

# Mountain View VOICE



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| P.21

JANUARY 6, 2012 Volume 19, NO. 51

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## 2011: The year in photos



School children let their imaginations soar at Yuri's Education Day in April at Moffett Field. Voice photographer Michelle Le takes a look back at 2011 through the lens of her camera, starting on page 16.

## Kasperzak, Inks named city's mayor, vice mayor

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council's senior member, Mike Kasperzak, took the center of the council dais Tuesday after his colleagues followed tradition and unanimously elected him as mayor.

In a system where each member gets a turn for a year of running meetings, setting agendas, cutting ribbons and representing the city, Vice Mayor Kasperzak was next in line.

Council member Tom Means nominated John Inks as vice mayor, who also won in a unanimous vote.

Kasperzak gave a brief, optimistic speech, noting that the city had experienced council members at its helm and strong finances.

"We are lucky this will be the fourth year coming together for this council," he said. "This city is in a great position, we've got strong finances."

"It really does give us the resources to carry on through this economic cycle," which may be ongoing, he added.

He said his top goals would be promoting public health and civic engagement through a new online forum the city may open up. Last week Kasperzak noted interest in a new privately run



Mike Kasperzak



John Inks

## Report: Halt state funding for high-speed rail

By Gennady Sheyner

California's quest to build a high-speed rail system between San Francisco and Los Angeles suffered a heavy blow Tuesday when a peer-review committee recommended that state legislators not fund the project until major changes are made to the business plan for the increasingly controversial line.

In a scathing report, the California High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group found that the business plan the California High-Speed Rail

Authority unveiled in early November offers inadequate information about funding, fails to answer the critical question of which operating segment will be built first and features a phased-construction plan that would violate state law. The group, which is chaired by Will Kempton, recommends that the state Legislature not authorize expenditure of bond money for the project until its concerns are met.

The report deals the latest of several recent setbacks to the project, for which state voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond in 2008. Since

then, the project's price tag more than doubled and several agencies, including the Legislative Analyst's Office and Office of the State Auditor, released critical reports about the project.

High-speed rail has become particularly controversial on the Peninsula, where several grassroots groups have sprung up in the last two years to oppose it. Menlo Park, Atherton and Palo Alto had filed a lawsuit challenging the rail authority's environmental analysis and the Palo Alto City Council last month adopted as the city's official position

a call for the project's termination.

In its letter to the Legislature, the peer review group highlighted some of the same flaws that local officials and watchdogs have long complained about, most notably a deeply flawed funding plan. The project currently has about \$6 billion in committed funding and the rail authority plans to make up much of the balance from federal grants and private investments — investments that would be solicited after the first major segment of the

► See **HSR**, page 11

► See **MAYOR**, page 9

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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Nick Veronin

## What was the top story of 2011?



*"I think the biggest story from the viewpoint of Silicon Valley is probably the death of Steve Jobs."*

**Mike Mulkey**, Mountain View



*"I think the biggest story this year was the Japan tsunami."*

**Gary D. Young**, Mountain View



*"The Federal Reserve distributed almost \$8 trillion in bailout money around the world. I think without a doubt that's the biggest news story. And the fact that Congress claims that they had no idea that was going on."*

**Falleen Mintz**, San Jose



*"For me, 2011's biggest event was Steve Jobs' death. I think that changed the dynamic at Apple. I look up to that company, and that was a big event for me."*

**Vikram Dave**



*"I think the biggest problem in 2011 was the European debt crisis."*

**Steve Muller**, Sunnyvale

Have a question for [Voices Around Town](#)? Email it to [editor@mv-voice.com](mailto:editor@mv-voice.com)

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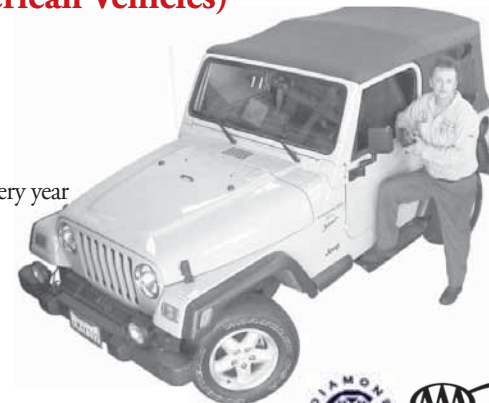


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### TV, COMPUTER TAKEN

A television and computer were taken when a home in the 900 block of Farley Street was burglarized, police said.

According to Mountain View police spokeswoman Jodie Pierce, the male victim left his home for vacation on Dec. 22; when a family member went to check on the home on Dec. 28, the front door was found open and a TV and computer were missing from inside.

### OFFICER IN ACCIDENT

The Mountain View Police Department has identified the officer that was involved in a traffic accident on Dec. 28.

Wahed Magee was driving the squad car that collided with a pickup truck at around 8:20 p.m.

on Wednesday night near the intersection of Middlefield and N. Whisman roads.

Magee was driving east on Middlefield Road in response to a call when the squad car collided with the truck, according to Jodie Pierce, a police spokeswoman. The Mountain View Fire Department responded to the accident.

Magee, the male driver of the truck and his female passenger were able to get out of their vehicles on their own. Although all three were transported to a nearby hospital, none had life-threatening injuries, Lynn Brown, a fire and police spokesman said.

All three were released from the hospital late Dec. 28, Pierce said. Neither alcohol nor drugs were a factor in the accident.

At this time police have not

confirmed which vehicle ran into which vehicle. The investigation is continuing.

### COUNTY DUI ARRESTS DOWN OVER LAST YEAR

There were 100 fewer people arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in Santa Clara County during this year's holiday crackdown compared to 2010.

From 12:01 a.m. Dec. 16 to midnight Dec. 31, officers from various law enforcement agencies in the county arrested 375 people. In 2010, there were 475 DUI arrests during the same period.

Winter Holiday Anti-DUI Crackdown arrest data collection continued through midnight Monday, Jan. 2.

### CRIME BRIEFS

### POLICE LOG

#### ASSAULT

Sherland Av. and N Whisman Rd., 12/28  
500 block E Evelyn Av., 12/29  
1300 block Marilyn Dr. 12/30  
800 block Church St., 1/1  
400 block N Shoreline Bl., 1/1

#### ROBBERY

Castro St. and W El Camino Real, 12/30

#### GRAND THEFT

2000 block Montecito Av., 1/2  
2000 block Latham St., 1/3

#### BATTERY

500 block Moorpark Wy., 1/3

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

900 block Farley St., 12/28

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

First block W El Camino Real, 12/30  
500 block W El Camino Real, 1/3

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

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300 block Higdon, 12/31  
800 block Church St., 1/1

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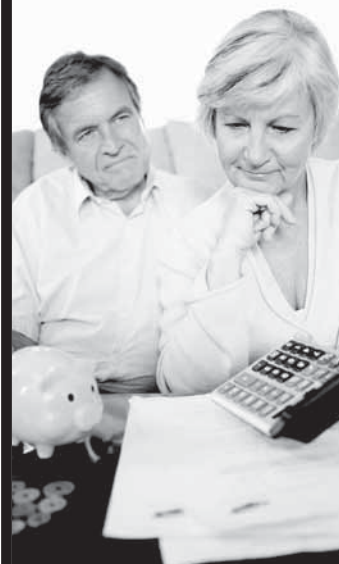


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## Downtown district is out of business

COURT RULING WILL END REVITALIZATION AUTHORITY NOW, NOT IN 2013

By Daniel DeBolt

The California Supreme Court shut down Mountain View's Downtown Revitalization Authority last week along with 400 or so other agencies like it statewide, freeing up \$5 billion in property taxes for cities and schools.

City Manager Dan Rich said that the city was "concerned and disappointed" about the decision, which puts the kibosh on the city's plans to keep the agency running until 2013, providing about \$5 million a year in revenue for redevelopment downtown.

Instead, officials say they face a shutdown in February this year, with a "successor agency" representing the city, county, local schools and the state overseeing its dissolution. City officials say they are looking at alternatives to fund ongoing development downtown, including a parking garage that may be needed in a few years.

"It just has a very significant impact on the things we wanted to finish downtown," said Mountain View's economic development director, Ellis Berns. "We were very actively looking to purchase some strategic properties with future development potential. We won't be able to do anything further with facade improvement or seeing what we might be able to do with the downtown grocery store," the Mountain View Market.

City officials were going to see if there was some way to assist the market's new owners in turning it into a popular neighborhood grocery store, Berns said. "But we are not going to be able to do that now."

Originally created to fight blight, redevelopment agencies keep all of the property tax increment within their boundaries for redevelopment, redirecting property tax revenues away from schools, counties and city general fund budgets.

The 16-block area around Castro Street that has paid its property tax increment toward redevelopment will now send about \$1.5 million a year to the city's K-12 schools. The Mountain View Whisman district alone would have received \$825,000 in the last fiscal year, while the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District was in line for \$670,000.

The city's general fund will also see a boost in tax revenue, worth \$840,000 last year, but that comes with an increase in staff costs. The Authority pays one-third of the salaries of economic development director Berns and his assistant Tiffany Chu.

The downtown revitalization district was created in 1969 to help fix up what was then a nearly vacant downtown. Over the years, numerous improvements to parking, signage and building facades have been

made, and funds were used for purchasing properties to assemble them for larger developments. It also provided 20 percent of its funds to affordable housing projects. To some degree, the improvements helped: assessed property values downtown have nearly tripled since 2000, going from \$150 million to \$418 million in 2010. In 1969, the area was valued at only \$22 million.

But in his state budget proposal a year ago, Gov. Jerry Brown told cities that "RDAs were not intended to become a permanent source of business subsidies" and that their original intent was to "relieve blight" in a limited amount of time.

According to the court, since the legislature had the authority to create redevelopment agencies, it also had the power to dissolve them.

"Today's ruling by the California Supreme Court validates a key component of the state

**"The Supreme Court said, 'No, the state can take it all.'"**

MAYOR JAC SIEGEL.

► See **RDA**, page 6



MICHELLE LE

Ken Jacobus, the CEO of Good Start Packaging, says switching to compostable take-out containers is an easy way to make a difference.

## A 'Good Start' toward going green

LOCAL COMPANY DISTRIBUTES ALL-BIODEGRADABLE LINE OF CUPS, TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS

By Nick Veronin

A local distributor of environmentally friendly disposable food service wares is aiming to improve the health of the planet, one step at a time.

"You want to inspire people and meet them where they're at," Ken Jacobus said one recent afternoon. The founder of Good Start Packaging was standing in the reception area of his small Mountain View office before an array of bio-

degradable paper plates and bioplastic cups and eating utensils, all arranged neatly on a table.

Jacobus' company buys these items in bulk and sells them to restaurants in Mountain View, such as Red Rock Coffee and the party supply chain Did-dam's, and around the Bay Area. The way he sees it, it's a fairly easy — and in some cases cost-neutral — way for businesses to reduce their environmental footprint.

Good Start distributes the coffee cups in the usual sizes and aside from not being able to stand up to quite as much heat, most of his clear containers are just as strong as any conventional plastic container.

As far as cost goes, a non-compostable 10-ounce paper cup runs about \$60 for 1,000 units. Buying 1,000 compostable cups from Jacobus' company

► See **GOOD START**, page 7

## Food bank donations falling short

By Sandy Brundage

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties has renewed its plea for donations to its holiday food and fund drive, which runs through Jan. 20.

Second Harvest continues to be concerned about reaching its Holiday Food and Fund Drive goal of \$11.3 million and 1.6 million pounds of food. The drive raises nearly half of the food bank's annual revenue.

According to staff, the food bank has raised only about \$4.5 million as of mid-December. Donations of food are down about 12 percent.

"We truly appreciate the support we have received from the community since the recession began. Unfortunately, we are serving more people than ever before and we must meet our revenue goal to feed hungry people all year long," CEO Kathy Jackson said in a statement.

She said the number of people served by Second Harvest has increased nearly 50 percent since 2007, to about one in 10 people in the two counties. The food bank puts peanut butter, canned tuna, beans, stew and other protein items on its most needed list, preferably in pop-top cans as many of the people served are homeless or don't have kitchens.

Go [www.shfb.org](http://www.shfb.org) for more information or call 866-234-3663. ■

## Grant to boost DUI arrests in county

By Sue Dremann

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office has been awarded a traffic-safety grant to enhance an anti-DUI program aimed at preventing roadway deaths and injuries. The \$161,160 grant was awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety.

The grant will be used to acquire new breath-alcohol instruments that will be administered by the Santa Clara County DA's Crime

Laboratory and operated by local law enforcement. The devices will replace current aging instruments located at 10 field sites around the county. Three additional sites will be added, enabling the county to expand coverage and improve testing.

"These new breath alcohol instruments, along with the additional field sites, will enable law enforcement to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the road, and increase everyone's safety," District

Attorney Jeff Rosen said.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes, according to the DA's office. In 2009, 950 people throughout California died in roadway crashes that involved a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent or higher.

California has seen a drop of nearly 27 percent in DUI fatalities because of increased law enforce-

► See **DUI GRANTS**, page 12

## OBITUARY

### VICTOR ANGELO MOLINARI

Victor A. Molinari, a Mountain View resident, died Dec. 26 at age 79.

A veteran who served in the U.S. Army, he was a self-employed farmer in Mountain View and Morgan Hill. He loved to go to the farmers market on Alemany Boulevard in San Francisco, and went every Saturday since 1943, his family recalled.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Carolyn Molinari; his children Carla Galioto, Yolanda Schulz, Julie Molinari and Diana

Molinari; his sister Victoria Martinelli; and his grandchildren Marco and Alex Galioto, Timothy and Scotty Schulz, Vittorio Molinari and Julia Rose Molinari.

A funeral mass was held at St. Athanasius Church in Mountain View on Jan. 3. Interment followed at the Italian Cemetery in Colma. His family prefers that contributions in his memory be made to El Camino Hospital Foundation, 2500 Grant Rd. Mountain View, CA 94040. An online memorial guest book is at [www.cusimanocolonial.com](http://www.cusimanocolonial.com).

### RDA

► Continued from page 5

budget and guarantees more than a billion dollars of ongoing funding for schools and public safety," Gov. Brown said in a statement released last week.

