Businesses split over outdoor dining plans
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AT LAST
Seniors graduate in person after pandemic-driven final year
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- Living Well  Local authors chronicle life’s final chapter  Page 25
- Upfront  City finds allies in battle against airplane noise  Page 31
The pandemic has shown us the true power, precision, and innovation of Stanford Medicine in researching and fighting COVID-19. It has also proved that Stanford Medicine—made up of Stanford Children’s Health, Stanford School of Medicine, and Stanford Health Care— is at its strongest when backed by a community committed to keeping everyone safe.

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The beginning of reconnection’ as Paly seniors graduate in person

Event marks largest gathering on campus since the pandemic hit

By Lloyd Lee

There was little out of the ordinary on Wednesday evening in the sea of green caps and gowns at Palo Alto High School. Beyond the students donned in masks, the 6-feet-apart seats and a venue change to the Viking Stadium, speakers delivered their planned speeches and graduates walked across the grass to ‘Pomp and Circumstance’ just as they had rehearsed.

But for the graduates, it was still a surreal occasion.

“I don’t think anyone thought this is what our final year would look like,” said Avantika Singh, Paly’s Associated Student Body president and a graduating senior.

“While it started quite boring for most of us with shelter-in-place and online classes, I’m glad it’s ending like this.”

About 2,000 people assembled on Paly’s football field to commemorate the achievements of the graduating class’s 523 students.

Even with the high school’s reopening in March, the ceremony was the largest gathering at Paly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And for many students and administrators in attendance, it was the first and last time they would be next to so many of their peers all at once.

The football field where graduates accepted their ceremonial diplomas was filled from end to end with physically distanced seats — students taking up one half of the field and families and friends taking up the other half. Some cheered all the way from the opposite end zone.

“TO be here in person with a live graduation — it’s spectacular,” said Amy Friedman, a Paly parent who volunteered for the graduation ceremony and watched from the sidelines as her son, Aaron Kim, walked across the stage.

Though the pandemic brought on more than a year of setbacks, disappointments and incalculable losses, the speeches from student and school leaders mostly highlighted how they were together, savoring how the day felt like a novel experience and

Gunn graduates look back at a year of resilience and crucial life lessons

COVID-19, distance learning and racial equity defined the Class of 2021

By Sue Dremann

I t was a graduation ceremony unlike any other. Wearing masks along with their caps and gowns as they walked onto the Gunn High School football field on Wednesday evening, the 485 graduates of the Class of 2021 reflected on the challenges and triumphs of the last year under a pandemic that forced them to learn from home.

Planning the graduation amid a raging pandemic “was no easy feat” for staff, said Principal Wendy Stratton, while praising the graduates who made it through the year.

“You have resilient and remarkable kids,” she told the students’ families.

The last year has molded one of the strongest and best-prepared classes to have ever graduated from Gunn, she said. They became “unintentionally equipped with crucial life skills” due to the COVID-19 pandemic and they confronted racial violence against Black and Asian American people to become “future game changers,” she said.

Stratton noted the Class of 2021’s acts for social good, such as the football team’s participation in Black Lives Matter marches and support for the Asian community as they were subjected to acts of hatred. She also pointed to student newspaper The Oracle’s award for its social equity reporting.

“You have been gifted with navigating changes,” she said.

Student speaker Summer Steadman said that it has been more than a year since she sat at a desk on campus. During her freshman year, Steadman said she felt trapped by the chairs and desks she sat in. She feared being alone (continued on page 35)
HOMETOWN HEROES — The Midpeninsula Media Center recently recognized six locals who are making a difference in the community at its annual Local Hero Awards ceremony, which was held virtually on May 28. The event, which took a hiatus last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, not only featured a presentation of the awards, but also short documentaries about each recipient, highlighting their stories. This year’s honorees are Holly Chenevot of the Eastside Prep teacher who volunteers her time caring for stray cats in East Palo Alto; Sanah Espinoza, a formerly undocumented immigrant who created a nonprofit and an app to help undocumented students get college scholarships; Ruth Patrick, creator of WomenSV, an organization to help domestic abuse survivors; Jessica Radmilovic, a paralegal advocate who is a recreational therapist at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System; Evelyne Keomlan, founder of the Karat School Project, which tackles poverty both in the Bay Area and in Africa through initiatives such as distributing school supplies for low-income children; and Chris Richardson, chief program officer for the Downtown Streets Team, which employs unhoused people and paralegals to help keep local streets clean. Each honoree was nominated by community members. “This year’s awards — although they might not be more appropriate or more welcome than right now,” production services manager Louise Pencavel said in her opening remarks for the virtual ceremony. “In every one of them, there’s a message of rebirth, hope and new beginnings.” For more information, visit midpenmedia.org.

POINT OF TRANSITION ... After more than 12 years of leading the Children’s Health Council, Rosalie Whitlock plans to step down as CEO on June 30, 2022. Whitlock, who served in the organization’s top role since 2009, will retire after 30 years of working with children and families. “We have a clear vision for the future, exceptionally competent staff and executive leadership, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and rich collaborative partnerships with many in our community,” Whitlock said in a May 26 statement. “Our goal now is to maintain this momentum and move forward into the future with our leadership, capacity, and operational strength.” Whitlock was lauded as a “highly collaborative and transformative leader,” board of directors chair Rebecca Robertson said. “Under her leadership, the agency has nearly tripled in size with innovative services and programs responsive to the diverse needs in our community.”

JOINING FORCES ... In an effort to tackle community issues that were created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Stanford University’s Office of Community Engagement has set aside $228,000 for eight projects led by faculty members with organizations in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The office collaborated with the university’s Bill Lane Center for the American West. Altogether, the projects tackle the pandemic’s impact on health, education, social services and the arts. They were selected out of a pool of 45 proposals throughout Stanford. “Given the impact the pandemic has had on our region, it was important that we accelerate the community benefit of our grants by focusing on projects that can move quickly to help those in need,” Megan Swezy-Fogarty, associate vice president for community engagement, said in a May 19 Stanford News Service article. One of the eight projects is the Local Impacts grants by focusing on projects that can move quickly to help those in need.”

To be here in person with a live graduation — it’s spectacular.”

— Amy Friedman, a Palo Alto High parent, about the Class of 2021’s commencement ceremony. See story on page 5.
Flashing high school always calls for a celebration — but this year, graduating feels particularly momentous. What in March 2020 first seemed like an early summer vacation quickly mutated into a senior year of laptop screens and social isolation. Some students’ home lives threatened to become upended due to the pandemic. “Senior year, things changed,” said Maximilian Chavez, a graduating senior at East Palo Alto Academy. Challenges are an expected part of the high school experience. And each of the four classes of 2021 seniors interviewed for the Weekly’s annual graduation edition recounted their own battles in a year like no other. Some were directly brought on by the pandemic. Others involved setbacks, like a basketball injury or the need to make a place for oneself in a new city and school. Here’s how the students overcame them all.

Overcoming injury to see her dream of college sports realized

Annika Shah, Palo Alto High School

Overcoming the odds

Four local seniors talk about the challenges they’ve faced head on

By Lloyd Lee

People are quick to dismiss Annika Shah on the basketball court. She constantly goes up against what’s known to ball players as the “eye test,” in which someone’s abilities must exceed expectations based on appearances. “Being a 5-foot-3, skinny little Indian girl, I always had to prove more,” she said. But Shah got good at passing that test, tirelessly refining her skills.

She picked up a basketball in kindergarten, shooting around at the YMCA with her dad and brother while her mom was on the elliptical. By third grade, she started to outshine the girls on her team, later joining her brother and the other boys at the Team Esfaje Basketball Academy based in Redwood City. Finally, she earned a spot on Palo Alto High School’s Vikings as the team’s guard in her freshman year.

By the end of 10th grade, the “skinny Indian girl” was averaging 25.2 points per game, turning recruiters’ heads and getting calls from schools all over the country. The Mercury News dubbed her the “most prolific shooter” in the CIF Central Coast Division.

“I was a threat on the floor,” she said. “I was on the floor.” The sophomore ended up taking intro computer science — thinking Chavez was just too gifted a coder but to help his family survive the pandemic.

It started with his advisor Andy Robinson’s recommendation to check out StreetCode Academy, a nonprofit that aims to offer a pathway into tech for low-income community members through after-school coding classes.

The after-school program helped scratch Chavez’s itch for a challenge. As soon as he entered high school, Chavez loaded up on hard courses, taking AP computer science and as many math courses as he could take within a year. After school, he headed straight to StreetCode when it was based at East Palo Alto Academy and later moved to Facebook.

He was hooked.

“When I was there, I would take every coding class. I was like, ‘No.’ I don’t care about the credit, I don’t care about the grades,” he said. “I just want to pursue what I want to do. I wanted to explore me.”

The sophomore ended up taking intro to Java, web design and, for fun, astronomy, splitting his commute between East Palo Alto Academy, College of San Mateo and Canada College. He also decided to test the waters at StreetCode as a volunteer. Come junior year, a more confident Chavez taught his first cohort of about 20 students and loved it.

