When will we get them?

Spike in demand leaves health care providers reeling

Page 5
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Health care providers struggle to meet demand for vaccine

Kaiser apologizes for long wait times
by Kevin Forestieri and Sue Dremann

Health care providers in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are reeling from a massive spike in requests for COVID-19 vaccines last week, after state and county officials greatly expanded eligibility for the vaccine.

The crush of demand starting last week temporarily crashed the Sutter Health website, and residents reported sitting on hold with Kaiser Permanente for three to five hours in an attempt to schedule an appointment. Once someone does pick up, residents reported mixed success — some were able to schedule appointments, which are now pushed back to February, while others are being turned away due to constraints in vaccine supply.

In a statement on Jan. 15, Kaiser apologized for the sluggish and overloaded call system, noting that the state’s new eligibility guidelines pose a significant challenge. There are not nearly enough doses to vaccinate all interested residents age 65 and older, and it’s difficult to plan ahead when state allocations to health care providers are only revealed on a weekly basis.

As a result, most people who qualify to receive the vaccine will not be able to schedule an appointment at this time, Kaiser said in the statement.

“We sincerely apologize to our members who have encountered long wait times when calling for a vaccination appointment and plan ahead when state allocations are not nearly enough doses to vaccinate all interested residents age 65 and older, and it’s difficult to plan ahead when state allocations to health care providers are only revealed on a weekly basis. As a result, most people who qualify to receive the vaccine will not be able to schedule an appointment at this time, Kaiser said in the statement.”

“We sincerely apologize to our members who have encountered long wait times when calling for a vaccination appointment and plan ahead when state allocations are not nearly enough doses to vaccinate all interested residents age 65 and older, and it’s difficult to plan ahead when state allocations to health care providers are only revealed on a weekly basis. As a result, most people who qualify to receive the vaccine will not be able to schedule an appointment at this time, Kaiser said in the statement.”

More stories inside
• Find out how to contact your health care provider for a vaccine.
• See how many doses local providers have administered.
• Learn about the latest updates on COVID-19 in Santa Clara County.

Local school district adviser says it felt like his lungs were ‘on fire’
by Angela Swartz

Perla Rodriguez pulled up the family van in front of Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara on Dec. 17. Her husband, Rolando Bonilla, was in the passenger seat struggling to breathe.

Bonilla, 42, a communications consultant for both the Ravenswood City and Sequoia Union High school districts, recounted his experience battling COVID-19 in the hospital for a week.

Sitting in the backyard of his San Jose home, Rolando Bonilla, a communications consultant for the Ravenswood City and Sequoia Union High school districts, recounts his experience battling COVID-19 in the hospital for a week.

A harrowing experience with COVID-19
Local school district adviser says it felt like his lungs were ‘on fire’

The first week of his illness was marked by fever and aches, he said.

“I end up taking a nosedive where I’m literally gasping for air,” Bonilla, chief strategy officer for Voler Strategic Advisors, said in a phone call on Jan. 6 from his home in the eastern foothills of San Jose. Although Bonilla is feeling better now, he still struggled to catch his breath while talking and is struggling with the lasting effects of the virus. “I couldn’t get out of bed and take more than two steps because it felt like I ran a marathon and was completely winded,” he said.

He had what Rodriguez describes as an “ugly cough” and his blood oxygen levels were unhealthily low. Because of restrictions implemented to slow the spread of the coronavirus, Rodriguez couldn’t help her husband into the hospital. She dropped him off and said, “I love you” and “call me to keep me posted,” and watched as he checked in with a security guard to make sure he didn’t faint or fall.

When he sat down in the emergency room, the nursing staff knew he needed to be admitted. “They said, ‘You’re not going home tonight,’” he said. Bonilla thinks he likely contracted the virus from Rodriguez’s uncle, who died of complications from COVID-19 the same day Bonilla landed in the hospital.

Upper grades unlikely to reopen this school year
Superintendent: State’s new guidance too difficult to practically implement
by Elena Kadvany

It’s unlikely that Palo Alto Unified middle and high schools will reopen for hybrid instruction this academic year, Superintendent Don Austin told families on Jan. 14, meaning hundreds of students might go without in-classroom instruction for over a year.

Austin’s announcement followed the release of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s updated reopening guidance, which details proposed funding and new requirements for schools resuming in-person instruction. The document focuses largely on elementary schools, where studies show low transmission rates and more ease in organizing students and teachers into stable cohorts.

In an interview, Austin said the state’s guidance will be difficult to practically implement at the high schools in particular, where there’s much greater variation in schedules and courses. Schools that have not already offered in-person instruction to at least one full grade level are also now prohibited from reopening until local COVID-19 rates improve. (This change has meant that at least one local school district, the Los Altos School District, had to suddenly reverse plans to reopen its middle schools next week.)

“The proposal in my opinion and the opinion of many of my colleagues does nothing to enhance the chances of schools that are not already open of opening,” Austin said. “If anything, it added many
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We’re talking about changing hearts. It’s not about laws at this point.

— Tom DuBois, Palo Alto mayor, referring to the city’s plan for addressing racism. See story on page 8.
When the Palo Alto City Council created the Palm Residentialists' task force a year ago, it sent a signal to developers that it is ready to negotiate over aspects such as height, density, and park space requirements and that it means getting more affordable housing.

On Tuesday night, as the council considered the latest proposal for a planned-housing project — a mixed-use development with 113 apartments at 2951 El Camino Real — council members declared that they are ready to deal. In doing so, they handed the developer a preliminary victory and increased the odds that the concept presented by Menlo Park-based Acclaim Companies will become reality.

For a council that has frequently clashed over land-use issues and that has consistently struggled to approve new housing, the Acclaim project on the edge of the Ventura neighborhood represents a rare point of consensus. Even those council members who regularly scoff at exceeding zoning regulations forgoing development to earn the council's support in the past year, following the latest iteration of the proposal.

Both the project and the council have changed since Oct. 5, when Acclaim presented its plan, which in addition to the apartments includes 1,000 square feet of retail space and 5,000 square feet of office space. After getting a lukewarm reaction, Acclaim reduced the building’s height, cut the number of apartments from 119 to 113 and slightly decreased the project’s floor area and density. The revised proposal consists of five parcels: three along El Camino Real that are zoned “service commercial” and two along Olive Avenue that are zoned for single-family residential use.

“I think this is the kind of proposal we asked for when we talked about this planned housing zone,” DuBois said.

For a council that has struggled for years to meet its own housing goals, the Acclaim development would represent a rare accomplishment if it moves ahead. It would be only the second major residential development to earn the council’s support in the past year, following its approval in November of a 119-unit project on San Antonio Road. It would also be the first project to utilize the “planned housing” zone, which, like its predecessor the “planned community” zone, allows the city and the builder to haggle over exceptions to zoning standards such as height, density, and parking requirements and public benefits.

But whereas under the “planned community” zone, the list of potential public benefits included public parks, green belts and sculptures, the “planned housing” zone specifies that housing is the chief benefit.

Projects using the new zoning designation are required to offer at least 20% of their units at below market rate. And while they are allowed to utilize all the available floor space, they should not worsen the city’s notoriously high jobs-housing imbalance.

