave., 1/30
Monte Carlo Club, 2/2
- COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**
7-11 Old Middlefield Rd., 1/30
Sears Department Store, 1/31
800 block E. El Camino Real, 2/2
- GRAND THEFT**
1100 block San Antonio Rd., 1/27
24 Hour Fitness, 1/30
- STOLEN VEHICLE**
1900 block California St., 1/30
300 block Escuela Ave, 1/30
100 block Rengstorff Ave., 1/30
Alvin St./Thompson Ave., 1/31
- VANDALISM**
0 block Showers Dr., 1/27
100 block Calderon Ave., 1/30
700 Rainbow Dr., 1/30
600 block Sylvan Ave., 1/30
800 block Sylvan Ave., 1/30
600 block Sylvan Ave., 1/30
Crittenden School, 2/2
- PETTY THEFT**
900 block High School Way., 1/27
2600 block California St., 1/27
500 block Showers Dr., 1/27
300 block Gladys Ave., 1/27
2300 block Garcia Ave., 1/28
600 block San Antonio Rd., 1/29
3500 block Truman Ave., 1/29
700 block Muir Dr., 1/30
600 block Mountain View Ave., 1/30
2300 block California St., 1/30
1900 block Leghorn St., 1/30
800 block High School Way, 1/30
1100 block Bonita Ave., 1/30
Longs Drugs on California St., 1/30
Target, 1/31
500 block South Dr., 1/31
Walmart, 1/31
- IDENTITY THEFT**
200 block Flynn Ave., 1/27
2700 block Wasatch Ave., 1/27
700 block W. El Camino Real, 1/27
- RAPE**
100 block Calderon Ave., 1/27
- POSSESSION OF STOLEN ITEM**
Downtown Train Station, 1/27
- DISTURBANCE**
1900 Colony St., 1/27
2600 block Fayette Dr., 1/31
- SUSPICIOUS PERSONS/ CIRCUMSTANCES**
0 block Higdon Ave., 1/27
1200 block Dale Ave., 1/29
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT**
El Camino Hospital, 1/29
700 block W. Dana St., 2/1
- DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**
E. El Camino Hospital/Hwy 85, 1/29
Hwy. 101/N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/30
W. Middlefield Rd./Moffett Blvd., 1/30
Fairchild Dr./Tyrella Ave., 2/1
Central Ave./Moffett Blvd., 2/1
- MINOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**
Church St./El Ranchito Way, 2/1
- POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS**
600 block E. Evelyn Ave., 1/29
- POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS ITEM**
1200 block Montecito Ave., 1/29
- RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**
700 block Continental Cir., 1/29
100 block Centre St., 2/2
- ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON**
Monte Carlo Club, 2/1
- RESISTANCE OR INTERFERING WITH ARREST**
Terra Bella Academy, 1/30
W. Middlefield Rd./Moffett Blvd. 1/31
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**
1300 block Bryant Ave., 1/30
- MISSING PERSON - ADULT**
2100 block University Ave., 1/31

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, the *Voice* incorrectly implied in last week's story "Because breast cancer never sleeps" that the upcoming Relay for Life event is a fund raiser for breast cancer only. In fact, Relay for Life is for all forms of cancer.

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Pie and bluegrass

By Don Frances

DRIVING INTO WORK earlier this week (sometimes I miss the train), I caught a lovely song by the Claire Lynch Band on KZSU Stanford. Lynch and her band are a bluegrass act, and as the DJ noted, they'll be playing this Saturday, Feb. 7 at First Presbyterian Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave. at Cuesta Drive, Mountain View.

As I've mentioned before in this space, bluegrass shows are regularly booked at First Presbyterian through Redwood Bluegrass Associates, a nonprofit created in 1991 to promote the genre. And let me tell you, churches, especially small wooden churches with vaulted ceilings, are fantastic venues. Nothing makes the years fall away like listening to string-driven music among the pews. I learned this years ago when I saw Jonathan Richman at Noe Valley Ministry in San Francisco.

Anyway, the Redwood Bluegrass Associates Web site provides the following details about this Saturday: "Jamming starts at 5:30 — doors open at 7. Shows start at 8 — pie and coffee — fine folks."

Also: "The venue has been remodeled, and now boasts a new stage, floor, drapes (which helps the sound) and chairs with padded seats. Tickets for RBA shows are \$18/advance, \$20/day of show."

For more on RAB, go to www.rab.org. For more on Claire Lynch, visit www.clairelynch.com. Also, if you like bluegrass, and I don't know why you wouldn't, check out that radio program Tuesday mornings from 9 to 11:30. It's hosted by "Sarah Bellum" and titled "That's Not Bluegrass" (but it really is — she's only kidding). KZSU is at 90.1 on your FM dial. ■

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



ANNA SILVERMAN

Puppy 911

LOCAL FOSTER FAMILIES SAVE HUNDREDS OF LITTERS FROM OVERSTOCKED POUNDS

By Andrea Nott

Anna Silverman's children are grown, but in the early hours of the morning, little cries from the other room still wake her.

Silverman rushes to the side of her latest charges, a litter

of just-born puppies that she takes in about every eight weeks. Her family was one of the first three foster families to volunteer with the Pound Puppy Rescue Organization (PPR), and now she helps run it.

"We have been doing this for

four years now, and over 150 puppies and mother dogs have come through our home," she said.

After raising three children at home, Silverman reentered the workforce as a substi-

► See **PUPPY**, page 12

■ NEWS BRIEFS

STABBINGS FOLLOW NIGHTS AT LOCAL CLUB

A 25-year-old Salinas man is not cooperating with police after being stabbed in the back during a brawl in front of the Monte Carlo night club late last Friday, police reported.

After a possibly alcohol-fueled fight in front of the club at 228 Castro St., police arrived to find that most participants had fled. None of the witnesses interviewed said they saw the actual stabbing.

The victim was found a short distance away, however, and was taken to a hospital where he was treated for several days. He has refused to give police any leads in the case.

Police also found the knife used and are checking it for fingerprints.

Police said a second stabbing

also originated at Monte Carlo last weekend after a man found a cell phone there on Sunday night. When the owner and two other suspects came to pick up the phone at his San Jose home, they allegedly stabbed the victim. The three suspects have been arrested. Mountain View police believe the incidents are probably unrelated.

MAN COLLIDES WITH POLICE CAR

Police say a 21-year-old man from New Zealand will survive after being hit by a police car late Sunday night on Castro Street, causing significant lacerations.

While the incident is still under investigation, initial reports from police indicate that the man jumped right in front of the police car as it drove down Castro Street near Mercy Street at 1:30 a.m. Police say

the man was "extremely intoxicated." The man, who came from New Zealand a month ago, suffered severe lacerations to his leg which required surgery, and he remained in the hospital as of press time. The officer was not injured.

MASS BURGLARY AT AMERICANA

About 160 storage lockers were broken into at the Americana apartment complex on Jan. 27 and 28, police said, creating lots of work for investigators as they try to contact all the victims.

The outdoor carport lockers for five large apartment buildings at 707 Continental Circle had their padlocks cut or pried off, and the thieves made off with laundry detergent, tools and other items.

— Daniel DeBolt

Local leaders take on hate crime

MAYOR, POLICE CHIEF AND OTHERS EXAMINE 'NOT IN OUR TOWN' MOVEMENT

By Casey Weiss

Adozen community leaders, responding to alleged hate crimes from late last year, met this week and agreed it is time to do something "proactive" to convey the message that discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

The leaders, including Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga, police Chief Scott Vermeer and elementary school district trustee Ellen Wheeler, met on Tuesday to discuss ways to prevent more such incidents from occurring. One by one they shared their visions of incorporating local businesses, reaching out to students and setting up forums for residents to share their stories.

