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As someone who lived in Palo Alto with her family for a good many years before moving to San Francisco, I’d like you to know how much we’ve appreciated the Palo Alto Weekly. You adhere to the best values of good journalism — something that becomes harder to find in this chaotic period of our history.

Please accept my gratitude and words of admiration for all you’ve done for the last 40+ years. … Although I am no longer a resident, I still look upon the Weekly as one of the bright lights, fortunately not yet extinguished, of our democracy.

- Helen P.

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Expanded access to shots throughout Santa Clara County could help open bottleneck for PAMF, Kaiser patients

by Sue Dremann

COVID-19 vaccinations will now be available to all residents and workers in Santa Clara County who are 65 years and older, regardless of where they receive their health care, county officials announced on Thursday morning.

The significant change means that patients of Sutter/Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Stanford Health Care and other providers in the county can now go to any facility that offers the vaccines. The county and the large health care providers came to the agreement after persistent shortages caused many providers to limit or even cancel appointments for the highly coveted vaccines, County Executive Jeff Smith said during a press conference.

Kaiser, which serves an estimated 40% of patients statewide, has been particularly hard hit by vaccine shortages, having received a disproportionately low number of doses, Smith said. The county was already having to dip into its vaccine supply to provide extra doses to some health care providers to make up for some of the shortfalls, he said.

Getting the vaccines out quickly and to the most vulnerable populations is crucial, county Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said.

One year and one week after Santa Clara County identified its first case of COVID-19, the county has had more than 100,000 cases and 1,473 deaths. More than 80% of those who succumbed were 65 and older, she said.

“Never did I imagine we would be where we are today,” Cody said. “We must — and we can — prevent more deaths.”

Cody also did not imagine there would now be access to shots anywhere in the county.

To the point

Emiliano Precioo recieves the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from registered nurse Jill Vandroff at Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto on Jan. 30. He was among 1,100 people who received the first dose through the one-day event.

Economic recovery tops city’s priority list

Council also signals desire to sustain momentum on housing, social justice, climate

by Gennady Sheyner

Recognizing the devastating economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Palo Alto City Council agreed at its annual retreat Saturday to make recovery its top priority for 2021, while also vowing to focus on affordable housing, social justice and climate change.

By a unanimous vote, the council adopted these four issues as its official priorities for 2021, signaling a desire to devote “particular, unusual and significant attention” to them this year. In doing so, just about every council member underscored the central importance of reviving — and possibly resetting — the local economy to account for the “new normal” spurred by the pandemic.

“It’s hard for me to imagine anything more important,” council member Alison Cormack said at the virtual meeting. “When I think about what we’re supposed to do this year that will receive particular, unusual and significant attention, that’s No. 1. You can make an argument that that is the only one on the list.”

For some members, including Cormack and Eric Filseth, this means revisiting the city’s trend of growing expenditures — which preceded the pandemic — and falling revenues and considering ways to reduce the budget to account for the “new normal.”

Palo Alto Unified to reconvene sixth graders

In-person instruction to resume in the first week of March

by Elena Kadvany

Palo Alto Unified is moving forward with a plan to allow sixth graders to return to in-person learning in the first week of March, the district announced on Friday, Jan. 29.

The reopening of sixth grade in particular is now permissible under new state guidelines that consider sixth grade as attached to elementary schools rather than secondary schools, even if these students typically attend school with seventh and eighth graders, as in Palo Alto. The state allows schools to resume face-to-face instruction for sixth grade once their county COVID-19 rates are less than 25 per 100,000 people for five consecutive days, which is now the case in Santa Clara County.

This comes as a welcome development for parents and students eager to return to classrooms this school year, though it remains to be seen whether older students in middle and high schools will be able to do so. Superintendent Don Austin cautioned recently that the path to secondary schools reopening this academic year, particularly the high schools, seems unlikely.

The school board has already approved a reopening plan for hybrid learning at the middle schools, which was negotiated with the teachers union. The district plans to survey families again this week on whether they want to choose the hybrid model.

(continued on page 10)

(continued on page 13)
AN EXPLORATION OF RACE ...

This month, locals are taking on a 21-Day Equity Challenge launched by the Palo Alto school district and city of Palo Alto to understand race and equity and recognize how racism affects the community. More than 1,000 people have signed up, according to the city.

“There is a real hunger for better understanding on these topics with students, staff and parents,” said Yolanda Conaway, the district’s assistant superintendent of equity and students affairs. Throughout the three weeks, registered participants will be given daily activities, such as brief readings and videos that can be completed in 15 minutes or less.

“This Challenge is a powerful way for this community to look internally and externally at race and equity and realize that we have a lot of work to do to address the systemic disparities in Palo Alto and our region,” the Rev. Kaloma Smith, chair of the city’s Human Relations Commission, said in a statement. The program will touch on a variety of topics, including understanding privilege, housing and real estate, education and justice system inequities. Participants can also take part in Thursday Night Live, weekly events on Thursday featuring guest speakers who discuss themes that emerge from the challenge each week. The program has garnered other community partners: Youth Community Services, the Human Relations Commission and Palo Alto Parent Teachers Association Council. For more information, visit paequitychallenge.com.

OBERBURGMEISTER UNITE!

... The COVID-19 crisis has impeded Palo Alto leaders from connecting with representatives from its eight sister cities. In preparation for the 2022 elections, those bonds would often be fostered through visits to one another’s countries where they would exchange ideas, form partnerships and, at times, share resources. Recently, Palo Alto’s ties with one sister city, Heidelberg, Germany, were rekindled virtually through the “Corona in the USA” podcast run by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies at the University of Heidelberg. Mayor Tom DuBois talked with his counterpart across the Atlantic, Eckhart Würzner, about how their cities have responded to the pandemic in a Jan. 28 episode. The 30-minute conversation between the oberbürgermeisters (German for mayor) showed how both cities face the same challenges, including fiscal losses, questions over when to reopen certain sectors, COVID-19 vaccine shortages and the loss of income from shutdown universities. They’re also brainstorming ways to support local businesses. Heidelberg has assisted shop owners switch to online sales and Palo Alto has closed streets for outdoor dining and initiated a fundraising campaign that benefits businesses. While the pandemic has no end date in sight, both mayors touched on how their cities plan to stay resilient. For Würzner, it’s all about having “a good administration” that delivers services to its citizens. In Palo-Alto, DuBois said the city’s focused on making long-term investments, such as improving air quality systems to prevent the spread of disease, and preparing for disasters. Listen to the episode at hca.uni-heidelberg.de or search “Corona in the USA” on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

MAKING HER MARK ... East Palo Alto Academy senior Mariangela Martinez Mateo was announced as the the boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula’s Youth of the Year during a ceremony — held virtually for the first time — on Jan. 27. She was selected by a panel based on multiple factors, including essays, recommendations and speeches that were delivered at the online event. In her powerful speech, the first-generation Chicana talked on how her parents planted the seed that inspired her to further her goals in education, support from BGCP mentors along the way. She also referenced her goals in education, gaining on how her parents planted the seed that inspired her to further her goals in education, support from BGCP mentors along the way. She also referenced her goals in education, gaining

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“When work is remote and your school is closed, what are you paying rent for?”

— Elizabeth Lasky, Palo Alto parent, on why she relocated to Norway. See story on page 18.
T he Palo Alto City Council formalized its resistance to recent state and regional efforts to boost housing supply on Monday night, when it adopted a resolution reaffirming its commitment to local control.

In a 6-1 vote that illustrated the council’s increasingly antagonistic stance toward Sacramento in the aftermath of last November’s election, the council endorsed a resolution from council members Lydia Kou and Greer Stone. Council member Alison Corman was the lone vote against the resolution, which commits the city to strongly opposing the practice of the state Legislature of “continually proposing and passing multitudes of bills that directly impact and interfere with the ability of cities to control their own destiny through the use of the zoning authority that has been granted to them.”

The adopted resolution states that the majority of these bills “unilaterally alter the authority of local jurisdictions to determine for themselves the land use policies and practices that best suit each city.” The resolutions propose mandates that do not take into account the needs and differences of jurisdictions throughout the state of California.

The council “feels strongly that our local government is best able to assess the needs of our community,” the resolution states.

The state bills, Kou argued Monday, fail to recognize and account for the unique character of individual cities.

“The kind of legislation that is enacted in the end does not give homeowners — people who have invested in their community — a sense of confidence, not knowing what’s going to be coming up next,” Kou said.

“Despite its opposition to state mandates, the council and staff are still exploring new ways to encourage housing construction projects and to meet obligations under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. In recent years, the city has created a new zoning district that allows additional density and other zoning exemptions for below-market-rate housing and formed a ‘planned housing’ zone that allows residential developers to negotiate with the city over zoning standards. Last month, the council signaled preliminary support for a 113-apartment project on El Camino Real near Page Mill Road that is seeking to use the ‘planned housing’ zone. Next week, it will evaluate another housing proposal: a 290-apartment complex in south Palo Alto at the corner of Fabian Way and East Charleston Road. Vice Mayor Pat Burt, who strongly opposed SB 50 in 2019, maintained on Monday that the state has a significant role to play when it comes to housing. He lauded the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing law that the state passed in 2018, which requires cities to take proactive measures to target housing inequality relating to factors such as race, national origin, ancestry and religion. While Burt said he welcomes such guidance, he criticized bills that impose new zoning standards for factors such as height and density. He cited Senate Bill 35, which creates a streamlined approval process for housing projects in cities that fail to meet their Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) obligations and allows approved buildings to potentially be taller and denser than that city’s standards.

