

# Mountain View VOICE



JANUARY 4, 2019 VOLUME 26, NO. 50

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MOVIES | 21



MICHELLE LE

**Erin Kuykendall** is among the ranks of the working homeless sleeping in vehicles on Mountain View streets. The Google contract employee, 27, told the Voice in March that she had lived in Menlo Park for years until a rent hike forced her out.

## Housing woes dominate city politics

By Mark Noack

For a snapshot of Mountain View's housing situation, take a look at the soon-to-be complete Evelyn Avenue Family Apartments. The new project, located at 779 E. Evelyn Ave., is held up as exactly the kind of housing expansion the city needs. It features 116 new

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

apartments as well as a gym, a homework center and community event space.

But most importantly, all of the apartments are subsidized for families earning well below the median income.

That means they provide a rare opportunity for someone working in construction, retail or the restaurant industry to afford new housing.

The Evelyn Avenue Family Apartments are the largest affordable-housing project completed in Mountain View

► See **CITY POLITICS**, page 14

## Mountain View looks to a green 2019

WITH MARIJUANA LAWS IN EFFECT, BUSINESSES ARE LINING UP TO OPEN IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View set itself apart from neighboring cities in 2018 by welcoming retail marijuana stores to open inside city limits, with companies already starting the lengthy permitting process for opening shops this year.

It was a pot-heavy year for the city's planning department, which had to cultivate regulations, zoning maps and a multi-phase permitting process for a brand new type of land use. The decisions along the way were guided from the outset by a clear majority on the Mountain View City Council that saw little

reason not to allow the nascent industry into the city.

While some cities in the county are still considering allowing dispensaries — including Santa Clara and Campbell — Mountain View and San Jose are the only ones with laws on the

► See **MARIJUANA**, page 12

## Little closure in city's biggest crimes in 2018

CASES AGAINST VIOLENT SUSPECTS ARE STILL MOVING THROUGH THE COURTS

By Kevin Forestieri

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

Several high-profile crimes in Mountain View, some of which resulted in serious injuries or death, didn't see a whole lot of resolution in 2018, with many of the suspected perpetrators scheduled to be back in court this month.

But the year did offer some closure. The identity of the victim who died in a brutal downtown attack was revealed after months of delay, a Google engineer who died mysteriously along the Bay Trail was revealed to have drowned and a local teacher who sent lewd text messages to a student was convicted and sentenced, surrendering his teaching credential as a result.

January is loaded with court dates for suspects in major violent crimes that took place in Mountain View during the past year, including one involving two men suspected of an armed kidnapping attempt downtown. Police reported that the men, Walter Ramirez and Guillermo Perez, tried to push a woman into

a vehicle behind a restaurant on the 200 block of Castro Street around 2 a.m. on April 14. The men allegedly used a handgun to threaten the woman's friends who tried to intervene, and Ramirez reportedly fired several gunshots from the vehicle as they drove away.

Both men are still in custody with six-figure bails and are expected to appear in court on Jan. 22, according to the Santa Clara County Department of Correction.

Next week, two men arrested for an alleged violent attack on a man inside an RV on Crisanto Avenue in July are due back in court, facing felony charges of assault, burglary and criminal threats. Police arrested four suspects in total, two of whom are minors, in connection with an attack on a 19-year-old Sunnyvale man residing in the RV, who

► See **CRIMES**, page 16



MICHELLE LE

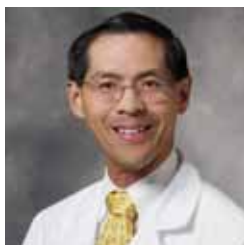
**A Mountain View High School teacher** pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of molesting a minor after being accused of sending lewd text messages to a student.

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## **SPEAKERS**



### **Paul J. Wang, MD**

*Director, Stanford Arrhythmia Service  
Co-Director, Stanford Center for Arrhythmia Research Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) and Bioengineering (by courtesy), Stanford University School of Medicine*



### **Anson M. Lee, MD**

*Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery (Adult Cardiac Surgery), Stanford University School of Medicine*

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COURTESY OF PELICAN MEDIA

"Pelican Dreams" will be screened on Jan. 8 in Menlo Park.

### MENLO PARK OFFERS AVIAN-THEMED JANUARY

Locals interested in learning more about birds can flock to the Menlo Park Library this month. Throughout January, the library will be holding 13 free talks, film screenings and other events celebrating all things avian, including a visit by award-winning filmmaker Judy Irving and author/musician Mark Bittner.

Bittner is best known as the bohemian "Parrot Man" who chronicled his six-year relationship with San Francisco's feral parrot population in his book, "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill."

Irving directed the feature-length documentary of the same name (fans will be happy to know that Irving and Bittner, whose romance serves as a delightful twist at the end of the film, are still happily married).

Bittner's next book, "Street Song," will focus on his time as a San Francisco street musician. The city, he said, "used to be a lot more interesting. The most interesting people can't afford to live here anymore."

The parrots, however, continue to thrive. The birds are "colorful, humorous, intelligent, high-strung and very interesting to watch." Though he's no longer directly involved with the urban flock, which now numbers in the hundreds, he still keeps a watchful eye "making sure no one is messing with them," he said, as they go about their business, foraging for fruits and seeds and engaging in sophisticated social interactions.

Though fond of the parrots, Irving has a different favorite bird. In 2014, she released "Pelican Dreams," about the challenges faced by pelicans, including the story of a starving

California brown pelican named Gigi (rescued from the Golden Gate Bridge). She's also named her nonprofit production company Pelican Media.

"The pelican has always been my favorite bird since I was a little kid," Irving said. "I just love the combination of grace and awkwardness. I can relate to that," she laughed.

Irving, who is based in San Francisco, has a Midpeninsula connection to her film career: She earned her master's degree in film from Stanford University in 1973. Her fondest memory of her time on The Farm, she said, is of learning technique from Ron Alexander, who emphasized an engaging, narrative-based storytelling style rather than using news-style, talking-head interviews.

Irving's work often focuses on environmental issues.

"My mind always goes to San Francisco Bay. It's very personal to me," Irving said, noting that she's been a dedicated Bay swimmer for 32 years and has witnessed a decline in biodiversity and populations of marine life, from starfish to sea lions.

"If we take care of the Bay like we should then we're going a long way to solving our environmental issues in the Bay Area," she said. "We could all try to drive less, recycle more and all try in our own way to get off the materialist cultural pathway."

Irving and Bittner will speak about their work at 11 a.m. on Jan. 5 in the City Council Chambers (701 Laurel St.) and "Pelican Dreams" will be screened at the library Jan. 8.

Biologist Maria Viteri of Stanford's Hadly Lab will give a talk on "Birds, Bats, and Pterosaurs: the Independent Evolutions of Powered Flight" on Jan. 9 and Yiwei Wang, executive director of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, will lead a discussion on the organization's mission to conserve birds and their habitats through science education and outreach on Jan. 22.

Children can partake in a "paper-bag parrot" craft on Jan. 12, visit a science fair at the Belle Haven branch on Jan. 13, join a junior rangers program Jan. 15 and attend a bird-themed storytelling session on Jan. 24.

A full list of events, along with times and locations, for all ages can be found at [menlopark.org/543/Adults](http://menlopark.org/543/Adults).

—Karla Kane

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">JUMBO SIZE</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">AVOCADOS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">RICH AND VERY CREAMY</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2 \$5.00</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">OR</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">BUTTERNUT</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">SQUASH</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">SWEET VERY MEATY</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">79¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LB</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">ORGANIC CALIF GROWN</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">CABBAGE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FRESH RED OR GREEN</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">69¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LB</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">TEXAS SWEET</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">GRAPEFRUITS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">SWEET LARGE VERY JUICY</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">EA</p>

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##### Staff Writers

Kevin Forestieri (223-6535)

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##### Contributors

Dale Bentson,  
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Email news and photos to:

[editor@MV-Voice.com](mailto:editor@MV-Voice.com)

Email letters to: [letters@MV-Voice.com](mailto:letters@MV-Voice.com)

##### News/Editorial Department

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### CRIME BRIEFS

#### STRANGER FOUND BARRICADED INSIDE HOME

Police arrested a man suspected of barricading himself inside a family's home on Christmas Day and then attacking an officer after trying to escape, according to the Mountain View Police Department.

The family living in the apartment on the 200 block of Pamela Drive told police they had spent the day away from home, and returned to find the suspect inside their apartment with the front door shut and barricaded at around 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 25. While details are limited on how he got inside, officers believe the 53-year-old man, a transient, had pried his way in through a window, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Officers had tried to communicate with the suspect for about an hour when the man ran out of the apartment through a patio door holding multiple items he had taken from the apartment, including a laptop, Nelson said. The suspect allegedly threw these items at officers as he fled.

Officers caught up to the suspect, who hit one of the officers several times with a sharp object, later determined to be "some kind of key," Nelson said. The officer was not injured.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 17

### POLICE LOG

#### AUTO BURGLARY

Franklin St. & Villa St., 12/27  
700 block E. El Camino Real, 12/27  
Bryant St. & Mercy St., 12/27  
500 block Hope St., 12/27  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/27  
1500 block Charleston Rd., 12/27  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/29  
300 block Easy St., 12/30  
300 block Easy St., 12/30  
300 block Easy St., 12/30  
Plymouth St. & Sierra Vista Av., 12/30  
Plymouth St. & Sierra Vista Av., 12/30  
Plymouth St. & Sierra Vista Av., 12/30

#### BATTERY

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 12/26  
800 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/28

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1900 block Charleston Rd., 12/26  
500 block Clyde Av., 12/30

#### GRAND THEFT

100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/27  
200 block N. Bernardo Av., 12/27

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

300 block Flower Ln., 12/25  
400 block W. Evelyn Av., 12/26  
900 block Clark Av., 12/28

#### ROBBERY

1300 block Pear Av., 12/29

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

800 block San Pablo Dr., 12/25  
Dale Av. & E. El Camino Real, 12/25  
1 block Paragon Ct., 12/26  
2000 block Landings Dr., 12/26  
200 block Pamela Dr., 12/26  
Calderon Av. & Church St., 12/28  
500 block Mariposa Av., 12/31

#### VANDALISM

1700 block Peartree Ln., 12/29  
300 block Easy St., 12/30

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### MANDATORY IGNITION LOCKS

Starting Jan. 1, repeat DUI offenders statewide will be required to install an ignition lock preventing them from driving if they aren't sober.

For the past eight years, ignition interlock devices have been required in four counties — Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Tulare — for convicted drunken drivers under a pilot program.

The program expands next year to all 58 California counties. For a first-time DUI conviction involving an injury, the ignition device will be required for one year.

First-time DUI offenders who aren't involved in an injury collision have the option of installing the device in their cars for six months and retaining full driving privileges. If

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 6

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Janice Bonello**, the homeless services case manager at the Community Services Agency, sits next to **Gaya Jenkins** (right) during a support group meeting for homeless people on Dec. 12.

## Unhoused but not unheard

CSA DEBUTS PROGRAM FOR EMOTIONAL STRESS OF HOMELESSNESS

By Mark Noack

**G**aya Jenkins warned everyone in earshot she was having a “Louis Black” kind of day, and she was about to launch into a rant.

Wearing a defiant smile and a mop of blue hair, she explained matter-of-factly that she was in the throes of late-stage cancer, and she was also feeling some other kind of illness creeping through her system. She was once a practicing doctor in Colorado, but now she couldn’t hold down a steady job. And to top off her plight, Jenkins



is homeless and sleeping out in the cold on most nights in downtown Mountain View.

“I’m 60 years old and I shouldn’t have to sleep on a picnic table,” she said. “Something needs to give. In my last dying breath, I’ll be saying that something is wrong with this situation.”

Jenkins wasn’t pleading for help; she was letting off

some steam to a group that understood much of what she’s enduring. She and about 10 others were sitting in a circle in the front lobby of the Community Services Agency (CSA) for the weekly Unhoused Support Group.

