

# Mountain View VOICE

APRIL 17, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 12

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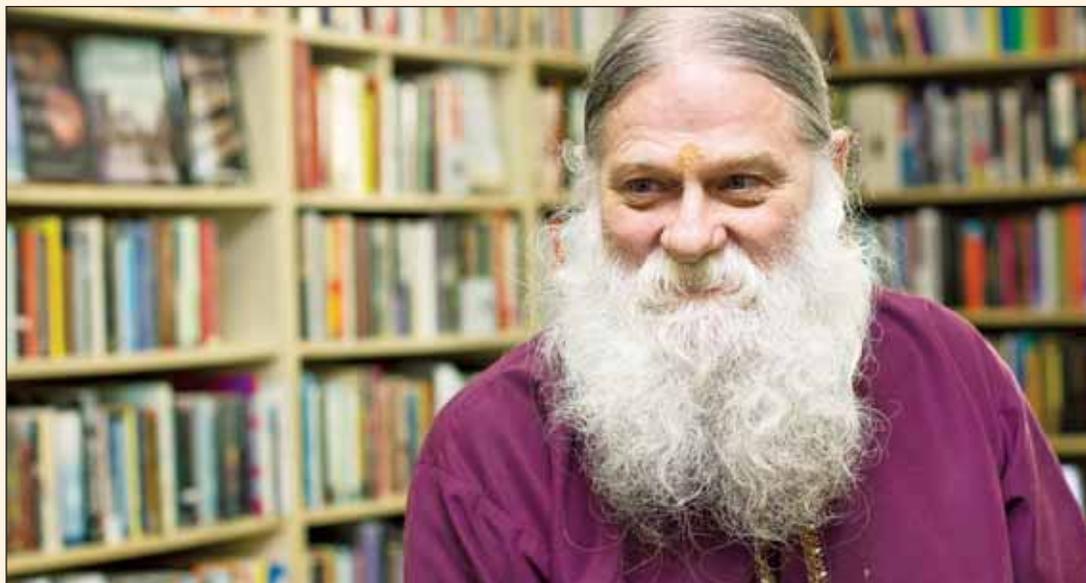
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MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Hotranatha Ajaya**, owner of downtown's *Book Buyers*, says he and his staff are doing all they can to save the business.

## Used bookshop scrambles to save business

BOOK BUYERS REDOUBLES EFFORTS IN FACE OF POSSIBLE CLOSURE

By Mark Noack

**H**otranatha Ajaya, the owner of the downtown shop *Book Buyers*, committed what some merchants might consider a blunder — he openly admitted that business wasn't so hot.

Costs are rising, sales are sluggish and online competition is undermining the bottom line, he wrote in his newsletter last week. In an earnest confes-

sion, he estimated that his used bookstore had three months to turn around or be forced to close down. But Ajaya made a sincere pledge: he would do everything he could to prevent that from happening.

He and his close-knit cadre of employees at *Book Buyers* are now making a last stand, working hastily to reinvent and reinvigorate the Castro Street bookstore, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary

next month. They are readying a spree of new events, price cuts and promotions all designed to rekindle interest in the printed word.

They are now coming to direct terms with a question familiar to many in retail: How does a brick-and-mortar shop survive in the age of the Internet? Ajaya describes himself as a "stupid optimist" who can't

► See **BOOKSHOP**, page 7

## School board plugs gaps in preschool funding

WITH STATE CUTS, 25 PERCENT OF PRESCHOOL SPOTS WOULD DISAPPEAR

By Kevin Forestieri

**S**anta Clara County is experiencing a drought in preschool funding, and it's taking a toll on Mountain View schools. Federal preschool grants skipped over California for next year, and the state is allowing a program to expire that funds 25 percent of the preschool spots in

the Mountain View Whisman School District.

Rather than sit idly by, the school board agreed earlier this month to look at ways to help fund the difference and keep the existing preschool spots open, and possibly expand the program to bring down its long waiting list.

The state has been spending about \$45 million each year since

2010 for the Child Signature Program to inject some much-needed money into preschool programs at school districts across the state. For the Mountain View Whisman School District, that adds up to 35 more preschool spots for families free of charge, according to Terri

► See **FUNDING**, page 14

## Council OKs \$1.2 million for studies of North Bayshore housing

REVISING PLANS FIRST STEP IN ALLOWING NEW RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

By Mark Noack

**T**hrowing a new twist into future development plans in North Bayshore, the Mountain View City Council on Tuesday night signaled that more than 100 acres of land should be used to build a new residential neighborhood.

In a 6-1 vote at the April 14 meeting, with John Inks opposed, council members approved studying the feasibility of bringing hundreds of new, tightly packed homes to a cluster of parcels near Shoreline Boulevard north of Highway 101. In doing so, council members challenged

developers to present ideas for making the area a model for modern urban design.

"I'm excited about this. We have a great opportunity to create a live-work-play neighborhood in the North Bayshore," said Councilman Lenny Siegel. "If we take all of this together, we can come up with a really exciting urban design plan."

Home to Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft and other tech firms, Mountain View's North Bayshore district has become the main focus for the competing development interests in town. Last December, city officials set a limit of 2.5 million square feet of new development that would be allowed in the area. That cap effectively created a fierce competition between Google and other firms looking to expand in

the sought-after office park. The city ended up receiving seven proposals seeking to develop more than five million square feet in the area, with Google proposing to use all 2.5 million square feet for a dramatic new headquarters.

At the time those proposals were submitted, the city had no official plans to allow housing in the North Bayshore area. Under the previous City Council majority, city planning efforts restricted new development in the area to offices and commercial uses.

But that changed following November's election. In February, with three newly elected members creating

a new majority, the council changed position and endorsed adding new homes.

On Tuesday, city staff presented their first preliminary study showing areas that could be suitable for residential development. City Principal Planner Martin Alkire flipped through a litany of maps, showing the district's anticipated sea-level rise, highway noise, building-height restrictions, wildlife corridors and other factors. Based on all this, he zeroed in on five parcels suitable for homes in the area, some of which overlapped with the land sought for commercial use.

It became an open question exactly how these two uses would bump against one

*'I hope we can get world-class proposals out of this.'*

COUNCILMAN  
CHRIS CLARK



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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Rachel Lee and Madeleine Gerson.

*What's the most annoying thing you have to do at work or school?*



"Commuter, because Mountain View has more houses and more buildings and everyone is flocking here. It has made going from one end of Castro Street to the other unbearable."

**Brian Gomez**, Mountain View



"I'm lucky enough to work from home and I have gorgeous kids and the most frustrating piece about it is I have to do these briefs and meetings and yet I've got these gorgeous little (ones) running around the house and it tears me apart to decide where to put my time."

**Kevin Gambond**, Yorktown, VA



"The most irritating thing about school and work would be grouchy people — people who are not people-friendly. And when they don't get enough sleep, they take out their problems on other people"

**Donna Singh**, Mountain View



"I would have to say scheduling vacations. Vacations are very important. It's crucial that people are rested to do their best work, but often companies and organizations make it difficult for people to actually vacation."

**Rebecca Aaberg**, Washington, D.C.



"I would say the most annoying thing about work is probably lack of work-life balance. Sometimes you give all to your job and sometimes that gets you not much in the way of relaxing from time to time."

**Parry Acquah**, Washington, D.C.

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— Chris G. from Palo Alto, Audi owner

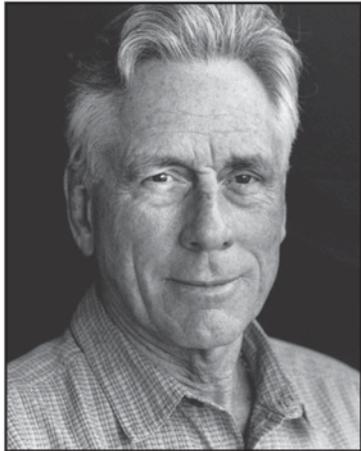
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### CRIME BRIEFS

#### PUNCH-OUT AT PARK

Police arrested a Mountain View man late Sunday afternoon after he allegedly started punching two people sitting on a bench at Rengstorff Park in an unprovoked attack.

The man approached the two people on a bench near the basketball courts, a 51-year-old and a 36-year-old both from Mountain View, at around 5:30 p.m., according to police. Without warning, the man, identified by police as Abel Menera, 22, began punching both victims on the head and face, causing a bloody nose and a swollen eye, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department. Neither of the two victims requested medical attention.

Menera was later located by police in the restroom area of the park and identified as the attacker, but did not explain to police why he attacked the two. Menera was arrested and booked into San Jose Main Jail on charges of battery, public intoxication and a probation violation.

#### THEFT LEADS TO ARREST

A Mill Valley man was arrested after allegedly stealing from a CVS pharmacy in Mountain View on Sunday and refusing to cooperate with police once he was caught.

Siwatu Wright, 41, allegedly took a razor and a bottle of wine from the pharmacy at 1041 El Monte Avenue and left the store without paying. He was later spotted by an officer near the intersection of El Camino Real and El Monte and was told to put the bag with the razor and wine down, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Wright refused to comply with orders to put down the bag, sit down or show the officer his hands. Wright was arrested and booked into San Jose Mail Jail on charges of petty theft and resisting or delaying a police officer.

—Kevin Forestieri

### POLICE LOG

#### AUTO BURGLARY

800 block California St., 4/13  
1900 block W. El Camino Real, 4/13

#### BATTERY

200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 4/11  
1 block S. Rengstorff Av., 4/12

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

700 block W. Dana St., 4/11  
1300 block Grant Rd., 4/11

#### GRAND THEFT

2200 block Grant Rd., 4/8

#### ROBBERY

W. Dana St. & Hope St., 4/12

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1300 block Miramonte Av., 4/8

300 block W. El Camino Real, 4/10

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

1800 block Ednamary Way, 4/8

#### VANDALISM

300 block Easy St., 4/8

400 block Villa St., 4/9

100 block Calderon Av., 4/9

400 block W. Evelyn Av., 4/9

200 block Villa St., 4/9

200 block Castro St., 4/9

300 block View St., 4/10

100 block Iris Dr., 4/10

700 block E. El Camino Real, 4/11

1500 block W. El Camino Real, 4/12

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### FOOTHILL WINS CONSERVATION AWARD

Foothill College's environmental horticulture and design program was recently recognized by the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Coalition for its innovative instruction and conservation projects. Representatives from Foothill College received an award plaque during the organization's annual awards ceremony.

Three conservation projects were developed and implemented at Foothill College and were sponsored by fund-

► See *COMMUNITY BRIEFS*, page 11

**The Mountain View Voice** (USPS 2560) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306 (650) 964-6300. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto CA and additional mailing offices. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Subscription rate of \$60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Juan Diaz**, Mountain View's new interim fire chief, arrived in the United States as a 15-year-old refugee aboard a shrimp boat.

## From Cuban refugee to interim fire chief

JUAN DIAZ SAYS HE'S "LIVING THE DREAM" IN AMERICA, HOPES U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

By Mark Noack

In what is already being cast as a historic moment, the United States and Cuba have agreed to restore diplomatic relations, bringing a thaw to more than 55 years of Cold War-era politics.

For Mountain View's new interim fire chief, perhaps more than anyone else in the city, the news had huge significance—Juan Diaz is a former Cuban refugee.

Cuba will always be like home, Diaz said, although he said the

island county's political system shouldn't be described as anything but "totalitarian." After coming to the U.S. 35 years ago, Diaz says he is hopeful that an influx of trade and tourism will someday bring about reforms in civil liberties to Cuba.

"I do sympathize with the view that we shouldn't be dealing with a totalitarian government, but I also think that opening dialogue, it'll allow the Cuban government to consider other options," Diaz said. "When something hasn't

► See **DIAZ**, page 6

## District to spend millions on achievement gap

FUNDS TO BE SPENT ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INSTRUCTIONAL AID IN MV WHISMAN DISTRICT

By Kevin Forestieri

Board members for the Mountain View Whisman School District vowed to get serious about addressing the achievement gap last year when they decided to split Castro Elementary in two, concentrating some of the district's neediest students into a single school.

More state money, a resur-

gence of Title I funding and spending down the district's reserves are all on the table for beefing up resources for Mountain View's most needy students, and it will be up to the board to decide how the money, much of it focused on professional development and instructional coaches, will best be spent.

When the school district's Castro Restructuring Task Force

presented to the board late last year, board members were faced with a difficult reality: socio-economically disadvantaged students and English-language learners are still well below their peers in reading and math proficiency, and the no-longer-used test scores placed the traditional program at Castro Elementary below state standards. Castro is also home to the district's Dual Immersion Spanish program,

which is becoming its own school, although it will still share the Castro campus.

The idea was that by splitting the Dual Immersion choice program away from the traditional school, the district could better focus its money and efforts on its two high-needs campuses — Theuerkauf and Castro — and turn things around.

Following the decision, the district's demographics have become more lopsided. District records show 81 percent of the students attending the traditional program at Castro Elementary are socio-economically disadvantaged, the highest percentage of any district school, followed

by Theuerkauf Elementary at 70 percent. On the other end of the spectrum, Stevenson Elementary is at 7 percent, followed by Huff at 9 percent.

Investment in the two schools has come from all sides. Last month, district staff proposed setting aside more than \$1.5 million over the coming years out of the district's relatively large reserve funds to pay for turn-around efforts at schools with the "greatest rate of poverty and lower overall student performance," according to a memo by Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly.

He said the money would

► See **SCHOOL DISTRICT**, page 8

## Going beyond the 'hour' of code

LOCAL EDUCATORS EXPLORE NEW WAYS TO TEACH COMPUTER PROGRAMMING TO KIDS

By Kevin Forestieri

Teaching computer science and coding to young kids is a fresh and relatively unexplored frontier in public education that's experiencing an explosion of interest. The recent push to get more STEM fields into the classroom has millions participating in the annual "hour of code" event, and schools and local education companies are working to take it to the next level.

Late last year, kids from elementary to high school took an hour out of their day to get a

cursory look at what it's like to take on coding. Using Blockly, a block-based program that represents sections of codes as "pieces" that can be put in various orders, kids were able to guide their favorite Disney characters through a series of movements to reach a goal.

The games mimic how real code directs a computer to do tasks, and just like real code, kids can run into pitfalls and problems, and have to "debug" and figure out what went wrong.

During a "fireside chat" with Google's executive chairman Eric Schmidt, Khan Academy

founder Sal Khan said it's good that students are getting that kind of conceptual understanding of how programming works, but only a few people actually apply it to the real thing.

"You don't see a lot of people make the jump from that or block-based programming to real, syntactic programming," Khan said.

The real question is how to get students to cross that gap and realize coding itself isn't really all that bad, Khan said. The thesis they ran with at Khan Academy

► See **CODE**, page 9



COURTESY EMBARK LABS

**Children** work on hands-on coding lessons at a recent Saturday workshop run by Embark Labs at the Google Garage in Mountain View.

# North Bay superintendent tapped to lead MVLA

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEW SUPERINTENDENT STILL SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH

By Kevin Forestieri

After four months of searching, board members at the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District announced Tuesday they have selected Jeff Harding, the current superintendent of the Healdsburg Unified School District, as the top finalist to replace Superintendent Barry Groves.

The board is expected to officially select Harding as the new superintendent at the May 11 board meeting. Once chosen, Harding would take over for Groves as head of the district as of July 1.

Harding was selected as the finalist for his experience in instructional leadership and community involvement, and would be a good fit for the district as it “expands opportunities” for all students, according to board president Susan Sweeley.

“(Harding) will be a tremendous asset in providing leadership as the district continues its focus on success for all students,” Sweeley said in a statement.

Harding could not be reached for comment prior to the *Voice's* Wednesday press deadline.

Most of Harding's career as a school administrator has been spent in the North Bay



Jeff Harding

between Marin and Sonoma counties, heading steadily north as he advanced through the ranks. After serving as

assistant principal at Sir Francis Drake High School in San Anselmo and booting up the school's integrated studies program, Harding took up a position as principal of Windsor High School before taking a promotion to assistant superintendent for the Windsor School District.

He was selected in 2008 to head the Healdsburg Unified School District as superintendent, and led the district during the height of the recession amid more than a decade of declining enrollment.

Healdsburg Unified has about half number of students as the Mountain View-Los Altos dis-

trict, despite the inclusion of kindergarten through eighth grade. Healdsburg counted 676 English-language learners among its students in the 2013-14 school year, compared to 327 in MVLA.

