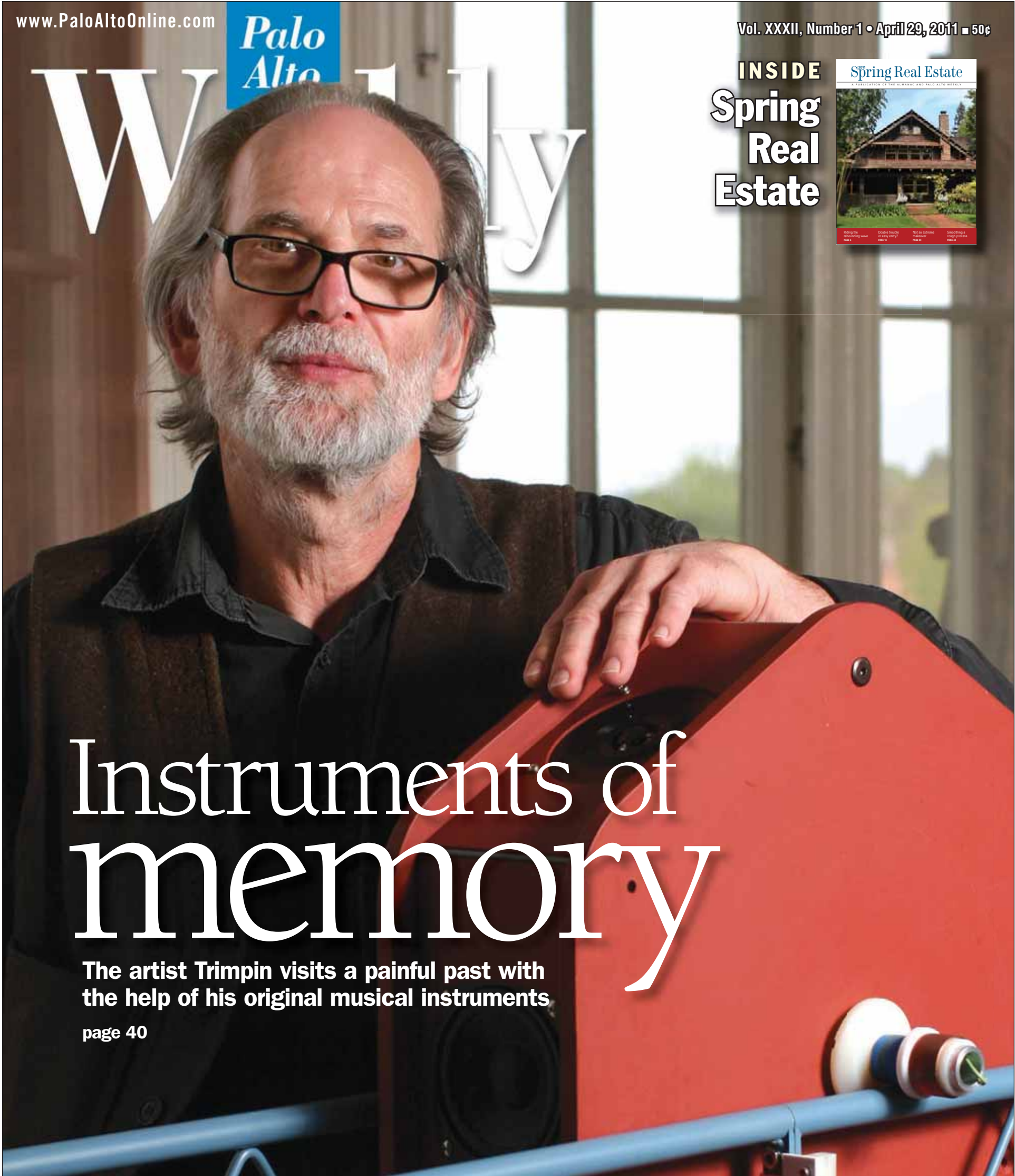


WEEKLY

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Instruments of memory

The artist Trimpin visits a painful past with the help of his original musical instruments

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LECTURE SERIES

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Palo Alto eyes a calmer budget season

City hopes to close \$3 million deficit without slashing community programs

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's ongoing quest to balance its books, contain rising pensions and obtain concessions from city workers will hit an annual milestone Monday night when City Manager James Keene unveils his plan for closing a \$3 million hole in next year's budget.

But unlike a year ago, city officials don't expect a swell of community opposition.

The city's financial picture has improved since last June, when the City Council wrestled with a \$7.3 million budget gap and cut 58 positions to close the deficit. The economy has

been slowly but steadily improving. Palo Alto's unemployment rate is a relatively enviable 5.8 percent (compared to 10.8 in Santa Clara County) and according to a new long-range forecast, consumer spending is now rebounding.

But as the city's long-range financial forecast makes clear, Palo Alto is still facing years of snowballing deficits that are driven in large part by slow revenue growth and spiking pension and health care costs. These include

annual gaps of \$6.7 million, \$6.9 million and \$7.6 million projected for fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Barring structural changes to the city's staff, the cumulative budget deficits are expected to total close to \$100 million between fiscal years 2012 and 2022, according to the latest estimate.

The new forecast, the city's Senior Financial Analyst Nancy Nagel wrote in a new report, "brings into sharp focus the necessity for change over the

next 10 years to address significant structural deficits. ...

"The increasing cost of employee benefits, above and beyond the growth in revenue sources, means that employees will need to bear a larger proportion of the cost of those benefits," Nagel wrote. "Otherwise the City will either need to cut services or aggressively evaluate outsourcing options for some of those services."

(continued on page 7)



Veronica Weber

Panda-monium

Sarah MacGregor, left, and Vicky Blake, second from left, hug the Panda Express mascot, who greeted customers at the grand opening Tuesday of Panda Express, a fast-food Chinese restaurant on El Camino Real in Palo Alto. The eatery offered free food throughout the day, and hundreds of customers lined up to take advantage of the offer.

CITY HALL

Palo Alto to launch fraud hotline for city workers

In revamp of ethics policies, city plans to develop new 'code of conduct'

by Gennady Sheyner

City workers who sniff out fraud at Palo Alto's City Hall could soon have a new whistle-blowing tool at their disposal.

The city is preparing to revamp its ethics policies and is considering a new whistleblower hotline that employees could use to report workplace fraud, waste and abuse. City officials are undertaking these parallel efforts to comply with a 2008 ethics audit issued by then-City Auditor Sharon Erickson.

The city has already implemented four of the audit's seven recommenda-

tions, including provision of periodic ethics training for employees, devoting a section on the city's internal website to ethics policies, requiring supervisors to review workers' Form 700s (legally required statements of economic interest), and surveying the employees' ethical culture. City officials hope to complete the three remaining recommendations—a formal policy on ethics training, an official "code of ethics" and a new fraud, waste and abuse hotline—by the end of the year.

Assistant City Manager Pamela

Antil said the city has already begun its effort to institute a clear ethics policy to guide employees' conduct. The policy, she told the Weekly, would be based on "values," rather than rules. The city's consultant, Tom Shanks of The Ethics Company, has been discussing the policy with senior City Hall staff.

"Rather than just adopting a code of ethics (from existing agencies and organizations), we have decided to create our own program that will be for all of our workforce to build an ethical culture and enhance public trust," Antil said.

Erickson had recommended a new ethics code and a formal ethics-training program to clarify what she characterized as the city's "scattered" policies. Codes of ethics, she wrote, "are commonly used to promote ethical values and help avoid problems."

"While Palo Alto has a plethora of rules and regulations, and offers some ethics training for employees, it does

(continued on page 8)

UTILITIES

Palo Alto launches gas-safety initiative

Inspections for residential and commercial gas line and sewer crossbores to begin in summer

by Kareem Yasin

The City of Palo Alto Utilities Department has launched a safety initiative to check local sewer systems for crossbores, which occur when a sewer line intersects a gas line, city officials said at a press conference Tuesday (April 26). While typically not a concern if left undisturbed, crossbores can become a major safety hazard when homeowners attempt to repair a sewer that is backing up.

"Certain types of machinery used by homeowners and plumbers to repair clogged sewers, such as snake machines and cutters, could cut the gas line intersecting the lateral, causing a gas leak," said Tomm Marshall, assistant director of Utilities.

"This is why it is important for residents who believe that they have a sewer blockage to contact the CPAU (City of Palo Alto Utilities) on a phone line that we have set up," he said.

The city will have engineers and contractors available at all times to be on site for crossbore inspection within two hours.

The department will run specialized miniature video cameras from the city's sewer mains through customers' individual sewer lines to search for crossbores.

The primary focuses for inspections are gas service that were installed or repaired between 1971 and 2001. It was during this period that the utilities department began to install gas service lines through horizontal or directional drilling, a technique that involved the digging of small underground tunnels through which new gas lines were pulled. While this process avoided the disruption caused by the digging of larger trenches, it is possible that on rare occasions the new gas pipes

might have unintentionally bored through sewer lines that were placed differently than originally planned.

A total of \$3.8 million has been budgeted to cover the costs of the inspections, which will run through 2013. Though officials noted that they do not expect a vast amount of crossbores to be identified, if one is located, the city will remove and reroute the gas line and repair the sewer line, at no cost to customers.

The department has already begun inspections at high-occupancy buildings such as schools, hospitals and places of worship.

"So far, we have inspected 26 schools and found no evidence of crossbores," Marshall said. This phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of summer.

The second phase will target commercial and residential locations, beginning in the middle of summer and ending by January 2013. A full schedule will be made available on the department's website.

"Crossbores are a safety risk across the country, and Palo Alto is one of the first utilities departments nationwide to have started a program specific to the problem," said Greg Scoby, engineering manager for Water, Gas and Wastewater.

Several measures have already been taken by the department to tackle the problem, he added. These have included the installation of new gas lines (beginning in 1999) that, if broken, immediately shut off the excess flow valve to reduce gas flows.

Residents can report a sewer blockage problem or suspected gas leak by calling 650-496-6995. ■

Editorial Intern Kareem Yasin can be emailed at kyasin@paweekly.com.

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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

We didn't want it to turn into something that people use as a catch-all for every complaint.

”

—Assistant City Manager Pamela Antil on a whistleblower hotline for city employees only. See story on page 3.

Around Town

WHO YOU GONNA TEXT? ... At a time when businesses, teenagers and Middle East protesters are turning more and more toward smartphones and social-media sites, police dispatchers across the nation remain tethered to the past. Citizens in distress still have to dial 9-1-1 the old-fashioned way, even when sending a text message or a video clip could prove more convenient or fruitful. Now, Palo Alto is working with Los Altos and Mountain View on what officials are calling the **“Next Generation 9-1-1”** — a system that would allow the three cities to accommodate emergency requests from text messages, Internet-based text-messaging clients, video-based clients and other modes of technologies, according to a new report from the **Palo Alto Police Department**. “For the past 40 years, 9-1-1 calls have depended upon traditional, low-speed, analog telephone infrastructure,” the report states. “While the remainder of the business and consumer world has embraced and adopted the use of Internet and wireless technologies, the 9-1-1 infrastructure has remained essentially unchanged.” The three cities are upgrading their respective emergency-dispatch systems to both enhance their capability to receive complaints through non-traditional means and to consolidate their respective operations. The new system will allow the three different systems to communicate with one another, a capability they currently don't have.

HIGH-SPEED AHEAD ... State Sen. **Joe Simitian**, D-Palo Alto, grabbed statewide headlines three weeks ago when he, U.S. Rep. **Anna Eshoo**, D-Palo Alto, and Assemblyman **Rich Gordon**, D-Menlo Park, unveiled a new proposal for California's high-speed rail system. The proposal calls for the rail authority to “blend” the new system with an upgraded Caltrain system rather than building what the lawmakers called “duplicate” tracks on the Peninsula. Simitian, who chairs a Senate Budget Subcommittee and who has long branded himself a supporter of “high-speed rail done right” had a chance to discuss his new proposal Thursday morning with **Roelof van Ark**, the CEO of the **California High-Speed Rail Authority**, at a budget hearing in Sacramento. The former Palo Alto mayor told van Ark that he

wished he didn't have to present his own plan for the voter-approved rail system. But after waiting a year and a half, he decided that it's time for him to make clear what he means by “done right.” He asked van Ark not to proceed with an environmental analysis for the entire project but to reduce the project's scope. He said he doesn't want the rail authority's Environmental Impact Report for the largely unfunded project to “put a sword over the head of every property owner” along the Caltrain corridor. Van Ark remained skeptical about some aspects of the legislators' new proposal. “The long-term nature of the project requires that we continue to plan for the entire system and for the longer term,” van Ark said. He also raised questions about the blending of Caltrain and high-speed rail on the Peninsula. He noted that the high-speed rail has to be able to travel between San Jose and San Francisco in 30 minutes and suggested that running on Caltrain tracks could complicate this objective. “The two systems, high-speed and commuter rail, operate at very different modes,” van Ark told the committee. “Commuter-rail systems have to stop at every station. High-speed rail doesn't want to stop at stations. You cannot pass the trains because you're behind them when they're stopping and unloading (passengers).” The rail authority's board of directors is scheduled to discuss the Peninsula segment of the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles line on May 5.

GOING FOR A RIDE ... As Palo Alto continues to revamp its bicycle Master Plan, city officials are preparing to take residents for a ride to show them a glimpse of the future. Mayor **Sid Espinosa**, City Manager **James Keene** and planning staff are inviting the public on a “Bicycle Boulevard Tour” along Park Boulevard, which is slated to become the city's next “bike boulevard” (a street that discourages cars and entices bicyclists through various traffic-calming measures and amenities such as bike lanes). The tour, which starts at City Hall, will return via Bryant Street, an existing bicycle boulevard, and conclude just in time for the City Council's 6 p.m. discussion of the city's ongoing update of its **“Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan.”** ■

LAND USE

Developer fights for south Palo Alto housing

SummerHill Homes alleges commission unlawfully rejected housing plan

by Gennady Sheyner

A developer whose proposal to build a 23-home community in south Palo Alto was rejected by the city's planning commission last month is now protesting the decision and claiming the school district's interest in the property unduly influenced city staff.

The city's Planning and Transportation Commission voted March 23 to recommend that the City Council deny a proposal by SummerHill Homes, LLC, to build a residential community at 525 San Antonio Road, present site of Peninsula Day Care. The plan faced opposition from the nearby Greenmeadow and Greendell neighborhoods, with dozens of residents claiming at the commission meetings that the area cannot accommodate more housing.

SummerHill argued the project would provide a perfect "transition" between the single-family houses in the nearby Eichler communities and the dense, multi-family housing developments on San Antonio. The company also cited the proximity to Charleston Shopping Center on Middlefield Road as a good reason for bringing more housing to the area.

SummerHill sought to placate the community by reducing the number of houses from 26 to 23 and by positioning seven one-story houses between the existing residences and the 16 proposed two-story houses.

But the planning commission voted 6-1, with Eduardo Martinez dissenting, against the development, with the majority agreeing the proposal is inconsistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan and that the area doesn't have sufficient public transportation and amenities to justify the density of the housing.

The council is scheduled to review the project Monday (May 2).

SummerHill is alleging that the commission's rejection had "no reasonable basis." The company's attorney, Michael Patrick Durkee from the firm Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis, sent the city a letter challenging the commission's denial and arguing that SummerHill's proposal "will conform to the city's planning and zoning regulations and promotes the city's critical goal of providing adequate housing."

Durkee wrote that the commission's finding that the project is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan — the city's official land-use bible — is "not a basis for denial" because the application seeks to amend the Comprehensive Plan. He calls the commission's denial of the application based on the Comprehensive Plan a "circular argument."

"By definition, an amendment proposal is inconsistent with what it seeks to amend," Durkee wrote.

The letter also alleges that the city's opposition to SummerHill's zone change was influenced by the Palo Alto Unified School District's interest in the property. The Peninsula Day Care site abuts the rear of the Greendell School property, which in turn is next to the district's Cumberley campus. With recent housing growth in south Palo Alto, district officials have been eyeing the 2.65-acre property as a possible site for a new school facility. The day care center is slated to close in May after 37 years in operation.

In January, school district Superintendent Kevin Skelly wrote the city a letter expressing the district's "potential interest" in acquiring the site.

Skelly specified, however, that the school district's board has not made any formal decisions about buying the property.

"We understand that SummerHill Homes, Inc., is currently under contract with property owner, A&D Protocol, Inc., to purchase the property," Skelly wrote. "Should development on the property be proposed by any party, including the owner or SummerHill, we wanted to emphasize the fact that (the district) has not made a decision to acquire the site, and the City should feel free to process any applications for development as it otherwise would."

But Durkee claims in his letter that Palo Alto's planning staff has "informed SummerHill that the District's interest in the project site is the primary reason for the City's abandonment of support for the project." To investigate the matter further, Durkee's firm has submitted a Public Records Act request to the city to get more information about the project.

"Based on the events that have transpired, the concern is that the City intends to either delay the application or deny the project so that the District can obtain the Property at a reduced price," Durkee wrote.

Palo Alto's planning director, Curtis Williams, disputed this assertion.

"This was not based on the school-district issue," Williams said, referring to the staff's recommendation to deny the application. "It was based on the Comprehensive Plan direction we got from the council."

In May 2010, council members agreed that new developments should be focused within half a mile of Cal-

(continued on page 6)

COMMUNITY

Holiday Fund recipients awarded \$232K in grants

Funding raised by the community supports local nonprofits

Grants totaling \$232,000 were awarded to 44 local nonprofits Monday (April 25) thanks to donations raised by the 17th annual Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund Drive.

Donors numbering 430, plus support from the David and Lucile Packard, William and Flora Hewlett and Perry & Arrillaga Family foundations, raised funds for programs supporting local youths and families.

Grantees include Environmental Volunteers, which received \$3,000 to support volunteer staffing at Baylands Interpretive Center, and Youth Community Service, which received \$7,500 to support camp scholarships and service clubs at eight local schools, among other programs.

At the honorees reception Monday evening, speakers included Alison Cormack of the Palo Alto Library

Foundation, which received \$17,500 as the second part of a three-year grant to fund books and furniture for the new Mitchell Park Library.

Other speakers included East Palo Alto Kids Foundation board member Lou Pelosi, Palo Alto Art Center Foundation Director Joe Tuohy and Palo Alto Family YMCA Senior Program Director Danny Koba, each of whose organizations received \$5,000 grants.

A complete list of recipients is available on www.PaloAltoOnline.com. ■

— Karla Kane



Alison Cormack of the Palo Alto Library Foundation speaks about the progress of the new construction at the different library branches during the 2011 Holiday Fund Reception at the Palo Alto Weekly on April 25.

Veronica Weber

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CHRIS AYERS PHOTO

EDUCATION

Parents, teachers debate school-calendar shift

Palo Alto board to vote May 10 on whether to move to pre-break finals in fall 2012

by Chris Kenrick

Parents and teachers packed a Palo Alto Board of Education meeting Tuesday night to argue the pros and cons of shifting the academic calendar to end the first semester before the December holidays, beginning in 2012-13.

In a discussion that stretched until midnight, many argued that pre-break finals would significantly ease academic stress by giving students a clean break over the holidays and allowing them to begin second semester rested and refreshed.

But an equal number argued that moving finals to December would exacerbate stress by overloading the

busy pre-holiday and college-application season. Additionally, the proposed calendar shift would disrupt summer traditions for many families by starting the school year in mid-August rather than late August.

Though a majority of high school students, parents and teachers in district surveys indicated they favor pre-break finals, preferences became murkier when people were asked if they were willing to begin school earlier in August.

A large contingent of Gunn High School teachers testified in favor of the calendar switch, saying the current late-January finals schedule and one-day semester break render

students exhausted as they begin second semester, leading to a well-documented "third-quarter slump."

The board is expected to vote May 10 on calendars for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Two options have been presented for each year. If finals were to be held before winter break, the 2012-13 year would start Aug. 16, with the first semester ending Dec. 21 and encompassing 86 days. The second semester would start Jan. 7, 2013, and end May 30, encompassing 94 days.

If finals were held after winter break, as is currently done, the first semester would last 90 days

and stretch from Aug. 28, 2012, to Jan. 24, 2013. The 90-day second semester would run from Jan. 28 through June 13. The proposed dates and options for the 2013-14 school calendar are similar.

Among board members, Vice-President Camille Townsend expressed the most skepticism about a shift to pre-break finals.

"I'm not there yet," she said. "For students in K-8, this would substantially change a whole lifestyle so the question is, 'Who in the high schools are we really benefiting?'"

The other four board members indicated varying degrees of support for shifting the calendar, with board President Melissa Baten Caswell and member Barbara Klausner listing a number of questions they would still like to have answered.

"I think this is the right move in the right direction for our students," board member Dana Tom said, adding that the proposed calendar is not perfect and will not magically "solve" the problem of stress.

Tom noted that a shift to pre-break finals has been overwhelmingly successful in the many Bay Area districts that have tried it.

"Every time I meet somebody from a place that has finals before winter break I ask about it, and it's just overwhelming the number of people who support it — parents, teachers and board members, even people who were initially skeptical," he said.

For members of the Palo Alto school district, analyzing the decision "amounts to a lot of conjecture because we haven't experienced it directly," Tom said.

Caswell listed a number of questions she still has about the new calendar.

"I'd really like to have a work-free break, but I'm not willing to do it without mitigating some of the problems," she said, mentioning early June child-care issues for working parents, among other concerns. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Developer

(continued from page 5)

train. The direction will be integrated in the city's Comprehensive Plan, which is being revised.

Williams said at the beginning of the March 23 planning-commission meeting that the school issue is "not

something we can consider as part of our deliberation."

The commission's discussion, and a new staff report released this week, instead focused largely on the site's proximity to transportation.

"Though bus service is provided, the closest train station is located more than 1/2 mile away from the subject property, in Mountain View, and that

station is not afforded frequent train service," the report stated, referring to the San Antonio Caltrain stop.

Durkee argued in his letter the project is, in fact, consistent with existing city policies. He also claimed that the commission was wrong to use the council "direction" as basis for denying the project because this direction "does not rise to the level of adopted

planning or zoning regulations."

"Thus, the project will conform to the city's planning and zoning regulations and promotes the city's critical goal of providing adequate housing," Durkee wrote. "The city recognized this and supported the project until the district expressed interest in the project site.

"Although staff and the commission

have attempted to provide justification for their recommendation to deny the project, none of these justifications have merit, and it is clear that the district's interest in the project site has caused staff to withdraw its support for the project." ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

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EDUCATION

School official calls for shift in teacher 'mindset'

Expectations affect proportion of black, Hispanic kids in special ed, she says

by Chris Kenrick

Palo Alto teachers must change their "mindsets" if the school district is ever to escape state sanctions for having a substantial overrepresentation of Hispanic and African-American students in special education, a top official said Tuesday.

"Every adult in our system must understand that every child can learn, regardless of who their parents are," Associate Superintendent Virginia Davis told the Board of Education.

"Unfortunately, we still do hear that comment that (minority students) 'are just not ready for my program.' We have to turn around that belief in our district," Davis said.

Palo Alto is one out of 17 of California's 1,000 school districts to be

labeled by the state Department of Education as having "significant disproportionality" in special ed.

Overall, about 10 percent of the district's 12,024 students are in special education.

While African-American students comprise 3.1 percent of the district's total enrollment, they make up 26 percent of students in special education. Likewise, Hispanic students comprise 10.2 percent of overall population but 22 percent of those in special education.

That compares with about 4 percent of Asian students and 8 percent of Caucasian students, she said.

"A high percentage of students of color are in special education by the

end of fifth grade and the numbers rise by the end of eighth grade," Davis said in a report to the board.

For example, at one unnamed middle school in the district, 50 percent of Hispanic fifth graders and 25 percent of African-American fifth graders were in special education in 2006-07. At the same school three years later, 55 percent of the Hispanic students and 33 percent of the African-American students were in special ed.

Davis presented a four-pronged plan to remedy the disproportion, relying heavily on early intervention for students showing signs of difficulty, known in education as "response to intervention," or RTI.

The goal is to identify and seam-

lessly help students in mainstream classrooms before they must be taken out for special help.

"This is going to take everybody — from the top down — across our system," Davis said, stressing the need for continued "equity training" and other types of training for teachers.

"We have a lot of teachers putting themselves out there, but there's a lot of concern that everybody needs to get on board or we're not going to see differences."

Of 405 elementary students referred by their teachers for extra math help this summer, 24 percent are English language learners, 11 percent are currently in special education and 19 percent are non-resident students who attend Palo Alto schools through the Tinsley Voluntary Transfer Program, Davis said.

Of the 720 recommended for "literacy intervention" this summer, 34 percent are English learners and 23 percent are Tinsley students, she said.

"It's not asking teachers to do more

— it's asking them to be more deliberate about what they do," Davis said.

"It's a large learning curve, if you're somebody like me who taught for 20 years.

"It's asking them to look differently at students, at how you look at data, and being open to letting a reading specialist come in. You have to be open to that."

School board members said they appreciated Davis's candor with the data.

"It is imperative, it is our duty, to understand this," board Vice-President Camille Townsend said.

"Both my parents only went to the eighth grade, yet their kids — all eight of us — went to college (and beyond)," Townsend said.

"I often wonder if a student of color has the same issues as I had, and where did we end up differently?" ■



TALK ABOUT IT
www.PaloAltoOnline.com

What do you think the school district should do about the disproportion of minority students in special education? Share your opinions on Town Square on Palo Alto Online.

Budget

(continued from page 3)

The difficult conversation promises to be more subdued this year than it was last year. Lalo Perez, director of the Administrative Services Department, said the new budget proposal seeks to close the gap by reducing costs in City Hall departments without eliminating city services. Popular programs that were on the chopping

block last year, including school crossing guards and the Police Department's traffic team, are not proposed for elimination this year, Perez told the Weekly.

"There are no significant impacts to the community like we had last year," Perez said.

He also said the city plans to balance the budget without dipping into its reserves or sacrificing any infrastructure funding.

"It's going to be mostly adjustments

in department budgets," he said.

Among the biggest challenges the city is facing this fiscal year is obtaining concessions from its public-safety workers. The city's negotiations with its main firefighter union, Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, Local 1319, have dragged on for more than a year, and the city is preparing for binding-arbitration proceedings to settle the labor dispute.

The City Council will discuss

the status of the city's negotiations with police and firefighters at a closed session on Monday night. The council's Finance Committee, which is scheduled to hold budget hearings throughout May and early June, plans to discuss the proposed budgets for the police and fire departments Thursday night.

Keene has consistently called for public-safety employees to accept the types of concessions that other city workers have agreed to over the past

two years. These include a two-tiered pension formula (with less-generous pension benefits for new hires) and health care contributions.

The new forecast similarly calls for greater contributions from police and firefighters in the short-term and for all workers to bear a "larger proportion of the cost of benefits from fiscal year 2013 onwards." ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.



Coming Soon!

Saturday, May 7, 2011 @ 10 a.m.
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Come join along with thousands of children, decorated floats, marching bands, proud parents and much more as we model being a community that values youth at the **89th Annual May Fete Children's Parade**.

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Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid packages:

Contract Nos. BPC-11, BPW-11, BPPR-11, DOR-11, PAHP-11

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK:

The work includes, but is not limited to:

- The replacement of carpet and vinyl at Barron Park Elementary School.
- The limited replacement of concrete at Barron Park Elementary School.
- The replacement of rubber play surfaces at Barron Park Elementary School.
- The partial roof and HVAC replacement at the District Office.
- The exterior painting at Palo Alto High School, Haymarket Theater.

There will be a **mandatory** pre-bid conference and site visit for each project on **May 11th** and **May 12th, 2011**. Please contact the District Facilities office for times and location of each individual project.

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the District Facilities Office, Building "D", on **May 27, 2011**, at the times specified in the Bidding Documents.

PREVAILING WAGE LAWS: The successful Bidder must comply with all prevailing wage laws applicable to the Project, and related requirements contained in the Contract Documents.

Palo Alto Unified School District will maintain a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) for the duration of this project. In bidding this project, the contractor warrants he/she is aware and will follow the Public Works Chapter of the California Labor Code comprised of labor code sections 1720 – 1861. A copy of the Districts LCP is available for review at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

1. A pre-job conference shall be conducted with the contractor or subcontractors to discuss federal and state labor law requirements applicable to the contract.
2. Project contractors and subcontracts shall maintain and furnish to the District, at a designated time, a certified copy of each payroll with a statement of compliance signed under penalty of perjury.
3. The District shall review and, if appropriate, audit payroll records to verify compliance with the Public Works Chapter of the Labor Code.
4. The District shall withhold contract payments if payroll records are delinquent or inadequate.
5. The District shall withhold contract payments as described in the LCP, including applicable penalties when the District and Labor Commissioner establish that underpayment of other violations has occurred.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office, **Building "D"**.

All questions can be addressed to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Ron Smith
Phone: (650) 329-3927
Fax: (650) 327-3588

Redevelopment of Edgewood Plaza gets early nod

Planning commission supports redevelopment plans, zone change

by Sue Dremann

Saying that the revitalization of dilapidated Edgewood Plaza is long overdue, Palo Alto's planning commission gave plans to redevelop the historic 1950s shopping center a push Wednesday night while also deliberating over the benefits to the public that the developer should be required to provide the community.

Sand Hill Property Co. is proposing to build 10 two-story homes and renovating the three historic buildings on the property, which lies along Embarcadero Road and is bordered by West Bayshore Road, Channing Avenue and St. Francis Drive. The plaza was built in the 1950s by developer Joseph Eichler and was his only retail center.

The Planning and Transportation Commission voted 7-0 to initiate a zone change that would clear the way for further reviews and potential approval. The city's historic-resources and architectural-review boards can now consider the plan.

Edgewood Plaza fell into disrepair and became all but deserted after Albertson's supermarket closed nearly a decade ago. After years of wrangling over historic preservation and the number of homes Sand Hill planned to build, including a 2009 lawsuit filed by a group of residents, Sand Hill and residents arrived at an agreement that includes bringing back a grocery store.

Commissioner Greg Tanaka said he supported the "urgent revitalization of the center. It's been too long and too late," he said.

But he also expressed concerns about the shopping center's viability. He had previously asked for, and still had not received, any information about why the plaza had failed in the past, he said.

"Why has this site, near a busy off ramp, near a busy freeway, in an affluent area, failed? I want an

understanding," he said. He doesn't want the council to be revisiting the topic in another 50 years if the retail center fails again, he added.

Edgewood's limited visibility in part is due to Eichler's design, which placed his office and the Shell station adjacent to Embarcadero, developer John Tze said after the meeting. In addition, a screen of trees blocks visibility, he said.

Much of the nearly four-hour discussion revolved around public benefits, which are required in exchange for a planned-community (PC) zone. The public benefits accepted by the city for other dense mixed-use projects in Palo Alto have been of dubious value, residents pointed out and commissioners agreed.

Several residents, including Barron Park's Bob Moss, said the city has not been diligent in protecting so-called public-benefit spaces from encroachment by business interests in the past.

Public plazas such as the courtyard adjacent to Café Riace and a plaza at 800 High St. have been largely used by restaurants for outside dining, residents said.

Sand Hill has proposed a 12,099-sq.-ft. pocket park at the corner of Channing Avenue and St. Francis Drive that includes a grassy area, fountain, benches, walkways and seating in a paved plaza area.

But Commissioner Susan Fineberg expressed concern about the true intent of the park, since drawings showed that half the area would be covered with pavers and patio seating.

"It reads like tables and chairs" for businesses, she said. "I'm questioning the erosion of true public use. It should be preserved as true open space, not infringing on as functional, for-profit spaces," she said.

Curtis Williams, the city's plan-

ning director, agreed that past vagueness led to plazas being taken over for private use. The park boundaries need to be well-defined so that the dividing line between public and private space won't be confused, he said.

But developer John Tze said more seating and less grass was proposed because neighbors have said they don't want a park to be for children's use.

Tanaka suggested designating some housing for seniors could be a public benefit.

Commissioner Lee Lippert initially brought up the senior-housing issue in another context: arranging for the Palo Alto shuttle to stop at Edgewood.

Palo Alto has an aging population that may not be able to get to the shopping center otherwise, he said.

"It creates connectivity and provides ample transportation ... and it eliminates a significant amount of parking," he said.

Tze said bus service would be a good thing if a stop could be placed near the Shell gas station or in a location where it would not impact residents.

Tze said he is optimistic about the plaza's future. North Carolina-based The Fresh Market has continued to express interest in establishing a market, but he is waiting to hear about their decision, he said.