“I would come up with so many different ways to teach (coding) because you have to come up with analogies to come at people differently. Sometimes there’s language barriers, so I have to speak Spanish. It was so fun.”

Pretty soon, another passion projects called Chavez’s name. For example, an ex-Amazon employee employed Chavez to

(continued on page 10)
Malichi McKnight, who moved to Silicon Valley for high school and tech opportunities, is attending Foothill College.

Malichi McKnight, Gunn High School
Chasing opportunity, from Coachella Valley to Silicon Valley

I n the slow-paced and dusty city of Desert Hot Springs, Malichi McKnight felt his education was rarely a priority. “I kind of just thought school was all fun and games and that it wouldn’t really matter at the end,” he said.

His aunt and uncle, with whom McKnight lived since sixth grade, felt the same way about the education he was receiving and thought their nephew was getting shortchanged. They moved out of the Coachella Valley and into the Long Beach area, where McKnight briefly attended Los Alamitos High School. But there, he said, classes consisted of movies almost every day, cheating was rampant and distractions were always in the way.

So his guardians, determined to help pave a successful path for McKnight, decided it was time to make another move — this time up north to Silicon Valley.

“They told my mom that they needed to take me here because it would definitely lead to bigger and greater opportunities that I wouldn’t get in the Coachella Valley,” McKnight said. “I was a combination of missing family, being 500 miles away from home, comparing myself to other students and kind of feeling inadequate that probably made me have a mental breakdown,” he said. “I actually started crying in the middle of class because I didn’t know if I belonged here.”

However, what eventually helped McKnight was the same environment that first gave him the feelings of inadequacy. At Gunn, he said, there were few students who were encouraged to learn and seek out help when they needed it. McKnight started to go to his engineering teacher Kristina Granlund-Moyer everyday after school to get help on math problems he was stuck on. But more than just getting homework help, McKnight felt that the teachers like Granlund-Moyer were key to making him feel much more accepted at the school.

“Ms. Granlund was amazing because she really made me feel more than just a student,” he said. “She made me feel like a friend because she was actually there trying to help for me.”

This was also where McKnight began to explore his interest in engineering more. Having a teacher like Granlund-Moyer, a school that offers several levels of engineering classes, and an uncle who encouraged him early on to explore the field pushed McKnight to join the Gunn Robotics Team his junior year. There, he delved into all kinds of subgroups within the team: machining, pneumatics, design and welding.

And with his team, McKnight had an opportunity to visit Argo AI, a company that specializes in self-driving technology and has a facility on Page Mill Road. It was yet another moment that reminded McKnight why he was brought to Palo Alto.

“It was an amazing experience to walk through the facility and look through their workspace, their creativity, and the kinds of things they’re working on and realizing how similar it was to being on the robotics team at Gunn,” he said. “It was another advantage because I’ve never seen that before where a high school kind of educational level is so related to a real life career.”

The highs of his school experience took a bit of a hit when COVID-19 forced distant learning for most of his senior year. McKnight describes himself as a social person and as a student who needs to be in the thick of the class. But he pushed through it, he said. And once again, his uncle came to the rescue by providing a sort of at-home experience of McKnight’s robotics team when the family recently moved to Redwood City.

Due to “senior privilege,” McKnight and his family no longer needed to live in Palo Alto, and they decided to move to a condo in Redwood City. It was “old fashioned,” McKnight said. But the new home gave him and his uncle a few more perks, in which two of the good guys redempered the entire home. McKnight helped install new flooring, lights and ceiling fans, which utilized some of the same skills and tools he needed in his robotics club.

It was an eight-month process, which helps McKnight’s time in high school’s time-lowering in place.

“It was perfect timing,” he said. The new home also offered his uncle a room and a workspace for his sales job. McKnight’s time-lowering in place.

“My dad always says, ‘Échale ganas,’ which is like, ‘Keep working hard,’” she said. “That’s always something that I’ll have in my head.”

With that in mind, Abonce took advantage of local education resources as early as fifth grade, when she joined Peninsula Bridge, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit that provides outside academic support to students, from youth through college. Joining the nonprofit that early gave Abonce the benefit of maintaining the same network throughout her entire academic career. But the program also foreshadowed her high school experience, since her first summer with the nonprofit was hosted at Castilleja School, which she eventually attended and where, in her sophomore year, she became a student leader.

“Coming to the all-girls school was both nerve wracking and a bit of a culture shock for Abonce. The freshman at the time came straight from Beechwood School, which Abonce said was predominantly Black and Latino. She was also the only one in her class from Beechwood to move to Castilleja. “I was so used to being surrounded by people who look like me and have similar experiences to me, “ she said.

With a strong desire to seek out a supportive community, Abonce joined a newly created student club called Latinx Affinity Group. It’s essentially a space for Latinx-identifying students to foster community, whether by talking about their upbringing (continued on page 10)
Clockwise from top left: Palo Alto High graduates sit socially distanced on the Viking Stadium field during graduation on June 2. A Paly graduate blows a kiss to a friend during the commencement ceremony. Graduates carry their diplomas during Paly’s commencement ceremony. Kimberly Clark hugs graduate Giulia Santos after the ceremony. Photos by Magali Gauthier.

Clockwise from the left: The Gunn High School graduating Class of 2021 make its way onto the field at Gunn High School on June 2. Gunn High School graduate Andrew Kim poses for a photo with Principal Wendy Stratton. Graduates walk down the center aisle after receiving their diplomas. Gunn High School graduate Giselle Cornelio-Larios bumps fists with fellow student speaker Summer Steadman. Photos by Adam Pardee.

More graduation coverage online
More photos from Palo Alto and Gunn high schools’ commencement ceremonies, plus the lists of graduates from 15 Midpeninsula high schools, are posted on PaloAltoOnline.com under the headline, “Caps off to the class of 2021: A roundup of stories, photos.” Photographs from the seniors June 1 car parade are posted in the story, “On the eve of graduation, high school seniors celebrate with a car parade around Palo Alto.”
or identity or seeking academic help. The year Abonce joined there was a mere 14 students. By the time she became the stu-
dent leader of the group her senior year, there were about 20 girls and included Castilleja’s middle school students.

“It was nice to have this smaller community that I could relate to on a personal level,” Abonce said. “When I came to Castilleja there weren’t that many Latino students.”

Once Abonce got a hold of her footing and place in school, she decided to give back to her own community by joining a summer fellowship program with Dreamer’s Roadmap, a mobile app that connects undocumented students and young professionals with sponsors to pay for higher education.

Shah

Shah (continued from page 7)

able to play basketball — I was struggling mentally,” she said. “That’s when I figured out that I really love this game.”

In her time on the sidelines, Shah had to choose: fight or flight? Feeling convinced she couldn’t back down from the eye test for her recruiters, Shah chose to “attack.”

“I knew this was just one obstacle, and I knew there’ll be some in the future, whether it’s an injury or some sort of relationship,” she said. “You just gotta attack it — and that was my mindset.”

In addition to staying on top of her physical therapy, Shah took advantage of the sidelines to learn from the coach’s point of view and watch more film — recordings of a basketball game more than she ever did before, including footage of some of her basketball role models, like Sabrina Ionescu, a WNBA guard for the New York Liberty.

She also used social media to maintain the reputation she had built up to this point. The pandemic had erased all school sports and forced distanced learning, Shah adapted well at home, since it allowed her to practice and get shots in, using her backyard hoop in between classes, before school, during lunch breaks and at night.

And with no tournaments for other players to build their high-
density and momentum, Shah had to ensure everyone was placed on the same boat, Shah said, leveling the play-

field.

In the meantime, Shah is back on the court, finishing off what

Chavez (continued from page 7)

created a networking hub reserved for Amara’s staff and parents. It is a platform for small business networking, and even dealt with the cops who claimed they were not allowed to eat. But still, there were some losses.

“We saved ourselves but at the same time we lost our home,” he said. Although the outdoor patio helped sustain the business, it wasn’t enough for the family to keep the business open in May. So the family moved to Modesto.

“But the most important thing is that we’re united. Our family’s together and we’re happy. We’re very happy,” he said.

This summer, Chavez plans to work remotely for StreetCode. He’ll attend the annual conference in San Fran-
cisco, Berkeley, in the fall to major in computer science. Chavez anticipates he’ll eventually work in tech, but before that, he wants to start his own business.

“It’s been a long four years in the making,” he said. “I’m ready to move on to the next phase. I’m ready to pursue what I want to do.”

McKnight

McKnight (continued from page 8)

challenging for her recruiters, Shah chose to “fight” for her recruiters, Shah chose to "fight" for her recruiters, Shah chose to "fight." Shah had to choose: fight or

Another hour and a half later, head coach Faith Mimnaugh
dropped the news, but only after Shah directly asked if she was one of the top recrui
ted the school was looking at. The源头 coaches and recruiters were afraid it was at risk of becoming destabilized due to
distancing in. In addition, at home, Abonce said there was a general feeling of chaos, exhaustion and stress.