Of the nearly 30 residents who addressed the council on Tuesday night, the majority suggested that the Acclaim project checks off these boxes and urged the council to advance it. Jessica Clark, a south Palo Alto resident who works for the Palo Alto Unified School District, said she and her family have been on the waiting list of the city’s below-market-rate purchase program for 10 years.

“We as a city have built close to nothing. Compromises and trade-offs have to be made,” Clark said. “I hope this project moves forward and provides as much housing as possible. My family and many others can’t afford to hang on to the BMR list for another 10 years.”

Keith Reckdahl, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission who serves on a working group that has been putting together a new land use vision for a 60-acre portion of Ventura, said the project, while imperfect, is worth advancing.

“We’re much better off refining this project instead of killing it,” Reckdahl said. “Palo Alto does not have the luxury of only accepting housing projects that have no challenges.”

Daniel Allen, a renter who lives in Old Palo Alto, said that the project’s proximity to the California Avenue business district and the Caltrain station make it particularly appealing.

“It’s close to transit; it’s close to jobs; it’s close to retail. And the developer seems to have made significant compromises to address some of the concerns raised by the City Council and some of the community,” Allen said. “I feel like compromise like this is needed to actually act on this long-term, big-scale project, and I think this is the type of development that the city should be encouraging.”

Not everyone was as thrilled. Suzanne Keenan, a member of the group Palo Altans for Sensible Zoning, was among those who called the zoning exceptions excessive and suggested that the proposed 54-foot-tall building “does not fit in Palo Alto.”

“It shouldn’t be next to a residential area, and if it is going to be next to it, we need to lower the cap on visitors who can be at Foothills Park at one time from the current level of 750 to 400. It also gave staff leeway to potentially raise the limit to 500 if conditions allow.”

Cormack supported retaining the limit at 750 visitors, giving staff leeway to lower it as needed, and deferring the discussion on fees until the Parks and Recreation Commission vies the issue. She recalled volunteering at the park in recent weeks and called it a “wonderful, positive and welcoming environment.”

— Gennady Sheyner

news digest

City moves to curb access to Foothills Park

After a spike in visitors to Foothills Park, the Palo Alto City Council meeting on Tuesday to sharply curtail the number of people who can enter the scenic preserve.

Responding to reports of heavy traffic and environmental damage over the past month, the council agreed Tuesday to lower the cap on visitors who can be at Foothills Park at one time from the current level of 750 to 400. It also gave staff leeway to potentially raise the limit to 500 if conditions allow.

The council also voted 6-1, with council member Alison Cormack dissenting, to institute a $6 entry fee, the level recommended by city staff, and directed its Parks and Recreation Commission to further refine the city’s policy of park admittance and fees.

Cormack supported retaining the limit at 750 visitors, giving staff leeway to lower it as needed, and deferring the discussion on fees until the Parks and Recreation Commission votes the issue. She recalled volunteering at the park in recent weeks and called it a “wonderful, positive and welcoming environment.”

— Gennady Sheyner

Ravenswood looks to enroll some schools

The Ravenswood City School District is looking to start reopening its campuses as soon as next week for small groups of high-need students, which school leaders hope will be an initial step toward safely resuming more in-person instruction.

The district plans to open a waiver application to San Mateo County Health on Jan. 14 to bring back an estimated 42 students, including a transitional kindergarten class at Costanoa Elementary School and 31 students with moderate to severe special needs, from preschool to fifth grade. The district does not plan to open a waiver for select groups of “urgent learners,” the county recently told Superintendent Gina Sugard, and can proceed following existing state and local public health guidance pending direction from the school board, she said Tuesday.

Trustees supported staff’s recommendation, presented at a study session last week, to start reopening schools for students “whose education has been massively disrupted” by months of remote learning, Sugard said.

“We need to reimagine what is possible ... to make up for the disruptions of COVID,” she told the board on Jan. 12. “This is just not about a few weeks of summer school. This is a long-term plan, a multyear process that we need to start acting upon now.”

The district is purposefully starting small with willing families and teachers to demonstrate that in-person learning can be done safely, which will hopefully encourage more teachers and families to come back, Sugard said.

The district hopes to bring the first groups of students back as soon as Monday, Jan. 25. The 11 transitional kindergarten students would attend school every day in the mornings with one teacher. In the afternoon, they would remain in a stable cohort and attend a district learning hub together, which opened in September to provide support — but not direct instruction — to students. About 200 students are currently attending the learning hubs, which are held on Ravenswood campus and at local schools.

The school board was scheduled to discuss the waiver and its reopening plan again at its virtual meeting on Jan. 21.

— Elena Kadvany

Resignation creates third commission opening

The Palo Alto City Council will have a chance to fill three seats on the Planning and Transportation Commission in the coming weeks after commissioner William Riggs’ recent resignation.

The resignation of Riggs, a professor at the University of San Francisco who chaired the commission in 2019, on Jan. 13 means that the recently reconstituted council will have a chance to leave a greater imprint on the city’s most influential advisory commission, which is often seen as a stepping stone for would-be council candidates.

Riggs’ resignation on Jan. 13 follows a contentious political battle between the council’s two factions over commission appointments. Last year’s council, which included Liz Kniss and Adrian Fine and on which the more pro-growth bloc enjoyed a 4-3 majority, favored making the appointments before the end of the year, a move that may have threatened the reappointments of commissioners Ed Lausing and Doria Vincent. This year’s council, which retains the same composition but with the council’s more growth-oriented members, who obtained a council majority after the November election.

The council has received nine applications for the two seats that were on the moratorium. Three applicants, including Keiley Banes, Doug Burns, Alon Carmeli, Rebecca Eisenberg, Kathy Jordan, Kevin Ma and Jescica Resmini.

— Gennady Sheyner

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • January 22, 2021 • Page 7
Report highlights discrimination in Palo Alto, both past and present

Human Relations Commission prepares for series of community conversations on race and belonging

by Gennady Sheyner

The history of Black and brown communities in Palo Alto is blighted by discrimination, exclusion, unfair policing and everyday indignities that collectively make residents of color feel like they don’t belong, a newly released report from the city’s Human Relations Commission concludes.

Titled “Black and Brown Palo Alto: History and Current Experience,” the report relied on both historical accounts and recent testimony from dozens of current and past residents, many of whom spoke out about their experiences in Palo Alto in recent forums, rallies and commission discussions.

The City Council commissioned it in May as part of a broad effort to address racial inequality in the aftermath of George Floyd’s killing by a police officer in Minnesota.

For Raven Malone, who ran for City Council last year, these stories literally hit close to home. Last year, her campaign lawn sign was covered with a “White Lives Matter” sign, she told the council.

She recalled being questioned at a council forum about her ability to “comprehend Palo Alto” and said people often assumed she was talking about East Palo Alto rather than her home city.

“When Black and brown people speak out about feeling un-welcome, we’re told that we can leave,” Malone told the council Tuesday. “We as Palo Altans have to stop trying to pretend like racism doesn’t exist here or silencing Black and brown people when we speak out about it.”

The Rev. Kaloma Smith, chair of the Human Relations Commission, presented the report to the council on Tuesday and outlined the commission’s next planned steps to address the council’s priority of addressing racial inequality.