Harding holds a master's degree in education administration from Sonoma State University, and completed his dissertation on the development of positive school culture for his doctorate in 2007. Before taking on a role as a school administrator, he worked in environmental education as a teacher and program director. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at [kforestieri@mv-voice.com](mailto:kforestieri@mv-voice.com)

## DIAZ

► Continued from page 5

worked for 50 years, you might want to try other options.”

Diaz said he can still vividly remember his life in Cuba, particularly his family's small one-bedroom apartment in Havana. The only appliance they had was a clothes iron, he recalled.

“I was happy because I didn't know anything different,” Diaz said.

His family was unfortunately on the wrong side of history. His father, grandfather and uncle had all served as policemen under the Batista regime. After the 1960 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power, the Diaz family was kept under close watch by the government and forbidden from traveling abroad. For a time, Diaz was warned that he could be sent to Angola or Ethiopia to fight as a soldier in one of the Soviet Union's proxy wars.

The chance to leave the county came suddenly. In 1980, a small group of Cubans hoping to

flee the country rammed a bus through the front gate of the Peruvian embassy, resulting in a firefight with Cuban soldiers. After the group was granted political asylum, a huge number of other Cubans began flooding through the breached embassy gates.

Diaz remembers the excitement at the time as his family discussed plans to join the exodus. The decision wasn't easy, and it meant leaving their extended family.

“My dad said, ‘There's hundreds of people jumping into the embassy. This is our way out.’ Diaz recalled. “I trusted he was doing the right thing, but it was scary.”

As his family jumped the gate, Diaz remembers the embassy being overwhelmed with tens of thousands of people crammed shoulder to shoulder inside. In the following days, Cuban-Americans began sending a flotilla of boats to deliver some 125,000 refugees to Florida. News reels from the time showed

a scrawny teenaged Diaz among a crowd of people packed on the deck of a shrimp boat called the “Sun Hippie” as it docked in Florida.

Arriving in the U.S. was revelatory, he said. As he climbed aboard a bus, Diaz felt a breeze of air conditioning for the first time. The streets, sidewalks and other fixtures looked better than anything he had seen before. Later, a cousin took him to a Burger King, and Diaz said he remembered picking the sesame seeds off his hamburger, because he was confused how he was supposed to eat it.

By late 1980, his family decided to start a new life in Santa Clara. That was a tough decision, Diaz said. South Florida felt almost like a second Havana because there were so many Cuban exiles living there, but the Diaz family was all alone in the South Bay. Diaz became an expert at quickly flipping through a dictionary to translate English words in school, but he said it took him a year before he felt confident

enough to hold a conversation.

He enrolled at De Anza Community College with the idea to someday enter law enforcement like his dad, but he was gradually drawn to firefighting classes instead. Around 1985, he knocked on the door of a Santa Clara City fire station and offered his services as a volunteer firefighter. In the evenings, he worked with his father doing janitorial work.

Breaking into the insular ranks of firefighters wasn't easy, and for three years South Bay fire departments, including Mountain View, passed over Diaz and selected other candidates. His big break came in 1988 when a progressive fire chief in San Jose, Robert Osby, decided to give Diaz a chance.

In his 27 years of firefighting experience, Diaz has served almost every role, including engine driver, fire inspector and battalion chief.

“I've delivered five babies in my life — how many people can say that?” he laughed. “I'm living the

dream, being able to go to school in America and getting into the fire service.”

He joined Mountain View's department less than a year ago as a deputy fire chief. After Fire Chief Brad Wardle announced plans to retire in May, Diaz was picked to succeed him on an interim basis. He expects to apply for the permanent position.

Given the recent news in U.S.-Cuba relations, Diaz said he has been reminded of his family's former life. He still has relatives in Cuba, and he says he's visited his home country in the past under a U.S. Treasury program allowing restricted travel.

Diaz believes that restoring relations will ultimately be a boon for the Cuban people.

“My dad always said the U.S. is what you put into it: You work hard and you'll get ahead,” he said. “In Cuba right now, there are 11 million people who are literally hungry for work.” ▀

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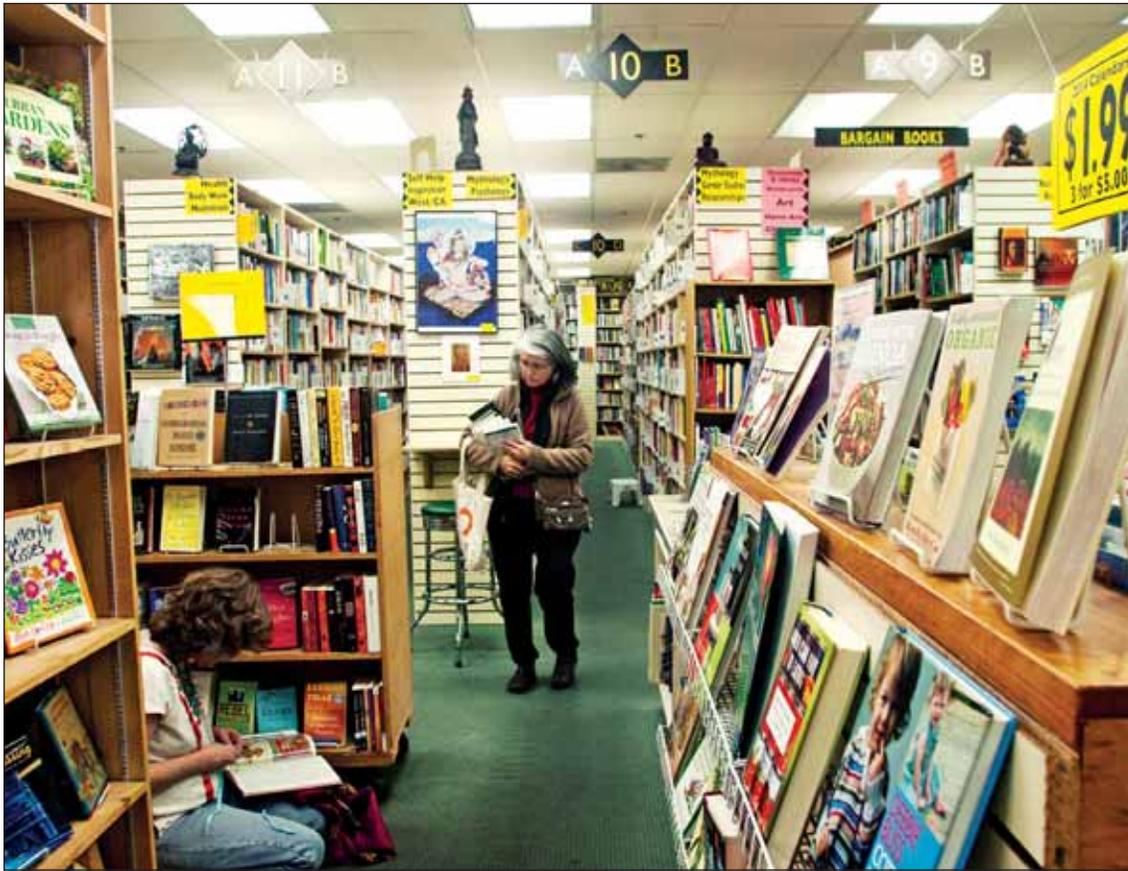


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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Customers browse the stacks at Book Buyers on Castro Street on April 9.

## BOOKSHOP

► Continued from page 1

imagine seeing his business fail. He didn't have a magic-bullet solution, but said his team was going to experiment with plenty of ideas.

"I refuse to believe that it's not possible," he said. "If we don't succeed, it will be because we didn't have enough time."

He sat down last week to talk shop in bookstore's new living room, an open area equipped with sofas and tables. It was meant to encourage anyone in the store to relax and flip through a volume, whereas previously the shop put a priority on maximizing its inventory, he said. The room was a personal project for him, and for weeks he arrived early in the morning to build the furniture and clear the space for customers.

It was just one area of the book stacks that had been changed, and other upgrades are imminent, he promised. The new focus of his bookstore was on building community and getting people in the doors. To accomplish this, Book Buyers was using a variety of promotions — some newfangled and some old-fashioned.

The bookstore had recently upgraded its website and making a concerted effort to plug itself on social media, said Tammie Stallings, the store's in-house marketing guru. On a daily basis, she is writing online posts and blogs listing off the staff's current favorite picks or inviting people to drop by for an afternoon flash sale. Stall-

ings touted a 18 percent bump in Facebook page visits as a sign her efforts were effective.

Meanwhile, she said Book Buyers is doubling down on events and promotions that have been a mainstay for bookstores, such as author readings, open mic gatherings and targeted sales. Hawking second-hand books is never going to be hugely profitable, she said, but it is a line of work that is close to heart of many employees and frequent customers. Her own background is a testament to her passion. Up until recently, she owned and managed Handee Books in Santa Clara, but said she was forced to close last year.

"If you're in the book business, you're not in it for the money," Stallings said. "I have to look at books as widgets in a business, even though they're not like that. In my mind, books are magic."

Selling books still remains a profitable trade, said Hut Landon, executive director of the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association, which represents about 300 shops. While the market for books experienced a slump during the 2008 recession, Landon said sales have been on a gradual upswing since around 2012. The 2011 bankruptcy and closure of the bookstore chain Borders only helped smaller competitors, he said.

But used bookstores haven't fared quite as well, Landon said. He speculated that this could be because selling used books means tighter profit margins and possibly a customer base that tends to be more frugal. Used booksellers are also competing

head-on with the online retail giant Amazon, which has made second-hand books a linchpin of its business, he explained.

"Collectively, independent booksellers are doing very well, but used bookstores are the exception to the rule," Landon said. "This industry is always going to be a challenge as long as Amazon is around, but booksellers are ready to rise to the challenge."

For Ajaya, 72, trying to revitalize business remains experimental. The business already sells books online through a sister store in San Jose. For a period, the store also tried to break into international sales, but the shipping costs ended up being too high and it was burdensome to deal with a patchwork of changing tax rules, he said. The main hope was to remind customers to come by and appreciate the bookstore as a local community institution.

"We're not going to ask for handouts," he said. "If we're going to survive, we need people to make the effort to come here and buy here."

Ajaya said he has already violated a promise he made to himself to leave the business when he turned 72. His goal now is to depart with the assurance that his business is on stable footing.

Oddly enough for a book seller, Ajaya didn't have a good answer when asked what books he was enjoying these days.

"Frankly, I don't read much anymore because I'm spending 15 hours a day here," he said with a laugh. ▣

E-mail Mark Noack at [mnoack@mv-voice.com](mailto:mnoack@mv-voice.com)

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## Fundraising saves preschool

PARENT NURSERY SCHOOL HAS TO RELOCATE OFF MVHS CAMPUS

By Kevin Forestieri

After almost a year of campaigning for donations, parents and teachers at the Mountain View Parent Nursery School said they finally have the money to relocate the 45-year-old preschool to a new spot across the street.

As of Thursday, April 9, the preschool raised the \$380,000 needed to move from the Mountain View High School campus to an empty lot next to Oak Elementary School and adjacent to the Foothill Covenant Church, according to Claire Koukoutsakis, the school's director. The move was prompted by the Mountain View-Los Altos Union

High School District's desire to use the land for expanding school programs.

Koukoutsakis said they're still waiting for building permits from the city of Los Altos before they can begin construction, which they're hoping will happen by the end of the month. The plan is to have it finished and opened up by September.

"We're all anxiously waiting," Koukoutsakis said.

The Mountain View Parent Nursery School bounced from location to location before it ended up on the high school campus, nestled behind the district's Freestyle Academy and next to the softball field. There, families were able to pitch in and help

build a log cabin, a performance stage and a track for kids to ride bikes.

The preschool originally needed to raise \$200,000, but that nearly doubled to \$380,000 after an expected "line of credit" fell through, according to teacher Marie Faust Evitt. Current and former preschool parents organized the Kickstarter-like campaign for funds, appealing to multiple generations of parents and students going back to the 1970s.

Koukoutsakis pledged to dye her hair blue once the \$380,000 goal was reached, but the date for that has yet to be decided.

► See **PRESCHOOL**, page 9

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

► Continued from page 5

go towards things like longer school days, longer school years and more teacher coaches and facilitators at Castro and Theuerkauf Elementary, and draw on research from charter schools and the state department of education on methods that work particularly well in environments with high-needs students.

At the same time, the district will also be applying for Title I federal funding for the first time since 2011, which would add about \$335,000. The funding is designed to help schools with a high population of low-income kids, but was dropped when former superintendent Craig Goldman found the funding required the district to meet unrealistic standards in order to stay in compliance. The standards were based on improvements from prior years, but since the district is starting anew with Title I funding, there's no burdensome requirements to worry about. The funding would go toward "intervention programs" for both schools, including more professional development.

On top of that, the district is looking to get about \$432,000 more in state supplementary funds this year, well above what the district was expecting, bringing up the total funding from the state for helping low-income students to over \$2 million. Of the \$1.7 million received last year, the lion's share was committed to hiring school and community engagement coordinators as well as instructional coaches. Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly said both are "highly likely" to be in the 2015-16 proposed budget as well.

## Heading in the right direction?

Spending money on staff development and community engagement as a means to raise student achievement at Theuerkauf and Castro is the right way to go for a "turnaround" model according to the U.S. Department of Education. But board member Steve Nelson contests that there may be better, more effective ways to narrow the achievement gap.

"We don't need to spend any more money on that, in my opinion," he said. "We need to put that money towards the students directly."

Nelson said the money would be better spent on weekend, after-school and summer school programs at Castro and Theuerkauf, which he suspects other school districts in the county have already done. He said there's a region-wide "Summer Matters" campaign to get more school districts supporting summer school programs that the Mountain View Whisman School District has not "taken advantage of" yet.

Students often lose months of learning during the summer brain-drain, particularly among low-income families, according to the California Department of Education. The state department website suggests school districts create a task force to talk about summer learning plans that focus on academics and enrichment activities, rather than remediation and test preparation, and use multiple funding sources, including Title I money, to pay for the programs.

Not all the board members are as skeptical about how the district is spending money to help its high-needs students. Board president Chris Chiang said he's "not concerned" as long as the

district plans to do things differently at Theuerkauf and Castro. Chiang advocated in the past for the district to invest millions of dollars and look for new funding sources to turn things around at Castro elementary, including seeking grant money from companies like Google.

"Many people don't even realize the poverty. It's shocking that there are companies in our city who don't realize the percentage of poverty that are in schools right next to their company," Chiang said at the board meeting, noting that the closest school to Google's headquarters is Theuerkauf Elementary.

"If we can paint a vision and make up that big ask, I think we get big dollars to make these amazing things happen," he said.

Another component that adds to the confusion, Chiang said, is that there's a perception that nearby school districts have the same budgetary restraints as the Mountain View Whisman School District. The Los Altos School District, the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District and Palo Alto Unified all have thousands of dollars more in per-pupil funding despite having a substantially lower percentage low-income students and English-language learners.

Chiang said the difference is "startling," and that it might be good to start questioning why millions in property tax dollars from the Shoreline Regional Park Community special tax district is distributed evenly between school districts that are either well off or barely getting by.

"It's puzzling to me personally," Chiang said. "We can't control what happens in Sacramento, but even with local dollars we don't fund it more." ■

**CODE**

► Continued from page 5

was that they needed to get kids looking at the lines of code themselves as they work through the basic concepts. While they don't have any formal data, he said kids as young as third or fourth grade can take it on.

Many of Khan Academy's coding lessons have side-by-side boxes with lines of code on the left, and a visual on the right showing how the code changes whatever a student is working on. Kids can cut their teeth drawing faces with JavaScript, and before long could find themselves making and rotating 3D objects.

All kids need to know is some basic math and know their way around computers and they're ready to get started, no programming experience required, according to Pamela Fox, a computer science content engineer at Khan Academy. Fox said she's seen kids as young as 8 years old work through computer science lessons, but it's really the students 12 years old and up who tend to thrive.

The lessons aren't flawless out the gate, and Fox said they rely on feedback from online comments as well as data showing how long it takes kids to finish each one to make adjustments. She said one in particular, a tutorial on how to re-size objects with variables, stumped a lot of younger students because they struggle with proportional fractions and variables. They have since completely redone the tutorial and changed the object from a multi-limbed penguin to an elliptical face, Fox said.

"We likely won't ever be able to teach something in a way that works for every learner, and that's why I'm happy we have a great community that answers questions and comes up with their own alternative ways of explaining the tricky concepts," she said in an email.

