

MountainView VOICE

DECEMBER 17, 2010 VOLUME 18, NO. 50

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Happy
Healthy
Holidays

HOLIDAY SECTION

| P.21

End of an era: Duggan stepping down

CITY MANAGER LEAVING POST, BUT NOT THE CITY HE LOVES

By Daniel DeBolt

Few things put as big a smile on City Manager Kevin Duggan's face as his story of meeting the founders of Google. When Larry Page and Sergei Brin came looking for a home in Mountain View, their

servers were small enough to fit in a closet. Perhaps it was thanks to Duggan's charm that the city is now home to "the hottest company in the world" as he likes to call it.

Such is the legacy of Duggan, who will be retiring April 2 after 20 years as Mountain View's

well-respected city manager.

Next June will mark 40 years since Duggan began his career with an internship in Mountain View's then-City Manager Jim O'Halloran's office. His career introduction involved being chased by junkyard dogs, he recalled with a laugh, as he

worked on projects related to the redevelopment of the Shoreline area. Long before Google arrived, it was home to a pig farm and wrecking yards.

Duggan, 60, has become one of the most highly regarded city



MICHELLE LE

Kevin Duggan

► See **DUGGAN**, page 8

Mentors show kids a way out of troubled lives

By Daniel DeBolt

Dwight Matthews' current mentee shows unusual promise.

"I have no doubt he's going to college," said Dwight Matthews, a State Farm Insurance agent. Mitch, a student at Alta Vista High School, has taken his SAT's, lifted his grades and toured universities. Mitch said



he loves playing the piano and he appears to have a natural talent for playing and composing music, Matthews said.

"He told me he can start playing and he could forget he's playing," Matthews said. "There is something special about this man he has to share with this world. It would be a crime for him to not go all the way."

It's not always been easy for Mitch and "he's come a long way," Matthews said. Mitch was improving his grades in fits and starts before. Since having Matthews as his mentor the past



MICHELLE LE

Mitchell Jefferson, a student at Alta Vista High School, shows his mentor Dwight Matthews the new songs he's been practicing. Donations to the Voice's Holiday Fund support Partners for a New Generation's mentoring programs, as well as six other local non-profit organizations.

► See **HOLIDAY FUND**, page 11

Plenty of ideas for marijuana dispensaries

By Daniel DeBolt

A group of 30 people discussed the city's draft medical marijuana regulations at a City Hall meeting Thursday night, criticizing numerous potential requirements such as those that marijuana be tested for contaminants and that it be grown where it is sold.

With the City Council expected to vote on marijuana regulation in February, four city officials sat at a table in front of the audience hoping to receive some valuable insights: City Attorney Jannie Quinn, Assistant City Attorney Krishan Chopra, police officer Derek Sousa and City Planner Melinda Denis.

"We recognize there's no one-size-fits-all approach to this" Chopra said, with Sousa adding, "We're here to listen."

Resident Brian David hopes to open the Shoreline Wellness Collective in Mountain View, but said he is also considering Sunnyvale, which may allow medical marijuana dispensaries soon. Currently no cities in the South Bay legally allow marijuana dispensaries, although authorities have often turned a blind eye to them in San Jose. Mountain View's neighboring cities of Palo Alto and Los Altos have a permanent

ban on marijuana dispensaries.

Growing questions

The city is considering a requirement that all marijuana sold in a dispensary be grown on-site, but several dispensary operators and advocates from Mountain View, San Jose and Oakland said that would be impractical at best or a "nightmare" at worst.

Requiring on site growing is "an attractive option at first, but it's been found to not be viable," said former Oakland City Attorney James Anthony, who is now a consultant on medical marijuana policies. Basically, it would result in no interest in operating a dispensary in Mountain View, Anthony said.

"The amount of plants would be astronomical" said prospective dispensary operator and Mountain View resident Jon Lustig, considering the fact that many dispensaries have 1,500 patients. And there would be technical issues with growing 50 different strains that dispensaries usually sell in one space, he said.

Nevertheless, the city has an interest in where medical marijuana is coming from and how it is grown to ensure its safety, Quinn said. The city could still regulate

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INSIDE

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Sarah Trauben and Kelly Jones

Do you think that tax cuts for the wealthy should be extended?



"Obviously not: it's common sense."

RJ Fowler, Mountain View



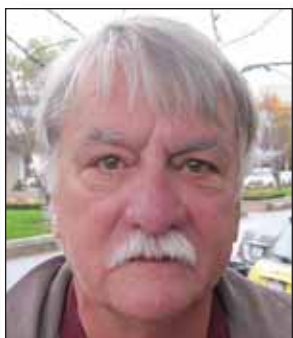
"No, because that money is not going to create jobs."

Neal A. Bowie, Sunnyvale



"It's not the politically correct thing to do, but it's the only way to extend unemployment insurance to the people who really need it."

Carol Sollecito, Mountain View



"No, and I don't think we should cut taxes at all. We're bankrupt!"

Michael Pickering, Palo Alto



"Only temporarily, because these people don't need the money. We're losing the middle class."

Jeff Froning, Mountain View

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■ POLICE LOG

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 Amber Indian Restaurant, 12/8
 100 block N. Whisman Rd., 12/12
 700 block Continental Ct., 12/14
 300 block Escuela Av., 12/14

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1900 block Gamel Wy., 12/8
 1800 block Ednamary Wy., 12/14
 2000 block Colony St., 12/14

STOLEN VEHICLE

700 block N. Shoreline Bl., 12/9

BATTERY

Mountain View High School, 12/9
 2300 block California St., 12/11
 200 block Escuela Av., 12/12
 200 block Beatrice St., 12/14

VANDALISM

100 block Castro St., 12/8
 Graham Middle School, 12/9
 200 block Escuela Av., 12/10
 Whisman Park, 12/11
 100 block Frederick Ct., 12/13
 1700 block Ednamary Wy., 12/14

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1300 block Shorebird Wy., 12/8
 1700 block Miramonte Av., 12/9
 100 block Ferguson Dr., 12/9

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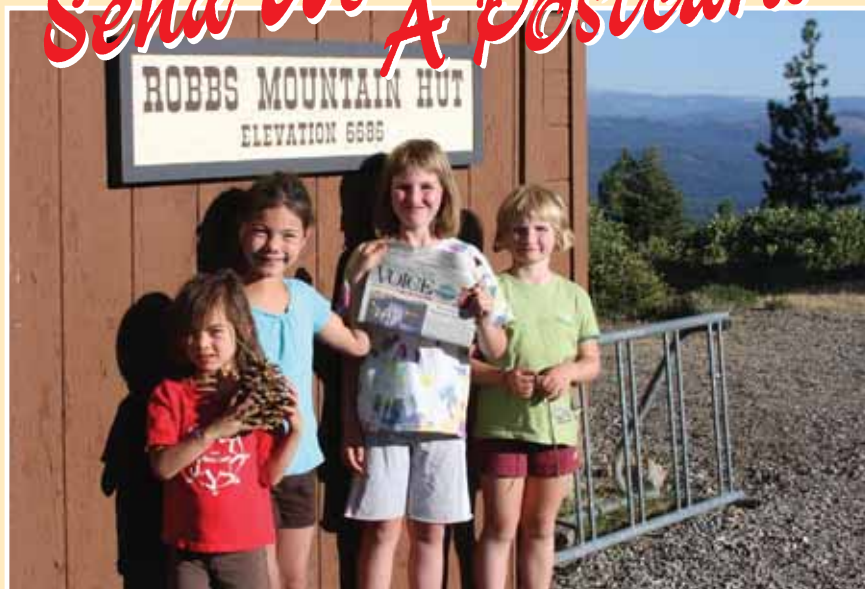


Photo of Remi Martin, Zoe Martin, Tenaya Veitch, Tara Veitch, from a mountain peak in the Sierra. (Eldorado National Forest).

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to digitalads@paweekly.com

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www.mvwsd.org (Enrollment Info)



MICHELLE LE

Two **Mountain View residents** use a “Merry Christmas” sign to cover up the profanity on Wo’O Ideafarm’s sign on Dec. 13 at the corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real.

Couple stages impromptu protest of Ideafarm’s sign

By Nick Veronin

A man and his wife took to the corner of El Camino Real and Castro Street Monday evening to protest Wo’O Ideafarm’s latest protest. The couple blocked Ideafarm’s billboard, which read “2007: I got mine so f--- you,” with makeshift signs that carried a decidedly cheerier message: “Merry Christmas.”

Both the man and woman

declined to give their names, but said they had driven by Ideafarm — the Mountain View man known for his proclivity for provocative public speech — and took offense at his latest message.

“There are so many other words in the English language,” the man said, referring to the expletive on Ideafarm’s sign. The man said he had no problem with Ideafarm expressing himself, but added, “He doesn’t

have to say it this way.”

The man and woman said they would not want their son, who is in elementary school, to read the profanity on Ideafarm’s sign. And so, in protest, the two created their own signs and stood on the corner of Castro and El Camino, holding their posters up so that they would block Ideafarm’s two identical wooden placards.

► See **IDEAFARM**, page 6

New program at El Camino tells patients’ stories

LIVING HISTORY GIVES INSIGHT TO CAREGIVERS AND SICK ALIKE

By Nick Veronin

Walking amongst the physicians, nurses and robotic couriers — past rooms that house cutting-edge surgical equipment and computerized tomography machines — are a group of three volunteers who contribute to patient wellbeing at El Camino Hospital with little more than a pen and paper.

The volunteers are responsible for recording the stories of individual patients for the hospital’s Living History Program. Asking questions about their childhood, school, hobbies, careers, loved ones and the things they cherish most, the

interviewers take down the answers and put them together in a brief report, which is shared with the patient, the patient’s family and included in the patient’s file.

The task with which they have been charged is simple enough, but the interviewers behind the hospital’s Living History Program are helping patients in “profound ways,” according to the Rev. Maryellen Garnier,

“It really humanizes the patient experience,” said Garnier, the hospital’s chaplain. When doctors and nurses attend to a patient, they have

► See **LIVING HISTORY**, page 7

District: No need to re-open Slater School

MV WHISMAN SET TO RENEW LEASE WITH GOOGLE DAYCARE

By Nick Veronin

A need for revenue and the low population of students surrounding the Whisman neighborhood has the local elementary and middle-school district preparing to renew the lease of the former Slater Elementary School to Google.

When Google agreed to lease two-thirds of the Slater campus from the Mountain View Whisman School District back in 2006, the arrangement was hailed by the district’s former chief financial officer as a “win-win.” The district needed money and the titan of search was looking to expand its employee day care and preschool services.