Redevelopment agencies were eliminated by AB-26, but another bill, AB-27 - dubbed "extinction or extortion" by staff — let agencies stay open by making hefty annual payments to the state. The League of California Cities and the Cali-

fornia Redevelopment Association have filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of both bills. The California Supreme Court ruling declared AB-27 unconstitutional based on the passage of Proposition 22 in November 2010, which made it illegal for the state to take money from local funds such as redevelopment revenue.

City officials paid a \$2 million "ransom" to keep the Authority open under AB-27 last year, but to no avail. "The Supreme Court said, 'No, the state can take it all,'" said Mayor Jac Siegel. ■

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Enterprise Way & 11th Ave



MICHELLE LE

Local businesses such as Red Rock Coffee use Good Start's biodegradable cups and containers.

## GOOD START

► Continued from page 5

costs \$84. However, some recycled papers cost less than sheets produced from fresh-cut tree pulp. "Increasingly there is less and less of a reason for businesses and restaurants to go for the traditional products."

Still, while more people, including business owners, are looking for ways to go green with the goods they consume, Jacobus said demanding a paradigm shift is counter-productive. Consumers — especially those living outside of regions like the ultra eco-conscious Bay Area — aren't going to give up their to-go coffee cups and doggie bags in favor of reusable mugs and ceramic containers at the drop of a hat. With an issue as politically charged as environmentalism can get, forcing the issue is only going to produce a backlash.

The products that Jacobus peddles strike a compromise. Everything in Good Start's catalog is designed for single use. However, every cup, bowl, fork, napkin and plastic bag is also compostable; if thrown in a compost bin, all of Jacobus' wares will turn into soil that can be used in a garden.

### Good Start's start

Back in 2007 Jacobus was working as the vice president of sales for a software company. The job was not as fulfilling as he would have liked and he was searching for a career change. In September of that year he heard a speech given by environmental activist, author and President Obama's special advisor for green jobs, Van Jones.

In his speech, Jones noted that while environmentally friendly consumer products, such as the Toyota Prius and solar panels were great, they were cost prohibitive. Everyone should be able to afford to make green choices in the marketplace, he said.

Jones' lecture "changed my life,"

Jacobus said. Right then and there, he remembers, he decided to quit his job, which he did at the end of 2007. Jacobus then took a year off to figure out how he could make a living doing something positive for the environment.

"I wanted to do something that's going to leave a legacy," Jacobus said.

Through his research he decided he wanted to help tackle the environmental issues created by plastics and other forms of single-use, disposable items produced for and by the food industry. Jacobus recalled how he was appalled to learn about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch — a portion of the North Pacific Ocean where currents have created a gyre of floating plastic debris that some have estimated to cover an area larger than the state of Texas. Equally disturbing was the realization that many plastic products which feature the recycling symbol aren't actually recyclable. Even when a consumer tosses a plastic bottle into a recycling bin, often that bottle isn't recycled, he said — rather it is burned as fuel or simply thrown in a landfill somewhere.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 31 million tons of plastic waste was created in 2010. About 14 million tons of that waste came in the form of containers and packaging — much of which was used in the food service industry. However, only 8 percent of the total waste generated was recycled.

If United States as a whole could reduce its plastic consumption by even 10 percent, Jacobus said, that would be a significant step in the right direction — a "good start," as he puts it.

Reducing consumption of plastic-containing food service products and replacing them with the compostable products he distributes shouldn't be too hard. It is the "low-hanging fruit" when it comes to making meaningful environmental decisions, he said.

With that in mind, Jacobus founded Good Start in 2009. For

two years, Jacobus was running a one-man show out of his home — outsourcing warehousing and trucking services (Good Start delivers directly to local businesses and uses shipping companies to deliver his products across the country). In 2011 Jacobus expanded, opening a small office near the intersection of Dana Street and Pioneer Way and hiring two employees. He hopes to grow his business in the years to come by expanding to markets like Seattle and other major cities with a strong green streak and good composting infrastructure.

### Composting caveat

The reason Jacobus is seeking cities where composting services are readily available is that, according to him, most landfills aren't designed to facilitate biodegrading. In traditional landfills, biodegrading takes much longer than it would in a compost heap, according to the EPA. That's because such "dry tomb" landfills create large anaerobic pockets, devoid of moisture, which inhibits the growth of the organisms that would break down food scraps and cardboard as they do in a wet, aerated compost heap.

"If one of our cups makes it into a traditional landfill, it will take just as long to decay as a regular plastic cup," Jacobus said.

However, even if a majority of the products Good Start sells end up in such a landfill, Jacobus said, at least pollution has been reduced in the manufacturing process and dangerous toxins have been taken out of the environment.

Plastics are made from petroleum. By replacing traditional plastic products with bioplastics, which are made with the oil derived from sugarcane pulp (which would otherwise be incinerated), the products Good Start distributes conserve hydrocarbons. Turning liquid oil into a pliable solid plastic requires chemicals many scientists believe are linked to birth defects and certain cancers. ▀

## Spices for Health



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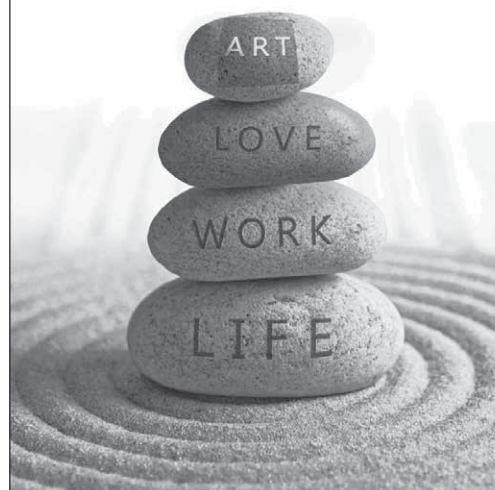
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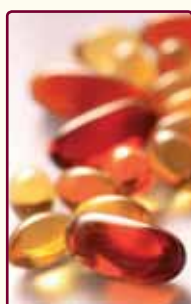
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This talk will continue our evidence based review and discussion about spices and nutritional supplements that have recently been in the news. We will present tips for selecting reliable products and keeping your healthcare providers in the loop!



### **Effective and Positive Parenting**

#### **Dr. Marvin Small Memorial**

#### **Parent Workshop Series**

Presented by Susan Stone Belton,  
Parent Education Specialist  
Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
701 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View  
650-934-7373

Topics include understanding your child, communicating with your child and effective discipline.



### **Prediabetes: A Wakeup Call**

#### **San Carlos Library Lecture Series**

Presented by Judy Farnsworth, R.D., CDE,  
PAMF Nutrition Services  
Monday, Jan. 23, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

San Carlos Library, 610 Elm St., San Carlos, 650-591-0341

Please join us to learn about prediabetes, how it is diagnosed and important lifestyle strategies for self-management.



### **Advances in Cataract Surgery**

#### **Senior Lecture Series**

Presented by Karen Shih, M.D.,  
PAMF Ophthalmology  
Thursday, Jan. 26, 1 – 2 p.m.

Mountain View Senior Center

266 Escuela Avenue, Mountain View, 650-934-7373

What is a cataract? How has treatment changed? When should I consider surgery?

## Cancer Care

- Exercise for Energy – men and women's group
- Expressions
- Healing Imagery
- Healing Touch
- Healthy Eating After Cancer Treatment
- Look Good, Feel Better
- Qigong
- When Eating is a Problem, During Cancer Treatment

## Childbirth and Parent Education Classes

- Baby Safety Basics
- Breastfeeding
- Childbirth Preparation
- Feeding Your Young Child
- Infant and Child CPR
- Infant Care
- Infant Emergencies and CPR
- Introduction to Solids
- Mother-Baby Circle
- New Parent ABC's – All About Baby Care
- OB Orientation
- Prenatal Yoga
- Sibling Preparation
- What to Expect with Your Newborn

## Living Well Classes

- Back School
- Mind/Body Stress Management
- Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

## Nutrition and Diabetes Classes

Mountain View, 650-934-7177 • Palo Alto, 650-853-2961

- Diabetes Management
- Healthy Eating with Type 2 Diabetes
- Heart Smart (cholesterol management)
- Living Well with Prediabetes
- Sweet Success Program (gestational diabetes)

## Weight Management Programs • 1-888-398-5597

- Bariatric Weight Loss Surgery Program
- Healthy eating. Active lifestyles. (for parents of children ages 2-12)
- HMR Weight Management Program
- Lifesteps® (adult weight management)
- New Weigh of Life (adult weight management)

## Support Groups

- AWAKE
- Bariatric Surgery
- Breastfeeding
- Cancer
- CARE
- Chronic Fatigue
- Diabetes
- Drug and Alcohol
- Kidney
- Multiple Sclerosis



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NEWS BRIEFS

NEW BOOSTER SEAT LAW

A new child safety law effective Jan. 1 will require kids in California to use a booster seat in a vehicle until they are 8 years old, according to the state's Department of Public Health.

A previous state law required car seats or booster seats for kids until they were 6 years old or weighed 60 pounds.

"This new law will help protect more children from being injured during a crash," said Patrice Christensen, a registered nurse and coordinator of the San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services injury prevention program.

Kids aged 8 years and older are ready to ride without a booster seat when the child can sit against the back of a vehicle seat with knees bent, without slouching and can comfortably stay in that position.

The lap belt should be low on the hips and touch the upper thighs with the shoulder belt crossing the

shoulder and chest without touching the child's face or neck. Drivers who are caught not complying with the new state law can face fines starting at \$475.

For information on the new law or for help determining if a child still needs a booster seat, call Patrice Christensen at 650-573-3728, contact a local California Highway Patrol office or go online at [www.cdph.ca.gov/vosp](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/vosp).

NEW JUDGE APPOINTED

A San Jose woman was appointed to a judgeship in the Santa Clara County Superior Court, Gov. Jerry Brown announced Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Shelyna V. Brown, 41, has served as an attorney in the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office since 1997. The new judge earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis and a Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara

University School of Law.

She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Eugene M. Hyman. Brown, who is a Democrat, will receive a compensation of \$178,789.

NEW YEAR'S QUAKE

The U.S. Geological Survey is reporting that two earthquakes with preliminary magnitudes of more than 2.0 struck in Santa Clara County Sunday morning.

The first quake, with a 2.2 magnitude, struck an area 9 miles north of Morgan Hill at 6:52 a.m., and it had a depth of 3.4 miles, according to the USGS.

Seven minutes later, a 2.5 magnitude quake hit an area 3 miles north of Alum Rock, just outside of San Jose, with a depth of 1.6 miles.

As of 7:30 a.m., half a dozen people from throughout San Jose and as far as Milpitas responded on the USGS website that they felt the larger quake.

MAYOR

Continued from page 1

online forum that Palo Alto, Berkeley and other cities are planning to use called Open Town Hall.

Kasperzak held the mayor job once before, in 2003. The lawyer, a Republican turned Democrat, runs a mediation business. He served eight years on the council before stepping down in 2006, then took a break before running for his third term in 2008. He is up for re-election in November.

Before stepping down, Mayor Jac Siegel gave a speech about the past year: how he met President Obama twice and hired a new city manager. "We hired the best one," Siegel said of City Manager Daniel Rich. "I think we did, I'm sure we did."

And he noted just how busy he was. He claims to have gone to

200 meetings in addition to the council's weekly meetings, plus 47 regularly scheduled "Yac with Jac" meetings, where he usually met three to five constituents each time.

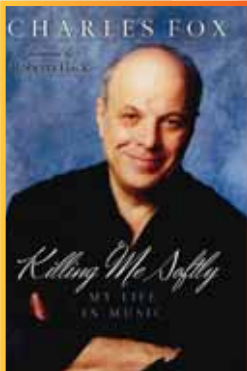
Siegel commented about how little the mayor is compensated for all the extra work. Before the votes he told other council members about a new ruling from the Fair Political Practices Commission. "You can't vote for yourself. Being mayor brings a \$125 a month raise, so we want to make sure there's no hanky-panky going on."

Kasperzak said he plans to hold regular meetings with constituents on the first and 15th of each month at coffee shops all around the city. He said the locations would be listed on his Facebook page, [facebook.com/mkasperzak](http://facebook.com/mkasperzak).


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

OSHMAN FAMILY JCC 2011/12

ARTS / dialogues



Charles Fox 1/12



Michael Fosberg's *Incognito* 1/14

**Songwriter & Author Charles Fox, *Killing Me Softly: My Life in Music***

Two-time Emmy winner Charles Fox has worked with some of the greatest names in showbiz. Hear him play some of his iconic tunes while sharing highlights from his memoir and impressive career.

**Thursday, 1/12 at 7:00 PM**

\$10 OFJCC Members, \$15 Non-Members, 24 hours in advance  
\$18 at the door, space permitting

**Michael Fosberg's *Incognito***

After being raised white, Michel Fosberg discovers his father is black. Challenge your own preconceptions in this autobiographical solo play.


**Saturday, 1/14 at 8:00 PM**

\$15 OFJCC Members and students, \$20 Non-Members

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.paloaltojcc.org/arts](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/arts).

Oshman Family JCC  
3921 Fabian Way | Palo Alto, CA | (650) 223-8700 | [www.paloaltojcc.org/arts](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/arts)

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STANFORD CONTINUING STUDIES

# MUSIC & DANCE SCHOOL EXPANDS TO SERVE COMMUNITY BETTER

**Veksler Academy of Music & Dance expands into new 4000 square foot facility and adds additional instructors. Busy families in Mountain View Area benefit from extended hours and additional convenient class times**

The Veksler Academy of Music & Dance has expanded in 2011 into a new location to offer more diverse programs and convenient class times to the residents of Mountain View. According to School Director Veksler, the school has grown faster than anticipated since opening in 2008. The fast growth is due to a dedication to providing convenient, top quality instructions to its students. In 2008 Veksler Academy expanded into a beautiful 4000 square foot facility in Sunnyvale.

Every year the school has added more members to its teaching staff and has upgraded facilities by such things as purchasing new pianos, and regularly renovating the facilities.

### Expanded class choices save time for busy families

School director Veksler says that many of the parents choose the school because in addition to having excellent teachers and programs it is possible to have one child in music lessons while another child is in dance classes.

The new beautiful air-conditioned facility has 10 individual sound-proofed music rooms and 2 dance studios. It is usually possible to get 2, 3 or even 4 different students in different lessons during the same time period. Many parents and kids are so busy that saving 45 minutes or an hour of commuting time per week between activities really helps the typical busy family's schedule.

