Commission splits over Castilleja’s growth plan

Page 5

A principal’s pledge

Judy Argumedo has vowed to visit her students’ families this year — every single one

Page 7

Donate to the HOLIDAY FUND Pages 8-9

Read up-to-the-minute news on PaloAltoOnline.com

- **Upfront** Sewage shows omicron cases dropping Page 5
- **Eating Out** Manresa Bread expands into Palo Alto Page 19
- **Title Pages** Novel finds hope in ‘dark’ plague Page 20
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Give blood.
End the critical shortage.

Donate in January for a chance to win a winter getaway at a Ritz-Carlton resort in California. Our staff sincerely thanks everyone who can participate. We ask anyone who is healthy and eligible to make an appointment today.

To schedule yours, visit stanfordbloodcenter.org or call 888-723-7831

You can book your donation time at one of our blood centers or mobile blood drives throughout the Bay Area.
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OPEN HOUSE
SAT & SUN 1:30-4:30PM
Palo Altans agree it’s time to approve Castilleja’s plans for an updated campus.

“I support the parking, design, and enrollment changes as currently proposed because this is a good plan on its merits.”

- Julia Ishiyama

“This isn’t a big high tech company, factory or a corporate office park. It’s a small school that seeks to build a 21st century learning space and gradually add more students...without adding traffic.”

- Bill Burch

“As for the garage, I am a strong supporter. It is a gift to the neighborhood, a wise investment in the long-term aesthetics and infrastructure of Old Palo Alto.”

- Lian Bi

“Castilleja is a gem in our city, an absolute asset...an excellent neighbor and a good citizen, with students who are always giving back to Palo Alto.”

- Kathleen Foley-Hughes

“Over the years, the goalposts for this project keep moving...help find a fair compromise that will stop this constant shifting of the debate.”

- Barbara Gross

“Investing in education has always been a hallmark of Palo Alto values. Castilleja is investing in trees, sustainability, and education, and it’s now time to move forward with this project.”

- Jason Stinson

Visit castilleja.org to learn more.

Quotes from City of Palo Alto Planning and Transportation (PTC) meeting on December 8, 2021
Commission not swayed by Castilleja’s plan to add students

Members split over whether school should be allowed to raise enrollment to 540

By Gennady Sheyner

After more than five years of revisions and public hearings over its contentious plan to redevelop its campus, Castilleja School sent a signal last week that its patience is wearing thin and asked the city to provide it with “clear guidance” and “minimal further requests.”

But any hopes that the school may have held about the project getting expedited evaporated Wednesday night, when the Planning and Transportation Commission began to revisit many of the questions that it had seemingly answered two years ago and re-launched old debates about enrollment increases and the number of events that the school should be allowed to have.

Responding to the City Council’s directions from last March, the planning commission spent five hours debating the proposal Wednesday and took a long series of informal votes, with the idea of voting on the project at a future meeting after receiving more information.

This was the commission’s third hearing in a little over a month on Castilleja’s redevelopment plan, which includes rebuilding its academic facilities, constructing an underground garage, relocating its swimming pool and gradually increasing student enrollment from the current level of 422 to 540.

For most members, the hearing had a déjà vu quality. Both the planning commission and the Architectural Review Board had already recommended approval of the project in late 2020. The council, however, supported further revisions and remanded the project to these panels to explore adjustments such as a smaller garage, a fresh look at school events and new measures to contain traffic impacts from the student expansion.

(Photo: courtesy Monique Schulter)

Volunteers fill boxes with educational and bilingual books, coloring materials and other items to donate to families living in RVs and other vehicles on Jan. 17. Youth Community Service partnered with the city of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Oshman Family JCC to co-host the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and Mitzvah Day. Participants worked on a range of hands-on service projects throughout the Bay Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Palo Alto-area COVID cases plummet from early January peak

Wastewater monitoring detects viruses from tested and untested people

By Jocelyn Dong

A measure of Palo Alto area COVID-19 infections is showing that case numbers have already dropped by half from their peak earlier this month, meaning that the omicron wave is showing some signs of subsiding. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department has been testing wastewater from local treatment plants daily since October 2020, looking for two SARS-CoV-2 genes: the N gene and the S gene.

Testing since Jan. 1 shows that the amounts of the coronavirus genes found in human waste processed at the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant peaked around Jan. 7 at more than twice the levels they had been at the start of the year.

However, as of Jan. 18, levels had come back down to about half of what they were on Jan. 7. The Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant serves 213,968 people in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford University and the East Palo Alto Sanitary District. Samples are collected seven days a week from four county wastewater treatment plants and results are typically ready within 24 hours.

Wastewater-based epidemiology has several potential advantages over test-based reporting because it includes asymptomatic individuals and people who are unable or unwilling to obtain clinical tests for a variety of reasons, though the tax measure has morphed in both form and function over the years. Prior proposals, such as a payroll tax or a business tax, particularly if the proceeds are used to restore city services, invest in infrastructure like roads and community centers and address homelessness.

Buoyed by these results, the council’s Finance Committee on Tuesday took another step toward placing a business license tax on the November ballot. By a 3-0 vote, committee members supported exemptions for grocery stores and hotels and favored a tiered approach that limits the annual bill to $50 for businesses with less than 5,000 square feet of space.

Palo Alto has been marching toward a business tax since 2016, though the tax measure has morphed in both form and function over the years. Prior proposals, such as a payroll tax or a business tax, particularly if the proceeds are used to restore city services, invest in infrastructure like roads and community centers and address homelessness.

At first blush, the results of Palo Alto’s latest survey about a potential business tax don’t look particularly flattering for city leaders, with a growing number of residents expressing pessimism about the future and dissatisfaction with the local government.

Yet the survey offered exactly the kind of information that the City Council had hoped to get. Conducted by the polling firm FM3, it suggests that most voters will likely support a new business tax, particularly if the proceeds are used to restore city services, invest in infrastructure like roads and community centers and address homelessness.

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A SECOND GO AROUND ... Palo Alto has a reason to be excited for the winter Olympics. Hometown boy Vincent Zhou will be representing the U.S. in men’s figure skating at the games, which are slated to kick off on Feb. 4. “As I prepare for the 2022 Olympics, with the biggest competition of my life just around the corner, I find myself applying and exercising discipline, critical thinking, communication and commitment every day in order to maximize every aspect of my training,” Zhou wrote in an Instagram post on Jan. 14. “Additionally, I am fueled by a deep desire to perform well amidst an extremely competitive field.” The 21-year-old has a strong fan base on his side. He received a series of encouraging messages last week in an Instagram video where he landed two big jumps on the rink. Next month’s Beijing Games will mark his second appearance at the Olympics. He placed sixth overall at the 2018 PyeongChang Games, ranking just behind his teammate Nathan Chen. Zhou has certainly made a name for himself in the nearly 10 years since he became the youngest U.S. junior champion. The athlete won the world junior title in 2017 and bronze medal at the world championships. He’s also taken home three silver and two bronze medals at the U.S. championships.

MAGICAL BEGINNINGS ... The Magical Bridge Foundation, the nonprofit behind local playgrounds for people of all abilities, is getting the ball rolling on a new recreational space in East Palo Alto. The organization is holding a series of virtual community engagement meetings for the public to provide input on the 7-acre space at Bell Street Park. Two upcoming meetings are scheduled for Jan. 27 and Feb. 10, which are both Thursdays, at 5:30 p.m. To assist in making the project a reality, the foundation announced a public-private partnership with the city of East Palo Alto for a “comprehensive outreach program” that involves discussions with residents and other stakeholders. The Bell Street Park location neighbors the Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA and East Palo Alto Senior Center.

