

Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 20



MICHELLE LE

Katherine, a student in the comic book and illustration class at the Community School of Music and Arts, colors in her pencil drawings.

Bringing life to the imagination

CSMA MAKES ART AND MUSIC ACCESSIBLE TO THE MASSES

By Daniel DeBolt

In a room at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View, a dozen students are hard at work drawing comics.

"There's all different genres, a personal science fiction story,



a spy thriller, a folk tale, a good action adventure, a fantasy and monsters kind of thing," said

teacher Andy Gouveia, showing off his middle school-aged students' work. "I like seeing their creative ideas. This one is a spy thriller, with these super soldiers. One funny detail is there's a painting on the wall

► See **CSMA**, page 12

Rulings deal financial blow to high-speed rail

By Gennady Sheyner

California's proposed high-speed-rail system ran into a legal barrier Monday when a Sacramento judge ruled that the funding plan for the \$68-billion project must be rescinded and refused to endorse the selling of bonds

for the project.

The two rulings by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny dealt what opponents of the project described as "dual body-blows" to the California High Speed Rail Authority, which is charged with building the rail line between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The project received a major boost in 2008, when state voters approved a \$9.95-billion bond for the project, and another one in July 2012, when the state Legislature authorized spending the first \$2.7 billion from this bond, as well as \$3.2 billion in federal grants, on the line's first segment.

► See **HIGH-SPEED RAIL**, page 9



A vegetarian oasis

WEEKEND | 17

Local shops prepare for the holidays

'SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY' HELPS, SAY DOWNTOWN RETAILERS

By Nick Veronin

With less than a month to go until Christmas, local retailers are looking forward to increasing sales as they close out 2013, a year which saw sales increase over previous years.

"The last five weeks of the year are critical," said Glen Robbe, store manager of the Books Inc. at 301 Castro St. "We just do way more business than we normally would."

According to Robbe, the Castro Street location of Books Inc., has been doing well over the past few years, despite the slowed national economy — a fact he attributes to Silicon Valley's relative stability compared to the rest of the country. Still, he noted, the recession did cause people to "put their wallets away."

Of late, however, Robbe said numbers have been up at his store.

Tamara Michel is the owner of Boutique 4 at 279 Castro St., which sells clothing and accessories. She said the end of the year isn't a "make or break" time for her business. Nonetheless, she does see more customers in the run up to the holidays, and that's a good thing as far as she is concerned.

Michel said Boutique 4 felt the pinch of the recession — especially the during the "hard-

est years" of 2009 and 2010. But things seem to be back on track. "Compared to then, business has doubled," which she views as a sign the local economy is going strong.

"Every day I have people walking in that just joined a company or just started a company," Michel said. "A lot of people are hiring."

Both Robbe and Michel said they appreciate the efforts of American Express, which since

2010 has promoted the Saturday after Thanksgiving as "Small Business Saturday."

"It's gotten a lot of traction over the last three years," Robbe said, noting that he believes the event has brought customers into the store. "We definitely see people with

their American Express cards."

Wayne Whelan, co-owner of Therapy, a clothing and accessory boutique at 250 Castro St., said he appreciates the effort the credit card company is making, but added that he'd like to see every day be a "local business day."

"It would be better if they did that as a part of their daily routine," Whelan said. He said he is concerned that people don't shop locally frequently enough, even if there is more awareness around the movement.

Shopping at locally owned

► See **SMALL BUSINESS**, page 10

'People get a more intimate experience shopping at a small store.'

WAYNE WHELAN
CO-OWNER OF THERAPY

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Daniel DeBolt.

*What do you think
about the most?*



“Systems of control where the government knows what everyone is doing. I like Mountain View — I hope they don’t get involved in anything like that.”

Richard Aguirre, Mountain View



“How can we put our resources together and help those who are less fortunate. I definitely care about small business. They need to be helped. Like this local Ava’s grocery store. I know it hasn’t been easy to get that business started.”

Tatyana Shkolnaya, Mountain View



“I’m usually future focused — what’s next? Where are we going? How can I improve? How can I grow in one area or another?”

Tim Houston, Mountain View



“Whether all the people I care about are happy and healthy. That’s what it comes down to in life, right?”

Paul Reiber, Redwood City



“What am I going to be doing five years from now. It would probably behoove me to think of more present issues, like what am I going to eat for dinner. But I tend to think five, 10, 30 years into the future because I can’t live without planning something.”

Taylor Hadnot, Gilroy

Have a question for **Voices Around Town**? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com



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■ CRIME BRIEFS

BURGLARY NETS LAPTOPS, IPHONES

Three roommates living in a house on the 2100 block of University Avenue lost their laptops and smart phones in one fell swoop on Nov. 24, police said.

Sometime between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. a burglar, or burglars, entered the house — likely through an unlocked garage door, according to Shino Tanaka, public information officer for the Mountain View Police Department.

All three victims are in their mid-20s. They each reported losing a MacBook laptop and an iPhone, Tanaka said.

The case is still under investigation, Tanaka said.

FLAMING FURNITURE

A couch was set on fire in the 100 block of Stierlin Road, in an industrial area, in the early hours of Nov. 23, according to the Mountain View Police Department.

Flagged down by an unidentified passerby and told of the fire, an officer tried to put the fire out using fire extinguishers from his squad car at about 2 a.m., according to Shino Tanaka, public information officer with the MVPD.

The small fire burned half of the couch and was almost out by the time firefighters arrived.

No one was injured and it is unknown how the fire started.

CELL PHONE ROBBERY

A woman was robbed of her cell phone in the early hours of Nov. 15 at an apartment in the 2000 block of W. Middlefield Road, police said.

The Mountain View woman was assaulted by a suspect who took her phone at about 1 a.m., according to Shino Tanaka, public information officer with the Mountain View Police Department. The 31-year-old victim declined medical treatment from emergency responders.

Police have a suspect in the case, but would not give a description of him or her as the case is under investigation.

APARTMENT BURGLARY

Money, handbags and perfume were reported stolen when an apartment in the 400 block of Moffett Boulevard was burglarized.

Someone broke into the apartment sometime between 4 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Nov. 15 when the resident was away at work, according to Shino Tanaka, public information officer with the Mountain View Police Department.

All of the doors to the apartment were locked, Tanaka said. The burglary, or burglars, appear to have entered the home through a window that was closed but not locked.

—Nick Veronin

■ POLICE LOG

ARSON

100 block Stierlin Rd., 11/23

AUTO BURGLARY

1900 block W. El Camino Real, 11/22
California St. and Castro St., 11/22
2400 block Charleston Rd., 11/25

BATTERY

Bryant St. and Mercy St., 11/21
Castro St. and Church St., 11/21
100 block Del Medio Av., 11/24
El Camino Hospital, 11/25

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

900 block E. El Camino Real, 11/24

GRAND THEFT

200 block Chiquita Av., 11/21
400 block Castro St., 11/25

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 11/21
2100 block University Av., 11/24

STOLEN VEHICLE

1900 block Mount Vernon Ct., 11/25
W. Middlefield Rd. and N. Rengstorff Av., 11/25

VANDALISM

600 block Rainbow Dr., 11/21
1500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 11/23

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MICHELLE LE

Ellen Stofan, NASA's new chief scientist, speaks about the space agency's goals at NASA Ames Research Center on Nov. 21.

NASA's new chief scientist visits Ames

SPACE AGENCY IS LOOKING TO EXPLORE MARS, OTHER PLANETS

By Daniel DeBolt

Climate change, budget sequestration, life on other planets and the geology of Mars are among the things on the mind of NASA's new chief scientist, Dr. Ellen Stofan, who made a visit to NASA Ames Research Center last week.

Standing in front of Ames' massive "Hyperwall" — a display screen which showed detailed images of our galaxy, Mars' landscape and Earth's ocean currents, among other things — Stofan said she believes that evidence of life will be found on another planet within Earth's solar system.

"I believe that at some point we will find that life has evolved on some other body, or multiple bodies in our own solar system," Stofan said. "That's behind our movement out to Mars, to better understand Mars, our interest in the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn — to get at this question of 'What are the limits of the evolution of life?'"

Stofan made a name for herself as a Brown University graduate student of geology, doing original analysis of data gathered by Russia's missions to Venus, which lead her to be hired by NASA as a dep-

uty scientist on NASA's 1989 Magellan mission to Venus. More recently she was slated to lead the first nautical mission in outer space. Though it was never funded, the Titan Mare Explorer would have put a floating lander on the icy oceans of Titan in 2016. Titan is a moon of Saturn where some believe life may exist in bodies of liquid ethane or methane.

'Who wouldn't want to go walk on the surface of Mars, pick up one of the rocks and look for ... life?'

ELLEN STOFAN,
NASA'S CHIEF SCIENTIST

Stofan explained her new focus on Mars, where she wants to see geologists "picking up rocks" in the not-too-distant future.

"It has an atmosphere, a significant enough gravity field, it's the only place in our solar system where we could really go, with lots of resources," she said of Mars after a high

resolution image of the Mars landscape — taken by NASA's Mars rover — was displayed on the Hyperwall behind her.

"Who wouldn't want to go walk on the surface of Mars, pick up one of the rocks and look for that life that maybe once evolved on the surface of that planet?" she said.

NASA Ames scientist Charles Borucki is leading NASA's Kepler space telescope mission, which has found numerous habitable planets outside of our solar system. Stofan said Kepler "has literally rewritten the textbooks on how solar systems form, on how many habitable planets there are. Ames is really a part of that."

NASA is working on a new space telescope to launch in 2018, called the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which is set to characterize the atmospheres of other planets using infrared technology. Borucki has said that such work could be the key to finding evidence of a technological society elsewhere in the universe, by finding traces of non-natural gases in their atmospheres.

Stofan said there is "a focus on getting JWST up, and starting to pursue those basic questions about trying to find

► See **NASA**, page 10

Google WiFi replaced in City Hall, library

By Daniel DeBolt

After getting numerous complaints about Google's aging free Google WiFi system, city officials announced last week that a new city-operated system has replaced it — but only in City Hall and the library.

"This is just the beginning of making WiFi more accessible in Mountain View — we hope to have additional network improvements on other city properties, and we continue to work with Google towards an overhaul of their local WiFi," said City Manager Dan Rich.