It’s a prototypical support group — much like Alcoholics Anonymous, domestic-abuse survivors or grief recovery — but this one is tailored for the growing number of people experiencing homelessness in Silicon Valley. It allows them

► See **HOMELESS**, page 9

## Seven apply for rent control committee

NEW CANDIDATES APPLY TO FILL THREE OPEN SEATS

By Mark Noack

**W**ith three upcoming vacancies, Mountain View’s Rental Housing Committee is looking to recruit new members to help administer the city’s rent control program. As of last week’s deadline to apply, city officials reported they had received a total of seven applications.

Those candidates include attorney Julian Pardo de Zela,

who previously served as the committee’s alternate member and was appointed late last year to serve out the remainder of the term for one of the permanent seats.

The other applicants include Douglas Radtke, who works as finance director for the city of Portola Valley; Susyn Almond, a member of Progressive Action - Mountain View; Joan Brodovsky, a medical editor; and Jennifer Wayman,

a fitness franchise owner. Occupation information on these applicants was drawn from their LinkedIn profiles. Other applicants seeking to join are Nicole Haines-Livesay and Nija Mashruwala; however their professional background information could not be immediately confirmed prior to the *Voice*’s press deadline on Wednesday. The full

► See **RENT CONTROL**, page 17

## Bullis Charter dominated headlines in 2018

STADIUM LIGHTS, LAND DEALS AND TEACHER HOUSING STIRRED UP DEBATE

By Kevin Forestieri

**2018** YEAR IN REVIEW

**I**n what is turning into the new normal, 2018 was a tumultuous year for Mountain View’s local schools, with big developments on everything from school boundaries and teacher housing ideas to new schools and new leadership.

A beloved local park could have become workforce housing for teachers and staff; residents living near high schools faced having to contend with bright stadium lights; and half of Mountain View Whisman School District’s principals headed for the door, either by choice or by force.

But perhaps the biggest news generator throughout the year was Bullis Charter School, which weighed heavily on plans for a future school that would transform the city’s San Antonio neighborhood. And in just four months, officials at the charter school went from revealing its expansion plans to the public for the first time — creating a second charter school in Mountain View Whisman — to winning a grudging vote of approval from the district’s board of trustees.

That critical board vote came on Dec. 20 — Bullis Mountain View declined to push the date until after the holiday break — but nobody in the room seemed particularly happy. The district’s leadership thoroughly criticized the charter school organization and cast doubt on its stated goals to serve low-income children, launching what could prove to be a tense relationship.

### LASD inches toward the finish line

In what seems to be the most expensive, complicated and prolonged strategy to build a new school in the county’s history, the Los Altos School District made significant progress in 2018 on plans to build a campus along the edge of the San Antonio shopping center.

Los Altos School District officials have long acknowledged that enrollment growth in the district is coming from one specific area where the district’s sprawling boundaries cross over

the Los Altos border into Mountain View’s San Antonio neighborhood. The area is rapidly evolving to include dense new residential developments and is expected to bring hundreds of new kids to the district.

The plan looked very different at the start of the year compared to today. District officials were prepared to use eminent domain to force the sale of land occupied by the former Safeway and Old Mill offices across the street from the shopping center, despite warnings from the property owners’ legal team. At that time, there was an open question about whether the new school would even serve students in the area, or if the school board was planning to use the site to relocate Bullis Charter School out of Los Altos.

Since then, the district’s leadership has sought to resolve both issues. In June, district officials announced they were switching gears and pursuing what has been dubbed “friendly condemnation” of 11.5 acres of land at the corner of Showers Drive and California Street, home to several businesses including the Kohl’s department store. And after prolonged pressure, school board members declared it would be home to “an elementary or junior high school open to neighborhood students, or a choice or charter school with a preference for neighborhood students.”

The decision was hardly predetermined. School board members were reluctant to say what kind of school would be placed in Mountain View, stressing a need for flexibility, and a majority of task force members convened by the district concluded in August that Bullis Charter School would be the best fit for the new site.

Largely absent from the debate over site usage — or excluded, depending on who you talk to — was Bullis Charter School itself. In October, the charter school’s board of directors bristled at the idea of jamming a school that’s expected to grow to

► See **BULLIS**, page 7

# Siblings arrested in human trafficking investigation

By Kevin Forestieri

A Mountain View man suspected of bringing “numerous” Guatemalan immigrants to the country illegally for sex trafficking and labor trafficking has been arrested, according to a statement by the Mountain View Police Department.

Police believe that the man, identified as 33-year-old Carlos Garza, brought families to the country safely, only to intimidate and threaten them into obedience, and say he had repeatedly sexually assaulted one of the victims.

Garza was arrested while he was at work on Moffett Boulevard in Mountain View on Thursday, Dec. 20. His sister Evelia De Maria Galvez, suspected of aiding Garza in bringing



Carlos Garza



Evelia De Maria Galvez

immigrants to the country and intimidating victims, was arrested later that day, police said.

Police say they had received multiple reported incidents at Garza's apartment on the 1900 block of Latham Street. Officers had been to the home “several times” in recent weeks, according to the statement, responding to reports of a man threatening a woman and a young boy with a gun as well as reports of a possible victim of child abuse.

Mountain View detectives

believe that Garza, also known as Gabino Galvez and Mynor Tobar, helped people come to the U.S. from Guatemala illegally and would subsequently threaten and intimidate those he brought over. He would tell victims there would be “consequences” if they reported him to law enforcement.

One of those victims, a teenage girl, told police she was repeatedly sexually assaulted by Garza and men who paid Garza to have sex with her.

Police say the two-bedroom apartment was packed with several families, 12 people in total, on Oct. 4 when officers investigated the home following a report of attempted sexual assault. The apartment's residents told police that Garza rented the apartment and had instilled a “culture of fear” for anyone who lived with him or who he brought to the country.

“Detectives believe multiple people have come to the United States under the belief that they will be safe and will be able to start a new life, but that Garza has instead brought them here for the purposes of sex trafficking and labor trafficking,” according to the statement.

Garza was arrested on human trafficking charges and booked into Santa Clara County's Elmwood Correctional Facility with bail set at \$200,000. He is due to appear in court on Jan. 4, according to the county's inmate booking website.

Police believe that Garza's sister, Galvez, helped Garza bring people to the United States and attempted to dissuade at least one victim from speaking out. She was arrested on suspicion of intimidating a victim and being an accessory to a crime.

Police know of four victims; detectives believe that there are others and encourage them to come forward.

Mountain View police want to ensure that every victim is safe and that they are receiving victim services, outreach services and any additional assistance they may need, according to the statement, which is available in English and Spanish.

“We do not work with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), so there should be no concern there,” said police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. “Folks who come forward will not see any impact on their immigration status, nor will they see any impact on the type of services they receive. They are victims, first and foremost.”

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

they forgo the device, they may opt for a restricted license that permits them only to drive to and from work, school and

treatment programs.

A second DUI also triggers a one-year device installation. A third DUI results in a mandatory installation for two years. Fourth and subsequent convictions result in a device installation for three years, according

to a news release from state Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo.

The program was established by Senate Bill 1046, authored by Hill in 2016.

Blood-alcohol concentration is measured by the device after a driver blows into it. If the driver isn't sober, the car won't start.

The locking devices cost about \$60 to \$80 per month for monitoring and calibration and \$70 to \$150 to install, according to Hill. Low-income offenders will pay based on a sliding scale.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

## 2018 Annual Water System Flushing

The City of Mountain View Public Services Division will begin its annual water system flushing program in October. Flushing will occur throughout the City and should be complete by approximately March 1, 2019.

Water main flushing is a process used to clear water lines of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the last year and helps us provide high quality water. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing to alert residents. The flushing process accounts for approximately 0.1% of all water use in the City.

If you would like more information about the City's water main flushing program or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood, please contact the Public Services Division at 650-903-6329.

## BRIDGE TOLLS RISE

Tolls on the seven, state-owned, Bay Area bridges went up on Jan. 1, officials with the Bay Area Toll Authority said.

Regular tolls for motorcycles, and two-axle cars and trucks rose to \$6 from \$5 on the Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael and San Mateo-Hayward bridges.

Regular tolls on the Bay Bridge have gone up to \$7 from \$6 on weekdays from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Weekday tolls on off-commute hours and weekend tolls also rose by \$1.

The increases are the result of Senate Bill 595, which was confirmed through Regional Measure 3 in June.

Officials with the toll authority said the hikes are the first on the bridges since 2010. Tolls will increase again by \$1 on Jan. 1, 2022 and Jan. 1, 2025.

—Bay City News Service

**express**

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## BULLIS

► Continued from page 5

1,200 students into a fairly small campus in Mountain View, and questioned why the district was planning to buy expensive real estate in the first place when enrollment in the Los Altos district schools is on the decline.

Going into 2019, the expectation is that Los Altos School District will wrap up real estate negotiations and purchase the land for a new school from the property owner, Federal Realty, using money from the November 2014 Measure N bond. The time lapse between passing the bond and using the money now exceeds 1,500 days.

## A new charter school

To core members of Bullis Charter School, plans to create a second campus in the mold of Bullis' flagship school in Los Altos have been in the works for several years. The idea was to shift gears, taking a model that works well in an affluent area and expanding it primarily to students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch.

To everyone else, it was a complete surprise when the news broke in September. The process moved at such breakneck speeds that the charter school won approval to open a campus in Mountain View Whisman before the year even drew to a close. The approval left district officials and some community members feeling steamrolled by the abbreviated public process, drawing ire and frustration that will likely color the relationship between Bullis and the district going forward.

On Aug. 30, word spread that Bullis was hosting an "information session" on plans to open a new school in Mountain View Whisman. Up until that point, the charter school had not formally announced plans to submit the school's founding document — a charter petition — to any specific district. The next day, promotional materials for the event posted on the Bullis Mountain View Facebook page had been taken down.

Mountain View Whisman School District's superintendent, Ayinde Rudolph, maintains that he was in the dark just like everyone else, finding out about the proposal in September. He encouraged charter school officials to slow down their plans to open a new charter school serving district students in fall 2019, but was unsuccessful.

School districts have few valid reasons to deny a charter petition under state law, meaning the grievances put forth by Rudolph and others in the community



MAGALI GAUTHIER

*Bullis Charter School dominated headlines in 2018, with questions about its future in Los Altos and its plans for expanding into the Mountain View Whisman School District.*

had little bearing over the school board's action last month. In a speech shortly before the vote, Rudolph made clear that his recommendation to approve the charter petition was anything but implicit support for the school, and that the district should hold the charter school's feet to the fire on all of its promises.

The first half of 2019 is sure to be full of difficult decisions and a back-and-forth on where to best house the charter school. Bullis Mountain View has requested classroom space and other facilities somewhere in the neighborhoods around Castro, Theuerkauf or Monta Loma elementary schools. The school district is legally obligated to provide "reasonably equivalent" facilities, language that is hotly debated and the subject of many lawsuits, both past and pending.

## Recurring controversies

The Mountain View Whisman School District's leaders frequently found themselves the subject of criticism during hot-button issues in 2018 beginning just days after the start of the year. A district-commissioned report on workforce housing ideas concluded that the best shot for building rental homes for teachers was on "excess" land at Cooper Park.

From the outset, school board members appeared amenable to the idea. After all, it could have for-sale single family homes along the edges of the property to insulate the existing Waverly Park neighborhood, which could be sold as a means for financing three-story townhouses while appeasing the local residents.

But the residents were not appeased, and green signs saying "Save Cooper Park" can still be seen around town. Neighbors in the area sharply disputed that the district's property amounted to vacant, excess land, saying it

had been used and enjoyed for decades as a neighborhood park. The other major complaint was about traffic and how a dense housing project could worsen the already congested Grant Road.