Today, six months before the end of that five-year agreement, the district’s financial situation is more or less the same, and Google is still thankful to have a local site for its child care programming.

“It’s been, frankly, a life-saving source of revenue for our district,” Superintendent Craig Goldman told the district’s board of trustees at its Dec. 9 meeting, before recommending that the district negotiate a new five-year lease with Google.

Mountain View Whisman is still strapped for cash, Goldman said, and although local elementary and middle schools saw a significant uptick in students this year, he assured the board that there is little risk that the district will need the Slater site to accommodate more kids for at least another five years.

“First of all, our growth is not in that part of town. And, secondly, as we look forward, the growth is ultimately going to be moving toward the middle schools,” Goldman said.

The board unanimously approved a motion to begin negotiations with Google to extend the lease through 2016.

“We’ve got a really symbiotic relationship,” said Dan Hoffman, director of real estate at Google. He said that the Slater site has been ideal in its proximity to the company’s Mountain View campus and the amount of space it has provided for chil-

dren’s programming.

The Woods, as it is called, is one of four day care centers operated by Google throughout the city. It is open only to the children of Google employees, according to Google representative Jordan Newman, who said that as far as he knows it charges about the same prices and offers similar programming as other preschools in the area.

Hoffman stopped short of saying a new lease between Google and the school district was a done deal, but noted that he saw no reason why it wouldn’t go through. “It is a great relationship and we’d be happy to continue it,” he said.

Besides the “strong financial interest” the district has in continuing the lease — the site brought in \$731,581 this year — Goldman said there are other perks.

“They take great care of the site,” he said. “In fact the site is in better shape than when they took it over.”

El Camino Hospital’s finances looking healthier

By Nick Veronin

A series of policy changes at El Camino Hospital — for patient care, staffing and executive salaries and benefits — are starting to bear fruit, according to hospital officials.

What started as a bleak 2010-11 fiscal year for El Camino is showing signs of improvement as the books were closed on the first quarter.

Bob Dvorak, interim chief financial officer for El Camino, seemed somewhat optimistic as he reported on October, the hospital’s fourth month of the fiscal year, at the board of directors’ meeting Dec. 8. In June, the

► See **ECH**, page 6

OBITUARIES

JOHN GREGORY NICHOLAS, WWII VETERAN

John Gregory Nicholas, a longtime Mountain View resident, died Dec. 11 at the age of 87. Services are set for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View.

Born in 1923, he graduated from Mountain View High School in 1941 and volunteered to join the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as an airplane master mechanic in China, Burma and India. Upon his return, he had a long career at Lockheed Missiles and Space Co.

He was the vice president of Napredak Hall in San Jose, a Mason, and a member of the American Legion, Post 558.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marche Ruth (Hand) Nicholas; his children, John G. Nicholas II and Alice Montgomery; and four grandchildren.

The family prefers memorial



Nicholas

donations be made to the Salvation Army. An online guest book is at www.cusimanocolonial.com.

ANDREA ELICES KLEIN, LIFELONG MOUNTAIN VIEW RESIDENT

Andrea Elices Klein, who was born on Villa Street and lived in Mountain View her entire life, died Oct. 11. She was 95.

She was preceded in death by her husband John Klein. She is survived by her children, Jere Schaefer of Mountain View and Michael Klein of Sunnyvale; her brother Frank Elices of Santa Clara; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was buried alongside her husband at the U.S. National Cemetery in Pacifica.

Eshoo gets feds to cork loud TV ads

By Daniel DeBolt

It seems that Democrats and Republicans in Washington, D.C. can agree on at least one thing these days: advertisers need to do something about their annoyingly loud TV commercials.

A bill by local congresswoman Anna Eshoo that will keep people from being "blasted at" by TV commercials was passed by Congress on Dec. 2. The bill is called the CALM Act (Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation).

"While this is far from the biggest issue we face, it will mean one less daily annoyance in our lives," said ad bill sponsor Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, in a press release.

"Consumers will no longer have to experience being blasted at,"

Eshoo said. "It's a simple fix to a huge nuisance."

The bill awaits a signature from President Barack Obama before it will become law. Within a year, advertisers would be required to adopt technology that will keep the volume of commercials no higher than the TV programs they accompany.

"TV programs use a variety of sound levels to build dramatic effect. But advertisements have been neither subtle nor nuanced," Eshoo said. "My bill reduces commercial volume, allowing them to only be as loud as the decibel level of regular programming."

Eshoo's office said in the press release that the Federal Communications Commission had been receiving complaints about loud TV commercials since the 1960s and the FCC has ranked it a top complaint over the last few years.

NEWS BRIEFS

JAY BOYARSKY NAMED CHIEF ASSISTANT DA

Long-time county prosecutor Jay Boyarsky has been tapped to serve as chief assistant district attorney by Jeffrey F. Rosen, district attorney-elect for Santa Clara County.

Rosen, who will take his new office on Jan. 3, 2011, announced in a recent press release that Boyarsky is the right candidate for the position.

"I've chosen Jay because of his character, intelligence and experience," the announcement said. "I highly respect and trust his judgment and commitment to the district attorney's office."

According to the statement, Boyarsky has served as a county prosecutor for 16 years. During that time he prosecuted 35 jury trials and has been particularly adamant in his prosecution of sexually violent predators.

He ran the DA's North County offices in Sunnyvale and Palo Alto from 2001 to 2007, the statement said, and is known throughout the state for his expertise in hate crime prosecution.

In his new role Boyarsky will be responsible for daily operations of the DA's office and for filling in for Rosen when he is away.

—Nick Veronin

ECH

► Continued from page 5

hospital approved a budget that assumed a loss in income from operations of \$16.8 million by the end of October; instead, El Camino had a total operational income of \$449,000, beating its forecasted budget by \$17.25 million.

In an e-mail to the *Voice*, Dvorak credited the Accelerating Continuous Excellence — or ACE — program with El Camino's current financial standing, but noted that the health care organization still has work to do.

"We are still not at a sustainable operating income performance level," he wrote, "but are starting to see the benefits from our ACE initiative generating positive operating income and have guarded optimism of achieving our budgeted operating income targets by the last quarter of fiscal year 2011."

While inpatient medical procedures are down from last year, according to Dvorak, certain out-

patient procedures are running ahead of budget and the hospital is doing better than it budgeted for in labor and supplies.

New policies

Not all initiatives aimed at cutting costs fall under the purview of the ACE program.

Prior to the introduction of ACE earlier this year, Cheryl Reinking, vice chief of clinical operations, set out to save money by reforming a practice known as "constant observation."

Under this practice, patients who are deemed at risk of attempting to get out of their beds and potentially falling down, were watched over by a dedicated patient safety attendant. Reinking, who had read of other institutions cutting back on constant observation staff by using one attendant to monitor multiple patients, introduced a new system called "increased observation." Now, one attendant monitors four patients at a time. The new system has already saved the hospital \$163,820 on patient safety attendants. There is a

lesson to be learned from this savings, Reinking said.

"I think there are many areas in the hospital where we can learn to be efficient without sacrificing quality," she said. "We have to be more efficient as we look ahead to health care reform."

Looking forward, the El Camino board of directors recently modified the charter of the hospital's executive compensation committee to allow for a freeze or reduction in executive salaries "when financially prudent," a stipulation which had not been in the charter before.

The charter also made cuts to executive's severance packages. Now, the severance period for executives terminated without cause will last only six months, instead of the previous 12 months.

Chris Ernst, an El Camino spokeswoman, wrote in an e-mail that the changes to the severance package and pay structure for executives was modified in light of the competitive practices of other area hospitals, and takes the recession into account. ▀

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LOUISE JEAN MENARD NE: TANTIMONACO

A native Californian, born November 8, 1915 in San Francisco, she recently celebrated her 95th birthday.

She was married 23 years to master tool and die maker Frank Edward Menard. Together, they owned and operated Menard Manufacturing in Redwood City. The youngest of six surviving siblings, often referred to as Big Aunty Jeannie or Pee-Wee because of her diminutive stature, she enjoyed hiking, swimming and dancing and was a past member of The Coronet Dance Club. She exhibited a sharp wit and keen sense of humor and will be dearly missed by family and friends.

She passed peacefully on December 6, 2010 at her home in Mountain View. She is survived by her daughter Regina Otto and numerous nieces and nephews. Private interment will be held at Alta Mesa Funeral Home in Palo Alto.

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IDEAFARM

► Continued from page 5

Ideafarm, who said that the couple were violating his right to free speech with their act, called the police in an attempt to learn their names and ultimately sue them.

"They are blocking my signs," Ideafarm said. "They are out here to silence me."

An officer on the scene, Sgt. Art Roberts, told a photographer and reporter from the *Voice* that media coverage of Ideafarm's interactions with Mountain View police would only encourage the local transient.

Ideafarm denied that his "campaigns," as he calls them, are publicity stunts and dismissed the notion that he is only hungry for attention.

"I'm actually a recluse. I'd rather be in Idaho," he said. "But I have work to do."

That "work," according to Ideafarm, is to get the people of Mountain View to quit living selfishly. "It's going to work," he said, referring to the signs.

The woman holding the "Merry Christmas" sign disagreed.

"Everyone's first human instinct to this is that it is offensive." ▀

DISPENSARY

▶ Continued from page 1

and permit off-site grow operations within Mountain View.

Berkeley's City Council overwhelmingly passed an ordinance to allow 30,000-square-foot growing operations in its warehouse district. Oakland is considering even larger grow operations, but the Drug Enforcement Administration has warned that city it would have concerns with such operations and would keep an eye on "large scale" cultivation.

"The most difficult issue we face is cultivation," Quinn said. Figuring out how and where marijuana should be grown "is almost as big of a project as coming up with an ordinance." Unfortunately the state does not specify how this should be done and federal law prohibits it, she added.

If the city does allow grow operations, greenhouses are becoming the preferred method for growing, Anthony noted.

Testing for contamination

Mountain View is also considering a requirement that medical marijuana be tested for contamination before it is sold. Quinn pointed out one documented case of a person with a compromised immune system who died from smoking marijuana contaminated with mold.

Advocates called that case the exception, and said that testing a few grams of each pound grown, as

some lab operations are now doing, wasn't a guarantee that all contamination would be caught. They said a trained eye was sufficient to examine it.

"My mother has been living with HIV for a decade and I'd never let her rely on any of these test results," said Lauren Vasquez of Americans for Safe Access. The lab testing "we have now is not sufficient."

Three Mountain View residents spoke at the meeting to express concerns and question the need for marijuana dispensaries. One asked why people needed to buy marijuana when people can take Marinol, a pill derived from the main psychoactive substance in Marijuana, THC. But medical marijuana advocates noted what has been widely reported, which is that Marinol leaves out hundreds of other substances in Marijuana that can help a person with pain or other particular ailments, which is why it doesn't work for many patients.