“Our residents of East Palo Alto deserve a safe space to be active, come together, and engage in play of all types,” Mayor Ruben Abrica said in a statement. “The City looks forward to working with the community and the Magical Bridge Foundation to redesign Bell Street Park into a more inclusive and active space for generations to come.” The foundation’s first Magical Bridge Playground opened at Palo Alto’s Mitchell Park in 2015 and another at Redwood City’s Red Morton Community Park last year. Additional playgrounds are planned in Mountain View, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. Registration is required for the Jan. 27 and Feb. 10 meetings, which will be conducted in English and Spanish. RSVP links can be found at facebook.com/MagicalBridge.

ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION ... The current wave of COVID-19 cases brought by the omicron variant has forced the city of Palo Alto to adjust its services in order to reduce the spread. After gathering in person to pick its new mayor and vice mayor on Jan. 3, the City Council reverted to virtual meetings for the rest of this month. Walk-up services at City Hall also have been limited, and anyone seeking person assistance can expect long wait times. The city’s Development Center, where the public can find help with matters such as building permits or inspections, has also gone down the remote meeting route. It anticipates switching back to in-person services next month. The Palo Alto City Library implemented several changes on Jan. 18, notably the temporary closures of the Children’s College Terrace and Downtown libraries and reduced hours at the Mitchell Park Library, which is now operating on Wednesdays through Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. The spirit of safety also rings true at the Palo Alto Art Center, where the Children’s Fine Art Department has pushed back the start of winter classes to Feb. 4. Refunds or makeup classes will be made available after that date. Enrolled students can expect the center to contact them with detailed information on their specific class.
A principal’s pledge

Barron Park’s new principal aims to forge partnerships by making home visits to each student’s family

By Zoe Morgan

Around a decade ago, Judy Argumedo was working as a school district administrator on reducing truancy and went to the homes of Palo Alto students who weren’t attending school in an effort to get them back in class.

One day, the teenager Argumedo was visiting asked her a question that she has never forgotten: Why was Argumedo only showing up now, when she’d never come to visit before?

“Those experiences stay with you,” Argumedo said. “I didn’t have an answer for her, and it hurt me.”

Ever since, Argumedo said she’s believed that school leaders need to visit students when things are positive, particularly at earlier ages. Now, she’s in a position to make that happen.

“If a student is having an issue or a challenge and I’ve already made the connection with the families, then the parents and I can work through it together.’” — Judy Argumedo, principal, Barron Park Elementary

Argumedo is in her first year as the principal of Barron Park Elementary School and has set herself the goal of visiting every student’s home to meet with their families. Rather than have parents and students come to her, she’s going straight to them.

“Home visits for me are essential because usually when you hear from the school officials, it’s not always pleasant,” Argumedo said.

The visits are part of an effort to forge partnerships with parents and students and to create community at the elementary school.

During her first semester, she managed to visit roughly 60 students. She’s also checked back with some families multiple times, for a total of nearly 80 visits. Argumedo’s progress has been slowed by the current surge in COVID-19 cases, which led her to curtail visits in January. She intends to restart next week and still hopes to get through the whole student population this year.

“If she doesn’t manage that, her plan is to continue in the fall. After that, she plans to conduct home visits with any new students each year.

The initiative is possible in part because of Barron Park’s small size, with a population of roughly 200 students. Christina Fusimalo-hi and her fifth-grade daughter, Marissa, are among those whom Argumedo has visited.

“It was fun,” Marissa said. “It was cool because I got to learn a little bit about her.”

Her mom similarly felt that the visit was a chance to get to know Argumedo better. They talked about Argumedo’s family and the years she spent living in Los Angeles, as well as lighthearted topics, like decorating holiday cookies.

Before the pandemic, Fusimalohi said she was often on campus, they started greeting students. She’s also checked back in with some families multiple times, for a total of nearly 80 visits.

The home visits are also a chance for Argumedo to hear from all families.

When Neera Narang got an unexpected phone call from the school asking to schedule a home visit with the principal, she said she was taken aback at first but interested. Both Narang and her husband went through public schools themselves and are big believers in the system.

“I have never heard of this level of attention (being paid) at an individual family level in the absence, quite honestly, of kids who are struggling,” Narang said.

During the home visit, Narang’s two children — a kindergartner and second grader — were a bit shy and played in the background, but Argumedo’s presence made a difference. When the kids were back on campus, they started greeting the principal, saying “hi” whenever they saw her, Narang said.

“She’s a friendly face. She’s someone who sat in their backyard and has met their parents,” Narang said. “I think it just really changes the whole dynamic.”

The day after each visit, Argumedo gives the child a card, thanking them for letting her come to their home.

“I’m hoping that the kids see that I really care about them,” Argumedo said. “I’m going to your home and then the next day I’m meeting with you because I truly do care.”

Families share about deeper issues

Some parents — roughly 10 — have declined to take part in the home visits, and Argumedo said she respects their choice. In an effort to make things easier for working parents, Argumedo is starting to offer Zoom visits as an option.

Among those who have said “yes,” Argumedo said that parents will sometimes bring up things during home visits that they may be less comfortable saying in a traditional on-campus meeting.

Families have talked about not having enough food for their children, difficulty finding after-school care and mental health struggles their students are facing.

When Argumedo hears about these kinds of challenges, she’ll connect with support staff on campus, as well as sometimes brief interactions with Argumedo before the home visit.

“Talking to her at the school, I don’t get on a personal level like I did today,” Fusimalo-hi said.

The home visits at Barron Park are meant to make connections with families proactively, to establish trust.

“If a student is having an issue or a challenge and I’ve already made the connection with the families, then the parents and I can work through it together,” Argumedo said.

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(continued on page 12)
Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

Each year the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area. Since the Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to non-profit organizations.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard, Hewlett, Peery and Arrillaga foundations, your tax-deductible gift will be doubled in size. A donation of $100 turns into $200 with the foundation matching gifts.

Whether as an individual, a business or in honor of someone else, help us reach our goal of $500,000 by making a generous contribution to the Holiday Fund.

With your generosity, we can give a major boost to the programs in our community helping kids and families.

Give to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund and your donation is doubled. You give to non-profit groups that work right here in our community. It’s a great way to ensure that your charitable donations are working at home.

Donate online at siliconvalleycf.org/paw-holiday-fund
As of January 14th, 323 donors have contributed $702,377 to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund.

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Donate online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund/
What would Palo Alto voters want a new tax measure to support?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percent of Respondents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investing in community-owned assets (e.g., roads, community centers, libraries)</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining the city’s ability to fund basic city services</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoring city services (e.g. library hours, recreational services)</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving safety and reducing traffic at rail crossings</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding affordable housing</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing Climate Action Plan to help the community reduce carbon emissions</td>
<td>39%</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: FM3 Research. Survey conducted in late November and December 2021 among more than 800 residents. Graphic by Jamey Padojino.

The recent FM3 survey is intended to be the first in a sequence, with the next one focusing on a more refined tax proposal. Finance Committee members suggested Tuesday that they might want to also commission a third survey, which would help them draft the actual language for the ballot measure.

The committee members — Chair Alison Cormack, Mayor Pat Burt and council member Eric Filseth — on Tuesday also backed leaving that critical question for the full council to hash out on Monday.

Residents have also become more critical of local government. While 54% of survey respondents said they believe the city government is doing an “excellent” or “good” job, that’s down from 60% in 2018 and 74% in 2016, according to FM3.

David Metz, president of FM3, said this trend in public sentiment is not in any way unique to Palo Alto.

“We see the same dynamics taking place in cities throughout the Bay Area over the last several years,” Metz said.

Residents throughout the Bay Area express common concerns about high costs of living and homelessness, Metz said. Those have more recently been compounded by new concerns pertaining to the pandemic and crime.