Other educators say they're taking a more holistic approach, working directly with students after school and over the weekend in a project-based learning environment. Jessie Arora, founder of the education startup Embark Labs, has been focused on helping elementary and middle-school kids learn what she calls compu-

tational and design thinking, an integral part of understanding how coding works.

"Right now all of what I've read is learning how to code, but that's just one part of the broad skill set needed in that field," Arora said.

There are plenty of coding bootcamps and opportunities for adults to learn these skills, Arora said, but kids are often stuck in classrooms and libraries designed with "old practices" in mind. So instead, she and long-time teacher Brian Van Dyck have run a number of after-school programs and Saturday schools to teach students about the essentials. Recently, Embark Labs hosted three classes in the Google Garage, where students between first and fourth grade were exposed to a novel concept: teaching code offline.

Arora said a lot of how code works can be represented through physical objects like Legos, and that a Lego "build" can translate into written-up code based on the orientation and position of the pieces. By giving kids a visual and hands-on understanding of the concepts with an active instructor present, she said students have a much better idea of what they're doing when they go online.

One of the hurdles in computer science that many educators are still grappling with is the gender gap, as women continue to be underrepresented in the computer science field. Women earned only 14 percent of the bachelor's degrees in computer science in 2013 across the country, and statistics from Khan Academy show only 34 percent of the students who take up the first "coding challenge" on the website are female.

But there are some positive signs. Fox said that while females are less likely to delve into coding, once they get into the coding challenges their success rate is almost exactly the same as males. Arora, on the other hand, said she has seen an almost perfect 50-50 split between girls and boys in the classes they've hosted. She said it really comes down to how they've marketed the program to appeal to girls, showing how coding is all about building unique projects with friends and working together. ■

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**PRESCHOOL**

► Continued from page 8

Because enrollment is expected to grow by as much as 20 percent in the next five years, the district has made it clear they need that parcel of land for program expansion, including a new place for the

district's career technical education program.

District officials worked closely with the preschool for a smooth transition and allowed the school to stay an extra year to allow for fundraising and laying down the groundwork for plumbing and electrical utilities at the new location. ■

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**NORTH BAYSHORE**

► Continued from page 1

another as the council begins considering the stack of commercial development proposals next month. City Community Development Director Randy Tsuda advised the council they could penalize projects that don't include housing in the specified areas by removing a density bonus.

Representatives from tech firms and companies seeking to expand in the area gave a mixed reaction to the city's pivot to housing in North Bayshore.

The idea was strongly endorsed by Google's real estate director John Igoe, who had previously recommended a community of 5,000 homes in the area near his company's headquarters. Going beyond the city staff recommendation, Igoe urged city leaders to zone more land for housing, including a swath of property near Huff Avenue and a yard used for parking buses along La Avenida Street. But he was adamant that his support for housing did not mean his company was amending its application for a new headquarters.

Tim Steele, senior director of real estate at The Sobrato Organization, pointed out that his company's 700,000-square-foot proposal encompassed two areas the city was now eyeing for housing. Remaining polite, he reminded the city his firm's application was submitted on time and followed the city's stipulations "to the letter." His company has already submitted

a new proposal that would split its project between housing and offices, he said.

"We followed the rules completely, however we saw the writing on the wall as far as where residences might be studied," Steele said to the council. "Subsequent to our application we met with staff and submitted an alternative for your consideration."

The fiercest push-back that evening came from LinkedIn as the council discussed the possibility of residential zoning on land the company had intended for a new 10-building campus. LinkedIn representative Jim Morgensen pointed out that much of the area sought for housing was located along a contaminated groundwater plume of toxic trichloroethylene and perchloroethene. While commercial development was possible, any new residences would face enormous liability in a toxic environment, he said.

"When it comes to developing residential, it's never going to happen unless the city or someone else is going to indemnify the parties who are going to build," Morgensen said. "It's an interesting idea, but I don't see it happening in reality."

The council ultimately decided against adding the LinkedIn site to the area being studied for housing.

City Council members were generally very supportive of further investigating housing in the North Bayshore area. The lone person voting against the action was Councilman John Inks, who urged his colleagues to consider the seven submissions for

commercial development before switching to demand housing.

"The topic of housing in the North Bayshore has only been alive and kicking for about two months," he said. "I don't support any housing mandate."

The rest of the council members voted to investigate housing for the five sites recommended by staff as well as an additional site between Huff Avenue and Joaquin Road. As part of its action, the council majority agreed to allocate \$1.2 million to pay for consultant work to revise the North Bayshore precise plan and the city's general plan to include a new section of the residential zoning. City leaders pointed out that cost would be eventually be reimbursed through development fees for the area.

Going forward, city staff members advised the council that they would schedule eight to 10 public meetings to discuss adding housing to the area. A final revision to city plans to include residential use for the area is expected to take almost two years.

Nevertheless, there was an air of excitement among council members as they discussed someday having a new neighborhood bordering one of the world's tech centers.

"This whole area is going to get a lot of attention, not just nationally, but worldwide, and I hope we can get world-class proposals out of this," said Councilman Chris Clark. "We should make a statement as a council that we're open to new things." ■

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**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

► Continued from page 4

ing from the Schmidt Family Foundation and 11th Hour Project. According to Foothill College representatives, the water-recapture and rainwater harvesting projects combined save the college an estimated 110,000 gallons annually.

The water-recapture system involved the design and installation of three, 780-gallon tanks. The system captures water from campus cooling towers, which provide air conditioning to the Foothill campus, and redirects it to support the campus-wide irrigation system. The environmental horticulture department worked together with Foothill-De Anza Community College District facilities personnel on the project. This system required \$30,000 in grants funds and donations in order to be constructed, and now saves the district

approximately 50,000 gallons of water annually, according to a spokesperson.

Rooftop rainwater harvesting is another project that Foothill College employs on its campus. Half of the water that lands on the horticulture construction lab buildings' rooftops is stored and put into underground storage tanks, which hold 1,800 gallons. This water then feeds the department's recirculating stream. This project also involved the installation of three 2,500-gallon storage tanks that offer extra water to the horticulture program's nursery. Another storage tank that holds more than 600 gallons was also installed shortly after. The rainwater capture systems have collected an estimated 60,000 gallons.

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According to information from the Bayer Ballet Academy, Semanova received her teaching education from the Russian University of Theater Arts GITIS and at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow. Auditions for the Summer Intensive Program will be held on Sunday, April 26.

Stephanie Saland will also be joining Bayer Ballet Academy and leading master classes for children ages 6 to 8. Saland is an active judge and teacher with the Youth America Grand Prix and a presenter for two International Dance Medicine Conferences. Saland will be teaching on Saturday, April 25, Sunday, April 26 and Monday, April 27. More information is at [bayerballetacademy.com](http://bayerballetacademy.com).

—Rachel Lee

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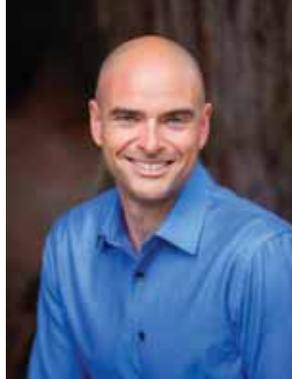
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## FUNDING

► Continued from page 1

Wallace-Bielecki, the district's preschool director. When the program expires in 2016, those seats will vanish.

The loss of funding will also take away a lot of the cultural and socio-economic diversity in the preschool classrooms and restrict flexibility in enrollment for middle-income families and students with special needs, according to a district report. Once the Child Signature Program expires, a family of four making more than \$47,000 a year would no longer qualify for enrollment because they exceed the income requirements.

Compounding the problem, California was not selected as a recipient for federal grant money for preschool expansion last fall, and of the several million dollars of state-wide grant money available for preschool expansion,

Santa Clara County didn't receive a dime. Wallace-Bielecki said she's been working with advocacy organizations to lobby for expansion funds, increases in reimbursements rates and restore the funding preschool programs used to get prior to the recession. Even when it was clear there wasn't going to be money allocated to the county, she applied anyway.

"Literally anytime there's a glimmer of money (Wallace-Bielecki) has gone after it, and has been turned down each time despite her best efforts," said Terese McNamee, the district's chief business officer.

Wallace-Bielecki told the board at the April 2 meeting that if they want to keep the same number of preschool sessions, despite the Child Signature Program expiring, they would need to commit about \$200,000 a year. The total cost of the program is about \$600,000, all of which comes

from the state. Board member Ellen Wheeler said it might be time for that to change.

"I, for one, would like to see our district spend some of its own money on this program that, I think, is of critical importance," Wheeler said.

Board president Chris Chiang agreed, and said it might be worth spending even more money — something like \$700,000 — to make up for the lost seats and accommodate enrollment for the entire preschool waiting list.

When asked by fellow board members if he agreed, Bill Lambert said he was all for eliminating the waiting list in a "perfect world," but that the district hasn't located the funds it needs to pay for all the overwhelming wants and needs of the district.

So how do you pay for it? While Chiang suggested it might be good to take the issue to the community in the form of a parcel tax or seek the help of local tech companies like Google for grant money, board member Greg Coladonato said the district could have some middle and higher-income families pay to get in, effectively subsidizing the program and absorbing the costs of expansion.

Wallace-Bielecki said a \$300 monthly tuition on a sliding scale would be enough, which is still substantially lower than the private preschools in the area that charge anywhere from \$770 to \$1,300 a month.

#### Importance of preschool

Despite the lack of funding, California state officials maintain that preschool is an important and integral part of early childhood education. Research shows that "quality early learning experiences" help prepare kids for long-term academic achievement, and is linked to reduced dropout rates, as well as reduced unemployment, substance abuse and crime, according to the California Children and Families Commission.

Thida Cornes, a parent, spoke in

support of the preschool program and told the board that her son benefited greatly from preschool and wasn't ready to make the jump directly into kindergarten.

"When he entered preschool he could not hold a pencil, he could not write, he didn't know his letters and numbers. He couldn't talk to anyone," Cornes said.

Unfortunately, she said, there are kids in kindergarten at Castro Elementary School who didn't get the same preparation, and they end up running into the same problems her son had.

"They're already behind and it's day one of kindergarten," she said.

As a member of the county's "Strong Start Committee," Wheeler said she's been telling everyone she talks to about the importance of early childhood education, and that there's a growing body of evidence showing that early childhood education gives the county its "biggest bang for our buck" in closing the achievement gap.

That quality education may not consist of reading, writing and math problems, though. Claire Koukoutsakis, director of the Mountain View Parent Nursery School, said their focus is to build a "strong foundation" where students learn to think, observe and communicate with others, and learn how to flex their emotional and social skills rather than stick to cognitive exercises. That way, they will be attuned to the classroom environment and ready to go come kindergarten.

Koukoutsakis said preschool curriculum is pretty extensive, and that there's plenty of opportunities for kids to dip their toes into math, science, engineering, arts and math (STEAM).

"Yes, they will be able to learn to read and write when they're able to," she said.

The Mountain View Parent Nursery School, currently located on the Mountain View High School campus, took a similar budgetary hit back in 2010 when state funding ran out for adult

education. Because the preschool runs out of the high school district's adult education program, it lost its funding and had to raise tuition rates to make up for it, Koukoutsakis said.

The "quality" early childhood education referred to in the studies appears to be right here in Mountain View, with Castro achieving one of the highest scores in the area.

A new rating system called the Quality Rating and Improvement System formally assesses the quality of a preschool program based on things like teacher qualification, teacher-child interactions and class size. Preschool classes are then given a score, with tier 1 being the worst and tier 5 being the best.

The preschool at Castro Elementary was one of two schools in Santa Clara County to earn a tier 5 score, and is one of only seven in the entire Bay Area. The others, Slater and Theuerkauf, earned a tier 4 rating.

#### Building for more

If the board decides to follow through with higher preschool enrollment, it's not clear where the extra students would go. Preschool classrooms have building requirements that are atypical to normal classrooms, including two bathrooms and an enclosed outdoor area with a play structure and a 4-foot fence. While this doesn't necessarily preclude a normal classroom from being used as a preschool room, it makes it tricky to reach those standards unless it was specifically built for it.

The ideal location for new preschools would be at or near the Castro area, where most of the low and middle-income families who qualify for state preschool live and are able to walk to the campus. Wallace-Bielecki said parents will frequently decline an offer for their children to attend preschool at the Theuerkauf or Slater because they wanted to attend the one at Castro Elementary.

Ideally, the entire preschool program would be at one facility in the Castro neighborhood, which would alleviate the strain on program supervision and collaboration between the schools, according to the staff report.

But preschools don't currently fit into plans to upgrade the Castro site using Measure G bond money. Board member Steve Nelson indicated he wasn't even sure if Measure G money could be used for preschools. Chiang said it might also be worth reaching out to the city to see if the improvements at Rengstorff Park in the coming years could include more preschool services.

"I'd welcome the district to have a conversation with them" Chiang said. ■



## CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

### Council Neighborhoods Committee CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOODS AREA Neighborhood Meeting

#### EDITH LANDELS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 115 West Dana Street April 30, 2015 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee will be meeting with residents in the Central Neighborhoods area on April 30, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. (area designated on the map below). Residents are encouraged to participate in a forum to discuss:

- What would you like to see changed in your neighborhood?
- How can the City work with your neighborhood to make it a better place to live?

This is an opportunity to make a difference in the future of your neighborhood and express your thoughts about ways to improve city services.

For further information, please call the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division at (650) 903-6379.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



### Ala Carte & Art 2015 MOUNTAIN VIEW

#### Sat. & Sun. May 2 & 3

Downtown Mtn. View

Volunteers are needed for 3½ hour shifts to pour wine, beer, sodas, margaritas and sell tokens and glassware. Volunteers receive a free t-shirt and non-alcoholic drink coupon. Teams of couples, families, and friends are welcome.

**Call 650-964-3395 or email  
alacarte.festival@gmail.com**

# Love and War in 'Virginia Woolf'

LOS ALTOS STAGE COMPANY TACKLES CLASSIC TALE OF MARITAL DISCORD

By Elizabeth Schwyzer

As political scientist Wallace Stanley Sayre famously noted, academic politics are so vicious precisely because the stakes are so low. He might as well have been speaking about marriage, where the bitterest feuds often spring from the most trivial matters.

In his 1962 classic, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," Edward Albee plays both fronts, peeling back the polite veneer of professorial life to expose the shame and rage seething just beneath the surface of a marriage.

As played by Los Altos Stage Company under the direction of Virginia Drake, Martha (Kristin Brownstone) and George (Tom Gough) are masters of manipulation: two people bound together in marital misery and seemingly intent on mutual destruction.

She's the daughter of the college president: a bright, headstrong woman at odds with the domestic expectations of 1960s New England who finds that neither her life nor her husband have measured up to her expectations. He's a history professor who lacks the administrative ambition others have hoped for him and finds his creative impulses spurned at every turn. And so, fueled by alcohol and frustrated ambition, they wield their disappointments like weapons, lashing out at each other in a perpetual game of cat-and-mouse.

Into the midst of this nuptial nightmare walk newlyweds Nick (Warren Wernick) and Honey (Sarah Benjamin), who soon find themselves ensnared. As the night of drinking and psychological sparring wears on, Nick and Honey's seemingly devoted union begins to show cracks of its own. Meanwhile, George and Martha engage in a torture ritual so practiced and skillful, it seems at times to be a form of mutually agreeable sadomasochism.

In moments, their banter borders on flirtation, ("I swear," Martha quips, "If you existed, I'd divorce you." Clearly, she's going nowhere.) Yet more often, their taunts are barbed and meant to damage.

To the degree that Albee's play exposes the human impulse to wound those who wound us, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is essentially a work of realism. Yet Albee — and Drake — play along the edge of the surreal, allowing George and Martha's cruelty to spiral into something truly monstrous.

Adding to the sense of growing panic is the play's structure: Three



CHRIS PEOPLES

**Young couple** Honey (Sarah Benjamin) and Nick (Warren Wernick) find themselves ensnared in a sinister psychological game by their hosts George (Tom Gough) and Martha (Kristin Brownstone).

acts, each nearly an hour long, keep both the young visitors and the audience captive late into the night as George and Martha circle each other, snarling.

As Martha, Kristin Brownstone seems positively to relish this tormenting game; she's most convincing in her moments of brutal ingenuity, least believable when she crumples. Honey is her foil: a young woman as meek and unacquainted with her power as they come. She simpers and tipples and gasps and giggles (Benjamin gives the impression she's familiar with the effects of overindulgence in the brandy department), but there's never so much as a flash of anger or defiance, in stark contrast to her hostess.

