

■ FOOD FEATURE



VERONICA WEBER

Pomegranate chicken is prepared with chicken thighs marinated in a mixture of pomegranate molasses, olive oil, garlic and honey, atop bulgur wheat with pistachios, sultanas, pomegranate seeds, parsley and basil. It's the kind of dish that local food blogger Blanche Araj features on her YouTube cooking show, *Feast in the Middle East*.

A feast for all

LOCAL JOURNALIST SHARES HER FAMILY'S MIDDLE EASTERN HOSPITALITY IN ONLINE COOKING SHOW

By Anna Medina

Sumac. Allspice. Cumin. Rose flower water. Pomegranate molasses. These are some of the ingredients that Blanche Araj, local resident and founder of food blog and YouTube cooking channel *Feast in the Middle East*, lists when asked what inspires her.

"Just pomegranate alone!" Araj gushes, dreaming up the possibilities: "I'm gonna put it in dressing, I'm gonna use it to marinate tofu, I'm gonna to thicken it for

ice cream ... it's the ingredients that inspire me most."

Feast in the Middle East started seven years ago as a personal project of Araj's to document recipes from her mother and grandmother in a cookbook (which she hopes to publish in the near future). It later evolved into a blog and a YouTube cooking channel and she now has over 25,000 subscribers over various platforms, over 8,000 of which are YouTube subscribers.

As part of her repertoire, Araj, whose ethnic background is Palestinian, includes classic Arabic recipes, but she also incorporates twists thanks to her upbringing in San Francisco, her own vegetarian diet and her focus on nutritious food. Araj, who is also a Zumba instructor, said that she takes traditionally meat-based dishes such as kibbeh (usually ground meat mixed with bulgur wheat) and replaces the meat with lentils or sweet potatoes. Or,

she might take a traditionally American dish like New York-style cheesecake and replace the cream cheese with labneh (kefir cheese widely used in the Middle East).

While she films most of her videos in the kitchen of her home in Silicon Valley, Araj has also gone out "in the field" to cover a Lebanese festival or interview a chef at a restaurant. One video explored how to navigate a Middle Eastern market; Araj's goal was to take the

mystery and intimidation out of shopping in an ethnic grocery store.

Araj's videos, which are all under 15 minutes, are geared toward everyone, from the novice to the home cook to the experienced chef, she said. Her goal is to deconstruct and demystify Middle Eastern cuisine, providing an entry point for even the most inexperienced cook.

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FEAST FOR ALL

► Continued from page 21

She explains how to make dishes like Palestinian maqluba, a savory upside down cake featuring layers of seared meat and vegetables, katayef, which are pancakes filled with nuts or cheese, and hashwa, a meat and rice based dish with aromatic spices. Some videos feature her family members, and a friend shoots and edits the videos for Araj. The rest — recipe experimentation, storyboarding and documenting the recipe — she does herself. To save costs, she sometimes shoots six episodes in one day, making sure to prep ingredients and scripts beforehand.

A native San Franciscan, Araj is a longtime journalist. She started as an intern at various news stations and went on to host her own independent film show at PBS, where she worked for a decade. She was also a high-tech reporter for Tech TV, an ABC contributor at a live show about Bay Area events and a political analyst for a show focused on news of the Middle East.

“So, you might be wondering, ‘Why did I go from that to cooking, right?’” Araj said, smiling.

For Araj, the answer was simple: She wanted to be close to her children. After moving to Silicon Valley and having her second child, she “knew that something had to give,” especially considering the work hours, commute and rigors of her job, she said.

So, she started a project for herself and her family.

“I wanted to preserve these heirloom recipes that were handed down to me because these recipes are all word-of-mouth. They are not documented. They



VERONICA WEBER

Blanche Araj adds a mixture of pomegranate molasses, olive oil and honey to bulgur wheat while preparing her pomegranate chicken recipe.

are not found in culinary schools. They're quite rustic,” she said. “I wanted to preserve them not only for my children, but I wanted to share them with the world, so that they could continue this rich culture, this rich culinary tradition.”

Araj named her project “Feast in the Middle East” for more

than just the catchy rhyme scheme. When she started the blog and videos in 2010, she said it was common to hear the sentiment, “Hope for peace in the Middle East.”

“As you can see, here we are, I don't know how many years later, and we don't have peace in the Middle East; it's actually



VERONICA WEBER

Blanche Araj records most installments of Feast in the Middle East in her kitchen.

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VERONICA WEBER

Blanche Araj prepares the bulgar wheat for her pomegranate chicken dish in her kitchen on March 27.

gotten worse. But the hospitality of the people there is still pretty resilient," she said.

For Araj, "Feast in the Middle East" spoke to that resiliency and hospitality that people to maintain in the Middle East. She said that she wanted to offer a different perspective.