The meeting was the group's first, although another discussion is planned for March and a citywide event for April.

Former Human Relation Commission members Alicia Crank and Chris Burley said they had always intended to organize the citywide event to embrace Mountain View's diversity. But after a series of recent incidents, the two recruited representatives from the police department, schools, churches and nonprofits in hopes of organizing a bigger event, sooner.

At the next meeting, the group plans to show "Not in Our Town," a documentary film about a Montana community's reaction to racism. The video sparked a national movement.

► See **TOWN**, page 12

FREE COMPOST WORKSHOP



Learn how to turn your grass, leaves and kitchen scraps into nutritious soil for your garden and get a compost bin at a discounted rate.

FREE COMPOST WORKSHOP IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Saturday February 21, 10AM - 12 NOON

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Beautiful moonrise



Jan Laskowski of Eichler Drive took this picture of a beautiful moonrise over Mountain View, "shot in early January at the full moon, from near Phyllis Avenue and Hans."

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.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE PERMANENTE CREEK PEDESTRIAN/ BICYCLE TRAIL PROJECT FROM HIGHWAY 101 TO OLD MIDDLEFIELD WAY COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 2009 - 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Crittenden Middle School – Library
1701 Rock Street, Mountain View, CA 94043

The public is invited to attend this informational meeting to review and comment on the Permanente Creek Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail Project from Highway 101 to Old Middlefield Way. The project will extend the trail from its current terminus north of Highway 101 to the south side of Old Middlefield Way by constructing a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Highway 101 and a tunnel under Old Middlefield Way. Comments received at this meeting will be considered in the design of the project. The City Council will take action to approve the design of the project in Winter 2009.

Additional information about the project can be found at www.mountainview.gov or by calling Sean Rose, Senior Civil Engineer, at (650) 903-6311. Written comments may be submitted by email to srose@mountainview.gov or by mail to Sean Rose, City of Mountain View Public Works Department, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California, 94039-7540.

SKIMMING

► Continued from page 1

Elvitsky explained in an e-mail to the Voice. "I have been a victim of a crime they call 'skimming,' where a fake ATM card reader is placed in front of a legitimate one and you are secretly recorded typing in your pin."

The police are now investigating the case and agree that Elvitsky is a victim of skimming. In this scam, thieves create an electronic device which they attach to a card reader such as an ATM. When someone comes along to use the machine, that person's card information and pin number are recorded by the device, which is then used to make a replica card.

Elvitsky had not been to that Washington Mutual recently, according to police, and his card was not skimmed there. It was skimmed elsewhere, and the replica card used to take out cash at the WaMu.

Mountain View police are looking into one other local skimming incident, but say Elvitsky's case is isolated and not part of a rash of such crimes here. In March of last year, however, 40 Los Altos residents were victims of card fraud after someone recorded debit card information from customers at the Arco AM/

PM on San Antonio Road. Police say that crime spree did not make its way to Mountain View.

Mountain View police spokesperson Liz Wylie said detectives are looking into the two ATM fraud cases in Mountain View, but said it's difficult to pinpoint where exactly the cards were originally skimmed.

"They have to find out where it happened, which is like looking for a needle in a haystack," Wylie said.

Skimmers — the small devices used to perpetrate the crime — can be bought online, and usually blend in when attached to ATM reader slots. "The machine would look totally normal to your eyes," Wylie said.

Usually a small camera is placed above the key pad to catch the victim's pin number. After obtaining the bank account information off the victim's magnetic strip, along with the pin number, thieves upload the stolen data onto a computer and replicate the information on any card with a magnetic strip, such as the electronic key-cards used in hotels.

Police say skimmers are often attached to isolated machines at gas stations or stand-alone machines not attached to banks. Wylie suggests that customers cover the key pad while enter-

ing their pin and also wiggle the ATM slot before sliding their card through.

"If it is loose, something is wrong," Wylie said. "Report it and don't stick your card in the slot."

Wylie said customers also should also be aware of skimming while eating in restaurants. Since skimmers are so small, Wylie said, waiters and waitresses can carry them in their pockets and record the debit or credit card information when the customer pays.

This type of skimming is hard to prevent, Wylie said, since the waiter or waitress often leaves the table to process the transaction.

"The recommendation is to bring cash. Don't use your ATM card," she said. "That would be the best way." ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

■ HOW TO PREVENT SKIMMING

- When using an ATM, wiggle the slot before sliding in your ATM card; if it is loose, do not use the machine and report the problem
- Cover the keypad when typing in your pin numbers at an ATM
- Pay with cash at restaurants

A singular university coming to NASA Ames

SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY OFFERS
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

By Casey Weiss

Students will be trained locally to solve “humanity’s great challenges” once a new type of university opens its doors this summer at NASA Ames’ Moffett facilities.

Singularity University is scheduled to start classes in June, offering a Master’s program in 10 different interdisciplinary subjects, including medicine, neuroscience and human enhancement, policy, law and ethics and nanotechnology. The school also will offer accelerated programs for mid-level managers and leaders.

An independent group of scientists and educators founded the university in September 2008, and will be moving it to NASA this summer. The founders are not modest about their goals, saying they want to offer a unique interdisciplinary approach to solving the world’s problems.

According to Executive Director Salim Ismail, a major focus of the school

is supplementing subjects with up-to-date research in other fields. He gave an example of this interdisciplinary approach, recalling how scientists recently combined stem cell research with 3-D printing.

“So now you can literally print a human organ,” Ismail said.

The university is looking for students who already have a master’s degree in the sciences or technology, and founders plan to work with leading universities to compliment the school’s technology and science programs.

“We are looking for students who want to juice and boost their career,” Ismail said.

UC Santa Cruz and Carnegie Mellon University already offer extensive science and engineering programs at NASA Ames, but directors say Singularity’s commitment to advanced technologies will expose scientists to new specialties. ▣

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

Hospital offers new services in Sunnyvale

El Camino Hospital will begin offering medical and dental services to an additional 4,200 patients through the county hospital.

The hospital board of directors recently passed a \$1.2 million grant to support this community outreach, resulting in new health services at Valley Health Center, Sunnyvale — a Santa Clara Valley Medical Center facility that works with low-income patients. The new outreach is part of the hospital’s \$5 million Community Benefit Program, which invests money from property tax receipts back into health programs in local communities.

The grant will expand the programs at Valley Health Center, which currently offers OB/GYN and pediatric services. The Sunnyvale facility already has dental

equipment, and the grant will allow staff to hire a dentist and two dental assistants. The clinic will start offering radiology and pharmacy services in March, dental services in April and primary care services in June or July.

Starting this spring, Valley Health Center will be the only facility in the North County that offers dental services for low-income children and adults.

The news of the grant came just after El Camino Hospital announced negotiations to buy Community Hospital of Los Gatos. Hospital administrators say both the grant and new purchase are part of an expansion plan to provide El Camino Hospital services to more of the community.

— Casey Weiss



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Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to 650-853-4873.

Classes

What You Need to Know About Warfarin, Wednesday, February 18, 2 – 4 p.m.

A PAMF pharmacist will discuss what warfarin is, why you are taking it and how you can help yourself.

Managing Your High Blood Pressure, Thursday, March 12, 6 – 8 p.m.

A class on understanding and managing high blood pressure.

Preparing for Childbirth Without Medication, Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

A class to learn about managing labor and delivery without medication.