After dumping the idea, district administrators began negotiating a potential compromise and, nine months later, finally found it in a massive new residential development along West Middlefield Road. Under the proposal, which Mountain View City Council members backed in late October, the school district would pay \$56 million for a long-term lease on 144 units of a 716-unit project already in the pipeline. Of those 144, almost all would be made available to district employees at subsidized rents.

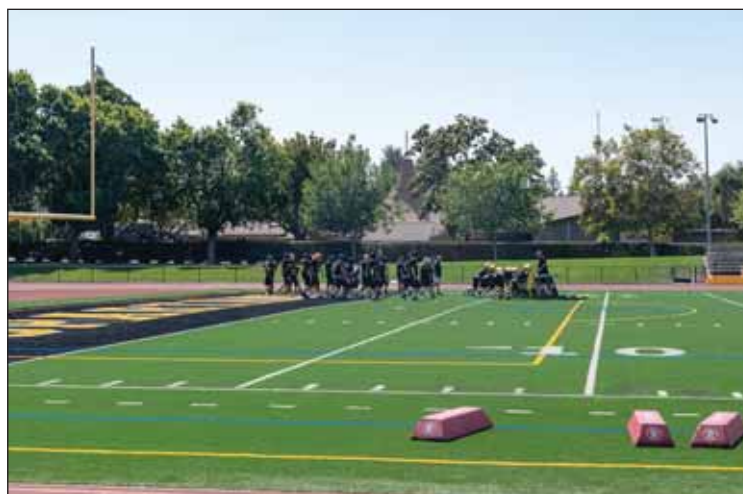
With that deal came an agreement, in writing, that the school district would not use its Cooper Park land for housing, and that it would only be used for some "district purpose."

Another district decision that drew sharp criticism and huge crowds to school board meetings was the 5-0 vote by trustees in March to remove and reassign four principals, effectively booting the top leadership

at nearly half of the district's schools. Shortly after, Crittenden Principal Angie Dillman announced her resignation, adding to the administrative churn.

While school board members unanimously stuck by their decision, they declined to give their reasons, citing the confidentiality of personnel matters. But with so little public information available to understand the school board's sudden and unexpected round of firings, a large group of parents rallied in support of some of the principals — notably Graham Middle School Principal Kim Thompson and Landels Elementary School Principal Steve Chesley — and demanded to know what criteria was used to say they were performing below expectations.

District officials claim it was based on metrics including personal performance, survey results and student academic performance, as well as a recommendation from a range of top administrators at the district office. But parents contend, based on the information available to the public, that the data and survey results don't show a clear reason for the board's decision.



ADAM PARDEE

*Field lights may soon be coming to Mountain View and Los Altos high schools, after the district's leadership agreed in November that they would be a valuable asset to students and staff.*

One contentious issue that did get put to bed in 2018, at least for now, was completely redrawing attendance boundaries for Mountain View Whisman schools, the product of years of planning launched in 2015. School boundaries set to take effect in fall 2019 seek to fix overcrowding at the popular Bubb and Huff elementary schools — albeit the newly drawn lines now threaten to pack Landels to the brim — and create a zone for the Whisman neighborhood's new Jose Antonio Vargas Elementary School.

The new boundaries come with a completely revamped list of enrollment priorities that largely bar the free flow of students from one school to another. Up until now, children could attend school at any campus so long as there was space available, but that policy was largely voted away by trustees in June in favor of a "neighborhood school" model. Big questions still remain as to how many students will end up at each site and whether Bullis Mountain View will throw a wrench in the plans, leading to chronic under-enrollment at some district schools.

The Mountain View-Los Altos High School District also got a share of the controversy this year, despite keeping a low profile and steering clear of divisiveness. The school board considered and ultimately decided to move forward with plans that would bring stadium lights to the fields at both Mountain View and Los Altos high schools.

District officials took up the issue at a school board meeting in August, which drew a sharply divided group of hundreds of parents, students and community members debating over installing the lights. Student athletes argued that sports events and practices were unfairly limited by short daylight hours and forced them to leave class for games too early and too often, while residents of the neighboring single-family homes worried late-night games would bring unwanted light, noise, traffic and general hooliganism to the area.

School board members took up the issue again in November — also drawing a large crowd — and unanimously agreed to start planning for field lights as well as create written rules for light and public address system usage that nearby residents would be willing to accept. Trustees went to great lengths to assuage the fears of residents by saying there was a long road ahead before stadium lights are installed, and that school board members could reverse course at any point and scuttle the project entirely. ▣

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

Mountain View Voice

# Holiday Fund

## How to Give Your gift helps children and families in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to seven nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 170 Voice readers and the Wakerly, Packard and Hewlett foundations contributed a total of \$105,000. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

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

### **Day Worker Center**

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

### **Mentor Tutor Connection**

Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteers who serve either as mentors with under-served youth in high school or as tutors to students in elementary and middle schools in Mountain View and Los Altos school districts.

### **Community School of Music and Arts**

The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District.

### **MayView Community Health Center**

The MayView Community Health Center in Mountain View offers primary care services to low-income and uninsured patients in northern Santa Clara County. No patient is turned away for inability to pay for services, which include prenatal and pediatric care, cancer screenings and chronic disease management.

### **YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence**

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

### **Community Services Agency**

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

### **Community Health Awareness Council**

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among the services it offers are school-based counseling and programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors.

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# Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

As of Dec. 25, 98 donors have contributed \$36,565  
to the Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund.

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The most wonderful brother ever, Bill Mathias .....	*

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Glen & Linda Eckols .....	200
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## Companies & Organizations

Mountain View Professional Firefighters Local 1965.....	1,000
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## HOMELESS

► Continued from page 5

a place to share stories, trade advice and commiserate over the emotional toll that goes with a transient life.

"This is the only place I can go to talk about my homelessness," said one retiree who asked that her name not be used. She has been living out of her sedan for the last four months after she could no longer afford her rent. "I can't go to my friends because they don't know what it's like."

CSA is one of seven local nonprofits that benefits from the *Voice's* annual Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among the organizers, and the fund is administered by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, with 100 percent of donations going directly to the nonprofits.

Now in its 60th year, CSA has traditionally filled the role of the safety net for low-income and homeless residents in the Mountain View and Los Altos area. The center is best known for its food pantry and the various forms of financial and social aid that it offers for low-income households.

A new addition at CSA, the Unhoused Support Group is the brainchild of Janice Bonello, one of the center's homeless program case managers. In dealing with many of her homeless clients, Bonello said she noticed that many were also coping

with a brutal feeling of stigma and social isolation. This sense of being excommunicated from your community was piling even more anxiety onto her clients on top of the hardship of living hand-to-mouth. This psychological stress made it even harder for them to take the steps to rebuild their lives, she said. In her own experience, Bonello said emotional support groups had provided crucial help during her own stressful times, and she thought the model could be adapted for the challenges of homelessness.

"A lot of the time, homeless people are seen as third-class citizens and they can feel really dehumanized," Bonello said. "I wanted to find a way so that they didn't have that burden on top of everything else."

In Mountain View and nearby cities, more and more people are falling into homelessness. As of a 2017 countywide report,

416 people were without housing in Mountain View, up from 139 in 2013. Between 2015 and 2017, Palo Alto experienced a 26 percent increase in its homeless population and Cupertino's went up by 74 percent.

At a recent meeting of CSA's Unhoused Support Group, some participants indicated they had become homeless just in the past few months.

Acting as group moderator, Bonello started by reciting some basic ground rules and then reading a passage from "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's all Small Stuff," a self-help book on how to approach problems.

The group then launched into sharing time. Jenkins brought up how distressed she was that city officials had recently approved the demolition of low-income apartments on Rock Street. Another woman shared the challenges of occasionally living in a single-room occupancy complex in San Francisco and being bullied by other tenants.

The grievances came pouring out, and there was plenty of disagreement. One lady jabbed her finger in the air as she pinned the problem on

**'A lot of the  
time, homeless  
people are seen  
as third-class  
citizens.'**

JANICE BONELLO, CSA

wasteful government spending: "The county had better stop housing people who aren't working and alcoholics." She held down a job for her whole adult life, she told the group. So why were deadbeats and drug users getting priority over her for

housing?

After each speaker, people in the group were encouraged to respond with positive affirmations, a small compliment or encouraging words. In some cases, group members have traded advice on the day-to-day challenges such as finding open restrooms or a safe shelter to sleep.

Bonello acknowledged that homelessness was just one aspect of what some her clients were facing. In some cases, being unhoused was also compounded by physical disabilities, mental illness, medical problems or other hardships, she said.

"They all have to get ready for each day rather than be depressed," she said. "If nothing else, this is a place where if you're unsure about something, you can at least talk to other people." ▣

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# New device to stop postpartum bleeding could save lives

MENLO PARK RESIDENT WORKED ON CONCEPT AT MOUNTAIN VIEW'S FOGARTY INSTITUTE

By Kate Bradshaw

At a nondescript office nestled on Edison Way in North Fair Oaks, a small company is hard at work developing a medical device that could transform the way physicians treat postpartum hemorrhage, the world's leading cause of maternal death.

Alydia Health, led by CEO and longtime Menlo Park resident Anne Morrissey, is working with the Food and Drug Administration to complete a clinical trial to evaluate whether the device the company has developed effectively stops bleeding after a woman gives birth in instances of postpartum hemorrhage.

The condition causes about 35 percent of all maternal deaths, according to the World Health Organization. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), severe maternal morbidity — defined as when a labor or delivery has unexpected, significant short- or long-term consequences on a woman's health — has been steadily increasing in the U.S. in recent years, nearly tripling between 1993 and 2014.

Generally, in the U.S. and developed countries, drugs are the first line of defense against bleeding after a baby is born and the placenta comes out. Specifically, mothers are typically given a drug called pitocin, which induces the uterus to contract to close off the arteries that had been used to nourish the fetus. If that doesn't work, then often what's called a "balloon tamponade" is used to apply pressure to the bleeding parts. In mild cases, the woman may

be sent home anemic or may need to receive a blood transfusion, and in more serious cases, a woman may be required to undergo a hysterectomy or may even die if the bleeding can't be stopped.

The device Alydia is developing is a simple one, built on an idea developed, in large part, by Jessie Becker, a young biomedical engineer. In 2010, as a student at California Polytechnic State University, Becker was on a team of two doctors and two engineers in a competition put together by PATH, a Seattle-based international global health nonprofit, to develop a better balloon tamponade — a medical device that essentially operates like a balloon, inflating inside the uterus and applying pressure to the source of the bleeding.

Morrissey said the idea for Alydia's device came about when the two doctors and engineers were gathered together one weekend to brainstorm about their project for the competition.

"These engineers, like good engineers, and not knowing anything (about the physiology of childbirth) or having preconceived notions, asked the basic question, which is, 'When a woman has a postpartum hemorrhage, physiologically, what's happening?'" Morrissey said.

The doctors, she explained, said something to the effect of, "Well, the majority of the time it's because the uterus can't contract."

What can happen after childbirth, she said, is that in some cases, the uterus is too exhausted to contract anymore.

"It's like if you go run a



**Anne Morrissey**, CEO of Alydia Health, works at her office in North Fair Oaks. The medical device the company is developing aims to more effectively stop bleeding in women after childbirth.

marathon and you have nothing left to run another 500 feet. That's basically this: The uterus is all out of gas," she said.

If the uterus is unable to close itself off, then the big blood vessels that the mother has developed to feed the fetus through the placenta can keep bleeding, up to 800 milliliters a minute, one Alydia Health employee said.

Then, Morrissey added, the engineers asked, "Then why would you put something in there (the uterus) and blow it up? That doesn't make any sense."

Becker and her colleagues concluded that the balloon method does the opposite of what the woman's uterus naturally does to stop the bleeding, which is to collapse inward. She and her colleagues completed the competition, but held onto the idea that perhaps working along with the body's natural programming might be more effective, Morrissey explained.