Resident Don Ball recommended that the dispensaries only be allowed to operate during daylight hours to help prevent any associated crime, while another resident said the dispensaries should go inside hospitals or the offices near El Camino hospital typically used for various specialty medical services.

Both ideas were criticized by medical marijuana advocates, who said that working people wouldn't have time to make it to dispensaries before dark, and that it was unlikely that dispensaries would be allowed in or near hospitals.

Addressing such concerns, Anthony said that in Oakland, which has had four dispensaries

for years, "there are no nuisances or complaints associated with these dispensaries whatsoever."

A pageant process

In early conversations on the topic, City Council members disagreed on how many dispensaries should be allowed in Mountain View, with some saying there should be a limit, while Tom Means and John Inks have said there shouldn't be any monopolies on the business.

But dispensary owners and advocates who attended the meeting seemed to agree that there should be a limit and dispensary owners could compete in a pageant process for the permits. Prospective dispensary operators would describe things like "employee salaries, price structures and proposed services" and the City Council would pick the best dispensaries, Vasquez said.

Where would they go?

Under criticism at the meeting was a map the planning department created which shows where dispensaries could go if they had to be located 1,000 feet from sensitive uses: schools, churches, parks and residential areas. That leaves a few pockets along U.S. 101 and Highway 237.

Prospective dispensary operator David questioned whether the Sunnyvale golf course was truly a "sensitive use" as it is shown on the map, when a drug treatment center nearby was not. Also questioned was why churches were sensitive uses.

And with the police department raising concerns about safety issues and the possibility of dispensaries being robbed, many questioned

why the city would push dispensaries into industrial neighborhoods where they would not only be harder to access, but also easier to rob as there are fewer people around to be eyes on the street. Advocates blamed a robbery of a San Jose dispensary on its location away from populated areas.

"You want to leave more discretion, more power for the City Council" and the public to figure this out, Anthony said. "Ninety-nine percent of the city is off limits. You need to look at what are your true sensitive uses."

One thing is certain — dispensaries in Mountain View would not be located near schools, as a new state law, AB2650, restricts the location of marijuana dispensaries to 600 feet from schools.

At least one council member is interested in restricting the dispensaries to Mountain View residents only, Quinn said, which was an unpopular idea.

"Restricting it to Mountain View

residents doesn't make sense," Lustig said. "This is medication; people should have access to it."

The city could also regulate medical marijuana delivery services.

"A lot of people who can't get out of their home need deliveries," said Brian David, who hopes to open the Shoreline Wellness Collective.

Security requirements

Saying they had no desire to be robbed, medical marijuana advocates said they were willing to follow any rules the city came up with to provide security at dispensaries, which may include requirements for security cameras, cash-less transactions (credit cards and checks only), security guards, locked entrances with only card-carrying customers allowed, bars on windows, security lighting and alarm systems.

But some drew the line at requiring armed guards, saying guns were unnecessary and could cause further problems in the event of a robbery. ■

Do You Suffer From Cancer-Related Bone or Tissue Pain?

El Camino Hospital and UCSF are seeking adult patients who have cancer-related pain in their bones or tissues for a research study to determine the effectiveness of a program to help patients and family caregivers manage cancer pain.

Participants will receive education in their homes regarding their pain medicines, pain management, and techniques for managing side effects.

You may be eligible to participate if you:

- Are age 18 or over
- Have cancer-related pain (excluding nerve pain)
- Able to read, write and speak English

Participants will be reimbursed for their time.

To see if you are eligible or to learn more, call:

UCSF Cancer Pain Management Research Office
415-476-4516, Ext. #1



LIVING HISTORY

▶ Continued from page 5

access to a medical record, which may tell them about allergies, past injuries or surgeries, but the Living History provides a healthcare provider with so much more. "We get insights into this person's life."

Garnier is responsible for bringing the program to El Camino. She first heard about Living History — which was created in 2000 by a registered nurse working in the Midwest — over the summer, and brought the idea to the hospital's Patient Satisfaction Committee. The committee liked the idea, and volunteers began interviewing patients in September. So far, she said, the program has been well received.

"Getting to know people is really a privilege," Garnier said. "It enriches their experience and the staff's experience."

The history of Living History

Sheila Brune, an avid reader of newspaper obituaries, was working as a case manager at Great River Medical Center in Burl-

ington, Iowa, in 2000 when she was struck with an idea: "What if we had the kind of info that is in an obit, but in a patient's medical record instead?"

As a case manager she had read plenty of medical records, and listened to many nurses engage in small talk with their patients. But the conversations always revolved around impersonal, often trivial, matters, Brune said — the weather, gossip, politics. "A lot of banal stuff."

She brought her idea to her manager, got the green light, and ran with it. Now, 10 years later, her program has been implemented in about 25 hospitals around the country.

Although her program is copyrighted, Brune allows healthcare organizations to use it for free. "I don't need money, I need happiness," she said. "It's my stewardship. It's what I can do."

The way Brune tells it, her program has brought happiness to many. Giving patients a chance to just talk gives them an opportunity to tell stories they had all but forgotten. It changes the way nurses and doctors interact with patients, as well.

"We're more loving and caring with the way we deliver care when we know more about you."

Living to tell

People often ask Garnier if Living History is only for the terminally ill. In response, she points to the name of the program. Plenty of patients whose histories are recorded end up being discharged and go on to live healthy lives.

Although the science in this arena isn't as clear cut as it is in the field of pharmacology, as the hospital's spiritual leader, Garnier knows how important a positive outlook and healthy state of mind is in a patient's recovery. An essential component of spiritual care, she said, is simply having a priest, parson, rabbi, imam or monk at the bedside, listening.

"When they tell their story, they are able to sort of reflect on their life, and I think it really does give them an opportunity to heal through the process of someone really being interested," Garnier said. "Just to look at their faces while they are being interviewed — they just sort of light up. That's got to have some impact on the healing process, I think." ■

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DUGGAN

▶ Continued from page 1

managers in the state, known for creating a culture of transparency and professionalism at City Hall and his tireless advocacy of a balanced budget, allowing the city to be one of the few to maintain a perfect triple-A credit rating. He will be “a hard act to follow,” Mayor Ronit Bryant said in a press release.

Starting in 1972 he worked 18 years for the city of Campbell, six as city manager there, but found himself “returning home” in 1990 to take the reins as city manager in Mountain View during a period of turmoil in City Hall. Duggan found it an irresistible opportunity, despite one newspaper describing the City Council as having “chewed up and spit out” two city managers in the few years prior.

No more meetings

After four decades of sitting through City Council meetings, Duggan will finally be able to take a break and move on to what he called the “next phase” of his life, which involves volunteering in the community.

Once retired, Duggan may spend more time collecting bits of city history on eBay, driving the yellow 1968 Toyota Corona he’s owned since it was new and hanging out with Herman, the desert tortoise he’s had since high school.

“I believe in long term relationships,” Duggan says with a laugh.

That appears to include his relationship with the community as well.

“Thankfully I’m not going to say goodbye to the people in the community because that would be the hardest part,” Duggan said of his retirement. “I’m glad I don’t have to do that. I just have to stay out of the new city manager’s hair.”

Sterling reputation

Former Mayor Pat Figeroa, one of the council members who hired him, said Duggan had more than met her expectations over the years.

“He was always one who has been highly respected,” she said. “Every place I would go he was known personally and was well respected and considered to be someone you wanted to work with.”

Duggan said Monday that he was deeply grateful and felt honored to serve as Mountain View’s city manager, which he described as managing a small city with big city issues — home of Google, Shoreline amphitheater, a regional park on top of a



MICHELLE LE

Mountain View’s City Manager Kevin Duggan at his office.

landfill, a thriving downtown and a diverse population.

Growing up in Woodland Hills, honorary mayor Buster Keaton was Duggan’s first exposure to local government, he said. His family later moved to Mountain View and he graduated from Awalt High School (now known as Mountain View High School) in 1968 and then from San Jose State University, studying public administration and political science.

A good time to go

According to a letter about his retirement, Duggan’s decision came “after considerable deliberation” and “with mixed emotions.”

“For the organization, this is a good time for this transition to take place,” Duggan wrote. “The city is financially stable after having addressed the challenges of the ‘Great Recession,’ a new generation of exceptionally qualified and dedicated department heads have been selected and we are in a period of unusual City Council continuity.”

Council member Mike Kasperzak said the City Council is hoping to get an early start on the search for a replacement by selecting a recruiter before its holiday break.

“It is the most important position the council is responsible for, so we’ve got to do it right,” Kasperzak said. “If you’ve got the best it’s hard to find a replacement.”

‘Fiscally conservative’

Duggan’s major accomplishment is leaving the city in a good financial position with large reserves. Despite three recessions, he balanced the city budget every year except last year’s “Great Recession” when the city borrowed \$2 million from reserves. He sent clear messages in City Council meetings about the consequences of letting a deficit compound year after year. The city eventually

cut costs and found revenue to fill an \$8.5 million budget gap over two years.

“He is fiscally conservative and that’s sort of amazing,” said Duggan’s former assistant, Nadine Levin. “If you look around the Peninsula I don’t think you could find another community that could say they weathered this period without any layoffs, used a negligible amount of reserves and essentially balanced the budget. That’s a big part of his legacy in Mountain View.”

Partly thanks to Google, the city receives \$8 million in land lease revenue every year to help fund city services. Google’s headquarters sits on city land, as does a CVS pharmacy and the Community School of Music and Arts. Soon, new Google offices, two affordable housing projects and a shopping center may be built on city land as well. Duggan sees leasing city property instead of selling it as a wise investment.

Duggan cut the staff in his office from 60 to 12 when he took the job in 1990, delegating Shoreline Park management, economic development, volunteer services and even graphic design to departments outside his office. The move was praised by council members.

Adding to his popularity among with the council is his ability to stay removed from divisive issues and maintain a neutral position, Levin said. He also has an unusual ability to not take personally the sort of criticism city officials receive, Levin said, and he remains cool in difficult situations.

Ambra controversy

Perhaps the most difficult situation the city faced during Duggan’s tenure was going to court over the actions of former Mayor Mario Ambra, and having Ambra removed from the council in 2001. Duggan and then-City Attorney Michael

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COPS THAT CARE NEED TOYS

Police hope 1,700 kids will flock to the police station on Saturday where the auditorium will be turned into the North Pole as Santa Claus greets children and presents are handed out.

Police say they created the “Cops that Care” event because there was a great need to provide for the less fortunate during the holidays.