The new network, which shows up as "cmvwifi" — may soon be extended to other city properties such as the community center and Civic Center plaza. The city has set aside \$130,000 to fund the system.

City officials said the system was designed "with security in mind" and uses the latest in WiFi technology for faster and more reliable connections.

"The current WiFi networks in

the library and City Hall are old and haven't been working well for a while," said Mountain View IT manager Steve Rodriguez. "We want to make sure that Mountain View residents can access reliable internet service when they're in these buildings."

In October, a library staff member told the *Voice* that Google WiFi had become noticeably spotty in January, saying "the service is just not cutting it." A sign saying that "Google WiFi is not working" was often on display in the library when the service was down.

Since 2006, Google has provided free wireless internet access throughout Mountain View, primarily through hundreds of light pole-mounted nodes. Complaints about the service sharply increased in January, with Google blaming problems on the age of the system and its inadequate bandwidth.

Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

FDA orders local firm to stop selling DNA tests

By Nick Veronin

The Food and Drug Administration has ordered Mountain View-based 23andMe to immediately stop marketing its DNA sequencing kits to consumers.

The FDA warned 23andMe CEO Ann Wojcicki that the company is marketing its "Saliva Collection Kit and Personal Genome Service (PGS) without marketing clearance or approval in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act," it said in a letter dated Nov. 22.

The letter was signed by Alberto Gutierrez, director of the Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health at the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Elaborating on his concerns, Gutierrez explained that he remained skeptical of the company's service.

While the Personal Genome

Service is marketed as a tool to empower consumers — by informing them of certain genetic risks and providing them with knowledge that would help them make better treatment choices — Gutierrez wrote, "We still do not have any assurance that the firm has analytically or clinically validated the PGS for its intended uses. ... Therefore, 23andMe must immediately discontinue marketing the PGS until such time as it receives FDA marketing authorization for the device."

In a brief response to the FDA's letter, posted on 23andMe's website, the company wrote, "We recognize that we have not met the FDA's expectations regarding timeline and communication regarding our submission. Our relationship with the FDA is extremely important to us and we are committed to fully engaging with them to address their concerns." ■

Career day, Silicon Valley-style

MVHS STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT JOBS IN SCIENCE, TECH, ENGINEERING, MATH

By Nick Veronin

Just two days before the Thanksgiving break, Mountain View High School students took some time out of their normal schedules to learn about the multitude of career opportunities available in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Tuesday, Nov. 26 marked the school's second ever STEM Day, replete with speakers from STEM-based industries, hands-on activities and informational booths.

"I'm excited about giving the opportunity to students to see what the world of science is all about — at least in the professional world — so they can see where their interests can take them," said Dave Grissom, principal of Mountain View High School.

With its second STEM Day, Mountain View High School is taking a page out of Los Altos High School's play book. LAHS has had an entire STEM Week for several years running.

Scheduled speakers at the MVHS event included Kurt Long, aerodynamic research engineer and lab manager of aerospace computing at NASA Ames; Frank Cascarano, a physics instructor at Foothill College; Dr. Christopher Gardner, an associate professor of medicine at Stanford; Ryan McCarthy, a science and technology policy adviser with the California Air Resources Board; Dr. Jill Helms, a Stanford University professor; and Alejandro Garcia, a professor at San Jose State University.

All of the speakers donated their time, according to Grissom.

Scheduled topics of discussion included: what it takes to be an intern at a large engineering firm, the pleasures of understanding physics and the science of nutrition.

"Exposure to scientific careers opens up students' eyes to the greater world and to fields that they hadn't even thought of before," Grissom said.

The principal said he hoped students would be inspired by the presentations and informational booths and might even find a career path.

"In our society, that's where the jobs are going to be," he said. "This valley in particular is at the cutting edge of all that. We have so many resources that are so close to us. It's really nice to be able to bring that directly onto campus for our kids." ▀



COURTESY KEN MCCONNELL

THE THANKSGIVING SPIRIT

Ella McConnell, 9, heard from her soccer coach that Mountain View police expected to be short by 1,000 animals for their annual "Cops and Gobblers" Thanksgiving collection drive. Along with her friends, the fourth-grader canvassed the neighborhood and collected 1,000 plush toys, which she donated on behalf of her soccer team, MVLA Barcelona. She dropped off the toys Nov. 23 and stopped for a photo with Lt. Keith Plamondon (left) and Officer Lloyd Burns.

Local kids show art and heart

EXHIBITION SEEKS TO INSPIRE CHILDREN TO CHANGE THE WORLD

By Nick Veronin

The stars of a local art show have been thinking about changing the world — and acting on it, too.

On Nov. 23, a group of children gathered to in the upstairs nook of Red Rock Coffee to debut their Hope Boards Project — a series of paintings made by early-elementary-aged kids depicting the change they'd like to see in the world.

At the event, the children, their parents and other community members packed up care packages. Event organizer Lisa Burns dubbed them "Heart to Hope Bags," which were

filled with art supplies and other activities for children, and will be sent to areas in the Philippines impacted by Typhoon Haiyan.

Burns, whose organization Heart to Heart With Art, organized the event, and said it aims to build the self esteem of the children who participated, as well as to get them to think about the world at large.

The kids were asked to paint pictures of themselves that represented something they'd like to do to help make the world a better place. The pictures were created over a series of local events, where youngsters were invited to come and paint,

Burns said.

Many of the children who came to the painting events were timid at first, Burns said. Some said they didn't know how to paint. But in the end most did paint. The lesson, according to Burns, was that artistic expression is not a right reserved solely for those with refined skills. Anyone can paint, she said.

As for the art supplies, they will travel to the Philippines with Palo Alto-based Dr. Enoch Choi and the charity Jordan International.

The idea with the care packages, Burns said, was to show the children in the Philippines

that "somebody is thinking about them."

Before having the children pack the bags, Burns asked the children at Red Rock what sorts of things they would miss most

if their home or school was suddenly swept away.

The art show, located in the upstairs nook at Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., will run through the new year. ▀

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City sees spike in car break-ins

By Nick Veronin

A spike in car break-ins has the Mountain View Police Department's attention, and officials are asking the public to be on increased alert during the holiday season.

"It seems that there is some seasonality to it," Shino Tanaka, public information officer for the MVPD told the *Voice*. Tanaka speculated that thefts from cars might be up in part because during the holidays people tend to have gifts, cash and other valuables in their cars, and that they often leave those things unattended in their vehicles while they run errands.

"The crooks are taking advantage of this," Tanaka said. There

have been 30 reported auto burglaries over the last 14 days in Mountain View, according to the website, CrimeReports.com — and more than half of those have occurred in the last week.

"People are leaving things in plain sight inside their vehicles," Tanaka said. "People see this. They (thieves) case the cars."

Whenever possible, people should bring their items with them when they leave their vehicles, she said. When that isn't possible, it's a good idea to tuck valuables out of sight either under seats or in the trunk. Still, she said, many times thieves break into cars whether items are visible or not.

Tanaka also asked that the

Mountain View residents be on the lookout for their neighbor's possessions.

"If you see something, say something," Tanaka said. If someone who appears to be casing a parking lot or a street, call the police department's non-emergency number or text in a tip, she said. Police would rather check out a potential car burglary before it happens than find out after the fact.

Tipsters can reach the department by calling 650-903-6395 or by texting "MVTips" — all one word — plus a short description and location of a suspected crime to 274637.

Email Nick Veronin
at nveronin@mv-voice.com

Going back to his roots

SEASONED PRODUCER AND WINDHAM HILL RECORDS FOUNDER
CREDITS PALO ALTO FOR LIGHTING HIS MUSICAL FIRE

By Rebecca Wallace

Up in the mountains of Windham County, Vt., Will Ackerman's Imaginary Road Studios has a fine Steinway and sweeping views. There, the guitarist and founder of Windham Hill Records finds fulfillment in producing a variety of acoustic music, much of it meditative and bright.

But when Ackerman thinks about his own musical roots, he sees not the autumn colors of the Northeast but the Stanford hills and the fields that surrounded Palo Alto's College Terrace neighborhood when he was growing up there.

Born in 1949, Ackerman lived in Palo Alto for the first 13 years of his life. That's where he started playing guitar, and where he fell for folk and acoustic sounds. As a kid, he would ride his bike over to the old Stanford student union to watch musicians playing there. The crowds could be small, but some of the names were about to be big. "I watched the Kingston Trio come up," he said in an interview.

The trio's Dave Guard went to Stanford, and Ackerman regularly watched the group try out new material on campus. By the time the trio did a benefit concert up at the Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco, Ackerman was such a "crazy fan" that one of the managers got him a box seat, he said. He was 12.

Even before that, when he was small, a favorite sitter (whom everyone called "the beatnik babysitter") would take him to downtown Palo Alto to see Joan



Will Ackerman

Baez sing at an underground coffee house in downtown Palo Alto. The city was a major hub of folk music then, Ackerman recalled. "That was what really colored my early life and got me into guitar."

Next month, Ackerman will head west to return to his Peninsula roots. On Dec. 7, he's set to perform at the Unity Palo Alto church at a CD-release party for Marin guitarist Shambhu, an event put on by Mountain View's East West Bookstore. Ackerman co-produced Shambhu's new record, "Dreaming of Now."

Shambhu describes his sound as world music or, like Ackerman's music, contemporary instrumental. (Ackerman is not fond of the term "New Age.") "Dreaming of Now," Shambhu wrote in a press release, is also meant to be inspiring.

"I wrote 'Dreaming of Now' as a feeling of how the world could be, right now — imagining a peaceful planet in this very moment with music that aims to

touch the perfection, beauty and diversity that we are as a people and a global home," he said.

The album also shows Shambhu's versatility, Ackerman said. "He's done serious rock music, he's done electric, he's done real jazz, and is a really fine player and has a tremendous range," he said. "The record we just did is probably more jazz-influenced than anything I've been involved with in a long time."

Most of the music Ackerman produces has a focus on melody and harmony, and is typically acoustic. "With Shambhu you also have real rhythm and interesting time signatures," he said. "It's adventuresome. It was such great fun to produce."

As for Ackerman, he says his role at the Dec. 7 concert will be as guest musician to Shambhu's main act: playing three or four songs, and a duet or two with Shambhu. Listeners will probably hear at least one of Ack-

► See **WINDHAM**, page 11

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Holiday inspirations

CHRISTMAS AT OUR HOUSE TOUR OFFERS A LOOK
AT BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED HOMES

By Carol Blitzer

Burlap, moss, driftwood: Expect the unexpected at this year's Christmas At Our House home tour, the 25th annual fundraiser put on by the Women's Club of Saint Francis High School in Mountain View.