Becker further developed the concept at The Fogarty Institute for Innovation, a Mountain View-based center that promotes medical innovation, Morrissey said.

The device that was developed is a simple lasso-shaped silicone loop soft, like a pacifier, Morrissey said attached to a low-pressure vacuum that helps compress a woman's uterus when she is bleeding after childbirth by sucking out the blood and helping the uterus contract naturally.

Becker was 21 years old when she co-founded Alydia, then called InPress Technologies, with Nathan Bair in 2011. After graduating from Cal Poly, she worked at the university's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship while she developed the device until the summer of 2013.

"What drew me to InPress was the clear need for the technology, my vision that it could make a clear difference in improving maternal health globally, and the fact that I was

well-suited to bring the company forward from its early days," she said in an email.

## Testing its impact

A pilot study of the device, published in "Obstetrics & Gynecology" or the "Green Journal," found that in 10 out of 10 cases, the woman's bleeding stopped within two minutes after it was determined that drugs weren't stopping excessive bleeding.

Currently, Alydia Health is conducting a clinical trial of 107 patients to evaluate the device's effectiveness. The trial is in its early stages: The company has so far tested the device on only five patients at six centers across the U.S., but plans are in the works to have the device ready for use at 12 centers by the end of the first quarter of 2019, Morrissey said.

The trial is expected to run for 12 to 18 months, and the device may reach the market as soon as the end of 2020, she said.

The business' strategy has changed since Morrissey began leading the company, according to a recent article about the business in Forbes. While Becker's focus had been on bringing the product to the developing world, Morrissey has shifted the focus to include distribution on domestic soil too, with the first goal of attaining product approval from the FDA.

But the goal of helping mothers safely deliver babies in the developing world "is an essential part of our strategy," she said. The product aimed at the developing world will likely have to be differentiated so it can work in places where medical providers can't rely on a stable source of electricity, she noted. "I think it's the right thing to do as a human, but I think it makes good business sense to have a longer view of the product trajectory and making it as easy as possible to use."

The company now has about nine full-time employees, plus consultants, and on Sept. 20 it closed an initial \$10 million in Series B fundraising, led by Global Health Investment Fund.

People who work on medical devices generally like developing products that impact lives, Morrissey said, but this specific device is unusual in the industry.

"Not very often do you get to work on one that so clearly saves lives," she said. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@mv-voice.com](mailto:kbradshaw@mv-voice.com)



PHOTO COURTESY ALYDIA HEALTH

Menlo Park-based medical device company **Alydia Health**, of which some staff members are shown above, is in a clinical trial to develop a medical device that aims to more effectively stop mothers from dangerous bleeding after childbirth.

# Connecting to a brighter future

MENTOR TUTOR CONNECTION PAIRS LOCAL TEENS WITH ADULT MENTORS

By Andrea Gemmet



While some teens might be a little puzzled at the prospect of having a mentor, Juan Marin-Melo had a good idea of what to expect. His older sister, now in college, was paired with a volunteer from Mentor Tutor Connection while in high school, and they'd formed a strong bond. As a freshman at Los Altos High School, when he heard the local nonprofit was holding sign-ups, Marin-Melo said he was excited about the opportunity.

Mentor Tutor Connection paired Marin-Melo with retired Los Altos businessman Sam Harding. Sitting companionably over hot drinks at a Los Altos coffee shop on a recent afternoon, both Harding and Marin-Melo, now a high school senior, said they've gotten a lot out of the experience.

"Sam has become a really good friend, I trust him. He's

introduced me to many things," Marin-Melo said.

Harding, whose children are grown, said he relishes the chance to stay connected to the younger generation, even if it's just to shoot the breeze about life, movies and sports.

"In high school today, there's a lot of competition, lot of stress. It's hard to know all the ways to navigate through it ... (a mentor) can help out," Harding said.

While Mentor Tutor Connection sends volunteer academic tutors into elementary and middle schools — it serves every school in the Mountain View Whisman and Los Altos school districts — mentors for high school students often serve a more informal role. For aspiring first-generation college students,



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Sam Harding**, a retired Los Altos businessman, and **Juan Marin-Melo**, a senior at Los Altos High School, were paired up by Mentor Tutor Connection. The nonprofit, which benefits from donations to the Voice's Holiday Fund, provides volunteer academic tutors and mentors to local students in Mountain View and Los Altos.

it can be helpful just to have regular access to an adult who's been to college and can demystify the experience. Mentors can be an entry point to the kind of networks that lead to internships or scholarship opportunities, or offer a window into career paths that a teen wouldn't otherwise

hear about. Harding, a business owner who's long been an active member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce in Los Altos, got Marin-Melo involved in the Silicon Valley West Enterprise Leadership Conference, a four-day event that introduces high school juniors to

the business world and culminates in small groups pitching a business plan.

"I wouldn't have done it without Sam," Marin-Melo said.

But for the teen, the benefits are also as simple as unwinding over

► See **MENTOR TUTOR**, page 15

# Shaping the future together. Pacific Union joins Compass.

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- New Fares
- Clipper Cards Now Available at Ticket Vending Machines
- Two-Hour Fares



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Day Pass ◆	\$7.50	\$3.75	\$3
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**MARIJUANA**

► Continued from page 1

books allowing dispensaries. Voters in California cleared the way for recreational marijuana dispensaries in 2016 by passing the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, known at the time as Proposition 64. Mountain View residents in particular supported decisively, with nearly two-thirds of voters favoring the measure.

Though council members overwhelmingly agreed to put a temporary moratorium on pot stores shortly after the election, they gave assurances that the brief ban was simply buying time for planning department staff to pull together new laws to regulate the businesses.

Though council members overwhelmingly agreed to put a temporary moratorium on pot stores shortly after the election, they gave assurances that the brief ban was simply buying time for planning department staff to pull together new laws to regulate the businesses. Weighing how residents felt about the nuts and bolts of allowing dispensaries in the city took extensive work, with city staffers soliciting feedback for months through community meetings and an online survey that collected more than 1,500 responses. To say the community was divided puts it mildly: When asked how many retail cannabis stores should be allowed, a majority of residents chose either no limits or no pot shops at all.

The frustrated contingent of residents opposed to cannabis retailers showed up in force during the final vote on the plans in October, arguing that permitting the businesses would bring a host of problems to the city. Many of the 68 people who spoke at the meeting said that pot shops would pose health concerns, cause secondhand smoke, normalize drug use and promote underage, illicit use of marijuana. By being one of the few cities in the county to allow dispensaries, it could also turn Mountain View into a magnet for unsavory characters and crime, some residents warned.

In the end, a majority of the council agreed on zoning laws that allow four cannabis stores, two of which can be standard



VERONICA WEBER

In November, **Mountain Views voters** overwhelmingly supported a new tax on marijuana sales that's expected to generate \$1 million annually.

storefront retail businesses and two deemed “non-storefront,” essentially a warehouse and delivery business that can operate within the city but can't make sales to walk-in customers.

The city has a map, available online, showing the areas in which storefront and non-storefront businesses are zoned. It includes the San Antonio shopping center area, the city's downtown corridor, El Camino Real and the North Bayshore area, along with several smaller islands of retail throughout the city.

Just one month after the council's decision, Mountain View voters agreed that marijuana sales in the city ought to be taxed to pay for city services. Measure Q, which was on the

November 2018 ballot, proposed a 9 percent tax on cannabis business sales that would generate an estimated \$1 million annually, and it passed with 81.4 percent of the vote.

On the horizon for 2019 is seeing how many businesses will apply for a permit and which ones will win approval. Currently, the city is in the middle of the first of four phases for marijuana business applications where interested applicants have to undergo a screening process. This includes a written description of the business, the proposed location of the store and a background check with the Mountain View Police Department.

Businesses have until Feb. 1 to wrap up the first phase. “Several applicants” had begun the process as of mid-December, according to city officials, and Mountain View's planning department is still receiving inquiries about applying.

For Phase 2, set to begin in March, the city will hold a lottery to see which applications will move forward on the conditional use permit process, which sets the rules and conditions under which the marijuana businesses must operate. These rules could include security plans, lighting, appearance, parking and considering “compatibility with surrounding similar uses.”

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



VERONICA WEBER

**Marijuana buds** are displayed at a dispensary in San Jose. Mountain View is taking applications to allow retail marijuana businesses to open.



# SPRING *Bloom*

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**CITY POLITICS**

► Continued from page 1

in years, but what resulted is typical — it has turned into a fierce lottery. The developer has reportedly received more than 1,500 applications, three-quarters of them from families already residing in Mountain View.

It is just one example of the pent-up demand for housing that Mountain View faced through 2018 that's likely to continue to dominate city politics in 2019. City officials are mostly united in the belief that adding housing could help cure the Bay Area's worst problems, such as traffic congestion, wage inequality and possibly even global warming. But that housing push requires a series of sacrifices from local residents, and it relies on Mountain View's example eventually inspiring other nearby communities to take similar risks.

"Our commitment to build housing remains the biggest thing that makes Mountain View stand out," said Mayor Lenny Siegel. "More and more, other communities are now realizing it, and they're following our lead."

In this look back at 2018, the *Voice* reviews some of the top stories and issues, and how they developed through the year.

**Homelessness**

There could hardly be a clearer sign of the housing crisis than the surging number of people living on the streets. Across the Bay Area, homelessness has become the most visible sign of the region's high cost of living and its history of restricting new housing development.



NATALIA NAZAROVA

**Rent control supporters** protested a new measure that claimed to improve renter protections but contained a poison pill clause virtually ensuring that rent control wouldn't be enforceable.

This homelessness epidemic is remarkable because it is pushing many children and working families onto the streets. Earlier in 2018, the *Voice* profiled students at local public schools and community colleges who were living out of vehicles because their families couldn't afford housing in Mountain View.

In Santa Clara County, more than 2,500 youth are believed to be homeless, nearly triple the number last counted in 2015. Many experts believe this figure is actually a severe undercount.

In a positive sign, Santa Clara County has made strides in building new housing, reportedly adding about 1,500 subsidized apartments since 2015.

This growth comes thanks to the \$950 million Measure A housing bond that South Bay voters approved in 2016.

In Mountain View, the politics surrounding this issue have become extremely polarizing, especially when it comes to people living out of vehicles on public streets. A large number of residents say their sympathy has bottomed out, and they have publicly complained that inhabited cars shouldn't be parked in front of their homes.

For much of the year, the City Council held off on imposing harsher parking restrictions on inhabited vehicles until there was some alternative in place. Earlier in 2018, the city helped

sponsor a safe parking program, but it has managed to secure only eight spaces. Mountain View officials believe there are about 300 inhabited vehicles in the city.

At their last meeting, council members approved a new safe parking site that could hold an extra 11 vehicles, but they also signaled they wanted some kind of stricter parking measures. Those restrictions are expected to come back before the city in early 2019.

**Rent control**

Intertwined with Mountain View's housing troubles, the city's controversial and complex rent control program hit its stride in 2018. The system, which ties rent increases on older apartments to inflation, was approved by voters in 2016, but it was held up for much of 2017 by lawsuits and policymaking.

But 2018 showcased how the fledgling program still faces plenty of new challenges and

unanswered questions. For example, mobile home residents led a campaign to also be included under the rent control program. After waging an unsuccessful lawsuit, they are currently considering an appeal, or possibly a ballot initiative in 2020.

Similarly, rent control opponents who lost in court also sought redress through the ballot box. A political action committee, Measure V Too Costly, began collecting signatures for a ballot initiative to essentially gut rent control by allowing it to only take effect under extraordinary circumstances. The measure spurred allegations by tenant advocates that it was a "sneaky repeal" being promoted under the guise of a reform or expansion of rent control. The measure failed to get enough signatures to qualify for the 2018 election, but it has qualified for the 2020 ballot.