The plaza might have outlived its relevance for a time, leading to its decline, but fortunes are again favoring the neighborhood shopping center, he said.

"Lifestyles change. A couple of years ago, no grocery store wanted to be less than 50,000 square feet," he said. ■

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.

Fraud

(continued from page 3)

not have a formal employee code of ethics or employee ethics program," Erickson wrote.

She also recommended the new hotline, citing a study by the Association of Certified Examiners that found organizations with fraud hotlines had a median loss of \$100,000 per fraud scheme, compared to \$200,000 in organizations without such a hotline. The organizations with fraud hotlines also detected the fraud within 15 months of inception, compared to 24 months for those without the hotlines.

"These programs can be provided at minimal cost," she wrote.

So far, Palo Alto officials have been cautious about the potential costs of the new hotline and the ways in which the tool would be used. In July 2010, the council's Policy and Services

Committee recommended pursuing the hotline but specified the city should create policies and procedures before the hotline is implemented.

Under the pilot proposal currently on the table, the whistleblower hotline would be available to city workers but not to the general public — the same model currently used in Stockton, San Bernardino County and Mesa, Ariz. Some cities, including San Francisco, Oakland and San Diego, also allow residents to use these hotlines to report fraud.

Members of the Policies and Services Committee and staff agreed the new line should not become a tool used by residents to make every kind of complaint against the city. Antil pointed out at the July meeting that Palo Alto does not have the resources to pursue every allegation or to hire new staff to chase down complaints about potholes or tree branches.

"We didn't want it to turn into

something that people use as a catch-all for every complaint," Antil told the Weekly.

Palo Alto officials plan to have a third party oversee the hotline. The offices of the city auditor, the city manager and the city attorney will work together in the coming months to develop the general protocols and procedures for responding to complaints, according to a recent report from the auditor's office. They hope to complete this effort by December.

Ian Hagerman, a senior auditor at the City Auditor's Office, said his office is in the midst of developing protocols, evaluating vendors and studying examples from other jurisdictions. The goal, he said, is to make sure the new policies "fit Palo Alto." The effort was delayed by staff changes in both the city auditor's and the city manager's office, he said, citing the departures of Erickson and (former assistant city manager) Emily Harrison.

News Digest

Stanford debuts 'cutting edge' Knight business center

A new state-of-the-art business-school complex spearheaded by Nike founder Philip H. Knight will open at Stanford University on April 29.

The 360,000-square-foot, eight-building Knight Management Center at the Graduate School of Business is central to Stanford's green-energy and climate-action vision and a new style of 21st-century business education, officials said.

Knight, a Stanford MBA who graduated in 1962, contributed \$105 million to the \$345 million project. It was the largest gift ever to a business school at the time, according to the university.

The complex is the centerpiece of the university's energy- and potable-water reduction strategy, which is far more stringent than the state's, said Fahmida Ahmed, associate director of Stanford's Office of Sustainability.

The Knight buildings are expected to expend 45 percent less energy and use 80 percent less potable water, compared to a building of its type, she said.

The buildings can achieve the highest LEED Platinum rating for environmental sustainability from the U.S. Green Building Council. They include photovoltaic panels to supply 12.5 percent of the complex's energy from solar, daylight illumination for 90 percent of workspaces, efficient under-floor air-distribution systems and heat-recapturing systems and rainwater capture.

The April 29 opening features an open house for the general public from 2 to 5 p.m. Festivities include a debate on leadership by Graduate School of Business staff, music by the Stanford Band and campus a cappella groups, refreshments and prizes.

The center is located at 655 Knight Way, Stanford. ■

— Sue Dremann

Ravenswood seeks parcel tax, braces for cuts

Voters in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park have until Tuesday (May 3) to mail in their ballots for a parcel tax in the Ravenswood City School District.

Passage of the tax, which requires a two-thirds majority vote, would help to lift the school district out of a disastrous budget hole, supporters said.

The specter of class sizes rising from 20 to as high as 30 — or the addition of five to 10 "furlough days" in which schools would close — haunts the district if some of the possible budget scenarios were to come true.

The parcel tax, Measure B, asks voters to renew an existing \$98-per-parcel-per-year tax and to add another \$98, bringing the total to \$196 per parcel per year.

If passed, Measure B would generate about \$1.2 million for the district.

Currently, the district is planning for a \$3.2 million — or 17 percent — cut to its \$18 million unrestricted operating budget for 2011-12, district Business Manager Megan Curtis said.

Additionally, the district receives about \$22 million in highly targeted federal and state "categorical funds" to address specific conditions, including poverty and the more than 60 percent of students who are English language learners.

The projections for a 17 percent operating cut are based on the \$330-per-student cut envisioned by Gov. Jerry Brown in January, Curtis said. ■

— Chris Kenrick

Council balks at 'Village at San Antonio Center'

The Mountain View City Council decided not to give final approval of a major redevelopment project at San Antonio Shopping Center Tuesday (April 26), saying that the design had clearly not been finished.

Council members said they weren't interested in approving the project Tuesday after a representative for the developer read a long list of changes that they wanted to be made to the project. The changes made it "as clear as mud" what the project would be, said council member Ronit Bryant. City staff had also proposed a number of changes to the project just days before the meeting.

In the most ambitious redevelopment of San Antonio Shopping Center since it was built in the 1950s, San Francisco-based Merlone Geier has proposed the redevelopment of one-third of the 56-acre shopping center, a 16.3-acre portion that extends from Sears to Rite Aid at the corner of San Antonio Road and El Camino Real.

The "Village at San Antonio Center" would include a one-acre park, 325 to 350 rental apartments and 311,000 square feet of retail space, including a new Safeway grocery store. It was announced Tuesday that Rite Aid is no longer part of the project.

In the last 40 minutes of the four-hour discussion, at around 11 p.m., council members gave some feedback on the project, adjusting building locations and street frontages, moving driveways and increasing park and sidewalk space, but not making the fundamental changes to the design that a number of residents suggested.

Merlone Geier said the new development would employ 900 people and provide a "net increase" to the city's sales tax revenue of \$1.2 million. All of those employees would receive subsidized transit passes for three years from Merlone Geier. ■

— Daniel DeBolt

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Youth \$5		

Saturday, April 30 at 8:00 pm
Valley Presbyterian Church
945 Portola Rd., Portola Valley
(Reception follows)

Sunday, May 1 at 2:30 pm
Los Altos United Methodist Church
655 Magdalena at Foothill Expressway, Los Altos
(Reception at intermission)

This ad sponsored by Ginny Kavanaugh and Joe Kavanaugh of Coldwell Banker, Portola Valley. Visit them at www.kavanaugh.com



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Online This Week

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

Palo Alto official to lead East Bay school district

After a year with the Palo Alto school district, Directory of Secondary Education Debra Lindo will depart in June to become superintendent of the Emeryville-based Emery Unified School District. (Posted April 28 at 9:37 a.m.)

Woman turns herself in for trying to steal liquor

A 19-year-old Mountain View woman was arrested and charged with robbery after she turned herself in Wednesday (April 27) for attempting to steal two cans of malt liquor from a convenience store on Castro Street, according to police. (Posted April 28 at 8:55 a.m.)

Two more mountain lion sightings in Woodside

Two more mountain lions were spotted in Woodside, one at 2:45 a.m. Wednesday (April 27) near Woodside and Whiskey Hill roads, and another around 10:15 p.m. Tuesday (April 26) near the 100 block of Otis Avenue. (Posted April 27 at 3:50 p.m.)

Menlo man fakes police lights with cellphone app

A 23-year-old Menlo Park man was arrested Monday night (April 25) for allegedly impersonating a police officer by using a cellphone application that flashes red and blue light. (Posted April 27 at 2:34 p.m.)

East Palo Alto continues 'high risk' outreach

East Palo Alto community leaders and police held their second Operation Ceasefire "call in" Tuesday (April 26), meeting with people identified as being at high-risk of criminal activity, the police department has announced. (Posted April 26 at 4:33 p.m.)

22,000 jobs lost in San Mateo County since 2007

Nearly 22,000 jobs have been lost in San Mateo County since 2007, according to an independent report released Wednesday (April 27). (Posted April 26 at 11:33 a.m.)

Police investigate vandalism at Palo Alto school

Vandals smashed a window at Jordan Middle School over the weekend and destroyed office equipment in the school cafeteria, Palo Alto police said. (Posted April 26 at 9:33 a.m.)

Simitian aims to raise fines for distracted drivers

A proposal by state Sen. Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) to raise fines for drivers who text while behind the wheel cleared a legislative hurdle Monday (April 25) when the state Senate voted to approve it. (Posted April 26 at 8:51 a.m.)

Man kidnaps ex-girlfriend in Mountain View

A Sunnyvale woman was kidnapped by her ex-boyfriend outside of a Mountain View restaurant Friday (April 22). The man allegedly threatened to kill the woman and took her back to his house before he ultimately agreed to let her go. The incident went unreported for 24 hours. (Posted April 25 at 12:09 p.m.)

Police seek East Palo Alto shooting suspect

A man was hospitalized in grave condition after a shooting in East Palo Alto Saturday night (April 23), police said. (Posted April 24 at 11:19 a.m.)

First Person: A conversation with Sandy Stadler

For more than 14 years, Sandy Stadler has been superintendent of Palo Alto Animal Services, which is located on East Bayshore Road and serves Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. Interview by Lisa Van Dusen. (Posted April 24 at 10:01 a.m.)

City Auditor's Office wins national awards

Leadership turnover hasn't kept the City Auditor's Office in Palo Alto from racking up awards, including a national award for its recent audit of the city's vehicle fleet. (Posted April 24 at 11:11 a.m.)

Earth Day 2011: Planting for the planet

Palo Alto Mayor Sid Espinosa and Palo Alto Unified School District Superintendent Kevin Skelly joined Terman Middle School students and volunteers from the local nonprofit Canopy Thursday (April 21) to plant trees at Terman in honor of Earth Day. (Posted April 22 at 10:34 a.m.)

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CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council

The council did not meet this week.

Public Art Commission (April 21)

Liability insurance: The commission voted to allocate up to \$2,500 for liability insurance. **Yes:** Coleman, Collins, Richter, Smit, Usich **Absent:** Brown, Davis

Other business: The commission also discussed the annual Youth Art Awards, the potential relocation or de-accession of the "Stage" sculpture and the status of the permanent collection. **Action:** None

Board of Education (April 26)

Academic calendar: The board heard testimony on whether to shift the 2012-13 calendar to an earlier school start date in order to end the first semester before the December holidays. A vote is expected May 10. **Action:** None

Special Education: The board heard a report on the school district's program to remedy the "significant disproportion" of African-American and Hispanic students who are in special education. **Action:** None

Parks and Recreation Commission (April 26)

Baylands: The commission heard a presentation about ongoing activities and projects at the Palo Alto Baylands. **Action:** None

El Camino Park: The commission voted to recommend that the city pursue a long-term lease for El Camino Park. **Yes:** Unanimous

Utilities Advisory Commission (April 27)

Smart grid: The commission discussed possible applications of smart-grid technologies in the city. **Action:** None

Planning and Transportation Commission (April 27)

Edgewood Plaza: The commission recommended initiating a zone change to allow construction of 10 homes, renovation of three retail structures and relocation of one retail structure. **Yes:** Unanimous

Rail Committee (April 28)

Caltrain: The committee heard a presentation from Caltrain staff about Caltrain's ongoing effort to electrify the train system. **Action:** None

 **LET'S DISCUSS:** Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to hold a closed session to discuss the status of labor negotiations with the city's firefighter and police unions. The council also plans to hear a presentation about the fiscal year 2012 budget, hold a public hearing to hear objections to proposed assessment on the Palo Alto Downtown Business Improvement District, and hold a public hearing to discuss a proposal for a 23-home development at 525 San Antonio Road. The closed session will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, May 2. The rest of the meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to interview candidates for the Public Art Commission. The meeting will begin at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to hold budget hearings for council appointed officers, the City Council, and the Human Resources, Administrative Services and Library departments. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission tentatively plans to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2012 and the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 4, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss the draft land-use policies in the city's Comprehensive Plan and discuss the Initial Vision Scenario from Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

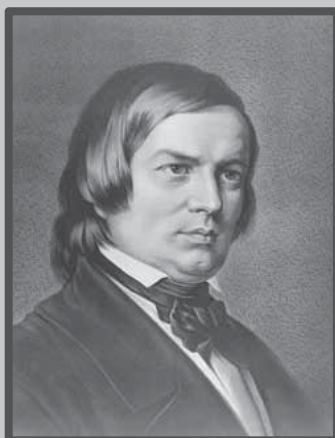
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to discuss proposed improvements to El Camino Park and a request by Aaron Barger on behalf of Palo Alto Bowl for minor design changes to a proposed hotel that was previously approved for the site. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 5, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

RAIL CORRIDOR TASK FORCE ... The task force will continue to discuss the city's land-use vision for the Caltrain Corridor. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5, in the Lucie Stern Community Room (1305 Middlefield Road).

FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to hold public hearings on Police and Fire department budgets. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 5, in the Council Conference Room in City Hall, (250 Hamilton Ave.).

Stanford Continuing Studies presents:

Schumann Birthday Bash



Robert Schumann



Robert and Clara Schumann

Join Ben Simon and the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra All-Stars (SFCO) in an evening devoted to classical music's "First Couple," Robert and Clara Schumann.

SFCO concertmaster and Stanford faculty member Robin Sharp will be joined by cellist Stephen Harrison, pianist Lori Lack, and violist Ben Simon to perform two Romantic masterpieces by the Schumanns: Clara's *Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17* and Robert's *Piano Quartet in E-flat Major*, both works inspired by their happy marriage and close musical bonds.

Saturday, May 7

7:30 pm

\$20

Event fee is non-refundable.

Event is at Stanford, precise location will be given upon your ticket purchase.

To purchase tickets please visit <http://continuingstudies.stanford.edu>



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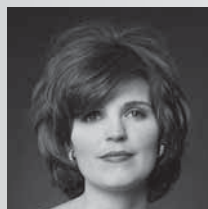
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KAREN CLIFT, soprano

JOHN CHURCHWELL, piano

PROGRAM: British and American composers

Campbell Recital Hall, Stanford University

MASTERCLASS WITH KAREN CLIFT

Monday, May 2nd at 4:15 p.m.

Campbell Recital Hall – *Masterclass is free and open to the public*



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drive less challenge



Live Better, Drive Less!

April 22 to May 5

DriveLessChallenge.com

It's a fun way for anyone to try alternatives to solo car trips, the largest source of carbon emissions in the Bay Area.

Track your trips—bus, bike, train, camel, whatever—and see your progress. Challenge friends, classmates, co-workers, neighbors, pets, whomever—and WIN PRIZES! How fun is that! Sign up now at DriveLessChallenge.com.

Volunteer or sponsor this innovative, grassroots event organized by local community groups to show your support for healthy lifestyles, local shopping and climate protection. Contact DriveLessChallenge@gmail.com.



Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

Palo Alto

April 20-26

Violence related

Attempted suicide1
Domestic violence1
Family violence4

Theft related

Checks forgery1
Commercial burglary3
Credit card forgery1
Identity theft2
Petty theft12
Residential burglary2
Shoplifting3

Vehicle related

Abandoned auto1
Bicycle theft1
Driving w/ suspended license4
Hit and run4
Lost/stolen plates1
Misc. traffic5
Theft from auto1
Vehicle accident/minor injury8
Vehicle accident/property damage5
Vehicle impound5
Vehicle tow14

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public2
Drunken driving2
N&D possession2

Miscellaneous

Animal call1
Found property6
Lost property4
Missing person1
Muni code misc4
Outside assistance1
Penal code/defrauding1
Penal code/disobey court order1
Penal code misc1
Psych subject1
Solicit w/o permit1
Suspicious circumstances2
Trespassing1
Vandalism7

Warrant/other agency5

Menlo Park

April 19-24

Violence related

Battery1

Theft related

Fraud3
Grand theft1
Petty theft4
Residential burglary4

Vehicle related

Auto theft3
Bicycle theft1
Driving w/ suspended license3
Driving w/o license1
Hit and run3
Vehicle accident/injury1
Vehicle accident/no injury4
Vehicle accident/property damage3
Vehicle tampering2
Vehicle tow5

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public2
Drunken driving4
Drug activity3

Miscellaneous

Disturbing/annoying phone calls2
Follow-up1
Lost property1
Mental evaluation2
Registrant3
Suspicious circumstances1
Vandalism4
Violation of court order1
Warrant arrest5

Atherton

April 19-25

Theft related

Fraud1
Residential burglary1

Vehicle related

Parking problem4
Suspicious vehicle8
Ticket sign-off3
Vehicle accident/no injury2

Vehicle code violation3
Vehicle/traffic hazard1

Miscellaneous

Animal call5
Building/perimeter check11
Citizen assist3
Civil matter1
Construction site check1
CPS case/referral1
Disturbing/annoying phone calls1
Found property3
Hang-up2
Juvenile problem2
Lost property3
Medical aid3
Outside assistance6
Probation/parole violation1
Road/sidewalk/other hazard2
Shots fired1
Special detail3
Suspicious circumstances2
Suspicious person1
Town ordinance violation1
Vandalism1
Watermain break1

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto

Madison Way, 4/20, 4:04 p.m.; family violence.

Walter Hays Drive, 4/21, 7:47 p.m.; family violence/battery.

Meadow Drive, 4/22, 9:29 a.m.; attempted suicide.

Park Boulevard, 4/24, 7:39 p.m.; family violence/misc.

Welch Road, 4/24, 7:42 p.m.; domestic violence.

Yale Street, 4/25, 5:54 p.m.; family violence.

Menlo Park

Ivy Drive, 4/24, 9:51 p.m.; battery.

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Katherine Dexter Scherling

Katherine Dexter Scherling, a 50 year resident of Palo Alto, passed peacefully on April 21, 2011 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Born and raised in Berkeley, CA she graduated from the University of California at Berkeley where she met her true love, Leslie Charles Scherling. Dexter and Les were married in Berkeley in 1951 and were happily married for 59 years. It was a joyous moment in 2001 when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by friends and family.

Dexter established her happy home in Palo Alto in 1961 after numerous moves that carried her throughout the West. She raised her two children, Sandy and Barbara there and became very involved in many activities such as the Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., the Mid Peninsula League of the San Francisco Symphony, the Stanford Club and the Palo Alto Republican Women's Federation. These organizations brought her much happiness and satisfaction and many valued friendships formed as a result.

Dexter was known for her sunny disposition and bright smile that she was happy to share with everyone. She was well liked and respected by all those whose lives she touched.

She is survived by her loving husband, Les; her devoted children, Sandy Scherling and wife Jill of Mt. Pleasant, SC and Barbara Williams and husband Robert of San Carlos, CA; two wonderful grandchildren Brandon Spencer Scherling and Savannah Paige Scherling. Dexter was preceded in death, by her loving Mother, Katherine Clancy Nichols.

Services were held on April 28th 2011 in the chapel of Roller & Hapgood & Tinney, 980 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to the Peninsula Volunteers of Menlo Park or the San Francisco Symphony.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to those who have communicated their sorrow. We never lose those we truly love, Dexter will continue to live on in our hearts, with all of us.

PAID OBITUARY



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Transitions

Births, marriages and deaths

Deaths

Gale Bunnell

Gale Bunnell, active community volunteer and former Stanford University employee, died at her Palo Alto home April 26, 2011, of pancreatic cancer.



She was born in 1948 in Newark, N.J. She graduated from high school in Cincinnati, Ohio, and attended Stanford University, earning a bachelor's degree in history in 1970.

She then took a job as associate director in Stanford's Office of Public Events, helping to stage the Live Arts cultural series, commencement, and other functions. Later she joined the Stanford Alumni Association as director of continuing education.

In 1971, she married John Bunnell, then associate director in Stanford's Office of Undergraduate Admission.

After her two sons were born, she became an independent meeting planner, and later operated her own financial-services business. In 1997, she joined the Palo Alto office of Alhouse Deaton Management & Leasing, Inc., where she worked as a property manager, partnership administrator and office manager until December 2010.

For more than a decade, she was

active with Pathways, serving from 2007 to 2010 as an officer and member of its Hospice Foundation Board, as well as a member of its "One from the Heart" committee. Pathways honored her for her service recently by establishing "Gale's Garden" at its Sunnyvale headquarters.

She also served on the boards of the Children's Center of the Stanford Community, Region 26 AYSO Soccer, the International School, and Palo Alto Babe Ruth League. She was a parent volunteer for Palo Alto Little League, American Legion Baseball and the Palo Alto High School Sports Boosters.

John Bunnell described his wife as "a supportive, cheerful, dedicated, athletic, reliable, ethical, generous, and gracious person." Her sons added that "she was an amazing role model and friend."

In addition to her husband she is survived by her two sons, RJ Bunnell, a physician in Salt Lake City, and Matthew Bunnell, an airline transport pilot based in Phoenix, Ariz.; as well as her siblings, Cynthia Carstarphen Gordon and Charles F. Carstarphen, both of San Diego; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Kirk and Gini Bunnell of Bellingham, Wash., and nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of her life will be held at noon on Friday, May 6, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1105 Valparaiso Ave., Menlo Park. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to Stanford University: Diamond Club, Buck/

Cardinal Club, or the Stanford Fund, 326 Galvez St., Stanford, CA 94305-6105; or the Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085; or a charity of the donor's choice.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

A memorial service for **Frank Ratliff** will be held Saturday, May 7 at 11 a.m. at Unity Church, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

A memorial service for **Philip Kuekesan** will be held Sunday, May 15, at 3 p.m. at 2200 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

A memorial service for **Duncan Williams** will be held Saturday, May 21, at 3 p.m. at The Sequoias, 501 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

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Leo K. Brandt

Gone Fishing

July 29, 1013 - March 27, 2011

Leo Brandt was the owner of the Cameo Club in Palo Alto. He retired early and spent more than 30 years doing what he most loved; fishing the Klamath and Rogue Rivers. He donated land in Portola Valley as part of the Open Space Reserve.

His wife of 50 years, Barbara Brandt, died in 1991. They had five children (Judy, Karen, Patricia, Michael and Laura) and eight grandchildren (Stephanie, Andrea, Jessica, Matthew, Nicole, David, Theodore and Leona).

Leo Brandt re-married and was predeceased by his wife, Mary Alice Ebell Brandt, in August 2010

PAID OBITUARY

Seiko Nishio Wakabayashi

May 21, 1919 – April 4, 2011

Seiko Wakabayashi passed away in Palo Alto surrounded by her family on April 4th. She touched many lives with her kindness, caring, and gracious ways.

Seiko was born in Washington, D.C., to Genichiro Nishio and Miyo Yoshida, both of whom were from Kanazawa, Japan. Seiko graduated from National University in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of Science in economics. After graduation, Seiko was employed as an economist with the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Balance of Payments Section, until her retirement in 1978. During World War II, Seiko met her future husband, Henry Wakabayashi, while she was serving as a volunteer USO hostess at St. John's Church, near the White House. Seiko and Henry were married in 1947 and settled in Washington, D.C.

Seiko's many community contributions included Eastern District Governor of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and fundraising volunteer for the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Seiko also served as a board member of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Council, and was active in the Ichiban Investment Club.

After retirement, Seiko's extensive travels abroad with her husband were highlighted by many cruises to Central and South America, and a trip around the world. Together they visited all 50 states of our nation.

Seiko is preceded in death by her parents, sister Sachie Nishio, and daughter Lynn Wakabayashi. Seiko is survived by her devoted husband Henry, sister Hanako Inada, loving daughter Karen Imatani, and Karen's family: beloved grandson Kyle Imatani, and son-in-law Kenneth Imatani. Seiko was a wonderfully warm and loving person and will be greatly missed by her surviving family and friends.

Those who loved her are invited to a memorial service at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 7th, at Roller Hapgood & Tinney Funeral Chapel, 980 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Donations in her memory may be sent to: Aldersgate UMC, 4243 Manuela Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



PAID OBITUARY

Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 80

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

Editorial

Signal changes make sense

City should press VTA, Caltrain to move Alma signals to west side of train tracks

Following the recent fatal accident at the Caltrain tracks and Charleston Road, city officials need to reassess the safety of all intersections where drivers can get caught on the tracks when traffic backs up at an Alma Street red light.

In this case, an out-of-state driver from Indiana lost her life, most likely because she was not familiar with this quirky intersection, which one resident who monitors the tracks said was an “accident waiting to happen.”

Most Palo Alto residents probably know what to expect as they approach the Caltrain tracks when driving eastbound on Charleston, East Meadow Drive and Churchill Avenue. The lights are timed to allow traffic to clear the tracks when a train approaches, but that system failed to prevent the latest accident. Someone with little or no experience in one of these intersections might not realize the dangers of these crossings — or panic when the gate comes down.

On April 15, Judy Goldblatt’s rental car did not clear the tracks when the lights turned red on Charleston and Alma, just before Caltrain rammed her car at about 76 miles per hour. Her husband, a passenger in the front seat, was able to escape before the train hit, but Ms. Goldblatt did not leave the vehicle and was killed instantly by the train. Some witnesses said her car appeared to be blocked by rush-hour traffic. (In 2007, Maria de Jesus Nieblas, 21, of Sunnyvale, was killed at the Meadow crossing when her westbound car lurched in front of a northbound train.)

The question for Palo Alto is this: Could this accident have been prevented if a second stoplight was located west of the tracks? Some persons who have been regularly monitoring the crossings as part of the suicide prevention program, and who have seen countless cars trapped on the tracks, believe a westside stoplight would make the intersection safer.

Jaime Rodriguez, the city’s transportation chief, said if new traffic lights were installed west of the tracks they would include a “pre-signal,” which can be timed to allow cars to get over the tracks and still make the light to cross Alma Street or turn right, he said. But this arrangement would eliminate the right turn on red, which he said “... would have an operational impact.”

Rodriguez added several cautionary notes on signals west of the tracks. For example, he said engineers would have to make sure motorists turning onto East Meadow, Charleston or Churchill from southbound Alma would be able to see if there was room to queue up around the corner if the gates were down. And he said that even presignal intersections cannot stop train-vehicle accidents.

Ironically, Caltrain is in the midst of a \$5.8 million safety-improvement project that has added or replaced flashing lights with LED lights on railroad gates, and changed the primary warning bell from mechanical to electronic signals at Charleston Road. And at some intersections sidewalks have been moved and new gates installed to improve pedestrian and circulation and safety. But so far, nothing has been done to avoid the type of train/automobile accident that occurred April 15.

We strongly suggest that the city begin a serious discussion about changing the configuration of traffic signals along the Alma Street and Charleston, East Meadow and Churchill crossings.

Such an initiative should include a traffic study to determine the density and duration of rush hour traffic over these dangerous intersections.

Since railroad operations at all public crossings are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, the city will need such data to explain its case. For all crossing modifications of the Caltrain Safety Improvement Project, which is now underway, the Valley Transportation Authority and the Joint Powers Board, which governs Caltrain, must receive approval from the CPUC, as well as the local city and Union Pacific Railroad.

An upcoming phase of the current project does call for signal modifications and replacement of the crossing arms at East Meadow and Churchill. Caltrain would design the project and the city would do the construction beginning in 2012-13. But so far, Caltrain has not said if installing signals on the west side of the tracks could be part of their plan.

Now is the time for Palo Alto to mount a concerted effort with Caltrain and the VTA to move the signals to the west side of the tracks at these intersections. So far, two lives have been lost in tragic accidents. We have the technology and the know-how to add another layer of safety to these crossings.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Measure N drawbacks

Editor,

I’m getting cheesed all over again as I watch the rusty-fingered I-beams for our Mitchell Park library reach out into the Palo Alto dawn. I know, I know, 70 percent of voters in 2008 wanted it this way, but can we think this thing through?

We’ve approved \$76 million for extra space and better facilities. With luck and a construction crash, the actual cost may be 25 percent lower, but have we thought about what, exactly, we’re going to put in this extra space?

About five years ago I checked out a copy of “Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant.” At present, there are only two physical copies of this book in our library system. I remember having to wait a week or two for the book to be available for me to read.

So right after we approve this bond measure, along comes the Kindle. And the Nook. And the iPad. The other day, I downloaded a free copy of “Personal Memoirs” to my iPad in about five seconds. Plutarch’s work is available also. In fact, I can find obscure engineering tracts from the turn of the last century with Google.

Any and every book off copyright is finding its way into the info sphere; the dead-tree versions of the original books won’t need new libraries to house them.

So will we need lots of library space for new books? Nope, e-book sales have outstripped print sales. Will we need space for video or music? Well, with Netflix, Amazon, iTunes and Pandora, no.

It appears we’ll only need book space in libraries for few short years for a fast-shrinking base of on-copy-right, non-new books.

So what could we have done with our \$76 million, when for \$32 million we could have bought an iPad for each and every resident of Palo Alto? To put it another way, the tax assessment on the median Palo Alto home value amounts to \$200 a year. Each Palo Alto household could buy a new Kindle every year or a new iPad every other year.

So I’m getting cheesed all over again. At the end of the Measure N library project, I’m sure that we’ll have beautiful facilities where we can gather together as citizens, share cups of coffee and read our iPads.

John Harrington
Cowper Street
Palo Alto

Nurturing teens

Editor,

As a pediatrician, I read with interest “Nurturing happier, healthier youth” (April 22). I want to stress the important role that we all play in asset-building in today’s youth. Too often in clinic I see teenagers with vague suicidal thoughts, some even so unhappy they have created

a plan to carry out their death. Did you know that one in every five teens will experience depression before they reach adulthood? This is an alarming statistic. As adults and role models for the next generation we need to ask ourselves, “What can we be doing to make things better for our children?”

Please remember to take time for teens whether you are their parent, teacher, neighbor or employer. Teens want to be heard, they want to be valued, and they want to know you think they can make a difference in this world because of their potential. Take part in protecting our children.

Alisa Arunamata
Lucile Packard
Children’s Hospital, Stanford

Rebuttal to Renzel

Editor,

The purpose of the Palo Alto Green Energy and Compost Initiative is to give the city the opportunity, instead of shipping its waste elsewhere, to utilize anaerobic digestion to convert it to clean energy and compost. Since the only feasible location for such a process is on landfill dedicated as parkland, city

ordinance requires a popular vote to undedicate even a small portion. Emily Renzel’s letter of April 22 argued that the decision to allow such a vote should be left solely to the City Council. Since there is some division in the community, however, an initiative petition to require a popular vote was appropriate (and signature gatherers encountered overwhelmingly positive responses).

Renzel’s letter also suggests that public works or some other city department might make some unknown use of the parcel. In fact, the Initiative provides that the portion of the current dump to be undedicated (only 10 out of 126 acres) is to be used exclusively for converting our wastes, and it allows the council to rededicate it to parkland in 10 years if not so used.

Finally, her letter claims that the current financial analysis is “unfavorable.” In fact, the consultant conceded that its initial draft omitted key favorable factors, and analysis by Compost Task Force Chair Cedric de La Beaujardiere indicates that “on a 30-year time-frame, local AD should save the city and rate-payers \$22 to \$57 million,” making the \$250,000

(continued on page 18)

YOUR TURN

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

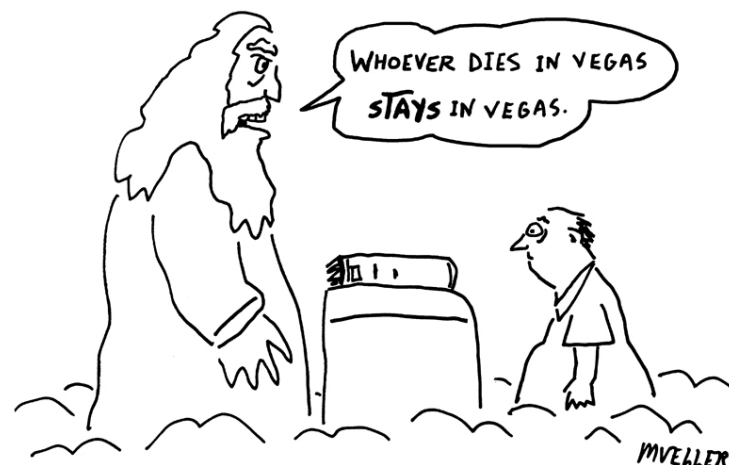
What do you think? Should the city push VTA and Caltrain to move signals to the west side of the tracks?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to letters@pawebly.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. 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 Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jocelyn Dong or Online Editor Tyler Hanley at editor@pawebly.com or 650-326-8210.



Check out Town Square!