Among the four homes in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills that are featured this year is the brand-new Tuscan Villa, which owner Julie Panaccione has decorated using mostly natural materials, from garlands made of bay-leaf and olive branches or grapevines to large ornaments created from burlap-covered striped balls.

Carlo Panaccione calls the home more of an Italian farmhouse, and the decorations reflect the more rustic aesthetic. He calls it “a comfortable house,” clearly designed for family living, complete with a doggy door.

The family moved in last February, after a close to two-year planning and construction process. At first they thought they'd remodel the 1963-built rancher, sitting on 1.4 acres.

But, the house was built backwards, with the best views mostly obscured by overgrown trees and overlooking a blacktopped backyard.

“It was going to be a remodel, but we got carried away,” Carlo Panaccione admitted.

Today the 5,000-square-foot home boasts high ceilings, views of both the hills to the west and the Bay to the east. Panaccione, who grew up on the East Coast and spent time in Italy every year, wanted his new home to reflect his Italian roots.

The Panacciones started the project by having the old house deconstructed, with various materials offered to recycling companies. That proved to be a win-win, because the cost of the deconstruction was balanced against tax savings.

Then they sought recycled materials to incorporate in their new home: Beams found on Craigslist came from a 150-year-old barn in Tennessee; hickory beams were used as mantels over fireplaces and incorporated into the kitchen island base; 200-year-old reclaimed tiles became part of the new roof.

“We wanted to seem like it had been here forever,” Panaccione said, adding, “We tried to keep it as authentic as possible and use real, natural textures.”



VERONICA WEBER

The “Christmas at Our House” tour includes a Tuscan-style home with a backyard fireplace decorated for the holidays.

That included the wide, character-grade hickory floor planks in the living room, limestone flooring in the kitchen/family room and 200-year-old cherry wood turned into a powder-room vanity.

“It's not a real Tuscan home, but at least most of it's real,” he added.

When decorating for the holidays, that passion for using natural materials comes through over and over. The large Christmas tree in the living room, for example, is adorned with balls made from natural and dyed burlap, as well as moss, with pyracanthus sprigs for dashes of red. Above the living-room fireplace is a plaque spelling out “Peace,” made of driftwood. The garland is really grapevines, reminiscent of the recent planting of 100 Sirrah grape plants in their front yard.

Julie Panaccione created much of the holiday decor herself, along with a design assistant and of course, her three children. They pitched in by spray painting gold the bare trees that run down the center of the dining table.

The color scheme is quiet, with many shades of beige and brown, contrasted with shiny gold and red balls, or red sprigs.

Much is done with whimsy, from the owls sitting on a shelf in the kitchen, to the snowman on a trunk in the family room. Another plaque, spelling out “Noel” and also made of driftwood, rests on a row of soup cans, cloaked by a garland.

Fairy lights are encased in “cloche” globes.

In addition to the home tour, the Christmas At Our House fundraiser offers a series of events, from luncheons to shopping experiences and raffles. Entertainment will be provided by St. Francis family musicians and vocalists. ▀

Palo Alto Weekly Associate Editor Carol Blitzer can be emailed at cblitzer@paweb.com.

■ INFORMATION

What: Christmas At Our House home tour

When: Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Four homes in the Los Altos Hills area

Cost: \$45

Info: <http://tinyurl.com/of29qae>

What: Christmas At Our House other events

When: Twilight Tour & Gala Preview Party: Thursday, Dec. 5, 4-10 p.m. (includes home tour on Thursday from 4-7 p.m. or on Friday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.); Elegant Luncheon Buffet: Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Wine, Women and Shopping: Friday, Dec. 6, 4-7 p.m.; Christmas Boutique, Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: The Holiday Boutique, Gala Preview Party, Luncheon, and Wine, Women and Shopping Night will be held at Fremont Hills Country Club in Los Altos Hills.

Cost: Christmas Party and Tour, \$125; Elegant Luncheon Buffet, \$30; Wine, Women and Shopping, free with home-tour ticket, or \$10 at the door

Info: <http://tinyurl.com/of29qae>

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

► Continued from page 1

The Monday rulings, spurred by a lawsuit from Central Valley, threaten to halt the project in its tracks. One of them orders the rail authority to rescind the 2011 business plan that the Legislature had relied on to authorize the funds for the first segment of the line, a 130-mile stretch between Fresno and Bakersfield. In late August, Kenny ruled that the business plan violated state law because it only listed the available funds for this \$6 billion “construction segment,” rather than the first segment that could actually be used, as required by law. The first usable segment would cost more than \$20 billion under current estimates and would stretch either from Bakersfield to San Jose or from Merced to San Fernando.

The rulings came in response to a lawsuit from a group of Central Valley plaintiffs — John Tos, Aaron Fukuda and Kings County — represented by attorney Stuart Flashman; and to a request from the rail authority to “validate” the issuance of more than \$8 billion in bonds. In both cases, Kenny sided with opponents of the rail project, though in some cases he didn’t go as far as they plaintiffs had hoped. He declined, for instance, to order the rail authority to rescind its existing two contracts for the construction of the first segment, which total about \$1.1 billion. He also did not challenge the rail authority’s ability to spend the federal funds, despite arguments from Flashman that doing so would commit future expenditure of “matching funds” from the state.

Rail authority Chair Dan Richard said in a statement that the agency is “reviewing both decisions to chart our next steps” and stressed that the judge did not invalidate the bonds and that the court “again declined the opposition’s request to stop the high-speed-rail project from moving forward.”

Even so, the rulings could delay, if not derail, a project that become hugely unpopular in various parts of the state, including sections of the Peninsula, but that continues to garner the support of Gov. Jerry Brown. Last year’s funding allocation came by a single vote in the state Senate, with several Democrats joining every Republican in opposition. Palo Alto, Atherton and Menlo Park had all been involved in lawsuits against the rail authority, with Flashman representing them in those efforts. Their most recent effort resulting in the rail authority

rescinding its approval of an Environmental Impact Report and a revision of the report. The Palo Alto City Council, which supported the project in 2008, had since taken an official and unanimous stance against it.

Flashman called the Monday rulings “major roadblocks.”

“If you’re the captain of the Titanic and you’ve just been hit by two icebergs, what do you do?” Flashman said. “It seems like what (rail authority board Chair) Dan Richard is saying is, ‘Full speed ahead!’”

Decisions’ timing

The timing of the decisions is particularly striking, he said. In refusing to validate the issuance of bonds, Kenny effectively rejected a March resolution by the High-Speed Rail Finance Committee, a body that oversees the 2008 bond, that the issuance of bonds was the “necessary and desirable.” To get the funds, the rail authority would need the Finance Committee to make such a finding again. However, the second ruling, which rejects the 2011 funding plan and finds that the rail authority violated state law in approving it, would make it tougher for the committee to make such a finding.

In his ruling on bond validation, Kenny seemed puzzled by the Finance Committee’s uncritical acceptance of the rail authority’s request for funds. He wrote that the Court can find “no evidence in the record of proceedings” submitted by the rail authority that justify the committee’s finding.

The record, Kenny wrote, “consists of little more than the Authority’s resolution requesting that the Finance Committee authorize issuance of bonds, and the Finance Committee’s resolution doing so.”

“Specifically, the findings contain no summary of the factors the Finance Committee considered and no description of any content of any documentary or other evidence it may have received and considered.”

He rejected the argument that the rail authority request, in itself, “constitutes sufficient evidence to support the Finance Committee’s action.” Rather, Kenny argued, the rail authority’s opinions do not necessarily represent the views of the broader taxpayer public or the state government as a whole.

“An agency that is specifically assigned the task of building a project, like the Authority in this case, may have a very different view of what is desirable than the public officials who sit on the authorizing committee, whose responsibilities include taking a view of the State’s finances that is broader than a

single project,” Kenny wrote in a decision not to validate the bonds. “Some evidence other than the Authority is necessary to establish that the Finance Committee actually exercised its discretion in deciding on that request, and did not merely accept it without question.”

In approving Proposition 1A and giving the Finance Committee the authority to accept or deny bond authorization, the voters intended to “empower the Finance Committee to serve as an independent decision-maker, protecting the interests of taxpayers by acting as the ultimate ‘keeper of the checkbook,’” he wrote.

“Treating the Authority’s request, by itself, as sufficient evidence to support the Finance Committee’s action authorizing issuance of bonds tends to negate the Finance Committee’s independent decision-making role in the process,” Kenny wrote. “The Court cannot conclude that this is the result the voters intended.”

Though the rail authority’s two existing contracts — with the state Department of Transportation and the company Tutor-Perini — are unlikely to be impacted by the rulings, Kenny’s findings could have major repercussions for future expenditures.

Flashman noted that the rail authority only has a budget of about \$900 million, along with the \$3.2 billion in federal funds, for a project whose price tag has climbed from \$33 billion in 2008 to \$68 billion today. Given the timings of both the Tos and the bond decisions, the Finance Committee might have a hard time justifying any more expenditures, he said.

“How is the committee supposed to find evidence to be able to say that it is ‘necessary and desirable’ to issue bonds at this time when they know they can’t use those bonds probably for another two years?” Flashman said. He also noted that the federal government may reconsider its grants if matching state funds become unavailable, which means the “project will never break ground.”

Attorney Michael Brady, who joined Flashman in representing the Central Valley plaintiffs, shared Flashman’s enthusiasm about Monday’s rulings. He said the protections of Proposition 1A, the 2008 bond measure, “have served their purpose well.”

“Our litigation to enforce those provisions will protect the state from financial risk,” Brady said in a statement. “Our clients are very pleased.” ■

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10:00 p.m. Choir and Orchestra Performance

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Bryan Biegel of NASA's Advanced Supercomputing Division, demonstrates the Hyperwall at NASA Ames Research Center.

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NASA

► Continued from page 5

and characterize other planets around other stars."

If humans are to settle on other planets, the International Space Station is key in developing the technologies to make that possible, Stofan said.