The area’s largest employer, Facebook, is weighing whether to move employees back to the office. While some are calling for employees to return to the office, others want to maintain the flexibility of working remotely. The debate has raised concerns about the impact on the local economy, with some worrying about a “pass-down impact from the larger businesses to the smaller businesses,” according to one resident.

Gennady Sheyner
gsheyner@paweekly.com
While the Wednesday hearing didn’t bring the project much closer to a decision, it made it abundantly clear that the commission — much like the community — remains very much split on the project. Three of the seven commissioners indicated that they would oppose allowing Castilleja to gradually enroll up to 540 students under the new conditional use permit. Instead, they lobbied for a more modest alternative: allowing 450 students and then keeping that enrollment steady for a few years to evaluate traffic impacts. Once the school proves that it can manage any traffic problems that result from the expansion, it could request further enrollment.

The commission’s newly elected chair, Senchi Lauing, and Vice Chair Doria Summa both supported this approach, as did Commissioner Bryna Chang. Bart Hechtmann, alongside Roopparvar and Cari Templeton disagreed and maintained that it would be unreasonably onerous to require Castilleja to prevent students from growing beyond the previously approved 450 limit each year and a half from when they initially submitted the new conditional use permit every time it wants to add students. (The seventh commissioner excused himself from the conversation on the advice of the City Attorney’s Office.)

Hechtmann noted that the conditions of approval and additions that the commission had previously approved already addressed traffic impacts. To ramp up enrollment, Castilleja would be required to adopt an array of transportation-demand-management tools such as shuttles, bike improvements and carpool programs that would allow it to meet a stringently “no net new trips” standard. The school would be required to measure its trips and submit an annual report to the city for “moving the goalposts” on traffic figures.

Hechtmann went on to say that 450 is pretty sizeable and that “I understand that 540 is a business goal of the school, but there’s really no justification or urgency to do that on behalf of the city right now. … 450 is pretty sizeable and I think we should wait and get some proof points on 450 and revisit it,” Lauing said.

Summa also said she would oppose a plan that would allow the school to automatically get to 540 students.

“There’s been, unfortunately, so much of a loss of faith between the community and the school regarding enrollment, and I think that’s just a better way to do it,” Summa said.

The Wednesday hearing occurred after Castilleja submitted a letter claiming that the city is acting illegally and discriminating against the school by requiring it to adhere to a zoning text amendment to add an underground garage. In the letter, Castilleja’s attorney David Lanferman asserted that the city is acting illegally and that it can grow without exacerbating traffic conditions is an unnecessary exercise.

Hechtmann noted that the process is now in year six and that the debate remains as heated as ever. All parties, he suggested, want “something.

“This process has bitterly divided next-door neighbors,” Hechtman said. “To think that we would start this process again? … To think that would be quick or painless is not realistic.”

Others had a different viewpoint. Chang, Summa and Lauing all supported taking a more measured approach. All three indicated that they would not support approving Castilleja’s proposed path to 540 students, a position that dealt a blow to the school’s expansion plan.

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Upfront

Principal

(continued from page 7)

the PTA and other groups, to find ways to offer help. “There are so many factors that affect a child’s education, and the school can’t fix everything, but we can be supportive and there are some things that we can do,” Argumedo said.

Barron Park has a greater share of low-income students than the district overall, as well as kids who are learning English. At Barron Park, 27.6% of students are considered socioeconomically disadvantaged and 24.6% are English learners. That’s compared to 11% and 8.6%, respectively, in Palo Alto Unified overall, according to 2021 state data.

As principal, Argumedo made Barron Park’s slogan “Diversity is our strength.”

“We have so many languages and incomes and cultures and races and ethnicities (on campus),” Argumedo said. “It just adds to our students’ experience in such a rich way. I think that it is a real strength.”

Argumedo herself comes from a low-income background and was the first in her family to go to college. She credits education with changing her life. Teachers believed in her from a young age, which Argumedo said gave her drive and allowed her to see college as a real possibility.

During home visits, Argumedo will bring up college with older students whose parents didn’t attend themselves. Starting those conversations early is important, Argumedo said.

She also speaks Spanish, which allows her to converse with Spanish-speaking families in their native language.

For Lourdez Ruiz, who has a fifth grader at Barron Park, being able to talk to the principal in Spanish was important, allowing her to speak more comfortably. During her home visit, Ruiz talked about her daughter’s progress at Barron Park, got to know Argumedo better and introduced the principal to her husband.

“It’s easier for us to tell them what we want or what our concerns are in our own language,” Ruiz said. “I was so happy when I heard that she speaks Spanish.”

Argumedo has longstanding ties to the Barron Park community. Her husband, now an assistant principal at Gunn High School, taught third grade at Barron Park, and the couple’s two daughters went through the school themselves.

“I really valued how much I became part of the community,” Argumedo said.

Before coming to Barron Park as principal this past fall, Argumedo worked for years at the district office. As the director of academic support programs, the areas she oversaw included the district’s English language learner program, voluntary transfer program and summer school.

Although she said she is proud of what she accomplished at the district level, Argumedo decided she wanted to be back on a school campus, interacting with children and families every day.

“I felt like I really needed to get back to where my roots were, and it’s with elementary kids,” said Argumedo, who started her career as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. “It’s making that one-on-one difference.”

She asked Palo Alto Unified to consider her for a principal position, and Superintendent Don Austin suggested Barron Park, where the prior principal was retiring.

“She just about jumped out of the chair,” Austin said. “That is the school that she said was No. 1 on her list. It fit who she is as a person. They had connections at the school.”

In Argumedo’s first few months on the job, Austin said he has been impressed by how she has immediately immersed herself in the community and implemented ambitious goals, like the home visit program.

For her part, Argumedo said she’s been struck by how the community has embraced her.

“Barron Park as a whole, the community here is very strong,” she said. “They’ve been very well-coming to me, and I just feel like I’m home.”

About the cover: Judy Argumedo, principal at Barron Park Elementary School, plans to visit the homes of all 200 students enrolled at her school. She has already made in-person visits at roughly 60 homes. Photo by Magali Gauthier. Cover design by Douglas Young.

Employment

The Palo Alto Weekly offers employment advertising.

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Leonard (Leo) Ware, a prominent Silicon Valley lawyer and Morgan Hill rancher whose remarkable energy and curiosity led him to pursue many other interests, died December 19, 2021, at his Palo Alto home. His wife of 62 years, Jeanne Bailard Ware, was by his side. His fiercely loyal rescue terrier, Jake, was also by his side. Leo was 93.

Leo is also survived by his daughters, Laura Nethercutt and Pamela Ware Single, his son, Lincoln Ware, and his niece and nephew, Carla Ware and Dwight Ware. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren, and was preceded in death by his daughter Jennifer Ware and his brother, Bill Ware.

Leo was born on January 19, 1928 to Dwight Ware and Ruth Hubbert Ware in Everett, Washington. He graduated from The Lakeside School in Seattle in 1946, attended the University of Washington, and graduated from The School of Law at Syracuse University, receiving a juris doctorate degree in 1952. He was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the Bohemian Club of San Francisco and his beloved Palo Alto Club. Although the Palo Alto Club’s membership has always been limited exclusively to male members, this policy was given a gentle but meaningful flexing when Leo and a handful of other members successfully advocated that women speakers be invited to speak at the club’s popular evening events. Among those invited was Condoleezzia Rice. The new policy regarding female event speakers has continued and flourished.

Leo served as a member of the Boards of Directors of many corporations over the years. He was a founding investor and a member of the Board of Directors of Embarcadero Media of Palo Alto, and University National Bank & Trust Co. of Palo Alto. Leo also served on the Planning Commission of the City of Palo Alto.