The Mountain View Police Department is asking people to donate toys to be given to kids at the event, which is open to kids with a parent and proof of residency in Mountain View. Proof includes, but is not limited to, a driver’s license, ID card, school enrollment form or utility bill.

Toys must be new and unwrapped and can be dropped off at the Mountain View police station, 1000 Villa Street from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Donations can also be made in the form of gift cards or cash. Make out checks to Mountain View PAL, and note “Cops that Care” on the memo line. For information call Officer Ron Cooper at 650-903-6712.

—Daniel DeBolt

SEGWAYS GET GREEN LIGHT

After being told that Segways caused no accidents on the Stevens Creek Trail during a

two-year trial period, the City Council voted unanimously to allow their use last Tuesday.

Segways will continue to be prohibited on city sidewalks. Motor vehicles are prohibited on trails, but the council decided to consider Segways as an exception when resident Richard Roeder, who was using his Segway on the trail to commute to Microsoft, got into trouble with park rangers two years ago.

Nearby cities that prohibit Segways on trails include San Jose, Sunnyvale, Fremont, Los Gatos and Campbell.

—Daniel DeBolt

GIVE A DOG A HOME

There are so many dogs in shelters right now that Humane Society Silicon Valley is offering dogs for an adoption fee of your choice — though training deposits and licensing fees still apply. The Humane Society has 11 puppies and 55 dogs waiting to be adopted. Agencies such as Silicon Valley Animal Control, the South County Animal Shelter and Palo Alto Animal Services are also facing a glut of canines, officials announced. Foster families are also needed to house the dogs until they find permanent homes.

—James Tensuan

Building a legacy

Major accomplishments under Duggan’s watch include bringing light rail to downtown, completing the Performing Arts Center and City Hall, and building the highly popular Senior Center and numerous neighborhood parks, homes and office projects.

But Duggan is particularly passionate about building the five-mile Steven’s Creek Trail, a pedestrian path that connects residential neighborhoods, Google offices and Shoreline Park. The city moved “heaven and earth” as Duggan and the council cheered on efforts to secure grant funding and engineer the trail around various obstacles, Kasperzak said.

“To build a trail is good, but to build a trail and walk or run on it as a citizen is even better,” said Duggan, an avid jogger. ■

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

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From left: Fabio Komlos, MD, Interventional Radiologist; Chad Rammohan, MD, Medical Director of the Chest Pain Center; James Joye, DO, Director, Research and Education; Gan Dunnington, MD, Assistant Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery; and Jane Lombard, MD, Cardiologist.

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HOLIDAY FUND

► Continued from page 1

few months, "I was able to boost my confidence a lot" as the time comes to apply for college, Mitch said.

"If you're doing good as a student but you've got nobody who cares if you do well or not, it wears on you," Mitch said. Matthews "makes me feel I'm not alone in the situation."

Matthews is one of 150 volunteers who mentor local teens, trained by Partners for New Generations, a *Voice* Holiday Fund recipient. He's been doing it for 13 years, mentoring teens one at a time.

Mitch said he regularly meets with Matthews at Chili's restaurant. Matthews begins every meeting with, "Hey Mitch, how's the grades?" On Monday they went Christmas shopping together.

"I've been mentoring young black men," Matthews said. "A lot of them are not even aware of what black professionals are doing, black families are doing. They see black athletes and entertainers, but a State Farm Insurance Agent? It's like, where does this come from?"

The problems are sometimes simple. "Sometimes they put too many things on their plate," Matthews explains. "Sometimes you have to take certain things off your plate to get what you want."

A mentee's problems can range from a lack of focus to full blown crisis. Matthews saw one mentee abandoned by his mother and another who was the only person in his household with a job. The situations are sometimes too much

for Matthews' mentoring to overcome, but he continues because the students do benefit from it, whether or not those benefits are something tangible, like going to college.

The goal outlined for mentors in the program is not to shape a mentee to the mentor's values, but to simply show that they care about the teen.

"The teachers are trying to help them but they just can't take on each kid as an individual, there are too many," Matthews said. The kids "just want somebody to pay attention to what they are doing."

Among the program's success stories is Pulitzer Prize winner Antonio Vargas, who was a mentee of Rich Fisher, his principal at Mountain View High School. Matthews has seen several of his mentees go on to college. For many, it's a big deal just to graduate high school.

Anytime Mitch feels like giving up on applying to colleges, Matthews urges him to get through it, telling him stories about his own life and times when it seemed like it was raining one day but he remained hopeful the sun would shine the next day. "He pushes me to do my best," Mitch said.

Mitch said he's planning to study software engineering and minor in music, and hopefully be able to combine the two interests in a career creating software for musicians.

More information about the program, which is always seeking new mentors, can be found at pngmvla.org. ■

How to Give

Your gift helps children and others in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible, and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year *Voice* readers contributed nearly \$49,000, up significantly from the prior year. With an additional \$20,000 from the Wakerly Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the total raised was almost \$69,000, or nearly \$10,000 for each of the seven participating nonprofit agencies supported by the Holiday Fund.

No administrative costs are deducted from the

gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies listed here.



This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

■ PARTNERS FOR NEW GENERATIONS

Trains volunteer mentors who work with local youth in education and community programs.

■ THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL

Serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

■ MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTACARE CLINIC

Provides uninsured community residents with medical care and medications, and is frequently the last resort for this under-served clientele.

■ DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. Serves 50 or more workers per day with job-matching, English lessons and guidance.

■ THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR BATTERED WOMEN

Operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline, a safe shelter for women and their children, and offers counseling and other services for families facing this problem.

■ COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS

Provides hands-on, skill-building art and music curriculum tied to state standards at Mountain View Whisman district elementary schools. Over 50 percent of the district's students are low-income, and nearly 40 percent have limited English proficiency.

■ COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW AND LOS ALTOS

Assists working poor families, homeless and seniors with short-term housing and medical care and other services.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Navy trying to skirt Moffett obligations

After stone-walling for years and finally avoiding primary responsibility for replacing the toxic siding on Hangar 1, the United States Navy is once again trying to weasel out of its responsibility to clean up the toxic underground waste left behind when it turned Moffett Field over to NASA in 1994.

This time around, the TCE-laced groundwater flowing under Moffett and into adjacent Mountain View neighborhoods could potentially harm NASA personnel and others who work in the some 60 affected buildings at the base. The Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco office says it is the Navy's job to make sure that toxic vapors from the underground plumes of TCE (trichloroethylene) do not leak into the basements of these buildings and cause potential harm to the occupants.

But like it has done before, the Navy is now simply trying to dodge responsibility for the toxic threat even though it clearly was in charge when the plume was created, long before NASA took control of Moffett. In those days, the toxic material was dumped out the back door of many Moffett buildings, where the chemical was used as a solvent to clean aircraft, among other things. Early computer companies used it in manufacturing on the other side of the plume across Highway 101.

But now, there is a concerted effort led by the EPA to clean up the base and make it safe for current workers and future tenants. The Superfund site created at Moffett is one of the largest in the country and while the Navy has already spent millions of dollars on the project, much is left to do. The Navy should give up any idea that it can shirk its responsibility at Moffett.

In recent communications with the EPA, the Navy claims that NASA should deal with the vapors that come up through the ground and into the buildings at Moffett. The EPA has drawn up a list of 34 buildings that are affected, including one that is known to have high levels of fumes and needs mitigation. The other 33 should be tested, according to the EPA.

If an unacceptable volume of fumes is found to be seeping into the buildings, the EPA says the Navy will need to retrofit them with a ventilation system or vapor barrier similar to what has been installed in some homes in the Whisman Station neighborhood.

This is important work and if not completed soon could impact the safety of Moffett employees who work in these buildings. The Navy should not be permitted to arbitrarily opt out of cleaning up the mess it left behind at Moffett Field.

An EPA spokesman told the *Voice* last week that the Navy ultimately will lose its effort to hand off this job to NASA. He said the EPA has the final say, and if there is no resolution locally the problem eventually will go to top EPA administrator Lisa Jackson in Washington. If that is what it takes to get the Navy to recognize its duty at Moffett, we support Ms. Jackson and the EPA 100 percent. NASA has already taken on enough of the Navy's problems, in particular the restoration of Hangar One. It has no money left to cover the Navy's obligation to protect workers from toxic vapors coming from chemicals released under Navy oversight years ago.

■ GUEST OPINION VOICE FROM THE COMMUNITY

Arborist makes case for keeping Annex intact

By Heather Ellison

I am deeply concerned about plans to convert a large portion of the Cuesta Park Annex to a flood basin. My understanding is that in doing so, many of the historic trees in the Annex will be destroyed, along with the critical habitat, natural beauty, and numerous benefits that they provide to the wildlife and to the community of Mountain View.

Though I no longer live in Mountain View, I was born at El Camino Hospital and spent my entire childhood in the city. My family lived on Lola Lane, just blocks from Cuesta Park and its Annex, and I spent much of my childhood playing among the trees in its orchard.

I didn't realize it at the time, but

looking back I am acutely aware of what a rare opportunity the Cuesta Park Annex gave me and the many other children who played there. The orchard provided many unique experiences to us — the chance for suburban children to play among wild birds, and other wildlife; to sit quietly and enjoy the peace of the trees and plants; to play in the tree house that had been built in an almond tree by children long before us, and to spend time in a place that was largely left to nature, an opportunity that is rarely found in a suburban environment. While I spent many happy days enjoying Cuesta Park itself, there was always something special and unique about the Annex and its wildness

► See *ARBORIST*, page 13

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SAD TO SEE CITY MANAGER DEPARTING

The day Kevin Duggan retires will be one of the saddest days in the history of Mountain View.

This great city would never have achieved any greatness if it was not for Kevin. He's been an icon in my book; and is definitely one of the most modest, and honest, human beings that I've ever had the honor of calling a friend.

Mr. Duggan: thank you for your great service. You truly will be missed.

**Kalwant Sandhu, member
Human Relations Commission**

► See *LETTERS*, page 13

MONEY-LOSING HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PROJECTS

We should be teaching our kids common sense and math in school, right? So, let's run some simple numbers on the solar panels at Mountain View and Los Altos high schools. This will show that those \$7 million in taxpayer bond money was wasted, and that solar power is a huge money loser for taxpayers.

Total borrowing: \$7 million (not counting school district administrative expenses, which



ARBORIST

► Continued from page 12

that I simply could not have found anywhere else.