Not even Gough's George isn't quite Martha's match when it comes to sheer manic domination, but she loves him, and he uses that fact to taunt her with a cunning blend of passive aggression and verbal abuse. As the night wears on and language begins to fail him, George turns to increasingly physical violence: a mean joke with a toy rifle, a threat with a smashed bottle, an attempted strangulation. Like his character, Gough takes some time to warm up for the fight, and even then seems more comfortable with words than with actions.

As played by Wernick, young biology professor Nick is all slicked-back hair, earnestness and Adam's apple. He wavers between moral righteousness and ambitions of his own, both professional and sexual. Martha, who has long since slipped into something more comfortable, is happy to play the object of his desire, provided it causes George pain.

Speaking of sex, the absence of offspring spells doom of different kinds to each couple; in one instance, the longing for a child becomes an elaborate and almost tender fantasy, as well as the source of deep despair.

Scenic designer Ron Gasparinetti and prop designer Ting Na Wang conjure a convincing sitting room circa 1960, complete with turntable and rolling bar cart. Downstage right is the library, where an unexplained cascade of books litters the floor — the result of another night's skirmish, perhaps, or simply a metaphor for the futility of scholarship in the face of such dysfunction.

By daybreak, George and Martha seem to have broken each other, at least for this round, and though Nick and Honey can finally extricate themselves, it's clear they've been broken, too.

Why live through three hours of such horror? For some, there may be no reason at all. Others will find Los Altos Stage's impressive production a bracing reminder of the dark side of marriage: a cautionary tale that bears retelling. ■

Arts & Entertainment Editor  
Elizabeth Schwyzer can  
be emailed at [eschwyzer@paweekly.com](mailto:eschwyzer@paweekly.com).

## ■ INFORMATION

**What:** Los Altos Stage Company's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf"

**Where:** Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos

**When:** Through May 3: Wednesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m.

**Cost:** \$18-\$34

**Info:** Go to [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org) or call 650-941-0551.




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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

## NOTICE OF BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Mountain View is currently updating its Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP). The community is invited to attend a Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (B/PAC) meeting to review and comment on the proposed recommendations to be included in the draft BTP at the following time and location:

Wednesday, April 29, 2015—6:30 p.m.

Plaza Conference Room

Second Floor, Mountain View City Hall  
500 Castro Street, Mountain View, California

Comments received at this meeting will be considered in the development of the draft BTP Update. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Kim, Transportation Planner, at [helen.kim@mountainview.gov](mailto:helen.kim@mountainview.gov), or (650) 903-6311.

The B/PAC agenda packet will be available on Friday, April 24, 2015, after 4 p.m. at [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov), in the Public Works Department and City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 500 Castro Street, and at the Mountain View Public Library at 585 Franklin Street.

## AVISO DE REUNIÓN DEL COMITÉ ASESOR PARA EL USO DE BICICLETAS/PEATONES ACTUALIZACIÓN DEL PLAN DE TRANSPORTACIÓN PARA USO DE BICICLETAS LAS RECOMENDACIONES PROPUESTAS

La Ciudad de Mountain View está actualizando su Plan de Transportación Para el Uso de Bicicletas (BTP). Se invita a la comunidad a participar en la reunión del Comité Asesor de Bicicletas/Peatones para revisar y comentar sobre las recomendaciones propuestas para actualizar el Plan de Transportación Para el Uso de Bicicletas. La reunión del Comité Asesor se llevará a cabo en la siguiente fecha y lugar:

Miércoles, 29 de abril, 2015 - 6:30 p.m.

Sala de Conferencias, Segundo piso  
Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Mountain View  
500 Castro Street, Mountain View, California

Las ideas y recomendaciones que se reciban durante esta reunión se tomarán en consideración en el desarrollo del documento público preliminar. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor comuníquese con Helen Kim, Planificadora de Transportación a [helen.kim@mountainview.gov](mailto:helen.kim@mountainview.gov), o al (650) 903-6311.

La agenda con el paquete de información estará disponible el viernes, 24 de abril, después de las 4:00 p.m. en [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov). La agenda también estará disponible en el Departamento de Obras Públicas y en la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad (City Clerk's Office) en el Ayuntamiento, 500 Castro Street, y en la Biblioteca Pública de Mountain View en 585 Franklin Street.

# How to Find a Bargain in a Hot Market

Wednesday, April 22, 2015  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Please join the DeLeon Team for a seminar on finding bargain homes in the Silicon Valley real estate market, recent local trends, and insights into the tax benefits of trading up with your residence.



Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club,  
Grand Ballroom  
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto



To RSVP, please contact **Anastasia Koroleva** at 650.543.8505  
or by email at [Anastasia@deleonrealty.com](mailto:Anastasia@deleonrealty.com)

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Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm



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## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm



# Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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Published every Friday at

450 Cambridge Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94306

(650) 964-6300 fax (650) 964-0294

Email news and photos to:  
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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

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

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

**Call** the Viewpoint desk at 223-6528

### ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

## LET RESIDENTS DECIDE ON EL CAMINO PLAN

Who are the people in favor of the craftily named Grand Boulevard Initiative for El Camino Real?

1. Developers eager to make tons of profit through this highly hyped social engineering cash cow project.

2. City and county officials eager to bask in the glory of memorials to their term in office, not to mention the added windfall of tax revenue for them to spend on other grandiose but totally unnecessary projects.

Anyone else? Probably not. But people with wealth and power love to manipulate the world to suit themselves, regardless of what the "little people" want. How about a well-advertised and all-inclusive democratic, unbiased poll of residents of the cities along the El Camino to get their opinions? Or is a democracy-type resolution out of the question in today's wealth-driven world? Are the backers afraid the public is smarter than they get credit for being?

The strategy is the usual: propagandize flowery rhetoric

in favor of the project to make it sound like a great improvement, and hope to gradually seduce the public into accepting the concept without too much opposition.

How can anyone in good conscience support such a population-concentrating plan as this when we already have stretched the water supply to the existing population way past the limits of the current water resources, and are daily hearing about the critical water shortage and the penalties we will have to pay if we use too much water?

We are already seeing four- and five-story buildings replace the former low-rise structures and feel as if we are driving through a tunnel in some parts of El Camino Real.

Further concentration along El Camino will add tons of carbon pollutants to the atmosphere that already has several "spare the air" days every year. Further increasing the density of population will undoubtedly produce an increase in crime. Homeless persons will find fewer places to sleep, and may literally have to sleep in doorways. And your imagination can let you visualize

the gridlock up and down El Camino this grandiose scheme will produce.

Let's not make El Camino Real look like New York City or Chicago.

**Roy Cramblit**  
Sun Mor Avenue  
(The letter was also signed by 14 other area residents.)

## CITY'S WATER-SAVING EFFORTS APPLAUDED

Kudos to Mountain View! While Californians' efforts to save water in the face of a devastating drought have hit a new low, officials gave credit to Mountain View, which like other Peninsula towns topped the state in its efforts to conserve.

Mountain View's residential customers used less water last February than the statewide average of 86.94 gallons per person. Mountain View residents used a mere 51.24 gallons, or 41 percent less than the state average.

This is according to the April 8, 2015, edition of the Palo Alto Daily Post article, "State saving little water." Water usage of other cities was also cited in the article. The article also noted that water usage has increased in Southern California.

While we should continue to look for ways to save water, we

cannot solve the water shortage by ourselves. Before we take more draconian steps, let's see if others can reduce their usage.

**Marilyn McAlpine**  
Chatham Way

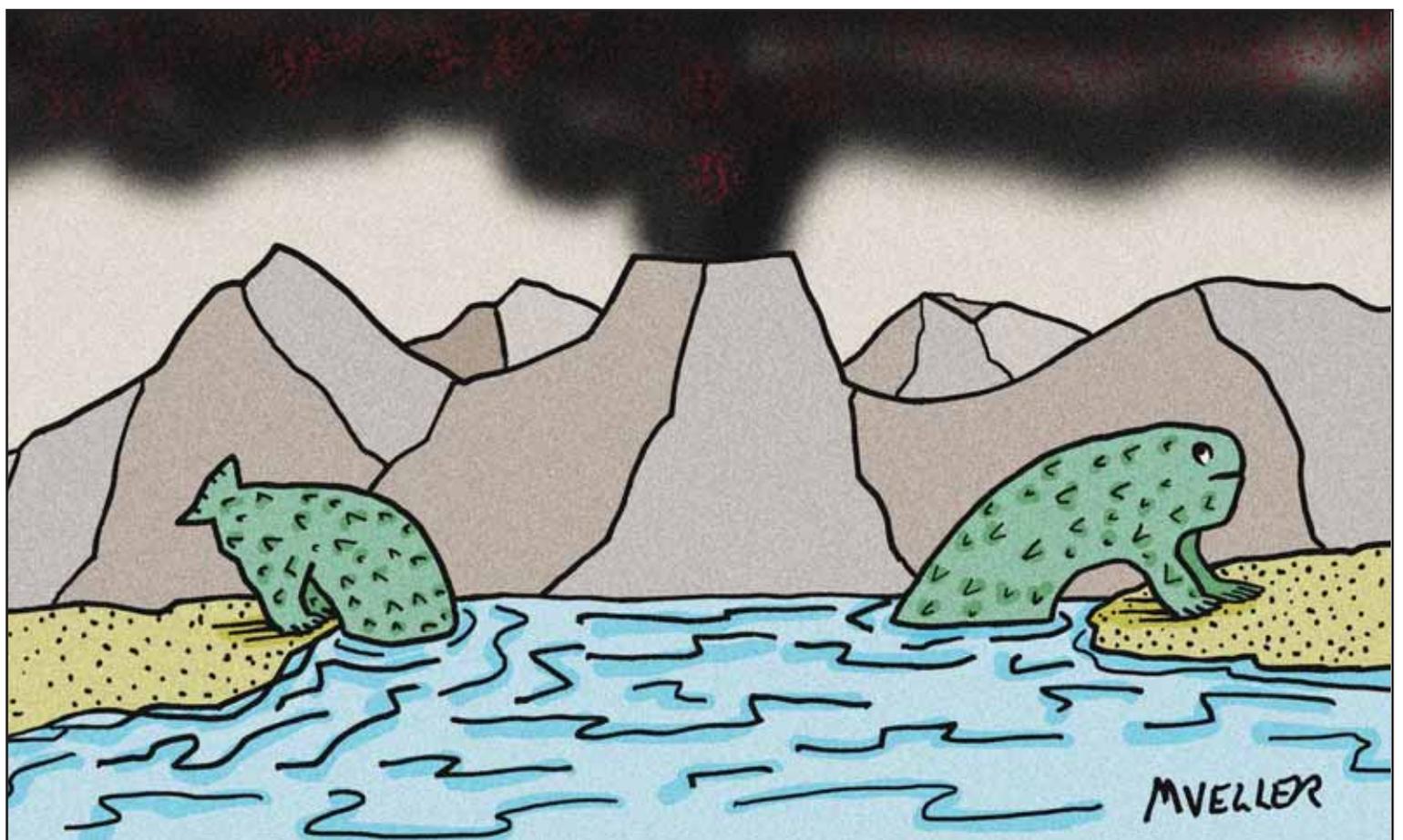
## THUMBS UP FOR FELLOW LETTER WRITERS

I am responding to a very nice letter by Linda Curtis that the *Voice* printed (April 3). And to say I agree completely with what Don Letcher said in his letter (March 20) about the gentrification of Mountain View with new housing replacing older, more affordable housing.

Don also disagrees with all the money given to candidates to run, with where the money came from kept a secret, and the huge effects on outcomes. Yes, the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. We would have loved to see this money go to our poor under the bridges and in cars or in parks. Our city officials don't seem to care about the homeless — only building as much as they can.

Don Letcher has got more smarts than any attorney we know, and always gets the facts before he presents them. He has helped many citizens with his love and caring.

**Rose Talmage**  
Montalto Drive





## COMMUNITY TALK

# Atrial Fibrillation



### SPEAKERS

Paul J. Wang, MD

*Director, Arrhythmia Service*

Sanjiv Narayan, MD, PhD

Shirley Park, MD

Marco Perez, MD

Mohan Viswanathan, MD

Paul C. Zei, MD, PhD

Linda Norton, RN, MSN, CCRC

Atrial fibrillation is the most common heart rhythm problem, affecting over 2 million Americans. Without detection and treatment, atrial fibrillation can affect quality of life and cause stroke and heart failure.

Stanford specialists will discuss the signs and symptoms of atrial fibrillation and the options for evaluation and treatment, which may improve quality of life and decrease complications.

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY, APRIL 25 • 9:30am – 11:00am**

Marriott Courtyard • 655 Creekside Way, Campbell, CA 95008

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RSVP at: [stanfordhealthcare.org/events](http://stanfordhealthcare.org/events) or call  
**650.736.6555**. This event is free and open to the public.  
Please register, seating is limited.



## *Wiener takes all*

CAN'T BEAT THE DOGS  
AT PALO ALTO'S  
CHEZ FRANC

REVIEW BY  
**DALE F. BENTSON**  
PHOTOS BY  
**VERONICA WEBER**



*Chez Franc's all-American is an all-beef frankfurter topped with short rib chili, cheddar cheese and scallions. The Palo Alto eatery makes all its dogs in-house.*

■ RESTAURANT  
REVIEW

I don't know if perennial hot dog eating champ, Joey Chestnut, has visited Chez Franc on Palo Alto's California Avenue yet, but if he has, he likely didn't scarf down 61 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes like he did when he won the 2014 Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest on Coney Island for the eighth consecutive year. (His record is 69 dogs polished off in 2013.)

If and when Chestnut pops into Chez Franc (and he very well could — he's a San Jose resident), he will enjoy the high-quality franks so much, he'll just want to sit and savor. That's no knock on Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs, Coney Island's gift to the wiener world. Nathan's sold more than 435 million hot dogs last year.

Chez Franc owner Jacquetta Lannan might harbor those ambitions, but for now is happy with her upscale state-of-the-frank business. Her story has been well documented: A local litigation attorney turned epicurean hot dog purveyor opens her first-ever restaurant.

"I always wanted my own restaurant," Lannan explained. "My grandparents owned a small restaurant in Nebraska when I was very young, and it's something that always stuck in my mind."

After making the decision to forgo her law career, she enrolled at the International Culinary Center in Campbell "to better understand how to run a restaurant and to network with those in the industry."

She then took an internship at Michelin-starred Village Pub in Woodside, where she met sous chef Daniel Sung, who would later become Chez Franc's chef. Sung, as fortune would have it, had a passion for charcuterie and a flair for making tube-shaped meats. A partnership was born.

It took many excruciating months to convert the former Know Knew Books space at 415 California Ave. into a restaurant. Along the way, Lannan and Sung launched a food truck and raised additional capital via a Kickstarter campaign with more than 100 contributors. The restaurant finally opened in January of this year. Now that the brick-and-mortar operation is up and running, the food truck is being retired.

Everything except the buns and San Francisco's Humphry Slocombe ice cream are made in-house. The all-beef frankfurters are made from hormone-free, vegetarian-raised Angus cattle and the finest sheep casings from Australia. Meat is ground three times for smooth texture, then mixed with a house blend of 12 spices. The buns are patterned after lobster roll buns but are slightly larger, toasted and more

brioche-like than traditional doughy hot dog buns.

The toothsome All-American frankfurter (\$8) comes topped with slow-cooked short rib chili, Tillamook cheddar and chopped scallions. The tasty Texas frankfurter (\$7) is overlaid with jalapeño slaw, scallion and barbecue sauce. The delicious cassoulet (\$13) frank features garlic sausage, white beans, duck confit, chunks of braised pork belly, Dijon mustard and chives: Basque country on a bun.