Palo Alto has consistently fallen well short on the regional housing targets, particularly when it comes to units that target “low” and “very low” income individuals. In the current RHNA cycle, the city over zoning standards. Partly due to units that target “low” and “very low” income individuals. In the current RHNA cycle, the city has roughly doubled since 2019, the council member opposite who rejected a project in 2021.

A number of Palo Alto’s most critical infrastructure projects now set to be completed in 2023, after the City Council voted on Feb. 1 to approve construction and design members for the project. As a result, rather than going to the voters for a bond, the council included the project on its 2014 list of projects and asked voters to approve a hotel to raise funds, with the understanding that proceeds would fund the items on the list. The list included a bridge over U.S. Highway 101, two re-built fire stations, new garages in downtown and the California Avenue business district and the public safety building at its current location.

A new public safety building is set to go up at 250 Sherman Ave. In 2023, after the City Council voted on Feb. 1 to approve construction and design members for the project. As a result, rather than going to the voters for a bond, the council included the project on its 2014 list of projects and asked voters to approve a hotel to raise funds, with the understanding that proceeds would fund the items on the list. The list included a bridge over U.S. Highway 101, two re-built fire stations, new garages in downtown and the California Avenue business district and the public safety building at its current location.

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The city’s Emergency Operations Center — a meeting room where staff gathers to respond to emergencies — and a community room.

In considering the massive project, council members found themselves wrestling with two competing priorities: the need for an adequate public safety building and the need to prudently manage the city’s finances at a time when revenues are taking a big hit. While Vice Mayor Pat Burt and council member Greg Tandon both proposed delaying the decision, the rest of the council voted to approve both a series of contracts — most notably, a $92.3 million contract with Swinerton Builders — and the sale of bonds to finance the project.

With the approval, construction management contractor Nova Partners, design services contractor Ross Drulis Casenberg Architecture and Swinerton Builders are scheduled to commence the project in the coming months and complete the public safety building in summer 2023.

The decision followed hours of debate, with just about every council member acknowledging the city’s dismal budget picture. Last year, plummeting revenues pushed the council to cut nearly $40 million from the city’s budget. But the council majority concluded Monday that the project is critically needed and should advance.

Leaders of all three of Palo Alto’s public safety departments made the case Monday for the new public safety building, as did prior police chiefs Pat Dwyer and Dennis Burns and former mayors Vic Opakian and Judy Kleinberg, who had both served on the council in the mid-2000s. All emphasized the poor condition of the current police headquarters, which they argued is undersized, obsolete and seismically unsafe.

Police Chief Bob Jonsen called the current police headquarters “unsafe and vulnerable,” and a 2006 special appointed committee evaluating the city’s infrastructure needs called the existing headquarters “unsafe and vulnerable,” and a 2006 special appointed committee evaluating the city’s infrastructure needs called the existing headquarters “unsafe and vulnerable.”

In arguing that it’s time to move ahead with the project, Council member Alison Cormack cited the city’s most critical infrastructure project now set to be completed in 2023.

A new public safety building is set to go up at 250 Sherman Ave. In 2023, after the City Council voted on Feb. 1 to approve construction and design members for the project. As a result, rather than going to the voters for a bond, the council included the project on its 2014 list of projects and asked voters to approve a hotel to raise funds, with the understanding that proceeds would fund the items on the list. The list included a bridge over U.S. Highway 101, two re-built fire stations, new garages in downtown and the California Avenue business district and the public safety building at its current location.

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Chinese New Year celebrations in Palo Alto won’t be slowed down by the coronavirus in 2021. They’re just moving to a different platform.

The traditional time for gathering, feasting and gift giving is moving online with a ZoomFair on Feb. 13, members of WizChinese, the nonprofit organizing the event, said. The event is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Weekly, city of Palo Alto, Palo Alto Council of PTAs and Palo Alto Community Fund.

Past celebrations at Mitchell Park Community Center have attracted between 2,000 and 4,000 people and raised more than $7,000 annually for Palo Alto schools, said Debra Cen, WizChinese board member and co-founder.

Last year’s celebration was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WizChinese, a Palo Alto group, wanted to bring the community together and promote giving, organization members said. The online celebration will retain many of its most loved elements.

“It is a pandemic version of our usual Chinese New Year line celebration will retain many elements. The on-together and promote giving, or-ganization members said. The on-line celebration will retain many of its most loved elements.

“It is a pandemic version of our usual Chinese New Year...
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Cardiologist
Cardiac electrophysiologist

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

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This event is free and for the community.
Police HQ  
(continued from page 7)

Burt, meanwhile, suggested deferring the decision by a few weeks, until after the council received further information about the city’s long-term financial outlook and its broader capital plan. He also recommended scaling back the project by possibly removing one of the building’s two proposed underground levels and shifting some of the vehicles that were pegged to occupy those spots to the new garage on the adjoining lot.

“Things have clearly changed since 2018,” Burt said, referring to the council’s approval of the building’s design. “The world has changed and our budget has drastically changed. The notion that we can necessarily have all things that were possible two years ago is not realistic in my mind.”

Council member Lydia Kou initially supported deferring the decision but strongly objected to Burt’s proposal to use a portion of the newly constructed California Avenue garage for public safety needs.

Council member Greer Stone was also ambivalent about the project, bemoaning the lack of a seismic analysis demonstrating the need for the new structure. And even though he initially supported Burt’s bid to delay the approval of the construction contract, he joined the majority after his colleagues agreed to direct staff to reduce expenditures relating to furniture, fixtures and equipment and to eliminate a proposal for construction cameras, which carried a $60,000 price tag.

Mayor Tom DuBois was more enthusiastic about moving ahead with the project.

“I think we have the need, I think we have the financing and I think the time is right… We should be proud that we’re doing what we can to ensure safety of Palo Alto residents and be able to respond to those that need help when they need it.”

**Staff Writer Gennyd Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.**

Local control  
(continued from page 7)

which covers the years from 2015 to 2023, the council has approved only 43 units in the “very low” income category of the 691 units it was assigned, according to an August 2020 report. In the “low” income category, the city has approved 65 units, well below the 435 units it was allocated.

And the council is bracing for even higher housing targets in the next cycle, between 2023 and 2031. The Association of Bay Area Governments, which is charged with making the allocations to individual cities, has released preliminary methodology showing that Palo Alto will be required to plan for about 6,000 new housing units.

“We now have seen that SB 35, coupled with the latest dubious RHNA allocations, will mandate on cities that they have to streamline and automatically approve projects that are massively above their zoning, that create more jobs than housing, exacerbating the jobs-housing imbalance, and provide disproportionately little affordable housing,” Burt said Monday.

The Monday resolution was inspired by similar efforts elsewhere in the state. Kou pointed to the city of Torrance, which has also criticized state mandates on housing. Mike Griffiths, a council member of Torrance, submitted an email to council members in Palo Alto and other cities last year, urging them to take a stand against state mandates.

**Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.**

Reopening  
(continued from page 5)

or stick with distance learning. If more families request in-person learning than the schools can accommodate, students will get spots through a lottery system.

Students will be in stable cohorts, alternating which periods they attend school in person. For example, half of the students could be attending first and second periods at home and the other half third and fourth periods at home.

The district plans to designate March 1 as an “easy” day, in which classes in all periods will meet, for reopening and then resume in-person instruction on March 2.

There may be opportunities for seventh and eighth grade students to come to campuses for small group activities this spring, and the district is looking for employees to staff those groups.

The high schools, meanwhile, opened 12 new in-person cohorts last week and also resumed athletic conditioning in small, stable cohorts.

**Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.**

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

**CITY COUNCIL…** The council plans to hold study sessions to discuss a proposal from Santa Clara County for a 110-apartment complex for teachers and school district employees at 231 Grant Ave. and to hold a pre-screening hearing for 3997 Fabian Way, a proposal for 290 apartments. The council will also get an update on the fiscal year 2022 budget and consider adopting legislative guidelines for 2021. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION…** The school board will discuss school reopening, student D/F grades and using Meeting ID: 949 9734 6242.

**COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE…** The committee plans to discuss the city auditor’s risk assessment report and annual work plan. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 949 9734 6242.

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION…** The commission plans to consider code changes pertaining to accessory dwelling units and consider proposed zoning code text amendments for Town & Country Village at 855 El Camino Real. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 985 2555 8179.

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High School Seniors Invited to Apply for REALTOR® Scholarship

The 22nd annual Silicon Valley REALTORS® Scholars Program for graduating seniors from 18 public high schools in Silicon Valley is underway. The program is sponsored by the Charitable Foundation of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® (SILVAR), a professional trade organization representing 5,000 REALTORS® and affiliate members engaged in the real estate business on the Peninsula and in the South Bay.

The REALTOR® Scholars Program is a partnership with local public high schools in Silicon Valley. The scholars from the Class of 2021 will be selected from high schools in SILVAR’s service area. Principals and faculty at 18 participating high schools nominate three exceptional graduating seniors. Final selections will be made by a committee that includes representatives from the local business community and SILVAR.

The Charitable Foundation will award $1,500 to each scholar, six in recognition of their exemplary record, outstanding academic performance and community spirit. Since its inception, the program has awarded a total of over $380,000 to graduating high school seniors in Silicon Valley.