Rent control's system for sorting out tenant-landlord disputes was also put to the test. As of October, the city had received a total of 14 petitions from landlords seeking additional rent increases, half of which were decided, settled or withdrawn. Two cases went to long drawn-out appeals, including one over a 105-unit apartment building at 141 Del Medio Ave.

The year also showed how much was being demanded from the city's Rental Housing Committee, as the volunteer members often endured long meetings and fierce public complaints. Committee members Tom Means and Evan Ortiz both announced their resignations, leaving two seats in need of new members.

**North Bayshore**

If the capstone of 2017 was the precise plan to build 9,850 homes in North Bayshore, then 2018 was marked by the tricky

► See **CITY POLITICS**, page 15



**OPEN HOUSE & TOURS**

January 27, 2019  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Preschool & PreK to 8th Grade



**PRESENTATIONS**

Preschool & PreK	10:30 - 11:00
Kindergarten - 3rd	11:30 - 12:00
Grades 4 & 5	12:30 - 1:00
Middle School	1:00 - 1:30

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MICHELLE LE

**Growing numbers of RVs** lined Mountain View streets, as the cost of housing on the Peninsula soared.

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COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Plans for a new neighborhood in North Bayshore were unveiled by Google.

## CITY POLITICS

► Continued from page 14

details for how to get that done. After years of work and countless meetings, city leaders laid out an ambitious road map for bringing thousands of homes into the heart of the tech hub. But the challenges inherent in that goal became clear as the first residential project came forward.

A 635-unit project by Sobrato was nearly scuttled based on the hefty costs, particularly for parks and a future school. Since 2015, those fees have nearly doubled to about \$60,000 per apartment — or, in the case of Sobrato's project, about \$38 million in additional costs. The city later agreed to reduce the fees in order to make the project pencil out.

Google has also raised warnings that the city's fees could need to be lowered. In December, the company pitched its first high-level plans to eventually build 8,000 homes in North Bayshore, split among three new mini-neighborhoods. The first of these plans calls for the creation of the Shorebird neighborhood, including 2,950 homes and 1.18 million square feet of

new offices.

Other plans for a new neighborhood at a gateway property along Shoreline Boulevard face a different challenge. The firm SyWest, which owns about 16 acres in the area, announced it could not reach a compromise with Google, and it is independently moving forward with development plans.

Meanwhile, the future prospects of a new school in North Bayshore remain uncertain. Google has reportedly offered a 3.5-acre site near San Antonio Road at Casey Avenue.

## Election

The 2018 election represented a stunning change of course for Mountain View — all three council incumbents, who had been elected four years earlier, are leaving office. Siegel and Councilwoman Pat Showalter lost in their re-election bids, while Councilman Ken Rosenberg declined to seek a second term.

In their places, three newcomers will be stepping in. Ellen Kamei, Lucas Ramirez and Alison Hicks will assume their council seats later this month.

It was the closest election in Mountain View going back at least 20 years, particularly for Hicks and Showalter, who traded third and fourth place several times as updated vote results came in over the course of a month. In the end, Hicks won by just 97 votes.

But it was hard to diagnose what message voters were sending, aside from an anti-incumbent sentiment. Aside from former council member John Inks, who finished last, the other five candidates campaigned on strikingly similar platforms, voicing support for housing growth, rent control and tolerance toward the homeless.

Siegel believed that residents were frustrated with the slow pace of housing growth, despite its popular support. As mayor, he said he suspects that he became a target for voter anger.

It remains to be seen what this means for city policies. In the coming months, the new City Council will face several big decisions to test their mettle on homelessness, mass transit and North Bayshore housing growth. ■

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

## MENTOR TUTOR

► Continued from page 11

hot chocolate with Harding at a local coffee shop, which he says helps him deal with the pressures of high school.

"Without having someone to talk to and check in every week, it would be a little more stressful for me. Sam always checks on me," he said. "It's so nice having this once a week, someone to talk to."

Mentor Tutor Connection is one of seven local nonprofits that benefits from the Voice's annual Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among the organizations, and the fund is administered by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, with 100 percent of donations going directly to the nonprofits.

Donations are particularly important for Mentor Tutor Connection, according to Linda Eckols, who chairs the organization's

board of directors. The roughly \$180,000 annual budget is funded largely by donations from individuals, foundations and community and holiday funds.

Founded in 1995 by the Los Altos Rotary Club, the nonprofit is heavily involved in local elementary and middle schools, reaching over 500 students in the past school year through an array of tutoring services, and has program coordinators at the three Mountain View-Los Altos High School District campuses, Eckols said. Additional volunteer mentors are always needed, so students who want to be paired up aren't stuck on a waiting list.

The next volunteer information session is set for noon on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the El Camino YMCA and includes lunch. More information is available online at [mentortutorconnection.org](http://mentortutorconnection.org). ■

# Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

LINO FINO STORE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN648893

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Lino Fino Store, located at 56 Paul Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: Married Couple.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
VIRGINIA ELIZABETH MACWILLIAMS  
56 Paul Avenue  
Mountain View, CA 94041  
CESAR JARAMILLO  
56 Paul Avenue  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 29, 2018.  
(MVV Dec. 14, 21, 28, 2018; Jan. 4, 2019)

### 997 All Other Legals

AMENDED  
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
ROBERTA MAE DELGADO aka ROBERTA M. DELGADO, ROBERTA DELGADO  
Case No.: 18PR184346

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERTA MAE DELGADO, also known as ROBERTA M. DELGADO or ROBERTA DELGADO. An Amended Petition for Probate has been filed by: LINDA JANE DELGADO, Petitioner in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: LINDA JANE DELGADO, Petitioner 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 January 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 12 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either

(1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or

(2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Liza Weiman Hanks  
GCA Law Partners LLP  
2570 W. El Camino Real, Suite 400  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
(650) 428-3900  
(MVV Dec. 28, 2018; Jan. 4, 11, 2019)

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NATALIA NAZAROVA

Alison Hicks won a City Council seat in a close race.



NATALIA NAZAROVA

Council incumbents Pat Showalter (center) and Lenny Siegel (left) lost their re-election bids.

# Activists mourn county's homeless deaths in 2018

By Bay City News Service

Gathered in a solemn circle in front of San Jose City Hall four days before Christmas, an interfaith group of residents mourned the 157 homeless individuals who died over the last year in Santa Clara County.

The county medical examiner's office this month released the names of each homeless person who died between Dec. 1, 2017, and Nov. 30, 2018, responding to a Dec. 4 public records request from the Rev. Andrew Bear.

"We see you, we remember you, we recognize you and your life matters," Bear said in a welcome message at the vigil, surrounded by people who were once or still are part of the homeless community.

The medical examiner's records list the person's name and the date and place of death, with most having died in San Jose. To determine an individual's homeless status, the office conducts interviews with family members,

takes into account the location and environment where they died and reviews public records to determine whether they had a permanent address.

According to a study the office released in August 2017, the county's homeless death numbers jumped 164 percent from 50 in 2011 to 132 in 2016.

The deaths are at a record high, but people who have lived on the streets or lost their friends are taking the number as little more than an acknowledgement of their upsetting reality.

A woman identified as "Mama G," a respected matron of a homeless encampment south of downtown, gathered clothing from volunteers a few hours before the vigil so she could distribute the items throughout the camp.

She had heard of some acquaintances dying only a couple of weeks prior, and said the only way to survive on the streets is to find a community.

"Don't stop searching," she

said. "It'll take a while, but it will come to you. Only the strong survive, so be strong."

Mama G is a 66-year-old San Jose native and has battled multiple sclerosis while being homeless for about five years now. She takes care of her daughter and her two dogs and is hoping to find housing through Social Security in the next year.

"If I could do it, anybody could do it, you know?" she said, explaining that cold weather and hunger are the worst challenges, but she has been able to make do with outside help.

Pastor Scott Wagers of CHAM Deliverance Ministry gathered volunteers at Mama G's encampment on Friday, Dec. 21, and organized a small lunch for homeless individuals — an annual tradition for his birthday.

Wagers worked in a mayor's task force in 1999, when homeless deaths were at 33, and said he was shocked by the medical examiner's numbers because he expected them to have gone down

in the last year.

He and other community members argue that skyrocketing housing costs and gentrification are aggravating the homelessness crisis, and the city should implement emergency housing measures to protect its most vulnerable residents.

Mayor Sam Liccardo, who attended the vigil and spent Christmas Eve serving meals with nonprofit HomeFirst, has repeatedly pledged his commitment to housing unsheltered people in San Jose.

The City Council recently approved a \$7 million contract for "tiny homes" managed by HomeFirst that are expected to house about 320 individuals, and has in recent years reduced restrictions on accessory dwelling units.

Despite these efforts, hundreds of community members have felt alienated by the San Jose City Council, especially after its decision earlier this month to sell Google a \$110 million plot of

public land close to Diridon Station in San Jose for a proposed "mega-campus." That council meeting began with a small hunger strike and ended with six protesters being arrested for public disturbance.

Wagers and others staged a protest and small vigil on Dec. 20 at the fenced-off campus lot near Diridon Station. Advocates called for an emergency housing encampment at the site while city officials spend the next few years in a planning and development process, leaving the large swath of land unused.

Ramon Johnson, a 59-year-old former radio host who has been homeless, read a poem at the protest addressing the land deal and San Jose residents who oppose housing with a "Not in My Backyard" mentality.

"If you hate homeless, don't get bitter and let out a groan," he said. "No, mayor, City Council, NIMBYs and Google, let's build the homeless — every homeless — a home."

## CRIMES

► Continued from page 1

reported being struck in the face with a pistol multiple times. The attack landed the victim in the hospital.

The two adult suspects, 18-year-old Cesar Rosas and 19-year-old Alberto Ibarra-Vallejo of Mountain View, are still in custody and due to appear in court on Jan. 10. Some of the charges may be "enhanced" because they are gang-related — prosecutors at the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office believe some of the crimes were committed with the intent to benefit other gang members.

Lavel Powell, an Oakland man suspected of raping and strangling a woman in Mountain View in September, is also back in court this month. Powell was arrested after the victim, who was a friend of Powell's, told police that he strangled her until she lost consciousness inside her vehicle in the 800 block of Greenview Drive. When she regained consciousness, she said that Powell was sexually assaulting her, and that she pushed him out of the vehicle before driving herself to a nearby hospital. Powell remains in custody and has a court date set for Jan. 23.

Also among the most serious crimes in 2018, a man accused of molesting two young boys attending an after-school Chinese language program in Mountain View pleaded not guilty in August to 11 felony molestation and child porn charges. Police

arrested 26-year-old Yizhuang "John" Liu in February after investigators received reports from two families accusing the man of inappropriately touching their sons over the course of several months.

Liu is facing a total of seven counts of lewd and lascivious acts with children under the age of 14 — five of which were allegedly committed against one of the victims — along with two counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child by use of force or threat of bodily injury. He is also facing one count of possessing child pornography.

The year didn't bring much closure to Mountain View's first homicide case in years. Jan Neal, 44, was arrested by Mountain View police in November 2017 on murder charges after he was caught brutally attacking a homeless man in the Civic Center Plaza on a Saturday night. Neal's criminal case is currently suspended pending a review of his mental competency, but the year did bring some closure to the violent incident. After searching for the victim's next of kin for three months, the man's identity was finally revealed in February to be Jose Ospina Jaramillo, a 55-year-old transient.

There was some clarification — though not much — on what happened to a 23-year-old



Jan Neal



MICHELLE LE

Jose Ospina Jaramillo was killed in Mountain View's Civic Center Plaza, near the Center for the Performing Arts. The man charged with killing him is being evaluated for mental competency to stand trial.

Google engineer who was found dead in a canal off the Bay Trail in December 2017. Chuchu Ma's body was found naked and floating in the water, and Sunnyvale police punted on all media inquiries about the circumstances surrounding her death — saying only that there was no foul play and no threat to public safety on the trail.

