UNDER ATTACK & SPEAKING OUT

ASIAN AMERICANS, SUPPORTERS RALLY AGAINST RECENT VIOLENCE

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Asian Americans demand change amid racist attacks

‘This is not acceptable to have violence against any race. A lot of people are very angry.’

by Sue Dremann

The first time he encountered racial violence, Nelson Ng was 13 years old. He had recently come to the U.S. from Hong Kong, and it was his first day in ninth grade at Encinal High School in Alameda. “The first time in the hall, a Caucasian student came up to me and slapped me on both sides of my face and ran away. I didn’t even speak English. I didn’t know what to think,” Ng said.

Ng, now 58 and a computer software scientist, is standing up against racial hatred, particularly against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. For Ng and more than 100 people who took part in a demonstration at the corner of El Camino Real and Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto on Sunday, the recent attacks on Asian elders in the Bay Area and the mass shooting at spas near Atlanta, Georgia, are the last straw in a long list of injustices they have largely borne silently. But no more, Ng and others said.

“We can no longer suffer in silence,” he said. “This is not acceptable to have violence against any race. We need to build together to solve these problems. A lot of people are very angry with this. This is the problem with this society. They pick on the weakest. We are in this together. We cannot let people be mistreated across any race.”

Kimberley Wong, Ng’s wife, said as soon as she saw a post about Sunday’s demonstration, she began spreading the word on various social media apps. Wong’s family history in Palo Alto goes back to the early 1900s. Three generations of her family graduated from Palo Alto High School. But recently, she was targeted as a “foreigner” in her own town while putting up flyers downtown for an art exhibit in late January for three Asian artists at the Pacific

Palo Alto Fire Department

Fire Department confronts recruiting challenge as female firefighters opt out

City Council vows to spend more money, ramp up effort to increase diversity in agency

by Gennady Sheyner

When Catherine Capriles was hired by the Palo Alto Fire Department in 1994, she was part of a group of 10 incoming firefighters: five men and five women.

Capriles, who retired as deputy chief in 2018, said that during the earlier part of her tenure, Palo Alto had a higher proportion of women than any department in the state, going to as high as 13 women at its apex. The chief who hired her, Ruben Grijalva, prioritized recruitment of women and minorities, she said. The class before hers, she noted, had seven women and three men.

“He made it a priority,” Capriles told the Weekly. “He fought for and made specific decisions toward recruiting minorities and women.”

Today, the Palo Alto Fire Department is one of many across the nation that is struggling — and failing — to recruit female firefighters. According to a recent Santa Clara County civil grand jury report — titled “Why aren’t there more female firefighters?” — Palo Alto had 90 male firefighters and just five female firefighters in 2019. After the retirement of a female captain last December and staffing reductions due to budget cuts, the city now has 81 firefighters, four of whom are women, Fire Chief Geo Blackshire told the City Council on March 15 during a discussion of the report.

The grand jury surveyed four fire agencies in the county — the Palo Alto Fire Department, the Mountain View Fire Department, the San Jose Fire Department and Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District — and issued a set of recommendations to remove or reduce existing barriers for female firefighters, including the

Palo Alto Fire Department

City Council vows to spend more money, ramp up effort to increase diversity in agency

Local news, information and analysis

Also, county arranges to continue to get vaccine doses directly from state

by Sue Dremann and Eli Walsh

Santa Clara County moved into the state’s orange tier of COVID-19 restrictions Tuesday, allowing the county to expand indoor capacities for some businesses and reopen bars outdoors starting Wednesday.

It joins San Mateo County, which moved into the orange tier last week.

Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said the tier change reflects the county’s persistence in reducing its cases and hospitalizations.

The tier change from red to orange will allow each county to increase indoor capacity from 25% to 50% for sectors such as places of worship, movie theaters and restaurants. Gyms and fitness centers will be allowed to raise capacity from 10% to 25%.

Orange is the most restrictive tier in which bars can operate under any circumstance. (A move to the looser yellow tier would allow a county to resume indoor operations at bars at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer, according to the California Department of Public Health.)

Also, county arranges to continue to get vaccine doses directly from state

Under the orange tier, business sectors like family entertainment centers, cardrooms, offices and wineries will be allowed to resume indoor operations after being limited to opening outdoors or being closed altogether in the red and purple tiers.

On April 1, counties in the orange tier can allow 33% capacity crowds at outdoor professional
PUBLIC HEALTH

Can't get a vaccination? Bay Area vaccine hunters are here to help

Local tech worker is among those leading the grassroots effort

by Kevin Forestieri

aced with endless frustration and fruitless searches for COVID-19 vaccine appointments, Bay Area residents have launched a grassroots effort to help one another sign up to get immunized — all without having to camp out in front of a computer all day.

The Facebook group “Bay Area vaccine hunters’ has been a hub for residents in search of the COVID-19 vaccine, who trade tips, workarounds and other tools to get an appointment when they become available. Leaders of the Facebook group say vaccine providers have made it difficult to get the shot and that it falls to the community to help one another.

One member of the group is Mukesh Aggarwal, who said his story is all too common. His father is older and has conditions that put him at high risk of getting severely ill and dying from COVID-19, but finding him an appointment was an exhausting chore. Each provider has its own website that must be checked periodically throughout the day for available appointments, and some are designed to make people sign up only to later reveal no vaccines are available.

“Most of them are set up in a way where you have to enter all your personal information over two or three pages, and after that they tell you whether there is an appointment or not,” Aggarwal said. “All of that work is completely wasted if there isn’t.”

Aggarwal joined the Bay Area vaccine hunters and has since developed his own workaround: a program that automatically checks more than 100 vaccine sites across the Bay Area, scraping data once per hour to ping people when appointments are available. It’s done through an app called Telegram and searches everything from private pharmacies like Rite-Aid and Walgreens to public vaccination sites like the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Vaccination sites in the region have received 3,000 people using the program and 200 more joining each day. It’s unreasonable to expect pomoc to be front of a computer all day constantly refreshing web pages in search of the vaccine, Aggarwal said, but people are desperate to protect themselves and loved ones from the virus. You the alternative using California’s “My Turn” sign-up system — is practically useless, he said. Nobody has ever signed up through My Turn has received a notification.

Under speculation, Aggarwal said people who do score an appointment are willing to travel anywhere in the greater Bay Area and beyond to get the shot.

“There are so many people who are ready go to at a moment’s notice to get the vaccine and are willing to drive to Sacramento to get it,” he said. “A lot of people have lost their loved ones, and they know that this is serious, especially for folks who are high risk.”

Since vaccinations began in December, roughly 500,000 people in Santa Clara County have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, including over half of all those age 65 and older. About 10,000 of those immunized have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which requires only one dose.

In San Mateo County, which has vaccinated 235,000 people — more than one-third of all residents age 65 and older — roughly 30,000 shots have been administered over 355,000 shots.

Despite the progress, state and county health officials remain a severe vaccine supply shortage and that the unpredictable availability of doses from week to week make it difficult for providers to plan ahead for appointments.

The mix of high demand and short turnaround times available appointments are published online and quickly snatched up, creating the perception that Aggar- said is driving people to find workarounds.

Aggarwal, who works for Intuit in Mountain View, said his program is a work in progress and must constantly be updated as vaccine providers change their websites — or even putting up barriers to keep it from working.

It takes a lot of work, but he said it’s worth it to hear people are fi- nally able to get an appointment, protecting themselves and others.

The app is free to use, but he said anyone who gets an appointment through his program is en- couraged to pay it forward and help others — particularly those who may not be tech savvy or have access to a computer.

Anyone interested in signing up for the notifications can download the Telegram app and search for the group Bay Area Vaccine Hunters. Users can then either search for BayAreaVaccineNotification in the Telegram app or click the link https://t.me/bayareavaccinenotification.

Mountain View Voice Staff Writer Gym Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@mtnvoice.com.

CITY BUDGET

Federal funds brighten Palo Alto’s bleak budget outlook

City is eligible for $12.5M in grants from American Rescue Plan

by Gennady Sheyner

fter a year of budget cuts, service reductions and staff layoffs, Palo Alto is preparing to get $12 million from the federal government, tax money that the city is banking on to smooth its path to economic recovery.

The money, which will be re- leased through grants over the next two years, can be used to pay employee salaries, restore ser- vices that were slashed because of plummeting revenues over the past year and invest in critical infrastructure. The allocation is part of the $42.6 billion that the state of California and the various counties and cities in the state are set to receive through the American Rescue Plan, a $1.9-trillion stimulus bill that federal lawmakers approved earlier this year.

This total includes $8.3 billion for cities and smaller municipali- ties, as well as $7.6 billion for counties. Santa Clara County is slated to receive $373.9 million in relief, while San Mateo County will see $407.1 million.

Allocations to individual cities are based on the Community De- velopment Block Grant formula, which considers factors such as population, poverty and housing needs. For smaller municipali- ties, the allocations are based on needs. For smaller municipali- ties, the allocations are based on needs.

Under the approved plan, Palo Alto stands to receive $12.5 mil- lion in federal aid, while Moun- tain View would get $14.8 million and Menlo Park would be eligible for $6.5 million. Atherton and Woodside are eligible for $1.3 million and $1 million, respectively, while Portola Valley could receive up to $800,000.

For Palo Alto, federal funds are expected to provide a measure of relief after a year during which its hotel- and sales-tax revenues have plummeted precipitously, prompt- ing the city council to make $40 mil- lion in budget cuts last spring and to eliminate about 80 full-time positions. The council has been planning for another $6 million in budget cuts in fiscal year 2022, which begins on July 1.