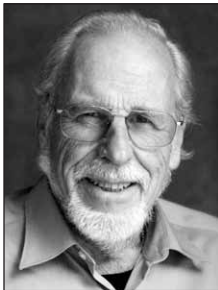
Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly on our community website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com. Post your own comments, ask questions, read the Editor's blog or just stay up on what people are talking about around town!

One Deadline:

Will a good auditor/watchdog head off Palo Alto waste, loss and scandal?

by Jay Thorwaldson

As Palo Alto searches for a new auditor to replace Lynda Brouchoud, who has resigned to take care of a new baby and her family (the ultimate auditing challenge), the question arises as to qualities the city needs in that pivotal job.



Think watchdog. Think brave. Think intelligent. Think fair. Think perceptive, diplomatic, honest, experienced — the panoply of Boy Scout Oath qualities, or in this case perhaps Girl Scout ideals.

The city's website says the goal is to "promote honest, efficient, effective, and fully accountable city government."

In her 3 1/2 years as auditor, Brouchoud has filled the bill, and has done "excellent and diligent work," Mayor Sid Espinosa said after she announced her pending departure in early March.

Others agree. The Association of Local Government Auditors recently gave an audit of the city's vehicle fleet its Knighton Award, recognizing it as the "best performance audit of 2010 for a small office."

Brouchoud said she is pleased to leave the city "on a high note with a solid record of valuable contributions and a team of highly dedicated and qualified staff." One of her staff members, Mike Edmonds, is serving as interim city auditor (as he did during Brouchoud's maternity leave) while the city seeks a new permanent auditor.

Edmonds and staff last week issued a mid-

year report on the status of past auditor recommendations. It seems that numerous recommendations from past audits weren't being implemented, or implemented so slowly that they were more tortoise than hare. That April 19 report (available for download at www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/reports/auditor.asp) lists a dizzying array of topics the auditor's office has touched over recent years.

Before Brouchoud joined the city, City Auditor Sharon Erickson likewise won respect and praise for her leadership of the office, including calling some tough shots during her 6 1/2-year tenure in the job from July 2001 to early 2008. A City Council resolution cited her 113 audits and informational reports that included 305 recommendations, and said her financial audits saved the city \$2 million a year.

Then-Mayor Larry Klein called her "one of the most respected members of the city staff," and cited her "tenacity, high ethical standards, and grace." Applicants take note: Add tenacity and grace to my list above.

But city auditors were not always as visible or as successful as Erickson and Brouchoud. Erickson's predecessor, William Vincent, served as city auditor from May 1992 to October 2000 — when he abruptly disappeared from the office one afternoon. City Council members had vowed to each other not to discuss his departure, and for many weeks his leaving had an aura of mystery about it as a local daily newspaper posted story after story giving different theories.

The Weekly finally was able to figure out the primary reason: He had alienated city staff members through his personal "find something wrong" approach to the point that his reports were going unread, even by then-

City Manager June Fleming. He was accused of grabbing for headlines rather than seeking real change.

The so-called "Erickson Model" of being a city auditor, now perhaps the "Erickson/Brouchoud Model," entails a much more constructive style of making solid recommendations, of working with department-level people to understand the need for changes and to implement the findings.

Yet while the last three auditors have been visible, a series of earlier auditors have maintained the office during its low-profile years.

The big news in the April 19 mid-year update report is that the auditor's office has made major strides in catching up to a daunting backlog of recommendations.

The report covered the status of 82 open audit recommendations from 13 different audit reports — including 46 recommendations outstanding after the department's last status report of June 30, 2009.

The report tactfully perhaps does not sum up why the various departments were tardy in implementing recommendations, but some reasons are given under detailed specific items. There have been major reductions in the backlog over the past couple of years, the report notes:

"In 2008, there were 142 outstanding audit recommendations. During the last two years, the Auditor's Office has made a concerted effort to work with each department to identify challenges and next steps towards implementation. As a result, city staff completed or resolved 125 (88 percent) of these backlogged recommendations.

"Presently there are 32 recommendations that are in process, 24 of which are from audits issued since April 2010."

Nine recommendations that relate to city infrastructure needs should be deferred until June 2012, when a special "Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission" finishes assessing and prioritizing nearly \$500 million in backlogged infrastructure (items such as buildings, facilities, streets and sidewalks, parks).

The array of audits covers really big things — things that would generate big headlines if they go really wrong, or someone embezzles funds. This can reach down to neighborhoods, as in the recent Greenmeadow Community Association scandal in which the former administrative manager allegedly stole \$65,000 by fraudulent use of the group's credit-card.

Perhaps neighborhood groups, which often function as little governments, need to invest in more thorough auditing. Certainly state and federal governments need all the auditing they can get, as Gov. Jerry Brown is discovering in recent vehicle and cash-repayment laxity.

Since 2003, the city auditor's staff has reviewed overtime expenditures (2003), administrative restructuring efforts (2004), contract contingency funds (2005), parks maintenance (2005), street maintenance (2006), library operations (2007), employee ethics policies (2008), the city infrastructure backlog (2008), ambulance billing and revenue collection (2009), a police investigative fund (2009), city telephone rates and charges (2009), city vehicles utilization and replacement (2010), citywide cash handling and travel expenses (2010).

Even a city that rates in the 90th percentile for outstanding services and as a place to live compared to other cities nationwide needs to have a good watchdog. ■

Former Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson can be emailed at jaythor@well.com.

Streetwise

Are you excited about the United Kingdom's royal wedding?

Asked on University Avenue, Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by Kareem Yasin.



Jenel Glover
Hotel Development
Meridian Avenue, San Jose

"I don't really care, I'm not British."



Frances Davies
Faculty Development Director
East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto

"It's going to be fun. I like Kate much more than Diana, who wasn't very bright. And at the same age, she didn't know how to dress as well or how to deal with crowds."



Cecelia Cantwell
Jewelry Designer
Galvez Drive, Pacifica

"It's going to be a beautiful occasion, with God's blessing. I don't know much about Kate, but she seems like a decent girl."



Roi Ford
Fashion Designer
University Avenue, Palo Alto

"It's going to be a catastrophe. The poor girl, I feel sorry for her after what happened with Diana."



Christine Harris
Full-time Mom
Old La Honda Road, Woodside

"I don't know much about it. I'm not really into pop culture. All I've seen are a few pictures of the couple."



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Letters

(continued from page 14)

 (not \$2 million as Renzel claims) for the feasibility study an excellent investment. See pagreenenergy.org.

 Walter Hays
Parkside Drive
Palo Alto

Train plans

Editor,

The new high-speed rail proposal by State Senator Joe Simitian, State Assemblyman Rich Gordon and U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo (April 22) has huge advantages compared with the four-track system proposed by the High Speed Rail Authority. The Authority would be wise to evaluate this proposal in detail for decreased construction costs, much-reduced needs for property acquisition, operational impacts (additional running time between San Jose and San Francisco), and much lower environmental impacts, and therefore a much greater chance of community acceptance, meaning this proposal stands a much greater chance of actually being built.

However, the article notes that Senator Simitian's comments include, "The newly electrified Caltrain infrastructure would enable trains to achieve the same speed — 120 mph — as the proposed high-speed rail system is expected to achieve on the Peninsula, he said."

Caltrain trains stop at stations usually only a few miles apart. This distance is simply not sufficient for any train to accelerate up to 120 mph and then decelerate to stop at the next station. This includes all weekend service and weekday trains with 100-series numbers. For limited stop or Baby Bullet trains, 200- and 300-series numbers, higher speeds, perhaps as high as 120 mph, might be possible but only for small portions of the total trip between San Jose and San Francisco.

This plan calls for running high-speed rail trains on the same tracks as Caltrain tracks. Along most of the Caltrain right of way, there is only one track in each direction, and thus HSR trains would have to be "slotted" in between regular Caltrain trains stopping at all or most of the stations along the way, although the HSR trains would not stop at all these stations. Thus, HSR trains would be limited to the average speed of electrified Caltrain trains, well under 120 mph, but certainly faster than the current diesel-hauled trains.

The tradeoff for the additional running time is that HSR trains could make more station stops between San Jose and San Francisco than in the current plan, without increasing total travel time along the Peninsula. These additional stops would lower time and cost of passengers to go from their homes or business to the nearest HSR station, reducing environmental impacts and making HSR a more desirable way to travel, possibly increasing total ridership.

 Phil Burton
Cowper Street
Palo Alto

Police critics

Editor,

San Jose's new Police Chief Chris Moore has done the "unthinkable" and appointed several of the most

vocal and aggressive police critics to the City's Police Advisory Board.

Q: Why would you put your worst critics on a public stage and give them the microphone in meetings that are open to the public?

A: Because it is the smartest way to mend relationships, and comes from the same playbook used by the savviest corporations and public agencies to build community relations.

Surely Palo Alto, the city known for its advanced thinking, already has this standard relationship in place. Right? Well, just the opposite. While we do have a group with a title that is semantically similar, it operates as the police chief's PR focus group, and is convened behind closed doors.

The residents' mandate for broad community outreach and allowing a format for public feedback remains unheeded by the current format. That doesn't jive with Chief Dennis Burns' inaugural declaration that police/community relations would be his number-one priority.

San Jose's inclusiveness demonstrates a degree of openness, transparency and enlightenment that should be imitated by Palo Alto. This is the benchmark, or best standard of practice, and is an obvious next step for Palo Alto. We cannot accept anything less.

No criticizing the past. Let's get going on transparency and make this kind of action a priority for Palo Alto ASAP. Palo Alto must act now to maintain our progressive standards and be of true service to residents. Trust begins with openness and listening.

 Tim Gray
Park Boulevard
Palo Alto

Don't pave paradise

Editor,

Saltworks developers claim to be saviors of the Baylands. They will restore some of the salt ponds — if we let them pave over 70 percent first.

They argue that preservationists couldn't raise money to buy and restore Redwood City's Baylands. Yet many groups have saved land for future generations:

After the proposal to develop Bair Island was defeated by voters, the Peninsula Open Space Trust bought the 1,623-acre site (twice the size of the salt ponds) for \$15 million.

Save the Redwoods League raised \$7.5 million to buy 426 acres along the historic Skunk Train route, saving an old-growth forest from logging.

Five Silicon Valley land trusts joined forces to preserve 80,000 acres of open space over the next 20 years. They've already raised \$15 million.

Over the past 20 years every private, restorable Bay shoreline parcel offered at fair market price has been acquired by land trusts for the benefit of residents and wildlife.

The Environmental Protection Agency has already reported that multiple parties are interested in purchasing and restoring Redwood City's Baylands.

All we need is for Cargill to be a willing seller and Redwood City's salt ponds can join this list.

 Pat Marriott
Oakhurst Avenue
Los Altos

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TEAMMATES AGAIN . . . Former Stanford All-Americans **Candice Wiggins** and **Jayne Appel** will join fellow members of the 2009-12 USA Basketball women's National Team as well as two new invitees in attending the USA National Team's May 10-12 training camp in Las Vegas, Nev., USA Basketball announced Tuesday. All 12 players who were part of the USA squad that captured the 2010 FIBA World Championship gold medal, including Appel, will be at the camp. Training sessions will be held under the watch of 2009-12 USA National Team head coach Geno Auriemma. Appel, who got her first taste of full national team experience as a member of the FIBA World Championship team last fall, is set to begin her second pro season with the San Antonio Silver Stars this spring. Despite making a delayed debut due to foot and ankle injuries sustained in the final half of the 2009-10 collegiate season, Appel saw action in 28 games for the Silver Stars, averaging almost 11.0 minutes per game. She was also named to the WNBA All-Star Team that faced off against the USA National Team at the 2011 WNBA All-Star Game. Wiggins will return to training for the national team after missing all but eight games of her 2010 WNBA campaign with a ruptured left Achilles' tendon. The San Diego native had started seven of her eight games for the Minnesota Lynx before having her third pro season cut short. At the time of injury, Wiggins was averaging 13.8 points a game for the Lynx.

LOCAL ROWER . . . Recent Palo Alto High graduate **Rachel Ersted** (2010) has been invited to the USRowing U23 National Team Freshman Camp, to be held in late June at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Ersted, a freshman on Cal's women's rowing team, coxed the Bears' top varsity 8+ boat to a victory last weekend over No. 9-ranked Washington in Seattle to retain the Simpson Cup. Presently ranked No. 4 in Division I (Stanford is No. 3), Cal will row this weekend against Stanford in Redwood Shores before competing at the Pac-10 Championships on Lake Natoma outside of Sacramento on May 14.

ON THE AIR

Friday

College baseball: Stanford at Arizona St., 6:30 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Saturday

College baseball: Stanford at Arizona St., 6:30 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Sunday

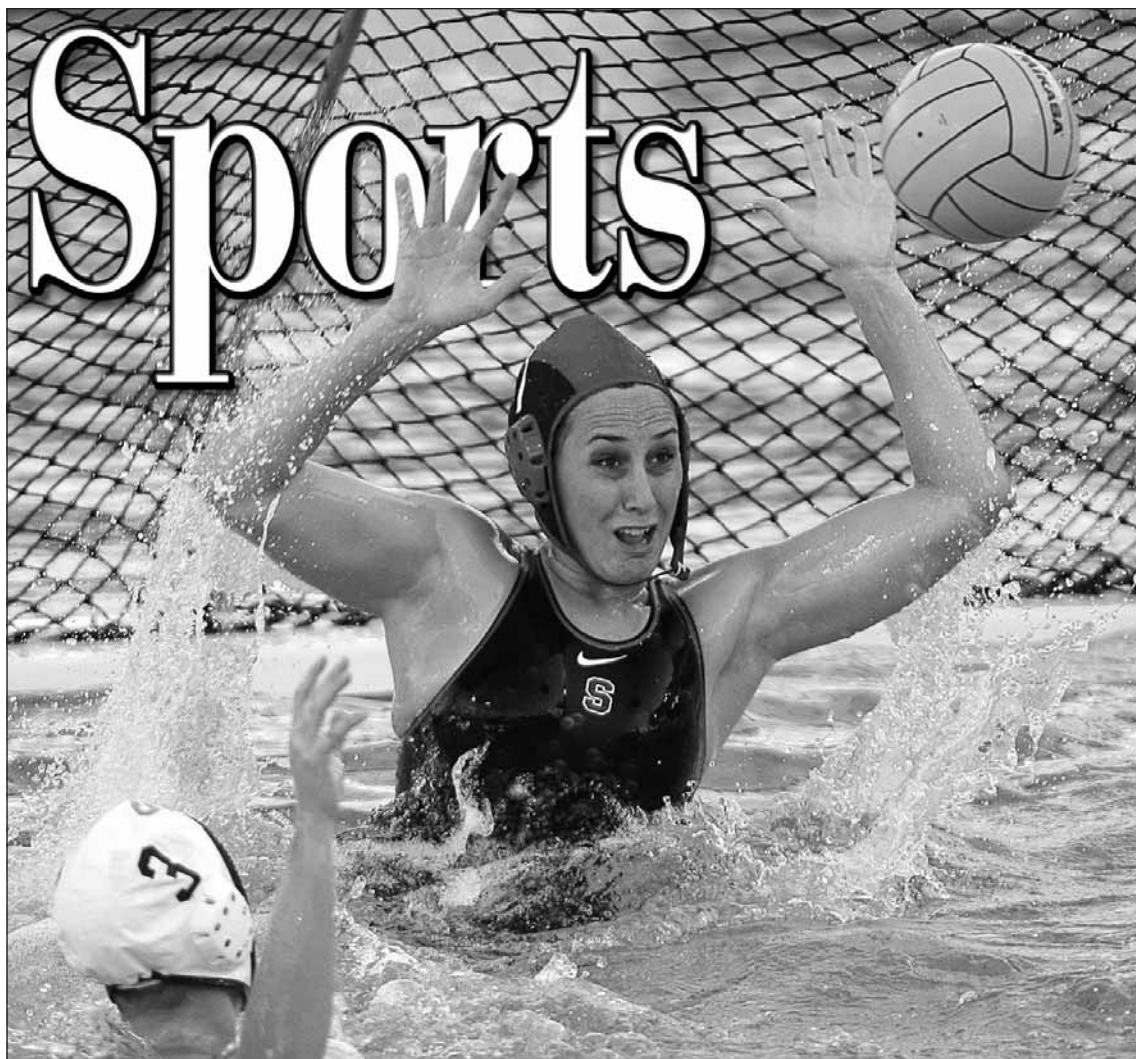
College baseball: Stanford at Arizona St., 12:30 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Tuesday

College baseball: Stanford at San Jose St., 6 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

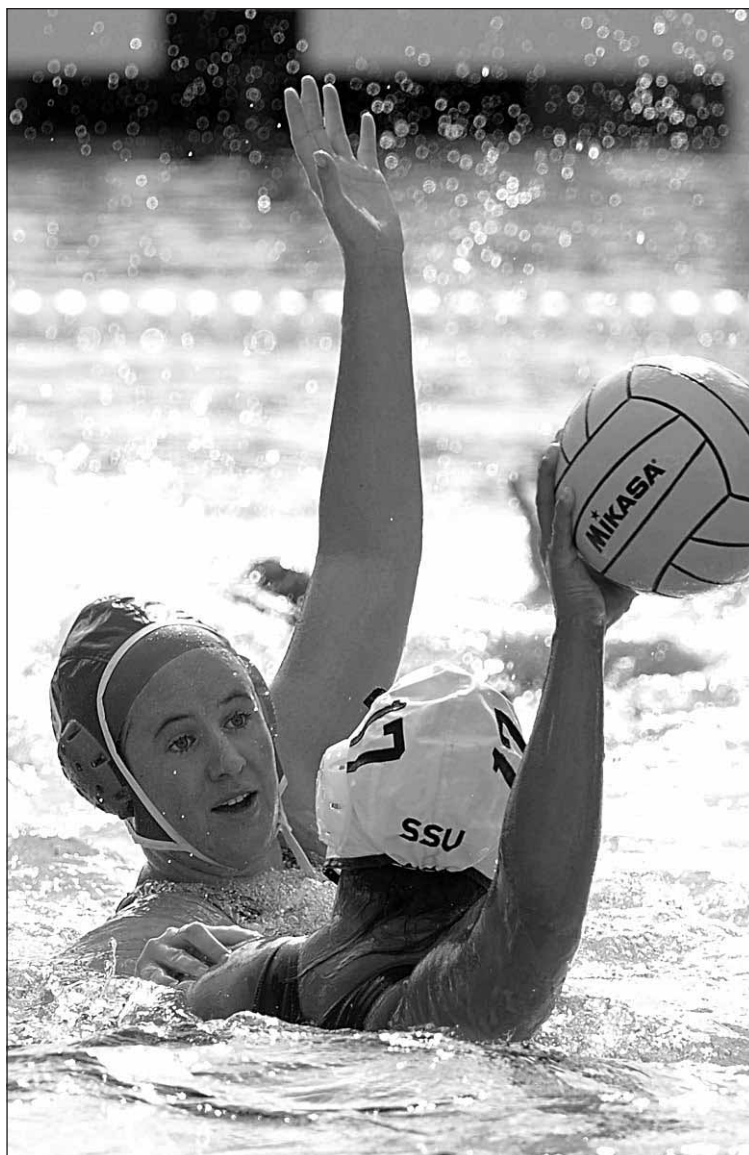
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Stanford senior goalie Amber Oland has made 109 saves in 14 matches during a 23-0 season compiled by the top-ranked Cardinal women's water polo team, which competes in the MPSF Tournament this weekend.

It will be their final shot



Senior Kim Krueger (left) from Menlo School has 27 goals this season, but also is a defensive stopper for the top-ranked Cardinal.

Three Stanford seniors head into postseason looking for NCAA title

by Rick Eymier

Menlo School grad Kim Krueger, who spent her formative years in Hawaii, met Kim Hall when both were in the seventh grade. Five years later they were reunited at Stanford.

Amber Oland grew up in Southern California and has a pair of former teammates (Grace Reynolds and Noel Umphrey) playing for UCLA. Kruger and Bruins' senior Megan Burmeister were teammates with the Knights.

Such is the women's water polo community, where it is not unusual to find yourself playing against a best friend or with a former opponent.

"It's such a small community that it allows for continuing interaction," Stanford coach John Tanner said. "There is intense competition but once the game is over, they have such great respect for each that relationships exist beyond the pool."

That's the case again this weekend when top-ranked Stanford (23-0) looks to strengthen its resume as a national title-contender at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation tournament, which begins Friday at San Jose State with a 1:30 p.m. match against eighth-seeded Arizona State (11-12).

If Stanford continues to win, it will play for the championship Sunday at 3 p.m.

PREP GOLF

He picked the right sport

Menlo's Grimes, who gave up tennis for golf, leads Knights to title

by Keith Peters

Patrick Grimes was a decent tennis player all through middle school. Menlo School boys' tennis coach Bill Shine thought he might even entice Grimes to play for him one day.

Grimes, however, had another passion and that was golf.

"I remember asking him in sixth grade what his handicap was," Shine recalled. "He said he was a three. Imagine that, a three handicap in sixth grade."

That's why Grimes isn't playing tennis for Shine these days. Instead, he's playing for Menlo School golf coach Dave Buchanan, who was very happy with how Grimes played Wednesday during a showdown for the West Bay Athletic League title with rival Sacred Heart Prep.

Despite suffering a double-bogey six on the downhill, 396-yard first hole, Grimes regrouped quickly with four birdies and finished with a 2-under 34 on the front nine of the tough, narrow tree-lined Sharon Heights Country Club course.

With sophomore Andrew Buchanan shooting 39 and senior Bobby Pender adding a 41, the Knights rolled to their first-ever West Bay Athletic League title with a 205-217 victory over the Gators. Menlo finished 10-0 while SHP ended 8-2 (10-2).

The Knights had clinched no worse than a tie for the league crown a day earlier by beating Harker and thus had a trip to a Central Coast Sectional regional on May 11 locked up before facing SHP.

"Win or lose, we were going to CCS," said Dave Buchanan, in his first season as the Knights' head coach (and the father of Andrew).

For Grimes, the league title and sub-par round was a good way to begin wrapping up his stellar prep career.

"I've struggled here in the past, so it was nice to break through in my last league match," said Grimes. "I may have shot 44 out here in my freshman year, I'm not sure. But, I know I've shot 42, so it's been a little bit of a nemesis track for me."

The tight, hilly course at Sharon Heights appeared to have gotten Grimes once again when he drove it left on the first hole and had to punch out from under the redwood trees. He flew the green on his third shot and chipped past the hole before taking two putts for an unsightly six on the par-4.

"I was thinking it would be a long day," Grimes said in regards to his opening hole. "That's the first time I've ever gone left. Usually I struggle over the last four holes."

Grimes, however, went from pos-

(continued on page 26)

(continued on next page)

Prep golf

(continued from previous page)

sibly posting his worst score at Sharon Heights to recording his best. He parred the second, birdied the par-5 third, got another birdie on the uphill 327-yard par-4 fourth, parred the next two holes before getting another birdie on the tight 338-yard seventh. He saved par on the eighth before closing out with a birdie 3 on the uphill 368-yard ninth.

When Grimes and Pender finished their round, the Knights held a 10-stroke lead over the SHP tandem of junior Kevin Knox and his brother, freshman Bradley. After the second group finished, Menlo's Jackson Dean (44) and Buchanan had increased the Knights' lead to 21 strokes. Junior James Huber (47) put the finishing touches on the victory.

"The scores were a little higher than normal," said Dave Buchanan, "but this is a tough course."

This was only the second time Menlo had played at Sharon Heights this season, the first time being a practice round.

Sacred Heart Prep also shot higher than normal as senior Spencer Lamb and Bradley Knox finished with 42s.

"I think the magnitude of the match might have gotten to the players," said SHP coach Mark Dowdy, whose team now has to win Monday's WBAL Tournament at Menlo Country Club in order to advance with Menlo to CCS action. The top three individuals not on a qualifying team also will advance to CCS.

Menlo, meanwhile, can use Monday's tourney as a practice. That means Grimes can enjoy himself during Admit Weekend at Stanford,



Keith Peters

Patrick Grimes shot 34 to help Menlo win the WBAL title.

where prospective students can make their final commitment to the school. Grimes is already signed, sealed and delivered and looking forward to playing for the Cardinal golf team next season.

He'll get a sneak peek at the team this weekend as Stanford hosts the Pac-10 Championships.

Elsewhere in prep golf this week:



Keith Peters

Menlo School senior Bobby Pender wound up with a bogey on the par-5 third hole but finished with a 41 to help the Knights defeat Sacred Heart Prep, 205-217, on Wednesday to finish off a 10-0 season in the WBAL.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Gunn defeated Homestead on Wednesday, 187-213, at Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course to finish 8-2-2 in the division. Gunn's Avinash Sharma was medalist with a 2-under-par 33. Teammate Anson Cheng, a freshman, shot 36 for the Titans, who clinched the division crown a day earlier by defeating Fremont, 192-207, at Sunnyvale Muni.

Gunn took care of Fremont as sophomore Sharma, Cheng and Herbert Sadler-Wong all shot 2-over 37s. They'll lead the Titans into the SCVAL Championships next Monday and Tuesday at San Juan Oaks in Hollister. The top two teams will qualify for CCS.

In the Peninsula Athletic League, Menlo-Atherton qualified for CCS on Tuesday during a playoff with Burlingame and Terra Nova at windy Poplar Creek Golf Course in San Mateo. Carlmont earned the PAL's automatic bid to CCS by winning the regular season while M-A was one of four teams that needed to battle for the second berth.

When Aragon was unable to field the required five golfers for the playoffs, that left three teams. The Bears got off to a shaky start but sophomore Matt Tinyo turned in a 2-over 37 from his No. 5 spot in the lineup to help lift the Bears to victory.

With junior Travis Anderson shooting a 1-over 36 and junior Max Culhane adding a 38, Menlo-Atherton shot 196 to hold off Burlingame (200) and Terra Nova (225). M-A senior McKinley Mathon added a 42 and junior David McNamara shot 43 to round out the Bears' scoring.

Menlo-Atherton next will play as a team in one of two CCS regionals, set for May 10-11 at Rancho Canada in Carmel Valley. The Bears also can qualify individuals out of the PAL Tournament, which offers seven spots to the section regional. ■



Keith Peters

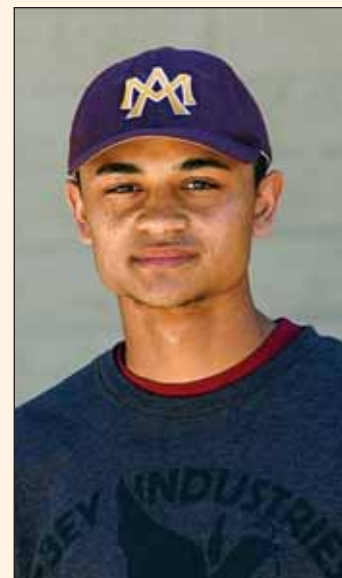
Sacred Heart Prep junior Kevin Knox drove behind a tree on the ninth and had to lean against a fence to hit his second shot.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Jasmine Tosky
Palo Alto High

The junior had two individual wins and anchored two winning relays in a win over Gunn before setting a meet record among her two wins and anchoring the winning 200 medley relay at the Section Challenge.



Myles Brewer

Menlo-Atherton High

The senior had four hits, three of them home runs, and drove in nine runs in addition to pitching twice while helping the Bears go 4-1 in baseball and capture the championship of the Rancho Cordova Easter Classic.

Honorable mention

Kieran Gallagher

Gunn track and field

Grace Greenwood

Palo Alto diving

Ally Howe

Sacred Heart Prep swimming

Nina Kelty

Palo Alto lacrosse

Claire Klausner*

Gunn softball

Margaret Wenzlau

Palo Alto swimming

Freddy Avis

Menlo baseball

Christoph Bono*

Palo Alto baseball

Nick Lange

Menlo-Atherton baseball

Matt Martella

Sacred Heart Prep baseball

Michael Ogrey

Menlo-Atherton baseball

Kyle Zirbes

Menlo-Atherton baseball

* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to www.PASportsOnline.com



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Keith Peters

When Menlo School junior baseball standout Freddy Avis isn't pitching (he's 7-0) or hitting home runs (he hit two this week), he's playing a solid shortstop for the Knights, who are 17-4 heading into the weekend.

PREP ROUNDUP

CCS finalists meet for bragging rights

Menlo School hosts Palo Alto in baseball matchup of top teams

by Keith Peters

It's only a nonleague game, but Saturday's matchup between host Menlo School and Palo Alto should be quite interesting when the showdown gets under way at 2 p.m.

Both teams reached Central Coast Section championship games last season, with Menlo winning in Division III and Palo Alto losing in Division II. This season, the squads have the best records of any local teams — Menlo is 17-4 while Paly is 18-7.

Palo Alto comes in averaging 6.3 runs and 8.7 hits per game and hitting .335 as a team while Menlo is averaging 8.0 runs and 9.3 hits with a .343 team batting average. Both teams have lost to St. Francis but beaten Mountain View, as far as common opponents go.

The teams also have something else in common — Freddy Avis. The Menlo junior spent his freshman year on the Paly roster and the Vikings certainly wouldn't mind having him back, especially given his success this season.

Avis pretty much did it all as he pitched a complete-game six-hitter, struck out 11 and allowed only two earned runs in a 5-3 nonleague baseball victory over host St. Ignatius on Wednesday. Avis also hit his second home run of the season in addition to ripping a double.

Avis led off the second with a solo shot off the scoreboard at Marchbanks Park in San Francisco to give the Knight's a lead they would not relinquish. Menlo added a solo run in the third on a sacrifice fly by freshman Mikey Diekroeger and then tallied three more in the fourth on RBI singles by junior Jake Batchelder and senior Robert Wickers plus a sacrifice fly by sophomore Austin Marcus, who was also stellar on defense again behind the plate as he threw out two of three Wildcats who attempted to steal.

Avis ended up striking out the side in the seventh after an error and a walk put the tying run on base. Menlo returns to action on Friday with a West Bay Athletic

League road game against Crystal Springs at Sea Cloud Park in Foster City, before hosting Paly.

In a WBAL game Tuesday, Jake Bruml took care of business with his bat and arm while leading Menlo to a 16-4 romp over Pinewood. Bruml took over the CCS lead in RBI as he knocked in four runs. He hit his sixth home run of the season (tying the CCS best) and added a double to Menlo's 13-hit attack while driving in four runs.

On the mound, Bruml tossed four shutout innings while recording his sixth victory of the season while the Knights improved to 4-1 in league. Bruml struck out five and allowed just three hits.

Tim Benton had four hits for Menlo, including a home run, while Avis also homered (his first this season) and drove in four runs with Benton finishing with three. Kamyaar Butt hit his first career homer for Menlo.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Palo Alto (10-3, 18-7) won its seventh straight as it got three hits and three RBI from senior T.J. Braff in a 9-3 victory over host Saratoga on Wednesday. Junior Austin Braff added two hits to the Vikings' 11-hit attack, which included six doubles — two each by the Braff brothers.

Junior Ben Sneider picked up the victory with five innings of four-hit work. His earned-run average is now .420. The Vikings will close out the regular season on Friday by hosting Saratoga at 3:30 p.m.

Palo Alto is tied for second place with Homestead, which knocked Los Altos into third place on Wednesday. Should the Vikings and Mustangs win on Friday, they'll face each other in the league playoffs that begin next week.

In the PAL Bay Division, Menlo-Atherton lost all the momentum it had from winning the Rancho Cordova Easter Classic last week by dropping an 8-5 decision to host Hillsdale in a PAL Bay Division contest on Wednesday. M-A pitchers gave up 12 walks as the Bears fell to 4-5 in league (14-8 overall).

In contrast, Hillsdale relief pitcher Michael Sweeney baffled the Bears over the final four innings after they had scored five runs in the third to take a 5-1 lead. Kyle Zirbes had two doubles and finished with three hits to pace M-A, which got two hits from Cam Winn while out-hitting the Knights, 8-7.

The Bears will host Hillsdale on Friday at 3:15 p.m.

In the SCVAL El Camino Division, host Gunn gave up 14 hits to first-place Santa Clara and dropped a 12-1 decision. Ryan Gorman had two hits, one a double, to pace the Titans (4-6, 7-9-1).