The school has also many evening, and weekend class times to accommodate more students in "first choice" times. Between the pressures of homework, sports and family time, a lot of parents can be overwhelmed trying to fit in all the activities.

Veksler says that many parents and kids are so busy that saving 45 minutes or an hour of commuting time per week between activities really helps the typical busy family's schedule.

### Private piano lessons offered from age 3 1/2

One of the unique features of the Veksler Academy of Music and Dance is that it offers private piano lessons for children as young as 3 1/2 years old. The school has developed a special approach to teaching these youngsters in a fun yet professional way. Children at this age learn how to play piano from their first lesson, then from song to song they learn how to express emotions through the music, how to make songs better, how to read notes and finally get their songs ready for a recital.

School Director Veksler says: "We have so many happy parents who brought their little children to the private piano at such young age. They were very skeptical about starting private lessons for their 3 year and 6 month children but were very impressed when after just 6-9 month they participated in our recitals in the theatre".

### New Staff

The Veksler Academy School of Music and Dance has added new teachers to its staff

for 2011-2012 school year. Educationally parents are very impressed with the staff. The school currently has over 35 staff members. All of the music teachers hold a university degree in the instrument they teach, and many have master's degrees. The music school handles everything from 3-year-old beginners to extremely advanced, university level students. Due to the number of teachers on staff, the students are matched up with teachers that best meet their needs and who relate well to them.

### Large Variety of Music and Dance classes

Music classes are taught in piano, violin, cello, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, voice, drums. A large number of students choose to take the prestige CM test, conducted by Music Teachers' Association of California. The main focus is on helping students gain the skills they need to enjoy music long after music lessons are over. In fact School Director Veksler says that the mission of the school is "To provide students of all ages with the skills they need to enjoy music and dance for their lifetime."

The school's dance program offers everything from ballet and jazz classes to tap and hip hop.

At the end of the school year Veksler Academy will have a Year End Dance Show in the performing Center in Palo Alto. It is extremely important for the dancers to have a chance to dance in front of their families and friends on the professional stage.

This year with the additional class times, new bigger dance studios and new dance teachers, the school is offering more of its most popular classes such as PreBallet/Tap classes for ages 3-5.

### Facilities Offer Extra benefits for Dancers

One of the most important features of a dance studio is the type of flooring used. The Veksler Academy of Dance uses floating Marley floors which have hundreds of compression foam blocks under the surface that absorb the impact of dancing and help keep the teachers and students energized. It is also a great form of injury avoidance. The dance studios are fully air conditioned for student's comfort. All dance studios have one-way observation windows for parents to observe their children's class without disturbing children as they can't see parents through the mirrored glass.

Students are encouraged to have fun while expanding their skills. Dance also encourage physical activity.

*Due to the expansion of reaching times, additional studios and staff, the Veksler Academy of Music & Dance will be accepting new registrations now and throughout the early Spring. For current promotions contact the school at 650-254-0777 or visit them at [www.veksleracademy.com](http://www.veksleracademy.com) for helpful information on getting started in music lessons or dance classes as well as to register online for January classes.*

## REGISTER NOW FOR MUSIC LESSONS & DANCE CLASSES

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- Voice
- CM test preparation, Competitions, Theory
- Guitar
- Drums
- Preschool Music Program - age 3 and up
- Violin
- Flute
- Children Choir
- Saxophone
- Clarinet

### REASONS TO CHOOSE OUR MUSIC PROGRAM

1. University Trained Teachers
2. Private Piano Lessons from age 3 1/2
3. Twice a Year Recitals in the Theater
4. Music Tests and Competitions
5. Professional Environment
6. Russian, Suzuki and Traditional methods

[WWW.VEKSLERACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.VEKSLERACADEMY.COM)

**Register before January 8th and save \$25**

### Dance Classes for All Ages

**SMALL CLASS SIZES • AGES 3 & UP**

- Ballet
- Tap
- Jazz
- Preschool Dance
- Hip Hop
- Adult Classes

**Open House: Sunday January 8th, 10am-2pm**

### REASONS TO CHOOSE OUR DANCE PROGRAM

1. FACILITY - Our "floating" professional dance floor prevents injuries and reduces fatigue
2. CUSTOMER SERVICE - Desk staff are available during class times to provide assistance
3. YEAR-END SHOW - in the professional performing center, parents get 2 free tickets

1710 Miramonte Ave  
Mountain View CA 94040  
**650-254-0777**  
(Next to Safeway)



## Veksler Academy of Music & Dance

**HSR**

► Continued from page 1

line is constructed. The peer-review group found this plan to be vague and insufficient.

“The fact that the Funding Plan fails to identify any long term funding commitments is a fundamental flaw in the program,” the report states. “Without committed funds, a mega-project of this nature could be forced to halt construction for many years before additional funding could be obtained. The benefits of any independent utility proposed by the current Business Plan would be very limited versus the cost and the impact on state finances.”

The group also faulted the rail authority’s business plan for failing to choose the “initial operating segment” for the rail line. Though the authority has decided to build the first leg of the line in Central Valley, this segment would not be electrified and would serve largely as a corridor for testing the new line. The first “true” high-speed rail segment would be built later and would stretch either north toward San Jose or south toward San Fernando Valley.

Though the peer-review group acknowledged that a phased approach is the only feasible way to build the system, it also found that this plan violates a requirement of Proposition 1A, which mandates that the rail authority identify funding for the first usable segment of the line before construction begins. The Central Valley segment, the peer report notes, “is not a very high-speed railway (VHSR), as it lacks electrification, a CHSR train control system, and a VHSR compatible communication system. Therefore, it does not appear to meet the requirements of the enabling State legislation.”

The peer review group also wrote in its letter that the authority should have determined in its business plan whether the first “operating segment” would go north or south from the Central Valley. Its letter states that “it is hard to seriously consider a multi-billion dollar Funding Plan that offers no position on which IOS should be initiated first.”

“This indecision may also have consequences in obtaining environmental clearances. We believe that the Funding Plan as proposed should not be approved until the first IOS is selected.”

The report reserves “final judgment” on the funding plan because the rail authority’s business plan is still in draft form and subject to revisions. But it also makes clear that major changes would have to be made before the project warrants state funding. The letter notes that while legislators could potentially come up with a funding source for the project, without

such a source “the project as it is currently planned is not financially ‘feasible.’”

“Therefore, pending review of the final Business Plan and absent a clearer picture of where future

about private sector involvement in such systems and ignores or misconstrues the legal requirements that govern the construction of the high speed rail program in California.”

**‘Without committed funds, a mega-project of this nature could be forced to halt construction for many years.’**

funding is going to come from, the Peer Review Group cannot at this time recommend that the Legislature approve the appropriation of bond proceeds for this project,” the peer group’s letter concludes.

The new report presents a potentially devastating blow to the rail authority, which is banking on getting \$2.7 billion in Proposition 1A funds for construction of the Central Valley segment. The agency has also received \$3.5 billion in federal grants.

The state funds are particularly critical given the lack of private investment and increasing local opposition. The authority had acknowledged that private investment would not start coming in until later phases. Future federal funding is also deeply uncertain at a time when many Republicans in the House of Representatives are vehemently opposing the project.

The rail authority responded to the report by disputing many of its findings and by claiming that it “suffers from a lack of appreciation of how high-speed rail systems have been constructed throughout the world.” The authority also said in a statement that the peer-review group’s report “makes unrealistic and unsubstantiated assumptions

Roelof van Ark, CEO of the rail authority, said in a statement that the recommendation of the committee “simply do not reflect a real world view of what it takes to bring such projects to fruition.”

“It is unfortunate that the Peer Review Committee has delivered a report to the Legislature that is deeply flawed in its understanding of the Authority’s program and the experience around the world in successfully developing high speed rail,” van Ark said.

Rail authority officials also argued that the peer-review group’s report could jeopardize federal funding for the project. Thomas Umberg, chair of the authority’s board of directors, said the board takes seriously “legitimate critiques” of the rail program, including recommendations that the authority hire more staff.

“However, what is most unfortunate about this Report is not its analytical deficiency, but that it would create a cloud over the program that threatens not only federal support but also the confidence of the private sector necessary for them to invest their dollars,” Umberg said in a statement.

The authority’s Chief Counsel Thomas Fellenz called the com-

mittee’s findings about the project’s inconsistency with Proposition 1A “unfounded assumptions.” The group’s legal conclusions, he said in a statement, are not only “beyond the expertise of the authors, but attorneys at the state and federal government level and the legislative author of the bond measure, profoundly disagree.”

The authority also submitted an eight-page letter to state Legislators responding to the peer-review group’s criticisms. The authority disputed in its letter the peer-review group’s finding that the “initial construction segment”

in Central Valley would violate Proposition 1A and argued that the group’s demand for a long-term funding plan fails to consider how major transportation projects are normally built.

“By this measure, none of the unconstrained regional transportation plans of any transportation authority should be pursued,” the letter from Umberg states. “No project, in our experience, has fully identified funding sources for the entire project at this stage and it is both unfortunate and inappropriate for the Committee to apply this test only to high speed rail.”

**Inspirations**

a guide to the spiritual community

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**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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at 650-223-6596

or e-mail [byoc@paweekly.com](mailto:byoc@paweekly.com)



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# 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 nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year Voice readers contributed nearly \$49,000, up significantly from the prior year. With additional funds 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 your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.



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.
- YWCA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT NETWORK**  
 Operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline, a safe shelter for women and their children, and offers counseling and other services for families facing domestic violence. Formerly called Support Network for Battered Women.
- COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS**  
 Provides hands-on arts and music projects in the elementary classrooms of the Mountain View-Whisman School District. Nearly 40 percent of the students are low-income and 28 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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 Street address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to contribute anonymously.       Don't publish the amount of my contribution.  
 I wish to designate my contribution as follows:  
 In honor of:       In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**TO DONATE ONLINE:** [siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund)  
**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** *Silicon Valley Community Foundation*  
 with "MV Voice Holiday Fund" on the memo line

Enclose this coupon and send to: **The Voice Holiday Fund**  
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## USE PAGO TO MAKE A HOLIDAY FUND DONATION

Anyone making a purchase at a participating local merchant can use a Pago account to make a donation to the Voice Holiday Fund. Here are the businesses participating in the Pago promotion: Amber India, Bajis Café, Baskin Robbins, Best Bite, Bushido, Chaat Paradise, El Paso Café, Han Gen, Las Muchachas, Neto Caffè, New York Pizza, Pasta Q, and Sunny Bowl.

For more information on the Holiday Fund go to [siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund)

## DUI GRANTS

► Continued from page 6

ment, said Office of Transportation Safety Director Christopher J. Murphy.

"While this is good news, we know that only by keeping the pressure on through enforcement and public awareness can we hope to sustain these declines and save lives," he said.

The California Highway Patrol is also urging drivers to drive safely and to be alcohol-free

when getting behind the wheel. "It's important to remember as the holiday celebrations kick into high gear ... always designate a driver before the party begins," CHP Commissioner Joseph A. Farrow said.

In 2010, 25 people were killed in California during New Year's weekend and 961 DUI arrests were made. For the holiday-season month of December 2010, nine people were killed and 445 were injured in crashes in Santa Clara County, according to the CHP. ■

## HOLIDAY FUND DONATIONS

As of Dec. 28, 2011, 124 donors have given \$43,295 to the Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund

23 Anonymous .....	5,890	Mountain View Moms	
Wakerly Family Foundation.....	12,000	Cookie Party.....	740
Ellen W. Wheeler .....	50	Michael and Susan Plass .....	**
Irving C. Statler.....	50	Diane Namis.....	100
Greg Fowler and Julie Lovins.....	**	Kathleen Cloar-Schwartz.....	100
Edward H. Perry.....	200	Jeanne Hsu.....	**
Thomas J. Mucha .....	210	Mary DeMasters.....	2,000
Lynn Gordon .....	**	Margaret E. Chapman.....	100
Bruce Karney .....	500	David F. Smydra .....	100
Rose A. Tsunekawa .....	100	Susan Lindner .....	100
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Edward M. Yu.....	1,000	Tracy Gibbons .....	**
Robert J. Rohrbacher .....	**	Merrill D. Clum.....	100
Jeffrey Segall .....	100	Leona Chu .....	**
Kimberly Smith-Nilsson .....	250	Steve and Wendy Nelson.....	1,000
Susan Perkins .....	**	Ms. Anne Johnston.....	**
Amy A. Darrah .....	100	Hedda Hope .....	50
Randa Mulford.....	250	David Paradise.....	100
Judith Manton.....	50		
Mark Balch .....	300	<i>In memory of</i>	
Mary Ellen Hasbrouck.....	70	Dr. Herbert Rauch.....	**
Tom and Barbara Lustig .....	350	Evan C. Rauch .....	**
Bob Adams .....	500	Sally Corley.....	50
Wesley D. Smith .....	**	Jan Becker .....	**
Judy J. Atterholt.....	100	Henry C. Hennings, Jr.....	**
E. Denley Rafferty .....	100	Elaine Moore .....	50
Jean A. Hrubesch.....	**	Philip Luna .....	1,500
Marilyn B. Smith.....	**	Ron Santo, Chicago Cubs,	
Ronald V. Stephens.....	**	3rd Baseman.....	50
Silvia Newark.....	25	My beloved dad, Leonard Boos .....	**
Mei Hong.....	100	Art Van Horne.....	600
Lyle and Sally Sechrest .....	100	Elbert and Margaret Sargent .....	100
Jim and Alice Cochran.....	600	Donna Fuzere .....	**
Wendy Wong .....	1,000		
Tom and Betty Zeidel.....	**	<i>In honor of</i>	
Ingrid Lion .....	**	The Residents of Mountain View .	50
Pulvers' Prior Briar.....	50	Our Grandchildren: Eve, Camille,	
Eva D. Chang.....	50	Aaron Zelinger .....	**
David Fung.....	**	Ed, Petros and Thalia .....	100
Schwab Charitable Fund.....	500	All hard-working, kind-hearted	
Kanan Krishnan .....	60	Mountain View folks.....	1,000
Stephanie Stearns .....	250		
Viola Robertson .....	250	<i>Businesses &amp; Organizations</i>	
John D. Thomas .....	300	The Milk Pail Market .....	200
Christopher E. Dateo .....	500		
Michelle Friedland .....	500		
Laura Panattoni.....	50		
Samuel Connell.....	100		
Elizabeth Wee .....	**		
David and Karen Keefer.....	100		



\*\* Designates amount withheld at donor request

**DONATE ONLINE:** [siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund)

# Arts & Events



## TOP TALES of 2011

FILM CRITICS' PICKS FOCUS ON THE ELEMENTAL ART OF STORYTELLING

Only two movies made it onto all the Weekly film critics' "best" lists this year, and they've got one thing in common: a focus on good old-fashioned storytelling.