City Manager Ed Shikada said at the March 15 meeting of the City Council that he is still waiting for additional informa- tion about restrictions for the use of the federal funds, as well as requirements for timing.

“If we get the word, it will be to monitor and will be reporting that infor- mation to the council,” Shikada said.

Shikada said the city is also looking for any opportunities that local nonprofits and businesses may have to take advantage of the programs that are part of the stimulus bill, which also included direct payments of $1,400 to indi- viduals earning up to $75,000 and couples earning up to $150,000, extension of unemployment ben- efits and child tax credits, $128 billion in grants to education agencies and $350 billion in aid to state and local governments.

While the stimulus bill is ex- pected to help the city balance its budget in the fiscal year 2022, the city is still looking at ways to cut costs in the current year, particularly from its capital improvement plan. The current budget includes $174.4 million for infrastructure spending, which includes $102.8 million for a new public safety building, a project which is about to enter its third and final phase. The council is preparing to approve later this spring a $6.6 million in contracts for the proj- ect, which includes new median islands, bulb outs, bike lanes, traf- fic signal improvements and street trees.

The third phase of the project is focusing on major intersections at El Camino Real, Middlefield Road, Louis Road and Fabian Way, according to staff.

Numerous residents, including bike advocates and students, have lobbied the city to move ahead with the project, which they said would bring criti- cal safety improvements to a busy corridor that serves 11 schools, including Gunn High and Fletcher Middle. Robert Neff, a longtime bike advocate said his pro- posals are “long, long, long overdue for improvements.

“The goal of our bicycle net- work is to make it easy to get to destinations safely and comfort- ably on fairly direct routes,” Neff said.

“The city has received $2.5 million, said his pro- posals are “long, long, long overdue for improvements.

Th e  li s t  o f  p r o j ec ts  th a uld be a pproved later this spring $6.6

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Mountain View Voice Staff Writer Gym Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@mtnvoice.com.
News Digest

State expands vaccine eligibility to ages 50+
Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Thursday that all Californians 50 and older will be eligible to be vaccinated by April 1, while everyone 16 and older will qualify two weeks later.

The governor also said that starting Thursday, the state will loosen requirements for doctors and other health care providers to use the vaccine anywhere they think should get one, regardless of age or medical condition.

The state expects a surge in supply next month: approximately 2.5 million first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine per week in the first half of April, and more than 3 million in the second half of the month.

That is a substantial increase from the 1.8 million doses the state received in the first half of March, and the new supply will allow the state to catch up with vaccine orders and to finish vaccinating younger people in the state’s remaining vaccine-eligible populations, Newsom said.

The department also expanded vaccine eligibility to people age 50 or older.

Elementary schools to reopen 5 days a week
For the first time in a year, Palo Alto Unified elementary school students will be able to return to school five days a week in person starting in April, Superintendent Don Austin announced on Tuesday.

He said about 3,700 students have signed up for hybrid learning, which is held Monday through Friday with enrichment periods and lunch.

The announcement follows several critical changes driving school reopening plans, including Santa Clara County moving into the state’s orange tier of public health restrictions on Tuesday. The California Department of Public Health adopted over the weekend new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that halved the recommended spacing between masked students in classrooms from 6 to 3 feet, allowing schools to increase capacity.

And in the district, 90% of employees are either fully vaccinated or have received their first COVID-19 vaccine shot, Austin said.

Third through fifth graders will return first on April 19 and kindergarteners will follow on April 26.

Community to promptly report incidents like these by calling the 24-

The city of Palo Alto strongly is encouraging members of the community to promptly report incidents like these by calling the 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413, or 9-1-1 if it is an emergency.

— Ana B. Ibarra/CalMatters

Police investigate spray-paint-hate message
Palo Alto police are investigating a spray-painted racial epithet discovered in Heritage Park on March 21 as a hate crime.

“Hey, I found the blue spray paint in several areas of the downtown Palo Alto park, including the bark of a tree.”

“Of most concern was a short sentence that included a racial epithet written in about 5-inch-tall letters on a concrete curb in the ground that separates grass from dirt,” police said in a statement on Tuesday.

The incident was directed at African Americans. On a nearby wall with decorative tiles, police found images of male genitalia.

Two first names were also painted — one on the tile, one on the ground. Police also found 15 to 20 empty cans of alcohol that had been spray painted. They collected the discarded cap of a blue spray paint can as evidence. A Public Works crew removed the paint, police said.

The incident likely occurred overnight from Saturday into Sunday, police said. Investigators don’t have any suspects at this time. The department said the city will not tolerate hate crimes in the city toward any group.

“The wake of recent national events and increased attention on hate crimes, the personnel of the Palo Alto Police Department continue to show their commitment to thoroughly investigating any reports of such incidents in Palo Alto,” the department stated.

The city of Palo Alto strongly is encouraging members of the community to promptly report incidents like these by calling the 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413, or 9-1-1 if it is an emergency.

— Sue Dremann

Longtime East Palo Alto youth nonprofit scrambles to avoid eviction
YUCA must secure $1.2M in loans or donations to purchase its house on Clarke Avenue
by Elena Kadvany

For 11 years, Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) has trained young leaders of color out of a cozy, humble yellow-brick house on Clarke Avenue in East Palo Alto.

That house is now up for sale, and the community nonprofit is scrambling to preserve its roots in East Palo Alto by raising enough funds to purchase the 2135 Clarke Ave. building.

Since 1994, YUCA has worked to empower young people of color in East Palo Alto, many of whom have gone on to serve on local boards, commissions and other decision-making bodies.

The nonprofit is a social justice hub that’s advocated for restorative justice in schools, immigration policy and tenant rights. YUCA staff work to maintain and lead toward the city’s subsequent other generations on East Palo Alto history — and hopefully plant a seed that will inspire them to become community activists.

The nonprofit’s leadership says its location, embedded in the community it serves, is essential to its success and impact.

The building also serves as a second home for a man of whom live in the neighborhood and can easily walk there to participate in activities or do homework. YUCA also deliver free produce from a backyard garden to people who live nearby.

“We walk out of our office to serve the community that’s literally next door. That’s why it’s essential that we stay in a place like this that’s very homey and very connected to the community,” YUCA Program Director Kenia Najar said. “We’re a part of it. We’re in the middle of it. We’re a resource.”

Najar said the building owner notified YUCA in January that he wanted to sell the house. YUCA quickly started conversations with EPA Can Do and the Palahi Community Land Trust, which both work to maintain and create affordable housing in East Palo Alto.

The two sides agreed to partner with YUCA to acquire the house and make it a community land trust. There’s also an accessory dwelling unit on the site that could be used for affordable housing.

The city of East Palo Alto now values the property at $250,000 loan toward the purchase and another private funder has also pledged $250,000.

YUCA is continuing to talk with other funders, Najar said, and is hopeful there will be further contributions. The GoFundMe campaign will cover the remaining amount. Anything beyond the fundraising goal would go toward “badly needed” repairs for central heating and the house’s roof.

“We’ve been essential in advocating for what’s right in our community for 27 years,” Najar said. “There’s a lot of revolutionary history that comes from East Palo Alto that we follow and that we live by. To not have a YUCA or to not have a revolutionary space just doesn’t seem possible for East Palo Alto.”

YUCA youth are currently working on two primary campaigns: promoting environmental health, justice and anti-displacement principles in land use policies; and increasing high school graduation rates and preparing students for college or careers. Through the campaigns, which involve running meetings and speaking at public hearings, the nonprofit aims to help young people improve their writing and public speaking skills and increase their self-confidence.

Ingrid Yasmine Ruiz Alvarado, an East Palo Alto Academy student, first joined YUCA to complete community service hours. But eventually, it became a second home. She now spends a lot of time at the yellow house, both for YUCA activities and to do schoolwork, particularly during the pandemic.

“It’s a quiet, safe space for me. I can concentrate. At home I don’t have that space,” she said. “The youth and staff empower me. That’s something I need daily.”

Julia Carriel-Lopez, a junior at East Palo Alto Academy, said she and her friends don’t call the Clarke Avenue house the YUCA office.

“We say, ‘the YUCA home,’” she said.

Carriel-Lopez has been involved with YUCA since 2018. She was drawn in by the nonprofit’s focus on restorative justice, or working to examine the traumas underlying students’ misconduct rather than penalizing them with discipline. She also saw herself in education advocacy projects for elementary school students not receiving adequate support for special needs.

“I got to understand more about my background, the harm that was caused to me that either affected me in a negative way or affected my social upbringing,” Carriel-Lopez said. “It grew this confidence (in me). It pushed me to grow from my past and not let my insecurities take over.”

She feels empowered by YUCA staff, who, like the young people of color, who treat her as an equal, not as a child. She relished being able to correct an uncle who assumed she was a babysitter, telling him that she’s working as a community organizer.

“I’m helping my community because I care about it. This is something that motivates me to get out of my house every day,” Carriel-Lopez said.

Ruiz Alvarado added: “YUCA has inspired us to be more powerful and to be out there. Youth don’t get that recognition. Youth have power. That should be known.”

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@pawweekly.com.
Asian

(continued from page 5)

Art League. She said a man approached her and asked, “Why are you showing art here? You should go back where you came from?” The remark, she said, surprised her: both that anyone would make the assumption she is an immigrant and that they would be so hateful.

Other native-born residents have had similar experiences. Adrienne Lee said that shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began last spring, her husband and daughter were taking a walk. When they passed a church that helps homeless people, a man standing nearby hollered, “You get away from me,” and spat at them, she said.