"I wanted to keep this positivity alive there because everything presented in media is so

depressing ... I wanted to show the human side of people there," she said.

For those looking to try their hand at some of Araj's dishes or who want to learn more about Middle Eastern cuisine, her YouTube channel is at youtube.com/blanchetv and her blog is at feastinthemiddleeast.com.

Email Anna Medina at amedina@paweekly.com.

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■ NOW SHOWING

Beauty and the Beast (PG) ★★

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Boss Baby (PG) ★★1/2

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Cat People (1942) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: 6:05 & 8:50 p.m., Fri. - Sun.

CHiPs (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Frantz (PG-13) Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Get Out (R) ★★1/2

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Ghost in the Shell (PG-13)

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

I Walked with a Zombie (1943) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m., Fri. - Sun., 4:45 p.m., Sat. & Sun.

Kong: Skull Island (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Last Word (R) ★★ Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Lego Batman Movie (PG) ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Life (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Logan (R) ★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Nine Lives: Cats in Istanbul (KEDI) (Not Rated)

Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

North by Northwest (1959) (Not Rated)

Century 20: Sun Click theater name for showtimes

Power Rangers (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

The Sense of Ending (PG-13) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Song to Song (R) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

T2 Trainspotting (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Wilson (R) Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The Zookeeper's Wife (PG-13)

Century 20: Fri. - Sun. Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Aquarius:

430 Emerson St., Palo Alto
(For recorded listings: 327-3241)
tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa

Century Cinema 16:

1500 N. Shoreline Blvd.,
Mountain View
tinyurl.com/Century16

Century 20 Downtown:

825 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City
tinyurl.com/Century20

CineArts at Palo Alto Square:

3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
(For information: 493-0128)
tinyurl.com/Pasquare

Guild: 949 El Camino Real,
Menlo Park (For recorded listings:
266-9260) tinyurl.com/Guildmp

Stanford Theatre:

221 University Ave., Palo Alto
(For recorded listings: 324-3700)
Stanfordtheatre.org

★ Skip it

★★ Some redeeming qualities

★★★ A good bet

★★★★ Outstanding

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



■ MOVIE REVIEWS

THE LAST WORD ★★

In what's likely to be AARP's movie of the year, the Mark Pellington dramedy "The Last Word," Hollywood legend Shirley MacLaine gets top billing as a spiteful dowager — but one who's eminently redeemable. The star plays Harriet Lauler, a retired businesswoman with obsessive-compulsive personality disorder and a death wish. After a failed suicide attempt, Harriet decides that she ought to see to one last project: her legacy. And so she marches right down to the local paper and hijacks the one-woman obituary department, Anne (Amanda Seyfried). Harriet tells Anne, "You are going to help shape a legacy instead of just transcribing it." Lauler lays out four elements to a really great obituary: The deceased should be loved by their families;

admired by their coworkers; have touched someone's life unexpectedly; ...And the fourth, that's the wild card. Using that outline, "The Last Word" pretty much writes itself. In spite of its heart-tugging ruthlessness, I'd be lying if I said "The Last Word" were without its simple pleasures. It's still fun to watch MacLaine ply her trade. *Rated R for language. One hour, 48 minutes.* — P.C.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

★★

Disney's live-action animated remake of its 1991 classic "Beauty and the Beast," proves dispiriting. Director Bill Condon ("Dreamgirls," "Mr. Holmes") only manages to breathe life into the material when he diverges from the original film, as in the sumptuous bookends set in the pre- and post-curse castle of the French prince of swell hair (Dan Stevens). There, Madame de Garderobe

■ MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS ANIMATION LLC.

A suit-wearing briefcase-carrying baby (Alec Baldwin) pairs up with his 7-year-old brother (Miles Christopher Bakshi) to stop the dastardly plot of the CEO of Puppy Co. in "The Boss Baby."

War and pacifier

ALEC BALDWIN VOICES 'THE BOSS BABY'

★★1/2 (Century 20)

The current generation of animation artists draws inspiration from a long list of forebears, from Tex Avery to Ralph Bakshi, but a case could be made that no one has had a greater influence on the style of CGI-animated storytelling than Rube Goldberg, the San Francisco-born cartoonist known for dreaming up designs that the Random House Dictionary called "deviously complex and impractical." A Rube Goldberg machine always took the long route to its destination, not unlike "The Boss Baby" from DreamWorks Animation.