“The annual Silicon Valley REALTORS® Scholars Program is our members’ way of showing our support for our students, schools and communities. We see value in supporting our youth and investing in their future, especially at a time when their academic life has been much altered by the coronavirus pandemic,” said Nana Yamaguchi, chair of SILVAR’s scholars program.

The participating schools include Leigh High School and Lynbrook High School in San Jose; Westmont High School in Campbell; Fremont High School in Sunnyvale; Los Altos High School in Los Altos; Los Gatos High School in Los Gatos; Gunn High School and Palo Alto High School in Palo Alto; Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton; Santa Clara High School and Wilcox High School in Santa Clara; Cupertino High School, Homestead High School and Monta Vista High School in Cupertino; Prospect High School and Saratoga High School in Saratoga; Mountain View High School in Mountain View; and Woodside High School in Woodside.

The scholarship is open to graduating seniors from the above-mentioned high schools who plan to attend a four-year U.S. college or university in the fall. Scholarship applications and a list of other requirements may be found at SILVAR’s student’s guide school or career counselor.

The completed application must be returned to the high school’s principal or counselor by Friday, March 5 for submission to the Silicon Valley REALTORS® Charitable Foundation. For further information, please contact Nana Yamaguchi at (408) 861-8822 or nyamaguchi@cbnorcal.com.***

*** Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Meily at rmeily@silvar.org.

A last-gasp attempt to resurrect Senate Bill 50 fizzled on the Senate floor in January 2021.

The council’s position against broad state legislation hardened this year, with former council members Liz Kniss and Adrian Fine both concluding their council terms. Both had strongly advocated for housing development, and Fine was the only council member who supported SB 50. By contrast, both Stone and Burt wrote opinion pieces criticizing the bill prior to getting elected last November.

While Cormack, who frequently sided with Kniss and Fine on votes pertaining to housing, dissented on Monday, other council members happily endorsed the memo from Kou and Stone and approved the resolution.

Even before the Monday hearing, members have routinely disparaged state and regional efforts to impose housing targets, which they argued are unrealistic and unachievable. At the council’s annual retreat on Saturday, council member Eric Filsen called the recent Sacramento bills and regional housing mandates “a giant pile of virtue signaling.”

“I continue to be disappointed in Sacramento and the region, which blithely hands out enormous affordable housing targets that they know perfectly well will not be built because they’re not funding them,” Filsen said.

**Staff Writer Gennyd Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.**
3803 Nathan Way, Palo Alto
shown by appointment

Tranquil & Private Oasis
This charming South Palo Alto home welcomes you to a tranquil wrap around yard, with lush green landscaping, mature trees, and a green turf area perfect for entertainment. Privacy Galore, this home offers 2 en-suite bedrooms one on each floor. The fireplace centric living room opens to a deck through double French Doors. A large multipurpose room is perfect for hobbies or a place to hang out, with a spiral staircase access to the backyard. All this with Stellar Schools, close proximity to Mitchell Park Community Center, Library, Tennis courts, major tech hubs - Facebook, Google, Palantir, shops, CalTrain and freeways 101 and 280.

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Pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code, the law requires that information about trust sale postemptions be made available to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the new sale date and location, please review the scheduled sale for the property of which you are aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are an eligible bidder, you should consider contacting a lawyer knowledgeable in California law. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are an eligible bidder, you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an eligible bidder, you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase after the trustee auction. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee auction, you must submit a bid in writing to the trustee. Second, you must secure a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee auction. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice and representation. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may have a right, title, or interest in said property, other than in a manner that may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, you may file with the court before the hearing. Your attorney may be aware that the same lender may hold two or more mortgages, or any other lien, on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close to the scheduled sale date may not be immediately reflected in the scheduled telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled telephone disclosure telephone number. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may have a right, title, or interest in said property, other than in a manner that may have a right to purchase this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this internet website www.nationwidep등ing.com using the file number assigned to this case 8167A or 8167B to find the date on which the trustee’s sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee auction. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice and representation.
create a more sustainable path. Council member Lydia Kou sug-
gested the city find new revenue sources and assist residents and businesses that have been walloped by the pandemic.

“I’ve talked to a lot of people whose businesses are on the edge, have failed or are about to fail,” Tanaka said. “A lot of resi-
dents have lost their jobs or taken pay cuts or cuts in their hours. A lot of people are suffering. It’s going to be a pretty big lift to recovery.”

Tanaka and Cormack both supported adopting economic recovery as the sole priority for 2021. Once this suggestion failed to receive support from their colle-
agles, the council unanimously adopted the four priorities pro-
posed by Vice Mayor Pat Burt. These are: economic recovery; housing and pedestrian im-
provements; social justice; and climate change, protection and adaptation.

The adopted priorities are largely con-
sistently with suggestions that council members and residents had offered in the weeks lead-
ing up to the retreat. Hundreds of people responded to city sur-
veys, with many voicing support for housing and transportation as critical priorities.

Others submitted letters or spoke at the Saturday retreat to urge the council to adopt a par-
ticular priority, whether it be tree protection, airplane noise or the expansion of the city’s 47-mile fiber-optic network. Several asked the council to prioritize “active transportation” by making bike and pedestrian improvements throughout the city.

By choosing to adopt four prior-
ities, the council signaled its willingness to tackle the climate change and economic re-
covery issues, Mayor Tom DuBois said. “We can’t fund and build an unlimited amount of housing.”

Council members also agreed that climate change initiatives should remain at the forefront of the City Hall agenda. COV-
ID-19 has shown, Burt said, that “society and governments at all levels are in fact willing to do re-
ally incredibly disruptive and yet necessary changes to address an emergency.”

Unlike with COVID-19, ad-
dressing the climate change emergency by improving active transportation would bring many ancillary benefits, including stronger bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure, he noted.

“With walk and ride, we know each other, and we know our community better, and we more and we experience it more,” Burt said.  

Staff Writer Gennyda Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@ pewweekly.com.
Vaccine
(continued from page 5)

Maximilian Y. Lenail
March 26, 1999 – January 29, 2021

Max Lenail, resident of Palo Alto, CA, died at the Mission Trails Regional Park near San Diego on Friday, January 29, 2021. He died while crossing a swollen river during a run in the park.

Max was born in Chêne-Bougeries near Geneva, Switzerland and came to live in Palo Alto’s Community Center neighborhood at an early age. He attended schools in Palo Alto including Casa di Bambini, the International School of the Peninsula (pre-K to 8th grade), and Palo Alto High School. Max was set to graduate from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, in May 2021 with a concentration in neurobiology. Max was intent on applying to medical school and becoming a physician.

Max would be remembered for his extraordinary kindness, generosity, and many talents. He was a peacemaker, a narrator, and a diplomat who selflessly brought comfort, joy, and harmony into people’s lives. He could be serious, earnest, and intense in his pursuits; and those close to him knew he was light-hearted and very funny as well. Max lived an honorable life in accordance with his strong moral compass and values. He was mature well beyond his years.

Max was a fantastic chef and regaled his family with creative and healthy meals whenever he was home. He was an expert glassblower at PALY, and much of his artwork graces his family’s home.

An exceptional athlete and outdoorsman, Max enjoyed a passion for rock-climbing and bouldering. He had spent considerable time in the mountains’ majestic beauty in Yosemite and in the Eastern Sierra, which felt to him like his natural habitat. Max was devoted to his wonderful Golden Retriever, and in the Eastern Sierra, which felt to him like his natural habitat. Max was intent on applying to medical school and becoming a physician.

Other large health care providers, has enough doses for two to three weeks. The county is hopeful it will receive an increasing number of doses, as the Biden administration has announced it will increase distribution by as much as 20%.

On Wednesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the state expects to receive more than a million doses of vaccine within a week. The state is also partnering with federal officials to open pilot mass-vaccination sites. The first two will be located in Oakland and Los Angeles and could open Feb. 16.

Currently, the county’s public health care system is administering 6,000 doses daily during the work week and 1,000 doses on weekends, Smith said.

“We want to expand to 15,000 doses per day. The big caveat here is getting enough vaccine. We’re ready, we’re able. We’ve got the infrastructure to do it, and all we’re waiting for is more vac- cine,” he said.

The crawled also will provide vaccines through a growing network of sites in communities most heavily impacted by the infec- tion, including areas in the southern part of the county.

The Public Health Department is also continuing its push to vaccinate people in long-term care facilities using its mobile vaccination clinics and to set up at-home visits for those who are homebound or older and younger than 75, he said.

So far, roughly 37% of county residents over age 75 and 28% of those who are older than 65 have been vaccinated, he said.

Anyone who is currently eligible for the vaccines can make an appointment or obtain information through the county’s vaccination website, sccfreervax.org.

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.

Palo Alto Chinese New Year ZoomFair

When: Feb. 13, 2-3:30 p.m.
Where: On Zoom. Registration here;
https://wizchinese.org/cny-fair/.
Attendees will receive a Zoom link closer to the event.
Cost: Free.
Info: wizchinese.org/cny-fair/

Palo Alto Chinese New Year ZoomFair

“Dumplings not only resemble reunion but also are a symbol of prosperity because their shape re- sembles ancient Chinese money,” she said.