It certainly didn’t help when her mom caught the virus around the fall of 2020. “I just remember submitting my UC application and then my mom got the news she was sick,” Abonce said.

But Abonce preserved. Zoom allowed some of her groups, such as her Latinx Affinity Group, to continue meeting, and, fortunately, Shah didn’t seem to have any severe symptoms beyond the loss of taste.

In the fall, after graduating from Castilleja on June 5, Abonce will be attending Northeastern University with a plan to major in business administration and psy-
chology. But her major could eas-
ily change, given her wide range of interests.

The only “tricky” part now is leaving the people she got used to the idea that their only daughter will be going off to the east coast for college.

“This is a moment my family and I have been waiting for a re-
ally long time,” Abonce said. “I think my parents were definitely excited and a little bit shocked. It’s probably going to really hit us at graduation.”

Chavez

Chavez (continued from page 7)

create a networking hub reserved for Amara’s staff and parents. It is a platform for small business networking, and

“Of course, to sing her heart out. In a place filled with new faces and,

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June is National Homeownership Month, a time of year when housing advocates highlight the importance of homeownership and its impact upon the lives of American families, local neighborhoods, and the national economy. The Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® (SILVAR) and its nearly 5,000 members engaged in the real estate business on the Peninsula and in the South Bay are staunch advocates for homeownership and homeowners in Silicon Valley.

“Homeownership is an investment in the community,” said SILVAR President Joanne Fraser. “When more people own homes, everyone benefits. For most American families, their home is their largest investment. Homeownership builds wealth and serves as the cornerstone of health and security.”

Homeownership provides tax advantages and the opportunity to build equity. Moreover, homeownership provides social benefits for families and communities. According to the National Association of REALTORS®, homeowners move far less frequently than renters, making it easier to build community networks and support systems. This results in more stability for families, better school performance by children living in owned homes, a higher rate of high school graduation and higher earning, better physical, psychological and emotional health outcomes, a higher membership in voluntary organizations, and greater social interaction in their communities.

Fraser noted during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, having a home became even more important to many families than ever before. “The home became a place to live and work as many companies allowed their employees to work from home. This ultimately contributed to the state’s current housing market boom.”

At a recent market data presentation for local associations, California Association of REALTORS® Vice President and Chief Economist Jordan Levine said the state’s housing market boom is a double-edged sword. Levine indicated California is the second worst state for overcrowded housing and fifth lowest homeowner vacancy ratio in the nation.

In April, California’s median price hit over $8 million. Levine said while good for sellers, this has impacted housing affordability. “Buyers are falling farther and farther behind.” Fraser is hopeful additional help may be on the way. “The state senate’s Building Opportunities for All housing package is expected to help expedite building of more housing, create jobs and stimulate economic development projects. President Joe Biden’s First Down Payment Homebuyer Tax Credit proposal could be significant in aiding first-time homeowners. With home prices rising higher than ever, any down payment assistance helps families looking to buy.”

Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Melly at rmeily@silvar.org.
Comfort and convenience await in this updated 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo, boasting an incredible location just moments to everything Silicon Valley has to offer. Located on the rarely available top floor of the picturesque Palo Alto Redwoods complex, this end-unit condo enjoys tremendous natural light and an inviting ambiance. Amenities include the living room with fireplace, the kitchen with brand-new appliances, in-unit laundry, and a delightful covered balcony with peaceful views. Two bedroom suites are located on opposite ends of the home for ample privacy, each with access to the balcony. Plus, this home enjoys numerous upgrades including brand-new laminate wood flooring and new quartz countertops. This wonderful complex, shaded by towering redwood trees, includes a pool, clubhouse, storage space, and garage parking. Just minutes from The Village at San Antonio Center, this home is also convenient to downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, Caltrain, and US 101, as well as companies including Tesla and VMware. Plus, top-ranked Palo Alto schools are close at hand.

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437 WHISMAN PARK DRIVE, MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bright, Spacious Townhome with a Great Location

An outstanding location in the heart of Silicon Valley is just one of many highlights of this bright, spacious 4-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home in the sought-after North Whisman neighborhood. High ceilings craft an airy ambiance for this light-filled floorplan of more than 1,900 square feet, with stylish engineered hardwood floors extending throughout the living room, dining room, and the family room with a centerpiece fireplace. The granite-appointed kitchen is sure to inspire your inner top chef, and it features a sliding glass door to a backyard deck perfect for alfresco dining and entertaining. Spacious bedrooms are highlighted by the master suite with a spa-like bathroom featuring a jetted tub and step-in shower, and this home also boasts a laundry room, plus an attached 2-car garage. Ideally situated for a modern Silicon Valley lifestyle, this home is convenient to major freeways, eco-friendly public transportation, and numerous tech firms including Google, Apple, and LinkedIn. Plus, children may attend top-ranked Mountain View High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Milo Gwosden
June 15, 1937 – April 20, 2021

Milo Gwosden, born to Milo Gwosden and Frances Dixon Gwosden was raised in North Braddock, PA. He served in the Marine Corps from 1956-58, graduated from San Francisco State College in 1961, and San Francisco Law School and admitted to California State Bar in 1973. From 1962 to 2003 he taught Social Studies at Lowell High School (San Francisco), Burlingame High School, and Aragon High School (San Mateo). He was voted “Teacher of the Year” at least ten times during his tenure in the San Mateo District. While serving on the negotiating council, as salary chairman, he ably managed to upgrade teachers’ salaries and improve their healthcare benefits, never losing sight that it was the students that mattered. Milo loved keeping in touch with his students and often attended their reunions.

Milo felt lucky to be paid for doing something he enjoyed spanning five decades. In his long life he thrived on the wisdom, insight, and sagacity of his beloved wife, Carlota Costa Gwosden. Milo enjoyed a few very loyal and intimate friendships that enriched his life and understanding beyond what any reasonable man has a right to expect.

Milo died April 20, 2021 the way he had hoped for, peacefully, quickly and without pain. He is survived by his wife, Carlota, his beloved daughter and grandson, Laura Gwosden and Zachary Jackson Gwosden, of Los Altos, daughter Helen Gwosden Snyder (Ryan) of San Jose, sister Nancy Curry, nephew Thomas Curry and niece Patricia Russell-Curry (John) all of Merced. A Celebration of Life will be held at Fremont Hills Country Club on June 19, 2021 at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers the best way we can think of to honor a man who loved to learn, and to teach, was to set up a special scholarship fund for the future students at Burlingame and Aragon High Schools. The Milo Gwosden Memorial Scholarship Fund is an advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 public charity, Tax ID# 20-3205488. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, and will receive written acknowledgment directly from SVCF. Please make checks payable to “Silicon Valley Community Foundation,” and name “Milo Gwosden Memorial Scholarship Fund” or “Fund #6117” in the memo line. Check gifts may be mailed to SVCF directly at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Attention: Gifts Administration, 2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300, Mountain View, California 94040-1498.
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This 1923 historic home exudes timeless appeal combined with fresh updates, located in the desirable downtown area of old Mountain View, just a few steps away from popular Castro St. The two-story English Tudor style home begins with stunning towering roof peaks accented by original true divided-light windows. Continue inside to freshly painted interiors in a crisp custom designer palette of color, soaring ceilings, classic millwork, beautiful wood flooring.

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At A Glance
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• Approx. sq. ft. 7,700 +/- lot

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An outstanding location in the heart of downtown Palo Alto and an open, light-filled floorplan brimming with stylish appointments make this contemporary Craftsman an exceptional choice for Silicon Valley living. High ceilings and excellent use of glass create a bright, airy ambiance throughout over 2,400 square feet of sophisticated living space, with beautiful hardwood floors beginning in the expansive living room with a centerpiece fireplace. From there, the dining room flows into the gourmet kitchen for easy entertaining, while a suite of Thermador appliances is sure to inspire your inner Top Chef. Four comfortable bedrooms are highlighted by the master suite with a spa-like bathroom featuring a jetted tub and heated floors, and the home's additional bedrooms include one that easily converts into office space to meet all work-from-home needs. An entertainer's dream awaits in the backyard, featuring a large paver patio, colorful plantings, and a built-in grill and fridge. And for added convenience, an extended paver driveway and covered carport provide plenty of parking. Step outside your front door and be just blocks to the eateries and boutiques along University Avenue, as well as close to multiple parks, and eco-friendly public transportation, while Stanford University is just a short trip away. Plus, children may attend top-ranked Addison Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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www.240Emerson.com
Offered at $3,988,000

Listed by Michael Repka and Alex Wilbur of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto

Data from BrokerMetics ® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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For more information contact: Alexandra Wilbur, DRE #01926475 | 650.459.3888 | alex@deleonrealty.com
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
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www.900NCAlifornia.com
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Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, culture, books and more, edited by Karla Kane

SHORT FILMS MAKE BIG SCREEN DEBUT

Frost Amphitheater hosts screening of documentaries by Stanford MFA students

By Karla Kane

While viewing a film is an experience that lends itself pretty well to social distancing, there's still something special about watching on the big screen in the company of fellow audience members. "I really miss the joy and the emotional journey of sitting next to people watching a movie," said Azza Cohen. She, along with her five fellow first-year students in Stanford University's documentary film MFA program, will get a chance to share the short films they've made this spring at an in-person, outdoor event at Stanford's Frost Amphitheater on Thursday, June 10.