There’s been enough of a history of racism against Asian Americans and enough bad rhetoric since the pandemic began to sow seeds of fear and doubt, she said.

Lee said she has been quietly donating to groups that help families where children are the victims of racial hatred against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Coming out to demonstrate is a departure for her, but perhaps it’s the next step, she said.

“I’m trying to get away from the doomscrolling,” she said of being absorbed by news stories and social media posts about hate and violence. “What we need to do is to elevate our voices to be heard.”

Black and white people also came in support of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. As drivers in passing cars honked their horns in solidarity, a video of the demonstration captured the failure of some Americans to grasp the seriousness of racism against Asian Americans.

A Caucasian man in a mask heckled a group of young women, demanding to know how anyone could be heard saying.

“Art here? Why don’t you go back to the Art League,” she said.

In fifth grade, a classmate said disparaging remarks about her moon cakes, a pastry filled with sweet bean, lychee or other flavors, “tasted disgusting.” An-with sweet bean, lychee or other flavors, “tasted disgusting.” An-

“Give me an example,” the man asked.

“What?” a woman asked.

“I’ve heard many stories of Asian Americans since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic — including the March 16 deadly shootings in Atlanta, where six of the eight people who died were Asian women — the council unanimously passed a resolution vowing to combat racism and affirming the city’s “commitment to the safety and well-being of citizens, noncitizens and visitors with ancestry from the Asia Pacific region.” The resolution cites the recent increase in anti-Asian harassment, including the use of anti-Asian terminology when discussing COVID-19, rhetoric that perpetuates anti-Asian stigma. According to the Stop AAPI Hate Project, there had been about 3,795 anti-Asian bias incidents in the United States between March 2020 and last month.

The council approved the resolution after hearing from numerous residents and two council members, who made it clear that anti-Asian discrimination isn’t just a national problem but a local one as well.

Council member Greg Tanaka, one of the authors of the memo calling for the resolution, said Monday that he was somewhat surprised by the prevalence of discrimination against the Asian community, even in a liberal city like Palo Alto. Tanaka, whose grandfather died of tuberculosis in a Japanese internment camp, said he was well aware of the history of racism in California.

“He faced a rough time because he was riding his bicycle on Middle-Ramon Street to University Avenue that would end with a rally at City Hall. The time has not yet been approved by the police department, she said.

City Council members Greg Tanaka and Lydia Kou also attended Sunday’s rally. Last March as the pandemic took hold, Tanaka was riding his bicycle on Middle Road when he stopped for a light. A car with four young white males pulled up beside him and they jeered, “Hey — did you bring the virus here?” he recalled.

“I felt like I’d almost lost my conscience to have your food made fun of,” he said.

She said, “If someone says, ‘Art here? Why don’t you go back to the Art League?’”

“Should you report it or ignore it?” Tanaka said. “A lot of the times, a lot of Asians just ignore it. We don’t make it a big deal.”

Asian Yang, a Gunn High alum who held Asian Americans in Palo Alto have been “verbally harassed on the streets and in grocery stores,” despite the fact that they make up about 3% of the local population. The recent shootings in Atlanta have made it “difficult for me to feel safe in a community that I’ve grown up in my entire life.”

“Just like Black and brown communities can be discriminated against, so can Asians,” Yang said.

Gunn High student Aadi Mehndiratta agreed and said southeast Asian residents often experience prejudice in all spheres, from school to their workspace. This often stems from preconceived notions about their faith, he said.

“I’ve heard many stories about families and local friends being harassed for their clothes or complexion, including my mom,” Mehndiratta said. “So Palo Alto isn’t as immune as we’d like to believe.”

Council member Lydia Kou recalled on Monday the history of racism against the Asian community by citing the various laws that the U.S. had enacted in the 19th century to curtail immigration from Asian nations, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Page Act of 1875.

Kou, who was born in Hong Kong and who had co-signed the memo with Tanaka and Mayor Tom DuBois, called for unity and education to combat racism.

“We are not going to win this battle if we do not stop scapegoating each other and raging against each other,” Kou said.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweeny.com.
For Tanaka, the current violence is just an escalation of a long history of abuses leveled at Asian Americans. As a youth in Los Angeles, he used to complain to his father about how bad the racism was at school, but he was met with the response, “You haven’t seen anything yet,” he said.

Tanaka’s paternal grandfather died of a heart attack in a World War II Japanese internment camp. After the war, there was “an incredible Japanese discrimination. If you were Japanese living in California, it was bad news. Everyone knew someone who died in the Pacific,” he said.

His father dropped out of high school due to the strong anti-Asian sentiment, he said. Racism against the Asian community has also contributed to the reticence to speak out among many Asians, he said.

Tanaka’s role as a public figure in politics was met with disapproval when he told his father he was running for Palo Alto City Council.

“I don’t think so. We’re kind of like guests in this country,” he recalled his father said.

That perspective was eye-opening, he said. “How can we be guests?” My grandparents had been in this country since 1880,” Tanaka said. But he understands how the state comes from and how that perspective has led some people to think it’s acceptable to attack Asians.

“I think Asians have been kind of the quiet minority — almost like a punching bag. We kind of keep our heads down, and keep our mouths shut,” he said.

Despite being subjected to bias, implicit or overt, many Asians “just don’t make a ruckus” about it, he said. Steven Lee, a former Palo Alto human relations commissioner, said by phone that there hasn’t always been consensus in the Asian-American community about what is racism, racist rhetoric or racist actions.

“And usually you see that more among minority groups or minority individuals who have a bit more privilege and who don’t encounter it (racism) or encounter it in a way that is not as overt or as personal as racists or as other minority groups,” Lee said.

“It’s interesting to see sort of how you know, the pandemically — it really bubbled up in this very overt and very violent way. Whereas, I would say prior to COVID-19 it was probably more subtle and not as pervasive and not as serious, if that makes sense. Just the kinds of discrimination or stereotypes you face, it wasn’t as bad as what other minority groups might face, especially on a day-to-day basis,” he said.

Lee said there are interesting cultural challenges that have influenced the Asian community’s reluctance to speak out.

“Certainly, you know, when I was growing up, my parents really wanted me to focus on academics, getting into a really good school and getting a really good job. Now that I’m older, it’s all about my career and starting a family. And part of that cultural focus also includes sort of just a reticence to be just generally engaged. … It’s one of the reasons why we don’t see enough Asian Americans elected to office in different leadership positions. There’s just a reticence to put oneself out there, especially when it’s something that’s not focused or beneficial. … There’s a reticence to focus on anything that might come at a cost — at a personal cost,” he said.

Lee used an employer-employee analogy to explain the dynamic from a personal perspective.

“There’s a huge power asymmetry, and so, as an employee, even if you know that your employer is doing something wrong or illegal, even if the facts are on your side, the employer has just so much more power than the employee,” he said.

“People are not willing to speak up due to economic pressure. They want to keep their job and support their family.”

The same thing happens with race, when one race is dominant and another race that speaking out could lead to negative, caustic consequences, he said.

Lee said that Asians haven’t felt the continual deadly consequences of other racial and ethnic groups until now because they are largely not seen as a threat by police the way Blacks and Latinos have been.

But he and Kou said, that while Asians Americans as a demographic group enjoy a greater measure of economic privilege than other racial minorities, they must also guard against complacency.

“My biggest message is don’t let the racist oppressors divide us,” Kou said. “This is an opportunity to speak up to power.”

Lee agreed.

“I think it helps the Asian/Pacific Islander community to stand up and call out these things when we have allies who are willing to do the same. And we’re willing to do so first, but both say something, but also do things about it,” he said.

The United States is “defined by our differences and by our diversity. And so, everyone in this community, everyone in this country, we are all equally Americans, regardless of whether we’re an immigrant or whether we were born here,” he said. “We need to start seeing that and each other as opposed to seeing folks as being different or un-American.”

The Asian-American/Pacific Islander community is struggling right now with this violence and phobia, and I’ve been so encouraged by all of the allies who have stood up … and I hope that we continue to refine and implement our solutions to address these issues.

“There’s like two competing forces right now,” he said. “There’s people who say ‘Enough is enough’ and ‘We don’t want to do this any more. We don’t want to see this done anymore.’ And then there’s the other side, (with this) hard core idea of what an American is, and they won’t accept anything else.”

Kou said there is no excuse for attacking people, particularly the elderly. “These people are cowards,” he said, referring to the attackers.

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be reached at sdremann@pawweekly.com.

About the cover: Community members in Palo Alto on March 21 hold up cardboard signs during a demonstration protesting violent attacks against Asians. Photo courtesy Sydney Ling; cover design by Douglas Young.

City View
A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (March 22)

Town & Country: The council discussed a proposal from Town & Country to allow medical offices on the ground floor and directed staff to bring to the Planning and Transportation Commission a proposed ordinance establishing a category for retail medical services. Yes: Bart, Cormack, ltone, Tanaka
No: Duchois, Flisett, Kou
Resolution: The council approved a resolution denouncing racism, xenophobia and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Yes: Unanimous

City Council (March 23)

Rail: The council held a study session on the Expanded Community Advisory Panel final report, which recommends closure of Churchill Avenue and evaluates the pros and cons of various grade separation alternatives at the East Meadow Drive and Charleston Road rail crossings. Action: None

Board of Education (March 23)
Virtual learning: The board discussed virtual learning program options for the 2021-22 school year. Action: None
Looking out on the morning sun from this stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Palo Alto home, will make you feel so inspired! Located in the desirable Green Acres neighborhood, this single-level home is in close proximity to top rated schools, Briones and Bol Parks, local shopping, minutes from Stanford University and a short drive to Silicon Valley's major tech companies.