"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" told its trench-coated tale without whiz-bang action or Bond braggadocio. Rather, said critic Tyler Hanley, it was an "intelligent and deliberate whodunit fueled by espionage, intrigue and thespian excellence."

And "The Artist" was no CGI blockbuster. In fact, it barely even had sound. Director Michel Hazanavicius paid tribute to 1920s silent films by making his own. That's a risky choice in 2011, but "The Artist" was a hit with Hanley and his Weekly cohorts Peter Canavese and Susan Tavernetti, who praised it as nostalgic, lively and charming — with, of course, a captivating narrative.

Below are the trio's choices for the top 10 and worst five films of 2011.

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► Continued from previous page

## Peter Canavese's top films

**10. The Artist** Just for kicks, there's Michel Hazanavicius' "The Artist," a transportive celebration of silent cinema and artistic endurance. Though capable of tongue-in-cheekiness, the film lives more comfortably in sentimental melodrama, and excels technically in its recreation (through photography and production design) of filmic composition circa 1927. It's also a lively performance piece for French actors Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo, whose work can't get lost in translation.

**9. The Skin I Live In** Pedro Almodovar's loose adaptation of Thierry Jonquet's novel "Tarantula" is certified crazy, a treasure of sick cinema. Antonio Banderas plays the disconcertingly dashing mad doctor, a plastic surgeon whose unhinged creativity knows no bounds (ethics? what ethics?). Almodovar gender-bends with the best of them, exploring with abandon sexual orientation, identity and taboos.

**8. Margin Call** The 2009 market crisis revisited, from within a representative tower of power. A fictional Wall Street investment bank becomes the proverbial canary in the coal mine and, as such, weathers a long, dark night of the soul in deciding how to parcel out its precious loyalty, to employees, clients and the American economy. Under the direction of breakthrough screenwriter J.C. Chandor, Kevin Spacey and Stanley Tucci excel as morally elastic yet sympathetic executives.

**7. The Interrupters** Documentary filmmaker Steve James ("Hoop Dreams") turns his camera on "violence interrupters" working in Chicago's CeaseFire organization. James focuses on the efforts of three interrupters, former violent offenders now doing the noble work of swimming upstream in one of the nation's most violence-plagued communities. Though the change James observes is almost imperceptibly incremental, there's palpable hope in commitment to community.

**6. The Mill and the Cross** One of the year's most inspired creative excursions, "The Mill and the

Cross" found Polish filmmaker Lech Majewski adapting Michael Francis Gibson's book about the genesis of Pieter Bruegel the Elder's 1564 painting "The Way to Calvary." Rutger Hauer plays Bruegel, Michael York his patron and Charlotte Rampling a local muse, but it's all about the imagery in this fascinating — nay, mesmerizing — look at the artistic process, rural life and fervent faith.

**5. Nostalgia for the Light** Patricio Guzman takes us with him on a creative leap in this moving documentary, which creatively conflates two searches for answers in Chile's Atacama Desert. The place's unique environmental conditions make it suitable for astronomical study; as scientists look up, widows and orphans dig down, in search of the remains of husbands and fathers "disappeared" by the Pinochet regime.

**4. Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** Tomas Alfredson's commendable adaptation of John le Carre's celebrated espionage novel was among the year's smartest entertainments. Though it entirely eschews the action of a Bond or Bourne escapade, "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" has a fascinating central character in carefully measured career spy George Smiley, now embodied by the brilliant Gary Oldman.

**3. Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives** As "The Tree of Life" did this year, "Uncle Boonmee" won the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival last year. And as select American audiences discovered in 2011, Apichatpong Weerasethakul's new film provided its own distinctive take on the big questions of life, the afterlife, history and memory, in a ghost story a far cry from "Paranormal Activity 3" (and, sadly, its box-office grosses).

**2. Certified Copy** There's nothing quite like a two-hander carried off by a pair of actors up for the challenge. Writer-director Abbas Kiarostami had a ringer in

the always great Juliette Binoche, but gambled and won by casting opera singer (and first-time screen actor) William Shimell to go toe-to-toe with her. The film itself vigorously works itself into an intellectual tangle over the nature of long-term relationships, art, and what constitutes real life (as opposed to our comfortable illusions).

**1. The Tree of Life** No studio release this year was more ambitious, emotional or elegant than Terrence Malick's searching epic about our place in a family, a town, a galaxy, the universe. Emmanuel Lubezki's innovative cinematography beautifully painted with light and shadow and color, while boy lead Hunter McCracken and screen parents

Yeah, Jason Momoa's Conan also squints, mumbles and cocks his eyebrow a lot. He makes Schwarzenegger look like Oliver.

**Just Go With It** Dear audience: I hate you stupid rubes. Here, have a turd. That'll be 11 bucks. The only laughing you will hear will be me on the way to the bank. Love, Adam Sandler.

**Jack and Jill** P.S. For my next Adam Sandler trick, I will enlist Al Pacino to play a horny version of himself chasing a woman I play in drag. Oh, America, is there nothing I can do to make you stay home?

## Tyler Hanley's top films

**10. Bridesmaids** This hilarious R-rated offering from producer Judd Apatow and director Paul Feig gives the female of the species the same sort of unapologetic, buddy-based chuckler guys have gotten a dozen times over with films like "The Hangover." But it isn't fair to pigeonhole the flick based on gender, so I'll state it simply: "Bridesmaids" is the best comedy of 2011. "Saturday Night Live" standout Kristen Wiig shines in both writing and acting, while Melissa McCarthy is a revelation in delivering one

of the year's most entertaining performances.

**9. Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** James Bond meets "The Usual Suspects" in Swedish filmmaker Tomas Alfredson's sharp adaptation of the 1974 John le Carre novel. Gary Oldman headlines a virtuoso cast that includes Colin Firth, John Hurt, Tom Hardy, Toby Jones, Mark Strong and Benedict Cumberbatch (if you don't recognize some of those names, don't worry — you will soon enough). "Tinker" is an intelligent and deliberate whodunit fueled by espionage, intrigue and thespian excellence.

**8. The Artist** This clever homage to the silent-film era is one of the year's most fascinating

pictures. Parisian auteur Michel Hazanavicius paints his "Artist" with a whimsical brush that is at once daring and nostalgic. Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo are perfectly cast in the lead roles, but the movie's unrivaled ingenuity is what truly sets it apart. Hazanavicius deserves a great deal of credit for directing a crowd-pleasing, black-and-white silent film while most studios are deciding which mindless 3D actioner to dump on indiscriminate viewers.

**7. War Horse** Steven Spielberg hops in the saddle again to helm this harrowing World War I epic. The production values are exemplary, from breathtaking cinematography to stitch-perfect costume design. Spielberg's ambitious and poignant family drama includes powerful messages about empathy and resilience that trump the picture's sometimes saccharine qualities. The movie's massive scope and diverse characters serve to remind us that "War Horse" is much more about the journey than the destination.

**6. Midnight in Paris** Present and past intertwine poetically in Woody Allen's romantic charmer. Allen's textured writing brings the audience into 1920s Paris with vivacious flair, and Owen Wilson wriggles free of comedic preconceptions in the leading role. "Midnight" lights up with gorgeous set design and costuming while Kathy Bates, Tom Hiddleston, Corey Stoll and Marion Cotillard sparkle in supporting roles. An imaginative fantasy for the artist in all of us.

**5. Moneyball** The unlikely pairing of Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill helps drive the most insightful and compelling baseball-themed film since Robert Redford smashed the stadium lights with a homerun in "The Natural." Based on Michael Lewis' 2003 novel about Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane and his controversial approach to fielding a winning team on the cheap, "Moneyball" offers a vivid and witty glimpse into the business side of America's pastime. And Pitt's firecracker portrayal may earn the accomplished actor his first Academy Award.

**4. The Descendants** Writer/director Alexander Payne ("About Schmidt," "Sideways")

# TOP TALES of 2011

Brad Pitt and Jessica Chastain exquisitely navigated existential terrain. It has everything and the kitchen sink (and dinosaurs).

## Peter Canavese's pans

**Sucker Punch** Visually and aurally loud, plodding, repetitive and sexist, this Zack Snyder joint about abused female mental patients fantasizing then enacting revenge was the year's top endurance test and, hence, the year's worst movie.

**I Am Number Four** This teen sci-fi action flick was dull. Also tedious. Also tiresome and mundane. I Am Bored Times Four.

**Conan the Barbarian** "I live, I love, I slay. I am content."

strikes again with this smart and soulful dramedy. George Clooney is at his very best and impressive newcomer Shailene Woodley shines in a challenging role. “The Descendants” is deep and affecting, with humor and heartache flowing through the picture in waves. The lush Hawaiian landscape acts as a backdrop for Payne to touch on powerful themes such as love, death and family ties.

**3. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2** Pottermania hits a crescendo with this taut and thoughtful final chapter in the extraordinary “Harry Potter” film franchise. “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” caps the series with visual panache and emotional punch, and author J.K. Rowling’s boy wizard gets the big-screen denouement he so richly deserves. The experience is both cathartic and melancholy for Potter fans — a fitting finale to an unparalleled cinematic achievement.

**2. 50/50** The finest screenwriting of 2011 comes courtesy of this funny and heartfelt story about a young man confronting cancer. Joseph Gordon-Levitt deserves the Academy Award for his raw and riveting portrayal of Adam, the fledgling adult diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and given a 50/50 chance of survival. Like “The Descendants,” “50/50” coaxes both laughs and tears from viewers, and Seth Rogen and Anna Kendrick are superb in their supporting roles.

**1. Hugo** Mastermind director Martin Scorsese’s longstanding affection for all things cinema is colorfully showcased in the enchanting “Hugo.” Scorsese paints a rich tapestry in adapting the Brian Selznick novel “The Invention of Hugo Cabret,” presenting a vibrant 1930s Paris with exceptional costuming, set design and cinematography. Family films are rarely crafted with such care and creative vision. Simply beautiful.

### Tyler Hanley’s pans

**Arthur** Peculiar funnyman Russell Brand picks the wrong economic climate to play an irresponsible, booze-guzzling spendthrift. The always excellent Helen Mirren gives the cast more thespian spark, but “Arthur” is a dud.

**Conan the Barbarian** Arnold Schwarzenegger made 1982’s “Conan” something of a cult classic. But this futile attempt to remake the franchise stumbles thanks to a silly plot, goofy costumes and glut of CGI-fueled nonsense.

**Prom** Borrowing liberally from the films of “Breakfast Club” scribe John Hughes makes this cheesy teen pleaser more imitation than inspiration. At least the title fits — the plot and characters are about as one-dimensional as cardboard-cutout prom decorations.

**Red Riding Hood** The classic fairy tale gets a “Twilight”-inspired facelift with unflattering results. A hackneyed script and inexperienced acting make “Hood” feel like a mega-budget high school play even grandma would lam-baste.

**Sucker Punch** Director Zack Snyder (“Dawn of the Dead,” “300”) serves up a visual feast riddled with empty calories. Once the eye candy gets stale, viewers are left with the kind of vacant, achy sensation that can be brought on only by a real “Sucker Punch.”

### Susan Tavernetti’s top films

**10. Hugo** Martin Scorsese could direct the phone book and make it interesting. Fortunately, Brian Selznick’s book “The Invention of Hugo Cabret” gave the film-making maestro plenty of magical material about an orphan (Asa Butterfield) living in a Paris train station during the 1930s. Marrying 3D technology with Dante Ferretti’s incredible production design provides eye candy galore. Although the story is too thin to support the movie’s lengthy running time, lovers of film history will adore the tribute to early film pioneer Georges Melies (Ben Kingsley) and the power of imagination.

**9. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol** Brad Bird directs the

fourth installment of the “Mission: Impossible” franchise as though it were “The Incredibles.” Cartoon-like superheroes (led by Tom Cruise’s Ethan Hunt) perform death-defying feats at a breakneck pace and turn rogue agents to save the world from nuclear annihilation. An adrenaline rush laced with humor, the popcorn movie provides a big escapist bang for the buck.

**8. Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** Director Tomas Alfredson focuses on the trench-coated veteran (Gary Oldman) of the British secret service known as “the Circus,” who must find the Soviet mole within the organization. Subtlety and restraint characterize this adaptation of John le Carré’s Cold War thriller. Shot

magnificent horse moves from master to master, allowing us to see the British, French and German perspectives — and how a splendid creature can stop some humans from behaving like animals.

**6. My Week With Marilyn** Michelle Williams doesn’t impersonate Marilyn Monroe as much as capture the essence of the 30-year-old screen goddess in an Oscar-worthy turn. From breathy whispers to self-aware winking and posing while “being her” for an adoring public, Williams shows her impressive range. Based on the memoirs of the late Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), then a smitten third assistant director on the set of Sir Laurence Olivier’s “The Prince and the Showgirl,” the breezy biopic chronicles his seven-day itch with the blonde legend. Brit Simon Curtis directs a fragile Marilyn as she tries to find the Method in the madness of working with British royalty (Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench).

**5. Bill Cunningham New York** On the documentary shortlist for the 2012 Oscars, Richard Press’ profile of octogenarian Bill Cunningham bubbles with the subject’s ebullient spirit. Ironically, the pioneer of the art of street-style photography has no personal sartorial flair — unless a duct-taped poncho and a camera slung around his neck qualify. But the New York Times photographer and cultural anthropologist of fashion is fascinating, whether pedaling his Schwinn around Manhattan, shooting fashion-forward ordinary people, or musing about his principles and passion for his work.

**4. Melancholia** The sights and sounds of Lars von Trier’s meditation on the parallels between the cosmos and a pair of moody sisters (Kirsten Dunst and Charlotte Gainsbourg) explode in an apocalypse wow. The visual imagery of the Danish writer-director demands attention, while the mounting depression and erratic behavior of the siblings

earn it. As the planet Melancholia rushes on a collision course to Earth, you’ll have ample time to contemplate what it all means.

