

Palo  
Alto

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# Weekly

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gets the ax**

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## A council of peers

PALO ALTO VOTERS FAVOR EXPERIENCE  
IN ELECTING NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

## It's Klein, Holman, Price, Shepherd and Scharff

Three veteran civic leaders join longtime volunteer and one newcomer on Palo Alto City Council

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Altans chose experienced community-involvement veterans over political neophytes Tuesday, electing Larry Klein, Karen Holman, Gail Price and Nancy Shepherd to the City Council by comfortable margins.

Attorney Greg Scharff claimed the fifth and final open spot on the

nine-member council. With all 39 precincts reporting but hundreds of absentee ballots left to count, Scharff was leading Realtor Leon Leong by 835 votes, 5,536 to 4,701 as of Thursday.

Klein, the only incumbent in the field, is heading for his fourth term on the council. He will be the only

member with more than two years of council experience.

Price previously served on the Palo Alto Board of Education, and Holman is currently in her eighth year on the Planning and Transportation Commission.

Shepherd has not served on a public board but was president of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs and led a successful campaign to establish district-wide fundraising in Palo Alto.

All five victors took early leads on the strength of mail-in ballots

and then watched their margins of victory expand as new vote results filtered in. By about 11 p.m., Santa Clara County's Registrar of Voters had counted all 39 precincts, cementing the early results.

The five winning candidates beat out (in order) Leong, Dan Dykwel, Corey Levens, John Hackmann, Brian Steen, Timothy Gray, Chris Gaither, Mark Weiss and Victor Frost.

Klein, who had served as Palo Alto mayor three times over the course of his council career, said he

was "pleased and honored" by the voters' support. He said he looks forward to helping to tackle the city's looming budget challenges.

"It's tough, but I've been doing it long enough to know what it entails," said Klein, whose 7,315 votes led the field as of Thursday.

Holman, who had garnered 7,171 votes and second place as of Thursday, also chalked up her victory to experience. Over the course of her

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Incumbent Councilman Larry Klein topped vote-getters in Tuesday's election, and newcomer Greg Scharff won the fifth of five slots on the Palo Alto City Council. Fourteen candidates were in the running.

Veronica Weber

ELECTION '09

## Polling places nearly silent as voters 'mail in'

Poll workers report quietest Election Day in recent years, perhaps ever

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's election ballot was not particularly crowded this year, with only two issues to vote on, but its polling places were mostly empty.

With almost three-fourths of all registered voters choosing mail-in ballots this year, veteran poll workers were struck by an unusual feeling on Election Day: boredom.

At one precinct after another, poll workers sat patiently near rows of empty voting booths, chatting and waiting for voters to trickle in.

Some had to be particularly patient. A precinct at Lytton Gardens in downtown Palo Alto had only 36 voters fill out ballots on location by 3 p.m.

One of two precincts at 1985 Louis Road in South Palo Alto had just 28 voters stop in to mark their choices as of 4 p.m. — an average of just 3.5 voters per hour.

The Santa Clara County Registrar's Office reports that about 74 percent of Palo Alto voters requested mail-in ballots, exceeding the average of 71 percent among other jurisdictions holding elections on Tuesday.

Palo Alto voters received 26,700 mail-in ballots from the county and had returned 7,463 of them as of Tuesday.

The low mail-in response meant people who were coming in to drop off their mail-in ballots has surpassed the number who actually vote by three or four to one, poll workers reported.

Once upon a time, the social interactions between workers and voters played a central role in America's voting experience, with millions of "Norman Rockwell moments" across the nation.

Today, the vast majority of people walked in, dropped off ballots and walked out with little more than a greeting or nod exchanged.

Robert Archibald, an inspector at one of the Louis Road precincts, said the election has felt like one of the slowest in recent history. He attributed it partially to the exclusively local nature of the election and just two items on the ballot: choosing five City Council members out of a field of 14 candidates and voting on a proposed business-license tax.

But another reason is the changing behavior of the voters.

"People have always come in to talk, bring their dogs and show their babies," Archibald said. But his polling station had 41 people vote as of 4 p.m.

"We've only had one dog so far, and no babies."

Other poll workers pointed to Tuesday's experience as evidence that it may be time to think about conducting the elections exclusively by mail. In Palo Alto, eight precincts out of 39 have already been designated "mail-only" and have no polling place. In each, fewer than 250 residents had declined to vote by mail.

Ruth DeVries, a veteran of poll worker, stopped at 1985 Louis Road to drop off her completed ballot Tuesday. She said she understands the appeal of filling out the ballot in advance.

"In the morning hours and in the evening, when people get out of work, the lines could get long," DeVries said. "It's much easier to just come in and drop off the ballot."

But Bonnie Bernstein, a voter at the Louis Road precinct, said she isn't buying into the mail-in-ballot hype.

There is something special about "walking the walk to make a statement," Bernstein said.

"I think it would be a tragedy if we had no polling stations," Bernstein said. "This is where I brought my children to learn about democracy." ■

ELECTION '09

## Business tax defeated in Palo Alto

City to consider other revenue sources after voters reject Measure A

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's proposed business-license tax was soundly defeated by voters Tuesday, with 57 percent casting their ballots against Measure A.

The tax proposal fizzled after months of debate, with critics calling it too messy and complicated to enforce and too onerous on already struggling businesses.

Skip Justman, who led the campaign against the tax, said he was surprised by how many small-business owners and entrepreneurs told him they were worried about intrusion from the city. He attributed the defeat of Measure A largely to the

many voters who have part-time jobs but are also "working quietly at home."

Justman, whose group called itself Small Business Against Taxes, said he was pleasantly surprised by the votes. By the end of the week, with about 80 percent of the ballots counted, 7,640 voters opposed Measure A, while 5,736 voters supported it.

"We had to fight an uphill battle," said Justman, who chairs the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce Government Action Committee. "We had to go against the City Council, City Hall and the downtown establishment, and

we were able to succeed."

But city officials warned that voter's rejection of Measure A would make the city's murky budget situation even bleaker. The city is facing a "structural" budget gap of at least \$10 million, meaning long-term cuts need to be made. The City Council was hoping to use the roughly \$3 million in projected revenues from the new tax to narrow the gap.

City Manager James Keene said the voters' rejection of Measure A will make future decisions about program cuts more difficult.

"There's no light at the end of the tunnel," Keene said Tuesday night. "We'll have to revisit our possibilities and consider other ways of raising revenue."

Opponents of the measure consistently argued the ongoing recession is a horrible time for a new tax. Greg Scharff, who opposed Measure A and won election to the City Council, said he would prefer to see Palo Alto "invigorate its business climate" and generate more revenue

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**Thursday, November 19  
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**Neville H. Golden** is Chief of Adolescent Medicine at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and the Marron and Mary Elizabeth Kendrick Professor in Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine. In conjunction with the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Division of Adolescent Medicine runs a multidisciplinary inpatient and outpatient program for the treatment of children, adolescents and young adults with eating disorders. His research has focused on the medical complications of adolescents with eating disorders and in particular, the cause and implications of menstrual disturbances in adolescents with anorexia nervosa. He has studied growth retardation and structural brain changes in anorexia nervosa; vital sign instability and nutritional rehabilitation in malnutrition secondary to eating disorders; and the use of both hormone replacement therapy and biphosphonates to treat reduced bone mass in anorexia nervosa.

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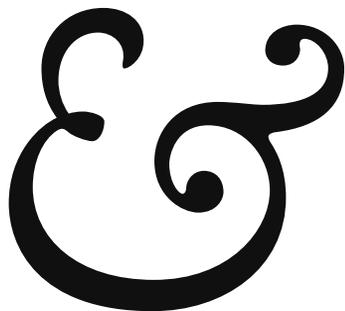
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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**



We've only had one dog so far, and no babies.



— **Robert Archibald**, an election inspector, regarding the sparse walk-in voting for Tuesday's election. See story on page 3.

**Around Town**

**THE WAITING GAME ...** The latest report from independent police auditor **Michael Gennaco** largely vindicated the Palo Alto Police Department from the vast majority of citizen complaints. The most egregious instances of police misbehavior, Gennaco found, occurred within the department. One employee felt so exhilarated about his upcoming retirement that he went on a kissing spree. His celebration surprised but failed to amuse the female employees on the receiving end (who went on to complain). The kisser faced administrative charges and lost his right to carry a concealed weapon after retirement. Another employee, a department supervisor, logged into his colleague's e-mail account and sent "highly personal information" (ostensibly from the colleague) to other department members. The supervisor was suspended. Gennaco's report is dated April 13, which made some members of the public and the City Council wonder why it wasn't released to the council until early November. For them, City Manager **James Keene** had an answer — he had it all along. Keene said he made a mistaken assumption that Gennaco had also sent the report to the nine council members. Recently he realized the council hadn't received copies. "It's my fault," Keene acknowledged Monday. "It wasn't until I was meeting with the police auditor later this summer that it was clear to me that the council hadn't gotten this." Keene said he would return to the council's Policy and Services Committee with a schedule for future reports from the police auditor.

**WORDS FROM THE WEISS ...** How do you finish near the bottom and still emerge a winner? One way is to redefine the meaning of victory. City Council candidate **Mark Weiss**, who finished 13th out of 14 on the Palo Alto ballot Tuesday, said he actually won the race, if you consider the amount of money each candidate spent per vote. "I'm pleased to announce myself the winner at a cost basis," said Weiss, who was saved from finishing last by panhandler Victor Frost's participation in the race. "I spent less than \$500 and received more than 500 votes," Weiss said. The five

winners, Weiss observed, also happened to be among the top campaign spenders with each boasting more than \$14,000 in contributions. The tie between the campaign cash and vote count makes a mockery of democracy, Weiss said Wednesday. "There's so much private money here. ... The idea of democracy is kind of a farce." Weiss, who ran for council on an "arts platform," also said he was disappointed by what he called the "narrow agenda" during candidate debates (which focused on such things as labor compensation, high-speed rail and the city's structural \$10 million budget deficit). "There was little discussion or substantive debate," Weiss said. "The quantitative budget issues are overblown."

**I DREAM OF BYXBEE ...** Few stretches of open land stir up as much debate in Palo Alto as **Byxbee Park**, a marshy, grassy sprawl in the baylands. The parkland currently hosts Palo Alto's soon-to-be-closed landfill and local conservationists have been squabbling for the past year over whether portions of this land could be used for a new compost facility or whether it should revert to open space. On Monday, the debate re-emerged at City Hall when three City Council members suggested the time has come to think about the design of the parkland next to the landfill. Council members **Sid Espinosa**, **Yoriko Kishimoto** and **Greg Schmid** argued in a colleagues' memo that the city should work with the landscape group Hargreaves and Associates to develop the "final park design goals" for the portions of Byxbee near the landfill. Schmid said opening the roughly 45 acres of parkland to residents would be a valuable and cost-effective service the city can provide to residents at a time of financial hardships. The council ultimately voted to direct staff to work on the design of the Byxbee land, but only after several council members criticized the proposal as too hasty. **Larry Klein** urged his colleagues to consider this item next year, in the context of the city's budget. Mayor **Peter Drekmeier** said city staff is already evaluating Palo Alto's options for composting — options that could include Byxbee Park. ■

## Downtown landlords dig in for long recovery

*Properties are slowly leasing, but where are the shoppers?*

by Carol Blitzler

Strolling down University Avenue, shoppers can easily see there aren't as many places to shop as there were a year ago.

"For rent" signs seem to be multiplying like bunnies — and staying up for months and months.

"There's a widely held perception that if the landlord weren't so greedy all the spaces would be leased," said Jonathan Goldman, senior vice president of Premier Properties Management, Palo Alto.

But Goldman, who's been in the business for 13 years, disagrees.

He points to the space vacated by Stanford Bookstore two years ago that sat and sat.

"We just leased it for significantly under the going rate," he said, noting that he's never seen rents advertised for under \$3 to \$4 a square foot.

"We could have taken a tenant a year ago for \$2 but there were no tenants," he said.

The new lease, to The Natural Mattress Store, is short-term; if the tenant succeeds and decides to stay, the "opportunity" to rent will be at a higher rate, he added.

Vacant ground-floor retail spaces along University Avenue and nearby side streets range from a 1,000-square-foot former art gallery on Bryant Street to the 13,200-square-foot space on University Avenue vacated in March by Z Gallerie (which was temporarily rented as Spirit Halloween). Rents range from \$3 to \$7 per square foot, with many simply listed as "negotiable," according to Goldman.

All told, about 16 percent of the 600,000 square feet of space is vacant in the downtown "core" zone, along University Avenue from Alma to Cowper streets, including the little side streets and parts of Lytton and Hamilton avenues, Goldman said.

That's of concern to Palo Alto officials. The city has an ordinance that states retail space can be rented out as office space when the vacancy rate exceeds 5 percent. But retail tends to draw shoppers to the business district.

In September, the Planning and Transportation Commission considered staff recommendations to change the ground-floor retail rules. The commission voted to recommend removing the 5 percent trigger, meaning that retail space cannot convert to office space in the downtown core regardless of how much vacant space exists.

It also voted to add ground-floor retail requirements to buildings on the south side of Hamilton Avenue between Emerson and Ramona ("the strongest block of retail") and to half-block of Emerson including the Aquarius Theater and two restaurants.

The City Council is tentatively scheduled to discuss changes to the ground-floor retail rules on Monday.

Goldman isn't advocating turning retail space into offices, but he is circumspect.

"If (office space) is the only thing



A pedestrian strolls past one of many empty storefronts — this one the former site of Colorburst on Bryant Street — in downtown Palo Alto.

that can survive, you need to do something. You don't want boarded up buildings in your neighborhood," he said.

Ultimately, he says landlords make more money from retail on University Avenue than office. But, "the reality is, it doesn't matter how cheap you make it, there are a lot of people who really can't afford to pay the rent," he said.

Goldman said vacancies sometimes occur because businesses become obsolete or marginalized.

"The Bead Shop is a perfect example," he said, noting that much of the bead business is conducted online today.

Pointing to downtown vacant storefronts, Goldman said, "Some were victims of the economy, others of a changing world. The problem is there's no new trend."

In 2001, it was nail salons and yoga studios.

"Other than yogurt, we're not seeing any growth industry. We're not seeing national retailers. It's been bleak," he said.

Sam Arsan of Arsan Realty, which partners with Premier Properties on some downtown listings, has never seen downtown so empty.

"What we're going through is unprecedented, in terms of the economy everywhere," he said. "The level of interest has dropped by a good 70 percent from a year ago."

But that doesn't mean nothing can be done to help.

Arsan hears complaints from merchants about the "vagranity" issue and thinks the city should do more to control that, to encourage shoppers to come downtown.

He does acknowledge that price can be a real deal-killer.

"Tenants are more leery to committing to paying \$7 per square foot in an economy that shows no signs of improvement," he said.

Landlords are holding tight, trying to make their price point, but Arsan says it's still a supply-and-demand market.

"Where deals are going to be made will be lower than in the past

couple of years," he said. "It's probably going to be a short-term thing; eventually the market will turn."

What people don't realize, he added, is most of the buildings downtown are individually owned, unlike Stanford Shopping Center. One merchant could be offered lower rent at Stanford because he attracts customers to the entire mall.

"To ask an individual owner to keep rent low to bring in a tenant that's good for the city, it doesn't make sense," he said. Some owners feel they need to renovate and upgrade their spaces, so they can get the traditionally higher rents downtown.

"That's his retirement. You can't blame anyone for trying to maximize their investment," Arsan said.

University Avenue is really no different from nearby "Main Streets," said David Blatteis, principal of Blatteis Realty Co., San Francisco. "Palo Alto is in the same league as Burlingame Avenue, Fourth Avenue in San Mateo, Union Street or Chestnut Street in San Francisco. They all have more vacancies than they ever have before."

More recently, "Owners are seeing the light and are willing to lower the rents. We're starting to see more interest in coming back into these vacant stores," he said.

In August, a lease was signed for 370 University Ave., the 2,800-square-foot former home of The Golden Loom. GameStop, which sells electronic games for adults and has more than 5,000 stores around the world, is in the process of redoing its remodeling plan to conform to the city's environmental requirements, Blatteis said.

The building owner was originally asking \$7 a square foot, but came down to about \$5.60/square foot a month.

While the store is unlikely to open before the holidays, Blatteis is optimistic about its impact on University Avenue.

"There was nothing like it on the street. They're big advertisers.

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## Hoping for change

Mothers and others offer to sit and watch at West Meadow train crossing

by Jocelyn Dong

With the temperature in the low 60s Tuesday evening, Caroline Camhy Rothstein, dressed in a black and red ski jacket, sat in a folding canvas chair along West Meadow Drive in Palo Alto.

Her dog, Kansas, curled up on an old sofa cushion flopped onto the sidewalk next to her.

A train roared past.

"At first it feels somewhat silly to be out here," said Rothstein, a stay-at-home mom with two young children. "Now it seems totally normal."

Rothstein is one of a handful of volunteers taking turns sitting by the tracks during the evening in response to the recent deaths of four teens at the crossing.

It's a simple task, but the volunteers hope it will accomplish something meaningful — bring hope to Palo Alto's youth.

"It seems like the right thing to do," Rothstein said.

The idea of being a visible, caring presence along West Meadow occurred to many people in Palo Alto at once, Rothstein said. Through the Internet and the PTA, the would-be volunteers found one another and set up a schedule for themselves, starting last week.

There are about 10 committed, regularly scheduled volunteers right now, said Rothstein, who lives not too far from West Meadow. But many more people have contacted her.

One of those was Marielena Gaona-Mendoza, another Palo Alto mother.

She said she had come to the train crossing one Saturday morning in June, hoping for some way to help. She talked to the police officers who were monitoring the tracks. They assured her they were taking care of it.

"They said to go home," said Gaona-Mendoza, a short, round woman with a friendly smile. "I should have been stubborn."

After the latest fatality, "I just felt more guilty," she said. "If I stood here, it wouldn't have happened."

The police discouraged a volunteer effort before, but now they believe it just might help, according to Police Sgt. Dan Ryan.

Modifying the Caltrain crossing has become the focus of city and community efforts, due to scientific research that shows that making physical changes to a location associated with suicide is helpful in breaking the cycle.

Changes in lighting, tree-trimming and electronic sensors all are

ways to make the tracks "a less attractive place" for people in trouble, Police Chief Dennis Burns told a committee of city and school representatives last week.

But some of the changes will take awhile to think through and carry out.

In the meantime, volunteers hope they can literally be the difference.

"The key is their presence. They're visibly there," Ryan said. "They certainly are motivated to be a calming presence."

Police officers occasionally join the volunteers, parking a squad car nearby. They've offered advice to the volunteers, and based on it, Rothstein developed a question-and-answer sheet to orient group members.

Reaction to their presence has been positive, Gaona Mendoza said. On Halloween night, a woman passed by and saw them sitting in the cold. So she went home and returned with cups of hot chocolate.

Others walk by and nod or smile.

Volunteering to sit on the sidewalk by a chain-link fence as cars whoosh by may not be everyone's idea of helping. Rothstein said the work is ordinary.

"You come, sit, watch and hope for the best," she said.

Volunteer Margarita Jimenez, Gaona-Mendoza's niece, admitted she was initially skeptical of the idea.

"At first, I wasn't sure if this was going to work. I was afraid of being criticized or something," the 31-year-old said. But after taking a shift with her aunt, she was willing to continue.

"I want to set an example to never give up, keep going, to be optimistic about things," she said, citing stress that youth face from school, friends and family.

She said she wants young people to know that they can be open about their problems. Her advice: "Not to rush out and make decisions when they're down, but sit back and relax

and think about the good things they have and do."

Rothstein said she worries that publicizing the effort will bring unintended consequences or raise unrealistic expectations. But she doesn't profess to be a psychologist, she said, just a person who wants to help.

The volunteers are doing the best they can, she said. And it brings them comfort knowing they're doing something.

"It is better to be here than at home," said Gaona-Mendoza, who sometimes stays there late.

Ultimately, the volunteers said they just want to communicate a message.

"Tell the kids that there's hope, and we love them a lot. Even if we don't know them, we love them," Gaona-Mendoza said. ■

The e-mail address for the volunteer effort is [hopepaloalto@gmail.com](mailto:hopepaloalto@gmail.com).

Managing Editor Jocelyn Dong can be e-mailed at [jdong@paweekly.com](mailto:jdong@paweekly.com).

EDUCATION

## Carnegie taps ex-Foothill president

Foothill College's 'Math My Way' could point to large-scale change

by Chris Kenrick

Bernadine Fong, retired Foothill College president, has been tapped to take on one of the biggest challenges facing U.S. education: the high failure rates of community college students in basic math.

The math stumbling block each year limits the options of millions of students in community college, who represent 45 percent of the undergraduate population in the United States.

Along with the administration of President Barack Obama, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, located at Stanford University, has taken aim at community colleges as "high leverage" venues for change.

Carnegie hired Fong to design a streamlined and supported math curriculum that can bring millions of community college students up to speed in one year.

"The (Obama) administration recognizes that community colleges are a huge factor in higher education and in reaching underserved students," Fong said.

"What they're looking for is innovations, strategies and interventions to increase the college graduation rate.

"We at Carnegie are looking very specifically at math."

The college-level statistics course is a "huge gatekeeper" to graduation, jobs and careers for millions of



Bernadine Fong

students each year, she said.

With a team of teachers and scholars around the country, Fong aims to design and test a new course that will give entry-level students the math they need to successfully tackle statistics a year later.

The course is not meant for the math-oriented students headed for careers in science, technology, engineering and math — so-called "STEM" students — but for the many others for whom statistics opens the door to higher-level careers.

As president of Foothill, Fong oversaw the launch of the innovative "Math My Way" program at Foothill, which has given thousands of previously math-shy students skills and confidence to advance in math, she said.

It does so by having students meet for twice as many hours as in a regular course and creating "modules" by course content to identify and focus on a student's areas of weakness.

At Foothill, Fong worked closely with then-chancellor Martha Kanter, who is now the U.S. Undersecretary of Education and pivotal

in the Obama administration's focus on community colleges.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that Martha's there, and I'm here," Fong said.

The Carnegie Foundation, which moved to Stanford from Princeton, N.J., in 1997, aims to spark large-scale changes in public education.

Carnegie's new director, the reform-minded Anthony Bryk, advocates the use of engineering principles to create large-scale change, a method he calls "Design-Educational Engineering-Development (DEED).

"If Carnegie is looking for high-leverage problems — places where DEED can affect large numbers of students — community colleges are a good place to start," Bryk said.

"Nationally, more than 11 million students attend community colleges. Forty percent of all first-time freshmen begin in the two-year sector, and this includes more than 40 percent of African-American and 50 percent of Hispanic students enrolled in higher education."

Bryk, who previously held a joint appointment at Stanford Business School and the School of Education, has ties to organizations steeped in the school-reform movement, such as the New Schools Venture Fund. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be e-mailed at [ckenrick@paweekly.com](mailto:ckenrick@paweekly.com).

## Downtown

(continued from page 5)

They'll help attract more shoppers to the street."

Most problematic on University Avenue are the larger properties, including 180 University, which used to house Magnolia Audio Video, and of course, Z Gallerie, at 340.

"Z Gallerie will be impossible," Goldman predicted, but Arsan takes a more mellow view: "High profile

is sometimes tougher to lease. It just may take longer than expected."

While only a couple of months ago Arsan was prepared for "some pain in the next year or two," he's expressing more optimism this week.

"I'm showing space more than in the past six months. People are starting to at least look and maybe start new businesses," he said, adding that he's signed four deals in the last two months, including a couple of new apparel stores downtown — Premier Boutique on Ramona and

Orapa Boutique on Hamilton.