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LIEBER

► Continued from page 1

Lieber eventually got into Stanford, and was a senior there — and already passed over several times to sit on city commissions — when she handily won the 1998 council election, becoming the top vote-getter against six candidates, including two incumbents. No one predicted she would grab any of the three open seats, let alone stomp the competition.

The 2002 state Assembly race was another victory against all odds. In one of the most competitive primaries in the state, Lieber took on fellow Mountain View council member Rosemary Stasek, the favorite of the *Mercury News*, and Rod Diridon Jr., who was backed by much of the Democratic Party's political establishment and the business community.

As if the stiff competition weren't enough, Lieber faced a recall campaign in Mountain View.

Recall effort fizzles

The recall campaign was organized by supporters of then-Mayor Mario Ambra, numerous firefighters, resident Valerie Harris and attorney Gary Wesley, some of whom didn't want her to become the next mayor. Lieber was called

a "fraud," an "unemployed high school dropout" and a newcomer without roots in the city.

Lieber's enemies accused her of falsely posing as a "transit director" in campaign literature, of jeopardizing the nonprofit status of the YWCA by passing out political literature at an event there, of misrepresenting locals views on open space, of creating a climate of suspicion and fear among city employees, and of asking for an endorsement from the Mountain View Firefighters' Union president while he was on duty. Lieber was elected to the state Assembly before enough signatures were collected to put a recall measure on the ballot.

Looking back on it now, Lieber believes the recall effort was at least partly retaliation from Ambra and his supporters. Months before the recall campaign, she had supported city manager Kevin Duggan and city attorney Michael Martello in filing corruption charges against Ambra, alleging that he had pressured city staff to take actions that would benefit him financially, such as denial of construction permits on a property near his home so he could purchase it. Lieber called for Ambra's resignation in no uncertain terms.

Ambra was eventually removed from the council in disgrace. Lieber went to Sacramento.

State run

In 2002, as she ran for state Assembly while still mayor of Mountain View, Lieber seemed to take the recall effort in stride. She told NPR that voters don't respond to "negative campaigning," and told her staff that that the "Recall Sally Lieber" signs along El Camino Real were actually good free publicity.

Lieber poured herself into her Assembly campaign. She and her staff knocked on 58,000 doors throughout the county. On election night, her victory surprised even her as she watched results come in from a small campaign office on Castro Street.

Lieber received \$200,000 towards her Assembly campaign from her husband David Phillips. When she was questioned by the press about the unusual number of her campaign contributors being lawyers and how that might influence her, she said she had also gotten money from her husband, and joked that "I doesn't listen to him very much either." The two had met at Burning Man, a pyrotechnics festival in the Nevada desert, and moved to Mountain View in 1994 a year after they were married.

'Experimental politics'

While in the Assembly, Lieber's belief in "experiential politics" lead

her to live as a homeless person in San Jose, to visit women in prison and to witness an execution.

When she decided to become homeless for several days, she said she became "completely invisible" — so much so that someone she knew didn't recognize her when she asked him for change.

In a chance encounter, Lieber met a videographer who documented her experience, eventually posting a video of it on YouTube. She says she nearly spent a whole night on the light rail before she found the Fifth Street homeless shelter.

The day after she returned home, Lieber found out the local cold weather homeless shelters were closing for the year, despite a rainy weather forecast. "I was livid," she said. She called the powers that be and had them re-opened.

In 2006, Lieber witnessed the state execution of Clarence Ray Allen.

"The most profound act the state does is put people to death," Lieber said.

"It's as vivid in my mind as it was then," she said. Ray Allen was 76 years old at the time. Lieber said she was prepared for a scene akin to watching a grandparent die peacefully. Instead it "looked like the premeditated killing of a human." She said that after watching the lethal injection, and sitting with

Allen's family in the waiting room, she couldn't eat solid foods for a month.

With several other Assembly members, Lieber sponsored a state bill that would have put a moratorium on the death penalty. It failed, but Lieber says getting a bill passed isn't always necessary for it to be effective; sometimes it works as a way to get people talking about an issue. Similarly, Lieber's notorious "anti spanking" bill, which would make spanking children a crime in certain circumstances, caused national furor, with many calling Lieber a crazy childless liberal from California.

"Everyone talks about the spanking thing" as if it was negative, said Kasperzak. "But she got people talking about it."

"Sally and I disagree politically on some things," he added, "But I would never accuse Sally of taking the safe way out."

Unpopular issues

Lieber often took on the issues that other legislators wouldn't touch. She told her staff that "I don't want to take up bills sponsored by wealthy corporations," she said. "The most vulnerable should have the best representation."

Lieber is an admitted workaholic. In the state Assembly, she says, she

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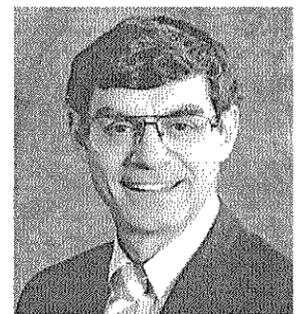
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► Continued from previous page

worked seven days a week, often until midnight, taking only Sunday afternoons off. "If you aren't draining every day dry, you shouldn't be in public office," she said.

In Mountain View, one of her passions was mobile home parks. During her time on the council, Sahara Mobile Village in Mountain View was a battleground between angry residents and owner John Vidovich. Lieber eventually enacted a state bill that would give protections to mobile home park residents.

Sahara Mobile Village was also the source of one of her more cherished memories. While knocking on doors during the state Assembly race she met Dorothy Morita, an elderly Japanese-American woman who was interned during World War II. Morita told Lieber that the thing she regretted most was not being able to finish high school before being interned. Lieber considered drafting a bill just for Morita, but after getting advice from Congressman Mike Honda, she passed a state bill that gave high school diplomas to every formerly interned Japanese American in California. Morita received hers where she would have received it in 1942:

LIKE A GIANT DOLL HOUSE

Seniors at Villa Siena Home for the Aging on Miramonte Avenue were treated to a show late last week as the facility's historic 1920s Wright House was picked up and moved a few dozen yards to make way for new construction.

On Friday professional house movers hoisted and moved the house, located next to Saint Francis High School, "the old fashioned way" — by rolling it on large iron beams using a high-powered winch held in place by two semi trucks.

Originally part of the Wright family estate, the house was sold by the Anderson family to the Dominican Sisters of Oakford in 1965, according to Sister Adelaide Kulhanek. These German nuns from South Africa turned the house into a home for seniors, and as the operation grew the structures surrounding it were built.



DANIEL DEBOLT

Those will soon be demolished as part of the redevelopment.

Once the Wright House is moved, construction will start on a new 78,000-square-foot building that will add 30 beds to the 66-bed nursing home now run by

the Daughters of Charity, which took over in 1998. The Wright house will eventually sit at the front of the property on the eastern bank of Permanente Creek.

— Daniel DeBolt

Canoga Park High School in Los Angeles.

When Morita passed away, Lieber recalls, "Almost the whole funeral was about 'Dorothy's Law.'" Lieber came to the funeral

and said, "Your mother was a hero, really."

