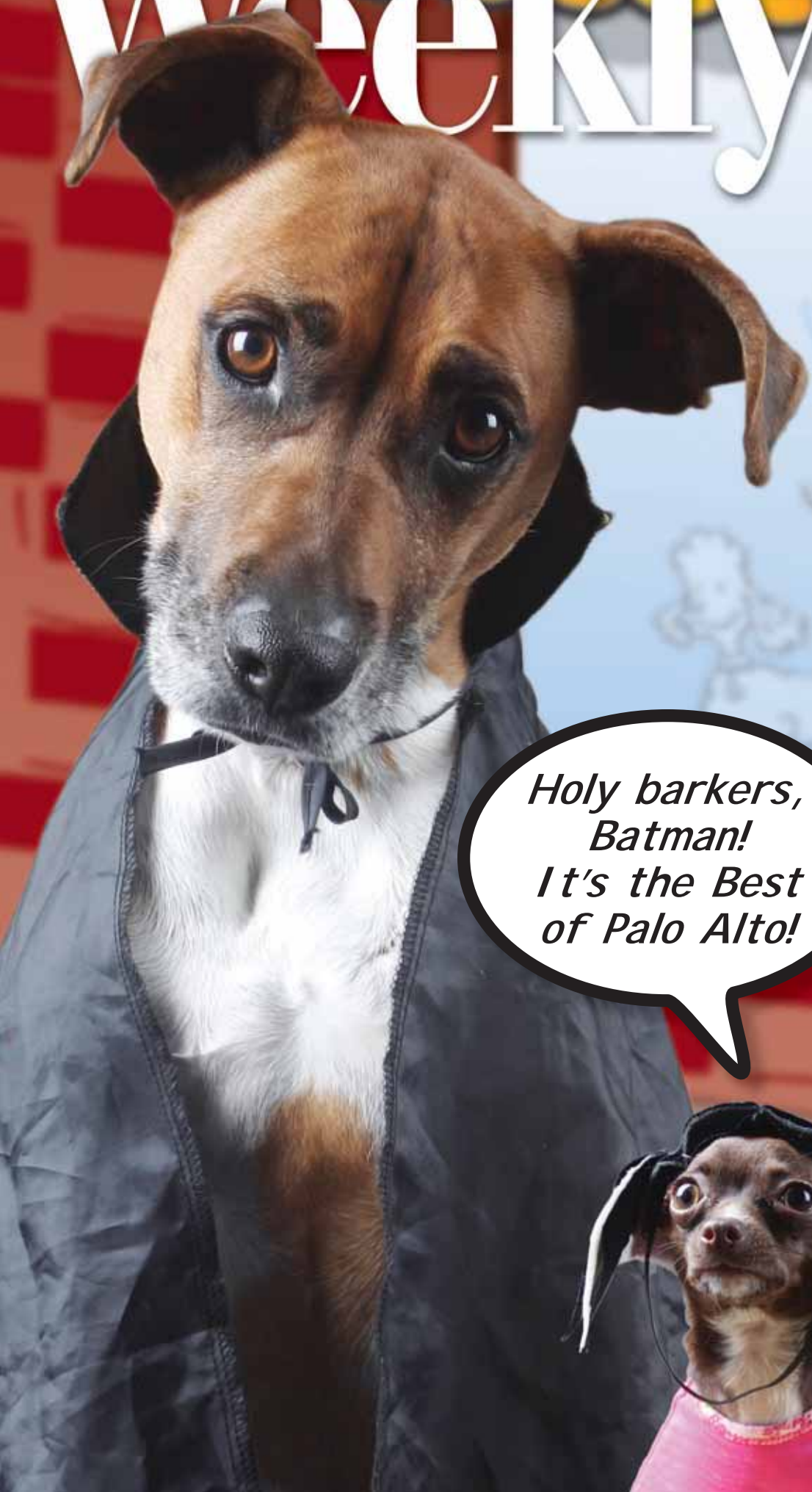


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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Movies Page 14
Sports Digest Page 17
Best of Palo Alto..... Page 20
Home & Real Estate Page 47
Crossword/Sudoku Page 61

Judge: More study needed on high-speed rail

California High Speed Rail Authority ordered to rewrite parts of its environmental report, but Pacheco route still stands, rail officials say

by Gennady Sheyner

A Sacramento judge ruled Wednesday that the state agency charged with building a high-speed rail line from San Francisco to Los Angeles must rewrite portions of its environmental review, a ruling that could delay the \$40 billion project.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny issued the ruling stating the rail authority's voluminous

environmental-impact report inadequately described a portion of the project and failed to address Union Pacific's refusal to share its right-of-way with the new rail system.

But Kenny also rejected a claim by Menlo Park, Atherton and a coalition of environmental and transportation groups that the rail authority did not sufficiently consider the Altamont Pass as a plausible alter-

native to Pacheco Pass, the agency's preferred route.

The rail authority, Kenny ruled, offered substantial evidence to support its finding that using the Altamont Pass (which runs through the East Bay) would pose significant construction and environmental challenges. The rail project, approved by California voters in November, is legally required to run between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Using the Altamont Pass would thus require the rail line to cross the San Francisco Bay, a project that could result in loss of wet-

land habitats and would require a new set of environmental clearances and a new double-track bridge.

But Kenny agreed with the plaintiffs that certain parts of the Pacheco Pass alignment would need to be restudied, particularly in light of Union Pacific's opposition to sharing its tracks with the high-speed rail. The ruling singles out the portion of Pacheco Pass between San Jose and Gilroy

"If Union Pacific will not allow the Authority to use its right-of-way, it appears it will be necessary for the Authority to obtain additional right-

of-way outside of this area, requiring the taking of property and displacement of residents and businesses," Kenny wrote. "However, none of this was addressed in the EIR (environmental-impact review)."

The railroad company's refusal to share its tracks should have prompted the rail authority to recirculate its environmental review, Kenny wrote.

Stuart Flashman, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said Union Pacific's stance throws a wrench into the authority's plans.

(continued on page 8)



Veronica Weber

They're b-a-a-c-k to school

Ohlone Elementary School teacher Kim Prescott captured the attention of her kindergarten and first-grade students by reading 'Mouse Paint' on the first day of school in Palo Alto on Tuesday. The school district is facing lower-than-expected enrollment this year.

COMMUNITY

Amid fear of another suicide, vows of vigilance

Palo Alto officials, parents respond to teen's suicide with counseling, workshops

by the Palo Alto Weekly Staff

In the wake of a third Palo Alto student suicide on the Caltrain tracks within four months, worried school officials, parents and mental-health professionals are vowing to increase their support for children and youth and have planned two workshops to address emotional well-being this fall.

Last Friday night (Aug. 21), a 13-year-old incoming Gunn High School freshman stepped in front

of a southbound train. Caltrain officials said that she left a suicide note at the scene. She was identified by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office Tuesday as Catrina Holmes of Palo Alto.

The religious community will be hosting a panel discussion on Monday on how spiritual practices and teachings can strengthen the community's youth. It will be moderated by Palo Alto Mayor Peter Drekmeier

and feature representatives from the Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Christian Science traditions.

The Palo Alto Council of PTAs, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Adolescent Counseling Services will be presenting a panel discussion and resource fair on stress on Oct. 21. (See sidebar on page 5 for details.)

"Clearly we have a case of suicide clusters here," a somber Kevin Skelly, Palo Alto Unified School District superintendent, said Monday. "Our balancing issue is to take care of the kids."

On Monday, a retired counselor at Terman Middle School, which Holmes had attended, met with

(continued on page 5)

COURTS

Jury selection begins in May murder trial

Alvarez faces the death penalty if convicted of East Palo Alto officer's murder

by Sue Dremann

Instructions to the jury in the trial of Alberto Alvarez, accused of murdering East Palo Alto Police Officer Richard May in January 2006, will include a modern-day admonition: No tweeting.

That instruction to refrain from using the website Twitter was one of several decisions San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Craig L. Parsons and attorneys for the defense and prosecution worked out on the opening day of Alvarez's capital-punishment trial Tuesday.

Alvarez, 25, is charged with first-degree murder with special circumstances and could be given the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted. He allegedly shot May to death after the officer responded to a call about an argument at a University Avenue restaurant in East Palo Alto.

On Tuesday, Parsons ruled on jury-selection criteria and left open the possible admission of some evidence at the end of the trial that alleges Alvarez is a member of the Sacramento Street Gang.

In March, Parsons had blocked evidence of Alvarez's alleged gang affiliation. He reaffirmed that ruling on Tuesday, saying the alleged gang connection cannot be presented as a motive. But he would consider in a separate hearing later whether prosecutors can use the argument during rebuttal at the end of the trial, he said.

Defense attorneys are expected to present expert witnesses to testify that Alvarez suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) that could have affected his actions.

Eric Liberman, one of two defense attorneys, has previously said

he will present evidence that May operated outside the scope of his duties, allegedly beating Alvarez with a baton and firing a shot at Alvarez as the defendant ran away.

But Steve Wagstaffe, San Mateo County chief deputy district attorney, argued that if the defense is allowed to present the PTSD argument, the prosecution should be allowed to present gang-affiliation evidence in order to draw a distinction between Alvarez as an innocent victim of a violent world and bringing violence upon himself.

Alvarez "sought out gang activity. He was not just a victim of a violent world, but he was one of the active participants in the violent world," Wagstaffe said.

Alvarez, looking thinner and paler than in his arrest photos, sat passively in red jail clothing, shackled at the waist and ankles in the courtroom Tuesday.

Parsons agreed that jury instructions will include the "Lieberman admonition," named after Alvarez's attorney, who raised the issue of restricting use of high-tech devices by jurors during the trial, along with newspapers and news reports.

Jurors will also be warned against posting on Twitter (called tweeting), blogging or instant messaging or receiving such messages, all of which could cause a mistrial.

The trial resumed Tuesday after a five-month postponement. Following jury selection, which could last five weeks, attorneys' opening statements are expected the week of Oct. 12.

The trial, including the penalty phase, is expected to last until Dec. 16. ■

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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



We're at a dangerous point right now.



— Kevin Skelly, superintendent of the Palo Alto Unified School District, on comforting grieving students while not making suicide seem normal. See story on page 3.

Around Town

HEALTHY SKEPTICISM ... U.S. Rep. **Anna Eshoo**, D-Palo Alto, hasn't had to deal with gun-toting dissidents or engage in shouting matches with her constituents during recent Town Hall meetings on the health care system — so far. That's because, Eshoo, unlike some of her congressional colleagues, has limited her outreach to a series of telephone meetings, which she calls (somewhat oxymoronically) "Telephone Townhall." But that hasn't kept constituents from voicing skepticism about the overhaul proposals currently crawling through the two chambers of Congress. On Aug. 19, a caller identified as **Walt from Belmont** accused Eshoo and the federal government of bankrupting Social Security and Medicare. He also brought up the 1999 federal takeover of Mustang Ranch, a Nevada brothel that the government temporarily took over after its previous owner was convicted for fraud. "You can't even run that and sell whiskey and make a profit," Walt said. "Why do you feel you should have direct access to our bank accounts to pay for (health care)?" Eshoo didn't dwell on the brothel issue, but she acknowledged that while both Medicare and Social Security are financially strained, neither is operating in the red. "While I'm very glad you called and welcome what you say, they simply aren't the facts," Eshoo told Walt. "Neither fund has gone bankrupt, and we cannot allow them to." Eshoo will talk face-to-face with constituents about health care on Sept. 2, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.

YOU BE THE JUDGE ... As negotiations between Palo Alto and its largest labor union continue to inch along, both sides are trying to bring the public into the dialogue. Two weeks ago, the local **SEIU** chapter unveiled its ghoulishly themed website PaloAltoIsFallingShort.com, which features a chopped-down tree as its official logo. Then, late last week, the city added a "Labor Negotiations" page to its official website, www.cityofpaloalto.org. The two sites appear to

be about as far apart as the two bodies negotiating. The SEIU site features pictures of monsters, colorful graphs, snappy headings ("Once upon a tough economic time..."), humorless chapter titles ("The Shell Game," "Costly Façade") and pathos-heavy projections of what the city's proposal would mean for SEIU workers ("An Administrative Associate would have to feed his children with \$450 less per month"). The city's chart-heavy page is also full of statistics, but it also uses a more subdued tone in describing the gap between the city's position and the union's. "The City sees a future of sustained economic pressures, coupled with long-term upward pressure on salaries and particularly benefit costs," it says. The union's proposals are "short term," it continues.

IN THIS CORNER ... Tesla Motors' recent decision to move to Stanford Research Park in Palo Alto means the world's two leading electric-car entrepreneurs — the other being **Better Place** — will now be working within walking distance of each other. A recent New Yorker magazine profile contrasts Tesla founder and CEO **Elon Musk** with **Shai Agassi** of **Better Place**. Agassi's company hopes to promote a switch to electric vehicles by installing thousands of "charge spots" and battery-swapping stations throughout the world before unleashing a wave of electric cars. The two entrepreneurs and soon-to-be neighbors spoke about one another in terms one could construe as less than flattering. "Don't build unicorn pastures until there are some unicorns," Musk told the New Yorker. "I think Shai is going to spend a lot of money and not have a lot to show for it." Agassi countered that Tesla's practice of manufacturing \$100,000 roadsters is unlikely to have a major impact worldwide (Tesla plans to release a \$50,000 sedan in 2011). "Elon made the best car in the world, which is fantastic. But we're going to make the cheapest. Cheap wins," Agassi said. A sitcom in the making, perhaps? ■

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COMMUNITY

Catrina was active, honest, private, friend says

Death came as a shock to friend

by Sue Dremann

The death of Palo Alto student Catrina Holmes has evoked scores of recollections and condolence messages posted on Twitter and Facebook, two social-networking websites, along with the sharing of personal stories about her.

One friend, Sadaf Rizvi, who was close to Holmes since fifth grade, said in a telephone conversation with the Weekly (with her mother's permission) that Holmes loved biking and was usually very active and somewhat daring.

"She was full of energy. She loved doing things that no one else would do," she said.

Rizvi said her friend was an honest person.

"She always cheered me up. She was always truthful. She never lied

to me — ever," she said.

But Holmes was not open with her deeper emotions: "She never expressed her feelings or wanted to talk about things going on in her head," Rizvi said.

Holmes' death came as a shock, Rizvi said. Last year, Holmes had seemed depressed but recently seemed to come out of it, she said.

Holmes seemed "really happy at the time this happened," Rizvi said. "Before, she was feeling really down. She felt like she was alone. She wanted a lot of space. She wanted to stay away from people for awhile."

Holmes was the daughter of Thomas J. Holmes, a well-known aerospace engineer, and Natasha Holmes. Her parents are reportedly in isolation. ■

Suicide response

(continued from page 3)

Terman students. Counselors from two Palo Alto nonprofits, Adolescent Counseling Services and Kara, made themselves available to Gunn students this week as well, a school official said.

The latest suicide has rocked the community: In May and June, two other Gunn students died by suicide at the same West Meadow Drive train crossing.

The mother of one of those students pleaded with the Palo Alto school board Tuesday night to listen to students, not just adults, in responding to the recent deaths.

"There's a sense of urgency that I would like to stress," said Kathleen Blanchard, mother of 17-year-old Jean Paul "JP" Blanchard. "As I know in speaking with my son's friends, there are children who are hurting right now."

Blanchard, an attorney and mother of two other children in the school district, applauded the board for considering ways to improve the "social-emotional support for students" as one of its seven "focused goals" for the coming school year.

"I don't blame the school for my son's decision," she said. "I don't seek to place blame, but I want to find positive ways to help children who are in pain. It appears that most of the dialogue is taking place amongst adults and professionals, but there are important interactions that need to take place with students."

"We need to help our children feel safe about bringing up their concerns, and to help them feel valued and connected."

As part of the social-emotional health goal, school officials proposed asking teachers of the "Living Skills" class to meet and create a consistent curriculum that includes mental-health education. Currently

the curriculum in Living Skills, a one-semester course required for graduation at both high schools, varies depending on the priorities of the instructor.

Skelly said this week that the district wants to be respectful of the community's loss but careful not to sensationalize the girl's death or prompt other students to take their lives, he said.

"Our challenge is supporting the kids in grieving but not over-dramatizing or making it seem like a normal behavior. ... We're at a dangerous point right now," he said.

He affirmed that the district will continue last spring's efforts to bring discussion of mental illness out into the open and educate parents and students about the root causes of suicide.

"Identifying who's at risk is difficult," Skelly said. Mental health issues are "very elusive" behaviors that "defy easy solution," he added.

In his 25 years in education, Skelly said he has come to understand Palo Alto's crisis as a community is not so unusual. Quoting from a book he had on his desk, Skelly said suicide clusters are more common than one generally knows. He rattled off a list of communities, schools and hospital settings where clusters have occurred around the nation.

"The more I read and the more I learn, I'm not terribly surprised," he said.

For their part, Caltrain and police officials announced they would ramp up enforcement near the tracks and team up with mental-health experts in an aggressive, community-wide suicide-prevention effort.

J. David Triolo, Caltrain's chief of protective services, said the agency will continue to monitor the tracks for trespassers and train its employees in spotting and counseling individuals who may be prone to suicide.