Goldman is a bit more guarded: "It's going to be a long period of recovery for downtown."

In the meantime, "There are a lot of people with a dream," he said. "Landlords are being very flexible. If someone wants to try something for a year, they're getting a deal of a lifetime." ■

Associate Editor Carol Blitzer can be e-mailed at [cblitzer@paweekly.com](mailto:cblitzer@paweekly.com).



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## How many votes to get on City Council?

Turnout depends on election issues, level of controversy, personalities

by Jay Thorwaldson

**H**ow many votes it takes to win a seat on the Palo Alto City Council varies widely from election to election, depending on turnout, controversy and personalities.

Newcomer candidate and fifth-place winner Greg Scharff quipped Tuesday night that he was about to become the candidate elected with the lowest vote total in recent history.

He isn't.

That distinction is still held by Councilman Jack Morton, who will leave the council at the end of this year due to term limits. Morton in 2001 was elected as a new council member with just 5,300 votes.

Scharff as of late Thursday morning had racked up 5,536 votes — with about 20 percent of the ballots still to be counted by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters office.

Former Council member and May-

or Gary Fazzino, an unofficial historian of city politics, keeps the city's vote totals logged into a school notebook in a meticulous handwriting.

Coincidentally, he is also the record-holder for number of votes in recent elections — 12,600 in 1993. The lowest leading vote-getter was Hillary Freeman, with 7,900 votes in 2001.

Now a state senator, Joe Simitian got 8,300 votes to get on the council in 1991 and 10,000 votes in 1995; Judy Kleinberg received 8,500 votes in 1999 and 10,000 in 2003; Yoriko Kishimoto nabbed 11,500 votes in 2005; and Sid Espinosa garnered 8,600 votes in 2007.

The range of low-end totals of those elected spans from Morton's 5,300 in 2001 and Greg Schmid's 5,600 votes in 2007 up to several exceeding 9,000, topped by former Councilman Dick Rosenbaum's

9,500 votes in 1995. Former Councilwoman Mickey Schneider received about 9,300 votes in both 1993 and in 1997.

Most city election turnouts have been in the 30 percentile range but with some notable exceptions. The bitter 1967 all-council election, better known as the "recall election," saw a 58 percent turnout. There was a 51 percent turnout for the hard-fought referendum campaign against the large Stanford West housing development along Sand Hill Road, according to Fazzino's record book.

Turnout numbers from Tuesday's election are not yet available from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, but one rough estimate is that turnout exceeded 40 percent. ■

*Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson can be e-mailed at [jthorwaldson@paweekly.com](mailto:jthorwaldson@paweekly.com).*

### PUBLIC ART

## Beasley sculpture OK'd for Mitchell Park

Council allocates \$270,000 for new 'destination piece' for renovated library

by Gennady Sheyner

**P**alo Alto's new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center will feature at its entrance a blocky, arch-shaped sculpture designed by Bruce Beasley, the same artist whose proposal for a new California Avenue fountain fizzled under a wave of criticism a year ago.

The Beasley sculpture, which would cost the city \$270,000, was unanimously approved by the City Council last week. City officials assured the council that the jagged, granite sculpture would serve as the perfect centerpiece for the bond-funded project.

According to the project description in the approved contract, the grey granite sculpture will be a "free standing composition of intersecting geometric forms that form an arch balanced on two columns." It will be 11.5 feet high and 10.5 feet wide and it will be installed on a mound and serve as a "welcoming element and place maker for the library and community center."

Elise DeMarzo, who chairs the Public Art Commission, said the Beasley sculpture is both a fine piece of art and an "amazing deal" for the city, which currently allocates 1 percent of its spending on capital improvement projects to public art. In this case, the Beasley sculpture would eat up the entire 1 percent allotment.

"This is the largest project to take place in Palo Alto in decades, and it's absolutely fitting that we have a destination piece of art as a gateway to this amazing new community center and library complex," DeMarzo told the council. "This is the time to do it, this is the place and Bruce Beasley is absolutely the artist."

The Public Art Commission also approved last week spending

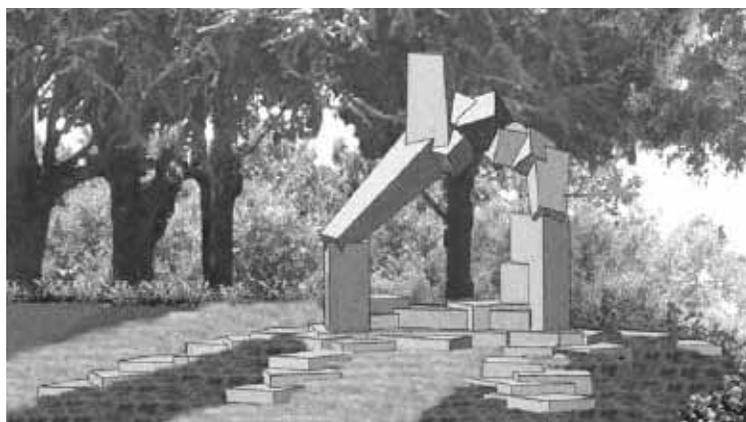


Image courtesy Gates + Associates

*Palo Alto's new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center will feature at its entrance a blockish, arch-shaped sculpture designed by Bruce Beasley.*

\$120,000 on three other public-art pieces for the project, including a "new media piece" (one that incorporates 21st-century elements such as computer graphics and animation), a mural and "artistically designed bollards."

The gradually decreasing costs of construction could also bolster the city's effort to bring other works of art to the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. City Manager James Keene said the project's overall costs, which are projected to fall short of the budgeted amount, could give the council the flexibility to add more art.

"There is some potential for us to explore, if the council wants to make the policy decision, to actually consider additional art," Keene said.

A staff report accompanying the proposed contract describes Beasley as an "internationally recognized artist" and one of 20 artists worldwide who was commissioned to create art for this year's Olympics in Beijing. The report notes that many cities, including San Francis-

co, Brea, Sacramento and Stanford showcase his art.

But Beasley's proposal for a new, granite fountain near the California Avenue Caltrain station faced opposition and, ultimately, rejection last November. Dozens of residents urged the City Council to either fix the cracked "bird bath" fountain currently at the site or to replace it with a similar, traditional-looking structure.

The council voted to keep a traditional fountain on the California Avenue site but asked the Public Art Commission to consider bringing a major Beasley work to the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center.

The new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center — by far the most ambitious element of Palo Alto's \$76 million effort to rebuild its libraries — is slated to be completed in the spring or summer of 2012. The new sculpture is scheduled to be installed toward the end of construction. ■

*Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at [gshyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gshyner@paweekly.com).*

# Inspirations

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*Happy Birthday  
Julie B. Gunn!*

Long time Palo Alto resident and retired school teacher, Julie B. Gunn, will be celebrating her 98th birthday on Saturday November 14th. She loves receiving cards. Birthday greetings may be sent to Julie Gunn c/o HHH, 43551 Mission Blvd #103 Fremont CA 94539. She enjoys flowers, Big Band Music, and Palo Alto!! Thank you for helping her have a fabulous birthday!

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## News Digest

### Destination Palo Alto gets another year

Despite questionable results and fuzzy record keeping, Palo Alto's year-old program for luring visitors to town will remain in place for at least another year.

The City Council voted on Monday night to spend another \$240,000 on Destination Palo Alto, the city's ambiguously measured effort to support local hotels and retailers.

But the city stipulated that the San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau — the agency largely responsible for administering the program — has to do a better job quantifying the program's effectiveness if it wants to continue working with the city.

"Every penny counts in a way it didn't before, so I think we're looking for return on investment that maybe we didn't before," Councilman John Barton said.

Last year, the city spent \$240,000 on the program, \$215,000 of which was awarded to the Visitors Bureau. The other \$25,000 was awarded to the Palo Alto Weekly for an upgrade of the Destination Palo Alto website and for providing two visitors' guides.

This year, the entire amount was allocated for the visitor's bureau. ■  
— *Gennady Sheyner*

### All-year 'summer' classes being planned

Some Palo Alto students may be attending full-year classes in summer school next year.

The Board of Education next Tuesday will consider extending some summer-school classes to six weeks so students can cover a full year's worth of work.

Proposed summer school dates are June 21 to July 17, with some high school classes possibly extending an additional two weeks to the end of July.

Palo Verde, Barron Park and Addison elementary schools and JLS Middle School will be used for the summer program.

High-school-level classes are proposed to be held at Terman Middle School because of renovations scheduled for Gunn and Palo Alto high schools, officials said.

Tuition would range from \$330 for a two-week program to \$515 for a four-week high school course, under a staff proposal. Financial aid is available, according to summer-school coordinator Barbara Lancon. ■

— *Chris Kenrick*

### Baton vs. gun: a possibly fatal decision for May

East Palo Alto Police Officer Richard May's decision to use his baton rather than pulling out his gun may have been a fatal error, a witness for the prosecution said in San Mateo County Superior Court Thursday.

May was killed on Jan. 7, 2006, after chasing defendant Alberto Alvarez on Weeks Street in East Palo Alto.

David Rose, an expert in impact-weapon recognition and police use of force, said studies show that by the time a suspect pulls out a gun, the officer would only get off one shot if his or her weapon wasn't already drawn before the suspect would get off four or five shots.

May, who was responding to a dispatch call about a fight in a nearby taqueria, followed Alvarez in his patrol car. He later struck the fleeing suspect twice with his baton, but Rose testified the blows were likely to be ineffective because he hit muscle rather than bone.

The defense is expected to present its case beginning Monday, with jury deliberations expected to begin before Thanksgiving, according to presiding Judge Craig Parsons. ■

— *Sue Dremann*

### Forum on teen substance abuse set for Nov. 12

A community forum on teenage substance abuse is set for Thursday, Nov. 12, at Palo Alto High School.

"Breaking the Stigma: Teenage Substance Abuse" will be sponsored by the Paly PTSA and Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS), a non-profit agency focusing on the healthy social and emotional development of teens.

The public forum will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in Paly's Educational Resource Center, which is off the library.

"The truth of the matter is that, most of the time, substance abuse is not about the substance," said Brenda Stern, program director of ACS's Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

The keynote presenter will be Stephanie Brown, director of the Addictions Institute, an outpatient counseling and therapy program in Menlo Park.

Panelists include Stern, child and adolescent psychiatrist Tom Tarshis, Palo Alto Medical Foundation Health Education Manager Becky Beacom, Martha Cravens of the Community Health Awareness Council and Rebecca Cable of the Camp Recovery Center. Moderator will be Palo Alto Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson. ■

— *Chris Kenrick*



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**Election**

(continued from page 3)

campaign, Holman won the support of most current council members and the backing of a broad coalition of neighborhood leaders. As a member of the planning commission, she has been a staunch critic of most dense, new housing developments and a leading proponent for more transparency in the policy-making process.

"People who have been watching the Planning and Transportation Commission for the past eight years know they can depend on me because they know my positions on the Comprehensive Plan and all the important zoning issues," Holman said.

Price, who finished just behind Holman and had 7,105 votes on Thursday, said she viewed voters' support as a sign of their appreciation for her service on the school board.

Price is a former city planner in Sunnyvale and said she expects the contract dispute between city administration and the city's largest la-

*More election coverage can be found on page 7.*

bor union to remain one of the most pressing issues of the coming year. She said she would like the city to create a joint committee of administration and labor leaders who could meet regularly to discuss compensation and other labor-related issues.

"We have a lot work to do here as far as maintaining relationships with the city employees," Price said.

Shepherd finished fourth and had received 6,029 votes as of Thursday. Like Price and Holman, she touted her record of civic service and endorsements from dozens of local and state officials over the course of her campaign.

Scharff, meanwhile, took an early but slim lead over Leong and has watched it gradually grow. Despite being a political newcomer, Scharff led the candidate field in cash raised and watched his campaign generate the most momentum in the final weeks leading up to Tuesday.

"I'm thrilled about the confidence the people of Palo Alto have in me," Scharff said Tuesday night. "I think the most important thing that I showed during my campaign was that I am willing to sit down with people and listen."

The four newcomers will replace Mayor Peter Drekmeyer and Councilman John Barton, both of whom have chosen not to seek another term. Vice Mayor Jack Morton and Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto could not run again due to term limits.

The new council terms begin in early January. ■

*On the cover: Former and current Palo Alto City Councilmembers talked with candidates Tuesday night at City Hall. From left, Gail Price, John Hackmann, Mayor Peter Drekmeyer, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Liz Kniss, former Palo Alto Mayor Gary Fazzino and Nancy Shepherd. Photo by Veronica Weber.*

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## Online This Week

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### NASA Ames celebrates 70 years

NASA Ames Director Pete Worden, Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga and Ames historian Jack Boyd all spoke during a ceremony Monday evening in celebration of NASA Ames' 70th anniversary. (Posted Nov. 5 at 8:43 a.m.)

### Two finalists for Foothill chancellor

Brian King, president of Cabrillo College in Aptos, and Linda M. Thor, president of Rio Salado College in Phoenix, Ariz., have been named as finalists for chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District. (Posted Nov. 4 at 5:03 p.m.)

### Crime-scene photos shown in trial

Family members of slain East Palo Alto Police Officer Richard May abruptly left the courtroom as graphic crime-scene photographs were to be displayed Monday afternoon. (Posted Nov. 3 at 9:54 a.m.)

### Agents seize drugs, guns in raid

State narcotics agents and local authorities raided two houses containing dozens of people in East Palo Alto Tuesday morning, arresting one person and seizing drugs and a gun. (Posted Nov. 3 at 9:08 a.m.)

### Palo Alto to keep 'Open City Hall'

Palo Alto's sporadically used online forum, "Open City Hall," will remain open for the foreseeable future after the City Council voted Monday night to continue spending \$200 a month to keep the forum running. (Posted Nov. 2 at 10:57 p.m.)

### Officials toast newest Sister City

Japanese and Palo Alto officials celebrated Palo Alto's newest Sister City, Tsuchiura, with an international toast Monday afternoon in a ceremony at the Lucie Stern Community Center — starting with a ceremonial breaking of a sake barrel. (Posted Nov. 2 at 10:46 p.m.)

### Menlo Park man, 29, dies in crash

The Santa Clara County medical examiner's office identified a motorcyclist who died after crashing on state Highway 84 near La Honda on Sunday morning as 29-year-old Sundararajan Venkatesh. (Posted Nov. 2 at 1:09 p.m.)

### 'Egg war' participants dropped to 50

Only about 50 Palo Alto High School students — far fewer than initial reports from students of 100 to 200 — were involved in an egg fight last week that littered Gunn High School's sports facilities with yolks and shells, according to Paly Principal Jacquie McEvoy. (Posted Nov. 2 at 9:55 a.m.)

### Bay Bridge reopens after closure

Caltrans reopened the Bay Bridge Monday morning, nearly one week after the bridge was shut down when a repair failed and sent debris falling onto the upper deck. (Posted Nov. 2 at 9:23 a.m.)

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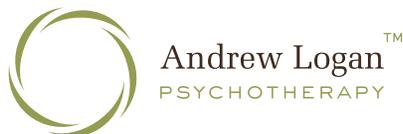
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**Tax**

(continued from page 3)

by promoting more growth. "I don't think we can tax our way out of this," Scharff said.

But Mayor Peter Drekmeier said he expects some of the voters who rejected Measure A to have second thoughts when programs and services start getting cut.

The council has already compiled a short list of program that could be threaten: the city's shuttle service, the Fire Department's disaster-preparedness program and the Police Department's four-officer traffic-enforcement team, school-resource officer and crime analyst positions.

"This means there will have to be more cuts made," Drekmeier said Tuesday night, after Measure A's defeat was all but assured. "I think it's really going to sink in when people's favorite programs are gone."

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at [gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).

# CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

**City Council (Nov. 2)**

**Byxbee Park:** The council voted to direct staff and consultants to work on final design goals for about 46 acres of parkland near the landfill at Byxbee Park. **Yes:** Kishimoto, Schmid, Espinosa, Yeh, Klein, Barton, Burt **No:** Drekmeier **Absent:** Morton  
**Open City Hall:** The council voted to continue the city's online forum, Open City Hall. **Yes:** Klein, Yeh, Barton, Burt, Kishimoto, Schmid **No:** Espinosa, Drekmeier **Absent:** Morton  
**Destination Palo Alto:** The council voted to approve a \$240,000 contract with the San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau to continue the Destination Palo Alto program for another year. **Yes:** Drekmeier, Klein, Yeh, Barton, Burt, Morton, Kishimoto, Schmid **Absent:** Morton

**Planning & Transportation Commission (Nov. 4)**

**Capital Improvement Project:** The commission held a study session to discuss the city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan for fiscal years 2011 to 2015 and the commission's role in the capital-improvement process. **Action:** None

**Utilities Advisory Commission (Nov. 4)**

**Biomethane:** The commission discussed the city's policies for biomethane-based gas and the high costs associated with switching to non-fossil-fuel gas. Utilities staff has put out a request for proposals for biomethane-based gas supply and will evaluate the possibility of a voluntary green-gas program. **Action:** None  
**Energy Efficiency Plan:** The commission discussed the city's framework for developing a 10-year energy-efficiency plan for the period 2010 to 2019. Staff is evaluating the levels of efficiency that can be achieved and the impacts of energy-efficiency policies on rates. **Action:** None

**Architectural Review Board (Nov. 5)**

**California Avenue Streetscape:** The board reviewed the city's plans to plant new trees along California Avenue. Board members generally supported most of the elements in the proposed tree plan but asked staff to make sure the trees in the plan work well in an urban setting and to consider the proposed trees near the Caltrain station in the context of future renovations near the station. **Action:** None  
**College Terrace Centre:** The board reviewed a proposed mixed-use development at 2180 El Camino Real, which would feature a grocery store, 38,980 square feet of office space, eight below-market-rate units and 5,580 square feet of retail space. Board members approved the project but requested some color changes and more information about floor plans in the affordable-housing building and fencing. **Yes:** Malone Pritchard, Lew, Young **No:** Wasserman **Recused:** Lee

## Public Agenda

**PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL ...** The council is scheduled to consider approving the final environmental-impact report for a four-story, 50-unit affordable-housing building at 801 and 841 Alma St.; and to discuss changes to the city's municipal code to modify restrictions on ground-floor uses in the downtown area. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**PALO ALTO BOARD OF EDUCATION ...** The board will discuss renewal of the district's parcel tax, summer school plans for 2010 and a report from the Citizens' Oversight Committee of the district's \$378 million facilities bond passed in 2008. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the board room of school-district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

**PALO ALTO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ...** The commission is scheduled to discuss a memo addressing the relationship between city administration and Palo Alto's labor force and the ongoing contract dispute; and to continue its discussion of the Civic Engagement Award. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.). ■



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## A Talk by Ursula Goodenough, Ph.D.

Cell biologist and author Ursula Goodenough has helped bridge the gap between science and religion. Her book, *The Sacred Depths of Nature* elucidates the beauty and spirituality to be found in the vastness of the cosmos and smallest corners of the natural world.

7:00 p.m., Saturday, November 14, 2009  
The Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View  
[www.thomasmerton.org](http://www.thomasmerton.org) • Information: (650) 328-2584

## The Walt Gill Memorial Lecture on Science and Religion

# Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

## Palo Alto

Oct. 28-Nov. 2

### Violence related

Battery	3
Domestic violence	2
Family violence	1
Rape	1
Sexual assault	1

### Theft related

Burglary attempt	2
Commercial burglaries	1
Grand theft	4
Identity theft	1
Petty theft	6
Residential burglaries	2
Shoplifting	5

### Vehicle related

Abandoned bicycle	2
Auto recovery	1
Bicycle theft	3
Driving with suspended license	4
Hit and run	3
Misc. traffic	3
Theft from auto	2
Vehicle accident/minor injury	6
Vehicle accident/prop. damage	6
Vehicle embezzled	1
Vehicle tow	3

### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	4
Drunken driving	2

### Miscellaneous

Disturbing the peace	1
Disturbing phone calls	1
Found property	6
Lost property	1
Misc. penal code violation	2
Noise ordinance violation	5
Other/misc.	3
Suspicious circumstances	1
Vandalism	9
Warrant/other agency	5

## Menlo Park

Oct. 27-Nov. 2

### Violence related

Assault	2
Battery	1
Domestic Disturbance	3

### Theft related

Fraud	1
Grand theft	1
Petty theft	2
Residential burglaries	3

### Vehicle related

Driving w/ suspended license	9
Driving without license	1
Parking/driving violation	1
Vehicle accident/no injury	5
Vehicle tow	2

### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	2
Drunken driving	4
Drug activity	2

### Miscellaneous

72 hour hold	1
Assist outside agency	1
Coroner case	1
Follow-up	1
Found property	2
Graffiti abatement	2
Info. case	2
Juvenile problem	1
Property for destruction	1
Registrant	2
Suspicious person	1
Truant juveniles	3
Vandalism	3
Violation of court order	2
Warrant arrest	10
Other/misc.	5

## Atherton

Oct. 29-Nov. 3

### Theft related

Commercial burglaries	1
Petty theft	1

### Vehicle related

Bicycle stop	3
Suspicious vehicle	5
Theft from auto	1
Vehicle accident/no injury	1
Vehicle code violation	2

### Miscellaneous

Be on the lookout	1
Citizen assist.	2
Construction	2
Hazard	5
Juvenile problem	1
Medical aid	2
Meet citizen	8
Other/misc.	2
Outside assistance	6
Suspicious circumstances	4
Suspicious person	4
Town ordinance violation	2
Welfare check	2



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

Please be advised the Planning and Transportation Commission shall conduct a **special meeting at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, November 18, 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](http://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 9/80 Friday.

### NEW BUSINESS.

#### Public Hearings:

**1. 4309 and 4329 El Camino Real\*:** Review and recommendation of a request by Aaron Barger on behalf of Palo Alto Bowl LLC, for a Tentative Subdivision Map for Condominium Purposes to create 26 residential units and a hotel unit on a 3.62 acre site for redevelopment subject to Council approval of a Site and Design Review application (recommended by the P&TC on June 10, 2009.) Environmental Assessment: An Initial Study has been completed and a draft Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

**2. 1700 Embarcadero Road (Mings Restaurant & Hotel)\*:** Review and recommendation of requests for: (1) an Amendment to the Zoning Map to Change the Zone Designation from Planned Community (PC) to Service Commercial (CS) with the Site and Design (D) Combining District, (2) Site and Design Review of the proposed restaurant and hotel building, and (3) a Variance to allow a greater setback (less than the 50% "build to" requirement) along a portion of Embarcadero Road. Environmental Assessment: An Initial Study has been completed and a draft Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

\*Quasi-Judicial Items Subject to Council's Disclosure Policy

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** October 21 and 28, 2009

**NEXT MEETING:** Special Meeting of December 2, 2009 at 6:00 PM

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.

ADA. The City of Palo Alto does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations to access City facilities, services or programs, to participate at public meetings, or to learn more about the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 650.329.2550 (voice) or by e-mailing [ada@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:ada@cityofpaloalto.org).

\*\*\*

**Curtis Williams, Director of Planning and Community Environment**

### Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page ??