After working hard for the past decade, Lieber jokes that it makes her exhausted just thinking about it all. Before terming

out two months ago, Lieber rose to speaker pro-tempore in the Assembly — the highest-ranking political level, she has said, that any Mountain View resident has achieved. ▣

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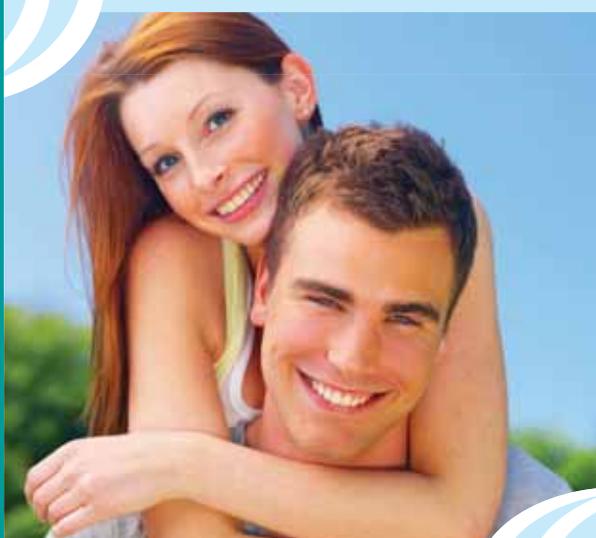
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■ EDUCATION BRIEFS

LAHS ADDS ADVANCED SCIENCE CLASSES

Los Altos High School will start offering three new science classes — advanced placement environmental science, honors biology and honors chemistry — to its students in the fall, the district board decided at its meeting late last month.

“Advanced placement” indicates a college prep class. “Honors” indicates a class with more material taught at a faster pace than a regular class.

Mountain View High School currently offers biology and chemistry honors classes, while Los Altos High does not. At the recent Mountain View-Los Altos High School District meeting, some Los Altos High teachers said their advanced students were not being taught at their level. Other Los Altos High teachers had

an opposite reaction, saying more advanced classes could take resources away from average and below average students.

The board was unanimous in approving the new classes.

PEANUT BUTTER RECALL HITS LOCAL SCHOOLS

Two Mountain View schools will no longer be selling peanut butter cookies or dough after a recall of these products, which may have been exposed to a salmonella strain.

Students at Huff Elementary School and Graham Middle School sold the Dough-To-Go and Jane Dough products late last year for campus fundraisers. There are no reported salmonella cases from these products at the more than 150 California schools which participate in

the fundraisers.

Over 400 other peanut butter products also have been recalled since several deaths and hundreds of illnesses were linked to a potential salmonella outbreak at the Blakely, Georgia plant of Peanut Corporation of America. California health officials said the product may have been used in Dough-To-Go and Jane Dough items. Peanut butter sold in grocery stores is not affected by the recall.

Both Mountain View schools sent home letters notifying parents, and reminding them that there have been no reported illnesses from the peanut butter. Consumers are encouraged to dispose of these items, if they still have them.

For more information or questions, contact Dough-To-Go at (800) 220-2339.

— Casey Weiss

■ OBITUARY

VERONICA ROSE FAGUNDES

Veronica Rose Fagundes died on Jan. 24 in Mountain View. She was 91.

Fagundes was born Jan. 7, 1918 in Rapid City, South Dakota. She enjoyed interior design, fashion and especially dancing.

She is survived by her husband, Henry, of 71 years; her children Henry Jr., Patricia, and Kathleen; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Jan 29 at the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary in Mountain View. Interment was at Gate

of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos. Donations can be made in her memory to the Alzheimer’s Association, 1060 La Avenida St., Mountain View, CA, 94043. Please visit www.cusimanocolonial.com to sign the guestbook.

FIELDS

► Continued from page 1

The Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to consider the proposal and recommend an appropriate fee during its Wednesday meeting next week. The meeting is at the Senior Center, 266 Esquela Ave., at 7 p.m.

Organizers of local youth sports leagues are particularly upset by the proposal, which they say could add thousands of dollars to their yearly expenses. Elaine Spence, president of the Mountain View Babe Ruth baseball league, said her players use McKelvey Park about 28 hours a week for eight months out of

the year. At \$6 an hour, the fee would total about \$5,300 a year. Several hundred Babe Ruth players already pay \$100 to \$300 a year to play, she said, depending on their age.

“We try to keep the fees we charge to the kids low,” Spence said, adding that their goal is to “encourage them to come out to play.”

In an e-mail, Spence reported that some parents don’t think the city should make money off youth sports. Parents voiced concerns last week at a league meeting about the fee, though details on the proposal were not available that time, Spence said. Some parents were worried about the possibility that some players could no longer afford to play.

Spence also said her league already helps to offset field maintenance costs by regularly mowing the infield of the baseball fields it uses. The city still mows the outfields.

The city hosts thousands of Mountain View and Los Altos youths on its fields, all of them playing in various youth sports leagues including three different baseball leagues, a girls’ softball league, a football league and two soccer leagues.

After the commission makes a recommendation on exactly how much the fee should be, the City Council will have final say on the matter at a later date. ▀

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TOWN

► Continued from page 5

"The general message is already out there," Crank said. "How do we tailor it to us?"

Crank said the need for these forums became more urgent this fall. Just before the presi-

dential election, stolen elementary school enrollment signs written in Spanish reappeared with red spray paint reading "No more aliens."

School administrators called it a hate crime, but police said they did not have enough evi-

dence to classify it that way. Then in December, three high school students were charged with hate crimes after allegations that they chased four Latino middle school students while brandish-

ing a BB gun, screaming racial epithets and threatening to kill them.

Crank, the main organizer of the hour-and-a-half-long discus-

sion, brought in a representative of the Not in Our Town movement, who talked about how it all began after someone in the Montana town threw a

brick through a living room window with a menorah. Residents there responded by putting paper menorahs in their windows.

"We need to figure out what our menorah is," said Bruce Barsi, a representative of Mesa de la

Comunidad. Community leaders agreed to look into funding and potential sponsors before meeting in March. ▀

Stolen elementary school enrollment signs written in Spanish reappeared with red spray paint reading "No more aliens."

"We need to figure out what our menorah is."

BRUCE BARSİ

PUPPY

► Continued from page 5

tute teacher, and her daughter encouraged her to get a puppy to tend to. An online search led her to Pound Puppy Rescue.

She found her calling as a foster mom on a visit to meet one of the puppies she had spotted online. "We had eight puppies climbing all over us, and I went, 'This is fun!'"

She began her foster care for the puppies soon after, and has managed to find families for all but two pups whom she couldn't bear to give away.

"I am requested frequently for fostering" due to her flexible schedule, she said.

A foster family's duty is to take in puppies that are too young to have a good chance of survival in a shelter before they reach an adoptable age. Until eight weeks old, puppies run a high risk of contracting diseases and dying in a shelter environment.

PPR is a Bay Area organization — its puppies are available to prospective owners from the South Bay to Marin — but most of the puppies it rescues come from the Central Valley, where there are too many dogs and not

enough volunteers or space in the shelters. Some shelters have seen mortality rates as high as 60 to 70 percent. So volunteers at those shelters depend on organizations like PPR to rescue the dogs and find them happy homes before it's too late.

Those homes can even include local leaders: According to Sil-

berman, Mountain View Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga was taking home a puppy of her own on Friday. The lucky pooch's name is Toto.

In 2009, 1,000 puppies were saved, and the goal for 2009 is 1,350.

Although they want to find a home quickly for every puppy, the adoption process isn't easy. A lengthy application, an interview and a home check are all required. Because of these measures, say PPR organizers, the adoptions have a high success rate, resulting in happy families,

happy dogs and rarely a returned puppy. One way to help PPR is to become an interviewer, Silverman said. The puppy demand is high and they could use the help. "I was getting 30 applications a day for one litter," she said.

Another option is becoming a foster family. Though much more time-consuming, organizers say it can be highly rewarding. "[When] I put a little puppy into the arms of its new adoptive family, well, there is just no better feeling in the world," says Silverman.

