Top officials get some job security
Page 3

New words, New worlds
Announcing the winners of the Palo Alto Weekly’s 20th Annual Short Story Contest Page 12

- Upfront Disputed house receives council approval Page 3
- Title Pages Books for under the Christmas tree Section 2
- Sports Paly football revenge will have to wait Page 26
ATHERTON

Dramatic contemporary 5bd/4.5ba home designed with unique architectural flair. Distinctive, private gated estate on 1+- fully landscaped acre. Spectacular Great Room. Large pool and Watsu spa.

$5,495,000

PALO ALTO

Outstanding Community Center location. Recently completed French inspired country home on large 13,500+- lot near Walter Hays Elementary & Lucie Stern. Spacious floor plan features 4bd/4ba plus den.

$3,450,000

LOS ALTOS

Stunning new 6bd/5ba Spanish style home of 3729+-sf of living space. Old World craftsmanship beautifully blended with top of the line modern amenities. Gorgeous Great room with gourmet kitchen.

$3,245,000
Neighbors’ protest of Santa Rita Avenue remodel denied 7-2
by Bill D’Agostino

It’s the house that launched 1,000 letters.
Well, not quite. But more than 600 people mailed letters, signed petitions and sent e-mails weighing in, on both sides, on a Palo Alto family’s proposed remodel of its Santa Rita Avenue home.

On Monday night, the City Council voted 7-2 not to hold a public hearing on the remodel, effectively approving the family’s application. Council members Jack Morton and Hillary Freeman voted no.

Applicants Lynn Brown and Robert Stefanski accepted congratulatory hugs and handshakes from friends and foes after the vote. The couple told the council they were surprised and distressed to watch their proposal — to raise their roof and put a playroom in their attic — become the center of a public, political debate.

“It has been a difficult process, to say the least,” Stefanski said. Attorney Richard Alexander — who’s led campaigns against council members and “bloated” city spending in the past — and his wife, Nancy Alexander, led the push to have the city reject their next-door neighbors’ project. The Alexanders leafleted the neighborhood with fliers warning the project would set a precedent, allowing more three-story homes and overwhelming Palo Alto’s two-story neighborhoods.

“Our block today. Your block tomorrow,” they noted.

Although the council approved Brown and Stefanski’s project on Monday, later in the evening it asked for a review of the guidelines used to approve such projects.

(continued on page 7)

CAPTURING THE BEAUTY IN THE BEAST
Consultant-by-day wins research trip to Uganda by photographing his scaly pets
by Saqib Rahim

Michael Kern’s South Palo Alto home is filled to maximum capacity. Not with children, though he has two. Not with lights, props, or gadgets, though he is an amateur photographer.

It’s filled with reptiles: lizards, snakes, and turtles. Kern keeps more than 40 pets — mostly reptiles, but including the occasional dog or amphibian — in a house that has vivariums and cages at every turn. That means he and his family have a lot more pet maintenance than most, Kern admits, but he doesn’t think much of it.

“Like any hobby, it’s a passion — it’s not really work,” he said. But this weekend warrior, who often photographs his animals on a table in the garage, is about to meet a whole new world of fauna.

Earlier this year, Kern won a herpetological — that is, reptile- and amphibian-related — photography contest. The grand prize? Joining a 16-day research expedition to Uganda as the group’s official cameraman.

Kern embarked on the trip Monday.

The East African nation is known for its tremendous diversity of wildlife, considered one of the most varied in the world. The expedition will traverse Uganda’s forests, mountains and rivers in search of new species.

“Uganda’s the apex — as good as it gets,” Kern said.

The opportunity is a surprising development for a man who grew up with photography but hadn’t found a passion for it. As a young boy in New Orleans, Kern said, he received many a lesson from his father, who was a photographer. But the younger Kern wasn’t very excited by the highly technical, pedantic approach. He was interested in something else entirely: animals.

When he was about 10, Kern met a kid who had snakes of his own — and even little alligators, he said. A classic photo from those days captured him with a snake cradled around his neck.

But with adolescence, came the distractions of girls and growing up, Kern said. He forgot about animals for a while, taking up other hobbies such as music.

In adulthood, he spent some time working in Japan, Southeast Asia, and South America, eventually settling down in the Bay Area with a family and a steady consulting job.

Things changed when Kern and his family visited his father in New Orleans three years ago. Josh, Kern’s elder son, was about 10 at the time. When he saw the photo of his young dad entangled with a snake, he demanded to know when he would be allowed to do the same.

For Kern, who had been looking for a kid who had snakes of his own — and even little alligators, he said. A classic photo from those days captured him with a snake cradled around his neck.

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Stanford's labor pains

A
dozens or so union leaders and elected officials (none from Palo Alto) stood next to a big purple RV last Thursday afternoon near the main entrance to Stanford Hospital. The bus belongs to the Service Employees International Union. They were gathered to announce that SEIU’s workers at Stanford and Lucile Packard Children’s hospitals would go on strike at 5 am Dec. 12. They b handed under the bus’ fold-
out awning, trying to stay dry. Light-
nining flashed, thunder crashed and rain poured down on journalists. The SEIU has separate labor con-
tracts with the university and the hospi-
tals, which are separate legal cor-
porations. The union represents 1,400 hospital workers and 1,300 university workers. These are the blue-collar workers who keep things running, such as food and service workers, in-
cluding 300 nursing assistants at the hospitals.

The hospital workers voted Nov. 22 to authorize SEIU leaders to call a strike, which they announced at the rain-drenched press conference. They are required to give 10 days notice.

In a separate action, SEIU’s uni-
versity workers voted last week to authorize a strike. That could happen any time because university employ-
es isn’t need to give notice.

SEIU’s disputes with the universi-
ty and the hospitals have different his-
tories, but may be dovetailing.

SEIU’s labor agreement with the hospitals expired Nov. 4. It was ex-
tended to Nov. 13 for additional ne-
gotiations, but has now lapsed. The union is asking for 29 percent pay raises, and, at Packard, 40 neonatal in-
tensive care beds for premature-born ba-
bies. Packard is a regional hospital, as is Stanford for heart and transplant patients.

Both hospitals have been running check-full of patients. Unless a federal mediator heads off the Dec. 12 strike — federal media-
tors are automatically assigned when notice of a strike is given — the hospi-
tals could have difficulty in func-
tioning.

A contingency plan for a strike is in
place, hospital spokeswoman Sarah Staley said, but declined to specify how the hospitals would get by with-out 1,400 workers. A separate union representing nurses at the hospitals held a 50-day strike the summer of 2000. The hospitals weathered that strike by bringing in contract nurses from around the country. That kept things running, but the 50-days’ strike cost the two hospitals $30 million for the contract nurses.

Replacing the SEIU workers dur-
ing a strike might not be as easy. While the two labor disputes are separate, the hospital and university workers are supporting each other. About 200 hospital workers held a lively rally at Stanford Hospital Nov. 2. They wore purple SEIU T-shirts, carried placards and chanted as they marched toward the hospital and then to Palm Drive, to the foot of the Oval.

In the distance, another 200 uni-
versity workers also wore purple SEIU T-shirts, carried placards and chanted as they marched toward the hospital workers. It may have been a sign of things to come. • Senior Staff Writer Don Kazak can be e-mailed at dkazak@paweek-
ly.com.
Upfront

My job has added benefits — working to make the residents happy and satisfied makes me happy and satisfied. You can’t just step in and pose these animals,” he said.

The ultimate goal, he said, is “bringing out the beauty in the beast”; showing that these animals — including snakes, which terrify many people — have another face that is neither slimy nor hostile.

Reptile enthusiasts seemed to appreciate that quality in Kern’s contest-winning rainbow-boa photo, which catches the snake easing over a chunk of gnarled wood, its curves glowing blue-green.

“It shows the essence of that snake,” he said of his photo, which was voted first place by a five-judge panel and an Internet poll.

Kern concedes the expedition will be far from a milk run. He will be camping out on truly wild terrain, and he’ll be keeping company with hardened professionals.

Nevertheless, for a man who confesses that he enjoys cleaning out cages on Saturdays, enthusiasm might be enough. Asked to explain how a chameleon works, he pauses then motions that he’s going to fetch a photo.

“A picture’s worth a thousand words,” he said.

Editorial Intern Sagib Rahim can be reached at srahim@paweekly.com.

Expedition

(continued from page 3)

for a fun family activity, snakes made sense. “I wanted to have something that the family could do together,” he said.

So when Josh’s next birthday came, he got his wish: an albino corn snake. Then little brother Alex got a variable king snake. Several months later, Kern joined the fun, buying a boa. The interest snowballed as the family brought more and more creatures to their two-story home, and they nicknamed their house “The Kern Family Zoo.”

Soon, Kern found himself casually photographing his home’s various residents with a point-and-shoot Olympus camera. Gradually, Kern said, he became interested in capturing them more vividly, and his father’s old training came back. From there, Kern’s affair with photography has only intensified.

“When I get into something, I take it to the max,” he said. “I take my photography seriously now.”

Sometimes that means sitting in the garage for an hour and shooting as many as 200 photos of his reptilian subject. Typically, he will set up the animal in his garage “studio” and patiently wait for something to happen, only occasionally offering some food or other stimulus.

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WANT TO MAKE THE RIGHT HEALTHY CHOICES?
BUSY SCHEDULES AND THE HOLIDAYS CAN MAKE THIS EVEN MORE CHALLENGING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

Start the new year off right by joining the Packard Pediatric Weight Control Program. This six-month program helps overweight children ages 8 to 15 and their families develop lifelong healthy habits. 80 percent of children have significant success. Parents lose weight too.

Now's the time to make this lifetime investment. Financial aid is available. Visit www.pediatricweightcontrol.lpch.org for more information.

GROUPS FORMING NOW. CALL (650) 725-4424 TO RESERVE A SPACE.

For detailed (donation Wish List), please visit: www.paloaltochamber.com or call 650-324-3121

• Wednesday, December 7, 2005 • Palo Alto Weekly

GROUPS FORMING NOW. CALL (650) 725-4424 TO RESERVE A SPACE.

February 22nd
Topic: Palo Alto: What’s New for the
BUSINESS MIXER, 5:30 – 7 pm
At The CARDINAL HOTEL, 235 Hamilton Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE
For Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital (Toys must be new and unwrapped)
For detailed (donation Wish List), please visit: www.paloaltochamber.com or call 650-324-3121
Coordinated By Rossiter Relocation Services

January 13th
TALL TREE Nomination Deadline

January 25th
BUSINESS MIXER, 5:30 –7 pm
Scott’s of Palo Alto, #1 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto, CA 94301

February 3rd
PACE BREAKFAST
At the Westin Palo Alto Hotel
Speaker: New Mayor – Judy Kleinberg
Topic: Palo Alto: What's New for the
Coming Year

February 22nd – BUSINESS MIXER

January 14th
When: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
At The CARDINAL HOTEL, 235 Hamilton Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

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2006 UPCOMING EVENTS

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February 22nd – BUSINESS MIXER

March 3rd
PACE BREAKFAST
At The Westin Palo Alto Hotel
Sponsored by
Borel Private Bank and Trust Co.,
Stanford Shopping Center
March 4th – HEALTH EXPO
March 22nd – BUSINESS MIXER

April 5th
TALL TREE Awards Dinner
April 26th
BUSINESS MIXER

Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce
Upcoming Events

December Business Mixer
December 14, 2005
When: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
At The CARDINAL HOTEL, 235 Hamilton Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

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April 5th
TALL TREE Awards Dinner
April 26th
BUSINESS MIXER

This is lousy public policy.
— Palo Alto resident Bob Moss,
protesting a new provision
that will prevent the city manager, city attor-
ney, city clerk and city auditor from being firing
without cause for 90 days after any new council members
take office. The council approved the provision 8-1 Mon-
day night. See story, page 3.

PARADE OF BOOKS . . . . There’s
an obvious downside to the up-
coming renovation of the historic
Palo Alto Children’s Library: For
two years, beginning Dec. 18, the
library will be closed for construc-
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Council (continued from page 3)

Homeowners “are going to continue to push the envelope,” Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto said, explaining the request.