- 3 bedrooms include a primary suite with two closets
- A large, bright kitchen with abundant cabinet space, quartz countertops, double ovens and a breakfast bar
- A spacious family room with sliding glass doors that open to the verdant backyard
- The generous sized living room has an accent wall with built-ins and a large picture window
- Expansive backyard with Trex deck, citrus trees & new sod
- Inside laundry room
- Large 2-car attached garage
- Additional features include: refinished hardwood floors, new laminate flooring, central A/C, recessed lighting, skylights and fresh paint inside and out
- 1,772 SF *¹ of living space on a 7,969 SF lot *²
- Excellent Palo Alto schools: *³ Juana Briones Elementary, Ellen Fletcher Middle & Palo Alto High

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Short Story Contest

Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners in each category: Adult, Young Adult and Teen

ALL STORIES MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE AT:
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ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE
April 2, 2021

ALL stories must be 2,500 words or less

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### POLICE CALLS

**Palo Alto**  
**March 18-March 24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date Time</th>
<th>Type of Call</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fife Avenue</td>
<td>3/13, 11:35 a.m.</td>
<td>assault w/deadly weapon, armed robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encina Avenue</td>
<td>2/10, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>child abuse/physical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlefield Road</td>
<td>2/26, 6:28 p.m.</td>
<td>child abuse/report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramona Street</td>
<td>3/18, 12:33 p.m.</td>
<td>sex crime/irresistible enticement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rickeys Way</td>
<td>3/21, 5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>family violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlefield Road</td>
<td>3/22, 7:40 p.m.</td>
<td>armed robbery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Channing Avenue/Newell Road**  
3/13, 11:35 a.m.; assault w/deadly weapon.  
3/15, 9:10 p.m.; armed robbery.  
3/18, 12:33 p.m.; sex crime/irresistible enticement.  
3/21, 5:45 p.m.; family violence.  
3/22, 7:40 p.m.; armed robbery.

**El Camino Real**  
3/23, 3:11 p.m.; strong arm robbery.  
3/23, 12:04 p.m.; sex crime.  
3/23, 9:20 p.m.; assault w/deadly weapon.

**Meadow Drive**  
3/23, 3:11 p.m.; strong arm robbery.  
3/23, 12:04 p.m.; sex crime.  
3/23, 9:20 p.m.; assault w/deadly weapon.

### Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 35.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Puzzle</th>
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<tr>
<td>O</td>
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<td>Business Services</td>
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### OBITUARIES

**Nancy Lawrence Hubbard**  
February 14, 1930 – March 18, 2021  
Resident of Palo Alto

Nancy died of natural causes on March 18, 2021 at the age of 91. Nancy was born and raised in Nashville Tennessee. Nancy moved to Palo Alto in the early 1950’s where she met her future husband Warren Hubbard who preceded her death in 2008. Nancy is survived by her son Brad and daughters Paula and Kathy and son-in-law Tim. She is also survived by grandchildren Sarah, Nicole, Ben, Nathan and his wife Amanda and great-grandchild Aiden. Nancy was a very sociable and kind person and had a sense of humor which helped her develop and maintain many friendships in her neighborhood, local schools and church. Nancy re-entered the work force in the early 1980’s and she was hired by Syntex (Roche) as a Production Planner. She retired from Syntex in the late 1990s. She developed many friendships at Syntex and maintained those friendships after retiring. Nancy spent the last 10 years of her life at the Palo Alto Commons. The staff provided her with excellent care and emotional support and deserves many thanks for their help. In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or charity of your choice.

---

**Marketplace**

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

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.
Greeted by its eye-catching greenhouse-inspired courtyard, this renovated unit is located just two/three blocks to University Avenue. With its split-level design, giving the feel of a townhome, this immaculate residence gives off the ‘wow’ factor at every turn. Its show-stopping living room is highlighted by lofty ceilings, an abundance of windows and new white oak hardwood flooring. The floor plan is arranged with a bit of everything for fine living - dramatic formal spaces, a modern kitchen, luxurious bathrooms, spacious bedrooms, and a lush garden setting with a slate patio. Don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity to get into Palo Alto at a great price!

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**Buyer to verify school enrollment and availability.
***Master & second bathroom were remodeled 2020-2021 (per Seller).

---

- Overlooking the living room, the dining room leads to the modern kitchen with eco-friendly Paperstone countertops, copious cabinetry and quality s/s appliances.
- Romantic master suite is complete with a wall wardrobe closet with organizers and a newly remodeled, stylish en-suite bathroom - finished with stone-topped vanity, subway tile surround shower over tub and premium herringbone tile flooring***
- Second bedroom has high ceilings with transom Marvin windows and sliding glass door to the slate-tiled private terrace.
- Tastefully updated second bathroom offers eco-friendly encaustic cement Clé tile flooring, a new custom walnut vanity, designed and fabricated by local artisan Jeremiah Collection***
- Outstanding Palo Alto schools: Addison Elem. (K-5), Greene Middle (6-8) & PA High (9-12)**
- Short distance to University Avenue shops and restaurants, Stanford, tech companies, Caltrain, schools and local parks and much more!
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Attacks against Asians in California in 2021 alone:
On Jan. 28, an elderly Thai-American man, Vicha Ratanapakdee, was assaulted in San Francisco and later died from his injuries. Two were arrested in connection with the incident; one of them was charged with murder.

On Jan. 31, an elderly man was attacked in Chinatown, Oakland, in an incident that is widely believed to be motivated by racism. A suspect has been arrested and charged.

In February, racist graffiti was found near a Chinese American school in San Francisco. An Asian woman walking in Brentwood was racially harassed by a man. The man was later fired from his job as a real estate agent.

On Chinese New Year, an Asian-owned preschool in Alhambra was found vandalized with feces and an insulting message.

On Feb. 15, an elderly Filipino woman was attacked on a San Diego trolley.

In Los Altos, several teenagers harassed an Asian American family by repeatedly pounding on their front door at night then running away, leaving a pornographic print in front of their home, yelling racial slurs and throwing rocks at the home.

In February, a Korean American Air Force veteran was attacked in Koreatown, Los Angeles. The veteran says he was called “Chinese virus” and “Ching chong.”

On Feb. 22, a man drove to a Chinese American butcher shop in Sacramento and left a box containing a mutilated cat in the parking lot.

On Feb. 23, a man from Berkeley was arrested for making threats to kill Asians on social media.

On Feb. 27, a Japanese Buddhist temple in Los Angeles was vandalized and the property was set on fire. This follows past security breaches and assaults on security personnel in the prior two weeks.

On March 7, an Asian American Uber driver in San Francisco was assaulted by his passengers after he asked them to wear masks. The passengers made statements appearing to make fun of the driver’s race. The passengers were later banned from Uber and Lyft.

On March 8, a woman was araigned for spitting on an Asian American stranger having lunch in Mountain View.

On March 9, a 75-year-old man was assaulted in Oakland and later died from his injuries. A man was arrested, who police say had a history of targeting elderly Asian Americans.

And most recently in Georgia:
On March 16, a man carried out a mass shooting at three Asian massage parlors, leaving eight dead — six of whom were Asian women.

Look at it. Look at it and tell me that racism against Asian Americans, xenophobia against Chinese people, only exists within my mind.

It seems like almost every day this year, I’ve grieved for those we’ve lost due to ignorant people with racist ideals. I am tired of fearing for our safety when my family leaves the house, even knowing that Palo Alto is a better community than most. In 2021 alone (a little more than three months’ worth of time), there have been too many attacks against Asian Americans in the Bay Area and California, and I wonder when I will be able to let out a small breath of relief. But I see no respite in sight.

Too often, people view discrimination against Asians as new, as something that only appears in issues like the bamboo ceiling or affirmative action. It is not new. Asians have been in America in large numbers since the Gold Rush era in the 1850s, and one of the only immigration bans on the basis of nationality was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, portrayed as the “yellow peril” and refused employment by American business owners. Asian citizens were forced into ethnic enclaves, and the only jobs they had access to consisted of railroad building or managing laundromats.

We are not foreign to America or its racism, and it’s time people start recognizing that racism against Asians in this country runs painfully deep.

In light of recent events, I am scared, angry and disappointed. I’m scared to take walks in my neighborhood, to embrace my culture, to eat Chinese food in fear of being ridiculed. I’m angry because when I attempted to speak about this issue almost a year ago, people acted as if I had imagined the racism against Asians, as if I was complaining about an issue that didn’t exist. And I am disappointed in the way people have responded to such news, the way people still assert that Asian Americans don’t experience racism. I find myself disappointed over and over again.

Perhaps you may think that I dislike America, for pointing out places in our history where we have not been so great. But you can love a country while admitting its faults. You can love a country by wanting it to be better. And I want America and its people to be better, to stop letting hatred guide its actions.

I’m done being silent, and I’m done listening to people who play devil’s advocate for murderers.

Jessica Zang is a Palo Alto-born high school student who’s passionate about subjects from social justice to hustle culture. Email her at jessicazangblogs@gmail.com.

Letters

Build the garage

Editor,
My husband and I live directly across the street from Castilleja School on Kellogg Avenue. We are among many neighbors who support the underground parking. I agree with the City Council members who saw that Castilleja is making an investment that improves the neighborhood by moving cars below ground and making the bike boulevard safer.