He started his legal career in Seattle with the U.S. Justice Department as a U.S. Attorney, prosecuting both criminal and civil matters. Leo subsequently moved to San Francisco to set up a private civil law practice there, and later he moved his practice to Palo Alto. During this period, Leo met his future wife, Jeanne Bailard Ware, of Montecito, California, in 1958.

Leo and Jeanne were married in 1960. Four children followed, along with an impressive collection of springer spaniels, all thoughtfully named by Leo to fit their dispositions, including Warbucks, Gladstone, Saltonstall, and Maggie Thatcher.

Leo and Jeanne’s first date involved an outing to buy ice cream cones, and Warbucks was invited to come along. All three passengers travelled in Leo’s MG sports car, convertible top down.

Leo was the co-founder with John Freidenrich in 1969 of Ware & Freidenrich, a Palo Alto-based law firm which set out to serve technology start-ups and emerging companies and compete with the predominantly San Francisco-based “white-shoe” laws firms that then controlled the majority of this nascent but rapidly growing industry. And compete – both successfully and energetically – Ware & Freidenrich did.

Leo often shared with the firm’s lawyers that his partnership with John Freidenrich was “made on a handshake” and that “not a harsh word was ever exchanged between us” over the decades they practiced law together.

Lawyers who practiced in Palo Alto at Ware & Freidenrich and its successor firms now number in the hundreds, and they have over the years remained extremely grateful to Leo and John, who were known as generous and nurturing leaders. The firm was known for actively promoting the advancement of its lawyers and assigning them large responsibilities early and often. Ware & Freidenrich prospered impressively. It subsequently led and joined a number of law firm combinations which increased its client base and global reach enormously. This consolidation ultimately culminated in DLA Piper LLP, a global law firm which maintains thriving California offices in East Palo Alto, San Francisco, Sacramento and San Diego, and throughout the US and the rest of the world.

In 1965, Leo, along with a close friend and colleague, Jim Danaher, travelled to Jackson, Mississippi, as part of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, authorized by President John F. Kennedy in 1963. Leo recruited lawyers to assist the effort in registering as many Black voters in the state of Mississippi as possible, and working to persuade them that getting and exercising voting rights would be critical to their advancement in America. The experience of visiting the South and seeing the abject poverty of so many citizens, and witnessing firsthand the blatant denial to Blacks of the use of “white-only” designated restrooms, drinking fountains, public schools and eating establishments, had a profound and enduring effect on Leo. The experience informed his lifelong views on the importance of ensuring strict enforcement of the civil rights of all citizens in America, regardless of their race, creed or color.

Leo’s interests beyond the law were broad and many. He was an award-winning grape grower and winemaker, a dedicated rhododendron aficionado, a fancy poultry breeder and a gifted photographer. It was not uncommon to find Leo virtually everywhere with a Leica or Hasselblad camera around his neck. His huge photographic collages of family and friends line the walls of the ‘Ware family home in Palo Alto, and their home at Vanumanutagi Ranch. Similarly large photo collages taken by Leo at many annual Ware & Freidenrich summer parties at Vanumanutagi were ubiquitous throughout the firm’s offices; these provided visitors, lawyers and staff alike with an instantly warm and welcoming feeling.

Leo also raised chickens, pigs, pheasants, peacocks, llamas and exotic birds on Vanumanutagi Ranch, a place which shares a special bond with the Scottish-American author Robert Lewis Stevenson, whose widow, Fanny Stevenson, purchased the property in 1903. Fanny built a home and lived there for many years. The remodeled home still stands to this day. The ranch’s vineyards are named after some of Stevenson’s most successful novels, Kidnapped, Treasure Island, Jekyll and Hyde.

Following his retirement from the active practice of law, Leo continued to further serve the courts and legal system by acting as an arbitrator in several federal civil disputes. These matters included a massive eminent domain damages claims made by several large coastal log-ging companies against the U.S. Government. They also included a complex litigation matter involving private property owners and the US Government concerning a large property located in Guam, as well as a commercial dispute among multiple parties involving the ownership of significant commercial real property holdings in Palo Alto, San Jose and Palm Springs, California.

Leo also performed many weddings at Vanumanutagi Ranch and at his Palo Alto home for friends, colleagues and clients alike. He shared with friends that the marital success rate of weddings at which he officiated was “well over 90%”, a fact which has never been verified, nor has it ever been disputed.

Leo’s success as an attorney and prominent community member was due in large part to his compelling personality. Many people are considered one-of-a-kind, but Ware truly was. Known for his debonair bowties, unique aphorisms, quick wit and affable manner, Leo was a truly magnetic character. He has been described variously by countless friends and colleagues as “a formidable presence in the law”, “a master story-teller of Lincolnesque caliber”, “a brilliant and invigorating conversationalist”, “a collector of a vast trove of jokes both tamely ribald and family-friendly” and “a dear friend to everyone he ever met”. Leo was known in circles both in San Francisco and Palo Alto as a skilled liar’s dice player.

Philanthropic and nonprofit causes which Leo supported include The Lakeside School in Seattle, East Side Prep in East Palo Alto, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), the Yosemite Conservancy and the University of Washington Foundation.

The Ware Family wishes to express its sincere gratitude and love to Leo’s dedicated caregivers, Sela Atu and Kato Tonga, whose unwavering affection, kindness, and humanity to Leo will never be forgotten.

Funeral services are pending.
Marianne Tucker Ault-Riche
July 9, 1947 – January 10, 2022

Marianne Tucker Ault-Riche died peacefully in her sleep on Monday, January 10, 2022 at the age of 74 after a long battle with Q Fever and a life-long heart condition. She is survived by her daughter Gabrielle Ault-Riche and son-in-law Joe Gruber Jr. of Pacifica, CA; her son Jean Marc Ault-Riche, daughter-in-law Alice Ault-Riche, and grand-daughter Scarlett Ryder of Palm Springs, CA; and her sister, Nicole Riche of Ossining, NY.

Marianne was born in New York City 07/09/1947 and raised in a bilingual French and English home in Ossining, NY. She attended school for 12 years at Scarborough Country Day School, followed by NYU, the Sorbonne, Howard University and the University of Maryland where she received an MSW. Following a post-masters year in Psychiatric Social Work at the Menninger Clinic (then in Topeka, KS), she worked at the Clinic for 20 years as a social worker and family therapist.

Early in her career she was sent by Menninger to study Family Therapy from the major pioneers in the field and developed an Integrated Model of Family Therapy with David Rosenthal, PhD, which was taught in Menninger’s School of Psychiatry. In the late 1970’s Marianne developed a course for Washburn University calling “Talking Straight and Fighting Fair with those you Love.” Subsequently she developed with Harriet Lerner, PhD, a workshop of the same name, which contributed to Lerner’s best selling book “The Dance of Anger.” In 1985, Marianne edited the first book on the subject of Women and Family Therapy, which offered a feminist critique of the field. Also during this time she co-produced with Steve Lerner, PhD an educational videotape, “Love and Work: One Woman’s Study of Her Family of Origin.”

During her last years in Topeka, Marianne was the consultant to the Family Preservation Program of the Department of Social Services, an effort to provide intensive in-home services to keep children at imminent risk of removal, safely with their families. She also volunteered at the Carriage House project and provided pro bono consultation to the Battered Women’s Program of the YWCA, where she also moonlighted as an exercise instructor.

Marianne’s passion was teaching Family Therapy, and she taught regularly throughout the Midwest in the 1980’s. Marianne moved to Palo Alto, California in 1994 so that her then husband, Dana Ault-Riche (son of Bob & Marilyn Ault), could pursue a post doctorate degree with Arthur Kornberg, MD at Stanford. Their children attended the French-American School in Palo Alto, where Marianne subsequently provided consultation. In the late 1990’s she taught Family Therapy at the University of California School of Social Work in Berkeley and supervised interns at MRI in Palo Alto.