"The International Space Station is such an amazing national asset," Stofan said. "We're doing research that is literally changing how we look at the human body. There's all kinds of effects that happen in space, from bone density loss, to muscle atrophy to changes in the immune system. This research we're doing on the International Space Station is critical to study the long-term effects of space on the human body because I'm not satisfied — and I don't know if you are satisfied — with staying in low Earth orbit. We want to move beyond low Earth orbit."

Climate change a chief concern

Stofan said that NASA is work-

ing "very closely" with President Barack Obama's administration on a plan for dealing with climate change on Earth.

"I think the scientific community is scared to death about climate change and the general public is not quite there yet," Stofan said. "Our climate is changing and it is changing at a rapid rate. NASA is taking measurements and documenting what is actually happening, from ocean salinity to higher winds, precipitation and soil moisture," all part of efforts to better predict climate change, she said. "It's one message I think is critical."

On the Hyperwall, the currents of all the Earth's oceans were shown moving at a rate of four days per second. "See that sloshing right there, that's the (effects of the) moon," said Bryan Biegel, acting deputy director of NASA's Advanced Supercomputing Division, pointing to the display.

"Those visualizations of the ocean current, those are the kind of measurements we're making at NASA," Stofan said.

"If the effects of climate change continue, we'll have a better handle on what's happening and why. That is so critical right now as this planet continues to morph."

"Everything we do at NASA is amazing science and it's all interconnected," Stofan said. "We're really trying to answer some fundamental questions. Are we alone? How did our universe form and evolve? And what is the ultimate fate, not just of ourselves but of our galaxy and its planets — our universe?"

Such research is threatened by the federal government's ongoing budget issues, Stofan said. NASA faces the threat of another budget sequester in January.

"For us as an agency that is always looking five, 10, 20 years down the line, the fiscal situation we are in is incredibly difficult," Stofan said. "It makes it very hard to plan and is hard on our workforce." ▀

Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

SMALL BUSINESS

► Continued from page 1

stores or small, local chains — like Therapy or Books Inc. — helps ensure that the customer's money stays in the local economy, he said. "When people call us a 'chain,' I kind of gulp."

Though Therapy just opened its 10th location in Berkeley, Whelan doesn't consider his company a chain — at least not in the sense that big box retailers are chains. "They could be sharing the rev-

enues with dictators and despots, heaven forbid," he chuckled.

Whelan said he thinks people get a more intimate experience shopping at a small store like his, or at Boutique 4 — unlike at the mall, which can feel claustrophobic.

"I think when people come into the Therapy store and it's crowded, they don't feel they are being imposed upon," he said. "It's more of a party atmosphere." ▀

Email Nick Veronin
at nveronin@mv-voice.com

Mountain View Voice



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WINDHAM

► Continued from page 7

erman's most popular songs, like "The Bricklayer's Beautiful Daughter," from his 2008 album "Meditations."

"I haven't done a new record in many years, although I feel the stirrings of it now," Ackerman said.

A new Ackerman recording would become part of an ample and popular collection. The platinum-selling artist has released 14 albums of his lyrical, graceful work, going back to the 1976 recording "In Search of the Turtle's Navel." His 2004 album "Returning" won a Grammy Award for Best New Age Album, and "Meditations," "Hearing Voices" (2001) and "Sound of Wind Driven Rain" (1998) were also nominated for Grammys. His guitar sometimes blends with strings, horns and other sounds, or even electric bass or subtle vocals. Ackerman has also published a book, "The Will Ackerman Collection," with 14 songs transcribed note for note.

Earlier this year, Ackerman also netted the Lifetime Achievement Award, among other honors, at the ZMR Music Awards in New Orleans. The Zone Music Reporter is a website that monitors radio airplay of acoustic instrumental, world, ambient and other genres.

Ackerman had no idea he was up for the award until he saw his picture up on the screen at the ceremony, along with videos of friends and colleagues singing his praises, he said. "I just burst into tears. It was so lovely."

Throughout his career, some elements of Ackerman's music have remained the same: an emphasis on melody, the use of a variety of tunings. It's an approach that's served him well. After growing up in Palo Alto, he attended Stanford for a time, then worked as a homebuilder. But he continued to play the guitar and write songs, and after he released "In Search of the Turtle's Navel" to acclaim, he founded Windham Hill Records.

Well-known Windham Hill artists included George Winston, Alex de Grassi and Michael Hedges, and Ackerman's own recordings found success. But he ultimately decided to leave life as a record-label executive, moving to Vermont and building Imaginary Road Studios in 1993, continuing to write and record his own songs while bringing others' visions to vinyl.

Many musicians who have worked with Ackerman the producer have high praise. "Will simply brings you to heights

you'd never reach alone, and guides you to performances you never knew you had inside," said Jeff Oster, a maker of ambient flugelhorn music who played on "Dreaming of Now" and will be among the performers in Palo Alto on Dec. 7.

Ackerman has found it inspiring and sometimes a little daunting being surrounded by top musicians with different skill sets. In the end, he's at peace with his musical vision.

"I'm a very clean player, but I'm not the technical player that de Grassi is or the innovator that

Michael Hedges was," he said. "It's not about gymnastics. It really is all about heart."

Over the years, Ackerman has played venues large and dramatic, from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl to the open-air Red Rocks Amphitheatre near Denver, where one night Ackerman, Hedges and the group Shadowfax had the lights turned off to play under a full moon. These days he prefers intimate house concerts that remind him of his early days.

Clearly, the joy of connecting closely with his audiences

remains one of the highlights of Ackerman's life as a musician. He periodically writes essays that he hopes to turn into a book, and one of the essays, posted on his website, speaks of his gratitude to his listeners.

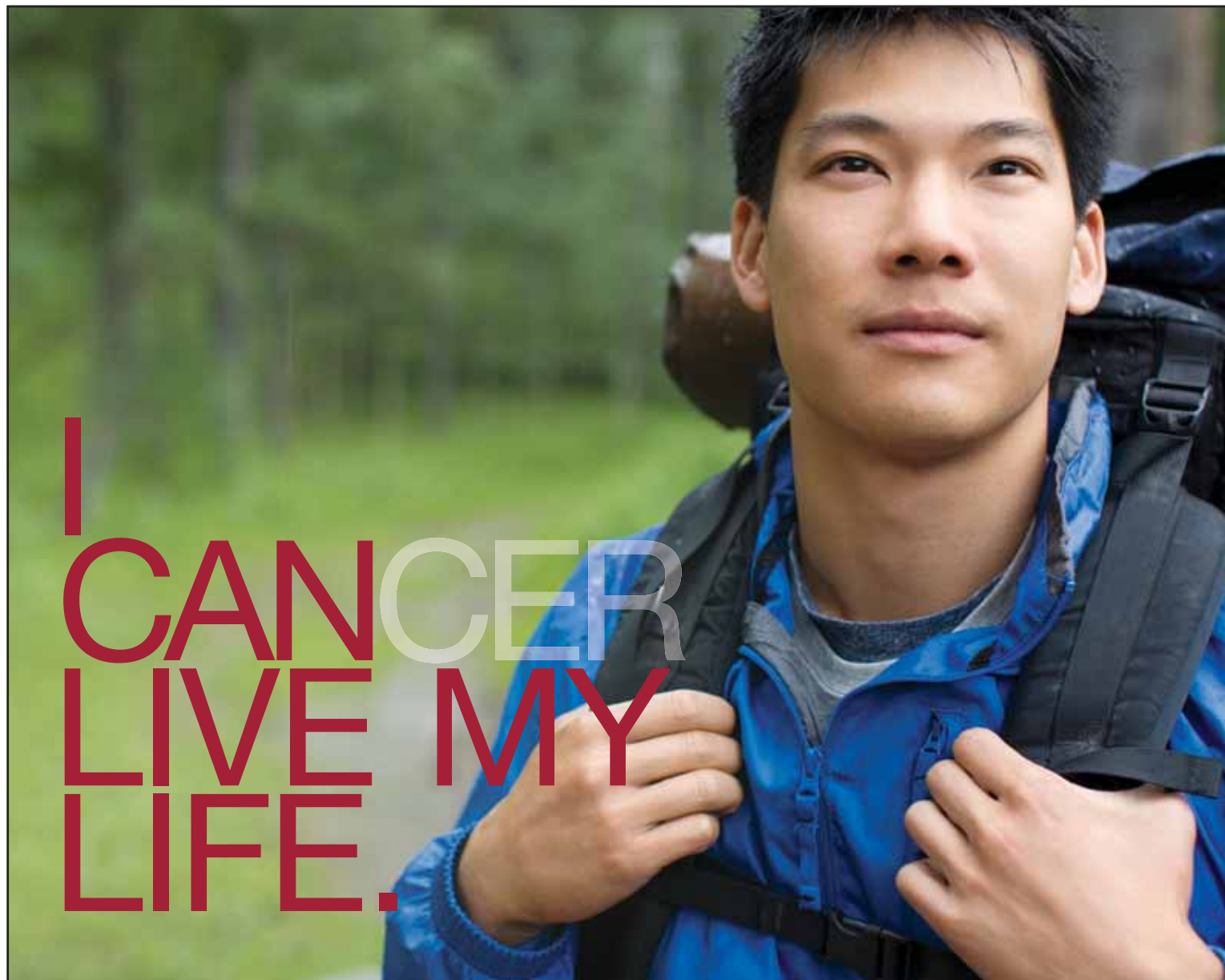
"People have written me over the years saying how much my music has mattered to their lives ... There are the stories of how my music helped them through heartbreak and loneliness," he wrote.

"Then there are the ones that tell me that a husband, wife, father or mother, brother or sister chose

■ INFORMATION

The CD-release concert, put on by East West Bookstore, goes from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 7 at Unity Palo Alto, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Go to eastwest.com or call 650-988-9800.

to listen to my music as they left this earth. There is no honor that could ever fall to someone more beautiful than this and I have tears in my eyes as I write this. I have been lucky." ■



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Katherine colors in her pencil drawings in CSMA's comic book illustration class on Nov. 25.

CSMA

► Continued from page 1

of just framed cherries, isn't that funny? You couldn't make that up — it's totally funny."

He pointed to another frame on the table: "This guy does an upper-cut and jet packs another character out of the atmosphere."

The class is one of many after-school classes taught at Mountain View's CSMA, a beneficiary of the Voice's annual Holiday Fund, which provides art and music classes to all ages and most persuasions. It has programs in 31 area schools, including all of Mountain View's elementary schools, and several local preschools for low-income

families, which would not have arts education if it were not for CSMA. The school on San Antonio Circle was founded in 1968 and is now the region's largest nonprofit provider of music and arts education.