I understand that the council is seeking to clarify the code through a text amendment. I firmly believe that an amendment that excludes the garage from overall square footage is the right path forward for the neighborhood and for the school. The underground parking is a win for everyone who lives in the neighborhood because it enhances safety for those passing through on bicycles and improves aesthetics.

I found it interesting that so much time was devoted to a letter from a retired arborist who believes the neighborhood would be worse because of the tree experts currently employed by and contracted by the city whose knowledge was dismissed.

Similarly, it was confusing to see some council members immediately cast doubt on the validity of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) when this report was prepared by independent consultants who specialize in assessing environmental impacts.

They put over three years into gathering and analyzing exhaustive data. Why is this seen as unreliable? Is it simply because it doesn’t align with opinions of the handful of neighbors who oppose the project? The facts may be inconvenient for people who oppose the project, but that does not mean they aren’t credible.

I sincerely hope that the city council will listen to Planning and Transportation Commission Chair Bart Hechtman, who remarked that this EIR is a gold standard, the most thorough the city has seen. It should be very easy for them to understand and use that data to move forward on other aspects of the proposal.

Vanita Fang
Kellogg Avenue, Palo Alto

This week on Town Square

Town Square is an online discussion forum at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

In response to ‘Santa Clara County moves into orange tier under state’s system for reopening’

Posted March 23 at 11:31 p.m. by Jeremy Erman, a resident of Midtown:

“I think there are also guidelines for performing arts that are supposed to go into effect April 1, but I don’t know if those have been clearly laid out yet. The state only created a ‘Live Performances’ category on its Industry Guidance page in early March — despite months of guidance for in-person athletics — and only announced yesterday that ‘band, drumline, choir and drama are considered low-contact youth recreational activities, and should follow all relevant requirements and recommendations.’

I’m still amazed and quite angry over state and local government’s constant efforts to allow as much athletic activities as possible throughout the pandemic while mostly ignoring the arts.

Guidelines for what activities (and jobs) have been allowed and not allowed have frequently been hypocritical and inconsistent.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Are local resolutions against racism enough to make a difference?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@paweekly.com. Submit guest opinions of 750 to 950 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Submitting a letter to the editor of guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to publish it online, including our online archives and as a post on Palo Alto Square.

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

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • March 26, 2021 • Page 17
242 Oak Grove Avenue, Atherton

Grand Atherton Estate on Over 1.3 Acres

Nestled in absolute privacy on over 1.3 sweeping acres, this grand, two-level estate of nearly 5,800 square feet offers ultimate luxury and a sought-after Atherton lifestyle. High-end appointments including detailed ceilings, intricate moldings, and oak floors wrap the home in elegance from the moment you step inside. A fireplace highlights the spectacular living room, the chef’s kitchen includes appliances from Wolf and Sub-Zero, and the family room features a fireplace all its own plus access to the grounds. Enjoy the convenience of 5 comfortable bedroom suites, including the master suite with a fireplace and private balcony, as well as a main-level bedroom suite ideal for office use to work from home in style. The grounds of the home offer incredible space for outdoor enjoyment, with a fireplace, kitchen, and pool, plus a lush, sizable lawn perfect for pick-up sports. Adding the finishing touch, this great location is just moments to downtown Menlo Park, and is close to top-ranked Menlo Park schools including Laurel Elementary and Menlo-Atherton High.

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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
Arlene Shechet’s pandemic-inspired ceramics push technical boundaries and celebrate the rainbow at Pace Gallery

by Sheryl Nonnenberg

The one-year anniversary of the pandemic has been cause for a lot of collective looking back and assessing. How have we used the past 365 days? Some people took to cleaning closets, baking bread or learning a new language. For New York-based artist Arlene Shechet, it was a fruitful period when she retreated to her Woodstock studio and created a series of sculptures that reflect her passion for form, color and shape, executed in the medium of glazed ceramic. “Together: Pacific Time” is a debut show of 12 works created specifically for Pace Gallery in Palo Alto, and is on view until May 1.

Any preconceived notions about “glazed ceramics” will likely be quickly dispelled upon entering the gallery. These are not your standard pots or bowls. And those who’ve worked in clay may be astounded at what Shechet has been able to do with a medium that is soft, pliable and often highly fragile. Like many women who have taken on the mantle of “sculptor,” Shechet has striven to overcome the notion that only male sculptors can work with heavy materials and equipment, and produce art of monumental scale. In the catalog produced by Pace Gallery New York, the artist described how when she was young, being a sculptor was identified as a “male vocation.” Her interest in clay was sparked, interestingly enough, when she spent a short time as a student at Stanford University and got to use a pottery studio in the basement of a dorm.

After earning degrees from New York University and the Rhode Island School of Design, she began to forge her own signature techniques. In the catalog interview she explained that she “feels closest to the tradition of Minimalism and Donald Judd,” but also that, “I want these finished sculptures to work as dimensionalized paintings.” She succeeds in this endeavor, mainly through the exploitation of color.

Upon entering the main gallery, the viewer is gob-smacked by a rainbow of hues. The walls are a rich goldenrod yellow, the sculptures are deep and glorious reds, purples, yellows and greens. The gallery staff explained that Shechet directed (via FaceTime) the installation of the 10 plinths in this space and had very definite ideas about how they were to be positioned. They are arranged, like a sculpture garden, in the center of the space so that the viewer can both take them all in at once and walk around each one. The pieces are affixed to either wood or metal stands that serve as extensions of the sculptures, rather than just supports. To that end, they ooze of glaze emerges and drips over, sort of like a lava flow. Somehow the artist has taken this highly malleable material and folded it, looped it, prodded and formed it into these mysterious shapes. The hand of the artist is clearly visible, as in Pacific Time: 5 a.m., a neon-orange sculpture bears the indentations of the artist’s fingers. There is a hollow in the center of this piece where an orange-yellow ooze of glaze emerges and drips over, sort of like a lava flow. The artist described how these pieces seemed especially appropriate in light of the past year’s events. “They have gestures; they aren’t straight up and down. They’re especially appropriate in light of the past year’s events.”

The focal point of the works in this space is color. Shechet, who has developed her own unique glazing technique, balances quite precariously on the edge of the metal base. It’s a great bit of trompe l’oeil by the artist and will encourage you to look even closer. (Fear not, however — each piece is firmly affixed underneath.)

Describing the sculptures is a challenge. They are colorful, highly tactile, dense yet shaped very purposefully by the artist. You may find points of reference. Together: Pacific Time: 9 p.m. reminded this writer of giant red lips. There is a hollow in the center of this piece where an orange-yellow ooze of glaze emerges and drips over, sort of like a lava flow. The artist described how these pieces seemed especially appropriate in light of the past year’s events. “They have gestures; they aren’t straight up and down. They’re bending like trees, bending like humans.”

The local point of the works in this space is color. Shechet, who has developed her own unique glazing technique, balances quite precariously on the edge of the metal base. It’s a great bit of trompe l’oeil by the artist and will encourage you to look even closer. (Fear not, however — each piece is firmly affixed underneath.)

The Pear Theatre offers a rich feast of words from Dylan Thomas

Video production of ‘Under Milk Wood’ is well worth watching — and reading

by John Orr

The Pear Theatre has outdone itself with a production of Dylan Thomas’ “Under Milk Wood,” a play that resonates with the beauty of well-chosen words and goes deep with meaning for humanity.

And, praise be, the Pear’s artistic director and director of the production, Sinjin Jones, has achieved the mastery of filmwork that we have desired to see from him over the course of the theater company’s pandemic releases.

Everything works: good performances from the six-person cast (Oluchi Nwokocha, Ali-Moosa Mirza, Aisha Kelly, Thomas Farley, Kalan Birnie and Coco Jimenez), the lighting, the sound, and the very useful closed captioning. Thomas worked on “Under Milk Wood” — a “play for voices” — for more than 20 years, starting it when he was only 17 and developing and polishing it for the rest of his life, which ended at age 39.

The result is fascinating and beautiful poetry, rich with meaning and imagery, as he tells the story of a night, a day, and another night in the fictional Welsh seaside village of Llareggub (set, in the Pear’s version, among six people took to cleaning closets, baking bread or learning a new language. For New York-based artist Arlene Shechet, it was a fruitful period when she retreated to her Woodstock studio and created a series of sculptures that reflect her passion for form, color and shape, executed in the medium of glazed ceramic. “Together: Pacific Time” is a debut show of 12 works created specifically for Pace Gallery in Palo Alto, and is on view until May 1.

Any preconceived notions about “glazed ceramics” will likely be quickly dispelled upon entering the gallery. These are not your standard pots or bowls. And those who’ve worked in clay may be astounded at what Shechet has been able to do with a medium that is soft, pliable and often highly fragile. Like many women who have taken on the mantle of “sculptor,” Shechet has striven to overcome the notion that only male sculptors can work with heavy materials and equipment, and produce art of monumental scale. In the catalog produced by Pace Gallery New York, the artist described how when she was young, being a sculptor was identified as a “male vocation.” Her interest in clay was sparked, interestingly enough, when she spent a short time as a student at Stanford University and got to use a pottery studio in the basement of a dorm.

After earning degrees from New York University and the Rhode Island School of Design, she began to forge her own signature techniques. In the catalog interview she explained that she “feels closest to the tradition of Minimalism and Donald Judd,” but also that, “I want these finished sculptures to work as dimensionalized paintings.” She succeeds in this endeavor, mainly through the exploitation of color.