At the ZoomFair, participants will learn how to make and cook dumplings as well as show off dumpling making. Participants may choose to make their own dumpling dough and filling (there are also five dumpling filling recipes on the event website) or order a ready-made dumpling kit. The kit costs $10 and includes one pound of pork, chicken or vegetarian filling, fresh dough and one package of round wrappers. Participants can watch through the event’s online registration form.

Tai chi and fortune telling: After a tumultuous 2020, partici- pants can start off the new lunar year by learning how to improve their health using qi gong from tai chi master Lily Li. Tai chi and qigong use movement to shift the body’s chi or life energy in health- ful ways. The exercises improve flexibility, balance and agility, decrease stress, anxiety and de- pression and increase energy and stamina, among other benefits, according to the Mayo Clinic.

The zodiac is fundamental to the Chinese New Year, with a 12- year, repeating cycle. An animal and its reputed attributes represent each year. Colors, the elements and other factors also figure into the predicted outcome for the year, according to various Chinese zodiac websites.

In 2021, it’s the Year of the Ox. People born in ox years are said to be diligent, dependable, strong and determined, according to Chinese zodiac websites. This year, fitting- ly, is said to be one of endurance.

At the ZoomFair, fortune teller Susan Su will help deci- pher participants’ horoscopes, with predictions about romance, business and health.

Red envelope giveaway: Red envelopes containing cash are tradi- tional gifts during the Chinese New Year and are often given to children, students and people who are unemployed. The tradition ex- tends to weddings and other events as a way to bring good fortune and prosperity.

“Giving a ‘red envelope’ is also considered a very honorable thing in Chinese culture, so both recipi- ents and givers of ‘red envelopes’ are happy,” Cen said.

COVID-19 relief fundraising: The ZoomFair also will offer a chance for participants to do- nate to worthy causes. This year, a COVID-19 relief fundraising campaign for the community’s hardest-hit members is at the heart of the event.

All proceeds will be donated to the Palo Alto Community CO- VID-Relief Fund and the PTA Council.

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Pulse

POLICE CALLS
Palo Alto
Jan. 27-Feb. 3
Violence related
California Avenue, 1/22, 7:55 p.m.; assault with a deadly weapon.
College Avenue, 1/23, 1:18 a.m.; sexual assault, oral copulation.
Curtner Avenue, 1/25, 7 p.m.; sex crime/unsuit sex intercourse.
Forest Avenue, 1/28, 6:12 p.m.; family violence/battery.
Embarcadero Road, 1/28, 12:57 p.m.; sex crime.
Colorado Avenue, 1/28, 5:01 p.m.; domestic violence.
Paseo Drive, 1/29, 3:54 p.m.; simple battery.
Bryant Street, 1/30, 1 p.m.; arson.
W. Meadow Drive, 1/30, 3:54 p.m.; simple battery.
El Camino Real, 2/2, 5:47 p.m.; strong arm robbery.

Theft related
Commercial burglaries ........................................1
Embezzlement ........................................................1
Grand theft ..................................................................1
Identity theft ................................................................3
Netty theft ...................................................................1
Residential burglaries ..................................................2
Shoplifting ..................................................................3

Vehicle related
Auto theft ...................................................................1
Auto theft, grand theft .................................................2
Bicycle theft ................................................................1
Driving with suspended license .......................................1
Misc. traffic ................................................................3
Stolen catalytic converter ...............................................6
Theft from auto ...........................................................1
Theft from auto attempt ...............................................1
Vehicle accident/minor injury .......................................1
Vehicle accident/prop damage .......................................2
Vehicle tow ..................................................................5

Alcohol or drug related
Drinking under influence ............................................1
Drunk in public ............................................................1
Under influence of drugs ...............................................1

Miscellaneous
Found property ..........................................................1
Lost property ..............................................................4
Misd. parole code violation .........................................1
Other ...........................................................................4
Psychiatric subject .......................................................1
Suspicious circumstances ............................................1
Vandalism ..................................................................1
Warrant/other agency ..................................................3

Menlo Park
Jan. 27-Feb. 2
Violence related
Newbridge Street, 1/27, 4:43 p.m.; robbery.
Willow Road, 1/28, 1:06 p.m.; assault.

Theft related
Fraud .........................................................................1
Netty theft ...................................................................4

Vehicle related
Abandoned auto ...........................................................1
Auto recovery .............................................................1
Bicycle theft ...............................................................1
Stolen catalytic converter .............................................1
Theft from auto ..........................................................2
Vehicle accident/minor injury .......................................1
Vehicle accident/no injury ............................................1
Vehicle tow ..................................................................2

Alcohol or drug related
Possession of drugs ......................................................1
Possession of paraphernalia ..........................................2

OBITUARIES
A list of local residents who died recently:
Margaret Martha Gelatt, 94, a registered nurse at Stanford University for two decades, died on Jan. 6.
Maximilian Y. Lenail, 21, a Palo Alto resident, died on Jan. 29.
To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memo- ries at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.

Palo Alto
December 4, 1933 – December 23, 2020

Louis DeFreitas passed away after a long battle with dementia on Dec. 23, 2020 at his home in Redwood City, CA. He was 87.
Louis was born in New Bedford, Mass., and served in the Marines for three years in 1951 (Korean War).
Louis eventually moved to California, where he became a well-respected welding teacher at College of San Mateo. It was a job he loved so much, especially helping his students get job opportunities. He loved helping others and was very loyal.
However, Louis loved nothing more than his family. Louis was always a great role model and provider, setting a solid example for his two children.
A couple of his great passions were to go fishing at Half Moon Bay and his love for sports. He was a big fan of the Dodgers, Red Sox, 49ers and soccer.
Louis is survived by his wife Germaine, married for 65 years; daughter Linda Cardoso; son Danny DeFreitas; daughter-in-law Juli DeFreitas; granddaughter Jillian Leonard; and grandchildren Ava and Vivian Leonard and Christian Chenier. He also will be joining his other granddaughter, Alison DeFreitas, in Heaven.
His ashes will reside at Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto, CA.

Charlene Dowley
July 8, 1933 – January 30, 2021

Our beloved Charlene passed away on January 30, 2021, at home comforted by family. She leaves behind her daughters Nora, Jane Paolucci (Andrew), four sons (Philip (Linda), Matthew (Michelle), James, Tom (Catherine), 15 grandchildren: Heather (Dan), Peter (Anna), Thomas, Andrew (Patricia), Margaret, Katherine, Elizabeth, Madeline, Grace, Sofia, Laura Anne, William, Jack, George, Philip, one great-granddaughter: Juniper, and many nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.
She was preceded in death by a fifth son, Peter, her husband, George, parents Joseph and Carrie Bianchi, brother Frank Bianchi, and sisters Elvera Pagani, Florence May, and Emma Malan.
Charlene was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois. After graduating from Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois, she moved to San Francisco and shortly thereafter met George. The two were married in St. Vincent de Paul Church on December 1, 1956, and subsequently moved to the mid-peninsula to raise their family.
The focus of Charlene’s life was family, education, and her deep Catholic faith. She was a model mom and grandmother, singularly vested in the happiness and wellbeing of those around her, grateful for each minute spent with loved ones, yet resistant to accepting any credit for the incredible family legacy she leaves behind.
Charlene’s dedication to family ran deep and her love, kindness, gratitude, and affection extended to relatives across the U.S. She was especially close to her nephew, Tom White of San Jose. Just five years her junior and closer in age than her siblings, he was like a brother to her.
She was an avid reader who also loved to watch old movies, cheer on local sports teams, play games, and rapidly solve the daily crossword puzzle. She shared her appreciation of art and music with her children and grandchildren through regular visits to museums, the symphony, and the ballet, never one to miss the annual Nutcracker to celebrate the holidays. Outside of the home, she enjoyed her time as a Certified Medical Assistant at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, always focused on the health and wellness of children.
The family wishes to thank her physical caregivers, Dr. Ami Laws, Tilisa Vaka, and Melaine Westall, and her spiritual supporters, Fr. Oтелিয and Deacon Andrews of Church of the Nativity for their gentle care of her body and spirit during her final days.
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Charlene’s selfless caring as a mother, grandmother, relative, friend, and devout Catholic will live on in those she touched. Her Funeral Mass will be held outdoors at 11:00 AM on Monday, February 8, at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park followed by a private interment. The Funeral Mass will also be live-streamed on the Church of the Nativity - Menlo Park Youtube channel.

Amy Elizabeth Evans
October 8, 1982 – January 7, 2021

Resident of Palo Alto

Beloved daughter, sister, wife, friend, niece and cousin, Amy Elizabeth Evans passed away unexpectedly at the age of 38. She was generous and loyal, thoughtful, funny, smart, an enthusiastic traveler, and gifted at making wonderful friends.
Amy’s extraordinary intellect was a wonderment to the family, and she was the only 3 year old we ever knew who could recite Gunga Din from memory, even as she wondered if perhaps it was Santa Claus who brought her Easter basket. Attending Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton reinforced her values of kindness, care and community. Amy graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.S. in biology and was looking forward to graduate school this fall. In no particular order, she loved singing and dancing, working at Stanford, needy animals, crafting, real literature over beach reads, In-N-Out burgers, and beating her friends at Jeopardy. She will be forever missed.
Amy is survived by her mother Barbara Goodrich of Los Altos Hills, brother Christopher Evans (Celeste) of Airdrome, PA, husband David LaCedra, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She is preceded in death by her father, Charles A. Drew Evans, Jr. and grandparents who doted on her.
A celebration of life will be held at a later date, when Covid restrictions are lighter and the many people who treasured Amy will be able to attend. Arrangements are being handled by the Church of the Nativity for their gentle care of her body and spirit during her final days.