The main component of this work is a series of “community circles” — groups of about 10 people that would meet for conversations about race and belonging. The commission has a goal of meeting with 100 community leaders, who would then help facilitate 100 such circles in the next 24 months.

Smith, who serves as pastor at the University AME Zion Church, recited a litany of stories about residents of color getting treated with hostility by police officers, eyed suspiciously at Stanford Shopping Center and disrespected by strangers on the street. Smith said commissioners went far and wide to seek out stories for the reports. They were “shocked where the
The report highlights four themes that stood out in people’s comments: the persistence of discrimination over a long period of time; the consistency of aggressions, including daily microaggressions; a shortage of positive role models in their hometown; and denial of housing to Black and brown families.

“What we clearly have here and what another 20 pages of notes and people’s lived experiences in our city tell us is we have a city where people of color don’t feel like they belong, no matter their economic position, no matter their position in corporate spaces or academic spaces,” Smith said.

Smith acknowledged the inherently limited role that city government has when it comes to influencing behavior around race. One question that he and the commission wrestled with as they put the report together was: How does policy modify behavior?

“What seemed to be interesting to me is, if we had a perfect police department and we have perfect housing — would that make it a perfect community for Black and brown folks? Would they still not feel all the microaggressions and discrimination over a long period of time; the consistency of aggression in their stories.

The report’s commission was called the report “sobering” and “about trying to regulate.” Some council members suggest—Tuesday that the city should go further. Vice Mayor Pat Burt cited the city’s legacy of “redlining” — racial discrimination in mortgage lending — in the 1940s and 1950s, which shaped the demographics of both Palo Alto and East Palo Alto and helped determine their present composition.

Chair, Human Relations Commission Althea Mack said that she hopes listening to the narratives in the report will help people “understand that the experience of Black and brown people in our community needs to be improved.” She thanked the people who were willing to tell their stories.

“I know it’s painful, but it’s going to help us all do better,” Cormack said.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paw weekly.com.

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to discuss the city’s economic recovery plan; get a report about south Palo Alto bikeyway projects; and provide direction on prioritization of projects on the city’s capital improvement plan. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 25. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6633 and using Meeting ID: 362 037 238.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to elect a new chair and vice chair, get an update on Boulware Park upgrades, discuss changing the proposed visitor limit and an entry fee policy at Foothills Park, as well as a proposal to change the name of Foothills Park. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6633 and using Meeting ID: 999 3789 9745.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to hold study sessions on south Palo Alto bikeyway projects and on the Palo Alto Transportation Management Association. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 27. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6633 and using Meeting ID: 999 2789 9745.
During the pandemic, your heart care remains essential. Join us for a discussion of Atrial Fibrillation (AFib), including signs, symptoms, and the latest treatments. AFib is the most common irregular heart rhythm, affecting over two million Americans. It can lead to stroke and heart failure if left undetected and untreated.

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Director, Stanford Cardiac Arrhythmia Service

**Anson Lee, MD**  
Cardiothoracic surgeon

**James Longoria, MD**  
Cardiothoracic surgeon

**Aurag Gupta, MD, FACC**  
Cardiologist  
Cardiac electrophysiologist

**Melissa Burroughs, MD, MS, FACC**  
Cardiologist

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Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 27.

Vaccinations: Progress in Santa Clara County
Data as of Jan. 20

Source: Santa Clara County COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Dashboard. Stanford Health Care may have received some doses directly from the county’s stockpile, resulting in more second doses administered than there were second doses received. Sutter Health/PAMF reported zero second doses were administered as of Jan. 20.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

*How to get an appointment to be vaccinated*

**Kaiser Permanente**
Residents age 65 and older qualify for the vaccine. Information and scheduling for appointments can be found online at mydoctor.kaiserpermanente.org/covid-19-vaccine or by calling 855-454-8855. Kaiser’s website is now advising people age 75 and older not to call or email, and to await a letter or email about available appointments.

**Sutter Health/Palo Alto Medical Foundation**
Residents age 75 and older qualify for the vaccine. Appointments can be scheduled online at sutterhealth.org for patients/health-alerts/covid-19-vaccine or by calling 844-687-6115. Patients are asked not to call their care site or provider’s office for vaccination scheduling, and to expect long wait times.

**Stanford Health Care**
Residents age 75 and older qualify for the vaccine. Appointments can be scheduled online at tinyt.com/

Kaiser has since increased staffing in its call center and now
Doing vaccine.

An expanded rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine by Donald Trump’s administration for pile of vaccines. Santa Clara have secretly depleted that stockpile of vaccines that the federal government may have used to vaccinate more people. Other vaccine-related information for Santa Clara County can be found on the county’s sccevax.com website, which is regularly updated to reflect which community members are currently eligible to receive the vaccine, as well as how those individuals can schedule appointments.

Queen’s position is that patients of large health care providers such as Kaiser Permanent, Sutter/Palo Alto Medical Foundation or Stanford Health Care, Santa Clara County staff told the Board of Supervisors’ Health and Hospital Committee on Jan. 19. (The Big Four serve 85% of the county’s public medical centers. Patients of the county’s public medical centers should receive their vaccines through their providers.)

County Supervisor Joe Simitian noted that the decision would be distressing to some county residents, who would likely feel entitled to the vaccines since they are county taxpayers. But with four health care providers serving more than three-quarters of patients, the county would be quickly overwhelmed and would be unable to serve its core clients, many of whom are of low and very low income.

County leaders said they will soon be opening a mass-vaccination center at the Mountain View Community Center, but once again, it won’t be open to patients with primary care physicians. Patients of the county’s public medical centers should receive their vaccines through their providers.

The latest vaccination news

Here’s what’s going on locally with the COVID-19 pandemic.

County unveils vaccine dashboard

Santa Clara County launched a new online dashboard on Jan. 15 that tracks the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses received and administered by the county’s health care sector.

The dashboard will be revised as the county receives more data from providers, according to a press release from the Public Health Department. Some data is still missing, either due to failure to report or because some providers receive their vaccine supplies directly from the federal government and therefore are not subject to the reporting requirement.

New vaccine shipments are arriving each week and will be noted in the dashboard upon their receipt.

Other vaccine-related information for Santa Clara County can be found on the county’s sccevax.com website, which is regularly updated to reflect which community members are currently eligible to receive the vaccine, as well as how those individuals can schedule appointments.

Mass-vaccination centers to open but will only serve some

Anyone hoping to be vaccinated at one of the planned COVID-19 mass-vaccination centers in Santa Clara or San Mateo counties is likely to be turned away if they have a primary care physician, Santa Clara County staff said on Tuesday.

The counties aren’t set up to take on the patients of large health care providers such as Kaiser Permanente, Sutter/Palo Alto Medical Foundation or Stanford Health Care, Santa Clara County staff told the Board of Supervisors’ Health and Hospital Committee on Jan. 19.

(Staff Writer Sue Dremann)
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**Public Notices**

**997 All Other Legals**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DAVID LAWRENCE WATSON

Case No.: 20PR189100

For all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent or subrogated persons, or any person who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DAVID LAWRENCE WATSON. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: TYLEE GARRETT WATSON in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO in case number 20PR189100. The Petition for Probate requests that: TYLEE GARRETT WATSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition may be examined at the decedent's will and codicil, if any, at the Probate Court of the County of SAN MATEO, located in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO, 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 (1) four months from the date of first issuance of notice to creditors or (2) sixty days from the date of mailing of this notice. You may also mail a notice under section 9026 of the California Probate Code to the personal representative. If you are the legal authority as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or if you are in bankruptcy, you may file a notice under section 9026 of the California Probate Code to the personal representative. If you are the legal authority, or any person or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250 A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court.