On Monday afternoon student Juliet Ablaza was putting images from her imagination on paper: a comic about a boy who secretly has a robotic arm.

"I thought about how some people accidentally get paralyzed, so I just wanted to think of a solution," Ablaza said. "It's a robot arm — I don't know if science could actually do that, but I thought it was cool."

On the other side of the room Claude Ferguson was teaching a group of younger students comic book illustration.

"What I do is a show them a couple of things, mostly techniques for animating the characters, developing the characters and finally, the storytelling," Ferguson said.

A character developed by Ferguson's student Trevor, is "an evil granny and she has an evil army of gnomes," the boy said. "On her lawn she has a sign, it says, 'Private property, violators will be eaten.' I think that gives you an idea of who granny is." The "vampire gnomes" lure in human victims, and riot over who gets to eat.

If the character illustrations are only a few steps above stick figures, Ferguson says that's quite fine for elementary school-aged kids.

"I found that over teaching for several years, when students have a story, they can develop technique as they go," Ferguson said. "I like to hear their stories, different twists and plots, in the end they have a nice little plot they are usually pretty proud of. I'm not a stickler for technique at this point. At this age you want them to draw, draw, draw."

Ferguson also teaches a class where students make instruments from found objects and perform with them. "It's hilarious actually," said CSMA marketing director Sharon Kenney, who recalled "a bag pipe made from a rubber glove."

Ferguson has also performed jazz with the "Parhelion Ensem-



MICHELLE LE

Vicki Scott Grove, CSMA's new executive director, says the organization relies on contributions to help fund programs and scholarships.

ble" — several young musicians who learned jazz at CSMA and drew a packed house at Red Rock Coffee for a recent performance.

CSMA director and jazz fan Vicki Scott Grove — who joined CSMA over the summer — said its programs reach over 20,000 students a year. Scholarships and financial aid are available for a wide range of art and music classes for all ages.

"We see ourselves as really a gem of a community resource here," Grove said. "We did have a bit of a (financial) loss last year. We are very dependent on individuals and foundation and corporate support," she said. Cuts in support can impact certain

scholarships and financial aid, she said.

Currently on display at CSMA is an exhibition of quilts made by members of Mountain View's Day Worker Center, and CSMA is in the middle of a free concert series, which runs until June 26, featuring everything from Harlem jazz to Mozart to sounds completely improvised. The shows are performed in CSMA's Tateuchi Hall.

"When you come to a concert here, you can talk to the artist afterward," Grove said. "We make it very, very accessible."

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com



Students learn to tell stories through comic book-style illustrations.



Mountain View Voice

Holiday Fund

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, the William and Flora Hewlett and the David and Lucile Packard foundations contributed more than \$70,000, or nearly \$10,000 each for the nonprofit agencies supported by the Voice Holiday Fund. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

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

Day Worker Center

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages and work conditions. It serves an average of 60 workers a day with job placements, English lessons, job skills workshops or guidance.

Partners for a New Generations

Partners for New Generations matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Mountain View, Los Altos and the Los Altos Hills area and offers tutoring to many students, including some in high school and beyond.

Community School of Music and Arts

The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Nearly 45 percent of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

Mountain View RotaCare Clinic

The RotaCare Free Clinic provides uninsured local residents with primary care and many specialty care services. The clinic is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic group.

YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

Community Services Agency

CSA is the community's safety-net providing critical support services for low-income individuals and families, the homeless and seniors in northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Community Health Awareness Council

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

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- YOUR LETTERS
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Member, Mountain View

Chamber of Commerce



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

Town Square forum

Post your views on Town Square at MountainViewOnline.com

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your views to letters@MV-Voice.com. Indicate if letter is to be published.

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to: Editor
Mountain View Voice,
P.O. Box 405
Mountain View, CA 94042-0405

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

What should we pay for public service?

Are Mountain View City Council members simply citizen volunteers who should be paid a modest stipend or do they deserve more pay for the 30 hours a week or so most spend on city business?

It is a question voters may have to decide next November if a council subcommittee decides, and the full council agrees, that higher pay for council members should go on the ballot.

The arguments on both sides tend to fall into two camps:

■ Opponents tend to believe that council duty is a public service and that those who are elected to monitor the public's business should be grateful for the opportunity to serve — without much pay. And never mind the fact that most have to spend thousands of dollars just to get elected. This line of thinking assumes that “citizen” council members will be just as skilled, if not more so, than paid amateurs, due either to their age and wisdom, their collection of wealth or support by an understanding spouse.

■ On the other side are those who believe that you get what you pay for, and that by not paying members a fair wage, only retirees, independently wealthy people or those supported by a spouse will seek the job. This position implies that more qualified candidates will seek office and that the quality of local government will go up if council members were paid more of a living wage.

Unfortunately none of these theories have been rigorously tested, so in the Bay Area at least, compensation levels are all over the map. Mountain View's \$600 a month, plus insurance coverage, falls somewhere in the mid-range, although still below Cupertino's \$730 a month and far below Sunnyvale's of \$1,982, although that city boasts about twice Mountain View's population of 74,000. The last time the council looked to raise the stipend (in 2006 when the pay was \$500 a month) voters turned down the effort to bump it to \$1,500 a month. Now the council receives \$600 a month, plus health and dental insurance — and if they make it to a second term — a meager retirement pension and \$223 a month towards post-retirement health care expenses, so their total compensation is higher than Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Los Gatos and Los Altos Hills.

But there are plenty of cities that pay more, including nearby Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Gilroy and San Jose. Pay for Palo Alto council members is about the same as Mountain View.

At this point, it is not clear if this “pressing” issue will ever move to the ballot. But it should, and for a simple reason: Overseeing a city with a budget of \$98 million a year and more than 550 employees, while facing a complex array of challenges, from development pressures to keeping Google happy to housing thousands of workers who commute here, is a big job. City Council members must be up to speed on a huge range of issues facing the city.

To expect low-paid volunteers, with few if any skills in business or planning or managing hundreds of workers, to do a perfect job is taking a major risk.

It is time for Mountain View to consider a salary increase for council members — not to the range of Sunnyvale, but perhaps to \$1,000 a month, which would wind up costing the city about \$2,800 extra per month, or \$33,600 a year above the inadequate compensation being paid now. It would mean council members would receive about \$10 per hour if they work 30 hours a week on the public's business. And we don't think anyone could say \$1,000 a month compensation is extravagant. In fact few residents of Mountain View would even consider working part-time for such a pittance.

LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

WATCH OUT FOR PARKING AT 100 MOFFETT PROJECT

On Dec. 3, the City Council will consider final approval of the Prometheus development at 100 Moffett Blvd. The proposal includes 229 parking spaces for 228 bedrooms, adhering to the controversial “Model Parking Standard” of one space per bedroom. Planning and developers are fond of this standard, but to anyone who cares to look closely, it should be obvious that this ratio will be inadequate, and will push project residents' parking into neighborhood streets.

One significant issue is the high percentage of large one-bedroom apartments at 100 Moffett — 76 percent, compared to 54 percent at 1984 El Camino, and 40 percent average in the four complexes studied for the model parking standard. One-bedroom apartments at 100 Moffett will average 820 square feet. Under Mountain View's previous parking regulations, one-bedroom units over 650 square feet required two spaces, reflecting the likelihood that these apartments will be shared. At Prometheus' Madera project, the cheapest one-bedroom units rent for \$3,500 a month. It will not take renters long to figure out that if two people share, each could save \$21,000 per year.

Prometheus has presented a “study” of parking at Madera that appears to show a low percentage of garage parking usage. This study was paid for by the developer, and is not impartial. Questionable practices include over-counting “available” spaces by including EV charging, Zipcar, and motorcycle spaces; ignoring off-site parking by residents; under-counting the number of parked cars (failing to include “unassigned” spaces in tabulating usage by one-bedroom

tenants), and failing to consider unoccupied units. This is not an objective study, and is not a proper guide for 100 Moffett, or for any other future project.

Many more developments will be coming our way. Allowing inadequate parking would not just negatively impact the Moffett neighborhood, but would set a negative precedent. For those interested, the Madera parking report and the “model parking standard” staff report is at www.moffettneighborhood.org.

Peter Spitzer
Santa Rosa Avenue

HOW ABOUT A DEPT. OF FINANCIAL SECURITY?

We have a Department of Homeland Security courtesy of the Sept. 11 terrorists. The DHS centralized a number of agencies that had been coordinating poorly in order to increase our ability to resist future attacks.

I think it is time for a Dept. of Financial Security. This would gather agencies into one department with a view to improving the security of the middle class, upon which our consumer economy depends.

I propose that we place the departments of Labor, Commerce, Health and Human Services and Treasury under a financial security czar. The metric would be whether education, health care, good nutrition and a stable retirement were becoming more accessible to the vast majority of the citizens of the U.S. Perhaps the original purpose the U.S., “to provide for the general welfare,” could then be taken back from today's death grip of the ultra rich.

Ed Taub
Devoto Street





NANCY EVARS

Nancy Evars likes to pull out the stops when hosting a small dinner party or a large Christmas dinner. That means crystal, china and a themed touch: masks for Mardi Gras, above, or perhaps an ornament for the holidays.

by Carol Blitzner

Holidays come year after year. While some look forward to digging into those stored crates of family mementos and hand-made baubles, reminders of Christmas past, others are thinking: What's new?

One way to gain inspiration is to check out the Finishing Touches Home Tour, a benefit for the Junior League of Palo Alto*Mid Peninsula that includes

four homes in Atherton and Menlo Park.

Nancy Evars, an interior designer with Evars + Anderson Design, Menlo Park, will be designing holiday decor for one of the homes. Although she's done this twice before, this year she'll be doing her own home, which was completed just a year ago.

"I usually don't do conventional Christmas colors — red and green. I bring in pink, purple,

gold or turquoise," she said.

This year she plans to do a formal setting in her dining room, whose chairs are upholstered in Kelly green. Bloomingdale's is supplying the china, with touches of gold and purple.

"It'll be an elegant table. ... The green chairs will complement nicely," she said.

The main tree will be placed in the front window facing the street, which just happens to be in her home office. Her choice

of decor is "elegant," with ornaments in gold, white, dark pink and green.