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中文聯絡人：Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Families leave Palo Alto school district in search of in-person education. They’ve ended up in Denmark, Norway and Texas.

by Elena Kadvany

It was Sebastian Chancellor’s first day of his junior year, and he couldn’t stop smiling.

After 10 years of attending Palo Alto public schools, he enrolled last fall in Copenhagen International School in Denmark, where high school classes are taking place in-person with few restrictions. It was the first time he’d sat in a classroom next to peers and learned from a teacher face-to-face since Palo Alto schools had closed in March.

“Seeing all these bikes flying by, hearing laughter and smiles, seeing kids running to class, hearing the bell — it was a big nostalgic moment of, ‘Wow, I haven’t heard this in awhile,’” he said. “I was smiling the whole day. I couldn’t help myself. I was so excited to be able to come into a class environment.”

The Chancellor family moved from Palo Alto to Copenhagen last August so Sebastian and his younger brother, Oliver, an eighth grader, could attend school in person. They saw the writing on the wall at the end of the summer that the new school year would start fully online in Palo Alto, with no extracurriculars, sports or in-person activities for students, and joined a growing exodus of families who are leaving public schools for places where schools are more fully open. Some are transferring their children to local private schools or home schooling — including a group of 30 families who left Palo Alto Unified to create their own private school in a backyard — while others have moved out of state or even abroad for in-person education.

Public schools across the state are reporting sharp enrollment declines, which have been attributed in part to trends that predated the pandemic, including declining birth rates, but also those born of the pandemic, such as higher dropout rates. California’s K-12 public-school enrollment has dropped by a record 155,000 students according to new state projections — about five times more than the state’s annual rate of enrollment decline in recent years.

While Palo Alto Unified’s fall enrollment was down by about 8%, which district leaders said was relatively normal given historical declines, this year those leaving the district also include families seeking more far-flung opportunities. The district reopened elementary schools for hybrid learning in October and is planning to bring sixth graders back in March, but older students are by and large still learning from home and will likely continue doing so until the fall.

These families’ decisions, while temporary, reflect their deep frustration after living with months of stalled reopening decisions, patchy online learning experiences and the toll that the extended school closures are taking on their children. They’ve decided, for now, that restoring their children’s love for learning, mental health and sense of normalcy outweigh uprooting their lives, leaving their homes and friends and, in some cases, even splitting up their families.

‘It was a huge relief’

In Copenhagen, the Chancellor boys lived the kind of unrestricted life that feels so out of reach for Americans right now. They went to school in person (only wearing masks between classes), played basketball, had sleepovers with friends, attended birthday parties, went to the movies.

The Chancellors spend two weeks every summer in Copenhagen, where Nana Chancellor’s family lives, so the transition was smooth. After this summer’s annual trip — a breath of fresh air in a country where COVID-19 case rates are low enough that life feels relatively normal — they decided to extend their stay. Within a week, Nana Chancellor had moved with her two sons and enrolled them in the private international school while her husband, Brian, stayed in Palo Alto.

“After months of being isolated, it was a huge relief moving to Copenhagen at the end of August, allowing the boys to live with a sense of normalcy again and enjoying all the regular things kids do — things we used to take for granted that they had missed terribly during the spring in Palo Alto,” Chancellor said. “I wish we were there with schools open, but at the same time, each family has to make tough choices to do what’s best for their individual children.”

For Sebastian, a social, outgoing, athletic teenager, online learning in Palo Alto last spring was challenging. He had a hard time focusing and connecting with his teachers and classmates. Many peers wouldn’t turn their cameras on and kept themselves on mute. He was often left staring at his own reflection on the computer screen for six hours a day. The online school day crawled by, he said.

“I took it for granted, what it’s like to be able to go to school and see everybody in person and have a very active classroom environment. I was used to all my life — ‘I gotta wake up early for school; why can’t I just stay home?’ Now it’s the other way around,” he said. “I want to be at school. The whole narrative was flipped.”

In Copenhagen, Sebastian’s hour-plus classes flew by. He felt engaged and excited about school again. He also was able to play basketball, crucial for the high school junior who hopes to play in college. Meanwhile, at home in Palo Alto, only small group athletic conditioning has resumed, with restrictions, and it remains to be seen whether the majority of high school sports will have any competitions this school year.

Though COVID-19 rates are much lower in Copenhagen, schools aren’t immune to infections. Last semester, Oliver’s Danish teacher and two elementary school students at the K-12 school tested positive at different times, though in all three cases, there was no spread to anyone else, Chancellor said. All students and teachers who were exposed stayed home for a week and had to get tested before returning.

“I really wasn’t worried about COVID much last semester; I was just incredibly thankful and relieved that my boys could have regular school and sports again,” Chancellor said.

Due to family circumstances and hoping for a postponed basketball season, however, Sebastian returned to Palo Alto for his second semester. He’s glad to be home but struggled with the transition back to online school — a stark contrast to the noisy hallways in Copenhagen and his memories of socializing with friends on the quad at Palo Alto High School. Ironically, his younger brother is also back to online school temporarily until Denmark lifts a lockdown implemented after the new COVID-19 variant was discovered there.

‘I was smiling the whole day. I couldn’t help myself. I was so excited to be able to come into a class environment.’

— Sebastian Chancellor, high school junior, who started the academic year in Denmark

Families who have moved abroad are also experiencing drastically different responses to the coronavirus. In Denmark, the public health restrictions are consistent — no school is closed while a neighboring campus is open — and unlike in America, there’s little backlash or divisive debate, Chancellor said. There’s also a light at the end of the tunnel in Denmark, which is projecting its 5.8 million population will be fully vaccinated by late June.

“Things change here quickly because people trust when the

Cover Story

Educational Exodus

Sebastian Chancellor, wearing the No. 0 jersey, bumps forearms with the referee after a game with his school basketball team in Copenhagen.
Cover Story

Elizabeth Lasky’s daughter, Bethany Andreassen, heads toward her classroom on her first day of school in Norway in August. The family moved to Palo Alto to Norway last summer so Bethany could attend school in person.

“I miss America and I do miss my friends in Palo Alto, but right now there’s just no reason to be there,” Lasky said. “When work is remote and your school is closed, what are you paying rent for? Why pay a premium to live in Palo Alto?”

The Laskys signed a one-year lease on their Norwegian apartment, so come this August, they will have to decide if they want to stay longer or return to Palo Alto, which will hinge on the state of school reopenings back home. As the pandemic stretches on, she’s watched on those Facebook groups as more and more families relocate to places where schools are open.

“Infected cases are damned, they’re going to Arizona, they’re going to Tennessee, they’re going to Kentucky because in 2021, a good school district is one that teaches full time in person,” Lasky said. ■

Staff Writer Elena Kadavy can be reached at ekadavy@paweekly.com.

About the cover: At the Palo Alto school district grapples with reopening its campuses, some families have left in search of in-person education. Illustration by Douglas Young.

For the love of sports

After 19 years of living and attending public schools in Palo Alto, the Japics family moved to Texas in October for one reason: so their daughter could play sports in person.

“They’re a serious sports family; the oldest Japic daughter plays Division I basketball and soccer, and the middle child, Sydney, has aspirations to do the same. Sydney has her own website and YouTube page where she posts footage of game highlights and training sessions, hoping to attract the eye of college recruiters. The younger Japics daughter plays volleyball and basketball.

In the fall, with school still online and no athletic practices or games allowed in Palo Alto, the Japics parents started researching places where soccer was happening in person. They looked at North Carolina, Florida and even Toronto. They ultimately bought a second house in Frisco, a Dallas suburb where Sydney earned a spot on a top-tier soccer club team.

“We’ve been left no other choice,” Japic said. “I feel like we’ve been squeezed shut she’s smiling so big. It’s great to have that balance for the kids.”

Brizgys Tarlow worries about the long-term consequences of school closures on her children’s academic and social-emotional growth, particularly for her daughter, navigating the transition from elementary to middle school. While the school district is hamstrung by public health conditions and state and local restrictions, families are at home, watching more and more milestones pass by: middle school graduation, prom, the first day of high school.

“When she’s dropping her young children off at school, she hears from other parents about kids not logging onto Zoom classes and becoming increasingly isolated at home. In her job at Palo Alto nonprofit Grassroot EcoSolutions, which provides free science and nature programs to local teachers, she hears about students in less resource districts who aren’t attending their online classes with little or no parent supervision at home.

“She says the stories to me just say: There are going to be serious consequences.” Brizgys Tarlow said. “I feel like we’re acting like this is something that can be deferred forever. I don’t think kids are going to have these emotional and learning losses that we’re not really reckoning with yet.”

Despite the news that sixth graders will be able to return to campuses next month, she doesn’t plan to send her daughter back to Palo Alto Unified until schools are open again full time. She said she’ll pull her other children as well if daily in-person school doesn’t resume in the fall.

“In the past two weeks we’ve seen a recovery of her spirits,” Brizgys Tarlow said of her daughter attending bi-weekly distance-learning board meeting. “She’s doing the difficult academic and social work that kids need to do in school.”