Loosely adapted from Marla Frazee's 2010 children's book, "The Boss Baby" constructs an elaborate fable of hard-fought sibling rivalry overcome. The shortest distance between the two points of a child's fear and jealousy at a baby sibling's arrival, and acceptance and love of said sibling would probably look a lot more like a "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" talk-it-out, perhaps gussied up with a gentle song. But the Goldbergian version takes a wild ride on corporate chutes and ladders to get where it's going. Like last fall's "Storks," "The

Boss Baby" begins with an alternate-reality depiction of where babies come from. In a nifty sequence reminiscent of vintage Warner Brothers cartoons, and scored to Fred Astaire's rendition of "Cheek to Cheek" (cheekily so, given all the baby butts on display), heaven happily dispenses babies from an assembly line. A few are singled out for the executive track, and hence the Boss Baby (voiced by Alec Baldwin), a cubicle dweller who dreams of one day taking the top office in the baby biz.

As the Boss Baby explains, "Babies aren't getting as much love as they used to," so the home office conspires to compete against the threat of puppies. That's why the suitcase-toting corporate spy Boss Baby has been sent to live with the family of 7-year-old Tim (Miles Christopher Bakshi): Mom and Dad (Lisa Kudrow and Jimmy Kimmel) work for Puppy Co. and its dastardly CEO Francis E. Francis (Steve Buscemi). It's all enough to give the recently contented Tim hives, as the devious Boss Baby sucks all the attention. After a strong start, "The

Boss Baby" turns out to be fairly one-note in its humor, and not as lively as you would assume it would be. By settling into formula (like a plot point about a secret baby formula that grants eternal youth), director Tom McGrath finds himself in charge of another beat-the-clock action movie that puts emotional lessons into second position and comedy into third. The funniest stuff involves the Boss Baby's facial expressions as they ping-pong between cute (for Mom and Dad) and shrewd (for everyone else).

But the animation charmingly evokes an earlier era (despite some fresher references, the style is 1950s-ish), and Oscar winner Hans Zimmer turns in a winningly John Williams-esque score. The extremely silly plot has an "out" in a framing device by which adult Tim (Tobey Maguire) narrates. Add all-around strong voice work and a predictably sweet message about sharing the love, and it's all, as they say, good enough for government work.

Rated PG for some mild rude humor. One hour, 37 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

(Broadway goddess Audra McDonald) sings a new number as the screen fills with gloriously costumed waltzers. Once the prince is cursed to live as a beast, his castle enchanted, and his attendants turned into furniture, not much changes about "Beauty and the Beast," except our enjoyment of it. The story's intact, Howard Ashman and Alan Menken's songs remain (with four nice-enough but narratively unnecessary new songs by Menken and Tim Rice), and there's still plenty to look at it. But the tone is all wrong: the warmth is gone, and Condon's version of the spectacle feels cluttered, claustrophobic, and hurried in ways the original doesn't. So why should anyone see the remake? Beyond curiosity, I can't think of many compelling reasons.

Rated PG for some action violence, peril and frightening images. Two hours, 9 minutes. — P.C.

"KONG: SKULL ISLAND"

★★1/2

Warner Brothers and Legendary Entertainment are throwing more "A" money at more "B" material with "Kong: Skull Island," the second installment of a burgeoning "MonsterVerse" initiated in 2014's "Godzilla" reboot. The watchwords, then, are "dumb fun," and on that level, "Kong: Skull Island" must be said to deliver. Oscar winner Brie Larson stars opposite Tom Hiddleston, with support from Samuel L. Jackson, John Goodman, and an ensemble populated with some familiar

character actors. The only problem with casting heavyweight talent: We expect more than an inherently flimsy B-movie scenario is likely to deliver in terms of characterization and dialogue. Bound to explore the remote Skull Island, they lobby for a military escort of men just released from Vietnam War duty (led by Jackson). Upon arrival, and a very hairy meeting with giant ape Kong, the mission immediately becomes one of exfiltration (a.k.a. "get the hell out of here"). That action builds to the fulfillment of the "MonsterVerse" promise of monster-on-monster action. "Kong: Skull Island" is all very silly. *Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and for brief strong language. Two hours.* — P.C.

GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

HIGHLIGHT

ART AND MUSIC IN HARMONY

This family concert of flute, cello and piano music will be performed alongside images of great works of art from Picasso, Monet and more. It will feature Dawn Walker, Heidi Saario and Mark Walker. April 2, 2-3 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org/events/art-and-music-in-harmony

THEATER

'A View From the Bridge' by Arthur Miller Pear Theatre presents Arthur Miller's classic, "A View from the Bridge." Set in 1950s New York, the play follows Eddie and his obsession with his wife's niece Catherine. Before it is over, the entire immigrant neighborhood will be hurt in ways they could not have predicted. March 10-April 2, times vary. \$10-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida, Mountain View. thepear.org

'Calligraphy' Two cultures, two continents and two estranged sisters exist unharmoniously in "Calligraphy." It's up to two cousins to bridge the gap between them and their worlds in this international comic drama, which shifts between past and present Los Angeles and Tokyo. March 21-April 2, times vary. \$65-\$75. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

EarFilms "To Sleep to Dream" is an EarFilm, an immersive audioplay with narration, acting and music within a three-dimensional listening environment customized for the Bing Studio. The plot involves a rebel who fights against a futuristic, totalitarian government that outlaws dreaming. April 8 and 9, 4:30-7 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford.