Caltrain has had 13 "crisis interventions" this year for individuals

who may have otherwise attempted suicide, mostly based on someone seen acting in a strange manner near the tracks.

Caltrain is also looking for physical improvements around its right-of-way that could deter pedestrians. The agency plans to spend about \$1 million on new fencing in the coming year, said Mark Simon, Caltrain executive officer for public affairs.

But the community's energies should be focused on addressing the reasons why people choose to go to the Caltrain right-of-way in the first place, Simon said. He said over the past decade an average of 299 people died by suicide annually in the three counties Caltrain serves, compared to an average of nine people who committed suicide on Caltrain's Peninsula right-of-way.

Simon said Caltrain will work with a group of mental-health experts, including those from the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, to spread information about suicide prevention. The Palo Alto Police Department also plans to support the school community by placing officers at every school and by having a greater presence along the tracks, police said. And Liz Kniss, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, said the board's Health and Hospital Committee will take up a proposed "Suicide Prevention Task Force" on which the council mental health staff has been working since June.

She said she is well-aware of the complexities and individual circumstances surrounding each death and of how the deaths each cause long heartbreak in families.

But she said the intent of the task force will be to design a program that will be fully integrated into county mental-health services and that would complement local community efforts. ■

How to help

Workshops to address students' emotional health

Supporting Our Teens: Multifaith Community Response

Representatives from the local faith community will host a panel discussion to address how various faith teachings and practices can help adults provide guidance and strength to children and youth. Palo Alto Mayor Peter Dreke will moderate the panel, which will include people from six traditions: Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Christian Science. The event is free and open to the public.

When: Monday, Aug. 31, 7 to 9 p.m.

Where: Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Information: www.multifaithpeace.org or 650-569-3416.

Dealing with Stress: An Experts' View of Youth Stress, Warning Signs and Solutions

The Palo Alto Council of PTAs will host a program on middle- and high-school stress, removing the pressure to be perfect and opening up about depression in conjunction with Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Adolescent Counseling Services. The panel will also include students. The PTA also has parent-education materials posted on its website (below), as does Packard Children's Hospital, www.lpch.org.

When: Wednesday, Oct. 21. Resource fair starts at 6:30 p.m. with panel discussion and Q&A from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Information: <http://paloaltopta.org> or 650-400-6960 or sdykwel@kwrpa.com

Several Palo Alto nonprofit organizations provide counseling and other services:

Adolescent Counseling Services

Adolescent Counseling Services offers counseling and preventive education in order to empower teens and their families to realize their emotional and social potential.

Where: 4000 Middlefield Road, Building FH, Palo Alto

Information: www.acs-teens.org, 650-424-0852

Family and Children Services

Services include counseling for children, teens, adults and families, anger management and violence-prevention classes, parenting education, crisis services and more. Multilingual.

Where: 375 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto

Information: www.fcscservices.org, 650-326-6576

Kara

Kara, a Palo Alto grief-support nonprofit, offers counseling and grief-support groups for children, teenagers and adults who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Where: 457 Kingsley Ave., Palo Alto

Information: www.kara-grief.org, 650-321-5272

Suicide Crisis Hotline

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Palo Alto boosts rail outreach

Teach-in and workshop aim to raise awareness, solicit input on rail design

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto is planning a series of events to raise awareness about the proposed high-speed rail system even as the state Rail Authority looks to revamp its outreach effort.

So far, close to 200 people have signed up for a Sept. 12 teach-in at Palo Alto City Hall organized by the Peninsula Cities Consortium, said Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto, who represents Palo Alto in the five-city group (Menlo Park, Atherton, Belmont and Burlingame are the other members). The goal, Kishimoto said, is to make sure the rail line is designed in such a way as to integrate seamlessly into the communities through which it passes.

"Transportation decision-makers shouldn't be making these decisions alone," Kishimoto said. "It would be ironic, indeed, if during the course of building a high-speed rail line in California, the high-speed rail made the communities less walkable."

Participants can register for the Saturday, Sept. 12, teach-in at the consortium's website, www.peninsularail.com.

Councilman Pat Burt, a member of a council subcommittee focused on high-speed rail, said the teach-in will aim to broaden the public's understanding of the various design options for the high-speed rail and inform them about the financing impacts of these options. It will also address ways the community could get involved in the process of building the rail system.

"It will deal with the best process for communities to have a very substantive role in the decision making," Burt said.

The high-speed rail system, approved by California voters last November, would stretch between San Francisco and Los Angeles and allow trains to reach speeds of up to 220 mph (or 125 mph when it passes through dense areas). It would enable commuters to travel between San Francisco and Los Angeles in 2 hours and 40 minutes.

Organizers of the teach-in, which will be held from 9

a.m. to 3:30 p.m., hope it will also prepare residents for a more in-depth urban-design workshop scheduled for Oct. 3 and 4. That workshop, hosted by a group of local architects, finance specialists and land-use professionals, will bring transportation, tunneling and financing experts to brainstorm on design concepts for the rail line. A group of volunteers, which includes local architects Tony Carrasco and Councilman John Barton, will also present their award-winning conceptual design for an underground train system in downtown Palo Alto.

Participants in the workshop will have a chance to gather in groups and come up with their own preferred designs. On the second day of the workshop, experts plan to take the public's suggestions and turn them into concept plans.

"We want the community to offer designs and then have experts critique the community's designs and come up with their own state-of-the-art versions," Carrasco said.

Meanwhile, the agency charged with building the \$40 billion system is increasing its own effort to inform the community about the proposed system, which has galvanized opposition along the Peninsula corridor and prompted two lawsuits.

At the Aug. 3 meeting of the authority's Board of Directors, Director Rod Diridon criticized the agency's outreach efforts as inconsistent and confusing. The problem, Diridon said, is that the rail authority has one outreach team, while its consultants who are working on particular portions of the rail line have their own outreach teams.

The rail authority went out to bid on a new statewide outreach/communications contract earlier this month.

"There's a tendency for the message to get confused now and then," Diridon said. "It's one of the things that, as we go to rebid, we need to address." ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

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Online This Week

These and other news stories were posted on Palo Alto Online throughout the week. For longer versions, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news or click on "News" in the left, green column.

New principal for Juana Briones

Matthew Nagle, principal of Blackford Elementary School in San Jose, was named principal of Juana Briones School Tuesday, replacing Michael O'Neill, who resigned in late July. (Posted Aug. 26 at 9:06 a.m.)

Board backs off re-opening Garland

In a tortured effort to balance fiscal fears with uncertain enrollment growth projections, the Palo Alto Board of Education Tuesday night voted 4-1 to back off from an earlier plan to re-open Garland Elementary School in 2012. (Posted Aug. 26 at 8:25 a.m.)

Caltrain to cut service, hike fees

In an effort to eliminate a \$2.7 million deficit, Caltrain will increase parking fees and reduce train frequency effective Monday, Aug. 31, the agency announced. (Posted Aug. 25 at 4:47 p.m.)

Menlo Park tried to land Tesla HQ

When Tesla Motors announced Aug. 18 that it plans to relocate its headquarters from San Carlos to Palo Alto later this year, several Menlo Park residents asked whether their city made a push for the electric car maker, which has a showroom in Menlo Park. It did. And San Jose even tried "incentives" to land the HQ. (Posted Aug. 25 at 1:33 p.m.)

School enrollment below projections?

Palo Alto's 17 public schools opened Tuesday with two new principals, one principal vacancy, a tight budget, sky-high expectations — and enrollment that may be below projections. (Posted Aug. 25 at 9:49 a.m.)

Wild shot hits pedestrian in EPA

A "motorist shooting at pedestrians" in East Palo Alto shot one resident in the right thigh late Sunday night when the resident said he was walking in the 1300 block of East Bayshore Road, police reported. (Posted Aug. 24 at 3:41 p.m.)

Bicyclist injured in College Terrace

A bicyclist was injured after he was hit by a pickup truck while riding across El Camino Real in Palo Alto's College Terrace neighborhood Monday afternoon. (Posted Aug. 24 at 3:22 p.m.)

Potential train death averted

A recent spate of tragedies along the tracks has everyone, perhaps especially Caltrain engineers, on edge. But among the horrible stories is one from Mountain View with a relatively happy ending: a near miss, where the engineer was able to stop the train in time. (Posted Aug. 24 at 2:07 p.m.)

Cyclists groove at Tour de Menlo

About 500 cyclists from all over the Bay Area took part in the fifth annual Tour de Menlo Saturday, enjoying a beautiful day on the Peninsula as they tackled a few hills along the way. (Posted Aug. 24 at 9:16 a.m.)

State unemployment at record high

California's unemployment rate rose to 11.9 percent in July, the highest rate in modern record-keeping history, according to the state's Employment Development Department. (Posted Aug. 21 at 4:37 p.m.)

Google employee charged with theft

A Google employee entrusted with maintaining the Internet giant's server installations countrywide has been arrested for allegedly stealing \$80,000 worth of Google's network hardware. (Posted Aug. 21 at 9:34 a.m.)



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High-speed rail

(continued from page 3)

“When Union Pacific said, ‘No,’ it threw all of the High-Speed Rail Authority plans into a wastebasket,” Flashman said. “This is a major problem for the rail authority.”

The authority has been talking with Union Pacific in recent months in hopes of resolving the dispute. At the Aug. 6 meeting of the rail authority’s Board of Directors, agency Executive Director Mehdi Morshed said talks between the state agency and the railroad company have become more open in recent weeks.

“(Union Pacific) expressed interest in knowing what some areas of critical importance to the project were,” Morshed said. “They asked us to give a list of those so they could evaluate them and give us their comments.”

But Tom Lange, Union Pacific director of corporate communications, Thursday characterized communications between the two agencies as discussions — “not negotiations.”

“Our position continues to be that high-speed rail at the speed being discussed for this line is just not compatible with our trains,” he said. “U.P. as a company is not opposed to high-speed rail, but safety is first and foremost.”

Rod Diridon, member of the rail authority’s Board of Directors, said the judge’s ruling doesn’t necessarily mean that the project would be delayed. The only section of the environmental document that would need to be restudied is the one dealing with the rail segment between San Jose and Gilroy, he said. The court ruling criticized the authority’s “inadequate” description of the alignment of the high-speed rail tracks between these two cities.

Diridon and Director Quentin Kopp have previously characterized the lawsuit as frivolous and argued that any delays to the project could threaten the rail authority’s ability to land billions of dollars in federal funds.

Diridon said the Attorney General’s office was studying the judge’s ruling Wednesday afternoon to determine its impacts. He also said the impact of Kenny’s judgment won’t be known until the judge rules on the remedial actions the rail authority must take.

“It’s too early to know for sure what’s going to happen,” Diridon said.

But critics of the high-speed rail project hailed the ruling as a victory. Elizabeth Alexis, chair of Civic Affairs for the Greenmeadow Community Association in Palo Alto, said the ruling vindicates her belief in the legal and environmental-review system.

“It’s good to see that the legal system can work and that the safeguards built into the environmental review process actually work — that a project just can’t be steamrolled through,” she said. “Hopefully, the High Speed Rail Authority will step back and ask, ‘Is this really how we want to do this?’”

“It will be a test of the rail authority’s willingness to do it right. This is a 100-year project and it should be done right,” Alexis said. ■

Additional rail stories can be found on pages 6 and 10.

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News Digest

Electric cars charge into Palo Alto

Visitors to Palo Alto's annual celebration of electric vehicles this Saturday could detect a special buzz in the air.

With Tesla Motors preparing to set up shop in Palo Alto and car companies from San Diego to China planning to unleash a myriad of battery-powered car models in 2010, local electric-car enthusiasts are looking forward to a brighter era for gas-free vehicles.

On Aug. 29, they plan to spread the gospel of electric vehicles at the city's annual Electric Car Rally, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Palo Alto High School. The event, sponsored by the Silicon Valley Chapter of the Electric Auto Association, will showcase existing electric cars and allow residents to hitch rides in these eco-friendly vehicles.

"More than ever before, we'll be trying to offer rides to members of the public," said Jerry Podhorsky, chapter president.

This year's exhibits will include some well-publicized electric vehicles, such as the sleek Tesla roadster, as well as more conventional cars (a Mazda Miata, a Honda Civic, etc.) that local tinkerers have rigged to run solely on electric power. Green-themed businesses and companies specializing in converting vehicles to electric will also be on hand to distribute information and offer residents rides.

Podhorsky, whose company, Eevee Motors, converts gas-fueled Honda Civics into electric vehicles, said Silicon Valley's electric-car crowd has much to look forward to next year, with companies such as Nissan, Renault, Mitsubishi and Coda Automotive all planning to begin selling their electric vehicles. But while these models won't be on display at Saturday's rally, visitors will see electric vehicles such as the three-wheeled TRIAC and electric scooters, bikes and Segways. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

Health-care 'phone town hall' goes well

A second "telephone town hall" by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo Monday evening went smoothly and won praise from callers from Palo Alto, Mountain View and other 14th Congressional District callers.

Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, also announced Tuesday that she has scheduled a face-to-face forum on health care issues for Wednesday, Sept. 2, at Gunn High School in Palo Alto.

Responding to questions Monday, Eshoo defended the need for health care reform and said that much of the

added costs will be offset by savings by making health care delivery more efficient.

She also said she has held more face-to-face town halls on public issues than almost any other member of Congress — in response to earlier press reports that she hadn't scheduled a town hall session on health care.

While some members of Congress interacted with their constituents in face-to-face meetings plagued with shouting opponents of health care reform, Eshoo opted for a series of telephone conferences with residents from the 14th district.

An audio recording of her initial town hall is available on Eshoo's website. ■

— Gennady Sheyner and Jay Thorwaldson

Casa Olga to close care facility

Casa Olga, the iconic residence for nearly 9,000 seniors and disabled persons over more than 35 years, will close in a matter of weeks, owners have confirmed.

The eight-story building adorned with the giant mosaic of El Palo Alto at the corner of Emerson Street and Hamilton Avenue is the latest victim of state budget cuts and a bureaucracy that delayed payments for services to patients for six months or longer, according to its owners.

Weary of the struggle with government and now in their 70s, the four partners who built and managed the building since it opened in 1975 have finally given up and will close the intermediate health care facility in the coming weeks. All 88 residents will be moved to other facilities, homes or will be returned to the care of their families, Wanda Ginner, a board member and co-owner, said.

Casa Olga is the only free-standing intermediate health care facility on the Peninsula and serves disabled and elderly persons from throughout the county and surrounding counties, including San Mateo, she said.

"We were just barely breaking even. The owners went two years taking no profit ... but they weren't going to put up that kind of money," Ginner said of a projected \$150,000 deficit.

"The long-term prospect was horrible. We went through our cash reserves and didn't have a lot of choice," she said.

Ginner estimated nearly \$250,000 the state owes Care Centers in back payments will finance shutting down the four floors comprising the intermediate health care facility. A plan was approved by the state Department of Health Services on Aug. 14. Two floors of single-room-only tenancies (SROs) will remain, she said. ■

— Sue Dremann

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Palo Alto Weekly

TRANSPORTATION

Crowd vents high-speed rail woes

Health care protesters turn up to Eshoo's rail meeting

by Andrea Gemmet

A chance to question Congresswoman Anna Eshoo face-to-face drew hundreds of people to the Menlo Park City Council chambers on Wednesday evening, Aug. 26. A capacity crowd filled the building, with police officers assisting in turning away insistent gate-crashers.

While the event was billed as a panel on high-speed rail, organizers from MoveOn.org rallied members to attend the event and agitate for health care reform.

But the focus was strictly on high-speed rail, as Eshoo read the written questions submitted by attendees and got responses from a four-member panel of experts. She didn't hesitate to hide panel members for giving rambling or unclear answers, or prompting them to cut to the chase.

"This is the opportunity of a generation, the opportunity to set a course for future generations," Eshoo said. "We can embrace this opportunity and work together as a community to make this worthy of us."

Most of the questions were pointed, and expressed concern for the effect on property values and quality of life for residents living near the Caltrain corridor, once high-speed trains carrying passengers from San Francisco to Los Angeles hurtle through the Peninsula.

Eshoo, a Menlo Park resident, echoed some of her constituents' concerns, saying that very few people live closer to the tracks than she does. Answers to key questions — what will it look like, and will the tracks be elevated or buried in a tunnel — are still unknown and will be worked out in the next 18 months, according to rail authority officials.

Several people questioned the economics of the project, including a Palo Alto man who wanted to know what the state would have to cut in order to pay the interest on the billions of dollars in high-speed rail bonds.

Mike Scanlon, the executive director of Caltrain and Samtrans, and the California High Speed Rail Authority's executive director Mehdi Morshed attempted to soothe or dismiss people's fears. Details about exactly how the Caltrain cor-

(continued on next page)

Corrections

In the cover story on ultramarathons (Weekly, Aug. 21), the photo of Don Lundell and Gillian Robinson should be credited to Brian Fukuda Photography. The Weekly regrets the error. To request a correction, contact Managing Editor Jocelyn Dong at 650-326-8210, jdong@pawebly.com or P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

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CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

Public Art Commission (Aug. 20)

Election of officers: The commission elected Elise DeMarzo as chairperson and Teri Acebo Davis as vice-chairperson. **Yes:** Unanimous

Maintenance of city collection: The commission voted to budget an additional \$1,500 to continue maintenance work on the city's collection, including repair and photography. **Yes:** Unanimous

Commission website: The commission voted to budget \$2,000 to contract with Roland Meyer to build a new Art Commission website. **Yes:** Unanimous

Other business: The commission also discussed the development of maps and brochures, temporary-art guidelines, an artist mailing list and plans for the Bill Bliss memorial.