(continued on next page)

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Stanford Shopping Center, Noon - 4pm

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SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

Jim Keene, Palo Alto City Manager
Sid Espinosa, Palo Alto Mayor
Dr. Enoch Choi, PAMF: Pandemic Influenza
Dr. Eric Weiss, Stanford Hospital: Emergency Medicine
Bill Daley, Hohbach-Lewin, Inc: Seismic Retrofitting

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(continued from previous page)

Boys' lacrosse

Menlo-Atherton remained tied for first place in the SCVAL De Anza Division with Mountain View following an 11-6 victory over visiting Los Gatos on Wednesday. The Bears improved to 7-2 in league (11-4 overall) as John Athens and Kotaro Kihira scored three goals apiece. Pierce Osgood contributed three assists while Jordan Zuk added two goals and one assist with Sam Hausman winning 12 of 19 faceoffs.

On Tuesday, Menlo School sophomores Wiley Osborne and Nick Schultz proved too much for Palo Alto's seasoned defense as the Knights stretched out a 6-2 first-half lead for a key 9-6 league win.

Menlo avenged a defeat earlier this season to the Vikings and improved to 7-3 in SCVAL De Anza Division (12-7 overall) while Paly dropped to 5-4 in league (10-5 overall).

Osborne scored three goals, Schultz four, and both attackman had a pair of assists. Menlo scoring was rounded out by juniors Ryan Grzejka and Pete Foster, who tallied a goal apiece.

Although Paly scored within seconds of the opening face-off, Menlo came back with five unanswered goals to take command of the game. Palo Alto won the face-off battle (Viking John Brunnett was 11 of 13 for the day), but the offense kept turning over the ball, giving the Knights too many offensive opportunities. Brunnett ended up with a goal and two assists for Palo Alto, while Kevin Proceviat notched two, and Zach Spain, Walker Mees, and Cory Valenti got one apiece.

Girls' lacrosse

Elyse Adler and Michaela Michaela each scored five goals to pace the Menlo School to a 20-9 victory over host Burlingame in Wednesday in a rematch of last season's WBAL playoff championship match won by the Knights. Adler set the tone with two goals within the first minute of play as Menlo (5-0, 13-6) remained atop the WBAL standings.

Brooke Bullington, Michael and Ali Kim each added goals and Adler tallied a third before the first five minutes of play had expired. The score ballooned to 8-0 off goals from Michael and Savannah McKinnon before the Panthers found the back of the net with a goal from junior Charlotte Pratt.

The Knights continued their relentless offensive and by the half the score was 13-4. The second half played out much the same way with aggressive play up and down the field by the Knights. Michael added three goals, Adler had two and Kim and Bullington each contributed one. Bullington added two assists while Kim had five. Menlo goalies Julia Dressel and Hannah Rubin shared goal-tending duties for the contest with each making three saves.

The five goals and six total points by Michael pushed her past the 100-point mark for the season. She has 84 goals and 24 assists and is ranked as the No. 4 score in the state and No. 6 in the nation, according to MaxPreps.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Palo Alto's season continued to gain momentum as the Vikings



Keith Peters

Menlo's Michaela Michael is the nation's No. 6 scorer.

pulled away in the second half for a 13-8 victory over host Los Gatos on Tuesday night.

Tied at 5 at halftime, the Wildcats (5-3, 7-5) won the draw and scored a quick breakaway goal in the first 30 seconds. The Vikings (7-1, 8-7) then scored eight unanswered goals with the final one coming with 1:30 left to play. Los Gatos tacked on two meaningless goals with less than a minute to play. Charlotte Bif-pared Paly with four goals while Leigh Dairaghi added three.

In nonleague action, senior Kendall Cody poured in six goals and added four assists for a season-high 10 points as Sacred Heart Prep rolled to a 17-12 victory over host Leland on Tuesday. Freshman Caroline Cummings added five goals and three assists for SHP while senior Julia Keller contributed three goals and three assists as the Gators improved to 13-5. Goalie Emily Westerfield had 12 saves for SHP.

On Monday, Menlo School jumped out to a 5-0 lead in just over five minutes of play and pulled away for a 21-9 victory over visiting Castilleja in a WBAL match. Michael scored eight goals while Adler and Bullington scored three each.

Softball

With sophomore Claire Klausner striking out 11 and limiting host Saratoga to just two hits, the Gunn softball raced to a 10-0 victory in a SCVAL El Camino Division game on Wednesday. The Titans improved to 6-2 in league (13-9 overall) but still trail Monta Vista in the division standings.

Gunn scored early in the first with a base hit by Klausner, who stole second and scored on a single by Laura Kidder. The second run of the inning was scored by Kidder on an RBI single by Casey Maltz. Gunn's defense got out of trouble in the second after the Falcons had runners on second and third with one out. Kidder, however, pulled off a double play to get the Titans out of the inning.

In the West Bay Athletic League, Mandi Shore rapped out two hits and drove in four runs to pace Castilleja to an 11-1 victory over visiting

Mercy-Burlingame on Wednesday. The Gators (6-2 league) scored four runs in the first and second innings before closing out the game with a 10-run rule.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Palo Alto ended a recent losing streak as freshman pitcher Julia Saul tossed a four-hitter to pace the Vikings to a 3-0 victory over visiting Fremont on Tuesday. Senior Anna Gale and freshman Hannah Bundy each had a pair of hits for the Vikings (3-4, 6-12) as Fremont fell to 1-6 in league (5-12 overall).

On Monday, Menlo-Atherton certainly wasn't rusty from a week off for spring break as the Bears blasted their way to an 18-7 nonleague triumph over visiting Mt. Eden (Hayward).

Lauren Diller had five hits, including a double and triple, and drove in five runs to lead M-A's 18-hit attack. Erin LaPorte contributed three hits and four RBI while Jackie Gonzalez blasted a home run among her two hits and drove in a pair as Monica Vasquez earned her second win of the season as she tossed a two-hitter for the Bears, who improved to 8-5 following the five-inning game shortened by the 10-run mercy rule.

Tennis

Andrew Carlisle and JT Nishimura of Menlo School defeated teammates Mac Osborne and Michael Hoffman, 6-2, 6-2, to win the WBAL doubles title on Wednesday on the Knights' courts.

In the singles final, Sacred Heart Prep's Nick Pizzuti dropped a 6-1, 6-0 decision while Zack Chase of Menlo finished third.

Boys' track and field

Sacred Heart Prep got four individual victories from Nico Robinson and some solid distance efforts on the way to capturing the fourth WBAL meet of the season on Wednesday on the Gators' track. SHP scored 195 points with Crystal Springs second with 121.

Robinson won the 110 high hurdles in 16.14, took the 300 intermediate hurdles in 43.55, won the long jump with a leap of 19-8 3/4 and took the high jump at 5-4 on fewer misses as Pinewood's Bradley Naumann also cleared 5-4.

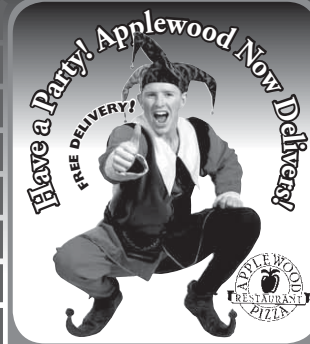
The Gators swept the top three spots in the 800 with Sach Watterson leading the way in 2:03.58. Zach Kaplan won the 3200 in 10:26.82 as the Gators took three of the top four spots and Leo Kolomatahgi won the shot put (42-5) and discus (134-8) to help wrap up the victory.

Girls' track and field

With Holly McDonald winning four individual events and Maggie Fong winning the 100 and 200, Sacred Heart Prep scored 167 points and easily won the fourth WBAL meet of the season on Wednesday at the Gators' track.

McDonald won the 100 hurdles, took the long jump, captured the triple jump (32-6 1/2) and cleared 4-6 to win the high jump to pace SHP. Fong clocked 12.86 in the 100 and 26.54 in the 200.

Priory junior Kat Gregory was another double-winner as she took the 1600 (5:28.23) and 3200 (11:36.87). ■

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Keith Peters

Palo Alto junior Jasmine Tosky set a meet record by winning the 200 free in 1:49.72 and added a victory in the 500 free in addition to anchoring the 200 medley relay team to victory at the Section Challenge.

PREP SWIMMING

Section Challenge just sets the stage

Palo Alto, Sacred Heart Prep look ready
for even faster times after solid showing

by Keith Peters

While the annual Section Challenge swim meet had its largest field ever with 14 teams entered from three Northern California sections, it was more about individual performances than team efforts as 11 meet records fell on Saturday at Palo Alto High.

Palo Alto junior Jasmine Tosky and Sacred Heart Prep freshman Ally Howe were the individual standouts among local swimmers as each won a pair of events and accounted for all three of the meet records set in the girls' competition.

Tosky helped get the meet off well for the Vikings as she anchored the opening 200 medley relay to victory in 1:47.67, just off the meet record of 1:47.35 set in 2008. Howe swam the third leg on the Gators' relay that finished fourth in 1:51.83.

Tosky returned shortly thereafter and won the 200 free in 1:49.73, breaking her own meet record of 1:50.12 from last season. Somewhat surprising, Tosky swam faster (1:48.23) during a dual-meet win over Gunn last Wednesday.

Howe was next up and raced to a meet and school record of 54.26 to win the 100 fly. She defeated defending champ and meet recordholder Marissa Neel of San Ramon Valley (55.54) in the process.

Once again it was Tosky's turn and she didn't disappoint while swimming a season best of 4:51.40 to win the 500 free. She just missed the meet record of 4:49.40 while cruising to a nearly five-second victory, while setting herself up for a repeat performance at the CCS Championships next month.

Howe finished off the individual efforts for the girls by winning the 100 back in 55.80, again breaking the meet record (58.21) and lowering her own school mark in the process. Howe's time would have earned her second place at the 2010 CCS finals.

Both Tosky and Howe had one more swim in them, legs in the 400 free relay. Tosky blistered a 49.25 anchor leg to bring Paly home in second place in a season best of 3:35.04. Howe went 51.41 on her second leg to help the Gators finished sixth in 3:41.76.



Keith Peters

Sacred Heart Prep junior Tom Kremer was faster than his meet record in the 100 back, but settled for second.

Tosky packed her bag quickly and headed home to get ready for Paly's prom that night.

Neither Tosky nor Howe were tapered or shaved and swam the meet after a tiring week of training.

"We didn't taper or rest at all for that meet, and so Ally's times are even more impressive," said SHP coach Kevin Morris. "I can't really say that I was surprised by her times; we sort of expect that she'll be up there with the amazing other elite swimmers in the area. I am sure pleased, though, that her times continue to fall from earlier in the season, and I can't wait to see what happens at CCS. A school record is nice, but the reality is she'll break her own record over and over again in the next four years."

(continued on next page)

PREP BASKETBALL

All-state honors for Eackles

Pinewood senior is named the Division V MVP, all-state second team

by Keith Peters

Hailie Eackles did just about everything for the Pinewood girls' basketball team this season as she scored 23.5 points a game and averaged eight rebounds while leading the Panthers to a 28-5 record and the CIF Division V state championship -- the team's second straight.

The efforts by Eackles this season didn't go unnoticed as she was named the state Division V Most Valuable Player and named to the California All-State Girls Basketball second team by MaxPreps recently.

"Receiving the Division V state player of the year is a huge honor to me," Eackles said. "I am very grateful for getting it, and couldn't imagine ending my senior basketball season in any other way. It has truly been happily ever after for me at Pinewood.

"Receiving second team all-state is also very exciting and I am happy to have represented Pinewood as best I could."

Eackles will continue her career next season at University of Pacific in Stockton.

"I think it was well-deserved," Pinewood coach Doc Scheppler said of Eackles' honors. "Her last third of the season she put all the pieces together. She did a terrific job defending other teams' post players and that wasn't easy giving away six inches.

"Basically, we couldn't have won



Pinewood senior Hailie Eackles was named the state's Division V Most Valuable Player by MaxPreps after helping win a state title.

the state without the efforts of all of our girls. Let it be said that without her great teammates, this award couldn't have been possible. Yes, we were Hailie Eackles and the PIPS-queaks, but our pipsqueaks could play — really play."

Pinewood won its record fifth state title in March -- the most by a Division V team — with a 67-56 triumph over St. Bernard of Playa del Rey. Eackles scored 31 points while fellow senior Miranda Seto added 21.

"Hailie was able to take her game to the basket because teams knew

we could really shoot well," Scheppler said. "If we didn't have our great shooters, teams would have been able to shut down her driving lanes."

Teams didn't, however, and Pinewood sailed to another highly successful season.

Joining Eackles on the Division V first team was Eastside Prep senior Ahjalee Harvey.

Making first-team all-state was 6-3 Bonnie Samuelson of Edison (Huntington Beach), who is headed to Stanford in the fall. She was also named to the Division I first team. ■

Swimming

(continued from previous page)

Palo Alto senior Grace Greenwood added the only other local victory in the girls' competition as she took the diving on Friday with 403.95 points. Emma Miller of Paly was third, Nadia Nee fourth and Serena Yee fifth as the Vikings scored 49 points.

"I was very proud of Gracie," said Paly coach Danny Dye. "She did a great job, added some new dives. She is just so talented and dedicated. I'm looking forward to seeing her compete at CCS."

Palo Alto went on to finish second in the team race, scoring 231 points but failing to defend its title as San Ramon Valley won with 254 points. Sacred Heart Prep finished sixth with 92.

"It was a tough meet," said Dye, who was missing defending 100 breast champ Sarah Liang for most of the meet. Liang finished eighth in the 200 IM before sitting out the remainder of the day due to illness. "It still would have been tough (with Liang) because San Ramon swam very well."

The Paly boys were missing standout Byron Sanborn but, again, the Vikings had no chance at the team title as NCS powerhouse Campolindo beat CCS powerhouse Bellarmine, 231-210.

"Still," Dye said, "fast times and good swimming. I think it was our best one yet."

Eight meet records were set by the boys. Sacred Heart Prep junior Tom Kremer saw his meet record of 51.33 in the 100 back erased by Sven Campbell of Campolindo (50.78). Kremer also was under his previous mark, but his season best of 51.03 was only good for second.

Kremer did come away with one victory, taking the 200 free in a season best of 1:41.85 in a loaded field as 16 swimmers broke 1:50.00. Despite Kremer's individual efforts, which included a 46.32 anchor leg to help the Gators finish sixth (3:17.11) in the 400 free, SHP took 11th out of 14 teams with 65 points.

"We had lots of other great swims," Morris said. "Freshman Selby Sturzenegger had a great meet, and we had a bunch of our team inch closer to the CCS cuts. Sloane Sturzenegger, Chris Hinrichs, Ally Flessel, Robert Dunlevie

and Scott Jollymour are all so close to the cuts, and we hope to get them in the next few weeks."

Sacred Heart Prep, which took on unbeaten Harker on Thursday, will match its unbeaten boys against Menlo's unbeaten squad next Wednesday at Menlo at 4 p.m.

The Paly boys, who were eighth last season, took seventh with 93 and was third among CCS teams while trailing Bellarmine and third-place Los Gatos (134).

Paly freshman Andrew Liang got his feet wet for the first time in CCS-like conditions and performed well with a pair of season bests. He was the No. 1 CCS finisher while taking second in the 50 free in 21.68 — moving to No. 5 all-time at Paly while breaking his own freshman record.

Liang was fifth in the 100 free in 48.20, another Paly freshman record, while Campo's Campbell sped to a 46.15 meet record. Campbell is only a sophomore. Liang was the No. 2 CCS finisher, setting himself up for good CCS meet.

Paly sophomore Cole Plambeck added a second in diving with 430.45 points while Collin Pollard of Bellarmine won with 450.50. ■



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

Please be advised the Planning and Transportation Commission (P&TC) shall conduct a **public meeting at 4:00 PM, Wednesday, May 11, 2011** in the Civic Center, Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Any interested persons may appear and be heard on these items.

Staff reports for agenda items are available via the City's main website at www.cityofpaloalto.org and also at the Planning Division Front Desk, 5th Floor, City Hall, after 2:00 PM on the Friday preceding the meeting date. Copies will be made available at the Development Center should City Hall be closed on the 9/80 Friday.

AT 4:00 PM

NEW BUSINESS.

Public Hearing:

1. Review and recommendation of the Capital Improvement Program Plan FY 2012-16 for Comprehensive Plan consistency.

AT 6:00 PM:

Public Hearing:

2. **Stanford University Medical Center Facilities Renewal and Replacement Project:** Request by Stanford Hospitals and Clinics, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Stanford University School of Medicine (Applicant) on behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Leland Stanford Junior University for review and recommendation to the City Council of the Stanford University Medical Center (SUMC) Facilities Renewal and Replacement Project, including demolition of the existing Stanford Hospital and Clinics (SHC), construction of new hospital buildings, renovation and expansion of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH), reconstruction of the School of Medicine (SoM) facilities, and construction of new medical office buildings and parking structure, as well as the renovation of the Hoover Pavilion. The Planning and Transportation Commission will consider recommendations to the City Council for: a) certification of Final Environmental Impact Report; b) adoption of a resolution containing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings and a Statement of Overriding Consideration; c) adoption of a resolution amending the Comprehensive Plan to recognize taller building heights at SUMC and to exclude hospital, clinic and medical school use areas from the citywide non-residential growth limits; d) adoption of an ordinance amending the municipal code to establish a new "Hospital" zone district and amending the sign code and tree code to be consistent with the Hospital Zone regulations; e) adoption of an ordinance approving a thirty-year development agreement that would grant certain development rights to the Applicant in exchange for certain public benefits; f) adoption of a Record of Land Use Action approving a conditional use permit that would allow specific hospital, medical office, and related uses in the Hospital Zone; g) adoption of a Resolution annexing an approximate 0.65 acre site from Santa Clara County; h) approval of architectural review of the various buildings and site development; and (i) approval of SUMC Area Plan.

Questions. For 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.

Curtis Williams, Director of Planning and Community Environment

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NEW
LOCATION

It Happened in Palo Alto

Joseph Eichler (1900-1974) was one of the most influential developers in California's history. Intrigued by a house designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright in Atherton, California, which Eichler himself rented, he hired the San Francisco architectural firm of Anshen & Allen to design mass-production houses that would incorporate Wright's vision. The style has come to be known as "California Modern," fittingly, as it includes features that would never appear on homes in the Midwest, say, or New England. Eichler homes typically feature floor-to-ceiling glass exterior walls, post-and-beam construction, and rooms that flow from one to another rather than being separated by walls with narrow doorways. Roofs are flat or gently sloping. Heating is usually via pipes in the concrete floors, adequate for California's mild winters. Floor plans open up movement and visibility among various realms within the house. Eichler kitchens were combined with a "multi-purpose room," thus allowing mothers to oversee their children as they, mothers, worked. Living and dining rooms were combined and often used to separate the children's bedrooms from the parents' room. The living and dining rooms in houses' rears faced enclosed gardens. The bedroom wings defined and sheltered a backyard patio accessible through a door in the floor-to-ceiling glass walls. These features express Eichler's dictum to "let the outside in." Skylights are also common.

Palo Alto is one of the most conspicuous sites for Eichler homes, both north and south of Oregon Expressway. There is even an Eichler-built shopping center, Edgewood Plaza, at Edgewood Drive and Embarcadero Road. Midtown-South Palo Alto features numerous Eichler homes, and an Eichler tract community association and swimming facility, Greenmeadow.

In recent years, Eichlers have become fashionable again, as part of a rediscovery of American mid-century modern style. Eichler Homes, which originally sold for around \$11,000, today command extraordinary sums.



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There are four games scheduled each day. The winner earns the automatic berth into the NCAA tournament, to be held at Michigan. Other teams remain in contention for at-large berths.

Second-seeded California (21-4) opens the tournament at 10 a.m. Friday against seventh-seeded San Diego State (20-12). Third-seeded Hawaii (17-7) and the sixth-seeded Spartans (20-11) follow at 11:30 p.m. Fourth-seeded UCLA (22-5) and fifth-seeded USC (16-5) follow the Stanford match.

Tickets are \$15 daily for adults and \$5 for students and children. All-session passes are also available for \$35 and \$15. For more information contact the Spartan Ticket Office at 408-924-7589.

For Krueger, Oland and Hall, it's the last go around. The seniors take a career record of 102-12 into Friday's opener. They've finished third at the NCAA tournament twice and reached the national championship game last year, losing to USC, 10-9. The only thing missing is a national title.

"That was hard on all of us to lose that game," Oland said. "It was a disappointing end but we didn't want to lose sight of what we accomplished. We did focus on getting back to that point."

The Cardinal seems built for the future, although the 2012 Olympics may disrupt Stanford's continuity.



Kyle Terada/Stanfordphoto.com

Stanford senior backup goalie Kim Hall is hoping to help bring the Cardinal a title at the MPSF tournament this weekend in San Jose.

Junior Melissa Seidemann and sophomore Annika Dries played for the U.S. National Team last year and likely will be invited to return once the college season is over. Former UCLA coach Adam Krikorian heads the national women's program, and he is familiar with all the Pac-10 teams.

If that's the case, then the future is now.

"This has been a special year," Krueger said. "It goes by so fast I can't believe it's the last time for everything. I find myself savoring everything. Winning a championship would be the cherry on top of a fantastic four years and even without that championship you realize you are doing something special."

Oland and Krueger were both

thrown into the mix as freshmen, and both responded. They were both named to the MPSF All-Freshman Team and Oland earned MPSF Newcomer of the Year honors. Krueger led all freshmen with 19 goals.

"I was definitely nervous getting thrown into everything my freshman year," Oland said. "I felt prepared from high school and playing with the national team but it was totally different than I expected."

Oland, also an All-American pick, and Hall were the only goalkeepers on a team that finished third in the nation.

"Amber has a great feel for the game," Tanner said. "She is thoughtful about water polo and could probably coach. She understands what the team is trying to do and she knows the offense more than she needs."

Hall appeared in 14 games as a freshman, making three starts.

"You can't give more to a team than she does," Tanner said. "She is an incredible team member who works on her game every day and pays attention to the finest detail."

Hall was awarded the 'Warrior Award' for her efforts in the weight room.

One of Krueger's first experiences at Stanford was as a member of a Hawaiian club team in town for the Junior Olympics. They practiced with the Stanford water polo club team and she was introduced to Kyle Utsumi, for whom she wound up playing at Menlo School and who has been a volunteer assistant coach at Stanford all four of her years.

"I've been playing for him for as long as I've lived in California," Krueger said. "He's the first person I met here."

Krueger and Burmeister helped Menlo win three Central Coast Section titles.

Krueger, who hopes to be part of Stanford's 101st NCAA title, wrote a piece on Stanford grad, three-time Olympian and current Castilleja coach Brenda Villa for the 'Voices of Champions' section of Stanford's special online tribute to 100 NCAA titles at <http://champions.stanford.edu/>.

"It's amazing what people have accomplished here," Krueger said. "I am just so grateful to experience college in this way, and to see it through special lenses that make it all unique. I know a lot of the girls have joined sororities. I never did. I feel like I have one here. I can't say enough about the relationships I've developed and enjoyed." ■



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Palo Alto
ONLINE

Stanford baseball hopes to keep momentum going against Arizona St.

by Rick Eyrer

The Stanford baseball team has started winning again and that's the good news as the 21st-ranked Cardinal prepares to take on seventh-ranked Arizona State in the Sun Devils' backyard.

It doesn't count in the standings, but an important 9-5 victory over visiting California on Monday night, against a pitcher who brought a sub 2.00 ERA into the contest, has to feel good on the heels of taking two of three from UCLA last weekend.

"It's huge for us," sophomore center fielder Jake Stewart said. "We hit a patch where we weren't doing as well as we would have liked. Saturday showed us we can do anything."

Stewart referred to the dramatic come-from-behind victory in which the Cardinal (5-7, 20-14) scored four times, after two were down and the bases empty, to stun the Bruins.

Stewart, who had three hits and drove in four runs against California, singled home the first run of the ninth inning against UCLA.

"It was huge for the team, for momentum and confidence," Stewart said. "It wasn't the best of weekends for me personally but after working

with Brock Ungricht every day, he helped me with simplifying the process, going short to the ball and to just stay calm."

Ungricht, in his first year as a volunteer assistant, has been credited for turning several Stanford hitters around.

Perhaps his best student is senior catcher Zach Jones, a valuable member of the team regardless of his offensive production.

"He's huge for this team," Stewart said. "He's the leader in the locker room and in the dugout. He knows what to say to motivate us."

At one point this season Jones was teetering on the brink of a complete hitting meltdown. His average had fallen to a season low .128 and he had yet to drive in a run. To watch him go about his business during the tough stretch, you would never know if he was succeeding or failing.

"That's the most impressive thing about him," Stewart said. "He was down but he never showed it. He was still our emotional leader. The way he battled through it set an example for the rest of the team. He showed what we could do."

Ungricht, a career .318 hitter at San Diego State, played profession-

ally for a couple of years before taking on a high school coaching job in 2008. He returned to the Aztecs' program under Major League Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn before coming to Stanford.

"He's been our hottest hitter the past three or four weeks," Stewart said of Jones, who doubled home the tying run against the Bruins last weekend and then added two more hits and an RBI against the Bears and drove in a run in Tuesday's 3-2 setback at St. Mary's.

"This can be a changing moment," said Jones, who also hit a three-run homer against the Bruins last Thursday. "Things had been going bad for us lately. For us to squeeze out a win like this, it could turn us around."

That momentum will be needed against Arizona State, second in the Pac-10 with a .312 team batting average and 21 home runs. The Sun Devils, the hardest team to strike out, are also the top fielding team in the conference and lead the conference with 66 stolen bases.

Stanford ranks third in the league with a .296 average, but is near the bottom in field percentage and is the only team not to throw a shutout this year. ■

Stanford's Green declares for the NBA Draft

by Rick Eyrer

Jeremy Green may not return to the Stanford men's basketball team next season. Then again, he may. It all depends on what happens between now and May 8.

That's the deadline for Green after Cardinal coach Johnny Dawkins announced that Green, a junior guard, had made himself eligible for the 2011 NBA Draft.

Green will not hire an agent at this time in order to maintain his NCAA eligibility. The last day for underclassmen to withdraw from the draft and maintain eligibility is May 8. The NBA Draft is scheduled for June 23.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Jeremy as he explores his options regarding the NBA," said Dawkins. "Jeremy is an important part of our program and has continued to show improvement while establishing himself as one of the top players in our league. We look forward to providing support as he gathers information during this process."

The Pac-10's fifth-leading scorer in 2010-11 at 16.7 points per game, Green also ranked second in the league in three-point field goals made at 2.8. A two-time All-Pac-10 selection, Green scored in double figures in all but five games and led Stanford in scoring 19 times.

Golf

Stanford hosts the Pac-10 Conference men's championships beginning Friday at the Stanford Golf Course.

The conference tournament features five teams ranked among Golfweek Sagarin's Top 25, including No. 3 UCLA and the 20th-ranked Cardinal.

Stanford's Andrew Yun ranks second nationally and UCLA's Patrick Cantlay is third. Cal's Eric Mina is the defending conference champion.

Stanford last won a conference title in 1994.

Meanwhile, the 24th-ranked Stanford women's golf team found out on Monday afternoon that it was headed to the NCAA Central Regional.

Stanford is seeded eighth in the

24-team regional, to be played at the Warren Golf Course in South Bend beginning May 5.

Women's water polo

Stanford junior Melissa Seidemann was named Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Mikasa Player of the Week, it was announced Monday.

Seidemann, who won the honor for the second time in her career, became Stanford's fourth player to earn the weekly honor this season. ■

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Movies

OPENINGS



Aimee Teegarden, center, preps for the big night in Disney's latest teen-pleaser, "Prom."

POM Wonderful Presents The Greatest Movie Ever Sold ★★

(Palo Alto Square) Any filmmaker trying to keep a career afloat has to spend some time being a huckster, but few filmmakers better resemble P.T. Barnum than documentary director and star Morgan Spurlock.

A likeable, gregarious personality, Spurlock made his name with the 2004 doc "Super Size Me," a staggeringly obvious look at how eating a steady diet of McDonald's can make one ill, and he's back at it with another diverting but unnecessary exposé. Spurlock decided to underwrite the \$1.5 million cost of producing a documentary by branding the hopeful "docbuster" with sponsors and product placement. The meta twist? The documentary would be about corporate marketing strategies.

Hence we get "POM Wonderful Presents The Greatest Movie Ever Sold." The results are breezy enough; with his winning sense of humor, Spurlock makes 90 minutes disappear agreeably. The problem is that the documentary doesn't deliver on its oft-teased promise to pull back the curtain and reveal the supposedly hidden truth about what Spurlock implies is an insidious marketing practice.

As Spurlock brings his pitch to interested sponsors, we see corporate executives doing their job of trying to find good value in product-awareness strategies. Sure, a few talk in comically meaningless corporate double-speak, but most come across as level-headed straight-shooters amiably collaborating with Spurlock.

Well, heck, that's not the stuff of a "docbuster"! So Spurlock expands his investigation to sidelines like the science of neuromarketing — so he can evoke that sinister eyeball rape from "A Clockwork Orange" — and the practice of public schools "creatively compensating" for slashed budgets with schoolyard banner ads (about as benign as community ads in a church bulletin) and ad-drenched "Channel One News," screened to captive audiences in daily increments of 12 minutes (definitely deserving of our ire).

This hit-and-run method achieves some breadth but little depth. Anyone living in this country must already be aware, if not acutely so, of our advertisement-saturated culture. Ralph Nader turns up to rail convincingly against the "social conditioning" carried out by corporations, and a brief trip to São Paulo makes its blessed ban on outdoor advertising look pretty darn appealing, but as a fast-food pitchwoman

once asked, "Where's the beef?"

The filmmaker questions repeatedly whether or not he can retain his integrity, though it seems that ship has sailed. Spurlock alludes to the threat product placement poses to artistic integrity without providing much in the way of facts or even examples, other than his own film. We hear a bit from one of the product-placement contracts, and Spurlock consults a lawyer; perhaps the film's toothlessness may be the result of legal fears.

In lieu of "gotcha" results, most of the film finds Spurlock simply fulfilling his contractual obligations to his sponsors, from being seen driving a certain car, eating a certain food, or drinking a certain beverage to presenting four fully produced 30-second spots. Not surprisingly, that joke gets old (and it's pretty much devoid of documentary content). Maybe the film best succeeds by reminding us of the effectiveness of advertising. I'll tell ya, after 90 minutes, I sorta felt like trying a POM Wonderful 100% Pomegranate Juice.

Rated PG-13 for some language and sexual material. One hour, 30 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

Prom ★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Writer/director John Hughes — may he rest in peace — was a master of the teen genre. From "The Breakfast Club" (1985) to "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (1986), Hughes lent his projects unparalleled humor and heart.

Viewers remember Ferris' wild-child antics, but it was his friend Cameron's visceral reaction to a materialistic and uncaring dad that hit an emotional chord. Similarly, in "Breakfast Club," jock Andrew Clark's breakdown when describing his father's relentless pressure is especially effective given the film's overall witty and entertaining tone. Hughes' films were at once deep and light-hearted, and filmmakers have long tried to replicate (or rip off) the winning formula.

A case in point is Disney's latest teen-pleaser, "Prom." The film — which often seems better suited for television — borrows liberally from the Hughes library, including a chase-through-the-school scene

(continued on next page)

THEATER ADDRESSES

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)

Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

Stanford: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

Internet address: For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more information about films playing, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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—Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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—Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"I'M BUYING INTO MORGAN SPURLOCK! HE MAKES YOU LAUGH TILL IT HURTS!"

—Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"SHEER ENTERTAINMENT!"

—Katey Rich, CINEMA BLEND

"ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS!"

—Edward Douglas, COMING SOON

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—Kim Voynar, MOVIE CITY NEWS

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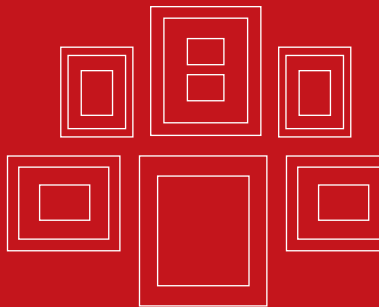
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Movies

(continued from previous page)

that may as well have been plucked directly from “Breakfast Club.” The plot and characters are as one-dimensional as cardboard-cutout prom decorations, and with the exception of a few standouts, the acting is on par with a high school play.

Class president Nova Prescott (Aimee Teegarden of TV’s “Friday Night Lights”) is in charge of the school’s climactic celebration — the prom. Things go from sweet to stressful for Nova (not sure why her parents named her after a Chevy from the ‘60s, but I digress) when the storage room full of completed prom decorations catches fire. The school’s principal forces motorcycle-driving rebel Jesse Richter (Thomas McDonell) to help Nova redecorate for the upcoming dance. Can anyone else see where this is going?