Film Series: Surrealist Cinema In conjunction with the exhibition "The Conjured Life: The Legacy of Surrealism," this four-part film series will explore the tradition of Surrealist cinema, spanning from the movement's origins in 1920s France through the 1980s and encompassing a mix of genres and styles including experimental narrative, found footage, essay films, animation and collage. Fridays, Feb. 10-March 31, 1 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events

'Rags' This musical about the struggles of immigrants focuses on a Jewish European mother and her son who arrive in New York City in the early part of the 20th century — an introduction to America that, for some, included working at sweatshops like the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. April 5-16, times vary. \$20-\$43. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

CONCERTS

Concert on the Plaza All are invited to join friends and neighbors and bring a blanket or lawn chair to the Civic Center Plaza for a variety of musical performances. There will also be food trucks, a "Pop Up Park" area for children and, for adults, beer and wine. First Friday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. mountainview.gov/plazaevents

Fortnightly Music Club Concert The Fortnightly Music Club will present a chamber music concert that is free and open to the public. Following the program, refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity to meet with the performers. April 9, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra Program 3 This concert presents Frank Selection from *Leyendas An Andean Walkabout*; Dvorak *Serenade in D minor* for 10 winds, cello and bass; Debussy *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*; and Mozart *Symphony No. 35 in D major*. April 2, 2:30-5 p.m. \$25. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos.

Palo Alto Philharmonic 'Actor World Premiere' Orchestra Concert Award-winning composer-in-residence Lee Actor will unveil another work, this time featuring Palo Alto Philharmonic's principal trumpet player, Guy Clark. There will be a pre-concert talk at 7:30 p.m. April 8, 8 p.m. \$22, general; \$18, senior; \$10, student. Cubberly Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. paphil.org/pages/concerts/orch4.php

MUSIC

Anoushka Shankar Anoushka Shankar, is an Indian musician and composer known for her mastery of the sitar. A Grammy-nominated soloist

and an advocate for women's rights and social justice, her new album, *Land of Gold*, explores the plight of the displaced. April 1, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Stanford Live, 327 Lasuen St., Bing Concert Hall, Stanford.

Jazz Giants: Diaspora Soul with Steven Bernstein Steven Bernstein is a trumpeter, slide trumpeter, bandleader, arranger and composer. His CDs include "Diaspora Soul," "Diaspora Blues," "Diaspora Hollywood" and "Diaspora Suite." He throws some cha cha into his New Orleans R&B and Afro-Cuban-influenced arrangements. April 6, 7:30-9 p.m. \$20, general; \$18, members and J-Pass holders; \$25, premium. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org/diasporasoul

Open Mic Open Mic takes place every Monday on the 2nd floor of Red Rock Coffee in downtown Mountain View. It features free live music, comedy, poetry and a supportive atmosphere for experienced and new performers. Mondays, ongoing, 6:30 p.m., sign-ups; starts at 7 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org/calendar

Teal Crane Trio Teal Crane Trio returns to Tateuchi Hall for an evening of storytelling through music. Using creative narration, stage lighting and film, the group will feature popular and classical genres with a mosaic of sounds. April 8, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org/events/teal-crane-2017

Teen Open Mic Night The City's Youth Advisory Committee is proud to present its first Teen Open Mic Night of the school year. All are invited to come out and enjoy an evening of teens showcasing their talents. April 7, 7-9 p.m. Free. The View Teen Center, 263 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. mountainview.gov/theviewteencenter

TALKS & LECTURES

Lecture: 'Soviet Jews and the NKVD during the Great Terror' Lynne Viola explores the issue of Jews and the NKVD. She argues that antisemitism combined with other factors in the Great Terror-era purge of Jewish NKVD operatives, suggesting the meeting of popular antisemitism and a nascent official antisemitism that predated the postwar period. April 7, noon. Free. Stanford University, Encina Hall West, Room 219, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events/

Medicare Information Session Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older, certain younger people with disabilities and people with End-Stage Renal Disease. Whether one is new to Medicare or has been using Medicare for some time, now is a good time to learn about it. April 8, noon-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.gov/librarycalendar

The Purge of the Purgers: The NKVD on Trial in Ukraine, 1938-42 Lynne Viola's talk, based on new sources from the Ukrainian's security police archives, will focus on the "purge of the purgers" that followed the Great Terror. She explores the arrest dossiers and trials of NKVD operatives scapegoated for the "excesses" of Stalin's terror. April 6, 5:30 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events/

Trees to Plant Now For those who have ever struggled to decide what tree to plant and where to plant it, they are not alone! This class gives an overview of 10 of today's best native and non-native tree selections for this area as well as their cultural requirements, growth patterns and placement. April 6, 1-3 p.m. \$25, members; \$35, non-members. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverly St., Palo Alto. app.etapestry.com

FUNDRAISERS

Annual Gala: 'Make 'Em Laugh' This gala fundraiser will feature performances from Palo Alto Players' actors and will honor Leading Players that have impacted the organization.