Board of Education (Aug. 25)

Garland School site: The board approved a second amendment to the school district's lease with the private Stratford School, rescinding its Nov. 20, 2007, notice of termination and extending the lease until June 30, 2015, with three years' notice required for the school district to terminate. **Yes:** Baten Caswell, Klausner, Tom, Townsend **No:** Mitchell

Planning & Transportation Commission (Aug. 26)

Oregon Expressway Improvement Plan: The commission recommended a bike boulevard along Ross Road, rather than widening Middlefield Road to incorporate bike lanes. **Yes:** Fineberg, Lippert, Holman, Keller and Martinez **Absent:** Tuma, Garber

Public Agenda

PALO ALTO HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ... The board is scheduled to hold a public hearing on 661 Bryant St., a request by Blake Reinhardt on behalf of ECI Three Bryant, LLC, for a review of a proposed historic and seismic rehabilitation for office reuse of the former Christian Science Church. The meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PALO ALTO UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission is tentatively scheduled to hold a workshop on rates policy and hear a presentation about the department's gas and electric commodity portfolio; to discuss changes to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction (FACT) Act; and hear a report on Palo Alto water customers' satisfaction-survey results. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PALO ALTO ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board is scheduled to conduct an architectural review for 3800 Middlefield Road, the renovation project at the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center; to review a Master Sign application for 2390 El Camino Real, a request to create a sign program at a commercial building with multiple tenants; and review an application for a sign at 135 University Ave., site of the Natural Mattress Store. The meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PALO ALTO LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission is scheduled to receive an update from Group 4 Architecture on the construction projects at the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center and the Downtown Library, as well as plans for a temporary library at the Cubberley Community Center; and will discuss agenda priorities for its retreat on Sept. 17 and potential topics for its joint meeting with the City Council in November. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

High-speed rail

(continued from previous page)

ridor will accommodate additional tracks for high-speed rail are still being determined, Scanlon said. "There aren't answers yet, but there will be," he said.

Morshed attempted to ease concerns about property along the tracks being seized by eminent domain.

"As far as we know, it will essentially be built within the Caltrain right-of-way. It might take some property, but we will do everything we can to avoid that," he said. "I'm

not aware of any single home in the area (being) threatened through eminent domain."

Morshed promised that electrified Caltrain rails and high-speed trains would be much quieter than the current horn-blaring diesel trains that currently rattle along the tracks.

Scanlon dismissed many people's concerns as the result of misinformation.

"(People worried) that there will be a 15-foot wall of concrete are just misinformed," Scanlon said. ■

Almanac Staff Writer Andrea Gemmet can be e-mailed at agemmet@almanacnews.com.



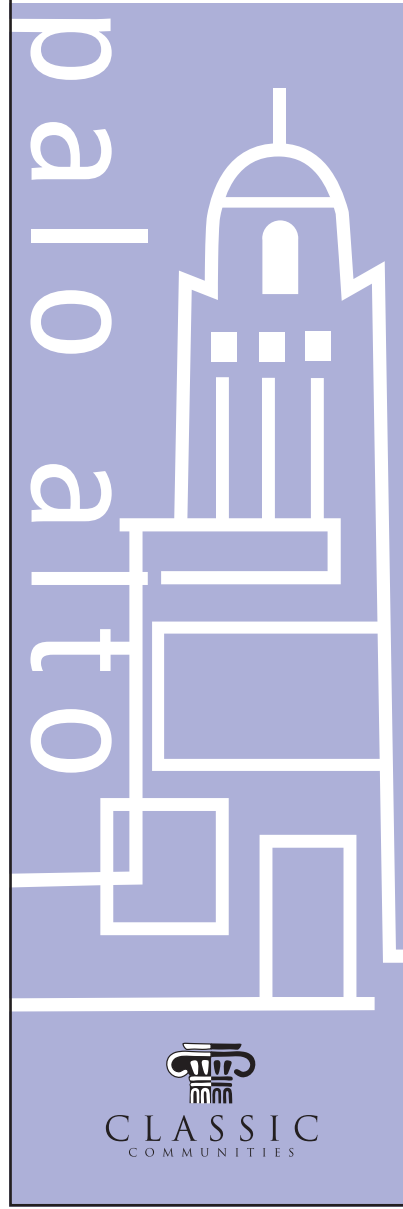
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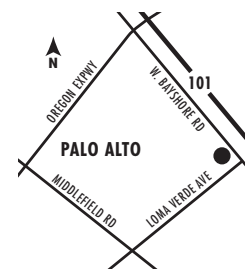
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CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto will hold a Public Hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or as near thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California to consider the: 1) Approval of the Negative Declaration; 2) Adoption of a Resolution Amending the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map to Change the Land Use Designation from Multiple Family Residential to Commercial Hotel; and 3) Adoption of an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map to Change the Zone Designation for Approximately 0.30 Acre at 4261 and 4273 El Camino Real (Dinah's Hotel) from RM-15 (Low Density Residential Multi-Family) to CS(L)(D) (Service Commercial with Landscape and Site and Design Review Combining Districts). The Planning and Transportation Commission recommends approval of the amendments.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
City Clerk



CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto will hold a Public Hearing at the Regular Council Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or as near thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California to Consider Adoption of an Uncodified Ordinance Extending the Life of Specific Permits Which Are Currently Active Pursuant to Title 18 (Zoning) of the Palo Alto Municipal Code.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
City Clerk



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING of the Palo Alto Planning & Transportation Commission

Please be advised the Planning and Transportation Commission shall conduct a **regular meeting at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, September 9, 2009** in the Civic Center, Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Any interested persons may appear and be heard on these items.

Staff reports for agenda items are available via the City's main website at www.cityofpaloalto.org and also at the Planning Division Front Desk, 5th Floor, City Hall, after 2:00 PM on the Friday preceding the meeting date. Copies will be made available at the Development Center should City Hall be closed on the 9/8 Friday.

Reports of Officials/Committees:

1. Annual Report to Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of August 12, 2009

NEXT MEETING: Special Meeting of September 23, 2009

Questions. Any questions regarding the above applications, please contact the Planning Department at (650) 329-2440. The files relating to these items are available for inspection weekdays between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This public meeting is televised live on Government Access Channel 26.

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Curtis Williams, Interim Planning Director

Pulse

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Aug. 18-24

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Commercial burglaries	3
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Embezzlement	1

WILLIAM DONALD COX

William Donald Cox passed away on Saturday, July 25, 2009 in Carmel with family by his side. Bill had battled colorectal cancer for many years. His wife, Mary Schink Cox, preceded him in death in May 2009.

Bill was born on February 14, 1936 in Abbeville, South Carolina where he grew up on his family's farm. He attended the University of Washington for his undergraduate work in cartography, then graduate work in architecture. Bill and Mary were married in 1962 in Palo Alto where they planted roots to raise their family.

Bill Cox was a true architectural visionary, shrewd businessman and entrepreneur. He was a well-known developer and contractor on the Peninsula for over 40 years before venturing into another successful career creating and operating many restaurants in the Bay Area. Bill's love of creating a unique dining experience through architecture, fine wine and high quality foods made this career choice more of a passionate retirement hobby rather than a career move. He spent the last nine years in Carmel playing tennis and golf, as well as managing his four restaurants.

Bill is survived by sons Bill, Andy, Christopher and daughter, Susanna, as well as six grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Robin Cox of Bend, Oregon, and sister Elizabeth Cox Chapin of San Diego, Ca.

A small private family service will be held in Carmel in September to celebrate the lives of both Bill and Mary.

PAID OBITUARY

MARGARET GALE MOORE SEPT. 8, 1932-AUG. 19, 2009

Maggie (as everyone called her) was a fourth generation "Menloite," with a colorful family history. Great-grandmother Bridget Carroll Brophy arrived by covered wagon to her new home in Searsville, a former local town since covered in water and known as Searsville Lake. Bridget's daughter, Margaret Brophy Gale, was married to a master carpenter who helped build the Flood Estate in Atherton (now Lindenwood) as well as the family home, which still stands today on Glenwood Avenue. Margaret Gale's daughter Susan gained a reputation as "Menlo Park Historian", and if you explore Sharon Heights area, you will find a street named in her honor.

So Maggie naturally became one of Menlo Park's most devoted and involved citizens. She was schooled right in Menlo, attending St. Joseph's through eighth grade, then Sequoia High School and San Jose State University.

Her interests always included books and writing, which came through her journalistic father, David Moore, who owned the Palo Alto Times before it was known by that name. She always worked either professionally or as a volunteer in the field of journalism, on the staff of several south Peninsula newspapers, volunteering to write newsletters and doing public relations work for the Catholic community St. Raymond's parish and Sacred Heart Schools.

In the late 1950's, Maggie formed auxiliaries for two of her favorite community organizations, the Menlo Park Public Library and the Peninsula Symphony. While her daughter Susan was a student at Hillview Elementary, Maggie co-led the school's Brownie, Junior, and Cadet Girl Scouts. Love of books and libraries then lead to Maggie's membership on the Menlo Park Library Board. Later she joined the Peninsula Volunteers, supporters of the Little House senior center, putting in several hours a week at the Turnabout Shop.

Surviving Maggie are four children, Joseph Anthony Scaroni III, Susan Scaroni Glasser (Mrs. Eric), John Christopher Scaroni, Nicholas Edward Scaroni, and granddaughter Anita Rebecca Marie Glasser, and three sisters, Alida Mary Moore of Menlo Park; Susana Moore Porter of Mt. View and Dorothy Ellen Rouse (Mrs. Fred) of Bonny Doon.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of Maggie's life on Friday, August 28, 11 a.m. at The Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park.

Donations in her name may be made to Friends of the Menlo Park Library; Peninsula Volunteers or Pathways Hospice.

PAID OBITUARY

Grand theft	6
Identity theft	3
Petty theft	6
Residential burglaries	1
Scam	1
Shoplifting	3
Vehicle related	
Abandoned auto	1
Bicycle theft	5
Driving w/ suspended license	6
Hit and run	2
Misc. traffic	5
Tampering	2
Theft from auto	7
Vehicle accident/minor injury	2
Vehicle accident/prop. damage	8
Vehicle impound	4
Vehicle tow	6

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	2
Drunken driving	2
Possession of drugs	5

Miscellaneous

Casualty/fall	2
Disobeying court order	1
False information to police	1
Found property	8
Lost property	3
Misc. penal code violation	2
Missing person	1
Muni. code violation	2
Noise ordinance violation	7
Psychiatric hold	4
Restraining order	1
Self neglect	1
Sick and cared for	3
Suspicious circumstances	3
Vandalism	4
Warrant/other agency	4

Menlo Park

Aug. 17-24

Violence related

Assault w/ a deadly weapon	1
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Theft related

Burglary	1
Fraud	4
Grand theft	2
Petty theft	8

Vehicle related

Auto recovery	2
Auto theft	2
Bicycle theft	1
Driving w/ suspended license	1
Driving without license	1
Failure to yield	1
Hit and run	2
Theft from auto	3
Traffic stop	1
Vehicle accident/injury/no details	1
Vehicle accident/minor injury	1
Vehicle tow	2

Alcohol or drug related

Drunken driving	2
Possession of drugs	2

Miscellaneous

Disturbance	2
Found property	3
Info. Case	5
Juvenile problem	2
Lost property	3
Mental evaluation	2
Missing person	1
Returned missing person	1
Vandalism	9
Violation of court order	1
Warrant arrest	6

Atherton

Aug. 20-24

Theft related

Petty theft	1
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Vehicle related

Bicycle stop	1
Misc. traffic	1
Suspicious vehicle	3
Vehicle accident/no injury	1
Vehicle accident/major injury	1
Vehicle code violation	3

Alcohol or drug related

Drunken driving	3
Possession of drugs	1

Miscellaneous

911 hang up	2
Area check	3
Be on the lookout	2
Citizen assist.	1
Construction complaint	1
Disturbance	3
Fire call	1
Follow up	1
Foot patrol	1
Found property	2
Hazard	1
Juvenile problem	1
Meet citizen	3
Missing person	2
Noise ordinance violation	3
Outside assistance	3
Shots fired	1
Town ordinance violation	4
Tree blocking roadway	1

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VICTOR MARCEL DOCHEZ

Victor Marcel Dochez passed away on Sunday, August 2, 2009 at his home in Palo Alto after an extended illness. He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Kathleen, son, Marc (Shawna) Dochez, granddaughter, Nell, his daughters, Anne Dochez, Lynne (George) Hammitt, and Kate Dochez, his brother D'Armand Dochez of Sarasota, Florida and numerous nieces and nephews.

Victor was born in Indianapolis, Indiana February 15, 1919 to Louis and Eldean Dochez. He graduated from high school at 16 and his family moved with him to New Orleans so he could attend Tulane University. He graduated from Johns Hopkins and did postgraduate work at UC Berkeley. Following college, Victor served as Lieutenant Commander with the Navy's Pacific Fleet during WWII. He first saw San Francisco serving in the Navy and he vowed to return. He met Kathleen the day the war ended when he was stationed in Maine. Eight months later they married. In 1952 they moved to the peninsula and settled in Palo Alto to raise their family. As a mechanical engineer, Victor first worked with architectural firms in San Francisco and later for companies in the south bay, including Varian, General Electric and Amdahl.

Victor loved traveling, fishing, camping, hiking and boating. As a teen, he traveled to Mexico to mountain climb; he served as a park ranger at Sequoia National Park in his early 20s. Later in life he studied art in Italy. He never lost his sense of adventure and one of his last trips was a fishing trip to Alaska with his brother.

When his children were growing, Victor volunteered with Boy Scout Troop 45 as scoutmaster and also with the Palo Alto 4-H club. After retirement Victor volunteered with the Palo Alto School District bringing art lessons to the elementary classrooms and with the Stanford Committee for the Arts as a docent for the Stanford Art Museum and the Rodin Sculpture Garden.

At Victor's request, there will be no memorial service. He will be buried at sea by the Navy. Donations may be made to Friends of the Palo Alto Library, Sierra Club or Pathways Hospice.

PAID OBITUARY

BEATRICE GLORIA PIMENTAL SINCLAIR LAUNDIS



On Aug. 17, Bea Laundis lost a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. She passed away at her home in Boise. A native Palo Altan, Bea's parents were Edward and Rose Pimental. She graduated from Paly HS in 1954 and married Forester Sinclair, Jr.

In 1960, she married William Laundis and welcomed stepsons Guy and Bill Jr. Both Bea and Bill worked for HP, spent time in Hawaii and were big fans of Stanford Women's Basketball. After Bill's death, Bea moved to Boise to be near daughter Sherri Sinclair Laundis

(Conrad Kranzler) and granddaughters Danielle (Zach) Smith and Carlee Kranzler.

She leaves behind brother Lee (Patty) Pimental, as well as Linda Laundis, Brian (Lauren) Laundis and children, and Matt (Aneta) Laundis. Special thanks to Susie and Joyce Scholpp; "Bobert" Miller and Laura Beattie.

Bea will be missed by friends, family, her kitties and QVC, the shopping channel. Her memorial service will be held Sun., Sept. 6, noon, at Summers Funeral Home, 1205 W. Bannock, Boise, ID. Bea would love it if friends made donations in her memory to the Idaho Humane Society, 4775 Dorman St., Boise, 83705; or her church, The Pursuit, 6151 N. Discovery Way, Boise, 83713.

PAID OBITUARY

MAE KENRICK



Mae Kenrick, a preschool teacher, community volunteer and 45-year resident of Palo Alto, died Aug. 16 at Stanford Hospital surrounded by her family. She was a youthful 79 and enjoyed a full, active life until her death from a

sudden cerebral hemorrhage.

Kenrick's childhood on a wheat farm in Goodland, Kansas was defined by the experience of the Dust Bowl. Throughout her life, even in the far more urban context of Palo Alto, she retained the farm values that deeply shaped her.

She was born and raised in a sod house in Goodland, the fourth of five children to Swiss immigrants who had paid \$47 an acre for their small farm. As a child she worked on the farm, was a national 4-H Club champion in food preparation and in 1948, was crowned "Wheat Queen" of Northwest Kansas.

She attended Kansas State University on a 4-H scholarship, returning to the farm after two years to teach school and help her widowed father. One Sunday she noticed a fine tenor voice in the church pew behind her and met Alfred F. Kenrick, an Army lieutenant stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. They married in Goodland in 1951.

She accompanied her husband to the East Coast, where she started a family and offered apartment-based child care while he attended Harvard Business School. The family spent two years moving around the country in a General Electric marketing-training program before settling in California, first in San Jose, later in Los Angeles and finally, in 1964, in Palo Alto.