The orchard at the Annex also gave me with a rare sense of place and of the living history of my hometown that I was able to experience directly. The trees are the last stand of the legacy of orchards on which the City of Mountain View prospered and grew. With the construction of the Y.M.C.A. behind Cuesta Park, and the ever-expanding built environment, nearly all of the historic orchards have been destroyed. With the loss of the Annex trees, children growing up in Mountain View will have no way to experience their city's history except through the pages of books. While new trees can be planted, the history that lives in these trees can never be replaced.

On a personal level, the Cuesta Park Annex has shaped the course of my life immensely. My experiences there began a life-long love of trees and an appreciation for nature in the urban environment. Today as an adult, I work as a certified arborist and urban forester. I often have the chance to meet urban youth who have not had the access to nature that I was lucky to have as a child in Mountain View. I see the effect it has had on them, and at the same time the sense of wonder and new-found commitment to their communities that it engenders in those few who are able to work through our youth program.

I have come to realize the importance of hands-on access to the natural environment in the ongoing

struggle towards a more sustainable future. In this day and age of global warming and ever-increasing stress on our natural resources, it is vital that our communities have access to natural spaces that not only provide critical habitat to its native wildlife, and an important resource for the community, but also serve as a reminder of the importance of the natural world and inspire future generations to work towards its preservation.

The benefits of trees and open space in urban and suburban communities are numerous, and among them is trees' ability to dramatically reduce the amount of storm water run-off, decreasing the need for floodwater retention systems. Removing trees and open space to build a flood basin to deal with storm water that is largely the result of removing trees and open space seems counter-intuitive. While the importance of protecting homes from the potential of floods is undeniable, it is my sincere belief that the immense environmental, historic, economic, and social benefits of the Cuesta Park Annex are such that other solutions to the flooding potential should be strongly considered before destroying this valuable and irreplaceable community resource.

It is with deep regret that I was not able to attend the Nov. 29 meeting with the Santa Clara Water District to share my thoughts in person, but I am hopeful that this letter will help in the effort to save this valuable community resource.

Heather Ellison is certified arborist and a former Mountain View resident. She now lives in San Francisco.

LETTERS

► Continued from page 12

could be considerable.)

Taxpayer interest on 20-year bonds (assuming 3.5 percent): \$245,000 per year.

Projected electricity savings: \$250,000 per year.

Net payback: \$5,000 per year. The projected income just covers bond interest payments.

Maintenance and depreciation: \$??? per year, but let's just say a very conservative \$350,000 per year, assuming an optimistic

20-year lifetime. A 10-year lifetime is more realistic for solar cells.

Adjusted net payback: minus \$345,000 per year. Yikes!

In short, those solar panels are huge money losers from day one. They'll never even pay off the interest on the bonds, let alone the principal. They are just very expensive carports. Guess who is stuck with the expense? We are. The money would have been far better spent in classroom improvements, the original intent of the bond issue.

Lesson to students: With-

out massive government subsidies, solar power (and other green power technologies except maybe for wind power) are not economically viable. Avoid any green jobs, and get jobs with real net paybacks because, in the long run, those green subsidies will go away and you will lose your subsidized jobs. The same thing happened with nuclear power in the 1950s and 1960s. Learn from history and your own research, not from your school administrators.

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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

RESTAURANT REVIEW

MOVIE TIMES

BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



Baklava's beyti kebab, made with ground beef, is like a tangy, chewy lasagna.

VIVIAN WONG

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Tasty Turkish fare

BAKLAVA'S NEW PALO ALTO LOCATION FEATURES FINE CUISINE AND CHIC DECOR

By Dale F. Bentson

Mediterranean cuisine has long been a local restaurant favorite. Downtown Palo Alto has its fair share: oak-fired rotisserie and grilled lamb chops; pasta and pizza places; wraps, kebabs, falafels and gyros. It all runs the gamut from quick eats to sit-down extravaganzas. The newest entry is Baklava, an upscale sit-down Turkish restaurant on Emerson Street.

Ilker "Iliano" Yuksel was vacationing in the Bay Area with his mother in 1999 and thought the region presented more opportunities than in his native Turkey. He stayed. Working his way through

local Turk-owned Italian restaurants, he was quickly up to speed on the nuances of Bay Area restaurant-teering. He had a head start, having grown up in the restaurant business in northern Turkey.

Noting the dearth of Turkish eateries in the area, in 2005 Yuksel opened Cafe Baklava Mediterranean Grill on Castro Street in Mountain View. Using mom's recipes, he specialized in eastern Mediterranean plates. In June, he leveraged his success and opened in Palo Alto in a space that has housed a variety of Tex-Mex and Asian restaurants over the years, most recently Bistro d'Asie.

Decor at the Palo Alto Baklava has the feel of a contemporary Istanbul



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VIVIAN WONG

Shredded phyllo dough baked with a thin layer of cheese, makes the Kunefe, a syrup-doused dessert.

restaurant minus the views of the Bosphorus. The wood-raftered ceiling mimics the hardwood floors, while a stone-topped bar lines one wall under teardrop pendant lights. The opposite wall has a long banquettes beneath a hand-painted mural. There are booths and linen-lined tables as well. In pleasant weather, articulated doors open to al fresco curbside dining. It's a cozy, inviting interior.

Turkish cuisine is a synthesis of Central Asian, Middle Eastern, Balkan and Mediterranean. Like most cuisines, Turkish was forged by history and geography, and passionate and inventive chefs.

Baklava's menu varies somewhat from lunch to dinner. At midday, there are burgers and wraps; at dinner, more grilled meats and entrees. Both menus offer a variety of salads and mezes: small-dish appetizers. I'll focus on the dinner menu for this report.

First off, the complimentary warm pita bread with sun-dried tomato sauce could be seriously addicting. It was challenging not to fill up before any courses were served.

For starters, I found the baba ghanoush (\$7) fresh, tangy and appetizing. The eggplant had been charcoal-grilled, then mashed and mixed with tahini oil, yogurt, garlic and extra-virgin olive oil.

Sigara boregi (\$8) were four deep-fried cylinders of phyllo dough stuffed with feta cheese, potatoes and parsley. The "cigars" were crisp and fryer-hot, dense and flavorful.

Saksuka (\$7) is a classic Turkish meze made with fried eggplant and potatoes, grilled peppers, tomato and onions. Baklava's noteworthy version was served with an amped-up garlic cacik (yogurt cucumber) sauce.

Composed of skewered and flame-broiled spicy ground beef mixed with green bell peppers, the adana kebab (\$13) was a long thin brochette of meat. Although there were more subtle spices in the tasty mix, it was cumin and coriander that lingered on the tongue.

My favorite dish was the Beyti kebab (\$17). Flame-broiled, seasoned ground beef was wrapped in thin lavash bread then topped with both a marinara sauce and a light garlic-yogurt sauce. The dish was

similar to a meat-filled lasagna but a tad chewier because of the lavash, and tangier because of the yogurt. The portion was generous and the flavors multi-layered.

The ground lamb moussaka (\$17) with grilled eggplant, fresh tomato and green bell pepper, topped with béchamel sauce was piping hot, robust and irresistible.

Tavuk shish kebab (\$13) is marinated chunks of chicken breast, skewered with peppers and onions and flame-broiled. The chicken was moist and melt-in-the-mouth tender. The word "skewered" appears often on the Baklava menu but foods are taken off the skewers before being served. Diners need not worry about coaxing reluctant utensils.

The combo kebab (\$17) consisted of adana kebab (beef), kuzu kebab (lamb) and tavuk shish kebab (chicken). Lots of tender meat on this dish: a good way to try all the meat options at once.

Long-grained basmati rice pilaf accompanied most entrees, and vegetables were fresh but redundant — the same bell pepper, broccoli and various squashes graced nearly every plate. I realize that the cook-



VIVIAN WONG

Owner Iker "Iliano" Yuksel holds Turkish bread and olive oil.

ing process of skewering limits the possibilities. Nonetheless, there was a tedium to the presentation, especially with the grilled meats.

Desserts? Baklava (\$7), of course. The phyllo-dough pastry filled with nuts was sweet, but not overly. Four big pieces per order, plenty for two. I suppose there is such a thing as bad baklava, but my uneducated Turkish palate probably can't tell much difference between superb and just pretty good baklava. This tasted good to me.

But then, I knew the kunefe (\$7) was a sensational dessert as soon as the waiter brought it to the table. Two layers of shredded, then baked phyllo dough were filled with a thin layer of

► See **BAKLAVA**, page 16

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BAKLAVA

► Continued from page 15

cheese, and served in a puddle of house-made syrup and sprinkled with pistachio nuts. The quasi-cake was aromatic and artistic, crisp and flavor-packed, sweet but not cloying.

The wine list leans heavily on California but there is representation from around the world. One evening, we ordered a Turkish red wine, Kavikidere Kalecik Boregi (\$55 regularly, \$27.50 on special)

from the central Anatolia region. The ruby-colored wine was light, well-balanced and fruity with a wisp of cocoa-vanilla on the nose. It paired perfectly with the food.

Baklava is also running a great special on wines into 2011: half-price on every full bottle on the menu Sunday through Thursday.

With so many ethnic food choices in downtown Palo Alto, I hope Baklava doesn't get lost in the shuffle. The food is well-prepared, fresh, healthy and nicely presented. The decor is contemporary and the ambiance lively, and that great wine deal makes a visit worthwhile. ▣

■ DINING NOTES

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MOVIE REVIEWS

BLACK SWAN ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Longtime ballet ensemble player Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman) covets the leading dual role in a high-scale New York ballet production of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake." Though she has the attention of Balanchine-inspired artistic director Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel) — or is that the "attentions"? — he vocally questions her ability to play both the innocent White Swan and the sinful Black Swan. Leroy takes the leap of casting Nina, seemingly to stroke his own ego as he creates a star, and to take advantage of her gratitude. "Perfection is not just about control," he purrs. "It's also about letting go." Letting go is, of course, dangerously close to coming unhinged, as Nina steadily does over the course of the film. *Rated R for strong sexual content, disturbing violent images, language and some drug use. One hour, 48 minutes.* — P.C.

I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS ★★★

(Aquarius) Jim Carrey plays real-life convicted felon Steven Russell who, on his first stint in jail, falls in love at first sight with fellow inmate Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor). The story just gets weirder as it goes along, with Russell pulling jaw-dropping legal chicanery and multiple prison escapes, all in the name of love for Morris. The narrative bite and twisted, even cruel humor suit the true-crime elements, but also balance what's at heart — a story of the extremes to which people will go for all-consuming love. *Rated R for sexual content including strong dialogue, and language. One hour, 34 minutes.* — P.C.