A	N	Y	A	P	E	G	A	U	R	O	R	A	7	3	4	2	5	9	6	8	1				
S	E	E	M	E	N	U	C	L	O	R	I	S	9	2	6	8	1	4	7	5	3				
C	A	R	D	F	R	O	M	T	H	E	D	E	C	K	1	5	8	6	3	7	2	9	4		
A	L	B	U	M	M	A	Y	G	E	S			5	9	2	1	6	3	4	7	8				
P	E	A	K	I	I	I	I	C	R	O			4	1	7	5	9	8	3	6	2				
			E	O	N	S		T	R	E	N	C	H	8	6	3	7	4	2	5	1	9			
			S	H	U	F	F	L	E	S	H	U	F	F	L	E									
B	I	O	F	E	E	D	L	O	T	I	A	N	3	4	5	9	7	1	8	2	6				
I	S	T	H	I	S	Y	O	U	R	C	A	R	D	2	7	9	3	8	6	1	4	5			
B	I	S	E	C	T			R	A	H	S			6	8	1	4	2	5	9	3	7			
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C	H	O			E	A	R			P	O	E	M												
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E	Y	E	I	N	G		S	T	O	P		A	T												
R	A	R	E	F	Y		E	A	T	S		B	O												



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R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS:  
ENGLISH FOLK SONG SUITE

PHILLIP MAYER:  
UNTITLED  
(WORLD PREMIERE)

GIOACCHINO ROSSINI:  
LA GAZZA LADRA (OVERTURE)

NORMAN DELLO JOIO:  
VARIANTS ON A MEDIEVAL TUNE

LEONARD BERNSTEIN:  
WEST SIDE STORY (SELECTIONS)

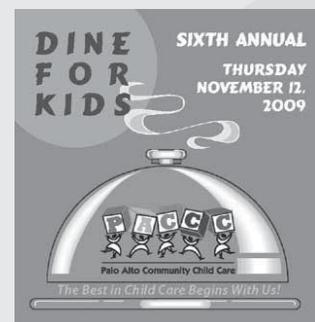
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*Jackie Schoelerman is a Realtor with Alain Pinel Realtors and a Real Estate Specialist for Seniors. Call Jackie for real estate advice.*



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## ELIZABETH U. WILLS

Elisabeth Ullman Wills, gifted hostess, chef, teacher and friend, died peacefully on October 19 in San Rafael, at the age of 97. Always known as Babette, she was a longtime resident of Portola Valley, living in a unique house created over many years with her late husband Michael and her two sons. In the 1960s and 70s it became a gathering place for supporters of liberal, artistic and humanistic causes--a salon, however unconventional. In recent years Babette's creative hospitality and French joie de vivre continued to fill the house with friends.

She is survived by sons, Jacques Ullman and David Wills, their wives, and grandchildren Claire Ullman and Mikel Parraga-Wills.

PAID OBITUARY

## MARJORIE J. ROY

Marjorie J. Roy, age 84 of Menlo Park, CA passed away on August 27, 2009.

She was born November 29, 1924, was raised in San Jose, CA. and later resided in San Francisco, Palo Alto and Menlo Park. She attended San Jose State and was formally employed at Stanford University, Graduate School of Business for 22 years. She is survived by three sons and a daughter: Steven Roy, Richard Roy, Pamela Roy Guettler, Jeffery Roy; as well as grandchildren: Jeffrey Roy, Haley Guettler, Jennifer Rokes, Nicholas Roy, Alex Roy. Marjorie was also known for her love and continuous support of jazz music and of KCSM & KJAZ. She will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church at 2pm on November 13, 2009. Interment will be private family.

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# Transitions

## Richard Young

Richard Ming Tong Young, 92, a resident of Palo Alto, died Oct. 26.

He was born in Hawaii. He attended the Punahou School in Honolulu and earned an engineering degree from the Colorado School of Mines. His first job in China was the construction of a steel mill in Anning, Yunnan province, that is still in operation.

After traveling throughout Japanese-occupied portions of China in the late 1930s, he realized the inevitability of war with the U.S. He returned home in 1941 and entered the U.S. Army. He participated in the historic 300-mile "long walk back" out of Burma in 1942 and that nation's recapture. For his service, he was given the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star.

After World War II, he worked as an engineer and executive with the Defense Department, Lockheed-Martin Co. and the U.S. Postal Service. He also retired as a full colonel in the Army Reserve.

In 1979, he joined ESPDC/Unison as vice president and oversaw the construction of the Great Wall Hotel (now the Great Wall Sheraton). He was resident in Beijing through 1992 and served as the hotel's vice chairman of the board while working on other Unison projects.

He retired from Unison in 1992 and returned to Palo Alto, where he had owned a home since 1957 and where he raised his family. He used his gift for languages (three Chinese dialects, French, Russian and Japanese) while traveling throughout the world until late in life.

He was a friend of Soong Ching-ling, widow of Chinese democratic leader Sun Yat-sen. It was at her invitation that in 1977 he and his family toured China, in the early days of that nation's re-opening to the west.

He also worked diligently for the Soong Ching-ling Foundation in Beijing, Shanghai and in the United States and was a long-time honorary trustee. He helped found the Stanford Area Chinese Club in 1967 and was its first president. He was a member of the Phi Lambda Chinese fraternity since the mid-1940s. He and his wife Helen mentored Chinese students attending Stanford University.

His first wife and the mother of his children, Vivien Woo Young, died in 1968.

He is survived by his second wife, Helen Praeger Young of Palo Alto; children, Vicki Young (Bill Bucy), Virginia Young (Abdulraulf Banaja) and Peter Young; step-children Elena Diana, Stephen Keller, Jennifer Keller Dandy (Walter) and Christopher Keller (Jennifer); nine grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and two sisters.

A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Roller, Hapgood & Tinney Funeral Home, 980 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Donations may be made to Punahou School, 1601 Punahou St., Honolulu, HI 96822; Soong Ching-Ling Foundation ([www.sclf.org](http://www.sclf.org)); and Heifer International, 1 World Ave., Little Rock, AR 72202.

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- Cleo Eulau Center \*
- Collective Root Garden Project
- Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
- Community School of Music and Arts
- East Palo Alto Kids Foundation \*
- EPA.net \*
- Family Connections
- Foundation for a College Education
- InnVision
- JobTrain
- Kidpower
- League of Women Voters of Palo Alto and South San Mateo County
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County \*
- MayView Community Health Center
- Midpeninsula Community Media Center \*
- Music in the Schools
- Palo Alto Family YMCA
- Reading Partners
- Renaissance StartUp
- Resource Area for Teaching
- RoadRunners Sports Club \*
- Rosalie Rendu Center \*
- Shelter Network
- St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room
- St. Elizabeth Seton School
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Westwind 4-H Riding \*

\* denotes first time grantee

For nonprofit grant descriptions and websites see: [www.paloaltocommfund.org/pgs/grants2009.html](http://www.paloaltocommfund.org/pgs/grants2009.html)



# Palo Alto Community Fund

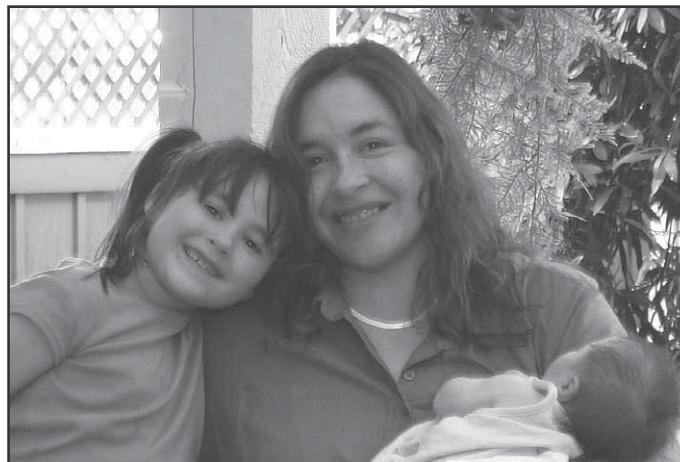
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## Editorial

# A new start for Palo Alto leadership

*Most winners in the City Council election, were candidates with strong credentials in community involvement — soon to be severely tested in 2010*

**E**xperience won in Palo Alto's City Council election, along with women candidates and a newcomer who did his homework well on city issues and history.

Longtime council member and former Mayor Larry Klein led the pack of those who will fill five openings of the nine-member council starting in early January. Despite the expected critics and cynics who interpret the vote as "business as usual" based on one litmus test or another in Klein's long record of civic involvement, we believe his overall performance has been one of positive leadership, independent analysis of issues and city officials' performance, and a good balance of economic savvy and environmental concerns.

Other winners reflect substantial experience and knowledge of the community: Karen Holman's years of planning commission and neighborhood leadership; Gail Price's service on the Board of Education during a leadership crisis and extensive city planning professional experience; and Nancy Shepherd's deep involvement in districtwide school fundraising and PTA leadership.

Relative newcomer Greg Scharff emerged from the 14-candidate pack as someone who did careful homework, listened well and approached issues with a positive commitment to improve city performance.

They will join four other council members who are just two years into their first terms on the council.

It will be difficult to blame the new council for long-ago bad decisions, omissions or mistakes — which may make it easier for the council to be forward-looking yet, we hope, with an eye to history as well.

But their collective challenge is formidable. Next year's financial outlook is bleak. Relations with city unions are by and large poor.

There is a \$10 million long-term budget shortfall between revenues and costs, and voters just rejected a business-license tax that would have filled a third of that. There are serious "infrastructure" deficits ranging from street repairs to desperately needed, earthquake-safe public safety facilities.

For starters, however, we hope the new council's first action will be to insist on the release of meeting-related reports and information 10 days prior to the meeting where they are to be discussed. Today's practice of not releasing the council packets with these documents until the Thursday night prior to the Monday night council meeting is indefensible and disrespects the community the council says it so desperately wants to "engage."

This young council, along with a new city manager, has a golden opportunity to bring about major structural reform not only to the city's budget but to the way government works in this community.

We look forward to their tackling these challenges head-on.

## Start over now on business tax

**W**e hope the decisive defeat of the Measure A business-license tax by Palo Alto voters is not interpreted by city leaders as a rejection of the concept of a new business tax.

Stunned by the magnitude of the defeat and the rebuke it implies, there is some talk about not bringing back an improved version and turning attention entirely to cutting back city programs to reduce the projected budget deficits in the future.

That approach would be a huge mistake.

As we stated in our own opposition editorial to Measure A, we don't think the community objects to the concept of a business-license tax. But Palo Altans will not support a measure that is over-reaching, overly complicated and seemingly evolving right up until election day.

Returning to the voters with a better plan next November should be a priority for the council and the business community, which should work together to craft a more modest and far simpler proposal that can achieve broad support. With any luck, by a year from now an economic recovery will be underway that will give both businesses and residents confidence that a small tax to support essential city services is in everyone's best interest.

# Spectrum

*Editorials, letters and opinions*

## Reconsider suspensions

Editor,

Jaquie McEvoy has suspended the rule of reason in persecuting students for the innocent Paly tradition of egg tossing among willing participants.

As a result, many students' hopes for admission to a high-ranking college could be dashed. Given this striking lack of judgment, Ms. McEvoy's action should be suspended.

Our family has staged several water-balloon fights between our children and their friends in public parks. If I were a Paly student, I would now be under suspension and required to complete a punishment of community service.

My children and I also had our traditional autumn leaf fight this weekend, again in a public forum, so double suspension.

Assistant Superintendent Linda Common explained that "The district and the school have to take action when someone is maliciously going after students." This district position argues for the revocation of Ms. McEvoy's actions.

Kathleen McCowin  
741 Ellsworth Place  
Palo Alto

## The end game

Editor,

While the divisive topic of Labor Unions has captured our recent attention, let's really focus on the end-game: that being a balanced financial future where there is room to:

1) support measures that that strengthen the emotional as well as the academic well-being of our youth,

2) find a way to fix our creeks before a flood delivers a tragedy,

3) revitalize our business district so that we restore a retail tax revenue base, and

4) find a High Speed Rail solution that does not blight our neighborhood.

I know we can unify around that better future. However we must make some sacrifices today, just as union members are being asked to share in the pain of the current situation. This is not an anti-union statement. It is simply a necessity of the times. My father, who retired from a union job, impressed upon me the value that Unions play. As the first person in my family to graduate from college, my education was self-funded by a Summer Job with Teamsters Union wages.

We have great compassion and appreciation for the city workers who may only see a take-away. We have all had setbacks in the current environment. I know for myself, looking to the future through the lens of appreciation has been the most effective medicine while bridging to a balanced future.

Tim Gray  
Palo Alto

## Stock-market crash

Editor,

The stock-market crash of 1929 was the most devastating stock market crash in the history of the United States, taking into consideration the full extent and duration of its fallout.

Four phrases — Black Thursday, Black Friday, then Black Monday, and Black Tuesday — are commonly used to describe this collapse of stock values.

But the catastrophic downturn of Monday, Oct. 28, and Tuesday, Oct. 29, precipitated widespread alarm and the onset of an unprecedented and long-lasting economic depression for the United States and the world. This stock market collapse continued for a month.

Today, the only news you see in the headlines is: "Slight gain in this! Not diving quite as fast in that!" Any time the economy stops going down so fast, they say, "Oh, recovery!"

That's recovery? Some little tiny grain of encouraging news makes the headlines, but the huge monumental losses taken by the banks and businesses are hidden in a little two-inch notice in a column on the financial page. They're trying to

keep it out of the headlines because they don't want to scare the public into a panic.

The big corporations fail, business fails, everything fails, the government will pay. But the trouble is, the government itself is broke and borrowing the money to pay.

And do you know where the U.S. gets this money from?

Ted Rudow III  
Encina Ave  
Palo Alto

## Business tax

Editor,

Recently former Palo Alto Councilperson Jim Burch asked local residents to take a "reality walk" through Palo Alto to reinforce the Council's position that a business license tax would not encumber local businesses with unnecessary fees to replenish the city's general fund.

Perhaps Mr. Burch needs to take a "reality walk" as a business owner and he might come to a different conclusion that additional taxes and fees hinder most if not all businesses from remaining or expanding in a community.

(continued on page 18)

## YOUR TURN

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

**What do you think?** Should Palo Alto try again on a business-license tax?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to [letters@paweekly.com](mailto:letters@paweekly.com). Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

You can also participate in our popular interactive online forum, **Town Square**, at our community website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Read blogs, discuss issues, ask questions or express opinions with you neighbors any time, day or night.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jay Thorwaldson or Online Editor Tyler Hanley at [editor@paweekly.com](mailto:editor@paweekly.com) or 650-326-8210.



## Check out Town Square!

Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly on our community website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Post your own comments, ask questions, read the Editor's blog or just stay up on what people are talking about around town!

## Guest Opinion

### The genius versus the devil

**by Scott Carlson**  
A friend once defined Florida as "California without the ideas." That about sums it up for me. Yes, we have the weather and natural beauty, but just as much it's California's social genius that drew and keeps most of us here.



I believe in that spirit as much as I believe in anything. I love it in a way maybe only a non-native can. So to see and hear California suffer hurts — you can almost feel it.

The hurt is felt locally. In the recent Palo Alto City Council election campaign, Councilman Larry Klein endorsed a state constitutional convention due to how much money flows through the state, or not, down to local governments. Something's broken, he implies.

There's a big political blame game one can play to identify the causes of the suffering. Most of us probably have a "pet" cause. The enormity of the problem becomes clearer when you begin to list possible pets: legislative gerrymandering, an initiative and referendum process run amok (too many ideas?), a broken budget process, a volatile tax system, public employee unions, local revenue robbing by the state, and other issues.

Whether you're left, right or center, it's hard to deny that our state government is dysfunctional. Name your favorite symptom: partisan paralysis, budget delays, deficits, declining schools, stuffed prisons, park cuts, ad nauseam.

Add them up and you get why we threw out a sitting governor and brought in Arnold: We hoped he'd terminate the dysfunction. But he

didn't and can't. It's bigger than any governor.

I can't claim to know definitive answers to the state's problems, but one emerging answer deserves serious attention: a Constitutional Convention. This would be just what it sounds like: an assembly of delegates who would craft proposals for fundamental changes in the process and structure of our state government.

These proposals would then, as a package, go on a statewide ballot for an "up or down" vote.

The convention push is being led by "Repair California" (known commonly as just "Repair"), a coalition created by the Bay Area Council (a kind of bay-wide chamber of commerce) and other organizations. They're serious, organized and have money (though they'll need more).

Repair will soon be collecting signatures for two propositions it has submitted for the November 2010 ballot. The first authorizes the calling of a convention by proposition (only the legislature can now call one), and the second calls and defines it.

A critical feature of the second proposition is the limited scope of the convention. It would not be authorized to throw out the entire state constitution and start from scratch. Rather, its work would be limited to four defined areas: government effectiveness (state agencies); elections and reduction of special interest influence (e.g., initiative and referendum, term limits, elections); spending and budgeting; and governance (state-local relationships, and structure of the legislative and executive branches).

The full texts and summaries of these propositions can be found at [www.repaircalifornia.org](http://www.repaircalifornia.org).

If the propositions make the ballot and pass, a several-months' process would begin in 2011.

That would entail electing delegates, "educating" them via hearings and experts, and then convening to hammer out a "package" for the November 2012 ballot.

The proposed delegate-selection process (about 465 delegates) is a balancing act designed to minimize political-party influence but still yield willing and able people. A little less than half of the delegates would be selected by county-level committees made up of county and city officials; most of the rest would be elected from randomly chosen pools of 400 people per Assembly district. Four delegates would come from Indian tribes.

It's naive to think a convention would be apolitical, but it could effectively be nonpartisan. Delegates, mostly chosen randomly, would be diverse enough. The process, taking place in a public "fishbowl," would be transparent enough that no single political party or philosophy will be able to sway it.

Mindful that what they produce will need a majority vote to pass, delegates would likely strive for the pragmatic in order to satisfy most of the left and the right. This prospect, along with its limited scope, is why the convention has so far drawn support across the political spectrum. On the left, endorsers include the New America Foundation, the Southwest Voter Project, Common Cause, and the Courage Campaign. On the right, the Lincoln Club of Orange County, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bill Simon. In the middle, pro-business groups such as Joint Venture Silicon Valley and the Bay Area Council have endorsed the convention, among others.

It needs to be noted what the push for a convention is NOT. For one, it isn't a goofy "left coast" idea: 14 state constitutions have "automatic" periodic calls for a convention, and many states have had one in recent de-

acades (California's last was 130 years ago, in 1879).

Nor is the convention a kind of Gingrichian, gut-the-government attack. "Repair" is the key word here. The intent is to remodel government, not hollow it out. And finally it's not a "liberal" end-run around conservatives' beloved constitutional tax limits — they're explicitly protected.

I would also note that California now has, essentially, a convention every year: each November we're asked to vote on a dozen or two propositions, resulting in "ballot-box budgeting" and piecemeal lawmaking. A once-useful counter to government corruption has become a substitute for deliberate legislating.

Direct democracy may still have a use, but 35 million people — often informed mainly by 30-second ads — are now deciding everything from criminal justice to the humane treatment of caged chickens. Legislatures do have a proper role, and a convention could restore that role to ours.

The Los Angeles Times, endorsing a convention, said it's usually better to go with the devil you know than the devil you don't know, but that the devil we know is getting worse by the day.

A convention won't be a risk-free panacea. The devil is in the details.

I, for one, am willing to pit the genius of California against either devil, and bet on our collective creativity and courage to win the day. ■

*Scott Carlson is a freelance writer who lives in Palo Alto's Lincolnville (Lincoln-Melville) neighborhood with his wife and two children. He can be e-mailed at [sdcarlson1218@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdcarlson1218@sbcglobal.net).*

## Streetwise

**Did you vote in Tuesday's election?** Asked at the main branch of the Palo Alto Library. Interviews by John Squire. Photographs by Shawn Fender.



**Tina Chang**  
Currently in-between positions  
Hopkins Avenue, Palo Alto

"Yes. I have an opinion I want to express."



**Diana Varnes**  
Ice-skating Teacher  
Ponce Drive, Palo Alto

"No. I got busy and forgot. I just became a citizen; I should have."



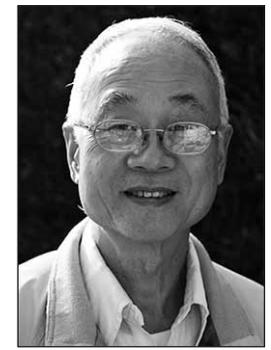
**Ken Streib**  
Researcher  
Garland Drive, Palo Alto

"Yes. It's important, that's all. It's the only chance we get to influence the government."



**Justine Chen**  
Self-employed  
Walter Hays Drive, Palo Alto

"I should have voted but I didn't. I was out of the country for two weeks and didn't follow up with the candidates."



**David Liu**  
Retiree  
North California Avenue, Palo Alto

"Yes. It's an annual event. No particular reason."

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## Letters

(continued from page 16)

Mr. Burch's adds up the costs to several downtown businesses on his reality walk and calmly suggests that these additional taxes and fees won't be missed by local merchants even though none of these taxes or fees will be used enhance or service the business community.

Recently we learned that the city sent a building inspector to Hawaii for a week-long conference using taxpayer funds for hotel lodging, meals and travel expenses. Mr. Burch and the City of Palo Alto need to come to the realization that we all need to live within our current financial constraints and not hinder citizens and local business's with unnecessary taxes and fees simply as a means to continue uncontrolled spending.

Brian Wilson  
Ramona Street  
Palo Alto

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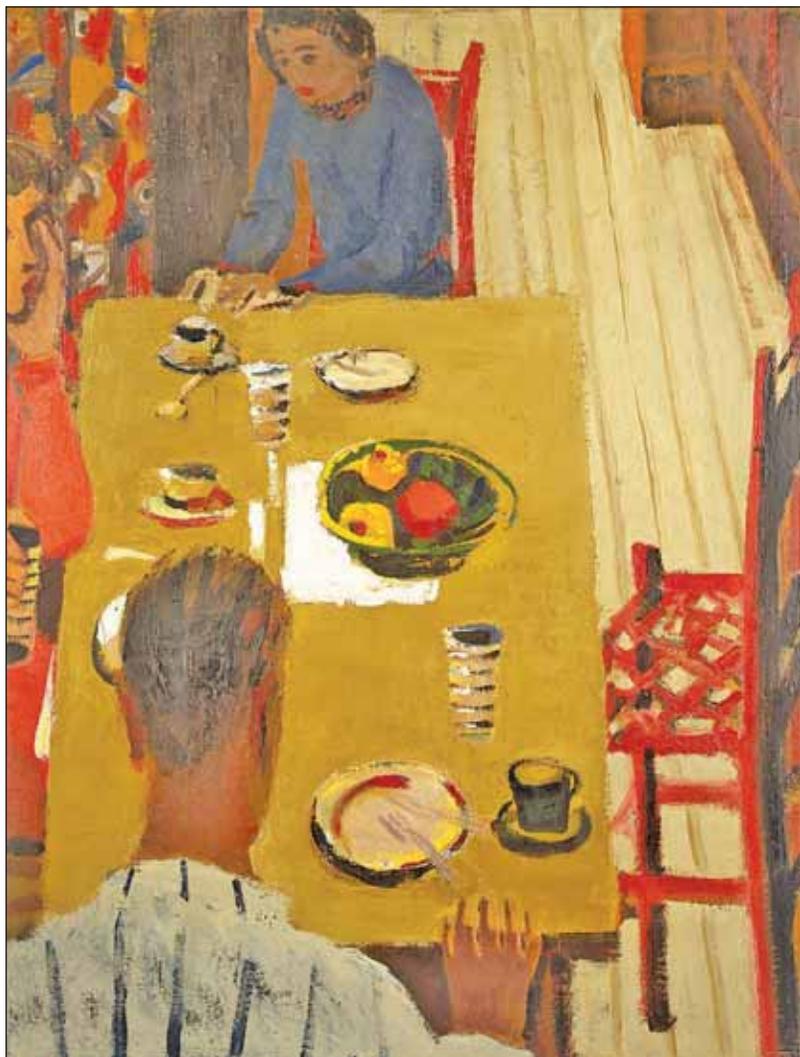
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# Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, movies and more, edited by Rebecca Wallace



Shawn Fender

Helen Park Bigelow with her book about her father, "David Park, Painter: Nothing Held Back."