While raising four children in Palo Alto she was an active community volunteer and Sunday School teacher.

She also returned to college at San Jose State, earning a bachelor's degree in early childhood education in 1970. From then until 2004 she taught 3-year-olds and later 2-year-olds at the First Congregational Church Nursery School.

She maintained a strong interest in the concerns of the small farmer, and for some years was a member of California Women for Agriculture. She was an enthusiastic fundraiser for the Palo Alto Family YMCA, whose youth programs she particularly admired. She was a lifelong active member of the Christian Science Church, a religion introduced to her immigrant parents by one of the first families they met upon moving to America in 1914.

She was a particular friend to the friendless, taking food and conversation to shut-ins and helping many people without family through illness and hard times. She noticed and appreciated the efforts of others, habitually sending hand-written notes to the supervisors of clerks and technicians from whom she had received good service. She enjoyed family gatherings, ski trips and traveling the world with her husband, who died in 2006 after 54 years of marriage.

Kenrick is survived by two brothers, Stanley Meinen of Minneapolis, Minn. and Max Meinen of Fort Worth, Texas, and many nieces and nephews; four children, Chris Kenrick and Al ("Ken") Kenrick of Palo Alto, Steve Kenrick of San Jose, and Chessa Lutter of Bethesda, Md.; and 12 grandchildren, with whom she was particularly close. They are Julia, Elissa and Will Chandler and Johanna, Mikaela, Josefin and Matilda Kenrick of Palo Alto, Daniel and Nicholas Kenrick of San Jose and Willem, Mark and Peter Lutter of Bethesda.

A memorial gathering will be held Sunday Aug. 30 at 4 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 3045 Cowper St. (between Colorado and Loma Verde), Palo Alto. Memorial contributions may be made to the Palo Alto Family YMCA, attention to executive director, 3412 Ross Road, Palo Alto, 94303; or to the First Congregational Church Nursery School, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto, 94303.

PAID OBITUARY



City of Palo Alto Environmental Assessment

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Negative Declaration has been prepared by the Palo Alto Department of Planning and Community Environment for the project listed below. This document will be available for review and comment during a minimum 20-day inspection period beginning **August 28, 2009** through **September 16, 2009** during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Development Center, 285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

This project is tentatively scheduled for consideration by the City Council on the Consent Calendar on **Monday, September 21, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Palo Alto City Council Chambers on the first floor of the Civic Center, located at 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

Ordinance to Specify Minimum Widths for Private Streets:

The City of Palo Alto proposes to amend Palo Alto Municipal Code sections 18.04.030(a)(85), 21.04.030 and 21.20.240 regarding private streets to specify minimum widths and to exclude private streets from the related project's floor area calculation.

Curtis Williams,
Interim Director of Planning and Community Environment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, listening assistive devices are available in the Council Chambers and Council Conference Room. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request with 72 hours advance notice.

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Movies

Movie reviews by *Jeanne Aufmuth, Peter Canavese, Tyler Hanley and Susan Tavernetti*

NOW PLAYING

The following is a sampling of movies recently reviewed in the Weekly:

Inglourious Basterds ★★★
(Century 16, Century 20) There's no mistaking "Inglourious Basterds" for anything other than a Quentin Tarantino film. It's a comedy for the film-savvy. The crux of the plot is the story of Shosanna Dreyfus (Mé-

lanie Laurent), a Jewish survivor of a Nazi slaughter, as she plots revenge against the Nazis and, in particular, the man who killed her family. Now hiding in plain sight as the proprietress of a Parisian cinema, she falls into the opportunity to wipe out the Nazi leadership at a premiere. Meanwhile, the British government targets the same premiere. "Basterds" turns out to be a self-referential commentary on the power

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of the medium, figuratively as propaganda or violent entertainment, and literally as the flammable fuel to a fire. Rated R for strong graphic violence, language and brief sexuality. Two hours, 33 minutes.—P.C. (Reviewed Aug. 21, 2009)

Ponyo ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The new work from master Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki is wondrous, weird and sweetly innocent. The story concerns the fish-y offspring of the androgynous undersea wizard Fujimoto (Liam Neeson), a gruff professor who can't understand his daughter's defiance. The daughter, Brunnhilde, is one of a school of curious fish with humanoid faces. When Brunnhilde swims away from home, she washes up by the cliffside home of 5-year-old Sosuke (Frankie Jonas), who adopts her and names her Ponyo (Noah Cyrus). Ponyo wants to be a real girl, but there's a problem. The magical creature isn't where she belongs, and as a consequence, the world has been thrown out of balance. Rated G. One hour, 41 minutes.—P.C. (Reviewed Aug. 14, 2009)

Shorts ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) The gimmick of "Shorts" is a pun: Not only is the movie for the short-pants set, but it's constructed of six short films, the episodes shuffled to be training-wheels Tarantino. In Black Falls, everyone works for Black Box Unlimited Worldwide Industries Inc., under the glare of CEO Carbon Black (James Spader). Eleven-year-old Toe Thompson (Jimmy Bennett) languishes at school, where he's bullied by Mr. Black's spawn. Everything changes when Toe happens upon a rainbow-colored "wishing rock." Naturally, the rock changes hands with troublesome regularity, conjuring up alligators, a mucus monster and an unlimited supply of candy bars, among other inconveniences. The spelled-out lesson: "Be sure you are wishing for something worth wishing for." Rated PG for mild action and rude humor. One hour, 29 minutes.—P.C. (Reviewed Aug. 21, 2009)

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8:15pm "The Flight of the Red Balloon", by Hou Hsiao Hsien, award winning Chinese film director-French Production-2007

SEPT 18 at 7pm / movie 7:30pm
"Le Rouge et le Noir"-**"The Red and Black"** by Claude Autant Lara - 1954 Gerard Philippe-D. Darrieux
OCT 9 at 7pm / movie 7:30pm
"Le Cercle Rouge"-**"The Red Circle"** by JP Melville - 1970 - Color with Yves Montand-A. Delon- A Bourvil.

OCT 23 at 7pm / movie 7:30pm
"Trois Couleurs :Rouge"- **"Three Colors :Red"** by Krzysztof Kielowski - 1994 Irene Jacob-JL Trintignant

Established in 1977, the French Film Club is an independent non-profit organization, open to its members and the public.
www.frenchfilmclubofpaloalto.org

STANFORD THEATER

The Stanford Theatre is at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Go to www.stanfordtheatre.org or call 650-324-3700.

Sunset Boulevard (1950)

An aging silent movie queen "keeps" a young writer in her mansion. Fri.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. also at 3:25 p.m.

Picnic (1955)

Aprpos for the season, this William Holden/Kim Novak picture contains a memorable Labor Day picnic. Fri.-Mon. at 5:25 & 9:30 p.m.

The Lady Vanishes (1938)

This film about an elderly lady who seems to go missing on a European train kicks off a Hitchcock series at the Stanford. Tue.-Thu. at 7:30 p.m.

For other local movie times and a review of "It Might Get Loud," a documentary on the electric guitar starring The Edge, Jimmy Page and Jack White, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com. (Reviewer Peter Canavese gave the doc three stars).

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-Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

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Sports Digest

Stanford women's volleyball ready for title shot

Alix Klineman grabs your attention when she's on the volleyball court, and she grabs your attention as you drive near the intersection of El Camino Real and Galvez. Klineman, the 6-foot-4 junior outside hitter for the Stanford University women's volleyball team, is featured on the billboard palming a volleyball with her left arm fully extended. "It's pretty embarrassing," said a smiling Klineman. "I got a text message the other day from one of my friends that read, 'Nice billboard.'"

There is nothing embarrassing about the way the two-time All-American plays volleyball. She's hard to defend because she can hit through block attempts as easily as around them. She'll be the center of attention when Stanford opens its season Friday against Louisiana State on the first day of the Notre Dame Invitational in South Bend. The junior class of Klineman, Cassidy Lichtman and Gabi Ailes assures that three-time defending Pac-10 champions Stanford will be among the nation's elite, with another berth in the national title game a realistic goal. ■

—Rick Eymer

Stanford women look to stay unbeaten

The Stanford women's soccer team will visit Cal Poly on Friday night in its second match of the season at 7 p.m. The fourth-ranked Cardinal has won the past six meetings with the Mustangs, who were 10-9-1 and finished third in the Big West Conference last year.

Stanford will make its home debut on Sunday by hosting San Diego State at 1 p.m. The Cardinal is 6-0-1 against the Aztecs, with the tie coming in 1993. ■

—Palo Alto Online sports staff

Ex-Menlo receiver joins Cleveland Browns

Nate Jackson's professional football career was extended Monday when the former Menlo College All-American signed with the NFL's Cleveland Browns. Jackson, who will be inducted into the Oaks Athletics Hall of Fame in October, was released by the Denver Broncos following last season. Jackson (6-3, 235) spent the past six seasons with the Broncos, catching 11 passes for 84 yards and a touchdown last year. He has caught 27 passes for 240 yards and two touchdowns in his NFL career. ■

—Palo Alto Online sports staff

Stanford women begin field hockey season

The Stanford field hockey team plays for keeps Sunday when Missouri State arrives on The Farm for the season opener for both teams at noon. The Cardinal completed its exhibition season Wednesday with a 4-0 victory over visiting UC Davis as Rachel Mozenter scored twice. ■

—Palo Alto Online sports staff

Full articles, and all the latest local sports news and photos, are available online at PASportsOnline.com.

Also online this week

Theater review

A theater review by Kevin Kirby of Dragon Productions' "The Memory of Water" is posted on www.PaloAltoOnline.com. The Shelagh Stephenson play, alternately poignant and funny, focuses on three adult sisters coping with their mother's death. ■

Palo Alto Story Project videos posted

The Palo Alto Story Project — which is gathering community members' stories, reminiscences and reflections about the city on video — launched last Friday at the Palo Alto Festival of the Arts.

More than 50 short stories from local residents (plus two dogs) were collected. They include recollections of riding the bus to University Avenue for 10 cents, eating "clods" at Wilson's candy store and the time a plane crashed into a family's car as they drove down Embarcadero Road.

An initial set of videos has been posted on www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

with more to come at regular intervals. To contribute your own Palo Alto story at a future taping session, contact Karla Kane, editorial assistant, at 650-326-8210 or kkane@paweekly.com.

The initiative is a project of the Palo Alto Weekly and Palo Alto Online. ■



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THE BEST OF PALO ALTO 2009

The most menacing nemesis is often an amorphous one. Even Captain America would have a tough time punching the recession in the face.

The businesses in this year's Best Of section exercise their powers in a more positive way. One could call them superheroes of the local economy.

These aren't just men and women in tights. These businesses are beating the odds to stay successful and even win new admirers (rumor has it that Lois Lane swooned over the peach blueberry galette at Calafia last week). In these tough times of empty storefronts, these businesses are doing their part to keep Palo Alto and other nearby cities buzzing.

After a flurry of Weekly reader voting,

we've tallied everything up and discovered lots of familiar favorites and newcomers alike in many categories of food, retail, services and just plain fun stuff. As we've done in the last four years, we're shining an extra spotlight on the businesses who won their categories five years in a row. Those winners get to wear the "Hall of Fame" cape for three years.

In addition, we couldn't resist including some extra write-in categories with heroic and villainous themes. For instance, what local spot would make the best superhero headquarters. And which city figure is most likely to be a superhero in disguise. Oh, Catwoman, Catwoman, will you never learn? You can't hide anything from the intrepid readers. ■

BEST OF PALO ALTO LEAGUE OF CONTRIBUTORS

Editor

Rebecca Wallace

Writers

Kristen Barta, Carol Blitzer, Jocelyn Dong, Sue Dremann, Andrea Gemmet, Tyler Hanley, Emily James, Lauren Jow, Karla Kane, Maud Lepine, Daniela Reichelstein, Gennady Sheyner

Photographers

Veronica Weber, Michelle Le, Clifford Pham, James Tensuan

Designers

Paul Llewellyn, Linda Atilano, Shannon Corey, Laura Don, Diane Haas, Raul Perez, Scott Peterson, Gary Vennarucci

Publicity & Logistics

Rachel Palmer, Jake Martin, Cathy Norfleet, Amy Renalds, Irene Schwartz

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Restaurantspg. 23

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Food and Drinkpg. 29

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TO THE RESCUE

Servicespg. 33

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(continued on next page)

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**TO THE
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Retail Shoppingpg. 37

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**UP, UP
AND AWAY!**

Fun Stuffpg. 42

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www.coupacafe.com

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**LOCAL FIGURE
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A SUPERHERO IN
DISGUISE**

Steve Jobs

(continued on page 24)



**What is
the Hall
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Businesses who win their categories five years in a row get a special honor: They get to wear the "Hall of Fame" cape for three years and don't even need to gather votes. Current examples include Darbar Indian Cuisine and Palo Alto Bicycles.

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Members of the mighty burger team at The Counter are: Erik Andersen (on the bike), Jesse Burton, left, and Kate Carpenter, right.

Fantastic Fork RESTAURANTS

AMBIANCE

OK, so Clark Kent disappeared just one time too many — and he's got a lot to make up for. **Evvia Estiatorio's** got the ambience — not to mention exquisite food that also earned it a Best Of slot for Mediterranean and Restaurant to Splurge. Let him coax you into a better mood with luscious lamb riblets, oak-fired octopus salad or the specialty moussaka, made with fresh eggplant and ground lamb, topped with a creamy béchamel sauce. The atmosphere oozes Old World charm, from its rustic stone fireplace to its hand-crafted pottery decorations, emanating a warmth that is quintessentially Greek. Savor the moment — before he disappears again.
420 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-326-0983. www.evvia.net

BURGERS

What? You've never had a one-pound burger with horseradish cheddar, dried cranberries, bacon, grilled onions and roasted

garlic aioli? Honey. You haven't lived. This is terrible. Look, we'll go to lunch today at **The Counter**. You can pick your own toppings if you want. I'll even buy you the shake of the month, a birthday-cake shake with rainbow sprinkles on top. You can thank me later. Just don't tell me you've never had sweet potato fries, those wonderfully crispy things you could live on. What? Oh, baby. I'll pick you up at 11:30.
369 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-321-3900. www.thecounterburger.com

CALIFORNIA CUISINE

When a superhero needs to stoke up with a hearty meal, what better dish than **St. Michael's Alley's** chicken pot pie? Deep-dished and oversized, with the subtle aroma of nutmeg and a touch of Gruyere in the pastry, the signature dish is guaranteed to build strength — if it doesn't glom the arteries first. Winding down at the end of a busy week, our superhero may want to rendezvous at the

new St. Mike's for a cozy interlude — Weekly readers also chose the restaurant as the best romantic spot to dine. No need to bring the wine: St. Mike's offers more than 100. Meanwhile, another reader favorite for California cuisine was Calafia, in Palo Alto's Town & Country Village.
140 Homer Ave., Palo Alto; 650-326-2530. www.stmikes.com

CHINESE RESTAURANT

The Peninsula has long loved its Cantonese cuisine — from cashew chicken and mu shu pork to honey-walnut prawns. But these days it's hip to eat Shanghaiese, as "Best Of Palo Alto" voters have noted. Serving the irresistible *xiao long bao* (steamed dumplings) and gloriously dense hand-shaved noodles, **Su Hong Eatery** does its best dishing up the cuisine *du jour*. The adventurous may also want to try the braised sea cucumber, braised fish belly and lion's head in clay pot.
4101 El Camino Way, Palo Alto; 650-493-4664. www.suhongeatery.com

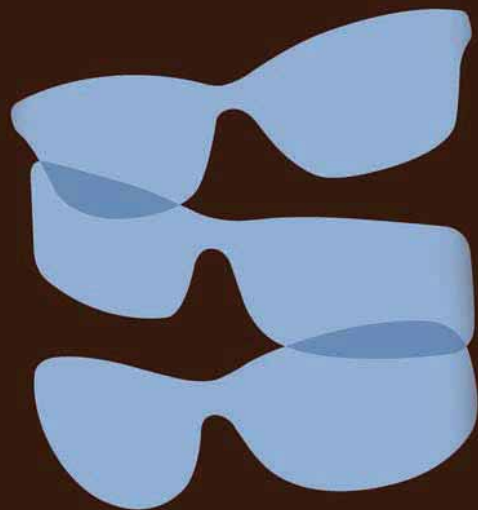
DINING WITH KIDS

Simply put, kids and their families love the **Palo Alto Creamery Fountain & Grill**. Maybe it's the huge burgers and sandwiches, the giant desserts or the fact that

(continued on next page)

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(continued from previous page)

you can have “breakfast” any time of the day. Or maybe it’s the classic diner decor — complete with jukebox, counter and coat racks at every booth. At any rate, the milkshakes probably have something to do with it. Choosing from 21 flavors, diners can drink with childlike wonder the creamy deliciousness that’s too good to share but too much to finish alone. Slurping is welcomed.

566 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-323-3131; 2A Stanford Shopping Center, 180 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-327-3141. www.paloaltocreamery.com

FRENCH RESTAURANT

Planning a warm and charming evening with creative and elegant French food? Weekly readers say **Bistro Elan** is the best choice, with its sophisticated yet relaxed ambiance and gracious service. The bistro feels welcoming, from its long dining room to the back garden planted with herbs, tomatoes, and fig and lemon trees. And the wine list offers a broad selection of wines from France and the West Coast.