THE KING'S SPEECH ★★★ 1/2

(Palo Alto Square) Colin Firth stutters, sweats and swears his way through British history — and to a certain Oscar nomination for best actor — in director Tom Hooper's blue-blood biopic of the man who would be King George VI. Firth conveys the man's resolve and his unwavering sense of duty and service to England. Public speaking is a requirement, so he and his wife (Helena Bonham Carter) seek a stuttering cure. The heart of what could have been a too-proper period piece comes in the form of the relationship between the prickly prince and a congenial Australian commoner, the unorthodox speech therapist Lionel Logue, played by Geoffrey Rush. *Rated: R for some language. 1 hour, 41 minutes.* — S.T.

MOVIE CRITICS

R.P.-Renata Polt, S.T.-Susan Tavernetti, P.C. Peter Canavese, T.H.-Tyler Hanley

MOVIE REVIEWS

Read more reviews online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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MOVIE TIMES

- 127 Hours (R) ★★★ Aquarius Theatre:** 3, 5:15, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.
Century 20: 8:50 p.m.
- All Good Things (R) Guild Theatre:** 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
- Andy Hardy Meets Debutante (1940) Stanford Theatre:** Sat.-Mon. at 5:50 & 9:10 p.m.
- Black Swan (R) ★★★ Century 16:** 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.; 1:05, 2:25, 3:45, 5:05, 7:10, 8:10 & 10:45 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 12:55, 2:15, 3:35, 5, 6:10, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.
- Burlesque (PG-13) Century 16:** 10:05 a.m.; 3:35 & 9:10 p.m.
Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2:20, 5:10, 8 & 10:40 p.m.
- Charulata (1964) Stanford Theatre:** Fri. at 7:30 p.m.
- The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) Century 16:** 10:45 a.m.; 1:40, 4:35, 7:25 & 10:25 p.m.; In 3D Sat.-Tue. at 10:15 a.m.; 1, 3:55, 6:50 & 9:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:20, 3:05, 5:50 & 8:35 p.m.; In 3D at 11:05 a.m.; 1:45, 4:25, 7:10 & 9:50 p.m.
- Fair Game (PG-13) ★★ 1/2 Century 16:** 10:15 p.m.
Century 20: 2:25 & 7:45 p.m.
- The Fighter (R) Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 12:55, 1:55, 3:40, 4:40, 6:40, 7:40, 9:40 & 10:40 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Thu. at 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. also at 2:35, 5:20, 8:05 & 10:45 p.m.
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows: Part 1 (PG-13) ★★★ 1/2 Century 16:** 11:50 a.m.; 3:25 & 7 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:25, 3:40, 6:55 & 10:05 p.m.
- How Do You Know (PG-13) Century 16:** 10:20 & 11:20 a.m.; 1:10, 2:10, 4:10, 5:10, 7:30, 8:30 & 10:45 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Thu. at 11:15 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. also at 12:40, 3:30, 6:20 & 9:15 p.m.
- I Love You Phillip Morris (R) ★★★ Aquarius Theatre:** 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m.
- Inside Job (PG-13) ★★★ 1/2 Century 16:** 9:55 p.m.
- The King's Speech (R) ★★★ 1/2 CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 1:30, 3, 4:20, 5:55, 7:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10 p.m.
- Little Fockers (PG-13) Century 20:** Wed. & Thu. at 11:30 a.m.; 2:10, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m.
- Love & Other Drugs (R) Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 5:05 & 10:20 p.m.
- Mahanagar (1963) Stanford Theatre:** Fri. at 5 & 9:40 p.m.
- Megamind (PG) ★★ 1/2 Century 16:** 10:10 a.m. **Century 20:** 11:55 a.m.
- The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) Guild Theatre:** Sat. at midnight.
- The Shop Around the Corner (1940) Stanford Theatre:** Tue.-Thu. at 7:30 p.m.
- The Social Network (PG-13) ★★★ 1/2 Century 16:** 10 p.m.
Century 20: 9:45 p.m.
- Sun Valley Serenade (1941) Stanford Theatre:** Sat.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 4:10 p.m.
- Tangled (PG) ★★★ Century 16:** In 3D Sat.-Tue. at 10 a.m.; 12:30, 3:20, 6:20 & 9 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35 & 7:20 p.m.; In 3D at 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:10 & 10:35 p.m.
- The Tourist (PG-13) ★ 1/2 Century 16:** 11:40 a.m.; 12:50, 2:20, 4:50, 6:30, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:40, 2:55, 4:10, 6:50, 8:15 & 9:35 p.m.
- Tron: Legacy (PG) Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 2, 5, 8 & 10:50 p.m.; In 3D at noon, 3:30, 7 & 10:20 p.m.; In 3D Fri. also at 2 & 5 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Thu. at 10:45 a.m.; 1:50, 4:45, 7:50 & 10:45 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 1, 4, 7 & 10 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Tue. also at 11:30 a.m.; 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
- True Grit (PG-13) Century 20:** Tue. at 12:01 a.m.; Wed. & Thu. at 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:15 p.m.
- Unstoppable (PG-13) ★★ Century 20:** 12:10, 5:35 & 10:40 p.m.
- The Wizard of Oz (1939) (G) Stanford Theatre:** Tue.-Thu. at 5:35 & 9:20 p.m.
- Yogi Bear (PG) Century 16:** 10 a.m.; 12:10, 2:30, 4:55 & 7:20 p.m.; In 3D Sat.-Tue. at 10:50 a.m.; 1:20, 3:50, 6:35 & 8:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:10, 4:25, 6:40 & 8:55 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 10:55 a.m.; 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55 & 10:10 p.m.

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

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 Choir and orchestra present Bach's Gloria In Excelsis Deo

★ 10:30 p.m. - Holy Communion by Candlelight
 Music for choir, organ & orchestra by Bach, Nystedt & others
 Katherine McKee, Director; Andrew Chislett, Organist

Both early and late worship services include congregational singing
 of traditional carols.

December 25, 10:30 a.m. - Worship - Holy Communion
 Congregational Carol Singing; Andrew Chislett, Organist ★

A Touch of Christmas



Dec. 10, Advent/Christmas Festival for all Ages
 Dec. 24, 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
 Everyone Welcome



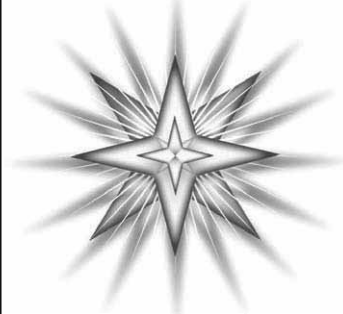
First Presbyterian Church
mountain view

1667 Miramonte at the
 corner of Cuesta in Mountain View
 650.968.4473
www.FPCMV.org



CHRISTMAS EVE: 5-6:30PM
 NEW YEAR'S EVE: 7-9:00PM
 (visit our website for details)

Come celebrate the season with us.



Peninsula Bible Church
 3505 Middlefield Road Palo Alto 94306
www.pbc.org

★ St. Paul Lutheran
 Church
 Missouri Synod


WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US
 THIS CHRISTMAS!

COME, CELEBRATE WITH US
 THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD AND
 SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

CHRISTMAS EVE
 6:00 PM CHOIR CANTATA
 6:30 PM CAROLS & WORSHIP
 CHRISTMAS DAY - 10:00 AM

1075 El Monte Ave., Mountain View
 650-967-0666 www.st-paul.org





**ST. MARK'S
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 PALO ALTO**

CHRISTMAS EVE

❖ 4:00 pm *Children's
 Christmas Pageant
 & Communion*


❖ 10:00 pm *Festive Choral
 Christmas Eve
 Holy Communion
 beginning with Carols*

CHRISTMAS DAY

❖ 10:00 pm *Holy Communion
 with Carols*

600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto
 (650) 326-3800
www.saint-marks.com

Grace Lutheran Church ELCA
living in God's amazing grace
 3149 Waverley Street • Palo Alto, CA 94306 | 650.494.1212



Christmas Eve Friday, December 24
 4:00 pm | 6:00 pm | 11:00 pm
 Candlelight Worship & Communion

Christmas Day Saturday, December 25
 10:00 am Carols & Lessons

www.gracepa.org

**Los Altos Lutheran
 Church**

12/19-9:00 AM: Worship with
 Children's Christmas Play

12/19-2:00 PM: Christmas Festival! The
 community is invited to join us for crafts,
 festive activities, and Christmas goodies

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 PM and 7:30 PM: *Festive
 traditional services with Children's
 Message, Choir and Handbells*

Christmas Day Service 10:00 AM:
*Friendly Christmas morning service
 with story and song*

We invite you to celebrate with us the
 wonder of the birth of Christ

460 South El Monte at Cuesta
 650-948-3012 - www.losaltoslutheran.org

JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE...

You are invited to celebrate Christmas Eve with us on
 Friday, December 24.

Child-Friendly Services
 4 p.m.* and 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight Service
 7 p.m.



OPEN DOOR CHURCH
 1667 Miramonte Avenue in Mountain View
 650.330.7525 | www.odcmv.org * child care available

Bridges
 COMMUNITY CHURCH

Christmas Eve Service
 "Letters At Christmas" - 6:00PM

Sunday, December 26th
 9:00 Praise Service
 10:45 Modern Service

625 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos 94024
 Located between I-280 & Foothill Expwy

WWW.ConnectBCC.org
 650-948-5698



Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Holiday concert featuring ensemble groups of Merit Scholars from the Community School of Music and Arts. Dec. 17, 7-8 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend

ART GALLERIES

"San Francisco Views" Viewpoints Gallery features "San Francisco Views: Oil Paintings by Diana Jaye" Nov. 29 - Dec. 31, 2011. Viewpoints, 315 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-322-0148.