A handful of other characters wrestle with their own issues as

prom approaches, though Nova and Jesse are the focal point. Star athlete Tyler (DeVaughn Nixon) is on the outs with his longtime girlfriend after cheating with sophomore Simone (Danielle Campbell), who has her sights set on baby-faced charmer Lucas (Nolan Sotillo). Mei (Yin Chang) doesn’t have the heart to tell her Michigan-bound boyfriend that she’ll be going to school in New York, and perennial shy guy Lloyd (Nicholas Braun) whiffs with every prom-date request.

Despite the fact that most of the actors (with the exception of Sotillo) look to be in their 20s, “Prom” should satisfy the 13- to 17-year-old female audience it’s geared toward with plenty of high school clichés and a superficial plot. The lack of laughs and a heap of cheesy dialogue contributes to the shrug-inducing reaction those of us outside of the target audience will experience. Mc-

Donell stands out in his stereotypical role (it doesn’t hurt that he looks a bit like a young Johnny Depp) and Teegarden performs admirably, but the majority of the casting seems generic and uninspired.

Perhaps the biggest problem with “Prom” is that there is nothing special about it. Everything feels familiar and rehashed, like eating leftovers that have lingered in the fridge and been picked at for days. There are fleeting moments that impress, such as the bond between Jesse and his waitress mother, but nothing near what Hughes was able to do consistently.

Prom might be a night to remember for high-schoolers, but “Prom” is a movie to forget for filmgoers.

Rated PG for mild language and a brief fight. One hour, 43 minutes.

— Tyler Hanley

NOW PLAYING

African Cats ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) “African Cats” unfolds on the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya, where the filmmakers seemingly trailed a pride of lions and a coalition of cheetahs. The story focuses on lion cub Layla getting steadily schooled in “the circle of life” (by film’s end, new cubs have arrived), cheetah “single mother” Sita raising a litter of five, and savanna “king” Fang ruling the pride with tough but regal authority. Kids would doubtlessly learn more watching basic cable, but the spectacle is what it is, and the big screen adds majesty to it, enhanced by IMAX-style helicopter shots and bigger-than-life slo-mo of “the fastest creature on land — a cheetah.” Rated G.

One hour, 29 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed April 22, 2011)

Arthur ★1/2

(Century 20) Russell Brand assumes the role of booze-guzzling playboy Arthur Bach, heir to a seemingly endless fortune. Even Arthur’s lifelong nanny, Hobson (Helen Mirren), can’t coax maturity out of the reckless lush. Arthur’s mother (Geraldine James) threatens to cut him off unless he agrees to marry Susan Johnson (Jennifer Garner), the power-hungry daughter of a developer (Nick Nolte). Arthur reluctantly goes along with his mother’s wishes but second-guesses himself when he falls for aspiring writer Naomi (Greta Gerwig). What’s an alcoholic spendthrift to do? And, more importantly, do you care? Rated PG-13 for some drug references, sexual content, alcohol use throughout and language. 1 hour, 45 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed April 8, 2011)

Jane Eyre ★★★1/2

(Century 16) Just when you think the umpteenth adaptation of Charlotte Bronte’s beloved 1847 novel couldn’t possibly add anything new to the library of cinematic classics, director Cary Joji Fukunaga proves you wrong. Instead of telling the tale in chronological order, screenwriter Moira Buffini begins with the adult Jane (Mia Wasikowska). Only after being taken in by cleric St. John Rivers (Jamie Bell) and his sisters does Jane recall her unhappy time as the orphaned ward of her aunt (Sally Hawkins). Buffeted about by fate and subject to the cruel inequities of class and gender, Jane eventually becomes the governess of Thornfield Hall and falls in

love with the master of the manor house, Edward Rochester (Michael Fassbender). Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements including a nude image and brief violent content. 1 hour, 55 minutes. — S.T. (Reviewed March 25, 2011)

Rio ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) “Rio” starts in the Brazilian rainforest, where baby Blu gets shanghaied by pet-trading smugglers. The blue macaw grows up as the pet of Minnesota bookstore owner Linda (Leslie Mann), who — like Blu (Jesse Eisenberg) — lives comfortably off the social radar. That all changes with the arrival of Tulio (Rodrigo Santoro), a Rio-based bird scientist who has traveled across the globe to ask Linda to bring Blu home to mate with the last female of their kind: If Linda doesn’t agree, Blu’s particular species will go extinct. A nervous Blu must shake a tailfeather on a blind date with restless parrot Jewel (Anne Hathaway). Human smugglers again intervene, with white cockatoo Nigel (Jemaine Clement) doing their dirty work. Attracted opposites Blu and Jewel gradually learn to see eye to eye over the course of their vertiginous adventures. Rated G for mild off-color humor. One hour, 36 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed April 15, 2011)

Water for Elephants ★★★

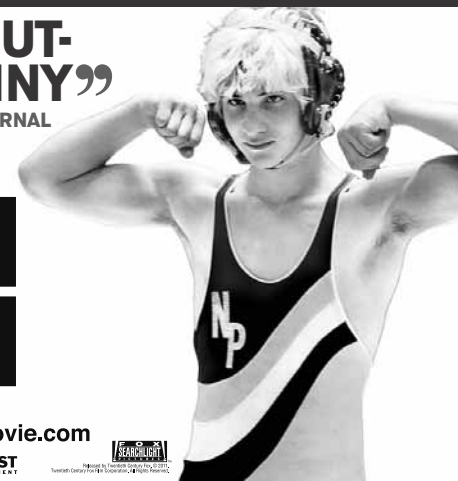
(Century 16, Century 20). Told in a flashback, Jacob (Robert Pattinson) is a young Cornell veterinary science student. After receiving tragic news, he hops aboard a train in the darkness of the night and awakens to the world of the struggling Benzini Brothers traveling circus. The spectacle dazzles him, but he soon learns about the

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MOVIE TIMES

African Cats (G) ★★1/2	Century 16: 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:35 & 9:50 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10 a.m. Century 20: 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.; Sat. also at 10 a.m.
Arthur (2011) (PG-13) ★1/2	Century 20: 2:15 p.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 7:35 p.m.
Atlas Shrugged: Part 1 (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri.-Wed. at 11:10 a.m.; 1:35, 4:25, 6:50 & 9:20 p.m.
Bill Cunningham New York (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Aquarius Theatre: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.
The Conspirator (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Fri. & Sun.-Wed. at 11:05 a.m.; 4:30 & 9:55 p.m.; Sat. at 4:30 & 9:55 p.m.; Thu. at 11:05 a.m. Palo Alto Square: 4:25 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. also at 1:30 & 10:05 p.m.; Sat. also at 10:05 p.m.; Sun.-Thu. also at 1:30 p.m.
Fast Five (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11 a.m.; noon, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10 a.m. Century 20: Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Thu. at 11 & 11:45 a.m.; 12:30, 1:10, 1:55, 2:40, 3:25, 4:10, 4:50, 5:35, 6:20, 7:10, 7:50, 8:30, 9:20 & 10:45 p.m.; Sun. at 11 & 11:45 a.m.; 12:10, 1:10, 1:55, 2:40, 3:25, 4:10, 4:50, 5:35, 6:20, 7:10, 7:50, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10 & 10:45 p.
The Grateful Dead Movie Event (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Thu. at 7:30 p.m.
The Greatest Movie Ever Sold (PG-13) ★★	Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:40 & 7:20 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:30 p.m.
Hanna (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5:05, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.
Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10 a.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 2:20, 4:30, 6:40 & 8:50 p.m.; Sat. at 10 a.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. also at 12:10 p.m. Century 20: Fri. & Sun.-Thu. at 11 a.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40 & 9:50 p.m.; Sat. at 10:55 a.m.
Hop (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Thu. at 11:05 a.m.; 1:25, 3:45, 6:20 & 8:40 p.m.; Sun. at 4, 6:20 & 8:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 1:50, 4:15, 7 & 9:25 p.m.
Jane Eyre (2011) (PG-13) ★★★1/2	Century 16: 1:05 & 4:05 p.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:10 a.m.
Limitless (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Fri. & Sun.-Wed. at 1:55 & 7:20 p.m.; Sat. at 7:20 p.m.; Thu. at 1:55 p.m.
The Lincoln Lawyer (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 4:50 & 10:15 p.m.
Memphis Broadway Musical (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Sat. & Tue. at 7:30 p.m.; Sun. at 12:30 p.m. Century 20: Sat. & Tue. at 7:30 p.m.; Sun. at 12:30 p.m.
The Metropolitan Opera: II Trovatore (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Sat. at 10 a.m. Palo Alto Square: Sat. at 10 a.m.
Potiche (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Aquarius Theatre: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
Prom (PG) ★1/2	Century 16: 1:50, 4:50, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:55 a.m.; Mon.-Thu. also at 11 a.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 12:45, 1:45, 3:15, 4:25, 5:45, 7:05, 8:15, 9:35 & 10:45 p.m.; Sat. also at 10:10 a.m.; Tue. also at 10:15 a.m.
The Reluctant Debutante (1958) (PG) ★★	Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Mon. at 5:40 & 9:15 p.m.
Rio (PG) ★★	Century 16: 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m.; In 3D at 3:55, 6:30 & 9 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10 a.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. also at 10:40 a.m. & 1:20 p.m.; In 3D Mon.-Thu. also at 11 a.m. & 1:25 p.m. Century 20: 1:05, 3:35, 6 & 8:35 p.m.; In 3D at 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.; Sat. also at 10:25 a.m.; Tue. also at 10:30 a.m.
Royal Wedding (1951)	Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 3:55 p.m.
Scream 4 (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:35, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m.
Something Borrowed (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Thu. at 12:01 a.m.
Source Code (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:35 p.m.
Thor (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: In 3D Thu. at 12:01 a.m. Century 20: In 3D Thu. at 12:01 & 12:02 a.m.
Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 1:40 & 4:20 p.m.; Fri. & Sun. also at 10:50 a.m.; 7 & 9:35 p.m.; Sat. also at 10:50 a.m.; Mon.-Thu. also at 11 a.m.; 7 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 2:55, 5:30, 8:10 & 10:40 p.m.; Fri., Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 11:15 a.m.; 12:20, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat. also at 11 a.m.; 12:20, 1:30 & 4 p.m.; Sun. also at 11:15 a.m.; 1:45, 4:20, 6:55 & 9:30 p.m.; Tue. also at 11:15 a.m.; 12:20 & 1:45 p.m.
Water for Elephants (PG-13) ★★★	Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:10, 2:10, 4:10, 5:10, 7:20, 8:10 & 10:15 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:20 a.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:50, 2:15, 3:40, 5, 6:30, 7:45, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m.; Sat. & Tue. also at 10:05 a.m.
Win Win (R) ★★★	Guild Theatre: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.

★ Skip it ★★ Some redeeming qualities ★★★ A good bet ★★★★ Outstanding

tawdry reality behind the sequined illusion and enters a forbidden love affair with the cruel ringmaster's wife Marlena (Reese Witherspoon). Rated: PG-13 for moments of intense violence and sexual content. 2 hours. — S.T. (Reviewed April 22, 2011)

Win Win ★★★
(Guild) When we meet lawyer Mike Flaherty (Paul Giamatti), he appears to be a born loser. His aging client base is shrinking, his office duplex is giving him \$6,000 worth of plumbing agita, and the wrestling team he coaches is logy and uninspired. Everything changes when Mike sees an opportunity to bring in some extra scratch by becoming the legal guardian of one of his clients, an elderly and mentally deteriorating man named Leo Poplar (Burt Young). This way, Mike can move Leo into a rest home that can shoulder the responsibility for daily care, occasionally check in, and collect a cool \$1,500 a month. A curveball arrives in the form of 16-year-old Kyle Timmons (Alex Shaffer), here to crash with his Grandpa Leo. Rated R for language. 1 hour, 46 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed April 1, 2011)

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THIS IS A SUMMARY OF COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS. THE AGENDA WITH COMPLETE TITLES INCLUDING LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/council.asp>

**(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING-COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 2, 2011 - 6:00 PM**

CLOSED SESSION

1. Labor
7:30 PM or as soon as possible

STUDY SESSION

2. Public Safety Systems Virtual Consolidation Project
 3. Presentation of the City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012
- SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**
4. Proclamation Recognizing Municipal Clerks Week May 1-7, 2011
 5. Selection of Candidates to be interviewed for the Historic Resources Board
- CONSENT CALENDAR
6. Approval of Four Contract Documents for the Civic Center Infrastructure Improvements Project (Capital Improvement Program Project PF-01002)
 7. From Finance: Approval of Contract with Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP (MGO), for External Financial Audit Services
 8. Approval of Contract with Communication Strategies for Project Management Services for Telephone System Replacement and Infrastructure Upgrade
 9. Adoption of a Budget Amendment Ordinance in the Amount of \$135,618 to Fund the Purchase of a Walk-In Van and a Forklift
 10. Approval to Enter into Amendment One for Contract No. C07118158 with City of Inglewood to Add Collection Services for Delinquent Parking Citations
 11. Adoption of Resolution Requesting Approval from the CalPERS Board of Administration for Extension of Employment for Acting City Auditor Michael Edmunds
 12. Approval of Park Development Impact Fees to Fund Park Improvements at El Camino Park
 13. Approval of a Utilities Enterprise Fund Contract with Daleo Inc. for Gas Main Replacement in Crescent Park, Charleston Terrace, Charleston Meadows, Ventura, Green Acres, and Research Park Subdivisions

ACTION ITEMS

14. **Public Hearing:** to Hear Objections to the Levy of Proposed Assessments on the Palo Alto Downtown Business Improvement District and Adoption of a Resolution Confirming the Report of the Advisory Board and Levying Assessment for Fiscal Year 2012 on the Downtown Palo Alto Business Improvement District
15. **Public Hearing:** Request by SummerHill Homes for a Zone Change from R-1 (8000) to RM-15 (Low Density Multiple-Family/Village Residential), a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to assign the Village Residential Land Use Designation to a 2.65-acre site currently designated Single-Family Residential at 525 San Antonio Road; and Approval of a Record of Land Use Action
16. Caltrain & High Speed Rail Staff Update

SPECIAL MEETING-COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM May 3, 2011 - 5:45 PM

1. Interviews of Public Art Commission Applicants

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. regarding: 1) Budget Hearings for Council Appointed Officers, Council, Human Resources, Administrative Services Department, Library; 2) Auditor's Office Qtrly Report as of March 31, 2011

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. regarding: 1) Budget hearings for Police, Fire.

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- ✓ New 'Portability' Tax Break for Living Trusts
- ✓ IRA's Double Taxation

LOS GATOS

Los Gatos Lodge
50 Los Gatos-Saratoga Road
Tuesday, April 26th 1:00
1:00pm - 3:45pm

PALO ALTO

Dinah's Garden Hotel
4261 El Camino Real
Thursday, April 28th
10:00am - 12:45pm

MENLO PARK (AM)

Stanford Park Hotel
100 El Camino Real
Tuesday, May 3rd
10:00am - 12:45pm

MENLO PARK (PM)

Stanford Park Hotel
100 El Camino Real
Tuesday, May 3rd
6:00pm - 8:45pm

SUNNYVALE/MT. VIEW

The Grand Hotel
865 W El Camino Real
Wednesday, May 4th
10:00am - 12:45pm



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10:00am - 12:00pm

MENLO PARK (PM)

STANFORD PARK HOTEL
100 El Camino Real
Wednesday, April 27th
6:00pm - 8:00pm

SUNNYVALE / MT. VIEW

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Monday, May 2nd
1:00pm - 3:00pm

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Arts & Entertainment

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



"Tomatoes," a painting by artist Alice Brown, one of the many Palo Alto-area artists taking part in Silicon Valley Open Studios next month.



"La Charmeuse," a sculpture by Fabienne Bismuth on display in her Palo Alto home.

VISITORS WANTED

by Joann So



Sculptor Fabienne Bismuth, another artist in Silicon Valley Open Studios, works on a clay elongated figure that will ultimately become a bronze sculpture.

Veronica Weber



"Reaching" by Fabienne Bismuth.

Garages aren't just reserved spaces for parked cars and extra luggage. For some people, the garage is a haven in which they can build, tinker, express.

In the garage studio, artists have a place to create near the comfort of their homes. And for Palo Alto artist Fabienne Bismuth, the space is a launchpad of creativity.

Bismuth, a French-American sculptor, creates cast-stone and bronze sculptures. Her trademark is in the expressive, gestural poses of women. The pieces have been getting taller and longer as time goes by. Ever since she expanded the studio, she isn't afraid to go bigger and bolder.

While she's working, the garage door remains open to get fresh air. Her current work is on top of a stool with a rotating board and a mirror behind, and the walls have torn-out pages from Vogue taped onto them. Her sculptures of women take the spotlight in their confident poses. Bismuth also uses cast stone as a model for her bronze works. At first glance, it's difficult to tell the difference between the two types of

Area artists welcome the public to garage studios and galleries alike during annual Silicon Valley Open Studios

(continued on next page)



Painter Alice Brown in her light-filled Palo Alto studio, which is inside a cottage behind her home.

Art around the world

Palo Alto painter often finds inspiration for her bright oils on other continents

by Joann So

Alice Brown's Palo Alto garage looks like a little room that Monet would have painted in when he created his famous Impressionist paintings. Her intimate space of creativity is nestled in a backyard resembling a flower field.

The sun provides ample light, enough to inspire the brightly colored oil paintings that Brown creates. An unfinished canvas stays put

on an easel alongside a palette filled with glossy smidgens of paint, waiting to be painted again.

The small studio will be open for visitors soon, when Brown takes part in Silicon Valley Open Studios the weekend of May 14-15. (See separate story.)

During a recent visit, Brown sits comfortably on a stool wearing a faded denim button-down shirt

layered over a pink one — a clothing ensemble fit for an artist. She's surrounded by paintings that line the walls as snapshots of the places she's traveled to. "You see better when you paint. ... It makes traveling more interesting," she said.

For Brown, art serves as a way to connect with the local people of the many places she's been to — Antarctica, Cambodia, Africa and New Zealand, among others. Brown takes inspiration from the scenery, such as the Botswana marketplace depicted in her painting "South African Market." She has also started working with small organizations to provide art supplies to poorer countries.



"José's Fruit Stand," a painting by Alice Brown.

"Art came before the traveling but they go well together," she said, smiling.

Brown and her husband, along with six other couples, started distributing poster paints to children in Cambodia at Phnom Krom Primary School in the city of Siem Reap. Every couple of years, a couple makes a trip holding duffel bags stuffed with poster paints to give to more than 900 children.

Brown got into oil painting after she painted a mural for her daughter's first post-college apartment. There was an empty wall just asking for one, Brown said, and she painted a Costa Rican jungle.

She then started to paint a year later — this time on canvases, in a much greater number and frequency. She took classes at the Scottsdale Artists School in Arizona, studying with Ken Auster, one of her biggest inspirations.

Brown's oil works are based mostly on pictures taken while she's traveling. Sometimes she goes out

for some plein-air painting in locations around the Bay Area and her Carmel house. Variety is evident in her oil paintings. Ocean scenes in Hawaii or Panama are vibrant with more green. She also paints at the Mission Ranch hotel in Carmel, which is "more subtle and has more nature colors."

Brown's multitasking carries over to her art. A painting takes anywhere from nine to 12 hours, but she sometimes manages to work on two or three at a time. Inspiration comes as she's working: "I'm thinking of what to paint next while I'm painting."

Brown describes her style as typically French Impressionist, noting that she would rather "do it instead of read about it in books."

"I like the quiet time because I have a big family," she added. "You forget what ails you, what worries you. You lose yourself in the art. I'm thankful for this outlet at this age." ■

Open Studios

(continued from previous page)

sculptures through the sheen of their painted surfaces.

Of her bronzes, Bismuth said, "The fact that it's in bronze is more definitive, gives more strength." On the other hand, she said, her stone pieces are "less predictable, breakable, one-of-a-kind. You can see fingerprints. There's no technical process; it's all the way me."

But both materials portray the women: the bronze in its permanence and the cast stone in its individuality and fragility. "The artist's life is lonely: You're facing your material so you can express whatever is inside. But you need feedback from the world," she said.

Bismuth gets this feedback in part by inviting in visitors. Next month, she's joining the many area artists who'll open their doors to the public as part of the annual Silicon Valley Open Studios program for the first three weekends in May. Bismuth is participating on the second weekend, from May 14 to 15.

Typically, artists taking part in weekend one, May 7-8, are in central and southern San Mateo County, including studios in Menlo Park and Atherton. The second weekend focuses on Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford, Mountain View and other

nearby towns. The third weekend features San Jose and other South Bay artists.

Bright-eyed and clearly passionate about her work, Bismuth said she finds the open-studio interactions invaluable — a brief yet lively break from the fairly solitary act of sculpting. The open studio was her first exhibition venue in 2005.

"This is the one time that I get real interaction with people. It's very special," she said. Bismuth invited two other artists, Nilou Farzaneh and Nadine Defranoux to show with her because "it's more fun that way." (Defranoux isn't part of Silicon Valley Open Studios, but was invited by Bismuth.)

Bismuth light-heartedly described some of her open-studios visitors in past years as "sweaty boys coming from baseball practice come ringing the doorbell. I'll have them come in and give them something to drink and they can look at art."

Being from a family of artists, Bismuth grew up in France surrounded by art. Her parents were interior designers and her brothers, an architect and a painter. She decided to go in a different direction and got a Ph.D. in biochemistry instead.

It took a big move to another country for Bismuth to start sculpting. After moving to California from France with her husband and son, she found herself in "a good

time to reflect." She left her previous job in biotech engineering in France and was also pregnant with her second son. During this time of reflection, she bought her first bag of clay and upon "feeling the clay, I was hooked."

She took classes at the Academy of Art in San Francisco to get her foot in studying art. But Bismuth's leggy sculptures were far from the

'I need to physically sculpt. It's addictive.'

—Palo Alto artist Fabienne Bismuth

proportion-driven curriculum she found at the academy. "I decide what I want to do," she said. So with the skills she acquired at school, she dove deeper into her art, developing and honing it.

"I sculpt what I'm touched by," she said, adding: "You bring your personality. You put part of who you are in the piece." Her love for bell-bottoms is apparent in some of her tall, model-like sculptures. Works such as "So Fashion!" have short torsos and long legs. She pointed out her own short torso with her hands, laughing.

In her living room, a long, gray sculpture of a man and woman stand at the corner of the display room — the man's hand fused into the woman's body and vice versa. They are two people but they are one couple in Bismuth's hands. They are nearly the same height as the artist and her husband.

Bismuth puts herself in her art and she wants viewers to touch her women, too.

"They want to be touched — like people do," Bismuth said. Human hands leave a residue on the bronze sculptures; it keeps the surface shiny and the corners get darker, she said.

Bismuth teaches students in her studio and volunteers but is also in charge of marketing her own work. She spends half her time creating and the other half marketing, she said.

Her love of sculpture has opened many doors, one of them being the Art Expo in New York that she attended from March 25 to 27.

"It was fantastic," she said, mentioning that 15,000 to 20,000 visitors attended the event. "It was a good chance to make gallery contacts."

She's also part of the South Bay Area Women's Caucus for Art, and has gone with other artists from the group to teach art to teen girls who are incarcerated.

Life as a professional artist has one motivation for Bismuth. "You don't do it for the money ... but I need to physically sculpt. It's addictive," she said.

When asked how she knows her works are finished, Bismuth said, "I spray water from the top of the sculpture and watch it go down." The water needs to trickle down on the clay, over the bumps and ridges of the female form, in a particular way. She keeps going back to the piece until water flows down, following the lines of the woman. The water drop at the base of the clay finally draws one project to a close. ■

What: Silicon Valley Open Studios, an annual event in which many area artists make their studios open to the public during the first three weekends in May

Where and when: On May 7-8, open studios are generally located in southern San Mateo County. On May 14-15, most studios are in Palo Alto and elsewhere in northern Santa Clara County. The third weekend features San Jose and other South Bay artists. Studios are generally open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Admission is free, with art for sale.

Info: For studio locations and other information, go to www.svos.org.



Joyce Goldschmid

From left, David Saber, Jordan Pajarillo, Brian Palac, Ashley Simms and Danny Harper play a fictional Christian boy band in Palo Alto Players' production of "Altar Boyz."

Soul men

The singers of 'Altar Boyz' send up Christian rock, boy bands and commercial religion

by Karla Kane

Though its plot is communion-wafer thin, "Altar Boyz," the Christian boy-band satire currently being performed by Palo Alto Players, still offers some praiseworthy parody and fun.

It's the final night of the Christian supergroup Altar Boyz' "Raise the Praise" tour, and the hunky gospel lovers are at the top of their game, having thrilled youth groups in bingo halls around the country with their synth-pop tunes, dance moves and religious message.

The biblically named members of the group each fulfill a boy-band stereotype. "The Leader" Mathew (David Saber) is the hunky front man/composer. Mark (Jordan Pajarillo), "The Sensitive One," is the choreographer with a secret crush on BFF Mathew. "Bad Boy" Luke (Brian Palac) is the break-dancing gangsta, recently out of rehab for "exhaustion." "Latin Lover" Juan (the silken-voiced Ashley Simms) is the smooth lothario searching for his birth parents. Adding a twist to the Catholic lineup, Abraham (Daniel Harper), "The Gefilte Fish out of Water," is the Jewish lyricist who finds himself in the group by divine command, despite his religious difference with his bandmates.

The newest addition to the act is a "Soul Sensor" device (courtesy of corporate sponsor Sony) that somehow calculates how many heavy souls remain in the audience in need of saving. It's the Boyz' goal to bring the number down to zero by the end of their show. The Boyz preach love and faith to their crowds but find themselves tested when the desire for fame and fortune (briefly) threatens to fracture their sacred bond.

The entire show (90 minutes, no intermission) takes place in real time within the Boyz' concert. The

THEATER REVIEW

set is a simple illuminated cross. The band is on stage behind the performers, and anyone familiar with pop-group performances, be they Christian or secular, will recognize the onstage banter, headset mics and cheesy choreography as par for the course. A clever touch is the faux merch booth set up in the lobby of the Lucie Stern Theatre, with T-shirts and water bottles emblazoned with the Boyz' images.

The songs, by Gary Adler and Michael Patrick Walker, are an accurate send up of silly-yet-catchy sugary pop and cringe-worthy contemporary Christian rock, with lyrics including "Girl, you make me want to wait," "Jesus called me on my cell phone" and "God put the rhythm in me so I could bust a move!" Some of the songs seem like they could pass as genuine, while the exorcism-themed "Number 918" is more clearly ludicrous.

Though the backing band is made up of only two keyboards, a guitar and a drummer, the players do a very impressive job creating a full concert sound, and the Boyz achieve the smooth, harmonizing vocal blend that is the secret to boy-band success. Unfortunately, microphone and mix problems continually marred the show's flow at one show, rendering some of the lyrics and dialogue inaudible.

Performance-wise, Jordan Pajarillo is a standout as the closeted Mark, with great dancing skills and vocals, and tons of personality. On the downside, Abraham is an important character with several climactic numbers and poignant lines, but Daniel Harper showed limited singing ability at a recent performance.

Still, though the Boyz are often

the butts of jokes, they deliver their message with enough sweetness and sincerity to win over nonbelievers. The tone of the show is mocking but good-natured. Catholicism, the bubblegum-music genre and the commercialization of religion are all subject to much ridicule, but it's never mean-spirited.

The sharp yet genial jokes may be best suited to those who grew up with Catholic school and forced youth-group participation during the heyday of the Backstreet Boys and their ilk (author included). And as befitting the Boyz' family values, the jokes include plenty of innuendo but never get too risqué. I did wonder, though, if older folks or others who may not be as familiar with this type of contemporary pop might find it difficult to connect to the music or the humor.

Though "Altar Boyz" may not rise to the ranks of classic musical comedy (and liturgy protocol was much better rhymed by Tom Lehrer in "The Vatican Rag"), it's got plenty of redeeming charm and chuckles. It may not save your soul but it is likely to raise your spirits. ■

What: "Altar Boyz" by Kevin Del Aguila, Gary Adler and Michael Patrick Walker, presented by Palo Alto Players

Where: Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

When: Through May 8, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Tickets are \$32, with some discounts available for students, seniors and groups.

Info: Go to paplayers.org or call 650-329-0891.

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Emerson: 7/18-7/22; Hacienda: 8/1-8/5

Presentation Techniques—develops students' public speaking skills, with an emphasis this year on PowerPoint and poster presentations.

Emerson: 7/25-7/29; Hacienda: 7/18-7/22

Media Production—integrates writing skills into a media-based project (video, website, photos, art, music, etc.).

Emerson: 8/1-8/5; Hacienda: 8/8-8/12

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Worth a Look

Art

'Sedimentals'

Jody Alexander's art seems perfectly fitting for someone who has degrees in both art history and library science.

Several of her works feature discarded books that she has combined with chairs, bookcases and other household furniture to create sculptural installations. The idea is that even though the tomes are no longer read, they now become woven into the very fabric of a home.

This series, called "Sedimentals," explores "the relative ephemeral nature of humans in comparison to the belongings that we accumulate and carry with us through life," Alexander said in a press release. She notes that books, valuable to us as storytellers and record keepers, become part of a household's "sediment" in her works.

Alexander is also a Santa Cruz bookbinder, papermaker and librarian. "Sedimentals" is now on exhibit through May 31 at the Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Mohr Gallery hours are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 3. Admission is free. Go to art-s4all.org or call 650-917-6800, extension 306.

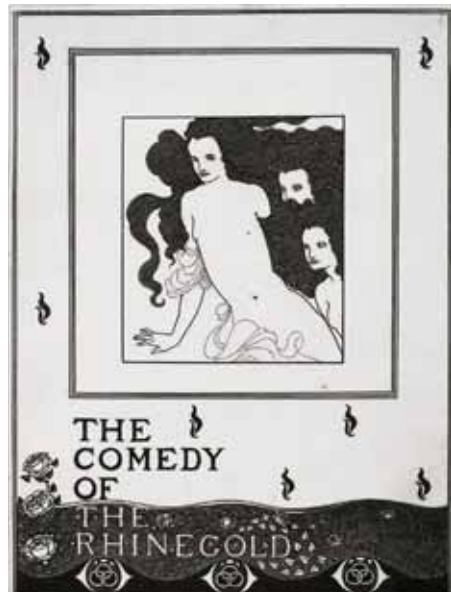


Discarded books find a new home inside a chair as part of an installation fashioned from fabric, thread, a chair and old books by artist Jody Alexander. Fourteen of her works are now on exhibit at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View.

'Illustrated Title Pages'

You can't judge a book by its cover, but you sure can appreciate one for its stylish title page. A new exhibition now at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center traces the evolution of title-page illustrations from 1500 to 1900, showcasing etchings, lithography, drawing, wood engraving and photography.

While title pages used to show just a tome's title and author, they became increasingly embellished during the 16th century, according



Artist Aubrey Vincent Beardsley drew this 1897 title page for "The Comedy of the Rhinegold" in pen and india ink. It's one of many title pages now on display at Stanford's Cantor Arts Center.

to a museum press release. Books currently being shown at the museum include works by Chaucer, Aristotle and Dante, as well as editions of the Bible. Artists represented are Pierre Bonnard, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, James McNeill Whistler, Odilon Redon and others.

Two other exhibitions centering on books are also scheduled to open at the museum on June 1: "The Art of the Book in California: Five Contemporary Presses" and "Monuments of Printing, from Gutenberg through the Renaissance."

The Cantor Arts Center is off Palm Drive at Museum Way, open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays until 8. Admission is free. Go to museum.stanford.edu or call 650-723-4177.

Lecture

Peninsula Open Space Trust talk

Jonathan Waterman is a man who knows his waters. He's followed the Colorado River from the Rocky Mountains to the Mexican border, paddled the Sea of Cortez and kayaked across the Northwest Passage. He's also an author, photographer and current National Geographic Society grantee involved with the Southwestern Rivers in Drought Project.

Next Monday, May 2, the explorer is scheduled to give a lecture in Mountain View as part of the Peninsula Open Space Trust's Wal-

lace Stegner lecture series. He'll bring images and anecdotes about the Colorado River and his work on saving water as a resource, with a Q&A and book signing scheduled for after the talk.

Waterman's books include "The Colorado River: Flowing Through Conflict," published with National Geographic photographer Peter McBride; "Kayaking the Vermillion Sea"; and "Arctic Crossing."

The talk is set for 8 p.m. at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. Tickets are \$22. Go to openspacetrust.org/lectures or call 650-854-7696, extension 316, for more information.