“Right now the positives Texas outweigh the positives in California,”

—Caroline Japic, whose daughter is pursuing high school sports

“With everything locked down in California, we just couldn’t sit by and let our kids not have the opportunity to commit to a DI school,” Caroline Japic said. “Right now the positives in Texas outweigh the positives in California.”

Caroline Japic moved with her husband, and younger daughter followed in December. Both parents are able to work remotely from Texas, while the girls are playing sports and at-tending school full time (wearing masks, sitting at desks 6 feet apart and frequently washing hands). They’re “absolutely thriving,” she said.

Unlike the Chancellors, the Japics don’t envision their children returning to Palo Alto Unified. They expect to live in Frisco until at least until Sydney graduates from high school in 2022 and perhaps until the youngest daughter graduates in 2026. Japic said. For now, they’re enjoying a different kind of lifestyle in Frisco, where the cost of living is lower, there’s less traffic and the die-hard Texas football culture portrayed in Friday Night Lights is real.

“In Frisco, the sports and aca-demics are of equal importance,” she said. “It’s great to have that balance for the kids.”

“I don’t think kids can learn outside of school — certainly not all kids in an equitable way.”

—Kathleen Brizgys Tarlow, who enrolled her oldest daughter in a local private school

We’ve been left no other choice”

Last month, Kathleen Brizgys Tarlow did something she never thought she would do. She pulled her daughter out of the public school system. She didn’t opt to move to another country or even another state, but the infeasibility of the decision still felt monumental to her.

Brizgys Tarlow is a Palo Alto Unified graduate who attended district schools. Brizgys Tarlow had spent much of the spring and fall calling into virtual school board meetings and advocating for reopening.

She was thrilled when her younger two children could partially return to school for hybrid learning in the fall, and said they’re thriving after several months of being around their teachers and peers in person.

But her sixth-grade daughter continued learning at home on a computer screen, isolated and falling behind as they hoped for a change that would work for a lot of students to resume in-person instruction.

When Superintendent Don Austin sent out a message in January indicating that middle and high schools were unlikely to re-open this spring and fall calling into virtual school board meetings and advocating for reopening.

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When Superintendent Don Austin sent out a message in January indicating that middle and high schools would unlikely to re-open this school year, something “snapped,” Brizgys Tarlow said.

“I feel like she’s languishing,” she said of her daughter. “The thought of her spending another six months doing the same thing for the remainder of the year was just something I couldn’t make peace with.”

Brizgys Tarlow decided to pull her daughter to a local private school, which she declined to name, that’s offering in-person classes. Though the district has been moving forward further due to local coronavirus rates and restrictions, she couldn’t help but feel strung along.

“I’m really sad, and I’m also really angry. I feel like we’ve been left no other choice,” Brizgys Tarlow said.

She said she’s sympathetic to teachers who are fearful of returning to work in person, but believes that almost a year into the pandemic, schools are armed with enough information about how to operate safely. Health experts continue to urge schools to reopen as safely as possible, warning about developmental disruptions, learning loss and social isolation. (Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, told teachers in a video call this week that all K-8 schools should aim to reopen within the next 100 days.)

Brizgys Tarlow said, “I believe teachers are essential workers. I don’t think kids can learn outside of school — certainly not all kids in an equitable way.”

Brizgys Tarlow worries about the long-term consequences of school closures on her children’s academic and social-emotional growth, particularly for her daughter, navigating the transition from elementary to middle school. While the school district is hamstrung by public health conditions and state and local restrictions, families are at home, watching more and more milestones pass by: middle school graduation, prom, the first day of high school.

When she’s dropping her young children off at school, she hears from other parents about kids not logging onto Zoom classes and becoming increasingly isolated at home. In her job at Palo Alto nonprofit Grassroot EcoSolutions, which provides free science and nature programs to local teachers, she hears about students in less resource districts who aren’t attending their online classes with little or no parent supervision at home.

“She says the stories to me just say: There are going to be serious consequences.” Brizgys Tarlow said. “I feel like we’re acting like this is something that can be deferred forever. I don’t think kids are going to have these emotional and learning losses that we’re not really reckoning with yet.”

Despite the news that sixth graders will be able to return to campuses next month, she doesn’t plan to send her daughter back to Palo Alto Unified until schools are open again full time. She said she’ll pull her other children as well if daily in-person school doesn’t resume in the fall.

“In the past two weeks we’ve seen a recovery of her spirits,” Brizgys Tarlow said of her daughter attending bi-weekly distance-learning board meeting. “She’s doing the difficult academic and social work that kids need to do in school.”

Life after California

Before Elizabeth Lasky moved with her husband and three young children to Norway so their oldest daughter could attend school in person, she watched two possible futures unfold on social media.

Lasky is part of several Facebook groups with names like “Leaving California” and “Life After California,” where thousands of members swap advice, post photos in front of moving trucks and new homes and ask questions about the housing market and the guilt of leaving family behind during the pandemic. In local groups, meanwhile, desperate parents launch reopening petitions, compare neighboring districts’ plans and furiously debate how to turn the tide on school closures.

Frustrated with distance learning and unwilling to do it again in the fall, the Laskys decided to leave Palo Alto for her husband’s native country. They spent $15,000 to move across the globe on two week’s notice, timing it exactly so they would be done with a required 10-day quarantine before their daughter’s first day of third grade.

Lasky took a picture of her daughter, Bethany Andreassen, on that day. She has a sparkly backpack on and no mask, her eyes squeezed shut she’s smiling so big.

“This justifies everything I did to search for in-person education. I’m really sad, and I’m also really angry. I feel like we’ve been left no other choice,” Brizgys Tarlow said.

“I miss America and I do miss my friends in Palo Alto, but right now there’s just no reason to be there,” Lasky said. “When work is remote and your school is closed, what are you paying rent for? Why pay a premium to live in Palo Alto?”

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About the cover: At the Palo Alto school district grapples with reopening its campuses, some families have left in search of in-person education. Illustration by Douglas Young.
EAST PALO ALTO | $849,000
3br/1ba home w/great Peninsula location. Open floorplan, fireplace, large yard & updates in kitchen & bath.
Amelia Middel 650.704.3064
Miriam Porras 408.644.5041

SANTA CLARA | $799,000
Spacious 2br/2ba top floor condominium w/balcony, stainless steel appliances and hardwood floors. Enjoy a gym, yoga room, playground and pool.
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rosalind.chin@cbnorcal.com

2 Buildings on 5 Lots
- 2400 sq/ft flex industrial space with office, bath, loft, and kitchenette
- 3321 sq/ft warehouse with four separate ~ 800 sq/ft units; all units have partial mezzanines
- Lot Size: 0.56 Acres; 24,500 Sq/ft

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Hake Real Estate
BRE # 01974261
Ken@hakerealestate.com

$3,188,000
111 & 119 Stanford Ave
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Click to view the tour
NEW LISTING
1550 Oakhurst, Los Altos

Rare 18,500+ SF Lot
Offered at $3,500,000

Shown by appointment following county mandates

Superb South Los Altos Location one mile from Rancho Shopping Center
Just completed island kitchen and open floorplan
Craftsman fireplace in Great Room
3 bedrooms, Master suite newly remodeled, 3 baths
3-car garage
Large workshop+playroom+bath - future ADU??
Tree house with slide in expansive backyard
2661 SF Living Space per county

NEW LISTING
2442 Sharon Oaks Drive, Menlo Park

Offered at $1,798,000

* 4 Bedroom 3 Bath 2180 SF Townhome
* 12 sliding glass doors to patios and decks
* Spacious, Super Location,
* Newer A/C and SubZero Refrigerator

Update kitchen with granite counters. Fireplace in living room
2 nicely-oriented bedrooms and updated bath
Built-in home office between living and dining areas
Dual pane windows, gleaming hardwood floors
Lanscaped low-maintenance front yard
Large backyard with deck for outside enjoyment

NEW LISTING
587 Kirk Avenue, Sunnyvale $1,098,000

Heart of Silicon Valley: Walk to Linkedin, Synopsys, Columbia Park, Sunnyvale Muni Golf Course, and near downtown

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louise.dedera@compass.com
DRE 00409938
1377 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
Please visit 587Kirk.com

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Theater Review

‘Before Fiddler’ celebrates the richness of klezmer music

Streaming Hershey Felder musical about author Sholem Aleichem to premiere Feb. 7

by John Orr

H ershey Felder has spent most of the past year in lockdown in Italy, where he happened to be living when the pandemic struck. But rather than sit around wishing he was doing shows, the pianist/actor/playwright (and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley favorite) has become a major theatrical force, producing several of his biographical musicals — “George Gershwin Alone,” “Claude Debussy: A Paris Love Story,” “I’m in Berlin,” “Beethoven,” and “Hershey Felder: Tchaikovsky, Live from Florence” — for livestreaming from his Italian home.

But with his next role, as author Sholem Aleichem in “Before Fiddler — Live From Florence,” starring Felder as author Sholem Aleichem, he’s playing a woman before. Felder said he is performing “Before Fiddler” in Aleichem’s “Stempenyu: A Jewish Novel,” which was published in 1888.

It is an all-new show, written for the beloved musical “Fiddler on the Roof.” Felder’s show is based on Aleichem’s novel “Stempenyu: A Jewish Novel,” which was published in 1888.

“Stempenyu” is the story of an itinerant klezmer musician, a talented violinist, who seduces a woman in every town he visits. Although already married himself, he falls in love with a married woman in one of the towns, and emotional complications ensue.