The Santa Rita Avenue remodel will actually shrink the home, according to the applicant’s architect. The city’s planning director found the remodel had matched the city’s guidelines, conforming to the style of the neighborhood’s other homes. Most of the 30 people who spoke to the council on Monday agreed the home would be an asset to the neighborhood. They held up signs with a pencil drawing of the remodeled home and the words: “NO MORE HEARINGS.”

Although the council’s rules prohibited its members from explaining why they turned down the Alexanders’ appeal of the director’s ruling, some members’ body language spoke volumes. As Morton made a motion asking to hear the Alexanders’ appeal at a future meeting, Councilwoman Dena Mossar placed her head on the desk in front of her in disgust.

It was one of the city’s most contentious single-family projects. In 2003, Jamie and Elizabeth Wong’s application to expand their Webster Street home pitted neighbors against neighbor and stimulated a citywide debate over the city’s regulation of single-family homes.

Also on Monday, the council unanimously approved another proposed single-family remodel on Hamilton Avenue that had also been appealed to the council.

Supporters of the Santa Rita remodel held the above placards at Monday’s City Council meeting.

Officials (continued from page 3)

...some candidates argued the council had granted Benest too much power in making policy.

“That may have been a factor” for the request, Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto said prior to the meeting. She had been one of those criticizing the council for failing to exert enough oversight of Benest.

However, Kishimoto added: “I don’t think the tone or the kind of comments made were leading to any immediate firing of Frank. I don’t think he would have been in danger of that.”

Most council members said the change would provide a cooling-off period following an election. “I think it’s reasonable,” Mayor Jim Borich said.

Bob Moss, a resident active in city politics, spoke against the new contract provision. He said he worried about the tense environment created if council members win an election after running on a platform of firing a top city employee and then aren’t able to fire that employee immediately.

“This is lousy public policy,” Moss said.

Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto said prior to the meeting. She had been one of those criticizing the council for failing to exert enough oversight of Benest.

Where to give this holiday season

Local charities hoping for help

by Kenneth Seil

While shoppers rush home with their presents this season, the staff at local charities that aid the poor are hoping some gift-givers will extend the generosity to them. The nonprofits are planning to provide hot meals and gifts to those in need this year.

Here are a few ways to give:

The Urban Ministry Food Closet, located at 425 Hamilton Ave. in Palo Alto, is getting set for its Christmas Day meal.

Donations of bottled water, yogurt and cheese, juice boxes, chili in cans, pork and beans, hearty soups, stuffing and all the fixings are needed. The Christmas meal is potluck, so donations are welcome up until the meal.

Volunteers are welcome to help organize and serve dinner.

Gift cards of $15-20 to local grocery and drug stores, along with items such as new socks, underwear, sleeping bags, toiletries, knitted hats, gloves and sweatshirts are also needed.

In East Palo Alto, Mother Onedia Branch continues her 50-year mission of helping residents.

She needs all kinds of meat, including turkeys, fruits, vegetables, rice, cornmeal and beans, as well as checks made out to the EPA Community Service Center so she can purchase Safeway and Albertson gift certificates. The center is at 2564 Farrington Way, East Palo Alto. St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room at 3500 Mulholland Road in Menlo Park needs donations of frozen food along with turkeys and hams. Local churches will be decorating the dining room for the holidays. Organizer Max Torres said the dining room is also looking for more permanent volunteers who are willing to make a commitment of coming one day a week throughout the year.

“Our main focus is on feeding the people; providing a hot nutritious meal Monday through Saturday at our facility,” Torres said. He can be contacted at maxtortor@covad.net. The dining room phone number is (650) 365-9665.

The Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos is offering its annual Holiday Sharing Program.

“Basicallly our goal is to provide every child with a toy, stocking stuffer and new pajamas,” Alison Hopkins, director of volunteers, said.

They are looking for volunteers to work morning and afternoon shifts from Monday through Friday. They also have a Dec. 15 deadline for the donation of toys for children ages newborn to 18 years, and a Dec. 22 deadline for food donations.

Contact Hopkins to volunteer or make donations at (650) 964-8603 and at ahopkins@csacares.org.
Rehab of Palo Alto’s first black church gets OK

A proposed rehabilitation of two of Palo Alto’s historic buildings — the city’s first African-American church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and a 1931 laundromat, the French Laundry — was given the OK from the city’s Architectural Review Board and Historic Resources Board last Thursday morning.

“We thought in the end that the applicant had done a pretty good job of respecting the historic buildings,” said Judith Wasserman, the chair of the Architectural Review Board.

The large, three-story project, from Menlo Equities, will also construct 35,542 square feet of office and retail, nearly 9,000 square feet of underground parking and four residential units at the site, 260 Homer Avenue.

The city’s planning director was expected to give the final approval for the project this week, subject to a few minor modifications the two boards requested. The director’s approval will be subject to any appeals, although none are expected.

“Now it’s the second time the city approved a project from Menlo Equities for the site. In 2001, the developer applied for and received permits for a similar project, but it let the permit expire.”

Bill D’Agostino

Crash victim remains on life support

A 37-year-old woman severely injured in an East Palo Alto auto crash a week ago remains on life support, Police Sgt. Alma Zamora said Monday morning. The single-car crash at 2 a.m. Nov. 26 killed Larry Glenn Young, 57, of East Palo Alto when he was thrown from the car.

The car’s driver, Silvia Romero, 39, of East Palo Alto, pleaded not guilty last Tuesday to multiple charges, including gross vehicular manslaughter.

The police car spun out of control and hit a telephone poll in the 1400 block of East Bayshore Road.

Don Kazak

Murder charges still pending against Menlo Park man

A Menlo Park man suspected of killing his wife 14 years ago will have to wait at least two more weeks to find out whether his attorney’s motion to have the charges against him thrown out is granted.


In Judge Craig Parsons’ courtroom, Morrow’s defense attorney, Bob Courshon, said there was a substantial delay and prejudice throughout the case that should prompt its dismissal as a result of due process denial.

“We’re talking about the definition of the right to a speedy trial,” Courshon said. “There was no legitimate reason for the delay.”

In 1997, a $10 million arrest warrant was issued for Morrow, although Donna Morrow’s body had not yet been found, according to the prosecution. Morrow wasn’t arrested until January 2003, when he was living in the Philippines, according to the prosecution. Morrow was extradited on the $10 million warrant, which stemmed from a theft charge in Santa Clara County, the prosecution reported.

It wasn’t until September 2003 that Donna Morrow’s body was found in a nine-foot grave on a piece of property in Los Gatos that once belonged to Morrow.

Menlo Park police detectives were reportedly made aware of the grave by San Leandro resident Jose Maldonado, who at one point worked for Morrow at the property.

According to police investigator Randy Billingsley, Maldonado said “Joe had asked him to do a side job for cash,” later stating that he “dug a hole” as part of the job.

Because of the length of time Donna Morrow’s body had been buried, forensic pathologist Paul W. Herrmann said he was unable to identify a cause of death. “The only thing that was preserved in this body were bones,” Herrmann said.

Herrmann said he was unable to say whether Donna Morrow had died as a result of a drug overdose, a bullet or stab wound, or some sort of blunt force trauma to the head. Donna Morrow did have a fractured nasal bone, but Herrmann said there was no way to pinpoint how that injury occurred.

Morrow has maintained his innocence since the day his wife was reported missing, but prosecutors allege Morrow killed her for financial gain.

The trial on the motion for dismissal was continued to Dec. 19 at 9 a.m. for the further examination of witnesses.

Bay City News Service
We Think William Deserves a Medal Before the Race Begins.

A brain tumor hasn’t slowed down 10-year-old William. Because of the world class care he received at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, William is now up on his feet every morning, training with his mom for a half marathon and setting an aggressive pace to help others in need.

Ranked as one of the top ten pediatric hospitals in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford is a world class hospital devoted entirely to the care of children and expectant mothers – right in your backyard.

Read more about William and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at www.lpch.org.
Get 50% Off Energy Efficient Holiday Lights

Save money, lower your electricity bill and enjoy the holiday season with Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights!

City of Palo Alto Utilities is teaming up with your local hardware store this holiday season to help you decorate your home with energy-efficient LED holiday lights, which use significantly less energy than mini-lights or the standard incandescent lights.

A BETTER CHOICE: These efficient LED lights use 0.04 watts per bulb, which is 10 times less energy than mini-lights and 100 times less than standard incandescent bulbs.

LONG LIFE SPAN: LED lights last up to 100,000 hours when used indoors and up to 50,000 hours outdoors.

SAFE: These cool temperature bulbs reduce fire risk. Twenty-five easy to use strings can be connected end-to-end without overloading the average residential circuit.

HOW TO GET YOUR DISCOUNT:

• Complete the form below.
• Bring the completed form with proof of Palo Alto residency to our participating hardware store: Palo Alto Hardware 875 Aima Street
• Buy up to 10 boxes of LED holiday lights available at the store and receive your 50% discount at the register.

To learn more about the Palo Alto Smart Energy Program, contact Utility Marketing Services.

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PULSE

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto

Nov. 23-29

Violence related

Armed robbery .......................... 2
Attempted suicide ........................ 1
Battery .................................. 3
Domestic violence ........................ 4

Theft related

Attempted burglaries ...................... 1
Commercial burglaries .................. 4

Grand theft ................................ 1
Petty theft ..................... 2

Residential burglaries ................... 1
Shoplifting .............................. 1

Vehicle related

Abandoned bicycle ......................... 1
Auto theft ................................ 2
Driving w/suspended license ............ 2
Misc. traffic ................................ 4

Thrift from auto .......................... 4

Vehicle accident/minor injury .......... 3
Vehicle accident/propery damage ..... 9

Vehicle impound ......................... 3

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public .......................... 3
Drunkan driving ........................ 5
Possession of drugs ...................... 3

Miscellaneous

Disturbing the peace ...................... 1
Found property .......................... 3

Lost property ............................ 2
Outside assistance ........................ 3

Parole arrest ............................. 1
Psychiatric hold ......................... 2
Suspicious person ........................ 1

Vandalism ................................ 3

Warrant arrest ........................... 3

Atherton

Nov. 24-30

Violence related

Assault .................................. 1

Theft related

Commercial burglaries .................. 1
Residential burglaries ................... 2

Thrift undefined .......................... 1

Vehicle related

Peaching/driving violation .......... 2
Suspicious vehicle ....................... 6

Vehicle accident/propery damage ..... 1

Vehicle code violation .................. 1

Alcohol or drug related

Drunkin driving ........................ 2

Missellaneous

Animal call ................................ 3
Construction complaint ................. 1

Disturbance .............................. 1

Fire call .................................. 4

Juvenile problem ........................ 5

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto

2000 block Louis Avenue
11/22, 11:16 a.m.; armred robbery.

First block Universe Avenue
11/23, 8:39 p.m.; attempted suicide.

200 block Lytton Avenue
11/24, 1:59 a.m.; battery.

Menlo Park

2000 block Louis Avenue
11/21, 1 a.m.; residential burglary.

3800 block Carlson Circle
11/25, 10:51 p.m.; battery.

500 block El Camino Real
11/26, 11:10 a.m.; armred robbery.

Unlisted location
11/27, 1:58 p.m.; residential burglary.

Menlo Park

11/2, 6:01 a.m.; robbery.

Atherton

11/27, 12:29 a.m.; assault.
**Transitions**

**Births, marriages and deaths**

**Marjorie E. Arnold**

Marjorie Arnold died Nov. 2 at the Channing House in Palo Alto. She was 81. She was born in Honolulu in 1924. She attended Palo Alto High School and Mills College, where she studied fine arts. She was accomplished in oil painting and pastel portraits but concentrated her talents on watercolor or execution. She received awards at many art shows. She was a member of the Society of Western Artists, the Pacific Art League, Menlo Art League, Allied Artists West and Peninsula Outdoor Painters.