"Nothing left to do but marvel," Cohen's film, is an experimental, immersive project rooted in her personal experience dealing with chronic migraine headaches stemming from a concussion. She juxtaposes anonymous audio interviews with other migraine and chronic pain sufferers with soft-focus, blurry visuals to express how pain suffers with soft-focus, blurry visuals to express how pain.

"It's been very interesting and very relate to this topic," Cohen said. "I feel so hard to turn that same gaze on myself. It takes a leap of faith that what I'm putting out there is something other people might be interested in."

The experience under the microscope wasn't easy on her relationship, but has ultimately been rewarding, Mueller said.

"It's been really, really hard," he acknowledged with a laugh. "It's really hard to be objective about one self in a subject, and it created a lot of difficult conversations with my partner. It brought us closer and allowed us to talk through challenges, but it was not an easy road and I'm not even done."

While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges for the students' first year at Stanford, they said it's been full of valuable moments for learning and growth.

"In the throes of our editing you sort of lose sight of this but, being forced to be creative and create films within an extraordinary set of limitations — not just the literal state and local lockdowns, but filmmaking requires being physically close in a time people felt very nervous — really forced us to be extremely creative and push our boundaries," Cohen said, noting that the very first week of their time in the program was also when "the sky turned orange," thanks to California's raging wildfires.

"I just say if we can make films in the pandemic we can deal with any other possible hurdles that Hollywood can throw at us," Cohen said.

Max Lee Mueller's short film "The Key To It" explores both the long-term relationship between a pair of puppeteers and Mueller's own romantic partnership.

Max Lee Mueller's short film "The Key To It" explores both the long-term relationship between a pair of puppeteers and Mueller's own romantic partnership.

Indigenous and people of color, queer and trans people," de Pinto said. "Since then, they've been fighting eviction by their landlords, and are still living in the hotel, although they have been locked out of the main room of the building they hosted the shows," Other films on the slate include Connor Lee O’Keefe’s “Imaginary Body,” Alexandra Stergiou’s “The Infinite Act” and Kyle Myers-Haugh’s “The Yerba Buena Chess Club.” A Q&A with the filmmakers follows the screening.

While they’re thrilled for the chance to screen their films on campus in person, the student (continued on page 21)
June is now World Music Month in Palo Alto

City’s World Music Day evolves with live performances on weekends throughout the month

By Karla Kane

Last year’s World Music Day — a Palo Alto tradition based on the international event, which celebrates the music of the world with a day of free concerts — was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For 2021, the event has evolved into a month-long celebration of live music, with performers playing from noon to 2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. on California University Avenue on Saturdays and Sundays in June.

The focus this year, according to the event’s website, is “on supporting local business and inviting live music back in our community,” with the goal of providing music compatible with dining and shopping in the two business districts.

World Music Day has a special place in the hearts of the members of Camacu, a Palo Alto family band made up of father Mark Wong-VanHaren, mother Nerissa Wong-VanHaren, daughter and 2020 Paly grad Zoe Wong-VanHaren, and senior Palo Troy Wong-VanHaren. The 2019 World Music Day was the group’s public debut, and Mark Wong-VanHaren told this news organization, “It also happened to be Father’s Day, and for me it was definitely the best one ever,” he said.

The group performs songs in English, Catalan, Spanish, French and Hawaiian. With Zoe spending much of the past year with relatives in Hawaii, the family did its best to keep music going during a time of social distancing. Now, Mark Wong-VanHaren said they’re looking forward to their performances on California Avenue on June 6 and University Avenue on June 26.

Other participating musicians in Palo Alto World Music Month will include Hollyhouse, Los Panaderos, Singing Wood Marimba and Peninsula Harmony Chorus.

A performance schedule is available online. For more information, go to parec.org.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.

Short films

(continued from page 20)

Filmmakers are also appreciative for the wider reach and accessibility this year’s virtual screenings have offered.

“One benefit of online screenings was that we were able to invite friends and family from all over the world,” de Pinto said.

“I hope they keep doing that as well, that virtual screenings become normal. There’s all sorts of film festivals all over the world and finally I can go to them,” Mueller said. “My parents in Massachusetts could see our screenings and see the Q&A and that’s really cool, too.”

The June 10-in-person event, though, will be an especially exciting achievement for the cohort after a long year.

“Teachers think of experience of electricity, when people can view your film and you can be in a group watching it, and it’s an essential aspect of understanding your film,” Mueller said. “It’s hard to know what people’s reactions are if you don’t experience the feeling in a group when they’re watching the film. I haven’t done that in a long time.”

The 2021 Spring MFA Documentary Film Screening starts at 8 p.m., on June 10, at Frost Amphitheater, 351 Lassen St., Stanford. Admission is free but advance tickets are required, and social distancing and safety protocols are in effect. More information is available at live.stanford.edu.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.

The Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) for the 2000 Measure A Transit Sales Tax Program will hold its annual public hearing on Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 2000 Measure A expenditures on:

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom video and teleconference only Public hearing access details are available at bit.ly/vta-cac-cwc-agendas

The public is encouraged to provide their input. Verbal public comments will be accepted through the video and teleconference meeting. Written comments are accepted until 10:00 a.m. on June 9 by email to: board.secretary@vta.org. Sign language and additional interpreter services will be provided upon request by contacting VTA Customer Service at least five days prior to the meeting (at (408) 321-2300, TTY (408) 321-2330).

INDEPENDENT COMPLIANCE AUDIT RESULTS FOR 2000 Measure A Program Expenditures FY 2020

The CWC commissioned an audit of the Measure A Program financial records and schedule for FY 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), Crowe LLP, independent certified public accountants, conducted the compliance audit in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. They issued an unqualified (“clean”) opinion on Measure A Program compliance with the audit, making this the 14th consecutive audit receiving a clean opinion.

VTA provides “Solutions that Move You.” In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a 30-year half cent sales tax for specific public transit capital improvement projects and operations. In FY 2020, the 14th year of the 30-year program, VTA has achieved significant results toward meeting Measure A goals including:

- Extended BART to the Santa Clara County cities of Milpitas and San Jose and continuing efforts to extend service into Downtown San Jose and Santa Clara — The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project’s System Safety Certification on June 5, 2020. The project entered Revenue Service on June 13, 2020. The BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project design and participation in the Federal Governments Exploited Project Delivery Pilot Funding Program continues to advance.

- Extend Light Rail 2.4 miles from the Alum Rock Light Rail Station to the Eastridge Transit Center in East San Jose – Final design and right-of-way activities continued for the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector (EBRC) Project and utility relocation design also continued throughout the fiscal year.

- Improve Bus Service in Major Corridors – Installation of shelters to enhance customer experience along the Stevens Creek Rapid 523 was completed in November 2019.

The 2000 Measure A Program documents and the audit results are available on VTA’s Website at vta.org/ cwc-fy20audit and are also available at the VTA Administrative Office at 3331 N. First Street, San Jose, CA in the Building B Main Lobby. Please contact the Office of the Board Secretary at (408) 321-6680 or to board.secretary@vta.org for questions or to confirm the meeting date, time, and location.

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Helene Zahoudanis stands in a mustard greens field at County Line Harvest in Petaluma. At the start of the pandemic, the Palo Alto High School graduate co-founded Real Good Greens to connect consumers with small farmers. Courtesy Brinkerhoff Photography.

Real Good Greens farm boxes include a rotating selection of curated fresh produce and additional products like bread and local farm eggs.

Eating Out

Helene Zahoudanis has always dreamed of owning a farm. In her current venture, though, she may not be working the land, she does help bring in a bountiful harvest every week. Through Real Good Greens, the farm box delivery service she co-founded, she ensures that the produce from about two dozen small Bay Area farms finds its way to local consumers' tables. “When we started, I really wasn’t intending to be a business, it was just kind of a response to the times,” said Zahoudanis, a 2009 Palo Alto High School grad who founded Real Good Greens with her husband, Matt Petersen, at the start of the pandemic last year. They were aiming to help address a major disconnect in the food supply that quickly surfaced after stay-at-home orders went into effect. As consumers were encountering empty grocery store shelves, small farms were facing the opposite problem: plenty of crops but no customers to buy them, since many restaurants — their primary buyers — had to close temporarily. So, not long after the lockdown began, Zahoudanis and Petersen launched a service to help connect consumers with small farms looking to sell the organic produce that, pre-pandemic, would have been purchased by restaurants.

Their supply chain was totally rocked and practically overnight they were left with freshly harvested food that they needed to sell really quickly. Our community was now stuck at home and looking for a better way to buy groceries, and our local farmers had an abundance of food, so we just wanted to help bridge that gap and facilitate that connection,” Zahoudanis said.

In the early days, they helped spread the word about Real Good Greens over the neighborhood social networking app Nextdoor, and it took off from there.