The autopsy and toxicology reports, released in April, concluded that Ma had drowned, but that the manner of death remained "undetermined." The toxicology report found nothing out of the ordinary, and the minor injuries on her body didn't lead to any major conclusions.

Ma's boyfriend reportedly said

she was behaving erratically in the days leading up to her death, and that a 911 call recording "revealed her to be confused and disoriented," according to the autopsy report, which said she was seen entering the water the previous day with her cellphone. "Her reported confused state is highly suggestive of psychotic behavior and may explain her entry into the water," according to the report.

One case that did get wrapped up in 2018 involved longtime Mountain View High School teacher Evan Smith, who was arrested in November 2017 for sending lewd texts to one of his students. Police arrested Smith after a female student reported

that he had sent inappropriate text messages to her for several months starting in the summer. Smith was immediately put on paid leave, and eventually pleaded no contest to one misdemeanor charge of annoying or molesting a child under age 18.

Smith was sentenced to three years of probation and had to register as a sex offender, along with surrendering his teacher credential and resigning from his job at the district. ■

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



Evan Smith

**RENT CONTROL**

► Continued from page 5

application packets submitted by the candidates were not immediately made available by the city.

The three unpaid positions on the Rental Housing Committee

include two regular seats with full voting privileges on the five-member board. In addition, City Council members will also need to appoint someone to a sixth alternate seat who would fill in as a substitute when a regular member is absent.

The two regular seats being vacated were occupied by Evan Ortiz and Tom Means. Both of them resigned last year after announcing they were moving out of the area.

Through most of 2018, the city's Rental Housing Committee had a busy schedule of

meetings to establish a variety of nuanced policy rules for the city's rent control program. The committee has routinely drawn controversy because many of its decisions directly impact the livelihoods of tenants and landlords.

Each appointment to the

Rental Housing Committee is subject to a vote by the City Council. It is not immediately clear when the City Council will take up the selection process. ▣

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

**CRIME BRIEFS**

► Continued from page 4

The suspect was arrested on suspicion of burglary, possession of stolen property and battery charges, as well as resisting arrest. He is also suspected of possession of drug paraphernalia and violation of his parole.

—Kevin Forestieri

**FATAL ACCIDENT VICTIM FOUND BY FAMILY**

A man who died in a car crash on Christmas evening in Mountain View was located by his family the following morning about a half a mile away from the scene of crash, the California Highway Patrol reported.

Officers responded at 6 p.m. on Dec. 25 to a crash involving a silver 1999 Toyota RAV4 that hit a

center divide of northbound state Highway 85 near the Fremont Avenue off-ramp. CHP officers from Redwood City and San Jose, and firefighters from Mountain View were unable to locate any victims.

CHP Officer Dave Morey said an investigation found the driver had extricated himself from the Toyota and walked south about half a mile, crossing over a center divide into a southbound lane of the freeway. He then went up on a freeway embankment and died. The Santa Clara County medical examiner's office identified the man as 40-year-old Alan Willcox of Los Gatos.

His family was notified of the crash on Tuesday night, Dec. 25, and returned to the scene Wednesday to search the area in daylight.

Morey said the family eventually located him in an "extremely concealed spot" in a gully on an

elevated embankment. The CHP determined the crash was a fatality and cleared the scene by 11:45 a.m.

"We're kind of trying to stress ... we did our due diligence in terms of searching for the party last night," Morey said. The CHP is investigating the cause of the crash.

**MV MAN DIES IN FREMONT COLLISION**

A pedestrian who was fatally struck by a vehicle in Fremont on Dec. 18 has been identified by the Alameda County coroner's bureau as 33-year-old Taran Singh.

Coroner's officials didn't list a city of residence for Singh but Fremont police said he was from Mountain View.

Singh was hit by a car driven by a 53-year-old Fremont woman in the area of Fremont Boulevard and Clough Avenue at about

10:05 p.m. on Dec. 18 and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to police.

The woman remained at the scene and cooperated with investigators, police said.

The initial indication was that drugs and alcohol didn't appear to be factors in the collision, according to police.

—Bay City News Service

**CLARKE'S**

**Happy Hour**

4pm-9pm Sun-Thurs

- Clarke's Burgers - \$1.50 off
- French Fries - \$1.25 off
- \$3 off any dinner
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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Satisfying **SUSHI**

**Octopus offers ample, creative sushi rolls  
in Menlo Park**

By Ruth Schechter | Photos by Veronica Weber

Release the Kraken! And while you're at it, bring out a Mad Dragon, a Lava King and a Drunken Tiger. Maybe even a Foxy Lady.

While the campy film "Clash of the Titans" has nothing to do with the menu at Octopus Japanese Restaurant in Menlo Park, someone was inspired enough to name one of the special sushi rolls after that classic monster. In fact, someone was pretty motivated about naming most of the restaurant's specialty items with wit and whimsy. Thankfully, each of the 50-plus rolls includes a photo and detailed description of its contents on a multi-paged menu.

Like many foods we've adopted from other countries, Americans have given sushi our own spin. Purists may object to fusion-style sushi — the oversize rolls with nontraditional ingredients like jalapeños, cream cheese or even Spam. The rolls at Octopus are more civilized and the contents more traditional. And size does matter.

My favorite was the Ask Jamie (\$15.50) stuffed with unagi (eel), avocado, mango and macadamia nuts, topped with thin slices of hamachi and salmon and drizzled with savory-sweet unagi sauce. It was an intricate blend of flavors, with the more delicate fish layered on top so they were not overwhelmed by the heavier tones from the fillings, and the crunch of the nuts was counterpointed by the creamy smoothness of the avocado.

In fact, that point-counterpoint was a strong suit in all the rolls we sampled. Avocado coupled with crisp cucumber, velvety seared tuna paired with pops of salty fish roe, spicy tuna matched with low-key tempura.



**Above: Chef Kyung Son** layers tuna, hamachi, ebi and avocado atop a Fire Dragon roll at Octopus Japanese Restaurant in Menlo Park.

**Previous page:** The finished Fire Dragon roll, filled with shrimp tempura, spicy tuna and kanikama, and drizzled with the house sauce.

The attention to texture was just as apparent as the freshness of the ingredients. Rolls were large and tight, yet fish held their own, offering just enough give when you bite — yielding without being mushy.

The Kraken (\$20) really was a

monster, loaded with hamachi, salmon, crab and cucumber, topped with spicy octopus, salmon, unagi and avocado. Despite the variety of ingredients, it was easy to detect the

► See **SUSHI**, page 20



**Diners dig into lunch at Octopus on Dec. 28.**

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■ DINING NOTES

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**Alcohol** wine, beer,  
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**SUSHI**

► Continued from page 18

more subtle components despite the more aggressive ones, including the somewhat heavy hand with the sauces layered on top.

The same goes for the Fire Dragon (\$15.50), composed of shrimp tempura, spicy tuna and kanikama (imitation crab) inside, with tuna, hamachi, ebi, avocado, roe and green onions on top. This roll, like several others on the menu, is marked as spicy but the spiciness was subtle, not overpowering.

Each dish we ordered was attractive in presentation. Rolls were assembled with care and very generous in size, though some of the compositions could be challenging to eat.

Octopus took over the location from longtime occupant Akasaka and redid the interior with wood flooring, pumpkin-colored walls and rustic architectural elements. Owner Jeffrey Son has 10 years' experience working in Japanese restaurants and opened Octopus about 18 months ago in partnership with his father, who has been in the restaurant business for more than 30 years. Together they come up with the roll concoctions, often with help from the staff members, while

Son invents the names. A friend created the distinctive restaurant logo.

The restaurant also features excellent-quality traditional Japanese dishes, including katsu, teriyaki, maki, sashimi and nigiri. The bento box (\$13.50 for two items) is generous in size and attractive visually. The option I chose included sweet salmon teriyaki and crisp vegetable tempura,

and came with miso soup and firm, tasty rice. The nabeyaki udon soup (\$15.50) came loaded with thick, dense noodles garnished with chunks of carrot, zucchini, daikon and enokitake mushrooms, all topped with a large shrimp tempura.

Service was inconsistent, wavering between personable and responsive one evening to perfunctory and rushed another.

Sitting at the bar eliminates that X factor, with direct interaction with the sushi chefs.

Octopus has a lot going for it: creative fusion cuisine, high-quality ingredients, good value and a plethora of selections. You don't have to be a fan of monsters to find a satisfying experience there. ▣

Email Ruth Schechter at [ruths315@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruths315@sbcglobal.net)



The dining room was refurbished when Octopus moved in and now sports wooden flooring and pumpkin-colored walls.

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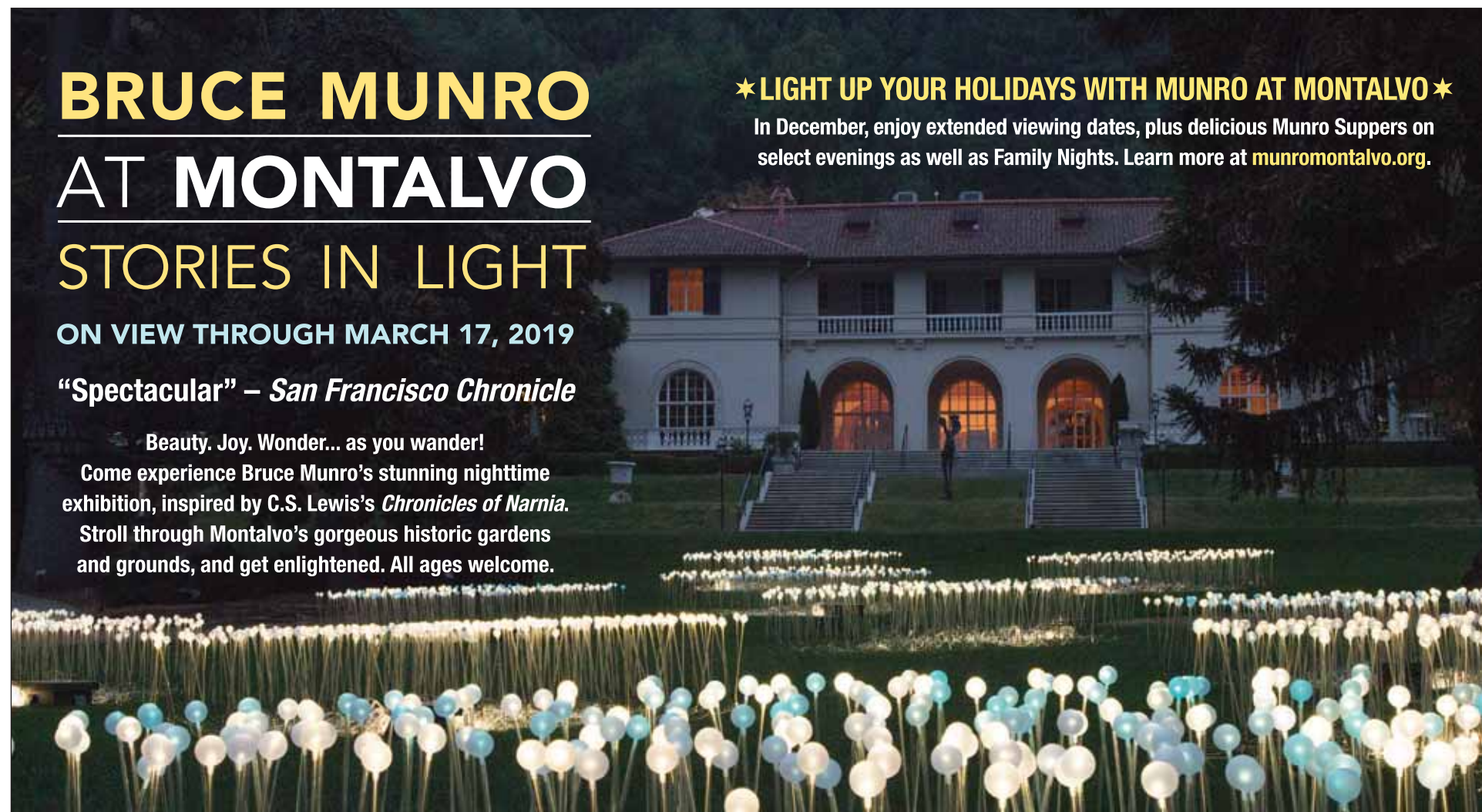
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# THE YEAR IN FILM

UNDERDOGS STEP OUT OF THE SHADOWS ON THE BIG SCREEN

By Peter Canavese

At the end of every year, after the last films hit the big screen, most movie critics get asked, “So what did you think of this year?”