Besides being accomplished in the visual arts, she also wrote poetry and performed music all her life. She was actively involved in the shows performed at the Channing House. She is survived by many friends. A private memorial service has already been held.

**Eulogio Estoesta Domondon**

Eulogio Estoesta Domondon died peacefully at his home Nov. 24. He was 98. Born in Agoo, Philippines in 1906, he immigrated to the United States at 25. In his first years in the country, he worked in various settings, including a bakery, a hotel, and a candy factory. He entered the Army in 1942, and he received full American citizenship after three and a half years. He spent the remainder of his career working as a farmhand on the coast near Half Moon Bay. In 1960, he married Remedios Flores, and the couple bought a house in East Palo Alto.

He is survived by Remedios, his wife of 45 years; his children, Oscar Domondon of San Jose, Remie Bonnenger of San Jose, and Lounides Viray of Vallejo; six grandchildren; and his sister, Dr. Lucia Domondon.

Services were held Dec. 1 at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto.

**Kennell A. Jackson**

Kennell A. Jackson, a professor of African history and longtime resident fellow at Stanford University, died Nov. 21 of pulmonary fibrosis at Stanford Hospital. He was 64. He served as Branner Hall’s resident fellow for a quarter century and as director of the African American Studies Program for almost a decade. In 1962 and went on to win fellowships to study at the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of Ghana and Cambridge University, before earning his doctorate from UCLA.


His innovative educational programs had a lasting influence on campus life. He was honored with the Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for Service to Undergraduate Education in 1972. In 1990, he was awarded the Allan V. Cox Medal for excellence in fostering research among university undergraduates.

He leaves behind an ecletic collection of art and books, which will be given to the Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Hampton University and to friends and colleagues.

He is survived by his brother, Otis, of Chesapeake, Va.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be sent to Doctors Without Borders (Africa Section), or to Cornerstone Baptist Church, 16 Horsepen Road, Farmville, VA 23901.

**James “Jimmy” Wilfred Snodgrass**

James Wilfred Snodgrass, 66, a longtime Palo Alto resident, died at his home Nov. 13.

He was born in Galveston, Texas in 1939 and graduated from Ball High School. While in school, he was known for leading his ROTC troops to a local ice cream parlor for a treat, costing him his stripes. He also organized an assembly of his school’s student body, which led him to create a statewide convention of high school students.

He attended The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. and the University of Texas in Austin before graduating from Stanford University. It was after graduation that he became an insurance salesman.

In the early 1970s, he lost his sight in an automobile accident, prompting him to become a client of the Disability Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Palo Alto. He became an advocate for disabled people, helping to provide leadership to organizations for the handicapped. He spoke on numerous occasions in front of the Palo Alto City Council as part of the Disability Awareness Task Force.

Along with his political work, he was active with Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, where he made many good friends.

He is survived by his son, Dr. Joshua Snodgrass of Eugene, Ore.; brothers, Dr. Robert Snodgrass of Pasadena and Donald K. Snodgrass of Houston.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

**Gordon Isaac Sundberg**

Gordon Isaac Sundberg died Nov. 23 in Palo Alto. He was 87.

He was born in Pleasant Grove, Utah to Isaac Victor Sundberg and Esther Elizabeth Young. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy following World War II, he worked at the Stanford University Press for 45 years.

He was known for his interest in computers, love of family, and dedication as a Stanford sports fan. He is survived by his two daughters, Melodie Jackson and Madeleine Decouster, 12 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Dec. 2 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Palo Alto.

**Dr. John S. Ledgerwood**

Dr. John S. Ledgerwood of Palo Alto, California, died of complications from a stroke on November 18, 2005. He was 93 years old. He was the husband of Shirley C. Ledgerwood, retired teacher at Foothill College and librarian in Santa Clara County. Dr. Ledgerwood moved to Palo Alto in 1952 where he established an associate dental practice, then later went into private practice at 850 Middletown Road. John was a native of Knoxville, Tennessee. He was a Double Silver Palm Eagle Scout, a private pilot, and a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Retired. During World War II, after a period as instructor at the Infantry School in Ft. Benning, Georgia, he saw action with the 101st Infantry Division in Europe. He received his dental degree from the University of Tennessee at Memphis. For several years he taught dentistry at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco. He served as deacon and usher of the First Congregational Church in Palo Alto and was treasurer of the Palo Alto Congregational Foundation. He was a member of national, state, and local Dental Associations and held office in the Mid-Peninsula Dental Association. He was a member of the Palo Alto Ski Club and served as a member on its board. John continued to downhill ski until the age of 89. He volunteered for years at the Palo Alto Senior Center. His body has been donated to the Stanford University School of Medicine. John is survived by his wife and three children, Pamela Ledgerwood, Chris Ledgerwood and April Robinson, in addition to six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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**Saturday, December 12, 2005, 7:30 pm**

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Local News
It is our pleasure to bring you the winning entries in the Weekly’s 20th Annual Short Story Contest. For the past two decades, we have published a staggering range of stories submitted by our readers. Comedy, tragedy, introspection, action — the tone and style of the tales have never failed to enlighten and amuse. This year’s selections are no different. From a decidedly different take on “The Exorcist” to the long-awaited answer to “How to Solve a Rubik’s Cube,” local writers have once again demonstrated the wealth of talent that exists on the Midpeninsula. We extend our thanks to the co-sponsors of this event: Bell’s Books, Kepler’s, Linden Tree and Palo Alto Online. We would also like to thank all the contestants who entered this year’s contest and invite the community to submit their works next year.

**Contest winners**

Though space constraints prohibit us from publishing the second- and third-place winners in the adult and youth categories, we would like to recognize all the winners. The complete stories of each winning author in the four categories can be read at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

**Adults, 18 and above**

1st place: “Flight from Egypt”
- Kathleen Jalapour

2nd place: “The Zeppelin”
- Kathleen Davis

3rd place: “Liars”
- Mark Clevenger

**Young Adult, 15-17**

1st place: “The Exorcist”
- Ross Rafflin

2nd place: “Bubble Gum”
- Christina Hueschen

3rd place: “Red Rock”
- Hilary Brennan-Marquez

**Teen, 12-14**

1st place: “How to Solve a Rubik’s Cube”
- Katherine Yu

2nd place: “Letting Go”
- Carolyn Kennels

3rd place: “Like Father, Like Son”
- Nils Gilbertson

**Children, 9-11**

1st place: “The Stowaway”
- Wendy Wu

2nd place: “A Doll Named Maya”
- Lisa Wu

3rd place: “Child of the Forest”
- Evelyn Wang

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**Short Story Contest**

**Adult Judges**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Bio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Parker</td>
<td>A well-known local writing teacher, Tom Parker is the author of the best-selling “Anna, Ann, Annie” and “Leadership and Customer Revolution,” a management book written with Gary Heil and Rick Tate. He has taught at Stanford, the University of California extension and Foothill and Cañada community colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Nagler</td>
<td>Mike Nagler is the co-editor of the short-story anthologies “Stolen Moments” and “Wives and Husbands.” He has taught fiction writing and film history at Cañada College in Redwood City for nine years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Sussman</td>
<td>Ellen Sussman’s novel, “On A Night Like This,” was published this year by Warner Books and was listed a San Francisco Chronicle Best Seller. The novel has been translated into six other languages. She teaches private writing classes on the Peninsula.</td>
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**Youth judges**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Bio</th>
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<tr>
<td>Caryn Huberman Yacowitz</td>
<td>Caryn Huberman Yacowitz is the award-winning author of fiction and non-fiction for children, including the picture books “Pumpkin Fiesta” and “The Jade Stone, A Chinese Folktale,” recently re-issued. Her titles include a series about Native American Tribes for Heinemann Library Publishers. “Jeans! The Musical” co-written with playwright Diane Claerbout and lyricist Enid Davis, enjoyed rave reviews calling it “an endearing vibrant tale of transcontinental courage and entrepreneurial spirit.” Her newest play — “Pumpkin Fiesta the Musical”, with original music by Mary Hepburn — premiered in August 2005. She teaches writing at City College of San Francisco and has been a guest lecturer at Stanford. She is a manuscript consultant and teaches private writing classes locally. Caryn lives, writes and gardens in Palo Alto. For details visit <a href="http://www.carynyacowitz.com">www.carynyacowitz.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katy Obringer</td>
<td>Katy Obringer spent 22 years with the Palo Alto library system, which included serving as the supervisor of Palo Alto’s Children’s Library. Obringer also worked as an elementary school teacher for 10 years and an elementary and school librarian for five years. Her love of introducing children to books continues in her retirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Etchemendy</td>
<td>Nancy Etchemendy’s fiction and poetry for children and adults appears regularly in various magazines and anthologies, both in the U.S. and abroad. Her fourth novel, “The Power of Un,” was published by Front Street/ Cricket books in March 2000. Her work has earned a number of awards, including two Bram Stoker Awards for children’s horror and a Golden Duck Award for excellence in children’s science fiction. She lives and works in Northern California where her days are enlivened by an excitable terrier, a cat given to scientific experimentation, her husband, Stanford Provost John Etchemendy, their son, Max, and two Hondas with secret names. For further details, go to <a href="http://www.sff.net/people/etchemendy">http://www.sff.net/people/etchemendy</a>.</td>
</tr>
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B
am," he whispered, kneeling on the fringed cushion by his daughter’s bedside. The lids flickered, opened. For a moment, the dark eyes flashed pain and anger, then recognition. The lips moved, managing a weak smile and a single word.

“Abu.”

Father

Amal’s stomach clenched, and he felt an angry poison spread outward through his body. He closed his eyes, inhaled slowly, trying to regain his self-control, unclench his fists. It had been three days now since they had brought Banu home. One eye was still black and swollen, her right arm lay in a splint, and the bruises on her arms and back were fading to sickening shades of purple and yellow.

“She will heal, but her soul is dead,” Amal’s voice said. He turned his head to the window, and looked out. “Perhaps it was preferable to an evening at home with Farida, and immediately felt a stab of remorse at the thought. She was right — it had been his idea to marry their daughter to Kamal Bakshshi. The Bakshis had made a fortune in land and always gave off the same fetid smell. Untreated, it could easily abscess and turn deadly, but with the cleanliness of his hypodermic. What arrogance! Perhaps it was preferable to an evening at home with Farida, and immediately felt a stab of remorse. Amal had accused him of being blinded by their money, but he had insisted that he was doing what was best for Banu. She deserved a good life — he had always thought of comfort. Amal sighed again as he got in his car.

“Rosanna,” he whispered, kneeling to the patient again. “Turn your back on Amal in a last vain protest. She had accused him of being blinded by their money, but he had insisted that he was doing what was best for Banu. She deserved a good life — he had always thought of comfort. Amal sighed again as he got in his car. Who could understand Allah’s will in this life?

When he arrived at the hotel, it seemed even shabbier than usual. Peeling paint, dirty windows, spider webs in dark corners. Amal steeled himself to look down his nose at the tall young man. “Why did you not call doctor sooner?” he asked haltingly in English. The girl was protesting for meaning, and realizing finally that the torrent of words was English. The girl was protesting the cleanliness of his hypodermic. What arrogance! Did they think he, an experienced doctor, graduate of the best university in Egypt and older than both of them put together, would use a dirty needle on a foreign tourist? If they had kept cleaner habits themselves, they wouldn’t be in this fix.

Samir and the young man took the girl’s arms and talked to her gently, and she finally sniffed and turned her back on Amal in a last vain protest. Amal administered the penicillin carefully, checking the patient for a reaction, but she seemed unconscious. Her breathing was shallow, and he felt for her pulse. It was light and fluttery, and her skin was hot to the touch. Amal stood up again, crossed his arms, and tried to look down his nose at the tall young man. “Why you not call doctor sooner?” he asked haltingly in English.

“Umm … money!” mumbled the young man. “Sorry, old chap. Is she going to be all right?”


“Very well, that’ll be fine.” He made a flapping motion toward the bed. “Rosanna’s parents wired money to us today, so we can pay whatever it costs now.”