Proceeds will be used to further the company's mission of providing high quality, performing arts programming to the community. April 1, 6:30-9 p.m. \$100-\$200. Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Comedic Jugglers come to Mountain View High School Mark & Marlo combine clean comedy with juggling stunts This family-friendly show, is also jam-packed with humor for adults. Proceeds benefit MVHS Grad Night, allowing seniors of Mountain View High School to celebrate in a safe, alcohol-, tobacco- and drug-free environment. March 31, 7-8 p.m. \$12. Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. mvhs_comedic_jugglers.eventbrite.com

Empty Bowls Soup Supper XXVI This fundraiser benefits the CSA Homeless Service Program. Guests will be treated to soup, salad, cake and beverages and will take home an original hand-crafted ceramic bowl. Registration is available online. April 2, 4-6 p.m. \$20. Central Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1425 Springer Road, Mountain View. CSAcares.org

FootHill College Annual Plant Sale This annual plant sale features native plants, shrubs, trees, grasses, succulents, ground covers, tomatoes, tomatillos, peppers and eggplants as well as garden decorations, amazing prices and more. April 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$3, parking fee. Lath House at Foothill College, Foothill College on Moody Road, Los Altos Hills.

FAMILY

Storytime with Gennifer Chodenko New York Times bestselling and Newbery Honor Award-winning author Gennifer Chodenko visits Books Inc. in Mountain View for a storytime reading of her heartwarming new picture book, "Dad and the Dinosaur." The event is for ages 5 and up. April 8, 3-5 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. booksinc.net/event/

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

Abstraction-Gallery Open Reception Pacific Art League hosts an opening reception of its popular exhibition "Abstractions." It will feature food, music, wine and friends, taking a walk through a gallery to gaze at beautiful art work — a great way to start the weekend. April 7, 5:30-8 p.m. Free. Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto.

Gallery 9: 'Space and Dimension' Gallery 9 presents "Space and Dimension" a solo exhibit by artist Rachel Tirosh. It features new mixed media abstract paintings and a collection of polymer clay functional art. The opening reception will be held on April 7, 5-8 p.m. The exhibit runs the month of April. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. gallery9losaltos.com

Lynn Boggess: Painting Exhibition Beginning April 4, Watercourse Way Bath House Spa will transform into an exhibition space showcasing artists of Evoke Contemporary from Santa Fe, N.M. The premiere event features paintings by Lynn Boggess. The reception will be held on April 4, 5-7 p.m. April 4-July 3, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Free. Watercourse Way Bath House Spa, 165 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. watercourseway.com/lynn-boggess-painting-exhibition/

Off the Grid: Mountain View @ The Computer History Museum Off the Grid: Mountain View @ Computer History Museum returns in partnership with Computer History Museum. There will be 10 food trucks, live music and additional amenities. This is a kid-friendly event. Fridays, ongoing, 5-9 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View.

Raggedy Ann and Andy at the Museum The Los Altos History Museum welcomes Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy to the Smith Gallery. The exhibit tells the history of Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy, showcasing over 60 dolls. Thursdays-Sundays, ongoing, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

Reflections on Water * 'Reflections on Water,' an exhibition of paintings by Katherine K.

Allen will be on display at the Los Altos Hills Town Hall March 15 - September 2017. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

'Seaweed, Salmon, and Manzanita Cider: A California Indian Feast'

"Seaweed, Salmon, and Manzanita Cider: A California Indian Feast," is a traveling exhibit from the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah featuring foods important in the lives of Native Californians; its final showing is at the Los Altos History Museum. Jan 12-April 16, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org/exhibits/

COMEDY

Comedy Night at O'Malley's O'Malley's hosts Bay Area comedians as they work out new material or refine their classics. The event is hosted by Wes Hofmann. Tuesdays, ongoing, 8-10 p.m. Free. O'Malley's Sports Pub, 2135 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View.

FILM

Film and Q&A: 'Unlocking the Cage' This film follows animal rights lawyer Steven Wise and his Nonhuman Rights Project team who, after 30 years of struggling with ineffective animal welfare laws, file the first lawsuits that transform an animal from a thing with no rights to a person with legal protections. April 10, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. Stanford Law School, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford. ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/events/

Movie Night: 'Time to Choose' This film is about how climate change is the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced and how it is also its greatest opportunity. Though equipped with the solutions it needs, humanity is in a race against the clock to implement them in time. There will be a post-film discussion. April 10, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Palo Alto.