"It's nice to see the tree from outside," she said, recalling that they put it in the spacious family room last year; afterward they'll decide which they prefer.

A separate tree will be set up for her three children in the basement, which serves as a play area.

"We'll decorate with ornaments collected over the years,"

she said, recalling how they pull each one out and talk about where it came from. One came from their previous neighbors in their old neighborhood, who gave them one with both families' names on it. Another has a heart and was a gift when she and her husband were dating.

The kitchen will sport more organic decorations: artichokes, fruits and vegetables showcased

► Continued on next page

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MEAT DEPT

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per lb



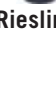
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Ridge Three Valleys

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Milbrandt Vineyards Riesling

\$10⁹⁹ per bottle



SANDWICH DEAL

Don't Panic (Vegetarian Sandwich)

or Market Club

\$9⁹⁹

w/ chips & soda



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HOURS: SU-TH: 8:30AM - 8:30PM, F-SAT: 8:30AM - 9:00PM

► Continued from previous page

on the kitchen table, along with branches and berries.

And outside there will be a s'mores bar set up, next to the outdoor fireplace and seating area.

Evans said one doesn't have to spend a fortune to create stunning holiday decorations. She suggests buying a lot of the same blossom — three white orchid plants put in a large pot with moss, or create a tight ball of red carnations. "It looks more expensive than they really are and has more impact," she said.

One year she popped into Michael's and bought gold reindeer and white flowers, which she marched across her table. Another year she found candles in tall glasses to serve as a centerpiece — all from Target.

Cathy Ettel, with her partner Laura Pohlen, of ParkGate Home, Menlo Park, will begin in a more traditional mode: First, they'll find out what's important to the client, what they want to keep and use.

"It's all about family and memories," she said. "Then, we incorporate new and fresh in with their things."

In this home there'll be two trees, one in the family room incorporating what they already own, plus children's ornaments made in school, preschool and at home.

For the living room tree, they'll go new, with lots of white, silver and blue — and lots of glitter, Ettel said.

Given that the owner likes contemporary but has family antiques, Ettel will help create an "eclectic blend. ... To us it's

all about maintaining what belongs to the client and making it *her* home, not our home. We'll reflect her style in an updated way."

That style will include incorporating some family history, her grandfather's artwork, antique pieces and her children's art, "yet with a contemporary twist: new, fresh and eclectic," she added.

Jo Ann James, of Jo Ann James Interiors, Menlo Park, also will be working with a client to decorate her home for the holidays. So far she's laid out a floor plan, color-coded, and had a meeting where they decided on using plenty of fresh greens. They'll go to the flower market to gather up an array of holiday greens, including pine cones, holly and pyracantha. "We'll decorate the house so it is fragrant, very Christmasy feeling, with some ornamentation — not a lot," she said.

As part of the presentation, James is creating two easels with poster board with suggestions for docents to explain how old pieces can be integrated into a new design, she said.

James noted that old ornaments can often be reused, with a new twist. To change clear ornaments used last year, for example, one could roll up little pieces of ribbon, or break a colored ornament, then place the pieces inside. Add glue, shake up and the new bits and pieces will adhere. "There are various other ways to freshen up what you have," she said.

For the very contemporary house she's holiday-designing, James is thinking of filling the



NANCY EVARS

The circular accent dishes take center stage at this Christmas dinner table, which is done up in gold, dark pink and purples. The floral arrangement was kept simple, with white and green flowers.



NANCY EVARS

Instead of the usual red and green, Nancy Evans brought in pink and blue with touches of gold for this festive Christmas dinner party. For place cards she added each guest's initials to framed ornaments from Pottery Barn Kids. The ornaments doubled as gifts.

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for information

650-625-1736 or TheArtifactory@aol.com

What: Finishing Touches Home Tour

When: Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: Four homes in Atherton and Menlo Park; plus events at the Four Seasons Hotel, 2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto

Cost: Shuttle-drive tour, \$40; self-driven tour, \$65; luncheon and lecture on Friday (includes self-drive tour), \$150; cocktail party Friday, \$125; party demonstration Saturday, \$45

Info: www.thejuniorleague.org/home-tour



a vegetarian oasis

YAM LEAF TRANSFORMS EL CALDERON'S SALVADORAN CLASSICS INTO HEALTHFUL, ORGANIC, MEAT-FREE DISHES



■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

STORY BY SHEILA HIMMEL
PHOTOS BY MICHELLE LE

Six blocks southeast of Castro Street, Yam Leaf Bistro is like a time-out. No fighting for parking, no scrum of restaurants vying for your business. Just a pleasant meal of organic, local and vegetarian food, with vegan options. On the ceiling are thoughts such as "Here Gather Family & Friends."

Christina Liu and five friends wanted to find a restaurant they could love. The group, most of them engineers, had studied Buddhism together for nine years, and wanted to promote healthful, environmentally friendly eating. None had restaurant experience. All came from Taiwan, where yam is a popular food that is considered to have detoxing powers.

In June they bought and repurposed El Calderon, which

► Continued on next page

Clockwise from top left: Yam Leaf's Cuban-style yucca with avocado; organic sesame toon bread with hummus, balsamic vinegar and olive oil; the quinoa black bean taco.

■ DINING NOTES

Yam Leaf

699 Calderon Ave.
Mountain View
650-940-9533
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Hours:

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Mon.-Sat. 5-9 p.m.

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► Continued from previous page

for 44 years had served Salvadoran specialties. They kept the pupusas and several other menu items that could be made vegetarian and organic, and spent a month learning the business. They scrubbed the 35-seat restaurant to a shine, set the tables with white cloths and gray placemats, and opened as Yam Leaf in mid-August.

Start with kale chips (\$2.25), crunchy and dry, but not greasy. Kale chips are very persnickety. As anyone knows who has tried this at home, the difference between under-baked and over-baked is about ten seconds.

Vegetable soup (\$6.95) changes with the availability of fresh ingredients. Recently it brimmed with cabbage, tomatoes, yams, cauliflower and tangy ginger.

The house salad (\$6.95) is a bed of baby greens dotted with strawberries and blue cheese, dressed in raspberry vinaigrette that errs on the side of neither too sweet nor too sour.

The enchilada del rio (\$9.95) is stuffed with mushrooms and draped in slightly spicy green sauce and luscious slices of ripe avocado.



Yam Leaf replaced El Calderon when owner Lita Lopez retired.

Pupusas are a must. In homage to former owner Lita Lopez, they are labeled Lita's Pupusas (\$3.95). The Salvadoran national snack can be a hockey puck of cornmeal, cheese and grease, cut by crisp curtido, a fermented

or pickled cabbage slaw. Yam Leaf's pupusas dispense with the grease yet are delicious. A combination plate (\$11.95) features one pupusa with crisp, tubular yucca fries. There is also a you-pick option, in which you

can build your own pupusa with up to three ingredients. Smooth and sweet kabocha squash works very well. (By the way, we just passed National Pupusa Day in Salvador, the second Sunday in November.)

DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE'S Cucina Venti

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A couple of dishes worked less well. The black bean quesadilla (\$6.95 as a lunch special, \$9.95 at dinner) is big and boring, despite all the condiments and side dishes: guacamole, spicy pico de gallo salsa, sour cream, refried beans and a small green salad.

In my vegetarian years I occasionally longed for a greasy hamburger or pastrami on rye. Yam Leaf's Reuben sandwich (\$6.95) would have helped. It's got the toast, the coleslaw, the cheese, and it almost tastes like pastrami if you close your eyes and banish from your mind that you are eating not ribbons of spicy cured beef but a marble-mouthed hunk of smoked tempeh "bacon." It comes with sweet potato fries, delicious if not crisp.

The sandwich was nicely offset by a refreshing cold drink of "fruit salad" (\$2.95) topped with chopped apple.

The menu is small but evolving, soon to include breakfast muesli and coffee and, eventually, a wine list. A young chef is helping the crew test new recipes. Expect to see vegan pasta with eggplant, Chinese-style fried noodles and a Thai-style soup. ▣



Chef Carlos Rivera prepares lunch in Yam Leaf's kitchen.



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA STREET
BETWEEN MARIPOSA AVENUE AND ESCUELA AVENUE

You are invited to the following City of Mountain View Council meeting where the Council will consider adopting A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 40 and approving use of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Rule 20A funds to finance the cost of undergrounding overhead electric facilities along a public right-of-way. Additional details will be provided at the meeting:

Tuesday, December 10, 2013
6:30 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as the item can be heard)
Mountain View City Hall
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, California

The report providing information on this item to the City Council will be published on the City's website (www.mountainview.gov) on or about December 6, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Solomon at (650) 903-6311. Comments may also be e-mailed to public.works@mountainview.gov

PENINSULA



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www.cucinaventi.com

CHINESE

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■ HIGHLIGHT

‘CHANUKAH IN 3D’ EVENT

A community Hanukkah celebration, held at the Civic Center Plaza in Mountain View, will feature a 3D dreidel printing station, olive oil pressing, balloon twister, holiday crafts, holiday sing along, food and more. Dec. 1, 4-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 408-720-0553. www.chabadsonnyvale.com/chanukah3d

ART GALLERIES

‘Time’ Gallery Exhibit In this Gallery 9 exhibit, 30 artists explore many facets of time: changing seasons and color, aging, clocks and other abstract metaphors. A variety of 2D and 3D media is on display at Gallery 9 through Dec. 24. A meet-the-artists reception will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, 5-7:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

‘Christmas at Our House’ Holiday Home Tour Saint Francis High School Women’s Club will host its 25th annual “Christmas At Our House” holiday home tour, featuring four homes in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. All homes will be decorated in holiday decor. Dec. 5-7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$45 and up. Various Four homes in the Los Altos Hills area - Various addresses, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-968-1213 ext. 701. www.sfhhs.com/parents/womens-club/christmas-at-our-house

Paly Winter Glass Sale There will be hand-blown glass items for sale, demos and cookies at the Palo Alto High School winter glass sale. Proceeds benefit the high school’s arts programs. Dec. 6-7, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Palo Alto High School - Room 105 near theatre, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-321-4506.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Foothill College Winter Quarter Registration Foothill College Winter Quarter classes will run Jan. 6-March 28. Continuing students can register Nov. 25-Jan. 5 and new/returning students, Nov. 30-Jan. 5. Review more registration dates and instructions at www.foothill.edu. No fee to apply for admission; California residents pay \$31 per unit plus basic fees. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7325. www.foothill.edu/admissions.php