Attorney for Petitioner: Raymond Sheffield
Sheffield Law Office
100 Century Court
Suite 300
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 902-2500

(Nov. 1, 2021 – Jan. 1, 2022)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALES NS: 5-477-028 AM, 345-56-068 Title Order No. 19554251

PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on the notice of sale, as recorded in book N/A, page 6715 of the official records in the County Recorder’s Office is June 22, 2021. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BUYERS: This is a Summary of the Information in This Document. This Listing Is in Default Under a Deed of Trust Dated 6/1920 in book 206 page 279. If You Fail to Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold at a Public Sale. If You Need an Explanation of Your Rights and What to Do to PROCEED AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER or the trustee to the highest bidder for cash, cashier’s check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn on a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn on a state or federal savings and loan association, or a savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5160 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown on the face of this notice, and conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the fee simple absolute described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without regard to the face amount of the note (if any), or the last and highest bid, and the address of the bidder at the time of the sale. The sale will be held at the site, or a common address of the property being sold, and at the time and date specified in the notice of sale. You must be present at the sale, or authorized by the trustee to vote. Your bid must be increased by the last and highest bid placed at the sale. You are notified that this notice is mailed with the date and time of the sale. 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.

The last and highest bid, and the address of the bidder at the time of the sale. The sale will be held at the site, or a common address of the property being sold, and at the time and date specified in the notice of sale. You must be present at the sale, or authorized by the trustee to vote. Your bid must be increased by the last and highest bid placed at the sale. You are notified that this notice is mailed with the date and time of the sale. 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.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on February 4, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in room 128 of the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95113. At the Gated North Market Place Entrance.

If you need an appointment for a review of the title to the property conveyed to and now held by the trustee, you should consider contacting an attorney for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Staff Writer Elena Kadavy can be emailed at ekadavy@pawpeky.com

**Upfront**

OUR TEAM IS IN MOTION FOR YOU

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawpeky.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

**Schools**

(continued from page 5)

new requirements that didn’t ex- ist before that will further prohibit schools from opening.

The state notes that creating stable cohorts that minimize crossover between teachers and students is more challenging at high schools. The state suggests keeping a single group together in one classroom and having teach- ers rotate between groups, or hav- ing smaller groups move together in staggered passing schedules to other rooms they need to use (such as science labs) without allow- ing students or staff to mix with others from distinct groups. Students also can be part of one group that stays together with one or two instructors who teach them directly for part of the day and then have other classes taught virtually. High schools also could divide the school year into smaller- er time slots, such as four weeks, during which time students focus on one or two subjects intensively.

The state also is putting in place coronavirus testing re- quirements for schools depend- ing on which tier their county is in. Schools in counties in the pur- ple tier, for example, would have to test all students and staff, both symptomatic and asymptomatic, every two weeks.

Austin doesn’t think there is sufficient local or state testing capacity to meet this stipulation. Stanford Health Care, through which the district is offering test- ing to employees, recently capped its service, meaning any district employee who hasn’t already been tested by Stanford can no longer receive a test, Austin said.

To date, 260 district staff have been tested. There have been 20 staff members working in per- son and nine students attending hybrid learning who have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the district.

Newson’s announcement said California will help schools im- prove weekly testing for staff and students, including through access to the state-operated Va- lencia Branch Laboratory, which opened in October to increase COVID-19 testing capacity and reduce turnaround time.

The state is also now requir- ing that students of all ages wear masks. Parents and staff mem- bers can use a new online “hot- line” to report safety concerns to the state’s Safe Schools for All Team, a group of experts tasked with overseeing the reopening of schools. Schools will be re- quired to regularly report to the state their reopening status and transmission rates, which will be publicly available on a new state dashboard.

The benefits of in-person in- struction are plain to see, espe- cially for our youngest students and students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, the state guidance reads. “Now, with growing evidence that the right precautions can effectively stop the spread of COVID-19 in schools — particularly in elementary grades — the administration is commit- ted to doing everything it can to support students and staff to safely return to in-person instruction.”

Palo Alto Unified will remain open for hybrid learning at the elementary schools, which have been open since October and hopes to be able to offer in-per- son instruction to sixth graders this spring.

“We still are holding out hope that we could bring back sixth- grade students in March but even that depends largely on these changing regulations and county COVID cases. But that’s about as far as our optimism goes when it comes to reopening secondary schools,” Austin said.

The secondary schools are still planning — and allowed under the state’s new guidelines — to offer small group cohorts on cam- puses starting Jan. 25. The high schools also resumed outdoor, so- cially distanced athletic training this week.

Austin said the district hopes to expand summer school in person but that will also hinge on local COVID-19 rates and public health guidance. “A Staff Writer Genny Shelley can be emailed at gshelley@pawpeky.com

**Apartments**

(continued from page 7)

to one, it should be a lot lower,” Keen said.

The umbrella group Palo Alto Neighborhoods also issued a let- ter that criticized the project and cataloged the zoning exceptions that it seeks.

“Steady-up zoning of proper- ties along El Camino Real dis- proportionately affects neighbor- hoods nestled behind El Camino Real in South Palo Alto,” PAN Co-Chairs Sheri Furman and Becky Sanders wrote in the letter. “Upzoning is not allowed in other neighborhoods; why these neighborhoods?”

Gary Johnson, a partner at Acclaim Companies, said the project is intended to help teach- ers, police officers, firefighters and other community service workers who cannot afford to live in Palo Alto and have to commute in order to preserve commuting.

The city’s housing shortage, he said, “has obviously stressed our community.”

“A PALO ALTO single project is no panacea and no project is perfect, this project provides the housing and BMR housing near a transit corridor.”... This proj- ect is the first housing project to deep restrict over 20% of its units without a subsidy from the city of Palo Alto or a housing nonprofit,” Johnson said.

The council’s positive response to the project paves the way for Acclaim to present a formal ap- plication, which would then go through reviews by the Planning and Transportation Commission and the Architectural Review Board before returning to the council for formal approval.

*Staff Writer Genny Shelley can be emailed at gshelley@pawpeky.com
Private Retreat on Expansive Lot in North Palo Alto

Located in North Palo Alto’s highly desirable Duveneck/St. Francis neighborhood, this traditional four bedroom, three bath home has it all. Perfectly sited on a rarely available oversized lot (11,835 square feet), the home enjoys a park-like setting with great privacy.

The single level floor plan, having been expanded and remodeled over the years, offers generously proportioned rooms, well designed for the way we live today. The kitchen/family great room is a comfortable and casual gathering spot, while the living/dining main room with its central fireplace and view of the rear garden provides a slightly more formal alternative.

The ideal arrangement of the bedroom wing maximizes flexibility. The fourth bedroom may also serve as an office or guest suite and is situated off the foyer with its own separate patio. Across and down the hall is the primary suite with its spacious bath, then a multi-purpose bonus room leads to two additional bedrooms at the rear of the home. Work, study, play or just relax in this inviting space.