LESSONS & CLASSES

Creative Writing: An 8 Week Course with Enid Davis In this class, participants will select their literary form, share work with a group of diverse writers and receive honest feedback from the group and teacher, author and librarian, Enid Davis. More information is available at storyfriends.org. Wednesdays, April 5-May 24, 10 a.m.-noon. \$80, members; \$90, non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. avenidas.com

Design_Code_Build Level 1: Introductory This program provides hands-on STEAM learning opportunities to middle schoolers. Level 1 introduces concepts of computer programming, like Raspberry Pi technology, instruction sets to "program" a partner through a life-size maze and the relevance of computer history. April 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$15. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org/events/education

Design_Code_Build Level 2: Intermediate This program provides hands-on STEAM learning opportunities to middle schoolers. Level 2 builds on the introductory program, exploring the engineering design process as students work in small teams to solve a tech challenge using Raspberry Pi technology. April 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$15. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org/events/education

Mocha Diffusion Pottery Workshop with Kevin Kowalski Kevin Kowalski will lead a workshop exploring the 18th century decorating technique of mocha diffusion; participants will learn how to use this process on their handmade pottery. Participants must be able to make a vessel without instruction to enroll. April 8 and 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$165-\$199. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. paloaltoartcen1.

Science Fun This event will feature hands-on activities including static electricity,

electromagnetic games and toys, theremins, Tesla coils and much more. It is for first through sixth graders. April 1, 1-2:30 p.m. \$10. Museum Of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Body Image and Eating Disorder Support Group This group is for those struggling with eating disorders and body image dissatisfaction. The group is open to all ages, genders and types of eating issues. It is not a structured group; rather it is open for sharing, asking questions, offering and receiving support or just listening. First Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. El Camino Hospital, 2500 Grant Road., Conference Room C, Mountain View. edrcsv.org

Heartfulness Meditation Participants will learn relaxation and meditation techniques with Heartfulness Certified Instructor Radhalakshmi Ramakrishnan. Visit en-us.heartfulness.org/ for more information. April 3, 10-11 a.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. sccl.org/losaltos

Pickleball Pickleball is ideal for beginners or advanced players and is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. Two, three or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a wiffle ball, over a net. Wednesday, ongoing, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Senior Center members, \$3, non-members. Los Altos Senior Center - Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Gardening in Spring Participants will create a healthy garden by learning to use nontoxic methods for controlling pests, use water-wise planting and mulching principles, Spring pruning, growing edibles and preventing weeds. All are welcome in this class. Wednesdays, ongoing, 10 a.m.-noon \$65. Cubberly Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

SPORTS

Mountain View Tennis Club Drop-In Tennis The Mountain View Tennis Club will sponsor a drop-in tennis event, open to all adult levels. No partner or RSVP is needed. There will be a no-host pizza at Mountain Mike's afterward. March 31, 7-9 p.m. Free to members; non-members please join online. Cuesta Park Tennis Courts, 685 Cuesta Drive, Mountain View. mvtc.net

TEENS

Bay Area Quiz Club This club hosts an afternoon of mind-bending quizzes for teens and adults. Those interested should arrive promptly at 2 p.m., to draw lots and form teams. Attendants should bring pens or pencils, something to write on and their own snacks — there will be no breaks! Sundays, ongoing, 2-6 p.m. Free. Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org/news/

BUSINESS

Los Altos BizNet Networking Group Los Altos BizNet is a group of Chamber members dedicated to helping its members generate leads that create more business. First and third Tuesdays of the month. Open networking, 7:45 a.m.; meeting starts, 8 a.m.; closing contact, 9 a.m. Sereno Group, 369 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Community Passover Celebration In celebration of the Passover journey to freedom, this event will feature an interactive Hebrew story time and a performance by Octopretzel, as well as a chance to learn about insects, bugs and building pyramids with Legos from Playwell. April 2, 4-6 p.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org/passovercelebration

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The map and listings will be uploaded to this page and be printed in the June 2 Palo Alto Weekly.