Felder said he is performing “Before Fiddler” in Aleichem’s voice, and that it “is very romantic, the story of his life, and something he wrote.”

“Originally, I set it somewhere in Kiev, but realized I could use Florence as locations in Kiev, and also in Italy. Tomorrow, we will go to his (Aleichem’s) house in Nervi, on the Italian Riviera. We’ll be able to set it where it actually took place.”

Italy was also featured in Felder’s Tchaikovsky show, because that great composer also lived in Italy for a while — not all that far, really, from Felder’s home.

Felder’s live shows have proved hugely popular, and have helped many theaters maintain their production budgets. The livestream versions offer a more intimate look at his performances.

“Before Fiddler” is being produced by Felder’s company, Hershey Felder Presents, but he is again partnering with TheatreWorks to promote the show, and donating a portion of the proceeds back to TheatreWorks.

“Most of what I make from these shows goes away, is donated away,” Felder said. “I am giving away most of it; the rest goes into production.

“I think they (online audiences) are buying it for the entertainment value. If I can help others, why shouldn’t I?” he said. Despite the challenges faced by artists during the pandemic, “I am able to pay my staff. I wanted to make sure I could continue paying them.”

The performance launches live on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 5 p.m. Tickets for the livestream are $55 per household, and include a week of on-demand access after the Feb. 7 performance. More information is available at hersheymelder.net.

Contributing Writer John Orr can be emailed at johnorr@regardingarts.com.
A love story: What could be more simple, or more complex? The highs and lows of a relationship are chronicled in time-bending fashion — and song — in Jason Robert Brown’s musical “The Last Five Years,” which Palo Alto Players is currently offering as an on-demand video stream.

The two-person, one-act show opens brief windows into the romantic life of Jamie (Chris Sotelos) and Cathy (Marah Sotelo), from their breathless and giddily early courtship to their partnership’s sad demise. The gimmick — and it’s a good one — is that while Jamie’s side of the story is revealed chronologically, Cathy’s is told backward, with one brief intersection where they exist on the same plane. For much of the show, No, no local theater groups cannot be expected to magically transform into professional film studios in a few months.

The prospect of watching a play in the lockdown era is different — and often less appealing — than it was before. Yes, that energy that comes from being transported en masse to another world inside a theater is impossible to replicate.

The Last Five Years,” makes the spirit and share the power of live theater’s in-person return. In the meantime, the company continues to offer special livestreamed and recorded content online.

“The Last Five Years,” makes the spirit and share the power of live theater’s in-person return. In the meantime, the company continues to offer special livestreamed and recorded content online.

“The safety and well-being of our community is of paramount importance and while the pandemic continues, we understandably must delay in-person performances. But with the encouragement reduction in new cases and rollout of vaccinations, we can now look ahead and are very much looking forward to reopening our doors,” Bond said in a press statement. “We know the day will come when we can once again safely gather together, to celebrate the human spirit and share the power of live theatre.”

More information is available at theat werks.org.

THEATER REVIEW

Palo Alto Players’ production ponders the highs and lows of love

Intimate musical ‘The Last Five Years’ is streaming through Feb. 14

by Karla Kane

Real-life couple Chris and Marah Sotelos play Jamie and Cathy in Palo Alto Players’ “The Last Five Years.”

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley updates its plans for next season

Arts organization pushes start date to October, launching with ‘Lizard Boy’

by Karla Kane

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will open its 31st season with the musical “Lizard Boy” Oct. 6-31. Pictured are original cast members Kirsten “Kiki” DeLohr Helland, William A. Williams, and Justin Huertas, who reprise their roles at TheatreWorks.
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3796 PARK BOULEVARD, PALO ALTO

Stylish Duplex with Central Location
This stylish duplex offers comfortable living and a central location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer. Boasting two units each with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and over 1,200 square feet of living space, this property is just moments to California Avenue, a short trip to both University Avenue and The Village at San Antonio Center, and offers easy access to Caltrain and US 101. Each unit includes a living room with fireplace, a well-designed kitchen, and a dining room with access to a private balcony for al fresco enjoyment. Plus, each unit also features a private outdoor patio area, as well as an attached 2-car garage. Topping it all off, this home is served by excellent schools including Barron Park Elementary, Fletcher Middle, and Gunn High (buyer to verify eligibility). Whether as an investment property or primary residence, this home is an excellent choice for Palo Alto living.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.3796Park.com
Offered at $2,588,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors®

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto
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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

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1118 GUINDA STREET, PALO ALTO

Stylish Living in Community Center

The sought-after Community Center neighborhood provides the perfect backdrop for this enchanting home, offering 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, an office, and nearly 2,800 square feet of elegant living space. Vaulted ceilings and excellent use of glass craft a bright, airy ambiance throughout both levels of the home. A spectacular 2-way fireplace highlights both the living room and dining room, the kitchen features stainless-steel appliances, and the family room offers plenty of space for movie nights. Five bedrooms include the comfortable master suite, plus a convenient guest suite ideal for friends and family. And the backyard offers private, low-maintenance enjoyment with a large patio and built-in brick grill. This great location is mere moments to the excitement of University Avenue, and close to both Rinconada Park and Eleanor Pardee Park. Plus, children may attend top-ranked schools including Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.1118Guinda.com
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中文聯絡請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Bilingual webinar: Know the 10 Signs - Early Detection Matters with Peining Chang, Alzheimer's Association 1-2pm via Zoom, Presented in English &amp; Mandarin. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:ACCC@avenidas.org">ACCC@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Techie Tuesdays Explore Tech Lectures 2-3:15pm via Zoom, on Tuesdays. For information or to register email <a href="mailto:rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org">rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org</a> with subject “Connections” for log on info. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Mandarin webinar: The COVID Vaccines 101 with Dr. Alice Mao, Stanford HealthCare 12-1pm via Zoom. Presented in Mandarin only. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:ACCC@avenidas.org">ACCC@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Flashback Fridays: Literature Reading Club 10:30am-12pm every Friday via Zoom. Starting this week: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. For log on info email <a href="mailto:tmcloudf@avenidas.org">tmcloudf@avenidas.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Tech &amp; Innovation Discussion Group via Zoom 12-1pm, on Mondays. For info or to register email <a href="mailto:rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org">rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>Mandarin Multi-lingual Technology Program 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom, on Tuesdays. Offered in Mandarin only. RSVP required. For more information or to register email <a href="mailto:ACCC@avenidas.org">ACCC@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Lunar New Year Pre-Celebration Virtual Food Tour 2-3pm via Zoom. Presented in English &amp; Mandarin. RSVP by 2/3 for log on info to <a href="mailto:ACCC@avenidas.org">ACCC@avenidas.org</a>. Free. Book Club: The Moment of Lift by Melinda 2-3:45pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Webinar: COVID-19 Vaccines: The Science Behind the Vaccines with Lawrence Basso, MD, 11am-12:15pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info. <a href="mailto:Register@avenidas.org">Register@avenidas.org</a>. Free. LGBTQ Song Appreciation Group Every 2nd &amp; 4th Thursday, 3-4pm via Zoom. Email <a href="mailto:tkirginy@avenidas.org">tkirginy@avenidas.org</a> for more info and to register. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>Start of the Lunar New Year! Welcome the Year of the Ox.</td>
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<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>President’s Day, Avenidas closed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Learn about ClearCaptions phones 10:30-11:30am via Zoom, every 1st and 3rd Monday. RSVP for log on info <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Tech Hall: Family Mediation Techniques for Transforming Difficult Conversations into Workable Agreements with Nicole Lance, Certified Family and Elder Care Mediator 11am-12:30pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Town Hall: Family Mediation Techniques for Transforming Difficult Conversations into Workable Agreements with Nicole Lance, Certified Family and Elder Care Mediator 11am-12:30pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>President's Day, Avenidas closed.</td>
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<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Apple Tech Tutoring 1:15-3:30pm via Zoom, on Tuesdays. RSVP required. Email <a href="mailto:rsvp@seniorplanetavenidas.org">rsvp@seniorplanetavenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Apple Tech Tutoring 1:15-3:30pm via Zoom, on Tuesdays. For information or to register email <a href="mailto:rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org">rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org</a>. In Mandarin only. RSVP required. Email <a href="mailto:rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org">rsvp@senioplanetavenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>National Tell a Fairy Tale Day 10:30-11:30am via Zoom. Free. Email <a href="mailto:rsvp@seniorplanetavenidas.org">rsvp@seniorplanetavenidas.org</a> for more info.</td>
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<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Tinnitus Support Group 1:15-3:30pm via Zoom. For information or to register email <a href="mailto:ACCC@avenidas.org">ACCC@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>National Caregivers Day. Thank a caregiver today!</td>
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<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>National Caregivers Day. Thank a caregiver today!</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Thank a caregiver today!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Book Club: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn 2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Book Club: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn 2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Book Club: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn 2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Book Club: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn 2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 29</td>
<td>Book Club: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn 2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 30</td>
<td>Book Club: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn 2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 31</td>
<td>Book Club: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn 2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to <a href="mailto:register@avenidas.org">register@avenidas.org</a>. Free.</td>
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To be older and alone is a challenge. For LGBTQ seniors, who are far more likely to be childless and estranged from family, the experience can be even more challenging.