Upon entering the main gallery, the viewer is gob-smacked by a rainbow of hues. The walls are a rich goldenrod yellow, the sculptures are deep and glorious reds, purples, yellows and greens. The gallery staff explained that Shechet directed (via FaceTime) the installation of the 10 plinths in this space and had very definite ideas about how they were to be positioned. They are arranged, like a sculpture garden, in the center of the space so that the viewer can both take them all in at once and walk around each one. The pieces are affixed to either wood or metal stands that serve as extensions of the sculptures, rather than just supports. To that end, they ooze of glaze emerges and drips over, sort of like a lava flow. Somehow the artist has taken this highly malleable material and folded it, looped it, prodded and formed it into these mysterious shapes. The hand of the artist is clearly visible, as in Pacific Time: 5 a.m., a neon-orange sculpture bears the indentations of the artist’s fingers. There is a hollow in the center of this piece where an orange-yellow ooze of glaze emerges and drips over, sort of like a lava flow. The artist described how these pieces seemed especially appropriate in light of the past year’s events. “They have gestures; they aren’t straight up and down. They’re bending like trees, bending like humans.”

The local point of the works in this space is color. Shechet, who has developed her own unique glazing technique, balances quite precariously on the edge of the metal base. It’s a great bit of trompe l’oeil by the artist and will encourage you to look even closer. (Fear not, however — each piece is firmly affixed underneath.)

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Color therapy (continued from page 28)

methods, has said that she dealt with the isolation of the lockdown by “shifting her mood” via the use of color. “Everything is color. I think everything has color, and I think that’s another language that some people are more sensitive to than others.” In her show: Pacific Time: 1 a.m. (the title makes reference to the marking of time, as in a medieval “Book of Hours”), the deep, rich purple glaze conjures up such disparate associations as grape juice, royal vestments and jelly beans. The artist has said that these jewel-toned pieces “reflect what I needed: color therapy.”

The remaining two sculptures in the exhibition reflect Shechet’s ability to work in large scale. Under cherry trees/There are/no strangers is an amalgam of glazed ceramic and painted hardwood. This piece is typical of the artist’s “half-made, half-found” approach in which she combines tree sections with ceramic forms. It’s a strong, bold, Cubist assemblage that changes from every vantage point. In the last gallery, Iron Twins is a monumental piece made of cast iron that has a Stonehenge-like quality. Or, it could be perceived as two standing figures, confronting each other with just a whisper of distance between their bases. These works have a strong physicality to them. As Shechet explained, “It’s quite muscular what I do. I don’t mean that they don’t have a lightness or female presence, but making sculpture is a very muscular, tough activity.”

How fitting that, during Women’s History Month, Pace is featuring the work of a female artist who has challenged the macho, male-dominated world of sculpture, forging a long and successful career — and she did it her way.

Pace Gallery, located at 229 Hamilton Ave., is open by appointment only, with COVID-19 protocols in place. Information is available at pacegallery.com.

Contributing writer Sheryl Nonnenberg can be reached at nonnenberg@aol.com.
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Palo Alto Unified School District
Notice is hereby given that the governing board of the Palo Alto Unified School District will receive, by electronic submission, sealed bids for the following project, Bid No. GFI-21:

GUNN HIGH SCHOOL PARKING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Project consists of:

Reconfiguring the existing Visitor and Staff parking area to provide better vehicular flow and parking.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors’ license(s):

A, or B or C as appropriate for this scope of work

The Bidder’s license(s) must remain active and in good standing throughout the term of the Contract.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

Contract Documents will be available on or after March 26, 2021 and may be downloaded from the District’s Project page at the below link, or from ARC Document Solutions. Contract Documents available for download at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/pzr22SFyEPUBJnQK0tV9dWjdb67fNy7VdL2X7jv?sharing=Contract Documents are also available for bidders’ review and hardcopy purchase at:

ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane
San Carlos, CA 94070 Phone: (850) 637-2510

Hardcopy Contract Documents are also available for purchase for One Hundred dollars ($100.00), contact ARC above. This fee is refundable if the Contract Documents are returned in clean condition back to the District Facilities Office no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the bid opening.

Bids may ONLY be submitted by e-mail to mmoler@pausd.org

E-mailed Bids, together with all required bid documentation, will be received until Tuesday, April 27, 2021 – 2PM, after which time the bids will be tabulated and posted publicly at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FHGz57yP7FzI4R4d2qPWN35C8B7M4g3x9VrThmgQ/edit?usp=sharing

Any bid that is submitted after this shall be nonresponsive and returned unopened to the bidder.

Each bidder is solely responsible for timely submission of its bid; the District is not responsible for any technological issues in a bidder’s ability to timely submit its bid or portion thereof. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq., of the Public Contract Code. Prior to publicly posting bids on the District website, the District reserves the right to verify the genuineness of any bid security.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 20011.5, only prequalified bidders will be eligible to submit a bid for this Project. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive and returned unopened to the bidder.

All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.

A legible photocopy of (i) bond bid by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District, (ii) a cashier’s check or (iii) a certified check, drawn to the order of the Palo Alto Unified School District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price, shall accompany the Bid Form and Proposal, as a guarantee that the Bidder will, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid. Bidder must deposit the original of the bid bond, cashier’s check, or certified check in the mail on the same day as the bid opening. Bids without necessary bid security will be deemed nonresponsive and will be rejected.

A mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 10 a.m. at Gunn High School, 780 Arastadero, Palo Alto, California. All participants are required to sign in prior to entering the construction building. The site visit is expected to take less than one hour. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.

The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the Internet at: http://www.dir.ca.gov. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall comply with applicable federal, State, and local requirements relating to COVID-19 including, if required, preparing, posting, and implementing a Social Distancing Protocol.

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on:

A. The base bid amount only.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the success of the unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Attn: Jun Zhao, PM
Email: jezuan@3hs.com

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • March 26, 2021 • Page 23
3047 CAMERON WAY, SANTA CLARA

Mid-Century Modern with a Convenient Location

The best of Silicon Valley living is close at hand in this fresh, inviting mid-century modern home, offering 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and an unbeatable location with access to top-ranked Cupertino schools. Timeless mid-century design elements including a welcoming front courtyard and vaulted, paneled ceilings create an appealing ambiance, while floor-to-ceiling windows fill the home with natural light. Spacious, open gathering areas include the living room with a centerpiece fireplace, the dining room with outdoor access, and the kitchen with stainless-steel appliances. Find comfort in the master suite that opens to the backyard with patio space, a lawn, and fruit trees. Plus, one of the additional bedrooms enjoys its own private outdoor entrance. You will be just moments to Maywood Park, great shopping and dining options in Santana Row, and top tech companies including Apple and LinkedIn. Adding the finishing touch, this home offers easy access to major Bay Area commute routes.

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Just moments from Briones Park and top-ranked Briones Elementary, this spectacular 4-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home is a marvel of contemporary design and engineering. Boasting solid walls of concrete and steel, this Roman arch structure offers outstanding build quality, with green features including highly insulated walls for all-season temperature control. Two incredible domed ceilings crown almost 3,400 square feet of free-flowing space perfect for a modern family lifestyle, with designer touches including floors of both hardwood and premium laminate, plus marble bathrooms. Glide through the open, sweeping main level featuring the living room with fireplace, the bright dining area, and the expansive chef’s kitchen. Four bedrooms are highlighted by the remarkable master suite with a fireplace and spa-like bathroom, and one that easily converts into a light-filled office. Plus, the peaceful backyard offers ample patio space, and a drought-proof synthetic lawn. Enjoy a one-of-a-kind living experience in this extraordinary home, with a location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer.

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Erika Enos
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erika.enos@gmail.com
CalDRE #00706554
Whether you’ve got a taste for social justice or finely made pastries (or both), the Mid-peninsula has something for you. In Palo Alto, there are new temptations on offer, as Patty Lu, a former Tartine baker, and Nariya Charoensupaya, Vina Enoteca’s former pastry chef, are making breads and pastries with flavors that highlight their Asian American heritages. A pastry chef, Lu is also making classic focaccia, sourdough baguettes and other breads for Vina Enoteca’s Mercato, which is open Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the restaurant. She hopes to host Year of the Snake Foods pop-ups there as well.

Also in the pastry case at Tono Coffee will be closed from March 24-31, so check out the pastries there in April.

New on the pastry scene

While John Shelsta’s Love for Butter pop-up is on a temporary hiatus, two bakers have stepped in to fill the void: a former Tartine baker and Vina Enoteca’s former pastry chef.

Lu, who started her baking career at Tartine Bakery in San Francisco, is temporarily overseeing the bread program at Vina Enoteca on Welch Road in Palo Alto (where Shelsta has been baking for the last few months) and making pop-ups for Tono Coffee Project on Lytton Avenue in Palo Alto, which usually serves Love for Butter baked goods.

Lu was a line cook in San Francisco before delving into baking. She started the bread program at The Charter Oak Restaurant in St. Helena and worked at Tartine for several years. As head baker at Tartine Seoul, she helped to open the bakery’s first location in Korea. For the last few years, she’s baked Royal St.antal’s famed pattonette during the holidays for Paletten from Royton.

Last fall, Lu started her own endeavor: Year of the Snake Foods, a pop-up with items like sesame-scallion focaccia, kimchi and langue de chat, delicate cookies filled with tahini, black sesame or white chocolate. Her creations reflect her Chinese American upbringing in Cupertino, her years of baking naturally leavened bread in the Bay Area and her time in Seoul.

At Tono Coffee, you can find Lu’s black sesame bostock — soft, circular brioche topped with a velvety frangipane made from powdered black sesame, which is inspired by Chinese tang yuán (sweet rice flour dumplings filled with black sesame paste) and zha ma hu, a black sesame soup. She also makes a flaky biscuit stuffed with lap cheong (Chinese sausage) and garlic chives, among other items.