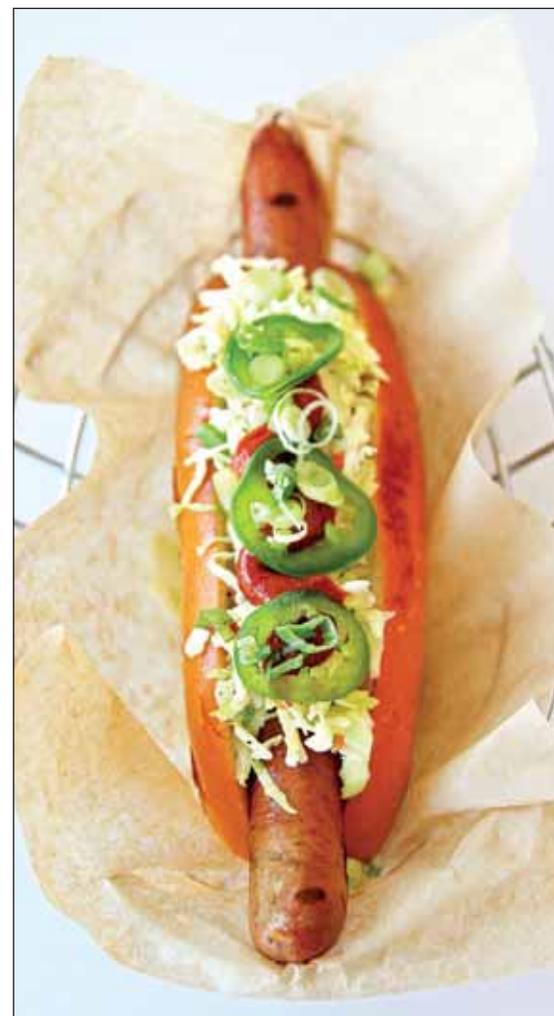
When purchased with any sandwich, a cone of crispy fries is \$2; it's \$1 extra for a side of tempting coleslaw made with cabbage, carrots, jalapeños, onions, mayonnaise and apple-cider vinegar.

Besides franks and sausages, the fried chicken sandwich (\$11) was mouthwatering, albeit difficult to eat. It was too thick to wrestle into the mouth, and it was hard to cut on the paper-lined wire basket it was served in. The satisfying sandwich featured Mary's chicken breast, honey-mustard sauce and slaw.

On the days I visited, a terrific double cheeseburger (\$14) was the daily special. Pricey, but it rivaled the best burgers in the area.

There were a slew of beverages available including nearly a dozen wines by the glass and a half dozen beers. Happy hour is 4 to 7 p.m., Tuesday through

► Continued on next page



The Texas frank is a beef frankfurter topped with jalapeño slaw, barbecue sauce and scallions.

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<p><b>CALIF. GROWN</b>  <b>FAVA BEANS</b>                  FULL PODS  <b>\$1.99</b>                  LB.</p>	<p><b>TASTE THE DIFFERENCE</b>                  WE LET YOU SAMPLE ALL OF OUR FRUIT SO YOU CAN TELL THE DE MARTINI DIFFERENCE</p>	<p><b>CALIF. GROWN</b>  <b>WHITE CORN</b>                  SWEET YOUNG TENDER  <b>4 EARS \$3.00</b>                  FOR</p>
<p><b>ORGANIC LOCAL</b>  <b>LEAF LETTUCE</b>                  ROMAINE RED, GREEN BUTTER  <b>2 BUNS. \$3.00</b>                  FOR</p>	<p><b>ORGANIC LOCAL</b>  <b>RED BEETS</b>                  LARGE FRESH BUNCHES  <b>99¢</b>                  BUN.</p>	<p><b>ORGANIC LOCAL</b>  <b>CABBAGE</b>                  FRESH GREEN HEADS  <b>79¢</b>                  LB.</p>

*Your Everyday Farmers Market*  
**Online at [www.DeMartiniOrchard.com](http://www.DeMartiniOrchard.com)**



Nicole Venelin rings up a customer at Chez Franc on California Avenue in Palo Alto.

▶ Continued from previous page

**DINING NOTES**

**Chez Franc**  
 415 S. California Ave.,  
 Palo Alto  
 650-600-1337  
 chezfranc.com

Hours:  
 Monday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.  
 Saturday 5-9 p.m.  
 Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Reservations** ●
- Credit cards** ✓
- Happy hour** ✓
- Takeout** ✓
- Private parties** ●
- Children** boosters
- Corkage** n/a
- Parking** street
- Alcohol** beer & wine
- Outdoor dining** streetside
- Noise level** moderate
- Bathroom cleanliness** excellent

Friday, with beer and wine \$1 off and a selection of “bar food” items priced at \$5.

Hot dogs and sausages have seemingly been with us forever, and their popularity continues to grow. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, U.S. supermarkets sold \$2.5 billion worth of hot dogs in 2014.

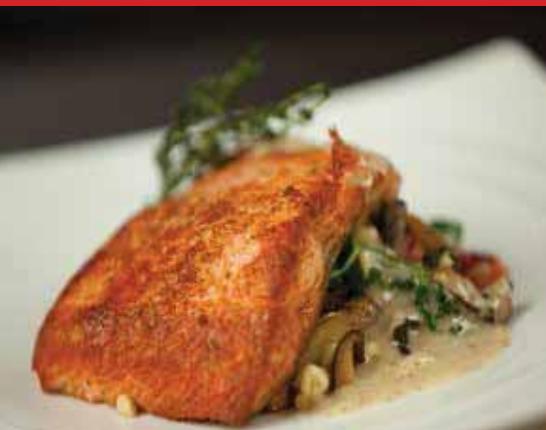
The origin of hot dogs and sausages is veiled in history. The “frank” comes from Frankfurt, Germany. Wiener, from the German “Wein,” refers to Vienna. Both references were first recorded in the 13th century. Homer mentioned a type of blood sausage in “The Odyssey,” 2,800 years ago, although he made no mention of battlefield toppings. Derived from the German sausage culture, the little sausages resembled dachshunds and were coined “hot dogs” by Americans around 1890.

I don’t know if Nathan’s champion Chestnut has a hunger for hot dog history, but he could add a new experience to his palatable proficiency by stopping by Chez Franc. Lannan said he is cordially invited. ▣

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# Camp Connection

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at [www.paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/](http://www.paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/)  
To advertise in this weekly directory, call: 650-326-8210

## Arts, Culture, Other Camps

### Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)

50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, School of Rock, Digital Arts, more! One- and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.

[www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org)

### Mountain View

650.917.6800 ext.0

### Environmental Volunteers Summer Camp

Explore nature this summer from your own backyard. Environmental Volunteer summer camps return with a new series of programs. Hands-on activities, field trips and creative fun make science accessible to kids ages 6-11.

[www.Evols.org/Explore](http://www.Evols.org/Explore)

### Palo Alto

650.493.8000

### Foothills Summer Camps

In this historic, popular, traditional day camp your child will play on miles of trails, woodlands, fields, streams, Boronda Lake, and enjoy spectacular views of the bay area. Transportation to and from Foothills Park is provided each day.

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/foothillscamps](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foothillscamps)

### Palo Alto

### J-Camp Oshman Family JCC

Exciting activities for kindergarteners through teens include swimming, field trips, sports and more. Enroll your child in traditional or special focus camps like Studio TV Production, Jr. Masterchef, Elsa and Anna's Dance Camp, Beach Bonanza and many others!

[www.paloaltojcc.org/summercamp](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/summercamp)

### Palo Alto

650.223.8622

### Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities! Neighborhood Adventure Fun and Junior Varsity Sports Adventure Camp are for the more active and on-the-go campers! New this year: E.P.I.C. Camp – Energetic, Peers, Independence & Community for the older kids! Returning are FAME - Fine arts, Music and Entertainment and Operation Chef for out of this world cooking fun! Swimming twice per week, periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto! Register online.

[www.pacc.org](http://www.pacc.org)

### Palo Alto

650.493.2361

### STANFORD EXPLORE

A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research  
EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford! Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

[explore.stanford.edu](http://explore.stanford.edu)

### Stanford

[explore-series@stanford.edu](http://explore-series@stanford.edu)

### Stanford Jazz Workshop

Week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (starts July 13), high school (July 19 and July 26), and college, as well as adults (August 2). All instruments and vocals.

[stanfordjazz.org](http://stanfordjazz.org)

### Stanford University Campus

### TechKnowHow® LEGO®

Fun and enriching technology classes for students, ages 5-16. Courses include LEGO® projects with motors, MINDSTORMS® EV3® & NXT® Robotics, Computer Game Design, Arduino™ Electronics, iPad® Movie Making, and a Tech Camp for girls. Classes feature high-interest, age-appropriate projects based on the S.T.E.M. curriculum. Half and Full day options. Early bird and multiple week discounts are available.

[www.techknowhowkids.com](http://www.techknowhowkids.com)

### Palo Alto

650.638.0500

### Menlo Park/Sunnyvale

### TheatreWorks Summer Camps

In these entertaining camps for grades K-5, students enjoy juggling, clowning, puppetry, playwriting, acting, improvisation, music, dance - and present their own original pieces at the end of each session.

[www.theatreworks.org/learn/youth/summercamps](http://www.theatreworks.org/learn/youth/summercamps)

### Palo Alto

### YMCA Summer Camps

At the Y, youth of all ages make new friends, build character and learn new skills. With hundreds of unique camps and 30+ convenient locations, you'll find a camp that's right for your family. Financial assistance is available.

[www.ymcasv.org/summer](http://www.ymcasv.org/summer)

### Throughout Silicon Valley

408.351.6473

## Athletics

### Camp Campbell

For close to 80 years, Bay Area youth have forged life-long friendships and benefited from character-defining experiences at Camp Campbell through nature hikes, campfires, archery and many other fun outdoor activities. Financial assistance is available.

<http://www.ymcacampcampbell.org/>

### Santa Cruz Mountains

831.338.2128

### Hi Five Sport

Hi Five Sports is thrilled to present our fourth multi-sport competitive summer camp to the San Francisco Bay Area! Through experienced, passionate and patient coaching, we believe the timeless lessons that only sports can teach will stay with the kids for the rest of their lives.

[www.hifivesportsclub.com](http://www.hifivesportsclub.com)

### Atherton

650.362.4975

### Menlo School Sports Camps

Menlo camps are designed for boys and girls grades 4-12 to learn from Knights coaches and staff -whether it's preparation for an upcoming season or simply for fun and to stay in shape in a high energy, positive setting. Join us this summer to develop skills, foster athleticism and promote sportsmanship in camps covering a range of sports - baseball, basketball, football (skills, lineman, and safe tackling camps) lacrosse, soccer, tennis, track & field, volleyball, water polo.

[www.menloschool.org](http://www.menloschool.org)

### Atherton

650.330.2001 ext. 2758

### Nike Tennis Camps

Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men's Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women's Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men's and Women's Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!

[www.USSportsCamps.com](http://www.USSportsCamps.com)

### Stanford University

1.800.NIKE.CAMP (645.3226)

### Player Capital Tennis

Have some fun in the sun playing tennis at Player Capital Tennis' Summer Camps. June 15th-August 14th, Monday - Friday, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm. Ages 4-18. Camps held at Holbrook-Palmer Park and Valley Church.

[www.playercapital.com](http://www.playercapital.com)

### Atherton

650.275.3027

### Stanford Baseball Camps

Stanford Baseball Camps have gained national recognition as the some of the finest in the country. These camps are designed to be valuable and beneficial for a wide range of age groups and skill sets. From the novice 7 year-old, to the Division 1, professionally skilled high school player, you will find a camp that fulfills your needs.

[www.Stanfordbaseballcamp.com](http://www.Stanfordbaseballcamp.com)

### Stanford Campus

650.723.4528

### Stanford Water Polo

Ages 7 and up. New to sport or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or fully day option for boys and girls. All the camps offer fundamental skill work, scrimmages and games.

[www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com](http://www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com)

### Stanford

650.725.9016

### Summer at Saint Francis

Sports & Activity Camp (ages 6-12): This all-sports camp provides group instruction in a variety of fields, indoor & outdoor court games and activities. Saint Francis faculty and students staff the camp, and the focus is always on fun. The program is dedicated to teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and positive self-esteem. After camp care is available.

[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

### Mountain View

650.968.1213 x650

### Summer Camp@SportsHouse (Powered by Skyhawks)

June 15-August 14. Weekly indoor sports day camp for kids 6-13 years old. Fun filled sports and games directed by Skyhawks. Full day 9am-4pm camp includes lunch and optional after camp care.

[www.sportshouseonline.com](http://www.sportshouseonline.com)

### Redwood City

650.362.4100

### Wheel Kids Bicycle Club

Wheel Kids is Palo Alto's premier adventure and exploration summer day camp for boys and girls 5-15 yrs old. Camps run weekly from June 8th - July 31st, offering a range of cultural, recreational and environmental learning opportunities, all based on our daily bicycling adventures. Join us this summer as we teach your kids safe bicycle riding skill & habits, help build their self confidence and esteem, and begin a life-long journey of health and fitness while helping improve our environment.

[www.wheelkids.com](http://www.wheelkids.com)

### Palo Alto

650.520.6524

## Academics

### Alexa Café

At Alexa Café, girls ages 10-15 collaborate around café tables and learn to code apps, produce films, design websites, develop wearable electronics, and more. Discover a passion for technology in this unique environment that emphasizes leadership, philanthropy, and more.

[www.iDTech.com](http://www.iDTech.com)

### Palo Alto High School

1.888.709.8324

### Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls

Casti Camp offers girls a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips.

[www.castilleja.org/summercamp](http://www.castilleja.org/summercamp)

### Palo Alto

650.328.3160

### Harker Summer Programs

K-12 offerings taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff. K-6 morning academics - focusing on math, language arts and science - and full spectrum of afternoon recreation. Grades 6-12 for credit courses and non-credit enrichment opportunities. Sports programs also offered.

[www.summer.harker.org](http://www.summer.harker.org)

### San Jose

408.553.0537

### iD Game Design and Development Academy

Get immersed in game design at this 2-week, pre-college summer academy! Teens ages 13-18 design video games, develop apps, model 3D characters, mod with Minecraft, and more. Tour a development studio and create a portfolio.

[www.iDTech.com](http://www.iDTech.com)

### Stanford

1.888.709.8324

### iD Programming Academy

Get immersed in technology at this 2-week, pre-college summer academy. Teens ages 13-18 code apps, program with C++ and Java, mod with Minecraft, engineer robots, and program websites. Tour a development studio and create a portfolio.

[www.iDTech.com](http://www.iDTech.com)

### Stanford

1.888.709.8324

### iD Tech Mini

Kids ages 6-9 will have a blast at iD Tech Mini, where half day options let aspiring innovators discover a love for tech. Campers make new friends and learn hands-on STEM skills in a kid-friendly environment.

[www.iDTech.com](http://www.iDTech.com)

### Palo Alto High School

1.888.709.8324

### iD Tech Camps

Code, game, create! At iD Tech Camps, students ages 7-17 code apps, design video games, mod with Minecraft, engineer robots, build websites, produce movies, and more. Kids meet new friends and gain a competitive edge.

[www.iDTech.com](http://www.iDTech.com)

### Stanford

1.888.709.8324

### Mid-Peninsula High School

Mid-Pen offers summer courses designed to help students make up high school credits and a diverse range of enriching courses that go beyond traditional curriculum. In addition to courses in math, science, English, Spanish, and SAT/ACT prep, we invite students to enhance their skills in innovative classes that include: College Essay Workshop, Research Writing Workshop, Drama, Music Video Production, and Fine Arts courses in Surface Design and Mixed Media. We also hold basketball and volleyball clinics suitable for beginning to advanced players. All high school students are welcome to attend. Summer session runs from June 22 to July 23, 2015.

[www.mid-pen.com](http://www.mid-pen.com)

### Menlo Park

650.321.1991

### One Me

Students aged 12-16 will find direction and inspiration through introspection and self-awareness, discovering how they learn and are motivated, addressing and understanding habits, improving communication skills, understanding the brain, understanding personality and ego states, emotional regulation, and welcoming challenge.

[www.oneyou.education](http://www.oneyou.education)

### Palo Alto

408.839.6965

### Westin Hotel

### Professional Tutoring Services of Silicon Valley

Academic camps offering Algebra I & II, Geometry, and Spanish I, II, III in small groups. Four sessions starting June 15 through July 27. Sign up for all four or just one. Perfect for high school and junior high students taking high school level courses. \$295 and up. Register online.

[www.ptstutor.com/summer-camps.html](http://www.ptstutor.com/summer-camps.html)

### Los Altos

650.948.5137

### Purposeful You

Students aged 12-16 will learn best practices in organization and goal setting; study techniques; communication with administration and teachers; strengthening memory; answering to the question; outlining, writing, and citing resources; emotional regulation; stress and test anxiety management, attention and motivation.

[www.oneyou.education](http://www.oneyou.education)

### Palo Alto

408.839.6965

### Westin Hotel

### Summer at Saint Francis

Summer at Saint Francis provides a broad range of academic and athletic programs for elementary through high school students. It is the goal of every program to make summer vacation enriching and enjoyable!