KMVT 15 Photography Workshop KMVT 15 Silicon Valley Community Media, a local non-profit, is offering a photography workshop. The December class will cover holiday portraiture. Dec. 5, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$55. KMVT 15 Community Television, 1400 Terra Bella Ave., Suite M, Mountain View. Call 650-968-1540. www.kmvt15.org

MVLA Adult Education Winter/Spring 2014 Registration Registration for the winter and spring 2014 sessions at Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education begins on Friday, Nov. 22. Course catalog available online for viewing starting Monday, Nov. 18. Winter 2014 session is Jan. 6-March 21; Spring 2014 is March 24-June 6. Cost of classes. MVLA Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-940-1333. www.mvlaae.net

Reiki 1 Healing Class Learn the natural healing art of Reiki in this class. Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$175 includes manual and certificate. Los Altos Reiki Center, 745 Distel Drive #121, Los Altos. Call 650-862-2425. www.losaltosreiki.com

Worm Composting Alane Weber teaches a class on worm composting. Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$39. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072. www.commonground-inpaloalto.org

CLUBS/MEETINGS

Author Tom North Tom North, author of “True North - The Shocking Truth about Yours, Mine and Ours,” will speak and do a book signing at the Rotary Club of Palo Alto. Tom North, author of will share his inspirational story of survival and hope. Dec. 2, 12-1:30 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. www.rotarypaloalto.org/

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mountain View Certified Farmers Market This farmers market features more than 60 certified local producers with farm-fresh fruit and vegetables with organic and Asian varieties, grass-fed beef, eggs, mushrooms, bakeries, plants, herbs, sprouts, cheese, melons and garden

tomatoes. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until Dec. 31. Caltrain Station, 600 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 800-806-3276. www.cafarmersmkts.com/markets/category/mountain-view

Mountain View Plaza Palooza The City of Mountain View is hosting a series of events in the downtown Mountain View Civic Center Plaza. There will be music and entertainment, food and beverages the first Friday of every month. Dec. 6, Noon-1:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6331. www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/comm_services/recreation_programs_and_services/community_events/plaza_events.asp

Palo Alto Humane Society Gala The film “Babe” will be screened at the Palo Alto Humane Society’s 105th anniversary gala celebration. Bagpiper Jeff Campbell will also perform, as well as the JewellTones. Phil Giffin (Emmy-nominated producer and composer) and Marilyn Kanes (CEO of Mystery By Design) will co-host. Dec. 5, 7-10 p.m. \$5 (includes popcorn and a beverage). The Aquarius Theatre, 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto. www.paloaltohumane.org/#

CONCERTS

‘A Festival of Lessons and Carols’ The Memorial Church Choir, directed by Dr. Robert Huw Morgan, presents its annual seasonal program, based on the service at King’s College, Cambridge. Presented by the Office for Religious Life at Stanford. Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. Free. Stanford Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. www.music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

CCRMA Fall Concert at Stanford CCRMA presents interactive and fixed computer music works by members of the CCRMA (Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics) community, spatialized within a three-dimensional 24.6 channel immersive soundfield. icket required for free admission; free tickets can be picked up at Bing Concert Hall beginning one hour prior to curtain. Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. Free. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. www.music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

‘20 Harps for the Holidays’ Los Altos United Methodist Church hosts an annual concert featuring holiday harp music. The program will include a variety of classical and holiday music, a studio ensemble of more than 20 harps and organist T. Paul Rosas. Proceeds go to Harpeggio Music to help support studio activities, including this concert. Dec. 7, 4-6 p.m. \$12-\$15. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 408-366-8810. www.harpeggio.com/concert.html

Guitarist Shambhu with Will Ackerman East West Bookstore hosts jazz/New Age guitarist Shambhu to perform with Will Ackerman, guitarist, producer and founder of Windham Hill Records. Other musicians who contributed to Shambhu’s new album, “Dreaming of Now,” will also perform. Dec. 7, 7-9 p.m. \$25. Palo Alto Unity Church, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-988-9800. www.EastWest.com

Holiday Musicales at Stanford The Friends of Music at Stanford present this annual holiday showcase in Memorial Church with seasonal selections from the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Early Music Singers and featured student performers. Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m. \$10-15. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

Italian Christmas Concerts: ‘Sweet Voices & Noyses’ San Francisco Choral Artists and The Whole Noyse will perform Italian Christmas concerts. Dec. 7, 8 p.m. \$30 (discounts for seniors and students). St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-494-8149. www.sfca.org

Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra Concert The Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra (MPRO), an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society, will perform music by Corelli, Gabrieli, John Hothby, Henry Cowell, three 16th-century Scottish songs and an Adagio by Albinoni with Nicholas Vigil, oboe soloist. Dec. 7, 2-3 p.m. Free. Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-591-3648. www.mpro-online.org

‘Illuminate This Night’ Concert In three

concerts, the Peninsula Women’s Chorus sings holiday music from around the world, culminating in Conrad Susa’s “Carols and Lullabies,” a collection of carols originally from Spain, Catalunya, Puerto Rico, and Mexico, accompanied by marimba, guitar, and harp. Ticket information at www.pwchorus.org. Concerts are on Dec. 7 and 14 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, and on Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. \$35 premium; \$30 general; \$10 student (18 and under). Two venues, See addresses above, Palo Alto and Menlo Park. www.pwchorus.org

New Esterhazy Quartet Concert The New Esterh-zy Quartet performs music by composer Joseph Eybler in “Haydn & His Students VI.” On the program: Eybler’s “Quartet in C minor,” Haydn’s “Op. 64,” “No. 4 in G” and Beethoven’s “Op. 127 in Eb.” Dec. 1, 4-6 p.m. \$25 (discount for students and seniors). All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 415-520-0611. www.newesterhazy.org

Palo Alto Philharmonic Orchestra Concert II This concert will feature music from Mozart, Jean Sibelius, Lee Actor and more. Dec. 7, 8 p.m. \$20 Adults/\$17 Seniors/\$10 Students. Cubberley Community Center Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.paphil.org/pages/concerts/orch2.php

Sam Glaser at Congregation Etz Chayim Sam Glaser - composer, performer and interpreter of Jewish music - will perform on the last night of Chanukah. Dec. 4, 7-8:30 p.m. At the door: \$10 adults; \$5 children. Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 650-813-9094. www.etzchayim.org

Sam Glaser at Congregation Kol Emeth As part of “The Promise Tour,” pianist and vocalist Sam Glaser will be performing at Kol Emeth in Palo Alto. Dec. 7, 7-8 p.m. \$5 for children; \$8 adults. Family discount: \$20 for a family of four. Tickets sold at the door. Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-948-7498. www.kolemeth.org/dec-7-sam-glaser-concert/

Stanford Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble The Stanford Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble presents its fall program with classic and contemporary works from the Americas. Directed by Murray Low. Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. \$10-15. Campbell Recital Hall, Lasuen Mall, Stanford. www.music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

Stanford Early Music Singers William Mahrt directs the Early Music Singers’ program. Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. www.music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

Stanford Live: ‘Linked Verse’ Stanford Live presents “Linked Verse,” a new performance that fuses sound and 3D imagery. Dec. 7-8, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. \$10-75. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. www.live.stanford.edu/event.php?code=LIVE

Traditional & Jazz Holiday Classics Saxes for the Season, a saxophone quartet featuring Community School of Music and Arts faculty member Mark Russo, highlights three different types of saxophones (soprano, tenor and baritone) in this concert featuring both traditional and jazz holiday classics. Dec. 5, 7-8 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/concerts.htm

DANCE

Dance Connection’s Nutcracker Ballet Dance Connection, located at the Cubberley Community Center, presents its fifteenth annual Nutcracker Ballet starring 134 local children and teens between the ages of 6 through 17. This family-friendly production runs Dec. 6 at 7 p.m., Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. \$12-\$25 in advance. Reserved seating. Gunn High School Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-852-0418. www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com

FAMILY AND KIDS

Chanukah Party for Young Families Young children (up to around 5 years) and their parents can attend this Congregation Etz Chayim event with storytelling, singing, craft projects, dreidel games and seasonal snacks. Nov. 29, 5-6 p.m. Free. Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 650-813-9094. www.etzchayim.org

Community Chanukah Party Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto hosts a community Chanukah party with a community candle-lighting, food and Chanukah Bingo. Dec. 3, 6:15-7:45 p.m. \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door (includes dinner). Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-948-7498. www.kolemeth.org/dec-3-annual-chanukah-party/

Families SFMOMA Event Linden Tree Books in Los Altos will host Families SFMOMA for a story time and art-making event for families. Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-949-3390. www.lindentree-books.com

Home for the Holidays: Bird Arts and Crafts The EcoCenter hosts a day of arts and crafts. Decorate a birdhouse, design a birdfeeder wreath and fashion native seed planters to take home. Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-493-8000. www.evolvs.org

HEALTH

Affordable Mental Health Program Deborah’s Palm - a community woman’s center in downtown Palo Alto - has started an affordable psychotherapy program to benefit low-income women. Nov. 19-Jan. 19, Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m. Fees start at \$40/hour. Deborahs Palm, 555 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-473-0664. www.deborahspalm.org

LIVE MUSIC

Live flamenco guitar at Morocco’s Restaurant A live flamenco guitar performance will take place on two Thursdays in December at Morocco’s in Mountain View. Dec. 5 and 12, 5-11 p.m. Free. Morocco’s Restaurant, 873 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-1502. www.moroccosrestaurant.com/

Moroccan music night Morocco’s Restaurant in Mountain View will host a Moroccan music night. Dec. 1, 5-9 p.m. Free. Morocco’s Restaurant, 873 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-1502. www.moroccosrestaurant.com/

ON STAGE

Los Altos Stage Co.: ‘The Sunshine Boys’ The Los Altos Stage Company’s production of “The Sunshine Boys” is the story of Lewis and Clark, two longtime comedy partners whose career and friendship came to a sudden and acrimonious end. Nov. 21-Dec. 15, Wednesday-Sunday, 8 p.m. \$26-\$32. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. www.losaltosstage.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. Nov. 26-Jan. 21, Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Free (donations accepted). St. Timothy’s/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. www.imsb.org