Perhaps not surprisingly, a social network has sprung up around PPR. The organization has a Facebook page, and rave reviews of its services are posted there. Adoptive families and their puppies also are known to attend annual PPR reunions with their littermates.

PPR holds adoption events all over the Bay Area, often at Pet Food Express stores. For more on applications, event dates and locations, visit www.poundpuppyrescue.org or look for the group on Facebook. ▀

"[When] I put a little puppy into the arms of its new adoptive family, well, there is just no better feeling in the world."

ANNA SILVERMAN

E-mail Andrea Nott at anott@mv-voice.com

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Viewpoint

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Paper, plastic or neither

The odds that bags will no longer be handed out free to retail customers in Mountain View have gone up a bit, although a decision on whether to charge 25 cents for every bag appears to be months, if not years, away.

Last week, the Mountain View City Council voted 5-2 in support of a county proposal that would set a fee for the bags. But the Los Altos and Milpitas councils have already turned down the idea, and San Jose appears ready to do the same.

Last week's City Council vote indicates the city's support for a model ordinance written by the county's Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission. The feedback from all cities in the county will be taken into account before a new model ordinance is written by the county and given to each city to consider.

The goal behind the proposal, which applies to both paper and plastic, is laudable: To remove tons of discarded single-use bags from the waste stream and encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags when they go shopping.

Retailers contacted by the county were not in support of charging a fee for the bags, even though under the current plan they would collect between 5 and 10 cents of the 25-cent fee. Apparently, that incentive was not enough to sway the merchants surveyed.

No one knows exactly how many paper and plastic bags are given away every year in Mountain View. But it is known that only a small fraction of the bags are recycled, and that plastic bags, in particular, are difficult to process after they have been mixed with other recyclable plastic items.

Solutions to the problem have been tried before. Other cities and jurisdictions have already restricted single-use bags, including San Francisco, where plastic bags are banned. This had the unintentional side effect of increasing use of paper bags, which require trees, plus more energy and water, to produce. Experts say biodegradable plastic bags are not the answer either, because they only decompose in large composting sites and not when disposed of in landfills.

We believe the City Council did the right thing in supporting the county proposal. Given the tepid response so far, the county may find it difficult to craft a model ordinance that all cities will pass, but ultimately we must all seriously consider ways to convince shoppers that reusable bags are the best environmental and economic solution to a problem that will only get worse. In lieu of a small fee, we're open to suggestions.

Whether a fee or use of some other incentive is the best solution is not obvious. But it is obvious that wherever our single-use bags end up — recycling center, landfill or Pacific Ocean — it is much more efficient not to produce so many of them in the first place.

Other cities and jurisdictions have already restricted single-use bags.

BINKLEY STORY FAILED TO GIVE THE FACTS

Editor:

Your article, "Sparks fly in Binkley trial" (Jan. 9), is inaccurate and biased.

Defendant Sargent Binkley was charged with using a gun while robbing a pharmacy. The defendant himself admitted that he had a gun, and both of his victims confirmed it. The only issue was whether he brandished it.

A defense expert produced a surveillance photo ostensibly to show what it would look like if the defendant held a gun. Our prosecutor asked a crime lab employee about the technology discussed by the expert. That employee told her he is not an expert in this area, and could not testify as such.

Nevertheless, after the jury verdict, the employee told the prosecutor that he could not determine whether the photo showed the defendant holding a gun. The prosecutor immediately notified the court and the defense of the employee's statement.

The article omits the fact that the court promptly held a hearing and found that our prosecutor acted properly. There was no misconduct. Further, although the article speculates that the verdict "could have been different with Corpora's testimony," it omits the fact that the judge ruled that such non-expert opinion would have made no difference in light of the victim's testimony that the

defendant displayed the gun.

Your readers deserve the complete story.

Dolores A. Carr
District Attorney,
Santa Clara County

Editor's Note: Prosecutor Deborah Medved never returned calls from the Voice seeking comment regarding allegations of withholding evidence. This letter is the first response we've received from the District Attorney's office on the matter.

MORE HOUSING MEANS LESS WATER

Editor:

We want to thank you for the very informative story about the proposed developments at San Antonio Center and Minton's Lumber in the Jan. 30 *Voice*.

Our idea is that we are at capacity on homes in Mountain View. We also view the idea that every new home development in Mountain View is connected to the water system, using up precious water that is in short supply because of a very serious California drought. Why should established homeowners have heavy restrictions put on them when extra water is consumed by recently completed homes?

Barry and Diane Cavanaugh
Anna Avenue

► See **LETTERS**, page 14



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LETTERS

► Continued from page 13

THE TRUTH ABOUT HIGH SPEED RAIL

Editor:

High speed rail or HSR is scarcely on the drawing board yet, but already the sky is falling. A Palo Alto letter forwarded to our neighborhood association invoked Peninsula trains going 220 mph, six tracks, "large towers" and the specter of eminent domain.

I asked an independent engineer who studies Peninsula rail to comment. He concluded: "These concerns boil down to 'Not in my back yard' and ignore any and all published studies or conversations with responsible parties within the HSR authority or Caltrain."

Top speed on the Peninsula would be 125 mph (currently it is around 80 mph). Peninsula trains would use four main tracks (a few locations already have more for freight sidings). The trains would be powered by a 25 kV overhead catenary already planned for Caltrain's electrification. The catenary structures are several feet taller than current trains, but existing trees along the area are much taller. These structures are widely used in Europe, Japan and the Northeastern U.S. And a major reason for running HSR on Caltrain lines is precisely that the right of way already is publicly owned, minimizing property acquisition.

The engineer added that the "six-track" misinformation started around Atherton and has traveled down the Peninsula without correction or clarification.

Max Hauser
Loreto Street

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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Maruichi features kuro ramen, a broth made of browned garlic, pork and chicken. The ramen includes egg, chashu (pork), seaweed, green onions and daily house made ramen noodles.

MICHELLE LE

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Ramen holiday

CASTRO STREET'S MARUICHI SPECIALIZES IN HOT NOODLE SOUP

By Sheila Himmel

Scholars of the Japanese noodle keep up-to-the-moment track of South Bay restaurants' homemade ramen, udon and soba noodles. Their shapes and stickiness, the broths they accompany. But even if your noodle knowledge is limited to spaghetti, don't worry, Maruichi Japanese Noodle House in downtown Mountain View provides a nourishing introduction.

What is ramen, anyway? Not the microwave-prepped instant soups or the tangled bricks that become edible when dropped into boiling water (like live

seafood, only extremely dead). When made daily, as at Maruichi, ramen noodles are light and elegant, and pick up the flavors of their surrounding soup.

You can spot the flour-dusted noodle machine in the front window. If the homey little restaurant is crowded, write your name on the clipboard list. It won't be a long wait. Noodle dining is very speedy.

Maruichi (the name means One Circle) seats 55 people in booths and at a low, egg-shaped counter in the middle.

The restaurant makes two

► See **MARUICHI**, page 16

BEAS ARIAS HISTORY

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styles of ramen noodles, wheat flour and egg, and four very different flavors of soup.

My favorite, kuro ramen, is a rich, nutty, somewhat intimidating, browned garlic stew, stocked with half a roasted egg, thin slices of roasted pork, nori (sheets of dried seaweed) and green onions. Opinions differ on the roasted egg, but mine was creamy as custard. Bean sprouts mingle with the noodles and provide crunch.

That version (\$7.45) would be filling, but for the full experience, and certain leftovers, go for the Maruichi Ramen Special (\$10.45). Here you get the ethereal kakuni, stewed pork belly, with slithery wheat flour noodles. Kakuni may appall some diners. It looks like what it is. But while fat may be kakuni's problem area, lean is the roast

pork's. It's bland and dry, like a supermarket lunchmeat. Mentaiko, cod roe seasoned with red pepper, add a kick.