Music

Laurie Lewis

Americana for a cause: That's the focus of the 2nd Annual PTA Palooza Bluegrass Benefit Concert on May 13. The concert is being planned to raise money for Palo Alto's Juana Briones Elementary School PTA's art and music programs.

Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands, known for bluegrass, folk and country sounds featuring fiddler-singer-songwriter Laurie Lewis, are scheduled to perform. Also on the bill are Palo Alto's Tuttle family with A.J. Lee, and Snap Jackson & The Knock On Wood Players. The concert is sponsored by the Northern California Bluegrass Society.

The performance is planned

for 7 p.m. at Spangenberg Theatre at Gunn High School, 780 Arastadero Road,

Palo Alto. Tickets are \$10-\$65. For more information, go to schoolbenefitconcert.ticketleap.com/pta.

Many mandolins

The San Francisco Mandolin Orchestra brings its strings to Palo Alto this Saturday, April 30. Their focus: a Baroque setting of the emotional medieval poem "Stabat Mater."

The Saturday concert program is composed of this single poem set to music by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi in 1736. Originally in Latin, the poem is about the thoughts that Mary had at the foot of the cross while Jesus was dying, said Nicola Swinburne Bocus, artistic director of the orchestra.

The community group is a plucked-string orchestra that features members of the mandolin family — mandolin, mandola and mandocello — together with double bass, harp and guitar. For "Stabat Mater," two singers will perform with the orchestra: soprano Susan Gundunas and alto Twila Ehmcke.

Saturday's concert is planned for 4 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$12 general and \$7 for students and seniors. Go to sfmandolin.org.

Festival

Student showcase

Choreographers, composers, playwrights, musicians, filmmakers, designers and other Stanford University student artists get the Dinkelspiel Auditorium stage all to themselves this Saturday, April 30, for the 2nd Annual Student Works Festival.

The event, which is free to the public, allows a variety of faculty-nominated student artists to show off their art, including Robert Moses and dance division students; Derek Miller and the Stanford Opera Workshop; Aleta Hayes and her dance group The Chocolate Heads; graduate design students Anisha Jain and Laura Martini; and many others.

The festival is organized by Stanford Lively Arts, the Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SiCa) and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. It features both live performances in the auditorium and installation, web and video creations in the lobby.

Performances begin at 6 p.m., with a reception with the student artists scheduled afterward at 7:30. For more information, go to livelyarts.stanford.edu.



Laurie Lewis performs at a bluegrass benefit concert on May 13 for the Juana Briones Elementary School PTA in Palo Alto.

Photo by Irene Young

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Michelle Le



Michelle Le



Michelle Le

Top: Grilled shrimp atop fire-roasted vegetable ravioli, with baby spinach and romesco sauce. Left: Maple-glazed duck breast with wild rice, orzo and huckleberry sauce. Below left: Warm valrhona chocolate lava cake with vanilla ice cream and chocolate lace tuille.

An itch for comfort food

Scratch in downtown Mountain View serves up uneven American classics

by Sheila Himmel

The new restaurant called Scratch seats 270 people under the same high ceiling and mostly in view of each other. Despite its size, Scratch succeeds in providing comfort. It could be the one to break the curse of this corner of California and Castro streets in Mountain View.

The vast space at 401 Castro has housed three restaurants in three years. But according to a knowledgeable-sounding contributor on chowhound.com, Scratch is Mountain View's 100th restaurant, up from 70 in 2005. Which is pretty remarkable, considering the economic turmoil since 2005. If anyone can make a large new restaurant work, it is Rob Fischer, owner of three successes in downtown Palo Alto: Reposado, Palo Alto Creamery and the Gravity wine bar.

Two big rooms radiate from the glamorous centerpiece bar. Veer right around the bar to reach the reception desk, where you will see four venues for dining. Next to the bar are tall, family-style tables, good for groups. Beyond that, a large area with banquettes and four-tops feels more coffee shop than white napkin, except for the whole wall of wine bottles. Singles and foodies might like to sit at the counter where you can watch the kitchen action. For most occasions, the comfortable, high-backed booths straight ahead would be my choice. The only issue there is the tables are long, meaning you may need to help pass plates.

The menu features updated American comfort food. In keeping with that, Scratch's extensive wine list is all-American, mainly from small California producers, but with lots of European varieties like dolcetto and barbera. Beer and liquor are almost all American craft brewers and small-batch distilleries.

There are lots of good choices by the glass. When we inquired, the wine guy came to consult. He brought me a dolcetto, noting approvingly, "My favorite." My companion asked, "Oh, *this* isn't your favorite?" Ah yes, he answered, "It's even *more* my favorite!"

Scratch is not a well-oiled machine. There are a lot of people in neckties and white shirts, but many seem to be in training. They may disappear or be too attentive. Still, you can tell that their intentions are good.

Fresh bread, sweet butter and a carafe of water come right away, and are refilled often.

Whether you're on a date or out with family, the one-page menu has something for everyone, all the better for assembling a bunch of small plates. Entrées are large but, except for the succulent short ribs bourguignon (\$26), disappointing. Shrimp ravioli (\$23) were salty. A huge pork chop (\$26) was OK, but the best part was the bed of Brussels sprouts absorbing cider sauce with pecans and bacon. A lot of attention is paid to side dishes with the entrées. The beef

ribs come with celery root puree, applewood bacon and portobello mushrooms.

Brussels sprouts also come as a side dish (\$7).

Creamed spinach (\$8) and macaroni and cheese (\$8) are very rich and very good. One of them with a tuna niçoise salad (\$12) makes a lovely meal.

The signature pizza (\$11) was a mess. The thin, bland crust is splattered unevenly with diced pancetta, butternut squash, sage and arugula, all of which are completely overpowered by blue cheese.

The mussel appetizer (\$9) is nine small but perfect Prince Edward Island mussels steamed in a creamy white-wine broth with shallots, garlic and carrots. The dish is topped with a ton of French fries, which get soggy if you don't pluck them off. On the other hand, they make a tasty, if very filling, chowder.

If you're a pork-eater, the bourbon-glazed pork belly (\$11) appe-

tizer is a must.

Scratch is all about American classics, which so far don't include a lot of vegetarian options. Pork shows up often.

Desserts (all \$7) are human-size. Warm lava cake is more ooze than cake, with a couple of blackberries, vanilla gelato, a tiny chocolate tuile cookie and a useless swirl of caramel. For a comfort everyone can spoon into, there's always room for butterscotch pudding. ■

Scratch

410 Castro St., Mountain View
650-237-3131 or 3132
scratchmntview.com

Hours: Lunch: Weekdays 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Happy hour: Mon.-Sat. 4-6 p.m. Dinner: Mon.-Thu. 4-10 p.m.; Sat. 4-11 p.m.; Sun. 5-9 p.m.

ShopTalk

by Palo Alto Weekly staff

A MIDTOWN 'DO' ... Monica Foster Salon at 2699 Middlefield Road launched its new name in the Midtown Shopping Center in Palo Alto in February, livening up the former DS Newman Salon by adding new furniture and a paint job of a warmer tone of beige with a gray accent. Co-owner and stylist Monica Foster said of salon clients, "We treat them like friends and want them to be comfortable." The salon features eight stylists and colorists with various fortes (cut, color, extension), using products by Sojourn, Rene Furterer Paris and Prive. They also provide the keratin treatment that focuses on smoothing out frizzy hair to make it more manageable. Foster said she plans to add three more stylists from Menlo Park to the current hair team. Makeup and facial waxing are also available.

BLOCKBUSTER CLOSED ... Blockbuster Video on 3990 El Camino Real in Palo Alto, which had been open in that location since 1999, closed its doors on April 10 due to the company declaring bankruptcy, said property manager Joe Jisser of TYJ Investments. The video- and game-rental store had a close-out sale prior to this date.

JAPAN FUNDRAISER ... Tim and Masumi Reynders, the owners of the Palo Alto Brazilian steakhouse Pampas, were living in Tokyo with their two children when the recent earthquake hit Japan. While they were able to escape, they "felt they needed to do something to help,"

restaurant manager Moritz Drost said in an email. On Tuesday, May 3, from 6 to 10 p.m., Pampas is hosting a Japan Disaster Relief Benefit; diners pay \$50 per person and get hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Proceeds from ticket sales and donations will go to Ashinga, a Japanese nonprofit assisting orphans, through the Silicon Valley-based Keizai Society and its partner, Give2Asia, according to a press release. Pampas is at 529 Alma St. in downtown Palo Alto; call 650-327-1323.

NEW BOUTIQUE ... Crimson Mim, a clothing and accessories boutique in Los Altos, is opening a second location in Palo Alto at 855 El Camino Real, Suite 35. "I always envisioned Crimson Mim as a multi-store business," said owner Christine Campell. The store will feature apparel from designers such as Rachel Comey, ALC and Caron Callahan. It will also carry in-demand designers and brands that are not widely available, according to a press release. "Palo Alto presented an interesting opportunity to expand our customer base, while at the same time offering our existing clients a new closet in which to play," said Campbell. Crimson Mim is opening on May 1. For more information, go to facebook.com/crimsonmim.

Heard a rumor about your favorite store or business moving out, or in, down the block or across town? Shop Talk will check it out. Email shoptalk@pawekly.com.

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Instruments of memory

The artist Trimpin visits a painful past with the help of his original musical instruments

by Rebecca Wallace

Jenny Bilfield, artistic and executive director of Stanford Lively Arts, doesn't usually have to call in the fire marshal when arranging a performance venue.

With Trimpin, though, you never know what to expect. The single-named Seattle artist, a composer and sound sculptor, also invents his own musical instruments, such as the water harp and the fire organ.

The thought of the water harp playing in Stanford's Memorial Auditorium during Trimpin's upcoming performance on May 14, with droplets falling gracefully onto piano strings, didn't sound so worrisome. However, Bilfield wanted to take extra care with the fire organ. In it, Trimpin combines fire and glass tubes; when the warm air moves through the tubes, gentle sound emerges, somewhat like that of a pipe organ.

"It's going to be contained fire," Bilfield says reassuringly in an interview. "This is a very subtle, eerie thing."

Trimpin, apparently, hears music in everything. Traditional musical instruments are just a beginning for him.

One of his most well-known creations is a sort of guitar, in the way that Everest is a bit of a hill. A tower of more than 500 guitars and other instruments is "If VI Was IX," Trimpin's huge installation at the Experience Music Project museum in Seattle. The instruments play and tune themselves, thanks to computers.

At the moment, Trimpin is pondering the seesaw. He's in an upstairs room of The Knoll, the august early-20th-century building that houses Stanford's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics. Standing before Trimpin, framed by a panoramic window, is one of his inventions: the musical teeter-totter.

"It's called 'Schaukel' in German," Trimpin, a native of Germany, muses about the word "teeter-totter." "Somehow it just took on this name."

And somehow Trimpin got the idea to attach speakers all around a rotating object, which rolls back and forth along a 40-foot teeter-totter as the machine sees and saws. On a recent day, the invention is partly disassembled, recovering from a late night at the Modulations electronic music and art festival in San Francisco. But even though the instrument has temporarily lost its voice, its speakers still roll cheerily along.

The idea came partly from trains. "I was

thinking, 'What happens when train sounds come toward you and depart?'" Trimpin says. "I wanted to investigate what happens to sound when it rotates around its own axis. Our perception changes, and the pitch is shifting."

Like many of Trimpin's inventions, the musical teeter-totter blends an old-fashioned hands-on element — the seesaw — with a touch of the modern. Here, sound is fed wirelessly into the instrument before it comes out of the speakers.

'My heritage has all this heavy baggage. That's something you cannot just shed off.'

— Trimpin, Seattle artist, composer and sound sculptor

"You could hook up an iPod, anything, to the transmitting device," Trimpin says.

Next month, Stanford audiences will get to see the teeter-totter and other Trimpin creations in person. On May 14, a world premiere of the artist's multimedia work "The Gurs Zyklus" will be the finale of Stanford Lively Arts' 2010-11 season. It will also mark the conclusion of Trimpin's residency at Stanford this year, which included his winter-quarter class, "New Instruments."

Trimpin is also scheduled to give a free talk on campus May 5 and a May 13 stage tour at Memorial Auditorium before his premiere.

"The Gurs Zyklus" is a work that mixes Trimpin's instruments and music, projected images, recorded sounds, and spoken and sung texts to explore emotion and memory. It focuses on Gurs, an internment camp in France during the Spanish Civil War and World War II. The images include photos of victims and drawings made in the camp, with some of the words drawn from letters sent from Gurs.

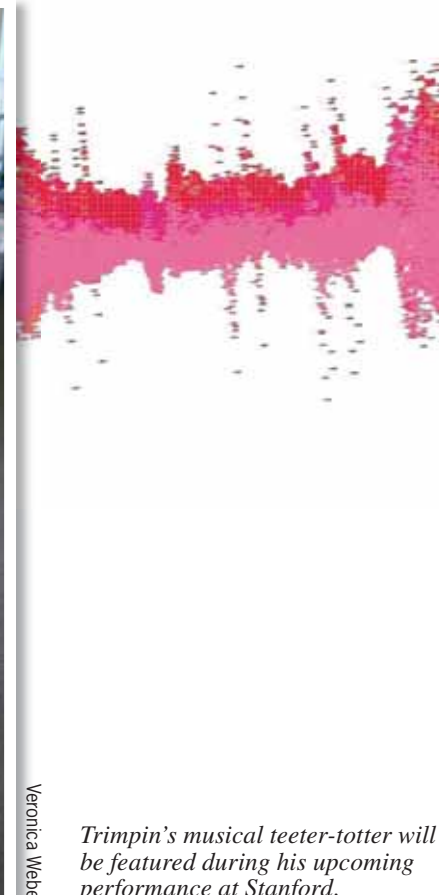
The piece has been decades in the making. Its roots stretch back to Trimpin's childhood in the German town of Efringen-Kirchen.

Born in 1951, Gerhard Trimpin (who now uses only his family name) stumbled upon a deserted cemetery as a child and tried to puzzle out what he saw as "symbols" on the gravestones. It turned out that the symbols



Veronica Weber

Inventor and composer Trimpin demonstrates how he uses a propane-fueled torch to create a sound in the long glass tubes that form his fire organ.



Veronica Weber

Trimpin's musical teeter-totter will be featured during his upcoming performance at Stanford.

were Hebrew letters, and Trimpin learned that the Jews from his town had been deported to the Gurs internment camp in France during World War II. He was haunted.

Over the years Trimpin kept being reminded of the camp. His musical mentor, the late composer Conlon Nancarrow, had been interned at Gurs during the Spanish Civil War, before the Vichy government handed the camp over to Germany during the Holocaust.

In addition, after Trimpin was profiled in the *New Yorker* in 2006 and mentioned his interest in doing a project about Gurs, the descendant of a family who had been imprisoned there during World War II contacted him. Victor Rosenberg shared more than 200 letters that his family members had sent from the camp; those words figure prominently in Trimpin's work.

In doing research, Trimpin also traveled to Gurs recently, following the same train route as deportees did in the 1940s. The camp was bulldozed in 1954 and is now "just a forest," he said, but he made recordings of the train sounds and ambient noise to use in his project.

"The Gurs Zyklus" has a local element as well. When Menlo Park resident Manfred Wildmann learned that Trimpin would bring a work about Gurs to Stanford Lively Arts, he contacted Bilfield last year to share his story of being interned in the camp with his family during World War II. Bilfield connected him with Trimpin.

The two men had a lengthy talk, and Wildmann shared drawings that he had made of the Gurs camp as a 10-year-old boy. Trimpin has included the images in his work. (For more about Wildmann, see the story on page 42.)

"The Gurs Zyklus" means "The Gurs Cycle." For Trimpin, the painful link with Gurs has sometimes seemed endlessly repetitive — for him and for the world, he says.

"I chose the title because in ways we didn't learn anything in 70 years," he says, noting that war and its atrocities have by no means ended. "Last year when I met Manfred, I

thought: 'There is no end. There will always be this going on; these coincidences will remind us.'"

Trimpin adds: "Some people have questioned me suspiciously: 'Who is this German doing this (project)? He's not even Jewish.' I tell people it isn't just about the Holocaust — more about this circle of Gurs and me. ... You cannot go through the whole narrative of the Holocaust in one and a half hours. It's more like abstractions of how I saw it.

"For me it was important to work this out in a musical and visual way," he says, likening creation to a healing process. "My heritage has all this heavy baggage. That's something you cannot just shed off."

When Trimpin visited and researched Gurs, he kept coming back to a theme of water. The vision of cold, rainy winters, with prisoners' feet sinking into the mud, stayed with him. "The water was the worst kind of enemy," he says.

Consequently, "The Gurs Zyklus" opens and closes with water. In the beginning, the water organ lets drops fall onto piano strings; at the end, illuminated water drops spell out letters and words, including the names of Jews sent to the camp. When the water hits steel plates, it turns into steam, where images of victims' faces are projected and then evaporate.

With the musical teeter-totter inspired by trains, its rolling speakers will be used to

project the sounds of the trains that brought prisoners to the camp: whistles, doors slamming, ambient sounds. The two teeter-totters will sometimes go up and down in time, and sometimes alternate in direction, with the pitches always changing.

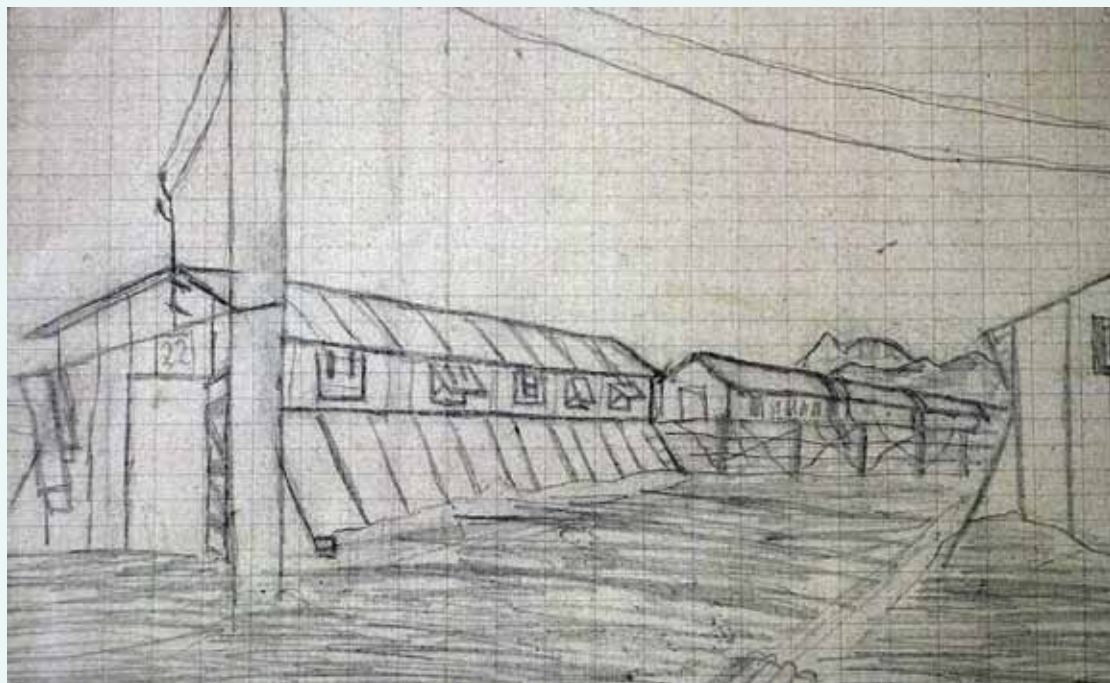
The piece also includes excerpts of Nancarrow's music written for player pianos; four vocalists singing and speaking text from the Rosenbergs' letters; and the vocalists singing into the fire organ and water harp. The staging and vocal performances are directed by Rinde Eckert, also a composer, performer and writer.

(continued on page 43)

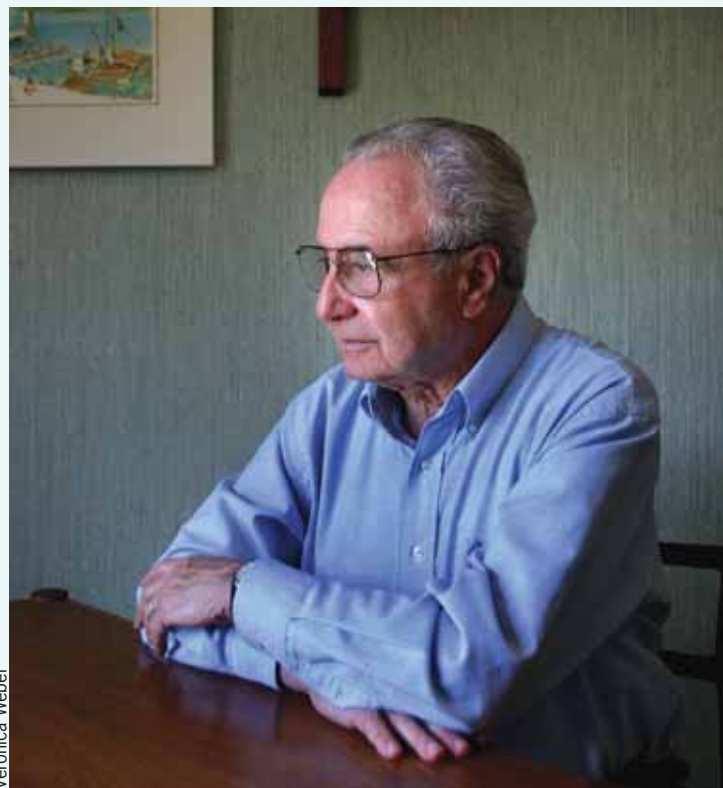


Trimpin, right, shows students in his kinetic sound workshop how he connected computer hardware to the underside of a baby grand piano, allowing him to control the music via his iPhone.

Veronica Weber



While living at the Gurs concentration camp in 1940 when he was 10 years old, Manfred Wildmann, right, drew sketches of his surroundings, including this scene of camp barracks where people had to sleep on the floor.



Veronica Weber

Through a child's eyes

Menlo Park man's story of being interned at age 10 is part of 'The Gurs Zyklus'

by Rebecca Wallace

The pencil drawings are straightforward and simple, done in the hand of a 10-year-old boy but with the surety of a boy who would become a mechanical engineer. They focus on buildings: a kitchen, a washroom, a small heating stove at the edge of a stark room.

"The only stove in the barracks for 80 people," Manfred Wildmann says.

Wildmann did these drawings in the 1940s, when he and his family were taken from their native Germany and interned in the Gurs concentration camp in southern France during World War II.

western Germany. That was until the morning in October when he and his family, along with all the other Jews in that area of Germany, were deported, he says. They could tell only that they were heading south, he says. They didn't know about the camps.

In some ways, the family was fortunate at first. They were on regular trains, not cattle cars, and Gurs "was not an extermination camp," Wildmann says. The French guards mainly left the prisoners alone to live their lives inside. Wildmann even went to school in camp, with his mother among the teachers.

'He's describing the train ride from Germany to Gurs, and I was on that train.'

— Manfred Wildmann, Gurs survivor

One drawing shows the camp buildings as small, with the peaks of the Pyrenees in the background. "I was imagining what the camp would look like from far away," Wildmann says.

Images of the drawings will be seen in Stanford University's Memorial Auditorium on May 14, used as part of the artist Trimpin's multimedia work "The Gurs Zyklus," about the Gurs camp. Wildmann had spoken before about the war, but when he learned last year that Trimpin was doing a project about Gurs, he was struck by the coincidence and shared his story again with the artist.

"He's describing the train ride from Germany to Gurs, and I was on that train," he says. "There are not too many of us who can tell about that train ride."

Wildmann says he definitely plans to attend Trimpin's premiere. "He's a very interesting fellow."

Wildmann is speaking from his sunny, comfortable home in Menlo Park, the city where he and his wife, Sylvia, have lived since 1962. Polite and reserved, he tells his story matter-of-factly, with a methodical attention to detail.

In 1940, Wildmann was 10, growing up in south-



Manfred Wildmann's sketches drawn at age 10 while at the Gurs concentration camp include this scene with a guard talking to a child. Children were allowed to leave the camp during the day.



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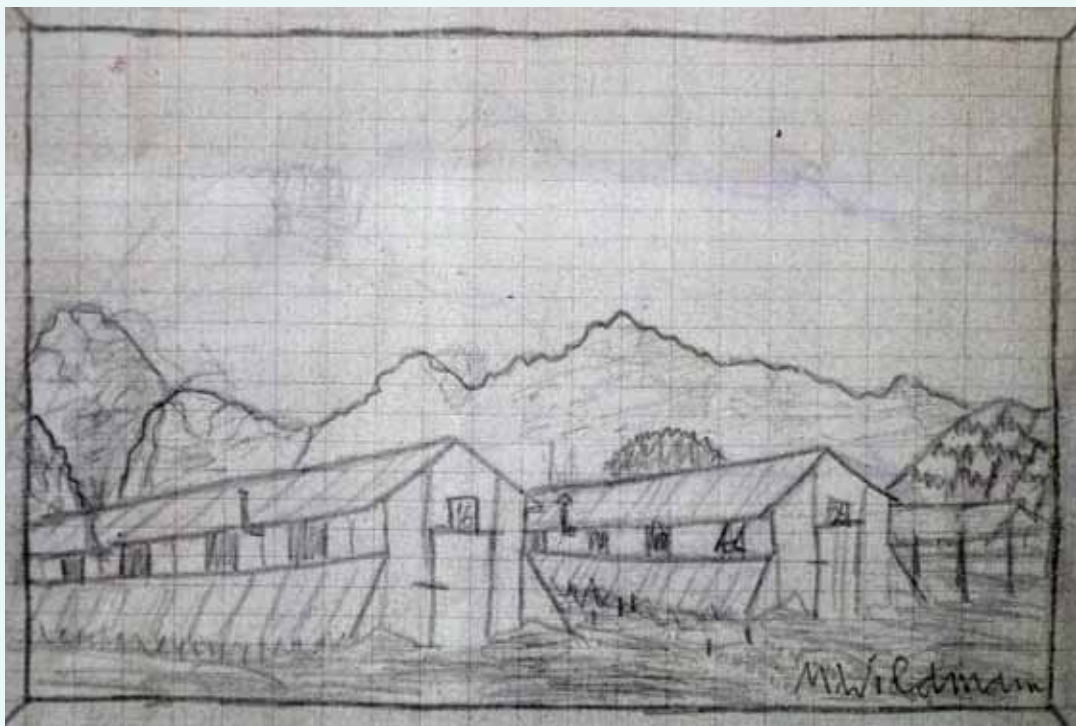
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Manfred Wildmann drew this scene of the Gurs concentration camp barracks, against the Pyrenees Mountains.

Still, conditions were rough. "You had 80 people sleeping in one barracks," with beds packed next to each other, or people on mattresses or straw bags on the floor, Wildmann recalls. The food was bad; there were lice and rats; and people young and old died of dysentery.

"My grandmother died seven weeks after we got there," Wildmann says. "She wasn't that old — she was 70, which is 10 years less than I am." He smiles quietly.

Further deportations began in August 1942, Wildmann recalls. "Everyone who was still in the camp was sent to Drancy (a French transit camp) or Auschwitz. Luckily, most young people had left." He and his sister wound up in a children's home run by the Swiss Red Cross.

Wildmann's parents, however, perished in Auschwitz, and he also lost a brother.

After the war, Wildmann and his two sisters were sponsored by distant relatives in America and crossed the Atlantic. Wildmann met his wife, also a German survivor, went to college and settled in California.

Today, Wildmann sometimes tells his story at schools and to small groups. When asked what he hopes people learn from his wartime experiences, Wildmann points out that his parents were Germans, his family had lived in Germany for generations, and his father had fought for Germany in World War I, and still they were deported, he says. "You never know what will happen."

Still, he has a few soft, powerful words to add: "One has to be lucky. One can always manage." ■

Trimpin

(continued from page 41)

Ultimately, Trimpin plans to give this performance work another dimension as a gallery installation. Even when the cycle is performed at other venues, duplicates of his original instruments could also be displayed in galleries and tell the Gurs story in another way, he says. "These pieces will have another life."

To ready "The Gurs Zyklus" for its premiere, Trimpin needed not only emotion and inspiration but funding and a venue.

Support came in the form of a

grant from Creative Capital, a New York nonprofit that works with artists. When Trimpin attended a Creative Capital seminar on how to find a project venue, he met Bilfield, who was already interested in bringing him to Lively Arts.

Bilfield had heard about Trimpin through other artists and had seen some of his work at the Ojai Music Festival, including a piece in which computer-driven mallets played upon numerous wooden shoes.

"So disarming and playful," she says. "It's really hard in a performance setting to get brilliant and playful in the same gesture."

(continued on next page)



Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

Contract No. JLSP-11

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK: The work includes, but is not limited to: The relocation of two (2) existing 960 square foot portable classroom buildings. Work includes dismantling, building moving, asphalt paving & utility trenching, electrical, fire alarm, EMS and reassembly of units for complete and operational portable classroom buildings. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a **mandatory** pre-bid conference and site visit at **3:00 p.m. on May 4, 2011** at **J. L. Stanford (JLS) Middle School located at 480 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto, California 94306.**

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the **District Facilities Office, 25 Churchill Ave., Building D, by 3:00 p.m. on May 19, 2011.**

PREVAILING WAGE LAWS: The successful Bidder must comply with all prevailing wage laws applicable to the Project, and related requirements contained in the Contract Documents.

Palo Alto Unified School District will maintain a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) for the duration of this project. In bidding this project, the contractor warrants he/she is aware and will follow the Public Works Chapter of the California Labor Code comprised of Labor Code Sections 1720 - 1861. A copy of the District's LCP is available for review at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

1. A pre-construction conference shall be conducted with the contractor or subcontractors to discuss federal and state labor law requirements applicable to the contract.
2. Project contractors and subcontracts shall maintain and furnish to the District, at a designated time, a certified copy of each payroll with a statement of compliance signed under penalty of perjury.
3. The District shall review and, if appropriate, audit payroll records to verify compliance with the Public Works Chapter of the Labor Code.
4. The District shall withhold contract payments if payroll records are delinquent or inadequate.
5. The District shall withhold contract payments as described in the LCP, including applicable penalties when the District and Labor Commissioner establish that underpayment of other violations has occurred.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at the **District Facilities Office, 25 Churchill Ave, Building D, Palo Alto.** Bidders may purchase copies of Plans and Specifications at **American Reprint Graphics Company (ARC), 599 Fairchild Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043. Phone: (650) 967-1966**

Address all questions to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Patrick Downey
Phone: (650) 329-3928 Fax: (650) 327-3588
pdowney@pausd.org

OSHMAN FAMILY JCC

2010/11

ARTS / dialogues



An evening of classical music with **Cellist Natalia Gutman & Pianist Konstantin Lifshitz**

Thursday, May 5 at 8:00 PM

Schultz Cultural Arts Hall
Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

24 hours in advance:

\$40 OFJCC Members & students, \$45 Non-Members

At the door: \$50, space permitting

COMING IN JUNE



AXIS Dance Company
Sunday, June 12 at 3:00 PM
\$10 Members,
\$15 Non-Members at the door

AXIS Dance Company in 'Vessel' choreographed by Alex Ketley. Dancers Sonsheree Giles & Rodney Bell. Photo by Andrea Flores.



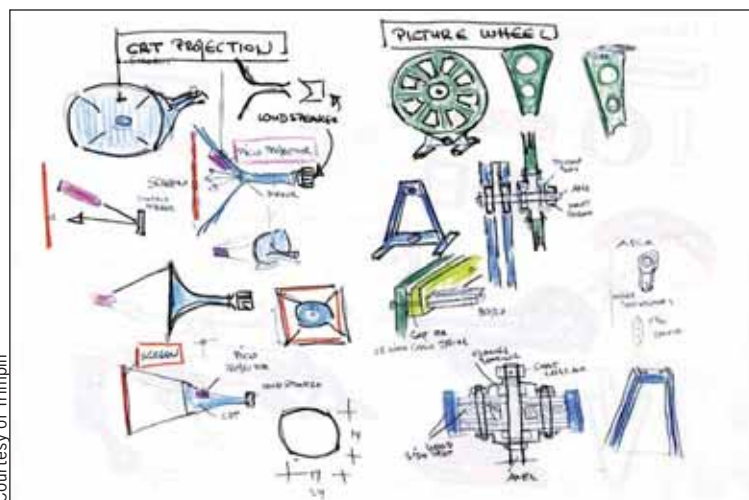
To purchase tickets, visit
www.paloaltojcc.org/arts
or call (650) 223-8699.