448 S. California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-327-0284. www.bistroelan.com

FUSION RESTAURANT

Bruce Wayne — billionaire playboy, industrialist and philanthropist — looks at you across the table and flashes a small smile. The cocktails have been sublime, the shrimp spring rolls refreshing. It is the perfect evening because you are at **Tamarine**, where discerning palates go to experience the subtle wonders of Southeast Asian flavors. Suddenly the door opens and a man walks in. He

tells the maitre d’ he’s just seen the Bat Signal flashed onto City Hall. Commissioner Gordon is calling for Batman. You turn back to your dining companion, but strangely ... he is gone. Tamarine, in addition to being voted best fusion restaurant, is in the Hall of Fame in the Vietnamese Restaurant category.

546 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-325-8500. www.tamarinerestaurant.com

INDIAN RESTAURANT

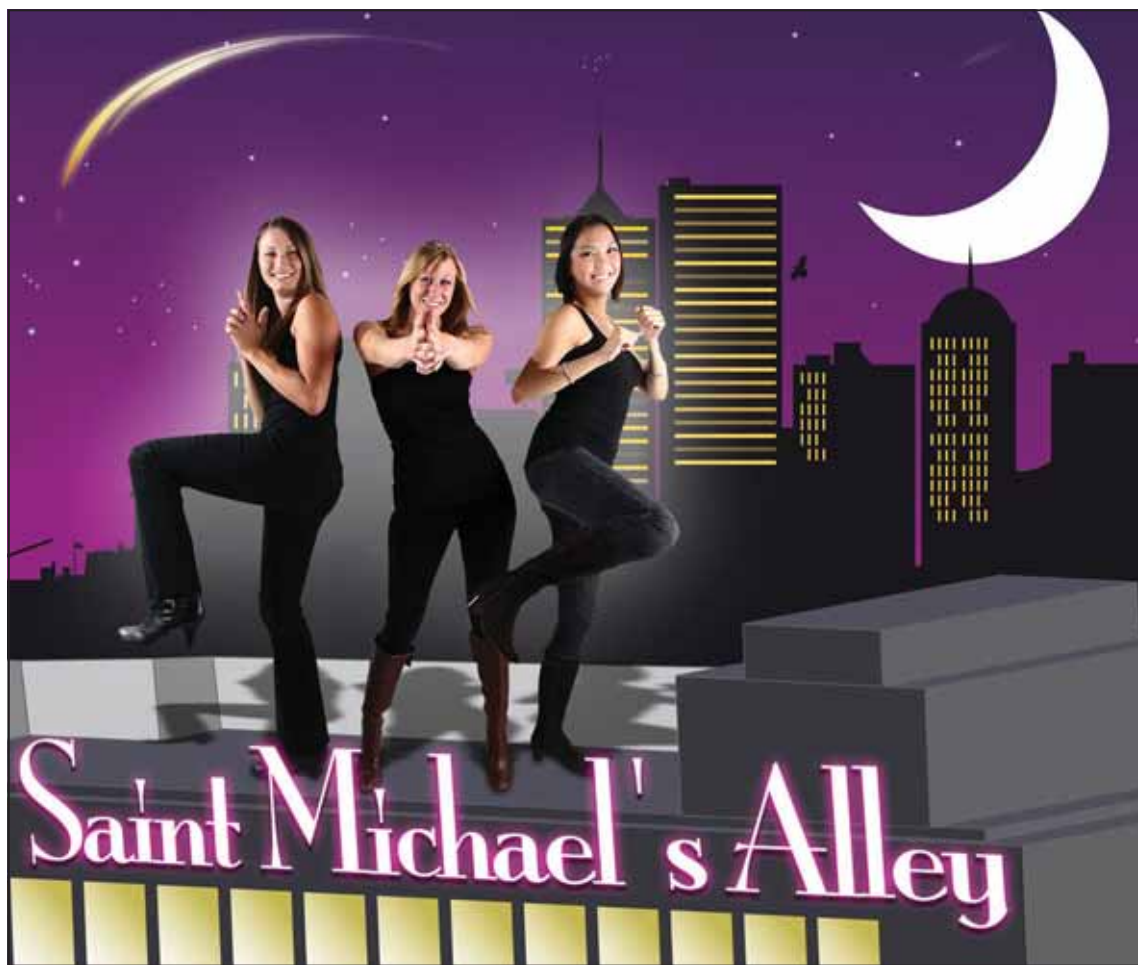
Eating at **Janta Indian Cuisine** means indulging in decadent entrees and a relaxed yet elegant atmosphere. The restaurant offers an array of dishes, including naan breads stuffed with lamb filling, tender tandoori chicken and sizzling samosas with hot sauce. Diners who still have room can tuck in to mango ice cream or rich sponge and syrup pudding. Fans of Indian cuisine can also opt to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other memorable occasions with the restaurant’s catering service. Coming in a close second place was Amber India in Mountain View.

369 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto; 650-462-5903. www.jantaindianrestaurant.com

HALL OF FAME: SECOND YEAR

Dosas — the delectable Southern Indian crepe pan-fried and filled with spiced mashed potatoes and chutney — are, in the opinion of this humble author, the perfect food. Luckily, hall-of-fame all-star restaurant **Darbar Indian Cuisine** has several dosa choices on the menu, along with a plethora of mouth-watering choices from several Indian regions. A lunch buffet gives the option of trying a bit of everything, including dessert.

129 Lytton Ave.



St. Mike’s girls line up, left to right: Carrie Ann Dixon, Shaina Epstein and Nancy Trem.

Palo Alto; 650-321-6688. www.darbarcuisine.com

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Cuban fare scored first place in this category, with **La Bodeguita del Medio** the most-favored restaurant by readers. La Bodeguita also won for Best Martini/Cocktails; see the full listing in that category on page 31. Meanwhile, Coupa Cafe came in a close second for Best International Cuisine.

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Be sure to make reservations at **Osteria** because diners can’t seem to get enough of the scrumptious Italian fare, which tops the charts for the second year in a row after three years in the Best Of Hall of Fame and six consecutive years as No. 1 before that. Set up like a traditional Italian restaurant, the cozy space matches the authentic cuisine, which includes homemade pasta and salad dressing. Diners’ fa-

vorites include the calamari steak followed by the heavenly hazelnut flan. **247 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto; 650-328-5700. www.osteriapaloalto.com**

MEAL UNDER \$20

There’s a reason why every day at around noon, throngs of downtown workers and shoppers swarm **Pluto’s**. The celestially themed restaurant tries to be everything to everyone with its pan-cooked veggies, hearty stuff-

(continued on next page)



Like a bird, like a plane, John Andino of the Palo Alto Creamery takes to the sky, fueled by the best milkshakes around.



Who’s that masked restaurant manager? It’s Robert Beisheim of the prize-winning Tamarine.



From left, Kandan Lal, Gurmeet Mann and Baldev Mann strike a pose for superstar restaurant Janta Indian Cuisine.

(continued from previous page)

ing, mashed potatoes with gravy and sandwiches sporting cosmic names. Many visitors forego the home-style cooking altogether and head straight for the salad bar, which blends standard fare with such items as jicama, grilled fennel and California raisins. With most sandwiches and salads priced around \$6, Pluto's appeal is truly universal. That's why Weekly readers voted Pluto's as the top restaurant in Palo Alto for both meals under \$20 and for salads. **482 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-853-1556. www.plutosfreshfood.com**

MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

It was another banner year for **Evvia Estiatorio**, which also won in the categories of Ambiance and Restaurant to Splurge. See the full listing under Ambiance.

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Stepping into **Palo Alto Sol** with its serene sun logo means entering a world of colors and flavors from the Mexican region of Puebla. In addition to a selection of regional cuisine, Palo Alto Sol also offers a wide variety of carefully selected fine tequilas. The art and bright decor also makes the place stand out from the crowd.

The fresh food, friendly staff (owners are Puebla natives Hector and Helena Sol) and gorgeous, vivid atmosphere make eating at Palo Alto Sol a fiesta for the senses. **408 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-328-8840. www.paloaltosol.net**

NEW RESTAURANT & ORGANIC EATS

Winning Best New Restaurant wasn't enough for **Calafia Cafe** and its **Market A Go Go** — voters also singled it out for its green eats. Google chef Charlie Ayers has scored a hit with Calafia, where the menu "is the soul of diversity," according to Weekly reviewer Sheila Himmel. Eat in-house or take out; either way you get an intriguing mix. Some recent samples: crimson quinoa salad, lamb sausage and eggs, gluten-free Japanese beef curry and gingered mashed yams. The market has a salad bar, party platters and plenty of grab-and-go items. "Organic" is a buzz word, with ambiance as earthy as the menu, but omnivores can eat as well as vegans here. Did we mention that Calafia also won for Best Vegetarian/Vegan Cuisine?

Town & Country Village, Palo Alto; 650-322-9200. www.calafiapaloalto.com

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setting and stars are beginning to wink. It is an ideal night for outdoor eating, and you know exactly where to go. **Empire Tap Room**, a downtown Palo Alto mainstay, has once again earned accolades in this year's poll for outside eating. A tranquil back patio with well-spaced heat lamps allows patrons a serene dining experience. The menu includes fish and chips, pizza, salads and pasta. And it isn't called Empire Tap Room for nothing — the diverse selection of draft beers and palate-friendly wines help make the outdoor dining even more enjoyable. **651 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-321-3030.**

PIZZA

Fighting the forces of evil takes unstoppable energy, which is why carb-loading superheroes turn to **Applewood Pizza**, which boasts thick, yeasty crusts and a mild tomato sauce that doesn't get in the way of flavorful toppings. Crowd favorites include the Los Altos (BBQ chicken), vegetarian Florentine, Hawaiian and the meaty Menlo Combo. Amici's East Coast Pizzeria, a newcomer to downtown Menlo Park, placed a close second in this category. **1001 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-324-3486. www.applewoodpizza.com**

RESTAURANT TO SPLURGE

Apparently, if you splurge at **Evvia Estiatorio**, you also get great ambiance and Mediterranean food — readers gave Evvia top honors in those categories as well. See the full write-up under Ambiance.

ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

St. Michael's Alley also took the prize for Best California Cuisine (see the full listing there) and Best Sunday Brunch.

SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Even Aquaman, superhero of the sea, would approve of **The Fish Market**. Specializing in straight-from-the-ocean freshness, The Fish Market serves a wide variety of seafood, including panko-style fish and chips, steamed shell fish and mesquite-grilled fish. With a retail section in each restaurant, it's hard not to dive right in. **3150 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-493-8862. www.thefishmarket.com**

SOLO DINING

Some of the world's most popular superheroes are solo acts. Superman, Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk — none has needed a sidekick to conquer sinister miscreants. And diners with a similar go-it-alone mentality turn to **Cafe Borrone** in Menlo Park to whet their appetites. The 38-year-old establishment offers an array of beverage and food choices — frosted mochas, veggie melts, to name two — and a wealth of

outdoor seating. Except when the Incredible Hulk goes to eat. Then seating is limited.

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-327-0830. www.cafeborrone.com

SPORTS BAR

Palo Alto has its fair share of watering holes, but no area bar quite reaches the popularity level of **The Old Pro**, which earned top honors as both best bar and best sports bar in this year's Best Of poll. The Old Pro is a sporting enthusiast's Valhalla — large, flat-screen TVs flash all breeds of athletic competition in crystal-clear HD. Whether they're watching Frank Gore streaking toward the end zone or Pablo Sandoval smashing a fastball into McCovey Cove, viewers can soak up the excitement over a tasty meal and thirst-quenching pint. And those entertaining friends need not worry — The Old Pro has a 40-seat bar and two private dining rooms. **541 Ramona St., Palo Alto; 650-326-1446.**

STEAKS

There is one Palo Alto eatery that long ago set itself apart from competitors in serving a quality steak. **Sundance the Steakhouse** — a Palo Alto institution for more than 35 years — has roped in hungry meat-eaters with its winning ambiance and delicious steaks. The menu boasts filet mignon, New York strip loin, slow-roasted prime rib, seafood, cocktails and a wine list with more than 450 choices — enough scrumptious cuisine to satisfy even the Hulk's monster appetite. And eaters anxious for a more intimate atmosphere can turn to the



Don't take my coffee cake! From left, Louise Aurandt, Sergio Gutierrez and Melissa Talbot of Hobee's defend their breakfast.

fireplace lounge. **1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-321-6798. www.sundancethesteakhouse.com**

SUNDAY BRUNCH

St. Michael's Alley also was honored in the Best California

Cuisine and Most Romantic Restaurant categories. See the full listing under California Cuisine.

HALL OF FAME: THIRD YEAR

Perennial brunch favorite **Hobee's** is back in the Hall of Fame.

The restaurant also took top honors in the Best Breakfast category; see the listing there.

(continued on next page)



Steak wars: Galen Fletcher celebrates victory for Sundance The Steakhouse.

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Kapow! Calafia Cafe's executive chef Charlie Ayers, left, and director of operations Chris Dowter start an epic battle.

(continued from previous page)

SUSHI/JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Mmmmm, **Miyake!** Low-key sushi spot by day, disco atmosphere by night, Miyake is the readers' choice for best sushi/Japanese food. The prices are reasonable and the place features original creations with local connections such as the Google and Microsoft rolls, and the Chelsea (named for the former first daughter/Stanford grad). Vegetarians have lots of low-cost fish-free options including the divine cat's roll (avocado/cucumber/shitake), piquant ume (plum paste) and the dessert-like kurumi (walnut) roll (although that has been scarce of late). In the evenings, Miyake becomes a hip hangout for college kids, complete with strobe lights and sake bombs. **140 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-323-9449.**

HALL OF FAME: SECOND YEAR

An impressive sushi selection makes **Fuki Sushi**, a second-year Hall of Fame honoree, an ideal choice for novices and connoisseurs. The stylish restaurant offers a range of seating, including a social sushi bar, spacious main dining room, and elegant and private tatami rooms, creating atmospheres appropriate for first dates and business meetings. Sushi newcomers might opt to order the "sushi experience," a selection of sashimi, nigiri, maki and appetizers. **4119 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-494-9383. www.fukisushi.com**

THAI RESTAURANT

For some southeast Asian succulence, head downtown to **Thaiphoon**. Fans rave about the pad thai and the pad see ew among other favorites such as Mongolian beef, sweet and sour

chicken and "shaken" beef. After the entrees, stick around for the traditional summer dessert of sweet sticky rice with fresh mango. With elegant indoor dining, a full bar, Thai art on the walls and an outdoor seating patio, diners can enjoy the ambiance and street scene along with the delectable dishes. **543 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-323-7700.**

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN RESTAURANT

Calafia Cafe and its **Market A Go Go** also took top honors for Best New Restaurant and Organic Eats. See the full write-up in the Best New Restaurant category.

VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

In this list of superheroes of the local economy, **Three Seasons** plays enduring hero of the alley. When the restaurant opened in 2002, it brought new life to a space that had seen a number of business misfires come and go. Now its Vietnamese menu touched with California accents brings in the crowds. Yet, in this tucked-in space, it's still peaceful to be able to sit outside and not breathe in traffic fumes from University Avenue. Something new, too: the raw seafood bar. **Shazam! 518 Bryant St., Palo Alto; 650-838-0353. www.threeseasonsrestaurant.com**

HALL OF FAME: SECOND YEAR

Tamarine has also been honored by Weekly readers as Best Fusion Restaurant (see full listing in the Fusion category).



Zounds! A giant spring roll is attacking! Fortunately, Yulia Wilson and Alan Hayes of Three Seasons are well-armed to fight it off.



Who stole the havarti? Noah and Sarah Hiken, owners of the Village Cheesehouse, are off running to catch the fiends.

Incredible Grub

FOOD AND DRINK

BAGELS

Izzy's Brooklyn Bagels provide the quintessential carbohydrate-rich, high-energy snack food for superheroes like Spider-Man. The bagels come in standard flavors such as poppyseed, raisin and egg, but also come in chocolate chip, sun-dried tomato and jalapeño. Spidey might confess to a few favorite flavors of cream cheese, too: walnut raisin, Belgian orange chocolate, Mexican salsa, strawberry and Dijon garlic. Izzy's also offers an assortment of freshly baked cookies, pizzas and Eastern European-influenced babkas. **477**

California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-329-0700. www.izzys-brooklynbagels.com

BAKERY/DESSERTS

For an extra kick of sugar, Weekly readers swear by **Coupa Cafe**, with its breakfast and French pastries, crepes, Chuao Chocolatier Bonbons and El Rey chocolates. Coupa took top honors in three Best Of categories this year — readers also named it Best Coffee House and Best Wi-Fi Hot Spot. There's quality caffeine (smooth mountain-grown coffee from Venezuela) and all the wireless access you can use, assuming

you can find a seat in this popular hangout. A hot spot indeed. **538 Ramona St., Palo Alto; 650-322-6872. www.coupacafe.com**

HALL OF FAME: THIRD YEAR

Everyone — superhero or just regular folk — knows that **Prolific Oven** is all about the cakes. With chocolate mocha, orange with almond, carrot (oh yes, with cream-cheese frosting), strawberry cream and more, even non-heroes can be feted in style. For smaller parties, there's a mouth-

watering array of French pastries, from custard-filled eclairs and Napoleons to decadent lemon and fruit tarts. Oh yeah, and mounds of cookies. No surprise here that Prolific made the Hall of Fame. **550 Waverley St., Palo Alto; 650-326-8485. www.prolific-oven.com**

BAR

You don't need to be athletic to favor **The Old Pro**, which also

won in the Best Sports Bar category (see the full write-up in the Sports Bar Category).