Amal gave the young man his most disapproving scowl, and turned to the patient again. “Rosanna,” he said softly. And then in Arabic, he repeated the
Mr. Blair lifted his rattling teacup. Mrs. Blair, shivering in her cotton skirt and white sweater, relit the candle on the table.

"To be blunt," Mr. Blair said, "we think there may have been a mistake. We asked for an 'exorcist.'"

Rabbi Exorcistein stroked his beard and reclined into the plastic-wrapped couch. Scratches marred his face and traces of spittle hung from a lock of black hair. A pencil stuck out of the side of his hat.

"Not to worry, we can deal with whatever spiritual problem your daughter, Melinda, is having. This was just a first try. It'll work next time."

The house shook and an inhuman roar filled every room. Mr. Blair's teacup exploded. Rabbi Exorcistein yelped and fell backwards off the couch. Mrs. Blair sighed and began picking china shrapnel out of the sofa.

"What exactly do you plan to do?" Mr. Blair asked, casually wrapping his bleeding hand with a roll of gauze he had removed from his pocket.

"I did what any good Jew does when in trouble."

The doorbell rang. The Rabbi crawled out from behind the couch and strode towards the door. Mrs. Blair stopped shrapnel hunting and stared, revealing the wrinkles and sandbags that had accumulated over the past few days.

"Hello, mother."

Glaring, Mrs. Exorcistein readjusted her scarf with one hand and slapped the Rabbi with the other. "Three months," Mrs. Exorcistein scolded, "three months and not a single call. There I am wondering if my Herschel has caught some horrible disease, and all that time you were just ignoring me."

"But Mother ..."

"Then, at 2 a.m., in the MORNING, you call asking for my help. Out of nowhere. 'Mother, the devil has returned on earth.' 'Mother, I need help stopping the apocalypse.' Pah!" She spat, sending a new shower of spittle onto the same lock of hair. He sighed.

"I don’t mind standing out in the cold," she assured him.

Before he could respond, Mrs. Exorcistein pushed past him and entered the dark room where the Blairs sat, horrified.

The candlelight shone off Mrs. Exorcistein's piercing brown eyes. Grimacing, she stared at the carpet and wall, scanning for imperfection. She turned to Mrs. Blair, who found herself suddenly and inexplicably embarrassed.

"So," Mrs. Exorcistein asked, "where’s this little girl?"

"Upstairs, first room to the left," Mr. Blair replied. His monotone indicated she was not the first to ask that question.

Mrs. Exorcistein stomped towards the stairs, flinging her scarf aside. The Rabbi shuffled after her.
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Flight from Egypt
(continued from page 13)

prayer he always spoke over his pa-
tients. "Merciful Allah, there is no
cure but from You, a cure which
leaves no illness behind."

He got a call the following day at
the clinic. It was Samir again, in a
fluster. "They left, Doctor Taher, sir.
They all left! What shall I do, in the
name of Allah?"

"Who left, Samir?"

"The young people with her —
with the sick girl — they just left.
They left an envelope with money
on her bed. How could they just leave
her in my hotel? In the name of the
prophet, what shall I do?"

Later Amal would never be able to
say why he did it. "Take her to my
place, Samir. Tell Farida she is to care
for her like a daughter." He did not tell
Samir that Farida already had a
daughter to care for at home. He
knew well that Farida would not tell
him, either. The shame was too great.
He also knew Farida would follow
his directive. Whether she would do
so willingly or not, however, he could
not say. God willing, this too will
pass, he said, and lowered his head to
rest on his folded hands.

A week passed, ten days, and his
home began to come to life again.
Farida blossomed in her role as care-
taker, and began speaking to Amal
again. The air in the house became
lighter, freer, full of hope. The young
women recovered, and a quiet friend-
ship began to develop. Rosanna was
soon able to tell them about herself —
she was American, but had Lebanese
grandparents on her father’s side, and
spoke some Arabic. Her grandmother,
a widow who had taken such joy in
her American granddaughter, had
died when Rosanna was four, and
then Rosanna had quickly forgotten
her Arabic, as children do. But the
language was still there, in the re-
cesses of her mind, and came out in
bits and pieces — new phrases every
day. It made everyone laugh when
Rosanna spoke, for she spoke like the
children do. But the women recovered,
and came out in

the two dark heads bent together, gig-
gling like sisters while they whispered
to the doves.

One evening Farida was waiting for
him at the door when he came home
from work. "I must speak with you,
Amal Taher," she said, pulling him
into the kitchen. "Rosanna has invit-
ed Banu to come with her to Ameri-
can. Banu must accept, Amal."

"What? America? No!" Amal’s
mind reeled at the thought of his only
child so far away.

"Don’t fight me again, Amal, I
know I am right. Banu has no future
here. She can divorce Kamal, but no
one else will marry her now — you
know that a divorced woman has poor
prospects. What are we supposed to
do, Amal Taher? The police will do
nothing to help us punish Kamal. His
family is too powerful, and we can’t
find him by ourselves — they have
hidden him somewhere. It would be
too hard for her to get into university
here — she has even taken the
entrance exam. In America, she can
study, make a new future for herself.
It is what she must do, Amal. It is the
only way she can forget.

"You don’t know what you’re say-
ing, Farida," pleaded Amal. "It’s not
as easy as you think. She doesn’t
speak much English; we don’t have
relatives there. It’s expensive. And
she’d be alone. Farida. It’s not like
here. She would be completely alone,
for God’s sake."

"No, Rosanna has said she can live
with her. Banu can be her ... what did
she call it ... roommate. It is not so
expensive. We can send money, and
Rosanna says Banu can find work
while she learns English."

"Work?" sputtered Amal. "Work?
Like a brat from some hajam family
with no education, no class? Young
girls do not work! It is not the way,
Farida."

But it was the only way. Banu
wanted desperately to go. Amal was
convinced that she would suffer all
the trials of the immigrant — the
homesickness, the horror at cultural
habits strange and illogical, the weari-
ness of always having to adapt,
change and accept. Worst of all, in

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We are...
The Exorcist

(continued from page 14)

her.

She paused at the foot of the stairs and gazed at the Christ and crucifix next to the wall bearing a sculpture of Jesus.

"Goysm." Mrs. Exorcistein mumbled.

Startled, the Rabbi glanced up. He checked to see if the Blairs were listening. They were. He shrugged apologetically as they stared with a mixture of horror and fascination.

Mrs. Exorcistein clamped up the creaking staircase, creating a chorus of squeaks and四处 groans. "I know a great carpenter who can fix this!" she yelled to the Blairs.

At the top of the stairs, the Mrs. Exorcistein stepped through the open wooden portal and into the daught-er’s room.

Torn pages of books and shredded mattresses lined the floor. An armchair lay by its side shattered. An assortment of religious tools lay clut-tered against the wall, as if abandoned in a hurry.

On a queen-sized bed in the middle of the room lay the satanic man-festation, grinning and glaring daggers. Its hands and legs were tied to each other or against the end of the bed. It raised its head, staring at the Rabbi. "Back for more?" she asked. "I have another pen in my back pocket."

The Rabbi remembered the pencil sticking out of his hat, and quickly plucked it out.

"And just who do you think you are?" Mrs. Exorcistein asked, hands on her hips.

"I am the Morningstar, fallen one, temple of the garden, Lucifer," it hissed.

Mrs. Exorcistein pulled up a chair and sat next to the possessed form of Melinda Blair.

"That’s nice dear," she commented.

Melinda paused. "You heard what I said just now, right?" This time the hiss was a bit less confident.

"Yes. And you can be whatever you want if you just unlock your mind to it," Mrs. Exorcistein replied.

Melinda shook her head. "Mom!"

Mrs. Exorcistein shook her finger and pulled out a handkerchief. "Don’t use that sort of language around me!" she warned. The Rabbi shuffled into the room and stood in a corner, watching his mother. Melinda stuck out her tongue.

"May your liver rost..."

Before anyone could finish, Mrs. Exorcistein dabbed the handkerchief with a nearby flask, grabbed Melin-da’s tongue, and wiped it roughly. "Dirty words mean a dirty mouth," she said as she calmly scrubbed the devil’s tongue. Melinda screamed in pain, twisting and howling after them.

Satisfied, Mrs. Exorcistein let go of her and sat back.

"Mother?" the Rabbi asked, without giving her a chance to explain.

"That’s a crucifix, mother."

Mrs. Exorcistein shrugged. "in a glass flask that was lying between the bible and the T." She grabbed the crucifix with both hands and hit Melinda on the head with it.

"Mother!" Herschel yelled, rushing to pull the cross from her.

Steam rose from the sin on Melinda over her chest. The cross had touched. Writing in pain on the bed, Melinda spoke in tongues, laughable traditions, and chaste existence.

"Yes. And you can be whatever you want if you just unlock your mind to it," Mrs. Exorcistein replied.

"In the Morningstar, fallen one, temple of the garden, Lucifer,"

"Herschel, you're a priest and now an ignorant rabbi." Mrs. Exorcistein glared at the Christ and crucifix planted against the wall, as if abandoned in a hurry. The fiery look in Mrs. Exorcistein’s eyes widened. She grabbed the cross and lunged towards Melinda, who yelped in surprise. She struggled to escape, but Herschel had been trapped between the two women. She yelled down at Melinda, accenting each word with a hit from the cross.

"My son... will... get... married!"

The cross left steaming imprints wherever it landed. With each blow, Melinda screamed louder. By the time Mrs. Exorcistein had finished explaining Herschel’s future mari-tal status, no satanic features were left with a trace.

Melinda blinked, yawned, and looked around. The fiery look in Melinda’s eyes had vanished, and aرام at the top of the stairs and mouthed thanks. Mrs. Exorcistein etched on the wall. The clear glass of the window. Mrs. Exorcistein slapped the dev-il. “Don’t take the lord’s name in vain.”

"You..." Mrs. Exorcistein slapped Melinda again. "And no swearing either!"

"Perhaps we should start the ex-orcism, mother," Herschel ventured.

Mrs. Exorcistein gave Herschel an inquiring look. "Last I checked, that usually happens newborn males." "No, mother!" Herschel corrected, blushing harder. "Exorcism is where we cast the demon out of a child."

"Mother, she’s speaking in tongues."

"Of course."

"Mother, she’s speaking in tongues."

"Yes, mother," Herschel answered.

"I’m your mother, not your servant." Mrs. Exorcistein parried.

"No mother," Herschel yelled, "If you insist." Mrs. Exorcistein glared at the Christ and crucifix. "Well, then. We’ll see how you do with a real one!"

"Mother, you’re speaking backwards. Your ‘yes’ is where we cast the demon out of a child."

"Mother, she’s speaking in tongues."

"Yes, mother." Mrs. Exorcistein stared at it. "Do you really think I should?"

"No, mother," Herschel replied.

"If you insist."

"And just who do you think you are?"

"I am the Morningstar, fallen one, temple of the garden, Lucifer,"

"Herschel, you’re a priest and now an ignorant rabbi." Mrs. Exorcistein glared at the Christ and crucifix. "Well, then. We’ll see how you do with a real one!"

"Mother, she’s speaking in tongues."

"Yes, mother," Herschel answered.

"I’m your mother, not your servant." Mrs. Exorcistein parried.

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"No, mother," Herschel replied.

"If you insist."

"And just who do you think you are?"

"I am the Morningstar, fallen one, temple of the garden, Lucifer,"

Mrs. Exorcistein shrugged, "in a glass flask that was lying between the bible and the T." She grabbed the crucifix with both hands and hit Melinda on the head with it.

"Mother!" Herschel yelled, rushing to pull the cross from her.

Steam rose from the sin on Melinda over her chest. The cross had touched. Writing in pain on the bed, Melinda spoke in tongues, laughable traditions, and chaste existence.

"Mother, she’s speaking in tongues."

"Yes, mother." Mrs. Exorcistein stared at it. "Do you really think I should?"

"No, mother," Herschel replied.

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"And just who do you think you are?"