## A Family Portrait

FIGURATIVE PAINTER DAVID PARK IS DEPICTED IN RICHLY ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHY BY HIS DAUGHTER

by Janet Silver Ghent

Helen Park Bigelow, unlike her father, artist David Park, never had the urge to paint. But she loved to tell stories. When a school friend caught her in a lie about an evil uncle and twin cousins, and young Helen thought her life was ruined, David Park offered this advice. First confess the truth and "the next time you feel like telling a story, buy yourself a notebook."

That's exactly what Bigelow did. At age 76, after putting her talents into other ventures, including working as a potter for 20 years, Bigelow penned a richly illustrated biography of her father titled "David Park, Painter: Nothing Held Back" (Hudson Hills Press, \$60). Filled with more than 100 color prints of Park's work, the book sketches his evolution from his early work as a figurative painter to a period as an abstractionist before returning to figurative art in the last decade of his life.

Over coffee in a Starbucks in Palo Alto, where she and her husband lived for decades, Bigelow reveals other musings about her unconventional upbringing in Berkeley, and her parents' circle of friends, who included fellow figurative artists Richard Diebenkorn and Elmer Bischoff. While Diebenkorn and

Bischoff, who both died in the early 1990s, achieved considerable recognition in their own lifetimes, Park was just beginning to achieve national prominence when he died of cancer in 1960 at age 49.

Sitting by her father's bed in his final months, Bigelow asked him: "If you were an art critic and if you were obliged to say something critical about the work of each of the three painters, what would you say?"

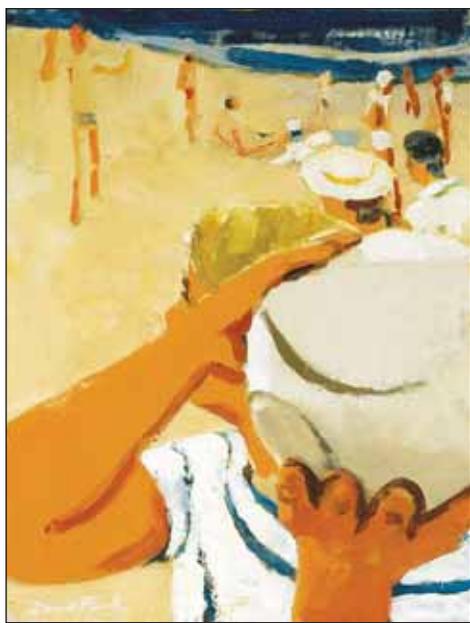
Bischoff, he said, was sometimes a bit sentimental. Diebenkorn's work was a bit too intellectual. And his own work? "I guess maybe I'd have to say that sometimes I'm a little bit lugubrious." They both "burst out laughing."

"He did not have a lugubrious personality," Bigelow says now, adding that her father could "light up a room."

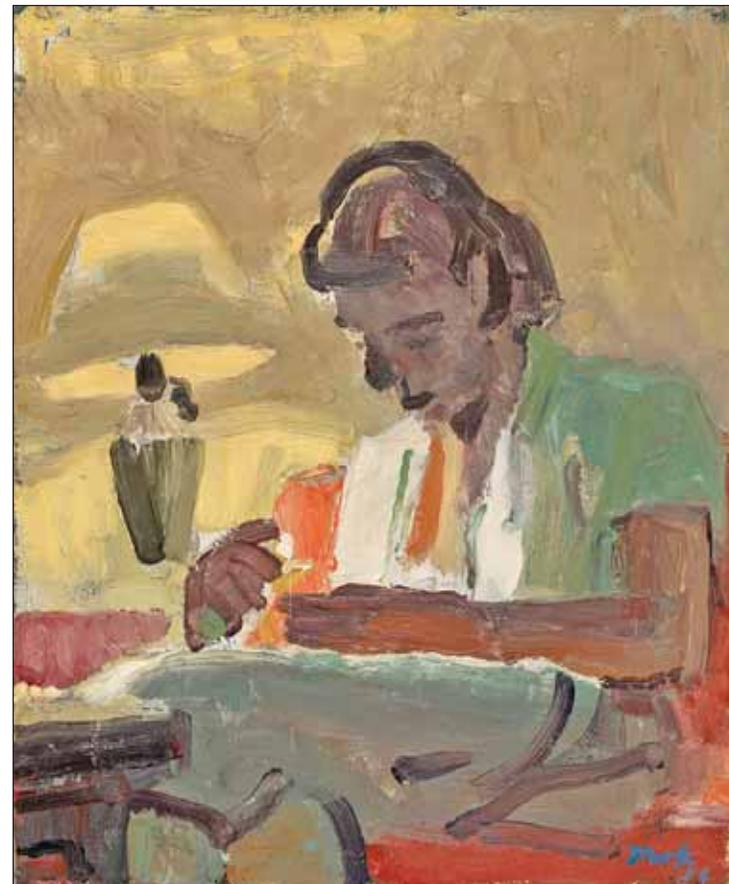
"But I saw what he meant in his paintings. He meant heavy and dark, not in terms of color, but in terms of their essence. They were loaded with heavy, human meaning."

Today Park's work is in major museums throughout the country and has been exhibited in the Bay Area at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center, the Palo

(continued on next page)

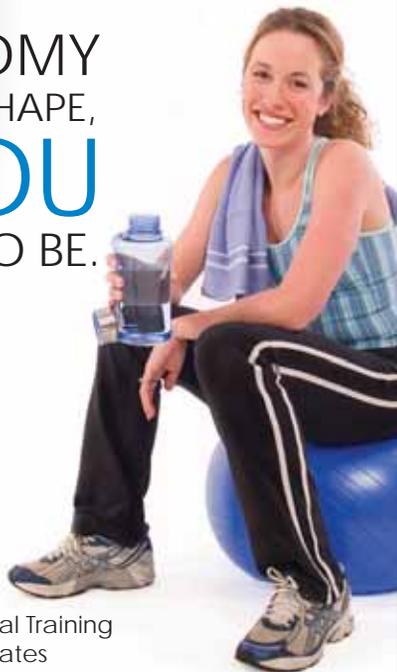


Top: "Table with Fruit," a David Park oil on canvas from 1951-52. Above: Park's oil "Beachball" from 1956.



"Portrait of Lydia Sewing," a 1955 oil on canvas by Park.

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**Family portrait**

(continued from previous page)

Alto Art Center, the Oakland Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and San Francisco's Hackett-Freedman Gallery, which represents his work.

Signe Mayfield, who curated the exhibition "David Park: Fixed Subjects" in 1994 at the Palo Alto Art Center, describes Park as "an exceptional painter who influenced generations of artists in our region and who was internationally recognized." Throughout his life, Park returned to the same "intensely autobiographical themes," including boat scenes, bathers, musicians and portrait heads.

"I think his late gouache works were extraordinary," Mayfield says, adding that her personal favorites include the 1959 "Bather with Green Sea," the 1960 "Man in Rowboat" and the 1958 "Four Men," which also depicts bathers and rowers. "Their great slabs of unexpected color relay both concentrated emotion and a unique materiality. That physical materiality of paint seems to have a life itself and in his everyday themes, we see a reverence of humanity."

Bigelow does not see the works as heavily symbolic or laden with narrative. "The most narrative is in people playing musical instruments or playing ball, or the wonderful painting of women on a patio. ... The narrative that's in there is up to the viewer, and knowing him, I'm very confident in saying he wasn't trying to project anything or tell us anything or make a statement. He was trying to paint the best person playing the trombone that he could, or the best bather or the best person paddling a canoe."

Interestingly, although he did use sketches, Park painted largely from memory, rather than in nature or with posed models. His earliest representational works are influenced

by the social upheavals of the 1930s as well as by Picasso, but after World War II his work became more linear and abstract.

Ultimately, Park and his wife, the former Lydia Newell (known as Deedie), drove to the Berkeley city dump and destroyed these abstract works because he saw "a self-consciousness that he didn't like," Bigelow says.

Years later, Bigelow's mother inadvertently discarded a box of Bigelow's high school mementos, including a bird painting Park had given to her for Christmas "and a whole novel I wrote on a stack of those black and white composition books." Other works were lost in a 1976 fire that destroyed Bigelow's Barron Park home, on the site of her current home. To this day, the losses of Park's works weigh heavily, Bigelow says.

But although the originals may have been lost, most of the works have been photographed. She and her husband, photographer Edward Bigelow, tracked down the works or their images, which he painstakingly reproduced for the book.

The Bigelows, who moved to Maui four years ago, had lived in Palo Alto since the 1960s, and Helen has been a part owner of Country Sun Natural Foods for more than 30 years. They returned so Edward could undergo cancer treatment at Stanford. "He's doing very well, according to the doctors," she says, and they expect to return to Hawaii in the new year.

For most of her life, Bigelow lived in the Bay Area. Both she and her sister, Natalie Park Schutz, a genealogist and retired teacher in San Jose, were born and raised in Berkeley — although "raised" may be an overstatement. In her book, she quotes her great-aunt, Edith Park Truesdell, as saying: "You kids weren't raised. You just grew."

Bigelow, who has three daughters and four grandchildren, would agree, "particularly if you judge it against what we think of parenting

today. ...With both parents working and very little money, we were left to our own devices, but it was never a problem."

The girls called their parents David and Deedie. The parents, she writes, "lived in a drinking crowd, in a drinking decade." Deedie, an ex-flapper, was a free spirit and an alcoholic, Bigelow says. She never scolded the girls, she did not attend PTA meetings, and she never wore a girdle.

While growing up, Bigelow and her sister would drop in to her father's studio after school, sitting quietly. "He was at work. Our job was not to interrupt him. ... We may not have exchanged a word, but he had a big beautiful smile, which said a world to a child."

Park never encouraged Bigelow to pick up a paintbrush. But he did offer this advice, which she noted in the book: Learn to drink at home first. "Throw up in your own bathroom, and hopefully when you go out into the world you won't make an ass of yourself."

But there were deeper conversations, and Bigelow considers herself blessed to have grown up in a home filled with interesting people: writers, artists, musicians, photographers and intellectuals. "There was no money but we weren't poor. Life was very rich. We went to plays, concerts and there was always music."

Park himself did not come from a bohemian background. He was born in 1911 in Boston, the son of a Unitarian minister and mother who was a great hostess and storyteller. Like his father and grandfather, he was expected to go to Yale. But he felt stifled in an academic setting and dropped out of boarding school. Truesdell, an artist, rescued him, taking him to the Los Angeles area, where he attended the Otis Art Institute for a year. That was his only formal education in art.

At 18, he took off for the Bay Area, where his best friend was the sculptor Gordon Newell. In 1929, they cut stone for the marble columns Ralph Stackpole created for the San Francisco Stock Exchange. At age 19, Park married Newell's sister.

Park, who continued to paint and to play the piano in a band, supported himself by teaching art and by working on murals funded by federal grants. After several years teaching in New England, Park returned with his family to Berkeley, renting a crooked house that later collapsed. During the war years, he worked the graveyard shift, operating a crane in an Emeryville defense plant.

Deedie worked at the University of California Press. In addition to teaching, Park sold a few paintings a year, but Deedie was the breadwinner. Bigelow says that Deedie did not see herself as sublimating her own ambitions. "If she did, she never let on."

But Deedie suffered from depression as well as alcoholism. When Bigelow was an adult, her father shared his concerns for the first time. He said they had visited a psychotherapist and were told "she'd be a very hard nut to crack. They never went back."

Deedie, who remarried after Park's death, died in 1990, just shy of her 81st birthday. The cause, says Bigelow, was "extreme anorexia

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brought on by extreme alcoholism, brought on by extreme depression.”

While Deedie may have been neglectful as a mother, she was competent in the workplace, Bigelow says. She also “had a way with words and had always thought she would become a writer, and she wanted me to do it for her.” Bigelow, who won a Palo Alto Weekly short story contest in the 1980s, has written a number of articles and two novels, but the biography is her first published book.

Two years ago, she was giving a talk during a Diebenkorn exhibit at the University of New Mexico’s Harwood Museum of Art, sharing insights on the “friendship, competition and recognition” among Diebenkorn, Bischoff and Park.

“Somebody in the audience said, ‘Please call me,’ and gave me her card,” Bigelow recalls. “She was an art editor and we decided to work together. I went 100 percent on the book, and consequently, so did my husband.”

By writing the book, Bigelow says she wants to “give back something of my father to the world, because he gave the world so much.” She also wants to give something to her children. “They missed out. He was a spectacular human being.” ■

For more about “David Park, Painter: Nothing Held Back,” go to [www.hudsonhills.com/title\\_detail/286/](http://www.hudsonhills.com/title_detail/286/).

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Bid specifications pertaining to this project are available from Monday, November 2, 2009 to Friday, November 13, 2009. Please call to schedule a mandatory job walk. Bid closing date is Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 5:00 PM. Bid opening at 725 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 10:00 AM.

This project is funded by the City of Palo Alto Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. All federal regulations listed in the Bid Specifications will apply, including equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and Federal Labor Standards provisions (Davis-Bacon). Reference is hereby made to bid specifications for further details, which specifications and this notice shall be considered part of the contract.

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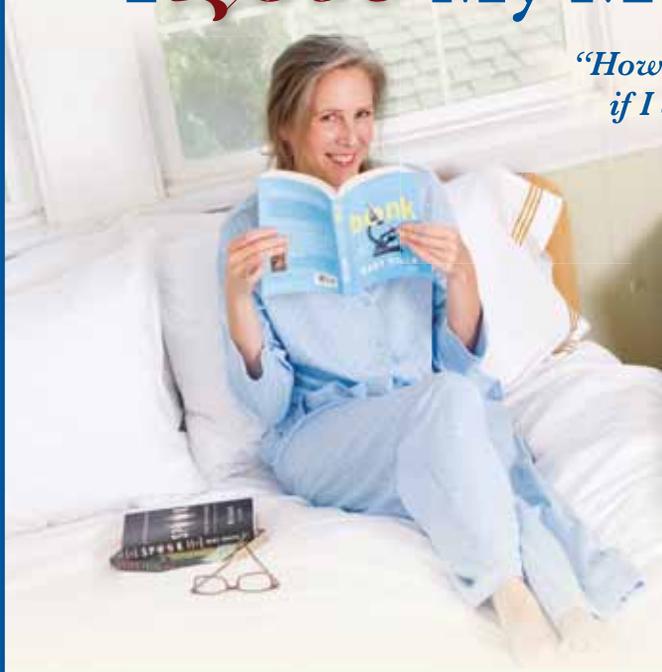
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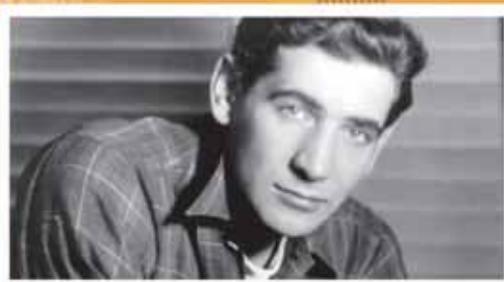
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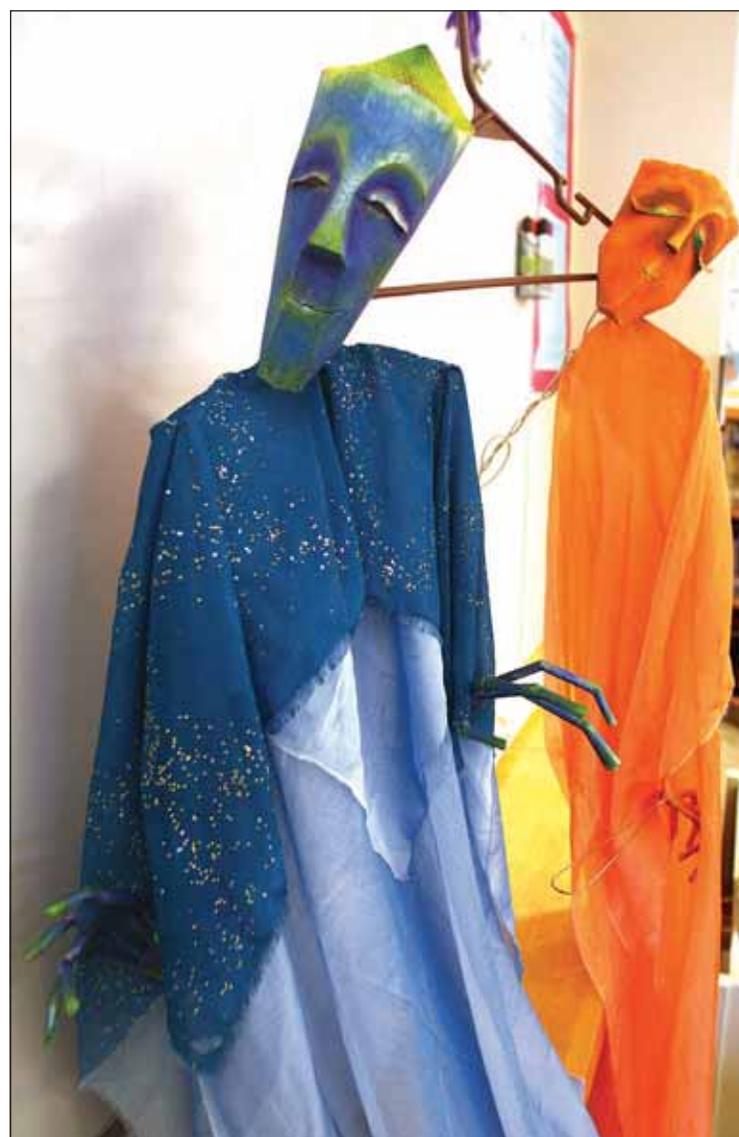
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## Arts & Entertainment



Puppet artist Robin Walsh leads a teacher-training workshop on making puppets. Here, she's created a regal character with a fake eggplant for a head.

Veronica Weber



Smaller models of Walsh's Romeo and Juliet puppets that will be used in Stanford performances hang in the library at Barron Park Elementary School in Palo Alto.

Veronica Weber

Gently, Walsh makes the puppet sway and glide. You know she's the one controlling it, but you find yourself following the eggplant as it gives a noble nod. The teachers watch silently.

"Music speaks to the heart. So do puppets," Walsh says. "You know it's not alive, but then it's looking at you. It's breathing. It's dancing."

Walsh's puppets will be dancing on the stage of Stanford's Dinkelspiel Auditorium later this month, woven into the dramatic music of Sergei Prokofiev's ballet "Romeo and Juliet." The performances will be part of "The Prokofiev Project," a Lively Arts festival of concerts and talks focused on the composer and pianist, running Nov. 12 through Nov. 15 on campus.

Walsh and fellow puppeteer Jesse Kingsley will perform with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra in a symphonic suite extracted from Prokofiev's three "Romeo and Juliet" suites. On Nov. 14, "Romeo and Juliet" is on the program with Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, op. 16, featuring pianist Alexander Toradze; and "May Night: Intermezzo from 'War and Peace.'"

The following day, the puppeteers and orchestra will again perform the "Romeo and Juliet" suite as a family matinee. (A special matinee on Nov. 13 for local teachers and students features the Gunn High School orchestra.)

Walsh, who is based in Los Angeles, came early to the Peninsula to lead the teachers' workshop. The goal behind these periodic Lively Arts workshops is to help teachers and students better understand and appreciate performances.

One thing audiences young and old might want to know in advance is that this "Romeo and Juliet" is not meant to be violent. As a Lively Arts teachers' guide puts it: "While this performance will follow the essential outlines of Shakespeare's play, representations of violence and death will be symbolic rather than literal, making use of fabric, color and movement." With puppets, Walsh says, conflict and even death can be safely played out.

But there won't be as much death as one might think. This "Romeo and Juliet" has a happy ending. According to the concert program, Prokofiev originally wrote a ballet

## Celebrating Prokofiev

Puppetry, concerts and discussion center on the composer and pianist at Stanford festival

by Rebecca Wallace

**N**obody wants the eggplant. The women making puppets are choosing objects to serve as heads, and styrofoam balls are popular. So are brown spheroids that look like acorns. Acorns are cute. But no one picks the waxy fake eggplant.

That's why Robin Walsh is the pro. As she leads a Stanford Lively Arts workshop teaching Palo Alto

teachers how to craft puppets, she chooses the eggplant — and transforms it.

Before long, the aubergine is a regal purple head, its stem like a crown. Red and orange scarves become the puppet's robes. Walsh controls the puppet with one rod attached to the head and two in the corners of the scarves to make hands.

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in which a grieving Romeo is about to commit suicide after thinking Juliet is dead — but then Friar Laurence stays Romeo's hand, and Juliet awakens. Under pressure from Soviet authorities, though, Prokofiev changed the ending back.

At its core, Walsh says, the tale is a simple story of dualities: love and loss, life and death. Her puppets are simple, too. While Romeo and Juliet are statuesque — Romeo is more than 8 feet tall — their structures are basic: folded-paper heads on bodies of flowing fabric and rods.

At the Palo Alto workshop, held late last month in the library at Barron Park Elementary School, the teachers are crafting smaller versions of these fabric rod puppets, learning a method they'll show their students before the performance. Colorful silk and polyester pieces cover one table, while another is piled with potential decorations: pipe cleaners, feathers, beads, a tiny straw hat and a bag of spangles.

The teachers choose their materials and create as Walsh directs them through the process, wielding pins and glue guns. Her enthusiasm is infectious.

"I'm a puppeteer — I openly admit. And make a living at it," Walsh says, grinning. She's worked in puppetry for two decades: on stage, in movies, in the United States, Europe and China.

Students can learn various lessons from the puppets and the per-

formance, Walsh tells the teachers. There are difficult issues to be discussed, such as teen suicide. There is also appreciation for "the flowing, grand richness of the music," she says. Students can learn to write new stories for their puppets, or practice coordination by having two people work together to wield the same puppet.

Terri Feinberg, who teaches fourth and fifth grade at Ohlone Elementary School, says she's eager to have her students dive in. "I think that they learn more with an art-infused curriculum."

She ponders using puppets for other lessons as well, particularly when teaching about explorers. "I was thinking that the kids could write a script," she says. "This way they will remember the explorers, where they went."

When the teachers finish their puppets, they practice bringing them to life, having them dance or sway or embrace other puppets. Walsh gives them a tip on adding drama: Hold the puppet completely still, then move just one thing, like a hand.

"I follow 'Zen puppetry.' When you work the puppet, it isn't you doing it. I just let it go, let the magic happen," Walsh says. "A puppeteer is more like a director than an actor." ■

**What:** "The Prokofiev Project," a four-day festival of concerts and talks

**Where and when:** Curator/scholar Joseph Horowitz begins the festival at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 12 with a free evening of discussion, film, performance and recordings in Campbell Recital Hall, joined by pianists Alexander Toradze, Kumaran Arul and George Barth.

On Nov. 13, the "Pianistic Prokofiev" concert features Toradze, Arul and Barth, at 8 p.m. in Dinkelspiel Auditorium, with works including "Sarcasms," op. 17; and "Cinderella," op. 45. On Nov. 14, the Stanford Symphony Orchestra and puppeteers Robin Walsh and Jesse Kingsley perform at 8 p.m. in Dinkelspiel, with the program including "Romeo and Juliet." A family matinee of "Romeo and Juliet" is at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 15 in Dinkelspiel.