Zahoudanis and Petersen may not have necessarily started off with the aim of launching a company, but their efforts have grown over the past year into a bona fide business. Real Good Greens now delivers produce and artisan goods to homes in Marin County, San Francisco, some parts of the East Bay and Peninsula cities as far south as Los Altos Hills.

Despite Real Good Greens’ current array of offerings, the business’ name harkens back to its first days. Greens were the primary crop of one of the first farms that Zahoudanis worked with, County Line Harvest in Petaluma, which grows many specialty varieties of greens for local chefs. On top of that, Zahoudanis identifies herself as a “veggie freak, a salad nut,” and the name celebrates her love of fresh greens.

“That’s the heart of it, finding amazing, quality stuff that tastes like you grew it and it’s harvested that morning and getting that to people the same day — that was just the spirit of the idea,” she said.

Zahoudanis studied English and marketing in college — she has a bachelor’s degree in English and communications from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania — but her family has roots in both food and agriculture. Her father grew kiwis in Iowa.

“Building something really good,” she said, “is ingrained in my DNA at a really young age,” Zahoudanis said.

She noted that Petersen, as well, grew up in a farming family in Iowa.

The couple lives in the North Bay and Real Good Greens is based in Mill Valley, where they have a facility to assemble orders. Zahoudanis said that the business works with about 25 farms, mostly based in the North Bay, but also a few in Half Moon Bay and Yolo County.

Farm boxes are the centerpiece of Real Good Greens, but the business differs from a traditional Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm box model in which customers typically subscribe for regular deliveries, purchasing a share of the crops from a farm or group of farms. Zahoudanis, who said she’s regularly chasing a share of the crops from farms, found that model could be hard to plan around, and wanted to offer more flexibility.

Customers can choose to place orders each week through the Real Good Greens website, by Tuesday at midnight, with all orders delivered on Thursdays and Fridays.

“Our base product is the seasonal farm box. That’s the way we can support as many farms as we can by having this kind of surprise box of what is freshly harvested and peak season,” Zahoudanis said.

The Seasonal Organic Farm Box is a curated box of fresh produce that offers 10 to 13 items for $45 or a smaller version with five to seven items for $35. The selection rotates every week, with items based on what’s in season.

In addition to its two curated boxes, Real Good Greens sells a variety of fresh produce. Among the items currently available on the website are a half-flat of strawberries, an assortment of stone fruit, a pound of sugar snap peas — and of course, bunches of greens. Shoppers can also pick up artisan goods such as bread, eggs, cheese, olive oil and honey. Those who are buying a box can add these goods and extra produce to their orders, but customers don’t actually need to buy a farm box to be able to purchase individual produce and groceries. Even so, Zahoudanis estimates that around 90% of customers buy a farm box and then add on extra goods.

“We’ve become more of a full-fledged online farmers market,” she said.

Real Good Greens may have been founded in a unique moment when long-established supply systems were disrupted, but Zahoudanis doesn’t foresee a complete return to how things were pre-pandemic. Even with restaurants now reopening more widely to customers, the pandemic has brought changes in how consumers shop for food and in how farms operate.

“We have a lot of farms used to selling exclusively to restaurants, they’ve realized the importance of selling direct to consumer and having multiple sales channels. Now that the restaurants are opening, we’ve established that steady relationship and even in times of downturn and uncertainty we’ve been a really steady customer,” she said.

In fact, the business is ready to expand a bit more. Zahoudanis said that she and Petersen have been looking for a warehouse to expand Real Good Greens’ volume and provide the space to increase offerings to include local meat and fish. And perhaps some day, Zahoudanis said, she hopes that the business might have its own storefront.

It’s a big difference from Real Good Greens’ beginnings just a year ago as an idea to step in and help fill a vacuum created by the pandemic that wasn’t necessarily planned to be a business.

“We were kind of playing it week by week and seeing how it went, and I think after a couple months, we realized that we had a very loyal following, and we were building something really good,” Zahoudanis said.

For more information, visit realgoodgreens.com.

By Heather Zimmerman

Eating Out

Helene Zahoudanis stands in a mustard greens field at County Line Harvest in Petaluma. At the start of the pandemic, the Palo Alto High School graduate co-founded Real Good Greens to connect consumers with small farmers. Courtesy Brinkerhoff Photography.

Real Good Greens farm boxes include a rotating selection of curated fresh produce and additional products like bread and local farm eggs.

Eating Out

Helene Zahoudanis stands in a mustard greens field at County Line Harvest in Petaluma. At the start of the pandemic, the Palo Alto High School graduate co-founded Real Good Greens to connect consumers with small farmers. Courtesy Brinkerhoff Photography.

Real Good Greens farm boxes include a rotating selection of curated fresh produce and additional products like bread and local farm eggs.
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What matters in the end

Irv was horrified, but Marilyn was determined. She had published at least 10 books. With her prognosis bleak, Marilyn persuaded her husband that they should document, in alternating chapters, the experience of her illness and likely demise from the disease.

“We now live each day with the knowledge that our time together is limited and exceedingly precious,” the two, both in their late 80s, write in the preface. “This book is meant, first and foremost, to help us navigate the end of life.”

As scholars, both Yaloms are steeped in the great philosophers’ contemplations on exemplary life and death, and have wrestled in their own work with themes of mortality.

In “American Resting Place,” co-authored with their son, the photographer Reid Yalom, Marilyn documented how 400 years of gravestones, graveyards and burial practices reflect changing American ideas about death, class, gender and immigration.

As a psychotherapist, Irv had counseled countless patients, including many with terminal illnesses, about facing death, and written extensively about their — and his own — death anxieties.

Of all the ideas I’ve employed to comfort patients dreading death, none has been more powerful than the idea of living a regret-free life,” he writes. With four children, eight grandchildren and extensive world travels in addition to their professional accomplishments, both Yaloms feel they’ve seized their days to the fullest.

Even as death approaches, the pair celebrate “magic moments,” such as the evening they abandoned television and Marilyn pulls “Martin Chuzzlewit” down from the bookshelf and begins reading aloud. “I purr in ecstasy, listening to each word,” Irv writes. “This is sheer heaven. What a blessing to have a wife who delights in reading Dickens’s prose out loud.”

He recalls the day — more than 70 years before — when the two had first bonded over their mutual love of books as classmates at Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C.

When chemotherapy fails and the idea of living a regret-free life, I shall no longer exist. ... After 10 months of feeling awful most of the time, it’s a relief to know that my misery will come to an end.”

After some weeks the couple is told the immunoglobulin therapy, she begins inquiring about medically assisted suicide — legal in California since 2016 — in the event the new treatment does not work.

Irv is horrified, but Marilyn is at peace. Though sad to leave the people she loves, “the idea of death does not frighten me,” she writes. “I can accept the idea that I shall no longer exist. ... After 10 months of feeling awful most of the time, it’s a relief to know that my misery will come to an end.”

After some weeks the couple is told the immunoglobulin therapy, too, has failed.

Marilyn accepts various tributes and goes about saying her good-bye, and giving away her treasured books to a large network of friends and colleagues. “It’s weird to realize that if I want to do anything, I’ll have to do it quickly,” she writes.

Ultimately, about a week before Thanksgiving 2019, she chooses to end her life, ingesting lethal medication in the presence of Irv, their four children, a physician and a nurse. (She was among the 405 people to use California’s End of Life Options Act in 2019, according to the annual tally from the state health department.)
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Averytopoulos, who directed the adult day program at Avenidas, now known as the Rose Kleiner Center, from 1999 to 2003, more recently has worked at the Stanford Center on Longevity and, since 2019, as co-founder and manager of the Caregiving Center in the new Stanford Hospital. She takes the helm at Avenidas Sept. 1.

“I’m so excited to come full circle in my career, as Avenidas has been an important part of my life for decades,” Yotopoulos said.

Avenidas board chair Henry Massey said Yotopoulos’ “years of multi-faceted senior management experience leading strategic development, long range planning and guiding organizations through periods of growth and transition will greatly benefit Avenidas. “In addition, she understands our mission on a very personal level, having 10 years of experience as a family caregiver for a loved one with dementia,” Massey said.

At the Stanford Center on Longevity, Yotopoulos managed the Mind Division, which focuses on research into cognitive health and harnessing the human capital of older people. The Caregiving Center in the new Stanford Hospital is a lounge, library and referral center for patients and their families, as well as for the general public.

Yotopoulos said she became interested in aging issues as an undergraduate at Stanford, where she took classes with psychologist Laura Carstensen, founding director of Stanford’s Center on Longevity, and graduated with honors in psychology. She later earned a master’s degree in gerontology from the University of Southern California.

At Avenidas, she replaces Amy Andonian, who served from 2014 until leaving last fall. John Sink, vice-president of programs, serves as interim president. Avenidas operates an adult enrichment center and a Chinese Community Center, both in Palo Alto, as well as an adult day care center, known as the Rose Kleiner Center, in Mountain View. For more information on the agency, go to avenidas.org.