My response for 2018? The past 12 months weren’t much different than last year or the year before that. The cinematic landscape was dominated by franchise pictures, familiar intellectual property, reboots and sequels, from superheroes “Aquaman,” “Avengers” and “Ant-Man” (and that’s just the “A’s”) to “Solo,” “Paddington 2” and “Mary Poppins Returns.” But in the aftermath of the Oval Office going haywire and #MeToo reckonings, this year’s movies not only became a treasured escape valve but also a place to reflect and hearten the evolutionary dawn of a hopeful new Hollywood culture.

So even as the old dead white guys made out well (with “It’s

All True” reviving Shakespeare and “At Eternity’s Gate” returning to Van Gogh), so too did the young black folks. “Black Panther” revolutionized African-American representation by taking a seat (nay, a throne) at the blockbuster table, while “Sorry to Bother You” and “Blindspotting” told potent, black-comic tales that literally hit close to home for Bay Area audiences — both take place in Oakland. Kudos, too, to “The Hate U Give” and “BlackkKlansman” for continuing the conversation on modern civil rights.

Women also began to find themselves more often in leading roles with men as decorative support — “The Favourite,” “Roma,” and “Widows,” as well as the underseen “Support the Girls” — while LGBTQ audiences could see themselves in films like “Love, Simon,” “Can You Ever Forgive Me?,” “Boy Erased” and “The



COURTESY OF DISNEY/MARVEL STUDIOS

“Black Panther” was a box office smash and critical success.

Miseducation of Cameron Post,” among others.

Like any year, there were only a few masterpieces but many excellent films and off-the-beaten-path treasures. Three of those dealt with another trending topic: how an increasingly challenging economy pushes Americans to the widening margins of society. “Lean on Pete” and “The Rider” gave the subject a Western-tinged

spin, while “Leave No Trace” put the spotlight on a PTSD father trying to keep his daughter off the grid with him, and the sprawling “A Bread Factory” looked at shrinking funding leaving artists and educators in the lurch. No one could fail to notice “Mission Impossible: Fallout” (a terrific, old-school action flick), but how many sought out the fringe-y genre pleasures of “Annihilation”

(sci-fi), “Hereditary” (horror), and the gonzo Nicolas Cage two-fer of “Mandy” and “Mom and Dad” (grindhouse)?

No matter which genres piqued your interest, this year’s selection of documentaries, animated wonders, thrilling adventures, chilling tales, searing dramas and punchy comedies made the movies a consistently interesting place to be in 2018. ■

## THE TOP 10 FILMS OF 2018



COURTESY OF A24

Elsie Fisher “Eighth Grade.”

### 10. ‘Vice’

Adam McKay’s bold take on former Vice President Dick Cheney suggests a meeting of Oliver Stone and Michael Moore. The film’s success is inseparable from the masterwork of its lead performance by Christian Bale, aided by hair and makeup to play Cheney from age 22 to age 71. Filmmaker and star acknowledge Cheney’s humanity while exposing the depths of his ruthlessness in doing an end run around the Constitution as the shadow President alongside Sam Rockwell’s amusingly uncomplicated George W. Bush. Steve Carell is even better as a merrily amoral Donald “Rummy” Rumsfeld. At a time when Washington, D.C.’s, rules seem to look be at from the rearview mirror, “Vice” hits hard.

### 9. ‘Eighth Grade’

In his feature-film debut, comedian Bo Burnham delves into an underrepresented population — junior-high-schoolers — and finds a lost generation threatened by hormonal turmoil and unnaturally unmoored by modern technology. It’s a well-recognized irony that kids break away from confiding in their parents at the moment they need the most emotional support, and



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

“Roma” by Alfonso Cuarón.

Burnham dramatizes that anxious moment with humor and heart. But “Eighth Grade” goes further by diagnosing how social media rewires social lives, and further taps the zeitgeist by honestly depicting an all-too-typical #MeToo scenario. Best of all, a star is born in teen lead Elsie Fisher, whose lovably sad but spirited performance finds its complement in Josh Hamilton’s take on the loving but dorky dad.

### 8. ‘Private Life’

Welcome back, Tamara Jenkins ... it’s been too long. The writer-director of 2007’s “The Savages” finally returns with this heart-tugging comedy about a 40-something couple attempting to conceive a child. On the one hand, “Private Life” convincingly explores all aspects of the fertility gauntlet known to so many, but it doesn’t take long to realize that Jenkins has crafted something even more impressive: one of the best-ever comedies about a marriage and the shape and meaning of parenthood. Jenkins beautifully fleshes out the characters of the wife and husband, their humanity heartbreakingly and hilariously amplified by a well-matched Kathryn Hahn and Paul Giamatti.



COURTESY OF A24

“First Reformed” by Paul Schrader.

### 7. ‘The Death of Stalin’

From master of wicked political satire Armando Iannucci comes this unfortunately timely historical comedy. Set amidst the titular crisis in 1953 Soviet Russia, “Stalin” hilariously recounts the absurdity of tyrannical government and backstabbing power politics. A crack comic ensemble, led by Steve Buscemi as Nikita Khrushchev (and ranging from Monty Python’s Michael Palin to stage star Simon Russell Beale), enacts this hysterical, high-stakes farce, wittily adapted from a well-researched French graphic novel. Just like a certain American presidency we could name — with revolving-door cabinets and mercurial terrors — the story around the death of Stalin is one you just couldn’t make up.

### 6. ‘Can You Ever Forgive Me?’

Marielle Heller’s compellingly sweet-and-sour, based-on-a-true-story “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” introduces us to a one-of-a-kind character that’s nevertheless sympathetic and relatable. Stepping up her game with a serio-comic performance, Melissa McCarthy plays Lee Israel, a struggling author who turns to white-collar



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Orson Welles’ “The Other Side of the Wind.”

crime to maintain her humble lifestyle. In skillfully adapting Israel’s memoir, screenwriters Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty dramatize the madness and righteous indignation that comes of dashed ego. Richard E. Grant plays off McCarthy well as her unlikely buddy and partner in crime, but it’s the comic star who rewrites our expectations with a gut-punching turn.

### 5. ‘First Reformed’

Having experienced so many himself, writer-director Paul Schrader specializes in long, dark nights of the soul. The man who dreamed up Travis Bickle now brings us Reverend Ernst Toller of the First Reformed Church of Snowbridge, New York, an earnest pastor swimming against tides of the megachurch commodification of faith and, more troublingly, impending doom for our planet. As Toller, former child star Ethan Hawke suggests a kind of disillusioned Boy Scout, ever trying to do a good turn in a bad world. With its constant tests of faith, “First Reformed” is a vital new testament that carries an Old

► See **TOP TEN**, page 22



COURTESY OF ANNAPURNA RELEASING

"If Beale Street Could Talk" by Oscar-winner Barry Jenkins.

TOP TEN

► Continued from page 21

Testament weight of signs and portents and judgments.

4. 'Roma'

Alfonso Cuaron was not kidding around when he set off to make "Roma." He writes, directs, produces, photographs and co-edits this nostalgic look back at his childhood years in the titular Mexican neighborhood. Unlike so many semi-autobiographical coming-of-age pictures, "Roma" finds Cuaron neglecting his own character. Instead, Cuaron finds fascination in the story of Cleo, the family's maid and nanny (effectively played by Yalitza Aparicio), following her into her personal life, dashed yearnings and enduring spirit. The ultimate strong, silent type, Cleo anchors a swoony, sad, funny tale shot by Cuaron in gorgeous black-and-white that evokes classic neorealism.

3. 'At Eternity's Gate'

Julian Schnabel co-writes and directs this exploration of Vincent Van Gogh's later years, with an emotionally resonant Willem Dafoe as the painter. Himself a painter, Schnabel takes an

expert's interest in Van Gogh's sputtering career and astonishing work (evoked here in beautiful location photography of landscapes that help us see what Van Gogh saw), but "At Eternity's Gate" turns out to be more than just another in a long line of Van Gogh dramas. Rather, we get a vivid portrait of the artistic temperament and a philosophically intriguing consideration of genius, madness, and how observers of both rush to ill-informed judgments.

2. 'If Beale Street Could Talk'

"Exquisite" is the word for Barry Jenkins' follow-up to his Oscar-winning "Moonlight." The poet of current cinema, Jenkins applies a lush aesthetic to his source material, James Baldwin's 1974 novel of a black family struggling against institutional and social injustice and, more specifically a young couple's emblematic struggle to even begin to pursue happiness. While the film's themes remain at the forefront of our national conversation, Jenkins maintains a romantic, spiritual tone that keeps the film from ever feeling didactic. Top notch performances all around, one of the year's most beautiful

THE BEST HEROES

- 5. Paddington Bear (Ben Whishaw) in "Paddington 2"
- 4. Kayla Day (Elsie Fisher) in "Eighth Grade"
- 3. Mr. Rogers in "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"
- 2. Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman) in "Black Panther"
- 1. Ruth Bader Ginsberg in "RBG" (as herself) and "On the Basis of Sex" (Felicity Jones)

THE BEST VILLAINS

- 5. Jeremiah Sand (Linus Roache) in "Mandy"
- 4. Eleanor Sung-Young (Michelle Yeoh) in "Crazy Rich Asians"
- 3. Ben (Steven Yuen) in "Burning"
- 2. "Killmonger" (Michael B. Jordan) in "Black Panther"
- 1. Dick Cheney (Christian Bale) in "Vice"

TOP DOCUMENTARIES

- 5. "Divide and Conquer: The Story of Roger Ailes"
- 4. "Dark Money"
- 3. "Nossa Chape"
- 2. "Monrovia, Indiana"
- 1. "Minding the Gap"

THE ANIMATED WINNERS

- 5. "Isle of Dogs"
- 4. "Incredibles 2"
- 3. "Ralph Breaks the Internet"
- 2. "Mirai"
- 1. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" ■

Peter Canavese is a freelance movie critic for the Mountain View Voice and author of the website GrouchoReviews.com. You can reach him at pcanavese@bcv.org.

THE BOTTOM FIVE FILMS OF 2018

5. 'Love & Bananas: An Elephant Story'

How do you make a 77-minute documentary seem endless? How do you take a worthy subject — the need for elephant conservation — and make it annoying? You be Ashley Bell, a documentary filmmaker who also happens to be an actress and therefore cannot resist putting herself front and center. Cut half an hour and send this to Animal Planet.

4. 'Fifty Shades Freed'

While the "Fifty Shades" franchise can be trashily fun, we must never forget that it is trash. This almost indescribably stupid stew of soap opera, soft-core teases of sex and violence, "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" fantasy, and romance-novel breathlessness may be perfect for a post-bar-hopping girls' night out, but don't watch it sober.

3. 'Mile 22'

All firepower and no charm makes "Mile 22" a dull actioner. Mark Wahlberg plays the least likeable action lead of his career in this botched attempt at a franchise launch about a supposedly elite CIA squad. As directed by Peter Berg, the film proves just as queasy in its action, like playing a first-person-shooter game after downing a fifth of Scotch.