Chiaroscuro Woodcuts from 16th-Century Italy: Promised Gifts from the Kirk Long Collection Drawn entirely from the collection of Kirk Edward Long, this display traces the evolution of thematic and compositional styles in Italy from the High Renaissance through Mannerism. Through Feb. 27, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

English Cathedrals Pacific Art League: Norton Gallery (upstairs) Dec. 1-31: English Cathedrals, Black & White Photographs by John Eaton. Featuring photographs from several of the greatest medieval English Cathedrals together with a brief architectural history and 19th century pen-and-ink floor-plan of each cathedral. Free. Pacific Art League, Norton Gallery, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-3891. www.pacificartleague.org

Fletcher Benton- Dynamic Rhythms SAE presents Dynamic Rhythms, a series of steel studies, maquettes and wall pieces by Fletcher Benton, a Bay Area artist with an international reputation. The exhibit features 13 sculptures ranging in size from 5 inches to 6 feet and 9 wall pieces, all from the years 1995-2010. Through Jan. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Smith Andersen Editions, 440 Pepper Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-327-7762. www.smithandersen.com

Mami Wata The exhibition highlights both traditional and contemporary images of Mami Wata and her consorts from across the African continent, as well as from the Caribbean, Brazil and the

United States. It offers a variety of media including masks, sculptures and paintings. Through Jan. 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/

The New Contemporary Gallery When the museum reopened in 1999 as the Cantor Arts Center, the top floor of its new wing was devoted to art of the past four decades. Since then, more than 750 works of European and American art in diverse media have been added to the contemporary collection. Opens Dec. 15, 2010, then ongoing. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

Views of San Francisco December featured artist Diana Jaye will exhibit oil paintings of San Francisco during December. Jay's work is mostly plain Air and includes scenes from the Arboretum to Land's End and cityscapes of downtown San Francisco. Visit Jaye at the gallery Dec. 3, 18, and 29. The gallery closes 3pm Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

AUDITIONS

Silicon Valley Boychoir Auditions For boys ages 6-12 who love to sing. SVB rehearses after school in downtown Palo Alto. Boys are placed in a level based on their skills and experience. The choir is taught by Julia Simon who specializes in training the voices of boys and young men. Jan. 8, 10 a.m. Free audition, semester fee. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. www.svboychoir.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Basic CPR, AED & First Aid CPR, AED and First Aid training. Learn to assist unconscious vic-

tim, recognize heart attack and stroke symptoms. Learn CPR compression, manage blocked airways for infant, child & adult, & recovery positions. Sundays, Nov. 7-Dec. 19, 2-5 p.m. \$49 Palo Alto San Antonio, 862 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-0204. www.allcareplus.org

Free Holiday Decoration Demo To celebrate the Holidays, Accent Arts is holding a Holiday Decoration demo featuring Origami and other paper craft ornaments and tabletop decorations. Dec. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Accent Arts, 392 S California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-424-1044. www.accentarts.com

CLUBS/MEETINGS

SPAUG General Meeting SPAUG General Meeting Stanford-Palo Alto User Group meets monthly to discuss problems, solutions, software and hardware. Learn more about computing, meet fellow computer users. Get help and advice from experienced users. Second Wednesday of the month, ongoing, 7-9:30 p.m. first meeting free, \$35/year. American Legion Post, 347 First St., Los Altos. Call 650-493-9307. www.svuga.org/

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Come to the Stable Living Nativity on the E. Meadow lawn at Covenant Presbyterian Church, December 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Seasonal music. Canned food donations benefiting South Palo Alto Food Closet are welcome. Dec. 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Covenant Presbyterian Church, 670 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. Call 650-494-1760. CovenantPresbyterian.net

Gourmet Vegetarian Dinners The Peninsula Macrobiotic Community serves a Gourmet Veg-

eterian Dinner every Monday (except holidays), 6:30 p.m. Full vegan meal includes soup, grain, beans or bean products, vegetables, dessert, and beverage. Reserve by Mon 9:30 a.m. \$15. First Baptist Church, 305 N California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-599-3320. peninsulamacro.org

CONCERTS

Aurora Singers Present 'A Very Cool Yule' Taking an upbeat approach to the winter holidays, Palo Alto's Aurora Singers will present "A Very Cool Yule," featuring "A Little Jazz Mass," Steve Allen's jazzy "Cool Yule," "Big Band Santa" and a jazzy waltz version of "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen." Dec. 18, 7-9 p.m. \$9. Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. www.aurorasingers.net

BIG BACH for the New Year James Welch presents the annual New Year's Eve concert at St. Mark's. Concert includes several Bach works for organ: Fantasia in G; Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue in C; Passacaglia in C minor, plus seasonal works by French Baroque and Romantic composers. Performed on the organ with 4,568 pipes. Dec. 31, 8-9 p.m. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9700. welchorganist.com

Cornell University Glee Club The Cornell University Glee Club appears at Stanford as part of their California tour. Jan. 7, 8 p.m. Free. Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

David Broza Israeli artist David Broza plays urban folk rock. Dec. 18, 8-10 p.m. \$50-\$60. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. <http://www.paloaltojcc.org>

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra The concert is to celebrate Ludwig van Beethoven's 240th Birthday and to feature MIT professor and pianist David Deveau. Conducted by PACO music director, Benjamin Simon, the program includes Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major and Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral). Dec. 18, 8 p.m. \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 students Eagle Theatre, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. pacomusic.org

The Gryphon Carolers 2010 Holiday Concert The Gryphon Carolers and All Stars, featuring Ed Johnson and Carol McComb, perform holiday music Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Premium \$25/\$18 seniors/children, General Admission \$15/\$10 seniors & children. Spangenberg Theatre at Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. www.gryphoncarolers.com

DANCE

"Winter Fairy Tale" A magician's book brings to life a forest fairy tale. A ballet in classic Russian style. Dec. 18, 5-5 p.m. \$28-\$23. Mountain View Center for The Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-9971. <http://bayerballetacademy.com>

Affordable New Years Eve Singles Bash Includes dancing, party hats and favors. Adults of all ages welcome. Dressy attire recommended. Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Sheraton Hotel, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 415-507-9962. www.thepartyhotline.com

Ballroom Dancing - New Year's Eve Party Waltz will be taught at the New Year's Eve Dance Party Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Beginning & intermediate lessons, no experience or partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. w/ dance demos, games, prizes, gifts, food, midnight toast, toys. Singles/couples welcome. Casual/dressy. \$20. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930. www.readybyte.com/fridaynightdance

Latin Dance Fusion Workout Steps from many genres are folded into easy-to-follow combinations. Move to flamenco, cha-cha, cumbia, swing, merengue, salsa, samba, middle eastern, or other Latin dances. Wear athletic shoes/clothing and bring an exercise mat. Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. \$10. Los Altos American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos. Call 650-948-1484.

Vintage Ballroom Dance Dance to authentic arrangements of music from the 1900s to 1930s: Grand March, Tango, Foxtrot, Waltz, One Step, Two Step, Charleston, mixers, and more. Dressy attire; vintage dress admired but not required. Sundays, 4-6:30 p.m. \$20. Palo Alto Masonic Center, 461 Florence St., Palo Alto. www.PaulPriceOrchestra.com

ENVIRONMENT

Plant Oaks and More Plant oaks and other California natives on the "dish" hill. Dec. 18-25, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. The Dish, Stanford. Call 650-323-7333. www.ecomagic.org

EXHIBITS

"Celebrating Mexico" Exhibition commemorates the bicentennial of Mexico's independence from Spain and the centennial of the Mexican Revolution. Books, manuscripts, movie posters, photographs, and other materials from the collections of the Stanford University Libraries illustrate

► See CALENDAR, page 20

Inspirations

A Guide to the Spiritual Community

Los Altos Lutheran Church
ELCA


Pastor David K. Bonde
Outreach Pastor Gary Berkland

9:00 am Worship
10:30 am Education
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www.losaltoslutheran.org

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MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTRAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Services: Worship 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Study Groups: 10-11 a.m.





Pastor Kenny Fraser, B.A.M. DIV

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www.mtviewda.adventistfaith.org Phone: 650-967-2189



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CALENDAR

► Continued from page 19

key events in Mexico's history. Through Jan. 16, Free. Peterson Gallery, Green Library Bing Wing, Stanford University. Call 650-725-1020. library.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg/latinam/celebmex/

Cabinet of Curiosities What do a silicon crystal, a 3,000 year old cuneiform tablet and an 18th century slide rule have in common? They are all treasures from local collectors and will be on display in MOAH's upcoming exhibit, "Cabinet of Curiosities." Dec. 3-May 1, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

Haiti Works Documentary photography of rural Haiti, a mountain zone just above the epicenter of

the Jan. 12 earthquake. Works by Stanford alum, Marie Josee Mont-Reynaud. Dec. 21-Jan. 28, 5-7 p.m. Free. St. Mark's Parish Hall, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-858-1558.

Holiday Bells & Whistles: Exhibit of electric trains, meccano models, and holiday quilts. Through Jan. 2, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. www.losaltoshistory.org

Pancakes, Coffee and Heroic Actions Exhibition of drawings and paintings by artist Norm Rosenberger. Opening reception and artist talk on Friday, Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Mohr Gallery, Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800 ext. 306. www.arts4all.org/attend

Stanford Art Spaces - Stanford University Textile Art by Alice Beasley, paintings and pastels by James Su, and paintings and

charcoal drawings by John A. Sundstrom are on exhibit at the Paul G. Allen (C.I.S.) Art Spaces Gallery. Through Jan. 20, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Stanford Art Spaces, Paul G. Allen (C.I.S.) 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 650-725-3622. cis.stanford.edu/~marigros

FAMILY AND KIDS

Festival of Trees Lytton's 5th Annual Festival of Trees will begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18. View 14 festively decorated trees with varying themes. 4-6 p.m. Free. Lytton Gardens Senior Communities, 437 Webster St., Palo Alto. Call 650-328-3300. www.lyttongardens.org

The Tutoring Center Open House The Tutoring Center Mountain View Open House December 11 and 18. The Tutoring Center offers unique research-based rotational approach to Learning(TM) combined with one-to-one instructions in math, reading and writing. 10 a.m.-5

p.m. Free. The Tutoring Center Open House, 1350 Grant Road #11B, Mountain View. Call 650-396-7680. www.tutoringcenter.com

LIVE MUSIC

David Broza Israeli musician David Broza performs urban folk rock. Dec. 18, 8-10 p.m. \$50-\$60. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. www.paloaltojcc.org/arts

Hot Club of Palo Alto The Hot Club of Palo Alto plays a set of acoustic swing jazz that traces its roots straight back to 30s and 40s era swing music and musicians such as Django Reinhardt, Stephan Grapelli, Charlie Christian, and Eddie Lang. Sit-in musicians welcomed. Dec. 19 and 26, 2-4 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. www.hotclubpaloalto.com

Sunday Nights at Joya Live music performances on the patio at Joya, with styles including flamenco, reggae and jazz. Every Sunday evening, 6-9 p.m. Free. Joya Restaurant & Lounge, 339 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.joyarestaurant.com

2-3 p.m., and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Children's Center, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-383-9322. www.laumc.org

Insight Meditation South Bay Shaila Chatterine and guest teachers lead a weekly Insight Meditation sitting followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. free/donation. St. Timothy's/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. www.imsb.org

SENIORS

2010 Holiday Gala An afternoon of dancing to Jerry Jay's Quartet as well as free refreshments and plenty of holiday cheer. Dec. 22, 4-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Newcomers' Group An orientation and tour of the Senior Center will include a review of classes, upcoming events, social services, and general information. Dec. 20, 2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Senior New Year's Eve Day Bash Lunch, live band, dancing and champagne. Buy pre-sale(\$13)/tickets at Lucie Stern and Cumberley Community Centers, Avenidas & Oshman Family JCC. Presented by the City of Palo Alto. Sponsored by Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and La Comida de California. Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$13 pre sale/\$18 day of (limited) Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4953. www.cityofpaloalto.org/recreation

SPECIAL EVENTS

Chopsticks Joel Chasnoff's mix of personal anecdotes and keen observational humor centers on the absurdity of modern American life. Author of "The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah." Dec. 25, 7:30 p.m. \$50-\$55. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. www.paloaltojcc.org/chopsticks

SUPPORT GROUPS

Workaholics Anonymous Weekly meeting of Workaholics Anonymous, a fellowship of individuals who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and help others to recover from workaholicism. All are welcome. Fridays, 6:15-7:15 p.m. Free. First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road (at Embarcadero), Palo Alto. Call 650-856-0343. www.workaholics-anonymous.org

TEEN ACTIVITIES

Teen Open Gym Teen Open Gyms are open every Saturday night for various sports. Middle School and High School students only; bring student ID. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Whisman Sports Center, 1500 Middlefield Road, Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410.