[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

### Mountain View

650.968.1213 x446

### Write Now! Summer Writing Camps

Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing, and Presentation Techniques. Visit our website for more information.

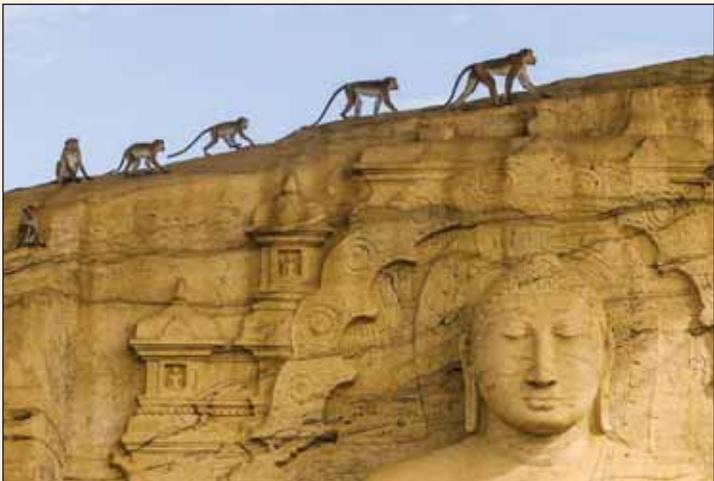
[www.headsup.org](http://www.headsup.org)

### Palo Alto / Pleasanton

Emerson: 650.424.1267

Hacienda: 925.485.5750

## MOVIE OPENINGS



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

"Monkey Kingdom" follows a group of macaques in Sri Lanka as they eat, groom and mate.

# Primating rituals

DISNEY FILM EXPLORES 'MONKEY KINGDOM'

★★ 1/2 (Century 16, Century 20)

Fans of "The Ricky Gervais Show" quiver with pleasure at the phrase "Monkey News," the name of a hilarious recurring segment involving a dollop of news and a metric ton of urban legend involving monkeys and chimps. My mind couldn't help but drift to "Monkey News" during the new Disney nature film "Monkey Kingdom," which bends the nature of documentary to construct a dubious but kid-friendly narrative.

Like "African Cats," "Chimpanzee," and "Bears" before it, "Monkey Kingdom" vigorously anthropomorphizes a handful of representative animals into easily digested human archetypes. In the Sri Lankan jungle, filmmakers Mark Lin-

field and Alastair Fothergill observe a group of macaques over a period of months as the monkeys go about the rituals of survival: acquiring food, dodging predators and mating. Cheeky narration delivered by Tina Fey abets hard-working editors to piece together a story arc from the details at hand.

"Low-born commoner" Maya struggles to win food at "Castle Rock," an area dominated by alpha male Raja and "high-born" trio "The Sisterhood." This almost Shakespearean pastiche thickens when Maya mates with handsome stranger Kumar (introduced to the tune of, ahem, "Whatta Man") and produces baby Kip, who Maya must (at least briefly) raise as a single

mother. Oh, and that Grandpa is quite a card.

These venial sins continue the film series' tradition of ascribing human motivations to animal actions, though "Monkey Kingdom" is rarely egregious in this respect. The monkeys are clearly eating, grooming and mating as advertised. On the other hand, Fey's description of Maya, "like any mother," wishing "to freeze this moment in time" as she grips her offspring tightly is the sort of bit that crosses the line into human psychology.

Mortal sins — as far as documentary filmmaking goes — come in the form of staging scenes, conflating timelines or otherwise mischaracterizing footage, all of which "Monkey Kingdom" does. The tactic is particularly obvious in a sequence that supposedly captures footage of monkeys raiding a home on the day of a child's birthday party (to a "Mission: Impossible" sound-alike heist theme), though plenty of other scenes seem dubious to an adult trying to assess to what extent we're witnessing man-ufactured monkey life.

All that aside, just the raw footage has its own high-def, glorious value, in part aesthetic and in part academic. Disney is selling short older kids by condescending to them, but also inviting younger kids to be interested in the natural world. Maybe we should all ignore the men and women behind the curtain and simply enjoy the underwater shots of monkeys swimming.

Rated G. One hour, 21 minutes.  
— Peter Canavese

Huston) romancing Austrian émigré Ruth (an overwrought Oona Chaplin). The latest style-deficient director to go through Camp Sparks, George Tillman Jr. ("Men of Honor") makes Hollywood mulch of it all, despite the irony of being an African-American artist constrained by the formulae of Sparks' lily-white world. Truthful, if cliché, themes (time is precious, "Love requires sacrifice") might have redeemed the picture if the rodeo climax didn't so hypocritically undercut them. Rated PG-13 for some sexuality, partial nudity, and some war and sports action. Two hours, 19 minutes. — P.C.

## WHILE WE'RE YOUNG

★★★

In his latest independent film "While We're Young," Noam Baumbach meditates on the tension between the slowing, sinking middle-aged and the speeding, ascending young — with the two meeting on the battleground of ambition. Ben Stiller plays documentary filmmaker Josh Srebnick, whose marriage to Cornelia (Naomi Watts) is due for a little excitement. Enter 20-something couple Jamie (Adam Driver of "Girls") and Darby (Amanda Seyfried), whose extension of

seemingly unconditional friendship injects energy and self-consciousness into the older couple's relationship. Alas, Jamie's hip freak flag starts to turn into a red one when the aspiring filmmaker starts moving in on Josh's territory. As their bodies begin betraying them, Josh and Cornelia comically try to keep up with their younger counterparts, funsters who never pick up the check. The older folks are digital while the young folks are analog, an irony that eventually becomes a sticking point as Josh realizes his references, his nostalgia and perhaps his very life are being appropriated. Though "While We're Young" can be reductive, lionizing the old as calm, centered and generous to a fault while raking 20-somethings over the coals, Baumbach makes comic hay from the realization that the future belongs to the young. Rated R for language. One hour, 37 minutes. — P.C.

## WOMAN IN GOLD

★★ 1/2

A Nazi-enabled "finders keepers" claim comes under scrutiny in the based-on-a-true-story drama, "Woman in Gold." In 1998, Gustav Klimt's shimmering 1907 oil, silver and gold portrait, "Adele Bloch-Bauer I," is the pride of Vienna's Belvedere Gallery. But for Maria Altmann (Helen

## MOVIE TIMES

**Child 44 (R)** Century 16: 12:30, 3:45, 7 & 10:15 p.m.  
Century 20: 12:40, 3:50, 7 & 10:10 p.m.

**Cinderella (PG)** ★★ 1/2 Century 16: 10:35 a.m., 1:25, 4:15, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 1:10, 4:10, 6:55 & 9:40 p.m.

**Danny Collins (R)** Century 20: 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 5, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m.

### Furious 7 (PG-13)

Century 16: 10:40 a.m., 12:20, 3:40, 7 & 10:20 p.m. Fri & Sat 3:40, 5:20 & 8:40 p.m. Century 20: 11 a.m., noon, 2:10, 3:10, 5:20, 6:20, 8:30, 9:30 & 10:45 p.m., Fri & Sat 7:40 p.m. In X-D at 12:50, 4, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m. In D-BOX at 11 a.m., noon, 2:10, 3:10, 5:20, 6:20, 8:30 & 9:30 p.m.

**Get Hard (R)** Century 20: 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:25, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m.

**Home (PG)** ★★ Century 16: 10:15 a.m., 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 10:45 & 11:35 a.m., 1:15, 3:55, 6:25 & 9 p.m., Fri & Sat 2:20 & 4:55 p.m.

**Insurgent (PG-13)** Century 16: 10:45 a.m., 1:35, 4:25, 7:25 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 a.m. & 7:55 p.m. In 3-D at 2, 4:50 & 10:45 p.m.

### Kingsman: The Secret Service (R) ★★ 1/2

Century 20: 7:20 & 10:30 p.m.

**The Longest Ride (PG-13)** ★ Century 16: 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 1, 4:05, 7:10 & 10:15 p.m.

### Madame Butterfly (1932) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: 5:50 & 9:20 p.m.

**McFarland, USA (PG)** ★★ Century 20: 12:10 & 3:15 p.m.

**Monkey Kingdom (G)** ★★ 1/2 Century 16: 10:20 a.m., 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:40 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.

**Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (PG)** Century 16: 10:15 a.m., 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 10:50 a.m., 12:05, 1:20, 2:35, 3:45, 5:05, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45 & 10:05 p.m.

### TCM Presents The Sound of Music 50th Anniversary (G)

Century 16: Sun 2 & 7 p.m. Century 20: Sun 2 & 7 p.m.

### Topper (1937) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m., Sat & Sun 4 p.m.

**True Story (R)** Century 20: 11:45 a.m., 2:25, 5:10, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m.  
Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m., Fri & Sat 9:45 p.m.

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

**While We're Young (R)** ★★★ Century 20: 11:55 a.m., 2:25, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:15 p.m. Guild Theatre: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.

### Wild Tales (R) ★★ 1/2

Palo Alto Square: 1, 4 & 7 p.m., Fri & Sat 9:55 p.m.

### Woman in Gold (PG-13) ★★ 1/2

Century 16: 11:15 a.m., 2:15, 5, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m.

Century 20: 11:15 a.m., 2:10, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mirren), a Jewish refugee and longtime Los Angeles resident, the woman in gold is Aunt Adele and the painting a stolen family heirloom, valued at over \$100 million. Enter burgeoning attorney Randol Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds), whose mother (Frances Fisher) enlists him to hear out her friend Maria and advise her about a possible case against the politically savvy but firmly entrenched Austrian government. The screenplay is careful to establish Maria's in it for the justice, and eventually, the case becomes a personal crusade for Randy that touches something deep in his Jewish roots. The film primarily concerns itself with the legal battle and the odd-couple bonding of persnickety Maria and relatively callow Randy. Yet a

significant portion of the film takes place in Nazi-controlled Vienna just before the outbreak of WWII. The approach of screenwriter Alexi Kaye Campbell and director Simon Curtis can be corny, commercial, platitudinous and weepy. But if they do lay it on a bit thick, it's also a thought-provoking dramatization of facing the "ghosts" of the past on individual and national levels. Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements and brief strong language. One hour, 49 minutes. — P.C.

## MOVIE CRITICS

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



## MOVIE REVIEWS

### THE LONGEST RIDE ★

Yes, the corn is as high as an elephant's eye in the latest adaptation of the best-selling romance novelist Nicholas Sparks, "The Longest Ride." There's a bright golden haze on the meadow as college senior Sophia Danko (Britt Robertson of "Under the Dome") crosses the Wake Forest quad to grudgingly check out a rodeo with her friends. Cut to her feet in cowboy boots made for walking right into loooooove with bull-riding champion Luke Collins (Scott Eastwood, looking his father's son). As ever with Sparksian films, they are pretty young things from two different worlds, one challenged by physical ailment. After going on a picnic date with take-out barbecue, the modern young'uns spot a car wreck and save an old coot (Alan Alda); Sophia takes an interest in the now-hospitalized old Ira, visiting regularly to read his love letters back to him. Such is the way to parcel out flashbacks, with Alda's younger self (Jack

# GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

## Fire on the Mountain

For a regional premiere, TheatreWorks will stage "Fire on the Mountain," a bluegrass musical that portrays the lives of Appalachian mining families. See website for specific times and dates. April 1-26. \$53 adult; \$43 senior, educator; \$25 under age 30. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.theatreworks.org/shows/1415-season/fireonthemountain](http://www.theatreworks.org/shows/1415-season/fireonthemountain)

## ART GALLERIES

**'Along Highway 1'** Viewpoints Gallery has on display "Along Highway 1," a show of watercolor paintings by plein air artist Veronica Gross inspired by vistas along the famed highway from Big Sur to the Oregon coast. March 31-April 25, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday only until 3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. [www.viewpointsgallery.com](http://www.viewpointsgallery.com)

**'What Now?'** Gallery 9 in Los Altos offers a show called "What Now?" of oil paintings, as well as a sculpture, by Bay Area artist Steve Curtiss. March 31-April 25, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. [www.gallery9losaltos.com](http://www.gallery9losaltos.com)

## BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

**Spring Forward 5K/10K** The Spring Forward 5K/10K run will help to raise funds for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, whose programs help impoverished community members. April 18, 8-11 a.m. \$40 5K or 10K; \$15 children's run. Microsoft Campus, 1065 La Avenida St., Mountain View. [springforward5k10k.com](http://springforward5k10k.com)

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

**3D printing workshop** This Los Altos Library workshop will demonstrate steps in using a 3D printer, including re-taping and leveling a build plate, loading and changing filament, and printing an object. The event is the second part in a series. April 21, 1-2 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683. [www.scdl.org](http://www.scdl.org)

**Aging Strong workshop** This workshop run by a licensed physical therapist and certified Pilates instructor will lead participants in exercises that serve to strengthen muscles and bones and reduce the risk of falls. April 20, 7:30-8:45 p.m. Free. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-9800. [www.bonesmartpilates.com](http://www.bonesmartpilates.com)

**DIY Instruments workshop** This Mountain View Public Library event will lead community members in creating their own musical instruments out of found items. Registration is appreciated but not required. April 21, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. [www.mountainview.gov/library](http://www.mountainview.gov/library)

**Drop-in Bike Clinic** Once monthly, professional bike mechanic Ryan Murphy will visit the Mountain View Public Library to share advice and help with changing tires, adjusting shifting and brakes, identifying mysterious noises and more. Third Saturday of the month, April 18-Aug. 15, 11-12:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. [www.mountainview.gov/library](http://www.mountainview.gov/library)

**Grow Your Own Food workshop** Farmers from Edible Urban Farm Company will offer a workshop on home gardening, covering what is in season, spacing and placement, and crop rotation. Attendees will get hands-on practice during the workshop. April 18, 10 a.m.-noon. \$39. Hillview Community Center, Room 18, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-946-3366. [www.edibleurbanfarm.com/workshops/](http://www.edibleurbanfarm.com/workshops/)

**Home Farm Workshop: Growing a Cut Flower Garden** Lannette Anderson, Hidden Villa's flower farmer, will teach a workshop on all things flower, covering which locally adapted varieties are the most attractive, strongest and easiest to grow; good flowers for arrangements; and harvesting for continual blooms. April 18, 10 a.m.-noon. \$35. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. [www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)

**Succulents: Growing and Propagating workshop** UC Master Gardener Roberta Barnes will offer tips for propagating succulents successfully and share a number of informative examples. April 18, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6877. [www.mountainview.gov/library](http://www.mountainview.gov/library)

**Sustainable Edibles class** Alane Weber will lead this class offered by the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency that covers how to reduce water needs for seasonal vegetable gardening by harvesting "warm-season" vegetables throughout the summer, as well

as how to implement organic maintenance techniques. April 22, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. [bawasca.org/classes](http://bawasca.org/classes)

**Three Romantic Dances class** Taught by Ellen Murray and Gene Esswein, this six-week course offered by Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education will cover the waltz, rumba and tango. The class is suited to beginners or those returning to ballroom dance. Singles and couples are welcome. Visit the website to register. Mondays, April 13-May 17, 7:30-9 p.m. \$50. Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-940-1333. [mvlvae.net](http://mvlvae.net)

## CLUBS/MEETINGS

**ESL Conversation Club in Mountain View** This weekly club at the Mountain View Public Library provides a place to practice English conversation skills with friendly company. All levels are welcome; no registration is required. Wednesdays, April 1-July 1, 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. [www.mountainview.gov/library](http://www.mountainview.gov/library)

**Language Swap** This weekly Mountain View Public Library event will allow community members to both practice speaking a different language and teach a language to others. All levels and drop-ins are welcome. Thursdays, April 2-July 2, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. [www.mountainview.gov/library](http://www.mountainview.gov/library)

**Peninsula Gem & Geology Society meeting** This month's meeting of the Peninsula Gem & Geology Society will focus on earthquakes, exploring the topic through a video and displays of fractured rocks. There will also be a door prize drawing, as well as rocks and related items available by silent auction. Refreshments will be served. April 22, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Ave., Los Altos. [www.pggs.org](http://www.pggs.org)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Free Community Earth Day Fair** The U.S. Army Reserve 63rd Regional Support Command invites community members to attend its Earth Day Fair and celebrate the Army Reserve's 107th anniversary. The free family event will include live music, vendors, food trucks, family activities, education booths, a free raffle and e-waste drop off, and more. April 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 63rd Regional Support Command, 230 R. T. Jones Road, Mountain View. Call 925-858-3354. [www.facebook.com/63RSC](http://www.facebook.com/63RSC)

**Human Relations Commission Civility Roundtable** The City of Mountain View's Human Relations Commission will hold a community dialogue about effective relations between the police and residents entitled "How Can We Prevent Ferguson from Happening in Mountain View?" The event will include a discussion moderated by Supervisor Joe Simitian and breakout sessions with the Mountain View Mediation Project and the League of Women Voters. April 22, 6:30-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6397. [www.mountainview.gov/council/bcc/hr.asp](http://www.mountainview.gov/council/bcc/hr.asp)

**linkAges TimeBank orientation at Red Rock** This event will introduce community members to linkAges TimeBank, a neighborhood service-exchange network that enables people to share interests and skills and help one another. April 23, 6-7 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-934-3556. [timebank.linkages.org/component/dtregister/](http://timebank.linkages.org/component/dtregister/)

**Yom Ha'atzmaut: Israel's Independence Day celebration** The Oshman Family JCC will hold its annual communitywide event to celebrate Israel's 67th Independence Day. April 23, 3:30-10 p.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, Jessica Lynn Saal Town Square, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-233-8700. [paloaltojcc.org/israelicolor](http://paloaltojcc.org/israelicolor)

## CONCERTS

**Jaffa Road** Jaffa Road will come to the Oshman Family JCC to offer a concert that will blend contemporary Jewish music, Middle Eastern and Indian sounds, jazz and rock 'n' roll. April 21, noon-1:30 p.m. \$15 at the door. Schultz Cultural

Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8616. [paloaltojcc.org/music](http://paloaltojcc.org/music)

**Mountain View High School Jazz Festival** Mountain View High School will hold a jazz festival, where groups from Mountain View and Los Altos high schools, as well as local middle schools, will perform on the quad. Attendees are encouraged to bring a beach chair. April 18, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$10 adult, \$5 student, senior (suggested donations). Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-906-3158.