The rear yard has a lovely cultivated portion with patio, sparkling pool and jacuzzi, plus an additional 900 sf +/- undeveloped portion that may accommodate an organic garden, orchard, play area, or accessory dwelling unit. Explore the possibilities.

Stroll the tree lined streets, or bike to Rinconada Park, Lucie Stern Community Center, Edgewood Shopping Center and top Palo Alto schools. Enjoy close proximity to Stanford University and Shopping Center, downtown Palo Alto and Silicon Valley’s tech companies... all that Palo Alto has to offer!

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Bonilla's three children — his 8-year-old daughter and 7-year-old twin boys — were asymptomatic, but his wife became sick in early December, about a week before Bonilla fell ill. Rodriguez’s symptoms didn’t progress past a fever, aches and exhaustion.

Feeling like his lungs were ‘on fire’

During Bonilla’s week in the hospital, doctors treated him with the antiviral drug Remdesivir in travenously for five days. He said within 20 minutes of taking Remdesivir he felt markedly better. The hospital also administered steroids for seven days to reduce the fluid buildup in his lungs. On day four of the steroids kicked in, he said.

Bonilla, who says his asthma probably further complicated his bout with COVID-19, said those first few days of his days in the hospital sleep- ing and doing breathing exercises blowing into a plastic tube that measures your air flow to expand his lung capacity. He hardly had time to even think about the fact that he couldn’t have visitors be- cause he spent most of his days in his room for someone who had a fever.

“It felt literally like I ran a mar- athon, but every day,” he said. “I didn’t want to talk. I had 10- to 15-minute spurts on FaceTime with my kids but then I wanted to get back to sleep. I picked up the phone to try and the person on the other end told me to save my energy.”

One good sign was that Bonilla was never hooked up to a venti- lator. He said that COVID-19 patients don’t want to end up on these machines. The ventilator itself “can do damage to the lung tissue,” he said. ‘Much pres- sure is required to help oxygen get processed by the lungs.”

Dr. Tiffany Osbom, a critical care specialist at Washington Uni- versity in St. Louis, told NPR in April.

Back at home, Rodriguez said she felt frighten. Rodriguez’s condition. One night, Rodriguez became alarmed when Bonilla started sending her heartfelt letters.

“It freaked me out,” said Ro- driguez, who has been married to Bonilla for 12 years. “He talked about how much he loved me; what our life together was like. I can’t go back to (look at the let- ter); it makes me cry. I thought, ‘Oh God, he’s doing that just in case’ if he doesn’t get a chance to say that, it’s in writing.”

She had just recovered from the virus as well but she feared strong for her small children. She had moments of shear- ness, she said. She was grieving the loss of her uncle, while her children viewed as a grand- father figure, while her husband was battling the same virus that took her uncle’s life.

“I did my very best to hold things together,” she said. “Peo- ple came out of the woodwork (to help). Co-workers, friends and family members bought us groceries and food.”

Rodriguez started to feel more positive about Bonilla’s condition when he began talking about the future and his work. She saw glimmers of his usual hopeful spirit.

“Bonilla left the hospital on Christmas Eve with an oxygen machine strapped to his back,” he said. He headed home and he felt he needed to give up his room for someone who had a greater need to be hospitalized.

“15 is a vibrant 42-year-old, strong and tall, and he came home with an oxygen tank, taking his steps slowly,” Rodri- guez said. “It was hard to watch; none of us have ever seen him like that.”

Bonilla noted that you can only have so much optimism when you can’t breathe. Rodriguez reassured him he was on the right path and told him to “fight through” it despite his lungs feel- ing like they were on fire.

“That was what I needed to hear during that moment,” he said. “As strong as you are — I’m 6-foot-6 (inches tall) — the virus is ultimately determining what it wants to do with you.”

‘This is not the flu’

Bonilla wants people to know that contracting COVID-19 is much more serious than the flu, despite some people saying warn- ings of the health impacts of the coronavirus are overblown.

“While this is not the flu — literally on the other end told me to save the phone to try and the person on the other end told me to save my energy.”

Rodriguez said some people miss the window to get more se- rious medical care, making it im- possible to recover. Bonilla was lucky to get treatment during that critical time, she said.

‘As a human being, I almost felt like it was my duty to fight harder (to get out of the hospital) to ensure people coming in pretty bad (shape) had that help.” — Rolando Bonilla, COVID-19 survivor

“Seeing person after person coming in, I saw myself hoping and praying for their speedy re-covery,” he said. “You could see people dying on the phone and it’s literally on the line of something cata- strophic and fatal for them. As a human being, I almost felt like it was my duty to fight harder (to get out of the hospital) to ensure peo- ple coming in pretty bad (shape) had that help.”

Katherine Fields

Katherine (Katie) Snow Smith Fields

January 27, 1967 – January 9, 2021

Katie passed away on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at the age of 56 from metastatic breast cancer. Katie lived an inspira- tional and valiant life full of service to others. She will be greatly missed and will be most remembered for her devotion to God and her family.

Katie is survived by her parents, Boyd and Jill Smith and her four chil- dren: Parker Samuel Fields, Elizabeth Christena Fields, Wilson Gabriel Fields and Cache Johnson Fields; her two daughter in-laws: Megan Richardson Fields and Lauryn Walker Fields; her 3 grandchildren: Hudson Samuel Fields, Blair Elizabeth Fields and Remi Jean Fields; the father of her children, Roger Allen Fields; her 4 siblings and their spouses: Christena Smith Larney (Brian), Charlotte Smith Jessop (Ted), Boyd Carpenter Smith (Hilary), and Lund Johnson Smith (Jenn) and her 16 nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Katie’s memory to BYU-Pathway Worldwide or give a little money or time to someone in need.

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In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Katie’s memory to BYU-Pathway Worldwide or give a little money or time to someone in need.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q

A

Marketplace

The Palo Alto Weekly offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawweekly.com.
Kathryn C. Young
February 1, 1948 to December 13, 2020

Jane B. Holland
June 24, 1936 – December 12, 2020

Jane Biebel Holland, 84, passed away on December 12, 2020 at her home in Palo Alto, with her sons at her side, after a brief illness. Jane was born June 24, 1936 in Oakwood Ohio, a suburb of Dayton. Her parents were Lawrence Burton ‘LB’ Biebel, a prominent patent attorney, and Josephine Elizabeth ‘Betty’ [Hopkins] Biebel, a descendent of the earliest American settlers of Plymouth Colony, Stephen Hopkins, and Elizabeth Hopkins, whose child, Oceanus, was born on the original Mayflower journey. Jane was a lover of horses as a child and was a talented show jumper. Her horse ‘Belle’ was a majestic creature she loved. She graduated Oakwood High School in 1954 and went on to attend Northwestern University, where she was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She graduated with a B.S. obtaining a teaching degree. While at Northwestern she attended St. Ignatius College, in 1956. She was very taken with life in California and was determined to return after college.

She married David B. Holland, a Stanford graduate, stock broker, investment advisor, political and civic activist and philanthropist in 1958. They briefly lived in San Augustin, Mexico in 1960. They moved to Menlo Park and then Palo Alto in 1960.