BREAKFAST

Sports superstars such as the Williams sisters have been spotted at **Hobee's** after vanquishing their latest foes. Famous blueberry coffeecake and omelets/scrambles available all day make the restaurant a local favorite.

(continued on next page)



Secret Produce Man is also known as Joe Ganster of Whole Foods.

(continued from previous page)

When hunger strikes, the BDBIT (or Best Darn Breakfast in Town — two eggs, “country-style” hashbrowns, and coffeecake or toast) — will have you sighing, “My hero!” Though the Town & Country Village location recently added a few outdoor tables, be prepared to wait on weekends. That’s because Sunday brunch is also tops at Hobee’s — the restaurant is also in the Hall of Fame in this category. **Town & Country Village, Palo Alto; 650-327-4111. 4424 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-856-6124; and 2312 Central Expressway, Mountain View; 650-968-6050. www.hobees.com**

BURRITO

Pure ingredients, not mutant ones. That’s what **Chipotle Mexican Grill** offers in its “nothing mutant about us” burritos. The restaurant uses only naturally raised meats — free of antibiotics and added growth hormones, fed a vegetarian diet and humanely raised. And to kick-start those superpowers, the restaurant ladles up a zesty red chili-tomatillo salsa. Coming in second place in this category was Taqueria La Bamba, located on Old Middlefield Way in Mountain View. **2400 Charleston Road, Mountain View; 650-969-6528. www.chipotle.com**

COFFEE HOUSE

Coupa Cafe won in this category this year (as well as in the Best Bakery/Desserts and Wi-Fi Hot Spot category). For a full listing, see Bakery/Desserts.

HALL OF FAME: THIRD YEAR

For those of us who can’t fly, teleport or travel at the speed of light but wish we could, **Peet’s Coffee and Tea** is the perfect stop. This caffeine Mecca offers a wide variety of rejuvenating fluids for every type of local chugger: frothy Freddos, soothing chai blends, industrial-strength coffee guaranteed to shake the cobwebs off the droopiest eyelids. Scattered throughout Palo Alto (and many other municipalities), Peet’s stores also offer a healthy selection of muffins, cookies and pastries and other java-related paraphernalia. **Palo Alto locations: 153 Homer Ave., 650-325-2091. Town & Country Village, 650-248-4771; Charleston Center, 3904 Middlefield Road, 650-433-0500; 436 University Ave., 650-319-0367. www.peets.com**

DELI/SANDWICHES

If there is one thing every superhero needs, it’s strength. And what better way to get that power than through hearty sandwiches. The **Village Cheese House**, located in the recently updated Town & Country Village, offers an extensive selection of meats, cheeses and gourmet groceries. The real treat, though, is the

handmade sandwiches, prepared with top-tier fillings and fresh breads. Try one of the house favorites, “The Works,” a double-decker stuffed with meat, Swiss cheese, original spread, pickles, pepperoncini, lettuce, tomato and red onion. **Town & Country Village, Palo Alto; 650-326-9251. www.thevch.com**

FOOD-TO-GO

Folks in a hurry don’t have time to stand around at a restaurant. When they need to grab a quick bite, they head to **Whole Foods**, where an array of sandwiches, snacks, prepared packaged meals and salad-bar items are available in one convenient location. The grocery store also won for best produce, so snap up some fresh fruits and veggies while you’re there, too. Weekly staffers are known to spend many a lunch break cruising the nearby Whole Foods aisles in downtown Palo Alto for a tasty treat.

774 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-326-8676; and 4800 El Camino Real, Los Altos; 650-559-0300. www.wholefoodsmarket.com

GROCERY STORE

Maybe it’s the cheerful aloha shirts worn by the staff; maybe it’s the international array of tempting foods; maybe it’s the well-priced selection of wines, beers and spirits. Or perhaps it’s all of those things that makes **Trader Joe’s** a favorite among Weekly readers. From grocery store staples to ready-made foods, imported cheeses and exotic specialties, the grocery chain is known for its low prices and for constantly introducing new things, with less-popular items getting dropped in favor of newer, cheaper or more interesting items. **720 Menlo Ave., Menlo Park; 650-323-2134. www.traderjoes.com**

ICE CREAM/ GELATO

Grown-ups and kids all need a sweet treat sometimes, and **Rick’s Rather Rich Ice Cream** offers classic flavors and new favorites. Made in-house, Rick’s frozen yogurt and ice creams are indeed notoriously rich, and the small-business intimacy of the store is the cherry on top. Rick’s recently expanded to include more indoor seating, but sitting outside with a cone after work or play is a quintessential Palo Alto summer experience. The quality and sheer variety of flavors (including adult favorites such as carob and honey, pistachio saffron and white chocolate ginger) has kept customers coming back faster than a speeding bullet for years. **3946 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; 650-493-6553.**

MARTINI/ COCKTAILS

Even a mild-mannered reporter can get supercharged after an evening of refreshment and spicy Cuban cuisine at **La Bodeguita del Medio**. The California Av-



Low blood sugar got you seeing strange patterns? This looks like a job for the folks from Rick’s Rather Rich Ice Cream. Pictured, from left, David Williams, Gary Schoen, Alfredo Alves and Amy Cisneroz.



If you go to bed hungry, you might dream of Fraiche Yogurt. Natasha Williams, left, and Patama Roj are all too happy to serve some up.



No one's going to break into your wine cellar with this super crew around. From left, members of the *Vino Locale* league are: Dana Winitzky, co-owner Harry Johnson, Olga Escalante, co-owner Randy Robinson, Vernon McKinnis and Liza Spiridon.



Some of the many Best Of Hall of Famers clustered into this photo. From left, they are: Tiffany Schneider of *LaBelle Day Spas*, Joe Ganster of *Whole Foods*, Jamelle McDowell of *Peet's*, Chris Kuester (back) of *Peet's*, Louise Aurandt (front) of *Peet's*, Jasmine Millen of *Peet's*, Melissa Talbot of *Hobee's* and Bella Schneider of *LaBelle Day Spas*.

rum and a host of other inventive drinks complement fresh seafood and classic Cuban dishes that also won *La Bodeguita* first place for international cuisine. **463 S. California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-326-7762. www.labodeguita.com**

MILKSHAKE

Yep, the **Palo Alto Creamery Fountain & Grill** won again in this category — and also for the top place to dine with children. For the full listing, see the Dining with Kids category.

PRODUCE

Those tents by El Camino on Sundays stand for something tasty. The **California Avenue Farmers' Market** has been around only since 2007, but it's clearly doing something right with Weekly readers. For many folks, a weekend morning wouldn't

(continued on next page)

venue restaurant/bar offers a slice of Old Havana, complete with

cigar lounge. Mojitos, Hemingway cocktails, Cafe Cubana with



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www.labeledayspas.com

BEST OF PALO ALTO 2009

(continued from previous page)

be complete without a leisurely amble with a basket and a stroller, stocking up on fresh fruits and veggies, enjoying the day, and composing ambitious menus in their minds. Voters gave the second-prize ribbon to the Palo Alto Farmers' Market downtown. **California Avenue at El Camino Real, Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. year-round, Palo Alto.** www.urbanvillageonline.com

HALL OF FAME: SECOND YEAR

Whole Foods is back in the Hall of Fame for Produce, and also scored with readers for Best Food-To-Go; see the full listing in Food-To-Go.

SALAD

Two-time winner **Pluto's** also took top honors for Best Meal Under \$20; see the full listing in that category.

WINE LIST

You don't have to go far to find some of the best wine the Bay Area has to offer. There are dozens of vineyards making their specialty vintages right here on the Peninsula, but unlike in Napa Valley, they aren't packaged in one convenient location. Enter **Vino Locale**, a Palo Alto wine bar that makes it easy to do a wine tour from one convenient location. Wines are primarily from Santa Clara County, with some from San Mateo and Alameda counties. In keeping with the "local" concept, Vino Locale serves food with locally grown ingredients — part of the "Slow Food" movement. **431 Kipling St., Palo Alto; 650-328-0450. www.vinolocale.com.**

YOGURT

Superheroes need superfood. What better place than **Fraiche Yogurt**? Natural and fresh yogurt has some hidden powers: calcium and cultures, among others. Even if this modern place is not popular among superheroes yet, the cafe, with its house-made organic yogurt with fresh fruit and add-ins, is often full of devoted fans. It's not uncommon to see the spot attract a long queue and a sprinkling of customers finding improvised seating along the block on Emerson Street. There's now also a second location at Stanford University, as well as a pomegranate flavor option. The white-and-orange cardboard bowls have a great future. **644 Emerson St., Palo Alto; and 459 Lagunita Drive, Stanford University; 650-566-0055. www.fraicheyogurt.com**

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No matter how convincing you are, no one is going to believe it when you say you just saw Spider-Man zip by on El Camino. What you need, wide-eyed one, is visual proof. **Keeble & Shuchat** has just about any photography- and video-related tool you can think of, housed in old-fashioned ambiance with regular photo exhibitions in a big upstairs room for inspiration. Need a tripod to hold your camera steady when Spidey swings past? Check. Looking for lighting equipment, a printer, a camera bag, a scanner and a lovely frame to display your best superhero photo? Yep and yep. **261 and 290 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-327-8511 and 650-327-8996. www.kspphoto.com**

AUTO CARE

Even the Green Hornet has to take the Black Beauty into the shop every once in a while. Our readers' choice for auto care? **Larry's Auto Works**. There are friendly technicians, comfy seats and kids' toys in the waiting area, and of course a full-service shop that's been recognized by the Mountain View City Council as a "green business." The voting was tight in this category: Many Weekly readers chose Palo Alto Bimmer, which came in a close second. **2526 Leghorn St., Mountain View; 650-492-5443. www.autoworks.com**

CHIROPRACTOR

It's tough for Superman to lift a Buick off someone's leg when he's got a herniated disc in his lower back. Chiropractic care might be the way to go. Weekly readers recommend **Peak Performance Chiropractic**, which can also provide a lagging super-

hero with other support, including acupuncture, lifestyle advice, corrective exercises, massage therapy and nutritional counseling. No guarantees that any of this will make him bulletproof. **325 Sharon Park Drive, Suite B6, Menlo Park; 650-233-7333. www.peakperformancei.com**

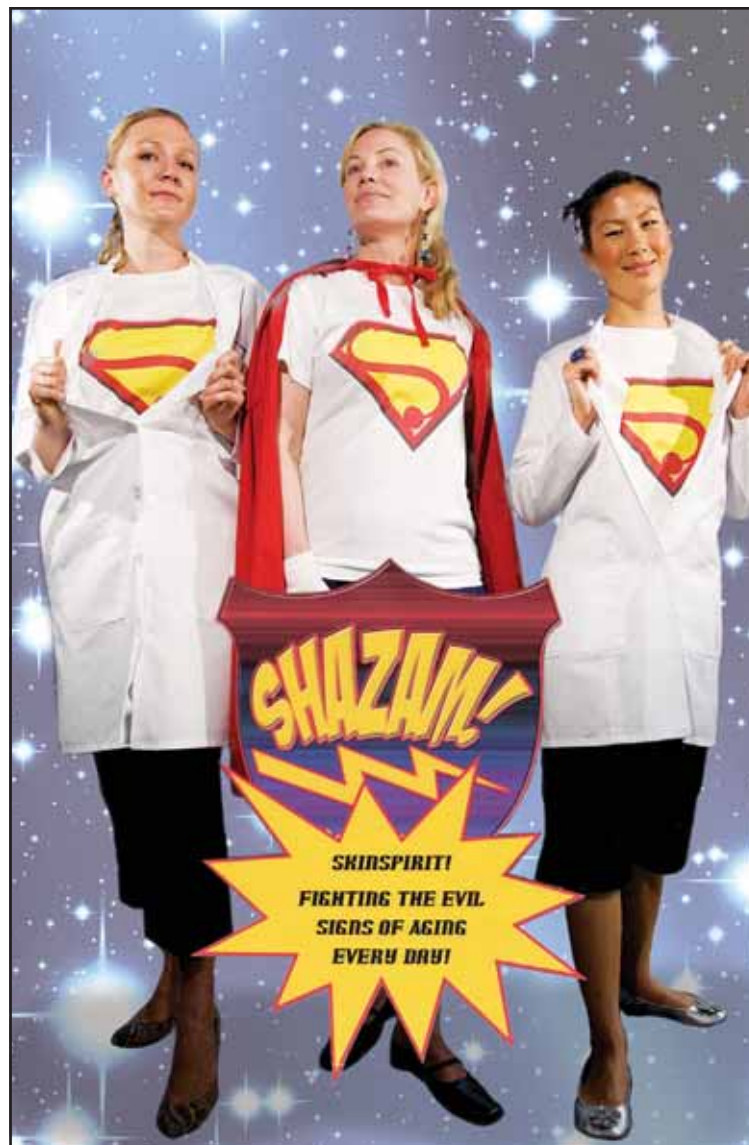
DAY SPA/ SKIN CARE

For a relaxing, rejuvenating experience, readers head to **SkinSpirit**, voted best day spa and skin care. Cosmetic treatments such as laser hair removal and Botox are available, along with

(continued on next page)



Larry and Laurie Moore, owners of Larry's Autoworks, are set to scare off any timing-belt demons.



From left, SkinSpirit's Sarah Nomanson, Lynn Bartels and Jane Yeh stand tall.



If the pen (or the paintbrush) is indeed mightier than the sword, University Art's Tina Ford and Gloria Acevedo are sure to win the next battle with a villain.



The Court crew: From left, Nathan Watson, Kelly Tsutsumi, Jesse Bresnahan, Barbara Gross and Jeffery Phillips of the prize-winning Garden Court Hotel.

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The Hair International team has all kinds of crime-fighting weapons at the ready. Pictured are: Tracey Nguyen, Gigi Kim, Heather Hunt, Eric Xa, George Alvarado, Lida Zahmatkesh and Pam Decharo.



When the Bat Light shines more brightly than your chipped nails, Connie Kullberg and Derik Landry of Pinkies Nail Salon are here to save the day.

(continued from previous page)

therapeutic body treatments like mud wraps and full-body scrubs. (Clients with special needs, like The Joker, might want to schedule a complimentary consultation for skin-care advice.) For a healing touch that aims beneath the surface, SkinSpirit also offers massages including the classic Swedish, deep tissue, La Stone and pre- and post-natal.

701 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-324-9600. www.skinspirit.com

DRY CLEANER

How can you keep those primary colors looking bright after a hard week of battling crime? Take your capes and tights to **Charles-ton Cleaners**, where they'll track down stains and wrinkles and eliminate the threat to your crisp, comic-book image. They'll also throw in some complimentary Hershey's Kisses while they starch and press your civilian clothes to help you maintain your disguise. The proficiency of this family-owned business isn't a secret, but the owners will keep their lips sealed about yours.

3900 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; 650-424-1113.

FRAME SHOP

Even superheroes require spare time to reflect. Daredevil is rumored (in some circles) to spend hours browsing art shops for fabulous frames to preserve pictures of friends and foes alike. His trusty art supply store, **University Art**, stocks quality brushes, three grades of canvasses, paints and, most essentially, a collection of intricate frames. The family-owned chain has its flagship store in Palo Alto, where it is also equipped with a gift gallery, the Annex, stuffed with jewelry, journals and other knick-knacks. Word has it that Daredevil bought Elektra an exquisite heart necklace there last Valentine's Day.

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From left, Brian Pettersen, Veronica Baer, Hector Fajardo and Hema Seshawn are Team YMCA.



Lucy Nguyen and Katie Sumstine go undercover (or is it underwater?) at Watercourse Way.

buildings, the Ross Road Y has an array of services, including a 25-foot climbing wall, indoor heated 25-yard lap pool, warm-water therapy pool, sauna, and cardio- and strength-training center. There's also a Kids' Zone and teen programs, as well as pre- and -post-natal programs for super-moms. **3412 Ross Road, Palo Alto; 650-856-9622. www.ymcasv.org/paloalto/**

HAIR SALON

Some Weekly readers might say **Hair International** has a secret power — for getting hair just right. Besides snipping away at women's, men's, teens' and kids' hair, the stylists also offer perms, highlights and other color makeovers and manicures and pedicures. The salon has evening and weekend hours, and welcomes drop-ins and students, with student rates available. Men might particularly like the salon — Weekly readers also gave it the most votes in the Best Men's Haircut category.