"I am the Morningstar, fallen one, temple of the garden, Lucifer,"

... (continued from page 14)
Short Story Contest

Observe God’s creations locked in a picture; the solid blue sky and white clouds, and the dark green moss that grows on the wide trunks of trees. You paint a still-life of a fruit bowl; orange, lemon, and bright apple.

Then observe the cube. You conclude that it is just a matter of getting the nine pieces of the same color on one side. Complete the white face and set the cube down. You are satisfied.

Go out into the sphere of the world again. A cloud shifts across the sky, circling around you. Follow it with your eyes; turn your body to keep it centered in your view. It becomes a line of dark green pine trees. On the matter of fruit, set an orange on your kitchen table. Wait for the sun to set and listen to the clicking of the clock. As the light in the room becomes a bright yellow, notice how the orange casts a shadow across the wood. You notice its depth. You feel the tectonic plates shifting beneath your feet.

When you come back to the cube, 125 days later, you notice that the other sides of the cube are still scrambled. So you learn the 4 basic cube formulas from a physics major and use them to solve the cube. As you drill the moves into your thumbs, your fingers become locked in motion. Complete the cube 64 times in one sitting. Find yourself somehow wanting more.

Attend chemistry class. Write in chemical formulas for the decomposition and synthesis of sodium nitrate. But find yourself asking, “Does this quiz really mean anything?”

You compose your own cube formula. You spend 3 summer months locked in your room, digging away at it — listening to the clicking of the plastic. Your best time becomes 27 seconds.

When summer’s over, unlock your door and return to the lab. Experiment with that sodium nitrate solution. Explore polyatomic ions and their charges. Make sense of the equations you memorized for that quiz last semester.

Maybe you end up teaching science at a middle school. Watch your 8 students write up their own experiments. Open the classroom cabinet, the one with the jungle of Bunsen burners. Hand them out and watch the kids stare in amazement as the green ocean in a beaker quickly turns to gas. Later, you tell them about your cubing days.

Perhaps you win a Nobel Prize for mathematical group theory. If you do, find that cube again — that one cube that taught you to explore the world. Hold it in your hands and thank Mr. Rubik.

Katherine Yu

The unusual short story that captured first place in this year’s teen category leaves readers feeling they’ve taken a stroll through someone’s mind, it’s no mistake.

Author Katherine Yu calls her narrative approach the “field guide” method, and her “How to Solve a Rubik’s Cube” is nothing short of a vivid journey through an encounter between person and puzzle.

For Yu, a 14-year-old Gunn High School freshman, winning the competition was a psychological trip in itself.

“I was really surprised. I didn’t think the topic was that interesting. It wasn’t very focused,” she said.

The story took three weeks to write.

“I started with the steps for learning how to solve it. And then I made it a story over days,” she said.

Yu didn’t base her writing solely on her own experience with the cube.

“I watched other people try to solve it,” she said. Some people thought that if they could make all the squares on one side of the cube to match, the whole puzzle would be solved.

“They’d get really surprised when it didn’t work,” said Yu, whose own best time at figuring out the cube is a scant two minutes.

To develop the final story, Yu added clues and scientific terminology.

Yu learned the field-guide technique this past summer, as a creative non-fiction student at the Center for Talented Youth at The John Hopkins University. She also studied chemistry.

When not writing creative non-fiction, Yu enjoys playing club soccer and the viola. Her favorite book is “Catcher in the Rye.”

Might more writing be part of Yu’s future career? Perhaps.

“I like so many things; it’s hard to choose,” she said.

But one thing she admits to seeing herself doing is science.

Mr. Rubik would be proud.

How to Solve a Rubik’s Cube

by Katherine Yu

Teen First Place Winner

Judith M. Nelson
Wendy Wu


It’s much as Wu does herself, every time she tackles a writing project.

“I like to write historical fiction. It transport you to a whole new field,” the 11-year-old JLS Middle School sixth-grader said.

In her award-winning piece, Wu put herself in the shoes of a boy, a departure for the writer, who usually features girls in her works. But out of concern for realism, she chose a male main character.

“In that period, I learned that girls were usually at home and that boys were more mischievous,” she said.

Though she developed the story this year in preparation for the competition the germ of the idea was planted last year. That’s when her fifth-grade class stayed overnight on a 100-year-old ship as part of a fieldtrip.

“I learned a lot. It was completely new to me; I had no sense of nautical experience before,” she said.

When not penning short stories or poetry, Wu enjoys trying new computer software, playing the guitar and the alto saxophone, and reading fiction.

She’s thrilled by her win — her first in a writing competition. She credits her father with telling her about the Short Story Contest and critiquing her work. Her first draft’s ending, he told her, didn’t make sense.

“Having someone give feedback that it was not so good was actually pretty good,” she said.

My most common predicaments usually involve me stealing an apple, or a loaf of bread on the busy streets of San Francisco. The storekeepers don’t see me, but every once in a while, I get myself caught. They usually hit me with a loaf of bread and scold me. But it’s worth the punishment, and I tell myself; at least you got the food. I’d rather steal food than to starve to death in the alleys of the big city.

I guess I should tell you a little about myself. As you can guess, I live in the streets of San Francisco. It’s quite busy by trade and every day about ten schooners or boats come from a territory nearby, maybe Alaska, or Oregon, hauling lumber, coal, or salmon. I was always fascinated by ships, always dreamed of becoming a cabin boy, or learning how to navigate, but there was always one thing that stood in the way: my fear of water.

And because of water, I’ll never sail any of the seven seas. Water ain’t my only reason. Who’d want to take in an alley runt as an apprentice? I’m only nine years old, or so I look, and the orphans call me a scrawny runt. Every day I live my life with the boys, stealing food, getting into trouble, running around the streets. “Mischief gets you nowhere, young’un,” the shopkeepers would often shout to us.

But this is different. Much different. Out of all my situations I have never dared go near the water. But here I am, sitting below decks on the three-masted schooner, The Sailqueen, on the way to Alaska. I guess this is goodbye to the alley boys, the orphan runts, even the shopkeepers, because my dumb mistake is acquiring me a lifetime in Alaska.

“Alrighty, Hazel. Go in for a last check on cargo before we leave. We have to be sure there ain’t anything wrong with the fish during our three month voyage.”

“Aye-Aye, Sir.”

One pair of footsteps drew nearer to my position. My heart raced faster and faster as the person approached, hoping I wouldn’t be found out.
Short Story Contest

I held my breath. “Well, looky here,” a soft voice whispered, as she heaved heavy barrels out of their way. My face was visible.

“Heh, a stowaway!” Her face showed a sneer, like the type a pok-er player would have on after revealing a straight flush. “Best you make yourself useful” cuss the deckhands have already heaved the hawkers.” The soft voice belonged to a girl who seemed no older than four years older than me. Despite her sneer, she had sparkling hazel eyes and mahogany hair in a thick braid. In her hair was a dirty red bandana. “Here. Let me help you out.” She pulled me out of my hiding spot, and brought me to a room.

“This is the captain’s quarters, and this is the captain. You are to address him as Sir.”

A buff looking man came out of a door in the corner. He had brown colored hair with a cap, honey colored eyes, and a beard. He looked slightly similar to the man, but I visit San Francisco every year on this land, for I was born in Canada, and the way, daughter of the captain and member.”

“Father, I bring you a stowaway.”

“Hazel, on the ship you call Sir.”

“Aye,” replied Hazel as she stepped out of the room. The man’s attention turned to me.

“You have stowed yourself away on my ship,” he stated, “that makes you a member of my crew. I expect you to work like anyone else. And since Hazel found you, you will work for her in the galley.”

He declared, as he handed me a dirty red bandana like the one Hazel was wearing. “Keep this in your pocket. It symbolizes you are my crew member.”

“Yes, Sir,” I said, trying to sound as confident as Hazel.

“That’s an aye.”

“Aye, Sir.”

As I left the room, Hazel lead me to the galley. “I’m Hazel Bleak, by the way, daughter of the captain and assistant to the doctor,” she said.


Hazel smiled. “If you prove to be an asset to this land, for I was born in Canada, I was surprised.”

“Thank you, Hazel.” I thought to myself.

“Keep this in your pocket. It symbolizes you are my crew member.”


“Thinking for a title, I quickly stammered. “I’m an alley orphan from the streets of San Francisco.”

Hazel smiled. “If you prove to be an asset to this land, for I was born in Canada, I was surprised.”

“Thank you, Hazel.”

“Keep this in your pocket. It symbolizes you are my crew member.”

“Aye,” replied Hazel as she stepped out of the room. The man’s attention turned to me.

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Brown Bag & Twilight Concerts

Pledge Form

To help meet its financial deficit the City Council has voted to eliminate funding for the Brown Bag and Twilight Concert Series.

We are distributing this pledge form and asking for your help to keep this series alive. Fill out the information below and send to:

Suzanne Warren, Producer, Twilight and Brown Bag Series
City of Palo Alto/Arts & Culture Division
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Please check the appropriate box below if writing a check (checks only please, no cash) Make your check payable to the City of Palo Alto Summer Concert Series

To make a pledge and pay later, mark the appropriate box and you will be called. All donations are tax deductible. Confirmation of your donation will be sent to you by mail.

☐ I am including a check with this pledge.
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email: __________________________
Amount of pledge: _______________
Date: __________ Signature: __________

The Stowaway
(continued from previous page)

rope! People are in the water!” As the boat got in control, everyone was tugging on the thick line that I summoned. We all obeyed as Mr. Tymerry’s hollers shook the ship. “HEAVE! HO! HEAVE! HO!” As Hazel and the doctor were being pulled through crashing waves, I noticed that the bowline knot around them was slipping. Disobeying the commands of Mr. Tymerry, I swiftly dived down into the deep sea, wrapped one hand on the rope, another grasping the hands of the doctor and Hazel, and signaled to be pulled up.

As we were pulled through the violent waves, I noticed how cold the water was. I could feel my arms numb, and I choked as mouthfuls of salt water swashed down my throat. I felt moments when my lungs couldn’t take anymore, but then the currents would pull me up to the surface and I’d catch my breath before the wind hurled me into the water again.

The maneuver reminded me of a dolphin leaping, but I knew this sensation was far from the exhilaration a dolphin could experience leaping about. Then I discovered the sea was beneath me, and I was being pulled aboard. My head was hurting like crazy, and water was still trapped in my lungs, but happiness was in my heart, because I had faced my fear of water.

I remember drinking some ginger water that the doctor gave me because I had swallowed too much salt water. Someone was always calling me, but my head hurt too much for me to answer. When the storm subsided, I heard two elder sailors talking about my brave deed. I felt as gallant as a stallion. I had saved two people’s lives and I lived to tell the tale. I remember Hazel joking, “Don’t get too bigheaded, boy.”

Even with my spectacular save, we were still in trouble. We ran out of provisions and lived on hard tack, which was bread so rotten and so hard there were maggots in it, and salt pork stew, which was just water with old Havorless meat. We drank a little of lime gin everyday to prevent scurry. I lived with it, and called it torture, but the captain called it food rations.

That night forward, Captain Bleak invited me to sit next to him at dog watch. He pronounced me a hero in front of all my crew mates, and we all sang chanteys for entertainment. I just sat there, listened to yarns, sang some chanteys, and washed a few dishes until it was time for night watch.

I once again took my place on the foredeck, but the ocean was not the same as it was on the first night. The water had become bluer, the air more cold, and occasionally a small chunk of ice came around. That dawn, we all celebrated as a crew member looking out from the crow’s nest hollered, “Land Ahoy!” We had made it to Alaska!

I stood on the foredeck, eyes wild with emotion. This was much different than San Francisco. All the people were bundled up in thick clothing, and only then did I notice that my limbs were getting cold. As The Sailqueen pulled up on the docks of Anchorage, I wondered for a bit. What would happen to me? Would I be left at Alaska, to spend my life there forever? Would I stay away on another trading ship? As I helped the bosun crew unload the thousands of crates of salmon, I couldn’t help thinking about my future. I shivered as someone tapped my shoulder.

“I want you to ask me if you would be willing to work for me,” the bosun called. “Really, Hazel? That would be wonderful.”