Oshman Family JCC
3921 Fabian Way
Palo Alto, CA | (650) 223-8699





Using his fire organ, Trimpin creates a subtle, eerie sound as the warm air moves through glass tubes.



Courtesy of Trimpin

Trimpin sketched the instruments he created for "The Gurs Zyklus" before building them.

Trimpin

(continued from previous page)

When Trimpin came to Stanford, Bilfield was even more impressed. "He has a very powerful mind and he's such a warm person, and he's been so kind to students," she says. "You feel the weight of his personal effort as an inventor and a creative spirit, in support of people and in realizing his own work."

Overall, Bilfield said she feels that "The Gurs Zyklus" perfectly concludes the Lively Arts season, which has a theme of "Memory Forward." Trimpin, she says, "has figured out a way to apply a living, breathing context for memories that are difficult, painful, but yet very familiar."

Trimpin, 'has figured out a way to apply a living, breathing context for memories that are difficult, painful, but yet very familiar.'

— Jenny Bilfield, artistic and executive director of Stanford Lively Arts

Stanford students have also played a major role in readying "The Gurs Zyklus" for the Memorial Auditorium stage.

Trimpin had already designed his instruments before he came to Stanford — for instance, he showed a fire organ a few years back at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. But during his Stanford residency, many local students helped him with assembly work.

They also assisted in solving problems, such as helping Trimpin build a sensor system to help control the movements of the musical teeter-totter.

In Trimpin's class "New Instruments," both undergraduates and graduate students from many disciplines also learned to design and build their own instruments. And although Trimpin's instruments are often powered by computers, he advises students not to be overly reliant on technology. When he uses a computer to make a mallet hit a shoe, it sounds like a mallet hitting a shoe, not an electronic version of the noise.

"I wanted to inspire the students, to show them how to physically build instruments. Nothing is coming out of a laptop," says Trimpin, who doesn't have a cell phone or a website. "I do hands-on teaching. You have to learn to use tools, build things."

A computer can't replace an honest-to-goodness sound, and a mechanical instrument can't replace a human, Trimpin says. But these new tools can help an inventor, a composer or a sound sculptor to continue stretching the edges of what we consider music.

"When playing a keyboard, we have only 10 fingers, but we can have 88 mechanical fingers playing at once," Trimpin says. "You can also only play a brass instrument so long before having to breathe. But a mechanical bellows system could extend the duration."

"Where are the limits?" he asks. "Ten fingers?" He smiles. "Then add a few." ■

Arts & Entertainment Editor Rebecca Wallace can be emailed at rwallace@pawebly.com.

What: The world premiere of Trimpin's multimedia work "The Gurs Zyklus"

Where: Memorial Auditorium, Stanford University

When: 8 p.m. Saturday, May 14

Cost: Tickets are \$38-\$68 for adults and \$10 for Stanford students, with other discounts available for young people, other students and groups.

Info: Go to livelyarts.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS. Trimpin is also set to give a free talk at 7:30 p.m. May 5 in Stanford's Pigott Theatre and a free stage tour at noon May 13 in Memorial Auditorium. After the May 14 premiere, he's scheduled to join Lively Arts director Jenny Bilfield on stage for a post-performance talk.

About the cover: *Composer and sound sculptor Trimpin stands by his musical teeter-totter — which arose from an investigation of what happens to sound when it rotates around its own axis — at Stanford University. Photograph by Veronica Weber.*

Registration Ends **MAY 9TH**

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PALO ALTO ★ CITYWIDE

YARDSALE

{ SATURDAY JUNE 4 8AM-2PM }

THE DailyNews



zero
WASTE
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Achieving zero waste together

Goings On

The best of what's happening on the Midpeninsula

Art Galleries

'Brush Play' by Steve Curtiss Traditional oil painting combined with an offbeat sense of humor by Los Altos artist Steve Curtiss. Subjects include cats, the history of art, still lifes and people's cultural habits. Through April 30, Tue.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. noon-4 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9-losaltos.com

'Exploring Asian Culture' The Main Gallery in Redwood City presents "Offerings: Exploring the Influence of Asian Culture in their Artwork," by two western artists, Irene Carvajal, mixed media, and David Scouffas, photography. Runs through May 29, Free. The Main Gallery, 1018 Main St., Redwood City. Call 650-654-2766. www.themaingallery.org

'Illustrated Title Pages 1500-1900' "Illustrated Title Pages" exhibition at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. Open through Oct. 16. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

'In a New York Minute' This exhibition includes 55 photographs by Helen Levitt from the collection of the Capital Group Foundation, selected by the artist as some of the most important images of her career. Through May 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

'Old Trucks' The Portola Art Gallery presents "Old Trucks," paintings of old trucks in rural landscapes by Palo Alto artist Jerome P. Peters. Throughout April, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-325-0692. www.jpeter-sart.com

'Paths through the Global City' Photographer and writer Leo Rubinien has developed four projects over many years. This exhibition presents between six and 12 photographs from each project. Through May 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

'Salon 2011' by Susan Hall Susan Elwart Hall's paintings will be on exhibit throughout April, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Viewpoints

Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

'Spring in Bloom' Atherton artist Gloriamari Prado presents a collection of her floral oil paintings and watercolors plus limited-edition prints. Exhibit runs through May 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Peabody Fine Art Gallery, 603 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-322-2200. www.peabodyfineart.com/prado/index.htm

Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibition An exhibition of youth art inspired by world cultures, Cultural Kaleidoscope features works created by K-5 students. May 9-23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. City Hall, City of Palo Alto, 250 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2366. cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter

El Carmelo Art Fair El Carmelo Art Fair will have jewelry, greeting cards, blown glass and more, plus home-cooked snacks and live music. April 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. El Carmelo Elementary School, 3024 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-326-5854. www.elcarmelo.paloaltopt.org/documents/2010-2011/Art_Fair_Flyer.pdf

Jim Caldwell Local artist Jim Caldwell is currently showing "Sierra Splendor: Celebrating Our Natural World." The show features painted interpretations of Half Dome from every angle: Vernal Falls, Bridal Falls and Yosemite Falls. Through April 30, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Woodside Gallery, 3056 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-529-1988.

Pacific Art League's May Opening Reception Opening receptions for May exhibits. In the Main Gallery, "RED," juried by George Rivera. In the Norton Gallery, Lexis Rubenis' "Unending Impressions into Imagery." In the Corridor Gallery, Carolyn Kwiatek's "From Lipstick & High Heels to Football & Beyond." Talk by Gary Coleman at 6:45 p.m. May 6, 5:30-8 p.m. Free. Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. www.pacificartleague.org

The New Contemporary Gallery European and American art in diverse media from recent decades is on display in the contemporary collection. Exhibits ongoing. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

Auditions

'Little Women: The Musical' Los Altos Youth Theatre is holding auditions for "Little Women" May 14, 1-4 p.m. and May 16, 6-9 p.m. Call backs will be May 17, 6-9 p.m. Rehearsals will be May 23-July 14. Performances will be July 15-30. \$265 Los Altos residents, \$283 all others. No fee to audition. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-947-2796. www.losaltosrecreation.org/audition.html

Benefits

'Hear from Japan' A benefit concert by Capriccio Chamber Orchestra in support of the Japan disaster-relief efforts. Suggested \$35 donation payable to JCCNC in support of Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund. All proceeds will go to Japan for relief efforts. May 5, 5:30-7 p.m. Bloomingdale's Stanford, 1 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto. Call 650-963-9428. capricciomusic.org

'Spring Sounds Gala' This evening of live entertainment, food and wine, and live and silent auctions will benefit Adolescent Counseling Services' free and affordable mental health services for at-risk teens and their families in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. May 14, 6-11 p.m. \$160-\$200 per individual ticket. Pacific Athletic Club, 200 Redwood Shores Parkway, Redwood City. Call 650-424-0852. www.springsoundseven.org

Ayelet Waldman at the Circle of Support Author Ayelet Waldman will speak at the May 5 Circle of Support Breakfast benefiting Family and Children Services. Waldman's topic will be "Monkey Bars and Mood Swings: The Journey of a Bipolar Mother." May 5, 8-10:30 a.m. \$75. Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel, 4290 El

CALENDAR LISTINGS

For complete Calendar listings or to submit a Calendar listing, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com and click on "Master Community Calendar"

For News submissions for possible use elsewhere in the paper, e-mail editor@pawebweekly.com or call (650) 326-8210

www.PaloAltoOnline.com 

Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-543-5412. www.fcscservices.org

Frances Freyberg Photographer Frances Freyberg will host a Silicon Valley Open Studio weekend to benefit local nonprofit Mission Hospice & Home Care. The free event will take place Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Silicon Valley Open Studio, 856 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-273-3505. www.francesfreyberg.com

Friends Nursery School Silent Auction Visit the Friends Nursery School silent auction online at pafns.cmarket.com to bid on items including: sports tickets, cooking lessons by Chef Donato (Donato Enoteca), children's swim lessons, Disneyland passes and more. All proceeds support the scholarship program. Through April 30, Friends Nursery School, 957 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-6152. pafns.cmarket.com

Classes/Workshops

Warm Season Vegetables This talk covers how the following affect the amount of harvest: spacing and timing of planting; pepper blossom pinching; supporting tomatoes and beans; side-dressing heavy feeders; watering; and regular harvesting for continued production. Followed by demos of spacing, plant supports and more. May 7, 10-11 a.m. Free. Palo Alto Demonstration Garden, 851 Center Drive, Palo Alto. Call 408-282-3105. mastergardners.org/scc.html

'I'm Talking, They're Not Listening' Learn what to do when children are not following directions and understanding limits. Tue., May 3, 7-9 p.m. \$35. Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org/peninsula/classes/im-talking-theyre-not-listening-3-10-years

'Kid-Friendly Water-Wise Gardens' Outdoor spaces for play and learning. Butterfly gardens, child-safe plants and materials. May 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. bawasca.org

'Starting Your Summer Garden' Learn to transplant basil, chard, cucumbers, tomatoes and much more, and germinate corn, lettuce, squash, bean and carrot seeds. April 30, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$31. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072. startingyoursummergarden.eventbrite.com/

'Understanding your Child's Temperament' Learn the nine traits that make up temperament and how to modify parenting skills and change the environment to help support a child's unique growth and development. May 5. Pre-registration required. Noon-2 p.m. \$35. Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org/peninsula/classes/going-flow-understanding-your-childs-temperament

Basic Webpage Design Learn how to create and view webpages using software that comes with any personal computer. Course covers placement and formatting of text, images, lists, tables, links, design tips and basic web page structures. Ages 10 and up. Saturdays, April 30-May 14, 1-3:30 p.m. \$65 members/\$75 nonmem-

bers. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org/education

Computer Coaching One-on-one tutoring sessions on computer use are available every Monday. Noon-1 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. www.smcl.org/en/node/2842

eBay Learn about the online auction site. May 7, 9:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560.

Energy Clearing This workshop will teach "energy-clearing" exercises to improve calmness and mood. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Firefly Willows, 111 Main St., Suite D, Los Altos. Call 650-947-9300. www.meetup.com/bay-area-metaphysics/events/16902031/

Jazzercise Jazzercise is a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga and kickboxing. Mon.-Tue. at 6 p.m. and Thu. at 5:40 p.m. \$47 per month (\$42 for Little House members). Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-703-1263.

Kid-Friendly Water-Wise Gardening Learn how to create a water-efficient space for outdoor learning and play including butterfly gardens, edible plants, parent-child garden activities, and child-safe plants and materials. May 5, 7-9 p.m. Free; registration required. Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-1700 ext. 222. www.portolavalley.net

Menlo Fit Boot Camp Saturday-morning Boot Camp at the new Arrillaga Gym in Menlo Park presented by Menlo Fit. Arrive at 7:15 a.m. to sign in and warm up. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Free. The Arrillaga Family Gymnasium, 600 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2232. www.menlofit.com

Organic Vegetable Gardening Class includes heirloom vegetables and herbs to grow this summer and instructions on planting and caring for vegetables and herbs organically. May 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$38. Common Ground Garden Supply, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072. organicvegetablegardening.eventbrite.com/

Santa Clara Valley 99s Flying Companion Seminar This seminar is for non-pilots who would like to be more comfortable in the cockpit. The all-day session will teach how to be an effective cockpit member, and addresses and helps calm fears about flying. May 14, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$50. West Valley Flying Club at Palo Alto Airport, 1901 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 408-712-4328. www.santaclaravalley99s.org/

Self-Myofascial Release Techniques Learn self-myofascial release techniques that can help correct muscle imbalances, increase range of motion in joints, and relieve muscle soreness and joint stress. April 30, noon-2 p.m. \$15. Every Woman Health Club, 611 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City. www.everywomanhealthclub.com

SMCGS Genealogy Seminar Finding and using free online genealogy resources. Three lectures and an interactive problem-solving workshop with Susan Goss (continued on next page)

OF NOTE



Bass battle

San Francisco bass player George Lacson, who plays funk, soul and jazz with his George Lacson Project, is among the musicians scheduled to compete this Saturday, April 30, in a "battle of the bands" starting at 8 p.m. at the British Bankers Club, 1090 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Other bands scheduled to compete are Scary Larry & The Monsters, playing blues, rock and soul; the rock-soul-alt band Meanu; and Mestiza, playing Latin, soul and funk. The cover is \$10 general and \$5 for college students; the crowd is ages 21 and over. Call 650-327-8769 or go to britishbankersclub.com.

(continued from previous page)

Johnston. Learn how to dig deeper into free websites and navigate the "Deep Web." April 30, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. \$38. Menlo Park LDS Church, 1105 Valparaiso Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-306-3423. www.sncgs.org

Spring 2011 Tutor Training Project Read Menlo Park will offer tutor training to prepare prospective tutors to provide one-on-one tutoring to adults to improve their English speaking, reading, and writing skills; the ability to speak a second language is not necessary, as instruction is in English. May 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2525.

Summer Rose Care with Ed Holm Learn how to care for roses so they bloom lushly through the summer. May 7, 10 a.m.-noon. \$30 members, \$40 nonmembers. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-1356 ext. 201. www.gamblegarden.org

Sustainable Urban Gardening Classes Each month, UCCE Master Gardeners will teach workshops to help beginning and intermediate gardeners learn how to grow edibles and garden sustainably. Each workshop will be offered on Saturday mornings. April 30, "Water and Compost." 10 a.m.-noon. \$20 per workshop. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 231. www.penvol.org

Tai Chi Classes Beginner classes for all ages and fitness levels in Taoist Tai Chi Society(R) Internal Art of Tai Chi Chuan. Classes run every Saturday, 9-10:30 a.m. First class is free. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. california.usa.taoist.org

The Founder Conference Guy Kawasaki, the founders of AngelList, Evernote and 600 entrepreneurs will be present at The Founder Conference for entrepreneurs. May 3, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. \$150. Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. thefounderconference.com

Yoga for Gardeners Practice poses to align and care for shoulders, knees, hips and back. Learn to sit and stand and move with greater ease. May 7, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072. yogaforgardeners.eventbrite.com/

Clubs/Meetings

Atherton Book Club Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss a book and share potluck food. Several copies of each book are available for check out. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org/en/node/3696

'Language Lover's Meetup' A group of multi-lingual and multi-lingual-curious people will meet to chat in different languages May 6, 6-9 p.m. Free. Oak City Bar & Grill, Menlo Park. Call 415-738-7383. www.meetup.com/Peninsula-Language-Lovers-Meetup/events/17223192/

Blackberry REACT Meetings REACT is an emergency-preparedness meeting for radio operators. Group meets first Wednesday of the month. 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Blackberry REACT Meetings, 1467 Chilco St., Menlo Park. Call 650-336-8227. www.blackberryreact.org

Knitting Group Knitting group meets second and fourth Saturday of each month. Bring own supplies. 2-4 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. www.smcl.org/en/node/522

Community Events

'Bike to Bay for Hope Technology School' A family bike ride to the Palo Alto Baylands Preserve will be held to support Hope Technology School. May 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$20 includes T-shirt and prizes. Hope Technology School, 2525 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-814-6616. www.hopetech.org

'California's Proposed Cap & Trade Program' NABE Silicon Valley Roundtable Luncheon: "California Global Warming Solutions Act and the Proposed Cap-and-Trade Regulations." Jasmin Ansar,

Ph.D., climate economist for the Union of Concerned Scientists, will discuss the cap and trade program recommended to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. May 10, noon-2 p.m. \$25 for lunch. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-233-9613. sfname.com

'Coworking Jellies' Backstage Coworking hosts "Tuesday Jellies" on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. A "jelly" is where people come together and work informally in a free, common space. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Backstage Coworking, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. www.backstagecoworking.com

'Stanford GSB Open for Business' The Stanford Graduate School of Business invites the community to celebrate the completion of its new home. Knight Management Center Open House features food samples, music, debate and more. April 29, 2-5 p.m. Free. Knight Management Center, Stanford, Serra Street at Campus Drive Loop, Stanford. www.gsb.stanford.edu/about/knight-open/OHOnly.html

College & Career Tech Fair 2011 A day of activities for 7th through 12th graders, community-college students, transfer students, parents and the community-at-large. Workshop presentations, information-sharing by educational representatives, as well as entertainment. April 30, 9-3 p.m. Free. Onetta Harris Community Center, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-521-2358. www.preparingforyourfuture.com

Deborah's Palm Celebration: 'Yee-Haw!' Deborah's Palm, a nonprofit Palo Alto Community Center for Women, is holding its anniversary celebration, "Yee-Haw!" There will be a BBQ lunch at noon, line dancing at 2 p.m., door prizes and games. May 13, noon-6 p.m. Free. Deborah's Palm, 555 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-854-9821. www.deborah-spalm.org

Friends Nursery School Carnival A carnival featuring food, crafts, games, silent auction and more. Proceeds support the scholarship program at Friends Nursery

School. April 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Friends Nursery School, 957 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-6152. pafns@sbcglobal.net

Friendship Force's Indonesia Event Three Stanford students from Indonesia will present scenes of their country and culture through slides. May 1, 2-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-961-3539. www.fsfba.org

Gamble Garden Plant Sale A selection of plants will be for sale April 29 and 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-1356 ext. 201. www.gamblegarden.org

Gourmet Vegetarian Dinners The Peninsula Macrobiotic Community serves a gourmet vegetarian dinner every Monday (except holidays). Full vegan meal includes soup, grain, beans or bean products, vegetables, dessert and beverage. Friendly, communal seating. Lecture monthly. Reserve by Mon. at 9:30 a.m. 6:30-8 p.m. \$15. First Baptist Church, 305 N California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-599-3320. peninsulamacro.org

M-A Big Bear Run Menlo-Atherton High School 5K race/walk supporting M-A athletics. Sun., May 1. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Professionally timed, awards, refreshments. Bring gently used athletic shoes for charity. 9 a.m. \$25 adults/\$10 students before April 24; \$30 adult/\$20 students after April 24. Menlo Atherton High School (Gym Lot), 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-218-6674. maboosters.org

Mountain View High School Jazz Festival Jazz musicians from local schools, along with some special guests, will perform May 7, noon-5 p.m. Suggested donation: adults, \$10, students and seniors \$5. Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-720-3032.

Peace and Social Justice Fair The May Day Peace and Social Justice Craft and Information Fair will be held Sun., May 1, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper St., Palo

Alto. Call 415-265-9058. www.peaceandjustice.org/maydayfair

PRS Annual Rose Show The Peninsula Rose Society will be holding its 54th annual Rose Show on Sun., May 1. There will be hundreds of roses on display and large rose raffles at 2, 3 and 4 p.m. The show's theme is "Roses Celebrate Life: Weddings." May 1, 1-5 p.m. Free. Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. www.peninsularosociety.org

Spring Boutique at Downtown Community Center Multi-vendor event will benefit the Downtown Streets Team. Vendor displays include jewelry, baskets, art decor, bath and body items, teas, chocolates and more. April 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. All Saints' Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-322-4528 ext. 303. www.asaints.org

St. Anthony's Annual Easter Meal Menlo Park's St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room annual free Easter meal. April 30, noon-2:30 p.m. Free. St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-365-9664. paduadiningroom.com

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration Celebrate Israeli Independence Day at Kibbutz OFJCC. Petting zoo, arts and crafts, gardening, Israeli dancing, Krav Maga, Zumba for kids, Israeli food and a special exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Israeli Kibbutz. May 10, 4-7:30 p.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8692. www.paloaltojcc.org

Concerts

Chamber ensemble An ensemble comprising four of Music@Menlo's chamber musicians (pianist and conductor Jeffrey Kahane and violinist Arnaud Sussmann; violist Paul Neubauer and cellist Christopher Costanza) perform two works of the piano-quartet literature. Sun, May 8, 4 p.m. \$50/\$45 adult; \$25/\$20 student. Center for Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton, Atherton. www.musicatmenlo.org

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1080 Enterprise Way, Ste 150
Enterprise Way & 11th Ave

"Join Us! Membership is open to individuals who live, work or attend school in Santa Clara County."

'An Afternoon of Music' The South Bay Community Orchestra performs May 5, 3-4 p.m. Free. 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

'Brahms and the German Legacy' California Bach Society, under the direction of Paul Flight, showcases the choral music of Johannes Brahms along with works of earlier German composers he admired: Heinrich Schutz, Johann Herman Schein, and Hans Leo Hassler. April 30, 8-10 p.m. \$30 at the door, discounts for advance purchase, seniors and students. All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 415-262-0272. www.calbach.org

'Chelle and Friends' Chelle and Friends play R & B music at a Mother's Day concert. Bring a blanket and picnic snack. Free face painting and special crafts to make for mom. May 8, 3-5 p.m. \$15 per person in advance; toddlers under 2, no charge. Hidden Villa Farm, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-9704. www.hiddenvilla.org

'Chichester Psalms' Leonard Bernstein's work sung in Hebrew by Los Altos United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, together with The Choral Project, under direction of Daniel Hughes with organ and percussion, at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. May 1, 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-948-1083. www.laumc.org

'Sounds for the New World' "Sounds for the New World" features performances by the Topaz Classique Ensemble with Palo Alto musicians/teachers Mimi Dye and Iris Fraser as well as a new Palo Alto youth orchestra, The Topaz New World Youth Orchestra. Reception follows. May 1, 3-5 p.m. \$10-50. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-380-0961 cell. www.topazmusic.org

'Stabat Mater: San Francisco Mandolin Orchestra' SFMO performs the sung mass "Stabat Mater" by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi. Soprano Susan Gundunas and mezzo-soprano Twila Ehmcke are soloists. April 30, 4-5:30 p.m. \$15/\$10 at door; \$12/\$7 online. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 510-649-9519. www.sfmandolin.org/concerts.shtml

'Swing in the Spring' Chez Mana presents "Swing in the Spring," an evening of music, dinner, exhibits and dance. Pianist Noam Eisen and his swing quintet performs. May 14, 6:30-11 p.m. \$48 for concert and buffet, \$25 for concert only. Fremont Hills Country Club, 12889 Viscaino Place, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-275-2439. blog.chezmana.com/?p=1441

Fortnightly Music Club Concert Piano duet, vocal, violin/piano duo and piano/string quartet featuring works of Mozart, Schumann, Beethoven and Faure. May 1, 8 p.m. Free. Lucie Stern Community Center Ballroom, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.fortnightlymusicclub.org

Ives String Quartet On Sunday, May 1, the Ives String Quartet will perform Quartet in C Major by Joseph Haydn; a new commissioned work by Elinor Armer; and Clarinet Quintet in B Minor by Johannes Brahms, with Jerome Simas, clarinet. The concert is part of the 2010-2011 Congregational Concert Series. 4-6 p.m. \$25 general, \$20 senior, \$15 student. First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road (at Embarcadero), Palo Alto. Call 650-224-7849. www.ivesquartet.org

Karen Clift, soprano; John Churchwell, piano This recital with Karen Clift, soprano, and John Churchwell, piano, will feature a program of American art song, folksongs and spirituals. May 1, 8-10 p.m. General \$10; student \$5; free for Stanford students with ID; senior \$9. Campbell Recital Hall, Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-725-2787. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra Concert David Ramadanoff presents MSCO's final spring concert, an all-Beethoven event. The program includes Beethoven's "Egmont Overture," Piano Concerto No. 5, "The Emperor," with piano soloist Hans Boepple, and Symphony No. 7 in A major. Reception with the artists at intermission. May 1, 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$5-20. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. www.mastersinfonia.org

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra Concert David Ramadanoff presents MSCO's final spring concert, an all-Beethoven event. The program includes

Beethoven's "Egmont Overture," Piano Concerto No. 5, "The Emperor," with piano soloist Hans Boepple, and Symphony No. 7 in A major. Reception with the artists at intermission. April 30, 8 p.m. Tickets \$5-20. Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.mastersinfonia.org

Stanford Invitational Choral Festival Stanford's Memorial Church Choir and Chamber Chorale, and their guests the University of California at Berkeley Chamber Choir, the Masterworks Chorale of San Mateo, and the boys and young men ensemble from the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, perform April 29, 8 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, Memorial Way, Stanford. Call 650-725-2787. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

Stanford Taiko Stanford Taiko performs as they prepare to depart for the Intercollegiate Taiko Invitational at UCLA and Zenshin Daiko's 12th Annual Taiko Festival on Maui. May 7, 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Free to Stanford students. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-725-2787. www.stanfordtickets.org/tickets/calendar/view.aspx?id=3769

The Valley Chorale First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto presents The Valley Chorale in a genre-spanning concert Sat., May 7, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. firstpaloalto.com

Undergraduate Awards Concert A program honoring and featuring outstanding Stanford music students. May 6, 8 p.m. Free. Campbell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-725-2787. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

Dance

'Fun After Fifty' The Redwood City Fun After Fifty Club is offering Ballroom dancing. Live Music will be provided by the Fun After Fifty 10-piece band, led by Dennis Berglund. There will be prizes, food and soft drinks as well as free punch, water and coffee. Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. \$5 (\$7 for nonmembers). Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City. Call 650-747-0264. rwcfaf.com

Congolese Dance Classes Regine B. Ndounda teaches Congolese dance classes for all levels. Sundays through June, 3:30-5 p.m. Drop-in \$15 (\$10 for seniors and students with current ID). Cubberley Community Center, Dance Studio G-6, Building G, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-279-1070. www.congolesecamp.org/node/217

Singles Weekend in the Silicon Valley Single professionals of all ages are invited to a mixer April 29. Dressy attire recommended. 8-11:45 p.m. \$20. Sheraton Hotel, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 415-507-9962. www.thepartyhotline.com

Environment

'Climate Refugees' 'Climate Refugees,' the centerpiece film at the 2010 UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen, will be shown in Fellowship Hall. The film examines the creation and migration of hundreds of millions of climate refugees who will be displaced as a result of climate change. May 9, 7-9 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Call 650-325-5659. www.fprespa.org/coolplanet

'Running Dry: Down the Colorado River' Explorer Jonathan Waterman talks about following the Colorado River from its high mountain sources to a dry mudflat just across the Mexican border. Part of the Peninsula Open Space Trust's 2011 Wallace Stegner Lecture Series. May 2, 8 p.m. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.openspacetrust.org/lectures

Exhibits

'Cabinet of Curiosities' A silicon crystal, a 3,000 year old cuneiform tablet and an 18th century slide rule are amongst the items on display in MOAH's exhibit, "Cabinet of Curiosities." Through May 1, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

'Land of Regeneration: A Journey' Artist Annette Wagner documents the path transformation took in her life in this art exhibit. Medium: acrylic on canvas. Through June 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, 1069 E. Meadow Circle, Palo Alto. Call 650-493-4430 ext. 254. www.itp.edu

'S.F. Peninsula Landscapes' A solo show of oil paintings of hillsides, Bay front and parks, from San Francisco to Menlo Park, by Burlingame fine artist Pat Gray. Exhibit runs through May 4, during restaurant's open hours (Mon.-Sun., 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 4:30-9:30 p.m.). Free. Garden Fresh Restaurant, 460 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-0967. www.gardenfresh.us

Mike's Cafe Photo Exhibit Panoramas of Stanford and the Sierra Mountains, an egret landing at Gatorland, plus large photographs of Yosemite and other scenes are now on display at Mike's Cafe in Midtown in Palo Alto. The photos are by Paly High and Stanford alumnus Tom Poulter, some from his airplane at 18,700 feet. Through May 27, 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Mike's Cafe, 2680 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-968-4097.

Silicon Valley Open Studios Five Peninsula artists — Alice Weil, Julia Munger Seelos, Lynn Montoya, Kim Holl and Frances Freyberg — will exhibit paintings, jewelry and fine art photography in Menlo Park during the 2011 Silicon Valley Open Studios, May 7-8 and May 14-15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Silicon Valley Open Studio, 856 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-273-3505.

Family and Kids

Aquarium Spotlight Day Learn about the variety of sea life from the Bay and ocean. May 7, 2-5 p.m. Free. Registration required. Marine Science Institute, 500 Discovery Parkway, Redwood City. Call 650-364-2760. mayspotlight.eventbrite.com

Concert For Kids with Pam Donkin Award-winning children's musician Pam Donkin will present an interactive concert for children ages 4 and up. May 9, 4-4:45 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

May Fete Parade May Fete is Northern California's oldest children's parade and this year's theme is "Books are Hidden Treasures: Dig in!" The event will also feature a Reading and Literacy Fair on Lytton Plaza from 9-11 a.m. After the parade,

visitors may attend the PiE Fair at Addison School. May 7, 9-11 a.m. Free. Downtown Palo Alto, Emerson and University, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4900. www.cityofpaloalto.org/recreation

Mothers Together Spring Brunch Dr. Eli Morris will speak about "Navigating the Cycles and Circles of Family: How to Enjoy the Journey." Register online by May 5. Scholarships available. Childcare available with registration. Event is May 10, 9-11:30 a.m. \$20. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. mppcc.org/brunch

PAMP's Annual Rummage Sale PAMP's Annual Rummage Sale is open to the public selling gently used children's clothing, toys, equipment and maternity items. April 30, 9 a.m.-noon. Free for PAMP members, \$5 per family for nonmembers. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Paper-making Workshop Guided by a docent from the Museum of Craft and Folk Art, children aged 4 and up can make paper and take a small sample home in this 90-minute workshop. April 29, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Paws for Tales Children can improve their reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog. The Humane Society requires a signed release form for each time a child reads. Sign up in advance. Fourth Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton.

ton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org/en/content/paws-tales-1

Silicon Valley Boychoir Open House For boys ages 6 and up. Visit a rehearsal of this multi-level boychoir, meet parents, and sign up for auditions. Mon. event 5-5:30 p.m., Wed. event 5:30-6 p.m. May 9 and 11, Free. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. www.svboychoir.org

Spring Festival for Preschoolers Little Acorn School festival includes children's games, face-painting, bouncy house, bake sale and more. All proceeds go to support educational programs at the nonprofit school. April 30, 9-noon. Little Acorn School, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View.

Film

'Despicable Me' The Atherton Library hosts family-friendly movies the last Friday of each month. This month the film title is "Despicable Me." Rated PG. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. April 29, 7-8:30 p.m. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

'Something's Gonna Live' Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim captures the late-life coming together of six classic Hollywood cinema artists in "Something's Gonna Live." May 7, 7 p.m. Free, but reservations required. Menlo-Atherton High School Performing Arts

(continued on next page)

BICYCLE BOULEVARD TOUR

Come join Mayor Espinosa,

City Council, the City Manager, and planning staff for a bicycle tour of the future Park BI Bicycle Boulevard!



Route will include potential stopping points and will generally travel along:

- Proposed Castilleja-Park-Wilkie Bicycle Boulevard
- Bryant Street Bicycle Boulevard

Come see first hand what is in store for the City's next Bicycle Boulevard and discuss other potential improvement priorities with decision-makers, staff, and consultants...all while wearing a helmet!

- Monday, May 9th at 4pm - Meet at City Hall Plaza
- Bring your bicycle, helmet, and something to drink
- The round trip tour will return to City Hall Plaza no later than 5:30pm
- To be followed by a City Council study session on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan at 6pm

The City of Palo Alto is hard at work making it easier for you to bike and walk to your favorite destinations. For more information on this Bike Tour, or the current Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan update process, please visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/bike



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(continued from previous page)

Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-330-2512.