**3. The Descendants** Alexander Payne delivers another smart movie about ordinary people grappling with crises large and small. George Clooney wears his vulnerability on his Hawaiian-shirt sleeve, playing the lawyer-husband-father whose life gets upended in rough surf. A small film with plenty to say about personal and civic responsibility, the character-driven piece balances deadpan comedy with heartfelt emotion — and Hawaii emerges as an integral member of the ensemble cast.

**2. Poetry** Quiet and deeply humanistic, the multi-layered drama from South Korean filmmaker Lee Chang-dong focuses on a 66-year-old grandmother who learns how to see the world and find transcendence through her struggle to write a single poem. Yun Jung-hee’s delicate performance draws you into her awakening, as she gradually discards traditional trappings to follow her own moral compass and use her own voice. The film rhythmically develops emotional power that resonates long after the credits roll.

**1. The Artist** Infectiously joyful and charming, this black-and-white love letter to the movies reminds us that cinema is a universal language — no dialogue needed. French director Michel Hazanavicius proves that the best films cast a spell using the basics: lovable characters portrayed by fine actors, a captivating story and timeless themes. Debonair Jean Dujardin sparkles as the silent-film star who gives a girl (Berenice Bejo) with a dream her big break. The sight gags of the pre-talkie era are delightful. And just as refreshing is the film’s generosity of spirit, as individuals lend helping hands rather than backstab for personal gain. When the sound era arrives in 1927, you’ll wanna sing, wanna dance alongside the couple in the spotlight.

*Note:* Susan Tavernetti opted out of writing a pans list this year, as she was not assigned to review any films bad enough to qualify, she said.

## TOP TALES of 2011

with a grainy realism, the film depicts seemingly ordinary spies (including Toby Jones, Ciaran Hinds and Colin Firth) without a hint of James Bond swagger, as they engage in sing-alongs at holiday parties, talk about gathering information, and snatch a file or two.

**7. War Horse** “Saving War Horse Joey” might be an appropriate title for Steven Spielberg’s World War I saga that tugs at the heartstrings and affirms traditional values. No one can direct a mainstream movie better. Janusz Kaminski’s lensing and John Williams’ score contribute to the epic grandeur, while the screenplay by Lee Hall and Richard Curtis provides thematic heft and narrative drive. Drafted to serve in the Great War, the

# 2011

YEAR IN PHOTOS



The most memorable photos of 2011 reflect a year of ups and downs for Mountain View residents, as events both global and local affected them. From immigration to education, the Japan tsunami to Hangar One's siding, these images from *Voice* photographer Michelle Le can attest that the year was anything but dull.



**Above:** At Mountain View High School, exchange students from Iwata, Japan share a moment of silence for the victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. **Left:** Golfers and geese just don't get along at Shoreline. **Bottom left:** Bubb students staff a wigmaker's shop in Colonial WilliamsBubb.



**Above:** Principal Judy Crates, in a gorilla costume, wows first-graders at St. Paul Child Development Center while other children wear their pig costumes at McDonough on the first day of kindergarten at Theuerkauf School.



Castro School. **Top right:** Preschoolers play. **Bottom right** It's not easy to let



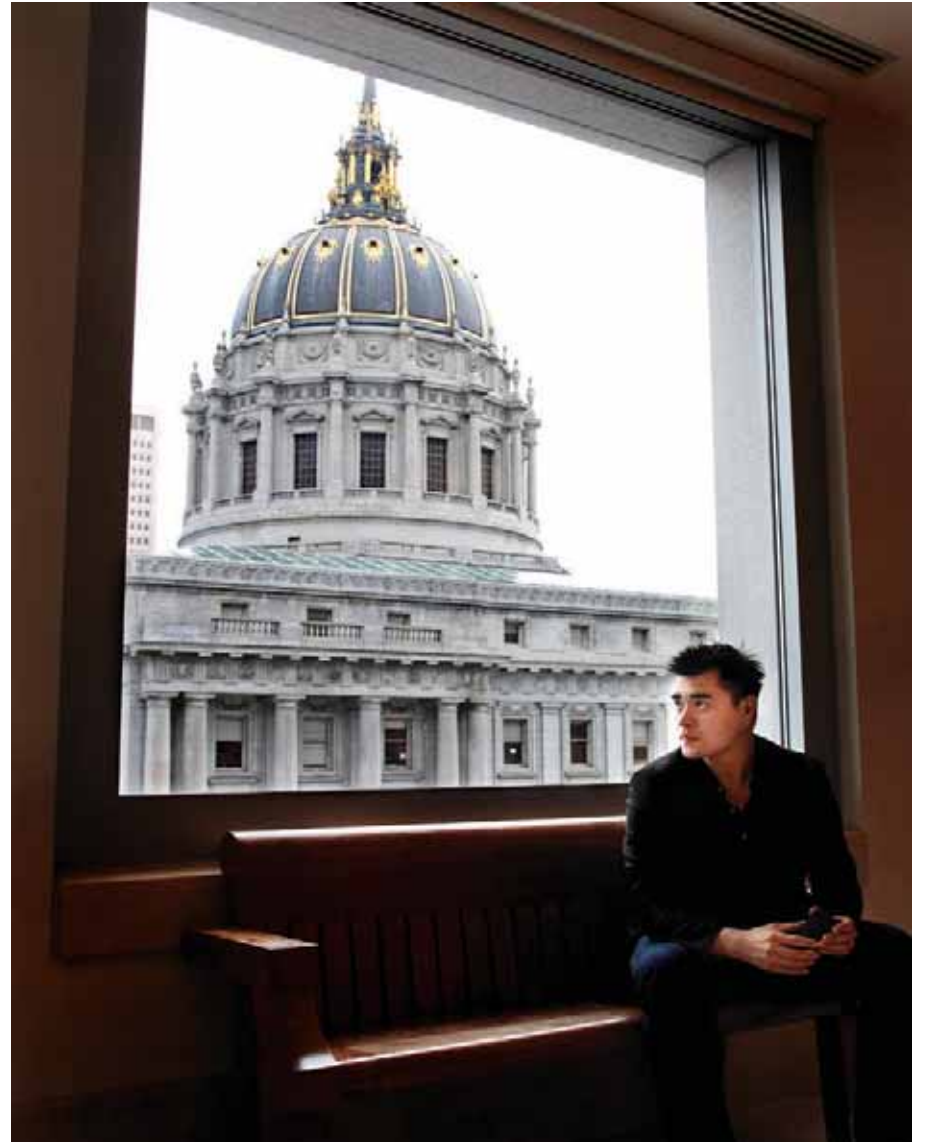
## Year in Photos



**Ken Boswell** plays Abraham Lincoln at a Living History event at Theuerkauf School.



**David Messner** and **Michelle Garcia**, with their son **Aiden**, must find a new home as the Pacific Euro Hotel makes way for a new office project.

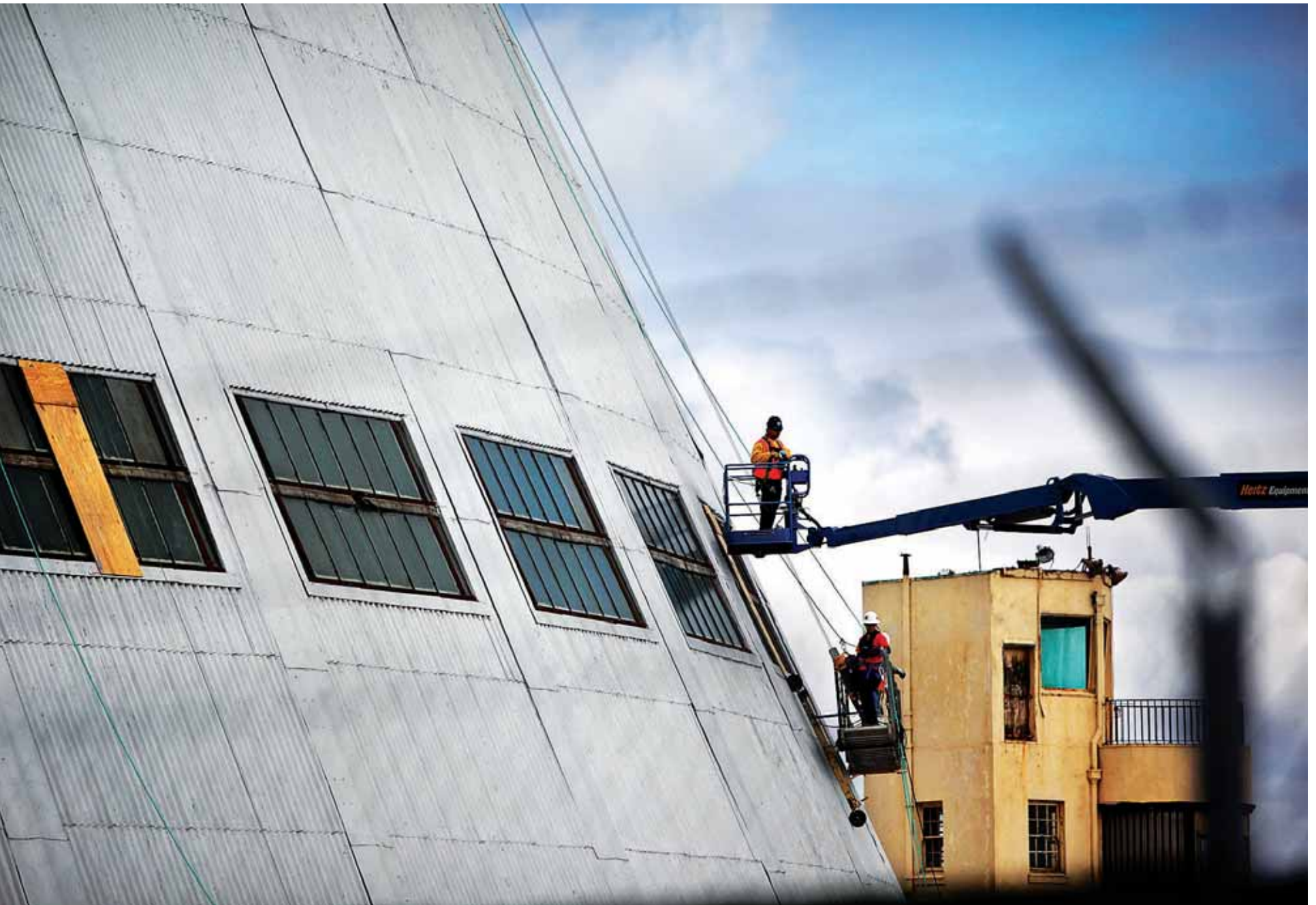


**Jose Vargas** jumpstarted the national immigration debate when the Pulitzer-winning journalist outed himself as undocumented.

## Year in Photos



**Left:** Jean Stuetzle, 92, recovers from laser cancer surgery at home with husband Al.  
**Below:** Maj. Thomas Keegan kisses his son after being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross at Moffett Field. **Bottom of page:** Workers begin stripping siding off of Hangar One.



# Viewpoint

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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## ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

# Ruling will shut off downtown funds

The state Supreme Court ruling that struck down about 400 redevelopment agencies around the state also will disrupt Mountain View's plans to hang onto the \$5 million in annual revenue that has kept the Downtown Revitalization Authority running since 1969. The Authority has been a key factor in sprucing up Castro Street and other downtown venues.

In its late December decision, the court ruled in favor of Gov. Jerry Brown's contention that redevelopment agencies (RDAs) were created by the Legislature and could be disbanded by the same process. It means that the share of property taxes funneled into such districts will now go to schools and cities, and in the process take away some of the burden of funding education from the state. Since the downtown district was already scheduled to go out of business at the end of this year, the \$5 million loss to the city will knock out projects planned this year, but many other cities will definitely feel a more severe pinch.

Mountain View's Shoreline District is similar to an RDA, but luckily for the city, it was chartered by its own specific piece of legislation and will not be affected by the court decision. The Shoreline district produced nearly \$27 million in 2011, although the city agreed to share its largesse with local school districts, deciding to divert \$13.6 million to the Mountain View Whisman (\$8.2 million) and the Mountain View Los Altos High (\$5.4 million) school districts over the next three years. Prior to the deal, the districts did not receive a share of these funds, which the city has used to maintain the former landfill and spruce up the Shoreline area, including the new fire station which just opened about a month ago.

Loss of the downtown district funds means that street improvements and other amenities must compete in the normal budgeting process and that the affordable housing fund will not be receiving annual installments from this source of revenue.

The League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association are challenging the measure passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor and Legislature that will take away the \$5 billion annually in RDA funds. Passage of AB-26 eliminated the agencies, but the decision was not a complete victory for the Governor. A companion bill, AB-27, allows the agencies to continue if they make significant annual payments to the state. But the court ruled against this as well, and the \$2 million "ransom" recently paid by the city won't keep the city from losing all of its RDA funds.

Back in April, the City Council approved a \$625,000 package of studies that will measure the impact of alternative ways to make up for the funds lost in the RDA, including a look at charging for parking downtown and charging businesses a fee to pay for some improvements. Results are not yet available from these studies.

As a fixture in Mountain View for more than 40 years, the district is credited with revitalizing the downtown core, including its current focus on restaurants, many of which feature outdoor dining made possible by the redesign of Castro Street. It is a success story that city leaders have long been proud to recount. The area continues to be popular with residents and the thousands of workers who flood downtown eateries for lunch and dinner on weekdays and attracts tourists on the weekends. Loss of this downtown agency will hurt, but its impact will be spread over a long period of time. And while the money will be lost by the downtown district, \$1.5 million of it will be transferred to local schools, which will benefit local families and students.

## ■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### COUNCIL MEMBER HAS ISSUE WITH MORA DRIVE STORY

I want to correct inaccuracies in your article and editorial on the Mora Drive businesses that must eventually find a new home in compliance with the Mountain View Precise Plan. Contrary to the impression given by the article, I support giving the businesses more time to find a new location. I made the motion to grant the request for a study, and I voted in favor of it. I would have preferred to fast-track a vote on the extension, but the city's process only allowed for a study of the extension.

I did express my position that the extra 18 months the property owner requested is too long, given that the Precise Plan, which was adopted in 1987, allowed 25 years for the conversion to residential. In those 25 years, the surrounding area has filled in with housing in compliance with the Plan, placing families next door to some businesses that are inappropriate neighbors.