As I embarked the Sailqueen, I noticed a new feeling. Not a feeling of despair like what I felt as a stowaway earning my fare, but a feeling of hope, of triumph, of happiness, because this time I board the ship, I’m not a stowaway anymore; I’m a member of the crew now, just like Tymerry, Hazel, and the Captain.

Short Story Contest

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Movies

Movie reviews by Jeanne Aufmuth, Tyler Hanley, and Susan Tavernetti

MOVIE TIMES

Note: Screenings are for Wednesday through Thursday only.

Aeon Flux (PG-13) Century 16: 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:35 & 9:50 p.m.
Century 12: 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45 & 10:10 p.m.


The Chronicles of Narnia: Century 16: Thu. at 12:01 a.m.

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Derailed (R) Century 16: 10:10 p.m. Century 12: 2:40 & 7:05 p.m.

Derailed (R) Century 16: 8:35 p.m.


(Not Reviewed)

Neile Silverman: Jesus is Magic (Not Rated) Century 16: 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

Pane, Amore e Fantasia (1953)

Note: Screenings are for Thursday only. The theatre is closed on Wednesday. For more information call (650) 324-3700.

The Stanford Theatre is located at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Screenings are for Thursday only. The theatre is closed on Wednesday. For more information call (650) 324-3700.

Come September (1961)
A playboy who spends every September at his villa in Portofino arrives early and discovers his major domo running the villa as a bed and breakfast. Starring Rock Hudson. Thu. at 7:30 p.m.

Pane, Amore e Fantasia (1953)
This Italian comedy’s popularity made an international star of Gina Lollobrigida, who soon found her way to the United States. Thu. at 5:45 & 9:35 p.m.
Editorial

Closing the disaster preparedness gap

Palo Alto area cities may be ahead of others, but would still be overwhelmed by a major catastrophe — so citizens need to prepare for that, experts warn

There’s a somewhat grim joke in the emergency preparedness field: “If you wrote a booklet about aid you could expect in the first days of a major catastrophe, its pages would be blank.”

In other words, you’ll likely be on your own — as an individual, family, neighborhood or community.

But that’s not being said by the National Academies, which notes that the wave of natural shock and generosity has ebbed and the real investigative finger-pointing has begun. Local communities across the nation are beginning to take stock of where they stand in terms of being prepared for something equivalent.

For California, that probably means an earthquake — the “Big One.” But flooding is a possibility in low-lying South Bay communities, and there’s terrorism.

The report states that Palo Alto and other communities in the South Bay are well ahead of the nation in readiness, according to an informational report presented to the City Council Monday night. In fact, Palo Alto’s emergency manager, Barbara Cimino of the fire department, was called back to the New Orleans area in late September to supervise a multi-state emergency response center for 10 days, helping straighten out the mess.

Her take-home lesson from that seeing experience was part of her message to the council, even though the bulk of the report summed up lessons from an earthquake drill last April at Palo Alto High School, the Cubberley Community Center and the city’s Emergency Operations Center.

Field Exercise Coordinator Kenneth Decker of the police department collaborated on the report.

The report was positive overall, citing cooperation by the more than 200 persons involved — police, fire, volunteers and the Red Cross. But there were significant gaps, ranging from concerns about how police officers and firefighters can get from their distant homes to their jobs to how well police and fire agencies from different jurisdictions can communicate with each other.

Communication was one of the most urgent lessons to come from the 9/11 tragedy in New York City — many lives were lost unnecessarily when police and fire units responding couldn’t communicate directly.

Yet as recently as last spring, more than four years after 9/11, it was noted that police and fire agencies in Santa Clara County had difficulty communicating directly with each other. In joint exercises or mutual-aid cases they need to go through a Bay Area-wide emergency channel, which would become jammed in a full-blown regional catastrophe.

A countywide “Interoperability Project” is making progress in the communications gap.

But communications issues still topped the concerns in the report, both in terms of equipment and training and relating to the safety of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) itself, located in the basement of the Civic Center. This is particularly relevant in that the Civic Center did not fare well in the 1989 Loma Prieta quake — the large concrete arcade out front had to be torn down.

The report notes, “is a large and complex topic that impacts almost every aspect of disaster response for the city as well as all departments, groups and individuals. Further testing, training and drills are essential, along with the implementation or expansion of emergency communications capabilities.”

A sense of urgency pervades even the official report language.

While the EOC staff performed acceptedably, and Palo Alto is one of the few cities in the county to even have such a dedicated command post, the report says back-up locations are needed “should the Civic Center be damaged.”

Both the police department and dispatch center “could be compromised were the Civic Center to fail,” including “a number of mission-critical elements” such as radio and computer systems.

And, the report warns, “a collapse of the police garage . . . might crush or trap a large portion of city police vehicles.”

This outstanding summary is a “must read” for anyone who wants to weigh in on whether a new police headquarters is needed — as well as what residents need to do in their homes and neighborhoods.

While progress is being made, we’re nowhere near an acceptable level of readiness, and city leaders must shoulder responsibility for keeping emergency preparedness a top priority — locally and regionally.

Editorials, letters and opinions

Oversight reaction

Editor, Mr. Lieberman’s letter regarding the PAUSD parcel tax oversight committee (Nov. 29) implies that the district misapropriated parcel-tax funds and did not provide the promised public oversight.

I would like to set the record straight.

At a public meeting following the passage of Measure D, the school board appointed a committee of five people, all of whom have accounting, business, or school-budget expertise and are well respected in the community. This report covers a broad cross section of the community: a senior, local business owners/leaders, a parent and CPA, a former mayor and a former school board member.

The committee met each year to verify that the parcel-tax funds were spent in accordance with the ballot language approved by the voters. In each of the four years that the parcel tax was in effect, the board of education received a parcel tax report that included the findings of the oversight committee, at a regularly scheduled public board meeting: Aug. 27, 2002; Aug. 26, 2003; Oct. 12, 2004; and Nov. 15, 2005.

The meetings were broadcast on cable television. Board of education meeting materials, including these reports, were also made available on the district Web site at www.pausd.org and at public libraries and schools.

Parcel-tax expenditures may be examined by Mr. Lieberman or any other member of the public; not just the oversight committee. PAUSD is required to keep parcel-tax funds in a separate account that may only be used for expenditures stated in the voter-approved ballot measure.

In addition to public oversight, district books including the parcel-tax account, are audited each year by an outside independent accounting firm. The auditor’s findings are also presented at a public board meeting.

The school board encourages communication from the public on any topic, including the parcel tax. People may call, write, e-mail or speak at public board meetings.

Against immersion

Editor, The time is right for the Palo Alto school district to offer foreign language as part of the core curriculum for another immersion program.

The multi-cultural community that is Palo Alto should be at the forefront of preparing our children to be part of a highly connected global world and workforce. The absence of foreign-language teaching from our elementary school program, and from the core curriculum in middle school, falls very short of that goal.

Instead of funding another immersion program, let’s prioritize foreign language for all students. We should adopt a core language curriculum that includes starting in elementary school. Mandarin should be offered in PAUSD, but as one of several languages offered to all students.

Immersion programs generate a small group of parents with much to gain and so can garner disproportionate attention. Core language classes have fewer vocal supporters but are more important than ever.

Language classes? Yes. Mandarin as a choice? Yes. Immersion only? No.

Meri Gruber
Briarwood Way
Palo Alto

A perfect day in the commuter hills

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

What do you think? Do you feel films (with or without popcorn) should be allowed at Gunn High School’s Spangenberg Auditorium?

Letters: Address to Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302, or hand-deliver to 703 High St., (at Forest Avenue), Palo Alto.

Fax: (650) 326-3928

E-mail: readerswire@pawweekly.com

No anonymous letters or “open letters” to other organizations or individuals will be printed. Please provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. Please keep length to 250 words or less. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.
Guest Opinion

‘Caltrain Metro East’ — a better transit plan than BART-to-San Jose

by Margaret Okuzumi

The future of our valley’s public transit is at a crossroads — with a key decision-point looming Feb. 2. @text: Unhappy Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) officials have been forced to admit that $5 billion in county sales taxes that will be collected starting next April won’t be enough to build all transit projects voters were promised in 2000’s Measure A.

Now VTA officials are haggling over a plan to go back to the voters to ask for more money — to build just a portion of the projects promised in Measure A. Rather than throw good money after bad, the time has come for Palo Alto to demand a better plan — one that will build the rail and bus network that our region needs — without a new tax.

The 800-pound gorilla in all of VTA’s current scenarios for Palo Alto is the BART extension to San Jose from Warm Springs in Fremont.

Even if VTA got voters to approve an additional $2.5 billion in sales taxes to go to transportation in the next 30 years, as long as BART is in the mix the question is: What is Palo Alto and the North County willing to give up?

Shall North County communities give up revenues for repaving roads? Or even more bus service than has already been lost? Are they willing to give up Caltrain electrification and other Caltrain service improvements? Or promised funds to rebuild the Palo Alto station?

Shall North County communities give up revenues for repaving roads? Or even more bus service than has already been lost? Are they willing to give up Caltrain electrification and other Caltrain service improvements? Or promised funds to rebuild the Palo Alto station?

Margaret Okuzumi is executive director of Palo Alto Rail Alliance and serves on the VTA and MTC Citizen Advisory Committees. More information on the proposal can be found at www.bayrailalliance.org. She can be e-mailed at margaret@bayrailalliance.org.

Streetwise

What do you like to read?

Question and interviews by Kenneth Seti. Photographs by Brian Connelly. Asked on University Avenue in Palo Alto.

Will Clark
Student
Avalarado Row, Stanford

I do mostly contemporary American poetry and the dead Russians. When I have time there are some good comic-book series like the “Sandman.”

Muriel Fleisher
Retired
Lytton Avenue, Palo Alto

I like to read newspapers and magazines. I don’t do a lot of reading because my eyes aren’t good, but every so often a lady from the library brings me large-print books.

Kim Keeler
Paragcagl
University Avenue, Palo Alto

I like reading biographies, especially about celebrities. The last one I read was the Bill Clinton one.

Leif King
University Avenue, Palo Alto

‘A Man in Full,’ by Tom Wolfe is my favorite book.

Marc Garcia
Writer
Forest Avenue, Palo Alto

I’m more of a fiction fan. I like historical. I am a Stephen King junkie, but right now I’m reading the “Three Musketeers,” by Dumas. I’ve read “The Man in the Iron Mask,” and “The Count of Monte Cristo,” so I picked it up.
Give to the Palo Alto Weekly’s 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 insure that your charitable donations are working at home.

Non-profit organizations serving families and children in the Palo Alto area are facing unprecedented challenges and need our help.

Through a unique partnership between the Palo Alto Weekly and local foundations, the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund is hoping to raise over $300,000 this year to support these groups and the people who benefit from their services.

With contributions of matching funds from the Packard, Hewlett and other local foundations, your tax deductible donation to the Holiday Fund will be doubled in size.

Last year $240,000 was raised from over 625 people in the community, and 36 local groups received grants in support of their programs.

Help make this year’s Holiday Fund campaign our most successful ever. Send in your contribution today and check out our progress by watching the growing list of donors in each issue of the Palo Alto Weekly. All donations of $25 or more will be acknowledged in every issue of the Palo Alto Weekly between late November and the end of the campaign in mid-January.

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

220 donors through 12/5 totalling $48,435 with match $96,870 has been raised for the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund
Letters
(continued from page 22)

Without accusations or blame, they comforted and supported both of us in our time of need. One of these Good Samaritans even gave the other driver a blanket because it was cold and she was shivering, saying, “Keep it.”

On behalf of all people in need of support in times like these, I would like to publicly thank and acknowledge the good people who so kindly go out of their way to help others. Thanks to all of you — you know who you are.

Also, I would like to thank the Mountain View police officers who responded so quickly to the 911 call and guided traffic to prevent further problems. In addition, Officer Hammond was especially calm and compassionate in figuring out the facts of the accident.