“Me, incorporating Chinese flavors — I want it to be more mainstream,” she said.

She said when she would bring Tartine bread home to her Taiwanese parents, they eschewed the crusty sourdough bread for soft white breads from Chinese bakeries.

“My whole background has been making European pastries and breads,” she said. “I want to make stuff that they like to eat.”

Lu is also making classic focaccia, sourdough baguettes and other breads for Vina Enoteca’s Mercato, which is open Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the restaurant. She hopes to host Year of the Snake Foods pop-ups there as well.

Also in the pastry case at Tono is open Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the restaurant. She hopes to host Year of the Snake Foods pop-ups there as well.

In Palo Alto, there are new temptations on offer, as Patty Lu, a former tartine baker, and Nariya Charoensupaya, Vina Enoteca’s former pastry chef, are making breads and pastries with flavors that highlight their Asian American heritages. A pastry chef, are making breads and pastries with flavors that highlight their Asian American heritages. A pastry chef, Lu is also making classic focaccia, sourdough baguettes and other breads for Vina Enoteca’s Mercato, which is open Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the restaurant. She hopes to host Year of the Snake Foods pop-ups there as well.

Also in the pastry case at Tono Coffee will be closed from March 24-31, so check out the pastries there in April.

José Andrés and Jesse Cool

Local restauaranteuse Lu Ziff Cool will be moderating a virtual conversation with José Andrés, famed chef and founder of World Central Kitchen, on April 6.

The event is part of the Peninsula Open Space Trust’s Wallace Stegner Lecture series, which features “writers, thinkers and activists who explore important issues related to land, nature and conservation.”

Andrés — as well as Cool, the owner of Flea St. Cafe in Menlo Park — is a staunch advocate for sustainability in the restaurant industry. His new book, “Vegetables Unleashed,” explores cooking with vegetables to reduce food waste and the world’s carbon footprint.

World Central Kitchen has for over a decade served meals to people in need and responded in the wake of natural and man-made disasters, including when Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, the bushfires in Australia and in 2020, the pandemic. Since last March, World Central Kitchen partnered with restaurants to keep them and their employees afloat while serving 36 million meals in more than 400 cities across America.

Cool, who’s championed farm-to-table, organic cooking at Flea St. Cafe for four decades, is also a culinary lecturer at the Stanford University Department of Education and uses her home garden and kitchen as a model classroom.

Cool spearheaded an effort to re-vamp the food Stanford Hospital serves employees and patients. During the coronavirus shutdown, Flea St. Cafe launched “Meals of Gratitude,” a program to donate meals to frontline health care workers while keeping the restaurant staff employed. The restaurant has made more than 29,000 meals for frontline health care providers, evacuees from the California wildfires (Flea St. also sent meals to wildfire victims through World Central Kitchen) and vaccination site employees. A year after starting the program, Cool ended Meals of Gratitude last week as the restaurant works to slowly reopen.

Cool is a supporter of the Peninsula Open Space Trust’s work to protect local land and farms, and also volunteers with World Central Kitchen. Because of these connections, the Peninsula Open Space Trust asked her to host the conversation with Andrés, she said.

The April 6 talk begins at 7 p.m. For more information and to buy tickets, go to openspacetrust.org.

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com. Check out her Peninsula Foodist blog at Palo-AltoOnline.com/blogs.
Timeless Luxury with a Bright, Contemporary Floorplan

Contemporary Craftsman style and a light-filled floorplan perfect for a modern lifestyle highlight this beautiful 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home, which offers over 2,500 square feet of luxury living space. Built in 2016 and boasting outstanding build quality throughout, this home greets you with an inviting front porch, while inside, high-end appointments include wide-plank oak floors, Hansgrohe fixtures, finishes of both granite and Carrera marble, and a wall of glass that opens completely to the grounds for true indoor/outdoor living. A centerpiece fireplace highlights the spacious family room, and the incredible chef’s kitchen features a suite of Thermador appliances, plus a wall of custom cabinetry with pull-out drawers for maximum convenience. Comfortable bedrooms include the master suite with a spa-like en suite bathroom, as well one that easily converts to an office to work from home in style. Find great space for outdoor enjoyment in the backyard with a covered patio and lush lawn. And enjoy a location just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, Facebook, and top-ranked Las Lomitas schools.

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Bright interiors, stylish appointments, and a floorplan perfect for a modern lifestyle highlight this brilliant 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom home, which offers nearly 2,600 square feet of chic living space. Completed in 2021, and boasting outstanding build quality throughout, this home enjoys a light, airy ambiance thanks to high ceilings and excellent use of glass, with beautiful wood floors extending throughout. Entertain guests with ease in the expansive living room, craft delicious meals in the quartz-appointed kitchen outfitted with new stainless-steel appliances, and enjoy relaxing evenings around the linear fireplace in the family room. Four bedrooms include the large master suite with its own private balcony, plus two guest suites. This home also includes a 400 amp panel, and the option for adding both solar panels and a Tesla power wall. This great location is convenient to Facebook, Caltrain, and 101, plus downtown Redwood City, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto are short drives away.

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creation of a recruiting plan tailored toward growing the number of female firefighters.

Of the 510 firefighters, only Mountain View has such a recruiting plan — a key reason for why 10% of its department consists of female firefighters, compared to just 2% in San Jose, 7% in Santa Clara County and 5% in Palo Alto, according to the report. The report also recommends that the fire departments adopt mentoring programs to guide potential recruits, new recruits and current firefighters. These programs should include visits to local schools and organizations to demonstrate encouragement. The surveyed fire agencies were also advised to create plans to address the unique challenges in the gender-inclusive work culture for women in the setting of a fire department.

While workplace diversity is broadly accepted as an inherently good quality, the grand jury highlights the special attributes that women bring to firefighting services. Most calls that the Fire Department responds to are not gender-related, the report notes, for medical situations or transports. The jury cited numerous calls in which the presence of a female firefighter brought a “calming effect to medical situations.”

“Fire, people, having a female present during childbirth labor or after a sexual assault was seen as beneficial,” the report states.

“Another example includes an instance where a naked, elderly woman fell in the shower and the victim’s relief was noticeable as she shoulders relaxed upon seeing a female firefighter enter the room,” the report states.

But for Palo Alto and many other cities across the county, the effort to recruit women has fallen well off the mark. The grand jury found that only 4% of the firefighters in the county are women.

It attributed the dwindling number to insufficient female recruitment, gender bias and a “lack of inclusivity” within the fire agencies.

“I feel the intent was always there and there was always a lot of asking, ‘What should we do? What should we do?’ But it just felt like it didn’t get followed through on,” said Jennifer Krusing, an early employee of the Palo Alto Fire Department in 2019.

Like other agencies, the department has had to contend with a shrinking pool of female applicants. The grand jury found that only 3% of the 1,980 applicants who applied to be firefighters in the four surveyed departments in 2016 were women. The jury concluded in a function of inadequate recruiting, the jury concluded.

“We have to tell women when they’re young girls ... that firefighting is a career for them as well.” — Geo Blackshire, chief, Palo Alto Fire Department

Krusing agreed. She noted that when she and a colleague attended a recruiting event to hear the opportunity to teach high school girls about firefighting — several years ago, the city had declined to pay them for the time they spent there. The city also hasn’t gone as far as it could have in reaching out to female firefighters to better market to other potential recruits.

“I feel like they didn’t want to do that decision,” Capriles said, referring to the department. “You’ve got to start early. You’ve got to be more proactive.”

Blackshire often hampered the city’s ability to recruit women, Capriles said. The department often did not have dedicated funding for recruitment and was forced to tap into its hiring budget. Mountain View, which Capriles said had no women in its Fire Department in 1994, recognized this challenge and allocated $30,000 for the recruitment of women. Palo Alto has not taken that step.

“In the past, they have made that decision,” Capriles said, referring to spending more on recruitment. “In the last 10 years, they have not made that decision.”

While insufficient recruitment is one barrier to increasing the number of women, harassment is another. The grand jury report notes that while every department has a nondiscrimination policy, “the unique work setting of a fire department coupled with the low number of women in fire service presents out-of-the-ordinary workplace challenges because they live together and rely on each other during life-or-death situations.”

“Those unique features of this workplace make it more challenging for women to report discrimination and/or harassment,” the report states.

While Capriles said the vast majority of her colleagues were respectful of the women on her crew — in some cases — “friends for life,” harassment was a persistent issue for female firefighters. In most cases, she said, the person making an inappropriate comment didn’t realize that he said something sexist until someone pointed it out to them.

Sexism can take subtle forms. Capriles recalled an instance in which a training instructor paused to apologize to her — the only woman in the class — before proceeding to tell an inappropriate story. During a break, she confronted the instructor about his behavior, which she called “embarrassing.” The instructor apologized and noted that the only reason he offered an apology was because she was in the room, and not because she was offensive.

While most incidents don’t get reported to the city’s Human Resources Department, when they do, the follow-up can be underwhelming. Krusing recalled one episode when a firefighter made an inappropriate sexual comment toward her, and a colleague overheard the comment and filed a grievance on Krusing’s behalf.

The jury noted that during the course of the investigation, Krusing said she was asked by Human Resources what should happen to the firefighter. "It was a really hard question because I felt like any kind of a behavior coming from above to punish him for those things would be counterproductive," she said. "I wasn’t sure how to support him, but I felt like if I really, really wanted to happen was for my peers, for the captains and their officers to do the right thing. That’s not cool, that’s not the way we treat people.”