Crucial facts were omitted from the article. Two-thirds of the businesses on Mora Drive would have been non-compliant uses of the land even under the original zoning. One of these businesses, a landscape contractor, is the subject of ongoing complaints from neighbors. Some Mora

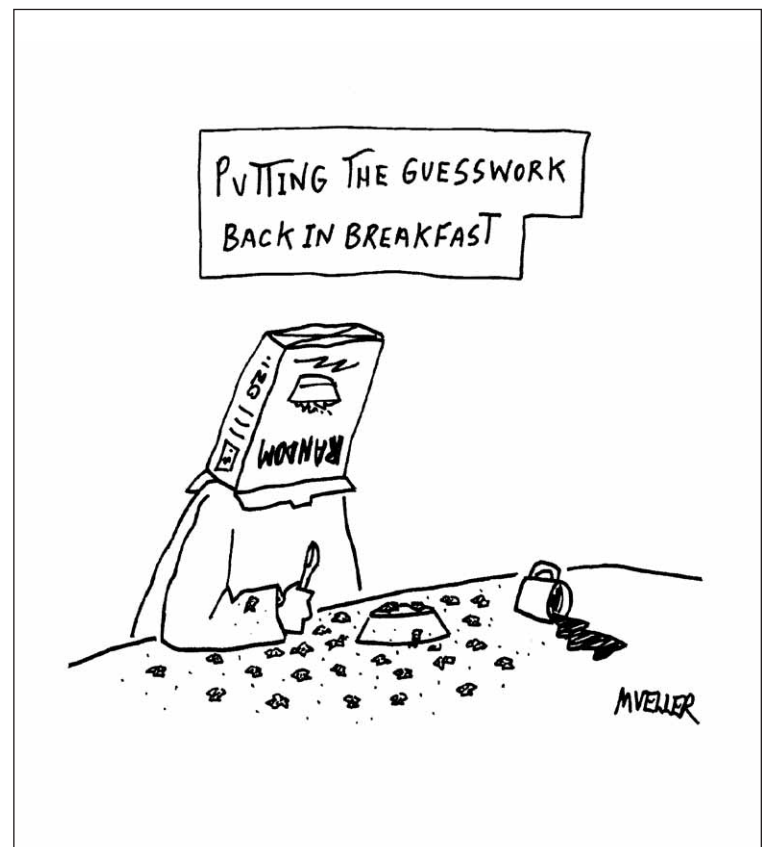
Drive businesses have people living in them against city code. The city chose not to enforce code violations because of the upcoming deadline for conversion.

As a former small business owner, I understand the challenges in running and making a business a success. But I also understand that a city has guidelines and rules that need to be followed in the attempt to make land uses compatible with one another, especially when it comes to businesses within residential neighborhoods. I believe the city can strike a balance between giving businesses time to relocate and fulfilling the city's promise to surrounding residents.

I am always open to looking at guidelines, allowing flexibility and considering changes, but that was not what this gatekeeper request was about nor was this about moving forward with an apartment project on these properties. I will also note that Simon Printing is a type of business that would be permitted under the new residential zoning. The property owners, not the city, will decide whether they want to accommodate it in their plans for the property.

Margaret Abe-Koga  
Church Street

Abe-Koga is a member of the Mountain View City Council.



■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Fast, fresh and tasty

CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL'S PARED-DOWN MENU OFFERS GOOD QUALITY FARE

By Sheila Himmel

Why go to a Chipotle Mexican Grill when there are excellent taquerias all over the place? You can get crispier carnitas at La Bamba, for example, as well as pupusas and horchata. Chipotle has other virtues.

My fear was that this national chain would be another World Wrapps, where burrito-like items often are soggy or dry. But while World Wrapps' ambitious menu hopscoches the world to fill tortillas with Bombay Curry and Samurai Salmon, Chipotle focuses on four menu items and five proteins. The price depends

on the protein, from \$6.10 for vegetarian or chicken to \$6.50 for barbacoa (braised beef), grilled steak or carnitas (braised pork).

Chicken is marinated in chipotle adobo, grilled and cubed for easy assembly. It is the spiciest of the meats. The barbacoa and carnitas melt in your mouth.

Beans are black or pinto, which are very tasty and not mushy. Turns out the pintos are cooked with bacon.

Chipotle offers brown rice, but the textural difference is slight. White rice has hints of cilantro and lime.

Caloric and other nutritional facts abound. Do you need to



MICHELLE LE

A Chipotle carnitas taco has pork braised for hours then shredded, served with guacamole, lettuce and salsa.

## DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE'S Pizzeria Venti



### Conchiglie in crema di Zucca e Ricotta



Pumpkin as an ingredient in cooking is a relatively recent development, by Italian standards. Since the 1500s, once pumpkins were imported from the Americas, they were grown everywhere and were cheap, so even the poorest of the poor were able to enjoy them, this with the goal of getting a cheap but nutritious and savory meal.

The home of this pumpkin pasta recipe lies between Mantua and Ferrara. In fact, their origins hark back to the times of the Este court in Ferrara, famous also for the refinement of its cuisine. The master of banquets,

Giovanni Battista Rossetti, had already mentioned it in his recipe book in 1584 however the Gonzaga family, sitting rulers of Mantua during the same period, who also claimed ownership of the recipe.

From our kitchen to yours.

Buon appetito!

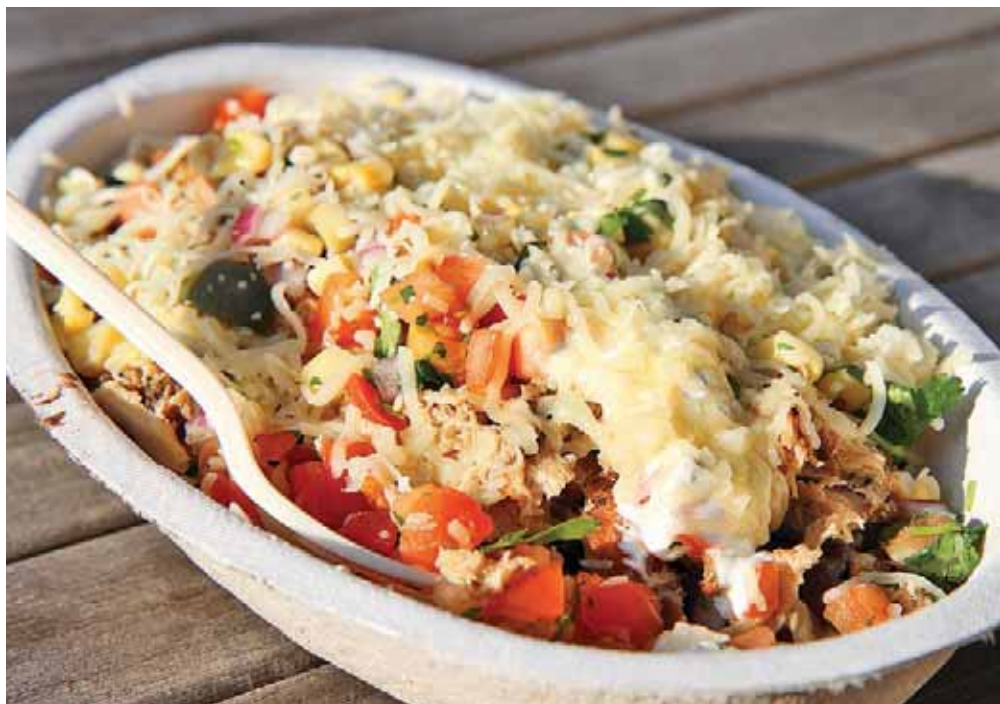
### Lumache with Pumpkin Creme Sauce

- 1 lb pasta Lumache, Campanelle or Shell shaped pasta
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 6 oz of Ricotta cheese
- 1 T of Parmigiano
- 1 clove of garlic sliced
- 3 oz vegetable stock (heated)
- ½ T butter
- 1 ½ T of olive oil
- 1 t of fresh rosemary leaves
- Prosciutto strips sauteed to crisp
- Salt and pepper to taste

**To cook:** Place olive oil and butter into pan over medium heat. Add garlic and half of the fresh rosemary; saute until garlic becomes translucent. (about 1 minute) Add the pumpkin and the hot broth, a little at a time to loosen and form a light sauce; salt and pepper to taste. Cover and cook on low heat 5-8 minutes. Cook pasta in boiling salted water, drain and immediately add to pumpkin creme sauce. Stir in the ricotta and Parmigiano cheese. Mix ingredients well and cook for 2 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining rosemary. Divide into individual plates and top with prosciutto strips. Feeds 4.

1390 Pear Ave., Mountain View  
(650) 254-1120  
www.mvpizzeriaventi.com

Hours:  
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**CHIPOTLE**

► Continued from page 21

know that roasted chili-corn salsa has four times the calories of fresh tomato salsa, and tomatillo-red is way higher than tomatillo-green? Maybe, if you plan to make a meal of salsa.

My other fear had to do with Chipotle being owned by McDonald's. In fact, McDonald's

did invest in Chipotle in 1998, and divested in 2006. The stores are not franchised. Founder Steve Ells owns 1.25 percent of

*The barbacoa and carnitas melt in your mouth.*

the publicly held chain, with 1,100 stores in 41 states.

Ells got the idea watching the crowds at taquerias in San Francisco's Mission District. He figured out how to speed it up, ensure freshness and a place to sit down amid stainless steel, warm wood and exposed ductwork. He brought the prep work out front for customers to see. And he provided detailed information

about their food, from easy-to-spot calorie counts to grams of dietary fiber in each serving.

Got special dietary needs?

► Continued on next page

# DINING ON THE TOWN

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► Continued from previous page

Check the Web site, which assures us that everything is gluten-free except flour tortillas and possibly the red tomatillo salsa. Also: “If you are highly sensitive and would like us to change our gloves, we would be happy to do that at your request.”

Got kids? Four children’s menu items include chips and a drink (juice or organic milk) for \$2.95 for the cheese quesadilla to \$3.95 for the build-your-own taco kit (“Served on a tray for easy building”).

The newest local Chipotle, in Mountain View on El Monte

and El Camino, exemplifies a big change in consumer tastes. This store used to be a Boston Market, a chain that grew rapidly as the homey supplier of meals Mom didn’t have time to make anymore. Chipotle exploded this niche, often called “home meal replacement,” and put it back together in a very focused way.

Among few missteps, Chipotle got embroiled in an Americans with Disabilities Act lawsuit filed by a customer in a wheelchair who was unable to see the food preparation, denying him the “Chipotle Experience.” New restaurants have changed the counter design. ■



MICHELLE LE

**Above:** A Chipotle burrito filled with chipotle adobo-marinated grilled chicken, brown rice, cheese, black beans, guacamole and salsa.  
**Previous page, left:** The burrito bowl with rice, meat and toppings but no tortilla.  
**Right:** The Chipotle on El Monte Avenue in Mountain View.

■ DINING NOTES

**Chipotle Mexican Grill**

1039 A El Monte Ave.  
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We invite you to join the next session in our *LifeWorks* series. **Spinach in Your Boss’ Teeth and Other Etiquette Dilemmas**, an absolutely free seminar, shares skills you can use immediately to feel more confident and at ease in many business and social settings.

Xceed Financial Credit Union is proud to offer this seminar as part of our ongoing commitment to providing our members with education opportunities that will help them to achieve their financial goals and realize their dreams. Our new *LifeWorks* series is specially geared toward interests and concerns of busy women.

**Spinach in Your Boss’ Teeth and Other Etiquette Dilemmas**  
**Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

Networking open forum: 6:15 p.m.  
 Seminar: 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Xceed Financial Credit Union  
 601 Showers Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040

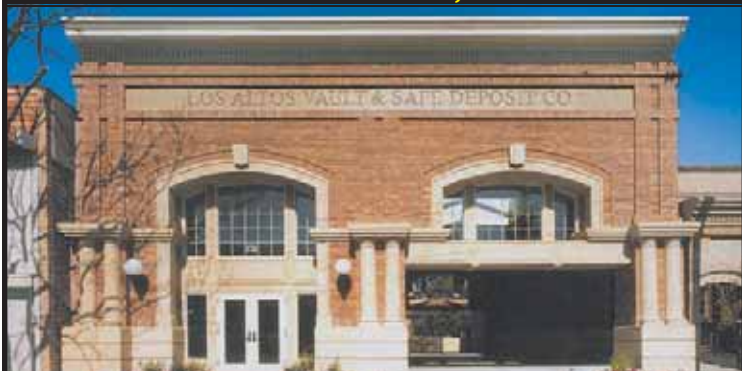
**Seating is limited. RSVP by January 20**  
 at [www.xfcu.org/lifeworks](http://www.xfcu.org/lifeworks) or contact Matt Butler  
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**Meet a Los Altos Rotarian**



**Stephen Wu**

In 2003, Stephen Wu gave a presentation at the Rotary Club of Los Altos about information security and the law. After a local attorney reconnected Steve with the Club, he joined in 2010.

Steve notes, "Through my membership in the Rotary Club, I am more in touch with the goings-on in the community. I meet people and hear about the needs of our community and the world. The Club gives me the opportunity to help people here and abroad."

Steve adds "Besides my Rotary affiliation, I am an active leader in my church, where I teach Sunday school and volunteer my time to support activities for youth and children. As a Boy Scout growing up, I made a promise to be 'unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.'" Steve sees following Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" as helping him keep that promise. Stephen is now an Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 37 here in Los Altos.

In addition, Steve has served members of the legal profession and the public by volunteering his time with various bar associations. Recently, he served as Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Science & Technology Law.

*The Los Altos Rotary Club congratulates Stephen Wu for his valued service to our community and to the Rotary Club of Los Altos.*

*To learn more about joining the Rotary Club of Los Altos and serving our community, please visit [www.losaltosrotary.org](http://www.losaltosrotary.org)*

MOVIE TIMES

**A Dangerous Method (R)**

**Guild Theatre:** 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 1:15 p.m.

**The Adventures of Tintin (PG)**

**Century 16:** Noon, 3, 6:10 & 8:50 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m.; 1:35, 4:10, 7:10 & 9:50 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:55 & 3:45 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 6:20 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:25 & 10 p.m.