During her 28 years in California, Marianne had a private practice of Family and Couple Therapy; She developed a reputation for her very direct style and her willingness to work with the most challenging of families. In 2012, she became certified in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) Therapy and was starting to give presentations on how to introduce EMDR into a Family and Couple Therapy practice.

Marianne is remembered as a strong spirit unencumbered by convention, a fierce advocate for social justice and women’s rights, and an incredibly devoted and loving mother and friend. A celebration of life will be organized later this year. If interested, please contact her family at marianne.remembrance@gmail.com.

Marianne donated her body to Stanford University Medical School. Contributions in her honor may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

https://support.splcenter.org/site/Donation2?2022_donation-form1&df_id=2022&mfc_pref=I

Jean Louis Le Gall
April 9, 1924 – January 6, 2022

Beloved husband and father Jean (John) Le Gall, 97, of Palo Alto, California, passed away on January 6, 2022. Jean Le Gall was a self-made man in every sense. Born on a small farm in the village of Ty Moter Vras in Brittany, France, much of his youth was spent under the cloud of WWII. He played a part in the French Resistance and after the war, joined the French army in Indochina, where he spent 3 years as a morse code operator. After completing his military service, with only a third-grade education and fifty dollars to his name, he left his native France for New York City at the age of 29 to embark on a new life.

After finding work, Jean enrolled in English classes and quickly became proficient with his new language. He found work as a server in cafes and later in renown restaurants, where he was recognized for excellence. During this time, he completed his high school equivalency diploma after which he enrolled at the City College of New York. After earning his BS diploma in Solid State Physics, Jean joined Transitron Electronics in Boston. There, he met and married his wife Micheline. He also became a proud US citizen.

Two years later, Jean and Micheline moved to Palo Alto, California, where Jean went to work in the R&D division at Fairchild Semiconductor. He studied in the evenings and received his MS in Solid State Electronics from San Jose State University. Jean served as president of the “Ingenieurs et Scientifiques de France (ISEF)” Bay Area chapter for 25 years; he was recognized by the French government for his leadership and was awarded the “Croix de Chevalier de L’Ordre Nationale du Merite” in 1975.

Jean retired in 1997 from Philips Semiconductors (formerly Signetics) after a career marked with accomplishment and achievement. He and Micheline spent the next many years traveling, entertaining, tending to his garden and enjoying their Palo Alto home. On the back patio, good times prevailed as friends and family shared Jean’s passion for wine, oysters, a rare filet mignon or seared ahi, and Micheline’s wonderful desserts.

Jean is survived by his loving spouse of 59 years, Micheline, and their two children, Carole Le Gall and Annick Le Gall (Adam Ratten). He also leaves behind his much-loved granddaughter Emma Ratten and his beloved sister, Oliva Masse.

A celebration of Jean’s life will be held at a future date (TBD). Please email <jeanlegallmemorial@gmail.com> for additional information or to contact the Le Gall family directly.

Pulse
POLICE CALLS
Palo Alto
Jan. 13-Jan. 19
Violence related
California Avenue, 1/5, 4:47 p.m.; assault w/ deadly weapon.
El Camino Real, 1/14, 4:41 p.m.; simple battery.
Emerson Street, 1/16, 8:18 a.m.; arson.
Thief related
Breaking and entering ..........................2
Fraud ...........................................2
Grand theft ......................................2
Identity theft ....................................3
Public order/burglary .........................2
Pottery theft ....................................3
Shoplifting ......................................2
Vehicle related
Auto theft ......................................1
Driving w/ suspended license .................2
Hit and run .....................................2
Theft from auto .................................1
Vehicle accident/injury .........................2
Vehicle unrelated ....................................

Obituary
A list of local residents who died recently:

Randy Lee Hunter, 69, a lifelong Palo Alto resident and former Hewlett-Packard employee, died on Dec. 14.
George Burton Norall, 89, a Palo Alto resident and educator, died on Dec. 31.
Jean Louis Le Gall, 97, a Palo Alto resident, died on Jan. 6.
To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.
Editor,

Facts matter floor area. And certainly, there’s ground garages, and there is clear or nearby Embarcadero Road school can increase its enroll-

Demand Management plans, the confirmed that, with mitigations from city streets. It further con-

h o o d  b y  r e m o v i n g  p a r k e d  c a r s

confirmed that the garage improves years ago. It is imperative that the misinformation about this project but clearly understandable, that

and the Architectural Review article about Castilleja School’s re-

Gennady Sheyner’s Weekly ar-

2. The city’s comprehensive out a business tax, so where would they go?”

There has been widespread misinformation about this project since its inception more than five years ago. It is imperative that the public — and more importantly, our city decision makers — stick to the facts when considering the school’s proposal.

1. The Environmental Impact Report, certified by the city, confirmed that the garage improves the aesthetics of the neighbor-

hood by removing parked cars from city streets. It further con-

firmed that, with mitigations and extensive Transportation Demand Management plans, the school can increase its enroll-

ment to 540 without negatively impacting the neighborhood or nearby Embarcadero Road traffic.

2. The city’s comprehensive plan strongly encourages underground garages, and there is clear precedent in Congregation Kol Emeth that one can be approved without counting toward gross floor area. And certainly, there’s precedent that it can be approved without a text amendment.

3. The school has modified its plans countless times in response to neighbor and city feedback. To suggest that the school is acting as a “bully” is unconscionable. The school has complied with request after request, but with the constantly moving goalsposts and arbitrary parking limitations, it clearly was left no choice but to seek legal guidance.

Palo Alttans, please understand the facts; they matter.

Lorraine Brown
Walter Hays Drive, Palo Alto

Parking garage alternative Editor,

In his Jan. 14 letter to the Weekly, Robert Eckols, princi-

ple at Fehr & Peers, Castilleja School’s parking consultant, thanked me for discovering a “typographical error” in their July 23 report.

I would like to thank Mr. Eckols for stating “the analysis pro-

vided in Fehr & Peers’ report was focused not on whether a garage was appropriate, but on whether a reduction in the number of parking spaces was appropriate.”

I’m relieved to read this, as I thought Fehr & Peers was recom-

mending Alternative 4 — the Disburbed Circulation/Reduced Garage Alternative. I wonder how many other readers made this same mistake?

Unfortunately, the Draft Envi-

ronmental Impact Report (DEIR) only offered alternatives, which included a garage. The possibility of Castilleja not requiring a garage was never considered in the DEIR, even though “every reasonable” alternative is to be included in a DEIR.

Seems like from the start, it was concluded that Castilleja was going to get a garage; the only question was how large.

Former Planning and Trans-

portation commissioner William Riggins, along with other commis-

sioners, asked staff to provide information on a “no garage al-

ternative” but these requests were never honored.

The Fehr & Peers’ report, Page 3, identifies “89 onsite vehicle parking spots” and on Page 6, identifies “54 spaces located on the three roadway segments on the school frontage.”

This totals 143 parking spots; 39 spots more than the required 104 parking spaces Fehr & Peers identifies as “appropriate for an enrollment of 540 students.” On Page 5, 276 non-frontage spaces are identified, street by street.

On Page 8, Fehr & Peers’ re-

port indicates “the on-site park-

ing areas are approximately 80% occupied, and therefore, on an average day, it is easy to find parking at the school.”

I ask the Planning and Trans-

portation Commission to care-

fully review Fehr & Peers’ July 23 Castilleja Parking Study given Mr. Eckols’ clarification.

Rita Vhel
Channing Avenue, Palo Alto

Support more good schools Editor,

I’d like to thank a commenter from the Weekly’s Jan. 14 story on Castilleja School’s letter to the city for providing historical information on Melville Street. It shows “Palo Alto of old” valued education. Castilleja has placed makeshift signs pre-

serving homeowners’ parking spaces in front of their homes.