Jane was a homemaker and a member of the Junior League and later supported, along with David, the political rise of Congressman Pete McCloskey. She and David supported the local residential cause in Palo Alto and became the town’s human scale and humane character.

Jane never lost her love of horses and in the 1970’s competed in trail and endurance equestrian races. She was a nature lover and animal lover, and had many loved pets, Dinky Dog as a child, Otis the cat, Sherry a lab, Royal Robert, a lab-her son’s Craig’s soul mate, Raj, and Blue, and later Siamese Cats.

In the mid 70’s she became a travel agent, and had the opportunity to travel widely around the world, which she took full advantage of and fully enjoyed.

In the early 90’s she retired and began a long process of remodeling her home and garden, which gave her a great amount of joy and satisfaction. Her garden became her passion and comfort. Though not overly interested in politics she enjoyed the political commentary of Rachel Maddow nightly and was very happy, indeed relieved, to see the election of President Joe Biden.

Jane had a light spirit and her unique laughter was known to all who were friends. She will be very deeply missed. Who knows where the time goes … Jane is survived by her sister Nancy Esman, of Little Compton, Rhode Island, and sons Peter Holland and Craig Holland of Palo Alto.

Jane supported the work of the Gamble Garden of the Palo Alto Weekly and the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. No services are planned at this time. A final garden party memorial may be held at a future date.
Judy Shulman
January 8, 1941 – January 14, 2021

Judy (Horwitz) Shulman (1941-2021) died in her home on the Stanford campus on January 14, at the age of 80, in the comforting presence of her family.

Judy was born in Chicago on January 8, 1941 to Joseph and Ethel Horwitz. She was the middle child between older brother David and younger sister Barbara. The family soon moved to Highland Park, IL, where she graduated from Highland Park High School in 1959. She spent her freshman year at the University of Wisconsin immersed in the Integrated Liberal Studies (ILS) program, which she loved. She sacrificed completion of the program and transferred to Northwestern, when she became engaged to Lee Shulman, a graduate student at the University of Chicago. They had met at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and she subsequently taught her Hebrew at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, a conservative congregation that her father and mother helped to found. The 18 year old teacher and his 16 year old student fell in love, breaking all the rules. When they married during winter break late in 1960, she was a 19 year old sophomore at Northwestern and he was a 22 year old doctoral student at Chicago.

Judy completed her preparation as an elementary school teacher in 1963, when the couple moved to East Lansing, Michigan where Lee taught introductory educational psychology for future teachers at Michigan State University and she would teach 4th grade at Wardcliffe Elementary School in Okemos. Her first few months of teaching were exciting, punctuated by the excitement of “the new math” and shocked by living through the Kennedy assassination with her ten-year-old pupils. Babies followed. Allen was born in 1964, and Adina 23 months later. In 1969 Judy and Lee spent a sabbatical year in Jerusalem. There she grew closer to Lee’s grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Shulman, who died while they were in Israel. In December of that year, she gave birth to Daniel Jacob, who would carry his grandfather’s name. Judy never tired of community engagement. In East Lansing, she shared in the creation of a new synagogue, Kehillat Israel, completely lay-led, and served many terms as chair of the synagogue school board.

As the three kids were growing up in the comfortable village of Okemos, Judy was inspired to pursue a calling that would become the driving force of her professional life—addressing the challenges of educating new teachers and sustaining the development of veteran teachers. She earned a master’s degree in reading education at Michigan State and collaborated on designing and teaching an excellent program to prepare study skills to first-generation students in agriculture. Her first book, with the provocative title “Making it in College,” grew out of that course. Her real gift was supporting people learning to teach. During a sabbatical year at Stanford, Judy worked as a research assistant to the psychoanalyst Bruno Bettelheim in his work on children’s reading errors. She became an outstanding mentor and coach for aspiring teachers in Michigan State’s ambitious Teacher Corps program, serving for several years as a “Clinic professor.” She also followed her MA in reading with graduate study that focused on educational ethnography and the development of cases. This orientation toward cases and ethnographic inquiry laid the foundation for the rest of her professional life.

When the family arrived in the Bay area in late 1982, Lee was teaching at Stanford and Judy found a part-time position as a research assistant at the Far West Regional Educational Laboratory in San Francisco. Over time, that position grew into a role as a senior research associate and program director. In that position, she created the Institute for Case Development in Education which became a national and international resource. During her 25 years at WestEd (to which the Lab had changed its name), she published many articles and seven teacher casebooks plus her classic Case Methods in Teacher Education which was also translated into Chinese. In 2004, she received the national award for Applying Research into Practice given annually by the American Educational Research Association.

After moving to the Bay Area, Judy served the Jewish community with great energy. She served on the boards of two new Jewish Day Schools, Gideon Hausner and Kehillah. She served on the board of Congregation Kol Emeth. She served on and chaired the committee that selected the outstanding Jewish educators in the Bay Area for the Helen Diller Award. She served on the grants allocation committee of the San Francisco Jewish Federation. She organized and worked at food kitchens and at the Ecumenical Hunger Project. There was no role she loved more than serving as a volunteer Jewish chaplain at Stanford Hospital. As part of the program under the leadership of Bruce Feldstein, Judy did regular rounds visiting patients and also served on the program’s board.

Judy particularly enjoyed teaching about the development and use of cases all over the United States and across the world. In Israel and in Norway, in Taiwan, Hangzhou, Shanghai, and from San Francisco to New York, she offered well attended workshops and seminars.

Judy was predeceased by her mother and father, Joe and Ethel Horwitz. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Lee Shulman, her children Allen (Debby Dresner) Shulman of Northbrook, IL, Adina Shulman of Santa Monica, and Daniel (Lisa Weingarten) Shulman of San Diego, grandchildren Joey, Jordy, Becky, Sam and Sarah, as well as her brother Dr. David Horwitz (Essie Waxler) of Los Angeles and her sister Barbara Hoffman (David) of Highland Park and Boca Raton, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

System Administrator 3
Stanford Univ/SLAC in Menlo Park, CA, seeks System Administrator 3 to design, develop, install, and maintain operating systems, utilities, and applications software on computing systems. Configure and maintain PeopleSoft Search, Bach in CS or related + 8 yrs exp as sys analyst, developer, tech lead, PeopleSoft admin, or closely related occ; or master’s + 6 yrs exp as specified. Min 5 yrs exp with PeopleSoft app arch installation and config/integration; migration of PeopleSoft projects; PeopleTools and app upgrades; PeopleSoft components, Weblogic, Tuxedo; Oracle databases; Unix and Windows operating systems. Email resume to iso@slac.stanford.edu and reference ID424.54.

PAID OBITUARY

Nancy Mary Paolini
January 12, 1952 – December 6, 2020
Resident of Menlo Park

Nancy Mary Paolini passed away as she wished, in her home, surrounded by her beloved four cats, having lived an active life to the end.

Nancy, whose grandparents emigrated from India and Italy, was raised in East Sacramento. While attending Sacramento High School, she was an editor for the school magazine, was elected to student government offices, and was voted homecoming queen.