— Chris Kenrick

Senior Focus

BUILDING A SUPPORT SYSTEM ... Avenidas Village, a fee-based network for older adults that offers practical help, resources and social connections will hold Zoom coffee chats for prospective members Tuesday, June 8, Thursday, June 17, and Wednesday, June 30. All sessions will be at 10 a.m. To learn more, go to avenidasvillage.org. To register, email dgreenblat@avenidas.org.

RETIREMENT PLANNING ... Retirement coach Lyn Christenson will present a free, online workshop on non-financial aspects of retirement planning on Monday, June 14, at 1:30 p.m. To register for Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org. For more about Christenson, go to retirementlinkages.com.

CONDOR RESTORATION ... Researchers and biologists Chris West and Tiana Williams-Claussen will discuss their work in restoring California condors to the Pacific Northwest in a free Zoom presentation Tuesday, June 15, at 1 p.m. The two will discuss California condor biology, declines and efforts to recover the species from near-extinction as well as the outlook for overall recovery of the species. The talk is part of the “Community Conversations” series of the Ohlman Family Jewish Community Center. To register, email Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

HELP FOR CAREGIVERS ... Hospice physician Ellen Brown and caregiving researcher and consultant Rita Gnatik will discuss caring for someone with dementia and preserving brain health in a free Zoom presentation Wednesday, June 23, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is part of an ongoing forum for caregivers organized by Avenidas social work manager Paula Wolfson, who will moderate. To register for zoom link, go to avenidas.org and click on the registration link, or call 650 299-5400.

FILM ON CAREGIVING ... Mission Hospice & Homecare will present a free, online screening of the 2021 documentary “Caregiver, a Love Story” on Thursday, June 24, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The film, co-directed and co-produced by palliative care physician Jessica Zitter, profiles what happens when 59-year-old Bambi decides to forgo further cancer treatment and die at home and her husband, Rick, leaves his job to become her primary caregiver. For the Zoom link, go to missionhospice.org and click on “events calendar.”

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.
A beautifully landscaped garden highlighted by a tranquil pond welcomes you to this superb Mediterranean jewel in the heart of Palo Alto. Completely remodeled in 2012, this well-appointed home unfolds with over 2,800 square feet of refined living space perfectly designed to meet the demands of a contemporary lifestyle. Rich engineered wood floors extend throughout expansive gathering areas including the living room with a showpiece fireplace, the bright dining room, and the sizable family room that opens to a slate patio for indoor/outdoor living. Inspire your inner Top Chef with a suite of Viking appliances in the marble-appointed gourmet kitchen, and find ideal space for remote learning or working from home in the study. Five spacious bedrooms include the spectacular master suite with a marble bathroom and two walk-in closets, and the guest suite that provides comfortable accommodations for friends and family alike. Unwind with ease in the peaceful, private backyard that features a lush lawn, vibrant plantings, and an inviting fire pit. Plus, this home also features an attached garage with a paver driveway to provide plenty of parking. Just moments to University Avenue, the Midtown Shopping Center, and Stanford University, this home is also convenient to beautiful public spaces such as Gamble Garden and Rinconada Park. And, top-ranked schools Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High are all within approximately 1 mile of the home.

OPEN HOUSE: Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
www.2101Middlefield.com
Offered at $3,988,000

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto
Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off MLS sales included in the rankings.

2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

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NEW PLAN TO REOPEN UNIVERSITY AVENUE

Businesses split over city manager’s proposal, which would allow cars back on University Avenue in September

By Gennady Sheyner

For former Mayor Vic Ojakian, who in 2006 served on a blue ribbon task force that first recommended replacing the Palo Alto’s police headquarters, including its lack of sufficient space for evidence storage, “that was a code-compliant holding cells and sally ports (secured entryways for people in custody).”

“When you put it up against other buildings, you can’t even make a comparison,” Ojakian said.

In the 15 years since the report, the council has repeatedly reaffirmed its commitment to moving ahead with a new public safety building, though its plans were repeatedly derailed by high costs and a lack of a suitable site for the new public safety building.

“Most stores recovered very fast once people were coming out,” Monarch said. “This one just languished.”

“We thought, ‘OK, things are bad everywhere,’ but other towns have similar programs and we recovered much faster when they don’t have tents or closed streets,” Monarch said.

Monarch is not alone in calling for the city to reopen University Avenue to cars. Cherry LeBrun, owner of De Novo Contemporary Jewelry, wrote in a letter to the City Council that having University and a portion of Ramona closed to cars has cut access to her business dramatically and decreased foot traffic by more than 80%.

“This has, and continues to have, a very damaging impact on sales in my retail jewelry store,” LeBrun wrote.

Gwen Gasque of Letter Perfect suggested that while the closure of University Avenue to cars feels more communal, suggesting that it’s good for businesses, the closures create a “fairground atmosphere” that isn’t suitable for the type of retail consumption that her business relies on. And Hassan Ali, branch manager at Citi Bank at 250 University Avenue closed until Oct. 31. At the April 20 meeting, council members pointed to the results of the recent city survey, which showed 96% of respondents who own Footwear Etc. on University Avenue would like to keep California Avenue car-free and 97% favoring an extended closure of University to cars.

But despite the program’s broad popularity, its end may be near. With California now on the path to fully “reopen” on June 15, Shikada last week proposed allowing cars back on University and California Avenue starting on July 6 and Sept. 7, respectively.

In an interview, Shikada noted that while many residents and visitors like the convenience of walking and dining in the streets, some businesses have suffered as a result of the closures. A new report cites the experience of the retailer b8ta, which is located in the 300 block of University and has seen its customer traffic drop 92% from a comparable month pre-COVID-19, even as the rest of its stores are recovering by between 5% and 10% on a relative basis per week. The Palo Alto store has “shown a declining recovery month over month,” the report states.

Shikada said the proposed dates are far from final. But with health restrictions easing, the “state of emergency” conditions that enabled the city to quickly adopt the street closures last summer will no longer apply. Any long-term program, Shikada noted, would require

A stretch of University Avenue in Palo Alto that has been closed to car traffic since July 20 would revert to its former state on July 6, under a proposal from City Manager Ed Shikada.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Palo Alto breaks ground on new public safety building

Council members, staff celebrate long-awaited project

By Gennady Sheyner

For a city that has been in social distancing mode since March 2020, the ceremony represented in some ways a return to normal as City Council members and staff mingled inside the gated construction site before proceeding to flip dirt with ceremonial shovels.

For former Mayor Vic Ojakian, who in 2006 served on a blue ribbon task force that first recommended replacing the Police Department’s undersized and seismically vulnerable headquarters at City Hall with a larger and safer facility, the event felt long overdue.

Ojakian recalled in an interview the commission’s review 15 years ago, which included visits to 10 different police buildings in the area. The survey underscored the many deficiencies of Palo Alto’s police headquarters, including its lack of sufficient space for evidence storage, code-compliant holding cells and sally ports (secured entryways for people in custody).

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A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 28, 2021, at 1:30 PM, in the courtroom of HACE BOU, JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate of the decedent.

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You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may also want to consult with an attorney to help you decide whether you can be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition or consents to the proposed action.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should file an objection or file written objections with the court within the time specified below. Any written objections must be in person or by your attorney. If you are the personal representative or a codicil of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court directly. You are the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of (i) 90 days from the date of the notice to creditors or (ii) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery of notice to you, of the date of filing of the petition, unless an interested person files an objection or consented to the proposed action.

You may file an objection or file written objections with the court. Any written objections must be in person or by your attorney. If you are the personal representative of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court directly. You may object to the petition or to the granting of the petition. You may also object to the granting of the petition unless an interested person files an objection or consents to the proposed action.

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Palo Alto is poised to join an exclusive club that for more than 20 years has been declining to have the city as a member but that local officials may help turn around address the irksome issue of airplane noise.

The city is on its way to becoming the first Santa Clara County city to join the SFO Community Roundtable, a coalition that since its establishment in 1991 only offered membership to elected leaders from San Francisco and San Mateo County cities and key transportation officials affiliated with the San Francisco International Airport.

Palo Alto’s expected entry into the club would follow at least six prior requests by the city to join — overtures that go back to 1997 but that have become louder since the Federal Aviation Administration began instituting its NextGen Initiative in 2014. The federal program established three arrival routes over Palo Alto, leading to a sharp spike in air traffic and noise complaints.

To date, every attempt from Palo Alto to join the Roundtable had faltered in the face of political headwinds. Sitting members had argued that the group was created primarily for jurisdictions closest to the airport and that expanding membership would dilute their voices. That changed on Wednesday night when the majority of the group agreed that Palo Alto should be allowed to join. To that end, the Roundtable voted to establish a subcommittee that will come up with criteria for admitting new members. The committee will seek input from other mechanisms for supporting the expanded Roundtable going forward.

While the motion didn’t specifically name Palo Alto, members made it clear during the discussion that it was the city’s repeated requests and persistent engagement in allowable operations that are driving the consideration. The majority of the members agreed that with NextGen in effect, Palo Alto deserves to have a voice in the discussion of airplane noise impacts.