Aka ramen spicy miso (\$8.45) is a proven cold cure. Other fresh

The name Maruichi means "One Circle."

ramen choices are mild miso soup, hearty tonkatsu (pork and chicken) and shoyu (\$7.45).

Should a one-pot meal wear out its welcome, try one of three Combo Specials or a steaming plate of edamame, salted green soybeans (\$1.95) that are great with beer. Another appetizer, dry chunks of boneless fried chicken (\$5.45), cried out for squeezes of fresh lemon.

► Continued on next page

Dining Town

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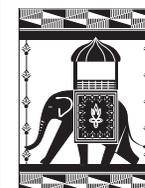
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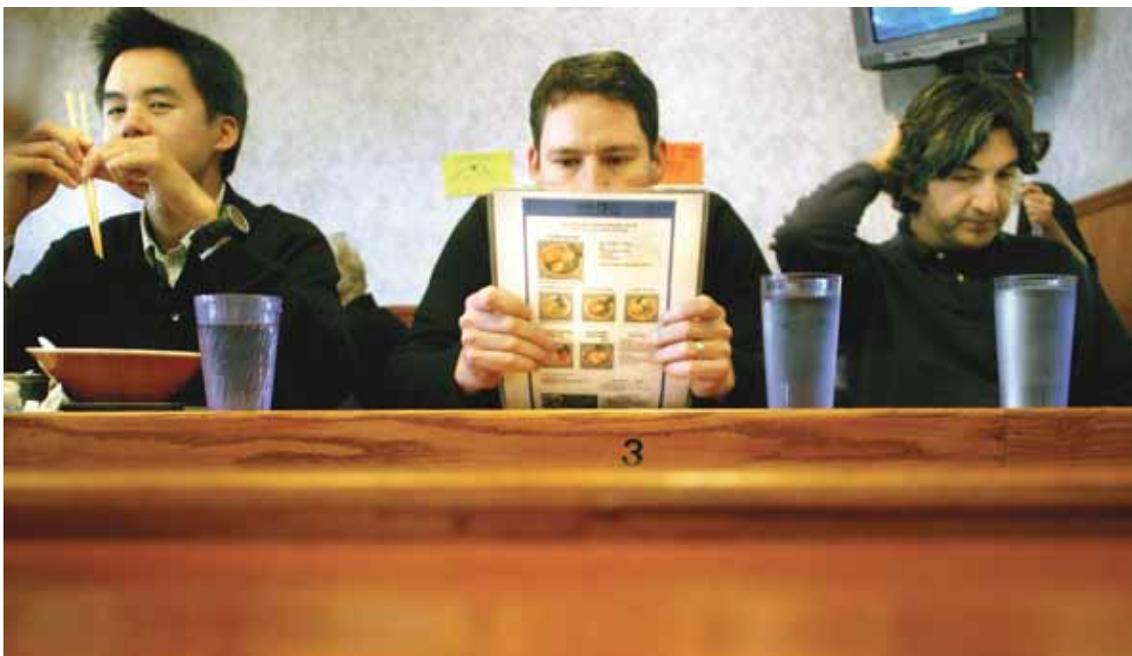
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If you would like to be listed in DINING ON THE TOWN please call Anna or Dianna at the Voice at 964-6300.



Aaron Forth, center, checks out the menu as his friend **Anton Commissaris**, right, waits to order lunch at **Maruichi**, located on **Castro Street** in downtown **Mountain View**.

MICHELLE LE

► Continued from previous page

Combo C (\$11.15) includes ramen and a bowl of rice with your choice of eel, white tuna or fatty tuna with green onions. These donburi dishes also are available as side shows (\$4.95). Other combinations include pot stickers and California rolls, neither of which is worth the bother. Stick to your noodles.

Each table is set with tingly, chili-peppered Napa cabbage kimchi, dried garlic chips and other condiments to personalize your soup. Only the napkins are flimsy. This style of eating, or slurping, demands a hardier napkin.

Maruichi also has hot and cold dishes with thick, chewy udon noodles and thin, nutty buckwheat soba, but they aren't made in-house. Both the hot soba

(\$7.45) and nabeyaki udon (\$9.45) include tempura shrimp, which immediately get soggy. With the latter, though, meaty shiitake mushrooms take up the slack.

Besides the napkin issue, just know that Maruichi charges 60 cents for a cup of tea. Also know that children are more than welcome, with a \$5.45 ramen meal ending in ice cream. ▣



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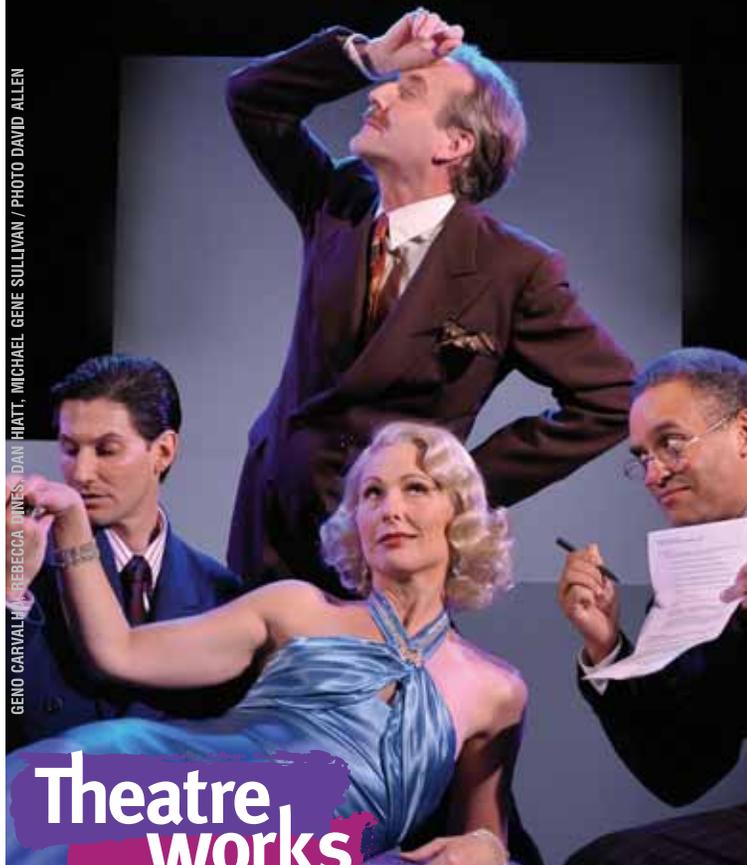
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A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (PG) Century 16: Fri. at 11:55 p.m.**BEDTIME STORIES (PG)**

Century 20: 5:20 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 12:05 & 2:50 p.m.

BRIDE WARS (PG) Century 20: 3:55 & 10:05 p.m.**CORALINE (PG)** ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 1:55, 4:25, 7 & 9:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**

★★★1/2 Century 16: 12:10, 4:05 & 8 p.m.

Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 3:15, 6:45 & 10:10 p.m.

DEFIANCE (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: 9:20 p.m. Century 20: 7:40 & 10:40 p.m.**DOUBT (PG-13)** ★★★ Century 16:

5 & 10:25 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 11:35 a.m.

FANBOYS (PG-13) Century 16:

12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m. Sat. also at 10:30 a.m.

FROST/NIXON (R) ★★★ Century 16: 7:35 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu.

at 2:10 p.m. Century 20: 7:25 & 10:10 p.m.