After graduating in 1974 with honors from California State University, Sacramento, with a Bachelor’s Degree in English, Nancy attended graduate school at the University of Southern California. She earned a Master of Science in Education, specializing in reading. Following several years as a reading instructor in the USC Reading Center, in Jennings, Missouri, at Almond Elementary School in Los Altos, and Terman (Ellen Fletcher) Middle School in Palo Alto, Nancy discovered the joy of teaching English as a Second Language to adults. At Foothill College’s Los Altos Hills and Mountain View campuses, she taught primarily ESL students in both classroom and lab settings.

In 1988, Nancy began teaching full-time at College of San Mateo in the Reading Department and helped create the ESL Department, teaching ESL reading until her retirement in 2018.

Nancy had many passions. After first attending the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in college, she was a regular patron for the next 47 years, always watching every play offered. Also, she was devoted to animals and animal care. For more than 35 years she volunteered to assist cats at the Palo Alto Animal Services. After retiring, she also walked dogs for Companions in Waiting and the Menlo Park Veterans Medical Center. Annual international and national travel were important in Nancy’s life. She also enjoyed reading, attending theatre, painting pottery, and making jewelry. Nancy’s other passion was fashion. She enjoyed shopping and conversing with many of the sales associates in the clothing and jewelry sections of Stanford Shopping Center stores.

Nancy is survived by her brother Larry (Lisa) Paolini, her nephew, Tony Paolini, and her niece Lindsay Yap. Her many friends, colleagues, and former students will deeply miss her.

You may make a donation in Nancy’s memory to (1) Companions in Waiting Rescue and Adoption, (2) Nancy M. Paolini & Carole Paolini Wills Scholarship for ESL Students, c/o San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation, or (3) Bay Area Cancer Connections.

Employment

You may make a donation in Nancy’s memory to (1) Companions in Waiting Rescue and Adoption, (2) Nancy M. Paolini & Carole R. Thurmond Wills Scholarship for ESL Students, c/o San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation, or (3) Bay Area Cancer Connections.
Letters

The barber pole ‘hack’
Editor,

If police radio transmissions had been encrypted previously, we would not be able to laugh at the M.I.T. Barber Pole Hack that allegedly occurred quite a few years ago. The term “hack,” in this context, was student slang for a prank, with a completely different meaning for computer programming.

As the story goes, three students approached a barber and offered to buy his barber pole for significantly more than what a new one would cost. The barber said, “Sure,” and the only stipulation that these students had was that they wanted to be able to pick it up whenever they wished. At around 2 a.m., they picked up the barber pole and ran around the streets of Cambridge carrying it. In about an hour, the police saw them. The students said, “It’s our barber pole. We bought it.” The police: “Sure you bought it.” The reply: “Here’s the receipt, and you can call the barber.” So the police contacted the barber, who said, “Yeah, they bought it, and what’s the idea of calling me at three in the morning?” They ran around some more and got stopped again. They told the officer that they had already been stopped, so the dispatcher announced on the police radio, “There are three students running around the streets of Cambridge carrying a barber pole. Don’t bother them. They bought it.” Meanwhile their friends were listening in on the police radio channel and went around in groups of three, stealing every barber pole in Cambridge.

That’s a good reason to encrypt police radio broadcasts. You can always stream the broadcast with a suitable time delay so the public can monitor what the police are doing.

Bill Zaumen
Clara Drive, Palo Alto

2021 goals
Editor,

As the City Council asks residents to offer their views on priorities for 2021, the members owe us a detailed explanation of what was accomplished in line with last year’s priorities. What did the council accomplish with regard to housing, sustainability and mobility?

How are we better off in those domains?

While I agree that goal setting is necessary for a community to align and allocate our resources, I again advocate for more than just broad, lofty goals. The council needs to agree on specific and measurable objectives and must report back on these efforts. Without this measurement and accountability, the annual goal setting is reduced to a feel-good exercise that far too often fails to deliver meaningful results.

Like the rest of the nation, our city faces difficult challenges. Now is the time to offer clear direction and deliverables in order to maintain the confidence of residents. For 2021, the council needs to be more specific, set targets, establish metrics and be prepared to hold us all accountable for making progress.

John Guiselin
Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Virus of lies
Editor,

Images of a mob of domestic terrorists invading Congress this past week will long be imprinted in our minds as one of the most devastating attacks on our democracy. Unfortunately, the events of Jan. 6 were not unexpected. The amplification, and viral spread, of the lies and conspiracy theories by social media have polarized this nation to such a dangerous degree that they may well continue inflicting our democracy beyond repair. No society can function unless there is enough shared basis of factual reality.

Social media, and Facebook in particular, have prioritized profit far above the sustainability of the country that has incubated them. Their algorithms are designed to maximize attention, and they well know that polarizing content and rage maximize engagement. A recent Massachusetts Institute of Technology study found that fake news has a six times advantage over real stories. How convenient, then, that Facebook has continued to resist suppressing dangerous misinformation. Their platform’s media have created and empowered a consequential population of conspiracy theorists, including groups the FBI has determined to pose a domestic terror threat. Even though they have 15,000 people moderating the most egregious content like child pornography, their leadership has not done nearly enough to remove dangerous disinformation.

Immediately after the election on Nov. 3, Facebook tweaked their algorithm to prioritize media based on factual verifiable reporting; but they did not continue after the election as they surely came to the conclusion that it would affect their bottom line. They know how to fix the vile spread of lies and conspiracy theories, but they won’t take responsibility. We, their neighbors in Menlo Park, should not be passive or blind to the fact we live next door to a doomsday machine. At the very least, we should start a serious dialogue on what we can do to stop the virus of harmful conspiracy theories and state-sponsored disinformation purposely designed to exacerbate the fault lines in our society.

Social media platforms have all been complicit in excess pandemic deaths and in the events leading up to the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol. It’s long past time for them to take responsibility for spreading hate and lies.

Mark Tuschman
Santa Monica Avenue, Menlo Park

Streetwise

Looking back at the past four years, what are your thoughts on the Biden administration?

Asked in various Palo Alto locations. Question, interviews and photographs by Lloyd Lee.

Daniel Calderon
Security guard
Palo Alto

“Hopefully the country can unite again despite all the turmoil that has happened the past four years.”

Sylvana Habdank
Editor
Mountain View

“I will not have such a hard time explaining to my daughters what leadership is and what it looks like.”

Mary Jones
Crossing guard
East Palo Alto

“I hope this new administration will bring change and that we can all be able to learn how to get together, grow together and stay together.”

Bailey Marshack
Graduate student
East Palo Alto

“It’s about time for a change. We’ve seen that a lot of the policies in the last four years haven’t worked very well.”

Christine Clark
Retiree
Palo Alto

“I’m looking forward to truth coming back, instead of lies. I feel totally relieved.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest.

What do you think about Palo Alto middle and high schools remaining closed this school year?

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For more information, contact Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at lleee@paweekly.com or 650-223-6526 or Editor Jocelyn Dong at editor@paweekly.com.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • January 22, 2021 • Page 21
For its production of Eric Coble's race-relations comedy "Fairfield," the Pear Theatre is trying an innovative filming technique. The production's cast and staff includes, from left to right, co-director Aldo Billingslea; cast member Jennifer Bradford; co-director Sinjin Jones, who is also the Pear's artistic director; and cast member Robert Sean Campbell. All photos courtesy the Pear Theatre.