This is because some neigh-

bors complained that Castilleja students were parking on the street in front of their homes’ public unrestricted property. To appease these unjustified complaints, Castilleja presented architectural plans for an under-

ground garage. Suddenly, the Dem-

onster Neighborhood Quality of Life Now group was outraged. You can’t have it both ways.

The opposition to Castilleja’s plans have long had attorney representation, speaking at city meetings. It’s about time Cas-

tileja responds in kind. They can’t have it only their way. Ev-

ery revision Castilleja has made has been in direct response to the neighbors’ concerns. Too much money has been put into this from both sides. Castilleja does not have to move. We need more good schools operating at optimum levels. Palo Alto needs to continue to show its support of education. Thank you from a direct neighbor of Castilleja.

Glowie Chang
Bryant Street, Palo Alto

Housing for seniors Editor,

I was interested to see the lat-

est update for the 660 University Ave. project. They reduced the number of units from 73 to 70 and are adjusting the number of so-called “affordable” units. Well, that’s a nice start. This lo-

cation at “Senior Corners” begs for affordable housing for senior citizens — not offices and nu-

m erous unaffordable, narrow coffin units. As a nearby senior, I am not a NIMBY, I just want an attractive building within guidelines on that corner. Af-

fordable units for seniors would be the preference, especially since funding for the creation of new senior housing has been supported by the sale of con-

dominiums at The Hamilton senior-living complex. Since the opening of our building, 2.5% of every unit’s sale price is col-

lected by the city for senior pur-

poses. About $1.67 million has been collected since 2004. (The city has records for 2004-2021.) There is doubtless more money than that since this has been the practice since 1997. That corner shouldn’t support the current proposal. I would love the city council and the community to get behind this idea of an attrac-

tive building within guidelines with one- and two-bedroom units for senior citizens.

Carol Gilbert
Byron Street, Palo Alto

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

What do you think about putting a business tax on the ballot?

In response to ‘New survey boosts Palo Alto’s push for a business tax’

In response to ‘Counties face an explosion’ of COVID cases’

In response to ‘New survey boosts Palo Alto’s push for a business tax’

Posted Jan. 19 at 10:36 a.m. by Judith Wasser-

man, a resident of Leland Manor/Garland Drive: “Please, please, please don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good. You could massacre this forever. Just pass something and collect the money we should have been collecting for years.

And also, don’t listen to the people (usually busi-

ness owners, of course) who say that businesses will leave Palo Alto for other towns. We are the last city in California (or maybe next-to-last) with-

out a business tax, so where would they go?”

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@paweekly.com. Submit guest opinions of 750 to 950 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square. For more information, contact Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lue at lle@paweekly.com or 650-235-6620 or Editor Jocelyn Dong at editor@paweekly.com.
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* Courtesy of The Law Offices of Michael J. Repka

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Rising COVID case numbers spur local arts groups to make alternate plans

By Heather Zimmerman

The holiday season brought a happy rush of returning to in-person performances and other arts events, but as winter wears on, the quick spread of the coronavirus’ omicron variant has postponed or put on hold in-person events scheduled for the first months of 2022. But it’s not the throwback to the grim, empty calendars of spring 2020 that it might initially seem. After nearly two years of navigating the ups and downs of the pandemic, some groups are now adding virtual or expanding virtual options that they already had in place. Many groups are also rescheduling in-person events—postponing them anywhere from a few weeks to a number of months down the road.

Here’s an evolving list of arts postponements and cancellations on the Peninsula. Check back at paloaltoonline.com/arts for updates.

Unless otherwise noted, rescheduled or canceled events are in person.

TheatreWorks
In late December, TheatreWorks announced that it was postponing its production of “Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin.” The show, which was slated to open in mid-January at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (MVCISA), has been moved to summer, planned for Aug. 17 through Sept. 11 and will still be at the MVCISA.

The company’s musical adaptation of Jane Austen’s “Sense and Sensibility,” running March 9 through April 3 at Palo Alto’s Lucie Stern Theatre, is expected to go ahead, with a streaming option also offered. For more information, visit theatreworks.org.

Stanford Live
The performing arts presenter canceled the bulk of its January schedule, including these upcoming dates: “Rite of Spring” by Chinese dance legend and renowned choreographer Yang Liping (Jan. 21-22); New Century Chamber Orchestra’s program “Hope Leads Appalachian Spring” (Jan. 22); Sundays with the St. Lawrence (Jan. 23); and Cliff Cardinal’s solo play “Huff” (Jan. 27-28); songwriter Anais Mitchell featuring Bonny Light Horseman (Jan. 30).

Beyond January, Stanford Live Communications Manager Katie Haemmerle confirmed that at this time, most other upcoming shows are still slated to go forward, except for these cancellations:

- Omer Quartet (Feb. 13); Russian National Orchestra (Feb. 20);
- Basel Chamber Orchestra (March 6); Abdullah Ibrahim (April 27);
- “And So We Walked: An Artist’s Journey Along the Trail of Tears” (May 20-22). January shows still going ahead (as of Jan. 18) are:
  - Inna Eilam and Fuel present: An Evening with an Immigrant (Jan. 29-30), in person at Bing Studio and a related discussion, “Un-othering Through Artistic Exchange: A Dialogue between Inna Eilam and Professor Ato Quayson,” that will take place via Zoom Jan 28. Jenny Scheinman’s “Kannapolis: A Mowing Portrait” has been rescheduled from mid-January to June 1.

For more information, visit stanford.edu/calendar.

Los Altos Stage Company
In early January, the company announced that it rescheduled its production of Lisa Loomer’s “Roe,” about the landmark case that legalized abortion in the United States, from mid-February into March, with the new run taking place March 3 through 13.

There will be a streaming option for the shows taking place on March 4-6 and 11-13. For more information, visit losaltostage.org/roe.

Palo Alto Players
Last week, the company announced that its production of “Men on Boats,” planned for mid-January, was rescheduled to run Feb. 4 through 20 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, with streaming on demand offered Feb. 17-20. Jaclyn Backhaus’ “Men on Boats” offers a modern take on a 19th-century expedition of the American West’s waterways led by Civil War veteran John Wesley Powell.

For more information, visit palaplayers.org.

Music@Menlo
The chamber music nonprofit rescheduled its benefit concert and reception, originally planned for early February, to March 13. The concert features a program of works by Shostakovich, Beethoven and Amy Beach performed by Chelsea Wang, piano; Audrey Chen, cello; James Thompson and Angela Wei, violin, and Lisa Sung, viola. Also coming up: “A Spanish Journey: Behind the Music;” a two-day mini-artist residency exploring Spanish music slated for April 8-9. The group’s flagship summer festival is scheduled for July 14 through Aug. 6.

For more information, visit musicatmenlo.org.

Oshman Family JCC
Designer Isaac Mizrahi, who was scheduled to bring his musical cabaret show “Moderate to Severe,” to the Palo Alto Oshman Family JCC in mid-January has postponed his appearance. A new date has not been announced yet.

For more information, visit paloaltojcc.org.

Palo Alto Altart Center
The art center’s winter exhibition, “Creative Attention: Art and Community Restoration” is still taking place in person and will open as scheduled on Jan. 22. But the Jan. 28 opening reception for the show has moved online.

A March 4 conversation featuring artists from the show will take place online as planned.

For more information, visit cityofpaloalto.org.

West Bay Opera
This week, the opera company announced that it has bumped its winter 2022 production of Verdi’s “La Traviata” to the fall, with the new dates of Oct. 21-30. Its production of Tchaikovsky’s “Pique Dame” is expected to open as planned on May 20. The company is based at Palo Alto’s Lucie Stern Theatre.