GRAN TORINO (R) ★1/2 Century 16: 1:10, 4, 6:55 & 9:45 p.m. Sat. also at

10:20 a.m. Century 20: 1:10, 3:50, 6:50 & 9:35 p.m. Sat. also at 10:03 a.m.

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13)

Century 16: 12:45, 3:50, 7:05 & 10 p.m.

Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1, 2:30, 5:30, 7 & 8:30 p.m. Sat. at 10:10 a.m.

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) Century 16: 1:15, 4:15 & 6:50 p.m. Sat. also at

10:15 a.m. Century 20: 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

INKHEART (PG) Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15 & 4:55 p.m.**LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13)** Century 20: 4:05 & 9:50 p.m.**METROPOLITAN OPERA: LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR****(NOT RATED)** Century 16: Sat. at 10 a.m. Century 20: Sat. at 10 a.m.**MILK (R)** ★★★ Century 20: 1:05 & 6:55 p.m. Sat. also at 10:05 a.m.

Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sat. & Mon.-Tue. at 1:30, 4:25 & 7:20 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:15 p.m.

NEW IN TOWN (PG) Century 16: 12, 2:25, 4:50, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.

Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 4:45, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m.

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:40,

7:20 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7 & 9:20 p.m.

PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:35, 7:10 &

9:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35 & 9:55 p.m.

PUSH (PG-13) Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 2:30, 5:05, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) ★★★★★

Aquarius: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

THE READER (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 12:50, 3:40, 6:45 & 9:35 p.m. Sat.

also at 10:05 a.m. Century 20: 1:15, 4:10, 7:05 & 10 p.m. Sat. at 10:20 a.m.

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 11:40 a.m.;

2:25, 5:10, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m. Guild: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) Guild: Sat. at 11:55 p.m.**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** ★★★★★ Century 20: 11:15 a.m.;

2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m. Aquarius: 1:15, 4, 7 & 10 p.m.

TAKEN (PG-13) Century 16: 12:30, 3, 5:20, 7:45 & 10:05 p.m. Sat. also at 10

a.m. Century 20: 12:45, 3:20, 5:35, 8:10, 10:30 p.m. Sat. also at 10:25 a.m.

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)

Century 16: 12:35, 2:55, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25 p.m. Sat. also at 10:10 a.m.

Century 20: 12:30, 3, 5:25, 8 & 10:20 p.m. Sat. also at 10:15 a.m.

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) Century 16: 12:40, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55 &

10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 1:45, 4, 6:15, 8:30 & 10:40 p.m.

WALTZ WITH BASHIR (R) ★★★★★

Palo Alto Square: 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.

WOODSTOCK (R) Century 16: Sat. at 11:55 p.m.**THE WRESTLER (R)** ★★★ Century 16: 1:20, 4:10, 7:15 & 9:55 p.m.

Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:35, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the

Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

★ Skip it
★★ Some redeeming qualities
★★★ A good bet
★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses,
trailers and more movie
info, visit www.mv-voice.com
and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

DEFIANCE ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) In 1941, three brothers started a Jewish community in the Belarussian forest in eastern Poland to flee the Nazis at the height of the Holocaust. Daniel Craig plays Tuvia Bielski, the confident leader of the community that would later be known as the Bielski partisans. Tuvia and his younger brothers Zus (Liev Schreiber) and Asael (Jamie Bell) take to the forest after the murder of their parents, determined to endure and battle back. Tuvia puts his focus on the community and survival while Zus prefers the proactive approach and joins up with a group of Russian resistance fighters. Asael, meanwhile, is quiet and reserved, thinking more about love and cooperation than vengeance. "Defiance" is an extraordinary story and the production is admirable — if you have the time and patience to trudge through. *Rated: R for violence and language. 2 hours, 16 minutes.* — T.H.

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD ★★1/2

(Guild, Century 20) Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio are literally at each other's throats as April and Frank Wheeler, the classic 1950s golden couple who suddenly find the luster lost from their white-picket-fence union. Through a series of deft flashbacks director Sam Mendes builds a story of suburban ennui, a stifling boredom compounded by two kids and dead-end jobs. The build-up gains slow momentum but once "Road" finds its rhythm it's positively devastating. *Rated: R for language and nudity. 1 hour, 59 minutes.* — J.A.

WALTZ WITH BASHIR ★★★★★

(Cinearts) Israeli writer-director Ari Folman has created a haunting animated feature about the shock-and-awe inflicted on the human psyche by the horrors of war. Folman joins arms with the great anti-war filmmakers of cinema history to pronounce that war is hell. And animation isn't just for kids anymore. A pack of snarling black dogs bounds towards the camera like beasts from hell — an opening image that conveys the recurring nightmare of a former Israeli soldier who recounts the frightening dream to Folman, in a bar, in the middle of the night. The army buddies conclude that the dream must be connected to their Lebanon War experience. Since Folman seems to have repressed his own memories of the 1982 invasion, he sets out to discover the truth by talking with veterans who served with him. *Rated: R for some disturbing images of atrocities, strong violence, brief nudity and a scene of graphic sexual content. In Hebrew with English subtitles. 1 hour, 27 minutes.* — S.T.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

"TWENTIETH CENTURY"

"Broadway ballyhoo meets Hollywood hustle aboard the legendary locomotive in this madcap battle of the sexes that's a send up of screwball comedy at its screwiest best," TheatreWorks says. Jan. 14-Feb. 8, Tue.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m., Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 and 7 p.m. \$21-64. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

BENEFITS

Chefs Who Care Monthly Dine-Out Fu Lam Mum in downtown Mountain View will be hosting a banquet-style feast on Mon. and Tues. Feb. 9 and 10. Fifty percent of the proceeds benefit CSA's Food & Nutrition Center programs. Feb. 9-10, 5-7:30 p.m. \$24 in advance. Fu Lam Mum, 153 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-810-2233. www.CSAcares.org

Friends of Mountain View Library Book Sale Friends of the Mountain View Public Library two-day book sale. Feb. 21-22 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat. only members of the Friends of the Mountain View Public Library get early entrance from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Sunday Feb. 22nd 11am-4pm Bag Sale is 2-4pm Friends of Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-964-9167.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Exploring Pinnacles National Monument: Crags, Caves, Condors, and More Discussion on Pinnacles. "A wilderness gem in the Gabilan Mountains, Pinnacles National Monument is legendary for its beauty. Its 36 miles of hiking trails, 800 established climbing routes and campground offer hikers, rock climbers and wildlife enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy its diverse habitats," REI says. Wed., Feb. 18, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. REI Mountain View, 2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

Free Kitchen and Bath Seminar "Tile and Counter Design Breakfast." Discuss how lighting, space and color influence tile and counter-top style. Keynote speaker is Jana of JG Design in Los Altos. This event is hosted by Michael Mok, Vice President, Paly Grad 1992. Limited to first 25 people. Sat., Feb. 7, 9:30-11 a.m. Free. Artistic Stone Kitchen and Bath, 2407 East Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-988-8581. www.artisticstoneinc.com

Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation Introduction to the meditative development of mindfulness to focus all aspects of experience. Five-week course taught by Shaila Catherine, Sharon Allen & Margaret Gainer. Thursdays through Feb. 19, 7-9 p.m. free. St. Timothy's/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. http://www.imsb.org

Lip Reading /Managing Hearing Loss These classes help hard of hearing people with or without hearing aids improve lip reading and gain other skills to ease hearing/communication problems. Friends and family members are welcome. Taught by CA licensed audiologist. 3 class times to choose from. Mon. Jan. 5 to Wed. Mar. 25, 2009, 1:30-2:45 p.m. Foothill college tuition and fees. varied sites off campus, Mt. View, Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Call 650-949-7999 ext.4379.