Music: ‘A Festival of Lessons and Carols’ The Memorial Church Choir, directed by Robert Huw Morgan, presents their annual seasonal program, based on the service at King’s College in Cambridge. Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Stanford Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-1762. www.events.stanford.edu/events/389/38939

Stanford Hospital Hanukkah Celebration A menorah will be lit in the Stanford Hospital Atrium for Hanukkah. A light snack will be served. Dec. 2, 4 p.m. Free. Stanford Hospital Atrium, 300 Pasteur Drive, Stanford. Call 650-723-3808. www.stanfordhospital.org/jewishchaplaincy

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gunn Class of 2003 10 Year Reunion The Gunn High School Class of 2013’s 10 year reunion will be held. There will be a cocktail hour, dancing, food and more. RSVP by Nov. 1. Nov. 29, 8 p.m.-midnight. \$50-\$100. Lucie Stern Community Center - Stern Ballroom, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.gunnclassof2003tenyearreunion.eventbrite.com

Pressed Juicery Grand Opening Pressed Juicery hosts its grand opening at the Stanford Shopping Center. Staff will be giving away free juice, gift cards and other prizes, such as Soul Cycle free rides. Nov. 29, 9:15 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Free. Pressed Juicery, 660 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto. Call 310-883-2123. www.pressedjuicery.com

SPORTS

PASC Soccer Tryouts The Palo Alto Soccer Club is holding tryouts for boys and girls U8 -- U14, from Nov. 23 to Dec. 15. PASC is forming competitive teams for spring/fall 2014 and encourages boys and girls born from Aug. 1, 1999, to July 31, 2006, to join try out. Times vary. Free. Various field locations, Various times in the afternoon and evening, Palo Alto. Call 650-283-6347. www.pasoccerclub.org

LECTURES & TALKS

‘Contextualizing the Holodomor’ Talk Observations on the 80th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, with Frank Sysyn and Norman Naimark. Dec. 5, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Fisher Conference Center, Arrillaga Conference Center, 326 Galvez St., Stanford. Call 650-725-2563. www.creecs.stanford.edu/event/contextualizing-holodomor-observations-80th-anniversary-ukrainian-famine-1932-1933

Ari Shavit at Cubberley Israeli columnist Ari Shavit, author of “My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel,” will give a talk. Dec. 3, 7 p.m. \$12-20 Cubberley Community Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 408-280-5530. www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2013-12-03/ari-shavit-triumph-and-tragedy-israel

Ari Shavit at the Oshman Family JCC Israeli columnist Ari Shavit, author of “My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel,” will give a talk. Dec. 3, 8 a.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8700. www.paloaltojcc.org/

Fashion at Stanford: Ron Johnson and Cathy Horyn Cathy Horyn will sit with Ron Johnson, former CEO of JCPenney and SVP of Retail at Apple, to discuss brand integrity and the future of retail. Dec. 2, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. CEMEX Auditorium, 641 Knight Way, Stanford. Call 650-736-0705. www.artsinstitute.stanford.edu/fashion

Humanist Community Forum Hear a different speaker speak each Sunday on a range of topics: philosophy, politics, humanism, health, relationships, history, the environment. A buffet lunch (complimentary for first-time visitors) immediately follows. See website for each Sunday’s speaker and topic: www.humanists.org. Oct. 27-Dec. 29, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free (donations accepted). Palo Alto High School Student Center (in the main quad - see <http://goo.gl/maps/eWMfv>), 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-964-7576. www.humanists.org

‘How to License Your Product Idea’ Warren Tuttle, president of the United Inventors Association, will share best practices on licensing products to big corporations and companies. Dec. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free, but spaces are limited. Please RSVP online. LegalForce, 323 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-404-9540. www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-license-your-product-idea-to-big-corporations-tickets-9173489153

TEDxBayArea Global Women Entrepreneurs TEDxBayArea will convene its fourth annual Global Women Entrepreneurs event to celebrate women leaders around the world. Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$99. TEDxBayArea, Mountain View venue, Mountain View. Call 650-469-3243. www.tedxbayarea.com/annual-events/women-entrepreneurs-2013/

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 Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Pursuant to Sections 2080 through 2080.5 of the California Civil Code, notice is hereby given that the Mountain View Police Department has in its possession an undisclosed amount of currency recovered at the Goodwill Store in Mountain View. The owner(s) of such property are hereby notified that seven (7) days following publication of this notice, if no owner appears and proves their ownership of such property, that the title shall then vest in the person or entity that found the property. The owner, in the case of proving their ownership of such property, shall pay all reasonable charges for storing, advertising, etc of such property incurred by the City. CLAIM OF ITEM SHOULD BE MADE TO: Mountain View Police Dept., Property & Evidence Unit, 1000 Villa St. (650) 903-6375

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

AP SEMINARS SILICON VALLEY, LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 584536
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
AP Seminars Silicon Valley, LLC, located at 2625 Swanson Way, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
AP SEMINARS SILICON VALLEY, LLC
2625 Swanson Way
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 1, 2013. (MVV Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2013)

MARINADES AND MARMALADES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 584714
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Marinades and Marmalades, located at 455 W. Evelyn Ave., Apt. 1124, 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):
KATHERINE ANNE MARKHAM
455 W. Evelyn Ave., Apt. 1124
Mountain View, CA 94041
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on November 6, 2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 7, 2013. (MVV Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2013)

M&C MAINTENANCE SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 584720
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
M&C Maintenance Service, located at 2054 Montecito Ave. #18, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
MANUEL CRUZ
2054 Montecito Ave. #18
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 7, 2013. (MVV Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2013)

FLYING HIPPO BIKE BAGS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 584677
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Flying Hippo Bike Bags, located at 364 Marich Way, Los Altos, CA 94022, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
LINDA FOLKMAN
364 Marich Way
Los Altos, CA 94022
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 6, 2013. (MVV Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2013)

CAL METRO REALTY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 585185
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Cal Metro Realty, located at 530 Showers Drive, Ste. 7-177, 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):
VINCENT LIU
12111 Hilltop Dr.
Los Altos Hills, CA 94024
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 19, 2013. (PAW Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2013)

GK CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 585029
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
GK Consulting, located at 1668 California St., Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
GRACE CLARK
1668 California St.
Mountain View, CA 94041
KINCY CLARK
1668 California St.
Mountain View, CA 94041
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 18, 2013. (MVV Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2013)

BEYECO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 584948
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
BEYECO, located at 250 Santa Fe Terr., 221, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
KEFAN ZHANG
250 Santa Fe Terr., 221
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Jan. 1, 2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 14, 2013. (MVV Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2013)

JANE'S BEER STORE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 585028
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Jane's Beer Store, located at 720 Villa St., Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A General Partnership.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
EIICHI NISHINO
51 E. Clare Ct.
Palatine, IL 60067
MIHO OKADA-NISHINO
51 E. Clare Ct.
Palatine, IL 60067
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 18, 2013. (MVV Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2013)

The Mountain View Voice publishes every Friday.

THE DEADLINE
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Call Alicia Santillan at
(650) 223-6578
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997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
MARIA NAGY
Case No.: 1-13-PR-173270
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **MARIA NAGY**:
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **MONICA BELTRAN** in the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. The Petition for Probate requests that: **MONICA BELTRAN** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
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 December 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 12 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 the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
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/ Gadi Zohar, Esq.
2600 El Camino Real, Suite 506
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650)493-9200
(MVV Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2013)



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.

Public Hearing Notices • Resolutions
Bid Notices • Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate

Deadline: 5 p.m. the previous Friday
Call Alicia Santillan (650) 223-6578
to assist you with your legal advertising needs.
E-mail: asantillan@pawekly.com

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Ken DeLeon

Ken has dual degrees in economics and mathematics, and graduated from UC Berkeley School of Law with high honors. It is no surprise that Ken ascended the ranks to become the #1 real estate agent in the entire United States - within 10 years of starting his career. Since then he has built a company to go even further. Ken's energy, charisma, and passion for real estate make him the perfect visionary to help re-craft the way real estate is done.

Michael Repka

Michael serves as Managing Broker and General Counsel for DeLeon Realty. In addition to two law degrees, Michael has worked for several years as a tax and real estate attorney. Michael's background proves invaluable to Ken's clients. Whether your questions are about tax consequences or relate to legal rights and legal responsibilities, Michael is there to help.



Kim Heng

Kim has an MBA in finance and vast experience helping her clients with all of their real estate needs. As the Director of Asian operations, Kim oversees the marketing of all of Ken's listings to the Chinese community - including ads in Chinese newspapers, TV, and radio. Kim also hosts a radio talk show, about a variety of real estate topics.



LiLing Lampell

Liling is DeLeon Realty's accredited Interior Designer, and works full time in-house. Having spent many years in real estate and real estate staging, Liling has vast experience in understanding how to unlock the values of a house with modest investments. Liling's eye for style, design and warm personality add much value to every transaction.



Nicole Chavez

Nicole serves as DeLeon Realty's Listing Coordinator, and keeps everything on track when you are listing your home. She handles all of the scheduling, procurement of estimates, and site inspections necessary to ensure that every detail of a listing is just right. Nicole will help you throughout the entire listing process.



Tony Atalla

Tony, a licensed contractor, is available to assist with preparations of homes for listings. This may include anything from replacing light bulbs and fixing misaligned gates to strapping water heaters and installing carbon monoxide detectors. Many people think of Tony's DeLeon Realty van as a last minute savior.

Sellers's Seminar – Preparing your home for the Spring

Learn how to prepare your home in the Silicon Valley for the best market value

Please join DeLeon Realty for a seminar focused on how to prepare your home in this competitive market. You will gain invaluable insight into the real estate strategies used by the most successful real estate agent in the Silicon Valley – **Ken DeLeon**. Hear DeLeon Realty's strategies for getting your home ready to sell at the best price. Meet with the DeLeon Listing team, **Michael Repka** – Managing Broker & General Council, and DeLeon Realty's talented Area Specialists, who focus on specific neighborhoods in the Silicon Valley.

Please Join us Saturday, Dec. 14

Where: Palo Alto Hills
Country Club
3000 Alexis Drive



When: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Breakfast will be served

Contact **Ting Conway** at 650-543-8588 to RSVP

Please arrive 20 minutes early to register. Per Palo Alto Hills Country Club attire guidelines, please do not wear jeans. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.