## ENVIRONMENT

**Going Native Garden Tour 2015** This annual event organized by the California Native Plant Society, with help from UC Master Gardeners, will showcase gardens throughout the area that make use of native plants. The second day of the event will focus on 30 gardens in northern Santa Clara and southern San Mateo counties. April 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 30 different gardens, various locations in Mountain View, Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Redwood City, Woodside and other cities. [gngt.org/GNGT/Gardens.php?year=2015](http://gngt.org/GNGT/Gardens.php?year=2015)

## EXHIBITS

**'Into the Wild Woods'** The Community School of Music and Arts currently has an exhibition of illustrations and paintings by Bay Area native Liz Amini-Holmes. April 3-May 31, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800. [www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm](http://www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm)

**'Silicon Valley: The Lure & the Legends' final day** The last day of the Los Altos History Museum's exhibit "Silicon Valley: The Lure & the Legends" will take place on April 19. The exhibit captures the evolution of Silicon Valley, looking at the role of Stanford, the government and venture capitalists. Self-learning iPads provide info on 40 risk-takers. April 19, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-9427. [losaltoshistory.org/lure\\_legends.html](http://losaltoshistory.org/lure_legends.html)

## FAMILY AND KIDS

**'Children's Corner and Some of Our Favorite Things'** As part of the Musical Journeys with Children & Families concert series, Frank Lévy will offer a family-friendly classical music performance called "Children's Corner and Some of Our Favorite Things," featuring whimsical pieces by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Schumann and others. April 19, 3-4:30 p.m. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. [paloaltojcc.org/music](http://paloaltojcc.org/music)

**Author Liesl Shurtliff on 'Jack'** Liesl Shurtliff will visit Linden Tree Books to read from her book "Jack: The True Story of Jack & the Beanstalk," her new retelling of the classic fairy tale. Those interested should RSVP by phone.

April 21, 4-5 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-949-3390. [www.lindentreebooks.com](http://www.lindentreebooks.com)

**Author Sheila Grau on 'Dr. Critchlore's School for Minions'** Local debut author Sheila Grau will read from her new comical series "Dr. Critchlore's School for Minions," a story about monsters in training, best suited for fantasy fans ages 8 to 12. Those interested should RSVP by phone. April 17, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-949-3390. [www.lindentreebooks.com](http://www.lindentreebooks.com)

**Wild Cat Adventure** This event held by the Wild Cat Conservation and Education Fund will feature five live wild cats from around the world, including possibly a cheetah, cougar, black leopard, ocelot, fishing cat or Geoffroy's cat. Information about the species will be shared with the audience while each cat is onstage. April 19, 2-3 p.m. \$10 adult; \$5 children under age 12. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 707-874-3176. [www.wildcatfund.org](http://www.wildcatfund.org)

## HEALTH

**Danceation fitness classes** European pop star Heath Hunter and international fitness guru Kirsten Johnson will lead participants in high-energy dance and fitness workouts for all skill levels. March 16-June 17, Monday, 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. \$20 single class; \$150 10-class pass. American Legion, 347 1st St., Los Altos. [www.danceation.com](http://www.danceation.com)

## LIVE MUSIC

**Charles Robin show** Portland-based musician Charles Robin, who has performed throughout the country, will play a set of alternative rock music. April 18, 8 p.m. \$5. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-967-4473. [redrockcoffee.org](http://redrockcoffee.org)

## ON STAGE

**'Those Darn Squirrels'** In this Stories on Stage production, Peninsula Youth Theatre will perform "Those Darn Squirrels," a play based on Adam Rubin's book about a cranky old man who loves only the birds in his yard. April 17, 9:30 and 11 a.m.; April 18, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$8 Friday; \$10 Saturday. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Second Stage, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.pytnet.org/shows/1415%20SOS/Squirrels.htm](http://www.pytnet.org/shows/1415%20SOS/Squirrels.htm)

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'** The Los Altos Stage Company will perform the classic drama "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" the story of George and Martha, a dysfunctional couple that draws two house guests into their conflict after a faculty party. April 9-May 3, Wednesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. (no show on April 15). 7:30 p.m. \$34. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. [losaltosstage.org/virginia-woolf/](http://losaltosstage.org/virginia-woolf/)

## RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

**Kirtan and meditation sessions** BookBuyers in Mountain View will host a session of meditation and Kirtan song each Saturday morning. All are welcome. Saturdays, March 7-May 2, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Free. BookBuyers, 317 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-7323. [bookbuyers.com/event/kirtan-meditation-3/](http://bookbuyers.com/event/kirtan-meditation-3/)

## SENIORS

**CSA Referral: Housing** Senior case managers from the Community Services Agency will be available to discuss resources regarding landlord-tenant disputes, low-income housing and the process of drafting lease agreements. Those interested should visit the Mountain View Senior Center's front desk or call to schedule an appointment. April 21. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. [www.mountainview.gov/seniors](http://www.mountainview.gov/seniors)

**linkAges Advocates technology help** linkAges will visit the Mountain View Senior Center to assist community members with enrolling in its TimeBank system — a service-exchange platform — and develop individualized plans which help individuals to track their engagement and receive future assistance. April 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. [www.mountainview.gov/seniors](http://www.mountainview.gov/seniors)

**Pool safety talk** This Mountain View Senior Center event will cover safety tips for older adults to keep in mind while swimming, which can provide great full body exercise. April 23, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. [www.mountainview.gov/seniors](http://www.mountainview.gov/seniors)

## LECTURES & TALKS

**Earth Day! Biodiversity and the Native Plant Gardener** For this California Native Plant Society event, Arvind Kumar will discuss how using native plants provides habitat for wildlife, conserves natural resources, saves effort and money, and gives a sense of place. Plant lists will be available. Kumar is a past local chapter president and a longtime native plant gardener. April 22, 7 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)

**Moore's Law @ 50** This two-part event at the Computer History Museum will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Gordon Moore's observation that the number of transistors on microchips doubles about every two years — an idea which drove the digital revolution. Arnold Thackeray and David Brock, co-authors of "Moore's Law: The Life of Gordon Moore, Silicon Valley's Quiet Revolutionary," will participate in a talk with museum CEO John Hollar, as well as a later panel discussion. Visit the website for info on registration. April 17, 10:30 a.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. [www.computerhistory.org/events/upcoming/#moores-law--50](http://www.computerhistory.org/events/upcoming/#moores-law--50)

# Stanford | High School Summer College

Attend Stanford while living at home.

Stanford's High School Summer College is an academically selective program that provides high-achieving high school students the ability to attend Stanford University in the summer. The program runs 8 weeks and participants enroll as visiting undergraduates students in Stanford's Summer Quarter and take the same courses as Stanford undergraduates. Summer College students can choose from 145 courses across 30 university departments. Live at home and attend Stanford for as low as \$3,400.

 DATES June 20 – August 16  AGES 16 – 19

 Applications are open! Visit: [spcs.stanford.edu/pawekly](http://spcs.stanford.edu/pawekly)

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**Pregnant?**  
Thinking of adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/ New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

**Pregnant?**  
Considering adoption? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (CalSCAN)

"Farewell to Manzanar" Author ap

FREE BOOK GIVEAWAY

HUGE USED BOOK SALE

Overcoming Depression Group

Room 4 rent in Sunnyvale

Stanford music tutoring

Seasoned, Architect

### 130 Classes & Instruction

**Airbrush Makeup Artist**  
course for Ads \* TV \* Film \* Fashion. HD and Digital 40% OFF TUITION For Limited Time Train and Build Portfolio. One Week Course. Details at: AwardMakeupSchool.com 818-980-2119 (AAN CAN)

**Airline Careers**  
begin here - Get started by training as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

German Language Classes

Music Together Classes

### 133 Music Lessons

**Christina Conti Private Piano Instruction**  
Lessons in your home. Bachelor of Music. 650/493-6950

**Hope Street Music Studios**  
In downtown Mtn.View. Most Instruments voice. All ages & levels 650-961-2192 www.HopeStreetMusicStudios.com

### 135 Group Activities

Thanks St Jude

### 145 Non-Profits Needs

DONATE BOOKS/HELP PA LIBRARIES

Stanford Museums Volunteer

### 150 Volunteers

Become an EcoCenter Docent!

Fosterers Needed for Moffet Cats

FRIENDS OF THE MTN VIEW LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY

JOIN OUR ONLINE STOREFRONT TEAM

### 152 Research Study Volunteers

**Hot Flashes?**  
Women 40-65 with frequent hot flashes, may qualify for the REPLENISH Trial - a free medical research study for post-menopausal women. Call 855-781-1851. (Cal-SCAN)

To place a Classified ad in The Almanac, The Palo Alto Weekly or The Mountain View Voice call 326-8216 or visit us at fogster.com

### Having Sleep Problems?

If you are 60 years or older, you may be eligible to participate in a study of Non-Drug Treatments for Insomnia sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, and conducted at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Medical Center. Participants will receive extensive sleep evaluation, individual treatment, and reimbursement for participation. For more information, please call Stephanie or Ryan at (650) 849-0584. (For general information about participant rights, contact 866-680-2906.)

### 155 Pets

**Did You Know**  
7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

Dog walking Offered

## For Sale

### 201 Autos/Trucks/ Parts

Lexus 2000 ES300 - \$4,500.

Tesla 2015 Model X

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

**Cash for Cars**  
Any Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You! Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

**Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat**  
to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

**Got an Older Car**  
boat or RV? Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1-800-743-1482 (Cal-SCAN)

**I Buy Old Porsches**  
911, 356, 1948-1973 only. Any condition. Top \$\$ paid. Finders Fee. Call 707-965-9546 or email porscheClassics@yahoo.com (Cal-SCAN)

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

**LA: 1175 Altamead Dr., 4/19, 8:30-2**  
Rummage Sale. Benefits Miramonte Christian School. x-Grant Rd.

Los Altos, 1201 Lammy Place, Sat April 18, 8-2

**MV: Garage Sale, 5/2 and Yard Sale 5/9**  
At homes: May 2.

**Rengstorff Park:** May 9  
Register for either event by April 17, 2015! www.MVrecycle.org.

### PA: City Wide Garage Sale Saturday, June 6, 8-2

Helping the environment and making money has never been so easy. Reusing - whether you donate, buy, or sell - is one of the best ways to reduce waste and keep usable stuff out of the landfill.

**Join us for the Palo Alto Citywide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 6.** Last day to sign up is May 8.

Details will be posted on <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/yardsale/>

The map and listings will be uploaded to this page and be printed in the **June 5** edition of the Palo Alto Weekly.

**RWC: 1228 Douglas Ave. Fri. 4/17, 11am-2pm; Sat. 4/18, 9am-1pm**  
**BIG RUMMAGE SALE** benefits Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford. (Just south of Woodside Rd., bet. Broadway and Bayshore Fwy.) **CASH ONLY** (650)497-8332 or during sale (650)568-9840

San Carlos, 1001 Chestnut Street, May 3, 9:30-11:30

### 230 Freebies

Free Workbench - FREE

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

King Sized Duvet Set - \$30

### 245 Miscellaneous

**Dish Network**  
Get MORE for LESS! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months.) PLUS Bundle & SAVE (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) CALL Now 1-800-357-0810 (Cal-SCAN)

**Dish TV**  
Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) SAVE! Regular Price \$34.99 Ask About FREE SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 888-992-1957 (AAN CAN)

**Kill Roaches!**  
Guaranteed! Buy Harris Roach Tablets. No Mess, Odorless, Long Lasting. Available: ACE Hardware, The Home Depot (AAN CAN)

**Switch and Save Event**  
from DirecTV! Packages starting at \$19.99/mo. Free 3-Months of HBO, Starz, SHOWTIME & CINEMAX FREE GENIE HD/ DVR Upgrade! 2015 NFL Sunday Ticket. Included with Select Packages. New Customers Only IV Support Holdings LLC - An authorized DirecTV Dealer. Some exclusions apply - Call for details 1-800-385-9017 (CalSCAN)

Macy's Bandolino shoes size 7M - \$8

## Kid's Stuff

### 350 Preschools/ Schools/Camps

**Acorn Chinese Learning Center**  
Children Mandarin & Cantonese Program. www.acornchinese.com

Art & Soul Summer Camp

Bridge (Card Game) Summer Camp

Co-op Preschool-Schedule a tour!

Piano Summer Camp

### 355 Items for Sale

3DVDs LittlePeople, PlanetHeroes, T

3T KRU RainJacket \$5

Boy Clothes 7-8 years 2 bags \$40

BRUM collector remote control car

LadyBug Dress Up To 24 Months

Learning Laptop/pad age 3-7 years

Mega Bloks 8134 \$14

Nike Shinpads Age 4-7y \$4

Playful Dachshund Puppies

Pooh Duvet Cover Pillow Case

Size (5)6-7 Years BOY clothes \$40

Soccer Cleats Size 2 5/7 Diadora

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## Mind & Body

### 425 Health Services

**Got Knee Pain?**  
Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or NO cost to you. Medicare Patients Call Health Hotline Now! 1-800-796-5091 (Cal-SCAN)

**Safe Step Walk-in Tub**  
Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

### 435 Integrative Medicine

**Did You Know**  
144 million U.S. Adults read a Newspaper print copy each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**Administrative Assistant**  
We are seeking an Administrative Assistant for general support for the office staff. The Administrative Assistant will be required to file documents, run errands, create spreadsheets, scan, organize etc. Email your resume to andytrumble4@gmail.com.