The Pear tries a new way of putting on a play with ‘Fairfield’

by John Orr

Close on the heels of the invasion of the U.S. Capitol by hundreds of racists and anti-Semites, what better time to stage a play about race relations? A completely hilarious comedy about race relations, that is.

The Pear Theatre in Mountain View is offering a video-recorded version of Eric Coble’s satire/farce “Fairfield,” which features desperately sincere people trying to cross the racial divide — and pratfalling in the process.

In the show, Miss Kaminsky, a brand-new and overeager young (white) teacher, has a very ambitious plan for teaching her first graders about Black History Month. “Don’t you want to celebrate your own heritage?” she asks her principal, who is Black. “No,” says the principal. “But, it’s such a gift! To all of us!” says the teacher.

“You know what part of the world my people came from, Miss Kaminsky?” the principal replies. “New Jersey. I feel no need to celebrate that.”

Her lesson plan somewhat pared down, Miss Kaminsky still gets her students to stop pouring milk on each other and putting crayons in their ears long enough for an ill-fated Black History Month role-playing game, during which a discouraged word is heard.

Tense parent meetings in the principal’s office ensue. Coble’s play is about “community and race and tolerance,” according to Jennifer Bradford, who plays one of the parents brought into the school to discuss what happened in that first grade class. “Everyone is trying to be understood but getting all mashed up.”

“It’s about racism, so blatant, pulled into your focus, so much so that you can’t avoid it, can’t dodge it,” she said. “All that’s in the play, addressed in humor, like farce.”

Robert Sean Campbell, who plays another of the parents, said it’s also a look at how schools and parents can struggle with difficult conversations. “About what their kids say, and how that reflects on them, and how they move through it.”

Campbell said he hasn’t previously “done subject matter so real, so heavy, so topical. ... It’s difficult to get the importance of it while still making it hilarious.”

The Pear, like pretty much every other theater company, has been struggling with finding ways to reach audiences of devoted fans during the COVID-19 crises. A good cast was assembled for a recorded production of “Lysistrata” last autumn, but that video, in this critic’s experience, was a technical mess.

But Artistic Director Sinjin Jones said his plan is to try something different for every video production, and for “Fairfield,” the plan is certainly different, and certainly challenging.

The rehearsals, via Zoom, have been going well, according to Bradford, Campbell and Jones. The show is being directed by Jones and the esteemed Bay Area actor and educator Aldo Billingslea (longtime acquaintances Bradford and Campbell actually met years ago when in the theater program at Santa Clara University, where they were taught by Billingslea).

The performance itself will be where the true challenge happens: Each actor will go alone to a set in the theater, joined by other actors via Zoom. For instance, Bradford acts in The Pear, accompanied by castmate Terrance Smith via Zoom; then Smith goes to the Pear to do the scene, with Bradford joining via Zoom.

“It will be up to Jones, who has a background in filmmaking, to stitch together all the pieces into one coherent package. It may be a ‘logistical nightmare,’” said Campbell. But, he added, “I am looking forward to seeing the end product, seeing how it works out.”

What’s tricky about it, of course, is that timing is one of the most important aspects of any comedy. But timing in a regular production is hard enough, in this puzzle box of a play, it will be very difficult to achieve.

Jones said they’ve set the action “during COVID times, so most of the play works live to Zoom, gives it an interesting perspective.” Some scenes will be set as video calls, while the trickiest will involve two shots being put together with the actors pretending they’re next to each other.

This production process “still requires acting techniques,” Bradford said, but “it’s hard to build community in a virtual way. “Normally, you can sit next to somebody (in a production) and get a feel for who they are. Bumping into the assistant stage manager to remind you of your entrance times. It’s important to bring that energy in rehearsal.”

It’s like filmmaking, in a way. “This technique is not completely foreign,” she said. “You can’t let it throw you. You don’t have the interruptions to the flow, the interactions with the audience. You have to imagine that you get interrupted but continue going (as in a live stage production).”

But, “Sinjin and Aldo have done great work. It’s been great to rehearse that way. ... I think it will work. I think people will enjoy it,” she said. “I hope they will talk about it.”

“Fairfield” is available Jan. 22 through Feb. 21. Tickets are $30-$34. More information is available at thepear.org/season-19.

Freelance writer John Orr can be emailed at johnorr@regardingarts.com.
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For Daniel Mason, there's a clear connection between psychiatry and literature. As a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at Stanford University, Mason has spent much of his career researching the subjective experience of mental illness and the influence of literature and culture on modern medical practices. And as an acclaimed novelist, the Palo Alto native has spent nearly two decades writing fiction and nonfiction inspired by his research.

Mason said his dual career took off unexpectedly when he was a medical student at the University of California, San Francisco. Between college and medical school, Mason, then 26, decided to conduct infectious disease research in Southeast Asia for a year. That trip, he explained, inspired his debut novel, “The Piano Tuner,” the basis for a 2004 opera of the same name.

“I ended up writing a book about someone who, maybe like myself, had gone away — very far away — for the first time and was struck by the experience,” he said.

Over the years, Mason has written numerous novels and short stories, including “A Far Country” and “The Winter Soldier,” which have been translated into 28 languages.

In May, he released his latest book, “A Registry of My Passage upon the Earth: Stories,” a collection of nine short stories, many based on real people, that probe the connections between art and science, madness and genius. Courtesy Sara Houghteling.
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- Linda K.

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Across
1 Palindromic title (even with the apostrophe)
4 Gum blobs
5 Dutch-speaking Caribbean island
10 15 Littlest bits
16 Chain with stacks and syrups
17 "You Remind Me" rock band
19 Croft of the Tomb Raider games
20 Pointer by another name
21 Place to get drinks before you turn in, maybe
23 "Take This Job and Shove It" singer David Allan ___
24 "Quò ___?" ("How’s it going?")
27 Area near NYU
28 Dressed like a judge
30 Nocturnal newborn
34 Monopoly token until 2017
39 Language suffix
40 Equal share, often
41 Wall crawlers
42 Apothecary's container
43 "The King and I" star Bynner
44 Get red in the face and shy away, maybe
46 First "Blue’s Clues" host
48 Willie Nelson’s son who leads the band Promise of the Real
49 An official language of Pakistan
50 Remain on the shelf
53 Drugstore with long receipts
56 Smoked Polish sausage
57 "Dies ___" (Latin hymn)
60 Most Nunavut inhabitants
62 Monty Python member Idle
63 Like bottles and cans, in some states (or what five long Across answers all contain)
66 Delany of "China Beach"
67 Hospital figure
68 Luxor river
69 Out in the open
70 Secretly watch
71 Sailed through

Down
1 ___ Panic (hair color brand that's still around)
2 Protein-building acid
3 Start of a popular children's song
4 (Soon-to-be) former VP name (depending on when this is published)
5 Have a cold, perhaps
6 Shoplift
7 Ogden's locale
8 Maple go-with, in some recipes
9 Seek permission for
10 Ron Howard fantasy film of 1988
11 Moby-Dick captain
12 Bilingual TV explorer
13 Practice for a boxing match
18 Endorse enthusiastically
20 Pointer by another name
21 Place to get drinks before you turn in, maybe
23 "Take This Job and Shove It" singer David Allan ___
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