**Cost:** The Nov. 12 evening event is free; ticket prices for the other events are \$10-\$46.

**Info:** For details, go to [livelyarts.stanford.edu](http://livelyarts.stanford.edu) or call 650-725-ARTS.

**More arts news**

Palo Alto's Gallery House is hosting a special photography exhibition, "Facing Thirst," about a nonprofit group's work to bring clean drinking water to developing countries. To read an article about the Nov. 14-16 show, go to [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com).



Photo: Gus Bundy Collection, Special Collections Department, University of Nevada, Reno Libraries

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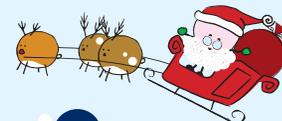
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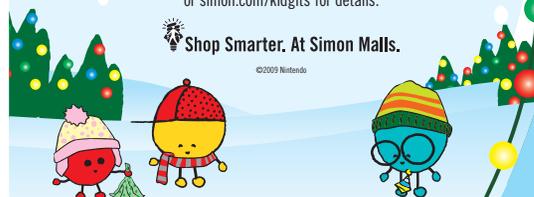
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# Worth a Look

## Art

Figure drawings by Frank Lobdell



"Figure Drawing No. 41, 1963," a work of ink on paper, is among the drawings by Frank Lobdell soon to be shown at the Cantor Arts Center.

The artist Frank Lobdell is often recognized for his abstract paintings. But for a time in the 1950s and '60s, he met every week for figure-drawing sessions with other artists, including Richard Diebenkorn.

"Essentially a nonfigurative artist, Lobdell used these weekly drawing sessions as a springboard to develop a vocabulary of abstraction that was informed by a study of the human body," Cantor Arts Center curator Hilarie Faberman wrote in a press release.

Starting Nov. 11, the Stanford museum is showing about 60 of Lobdell's figure drawings from the '60s and '70s, works in ink, crayon, pencil and wash. The drawings are on loan from both private collections and from the artist, who taught at

Stanford from 1966 through 1991.

Admission is free to the Cantor center, which is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays until 8. It's located off Palm Drive at Museum Way on campus, with the exhibition running through Feb. 21. Go to museum.stanford.edu or call 650-723-4177.

## Music

John Reischman & the Jaybirds

The nonprofit group Redwood Bluegrass Association has been presenting bluegrass concerts in Silicon Valley since 1991. This year's season is described on the group's Web site as a "bluegrass mandolin symposium" featuring mandolinists from all over the country.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, John Reischman & the Jaybirds will perform. Reischman has been described in the bluegrass magazine "Georgia Straight" as having an ability for "penning sing-able melodies that conceal a devious twist." The band also features guitarist Jim Nunally, Trisha Gagnon on acoustic double bass, Nick Hornbuckle on five-string banjo, and Greg Spatz on fiddle.



Donna Scholl

The bluegrass band John Reischman & the Jaybirds performs in Mountain View on Nov. 14.

In the show's second set, the band will perform Reischman's instrumental album "Up In the Woods," marking the 10th anniversary of the album's release.

The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church at 1667 Miramonte Ave. in Mountain View. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show starting at 8. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 on the day of show. For more information, go to www.rba.org or call 650-691-9982.

Road in Palo Alto. Go to www.palayers.org or call 650-329-0891.

## Film

'Danton'

The French Revolution hero Georges Danton will be the focus of the night tonight at the Palo Alto Art Center, with a screening of the 1983 Gérard Depardieu film "Danton."

The Franco-Polish film, directed by Andrej Wajda, won numerous awards, including Best Foreign Film from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in 1984. It also stars Wojciech Pszoniak as Robespierre.

The screening of the English-subtitled feature film is one of the regular Friday events held by the French Film Club of Palo Alto. The club serves French refreshments such as brie, crêpes and beverages. Doors open at 7 p.m. at the art center — located at 1313 Newell Road — with the film starting at 7:15. "Danton" is unrated and 136 minutes long.

Tickets are \$12 general, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for students, with \$2 off if tickets are bought online in advance. Go to www.frenchfilmclubofpaloalto.org or call 408-761-8158.

## Theater

'Romeo and Juliet'

It's been 54 years since Palo Alto Players did a Shakespeare play at the Lucie Stern Theatre, so perhaps the time is right to jump in again. Now in its 79th season, the company is putting on "Romeo and Juliet," with opening night on Nov. 8.

Director Bill Olson said in a press release that he anticipates the biggest challenge will be getting the audience to stay optimistic for the doomed young couple. "Are we still capable of connecting to that deep place within ourselves where we have no control and find ourselves moved, viscerally, to hope?" he wrote.

Mountain View resident Sepideh Moafi plays Juliet, with Andrew Gruen as Romeo. Olson, who lives in Palo Alto, also plays Friar Laurence.

The Players last took on the Bard at the Lucie Stern in 1955, with a production of "Much Ado About Nothing." (The company produced three Shakespeare comedies outdoors in Woodside in 1988, 1989 and 1990.)

"Romeo and Juliet" previews on Friday, Nov. 6, and then runs through Nov. 22, with shows Thursday through Sunday. Tickets range from \$22 for the preview to \$33 for opening night, with discounts available for students, seniors and groups. The theater is at 1305 Middlefield



Joyce Goldschmidt

Andrew Gruen plays Romeo and Sepideh Moafi is Juliet in Palo Alto Players' upcoming production of Shakespeare's classic.

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# Movies

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

## OPENINGS



Jim Carrey plays both the Ghost of Christmas Present and Scrooge in "Disney's A Christmas Carol."

### Disney's A Christmas Carol ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Motion-capture animation, in which actors wear sensors and their movements are transferred onto a digital model, is a captivating technology. It's one that director Robert Zemeckis has used with aplomb to revitalize iconic tales such as "Beowulf" (2007) and now Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

This latest adaptation of the Dickens classic is rich with vibrant imagery and boasts an impressive cast, with funnyman Jim Carrey at the forefront.

The story itself — first published in 1843 — has been adapted and retold so many times that even those who have never opened a book or switched on a television are familiar with its plot and characters. One chill Christmas eve, humorless old miser Ebenezer Scrooge (Carrey) is haunted by the specter of his former business partner Jacob Marley (Gary Oldman) and warned to learn compassion and generosity or suffer eternal consequences.

Scrooge is in for a long night.

Three ghosts visit Scrooge during the exasperating evening, each offering glimpses into his life. The Ghost of Christmas Past (also Carrey) leads Scrooge through his humble roots, before wealth quashed his vivacious spirit. The Ghost of Christmas Present (again Carrey) shows Scrooge flashes of the now, such as his nephew Fred's (Colin Firth) contagious merriment and his quiet assistant Bob Cratchit's (Oldman) tight-knit family. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (you guessed it, Carrey again) is decidedly less approachable than its predecessors, using a bony finger to point out Scrooge's ominous future.

Three apparitions offering two choices: redemption or death.

"Carol" is a visual feast with groundbreaking animation — absolutely brilliant from a graphic standpoint. The film almost feels like a family-friendly bookend to Zemeckis' "Beowulf" (which was decidedly adult in tone and context). Zemeckis (also the screenwriter) stays loyal to the source material,

with dialogue and setting true to Dickens' original vision — cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages and plenty of Old English dialect (which, admittedly, sparks occasional "What did he just say?" confusion).

Carrey is outstanding as Scrooge, not to mention the myriad other roles he is asked to portray (his rendition of the peculiar Ghost of Christmas Past is particularly fascinating). Carrey's Scrooge rides an emotional roller coaster — what begins as menace and feigned courage shifts to fear, regret, sorrow and, ultimately, joy.

The poignant moral message of Dickens' 166-year-old novel shines through despite the 21st-century presentation. Cratchit lives in poverty but the enduring love of his family fuels his infectious joie de vivre. Meanwhile, Scrooge is rich beyond measure but bereft of companionship and miserable because of it.

Dickens' message is clear: True joy comes not from what you can take, but rather, what you can give.

This is also the most thrilling version of "Carol" ever produced, bar none. Catch it in 3D for a truly visceral experience — snow flakes seem to fall in the theater and there's a sense of being virtually transported to 17th-century England. But parents should be wary of taking young children. Several scenes, especially those involving Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, are more frightening than one would expect.

Although Dickens has been translated time and time again, this animated adventure is no humbug.

Rated PG for scary sequences and images. 1 hour, 36 minutes.

— Tyler Hanley



To view the trailer for "Disney's A Christmas Carol," go to Palo Alto Online at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

### NOW PLAYING

#### A Serious Man ★★★★★

(CineArts) Professor Larry Gopnik's wife wants a divorce; Larry's bar-mitzvah-boy son Danny is smoking dope; his daughter Sarah steals money from his wallet to save up for a nose job. One of his students is trying to bribe him to change a failing grade. And on it goes. In their unique blend of black comedy and existential bafflement, the Coen brothers pose no less than the ultimate question: What is the meaning of life? (Without, of course, making it seem as portentous as that.) "A Serious Man" is a serious film that makes you squirm, laugh, and ponder all at the same time. Rated R for

language, some sexuality/nudity and brief violence. One hour, 45 minutes. — R.P. (Reviewed Oct. 16, 2009)

#### Amelia ★★★ 1/2

(Guild, Century 20) The Amelia of this film, of course, is Amelia Earhart. She's the intrepid aviator who captured the hearts and media of the world in the late 1920s and '30s, even after she went missing on her attempted round-the-world flight in 1937. The movie's frame is the round-the-world flight, which Amelia (Hilary Swank) undertook with the assistance of navigator Fred Noonan (Christopher Eccleston). Flashbacks show her at earlier stages of her career: her first transatlantic flight;

her second, solo transatlantic flight, only the second after Charles Lindbergh's five years earlier and the first by a woman; her barnstorming, lectures to women's groups, and of course her romantic life. The thrill of flying is evoked not only by Amelia's passion but also by the glorious shots of shiny planes soaring through fog and thunderstorms. Rated PG for some sensuality, language, thematic elements and smoking. One hour, 51 minutes. — R.P. (Reviewed Oct. 23, 2009)

#### Astroboy ★★★ 1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The manga/anime/video game franchise that is "As-

(continued on next page)

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—ROGER EBERT, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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— Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

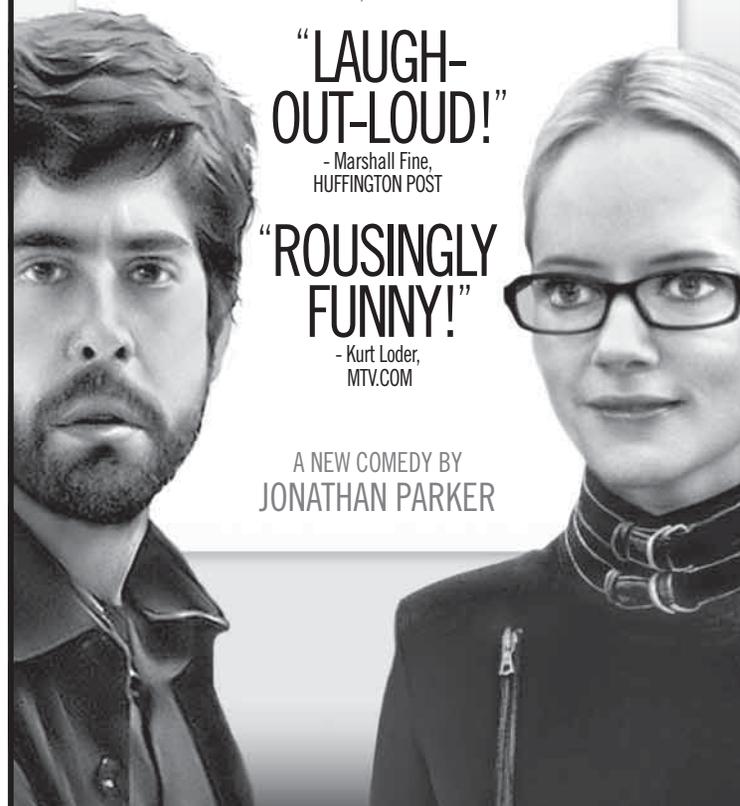
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**Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)** Audrey Hepburn plays the spirited Holly Golightly. Fri. at 7:30 p.m. Sat. also at 3:20 p.m.

**Charade (1963)** Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn star in this romantic caper in Paris. Fri.-Sat. at 5:35 & 9:25 p.m.

**The Ghost and Mrs. Muir (1947).** The ghost of a sea captain (Rex Harrison) romances a young widow. Sun.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m. Sun.

also at 3:35 p.m.

**Topper (1937)** A stuffy banker is haunted by the cheerful ghosts of his young clients. Sun.-Mon. at 5:40 & 9:25 p.m.

**To Be or Not to Be (1942).** During the Nazi occupation of Poland, an acting troupe gets mired in a Polish soldier's efforts to track down a German spy. Tue.-Thu. at 7:30 p.m.

**Ninotchka (1939)** A woman sent to Paris on business finds herself attracted to a man she is supposed to loathe. Tue.-Thu. at 5:30 & 9:20 p.m.

was left by her father, then leaps ahead to her struggling days as a Parisian seamstress and cabaret singer. There, the movie depicts Gabrielle (Audrey Tautou) and her sister (Marie Gillain) singing the novelty ditty "Who's Seen Coco in the Trocadero?" and Gabrielle being dubbed "Coco" by a soldier. Shrewd Coco understands that she must hitch her star to a man to get anywhere in 1908 Paris. The film lightly touches on what made Chanel important — her groundbreaking liberation of women from constricting fashions — but avoids her Nazi-collaborationist disgrace (skipping over it for a glimpse of Chanel in her fashionable prime). Rated PG-13 for sexual content and smoking. One hour, 50 minutes — P.C. (Reviewed Oct. 9, 2009)

**Couples Retreat ★★1/2** (Century 16, Century 20) To get a package deal, Jason and Cynthia (Jason Bateman and Kristen Bell), a Midwestern couple with marital problems, must convince their friends to travel with them to an island resort specializing in couples counseling. Dave and Ronnie (Vince Vaughn and Malin Akerman) agree to go to this Disneyland for adults. Married high-school sweethearts Joey and Lucy (Jon Favreau and Kristin Davis) join divorced Shane (Faizon Love) and his girlfriend (Kali Hawk) with expectations of a sun-soaked vacation. To everyone's surprise, couples therapy is a requirement for all — and unconventional at that. Tagging along for the journey is pleasant enough, but the Hallmark themes and sporadic comic surprises don't make for an unforgettable experience. Rated: PG-13 for sexual content and language. 1 hour, 47 minutes. — S.T. (Reviewed Oct. 9, 2009)

**Law Abiding Citizen ★** (Century 16, Century 20) Gerard Butler plays Clyde Shelton, who must watch helplessly as his wife and daughter are slaughtered by two random, home-invading sickos. When the case reaches the Philadelphia courts, it lands with hotshot prosecutor Nick Rice (Jamie Foxx), who touts his 96-percent conviction rate. In part because he's unwilling to risk his record, Rice insists on cutting a deal with one perp in order to ensure conviction for the other. Ten years later, Nick is still upwardly mobile, missing his daughter's violin recital (yet again) to attend an execution. The man strapped to the table is one of Clyde's tormenters, and when the execution goes horribly wrong, it's not long before the authorities realize that Clyde has begun his own search for vigilante justice. Rated R for strong bloody brutal violence and torture,

a scene of rape, and pervasive language. One hour, 48 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Oct. 16, 2009)

**Michael Jackson's This is It ★★** "Michael Jackson's This is It" compiles material culled from a reported 120 hours of rehearsal footage shot as reference and archive material. Jackson here is as unguarded as he comes. The King of Pop comes across not as a diva but as a surprisingly chivalrous professional. Director Kenny Ortega doesn't hide the scarecrow-thin Jackson's eccentricity — in fact, he flaunts it at times — but the emphasis is on the concert's celebration of dance, awesome musicianship

and Jackson's legacy of contributions to both. Two hours spent in the cavernous claustrophobia of the bizarrely lit Staples Center and The Forum may help the audience to empathize with a celebrity's otherworldly existence. Despite the scope — and the inclusion of film footage and special-effects montages — the film has a potent intimacy. Rated PG for suggestive choreography and scary images. One hour, 51 minutes — P.C. (Reviewed Oct. 30, 2009)

**Where the Wild Things Are ★★1/2** (Century 16, Century 20) Director Spike Jonze's adaptation of Maurice Sendak's

"Where the Wild Things Are" projects childhood emotions onto a not-terribly inviting landscape and its monstrous denizens. Maurice Sendak's children's book was always a sort of words-and-pictures psychodrama, the story of an Everyboy named Max who throws a tantrum where he can romp with fellow "wild things." Jonze and Eggers have pulled off a rare trick by fashioning not only an honorable take on a classic but slim children's book, but also an adventurous art film made with studio dollars. It's a fine conversation piece for gifted kids — assuming parents willing to talk to their kids about their feelings. It's also a fascinating psychological study for adults looking back on the rolling emotions of childhood. Rated PG for mild thematic elements, some adventure action and brief language. One hour, 34 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Oct. 16, 2009)

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**NOTICE OF VACANCY ON STORM DRAIN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THREE FOUR-YEAR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013 (Terms of McNall, Tarlton and Whaley)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Storm Drain Oversight Committee from persons interested in serving in one of three four-year terms ending December 31, 2013.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The Storm Drain Oversight Committee is composed of five members who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council, but who shall not be Council Members, officers or employees of the City of Palo Alto. Each member of the Committee shall have a demonstrated interest in municipal infrastructure and fiscal accountability. Committee meetings will be held on weekday mornings per the schedule described below.

**Duties:** Acting in an advisory role, the Storm Drain Oversight Committee shall, in April of each year, hold up to two meetings to review the proposed budget (including both operating and capital elements) for the Storm Drainage Fund as prepared by City Staff in order to assess its consistency with the capital improvements and program enhancements included in the approved Storm Drainage fee increase ballot measure. The Committee shall prepare a report documenting its findings and submit said report to the Finance Committee of the City Council during the annual City budget hearings.

The Committee also shall, in January of each year, hold up to two meetings to review the year-end financial report prepared by City Staff documenting the expenditures of the Storm Drainage Fund in order to assess the consistency of the expenditures with the approved Storm Drainage fee increase ballot measure. The Committee shall prepare a report documenting its findings and submit said report to the City Council.

Appointment information and application forms are available in the City Clerk's Office, 7th floor, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (Phone: 650-329-2571), or at [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org).

Deadline for receipt of applications in the City Clerk's Office is 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 20, 2009. If one of the incumbents does not reapply, the deadline will be extended to Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

DONNA J. GRIDER  
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# Eating Out

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



Pepperoni arrostiti features roasted bell peppers, tomatoes, mozzarella and basil.

### Worth seeking out

*Il Porcino stands out in the hodgepodge of Los Altos dining options*

by Dale F. Bentson

Downtown Los Altos has a broad array of dining establishments. It is a daunting task distinguishing one from the next — what is worthwhile from just another place to go for a bite. It would be a shame to lump Il Porcino into that latter category.

While no more distinctive on the outside than many other cafes and restaurants in town, Il Porcino has a spacious interior that is decidedly Italian with butternut squash-colored walls and starched linens on tables. Booths line one side with contemporary tables and chairs filling the balance of the space. Luciano Pavarotti's greatest hits set the mood, and an accommodating, informative waitstaff professionally tends to the dining-room business.

Il Porcino has been more mov-

able feast than anchored restaurant over the past 10 years. Originally, Il Porcino, which opened in May, occupied the same space a decade ago. "We were in a partnership then," said Cuneyt Akca, whose family owns the business.

"The partnership didn't work out after a few months so we sold our share but retained the name," he said. "We opened in San Francisco, then moved to Berkeley and now back here." The Akca family has also owned the original Il Porcino in Fremont for 16 years.

Akca is a Turkish name, not Italian, but Akca reminded me that all Mediterranean cooking shares many common techniques and ingredients. "My family has been cooking Italian forever," he added.

There is no denying the food was

good and decidedly Italian by any measure. The menu was what we expect from a neighborhood Italian eatery: tantalizing antipasti; a laundry list of pastas, delicious veal, chicken and seafood dishes; and cloudlike desserts. It's also easy on the pocketbook.

Besides the regular menu, Il Porcino offers 10 to 12 specials per evening. Too bad the specials aren't printed out. It's difficult to keep track of so much when the waiter is reciting, without pause, for the diner's quick comprehension.

First off, one of the best focaccias I've had outside North Beach was brought to the table while we contemplated our choices. The focaccia was rustically crusty while the interior was like white air: so light and delicate, it might have floated away had it not been encrusted. The dipping oil was herbed, but not overly so, allowing the crunch and silkiness of the bread to star.

For antipasti, the carpaccio (\$8.95) was as mouthwatering as could be. The razor-thin beef was gloriously tender and the puckery capers, bite of Dijon mustard, chopped red onion and sprinkling of peppery arugula leaves hastened my appetite.

Pepperoni arrostiti (\$8.95) included roasted red bell pepper, chopped fresh tomato, slices of mozzarella and basil leaves dressed in olive oil. It reminded me of the old-fashioned lazy Susans we used to get in Italian restaurants when I was growing up. Lazy Susans held a lot of condiments, peppers and salamis. Il Porcino's pepperoni arrostiti was like a one-serving lazy Susan. Arrostiti, by the way, means "roasted."

Calamari fritti (\$8.95) was lightly battered, crisply fried calamari. There was no residual oil and the portion was almost enough to share (had it not been so good). Two dipping sauces accompanied.

The pastas were uniformly good. I especially like the spaghetti Putanesca (\$12.25). The tomato sauce was rich and thick, spiked with capers, garlic, anchovies and black olives that coated the spaghetti without drowning it.

One evening's special was four huge ravioli stuffed with lobster (\$18.95) in a cream sauce with sun-dried tomatoes. The lobster itself had been reduced to a near paste but held up well inside the ravioli; no additional filler was used. The sweetness of the lobster cut through the richness of the

(continued on next page)



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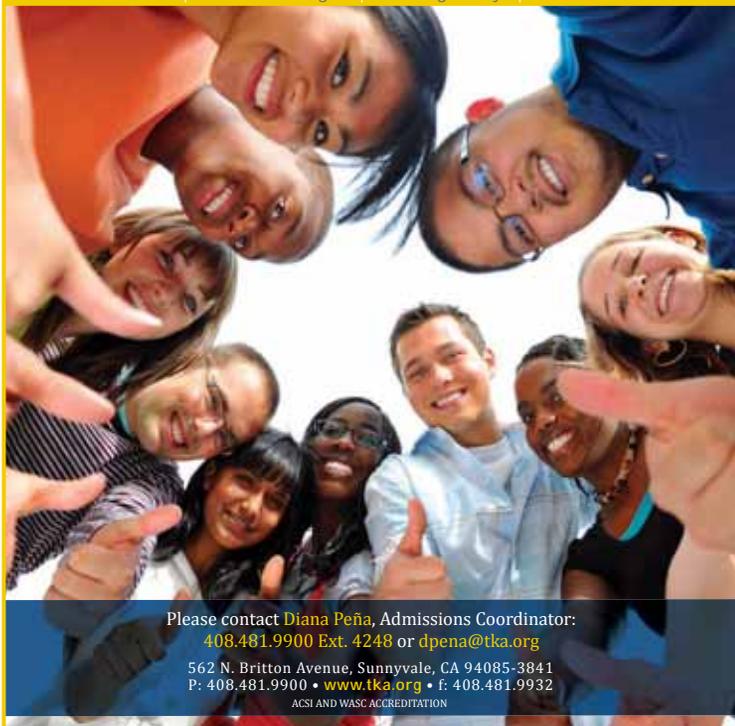
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ACSI AND WASC ACCREDITATION



Veronica Weber

*Cuneyt Akca, whose family owns Il Porcino, brings out a plate of scaloppine alle erbe.*

(continued from previous page)

cream although the lobster filling was plenty rich enough. This was no diet plate.