Palo Alto received a particularly strong showing from member cities in southern San Mateo County, including Portola Valley, Atherton and Woodside. SFO Airport Director Ivar Satero also threw his support behind Palo Alto. The huge impact that NextGen has had on the city is “clear as day,” he said.

“I never thought of ‘communities’ as having boundaries,” Satero said. “I thought of them as those communities that are impacted by SFO operations.”

Roundtable Chair Ricardo Ortiz, who serves as vice mayor in Burlingame, had voted several times against allowing Palo Alto to join. On Wednesday, he reversed his position and said he was “cautiously in favor” of admitting the city. Ortiz said he was impressed by the city’s participation in Roundtable meetings over the past four years and suggested that because the group’s existing members share many of the same concerns, adding the city’s entry into the club coalition will not significantly impact the group’s operations or raise costs.

Jeff Aalfs, a Portola Valley town council member who represents the town on the Roundtable, said he favors admitting Palo Alto immediately, though he went along with the more cautious and methodical approach favored by Ortiz and most of his other colleagues: establish admission criteria, revise the memorandum of understanding that governs the organization and then let Palo Alto into the group.

“If you ignore political boundaries, then in my mind that Palo Alto is a stakeholder in the operation of the San Francisco Airport,” Aalfs said.

Atherton City Council member Bill Widmer also said he is in favor of admitting Palo Alto. He cited the city’s participation in discussions pertaining to airport operations and lauded the efforts of residents who have been regularly attending Roundtable meetings to weigh in on the issue of airplane noise.

“I think that they are quite well-educated and thoughtful in their comments. I feel they come prepared,” Widmer said.

“Palo Alto may soon be allowed to join the SFO Community Roundtable.

“Palo Alto may soon be allowed to join the SFO Community Roundtable.”

“I think they would be extremely additive to what we’re doing.” The response from representatives closest to the airport was far more mixed, with some welcoming Palo Alto and others vociferously opposing the city’s admission. The most vocal opponent was Millbrae Mayor Ann Schneider, who suggested that the Roundtable already spends too much time listening to Palo Alto’s problems at the expense of cities like her own, which wants to see more attention paid to ground-based noise. She said she has “just watched years of (her) life being eaten up by the people of Palo Alto.”

“In the last six months of the year, they have taken the bulk of our time,” Schneider said of Palo Alto residents. “What is to say that once they are a member, that isn’t all we deal with?”

Terry O’Connell, a Brisbane City Council member, also said that with Palo Alto aboard the Roundtable may spend too much time on airplane arrivals and not enough on departures, an issue of concern to her community.

“I appreciate all the help and the technical information that people from Palo Alto bring to our Roundtable,” O’Connell said. “I also see that they have a lot of political clout and they have a lot of really impressive, well-versed people. But I do think that we get bogged down in arrivals to a tremendous amount, even if it’s not on our agenda.”

The Roundtable’s change in direction spells a victory for the Palo Alto City Council, which has struggled to address the issue of airplane noise, and the citizens group Sky Posse, which has been at the forefront of the city’s effort to combat NextGen’s impacts. Several Palo Alto residents attended the Wednesday meeting to urge the Roundtable to grant Palo Alto membership. Marie-Jo Fremont, a longtime proponent of addressing airplane noise, suggested that the Roundtable’s criteria are “outdated.”

“They were established pre-NextGen and do not reflect the reality of impacts,” Fremont said.

Resident Subodh Iyengar said letting Palo Alto into the group would be a “fair thing to do.”

“I believe Palo Alto residents share a lot of the same issues as other cities in the Roundtable. ... I think Palo Alto can be a great addition,” Iyengar said.

Email Staff Writer Gennyda Sheyner at gsheyner@paweeekly.com.

Reopening

(continued from page 29)

an environmental analysis that considers, among other things, traffic impacts.

“It is a difficult role for the city to be in — to be picking winners and losers,” Shikada said.

“On an issue like this, where we know that there’s a clear division of perspectives — going through a process, whether it’s a consultation process that the City of San Ramon has right now or longer-term planning process, is a prudent next step for us.”

Not everyone is thrilled about the new timeline. For many residents and restaurateurs, the city’s dining program has quite literally been weathering rough air in a dismal year, and they are loathe to see it end prematurely.

Giuseppe Carrubba, owner of Osteria Toscana and Caffe Rialto, called the new end dates for the street closures “disquieting news for all of us as restaurant owners.” Restaurants, he wrote to the council, have “invested much into this effort and have been able to employ many people that are a part of this community.

“We are just beginning to recoup the benefits of the countless hours of time and thousands of dollars spent by each respective business invested to recreate our operations outdoors,” Car- rubba wrote.

Patrick Walsh, who owns an art gallery next to Coupa Cafe on Ramona, also said she was “utterly shocked” to learn about the new timeline. Repainting the downtown streets this summer would be “a tragic change of course for all my neighbors who have been fighting this past year to stay afloat.

“We are finally getting a steady flow of business as weather has improved and the population is getting vaccinated,” Walsh wrote to the council, who allowed outdoor patios to be constructed on the street in front of restaurants, was established on an emergency basis and will likely be extended, with the council scheduled to adopt on June 7 an ordinance that would stretch the program beyond the local state of emergency. City officials are also looking to refine the program to make sure new parklets meet the city’s design guidelines and that they do not extend in front of neighboring businesses unless those businesses agree.

While the proposed ordinance would extend the parklet program until Dec. 31, in line with the council’s April direction, Palo Alto is also looking ahead for a broader discussion about the future of outdoor dining.

The council had set aside $150,000 for urban-design work on street closures, and staff has been floating other ideas, including limiting street closures to weekends and charging rent to restaurants that use public streets as dining areas. Shikada noted that any such plan would require much more outreach to businesses and residents — as well as an environmental analysis — before it’s implemented.

“Let’s say, it’s (a) Friday evening to Monday morning closure — does that work? Can people agree that this is the plan that’s worth advancing?” Shikada said. “We’re going to need some time to work through the design process, conduct outreach to businesses at large and to make a decision.”

Email Staff Writer Gennyda Sheyner at gsheyner@paweeekly.com.
New task force confiscates 1,500 pounds of explosives within 1 month

Group cracks down on illegal fireworks in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park

By Sue Dremann

East Palo Alto and Menlo Park police departments and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, is working to prevent another record-setting season of illegal fireworks. The task force’s crackdown comes as the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved a stricter ordinance for anyone caught with the explosives. The ordinance applies only to the unincorporated areas of the county.

East Palo Alto police Cmdr. Jeff Liu said people won’t necessarily notice the task force, but may already experience improvements in their neighborhoods. The seizure of 1,500 pounds of illegal fireworks “is heartbreaking,” he said.

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A n East Palo Alto City Council member’s effort late last month to hastily convene a closed meeting and terminate the city attorney has drawn a fiery rebuke from the city’s mayor and vice mayor, who called it a “power move” and possibly illegal.

Council member Antonio López, who was elected last November, emailed the council on May 18, announcing that he and two colleagues, Lisa Gauthier and Regina Wallace-Jones, had formed a quorum to call an “emergency meeting” two days later to discuss termination of the city attorney. City Attorney Rafael Alvarado is currently away on family leave.

The email did not detail the May 20 closed meeting, but it did show up for the public portion of the meeting. Before the other three council members went into the closed session, the senior members gave them an earful.

Abrica called the rushed meeting “a power move” and a disservice to transparency and community input.

“Whether a meeting is called by the mayor, as is the normal procedure, or imposed by three members as in this case here, the matter should be approached with respect for the public to be notified with the reasons why, not the may comment or ask questions about any potential major decisions. For today, barely 24 hours’ notice was given and the purpose of the closed session is now hidden from the public,” he said, reading a letter he wrote to the community into the public record during the May 20 meeting.

“This closed-session meeting is a very troubling example of secrecy and assistance tactics to avoid facing the public. It’s an assault on our local institution of government, intended to demonstratively serve the people, not the egos of politicians. I, for one, will not participate in this fabric of a ‘closed” session. There are real urgent needs that need to be addressed instead of this destructive power game playing,” he said.

Romero stressed the need for a fair, transparent process to evaluate the city attorney rather than a rush to judgment. The council supervises just two employees: the city manager and the city attorney.

“Any termination or discussion of the termination of any employee of ours must be accompanied by a thorough, full discussion with counsel. The liability you are imposing upon this city by doing this in an expedited manner will put this city and its administration in jeopardy,” Romero said.

Romero and Abrica also allege the closed meeting might not have been convened legally. Lopez’s email categorized the session as an “emergency” and identified the city attorney as the subject of the confidential personnel meeting.

Shortly thereafter, Lopez corrected his first email to state that the meeting would instead be a “special closed session” and the topic would be on a public employee discipline/dismissal/release, no longer specifying the city attorney.

Tempos flared on May 20, as Romero and Abrica rebuked their three colleagues. Wallace-Jones said the accusations were unfounded.

“This feels disrespectful and belittling,” she said. “Let’s make it very clear: This is a public process in which council members can indeed express their opinions and more importantly, express our concerns.”