I would also like to thank the fire department, paramedics and tow-truck drivers who responded very quickly, with wonderful compassion, and got everything figured out, cleaned up and back to normal so quickly during the busy morning commute hours.

Thanks to all who were involved. You have all contributed to making a bad situation much easier.

Sarah Rahamim
Seale Avenue
Palo Alto
Sports Shorts

SWIM MARK . . . Former Stanford swimmer Tara Kirk set a U.S. Open Meet record in winning the 100 breast on Thursday at the U.S. Open at the James E. Martin Aquatic Center in Auburn, Alabama. Kirk won the event in 1:07.36, her fourth-fastest time, to beat Olympic gold medalist Megan Jenkins, who finished second in 1:08.18. “Things have been a lot different this year with a new coaching staff,” Kirk said. “We’ve been doing a lot of new things, but things have been turning out really well with me swimming at the World’s, and I’m not rested or shaved, so I’m pretty happy.” Kirk added a second-place in the 200 breast, swimming the event in 2:30.17 on Saturday.

OAKS’ CORNER . . . Gunn High grad Ja’Net Lawrence became Menlo College’s first All-American in women’s soccer, when she was named an NAIA Honorable Mention All-American. “It’s a great way for Ja’Net to end her career,” Menlo coach Owen Flannery said. “She took a chance and came to a team that hadn’t won a game in three seasons, so she’s as responsible as anyone for taking the program to the level it’s at.” The Menlo College Athletic Department will host its annual golf tournament on Thursday, April 20 at the Crystal Springs Golf Course in Burlingame. Individual entry fees are $150 per person and $650 for a foursome with tee sponsorship. Other sponsorship opportunities include: (1) dinner ($500) and lunch ($300). For further information, or to make a reservation or inquire about raffle and beverage sponsorship opportunities, contact tournament coordinator Kevin Nosek at (650) 543-3760 or knosek@menlo.edu . . . Although the Menlo College men’s wrestling team defeated No. 6 Embry-Riddle, the Oaks fell from No. 7 to ninth in the latest NAIA national rankings . . . Sophomore guard Kepua Lee scored 26 points for the second straight game but the Menlo College women’s basketball team lost to NAIA Division I Carroll College of Montana, 76-58, at West- minster College on Friday night. The Oaks (3-2) also lost Saturday, 65-45, to host Westminster. Menlo senior forward Ashlynn Dolcini had 17 rebounds and scored eight points. Menlo opens California Pacific Conference play on Friday, hosting No. 7 Holy Names.

ON THE AIR

Friday
Prep sports: High School Sports Fol- kus, 11 p.m., KC7U (36), rebroadcast Sunday at 4 p.m.

Sunday
Prep sports: Cal-Hi Bay Area, 5:30 p.m. on KC7U (36) rebroadcast Monday at 7 p.m. on Fox Sports Net

SPORTS ONLINE

For expanded daily coverage of college and prep sports, please see our online edition at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

SPORTS

Local sports news and schedulers

Silver lining in loss

Newlin shows she’s ready to be a big contributor for Cardinal

by Rick Eymer

There’s a trend developing for the Stanford women’s basketball team and it should warm the hearts of Stanford fans everywhere.

In a nutshell, the trend is Kristen Newlin. The 6-foot-5 junior center has rapidly developed into one of Stanford’s top players and that will only benefit the rest of the team.

Newlin stepped up to the challenge on Sunday afternoon against No. 2 Tennessee and showed she wasn’t about to take a back seat to one of the more formidable front lines in women’s basketball.

That 12th-ranked Stanford (4-2) lost, 74-67, to the Lady Vols (7-0) is really a minor part of the story. Tennessee ended Stanford’s 25-game home winning streak and extended its winning streak against the Cardinals to 11 games.

Both teams are relatively young, and both have a chance to extend their seasons well into March and perhaps into April. Stanford should relish the thought of facing Tennessee again, because it will be a different game.

Newlin recorded a career-high 20 points and had 10 rebounds for her third consecutive double-double, and her fourth of the year. She’s averaging a double-double with 12.3 points and 10.3 rebounds a game.

Newlin has six career double-doubles, and four of them — three this season — have been against nationally-ranked opponents. With opponents gang up on first team All-Pac-10 selection Brooke Smith, it became necessary for another post player to step forward and share the workload.

Miracle finish propels Palo Alto Knights into semifinals of Pop Warner nationals

by Keith Peters

The situation looked bleak for the Palo Alto Jr. Midgets in the opening round of the Pop Warner Football Championships. The Knights were trailing, time was running and the situation looked bleak for the Palo Alto Jr. Midgets. The Braves’ quarterback dropped back to pass, the ball at the 12 and raced into the end zone with 21 seconds remaining to give Palo Alto a miraculous 20-16 victory on Sunday at the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla.

“We were in trouble the whole game,” said Pha. “We couldn’t put a running game together.”

Palo Alto, however, put it together when it counted most.

“A miracle finish,” Pha said. “It was probably one of the more dramatic finishes in Knights’ history.”

Added head coach Eric Borjon: “It puts us in great position for the rest of the week.”

Next up for Palo Alto will be the Cedar Crest Comets of Dallas, Texas. That semifinal will be played Wednesday. The Knights are looking for their first-ever national crown this week.

(continued on page 28)

Paly’s revenge will have to wait

Loss to Los Gatos in CCS finale has Vikings pointing toward 2006

by Nathan Kurz

losing to Los Gatos has become quite the nasty habit for the Palo Alto football team. But this latest defeat was perhaps the most frustrating of all — it came with a section championship on the line.

In their second trip to the Central Coast Section title game in three years, the Vikings lost their 11th straight game to their CCS De Anza Division rivals, 27-6, in the CCS Medium School Division fi- nale last Friday at Foothill Col- lege. “It would have been great to beat (Los Gatos), since we’ve never beaten them since I’ve been here,” senior wide receiver Cooper Miller said. “But now I have to go home with a bitter taste in my mouth. I don’t like this feeling.”

The margin of defeat was pretty much par for Palo Alto, which had lost each of the past 10 league meetings — including a 63-28 drubbing in early November — by an average score of 31-8. The Vikings’ last win over Los Gatos, exactly a decade ago, secured Palo Alto a second-place league finish and propelled it to the school’s first and only section title.

It was arguably an accomplish- ment in itself for the Vikings to advance this far without standout junior quarterback Nick Good- speed, who was lost for the sea- son over a month ago after sepa- rating his right shoulder. Goodspeed led the Paly frosh-soph team to a 10-0 record in 2004 and league championship. That in- cluded a win over Los Gatos, which sets the Vikings up for next season with all the majority of the team returning.

With an impressive turnover margin, a resurrected running game and a stout defense, Palo Alto survived South San Francisco and surprised Terra Nova to get back to the title match this season.

But as coach Earl Hansen preached all week, the Vikings would have to strictly adhere to this formula if they were going to (continued on page 27)
A tough end to the year

Defending NCAA champ斯坦福 upset in second round by Santa Clara
by Rick Eymer

Stanford women’s volleyball coach John Dunning could have said any number of things to his team following its 23-30, 30-19, 30-27, 31-29 loss to Santa Clara in the second round of the NCAA tournament on Saturday night.

“How do you explain showing heart, showing pride,” he asked the gathered media. “When you are in this program expectations are very high. If the only measure you go by is to get to the final match, that’s too much. There is nothing I can say right now that will help the 12 girls crying in the locker room.”

Stanford junior outside hitter Kristen Richards was next to Dun-ning, leaning back in her chair with eyes closed, allowing tears to trickle down her cheeks. Being there was probably the last place she wanted to be, and when she did speak it was barely above a whisper.

“What our team went through, I’m proud of everything we got out of this season,” she said. “Obviously I’m still disappointed. We do have next year to look forward to; that’s something.”

Dunning made several statements about working through the adversity of one of the toughest seasons at Stanford, how the effort was still there and how this team would be better for the experience. Those are likely words for another day. On Saturday night, fifth-ranked Stanford could not be stopped.

It was Stanford’s first loss in 24 matches against the 15th-ranked Broncos, who advance to the round of 16 for the first time in school history. Stanford returns to Stanford on Friday night to meet WCC rival Pepperdine in one regional semifinal. Arizona and Ohio meet in the other semifinal, also at Maples Pavilion.

“We’ve worked so hard every year and we’ve unfortunately lost in the first round my last three years,” San-ta Clara senior and Woodside Priory grad Cassie Perret said. “I’m so proud of my team and I absolutely think we deserve it.”

While Santa Clara makes preparations for its next match, Stanford will begin working on next season. Perhaps Richards and her team-mates will take a look at the history of Cardinal volleyball and realize that losing in the second round - Stanford has never lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament - has happened before and has been a building block to ultimate success.

Stanford reached the championship match of the 1999 tournament, and then fell in the second round of the 2000 tournament. The Cardinal won the national title in 2001. Stanford was also the defending national champion when it lost in the second round of the 1993 tournament. The Cardinal rebounded with a national title in 1994.

Stanford says goodbye to seniors Courtney Schultz and Katie Gold-hahn after the school year but the pro-gram will also be greeting two of top high school players in the nation. The Cardinal should also be healthier.

Newlin said, “We can’t expect her to have good games every day. We still want to get her the ball. She’s a scorer.”

Last year in Knoxville, Candice Wiggins and Smith combined for 25 points and 10 rebounds in 63 min-utes of playing time. Three others - Krista Rappahahn, Cissy Pierce and Newlin - played a total of 17 minutes and had a total of one rebound among them.

On Sunday, Wiggins (16 points, five rebounds, four assists and two blocked shots) and Smith combined for 25 points and six rebounds. Rappahahn and Pierce netted 17 points.

Tennessee had six players returning who played at least 15 minutes against Stanford last year, while only Wiggins and Smith reached double digits in minutes played last year.

Clare Bodensteiner, Eziamaka Okafor, Rosalyn Gold-Onwude and Jillian Harmon all made their first ap-parances against the Lady Vols.

The point being that Stanford has a sharper learning curve, and Newlin is at the head of the class. VanDerveer called it a barometer game but it was more like a pop quiz.

Women’s hoops

Women’s hoops (continued from page 26)

burden.

“This should tell Kristen Newlin she can get in there and play with the big kids,” Stanford coach Tara Van-Derveer said. “We have to get her the ball more.”

The good news is that Stanford has another 10 days to work on things until it takes the court at Maples Pavilion against Rice on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. The Pac-10 season begins with a trip to Washington State three days later.

Newlin figures the whole team will be better as a result.

“We’re all going to build on this collectively,” Newlin said. “We’re not going to forget this loss. We’ll use it to fuel how we play later on. Ten-nessee’s post players are big, athletic and aggressive. You’re not going to find a better post rotation. That helped me a lot.”

It will also help Smith, who took a 1.7 scoring average into the contest but managed just nine points and one rebound while getting manhandled by the physical Lady Vols.

“I don’t worry about Brooke,” Wiggins said.

Positives for Castilleja despite loss in state finals

by Keith Peters

While Castilleja’s dream vol-leyball season didn’t end with a victory, coach Traci Hubbard walked away from Sat-urday’s CIF Division V State Championship loss with nothing but positives.

“This season has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our sen-tors and I am proud that they were able to achieve it finally, after trying for three years,” Hubbard said. “For those returning next year, we are definitely looking to keep our sights set high and try to make it back to the near future. We want to prove to people that Castilleja isn’t going away any time soon. The vol-leyball program has just begun to see results.”

In Hubbard’s three seasons at Castilleja, the Gators have compiled a 98-22 record. That includes a 36-7 record this season, which came to an end Saturday with the loss, for we played with resilience and together as a team.

“I think it has been a long season and the fact that we played well for so many games in a row during playoffs is a feat in itself.”

Stanford men come close, but fall to USC in finale

by Rick Eymer

S andy Hohener said the sure-thing Stanford men’s water polo team had a chance, even in the final seconds.