For more information, visit wbopera.org.

Email Arts & Entertainment
Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@paweekly.com.

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Email Arts & Entertainment
Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@paweekly.com.
By Sara Hayden

Good as gold: Aurum chef Manish Tyagi chats beating critics’ bad reviews and Bobby Flay

Try chipotle paneer kebab, potato spiral chaat, mushroom pot pie and more in Los Altos

Y ou might know Manish Tyagi for his culinary creations throughout the Bay Area and beyond, including at Aurum in Los Altos, August Five in San Francisco and the Amber India restaurants. You may also recognize him from television — he beat chef and TV personality Bobby Flay on the Food Network reality program “Beat Bobby Flay.”

In the coming months, you’ll also catch his work in collaboration with teams at other restaurants: Aurum, which Tyagi joined in December 2020, will be collaborating with Pausa in San Mateo on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, bringing together Indian and Italian cuisine.

More collaborations will follow, including with Afro-Latino eatery and cocktail lounge Sobre Mesa and Israeli restaurant Pomella, both in Oakland. In all these collaborations, there’s a passion for exploring different cuisines and mixing tradition with new twists.

“Why we’re doing this and what the beauty is about ... when people come together to design the dishes and the places and get exposed to that, they get a new idea,” Tyagi said.

“We are looking to find some similar points and join them together to make something new.”

Working in the hospitality industry was meant to be, Tyagi said. When Tyagi was a child, his father worked in government and his mother ran a small hotel management entrance.

“My mother used to end up cooking alone for them. When we were growing up, we started helping. My brother and I did the odd jobs of serving the guests,” Tyagi recalled. “That’s how this cooking started.”

Tyagi kept with it. More so than the theoretical, Tyagi enjoyed the practical applications of math and physics in the kitchen.

“When I was doing my college, I was not very sure about what I was going to do. I wasn’t a brilliant student — said Tyagi, who studied for a bachelor of science degree. “Given all the entrance examinations for professional studies, the hotel management entrance exam came my way. It was in my destiny, so I completed that.”

After graduating, Tyagi worked with numerous luxury hospitality establishments and went on to join the Taj Hotels and Resorts, where he became a regional and executive chef.

“Then, at the age of 30, Tyagi was presented with an opportunity to move to the United States as a chef de cuisine. The move to be part of a global opening team was a jump from his work as a regional chef.

“I always had this in mind — how the industry works in the U.S.,” Tyagi said. “It was kind of a challenge to open a fine-dining restaurant in a world you hadn’t been to.”

It was a high-pressure start. Tyagi made his U.S. debut at the high-profile Rasaiku West End restaurant in Washington, D.C., before joining Amber India restaurants in the Bay Area, initially at Amber India in San Francisco. Former San Francisco Chronicle restaurant critic Michael Bauer had previously issued the restaurant a one-star rating, indicating that Bauer thought the restaurant was “fair.” One star was better than no stars, Bauer’s rating for “po” — but far from what Tyagi was satisfied with when he arrived.

“When a person like Michael Bauer from the San Francisco Chronicle (writes a review), it can make your career. If they write badly about you, it can break your career,” Tyagi said. “All these things matter a lot when you open a business. Somebody puts (out) a review of you and judges you on your skills and your offerings and quality, (and) people actually follow him.”

Tyagi set out to turn negative perceptions around.

“You have to do an amazing job in terms of cuisine, standards, techniques, service. It should show that you really care for it — it’s not just a business for you. It’s a passion for you that drives you every day to give your best, and bring out your cuisine,” Tyagi said. “That’s the whole driving force to me.”

A few years later, Tyagi joined August Five. In a review of that restaurant, Bauer gave an overall rating of three and a half stars — between Bauer’s assessments of “excellent” and “extraordinary.”

About Tyagi, Bauer wrote, “It wasn’t until he stepped into the August 1 Five kitchen that his immense talent and creative energy emerged, blending influences of his native and adopted lands. The menu looks very different from what you’ll find at most places, and any familiar classics have been artfully re-imagined.”

“That relationship, our understanding of my food with Bauer, actually helped me kind of get to this level where I am today,” Tyagi said.

After that, Tyagi appeared on “Beat Bobby Flay” in Season 16’s “Eye of the Tiger” episode. Now, Tyagi is the chef and chief operating officer at Aurum, the name of which takes inspiration from “gold” in Latin. The restaurant made current San Francisco Chronicle’s Best Bets list of top South Asian restaurants.

And in the fall of 2021, the most recent Michelin Guide included Tyagi. “That was a huge moment,” Tyagi said that carries weight.

“People give value to that,” Tyagi said. “They start appreciating more things, whereas before, nobody knows where you are or what you’re doing. That makes a difference.”

But it’s not only prominent publications that Tyagi is cognizant of. Customers also hold power.

“In today’s world, you see how much influence people have through Yelp or OpenTable or Google,” Tyagi said. “Whenever someone goes to try a new place, first thing they do is go to reviews from other customers.”

Interacting with different audiences, Tyagi has a point to make: “We’re trying to change the mindset of people that Indian food is greasy, that it’s sauce-drenched.”

“You’ll see that throughout the menu, including with dishes like the Barley-Kachumber salad with hung curd, cucumber, grape toma,to, radish and dill, and the La La Lamb Tandoori — lamb Chop with cashews, roasted carrot puree, beet gel and roasted Romanesco. There are desserts too. Save room for ghevar cardamom-dusted cream and cake, or a tipple from the beverage menu like the low-proof Pomelo Paani with Lillet Blanc, orange vermouth and chat masala tincture.”

Tyagi said he’s “an ambassador of Indian cuisine,” working not only as a chef, but also as a storyteller as he develops and writes menus.

“I take this opportunity with all my abilities and knowledge to bring the right representation and knowledge to my guests here,” Tyagi said.

That’s no small task, given that India includes more than a billion people, dozens of states, hundreds of cultures and countless culinary traditions. Tyagi started to learn as he worked across the different states, and has continued since.

“If you go to the Himalayas, the cuisine is different, their food habits are different than the guy who’s living in the coastal area ... They have similarities but also differences in their own styles. The use of coconut, the use of mustard, the use of chiles and peppers, it’s so interesting,” Tyagi said. 
“I can’t tell you in words, but when you see the representation through your eyes (of) the versatility — the same ingredients, but the differences in the techniques they use — it’s so mesmerizing.

“When you learn different techniques, you get influenced, and you kind of create your own styles after that,” Tyagi said.

These influences and variations present endless culinary possibilities.

“One idea is to make my country’s cuisine appreciated by people, giving them the right knowledge about different cuisines. India itself is a very multilingual, multicultural country. There’s a lot more to offer that’s not even reached to the table yet,” he said.

“On the table now: I’m Not Pasta-Spinach & Paner Lasagne. This is Tyagi’s iteration of the iconic dish that gained renown on the Food Network reality show “Beat Bobby Flay.” Leading up to Tyagi’s big moment facing off against Flay, Tyagi imagined something out of the box, and reimagined the dish.

“I have to make things different,” Tyagi remembers thinking. “If I’m going to make it this way, it’s going to catch the eyes of the people.”

On set, there was absolute focus as Flay and Tyagi went toe-to-toe, each with their own take on palak paneer.

“I see some tension on Bobby’s face,” Tyagi said in the heat of competition.

“Don’t worry about my face. Look in your sauté pan over there,” Flay responded.

“Thanks for the hint, Bobby,” Tyagi quipped.

In the end, Tyagi successfully made his own winning creation, a dish of spinach with cumin, coriander and turmeric. He layered it with paneer slices, taking inspiration from lasagne, and topped it all with a bit of cheddar cheese. Tyagi served the dish with a tomato-cashew sauce made with onions, cumin seeds, turmeric and garlic, as well as a cashew on the side.