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

REYES NOTARY SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN626710
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Reyes Notary Service, located at 453 N. Rengstorff Ave. Apt. 14, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MIGUEL REYES
453 N. Rengstorff Ave. Apt. 14 Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/21/2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 21, 2017.
(MVF Mar. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2017)

CARRIER ESSENTIALS AND MORE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: FBN627419
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Carrier Essentials and More, located at 600 Akron Street, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HEATHER BURGGRAFF
600 Akron Street Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 10, 2017.
(MVF Mar. 17, 24, 31; Apr. 7, 2017)

MARIANNE BERKOVICH CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: FBN627675
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Marianne Berkovich Consulting, located at 365 Oak St., Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARIANNE BERKOVICH
365 Oak St. Mountain View, CA 94041
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/06/2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 17, 2017.
(MVF Mar. 24, 31; Apr. 7, 14, 2017)

BAY AREA SHADING SOLUTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: FBN627849
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bay Area Shading Solutions, located at 625 Mariposa Ave., Apt. 1, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A General Partnership.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SEAN ALAN MANSON
625 Mariposa Ave. Apt. 1 Mountain View, CA 94041
DENNIS ALAN MANSON
625 Mariposa Ave. Apt. 1 Mountain View, CA 94041
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/17/2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 21, 2017.
(MVF Mar. 31; Apr. 7, 14, 21, 2017)

CARMEN'S CLEANING SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN627740
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Carmen's Cleaning Services, located at 1006 Colusa Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085,

Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARIA DEL CARMEN CAJERO
1006 Colusa Ave. Sunnyvale, CA 94085
JORGE BALLINAS
1006 Colusa Ave. Sunnyvale, CA 94085
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2003.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 17, 2017.
(MVF Mar. 31; Apr. 7, 14, 21, 2017)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
Josephine Antonia Manoli
Case No.: 17PR180180
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOSEPHINE A MANOLI; JOSEPHINE ANTONIA MANOLI.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: VICTOR R. MANOLI in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: VICTOR R. MANOLI 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 1st, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 12 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner:
Victor Manoli
627 Morse Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
(408)314-1637
(MVF Mar. 31; Apr. 7, 14, 2017)

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■ RENTWATCH

Landlord won't intervene with racist neighbor

edited by Molly Current

Q I recently moved to the United States from Mexico. Soon after I moved to my current apartment, another tenant in the building began insulting me, using ethnic slurs and telling me that I should "go home and stop stealing jobs from real Americans." I tried to just ignore her, but one night I caught her vandalizing my car with an ethnic slur. I finally told my property manager what was going on and asked for her help. She said that she could not do anything about



Molly Current

the situation because the argument was between tenants, and if we couldn't work it out she would evict both of us. I am frustrated that my property manager isn't helping, and I'm scared that the other tenant will do something even worse. What can I do?

A Based on your description, your neighbor may be targeting you based on your national origin. If a housing provider, such as property manager, is on notice of unlawful discrimination occurring on the property, fair housing laws require a response. This is true even when the discrimination is only between tenants.

Different situations call for different responses. Sometimes a property manager may require

both tenants to attend mediation. Other times, like here, more serious action may be required. At a minimum, the property manager must investigate your claim and take whatever measures are necessary to stop the harassment, up to and including evicting the other tenant. The property manager cannot just ignore the situation.

If your property manager does not respond to the situation appropriately, she could be in violation of the fair housing laws, and you may have the right to file a complaint against her. You may also have the right to file a complaint against your neighbor. You can contact your nearest fair housing agency to discuss your options, or contact Project Sentinel.

Tenant with PTSD wants to break lease

Q I am a landlord. A resident at one of my complexes asked to break his lease early because he is suffering from post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD). He said that after returning from a military tour overseas, he is unable to sleep or focus on normal daily tasks because of the complex's proximity to railroad tracks and a local interstate triggers severe anxiety. He offered to provide a doctor's note explaining that he needs to be able to leave the property for his mental health. Do I have to let him break his lease?

A Yes, this tenant is most-likely likely entitled to a reasonable accommodation for early termination of his lease. Both the federal Fair Housing Act and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act provide that people with physical or mental impairments that limit a major life activity are entitled to request reasonable accommodations. A tenant must show how the requested accommodation will mitigate the effects of his disability.

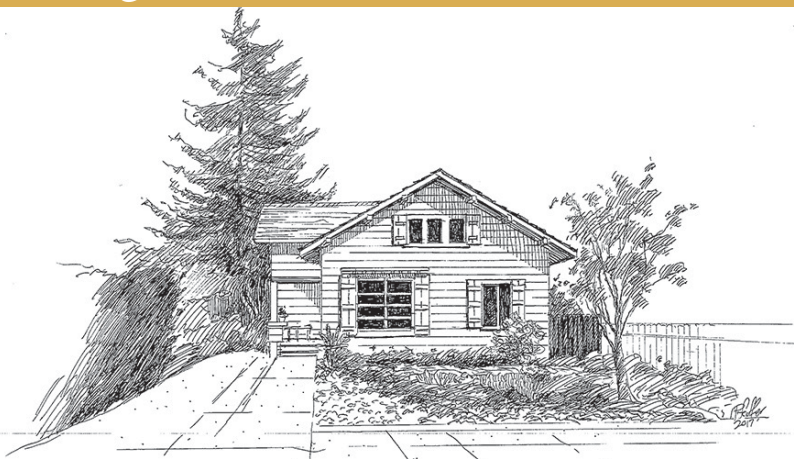
Based on what your tenant told you, he is disabled and his request to vacate the unit without penalty

is reasonably related to his need to mitigate exposure to experiences that trigger his PTSD.