Scaloppine alle erbe (\$14.95) featured melt-in-the-mouth sauteed veal blanketed with capers, garlic and chopped fresh herbs all gently nestled in a white wine lemon sauce. The acidity of the lemon and capers offset the slight pungency of the herbs and garlic. The tasty veal, though, trumped the other flavors.

Portafoglio (\$15.95) was the same tender white veal, this time stuffed with prosciutto and mozzarella then topped with mushroom and Marsala wine sauce. This version was earthier than the scaloppine, more savory and autumnal, more filling, yet equally delicious.

All the desserts are house-made save for the ice creams. The tiramisu (\$5.50) was lovely, airy and light, sweet but not cloying, delicate and not overly filling. The mascarpone had been whipped to a near foam and the ladyfingers provided a light but solid crust, while the cocoa and espresso were just evident enough. It was an excellent way to conclude a dinner.

The chocolate cake (\$6), though, was disappointing. The menu offered no description and we erroneously expected a sponge cake, not its flourless, near flavorless cousin. True enough, Italian cake isn't devil's food, but it isn't called "cake" in Italy either; it's torta. Yes, I quibble.

Alas, the wine list was sub-par.

One evening, the waiter suggested a wine not on the brief list. It was better but not up to the restaurant's food standards. Corkage fee is \$15. I would suggest going that route until the wine list improves.

One other problem: The telephone at the reception station was set on "blast." Not only was it jarring, it was the most unpleasant shrill imaginable. Surely, there is a less grating way of receiving telephone messages than a brash alarm juxtaposed on an otherwise relaxed atmosphere.

Il Porcino isn't just another downtown neighborhood restaurant and it is one worth seeking out. The kitchen knows what it is doing: Dishes are well crafted and the ingredients fresh and engaging. A better wine list would help distinguish this restaurant. ■

**Il Porcino**

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**Ciao Bella!**

It didn't take long for businesswoman, Bella Awdisho, to recognize something was missing in Mountain View. After long research, it became apparent that finding a one-of-a-kind restaurant to bring to the Mountain View area would not be easy. "I just could not see opening another run-of-the-mill restaurant in an area filled with such innovation" said Mrs. Awdisho. Her search ended when she found Pizzeria Venti, a small boutique pizzeria based in Italy.

Her introduction to Italian cuisine was in-depth, to say the least. It began with a culinary arts program that included training under the Tuscan sun. "The training was really eye-opening. I learned about the nuances of true Italian cooking; about the quality and passion that goes into every dish. It's amazing," said Bella. "Covering everything from pasta and sauces to the tradition of Italy famous "pizza al taglio" or pizza by the cut, the training was a once-in-a-lifetime experience which is simply not available to most restaurateurs."

**Traveling in Italy**

Awdisho said that she was extremely anxious to start her own Pizzeria Venti right here in Mountain View. "I recognized the uniqueness of our location," she noted "so I put many resources into the marketing of the location. We continue to offer to our customers many of the dishes I was introduced to in Italy." So successful was this introduction that Awdisho had to double the size of her kitchen, adding additional equipment to handle the demand. Executive Chef, Marco Salvi, the training chef in Italy, provided many new recipes for use in her restaurant. Chef Marco provided some insight "The ingredients say it all. We work to provide a finished dish which will honor its origins and create a wonderful experience for our customers."

**Authenticity – Not just a word**

Each new dish is hand selected with an eye towards authenticity. Even its rustic style pizza has a bit of Italia in it, made daily on-premise and using only imported water from Italy. "For me, one of the most important components of the training in Italy was the cultural understanding of these recipes. I was able to bring this back to our customers," said Bella. She continues, "I know our customers really appreciate what we do. We are so grateful that they allow us our passion."

# Book Talk

## AUTHOR, AUTHOR...

Kepler's Books at 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park hosts a fall mixer with authors **Cara Black** ("Murder in the Latin Quarter"), **Brian Copeland** ("Not A Genuine Black Man") and **Gail Tsukiyama** ("The Street of a Thousand Blossoms") talking about book-club picks of the season, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2 p.m. Other upcoming authors appearing through Kepler's include **David Chang** ("Momofuku") Saturday, Nov. 7, 4 p.m.; **Veronica Wolff** ("Lord of the Highlands") Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.; **Charles H. House and Raymond L. Price** ("The HP Phenomenon: Innovation and Business Transformation"), Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.; **Wona Miniati** ("The Trader Joe's Companion: A Portable Cookbook"), Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m.; **Barbara Kingsolver** ("The Lacuna: A Novel"), Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m. (at Menlo-Atherton High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton); **Ruthann Richter** and photographer **Karen Ande** ("Face to Face: Children of the AIDS Crisis in Africa"), Thursday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.; **Andre Agassi** ("OPEN: An Autobiography"), book-signing only, Saturday, Nov. 21, noon; and **Christos Papadimitriou** ("Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth") Monday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m.

**MORE AUTHORS...** At Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View, book talks will be given by **Audrey Shafer** ("The Mailbox"), Sunday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m.; and **Amy Bach** ("Ordinary Justice"), Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. At Books Inc. at Town & Country Village in Palo Alto, **Susan Van Allen** ("100 Places in Italy Every Woman Should Go") will speak Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. At the Stanford Bookstore on campus, **William Pack** ("The Bottom of the Sky") will hold a book-signing Saturday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m.

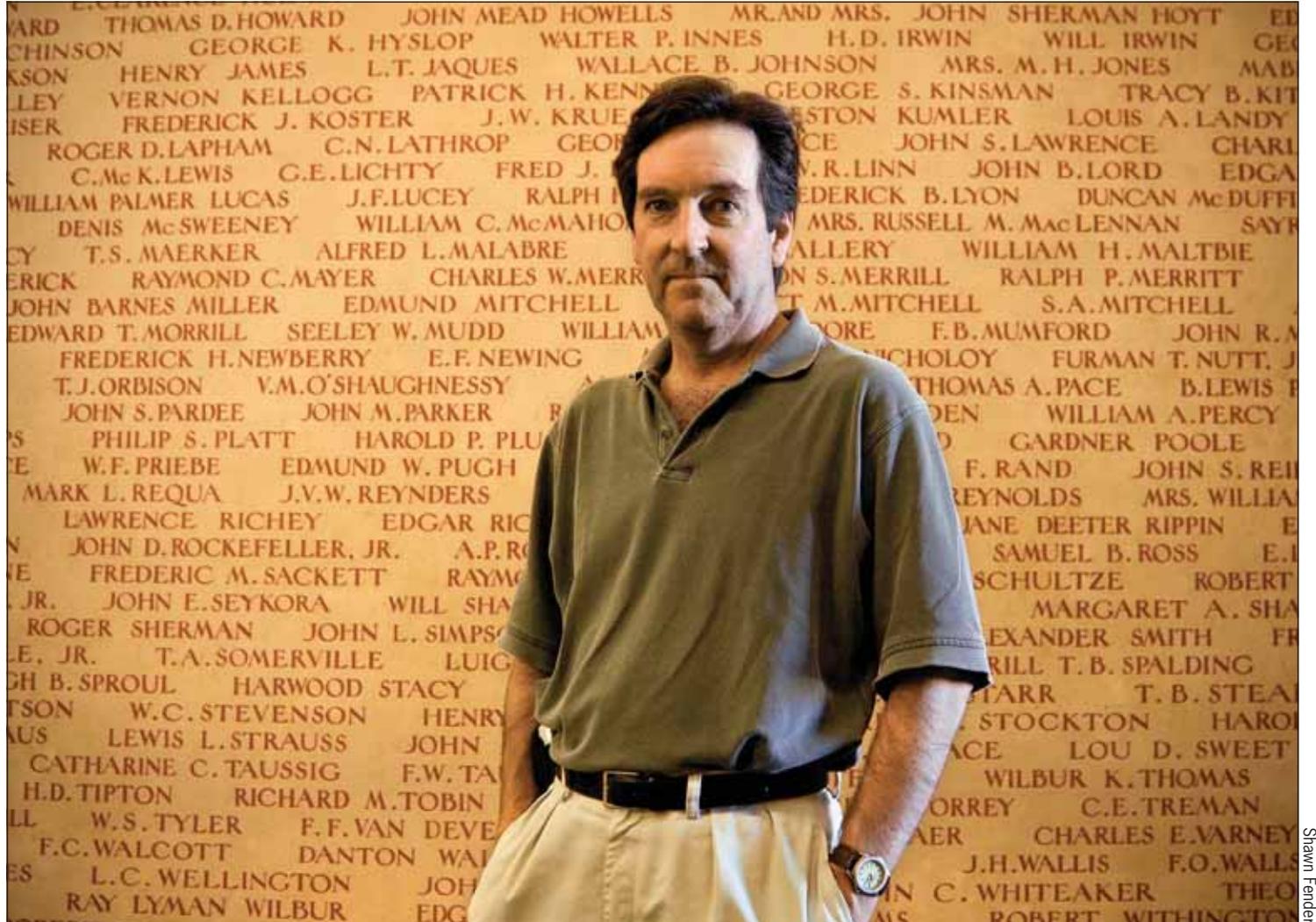
**SMASHING...** **Keith Raffel**, author of "Smasher" and "Dot Dead," will speak Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. The free event is sponsored by Friends of the Palo Alto Library.

**AUTHORS' LUNCHEON...** The 18th annual Authors' Luncheon benefiting Abilities United features presentations by **Timothy Egan** ("The Big Burn"), **Jane Hamilton** ("Laura Rider's Masterpiece"), **Yiyun Li** ("The Vagrants") and **Amy Krouse Rosenthal** ("Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons"). Held at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel at 4290 El Camino Real in Palo Alto, the Nov. 14 event includes 10:30 a.m. book sales and signings and author presentations from noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$125; call 650-618-3330.

Items for Book Talk may be sent to Associate Editor Carol Blitzer, Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 93202 or e-mailed to [cblitzer@paweekly.com](mailto:cblitzer@paweekly.com) by the last Friday of the month.

# Title Pages

A monthly section on local books and authors, edited by Rebecca Wallace



Author Bertrand M. Patenaude in the Hoover Library at Stanford University.

## REMEMBERING A REVOLUTIONARY

by Jennifer Deitz

"Trotsky: Downfall of a Revolutionary" by Bertrand M. Patenaude; Harper Collins; 370 pp.; \$27.99

**Hoover research fellow releases a meticulous biography of Leon Trotsky**

In 1940, while living in exile in a small town outside of Mexico City, Leon Trotsky — the writer, revolutionary and Marxist theorist — was startled awake at four o'clock in the morning by sounds he at first believed were fireworks, but were in fact the exploding of automatic gunfire. Attackers were invading the heavily guarded and barricaded residence where he and his wife were asleep in bed.

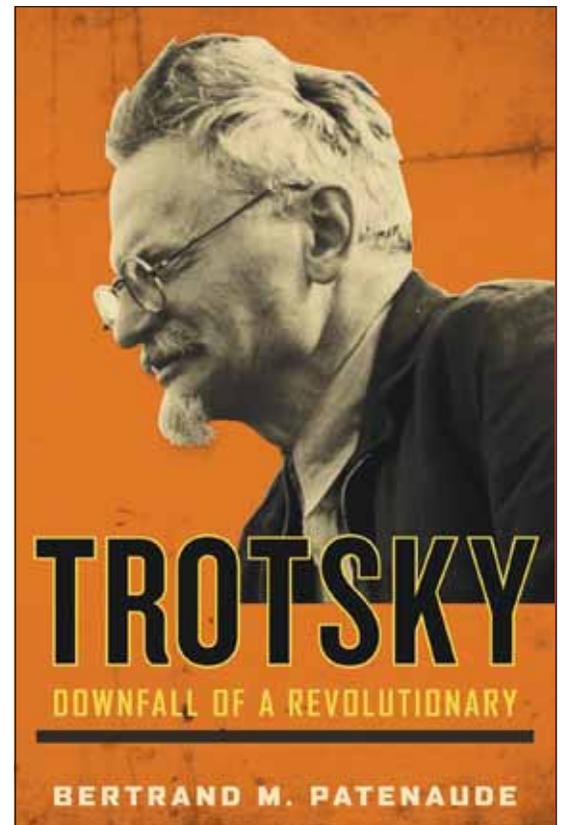
It is with this dramatic opening that Menlo Park-based writer Bertrand Patenaude launches into his well-researched and highly detailed biography of Trotsky, entitled "Trotsky: Downfall of a Revolutionary." Patenaude is a lecturer at Stanford University, a research fellow at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives, and a scholar

of Russian history.

The biography makes for a particularly fascinating read when one knows that original source material was drawn directly from letters and papers housed in Stanford archives. This includes documents uncovered in the early 1980s that up until that point had been presumed lost or stolen by the NKVD (Russian police). Among the finds at Stanford were a section of Trotsky's Paris archive that included letters written between his son, Loyva, and him. Loyva had worked on behalf of his father's political agenda until his untimely death, which Patenaude's biography suggests may have been precipitated by the Russian group of secret police known as the GPU.

Patenaude's biography of Trotsky is unusual in its structure and in the story it chooses to tell. The challenge of the biographer is to choose bits and pieces of a long

(continued on next page)



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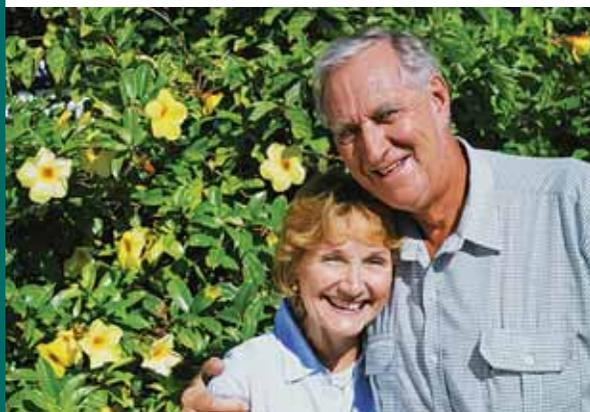
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## Trotsky

(continued from previous page)

life and put them together in a way that sheds new light and meaning on their subject. Biographers often choose what in novelistic terms might be described as a "Bildungsroman," in which they begin the story at the early stages of a subject's life and explore how certain pivotal experiences help to shape the way an individual's character develops over time.

Rather than follow this more conventional method, Patenaude chooses instead to begin his story at the very end of Trotsky's life. It's the point at which he is no longer an active participant in the political dramas that are unfolding in Europe and Russia, but rather is sidelined in exile and able to gain influence only through writings and conversations and by supporting at a distance the Trotskyists in America and Europe who continued to be active political organizers.

In earlier years, Trotsky had been a key leader (second only to Lenin) in the October revolution of 1917, helping to organize the uprising to overthrow the Russian government and bring the Bolsheviks to power. And he had also later served as founder and commander of the Red Army.

But after leading a failed effort by the Left Opposition to revolt against Joseph Stalin in the 1920s, Trotsky was deported from the Soviet Union. He lived in exile for a number of years in Turkey and then France, until — unable to find a European country that would grant him asylum — he had his cause taken up by the painter and muralist Diego Rivera, and Rivera's wife and fellow artist, Frida Kahlo.

Rivera appealed to the Mexican president Lazaro Cardenas to grant Trotsky a safe haven in Mexico. Asylum was granted, and Trotsky and his wife came to live at Rivera and Kahlo's estate known as the Blue House, in the Coyoacan region of Mexico.

It is this latter stage in Trotsky's life around which the biography is crafted. Patenaude is a highly meticulous chronicler of what life was like for Trotsky during this time of exile. The Trotsky readers are introduced to is an aging man, plagued by chronic illness and high blood pressure. Patenaude makes palpable how heavy a toll the tension and frustration of living in close quarters has taken on Trotsky, who for years on end is unable to travel too far beyond the house for fear that Russian assassins may be lurking.

The extent to which those threats are perceived or real comes into question at the outset of the biography. At this point, Trotsky and Rivera have parted ways due in part to growing political differences, but likely also — the biography suggests — to help bring to an end to the affair between Trotsky and Kahlo, which many in their circle, including Trotsky's wife, had caught wind of. (There were fears among Trotsky's circle that Rivera, who was notoriously jealous, might himself be moved to murder Trotsky were he to discover the betrayal.)

Trotsky and Natalia were now living in a new residence just a few

blocks away from the Blue House. At the close of the first chapter, as Mexican police come to investigate the break-in and shooting, testimony given by witnesses in the house raises suspicion about whether the attack was genuine or orchestrated from within — possibly as a ploy by Trotsky to generate sympathy for his cause and exile.

The biography evolves from this point into a series of flashbacks to key moments in Trotsky's career and personal life. A vivid and intricate portrait is painted of the international debates taking place in the wake of Dewey Commission hearings and the Moscow Trials addressing charges of conspiracy against Trotsky. A detailed account is also given of the love affair between Trotsky and Kahlo, who was 30 years his junior, and the devastating impact it had on his relationship with Natalia.

Patenaude also revisits the heartbreak suffered by Leon and Natalia as parents, who stood by helplessly as their children and close relatives met with tragic ends due to their affiliation with Trotsky. Some were imprisoned and exiled to Siberia, while others succumbed to suicide or were murdered.

Particularly moving are excerpts of letters describing Trotsky's deep but volatile relationship with Lyova. His son often felt both overshadowed and burdened by the obligation of setting aside his own ambition to study engineering to carry out his father's agenda under Trotsky's notoriously rigid standards.

Patenaude quotes a passage from one of Lyova's letters to Natalia, revealing their son's growing despair under the weight of having to write a lengthy refutation of evidence from the Moscow Trials, which charged both Trotsky and Lyova with having orchestrated a conspiracy to bring down the Soviet regime. Lyova wrote: "I am a beast of burden, nothing else ... I do not read, I do not learn."

Patenaude's biography trades on the suspense following the break-in at Trotsky's house, and he weaves in intriguing details of an intricate assassination plot that begins to unfold as a Soviet agent works to imbed himself in the inner circle of Trotsky's most trusted friends. The end result is an artfully crafted story.

There is a downside to structuring the biography this way, though. Although the reader is left with a clear sense of what happened to Trotsky near the end of his life and how the events that unfolded took place, the structure can be less satisfying. It may leave readers struggling to find meaning in what they have been told.

The movement back and forth can be difficult to follow for readers who are not already intimately familiar with Trotsky and the key players and events surrounding his life. And without the opportunity to view vicariously how one man's thoughts and actions contribute to his evolving over time, the reader may be left with lingering questions about Trotsky's true character, influence on history and ultimate legacy. ■

**Jennifer Deitz is a former Palo Alto Weekly reporter and a freelance writer. She can be reached at deitzjen@gmail.com.**

# Sports Shorts

**IN THE PLAYOFFS . . .** The American Youth Football play-offs move into the second round this weekend with the Palo Alto Knights's Jr. Pee Wee team opening play against Oak Grove South at Palo Alto High on Sunday at 11 a.m. The Knights earned a week off after finishing 7-1 in the regular season. Palo Alto lost to Oak Grove South in a jamboree game, 12-6, that didn't count in the standings but did beat Oak Grove two weekends ago, 18-12, to earn the first-round playoff bye. The winner of Sunday's game goes to the AYF NorCal Championship the following Sunday. Should Palo Alto win, it could face Oak Grove West in the title game. "They defeated us 28-0 in the second week for our only loss on the season," said Knights' coach **Mike Piha**. "Nobody has scored on them this year, so we hope we can get a shot at them in the championship game." The NorCal champ will advance to the Northwest Mountain Regional in Sacramento November 28, with that winner moving on to the AYF Under Armour National Championships on Dec. 5-12 in Orlando, Fla. The Palo Alto Jr. Pee Wees won't have a lot of company this weekend after two other Palo Alto teams lost playoff games and a third finished its season in a bowl game. The only Palo Alto winner last weekend was the Cadet squad, which handed host Oak Grove West a defeat in San Jose, 8-7. Palo Alto was down 7-0 with six seconds to go in the game and scored on a 74-yard "hide the ball" trick play (the QB gets the ball from the center and walks to the sideline holding the ball up, acting like he has the wrong ball and then sprints down the side line). After Palo Alto scored, the Knights elected to kick the extra point for the win (very rare for a Cadet team) and they made it to win the game. The Cadets (6-3) play Oak Grove South at Oak Grove High School on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. If the Cadets win this weekend, the team advances to the NorCal Conference championship and receive an automatic bid to the AYF Under Armour National Championship in Orlando, Fla. If Palo Alto loses, it will have one more shot at a third-place game.

## ON THE AIR

### Friday

**Women's volleyball:** Stanford at Washington, 7 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Saturday

**College football:** Oregon at Stanford, 12:41 p.m., Comcast Sports Net Bay Area; XTRA Sports (860 AM); KZSU 90.1 FM

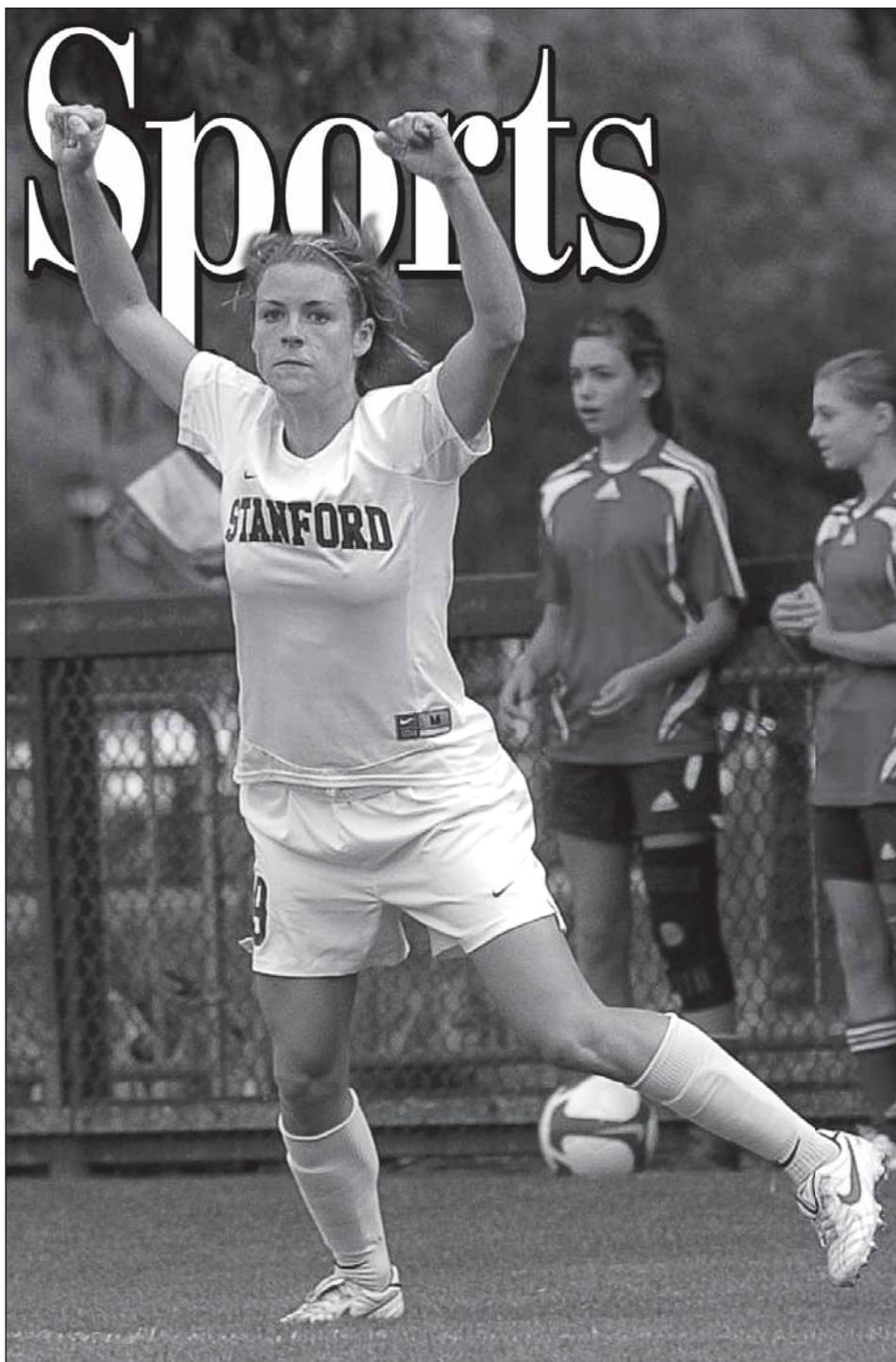
**Women's volleyball:** Stanford at Washington St., 7 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Sunday

**Women's soccer:** California at Stanford, 1 p.m.; Comcast Sports Net Bay Area

## SPORTS ONLINE

For expanded daily coverage of college and prep sports, please see our new site at [www.PASportsOnline.com](http://www.PASportsOnline.com)



It has been a season worth celebrating for senior Kelley O'Hara and her Stanford teammates, who put the nation's No. 1 women's soccer ranking on the line Saturday against visiting Cal.