In responding to the grand jury, the city cited its anti-harassment policy and its belief that “prevention is the best tool for the elimination of harassment.”

“Steps to prevent and correct workplace harassment include adequate training, available resources through training and written policy, enforcing strong disapproval of inappropriate conduct, and disciplinary action for violations of those rules,” the report states.

The city also notes in its response that reports of unwelcome conduct are “thoroughly investigated and, where founded, appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination will be taken.” At the same time, both Krusing and Capriles cited the types of incidents of this sort go unreported.

“You have to remember, women in the fire services are in different positions than someone who works in an office. You live with these guys, you put your life in their 3% of the time and there are certain things you have decided to put up with,” Capriles said, referring to the usual harassment. “And when you get into the fire service, there is a decision you make to put up with that.”

The sexist comments and innuendos were a major reason that Capriles said she had decided to retire five years earlier than initially planned.

“Sometimes you get to a point where you say, ‘Life is too short,’” she said.

City responds to grand jury recommendations

In addressing the grand jury’s findings, Palo Alto leaders on March 15 touted the city’s recent changes to support female firefighters, including adding gender-separated locker rooms and reworking a requirement that all job applicants be licensed paramedics or EMTs — a requirement that the grand jury highlighted as a major barrier for female firefighters. Capriles credited Blackshire, who became chief in 2019, for his attitude toward female firefighters, including changing the application requirements several years ago.

At the same time, Blackshire and the council acknowledged at the meeting that it will take additional time, effort and money for the city to raise the number of female firefighters in the city’s ranks. The additional time and resources will be invested in building the city’s gender-inclusive workplace and attracting more recruits.

When it comes to gender-separatist locker rooms and showers, it notes that six of Palo Alto’s seven fire stations (all but the one on Stanford University campus) have separate dorms, while five have separate restrooms with showers and four have separate locker rooms.

Yet accommodations still sometimes pose a problem for female firefighters. In 2016, the city was building its new Station 3 near Rinconada Park and firefighters had to temporarily relocate to a Geng Road building near the Baylands, that temporary station did not have separate facilities. Krusing said that when female firefighters brought up the lack of accommodations, one supervisor told them to simply shower in the men’s room, as they were sending women to that station. (Krusing said the department did not follow through on that suggestion.)

The council voted on Monday to support Blackshire’s efforts to more than double the number of women in the Fire Department and to provide him with a dedicated budget for the effort. Council members Alison Cormack and Greer Stone both said they would support spending more on recruiting women and touted the benefits of having a more diverse Fire Department. Cormack noted that firefighters often meet people during their worst days of their lives” and that the presence of a woman can be an advantage.

Stone said the city should follow Mountain View’s example and set a goal of having at least 10% of the Fire Department be female. She said the city should not come up with, as well as encourage additional outreach within our city — particularly the schools, at an early level, to really put it out there that this is a career for all genders and all people.” Stone said.

“Staff Writer Gennyda Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawEEKLY.com

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Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to continue its review of Castilla School, including parts of its campus, increase enrollment and construct an underground garage. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 29. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to consider a preliminary parcel map for 181 Addison Ave., hold a public hearing about parking, discuss an update to the city’s development priority bonus ordinance and consider the Alma Street/Churchill Avenue safety improvement project. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to hold a preliminary review for 2850 West Bayshore Road, a proposal for 48 town houses, and to discuss the city’s objective standards for new town houses, and to discuss the city’s objective standards for new building projects. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 981 2987 7431.

Upfront

Firefighter

(continued from page 5)
Located on one of Belmont Country Club’s most desirable streets, this classic 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath ranch gives a warm welcome home with its generously proportioned covered front porch. Comfortable and inviting, the living/dining main room features a wood-burning fireplace and great light from an oversized picture window. The country kitchen, with its retro vinyl upholstered booth, calls out for fun family meals where spillage is never a problem. A wonderfully spacious cottage, just steps from the rear deck, offers incredible versatility for today’s needs, functioning as a family room, home office, library, or gym. This special property is centrally located, close to downtown Belmont, Twin Pines Park, Barrett Community Center and Carlmont Village Shopping Center. It also features outstanding public schools. Come see it and make it your own!

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69 MERCY STREET, MOUNTAIN VIEW

Set on a peaceful tree-lined street in the heart of Mountain View, this inviting home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and over 1,400 square feet of comfortable living space. Light, bright interiors highlight beautiful appointments throughout including oak floors, maple cabinetry, and granite countertops. The landscaped front yard creates outstanding curb appeal, while inside, amenities include the living room with a brick fireplace, the well-designed kitchen, and the insulated garage that doubles as a theater with a projector and 10-foot screen. Comfortable bedrooms include the master suite that opens to a backyard hot tub, and one that easily converts into an office. Find great space for outdoor entertaining in the backyard with a full outdoor kitchen, patio space, and a delightful tree house. And appreciate the convenience of a location mere moments to the excitement of Castro Street, close to the Stevens Creek Trail, and with easy access to top-ranked Mountain View schools.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.69Mercy.com
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497 PURISIMA AVENUE, SUNNYVALE

Bright, Comfortable Silicon Valley Living

Nestled on a corner lot on a peaceful tree-lined street, this 3-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom home offers comfortable living space and a location close to everything Silicon Valley has to offer. Excellent use of glass crafts a bright, light ambiance throughout this home, highlighting stylish appointments including hardwood floors and crown molding. Amenities include the spacious living room with a centerpiece fireplace, the cozy dining room, and the kitchen with brand-new quartz countertops and new appliances. The detached office allows you to work from home in privacy, while the pergola-covered patio presents great space for outdoor entertaining. This inviting home enjoys a location just down the street from beautiful Washington Park, a short drive to downtown Sunnyvale, and just moments to top tech companies including Apple and LinkedIn. Plus, children may attend acclaimed schools including Cumberland Elementary, Sunnyvale Middle, and Homestead High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.497Purisima.com
Offered at $1,498,000

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Across
1 46 was his veep
6 Gridlock problem
9 Abacus counters
14 “Go ___!”
15 “Dangerous Liaisons” name
16 “Don’t do that!”
17 T., A., or Fiesta, e.g.
19 Drops in the mailbox
20 Hydroxyl-bearing compound
21 Fort ___ N.J.
22 As a maximum
23 Go back in a stream, maybe
25 Nonprofit that now focuses on ages 50 and older
26 Certain caretaker of children
27 Rent payer
28 Salts source
29 Gymnast Korbut and comedian Koch, for example
30 Actress Falco
31 Sales agents
32 ___ Dingbats (picture-based font)
33 Double Stuf cookie
34 Handy
35 Actress Negri of silent movies
36 “No Ordinary Love” singer
37 “My hands ___ tied”
38 Season with heavy rainfall
39 Beatles’ jacket style
40 Old Domino’s mascot to “avoid”
41 Address ender
42 Do no better
43 Condiment in a packet
45 “Now I get it”
47 Film that’s probably subtitled
50 “___ said…”
51 Menlo Park name
52 Twelfth zodiacal sign
53 Pre-weekend day, for short
54 “Don’t leave home without it” card, briefly
55 Actress of silent movies
56 Chatted online
57 Equivalent
58 Exclusionary anxiety acronym, and a hint to the four theme answers
59 “Goovy”
60 “Honi soit qui ___ y pense”
61 “Oracle of ___” (Warren Buffett nickname)
62 Trait of trashy talking, perhaps
63 “___ making sense?”
64 Super-___
65 “___ voyage!”
69 “All I Want for Christmas ___”

Down
1 Bid
2 Kentucky frontiersman Daniel
3 Elevator button symbol
4 Time for a crisis
5 Convenience store device
6 Dame ___ Dench
7 “Don’t leave home without it” card, briefly
8 “Honi soit qui ___ y pense”
9 Casual eatery
10 Gives immunity to
11 Part of A.D.
12 Root beer brand
13 Pi of GPS
18 Betting probabilities
22 Transmission repair company with a “beep beep” in its ads
24 “Cheers” regular
25 Short melodic solo
27 Rent payer
28 Salts source
29 Like some IPAs
30 Actress Falco
31 Sales agents
32 ___ Dingbats (picture-based font)
33 Double Stuf cookie
34 Handy
35 Gymnast Korbut and comedian Koch, for two
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64 Super-___
65 “___ voyage!”
69 “All I Want for Christmas ___”

WINE COUNTRY PROPERTIES

Magnificent Queen Anne two-story property with large established garden, located in the downtown historic district of the delightful wine country town of Cloverdale. Retaining many original architectural features and embellishments whilst benefitting from major modernization including central heating and air-conditioning. Currently operating as a seven bedroom, four bathroom bed and breakfast inn with large covered verandah and full height basement.

Property would easily convert into a spectacular family home. Located at the northern end of the Alexander Valley, which is the gateway to Mendocino and the Sonoma Coast. 85 miles to San Francisco and just 18 miles to Healdsburg.

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Wooded Shangri-La surrounded by vineyards. The last remaining parcel of a once larger dairy and turkey farm from a bygone era. 40 bucolic acres of oaks, meadows, and pastures with a gentle knoll to the north east side with expansive views all the way to Mount St. Helena and beyond. Property includes two older homes and a number of older out buildings. A magical property 35 miles north of San Francisco, located close to fine dining and all other wine country necessities.

Offered at $5,495,000

HEALDSBURG RENTALS: Call for additional information on various rental properties. 1 Bedroom newly built cottage a few blocks from the Plaza, 3 Bedroom house surrounded by vineyards, and other properties (some furnished) coming soon.

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