Personality Mapping (TM) Personality MappingTM is a hands-on psychological process that illustrates the layers of your physical and psycho-emotional self and illuminates your intra- and inter-personal maps, which correlate to neural pathways in your brain. Pre-registration required. Tues. Feb. 10, 2009, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-575-2167. www.personalitymap.com

CONCERTS

A Miss Molly Bell Valentine Concert Join professional actress, Molly Bell, for an evening of love songs. Molly is a regular at TheatreWorks and runs CREATE Studio in downtown Palo Alto. Complimentary wine

and chocolate in the lobby after the concert. Sat., Feb. 14, 8-9:30 p.m. \$20. Finn Center at Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 408-807-2030. missmollybell.com

CSMA Merit Scholar Piano Students of Ludmila Kurtova Outstanding students of CSMA distinguished teacher Ludmila Kurtova perform music for piano solo, duet and duos. Sat., Feb. 7, 8-8 p.m. No charge; donations accepted. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800. www.arts4all.org/calendar.htm

ECYS: Sinfonietta Winter Spirit ECYS presents the Sinfonietta "Winter Spirit" Concert. Program features works by: Schubert, Khachaturian, Sarasate, Hummel, Gounod. Dr. Camilla Kolchinsky conducts. Soloist performances by: Allen Huang, violin; Shannon Walsh, trumpet; Max Wu, flute. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$12 general; \$6 student/senior. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.ecys.org

DANCE

Dallas Black Dance Theatre As part of its Black History Month celebration, Foothill College will host a one-night-only performance by DBDT for a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works. Fri., Feb. 6, 8-10 p.m. Foothill College Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7360. http://www.foothill.edu/fa/

English Country Dancing English Country Dance. Live music, no partner needed, all dances taught, comfortable clothes and shoes. 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays through June. 8-10 p.m. \$9/\$7 members/\$5 students. Flex-It Studio, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-224-5318. http://www.bacds.org/series/english/mountain_view/

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Docent-Led Walks of Shoreline Learn about Shoreline at Mountain View's: maritime history; landfill legacy; environmental processes; ecosystems; birds, wildlife; and more. Walks depart from Rengstorff House and last about one hour on the 4th Sunday of every month. Bring/Wear: layered clothing, walking shoes, binoculars. No advanced reservations required. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Rengstorff House, Shoreline at Mountain View, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6073. http://www.ci.mtnview.ca.us

FAMILY AND KIDS

Chaskinakuy, Latin American Music Andean music, with vocals in Spanish and Quechua, with an array of instruments: feather panpipes, bone flutes, goatskin drums, armadillo shell charango, more. Sponsor: Applied Materials. Supported by Target; media sponsor Classical 102.1 KDFC. Sun., Feb. 8, 2-5 p.m. No charge; donations accepted. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/calendar.htm

PACT School Tour The PACT School is a public magnet school accepting K-5 students from all districts, celebrating over 10 years of its innovating developmental, parent-participation model. Visit PACT classrooms during the school day. Meet at Castro School front office. Mon. Feb. 9, 2008, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mariano Castro School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. www.pactschool.net

FILM

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour comes to Los Altos REI hosts two evenings of adventure films and videos from the 2008 festival in Banff, Alberta. Tickets go on sale February 1 at REI Mountain View. Net proceeds from the shows benefit the Snowlands Network. March 13 and 14, 7-9:30 p.m. \$15 REI members; \$18 nonmembers, will call, and at the door. Los Altos High School's Eagle Theatre, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

ON STAGE

Livia Sohn, Violin Stanford Lively Arts Informance. Conversation and musical excerpts with Livia Sohn, an award-winning violinist who has been a member of Stanford's music faculty since 2003. Sponsor: Applied Materials. Presenting partner: Borel Private Bank. Fri., Feb. 13, 6-7 p.m. No charge; donations accepted. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/calendar.htm

One-Night-Only Performance of "9 Parts of Desire" Foothill College presents a one-night-only performance of the Heather Raffo's "9 Parts of Desire," the production that stars shape-shifting actress Luisa Sermol in a portrayal of nine different women that illustrate the complex reality of living in modern Iraq. Sun., Feb. 8, 7-9 p.m. Tickets are \$15, general; \$10, seniors and students; and \$7, Foothill students, faculty and staff. Foothill College Lohman Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7360. www.foothill.edu/fa

RELIGION/ SPIRITUALITY

Insight Meditation South Bay Shaila Catherine and guest teachers lead a weekly

Insight Meditation sitting followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings every Tuesday, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. www.imsb.org

SENIORS

VA and options for vision impairment One of the many things VA offers is options for vision impairment. Thu., Feb. 19, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

TALKS/AUTHORS

Are We Alone? The Dance of the Fertile Universe Is it possible that the physical universe offered other potential niches for life when the Big Bang occurred? George Coyne, an astronomer and Jesuit priest, and Lynn Rothschild, an astrobiologist, will approach this question from their own unique perspectives. Thu., Feb. 19, 6:30-8 p.m. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. NASA Ames Conference Center, Ball Room, Building, Moffett Field, Moffett Field. Call 1-800-847-7730. commonwealthclub.org

Commonwealth Club Lecture at NASA Ames NASA scientist Lynn Rothschild and Father George Coyne, former director of the Vatican observatory will give a lecture, "Are We Alone? The Dance of the Fertile Universe" in Bld. 3 at NASA Ames Research Center. Seating is limited. Thu., Feb. 19, 6:30-9 p.m. \$10 member, \$15 non-members. Bld. 3 Ballroom, 500 Severys Road, NASA Ames Research Center. http://tickets.commonwealthclub.org/

Event with Robert Scoble: Reports from the real-time web Robert Scoble, the #1 user on friend feed, #7 on Twitter, will talk about the real-time web. Gourmet dinner/wine. Tue. Feb. 17, 7-9 p.m. \$20. Samovar Conference Hall, 1077 Independence Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-941-8464.

http://www.meetup.com/CIO-IT-Executives/calendar/9430732/

Technology and Society Committee Luncheon Forum Corey Bridges, co-founder, executive producer and marketing director of the Multiverse Network, Inc., a 3D virtual worlds company founded in 2004, introduces the concept of virtual worlds and describes their unique technology platform. Tue., Feb. 10, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. lunch is \$11, \$12 for non-members. Hangen Szechuan Restaurant, 134 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. http://tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml

Using the Open Source Hadoop to Generate Data-Intensive Insights Cloud Computing: Rob Weltman, Director of Engineering <@> Yahoo: use cases where Hadoop has proved beneficial in dealing with very large data volumes. Wed., Feb. 11, 7-9 p.m. \$20. Samovar Conference Hall, 1077 Independence Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-941-8464. http://www.meetup.com/CIO-IT-Executives/calendar/9528874/

William Kleinknecht at Books Inc. in Mountain View Crime writer William Kleinknecht will read from his new book, "The Man Who Sold the World: Ronald Reagan and the Betrayal of Main Street America." Thu., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. http://booksinc.net/NASApp/store/Index.jsp?s=storeevents&evntId=402734

VOLUNTEERS

Literacy Tutoring Help a student develop his or her literacy skills! No writing or teaching experience is necessary, just a desire to help a youngster succeed. Mandatory volunteer training at the Castro School before and after classroom hour with students. Tue. Jan. 27 to Mar. 17, 2009, 8:45-10:45 a.m. Free. Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-940-6029. www.mvlae.net



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