232 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; 650-324-2007. www.hairintl.com

HOTEL

There's nothing like being pampered in style at the **Garden Court Hotel**, the downtown Palo Alto luxury retreat that's only a step away from all the action on University Avenue. The staff provides every amenity imaginable from valet parking to evening port and cookie service in the lobby, and from Jacuzzi bathrooms to fresh gardenias at bedside. Guests can enjoy the Mediterranean-style architecture complete with fountains and flower-laden balconies, a perfect setting for stylish business meetings or dreamy wedding receptions. **520 Cowper St., Palo Alto; 650-322-9000. www.gardencourt.com**

267 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto; 650-328-3500. www.universityart.com

GYM

With several strong thumbs up, the **Palo Alto Family YMCA** is Weekly readers' choice for best gym. Whether people are building core muscle mass to handle those biffs and bams to the gut or bulking up biceps for scaling

MANICURE/ PEDICURE

Sometimes you need to retreat into a calming world where the only choice to make is between lavender and citrus body lotion.

(continued on next page)



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About to head up, up and away are Jill Plant, left, and Yvonne Tally from the Poised fitness studio.

(continued from previous page)

(That's assuming you've already picked your polish color.) At **Pinkies Nail Salon**, the massage chairs and cheery yellow walls also help bring on the alpha brain waves. Besides offering simple and deluxe mani-pedis, Pinkies also caters to the little ones with princess manicures and pedicures, complete with crowns. Kids between the ages of 5 and 12 are eligible. **177 Main St., Los Altos; 650-941-5600. www.pinkiesnailsalons.com**

HALL OF FAME: FIRST YEAR

Even in a tough economy, many people still choose a mani-pedi as a splurge to retain. There's just something so pleasant about having pretty feet. For their peppermint and lemonsage manicures, many Weekly readers swear by **LaBelle Day Spas**, now a new fixture in the Best Of Hall of Fame. Then there's the ginger-wasabi warming pedicure. By the time you're finished, you should have a healthy appetite. Good thing you're now in the habit of packing brown-bag lunches.

95 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto; 650-327-6964. 36 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; 650-326-8522. www.labeledayspas.com

MASSAGE

After a long day or night of fighting crime, what better way to unwind than with a massage at **Watercourse Way**? The masseuses know just what each customer needs to release tension, work out aches and pains or simply relax. There's also the option to combine each massage with a soothing soak in a hot tub. (Hey, or jump into a cold-plunge tub, if that's what relaxes you.) Massages can also include aromatherapy aspects, with essential oils. **165 Channing Ave.,**

Palo Alto; 650-462-2000. www.watercourseway.com

MEN'S HAIRCUT

Hair International was the winner in both this category and as Best Hair Salon. See full listing on the previous page.

PAINTERS

A fresh coat of paint says that new beginnings and fresh starts are possible. Family-owned **Avi Decorative Painting**, founded 21 years ago, services Palo Alto and the Bay Area in new construction jobs, repaints and remodels. It also specializes in historical restoration. Avi painters pledge to use green paints, properly dispose of leftovers and use proper ventilation, painting the town pretty in an environmental fashion. **650-329-0770. www.avipainting.com**

PERSONAL FITNESS

Sleek, pleasant and bright, the private studio **Poised** is a place to get your energy boosted and sweat on with a smile. Specializing in Pilates, core strength training and wellness consulting for individuals and small groups, Poised also provides nutritional consulting, in-home cooking classes, menu planning and a boutique. Watch out, Catwoman. **209 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-566-1388. www.poisedfit.com**

SHOE REPAIR

People who spend more time flying — or swinging on webs — than running might not need **Midtown Shoe Repair**. The rest of us, though, are plagued with broken heels, worn soles and scratched leather. Sure, it's a throwaway world, but in this economy you just might want to hang on to your designer shoes a little longer. That's where Midtown, a perennial Best Of winner, steps in.

2796 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; 650-329-8171.

VALUE HOTEL/MOTEL

When the Batcave is booked, a business traveler or tourist might do well to check out the **Country Inn Motel**. It's close to Caltrain, Stanford Shopping Center and the downtowns of both Palo Alto and Mountain View. Besides having non-smoking rooms, continental breakfasts, a heated pool, a barbecue and picnic area and gardens, the motel also offers free high-speed wireless Internet, something that's difficult to find in a subterranean lair.

4345 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-948-9154. www.paloaltocountryinn.com

VETERINARIAN

Where to go when Catwoman has hairballs? **Adobe Animal Hospital**, once again the readers' choice, is well-equipped to tend to creatures of all kinds. The clinic is gearing up for a move to a soon-to-be-built facility in Mountain View, which will double the space and allow these veterinary superheroes to do even an even greater job for our furry friends.

396 First St., Los Altos; 650-948-9661. www.adobe-animal.com

YOGA

Chasing bad guys, flying and performing astounding feats of strength can be hard on the body, not to mention stressful. Superheroes would do well to sign up for a class at **Darshana Yoga** (a repeat winner in this category) to stretch out, keep limber and unwind their troubled minds. Don't worry if you don't know your lotus from your side angle. With multiple teachers, classes for all levels and themed workshops, Darshana has something to awaken the yogi or yogini in everyone. **Om. 654 High St., Palo Alto; 650-325-9642. www.darshanayoga.com**



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Peninsula Beauty Supply's Janelle Parker, left, and Shanna Biederman ward off all criminals, scoundrels and flat, boring hairdos.

To the Mall... and Beyond

RETAIL SHOPPING

BEAUTY SUPPLIES

If an aging Wonder Woman wandered into **Peninsula Beauty Supply** seeking to touch up her roots, she'd need superpowers to choose among all the beauty products. Should she opt for L'Oreal's blue black or Satin's? For her ruby-red lips, she could try Sorme's Glamour Red. Then she could just have girl-fun, checking out the aisles of skin, hair and nail-care products. To create perfectly straight hair? She could try one of the universal flat irons, designed to be plugged in anywhere in the world. And in case her eyes start to fail, there are plenty of fashionable magnifying reading glasses. **250 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-327-1454. www.peninsulabeauty.com**

BIKE SHOP

In eco-friendly Palo Alto, bikes are a must for shuttling between

work and home, home and the grocery store. With the store's variety of road, mountain, comfort, cruiser, cyclocross and kids' bikes, **Mike's Bikes** is the place to go. The Northern California chain, established in 1968, not only sells bikes but also supplies handy gadgets including car racks, locks, lights, training DVDs, pumps and nutrition bars. Mike's is also active in the act of giving and encourages customers to donate used bikes to the company's philanthropic programs throughout Africa, which supply bikes to those in need of transportation. **3001 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-858-7700. www.mikesbikes.com**

HALL OF FAME: SECOND YEAR

Palo Alto grows more bicycle-friendly by the day, with an urge to go green blending with rider-

oriented roads and routes. And as the city escalates its right to roll, **Palo Alto Bicycles** continues to be the area's pedal-power paradise. Coupling friendly, knowledgeable service with a diverse assortment of merchandise, Palo Alto Bicycles has earned its way into the Best Of Hall of Fame. The expansive website also features information for the local cycling community, making it easier than ever to get a handle on better biking. **171 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-328-7411. www.paloaltobicycles.com**

BOOKSTORE

One of the linchpins of Menlo Park's downtown, **Kepler's** is a long-time favorite of Weekly readers, with its ample selection of books and magazines, helpful staff and airy accommodations. Kepler's brings a steady stream of high-profile authors to the Peninsula for book signings and read-

ings and is a key part of the Shop Local campaign to keep independent businesses thriving. There's a cozy children's area and an expanded selection of gift items. Kepler's also cultivates the community through book clubs, family events, children's story times and fundraisers for local schools. **1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com**

BOUTIQUE

When Mary Jane wants to look her best for Spider-Man, she makes a stop at **Leaf & Petal** for up-to-date looks. Or maybe she phones first. The store offers services such as "call ahead pre-shopping," where staffers begin looking for items in advance, so the clothing will be ready to try on when the customers arrive. The boutique carries dozens of lines, including Ella Moss and Rich & Skinny, offering clothing, shoes,

jewelry and accessories. **439 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-329-8070. www.lpetal.com**

EYEWEAR

You ever get tired of wearing that silly mask? Of course you do. How 'bout some Chrome Hearts glasses frames with a dagger motif, or a Gold & Wood pair made with buffalo horn? Crystals could add star appeal as well, in a sparkling Daniel Swarovski design. To pick a new style of glasses, follow Weekly readers to **Lux Eyewear**, which also offers contact lenses and eye exams. That is, except if you're Daredevil. He's so powerful, he doesn't even need to see. **1805 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-324-3937. www.luxpaloalto.com**

FLORIST

Sure, you can "send" one of your 562 Facebook friends a virtual dozen roses. But come on, sport, they don't smell like anything. For the real deal, Weekly readers turn off the computer and head for **Michaela's Flower Shop**. You could choose an array of orange roses with river rocks, or butter-scotch roses, or hot-pink ones. If your guy doesn't like flowers, send him a succulent garden or a "Junk Food Bucket" packed with candy. Plenty of other theme arrangements abound: corporate, sympathy, Grandparents' Day, patriotic, wedding and new baby, to name just a few. **453 Waverley St., Palo Alto; 650-321-5390. www.michaelasflowershop.com**

FURNITURE STORE/HOME FURNISHINGS

Crate & Barrel is one-stop shopping. Whether seeking super-sized furniture or mini muffin pans, the shopper will find that inspiration abounds. No room is left bare: Marimekko shower curtains for the bathroom, hand-wrought steel spindle beds and duvet covers for the bedroom, pancake-batter bowls and espresso machines for the kitchen, desks and leather side chairs for the office — plus patio furniture for the deck. No chance for an empty Batcave after a few hours here. **530 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; 650-321-7800. www.crateandbarrel.com**

HALL OF FAME: FIRST YEAR

"Karlstad," "Godmorgon" and "Kvart" sort of sound like superheroes' monikers, don't they? Almost. They're the names of products at **IKEA**, the Swedish furnishing behemoth that is taking its first step this year into the Best Of Hall of Fame. IKEA feels modern and often sleek, with its streamlined shelving units, but old-fashioned stitchers will be happy to find bolts of fabric for

(continued on next page)

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www.costumbank.com



Hey, unfashionable baddies. You don't really want to tangle with Leaf & Petal's Judy Ohki and Catherine Costa, do you?

(continued from previous page)

making one's own curtains and other home features. And the meatballs always taste just like you remember them.

1700 E. Bayshore Road, E. Palo Alto; 650-323-4532. www.ikea.com

GIFT/ NOVELTY SHOP

The eco-freak reuseable tote in the window of **University Art Annex** says it all: "I'm saving the planet — what are you doing?" Inside the shop is a wonder-world of potential gifts — if you don't quietly set something aside for yourself. Items include the funny (mugs with sayings), the serious (major handbags), the indulgent (body oils and candles) and the practical (greeting cards, bags and wrapping ribbon). Even a clueless superguy can find the perfect gift for his Wonder Woman. And oh, Clark, there's a very sweet pillbox with an enameled Superman emblem — perfect for

Lois. Think about it.
267 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto; 650-328-3500. www.universityart.com/annex.htm

GREEN BUSINESS/ HARDWARE STORE

Not many businesses can blend macho pride and social conscience as seamlessly as **Palo Alto Hardware**, the city's prime destination for everything from garden hoes to water heaters. This year, Weekly readers rewarded the business with two awards, one for Best Green Business and one for Best Hardware Store. While the store's expansive inventory of hammers, gloves, power drills and bolts is proudly displayed, most visitors probably wouldn't notice that Palo Alto Hardware is powered by solar panels, uses fluorescent lights and accepts recycled cell phones, DVDs and printer cartridges at its "Green Kiosk." Recent additions include rain barrels and cheaper and longer-lasting LED lights.

875 Alma St., 650-327-7222. www.paloaltohardware.com

JEWELER

With the belief that every piece of jewelry tells a story, **Gleim Jewelers** takes good care of its customers. Whether people are shopping for engagement rings, a necklace to give to Mom on her birthday or a timepiece for a son who just graduated from college, Gleim's has something special for every person who walks through the door. Although Gleim's has closed its University Avenue location, the Stanford Shopping Center location is open for business.

111 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; 650-325-3533. www.gleimjewelers.com

LINGERIE

Pink, lace, girly stuff and great mirrors in the dressing rooms. These words describe perfectly the queen of the lingerie stores, **Victoria's Secret** in the Stan-



They may not have X-ray vision, but Rebecca Knott and SueAnn Madsen of Lux Eyewear can sell you some pretty dapper frames.

ford Shopping Center. From the Pink collection dominating the front of the store to the swim collection, from the naughty lacy selections to the everyday essentials, and from the sexy summer styles to sleek fall fashion, Victoria's Secret seems to have just what Weekly readers are wearing out or in.

N-305 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; 650-328-0574. www.victoriasecret.com

MEN'S APPAREL

No superhero is complete without a costume, an outfit to clothe his or her alter ego. Whether in need of shoes that allow for lift-off, fire-resistant pants or a cape that can shield the owner from bullets, superheroes know where to go to find the best apparel for men and women alike: **Nordstrom** at Stanford Shopping Center. With Nordy's variety of designers and styles, Weekly readers singled it out in the Men's Apparel, Women's Apparel and Shoe Store categories. Even Thor and Loki have been seen exiting the three-story store with bags in hand.

550 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; 650-323-5111. shop.nordstrom.com

NEW RETAIL BUSINESS

Seeking a gift? Perhaps "The Art of Vintage Marvel" with 100 collectible postcards will catch your eye at **Paper Source**, along with the bag of Luchas caped

superhero dolls: Atlantis, Mascara Sagrada and Pierrot Jr. Or perhaps a thumb-wrestling mask to adopt the identity of El Sancho. Even the wordless Black Bolt can enjoy the helpful "Lost for Words — Creative Messages for All Occasions." But the real joy at the Paper Source is simply the paper, from exquisite wrapping papers from around the globe to cards, announcements, invitations and make-your-own greetings. It's no wonder that readers acknowledged this super new business.

Town & Country Village, #63, Palo Alto; 650-324-9700. www.paper-source.com

NURSERY/ GARDEN SUPPLY

It's safe to say that **Roger Reynolds Nursery and Carriage Stop** is a local institution — it's consistently popular among locals and is celebrating its 90th anniversary in September. All month, special events are scheduled every Saturday, including a community celebration on Sept. 19 with children's activities, music and raffles, manager Antonio Ramirez said. The store also boasts a great selection of maple trees. Next door to the nursery, the Carriage Stop offers flower arrangements and gifts, and the store makes deliveries throughout the Bay Area. **133 Encinal Ave., Menlo Park; 650-323-5612. www.rogerreynoldsnursery.com**

PET STORE

Wonder Dog and Catwoman would be in pet heaven at **Pet**

Food Depot, the family-owned Palo Alto pet-supply store in an innocuous-looking building on El Camino Real. Expertise ranges from lizards to livestock, and just about anything a pet and his or her companion need can be found here. Anything else can be ordered by the staff. "Trust and loyalty is not won with a single purchase but earned over a period of time" is the store's motto.

3127 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-852-1277. www.petfooddepot.com.

PHARMACY/ DRUG STORE

Walgreens again proved to be the pharmacy Palo Alto trusts. The Midtown Shopping Center location is a quick stop for kids needing a sugar boost after school (or a glue stick to touch up that history project), while at the El Camino Real store convenience is the name of the game with a drive-thru pharmacy. Both stores provide digital photo services. Friendly staff and an equally user-friendly website (complete with coupons and prescription refill request form) characterize Walgreens as a business and Palo Alto presence.

2605 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; 650-566-9723. 4170 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-858-2007. www.walgreens.com

HALL OF FAME: THIRD YEAR

Like Gotham's caped crusader, large-chain store **Longs Drugs**,

now CVS/pharmacy, seems to be the hero some locals are unsure about. But not Weekly readers. They say Longs is the go-to spot in town for that emergency shampoo bottle, pack of diapers or birthday card before work or at 9:30 p.m. No wonder it's a third-year Hall of Fame winner. With three stores in Palo Alto alone, the store is undeniably convenient,

even if the name doesn't come to you right away.