2. 'The Happytime Murders'

As a die-hard Muppets fan, I take no pleasure in trashing this Jim Henson Company venture directed by Brian Henson ("The Muppet Christmas Carol"). Predicated on ye olde idea that there's nothing funnier than cussing Muppets (see "Avenue Q" and "Meet the Feebles"), this one wastes Melissa McCarthy and fabulous Muppeteers on a dingy,



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Neve Campbell in Skyscraper

uninspired misfire.

1. 'Skyscraper'

"Skyscraper" rehashes "Die Hard" (yeesh, again?) while swapping in the Rock for Bruce Willis and the impossible for the improbable. Dumb and dull, "Skyscraper" can't even muster so-bad-it's-good entertainment value. Its sole saving grace? A winning supporting performance by Neve Campbell that shows us who the real star should have been. ■

scores and gorgeous production design and cinematography add up to everything we want from a film drama.

And the best film of 2018 goes to:

1. 'The Other Side of the Wind'

A long-coveted Holy Grail for cineastes, Orson Welles' "The Other Side of the Wind" finally dropped in 2018, 33 years after its maker's death. "Wind" in

many ways serves as a sort of semi-autobiographical bookend to "Citizen Kane" in ruthlessly dissecting a deeply flawed but high-powered master of his domain — in this case, Hollywood. John Huston plays film director Jake Hannaford, a Hemingway-esque macho man whose bravado barely conceals secrets and insecurities. Welles edited about 40 minutes before his death, and Oscar-winner Bob

Murawski creditably finished the job, granting us a gift from the movie gods.

Runners-up

"The Favourite," "Shoplifters," "Lean on Pete," "We the Animals," "First Man," "Support the Girls," "Black Panther," "Burning," "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," "The Rider," "Paddington 2." ■

■ NOW SHOWING

- A Star is Born (R) ★★1/2** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Aquaman (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- At Eternity's Gate (PG-13)**  
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
- Bohemian Rhapsody (PG-13)**  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Bumblebee (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018) (PG)**  
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Escape Room (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- The Favourite (R)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.  
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Glass (PG-13)** ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Green Book (PG-13) ★★1/2** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Holmes & Watson (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- If Beale Street Could Talk (R)**  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

- Mary Poppins Returns (PG)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Mary Queen of Scots (R)**  
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Mortal Engines (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- The Mule (R)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- On the Basis of Sex (PG-13)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.  
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.
- Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) ★★★**  
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Second Act (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Simmba (Not Rated)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
- Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG)**  
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Vice (R) ★★★1/2** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Welcome to Marwen (PG-13)**  
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★ Skip it   ★★ Some redeeming qualities   ★★★ A good bet   ★★★★ Outstanding

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# Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

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Los Altos History Museum invites families to Dia de los Reyes Magos, a celebration of Three Kings Day, or Feast of the Epiphany. The museum honors the tradition with a wreath of sweet bread eaten only on this occasion and ongoing children's activities. Jan. 6, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org/events/three-kings-day-celebration

**CONCERTS**

**Diane Milo: 'With a Little Help from my Friends'** The Pear Flambe Cabaret series continues with Diane Milo's "With a Little Help from my Friends." Featuring Bay Area vocalists, this event is a farewell performance celebrating Milo's 24 years of musical theater. Jan. 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$25-\$30. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com for more info.

**'Jonathan Shrunk The Music'** This musical program presents famous pieces with changed composition, including madrigals from Monteverdi's Seventh Book, rescored from three or four voices to two voices with instruments. Also a Bach cantata for four soloists and a larger orchestra, rescored for two voices and trio sonata accompaniment. Jan. 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$30-\$70. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave., Los Altos. Search brownpapertickets.com for more info.

**MUSIC**

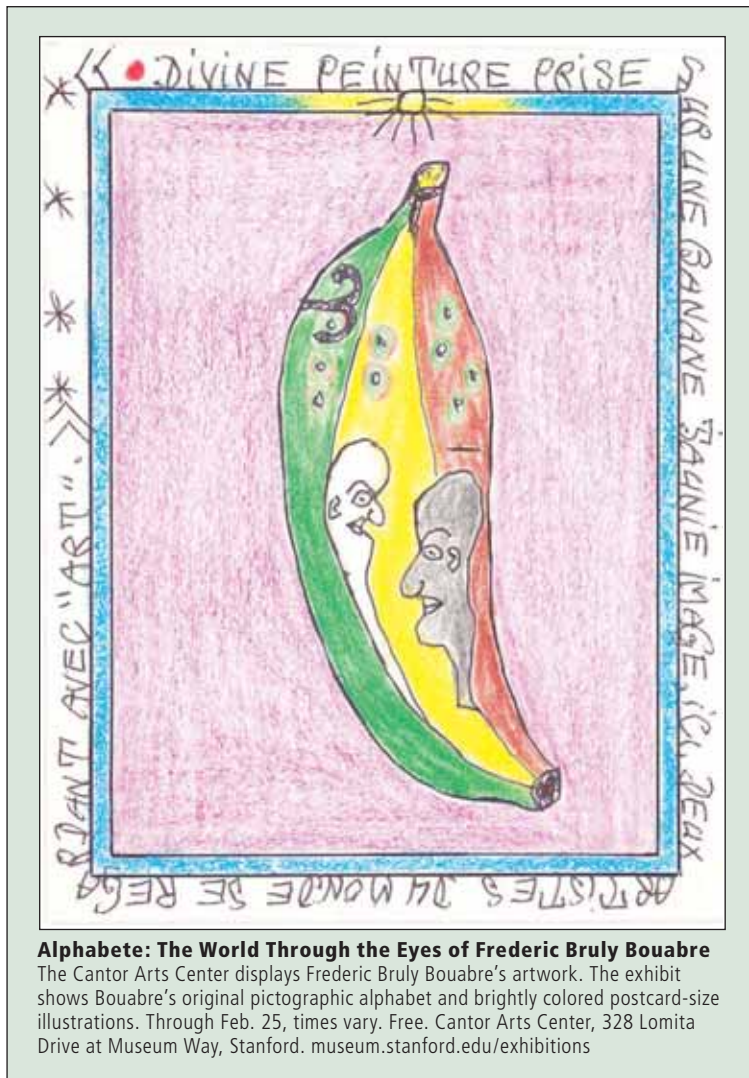
**Open Mic @ Red Rock Coffee** Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee gives people the chance to sing in front of a supportive audience, meet fellow musicians and performers or simply listen to live music. Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m., but arrive early to secure a spot. The show starts at 7 p.m. Mondays. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org/open-mic

**TALKS & LECTURES**

**NYMBC Presents Kiersten White and Adrienne Young at Palo Alto** Not Your Mother's Book Club presents New York Times-bestselling author Kiersten White in celebration of "Slayer," book one in her new series set in the world of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." Kiersten will be in conversation with Adrienne Young, author of the fantasy "Sky in the Deep." Free. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. booksinc.net/event

**California Native Plant Society: 'The Living Landscape'** This workshop focuses on changing suburban landscapes to attract creatures, such as caterpillars. The California Native Plant Society hosts a screening of a video based on Doug Tallamy's latest book followed by a discussion. No RSVP; walk-ins welcome. Jan. 10, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com/event/4862381

**Book Launch: 'Silicon City: San Francisco In The Long Shadow Of The Valley'** Inspired by Studs Terkel's classic works of oral history, writer and



**Alphabete: The World Through the Eyes of Frederic Bruly Bouabre** The Cantor Arts Center displays Frederic Bruly Bouabre's artwork. The exhibit shows Bouabre's original pictographic alphabet and brightly colored postcard-size illustrations. Through Feb. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

filmmaker Cary McClelland spent several years interviewing people at the epicenter of the recent change, from venture capitalists and coders to politicians and protesters, from natives to the city's newest arrivals. The event features an interview, Q&A and book signing. Jan. 10, 5:30-8 p.m. Free. Encina Hall, 616 Serra St., Stanford. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

**'The Growing Viewpoint Diversity Movement on America's College Campuses, and What You Can Do'** Dean Pete Peterson of the Pepperdine School of Public Policy speaks on the growing "viewpoint diversity" movement on America's college campuses at The Liberty Forum Silicon Valley in Mountain View. Jan. 8, 7-8 p.m. Free-

\$15. Portuguese Hall, 432 Stierlin Road, Mountain View. pepperdine.edu/events

**MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS**

**BayLUG's 15th Annual Holiday Show** BayLUG's 15th Annual Holiday Show will be showcasing holiday scenes in a miniature LEGO city. This event is family friendly. Through Jan. 13, Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$3. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto.

**'Blackboard'** "Blackboard" brings together works that imitate, resemble or feature a blackboard, to consider the relationship between art and education. The "blackboards" on view interrogate schooling, authority, literacy, form and

color. Through Jan. 27. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**Do Ho Suh: The Spaces in Between** In this exhibition, artist Do Ho Suh uses a chandelier, wallpaper and a decorative screen to focus attention on issues of migration and transnational identity. Through Feb. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**Kahlil Joseph: 'BLKNWS'** Kahlil Joseph, a visiting artist in the new Presidential Residencies on the Future of the Arts program, presents his work "BLKNWS," a two-channel video projection that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship and cultural critique. Through June 16, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**'Painting Nature in the American Gilded Age'** The Cantor Arts Center's exhibition considers how nature was depicted by American artists from the 1880s to 1910, an era of unprecedented industrialization and urban development. Through landscapes, portraits and still lifes, the exhibition delves into the importance of nature for artists and the public. Through Aug. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**'Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!'** The museum presents a variety of antique toys that belonged to children in the past. This exhibition covers the origins of playtime, toy factories, toy trains, builder toys and more, and aims to evoke childhood memories over the decades. Through Feb. 17, times vary. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

**Christmas Gifts from Yesteryear on Display in Historic Home** The Los Altos History Museum opens a holiday-themed exhibit, "Presents from the Past: A Look Back at Christmas Gift-Giving," featuring a collection of vintage toys, shaving mugs, children's books and other items. On display in the historic J. Gilbert Smith House, trimmed in 1930s holiday decor. Through Jan. 6, Thursdays-Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org/events/presents-from-the-past

**Juana Briones** Juana Briones was a 19th century woman who overcame personal, economic and political struggles

to become a successful entrepreneur, healer, advocate and landowner. The Los Altos History Museum brings her story to awareness in its bilingual exhibit "Inspired by Juana: La Doña de la Frontera." Through March 31, Thursdays-Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

**Gallery 9 Los Altos January Exhibition: 'Out and About' by watercolor artist Suej McCall** Suej McCall deviates from the guidelines of traditional watercolor artists, creating original and colorful pieces. Her images are of Europe, the U.S. and Cuba. Through Jan. 27; Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. gallery9losaltos.com

**FILM**

**'The Answer: a new movie about Yogananda, U.S. launch'** This new movie features Indian film actor Victor Banerjee as Yogananda and is the story of a young man on a spiritual quest. Jan. 5, 7-9 p.m. \$10. East West Bookshop, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

**LESSONS & CLASSES**

**'How to Ride a Bike for Kids'** Kid-friendly instructors provide a combination of personalized and group instruction to help overcome fears, teach important skills such as starting and stopping, and help children understand how to maneuver their bike around obstacles. Jan. 6, 9-11 a.m. \$69-\$89. Google Parking Lot, 211 Crittenden Lane, Mountain View. rei.com/events

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**Forest Playgroup** Hidden Villa takes children ages 3-5 and their guardians on a stroll from the farm to the Creek Trail. The slow stroll will feature opportunities to discover rocks, bugs, lizards, birds, scat and more. Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m.-noon. \$20. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

**SPORTS**

**Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis: Free and Fun Exercise** The Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis Club invites seniors 55 and older to bring a racket and pair of tennis shoes to play table tennis. Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free; suggested \$1 donation. Cubberley Community Center, Gym B, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

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BRE# 01255661

**Jeff Gonzalez**  
Direct (650) 947-4698  
Cell (408) 888-7748  
jgonzalez@interorealestate.com  
BRE# 00978793

**INTERO**  
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A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate  
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