## PREP FOOTBALL It's a final big push for CCS playoffs

by Keith Peters

**T**his we know for sure: The Sacred Heart Prep football team has qualified for the Central Coast Section playoffs for a second straight season.

This is what we also know: Palo Alto is all but a lock for yet another appearance in the postseason.

For Gunn, its first return to the CCS playoffs since 2002 is probable. For Menlo, the Knights certainly are on the bubble.

With the 2009 high school football regular season winding down, a lot still can happen — starting this weekend.

Sacred Heart Prep (3-1, 6-2), which clinched one of four CCS berths available to the PAL Bay Division with a 48-14 stomping of host Menlo-Atherton last week, plays host to Aragon (2-2, 5-3) on Friday at 2:45 p.m. Both teams are play-

(continued on page 35)



Gunn's Maceo Parks (20) was a yard away from scoring the winning touchdown against Los Altos before fumbling it away.

STANFORD ROUNDUP

## Soccer goals: Pac-10 title, perfect year

Cardinal women can accomplish both by beating Cal on Sunday in finale

by Rick Eyrer

**U**ntil last year, no Pac-10 women's soccer team finished the regular season unbeaten. There's still no conference team that has finished the regular season unbeaten and untied.

Top-ranked Stanford (8-0, 19-0) has that chance Sunday when California (4-4, 10-7-1) visits for a 1 p.m. Pac-10 contest that completes the regular season. The Cardinal would become the first Bay Area women's team since Santa Clara in 1999 to finish the regular season with a perfect record.

Stanford beat Arizona State, 3-1 last Friday, and Arizona State, 4-0, Sunday to get to this point.

The Cardinal already has clinched at least a share of its first conference title since 2002, and its sixth overall. There's one of the top seeds in the NCAA tournament awaiting Stanford, too. The team will watch Monday's selection show together on ESPNNews at 5 p.m.

With its postseason presence guaranteed, is there a chance the Cardinal will be looking past the Bears?

"There's still something specific at stake," Stanford assistant coach Jay Cooney said. "I don't think they want to share the title. They are very focused. This team has done a great job of taking each game for that game."

UCLA finished the regular season last year with an 18-0-2 overall record, winning its sixth consecutive Pac-10 championship. Both Stanford and the Bruins have previously finished the regular season with one loss.

Of course, a win over Cal would do more than give Stanford bragging rights. It would also clinch the outright conference title and, probably, the overall No. 1 seed for the NCAA tournament.

"Plus it's a local rivalry," Cardinal assistant coach Theresa Wagner said. "Records basically get thrown

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## STANFORD FOOTBALL Cardinal can't duck these tough numbers

by Rick Eyrer

**J**im Harbaugh went into rather graphic detail describing a video making the rounds on the internet of a lion and alligator attacking a water buffalo. He used his hands and face to simulate the lion's nails ripping through flesh and gnawing on bone.

The video has a happy ending though, as the water buffalo survives the attack. Thus, he draws inspiration for Saturday's Pac-10 football confrontation between host Stanford and conference-leading Oregon, scheduled for a 12:41 p.m. kickoff.

With a remaining schedule that includes the seventh-ranked Ducks, 12th-ranked USC, 23rd-ranked California and 19th-ranked Notre Dame, Stanford will have its hands full trying to gain that elusive sixth win to become bowl eligible.

No wonder Harbaugh feels like

(continued on page 36)

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**NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON THE  
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FOR THREE TERMS ENDING JANUARY 31, 2013  
(Terms of Marchiel, Palaniappan, and one vacant term)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Library Advisory Commission from persons interested in serving in one of three terms ending January 31, 2013.

Eligibility Requirements: The Library Advisory Commission is composed of seven members who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council, but who shall not be Council Members, officers or employees of the City of Palo Alto. Each member of the Commission shall have a demonstrated interest in public library matters. All members of the Commission shall at all times be residents of the City of Palo Alto. Regular meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Purpose and Duties: The purpose of the Library Advisory Commission shall be to advise the City Council on matters relating to the Palo Alto City Library, excluding daily administrative operations. The Commission shall have the following duties:

1. Advise the City Council on planning and policy matters pertaining to: a) the goals of and the services provided by the Palo Alto City Library; b) the future delivery of the services by the Palo Alto City Library; c) the City Manager's recommendations pertaining to the disposition of major gifts of money, personal property and real property to the City to be used for library purposes; d) the construction and renovation of capital facilities of the Palo Alto City Library; and e) joint action projects with other public or private information entities, including libraries.
2. Review state legislative proposals that may affect the operation of the Palo Alto City Library.
3. Review the City Manager's proposed budget for capital improvements and operations relating to the Palo Alto City Library, and thereafter forward any comments to one or more of the applicable committees of the Council.
4. Provide advice upon such other matters as the City Council may from time to time assign.
5. Receive community input concerning the Palo Alto City Library.
6. Review and comment on fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Palo Alto City Library.

The Library Advisory Commission shall not have the power or authority to cause the expenditure of City funds or to bind the City to any written or implied contract.

Appointment information and application forms are available in the City Clerk's Office, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (Phone: 650-329-2571) or may be obtained on the website at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org>.

Deadline for receipt of applications in the City Clerk's Office is 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 20, 2009. If one of the incumbents does not reapply the application deadline will be extended to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

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*GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL*

## High seed is the next goal

*Palo Alto hoping to get No. 2 or 3 seed for CCS Division II playoffs*

by Keith Peters

The numbers have been downright staggering for the Palo Alto girls' volleyball team this season. The Vikings rode a 30-match winning streak into this week, a string of four straight SCVAL De Anza Division titles and a streak of 11 consecutive league victories.

While those numbers were expected to increase by one following Thursday's regular-season finale at home, Paly coach Dave Winn has his own special number for the season — three.

That's the seed he hopes the Vikings will receive this weekend when the Central Coast Section Division II bracket is determined. A No. 3 seed likely will earn Paly a first-round bye and a ticket to the quarterfinals on Nov. 14.

A No. 3 seed also would place the Vikings in the bracket opposite unbeaten Mitty, which should receive the No. 1 seed as arguably the No. 1 team in the nation. Should Paly advance to the semifinals, Winn would prefer playing Presentation (the expected No. 2 seed) than Mitty. If St. Francis gets the No. 3 seed and Paly the No. 4, Mitty would be the semifinal opponent instead (if the seeds hold true).

Palo Alto might even get the No. 2 seed, which would keep it in the bracket with Presentation and provide the Vikings with an even easier quarterfinal matchup.

Palo Alto hasn't played in a CCS championship match since 2000, when the Vikings set a school record for single-season victories during a 34-9 campaign that saw them lose to St. Francis in the CCS and NorCal title matches.

Winn, in his fourth season at Palo Alto, hasn't been in a CCS finale since 2002. He was coaching at Los Altos that year. The Eagles lost to Presentation in the section finals and then were beaten by El Molino in a NorCal opener.

"I've never ended a season with a win," he said.

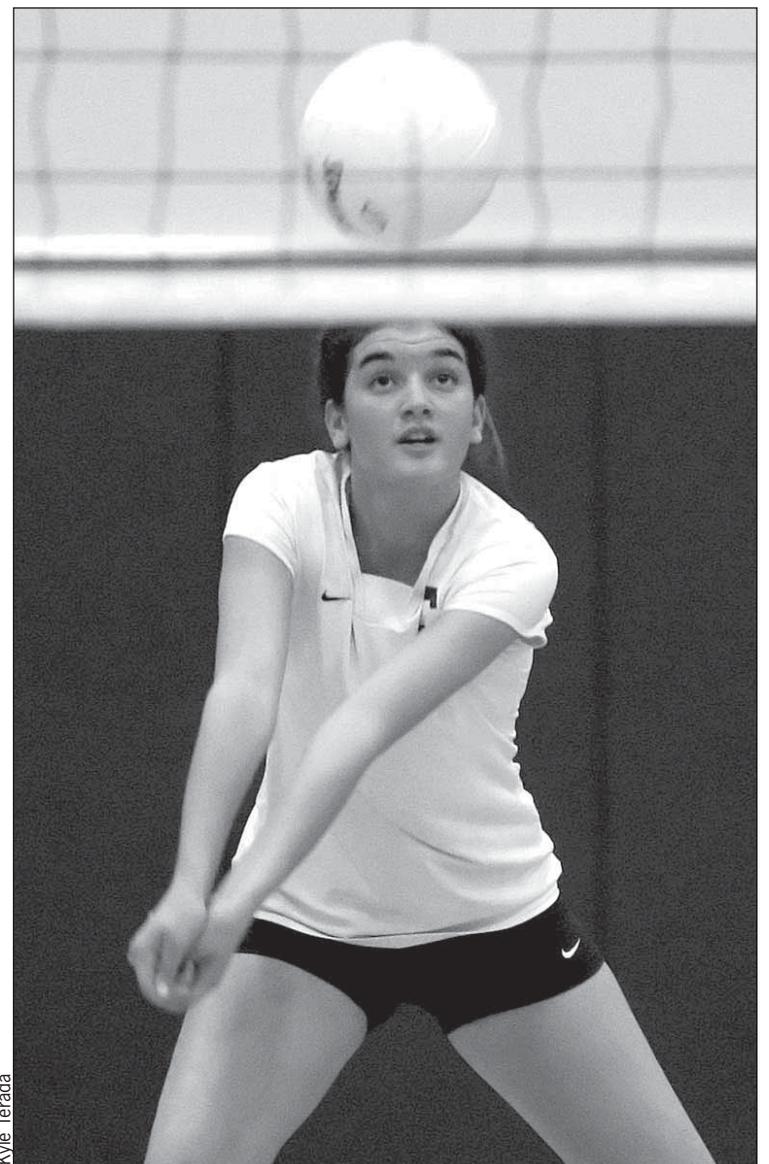
Thus, Winn and his players have a lot to shoot for in the next couple of weeks. The only question now is when will the winning streak and season end?

"It's inevitable," Winn said of the possibility of losing. "It'll happen."

In fact, Winn always has a speech prepared, just in case.

"I always have it in the back of my head," he said. "You always prepare for the downside, and hope for the upside."

There has been no downside, however, since Palo Alto played in the first Milpitas Spikefest on Sept. 5, going 2-3. Winn said that first tourney was the turning point of the



*Palo Alto senior Marissa Florant has been one of many standout players during a 32-3 season, which includes a league title.*

season.

"After we lost to Carmont, I didn't think we played with a lot of heart or passion," Winn explained, telling his players: "We have to move forward together."

Winn said his team needed to buy into the system, which is a level of effort in practice.

"We had practiced a lot before that tournament and I expected a lot more from them," he said. "Since then, I've had no complaints."

That's because since then, Palo Alto hasn't lost.

The Vikings (32-3) went 7-0 last week, beating Homestead and Los Gatos to win the SCVAL De Anza Division crown and then going 5-0 on Saturday to capture the annual Spikefest II tournament at Independence High in San Jose.

The Vikings certainly were ready for a letdown after beating Los Gatos in five games two nights early, but it didn't happen. Paly kept right on rolling — winning the Gold Division championship and stretching their winning streak to 30 straight matches.

"For as young a team as I have," said Winn, "it's amazing for them to keep that focus. . . . These girls are as professional as can be for amateur volleyball players."

Paly opened the tourney with victories over Harbor (25-13, 25-6), North Salinas (25-16, 25-21) and Carmel (25-22, 25-12) in the bracket play.

The Vikings then faced a very good St. Ignatius team in the first round of the Gold Division playoffs.

Despite the Wildcats' fast offensive attack and good ball control, Paly was able to persevere, 18-25, 25-23, 15-12. That set up the showdown in the Gold finals against Sacred Heart Cathedral. SHC had just taken nationally ranked Mitty to five games on Thursday, so Paly had its hands full.

Palo Alto went to a third game again, and this time Paly's tough serving and blocking allowed the Vikings to cruise to a 25-20, 19-25, 15-5 victory and the championship. Paly is nine for nine when playing in deciding games this season.

Winn said his team practices for just that specific point of the match.

"Minimizing errors at that point is crucial," he explained. "You don't have to score points, just don't score points for the other team (with mistakes)."

The Spikefest II was Palo Alto's third tournament title of the season, a school record. Senior Marissa Florant paced the offense with 39 kills, followed by sophomore Melanie Wade with 28 kills ("playing some of her best volleyball of the season," said Winn), sophomore Maddie Kuppe with 25 and junior Trina Ohms with 19. Junior libero/defensive specialist Megan Coleman had 48 digs, nine aces and seven assists.

"It's never been just one person," Winn said.

Also at the Spikefest II, Gunn went 4-1 and finished as champions

(continued on page 38)

## Gunn, Palo Alto runners need to get healthy in a hurry with CCS championships a week away

by Keith Peters

In just one week, the top runners in the Central Coast Section will gather at Crystal Springs in Belmont and race over the hilly 2.95-mile layout to decide who goes to the CIF State Meet in cross country and who does not.

That leaves little time for local teams to prepare and, most importantly, get back to full strength. If there one common foe these days, it's poor health.

As Gunn coach Ernie Lee said following the SCVAL El Camino Division finals on Tuesday at Crystal Springs: "It sucks having people sick."

While both the Gunn and Palo Alto boys and girls had their share of illness or injury (or both), all four varsity squads still qualified for the CCS finals on Nov. 14.

The Gunn girls ran without Emma Dohner, who was out sick. Lisa Fawcett, the team's top finisher

a year ago at the league finals, also was sick but still ran. She finished 33rd in 23:05. Last season when she was healthy, Fawcett finished third in a personal record of 18:45.

Gunn senior Claire O'Connell, who normally runs as the team's fourth or fifth scorer, was the No. 2 finisher Tuesday in 19:06, trailing only junior Erin Robinson's third-place time of 18:55.

Despite the health issues, the Gunn girls were second with 61 points while Mountain View defended its crown with 27. Palo Alto was third with 77 as Kathleen Higgins (20:10), Susan Heinselmann (20:28), Gracie Cain (20:32) and Leigh Dairaghi (20:38) all finished among the top 16.

The Gunn boys also finished second to defending champ Mountain View, scoring 56 points to the Spartans' 22. Senior Paul Summers led the Titans with a second-place finish of 15:09 with senior Alex

Johann seventh (16:03) and senior Robert Chen 10th (16:08).

"Very few of my kids ran faster than they did three weeks ago," Lee said. "That's a little concerning."

Summers missed a sub-15:00 time that would have gotten him on the all-time list at the course, but the warm weather ruined his attempt.

While Summer was happy with his fitness, Palo Alto senior Philip MacQuitty was not. He finished fifth in 15:57, hobbled by a right knee problem. Last season he took second despite recovering from a sprained ankle.

"My fitness is a problem," explained MacQuitty, who said he went out for a long run a short time ago and had to stop three times. While he wasn't fit enough for a fast race Tuesday, he hopes to be ready for the CCS meet, where the top three teams will advance to the state meet along with handful of individuals. ■



Keith Peters

Gunn senior Paul Summers (1129) chased Mountain View's Garrett Rowe (right) to the finish line at the league finals this week.

## Prep football

(continued from page 33)

ing for CCS seeds at this point, with first-place Terra Nova (4-0) a win away from locking up the No. 1.

Palo Alto (3-0-1, 6-1-1), which took over sole possession of first place in the SCVAL De Anza Division with a 34-12 victory over Los Gatos last week, can win the outright title with two more victories. The Vikings can start that procedure by beating host Mountain View (0-5, 3-5) on Friday at 2:45 p.m. and finish it with a win at Wilcox (3-1, 6-2) on Nov. 13.

Gunn (3-1, 5-3) had its first outright championship since 1971 in its sights until dropping a 23-21 heart-breaker to host Los Altos last Saturday. The Titans visit Santa Clara (1-3, 1-7) on Friday at Buchser Middle School (7:30 p.m.) before finishing the year by hosting Cupertino (0-5, 2-6) on Nov. 13. A possible co-title in the SCVAL El Camino Division is still very likely, but Gunn needs some help in order to get the division's No. 1 seed for CCS.

Likewise, Menlo (2-2, 5-3) is still battling for its playoff life after handing former PAL Ocean Division leader Burlingame its first loss last week, 21-14. The Knights, who host Carlmont on Friday at 2:45 p.m., can actually finish in a five-way tie for first place. Here's the scenario for that:

Menlo beats Carlmont to finish 3-2. Half Moon Bay (3-1) loses to Burlingame to finish 3-2. Burlingame (2-1) beats Half Moon Bay and loses to San Mateo to finish 3-2. San Mateo (2-1) loses to South San Francisco and beats Burlingame to finish 3-2. South San Francisco (2-2) beats San Mateo to finish 3-2.

It's that wild and unpredictable. It's not quite that wild in the SCVAL De Anza Division, where Palo Alto can wrap up a CCS berth by beating Mountain View on Friday. With a 4-0-1 division record (7-1-1 overall), the Vikings would be guaranteed no worse than a top-three finish while holding tiebreak-

ers over Homestead, Milpitas and Saratoga.

Palo Alto, of course, wants to win the league title. The Vikings positioned themselves for just that with its big win over visiting Los Gatos. Junior quarterback T.J. Braff threw for 254 yards and three touchdowns, senior speedster Maurice Williams scored on two long electrifying plays and senior Joc Pederson caught two TD passes to lead the Vikings.

Not only was this Paly's first homecoming win over Los Gatos this decade, but it was the Vikings' first homefield victory over the Wildcats since 1995.

"This is huge," said Paly coach Earl Hansen. "They've had our number for a long time." Los Gatos had won eight of the previous 10 meetings between the teams.

Palo Alto is controlling things now. The Vikings are 3-0-1 and atop the SCVAL De Anza Division standings. Los Gatos (3-1, 6-2) fell into a tie for second with Wilcox (3-1, 6-2), which routed Milpitas, 49-26, on Friday and dropped the Trojans (2-2, 6-2) into fifth place behind Homestead (2-1-1), which beat Fremont in a nonleague game.

Since Los Gatos still has to play Wilcox (on Friday) and then Milpitas, Palo Alto is in the proverbial driver's seat. The Vikings' 20-20 tie with Homestead three weeks ago could come back to haunt them, should Los Gatos or Wilcox win their final two and finish 5-1 while the Vikings split and finish 4-1-1.

Then again, even if Wilcox beats Paly, the Vikings could win the title outright if Los Gatos beats Wilcox and Milpitas beats Los Gatos. All three of those teams would finish 4-2 in league with Paly on top at 4-1-1.

All Gunn needed to do to win its first league title since 1971 was to win its final three games. All the Titans had to do was take care of the ball and not hurt themselves with mistakes. That didn't happen Saturday as the Eagles (4-1, 5-3) took advantage to possibly ruin Gunn's season.

"We made too many mistakes," said Gunn coach Bob Sykes. "Mis-

take after mistake after mistake. "You just can't make mistakes and win games."

Gunn quarterback Anthony Cannon lost two fumbles and threw two interceptions. One fewer mistake likely would have taken points off the scoreboard and been enough to give Gunn the win.

Sacred Heart Prep took care of business against host Menlo-Atherton, which brought in temporary lights for the first time. The Gators, however, turned off the lights for the Bears (0-3, 1-7) in a flash.

After Robert Ojeda took the opening kick 35 yards, the Gators scored on the first play from scrimmage on a 40-yard pass from quarterback John Geary to a streaking Chris Gaertner. Prep then scored consecutive touchdowns on drives of three plays and two plays to open a 19-0 first quarter lead from which M-A could not recover.

Matt Walter scored the touchdowns on those two drives on runs of 24 and 19 yards. Walter led all rushers with 110 yards on 12 carries. The Gators rushed for 273 yards and Geary threw for a season-high 121 yards and two touchdowns. Gaertner had 85 yards receiving to go with his 47 yards of rushing and also scored two touchdowns.

Although the Bears did not muster a comeback, Menlo-Atherton rushed for more than 200 yards and passed for more than 100 yards for the first time in a game.

At Burlingame High, Danny Diekroger completed 19 of 27 passes for 311 yards and two touchdowns to spark Menlo to its big victory over first-place Burlingame.

The Knights prevented Burlingame from taking sole possession of first place with a goal-line stand, converted a fake punt from their own end zone and then got a 59-yard touchdown pass from Diekroger to Clay Robbins to earn the victory. Robbins finished the game with 10 receptions for 194 yards and one TD.

-- Tim Goode contributed to this story.



### NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR FOUR, THREE-YEAR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012 (Terms of Davidson, Losch, King and Walsh)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Parks and Recreation Commission from persons interested in serving on one of four three-year terms ending December 31, 2012.

Eligibility Requirements: Composed of seven members who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council, but who shall not be Council Members, officers or employees of the City of Palo Alto. Each member of the commission shall have a demonstrated interest in parks, open space and recreation matters. All members of the commission shall at all times be residents of the City of Palo Alto. Regular meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Duties: The Parks and Recreation Commission shall advise the City Council on matters relating to the activities of the Parks and Golf Division and the Recreation, Open Space and Sciences Division of the Community Services Department, excluding daily administrative operations. The commission shall also advise the City Council on planning and policy matters pertaining to the goals of and the services provided by the Parks and Golf Division and the Recreation, Open Space and Sciences Division of the Community Services Department, review state legislative proposals that may affect the operation of the Parks and Golf Division and Recreation, Open Space and Sciences Division of the Community Services Department, review the City Manager's proposed budget for capital improvements and operations relating to the Parks and Golf Division and Recreation, Open Space and Sciences Division of the Community Services Department, and thereafter forward any comments to one or more of the applicable committees of the City Council.

Appointment information and application forms are available in the City Clerk's Office, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (Phone: 650-329-2571), or at [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org).

Deadline for receipt of applications in the City Clerk's Office is 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 20, 2009. If one of the incumbents does not reapply the deadline will be extended to Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

**PALO ALTO RESIDENCY IS A REQUIREMENT.**

DONNA J. GRIDER  
City Clerk



## Palo Alto Unified School District

25 Churchill Avenue,  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

### GUNN HIGH SCHOOL MASTER PLAN NOTICE OF REVIEW PERIOD FOR NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/ NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR

#### Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California

To: Public Agencies and Concerned Citizens/  
Interested Parties From: Palo Alto Unified School District  
25 Churchill Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

**Project Applicant:** Palo Alto Unified School District

**Notice:** Notice is hereby given that the Palo Alto Unified School District ("PAUSD"), acting as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the subject project. The review period has been extended to November 19, 2009.