352 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-324-1667. 2701 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; 650-330-0128. 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-322-2150. www.cvs.com

(continued on next page)

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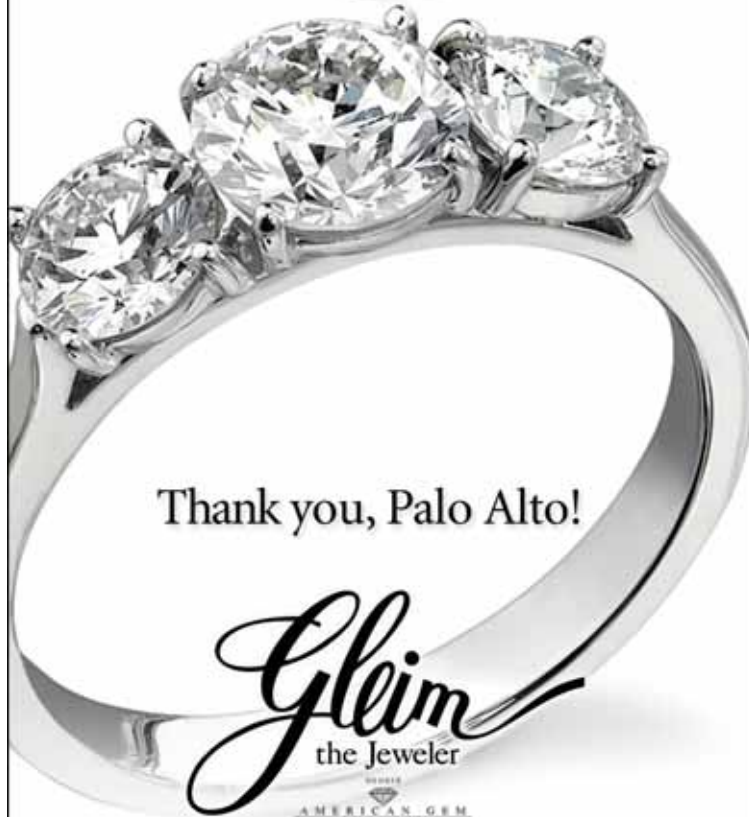
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"BEST OF" HALL OF FAME WINNER

BEST OF 2009

(continued from previous page)

SHOE STORE

Three-time winner **Nordstrom** won in this category, as well as for its men's and women's apparel. See the full write-up under Men's Apparel.

SPORTING GOODS AND APPAREL

Sometimes self-made superheroes need a little bit of extra help. Aspiring crime-fighters can grab their gear at **REI** to help them scale walls and lift heavy loads. The best sporting-goods retailer in town provides all sorts of outdoor merchandise such as climbing ropes, backpacks, tents and canteens to help our crusaders, or nature lovers, rough the outdoors. Not everyone has an enormous underground bunker, so REI has two warehouses — one in San Carlos and the other in Mountain View.

**2450 Charleston Road,
Mountain View;
650-969-1938. www.rei.com**

STATIONERY STORE

At **Letter Perfect**, owner Gwen Gasque says she's on a mission "to create, inspire and share beauty, quality and service." Gasque accomplishes this by creating fine, custom stationery for many occasions; other offer-

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Modest superheroes Susie and Matt of Paper Source sport masks and didn't want their last names in print, but doesn't that add to their mysterious panache?

ings include birth and Bar Mitzvah announcements, holiday greeting cards and wedding invitations. The independently owned shop, established in 1982, also sells rubber stamps, address labels and gifts. **384 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-321-3700. www.letterperfect.com**

HALL OF FAME, SECOND YEAR

Who said print was going out of business? Paper is still in fashion at **Village Stationers**. Serving shoppers looking for day planners, labels or gift ideas, this specialty store is in its second year in the Hall of Fame. The friendly staff can help create custom cards, or shoppers can choose from a wide selection of cards that are handmade, celebrate cultural holidays or fete an age-specific birthday. Careful: This store is a paper lover's kryptonite — symptoms include dazed delight and lightness in the wallet.

310 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-326-7970. 719 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park; 650-321-6920. www.villagestationers.biz

TOY STORE

As far as game stores go, **Palo Alto Sport Shop & Toy World** is the Yankees, the Lakers and

the Steelers rolled into one. It's a perennial winner. From yoga mats and badminton shuttlecocks to soccer cleats and swimming trunks, from its wall of flip-flop sandals to its crate full of playground-style rubber balls, the shop adds some playfulness and pizzazz to a downtown neighborhood otherwise littered with dining establishments and designer boutiques. The store also takes pains to stay up to date. Recent additions include the Sector 9 longboard and the Voodoo board,

a snowboard-like device that allows users to work on their balance. **526 Waverley St., Palo Alto; 650-328-8555. www.toyandsport.com**

WOMEN'S APPAREL

Three-time winner **Nordstorm** won in this category, as well as for its men's apparel and shoes. See the complete write-up in Men's Apparel.

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Real Estate Matters

READY TO OPEN UP

There's been discussion among real estate professionals for years regarding the value of holding open houses. The National Association of Realtors® conducted a survey last year that revealed 80 percent of buyers initially used the Internet for property searches, but only 42 percent visited open houses. What gives?

The answer varies according to whom you ask. Some agents feel that truly serious buyers do their searching well in advance, and choose to make appointments to see the homes that really excite them.

Other agents have learned that buyers enjoy the freedom of seeing properties without an appointment and without the company of a representative when they visit. Sellers, on the other hand, sometimes expect agents to host open houses to show that they're working hard for their compensation.

Real estate professionals often begin developing relationships with buyers through open houses by learning their particular needs and be able to direct those buyers to a home better suited to their needs.

In a nutshell, both sides can be equally argued. Discuss the benefits of an open house with your agent.

Jackie Schoelerman is a Realtor with Alain Pinel Realtors and a Real Estate Specialist for Seniors. Call Jackie for real estate advice.



Jackie Schoelerman
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DRE # 01092400
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Hey, even heroes deserve some time off to schmooze. Members of the Coupa Cafe team are, from left, Jean Paul Coupal, Nancy Coupal, Javiera Diaz and Ramon Guillen. Weekly readers chose Coupa as Best Coffee House and Best Wi-Fi Hot Spot.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Where do you go to kick back on a balmy evening in August? Several voters favored **Marqs in**

Menlo, which features plenty of live music. Wednesday is Blues Night, for example, while Mondays feature local musicians. Actually, there are tunes just about every night — check the calendar.

Feeling confident? Enter one of the vocalist contests. Meanwhile, other Weekly voters picked the Cuban bar and restaurant **La Bodeguita del Medio**, a place for sipping a sweet rum cocktail,

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Marjan Sadoughi/Palo Alto Weekly

Mitchell Park is a favorite with Weekly readers, who voted it best local park as well as one of the best spots for a play date. Pictured, clockwise from left, are Leila Tuma, Auni Joshi, Elissa Alfonso and Sarah Reich.

puffing on a cigar and gazing at Cuban artwork. (La Bodeguita also won Best International Restaurant and Best Martini/Cocktails; see another listing in

the martini category.) **Marqs in Menlo: 1143 Crane St., Menlo Park; 650-853-1143.**

(continued on next page)

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<p>Uri Caine (10.10) Anonymous 4 (10.21) Emerson String Quartet (10.28) Cyro Baptista (10.30) St. Lawrence String Quartet (11.1, 1.31, 4.18) Prokofiev Festival (11.12–11.15) Contrasts Quartet (11.18) From the Top with Christopher O’Riley (12.5) Chanticleer (12.10) Sō Percussion + Steve Reich (1.9)</p>	<p>Kronos Quartet + Wu Man (1.16) Morphoses (1.22) L.A. Theatre Works (1.27) Misha Dichter (2.17) Vusi Mahlasela (2.19) Terence Blanchard (3.6) Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet (4.21) Dave Douglas & Keystone + Bill Morrison (4.24) Hal Holbrook (4.27) Laurie Anderson (5.5)</p>
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Scaloppine divitello al Marsala

The town of Marsala is a seaport city located in the Province of Trapani on the island of Sicily in Italy. The low coast on which it is situated is the westernmost point of the island. It is best known as the source of Marsala wine. Chicken Marsala is an ancient dish made with this wonderful wine. So great was thought the power of this wine, a Greek warlord even believed his men fought with more flair by drinking a little before battle. But it was the English who settled in Sicily in the early 1800's who are credited with "upgrading" the dish with the use of veal.

It is our distinct pleasure to offer Scaloppine di vitello al Marsala as this week's special dish.

Buon appetito! *Chef Marco Salvi*

SCALOPPINE DI VITELLO AL MARSALA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pound veal medallions • 3 tablespoons olive oil • All-purpose flour • Salt and pepper to taste • 1 large shallot, minced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pound fresh button mushrooms, sliced • ½ cup dry Marsala wine • 2 clove garlic, chopped • 1 tablespoon butter
--	--

Preparation instructions:

Add 2 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Lightly season the veal with salt and pepper coat each medallion in flour, shaking to remove excess flour. Place in the heated skillet until golden brown on each side, about 5 minutes. Remove medallions from the skillet, place in a baking dish covered with foil, and keep warm in the preheated oven until ready to serve.

Heat the remaining olive oil in the skillet over medium low heat, and sauté the shallot, garlic and mushrooms, scraping up any browned bits, until shallots are tender. Increase heat to medium high, and stir in the Marsala. Cook and stir until thickened. Remove from heat, and whisk in the butter until melted. Pour sauce over the veal and serve with a wedge of lemon. Serves 4

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www.marqsinmenlo.com. La Bodeguita del Medio: 463 S. California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-326-7762. www.labodeguita.com

NIGHTLIFE SPOT

By day a mild-mannered restaurant, by night **Nola** becomes a raucous rendezvous site perfect for shaking off the work week. Specializing in Cajun classics such as seafood jambalaya and Creole shrimp, the trendy bar and restaurant adds spice to any evening (and even offers a gluten-free menu). Drinks are a must, but be sure to bring your trusty sidekick(s) if you try to defeat Nola's famous hurricane in a 60-ounce bowl. Runner-up **Melt Ultra Lounge**, with its plush interior, classy drinks and posh "bites," is the ideal spot to live it up like Tony Stark, without leaving downtown. **Nola: 535 Ramona St., Palo Alto; 650-328-2722. www.nolas.com. Melt Ultra Lounge: 544 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-325-6358. www.meltpaloalto.com**

PALO ALTO PARK

When not flying over the Peninsula, capes a-flutter, superheroes find plenty of fun at **Mitchell Park**, voted the Best Palo Alto Park by Weekly readers. The beloved 21-acre open space features curvy bear sculptures and "gopher holes" in the tots' area, large grassy expanses for athletic

games, picnic areas, tennis courts and a dog run. "It's been luring small fry like a cat to catnip," a Palo Alto Times columnist wrote at the park's birth some 52 years ago. Some things, fortunately, haven't changed. **600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto; 650-496-6962. www.cityofpaloalto.org**

PLACE FOR A PLAY DATE

It's your friendly, neighborhood play-date spot! Where, you ask? Parks are persistently popular. Kids love **Johnson Park's** concrete slide and **Mitchell Park's** water-play area and gopher holes. For some learning fun, the **Junior Museum and Zoo** offers hands-on science exhibits and more than 50 species of animals. Parents will be glad to know that good clean fun is just a sink away at **Opal'z**, where you can make soap, lotions and lip balms. **Johnson Park: 200 Kipling St., Palo Alto. Mitchell Park: 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo: 1451 Middlefield Road. Opal'z: 719 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto; 650-322-6500. www.opalzoap.com**

WI-FI HOT SPOT

Coupa Cafe was a big winner this year, also pulling in readers' votes for Best Bakery/Desserts and Best Coffee House. For a full listing, see the Bakery/Desserts category.



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PLACE TO CHANGE INTO YOUR SUPERHERO COSTUME

The green booth on the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Waverley Street has plenty to offer to local Clark Kents looking for a private venue to don capes and suits. Located near City Hall, the police department and downtown's panoply of banks and shops, the **public bathroom at Hamilton and Waverley** allows superheroes to get to Palo Alto's most prominent locations within seconds. Its two maps are particularly useful for out-of-town superheroes unfamiliar with the local retail scene. On top of that, the bathroom cleans, disinfects and air dries itself after each use, thereby allowing superheroes to focus on their core mission: fighting crime.

SUPERHERO HEADQUARTERS

The majestic **Hoover Tower** looms over Stanford University, giving students, visitors and heroes the perfect vantage point for spotting crimes and thwarting them just in time. Its prominent location and elegant design helped the Hoover Tower edge out other local landmarks in the Best Superhero Headquarters category. And when they're not fighting crime, superheroes can always tour the tower's archives and memorabilia relating to the nation's 31st president and Stanford graduate Herbert Hoover, or climb to the top to play with the 48-bell carillon. The largest bell, inscribed with the words "For Peace Alone Do I Ring," further underscores the tower's potential to house idealistic crime-fighters. **434 Serra Mall, Stanford University, 650-723-2560.**

Palo Alto Weekly

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Palo Alto City Hall would be a great place to shine the Bat Light from, readers say.



Norbert von der Groeben/Palo Alto Weekly

The Bat Light also could make a statement on Hoover Tower.

PLACE TO DELIVER A VILLAINOUS MONOLOGUE

Depending on your point of view, it could be apropos that many Weekly readers say the best place for a villainous monologue — **Lytton Plaza** — is often used for rallies and peaceful protests. Although Dr. Doom and Mr. Sinister haven't ever stopped at Lytton to wax about plans for world domination, voters say the brick-layered plaza (soon to be refurbished) is the ideal location for a speech riddled with arrogance and menacing laughter. So should any Palo Alto-based ne'er-do-well ever decide to reveal his or her dark intentions, Lytton Plaza would be the likely locale. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King (City Hall) Plaza, the Rodin sculpture garden at Stanford's Cantor Arts Center and the Mitchell Park bowl were other suggestions.

ROOFTOP TO SHINE THE BAT LIGHT FROM

It's Monday night, very late. Wait, correction. It's Tuesday morning, very early. There's an emergency: The Joker has drunk all the milkshakes at the Creamery! Whenever will we find people still awake to help us shine the Bat Light and call for help? Most Weekly voters picked towering **City Hall** — of course the members of the City Council will still be up, negotiating away. Now let's see if Batman can do something about the budget. (Other choices for best place to shine the Bat Light included Hoover Tower, East Palo Alto's Four Seasons Hotel and Palo Alto Square.) **250 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto.**

LOCAL FIGURE MOST LIKELY TO BE A SUPERHERO IN DISGUISE

Apparently, enough superheroes are hiding out in Palo Alto for the city to field its own Justice League. No fewer than two dozen

(continued on next page)

PLACE FOR A HERO-VILLAIN BATTLE

Spider-Man vs. the Green Goblin. Batman vs. the Joker. Captain America vs. the Red Skull. For years heroes and villains have squared off on printed page and the big screen. Many Best Of readers say that were a climactic battle ever to be waged in Palo Alto, it would likely take place at **Lytton Plaza** or **Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King Plaza**. The open expanses would allow for those in downtown to watch the cartoonish tussle with curious awe. And although the "Digital DNA" egg and parts of City Hall would surely crumble in the collision, it's safe to say the hero, as always, would walk away with a win. **Lytton Plaza: University Avenue and Emerson Street, Palo Alto. King Plaza: 250 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto.**

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Norbert von der Groeben/Palo Alto Weekly

BEST OF PALO ALTO 2009



Heroes and villains looking for a spot to duke it out should head for Lytton Plaza, readers say.



Norbert von der Groeben/Palo Alto Weekly

(continued from previous page)
ordinary, everyday citizens are suspected by Weekly voters of cloaking their powers. Leading the pack was **Steve Jobs**, co-founder of Apple, but other nominees include politicians (Palo Alto Mayor **Peter Drekmeier**, Menlo Park City Councilman **Andy Cohen**, former Palo Alto vice mayor and high-tech pioneer **Roy Clay**); food proprietors (organic chef **Jesse Cool**, chef **Charles Ayers**, Fleming's Steak House partner **Wayne Hanseth**, Pizza My Heart general manager **Ricardo Ibarra**, **Rick** of Rick's Rather Rich Ice Cream and **Michal the Milkman**); and a number of police officers. But alas — no newspaper reporters. ■

STEVE JOBS: SECRET SUPERHERO?

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- 1:00 - 3:00 pm for kids 4 years & older

* PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

This family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program — and parents lose weight too! Call (650) 725-4424 for information.

- Monday, August 17: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

* CAR SEAT EDUCATION & INSTALLATION

The Kohl's Child Safety and Outreach Program at LPCH offers a free car seat check and installation education at Kohl's in Santa Clara. Appointments made by calling **650-736-2981**.

- Wednesday, August 26: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

* MOTHERS OF SONS: THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF GUIDING YOUR SON THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

Robert Lehman, MD, co-creator of the "Heart to Heart" program will host an evening just for mothers of adolescent sons. Emphasis will be on understanding and encouraging open communication between parents and children.

- Tuesday, September 8: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



LUCILE PACKARD
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

Best Of Palo Alto 2009 Raffle Prize Winners

- | | |
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| One year's supply
Rick's Rather Rich Ice Cream
Dylan Miller, Palo Alto | \$25 gift certificate
Palo Alto Sport Shop & Toy World
Anna Naimark, Stanford |
| One hour in a private hot-tub room
Watercourse Way
Chris Dowter, Palo Alto | \$25 gift certificate
Fraiche
Noelle Gonsalves, Menlo Park |
| \$50 gift certificate
Michaela's Flower Shop
Sally Mentzer, Redwood City | \$25 gift certificate
Fraiche
Melissa Mel Miranda, Palo Alto |
| \$50 gift certificate
Calafia Cafe & Market A Go Go
Pearl Renaker, Palo Alto | Gift set
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Cathy Kroymann, Palo Alto |
| \$50 gift certificate
Skin Spirit
Elizabeth Kancler, Los Altos High School | \$25 gift certificate
Kepler's
Lucille Glassman |
| \$50 gift certificate
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Liz Hammack, Atherton | \$25 gift certificates
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Jonathan Seder, Daryl Sid, Julie Baskind, Evan Tang and Dave Savello, Palo Alto. Chang Cho and Evan Tang, Mountain View. |
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