VOLUNTEERS

Deborah's Palm Volunteer Opportunities Deborah's Palm is a women's resource center located in downtown Palo Alto. It has many volunteer opportunities available ranging from front desk greeters, fund raising, grant writing, special events and much more. Deborah's Palm, 555 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto. www.deborahspalm.org

Stanford Cats Need Foster Homes Stanford Cat Network needs foster homes for newcomer cats to campus. For more info and to volunteer, go to the SCN website and complete the Foster Home Profile: catnet.stanford.edu/support_foster.html. Adoption fair help also needed. Opportunities ongoing. Stanford Cat Network, P.O. Box 18287, Stanford. Call 650-566-8287. catnet.stanford.edu

MORE LISTINGS

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



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<p>SATSUMA MANDERINES SEEDLESS SWEET AND TASTY \$1.49 LB.</p>	<p>GLAZE FRUIT ALMOND PASTE MINCE MEAT DIPPED APRICOTS DRIED FRUIT TRAYS</p>	<p>ORGANIC CARROTS BUNCHED OR CELLO MINI 2 FOR \$3.00</p>	<p>ORGANIC WALNUTS \$5.49 LB.</p> <p>ORGANIC ALMONDS \$4.49 LB.</p>
<p>BLACKBERRIES OR BLUBERRIES 2 BSK. \$5.00 FOR</p>	<p>ORGANIC CELERY \$1.29 BUN.</p>	<p>ITALIAN CHESTNUTS \$4.99 LB.</p>	<p>LOCAL DRIED APRICOTS \$7.99 LB.</p>
<p>ORGANIC YAMS 99¢ LB.</p>	<p>MEDJOOL DATES \$7.99 LB.</p>	<p>HOT HOUSE CUCUMBER 99¢ EA.</p>	

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OVERTIME FITNESS

Happy, Healthy Holidays

Gifts for beautifying the body, soothing stress

By Kelly Jones

For some, the holidays can be a time of stress — or over-indulgence in unhealthy goodies or activities. A gift that supports health, beauty or fitness may be just what the doctor — or Santa — ordered.

Over the holiday season, some local companies are offering discounts and gift packages for physical-fitness classes and wellness products.

For those looking to help a loved one relax or give their bodies a treat, spas offer gift certificates in a range of values and discounts on beauty products.

“We’re all about giving the gift that they truly deserve. People are so busy with their lives they don’t take the time to get a massage or a facial,” Palo Alto’s Destino Spa Director Christine Rivera said. “It’s like giving them tranquility or serenity. They can work out their knots and kinks.”

Each spa also offers its own package deals, such as Destino Spa’s “Renewal Package” for \$185, which includes an aromatic steam shower, a 40-minute “Destino Journey Massage” and a custom facial.

“We see a lot of new moms here who are overwhelmed and



Yoga teacher **Patricia Becker** demonstrates a twist pose at Avalon Art & Yoga Center.

sleep deprived. A lot of dads and husbands who come in here want to make it special for them,” Rivera said.

Spas can also offer makeovers, such as the LaBelle Day Spas and Salons’ “Special Event Glamour Package.” For \$315, the pack includes an exfoliation treatment, brow shaping and tint, lash tint, glamour makeup, manicure and pedicure, and hair styling. LaBelle has

two locations: Town & Country Village and Stanford Shopping Center.

Some people look for a more active solution to holiday stress and calorie overload, and gift certificates for fitness classes could be just what they’re seeking.

A potential stocking stuffer offered by Avalon Art & Yoga

▶ See **HEALTHY HOLIDAYS**, page 23

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Sunday: Flat Iron Steak served with mashed potatoes & vegetables

Monday: Lasagna

Tuesday: Grilled Boneless Rainbow Trout served with rice & vegetables

Wednesday: Braised Lamb Shank served with mashed potatoes & vegetables

Thursday: Choose any Pasta Dish off our menu

Nightly Dinner Specials not valid on holidays and cannot be combined with any other offer, discount or coupon. Valid at Los Altos location only.

SUNDAY BRUNCH \$9.99 (Regular price \$13.99)

Cannot be combined with any other offers, discounts or coupons. Not valid on any holidays. Valid only at Los Altos location. No cash value. Must present coupon. Expires 12/31/10.

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MARK KITAOKA

Penny Fuller and Gabriel Hoffman perform in TheatreWorks' production of "A Christmas Memory."

Shopping outside the BOX

By Sarah Trauben

Everyone has a friend who's incorrigibly difficult to shop for. Instead of wrapping another unnecessary tchotchke or resorting to a gag gift, why not give them the gift of a unique experience this holiday season?

Whether a friend is picky, humble or just well-funded, the old slogan about teaching a man how to fish might be of use. After all, everyone needs to eat. Instead of buying a gift basket of goodies, you could give them the gift of cooking skills.

The Palo Alto Adult School offers affordable cooking classes in a variety of mouthwatering genres. Upcoming courses include seafood, Thai, sushi and cooking with spirits.

Yanette Edwards, who has taught courses at the school for years, also offers at-home sessions. The sky's the limit on themes, Edwards said. She has given everything from moms and daughters cooking classes to team-building sushi workshops to tutorials for students about to enroll in college.

One option is holding a holiday baking party. With a cooking instructor's help, friends can come together to learn how to make cookies and hand off the products of their labor.

"Instead of re-gifting something for your girlfriends this year, you can give a really unique gift of skills, entertainment and your time," Edwards said.

A novel gift option is provided by Joanie King, founder and "chief scribe" at the Palo Alto-based company Rhyming Tributes (www.rhymingtributes.com). For \$250 and a list of 15 facts about the intended recipient, you get an epic poem, a rap or a familiar song (rewritten) about your friend.

"One of our slogans is 'we're not happy until you're crying,'" King said. "You can't get around being personal with this kind of gift."

For an additional fee, you can even buy a sung tribute.

If film is more a friend's bent, the Aquarius Theatre in Palo Alto and Guild Theatre in Menlo Park offer stylish gift cards; a covert way to grant your hard-to-buy-for friend a treat. The indie theaters show documentaries, art house, and foreign films, providing a dose of culture to any evening out on the town. The Stanford Theatre, which shows double features of classics from Hollywood's golden

age (complete with live pipe-organ music before and after shows) too offers gift cards for some good old-fashioned fun.

Want to add a little drama to a friend's life (in a good way)? A subscription to a local theater company might tickle the fancy of a supporter or would-be patron of the arts. Mountain View-based Theatreworks offers a gift subscription.

For \$89, the recipient can see three shows of their choice from the Theatreworks season.

"It's a lovely gift and experience at a time of year when people are struggling to decide which gifts to give," Director of Marketing Sean Kelly said.

One of the most kind things you might give a friend who "has it all" is the chance to help someone who could stand to have a bit more.

One way to help the community is to donate in honor of a gift recipient to InnVision (www.innvision.org), a local charity that provides housing, emergency services, and tools for self-sufficiency

Gift suggestions for the person that has it all

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HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

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Center is a package of 10 or 25 classes that can be purchased and given out individually. Recipients can choose which class they would like to attend as a free session, based on level of difficulty and yoga style.

“Yoga is a well rounded practice,” said Lina Chae, Avalon manager.

“Not only is it good for physical fitness, but it helps with emotional and mental well being.”

Chae recalled the time a manager came to the studio to purchase a set of classes and a yoga mat for one of her employees after learning the employee was going through tough times.

“It was one of the most thoughtful things I ever heard of,” Chae said. Rather than just giving the employee a day off, Chae saw the manager was trying to actively help.

Avalon, located on California Avenue in Palo Alto, also offers yoga mats, books, other accessories and gift cards.

For those who may be struggling with weight or nutrition, there is a holiday helper.

Greenlite Medicine is a physician-supervised weight-loss program with a location on Fairchild

Drive in Mountain View. With the Greenlite “Gift of Health Holiday Special,” clients receive a gift certificate for a personal nutrition/weight-loss consultation, body-composition analysis, weight-loss plan and a gift bag with a guide to getting started and helpful tips. The plan, which would normally cost \$150, is on sale for the holidays for \$50.

Another way to keep in shape over the holidays is a personal-trainer session at a local gym. Vivre Fitness on Emerson Street in Palo Alto is offering six TRX sessions for \$160. Classes usually consist of five to eight people and are held once a week for six weeks. Using suspension straps that hang from the ceiling, students use the resistance of the bands to build power, strength, flexibility, balance, and mobility.

With gifts that support fitness, beauty or relaxation, recipients can start the year off feeling and looking their best.

And as Rivera put it, “It’s a non-materialistic gift that people can’t re-gift.”

Editorial Intern Kelly Jones can be e-mailed at kjones@paweekly.com.

SHOPPING

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to over 26,000 needy Silicon Valley individuals and families each year. Its 26 locations provide a number of supports for struggling neighbors, including shelter, food and toy drives for children, as well as a variety of social services to help those in need.

“Our resources are limited and donations are down for many nonprofits, but we have not closed a single program and continue to serve the needs of our population,” Anne-Marie Meacham, Director of Development, said.

The website details the services each donation level funds, but you can direct your donation for the general fund or alternately designate it to a particular program.

Meacham said that a program



COURTESY OF INNVISION

Donations to local nonprofits such as InnVision help provide holiday cheer to those in need.

in particular need is the Opportunity Services Center in Palo Alto. There, homeless and at-risk people can access a wide variety of InnVision services aimed at giving them tools to make their lives more stable.

With the help of a donation in

a friend’s honor, you can together improve the lives of others who call the Peninsula home. ■

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