The law requires that a housing provider engage in an interactive process to reach a reasonable accommodation for a disabled tenant. If your tenant's disability is not apparent, you may be entitled to request verification from a knowledgeable third party, such as a medical provider. While no landlord likes to see a good tenant leave, once you receive the required documentation from your tenant's knowledgeable third party, you should promptly grant the accommodation and let him out of his lease without penalty.

Project Sentinel provides landlord-tenant dispute resolution and fair-housing services in Northern California, including rental-housing mediation programs in Palo Alto, Los Altos and Mountain View. 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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March 16th, 2017
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Topic: Real Property Tax
– From the Seasoned Citizen's Point of View
Speaker: Michael Repka

PART TWO

March 30th, 2017
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Topic: How to Purchase a Silicon Valley Home for
Less than Fair Market Value
Speaker: DeLeon Realty Buyer Agents

PART THREE

April 13th, 2017
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Topic: How to Prepare Your Home to Sell for Top Dollar
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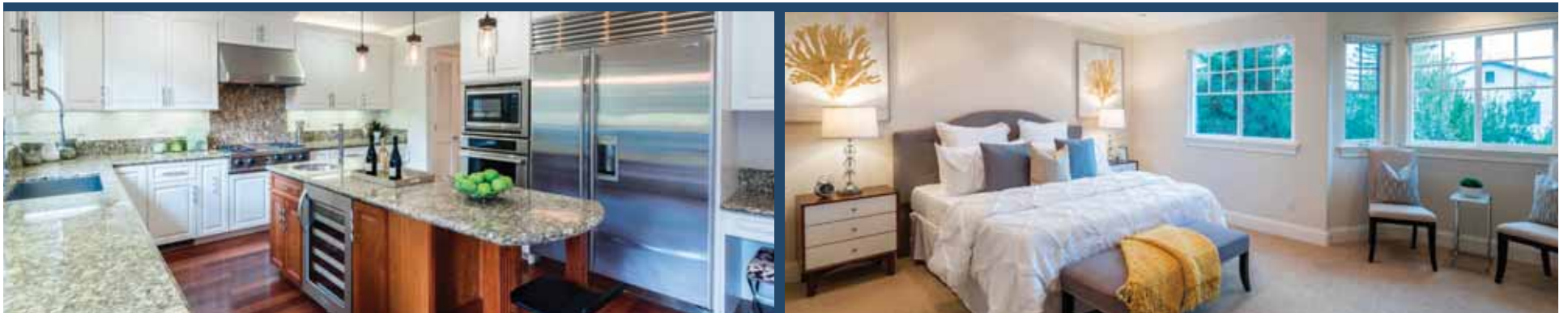


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To RSVP, please contact 650.543.8500
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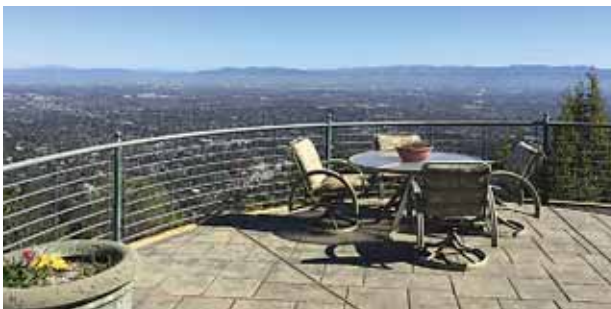
MENLO PARK Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$3,598,000
1337 Sherman Ave 4 BR 4.5 BA Brand new West Menlo Park home offers comfortable & flexible living! 4 en-suite bedrooms
Judy Shen CalBRE #01272874 650.325.6161



LOS ALTOS Sat/Sun 1 - 4 \$3,485,000
698 Hollingsworth Dr 5 BR 4.5 BA Classic North Los Altos home with over 3400sf on almost 14,000sf lot with pool.
Nena Price CalBRE #01015160 650.941.7040



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65 N Avalon Dr 4 BR 3.5 BA Lovely N. Los Altos Home on 13,000 sf lot (appx), huge vaulted family room, many updates
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SARATOGA Sat/Sun 1 - 4 \$2,998,000
15501 On Orbit Dr 4 BR 2.5 BA Spectacular 180 degree views from this remodeled 1 level home. Private & Serene.
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MENLO PARK Sat/Sun 12 - 4 \$2,998,000
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