Gauthier took exception to being berated by Romero.

“I am your colleague. Treat me as such!” she told Romero during the meeting.

On May 25, she told the Weekly that she thought it would have been best for all council members to be in the room for the closed meeting. She also hoped the council could come together collegially.

Unfortunately, two of my colleagues were belittling and accusatory to other council members. We are not subordinate to them. I hope we can get to a point where there’s more respect on the council,” she said.

Romero said during the meeting that the correction of the announcement from "emergency" to "special" and from identifying Alvarado to not identifying him as the subject of possible termination came too late and could subject the city to expensive litigation.

Pulling back on the original language doesn’t change the error, Romero said.

“This is a distressing act by calling it a special meeting does not give a pig another name. The lipsick doesn’t change the fact that it continues to be an illegitimate meeting,” he said.

Interim City Attorney Valerie Armento, who is filling in for Alvarado while he is away, said Lopez’s first email did not comport with the Ralph M. Brown Act, the state’s government transparency law that dictates the kinds of issues that justify declaration of an emergency closed session.

“A work stoppage or something that would severely affect public health and safety; a terrorist attack or something like that,” she said.

Lopez’s first email “was not accurate with the need for an emergency closed session,” she added.

Regarding naming Alvarado, the Brown Act states a special meeting must say what the agenda item is about, it is not typical to name the individual in a personnel matter. She did not state that doing so is illegal, however.

Romero and Abrica also raised concerns that Lopez, Wallace-Jones and Gauthier, in conferring to set up the special meeting, may have also discussed the city attorney’s performance to the Brown Act.

“The Ralph M. Brown Act, the majority cannot meet or communicate privately to discuss matters outside of a legal meeting because, in that case, no formal notice would have been given to the public of the discussion,” Romero said.

Gauthier, however, said at the May 20 meeting that she did not discuss Alvarado with the other council members. On May 25, she said during an interview that while the Brown Act states a special meeting “would constitute another violation of the Brown Act.”

In her letter, she said that Lopez, Wallace-Jones and Gauthier have “no basis to call an emergency meeting,” she said.

“Their issue of whether the mayor’s selection of agenda items to all five council members, which, he said, would be more “democratic.” But Romero and Abrica said the process is already democratic. If the mayor doesn’t include a requested item on the next meeting’s agenda, the council member can make the request during a public meeting and a vote can be taken by the council for the item’s inclusion.

A related or unrelated investigation

While Abrica and Romero say they are unaware of the reason for Lopez’s tactics, they say it’s because he’s concerned that the effort to fire Alvarado might be linked to a recent and separate personnel investigation.

On May 25, however, Lopez released a statement to clarify his reasons for potentially terminating Alvarado.

He said he will “be seeking to hire a working city attorney that is present and serves the city in a manner that is organizationally efficient.

“The city attorney is the high-paid position within the city of East Palo Alto being paid a total of $228,225 plus benefits, and a total compensation package for the attorney’s office of $858,935 proposed for FY 21-22.”

Council member Lopez is seeking to create long-term cost savings, and in the process, to re-invest those savings into critical city services,” the announcement said, referring to Lopez in the third person.

“Our city attorney has demonstrated an inability to serve the needs of an ever-changing community. Staff needs an attorney who is present for the day-to-day operations of the city,” Lopez said.

When contacted for an interview with this media organization, Alvarado said that while he appreciated the opportunity, “I have no comments about the matter at this time.”

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

Mayor, vice mayor say Antonio Lopez’s tactics amount to a ‘power move’

By Sue Dremann

Mayor, vice mayor say Antonio Lopez’s tactics amount to a ‘power move’

Panel Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to consider suspending assessments for the Downtown Business Improvement District; adopt an ordinance to allocate shares of funds at Town & Country Village in 2020 Water Management Plan; and consider changes to the fiscal year 2020 budget. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 7. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID 919 9454 8701.

COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to review the city auditor’s task orders for fiscal year 2022, receive an update on the city’s recent work pertaining to race and equity and discuss updates to the council’s procedures and protocols handbook. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 10. Those wishing to participate can get the Zoom link at goo.gl/2qoqwg.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board is scheduled to hold a public hearing for Local Control and Accountability Plans; discuss the LCAP budget, literacy resources and teacher center developments in 2020-21 Urban Education Plan; and adopt professional learning plans; and adopt the Elementary Language Arts curriculum. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8. Those wishing to participate, can get the Zoom link at goo.gl/2qoqwg.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission will review objective standards for proposed developments and discuss its annual work plan. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID 945 1674 4621.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ... The commission is scheduled to discuss a contingency plan for a potential funding increase for Human Services Resource Allocation Process in fiscal year 2022; hear an update on the initiative “100 Community Conversations on Race” and consider a response to the City Council about the proposed 24th and Broadway development project. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 10. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID 919 9454 8701.
This stunning home is located on one of the most coveted streets in the highly-desired Green Gables community. Interior living spaces are thoughtfully designed, including a tranquil guest bedroom with a vaulted ceiling and skylight. The primary suite features a spa-like bathroom that will melt your everyday stress away plus direct access to the beautiful rear yard. Modern kitchen includes a dining area and upscale appliances, including two ovens for entertaining. Living room features a fireplace and a dining area open to the side patio for convenient alfresco dining. Elegant refinished hardwood floors throughout the home compliment the upgraded windows and new paint. Not to be missed is the lush rear yard with a large brick patio and walkways. Desirable and convenient location close to the Main Library, Palo Alto Art Center, Children’s Library, Children’s Jr. Museum & Zoo, parks, and excellent schools (Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle, Palo Alto High).

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Gunn
(continued from page 5)
and that she didn’t belong.
The next four years became a
time when she found and built
a meaningful identity, however.
There was consistency in return-
ing to those desks; they became
"a symbol of community," — one
that became even more profound
after she could no longer sit in
them among her peers and had to
study remotely.
Through patience and persis-
tence, and with perspective, she
found a new respect for differenc-
es and her community, she said.
Giselle Cornelio-Larios, the cer-
emony’s second student speaker,
said that adjusting to the pandemic
was challenging due to the pre-
mature death of her grandfather.
The third of five children, she said
Gunn consistently provided her
with financial, emotional and
unconditional support. A Menlo Park
resident who transferred through
the Timsley Program, she “never
felt anything but welcome” in her
culture, beliefs and ideas, she said.
She took advanced math classes and
struggled; then she realized
that giving up was not in her
character. She reached out for
support from her math teachers
who helped her succeed, she said.
Now, looking toward attending a
college in southern California and
the citywide car parade instead of a
mortar board tassels from right
to left to signify their graduation,
young people said they were proud to
be rally ing in seconds.”

Paly
(continued from page 5)
hoping that tomorrow would once
again be normal.
Jonathan Snch, the student
speaker of the night, used Spike-
ball — a popular campus sport —
as the emblem of “the best things
about Paly” and the Class of 2021.
“Our community is strong, and
anyone can feel welcome and be
a part of it, just like with Spike-
ball,” Snch said.
I can come up to anyone with a ball in hand and
ask them if they want to play and
we’ll be rallying in seconds.”

The ceremony also offered a
moment of reflection and celebra-
tion for the Class of 2020, which
last year was recognized with a
citywide car parade instead of a
traditional graduation ceremony.
Pooja Akella, last year’s Associ-
ated Student Body president, and
Frida Rivera, the 2020 senior
class president, accepted an hon-
orary diploma that included the
names of the 2020 graduating se-
niors engraved on the frame.
In their joint speech, Akella
and Rivera recognized that they
knew only a little more about life
than this year’s graduating class
does since they too spent their
freshman year in college at home
with their parents. But they did
offer one piece of advice: “Keep
in touch.”

“Don’t view graduation as a
closure,” they said, encouraging
departing seniors to maintain a
connection to the Paly commu-
nity. “View it as a chapter in an
unfinished book, waiting for you
to write the next chapter.”

Paly has always been a
symbol of community,” — one
that became even more profound
after she could no longer sit in
them among her peers and had to
study remotely.

The ceremony was also a
particularly significant moment
for Paly’s new principal, Brent Kline,
who arrived on the campus last
July. “The first day of school was
probably the most depressing first
day of school as a principal I’ve
ever had,” he said in his address.
Coming from that “quietest” first
day of school, Kline ac-
knowledge to the Class of 2021
that although this is the end of
their high school career, it’s also
the “beginning of reconnection.”
“We’ve all been separated for
way too long,” Kline said.
Recognizing that “nothing went
as planned” this school year, 2021
senior class president Emma Lin
referenced the song “High Hopes
and Low Expectations” by coun-
try singer Zane Williams to de-
scribe the past year.

“Except I would add that we’ve
all gotten a lot of extra help in
keeping our hopes high. … Class
of 2021, I’ll keep my expectations
low and my hopes high for you,”
she said, closing the ceremony.

About the cover: Gunn
High School seniors gather
on the football for the first
and last time this year to
celebrate graduation in
person on Wednesday. Photo
by Adam Pardee. Cover
design by Douglas Young.
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