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G)**

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 1:25, 3:50, 6:20 & 8:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:05 & 11:35 a.m.; 1:30, 3:55, 5:15, 6:10, 8:30 & 10:45 p.m.

**The Artist (PG-13) ★★★1/2**

**CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 2 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 4:40 & 7:25 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:50 p.m.

**The Darkest Hour (PG-13) Century 20:** 3:10 p.m.; In 3D at 9:10 p.m.

**The Descendants (R) ★★★1/2**

**Aquarius Theatre:** 4, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 1:15 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m.

**The Devil Inside (R) Century 16:** 11:30 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m.

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

**The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011) (R) ★★★**

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 12:10, 2:40, 4, 6:30, 7:40 & 9:55 p.m.  
**Century 20:** Noon, 1:15, 3:30, 4:45, 7, 8:10 & 10:25 p.m.

**Hugo (PG) ★★★1/2**

**Century 16:** 2:35 & 9:15 p.m.; In 3D at 11:40 a.m. & 6:05 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 11:15 a.m.; 5:05 & 10:40 p.m.; In 3D at 2:10 & 7:55 p.m.

**The Metropolitan Opera: Faust (Not Rated)**

**Century 20:** Wed. at 6:30 p.m.  
**CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** Wed. at 6:30 p.m.

**Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol (PG-13)**

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 12:30, 2, 3:40, 5, 7, 8:30 & 10:10 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 10:55 a.m.; 12:45, 1:55, 4, 5, 7:15, 8:15 & 10:30 p.m.

**The Muppets (PG) ★★★ Century 20:** 11:15 a.m.; 1:55 & 4:30 p.m.

**New Year's Eve (PG-13) ★1/2 Century 16:** 12:40, 3:35, 7:20 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:05, 2:50, 5:35 & 8:50 p.m.

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) Guild Theatre:** Sat. at midnight.

**Shame (NC-17) ★★★**

**Aquarius Theatre:** 4:45, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 2:15 p.m.

**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) ★★★1/2**

**Century 16:** 11:20 a.m.; 12:20, 2:30, 3:30, 6:05, 7:05, 9:10 & 10:05 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 1:20, 4:25, 7:35, 8:55 & 10:40 p.m.

**The Sitter (R) Century 20:** 7:05 & 9:15 p.m.

**Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 3, 6:10 & 9:05 p.m. **CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:10 p.m.

**War Horse (PG-13) ★★★1/2**

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 12:30, 2:20, 3:45, 6:10, 7, 9:30 & 10:10 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 1:50, 3:20, 6:55 & 10:15 p.m.; Sat.-Thu. also at 8:20 p.m.

**We Bought a Zoo (PG) ★1/2**

**Century 16:** 11:50 a.m.; 3:10, 6:40 & 9:40 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 11 a.m.; 12:15, 1:50, 4:45, 6:15, 7:40 & 10:35 p.m.

**Young Adult (R) ★★★**

**Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:30, 4:05, 6:50 & 9:20 p.m.  
**Century 20:** 11:40 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m.

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

**CENTURY CINEMA 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)

**CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN:** 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

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

**STANFORD THEATRE:** 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, visit [www.LandmarkTheatres.com](http://www.LandmarkTheatres.com)

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

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit [www.mv-voice.com](http://www.mv-voice.com) and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

**THE ARTIST ★★★**

(Palo Alto Square) Any filmgoer undaunted by something different will surely walk out of this new silent film with a grin. Though this pastiche has been crafted by film nerds and largely for them, Michel Hazanavicius' feature has an emotional generosity that speaks louder than words. Opening in 1927, "The Artist" begins with a premiere of a silent film starring dashing George Valentin (Jean Dujardin). When Valentin stumbles into a photo op with a girl named Peppy Miller (Berenice Bejo), the ground for a relationship is paved. Peppy sees her star begins to rise in proportion to George's fall, precipitated by the arrival of talkies and the market crash of 1929. Writer-director Hazanavicius mostly steers clear of comparisons to the era's epics and great screen comics, instead inhabiting the more manageable territory of melodrama. The acting is inventive, and the film joyously celebrates the movies. *Rated PG-13 for a disturbing image and a crude gesture. One hour, 41 minutes.* — P.C.

**THE DESCENDANTS ★★★1/2**

(Aquarius, Century 20) George Clooney plays Matt King, a lawyer and hapless father troubleshooting domestic and business concerns in a Hawaii he drily notes is not paradise. King's petulance derives mostly from his wife being in a coma due to a boating accident, and his inability to do anything about it. As a father, he's clumsy at best; by pampering 10-year-old Scottie (Amara Miller), Matt hopes to distract her from her mother's decline. No such trickery works on delinquent 17-year-old Alexandra (Shailene Woodley). Matt's business issue involves his role as trustee of his family's ancestral land: 25,000 pristine acres in Kauai that will bring the Kings a pretty penny if they can agree on a buyer. As this subplot lingers, Matt becomes obsessed with a third concern: investigating a secret about his wife. It provides the excuse for the Kings to island-hop and family-bond in search of closure. *Rated PG for some mild rude humor. One hour, 38 minutes.* — P.C.

**THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO ★★★**

(Century 16, Century 20) Not exactly lean, but plenty mean, David Fincher's adaptation of Stieg Larsson's mystery novel judiciously pares down 480 pages to 158 minutes. It's hard not to feel Fincher's film is old news, after Larsson's widely read "Millenium" trilogy (2005-2007) and the Swedish films starring Noomi Rapace as the punk hacker hero Lisbeth Salander. On the other hand, this is the film the novel has been waiting for: a crisp handling of the complex narrative that's visually striking and impeccably acted. Lisbeth (Rooney Mara) is a vivid and compelling character. A superheroic sociopath in black leather and piercings, Lisbeth suffers no fools, unless as a means to the fool's end. Though the mystery cannot engross as deeply as it does on the page, Fincher's version is intelligent, properly moody and faithful enough. *Rated R for brutal violent content including rape and torture, strong sexuality, graphic nudity and language. Two hours, 38 minutes.* — P.C.

**HUGO ★★★1/2**

(Century 16, Century 20) Director Martin Scorsese's affection for all things cinema

has never been more evident than in the enchanting "Hugo." Young Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield) lives alone in the hollowed walls of a Paris train station, orphaned following the death of his father (Jude Law). Hugo is desperate to finish repairing an old robotic figure that he and his dad had been working on, occasionally stealing parts from a toy shop. The shop's enigmatic owner (Ben Kingsley as Georges Melies) catches Hugo in the act and confiscates Hugo's journal: a booklet with his father's sketches of the automaton's inner workings. Georges' goddaughter Isabelle (Chloe Grace Moretz) agrees to help Hugo get his journal back, setting off a series of mysterious events that click and whirl with the rhythm of a finely tuned clock. *Rated PG for mild thematic material, some action/peril and smoking. Two hours, 6 minutes.* — T.H.

**THE MUPPETS** ★★1/2

(Century 20) It's "The Muppets" show, with guest star/co-writer Jason Segel orchestrating a fun kiddie flick and a heart-tugging nostalgia exercise for Generation X. Fans may squirm at the emphasis put on the Muppets' decline (in reality, the Muppets have been absent from the big screen since 1999's "Muppets from Space"

but have been kicking around in TV movies and in viral videos). In "The Muppets," they've disbanded and the Muppet Theater has fallen into comically sad disrepair. The realization devastates Muppet super-fan Walter (a puppet performed by Peter Linz), who — with his brother Gary (Segel) — makes a pilgrimage to take the "Muppet Studio Tour." When Walter overhears oil baron Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) describe his plan to foreclose on the Muppet Theater and drill for crude, Walter, Gary and Gary's girlfriend, Mary (Amy Adams), set out to reunite the Muppets and save the theater by putting on a telethon. *Rated PG for some mild rude humor. One hour, 38 minutes.* — P.C.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE** ★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Is it me or is Hollywood making movies on dares now? How else to explain all-star weirdness like this film's nutty, chaste anti-romance between a shuckin' and jivin' Zac Efron and dowdy cougar Michelle Pfeiffer? Perhaps director Garry Marshall is crazy like a fox. On the evidence of the recent "Valentine's Day," "New Year's Eve" is likely to pack 'em in. I mean, who wouldn't want to see Ashton Kutcher and Lea Michele ("Glee") stuck in an elevator and the apocalyptic signifier of

a movie whose mix-n-match cast includes Robert De Niro, Hilary Swank, Sarah Jessica Parker and at least one New Kid on the Block? In terms of sophistication, it's the movie equivalent of eight romance novels. *Rated PG-13 for language including some sexual references. One hour, 58 minutes.* — P.C.

**SHAME** ★★★

(Aquarius) Steve McQueen's "Shame" is a mood piece, as abstract and engrossing as the Bach piano on the soundtrack. It's another showcase for the subtle work of Michael Fassbender, who bares all to play a sex addict. Brandon lives and works in skyscraping, hermetically sealed chambers, flashing a Mona Lisa smile to create just enough of an appearance of normality to deflect inconvenient questions. There's one person from whom Brandon can't hide, much as he tries: his sister Sissy (Carey Mulligan). Sissy storms the castle and Brandon cannot refuse her request to stay for a spell. In a scene that competes to be Brandon's ultimate nightmare, his manic boss (James Badge Dale) makes — right in front of Brandon — an aggressive bid to bed Sissy, following a performance of "New York, New York" that moves her brother to tears. Mulligan does her most impressive work

yet, but the picture belongs to her co-star. Fassbender makes a case for himself as the next Jeremy Irons, quietly revealing tormented men from inside-out embodiment. *Rated NC-17 for explicit sexual content. One hour, 41 minutes.* — P.C.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS**

★★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Director Guy Ritchie's 2009 "Sherlock Holmes" film split viewers. Some applauded the strong cast, solid production values and blend of mystery and action. Others argued Holmes was too reliant on his fighting abilities. "Shadows" probably won't make any converts out of the second group, although the inclusion of Holmes' nemesis, Professor James Moriarty, will be welcome to traditionalists. The first group, however, will be thrilled with this follow-up that is funnier and more compelling than its predecessor. Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law reprise their roles as Holmes and sidekick Dr. John Watson, with Jared Harris of TV's "Mad Men" as Moriarty, a genius professor with nefarious plans. The duo finds assistance in the form of gypsy Madam Simza Heron (Swedish actress Noomi Rapace of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"). Downey

Jr. and Law make an exceptional tandem, and the musical score by Hans Zimmer is tremendous. *Rated PG-13 for some drug material, intense sequences of violence and action. Two hours, nine minutes.* — T.H.

**TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY** ★★★1/2

(Palo Alto Square, Century 20) Call the British foreign intelligence agency SIS or MI6, but le Carre's characters call it "the Circus," run by Control (John Hurt) out of smoke-filled rooms. In 1973, a botched attempt to discover the identity of a double agent results in a wounded field officer, international tensions and curtailed careers for Control and trusted lieutenant George Smiley (Gary Oldman). A civil servant asks Smiley to come out of retirement to root out the "mole" hiding within the Circus' inner circle. With great subtlety, Oldman demonstrates what makes Smiley an extraordinary spy: his insistence on taking in more than he lets slip. *Rated R for violence, some sexuality/nudity and language. Two hours, eight minutes.* — P.C.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

**MOUNTAIN VIEW 2030 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) will hold two meetings to discuss the City of Mountain View's Draft 2030 General Plan, Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program and Draft 2030 General Plan Environmental Impact Report.

**Wednesday, December 7, 2011—7:00 p.m.**  
**Mountain View City Hall, Council Chambers—**  
**500 Castro Street**

Introduction and public comment on all Draft 2030 General Plan materials.

— AND —

**Wednesday, January 11, 2012—7:00 p.m.**  
**Mountain View City Hall, Council Chambers—**  
**500 Castro Street**

Continued public comment on all Draft 2030 General Plan materials.

All comments on the Draft 2030 General Plan Environmental Impact Report must be received by the Community Development Department by January 13, 2012. Copies of all Draft 2030 General Plan materials will be available Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at [www.mountainview2030.com](http://www.mountainview2030.com). Copies will also be publicly available on November 30, 2011 in the Community Development Department and City Clerk's office at City Hall, 500 Castro Street, and at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street.

Following these meetings, the EPC will consider and make a recommendation on the Final 2030 General Plan, Final Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program and Final 2030 General Plan Environmental Impact Report at a public hearing to be scheduled in Spring 2012. The EPC's recommendation will then be considered by the Mountain View City Council at a public hearing to be scheduled for Spring 2012. Public Comments are welcome at all meetings. Contact the Community Development Department at (650) 903-6306 for further information.

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**Smiles Dental Care**

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# GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

## SAINT MICHAEL TRIO FIFTH-ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Saint Michael Trio celebrates five years together with a concert that includes new music, Beethoven and rock 'n' roll. Jan. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. \$10 adults; \$5 children. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6000. [www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/mvcpa/jan12.html](http://www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/mvcpa/jan12.html)

## AUDITIONS

**'Alice'** Los Altos Youth Theatre is holding auditions for the play "Alice," a quirky version of the classic "Alice in Wonderland." Actors should prepare a one-minute monologue or poem showing character and humor, come prepared to move, and bring a list of rehearsal conflicts. Jan. 9 and 10, ages 10-20; Rehearsal Jan. 18-March 14; Performs March 15-30, Bus Barn Theatre, 4-6 p.m. Free. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-947-2796. [losaltosrecreation.org](http://losaltosrecreation.org)

## BENEFITS

**Music Boosters' flea market** A flea market will support Palo Alto High School's instrumental-music program, with books, antiques, crafts, plants and other items for sale. Jan. 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. Palo Alto High School parking lot, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-324-3532.

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

**'Cultivating Compassion'** Five-week course with guided meditations and structured reflections taught by Shaila Catherine and other teachers of Insight Meditation South Bay. No registration required. Thursdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 9, 7-9 p.m. Donations welcome. St. Timothy's/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. [www.imsb.org](http://www.imsb.org)

**Communication Workshop (ToastMasters Orbiters)** Toastmasters meet every first and third Thursdays to work on communication skills in a friendly environment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Community Center, 210 South Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Call 408-571-1844. [orbiters.freetoasthost.us](http://orbiters.freetoasthost.us)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**'Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.'** This event will feature readings from King's life and times, a performance by the Ananda Singers and archival video footage. The evening is free, but attendees should call to reserve a seat. Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. East West Bookshop, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.eastwest.com](http://www.eastwest.com)

## DANCE

**Ballet Class** For the Love of Dance studio is offering ballet class for teens and adults. Students will stretch and learn ballet technique in a comfortable setting. Wednesdays through June 26, 7-8 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. [fortheloveofdancemv.com](http://fortheloveofdancemv.com)

**Beginners' Square Dance Class** No experience or partner needed for this all-levels class. First class is free, with refreshments included. Sundays, Jan. 8-March 4, 7-9 p.m. \$4. Lotus Lane Recreation Hall, Mountain View. Call 408-274-3833.