The sophomore goalkeeper, who recorded all of 10 saves as a backup to All-American Chad Taylor last season, made 1 saves on Sunday but the second-ranked Cardinal (20-7) lost 10-9 to USC (21-6), a 2-1 upset in the NCAA championship game before a sellout crowd at Bucknell University’s Kinney Natatorium in Lewisburg, Pa.

“It was a great defensive game,” Stanford coach John Vargas said. “I couldn’t be more proud of how we played. We had our matchups and had the right people on the right guys. We played great team defense, and Sandy Hohener had a great game. We played like we wanted to play in terms of controlling the game. USC did a great job on man-down de-fense.”

In the final 2-0 nine Stanford had man advantage twice, with one shot hitting off the top of the bar and another skipping short of the net.

USC scored twice in nine man ad-vantage situations, while Stanford converted once in its eight chances.

“It was an NCAA final, and with the gunners like Stanford you’d say it was my best game,” Schilling said. “It didn’t take long to realize that it was going to be a defensive struggle, so I had to be on top of every shot. In the first half our shot-blocking de-fense was the key in 5-on-6.”

Stanford seniors Peter Varellas and Thomas Hopkins were named first team all-tournament, while Hohen-er, junior J.J. Garton and freshman Will Hindle-Katell were chosen for the second team.

The 3-2 score in the finals marks the lowest scoring championship game in the history of the event, which dates to 1969.

“I can’t believe this game only had five goals, but I love to win games like this,” USC coach Jovan Vavic said. “This title was a we got over the fact we were unable to hold a lead rather win 10-9 or 3-2, I would say 3-2.”

Sacred Heart Prep grad Brandon Child and Gunn grad Arjan Liten-berg are both starters for USC, which graduates three seniors. Child is a junior while Litenberg is a fresh-man.

The Trojans and Stanford traded goals midway through the first peri-o-d, Juan Delgadillo gave USC the early lead, but Varellas answered with a goal 12 seconds later. Ted Zepfel put the Trojans on top, 2-1, with a goal at 6:30 of the second period. For nearly 15 minutes after, neither team could find a way to sneak a shot past the goalies.

Stanford tied the game less than a minute into the fourth period when Michael Bury sent a shot in the left corner of the net after taking a pass from Palo Alto grad Ryan Fortune.

Pavol Valovic scored the game winner with 3:10 remaining, setting up the final frantic minutes, which included replaying the last 18 sec-onds.

The scoreboard malfunctioned and the remaining time was called back by the announcer. USC thought it had won them but Vargas filed a formal protest and the 18 seconds were placed back on the clock. The Cardi-nal were unable to take advantage of their second chance.
Now it's our turn to lead.

Along with 6-foot-4 tackles Will Goins and

Los Gatos started their senior quarterback back Will Frazier on Palo Alto's fourth play of the game, which was recovered by Los Gatos for a 3-yard gain to the Vikings' 24. For the next three minutes, the Vikings were held without a play, and the Wildcats</p>
Paly, Gunn boys win basketball titles

Menlo boys remain unbeaten after winning three games in three days

by Keith Peters

The Palo Alto and Gunn boys’ basketball teams both came up with tournament titles this past weekend, while the Menlo School boys just kept on rolling.

Paly went 3-0 in the James Lick Invitational, topped by a 60-38 win over Andrew Hill in the championship game last Friday.

Senior forward Steven Brown scored 59 points in the three wins and was named the Most Valuable Player after tallying 20 points in the finals. Teammate Kheaton Scott was named to the all-tournament team. Senior guard Jeremy Lin led the Vikings in the finals with a season-high 24 points. Lin tallied 51 points in the tourney.

Gunn went 3-0 in the Cupertino Shootout, capturing its first title in more than a decade with a 47-34 triumph over the host Pioneers. Gunn used a 17-1 run in the third and fourth quarters to secure the win.

Junior Peter Jordan and senior Nicky LaFleur both made the all-tournament team. Jordan scored 13 points in the finals, despite being double- and triple-teamed, and 21 in a 66-58 semifinal win over Mills, holding the top scorer on both teams to just two points.

“I’m pleased as we played defensively in the second half,” said Gunn coach Chris Redfield, whose team held Cupertino to just 15 points after intermission. “I told the team that our goal was to hold them to 10 points or fewer for each of the final two quarters.”

LaFleur had 15 points against Cupertino to lead Gunn (3-0).

Menlo (5-0) won three games in three days last week. The Knights knocked off a solid St. Ignatius team, 50-45, while holding Brown recruit Matt Jones to 10 points. They followed that with a 54-38 win over host Pacific Grove.

Junior Beau Heidrich scored 48 points in the three wins while senior Blake Schultz tallied 37.

Menlo-Atherton (3-1) won the consolation title of the Amos Alonzo Stagg Classic in Stockton with a 66-51 win over Franklin (Stockton).

Girls basketball

Menlo-Atherton (2-1) reached the finals of the Gator Classic before falling to Santa Cruz on Saturday, 62-51, despite a career-high 25 points from Karley Marty. She was joined on the all-tournament team by Christina Dixon.

At the Forest Lake Invitational in Auburn, Castilleja (3-3) finished second after falling to host Forest Lake, 44-27. Lindsay Taylor and Alex Chang-Graham of Castilleja made the all-tournament team.

Cross country

Gunn freshman Joanne Reid had the best finish of any local runner at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships West Regional on Saturday at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut.

She finished 10th in the Freshman Girls race, covering the three-mile course in 20:27. Courtney Albin of Atherton was 18th in 20:42.

In the seeded Girls race that featured the top runners on the West Coast, Palo Alto junior Renata Cummings was 54th in 19:53 and Palo teammate Alcina Ivanhoe was 70th in 20:19.

In the Junior Girls race, Lily Feng of Palo Alto was 57th in 22:25 while Palo’s Kitty Glaessner was 37th in the Senior Girls race in 21:33.

In the Senior Boys race, Roscoe Linstad of Gunn was 41st in 18:29 while Palo Alto’s Brian Hand was 52nd in 18:51 in the Sophomores Boys race.

SCOREBOARD

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Nonconference Friday

STANFORD (69)
Haryasz 8-16 4-4 20, Fredricks 6-14 2-2 14, Hernandez 4-12 1-2 11, Ross 2-2 2-2 6, Johnson 1-3 0-0 2, Lindsey 0-0 0-0 0, Total: 25-59 11-29 69.

MONTANA (88)
Matthews 6-8 9-10 23, Hasel 6-7 4-4 20, Crisp 3-9 9-14 19, Martin 3-9 1-1 12, Strait 5-8 1-1 11, Hayes 2-2 0-0 4, Chavis 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 28-48 24-28 88.


Saturday

STANFORD (58)
Finger 3-3 0-0 6, Grunfeld 6-10 2-2 14, Haryasz 8-16 4-7 22, Haas 1-3 0-0 2, Washington 0-0 2-2. Totals: 17-31 2-11 52.

PACIFIC (55)
1-4 0-0 2, Haas 1-3 0-0 2, Wiggins 7-16 0-0 16, 5-8 6-7 16, 52 19-28 64.

STANFORD (57)
Haryasz 8-16 4-4 20, Finger 3-3 0-0 6, Grunfeld 6-10 2-2 14, Haryasz 8-16 4-7 22, Haas 1-3 0-0 2, Washington 0-0 2-2. Totals: 17-31 2-11 52.

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PACIFIC (55)
1-4 0-0 2, Haas 1-3 0-0 2, Wiggins 7-16 0-0 16, 5-8 6-7 16, 52 19-28 64.
Give the gift of happy memories. University Art in downtown Palo Alto has an extensive selection of photo frames, wall frames, photo albums and memory supplies. Ask one of their professional designers to create a unique and beautiful custom frame. It’s a gift that will be cherished for a lifetime.

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This holiday season at Thistle we’re proud to present a wonderful selection of Beth Orduna’s fabulous jewelry. Her remarkable designs include one-of-a-kind necklaces of polished wood wrapped with velvet and embellished with exceptional charms. Visit us at 640 Waverley Ave. or www.ThistlePaloAlto.com and get outstanding gifts with a sen-

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The best resolution for 2006 is to get ready for emergencies. At Palo Alto Hardware, we are working with the Red Cross to sell emergency preparedness kits. 2006 is the centennial of the '06 earthquake, so stock up now. Visit us at 895 Alma St. or call (650) 327-7222 and provide your family with an emergency pack that may save lives some day.

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Don't procrastinate and wait until January to work out! Sign up any day in December and workout for FREE for 30 Days!!!

Look for our weight loss challenge in January 2006 and win a one year free membership!

* Not transferable. Not redeemable for cash.
For new members only.

Ho! Ho! Ho!
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Member of Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and National Association for Young Children

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206 Homer Avenue
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Buy Any Game Get 2nd 40% OFF
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ATHERTON...Spacious 6 bedroom 5 ½ bath home with elegant living areas and casual day-to-day spaces. Park-like grounds include a peaceful Redwood grove, level lawn and children’s play space. Features include kitchen with granite countertops, living room with fireplace, library, pool, cabana and tennis court.

KRISTIN CASHIN / JEFFREY TENG $4,495,000

MOUNTAIN VIEW... Two homes located on an approx. 18,530 sq ft lot. 2 BR/1BA per house. Large front & rear yard. Excellent opportunity with many possibilities. Los Altos Elementary & High School District.

PAUL SKRABO $895,000


KEN & CAROL REEVES $1,975,000

Enjoy the livability of this welcoming 3BR/2BA condo. It delights and invites, with master suite. Central air. Clubhouse and community swimming pool. Close to shopping center, Stanford and commute routes. Desirable Menlo Park Schools.

Vivian Vella $699,000

MENLO PARK... Enjoy a private cul-de-sac! Lovely landscaping with mature trees, roses & sod lawns around a newly updated 3BR/1BA home. Eat in kitchen, sparkling bathrooms, hardwood floors and double pane windows. Desirable Menlo Park Schools!

LYN ASHY $875,000

Located in a very desirable area, the value of this property is in the land! Existing 2BR/1BA house & outbuildings are to be considered "teardowns". This parcel (approx. 12,004 sq. ft.) is waiting 4 you to build your dream!

Josie Gambera $1,100,000

LOS ALTOS HILLS...Don’t miss this rare lot w/connected sewer service! Property is situated adjacent to new subdivision of new estate homes. Existing house on this site is very sound; possible tennis court & or pool. Minutes from The Village

Victor Platennon $2,395,000

PORTOLA VALLEY...Breathtaking views from this completely remodeled 6 BD/ 5BA home in prime Westridge. Fabulous new gourmet kit., dramatic vaulted ceiling living and dining rooms, luxurious master bedroom suite, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors throughout. Gorgeous, private oak studded lot, approx. 3.8 acres on serene cul-de-sac. Beautiful black bottom pool.

Elizabeth Daschbach / Kristin Cashin $3,750,000

Classical French-style par excellence. A high level of comfort, with fireplace and fireplace. 5BR/4 baths. Atrium, desirable 3-car garage. Work-at-home office, family room, ample storage space, Breakfast room. Slate roof.

Mark Benson $8,995,000


Nadine Matityahu $710,000

WOODSIDE...Magnificent oaks line the entrance to this family compound, weekend retreat or full-time residence on approx. 7.78 acre lot. This 4BR/3BA home boasts a gourmet Kit. Beautiful stone deck leads you to a panoramic view of coastal hills & Pacific Ocean. Riding trails!

Dana Cappiello $2,800,000

Charming hideaway at the end of a private driveway. This home is in a spectacular setting among towering trees, lush landscaping, and sparkling pool. Built in the 50’s this house may provide the buyer with versatility in a prime location. Family-friendly in Woodside Heights & Las Lomitas School District. 4 BD (1 currently used as den) 2.5 BA + a separate BONUS room with full bath and private entrance.

Alice Brand $2,550,000

COMING SOON

PAD ALTO...Classic 2BR/1BA bungalow quietly situated near San Francisquito Creek and just blocks from downtown. Neatly landscaped grounds and detached 1 car garage plus off street parking.

GINNA LAZAR

WANTED!!!

MENLO PARK... Rar...