“It’s a playful dish,” Tyagi said.

You can get a variation of the dish at Aurum, where Tyagi uses brown garlic, fenugreek leaves and mozzarella.

On the table coming up: Inaloin-dianmius. This is one course out of five as part of a special menu in a collaboration between Aurum and Pausa.

Tyagi and Pausa chef and owner Andrea Giuliani decided against independently developing dishes and alternating them throughout their prix-fixe menu. Instead, they decided to combine their skills and styles throughout.

“I was excited, because I love the diversity between the two countries and the two cuisines, but there’s a lot of ingredients and techniques that we share,” Giuliani says. “The base, the technique, the seasonality and the freshness, it (all) comes together, that’s for sure.”

Talking inspiration from...
Manresa Bread is expanding into Palo Alto’s Town & Country Village this spring. This marks the fourth location for the institution founded by head baker Avery Ruzicka.

At the new shop, the team plans to expand their repertoire and premiere new products. The menu is still being developed, and will feature Ruzicka’s naturally fermented sourdough bread made with house-milled flour, almond croissants and monkey bread. Customers will also be able to grab a bite at the cafe with items like bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches, breakfast bowls, quiche and coffee. Retail items like granola and bake-at-home mixes also will be available.

And thanks to a design with an open kitchen, guests will be able to see the team showcase their pastry talents in the 1,700-square-foot space. This connection between customers and the people crafting their food is key, Ruzicka said. “You can walk into a space where things are being created and a kitchen where people are at work...My team takes great pride in a foot space. This connection between customers and the people crafting their food is key,” Ruzicka said.

“Especially after a tough pandemic, it’s been really fun to see people get so excited,” Ruzicka said. "Especially after a tough pandemic, it’s been really fun to see people get so excited," Ruzicka said.

You can tell the passion we both have for our food," Giuliani says.

The special menu will be available on Jan. 27 at Aurum in Los Altos, and on Feb. 3 at Pausa in San Mateo. Make reservations in advance for the event at Aurum on Resy, or at Pausa on OpenTable (be sure to add a note that says the reservation is for the ‘collaboration dinner’). Aurum: aurumca.com; 132 State St., Los Altos; 650-383-5221. Pausa: pausasanmateo.com; 223 E. 4th Ave., San Mateo; 650-375-0818.
How a fictional plague helped Sequoia Nagamatsu overcome grief

‘How High We Go In The Dark’ explores human resilience in a dystopian world

By Michael Berry

HOW HIGH WE GO IN THE DARK

Sequoia Nagamatsu wrote a futuristic novel about a catastrophic pandemic before COVID-19 was on anyone’s radar. It was published this week.

How High We Go In The Dark” by Sequoia Nagamatsu is a futuristic novel about a catastrophic pandemic that eerily mirrors current times. The first-time author, however, penned his story, which was released this week, before COVID-19 was on anyone’s radar.

After the death of his grandfather, Nagamatsu said he flew to Japan to grieve and explore his Japanese heritage. It was there, about a decade ago, that he started writing the collection of individual stories that all tie together in “How High.”

Nagamatsu’s novel starts with the uncovering of a pathogen in the melting Arctic permafrost, but the emphasis of “How High” isn’t the possibility of hope. Writing the collection of individual stories that all tie together in “How High.”

Nagamastu’s novel is a stylish dystopian world that all tie together in the future. Nagamatsu, who now lives in Minneapolis, spent most of his early life in Hawaii and Northern California. Nagamatsu said he was struck by the “writing bug” in high school while taking creative writing classes at Pinewood in Los Altos Hills.

“I really loved English, I was always very bookish and the education at Pinewood encouraged that in me to a large degree,” he said.

After his sojourn in Japan, where he taught English for a couple of years, Nagamatsu returned to the U.S. and enrolled in Southern Illinois University for creative writing graduate school before accepting a visiting professorship at College of Idaho. He now teaches at St. Olaf’s in Minnesota. He published his first short-story collection, “Where We Go When All There Is Gone,” which contains a dozen stories inspired by Japanese folklore and pop culture. They feature Godzilla, ghosts and shapeshifters and act as tantalizing warmups for “How High We Go in the Dark.”

Up next for Nagamatsu is another novel, “Girl Zero.” The book is about how a family that has lost a daughter attempts to replace her with a shape-shifter that is able to take her form. Nagamatsu expects the book to be published in 2024.

Contributing writer Michael Berry can be emailed at mikeberry@mindspring.com.

Sequoia Nagamatsu’s “How High We Go In The Dark” was written following the death of his grandfather.
997 All Other Legals
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GLOW SKIN CLINIC
529 Drisco Place
Palo Alto, CA 94306
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Glow Skin Clinic, located at 529 Drisco Place, Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: An Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s): A Limited Liability Company. The business name used by the registrant(s) is: Glow Skin Clinic.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. FBIN681451
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/30/2022. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 26, 2022.

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STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. FBIN681451
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/30/2022. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 26, 2022.

997 All Other Legals
T.S. No. 092894-CA, APN 137-14-07 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER or your county recorder. This sale was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 6, 2022.
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-Karin H.

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Across
1 Rootless aquatic plant
5 “Don't make me laugh!”
8 Steve Irwin exclamation
14 Mario Kart character
15 Modern prefix with tourism
16 Emu or ostrich, e.g.
17 “The $64,000 Question” emcee born one month too late?
19 “The Audacity of Hope” family
20 Have ___ of mystery
21 Hana-Barbera feline
23 Ready to leave the queue
25 One of many during 2021 for “Jeopardy!”
26 Mike the Tiger’s sch.
29 Like some ciders
30 “Green Acres” costar Eva
32 Godparent, sometimes
33 “Fences” playwright born four months too soon?
36 Tennis variation
39 2018 Hannah Gadsby stand-up special with quite a few serious moments
40 “Mad Men” actress born in exactly the right month?
42 Take ___ (lose money)
43 Purchasing agent
44 Oxyx or opal
47 College maj. for instrumentalists
48 Tabletop gamer, stereotypically
50 Unlikely to fall over
52 Girl with a flock
54 “___ Rock ´n´ Roll” (Joan Jett & the Blackhearts song)
55 Leo’s home?
58 Queen guitarist/astrophysicist born two months too late?
60 Mission to the moon
61 French dressing ingredient no longer regulated by the FDA
62 Frigid finish
63 Most bleached out
64 T-shirt size that may cost slightly more

Down
1 Convenient
2 Ride while you wait for repairs
3 Andromeda, for one
4 Fess up
5 “I’m with ___.” (2016 campaign slogan)
6 Bank holding, briefly
7 Sounds from mall Santas
8 Foley footwear
9 Morocco’s capital
10 “Let’s just leave ___ that”
11 Family that runs the “Convenience” store in a Canadian sitcom
12 Greek vowel
13 “That’s pretty much it”
18 Rocket, in the U.S.
22 Surname of Roth’s complainer
24 Alerter of the 2000s
26 Deadly sin
27 Little twerp
28 “Reader” whose last print edition was in 2019
31 Industrious sort
32 Taproom orders
33 Push up against
34 Decreases
35 Newtonian topic
36 Late performer who once dated Nicole Richie and Mandy Moore
37 “Hawaii Five-O” setting
38 Les Etats-___
41 Bar fixture
44 Wallace’s dog
45 Composer Grieg
46 “Aaagh! That’s way too bright!”
48 Count for MLS or NHL games
49 Disney World attraction
51 Arm bones
52 Liver secretion
53 Grand ___ (auto race)
55 Anti-mosquito device sound
56 ___-Locka, Florida
57 U.S. currency
59 Not feeling so good

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Answers on page 19.
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