**Belly Dancing** Adriana performs at 8:30 p.m. Jan. 7, 5 p.m.-midnight. Free. Morocco's Restaurant, 873 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-1502. [www.moroccosrestaurant.com](http://www.moroccosrestaurant.com)

**Hip-Hop Class** For the Love of Dance Studio is offering hip-hop class for teens and adults. Mondays through June 24, 8-9 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. [fortheloveofdancemv.com](http://fortheloveofdancemv.com)

**Hip-Hop Class** For the Love of Dance offers a hip-hop dance class on Mondays, 5-6 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. [fortheloveofdancemv.com](http://fortheloveofdancemv.com)

**Jazz-Dance Class** For the Love of Dance Studio is offering jazz-dance classes for teens and adults. Mondays through June 24, 7-8 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. [fortheloveofdancemv.com](http://fortheloveofdancemv.com)

**Tap Dance** The studio For the Love of Dance offers a tap class for teens and adults. Students will learn routines to upbeat music. Fridays, Jan. 6-June 22, 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-961-6715. [fortheloveofdancemv.com](http://fortheloveofdancemv.com)

**Tiny Tots Dance Class** The studio For the Love of Dance offers "tiny tots" classes for 3- and 4-year-olds. Pre-ballet and tap, using activity songs and exercises that teach dance terminology; basic rhythm patterns and self-expression; listening skills and self-confidence; and an introduction to classical music. Mondays, Jan. 2-June 25, 4-5

p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. [fortheloveofdancemv.com](http://fortheloveofdancemv.com)

**Twirlybirds Square Dance Class** An adult beginners' modern square-dancing class (no experience necessary) will be taught by John Caywood with Linda Caywood. Sundays from Jan. 8 through Aug. 26, 7-9 p.m. \$4 per class. Recreation Hall, 425 Lotus Lane, Mountain View. Call 408-274-3833.

## EXHIBITS

**'The Legend of Rex Slinkard'** An exhibition focuses on the works of the early-20th-century California artist Rex Slinkard. During his life he emerged from his roots as a rancher to become a painter who helped influence the modernist bent of the nascent California art scene. Through Feb. 26, open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive and Museum Way, Stanford. [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu)

## FAMILY AND KIDS

**'Lunar New Year Spectacular'** This party marks the Chinese New Year with lion dancing, Kung Fu demonstrations, storytime, crafts and food trucks (Kalbi BBQ, Chairman Bao, House of Siam on Wheels, Curry Up NOW, TreatBot Karaoke Truck). Meant for all ages. Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2436. [www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/lib/news/details.asp?NewsID=1912&TargetID=160](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/lib/news/details.asp?NewsID=1912&TargetID=160)

**Information Night for Parents** Bullis Charter School is a small K-8 public school based in Los Altos. Open enrollment ends Feb. 3, and an information session for parents is Jan. 10, 7-8 p.m. Free. Bullis Charter School, 102 W. Portola Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-947-4939. [www.bullischarter-school.com](http://www.bullischarter-school.com)

**LEGO Holiday Display** The Museum of American Heritage (MOAH), The Bay Area LEGO User Group (BayLUG) are co-hosting the 2011 LEGO Holiday display at MOAH. Weekends through Jan. 15, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$2. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org)

## FILM

**'SOS Film Festival'** The SOS Film Festival is hosted by the Mountain View High School Environmental Club. It features documentaries about protecting the oceans and raising awareness about ocean issues. Panel discussion included. Jan. 20, 6:30-10 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School Theater, 3355 Truman Ave., Mountain View.

## HEALTH

**John's Zumba Class** Zumba classes every Thursday night, 8-9 p.m. \$10. John's Zumba Class, 2584 Leghorn St., Mountain View. Call 415-990-9965. [www.thatzumbaguy.com](http://www.thatzumbaguy.com)

## LIVE MUSIC

**'World-Music Night'** Live music with dinner; reservations recommended. Jan. 6, 5 p.m.-midnight. Free. Morocco's Restaurant, 873 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-1502. [www.moroccosrestaurant.com](http://www.moroccosrestaurant.com)

## ON STAGE

**'The Pitmen Painters'** TheatreWorks presents "The Pitmen Painters," a Lee Hall comedy-drama play about six 1930s miners who become stars of the art world. Jan. 21-Feb. 12, with afternoon and evening performances Tue.-Sun. \$19-\$69. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)

## RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

**'Insight Meditation South Bay'** Shaila Catherine and guest teachers lead a weekly "Insight Meditation" sitting followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings. Tuesdays through Feb. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. St. Timothy's/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. [imsb.org](http://imsb.org)

## TALKS/AUTHORS

**'Iceland'** Dee and Dave Gustavson present their photos of Iceland taken on a recent visit to introduce Icelanders to the cultural-exchange program Friendship Force International. Other world travelers will also speak about the program.

Jan. 8, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-961-3539. [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

**Linda Gray Sexton** Linda Gray Sexton (daughter of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Anne Sexton) discusses her memoir, "Half In Love," which details her struggle to escape her mother's legacy of suicide. Jan. 11, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 323-304-2433. [www.booksinc.net/PaloAlto](http://www.booksinc.net/PaloAlto)

**Niobe Way** The MVLA School Speaker Series presents author Niobe Way speaking on "Boys and the Crisis of Connection." Topics will include stereotypes about boys and men, and what roles boys' friendships play in their development. Jan. 10, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos High School, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. [ptac.mvwsd.org/parented.html](http://ptac.mvwsd.org/parented.html)

**Technology and Society Committee Luncheon Forum** Mark Bowers, manager of Sunnyvale's solid-waste program in the department of public works, will speak on the services provided by the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer (SMaRT) Station(r). Jan. 10, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is \$12. Hanger Szechuan Restaurant, 134 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. [tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml](http://tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml)

## VOLUNTEERS

**'Mitzvah Day'** Volunteers are sought for a community-wide day of service. Hands-on activities and projects are available for adults, teens and families. Jan. 16, 8 a.m. Free. Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. [www.paloaltojcc.org/mitzvah](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/mitzvah)

**Deer Hollow Farm Docent** An introduction for prospective docents will be held at the Mountain View Library on Mon., Jan. 9. Three training dates follow: Jan. 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 10 a.m. to noon, at Deer Hollow Farm. 10:30 a.m. Free. Deer Hollow Farm, Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve. Call 650-903-6430. [mountainview.gov/search/DeerHollowFarm](http://mountainview.gov/search/DeerHollowFarm)

**Tutor with JustREAD** JustREAD is a non-profit, literacy program dedicated to improving the reading/writing skills of students. Volunteers are trained by JustREAD and work one-on-one with students. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. JustREAD Tutorial Center, 1299 Bryant St., Mountain View. Call 650-691-0416. [justREADcenters.org](http://justREADcenters.org)

Mountain View Whisman School District

**K-8 ENROLLMENT**  
2012-2013 BEGINS FEBRUARY 1\*  
DISTRICT OFFICE  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



District Enrollment Info Nights (K-8 registration requirements and enrollment info)  
January 11 - Castro Elementary  
January 18 - Theuerkauf Elementary  
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Kinder Info Site Visits and Open Houses throughout the month of January

MVWSD offers Choice Programs:  
Castro DI (English-Spanish)  
Monta Loma CEL (parent participation)  
Stevenson PACT (parent participation)

\*IMPORTANT: Registration for the month of February is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Go to district website to sign up for an appointment time.

More information:  
650.526.3500, ext. 1001  
[www.mvwsd.org](http://www.mvwsd.org)

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**Pregnant?**  
Considering Adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living expenses paid. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (Void in Illinois) (AAN CAN)

2012 Dance Classes

art4growth.com

Dance Expressions 2012

FREE Estate Planning

### INDEPENDENT RECYCLER

We met in our garbage enclosure on Sat 12/24. You wore a red sweatshirt. I told you to leave. You were polite & said you had been here for years. You are welcome back. I was not thinking about your work. I apologize for my rudeness. I will not trouble you again.

Introduction to opera

Katie Herzog, solo exhibition

PALY Music January Flea Market

SingFest!

Stanford music tutoring

Thanks to Saint Jude

### 120 Auctions

**Advertise Your Auction**  
in 240 California newspapers for one low cost of \$600. Your 25 word classified ad reaches over 6 million+ Californians. Free brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

### 130 Classes & Instruction

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### Instruction for Hebrew

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### 133 Music Lessons

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### Hope Street Music Studios

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### Jazz & Pop Piano Lessons

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Children and adults. Christina Conti, B.M. 15+ yrs exp. 650/493-6950

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www.ManzanitaMusicSchool.com  
Palo Alto Kids & Adults Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Violin, Cello, & Bass lessons

### 135 Group Activities

Jan.7 Retreat

Meet Your Valentine Dance

### 150 Volunteers

cats volunteer at stables/barns

Conversation Partners needed

Fosterers Needed for Moffet Cats

Help cats in Willow area

help homeless cats

### 155 Pets

Lost Cat

## For Sale

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**Sell Your Car, Truck, SUV**  
today! All 50 states, fast pick-up and payment. Any condition, make or model. Call now 1-877-818-8848. www.MyCarforCash.net (Cal-SCAN)

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Palo Alto, 727 De Soto Drive, Jan 8th 9am - 1 pm

Redwood City, Quartz St, ONGOING

### 220 Computers/ Electronics

Brand new Apple Iphone 4S 32GB - \$450

### 230 Freebies

sofa - FREE

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

Retro Modern Coffee table - \$100.00

Vinotheque 700 Wine Cabinet - \$1100

### 245 Miscellaneous

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**World Guitar Show**  
100's. Buy, Sell, Trade. Marin Civic/San Rafael, January 14-15. Orange County Fairgrounds/Costa Mesa, January 21-22. Saturdays 10-5, Sundays 10-4. www.CalShows.TV (Cal-SCAN)

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## Kid's Stuff

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### 340 Child Care Wanted

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### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

Chess Lessons for kids and adult

French Group lesson 650-691-9863

### 355 Items for Sale

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## Mind & Body

### 415 Classes

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### 425 Health Services

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## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

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**Public Notices**

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

**SOUTH BAY SYSTEMS**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 558539  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
South Bay Systems located at 206 Central Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: A Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
ARDREN CONSULTING, INC.  
206 Central Ave.  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 07/01/2006. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 29, 2011. (MVV Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2011, Jan. 6, 2012)

**DISASTERSCORE**  
DISASTERSCORE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 558803  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Disasterscore, 2.) Disascore, located at 80 Descanso Dr. Unit 1315, San Jose, CA 95134, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: A Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
CEPAND, INC.  
80 Descanso Dr. Unit 1315  
San Jose, CA 95134  
Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 7, 2011. (MVV Dec. 23, 30, 2011, Jan. 6, 13, 2012)

**YUME-YA JAPANESE RESTAURANT**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 558861  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Yume-ya Japanese Restaurant, located at 150 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: An

Individual.  
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
MEGUMI AKAE  
355 N. Wolfe Rd.  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 05/09/05. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 8, 2011. (MVV Dec. 23, 30, 2011, Jan. 6, 13, 2012)

**ELECTRODOXZ**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 559336  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Electrodoxz, located at 2620 Fayette Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
SCOTT McDEVITT  
2620 Fayette Dr.  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 22, 2011. (MVV Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012)

**FOUNTAINBLUE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 559610  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
FountainBlue, located at 405 Hedgerow Court, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
LINDA HOLROYD  
405 Hedgerow Court  
Mountain View, CA 94041  
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 06/06/2001. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 30, 2011. (MVV Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012)

**997 All Other Legals**

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** TS No. 11-0097578 Title Order No. 11-0078890 APN No. 148-32-265 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 08/23/2005, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by LUIS GUERRERO, dated 08/23/2005 and recorded 8/30/2005, as Instrument No. 18549242, in Book , Page ), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Santa Clara County, State of California, will sell on 01/17/2012 at 10:00AM, At the Market Street entrance to the Superior Courthouse, 190 North Market Street , San Jose, Santa Clara County, CA at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 49 SHOWERS DRIVE # A242, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA, 94040. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$498,550.71. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee

and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. If required by the provisions of section 2923.5 of the California Civil Code, the declaration from the mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent is attached to the Notice of Trustee's Sale duly recorded with the appropriate County Recorder's Office. DATED: 12/20/2011 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone/Sale Information: (800) 281 8219 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. FEI # 1006.147609 12/23, 12/30, 1/06/2012  
MVV

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
Date of Filing Application: December 9, 2011  
To Whom It May Concern:  
The Name(s) of Applicant(s) is/are: FRANCES MARIE ITEN  
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:  
2135 Old Middlefield Way  
Mountain View, CA 94043-2403  
Type of license(s) applied for:  
48 - ON-SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES  
(MVV Dec. 23, 30, 2011 Jan. 6, 2012)

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
Date of Filing Application: December 13, 2011  
To Whom It May Concern:  
The Name(s) of Applicant(s) is/are: DFG MANAGEMENT INC.  
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:  
160 Castro St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041-1202  
Type of license(s) applied for:  
47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE  
(MVV Dec. 23, 30, 2011, Jan. 6, 2012)

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**  
JOHN P. MCCLOY  
Case No.: 1-11-PR-169927  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOHN P. MCCLOY

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: STEVEN P. NOVAK in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: STEVEN P. NOVAK be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on February 1, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 3 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: /s/ Timothy A. Pupach 95 S. Market Street, Suite 260 San Jose, CA 95113 (408)971-9445 (MVV Dec. 30, 2011, Jan. 6, 13, 2012)

**Do You Know?**

- The Mountain View Voice is adjudicated to publish in the County of Santa Clara.
- Our adjudication includes the Mid-Peninsula communities of Palo Alto, Stanford, Los Altos and Mountain View.
- The Mountain View Voice publishes every Friday.

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