**Project Location:** The project site is located at 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, California. The parcel is located northeast of the intersection of Arastradero Road and Foothill Expressway.

**Project Description:** The proposed projects feature construction of new buildings and other structures; renovation of some existing buildings; utility and infrastructure improvements; landscaping enhancements; entry and courtyard upgrades; and pedestrian/bicycle/vehicular circulation improvements. Projects under the first group include construction of two new classroom buildings, a second gymnasium, and modernization of the existing gymnasium. Group 2 projects include construction of new performing arts and science classrooms, improvements to Spangenberg Theater and modernization of the existing math building to accommodate special education programs. Please refer to the project descriptions within the Initial Study document for further information on unfunded projects.

**Potential Environmental Impacts:** Some potentially significant impacts were identified related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, transportation/traffic, utilities and services systems. Each of these impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level if the identified mitigation measures are implemented. PAUSD has agreed to implement the mitigation measures and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, thereby decreasing these impacts to less than significant.

**Public Review Period:** The public review period for the Draft Initial Study extends through November 19, 2009.

**Location Where Documents Can Be Reviewed:** PAUSD has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the subject project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. These documents are available for review at 1) the Palo Alto Unified School District Main Office, 25 Churchill, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306, and 2) on the PAUSD website.

Comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received, in writing, by the end of the review period, November 19, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.  
Submit comments to Tom Hodges  
Palo Alto Unified School District  
25 Churchill, Building D, Palo Alto, California 94306  
Phone: (650) 329-3700 Fax: (650) 327-3588

For Comments on the Application please contact: Tom Hodges,  
Program Director, 650-329-3972, thodges@pausd.org



## Palo Alto Unified School District

25 Churchill Avenue,  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

### PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL MASTER PLAN NOTICE OF REVIEW PERIOD FOR NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/ NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR

#### Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California

To: Public Agencies and Concerned Citizens/  
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**Project Location:** The project site is located at 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California. The parcel is located southeast of the intersection of Embarcadero Road and El Camino Real.

**Project Description:** The proposed project features construction of new buildings and other structures; renovation of some existing buildings; utility and infrastructure improvements; landscaping enhancements; and pedestrian/bicycle/vehicular circulation improvements. Group 1 projects include improvements to athletic fields. Group 2 projects include a two-story classroom building, and a two-story media arts complex. Group 3 projects include a new 600-seat theater with support facilities, renovation of the existing Library, a 150-seat lecture hall in Building 300A, and a new weight training and fitness center. Please refer to the project descriptions within the Initial Study document for further information on unfunded projects.

**Potential Environmental Impacts:** Some potentially significant impacts were identified related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, transportation/traffic, utilities, and services systems. Each of these impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level if the identified mitigation measures are implemented. PAUSD has agreed to implement the mitigation measures and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, thereby decreasing these impacts to less than significant.

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Submit comments to Tom Hodges  
Palo Alto Unified School District  
25 Churchill, Building D, Palo Alto, California 94306  
Phone: (650) 329-3700 Fax: (650) 327-3588

For Comments on the Application please contact: Tom Hodges,  
Program Director, 650-329-3972, thodges@pausd.org

### Stanford football

(continued from page 33)

he's outnumbered.

"These are extraordinary circumstances and an opportunity for our football team to express itself," he said. "We're very aware of that opportunity."

The Cardinal (4-2, 5-3) has been here before; needing a win in one of its last three games in 2008 to reach win No. 6, but falling to Oregon, USC and Cal. Notre Dame beat Stanford in week six last year.

November has not been kind to Stanford in recent years. The Cardinal is 4-22 in such games (5-23 if early December games are counted) since the 2002 season.

Under Harbaugh, it's been 1-7 (2-8), though last year was the second time (with 2005) where a win in one of the final couple of games would have sent Stanford to a bowl game.

The Cardinal is still off to its best start since going 6-2 in 2001, and there's still some energy left over from the historic win over USC two years ago. But history remains against Stanford.

The Cardinal is 1-16 against nationally ranked opponents since beating then-No. 5 Oregon and then No.-4 UCLA in consecutive weeks in October of 2001.

"This is a huge opportunity for us if we want to take the next step," Stanford senior running back Toby Gerhart said. "We have a chance to beat the best team in the Pac-10. It feels like there's a greater commitment to watching film and the intensity on the practice field is a little better."

Gerhart, redshirt freshman quarterback Andrew Luck and the offensive line will play an important role in Stanford's hopes of achieving its goal.

"I feel like we can run on them," Gerhart said, "and hopefully we can keep their offense off the field."

Oregon's offense has gone on a rampage since a season-opening 19-8 loss to Boise State. The Ducks have outscored their past seven opponents by a combined 277-118 margin and are averaging nearly 400 yards a game.

While Luck is the overall Pac-10 leader in pass efficiency, Oregon's Jeremiah Masoli leads the category in conference games only.

Gerhart is the overall Pac-10 leader in rushing, but the Ducks' LaMichael James is tops in conference competition.

"They are formidable across the board," Harbaugh said. "We have to be more focused and more prepared than we have in any other week this season. We have to do as many things right as we possibly can."

Oregon owns a seven-game winning streak against the Cardinal, its longest current streak against a conference opponent. The Ducks can match a single-season school record with their eighth straight victory.

Masoli, who will certainly become Oregon's top rushing quarterback in history, has local roots. He attended Serra High in San Mateo for three years before running afoul of the law. He was asked to leave

(continued on next page)

## Stanford roundup

(continued from page 33)

out the window.”

Last year's Stanford team finished with 71 goals and a Pac-10 record 209 points in 25 games. UCLA holds the team record for goals scored with 76 in 2000.

Cardinal senior forward Kelley O'Hara owns school single-season records with 20 goals and 49 points. UCLA's Lauren Cheney matched the conference record with 23 goals in 2006. Cal's Laura Schott also scored 23 in 2000. UCLA's Traci Arkenberg holds the points' record with 52 in 1995.

Stanford junior forward Christen Press needs one assist to match Marcie Ward's school record of 14, and another four to match the Pac-10 record of 18 set by Washington State's Melissa Bennett in 2002.

It's also Senior Day and Stanford will honor O'Hara, Ali Riley, Alicia Jenkins and Kristin Stannard, a group that stands as a torch-bearer in helping return the Cardinal to national prominence.

On Sunday, Jenkins will be appearing in her 89th career match and will be making her 79th start, both tops among the seniors.

Stanford has had great teams and great players in the past, but perhaps this has become the best era in school history.

In the 90 games (so far) the four seniors can take some credit for winning 71 of them, tying eight others and losing 11.

There are other remarkable numbers that support their legacy, as in outscoring opponents by a 220-50 margin, which averages to 2.44-0.56 per contest. In 2006-07, Stanford scored a combined 83 goals and allowed 31. The past two years saw a dramatic shift: 137 goals scored to 19 allowed.

The past four years have produced Olympians, U.S. national team members, future pro soccer stars and other exceptional players. What the senior class would really like to accomplish is giving Stanford its first NCAA women's soccer title.

To get there, however, means to show up each day ready to play.

"This team is so workmanlike that they take whatever comes," Cooney said. "They go out and enjoy the 90 minutes of soccer."

### Men's water polo

Third-ranked Stanford heads to Long Beach State for a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation contest on Saturday at noon, and then goes to UC Irvine for a Sunday match, also at noon.

The Cardinal (4-0, 17-1) beat UC



Kyle Terada/Stanford Athletics

Jacob Smith scored three goals as the Stanford men's water polo team beat visiting UC Davis, 10-2, in a nonconference match Wednesday.

Davis Wednesday night in a non-conference game, 10-2.

Stanford looks to remain in contention for the No. 1 seed in the MPSF tournament. While a loss to California in the SoCal tournament cost its top ranking, the Cardinal maintains its own destiny, with conference matches against both USC and California ahead.

Stanford certainly cannot afford to look past either the eighth-ranked 49ers or the seventh-ranked Anteaters.

Long Beach State goalie Derek Wiebe-Bailey is second in the MPSF with 9.18 saves per game. UC Irvine has won eight of its past 10 games.

Stanford senior Drac Wigo leads the MPSF with 2.87 goals per game, while Janson Wigo is fourth with 2.13 goals per game. Jacob Smith's five-goal effort against UCSB bumped him into a tie for 16th with 1.47 goals per game, and Travis Noll's hat trick moved him up to 22nd with 1.35 goals per game.

On the goalkeeping side, Jimmie Sandman's 8.82 saves per game is third in the MPSF while his 4.94 goals-against average is fifth.

Stanford boasts the most potent offense in the conference, scoring 12.77 goals per game while on the defensive end the Cardinal is second, allowing just 5.47 goals per game.

### Women's volleyball

The Pac-10 conference lead and possibly the title will be at stake Friday night when fifth-ranked Stanford (8-3, 15-6) visits fourth-ranked

Washington (9-2, 19-2) for a 7 p.m. first serve.

The Cardinal handed the Huskies their first loss of the season in their last meeting. Washington is particularly tough at home (6-0) and is the only Pac-10 team to successfully defend its home court every time out.

The Huskies also feature one of the top liberos in the country in senior Tamari Miyashiro, who is second on the Pac-10 all-time digs list with 2,233, 152 behind Arizona State's Sydney Donahue.

The Cardinal counters with junior Gabi Ailes, who is on pace to threaten the conference career mark. She is 18 digs away from moving into second place on Stanford's all-time digs list.

Stanford also visits 24th-ranked Washington State on Saturday at 7 p.m. The Cougars handed Washington its only other loss of the year to date, beating the Huskies in Pullman.

### Women's swimming

Three of the top teams in the country will meet in Gainesville, when Stanford (1-0) crosses the country to take on fellow NCAA championship participants, Michigan (3-2) and Florida (3-1) on Friday at 4 p.m. (PT) and Saturday at 5:30 a.m. (PT).

The Cardinal finished fourth at the NCAA meet last year, while the Gators were seventh and the Wolverines were 24th.

The Cardinal feature 12 All-Americans, Florida returns 11 and Michigan five. Each has at least one individual champion on its roster. ■

Harbaugh said. "He's as good a dual threat quarterback as there is in the country. He executes with tremendous precision in the option game."

The Ducks also run a no-huddle offense in addition to its extraordinary offensive skills. Talk about running a defense ragged.

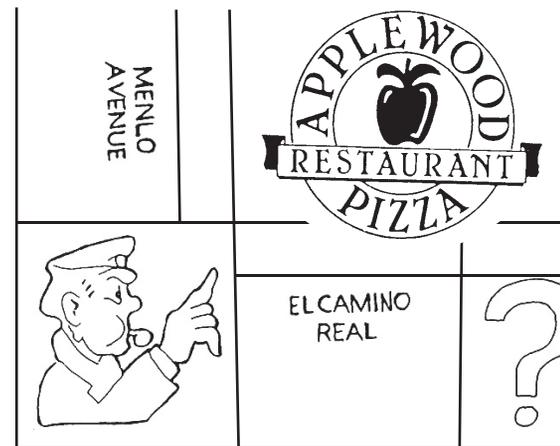
"It's been trial and error trying to figure out how to play them the last couple of years," Stanford senior linebacker Clinton Snyder said. "This year I think we're going to try and simply things. You just have to be ready and in the right spot. We

have to be on top of our game."

Which is why Stanford's offense is so important this week: keep the ball and let the defense rest.

"They love running down the field. We definitely want to control the ball," Luck said. "We are working hard on taking care of the ball. They feed off your mistakes and they don't give you second chances."

Thrown to the Ducks doesn't have near the same ring as Lions, so here's to the water buffalos of the world who survive natural selection. ■



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## 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. In accordance with A.B. 886, **this document will be available for review and comment during a minimum 20-day inspection period beginning November 6 to November 30, 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.

### **1700 Embarcadero Road (Mings Restaurant & Hotel)\*:**

Review and recommendation of requests for: (1) an Amendment to the Zoning Map to Change the Zone Designation from Planned Community (PC) to Service Commercial (CS) with the Site and Design (D) Combining District, (2) Site and Design Review of the proposed restaurant and hotel building, and (3) a Variance to allow a greater setback (less than the 50% "build to" requirement) along a portion of Embarcadero Road. Environmental Assessment: An Initial Study has been completed and a draft Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

The project for which the Negative Declaration is proposed will be considered at a public hearing scheduled for the Planning and Transportation Commission on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers on the first floor of the Civic Center, located at 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Written comments on the Negative Declaration will be accepted until 5:00 PM on November 30, 2009 in the Planning and Community Environment Department Civic Center offices on the fifth floor of City Hall.

###

**Curtis Williams,  
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.

*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.*

## Stanford football

(continued from previous page)

school, and he moved to Hawaii with his family to continue his prep education.

Masoli took advantage of the fresh start, also using a grayshirt season, to make amends and refocus on football, which led him to San Francisco City College for a year before his transfer to Oregon.

"It's tough to stop him; we're going to try and slow him down,"

# PINEWOOD SCHOOL

Open House Events

**November 7**  
Grades 3-6  
9:00 am – 11:00 am  
327 Fremont Avenue  
Los Altos  
650.209.3060

**November 7**  
Grades 7-12  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
26800 Fremont Road  
Los Altos Hills  
650.209.3020

**November 14**  
Grades K-2  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
477 Fremont Avenue  
Los Altos  
650.209.3060

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THROUGH  
12

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[www.pinewood.edu](http://www.pinewood.edu)



## Sports

### ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Megan Coleman**  
Palo Alto High

The junior libero had 36 digs and four aces as the Vikings clinched the league volleyball title with wins over Homestead and Los Gatos, then added 48 digs, 9 aces and 7 assists as Paly went 5-0 and won the Spikefest II.



**Joc Pederson**  
Palo Alto High

The senior wide receiver/defensive back caught three passes for 107 yards and two touchdowns, intercepted a pass to set up a third TD and limited Los Gatos' top receiver to 46 yards as the Vikings took over first place.

#### Honorable mention

**Becca Dorst\***

Menlo-Atherton water polo

**Emily Dorst\***

Menlo-Atherton water polo

**Marissa Florant\***

Palo Alto volleyball

**Allie Frappier**

Menlo volleyball

**Brenna Nelsen**

Castilleja golf

**Marie Trudelle**

The Priory volleyball

**T.J. Braff**

Palo Alto football

**David Culpan\***

Sacred Heart Prep water polo

**Danny Diekroeger\***

Menlo football

**Max Lippe\***

Pinewood football

**Clay Robbins\***

Menlo football

**Matt Walter**

Sacred Heart Prep football

\* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to [www.PASportsOnline.com](http://www.PASportsOnline.com)

## Prep volleyball

(continued from page 34)

of the Bronze Division (ninth overall) while Menlo School went 4-1 to place 17th out of 32 teams.

Menlo charged into this week in a big way, settling the West Bay Athletic League (Foothill Division) race with a 27-25, 23-25, 19-25, 25-18, 15-8 triumph over visiting Sacred Heart Prep on Tuesday.

That handed the league title to unbeaten Mercy-Burlingame. Sacred Heart Prep fell to 7-2 in league (20-9 overall) with one match remaining. Menlo improved to 4-5 in league (15-17) and kept its slim postseason hopes alive with an emotional victory on Senior Night.

Last year, Menlo defeated Sacred Heart Prep a few hundred yards up Valparaiso Avenue on the Gators' Senior Night in a dramatic five-set win on Election Day. Exactly a year later, the Gators tried to return the favor after Menlo recognized graduating seniors Elizabeth Augustus, Tess Brown, Courtney Laub, Sarah Rosales and Mila Sheeline.

In the deciding fifth game, things were tied at 6 when Rosales recorded her third kill of the game and went back to serve. And serve. And serve. Sheeline had three kills during the run, and the Knights led 13-6 before Rosales' serving run finally ended. Menlo ended the match on a thunderous kill from junior Allie Frappier.

Frappier, who just recently returned to action after reportedly suffering a concussion, had career-highs of 27 kills and 24 digs, and Sheeline also recorded all-time bests with 13 kills and 14 digs for Menlo. Augustus had 19 digs, and Rosales hit .308 with nine kills and two aces, scoring four points in the fifth by herself.

That big victory over SHP, however, drained the Knights for their match on Wednesday against host Castilleja, which came away with a surprisingly easy 25-19, 25-16, 25-20 triumph. The Gators finished the regular season at 5-5 in league (15-12 overall) while the Knights fell to 4-6 (15-18) and now are on the bubble for the CCS playoffs.

It was Senior Night for Castilleja, which honored Shelly Steyer and Erin McLaughlin on its underclassman-laden team. McLaughlin finished with eight kills, as did sophomore Lindsey Wang, while 6-1 sophomore Hannah Boland led the way with 10 kills. Freshman setter Hannah Hsieh had 20 assists. Frappier led Menlo with 15 kills and five digs.

In the PAL Bay Division, host Menlo-Atherton wrapped up its first regular season under first-year coach Jennifer Wilson with a sweep of Woodside, 25-15, 25-21, 25-21. The Bears finished in second place with an 11-3 record (19-7 overall). Hannah Branning had 14 digs, Sophia Cornew contributed 18 assists and seven digs while Katelyn Doherty had eight digs, seven kills and three aces for the Bears.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Gunn remained winless in league play following a 25-18, 25-19, 25-12 loss to host Los Gatos on Tuesday. Senior Teresa Skelly had seven kills for the Titans (0-11, 16-21). ■

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PREP WATER POLO

# M-A girls going after another title

by Keith Peters

Local high school water polo teams are making their final preparations for the start of next week's Central Coast Section playoffs, with three squads expected to swim away with league tournament titles this weekend.

The Menlo boys and Menlo-Atherton girls are favored to defend their Peninsula Athletic League crowns on Saturday when the girls' (2 p.m.) and boys' (3:30 p.m.) finals are held at Menlo-Atherton. The Sacred Heart Prep boys are the odds on favorite to defend their West Catholic Athletic League playoff title at Bellarmine Prep at 7 p.m.

This weekend's action, however, pales in comparison to what the Menlo-Atherton girls accomplished last weekend as the Bears (23-1) won the prestigious NorCal Championships at UC Davis.

While the Bears weren't able to avenge their only loss of the season (to Davis), it didn't matter.

"St. Francis took care of Davis early and they were in the other side of the bracket," explained M-A coach Chris Rubin. "So, there was little chance we'd face them. But, that loss was early in the season and we felt like we could take care of them (had they met)."

The Bears proved they could take care of just about anyone in the state after topping No. 2 seed Campolindo (5-4) in the semifinals and then No. 1 Monte Vista (Danville), 4-3, in the championship on Saturday to become the first public school from the Peninsula to win the invitational.

"There were some who believed Monte Vista could be one of the top teams in the state," said Rubin, who added the win over Monte Vista was his team's most significant of the season. "Saturday was a great day for us. Definitely, it was a huge weekend."

The Bears went 4-0 in the two-day tournament that brought together many of the top teams in Northern California. Monte Vista featured Maggie Steffens and Kelly Mendoza, members of the U.S. Junior National Team. Steffens' older sister, Jessica, plays for Stanford and was a member of the 2008 U.S. Olympic team.

Menlo-Atherton, however, had its own standouts in sisters Becca and Emily Dorst plus a very deep and experienced roster. The Bears grabbed a 3-1 halftime lead and Rubin said he could see in his players' eyes that they knew they could win.

Monte Vista posted solo goals in the third and fourth periods to tie the match, but M-A junior MJ O'Neill scored with 1:30 for the eventual winner.

"We still had to make two stops on defense," Rubin said. Becca Dorst blanketed Mendoza on Monte Vista's final possession, giving the Bears the ball with 10 seconds to play. ■



# Community Health Education Programs

## Palo Alto Center 795 El Camino Real

### Lecture and Workshops

#### Surviving the Holiday Blues for Caregivers

Presented by Donna Schempp, LCSW, Program Director, Family Caregiver Alliance  
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-4873

### Living Well Classes

#### What You Need to Know About Warfarin

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2 – 3 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### Managing Your High Blood Pressure

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3 – 5 p.m., 650-853-2960

### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes

#### Bariatric Class

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2961

#### Bariatric Shared Medical Appointment

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 10:30 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2961

#### Prediabetes

Monday, Nov. 9, 9 – 11:30 a.m., 650-853-2961



#### Healthy Eating with Type 2 Diabetes

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-2961

#### Heart Smart Class

Must attend both sessions.  
Tuesdays, Nov. 17 & 24, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-2961

### Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

#### Moving Through Pregnancy

Mondays, Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 7 – 9 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### Preparing for Birth

Thursdays, Nov. 5 – Dec. 17, 7 – 9 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### Feeding Your Toddler

Thursday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2961



#### Refresher: Preparing for Birth

Sunday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### Breastfeeding

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2960

### Support Groups

#### Cancer

650-342-3749

#### CPAP

650-853-4729

#### Diabetes

650-224-7872

#### Drug and Alcohol

650-853-2904

#### Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients

650-799-5512

#### Kidney

650-323-2225

#### Multiple Sclerosis

650-328-0179

## Redwood Shores Health Center 290 Redwood Shores Parkway

### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes

#### Prediabetes

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-2961

## Mountain View Center 701 E. El Camino Real



### Lecture and Workshops

#### Behavioral Strategies that Work in the Preschooler Marvin Small Memorial Parent Workshop Series

Presented by Elizabeth Copeland, M.D.  
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7 – 8:30 p.m., 650-934-7380

### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-934-7177

#### Healthy Living and Controlling Diabetes (2 part class)

Wednesdays, Nov. 4 & 11, 2 – 4:30 p.m.,  
Tuesdays, Nov. 10 & 17, 9:30 a.m. – noon,  
Wednesdays, Nov. 18 & 25, 2 – 4:30 p.m.,  
Tuesdays, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m. – noon,

#### Heart Smart Class

Thursday, Nov. 5 & Tuesday, Nov. 10, 3 – 5:30 p.m.

#### Prediabetes

Thursday, Nov. 19 & Tuesday, Nov. 24, 3 – 5:30 p.m.

### HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

Free orientation session. Tuesdays, Nov. 3 & 17, noon – 1 p.m., Thursdays, Nov. 12 & 19, 5 – 6:30 p.m.,

### Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes



#### Breastfeeding

Monday or Tuesday, Nov. 2, 3, 9, Dec. 7 & 8, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

#### Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

#### Childbirth Preparation

Friday, Dec. 4, 6 – 9 p.m., or Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m. – noon

#### Feeding Your Toddler

Tuesday, Nov. 3 & Dec. 1, 7 – 9 p.m.

#### Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 25 or Dec. 2, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

For all, register online or call 650-934-7373.

### Health Resource Center 650-934-7380

General Social Services, Friday, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, 1 – 2 p.m., drop-in visits with our social worker

HICAP Counseling, by appointment

Advance Health Care Directive, by appointment



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For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit: [pamf.org](http://pamf.org).



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## PUBLIC NOTICE FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION MOFFETT FIELD Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field will be held on:

Thursday, November 12, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at:

Building 943 Eagle Room  
1 NASA Parkway  
Mountain View, CA 94025

*\*Building 943 (Public Affairs Building) is located just before the main gate on NASA Parkway*

The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities under way at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement.

To review documents on Moffett Field environmental restoration projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View, CA 94041, (650) 903-6337.

For more information, contact Ms. Kathy Stewart, Navy Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator at: (415) 743-4715 or [kathryn.stewart@navy.mil](mailto:kathryn.stewart@navy.mil).

Visit the Navy's website at:

<http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/basepage.aspx?baseid=52&state=California&name=moffett>

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