“LGBTQ seniors are more likely to be socially isolated in their later years just because of the nature of society,” Thomas Kingery, a social worker for the senior services agency Avenidas, said. “The younger people — they can get married now; they’re adopting children. But older people grew up in an environment where it was illegal to be gay, or you were considered insane, so that created a mindset that they had to hide and isolate. When they get older, they may not have that family support to fall back on.”

Kingery, himself a gay man, is working to combat that isolation by building a support network among the local LGBTQ community known as the Avenidas Rainbow Collective.

The collective launched in January 2020 as part of a two-year pilot program funded with $300,000 from Santa Clara County to expand care giver support, health education, socialization and other specific services needed by the Peninsula’s senior LGBTQ community.

So far — despite rolling out two months before socially distanced protocols became the norm — the collective has successfully hosted a variety of programs that have helped people connect with one another, including pre-pandemic coffee meet-ups, gay and lesbian and inter-generational discussion groups, walking groups, a virtual LGBTQ “empowerment and connections” conference, an ugly sweater holiday party and a pen-pals program.

For Sarah, who asked that her real name not be published, the Avenidas Rainbow Collective is simply an affirmation that “we exist,” she said. “We are still here, and we are still LGBTQ.”

The longtime Palo Alto resident and homeowner, said she did not want to reveal her name in part because “I have a longtime resistance to being totally out to the world because there was a time where it was simply a very dangerous action. Yes, I understand that is a cowardly stance.”

Now in her late 60s and living without a partner, Sarah said she’s probably not generally perceived as LGBTQ, just “slightly eccentric.” The LGBTQ activities at Avenidas have made her life “so much richer,” she said.

While she does not personally feel isolated because she’s active in many organizations and has a close relationship with her daughter and son-in-law, Sarah added, “I think LGBTQ seniors are more at risk than seniors in general.”

Housing can be a particular problem for LGBTQ seniors, Palo Alto resident Rick Kaplowitz, who is a member of the Santa Clara County Senior Care Commission, said. “The Bay Area is reasonably open to the gay community, but people who are older have more of a tendency not to be as friendly,” Kaplowitz said. “There’s the issue of going into senior housing and having other people living there not be very tolerant. There’s a question of, ‘do you come out and maybe not be very welcomed, or do you have to go back into the closet after having been out of the closet for 25 years?’”

Roger, a longtime Palo Alto resident who was a gay rights activist (continued on page 28)
in San Francisco in the 1960s before moving to the city to help launch Stanford University’s Gay Students Union in the early ’70s, has lived openly as a gay man his entire adult life. Now, 79 and living alone, he knows firsthand how isolating life can be as a gay senior.

“It’s hard to be a gay senior of my age but, add the lockdown — it’s really destroying the quality of my life,” he said.

He spoke at length with the Weekly about that experience and readily agreed to have his photograph and name published. But weeks after the interview — after he overheard homophobic comments by others in his apartment complex — Roger asked that he remain anonymous. He said he feared that the publicity could make him a target.

Roger said he’s delighted that some of his former students are thriving in same-sex marriages and good careers — fully in the open and supported by their families.

Life is a completely different story for his age group — many are still in the closet, he said.

“They’re still afraid to be seen that way,” he said.

Roger said he and his partner of 36 years were both disowned by their families.

“When John died (in 2006), there was nobody there to grieve with me,” he said. “In my old age, I have nobody to lean on. Eighty percent of my friends (whom) I thought I could lean on died of AIDS — good people, fantastic people.”

Roger said he battles his isolation by reaching out to others.

Pre-pandemic, he paid almost daily visits to the Mountain View Senior Center or to Stanford campus to chat with friends.

“Looking back, it appears to me that those of us who were really working hard in the (gay rights) movement knew we were working for future generations,” Roger said.

Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.
Upcoming webinars:
Healthy Hearing, Healthy Brain
February 17, 10:00 a.m.
http://earlensevents.com/3r114o2
An Exciting Alternative to Hearing Aids
March 17, 10:00 a.m.
http://earlensevents.com/2M21Idj

Earlens® is a revolutionary new hearing solution, recently named a top 100 Invention for 2020 by TIME Magazine.

For more information on our webinars, please call (650) 417-9863.
Stylish Living, Convenient Location

Stylish living awaits in this fresh, inviting home offering 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and nearly 2,400 square feet of living space, set on a peaceful cul-de-sac in the heart of Silicon Valley. Colorful plantings and a paver driveway create outstanding curb appeal, while inside, rich hardwood floors extend throughout much of the home, and excellent use of glass crafts a bright, airy ambiance. A fireplace with a floor-to-ceiling, stacked-stone surround highlights the living room, the kitchen features stainless-steel appliances, and the bright family room offers great space for a relaxing night at home. Find comfort in the master suite with a walk-in closet and access to the private backyard, which features a lawn, deck, and paver patio. This great location is convenient to top tech companies including Apple and LinkedIn, and offers easy access to multiple commute routes, putting the entire Bay Area within reach.

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Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home featuring a formal dining room, kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, separate new roof and a two car attached garage with rear workshop. 2,340 square feet of living space on a generous 10,000 square foot corner lot in lovely neighborhood with gentle rolling hills/streets and convenient commute access! The perfect home for someone wanting to move in and enjoy, or who wants to add their own special touches or remodels!

Easy to see! Call your agent to use lockbox or we can arrange.

2111 Queens Lane
Asking price: $1,898,000

Tori Ann Atwell
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DRE 00927794
Compass.com

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 13.

Across
1 Life force, to an acupuncturist
4 One of the Three Musketeers
10 Consumer protection gp.
13 “___ Wiedersehen!”
14 Like the opening letter of each of the four longest answers
15 “Dog Barking at the Moon” artist Joan
16 Magazine whose website has a “Find a Therapist” feature
19 “Away!”
20 Stunned state
21 How hair may stand
22 Maritime patrol org.
25 “The mind ___ own place…” (John Milton)
26 Offer on eBay
28 Japanese grills
32 “Common” chapter of history
33 Flavor on a German schnapps bottle
37 Rank between marquis and viscount
39 Bell or whistle?
40 “Peter Pan” henchman
41 Device that records respiration
44 Went nowhere
45 Tightly cinched
46 “How We Do” singer Rita
47 “Fun, Fun, Fun” car in a ’60s hit
49 British mil. decorations
51 Breezes (through)
52 Scrooge’s comment
55 Filmmaker Ephron
58 Math conjecture regarding a quadrilateral inscribed in a circle
61 “Identify,” in online comments
63 Ear ailment
64 Baseball stat
65 “Bill ___ Saves the World”
66 Hastily arrive at, as a conclusion
67 Celebrity chef Martin

Down
1 Pen parts
2 Period of quiet
3 Haunted house challenge
4 Hearth leftover
5 Brazilian beach city, briefly
6 “It was ___ blur”
7 “Feed me or I’ll knock your drink over”
8 “Splendor in the Grass” Oscar winner
9 Piglet’s home
10 High-end hotel amenity
11 Fiber-rich cereals
12 “Cheers’” bartender Woody
15 Philosophies that regard reality as one organic whole
17 Lettuce variety
18 “___ With Love” (Sidney Poitier movie)
19 Consumer protection org. (as seen in an Erik Estrada TV show)
20 Eight bits, computerwise
21 How hair may stand
22 Maritime patrol org.
23 Golden State traffic org. (as seen in an Erik Estrada TV show)
24 Phibin’s onetime morning cohost
25 “It’s Shake ‘n Bake!” “And ___!” (old ad tagline)
26 Pager noise
27 Persian Gulf country
29 Arctic floats
30 Baking
31 B equivalent, in music
34 Contribute phrase
35 A few feet away
36 Greek consonant
38 Happy fun Ball?
40 “Peter Pan” henchman
41 Device that records respiration
42 Code where B is __.
43 Some TVs
47 Frayed
48 Ecological community
50 “Be My Yokoh ___” (Barenaked Ladies song)
51 “Wheel of Fortune” action
52 Eight bits, computerwise
53 One side of the Urals
54 Address abbreviation
56 Country star McEntire
57 Former dictator Idi
59 “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen
60 Battleship score
61 That, in Madrid

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Answers on page 13.

Excellent opportunity for a spacious home in San Mateo

2111 Queens Lane
Asking price: $1,898,000

Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home featuring a formal entry opening upon the cheeky living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, separate laundry room, huge back family room also with fireplace, gleaming hardwood floors, new paint inside and out, brand new roof and a two car attached garage with rear workshop. 2,340 square feet of living space on a generous 10,000 square foot corner lot in lovely neighborhood with gentle rolling hills/streets and convenient commute access! The perfect home for someone wanting to move in and enjoy, or who wants to add their own special touches or remodels!

Easy to see! Call your agent to use lockbox or we can arrange a private viewing with a qualified agent

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DRE 00927794
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East Coast-style manor extensively remodeled and expanded in 2012
5 bedrooms and 4 baths on huge 13,585 sq. ft. lot
Two-story foyer; hardwood floors
Formal living and dining room combination with coffered ceiling
Great room with impressive chef’s kitchen, family room opening to the expansive rear grounds
Butler’s pantry and temperature-controlled wine cellar
Plus separate recreation/media room with fireplace
Two main-level bedrooms, each with bath
Attached 2-car garage
Expansive sun-drenched rear yard with large brick patio and vast lawn
Award-winning Menlo Park schools