**Engineering Data Engineering Lead** (Menlo Park, CA): Build and lead a team of Data Engineers. Define and implement best practices for the efficient day to day operation of the Data Engineering team. Mail resumes to Yvonne Caprini, HR Business Partner, Shazam Media Services, Inc., 640 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025. Ref. No.: 0146

### 560 Employment Information

**Attn: Drivers**  
\$2K Sign-On Bonus \$\$ Make \$55,000 your first year! \$\$ Quality Equipment w/ APU's. Pet/Rider Program. CDL-A Required. 888-293-9337 www.drive4melton.mobi (Cal-SCAN)

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In 2 1/2 weeks. Company Sponsored Training. Also Hiring Recent Truck School Graduates, Experienced Drivers. Must be 21 or Older. Call: (866) 275-2349. (Cal-SCAN)

**Drivers: No Experience?**  
Some or LOTS of experience? Let's Talk! No matter what stage in your career, it's time, call Central Refrigerated Home. 888-891-2195. www.CentralTruckDrivingjobs.com (CalSCAN)

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# Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

**MING JONE CLINICAL RESEARCH CONSULTING**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602908

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Ming Jone Clinical Research Consulting, located at 2310 Rock St. #19, 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):  
DORIENA MING-YEE JONE  
2310 Rock St. #19  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2003.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 20, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 27, Apr. 3, 10, 17, 2015)

**KING & AVANTI INC**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602213

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
King & Avanti Inc., located at 235 E. Middlefield Rd., Ste. 2, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
KING & AVANTI INC  
235 E. Middlefield Rd., Ste. 2  
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 March 4, 2015.  
(MNV Mar. 27, Apr. 3, 10, 17, 2015)

**SRASA KITCHEN**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 603561

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Srasa Kitchen, located at 225 E. Middlefield Rd. #2, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: Married Couple.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
ALBERT POON

538 Arastradero Rd.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

**JENNIFER POON**  
538 Arastradero Rd.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

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 April 8, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2015)

**NAMI NAMI**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602698

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Nami Nami, located at 240 Castro St., Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
HANAMARU CORPORATION  
240 Castro St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/07/2012.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 16, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015)

**EVERYTHING WEDDINGS**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602648

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Everything Weddings, located at 2552 Alderwood Drive, San Jose, CA 95132, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
MARSHALL DANTE HARDY  
2552 Alderwood Dr.  
San Jose, CA 95132

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 March 16, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015)

**EVOLUTION TRAINERS INC.**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602942

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Evolution Trainers Inc., located at 2044 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
EVOLUTION TRAINERS

2044 Old Middlefield Way  
Mtn. View, CA 94043

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed Jan., 2006.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 23, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2015)

**GINSENG KOREAN B.B.Q & TOFU FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 603364

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Ginseng Korean B.B.Q & Tofu, located at 475 Castro St., Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
GINSENG BBQ & TOFU INC.  
1774 Clear Lake Ave.  
Milpitas, CA 95035

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 April 3, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2015)

**A & T 24 HRS. CARE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 603503

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

A & T 24 Hrs. Care, located at 996 Lane Ave., #1, 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):  
TANGIKINA LAULEA  
996 Lane Ave. #1  
Mountain View, CA 94040

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/31/2010.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 7, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2015)

**VOLTA LABORATORIES, INC.**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 603666

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Volta Laboratories, Inc., located at 144 S. Whisman Rd., Unit F, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):  
VOLTA LABORATORIES, INC.  
144 S. Whisman Rd., Unit F  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 6, 2015.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 10, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2015)

**RAMEN HOUSE RYOWA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 603684

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:  
Ramen House Ryowa, located at 859 Villa St., Mountain View, CA 94041, 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):  
RONNY & RINALDI LLC

859 Villa St.  
Mt. 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 April 13, 2015.  
(MNV Apr. 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2015)

**997 All Other Legals**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

Case No.: 115CV278721

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: JANE LAI & LEO LIAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
DEAN LAI LIAN to DEAN ALEXANDER LIAN.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: May 5, 2015, 8:45 a.m., Room: Probate, of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

Date: March 27, 2015  
Thomas E. Kuhnle  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(MNV Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH LINCOLN, also known as CHRISTOPHER LINCOLN  
Case No.: 1-15 PR 176142

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH LINCOLN, also known as CHRISTOPHER LINCOLN.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: LOUISA CONWAY in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: LOUISA CONWAY 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 May 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept.: 10 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:  
Elijah M. Keyes, Esq.  
Gilfix & La Poll Associates LLP  
2300 Geng Road, Suite 200  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650)493-8070  
(MNV Apr. 17, 24, May 1, 2015)



## 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.

Deadline: 5 p.m. the previous Friday

Call Alicia Santillan (650) 223-6578  
to assist you with your legal advertising needs.  
E-mail: [asantillan@pawebly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawebly.com)

MountainView  
**VOICE**

# RealEstate

RENTWATCH

## Charging tenant extra for a service dog

edited by Anky van Deursen

**Q** I run a rental property that has a “no pets” policy. I have a tenant who has made a reasonable accommodation request to have a companion dog. I understand that I need to let her have her dog, because companion animal support dogs are not pets. But I’m worried her dog will tear up the flooring and destroy the apartment. I would like to charge her extra rent or get an additional deposit from her in order to protect the property from future expenses. When I brought up that possibility, she told me that I can’t do that under the Fair Housing laws. Is she right?

**A** The short answer is, yes, she is right. Regardless of what kind of assistance animal the tenant has — a companion cat or dog, a therapy animal, or a certified service dog — under the Fair Housing laws, it is NOT a pet, but a part of the disabled tenant’s medical treatment. Just like you would not charge extra rent



or security deposit for a wheelchair, diabetes medication or a special hospital-style bed, you cannot charge a disabled tenant additional rent or a higher security deposit because they have an assistance animal. Charging an extra fee or deposit imposes an unreasonable burden for tenants with disabilities who need assistance animals, and it places a financial burden on something necessary for their full use and enjoyment of their apartment. Such fees are tantamount to charging someone for having a disability.

You can still hold tenants with assistance animals liable for any damage the animal causes. If you are concerned that the security deposit will not be enough to cover the potential damage, consider charging a higher security deposit for all tenants. As long as the method of calculating the security deposit is the same for all tenants, regardless of whether they have a service animal, you will be fine.

**Q** A new job required me to relocate to this area and I decided to rent a room at a hotel designed for longer-stays. I signed a month-to-month rental agreement and paid a half month’s rent as a pet deposit for my small dog. After six months I found a permanent place to live and I gave the manager a 30 day notice to vacate. Prior to moving out I requested an initial inspection, and the manager signed an inspection checklist stating that my rental unit was perfectly clean and without damages. After I moved out, however, I received a letter from management stating that my pet deposit was being withheld because it was designated a “non-refundable pet deposit” in the rental agreement. Is this allowed?

**A** We receive numerous calls from tenants inquiring about pet deposits, cleaning deposits, and other creatively designated deposits and/or fees. California Civil Code section 1950.5 sets forth the rules governing security deposits and deals specifically with the confusion surround-

ing your situation. Any fee, charge, or payment made with the fundamental purpose of protecting a landlord against damage to the property (including so called “pet deposits”) should be treated as a security deposit. The landlord is obligated to conform to the security deposit rules, which state that non-refundable deposits are not allowed in California. As a result, having cleared you of any damage or cleaning obligations at the initial move out inspection, the landlord has no recognizable basis to withhold any of your deposit, including pet deposit. We suggest you inform the landlord in writing that this pet deposit should be treated like a regular security deposit, there was no damage, and that you expect your full deposit to be returned to you.

**Project Sentinel provides landlord-tenant dispute resolution and fair-housing services in Northern California, including rental housing mediation programs in Mountain View, Los Altos and Palo Alto. Call 650-856-4062 for dispute resolution or 650-321-6291 for fair housing, email info@housing.org or visit housing.org.**



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BRE# 00978793

jgonzalez@interorealestate.com

**Team BRE# 70000637**

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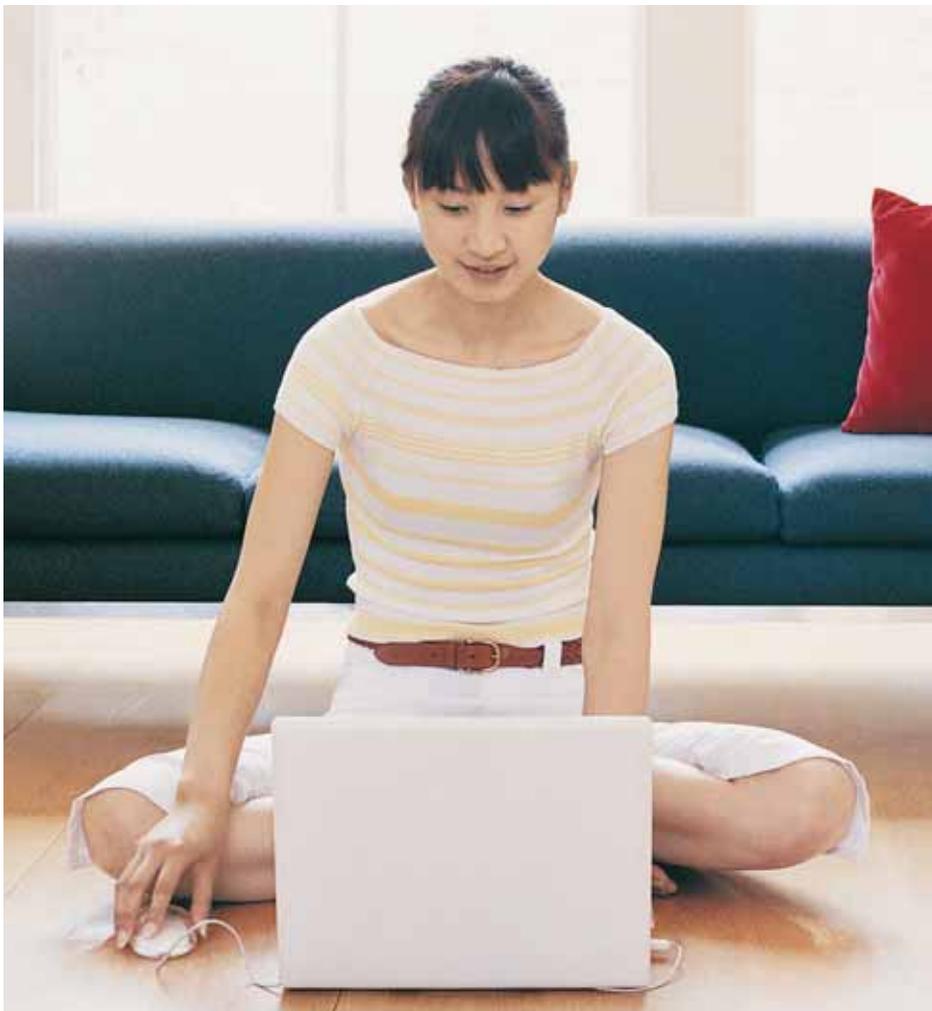
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- Bamboo Floors on First Floor
- Plush Carpet on Stairs and Second Floor
- Tile and Granite Gas Fireplace in Living Room
- Tile Floors in Entry, Bathrooms and Laundry Room
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- Kitchen Counter Sit up Bar Area
- Stainless Steel Kitchen Appliances including Sink
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BY DIVIDEND HOMES



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### 1993 Plymouth Street #8 Mountain View

2 bed | 2.5 ba | 1,235 sq ft  
Tastefully remodeled townhome end unit w/ dual master suites. Multiple balconies, patio & attached 1 car garage.

**List Price \$765,000  
Sale Price \$1,001,000**

**JUST SOLD**



### 210 View Street Mountain View

2 bed | 2.5 ba | 1374 sq ft  
Spanish style first floor condo end unit in the heart of downtown Mountain View.

**List Price \$1,450,000  
Sale Price \$1,450,000**

**COMING SOON**



### Horizon Ave Mountain View

2 bed | 1.5 ba | 1274 sq ft  
Remodeled Loft style townhome near downtown Mtn View. Grand living room with soaring ceiling and views of lush landscaping.

**List Price TBD**

**COMING SOON**



### W. Middlefield Road Mountain View

2 bed | 1.5 ba | 968 sq ft  
Remodeled Chalet style townhome with huge backyard. Full size inside laundry.

**List Price TBD**

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SERENO GROUP believes this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction.



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**JERYLANN MATEO**  
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**PAM BLACKMAN**  
REALTOR®  
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(partial list)

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- Diversifying your portfolio
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If your lifestyle change includes  
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650.823.0308 Pam@PamBlackman.com  
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**OPEN HOUSE APRIL 18 & 19, 1:00-5:00PM**

**963 BRYANT WAY, SUNNYVALE**  
*Wonderful Home in Great Location*

- 5 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms plus a home office - built in 2002
- Interior space: 3,419± sq. ft. (buyer to confirm)
- Lot size: 10,454 sq. ft. (buyer to confirm)
- Cook's kitchen with granite slab counters and maple cabinetry
- Main level guest suite with a vaulted ceiling
- Master bedroom suite with spa-like bathroom
- High ceilings, hardwood flooring and surround sound speakers
- Attached 3-car garage with guest parking
- Rear oasis with sparkling pool & spa, barbecue area, patios and level lawn
- Minutes to Apple's new campus, Kaiser's main facility, commute routes and shopping & restaurants
- Highly rated Santa Clara schools – Laurel Wood Elementary, Peterson Middle and Wilcox High (buyer to confirm)



/ Offered at \$1,799,888 /



To View Additional Photos,  
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[www.963Bryant.com](http://www.963Bryant.com)



**BETSY DWYER**  
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Square footage numbers and school information have been received by third party sources and not verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers must conduct their own verification investigation.





**SARATOGA** \$29,000,000  
3 BR 2 BA 12.98 acres of rolling hills, bordered by 60 acres of open space, close to downtown Saratoga  
Debbie Nichols CalBRE #00955497 650.325.6161



**PALO ALTO** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$5,798,000  
1523 Hamilton Ave 4 BR 4 BA 2-Level Custom Home Built by Current Owners in 2012. Amazing Grand Chef's Kit. Large Lot  
Greg Stange CalBRE #01418179 650.325.6161



**PALO ALTO** \$4,988,000  
5 BR 4 BA Charming and mystique home located in Leland Manor neighborhood  
Gil Orah CalBRE #01355157 650.325.6161



**ATHERTON** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$3,898,000  
102 Encinal Ave 4 BR 2 BA Atherton home- majestic oaks, sunny, private pool & lawn, spacious rms, Menlo Pk schools!  
Penny Goldcamp CalBRE #01746139 650.325.6161



**LOS GATOS** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$2,199,888  
117 Griffith Place 5 BR 3 BA Gorgeously updated 2 sty home w/close to downtown Los Gatos! High ceilings w/mt views  
Eppie Lum CalBRE #0133326 650.941.7040



**PALO ALTO** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,895,000  
1145 Lincoln Ave 3 BR 2 BA Unique architecture. Court-yard front garden. Stone fireplace. Oak floors. Eat-in kitchen.  
Nancy Goldcamp CalBRE #00787851 650.325.6161



**PALO ALTO** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,888,000  
972 Amarillo Ave 3 BR 1 BA Lovely Midtown Eichler recently remodeled and conveniently located to parks & 101 freeway.  
Anne Wilson CalBRE #01325803 650.325.6161



**SAN CARLOS** Sat/Sun 1 - 4 \$1,795,000  
2403 Howard Ave 3 BR 2 BA Extensively remodeled & expanded over recent yrs. Open flr plan; formal LR; Chef's kitchen  
Yvonne Gau CalBRE #01371489 650.941.7040



**PALO ALTO (STANFORD)** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,789,000  
860 Esplanada Way 2 BR 2 BA Qualified Stanford Faculty ONLY -- Lovingly Remodeled & Updated, Secluded Cul-de-Sal  
Carole Feldstein CalBRE #00911615 650.941.7040



**ALMADEN VALLEY** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,559,000  
1258 Hillcrest Drive 4 BR 2.5 BA 1/4 Acre lot, Beautiful golf course and mountain view.  
Diane Kneis CalBRE #01419720 650.325.6161



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** Sat/Sun 1 - 4 \$1,350,000  
1855 S. Springer Rd 5 BR 2.5 BA Gorgeous Duplex - front unit 2 br/1/1 ba - back unit 3 br. 1.5 ba with big yard  
Jerry Haslam CalBRE #01180022 650.941.7040



**SUNNYVALE** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,299,000  
1477 Flicker Way 3 BR 2 BA Outstanding Eichler home in Sunnyvale w/Cupertino schls. Open flr plan/natural light.  
Eppie Lum CalBRE #01333261 650.941.7040



**MENLO PARK** Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,200,000  
451 Oak Grove Ave 4 2 BR 2 BA Beautiful remod condo in highly desirable complex. LR w/wood flrs, fireplace; Chef's kit  
Ellen Barton CalBRE #00640629 650.941.7040



**SUNNYVALE** Sat/Sun 1 - 4:30 \$928,000  
875 Brookline Dr #F 3 BR 2 BA Great single level end unite. Living, Dining area w/vaulted ceiling. Updated kit & baths  
Cindy Mattison/Karen Scheel CalBRE #01052018, 00819887 650.941.7040



**SAN JOSE** Sat/Sun 1 - 4 \$429,500  
3306 La Terrace Cir 2 BR 1 BA Beautifully remodeled, grnd flr end unit. View of lake. Serene setting trees, duck ponds, pool  
Yasemin Richardson CalBRE #01358033 650.941.7040

## Los Altos | Palo Alto

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