'The Orator' A film about Iskander, a poor cart man, who can't give up his three-woman harem and therefore happens to find himself at the center of events that impact his marital life, family relations and his position in the society. May 3, 7 p.m. Free. Building 200 (Lane History Corner), Room 030, Stanford. creees.stanford.edu/events/Eurasian-film-series.html

'Tonight We'll Celebrate in the Family' A Romanian comedy about two "Don Juans" who travel the country in search of desperate women willing to spend money to find their soul mates. Intro and commentary by Suzan Negip-Schatt. May 13, 7 p.m. Free. Language Corner, Building 260 (Pigott Hall), Room 113, Stanford. creees.stanford.edu/events/romanian-film.html

'You Kiss Like a God' Part of the Czech Film Series at Stanford. All films shown with English subtitles. A middle-aged high school teacher tries to navigate the rough waters of her private life (romantic comedy). May 6, 7 p.m. Free. Building 260 (Pigott Hall), Room 113, Stanford. creees.stanford.edu/events/czech-film.html

Windrider Film Forum The Windrider Film Forum, which features screenings of independent films, returns to the area April 28 to 30. Check website for film program. 7-11 p.m. \$5 students; \$15 general admission; Menlo Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. www.windriderbayarea.org

Health

'The Future and Personalized Healthcare: the Role of Genes, Data and the Environment' The future of personalized healthcare will involve an individual's genetic makeup, lifestyle and environment, organizers say. Pre-registration required. May 1, 3-4 p.m. Free. Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, 725 Welch Road, Palo Alto. calendar.lpch.org

Free Skin Cancer Screening El Camino Hospital dermatologists will conduct a skin-cancer screening. Pre-registration is required, call 800-216-5556. April 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. El Camino Hospital, Melchor Pavilion, 2490 Hospital Drive, Mountain View. Call 650-988-3225. www.elcaminohospital.org/calendar

Live Music

'Native American Flute Music Meditation' A performance of Native American flute music to accompany and assist with meditation and relaxation. May 6, 7:30-9 p.m. \$20. Conscious Living Center, 2400 Wyandotte St., Suite C, Mountain View. Call 650-965-1152. www.consciouslivingcenter.org

Acoustic Son CD release party Acoustic Son celebrates the release of their third CD, "Cross the Line." April 30, 8-10:30 p.m. \$12 advance, \$16 at the door. Angelica's Bell Theatre, 863 Main St., Redwood City. Call 650-365-3226. www.angelicasbistro.com/ticket_portal.htm#acoustic

Anne Akiko Meyers Japan Benefit Concert Play for Japan USA presents a benefit concert featuring Anne Akiko Meyers, concert violinist. All proceeds will go to the Japan disaster-relief efforts. April 29, 8-9 p.m. \$35 and up. Woodside Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside. playforjapanusa.org/

Battle of the Bands Handy Entertainment presents four competing bands. April 30, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$10/\$5 with college ID. British Bankers Club, 1090 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. twitter.com/entertain123

Natalia Gutman & Konstantin Lifshitz Cellist Natalia Gutman and pianist Konstantin Lifshitz perform May 5, 8-10 p.m. \$40 members and students, \$45 non-members 24 hours in advance. \$50 at the door. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. www.paloaltojcc.org/arts

Reggae Sundays Reggae-themed evenings every Sunday. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$10. British Bankers Club, 1090 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. www.bbcmelopark.com

Volti Choral Concert New-music choir Volti wraps up its 32nd season with a premieres by Elliott Gyger and Matthew Barnson, a reprise of "Two Collins Songs" by Yu-Hui Chang and Ruby Fulton's internet-meme meditation "The Ballad of James Parry." May 14, 8-10 p.m. \$10-30.

First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-771-3352. volist.org

On Stage

'25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' Menlo School presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." This Tony-award-winning musical features overachievers, nerdy neuroses, mayhem, audience participation, and some actual spelling. It's an outdoor show so dress warmly, pack a picnic, bring lawn chairs and blankets. Shows May 5, 8, 13 and 15, 8 p.m. \$7/student; \$10/adult. Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. www.menloschool.org

'Camping with Henry and Tom' In 1921 Warren G. Harding, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison get marooned in the Maryland woods in Mark St. Germain's "Camping with Henry and Tom." Awaiting rescue, the great minds clash over everything from politics to personal philosophies in this "factional" story. April 7-30, 8 p.m. \$24-32. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. www.busbarn.org

'The Owl and the Pussycat' Peninsula Youth Theatre presents "The Owl and the Pussycat." April 29-30, \$8. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6000. www.pytnet.org

Outdoors

'Peninsula Peak to Bay' Explore the redwoods, foothills, Stanford University, and Old Palo Alto. Choose a 5, 10, or 25 km course and find up to two dozen checkpoints in parks and places along the way. April 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$5 to \$45. Palo Alto High School, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 510-681-6181. terraloco.com

Beginner's Botany Walk A walk focusing on wildflowers and plant identification, led by a botanist. May 7, 10 a.m.-noon. \$12 per person. Hidden Villa Farm, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-9704. www.hiddenvilla.org

Gamble Garden Spring Tour "Outdoor Living in Palo Alto: Fine Landscape Design for California Lifestyles," a tour of five private gardens and boutique at Gamble Garden. Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$35 prior to event, \$40 day of. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-1356 ext. 201. www.gamblegarden.org

Historic Folger Stable Visitors can view the historically restored Folger Stable and miles of woodland trails. View historic displays and video in the carriage room. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Free. Wunderlich Park, 4040 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-2660.

Religion/Spirituality

'Holy Yoga' This class offers a form of experiential worship; no prior experience with yoga needed. Class meets Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45 p.m. Free. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Children's Center, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-383-9322. www.laumc.org

Insight Meditation South Bay Shaila Catherine and guest teachers lead a weekly Insight Meditation sitting followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Donations accepted. St. Timothy's/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. imsb.org

Seniors

'50-Plus Dinner' "Hooked on Autographs" author Joe Galiardi speaks about what it took to obtain more than 250 celebrity signed golf balls from golfers, entertainers, sports figures and U.S. presidents. Food provided. All seniors are invited. May 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$6 suggested donation. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. mppcc.org

'Big Bingo' Big Bingo will be held in the Social Hall the first Monday of each month. 1 p.m. Free. 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Special Events

'Style 2011' The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation's Wearable Art Show and Sale returns on April 30. Featuring clothing, jewelry and accessories from more than 38 artists and live models. \$10 (free for PAAAF members). Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.paacf.org/style/

'UFOs and their Spiritual Mission' A discussion of UFO sightings and their possible meaning. May 6, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Mountain View Community Center, 201 South Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. SharingForPeace.org

10th Annual Pathways Run/Walk The Los Altos Hills Pathways Run/Walk consists of 5K, 10K and 1-mile races. Courses are primarily hilly trail on the Los Altos Hills Pathways System. Register online. May 7, 9 a.m. \$10-\$30. Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-947-2518. lahpathwaysrun.org/

Blossom Mothers' Day Celebration Blossom Birth is holding a Mother's Day event featuring an open house, massage by VerdeTouch, portraits by Rosalinda, "Rockin' Moms" concert, door prizes and more. May 7, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. \$40. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Ste 120, Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2326. www.blossom-birth.org

Free Private Martial Arts Lesson United Studios of Self Defense is holding free 30-minute self-defense classes. Classes are private and cover self-defense basics. Ongoing 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. United Studios of Self Defense, 2675-B Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-325-4946. www.ussdpaloalto.com

Heirloom Seedling Sale Support non-profit Collective Roots' gardening programs by purchasing heirloom vegetable seedlings. May 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Bianchinis Market, 3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-324-2769. collectiveroots.org

Mars Lecture NASA Research Park will host a free lecture, "Packing for Mars: Challenges and Oddities of a Human Mission to Mars," May 3. The Lecture features Dr. Pascal Lee, planetary scientist at the Mars and SETI Institutes, and Mary Roach, author of the recent bestseller "Packing for Mars." 7-9 p.m. Free. NASA Conference Center Building 3, Moffett Field. researchpark.arc.nasa.gov/

Safety Faire Hosted by the Palo Alto/Stanford Citizen Corps Council. Event will feature 32 nonprofit booths, children's area, and emergency equipment. May 1, noon-4 p.m. Free. Stanford Shopping center, El Camino, Palo Alto. Call 650-321-8933. www.cityofpaloalto.org/ccc

Stanford Historical Society House & Garden Tour An architectural sampler of Stanford: annual tour by the Historical Society's Historic Houses Project. Features three pre-1930 houses from the San Juan Neighborhood and two 1936 residences that blend house and garden. Architects: A. B. and Birge Clark, Charles K. Sumner and Frank Lloyd Wright. May 1, 1-4 p.m. \$25 before April 16; \$30 after April 16 and on day of tour. 560 Wilbur Way, Stanford. Call 650-725-3332. histsoc.stanford.edu/programs.shtml

'Top 10 Child-Safety Suggestions' Palo Alto Police present advice on the best things to do to keep children safe. May 7, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Palo Alto Family YMCA, 3412 Ross Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9622. www.paloaltofamilyymca.org

Wine Tasting Event "A Napa Valley First-Growth: Stag's Leap Wine Cellars' Estate Grown Cabernet Tasting." This is a walk-around tasting event. May 6, 4-7 p.m. \$24.71. Artisan Wine Depot, 400 A Villa St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-3511. www.artisanwinedepot.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=EVENT-SLWC

Talks/Authors

'Indian Voices: Listening to Native Americans' Alison Owings discusses "Indian Voices: Listening to Native Americans." May 4, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc - Palo Alto, 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. www.booksinc.net

'Odessa: Genius and Death of a City of Dreams' Drawing on a wealth of newly available archival evidence, Charles King charts the course of the city's history from boomtown through the devastation of its Jewish core from 1941 to 1944, telling the story of the city's fragile cosmopolitanism as well as the writers and public figures inspired by it. May 12, 5:15 p.m. Free. Encina Hall West, Room 202, Stanford. creees.stanford.edu/events/King.html

'Pulp Fashion: Isabella de Borchgrave' Isabella de Borchgrave uses paper to create dresses, shoes and jewelry. May 4, 7 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560.

'Search for Water' David Freyberg, prof. of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford, will discuss "Watering the Farm: Old and New, Near and Far" at the free public meeting of the Palo Alto Historical Assn. on Sun., May 1, 2-3:15 p.m. Free.



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See store for details

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two stories about passion and death

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JL.Moscovich-cond. R. Conde-dir.

FREE Preview May 12, 8:00 p.m Trinity Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall - 1295 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Henry Purcell **DIDO AND AENEAS**
LA VIDA BREVE Manuel de Falla

May 20, 22, 28, 29, 2011
Lucie Stern Theatre -1305 Middlefield Road - Palo Alto

Looking for something to do?

Check out the Weekly's **Community Calendar** for the Midpeninsula.

Instantly find out what events are going on in your city!

Go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com/calendar



Goings On

Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

'Steven Levy: In the Plex' Steven Levy discusses "In the Plex: How Google Thinks, Works, and Shapes Our Lives," his book that takes readers inside Google headquarters to show how Google works. May 11, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc - Palo Alto, 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. www.booksinc.net

'The Arctic: Homeland or Frontier?' Jonathan D. Greenberg of the Stanford Law School will discuss "The Arctic: Homeland or Frontier?" at a free public meeting on Wed., May 4, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

'The Evolution of Mobile Entertainment' * Leading industry and VC executives discuss developments of mobile entertainment, next disruptive technologies, killer apps and financing environment. May 3, 6-9 p.m. \$20 members, \$35 non-members, \$50 at the door. SAP Labs, 3410 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-386-5015. www.gaba-network.org

'Waste Management & Recycling' A discussion about innovative waste-management solutions and the emerging trend toward innovative and sustainable practices. May 3, 6-8:30 p.m. \$35; SD-Forum members \$20; \$10 more at door. Orrick, 1000 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. sdforum.org/greenclean

Ana Forrest Ana Forrest, founder of Forrest Yoga, shares "Fierce Medicine: Breakthrough Practices to Heal the Body and Ignite the Spirit," May 9, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc - Palo Alto, 74 Town and Country Village, Palo Alto. www.booksinc.net

Humanist Community Sunday Forum The May 8 topic is "Rationality vs. Emotions as a Basis for Humanism." Prof. Frank Friedlander will explore this topic. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Palo Alto High School Student Center, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. www.humanists.org

John Flanagan's 'Ranger's Apprentice - Book 10' John Flanagan presents the final book in his Ranger's Apprentice series. April 30, 2 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Mary Gordon's 'The Love of My Youth' A novel about first lovers meeting again after more than 30 years. April 29, 7 p.m. Admission requires purchase of event book or a \$10 gift card. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Pulp Fashion Docent at Portola Valley Library A lecture and slideshow on Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave's original body of work, recreating life-size historical costumes from paper. This exhibit is currently at the Legion of Honor Museum in SF. May 4, 7-8 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Robert Vamosi Robert Vamosi, a journalist and analyst who has been covering digital security issues for more than a decade, explores "When Gadgets Betray Us: The Dark Side of Our Infatuation with New Technologies." May 3, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. www.booksinc.net

SETI Institute Free Weekly Talks "Tracking and Mitigating Meteoroid Threats to Spacecraft" by Sigrid Close, Stanford University. This week, find out how future spacecraft will tackle the threat of meteoroid collisions. May 4, noon-1 p.m. Free. SETI Institute, 189 Bernardo Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-810-0223. seti.org/talks

Stanford Breakfast Briefings In this session, Professor Harry Kraemer, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Business, discusses values-based leadership and how to deliver outstanding and lasting results by doing the right thing. May 11, 7:30-9 a.m. \$60. Stanford Faculty Club, 439 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-725-3330. breakfastbriefings.stanford.edu/

Steven Jones Steven Jones shares "Tribes of Burning Man: How An Experimental City in the Desert is Shaping the New American Counterculture." May 11, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc in Mountain View, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. www.booksinc.net

Technology and Society Committee Luncheon Forum Bart Anderson, an editor of the Energy Bulletin website and organizer of a transition town movement in Palo Alto, describes his work promot-

(continued on page 51)

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Packard
SUMMER SCAMPER 5K-10K

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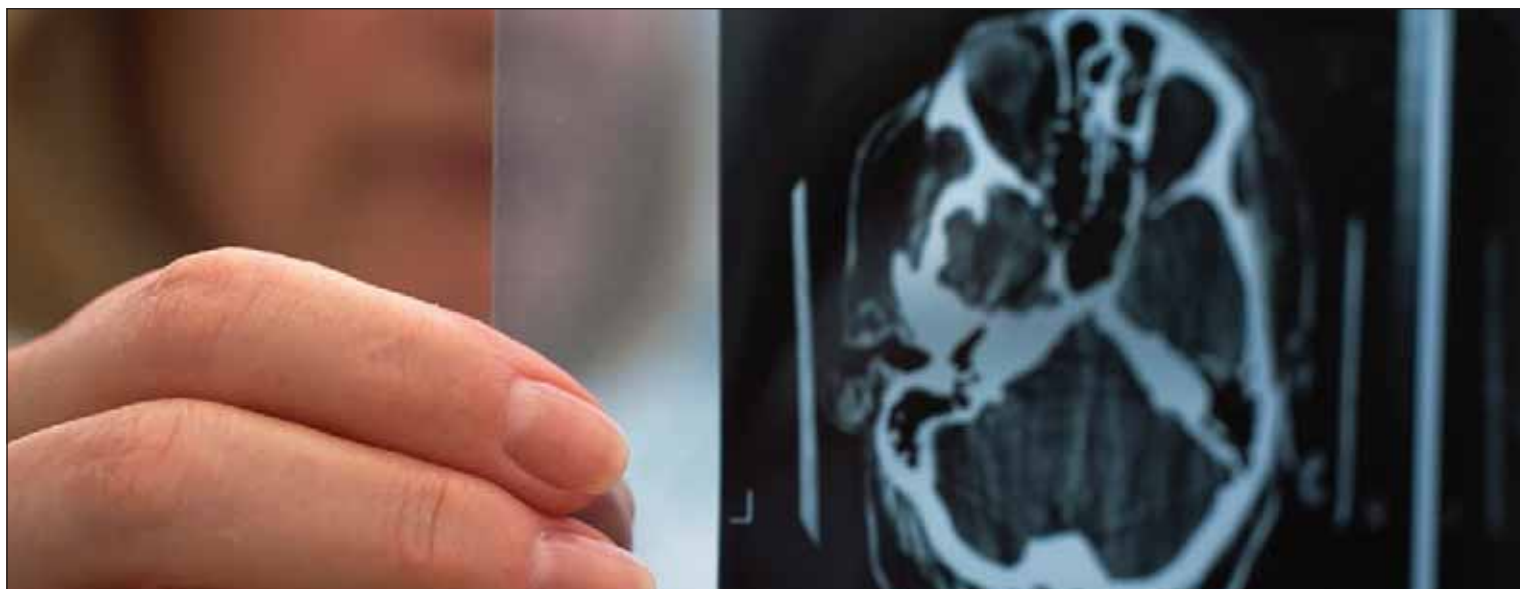
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Sign up for the **5k run/walk, 10k run, or Kids' Fun Run.**



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Providing multidisciplinary stroke care for 19 years, the Stanford Stroke Center has led the way in establishing community standards of care. Stanford is consistently recognized as a leader in stroke treatment and research, with a comprehensive center pioneering medical, surgical and interventional therapies for treating and preventing stroke.

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SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011
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WARNING SIGNS OF A STROKE

- Sudden numbness or weakness in face, arm or leg (usually on one side)
- Sudden trouble speaking or understanding others
- Sudden trouble seeing out of one or both eyes
- Sudden, severe headache with no apparent cause
- Sudden dizziness, trouble walking, loss of balance or coordination (especially if associated with any of the above symptoms)

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Camp Connection

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www.riekes.org

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650-364-2509

Bay Area Equestrian Center

At Wunderlich County Park Stables. Kids 8-15 have outdoor fun joining BAEC for horse camps. Camps focus on caring for and riding horses so come ready to ride and have fun learning good horse care.

www.bayareaequestrian.net

Woodside

650-446-1414

California Riding Academy's Camp Jumps For Joy!

Join us this summer for fantastic and fun filled week with our beautiful horses and ponies! Each day Campers have riding instruction, learn horse care, create fun crafts and play with our kids' jump course. During the week we learn beginning vaulting, visit our Full Surgical Vet Clinic, and meet our miniature horses. Voted the best horse camp by discerning young campers. Choose English, Western or Cowboy/Cowgirl. Register and pay online at:

www.californiaridingacademy.com

Menlo Park

650-740-2261

Camp Jones Gulch

Join the fun this summer! Camp Jones Gulch offers friendship and growth to kids ages 6-16. Enjoy our Traditional Camp or Mini, Horse, Surfing, Leadership and Travel Camps. One- and two-week sessions. Limited financial assistance available.

www.campjonesgulch.org

La Honda

415-848-1200

Champion Tennis Camps

CTC programs provide an enjoyable way for your child to begin learning the game of tennis or to continue developing existing skills. Our approach is to create lots of fun with positive feedback and reinforcement in a nurturing tennis environment. Building self-esteem and confidence through enjoyment on the tennis court is a wonderful gift a child can keep forever! Super Juniors Program, ages 4 - 6. Juniors Program, ages 7 - 14.

www.alanmargot-tennis.net

Atherton

650-400-0464

Don Shaw's Volleyball Training Academy

Join former Stanford University Men's and Women's head coach, Hall of Famer and 4-time NCAA Champion Don Shaw this summer at our camp for HS GIRLS July 13th, 14th & 15th and for HS BOYS July 18th, 19th & 20th. This camp gives players, who have the desire, the chance to improve their skills and learn proven techniques that will help them become more consistent and enhance their chances to play at a higher level.

www.mvvclub.com

Sunnyvale

408-329-0488

Earl Hansen Football Camp

Learn the fundamentals of football with Earl Hansen, Palo Alto High School and State Champion coach. This is a non-contact camp where kids develop fundamental skills with proven drills and techniques. Full practices in the mornings with 7 on 7 games in the afternoon. July 11 to 15 @ Palo Alto High School. Ages 10 to 14. Lunch provided daily.

www.earlhansenfootballcamp.com

Palo Alto

650-269-7793

Jefunira Camp

Celebrating our 20th year of Jefunira Camp summer fun in 2011! Come join us for some good old fashion summer fun! Our combination of an exceptional college aged staff and innovative, inclusive programming will create a memorable summer experience for your child. Programming for children ages 4-13. Pre and post camp care offered.

www.jefuniracamp.com

Palo Alto

650-291-2888

Kim Grant Tennis Academy Summer Camps

Fun and Specialized junior camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate 1 & 2, Advanced and Elite Players. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve players technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around tennis game. Camps in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City. Come make new friends and have tons of FUN!!

www.KimGrantTennis.com

Palo Alto/Menlo Park/ Redwood City

650-752-8061

Matt Lottich Life Skills Basketball Camp

MLLS offers high-level, high-energy basketball instruction for ages 6-16. This summer we celebrate the 8th year!! With two to three "leagues" in each session, young beginners to advanced elite players get to learn fundamental skills, advanced footwork and valuable life lessons from an unparalleled staff of Pro and Collegiate level players. Camps at Woodside Elementary and Sequoia High School. Early bird, multi-session, and group discounts available.

www.mllscamp.com

Woodside/ Redwood City

1-888-537-3223

Nike Tennis Camps at Stanford University

Come join the fun this summer and get better! Dick Gould's 42nd Annual Stanford Tennis School offers day camps for both junior and adults, June 11-16. Weekly junior overnight and extended day camps offered June 19-Aug 12 for boys & girls ages 9-18 and run by Head Men's Coach John Whitlinger and Head Women's Coach Lele Forood. There is a camp option for everyone!

www.USSportsCamps.com/tennis

1-800-NIKE CAMP (645-3226)

Stanford

Spring Down Camp Equestrian Center

Spring Down camp teaches basic to advanced horsemanship skills. All ages welcome! Daily informative lecture, riding lesson, supervised hands-on skill practice, safety around horses, tacking/untacking of own camp horse, and arts/crafts.

www.springdown.com

Portola Valley

650-851-1114

Stanford Water Polo Camps

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<https://stanfordwaterpolocamps.com>

650-725-9016

Summer at Saint Francis

Sports & Activity Camp (ages 6-12): This all sports camp provides group instruction in a variety of field, water and court games. Saint Francis faculty and students staff the camp, and the focus is always on fun. The program is dedicated to teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and positive self-esteem.

www.sfhs.com/summer

Mountain View

650-968-1213 ext. 446

Summer at Saint Francis

Advanced Sports Camps (5th-9th grades): We offer a wide selection of advanced sports camps designed to provide players with the opportunity to improve both their skill and knowledge of a specific sport. Each camp is run by a Head Varsity Coach at Saint Francis, and is staffed by members of the coaching staff.

www.sfhs.com/summer

650-968-1213 ext. 446

Team Esface Elite Basketball Skills Clinics

Spring Training (April-May). High-energy, high-level basketball training for ages 6-16. Use your offseason as a time to develop your basketball skills and IQ with the unparalleled coaching staff of Team Esface. Learn the fundamentals of the game, offensive attack moves and advanced footwork through dynamic drills and competitions led by young, positive coaches including former Division 1 athletes. April and May. Two days per week. Sibling and group discounts available. More information and sign up at: www.teamesface.com

1-888-537-3223

Woodside/ Redwood City

YMCA of Silicon Valley

Say hello to summer fun at the YMCA! Choose from enriching day or overnight camps in 35 locations: arts, sports, science, travel, and more. For youth K-10th grade. Includes weekly fieldtrips, swimming and outdoor adventures. Accredited by the American Camp Association. Financial assistance available.

www.ymcasv.org/summercamp

Peninsula

408-351-6400

Academics

Delphi Academy

Have your best summer ever at Delphi Academy's summer camp! Ages 5-13. Full Day Camp. Morning academics with experienced teachers, afternoon activities, day trips, camping trips, swimming, sports, crafts, activities, and a lot of fun!

www.bestsummerever.org

Santa Clara

408-260-2300

Harker Summer Programs

K-12 offerings taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff. K-6 morning academics - focusing on math, language arts and science - and full spectrum of afternoon recreation. Grades 6-12 for-credit courses and non-credit enrichment opportunities. Swim, Tennis and Soccer also offered.

www.summer.harker.org

San Jose

408-553-0537

iD Tech Camps - Summer Tech Fun!

Ages 7-17 create video games, iPhone apps, C++/Java programs, websites and more. Weeklong, day and overnight programs held at Stanford, UC Berkeley, Santa Clara, UCLA and others. Also special Teen programs held at Stanford in gaming, programming and visual arts. Free year-round learning! Save with code CAU22L.

www.internalDrive.com

1-888-709-TECH (8324)

iD Teen Academies

Teens spend two weeks immersed in the dynamic world of video game creation at iD Gaming Academy, computer science/application development at iD Programming Academy or photography/filmmaking at iD Visual Arts Academy. Overnight programs held at Stanford, Harvard, MIT and others. Week-long programs for ages 7-17 also available. Free year-round learning! Save w/code CAU22T.

www.iDTeenAcademies.com

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ISTP Language Immersion

International School of the Peninsula camps offered in French, Chinese, Spanish or ESL for students in Nursery through Middle School. Three 2-week sessions, each with different theme. Students are grouped according to both grade level and language proficiency.

www.istp.org

Palo Alto

650-251-8519

Mid-Peninsula High School Summer Program

Mid-Peninsula High School offers a series of classes and electives designed to keep students engaged in learning. Classes Monday-Thursday and limited to 15 students. Every Thursday there's a BBQ lunch. The Science and Art classes will have weekly field trips.

www.mid-pen.com

650-321-1991 ext. 110

Summer at Saint Francis

Summer at Saint Francis provides a broad range of academic and athletic programs for elementary through high school students. It is the goal of every program to make summer vacation enriching and enjoyable!

www.sfhs.com/summer

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SuperCamp is the summer enrichment program that parents and kids love! Now in our 30th year and with over 56,000 graduates worldwide, we'll give your son or daughter the skills, added confidence, motivation and character direction to flourish. Junior Forum, incoming 6th-8th graders; Senior Forum, incoming 9th-12th graders. Located at Stanford, San Jose State, UC Berkeley and 6 other prestigious schools nationwide.

www.supercamp.com

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Stanford/San Jose/Berkeley

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www.summerinnovation.com

650-866-5824

TechKnowHow Computer & LEGO Camps

Fun and enriching technology classes for students, ages 5-14! Courses include LEGO and K'NEX Projects with Motors, NXT Robotics, 3D Modeling, and Game Design. Many locations, including Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Sunnyvale. Half and all day options. Early-bird and multi-session discounts available.

www.techknowhowkids.com

650-474-0400

Woodland School Summer Adventures

For kindergarten through 8th grade. Offers academics, sports, field trips and onsite activities. June 27 - July 29

www.woodland-school.org

Portola Valley

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Write Now! Summer Writing Camps

Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton open their doors and offer their innovative programs: Expository Writing, Creative Writing, Presentation Techniques, and (new!) Media Production. Call or visit our website for details.

www.headsup.org

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Palo Alto/Pleasanton

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www.baperformingarts.com

650-561-4146

(continued on next page)

Summer Camps

(continued from page 48)

ing community and personal responses to climate change and resource depletion. May 10, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is \$12. Hangen Szechuan Restaurant, 134 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml

Zen Master Les Kaye Les Kaye is the abbot of the Kannon Do Zen Center. He will present, "Joyously Through the Days, his newest book. April 30, 11 a.m. Free. Kannon Do Zen Center, 1972 Rock St., Mountain View. Call 480-235-5877. kannondo.org

Teen Activities

Author Susan Colasanti Not Your Mother's Book Club presents Susan Colasanti, author of "So Much Closer." May 12, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc - Palo Alto, 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. www.book-sinc.net

Math Festival for Youths at Stanford At the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival, students in grades 6-12 are invited to a day covering a wide variety of math topics. May 1, 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10 fee per student or free, by requesting a fee waiver. Stanford University, Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center, 326 Galvez St., Stanford. Call 510-642-0143. tinyurl.com/JRMFStanford2011

Teen Open Mic Night Teen open mic night, sponsored by the City of Mountain View Recreation Division and Youth Advisory Committee. April 30, 7-10 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410. www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/comm_services/recreation_programs_and_services/teen_services.asp

Volunteers

Music for Minors Music for Minors is recruiting volunteers to train as music educators and teach in local schools where music programs have been reduced or cut completely. Learn more by attending a Volunteer Information Meeting on Wed., May 11, noon-1 p.m. Free. Music for Minors, 883 North Shoreline Blvd., C 120, Mountain View. Call 650-237-9130. www.mfm.org

Wetlands Field Trips Volunteers are needed to help guide students during two-hour field trips as part of the Wetlands Discovery Program. Students learn about the wetlands and the animals that live there (especially birds). Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Charleston Slough and Mountain View Baylands, Terminal Boulevard, Mountain View. Call 408-252-3740. www.scvas.org

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 Weekly Camps June 13 - Aug 14

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 Specialized developmental programs

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GUIDE TO 2011 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Camp Connection

Continued from previous page

Arts, Culture, Nature and Other Camps

Bay Area School of Performing Arts- Summer Day Camps 2011
 Two fun and comprehensive programs offered in 1, 2 or 3 weeks for ages 4 and up touching every aspect of Music, Theater and Dance: Improvisation, Musical Theatre, Play Production and Stage Performance. July 5-July 22 and July 25-August 12 (Full day and Half Day) 9-3pm M-F, Performance each week! 824 San Antonio Rd., Palo Alto
www.baperformingarts.com

Camp Jano India
 Celebrate Indian culture, languages, arts, festivals, literature, cuisine, and leaders. Weekly themes are brought to life through related arts, dance, games, projects, stories and theatre in a very unique, exciting, creative, interactive, and structured style. June 13-August 5. Age 5 to 14. www.janoindia.com

Camp F.U.N. (Friends with Unique Needs)
 A nurturing environment for kids with challenges to experience the fun of summer camp. Led by therapists at Children's Health Council. Ages 5-12, full days, Mon-Fri, three sessions. Financial aid available.
www.chconline.org

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)
 50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, American Idol Workshop, more! Two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.
www.arts4all.org

Creative Arts - "Express Yourself"
 Riekes Summer Camps - A world of opportunity and fun-filled learning. Ages 9-18. Rock camps, Hip Hop, recording, filmmaking, animation, B&W and digital Photography, graphic arts, comic book creation, Photoshop, magazine publishing. Sessions run from June through August. www.riekes.org

Nature Awareness - "Explore Our Natural World"
 Riekes Summer Camps - A world of opportunity and fun-filled learning. Ages 6-18 and families. Learn awareness & survival skills, explore Monterey Bay, deep redwoods & coastal marsh. Surf camp. Family Festival. AFCANA Combo Camps combining fitness, arts & nature. Sessions run from June through August.
www.riekes.org

Palo Alto
 650-561-4146

Mountain View/Santa Clara
 650-493-1566

Palo Alto
 650-688-3625

Mountain View
 650-917-6800 ext. 0

Menlo Park
 650-364-2509

Menlo Park
 650-364-2509



Choosing a summer camp for your child

by Karla Kane

The phrase “summer camp” brings to mind images of woody cabins, canoes, games of capture the flag and lanyard making; the stuff of treasured memories and Hollywood movies.

But while many such traditional camps exist and are thriving today, the modern camper has a wide variety of camp styles to choose from, including specialty camps dedicated to sports, arts or other interests; church-sponsored retreats; day camps; fitness camps and many more. And camps today vary greatly in length, distance from home and cost. So how can families decide which camp is the best fit?

Sean Nienow, an adviser with the National Summer Camp Asso-

ciation, said it really depends on what the family is looking for in a camp experience, but the first step when considering a sleep-away camp (versus a day program) is to make sure both parent and child are ready for a separation, sometimes of weeks or months.

“It’s normal that there will be some measure of homesickness. But parents have to ask, ‘is the child ready to learn new skills and meet new people?’ Usually yes, they are.”

Often it’s the parents who aren’t ready to let their child go, Nienow said, and initial bouts of homesickness will quickly pass.

However, “is there value in imposing camp on a child who is completely not interested or ready? Probably not,” he added.

Most camps start accepting children around age 7, he said. Local YMCA and church camps can be short, lasting about one week, while more traditional sleep-away camps can run for several weeks or the whole summer.

Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Child Psychiatrist Richard Shaw said rather than simply going by the child’s age, parents need to consider the individual needs and personality of their child to determine whether he or she is ready to go away to camp and not be overly influenced by whether his or her peers are ready.

“Kids may not be at the same developmental age as their friends,” he said.

Shaw said signs that a child is ready to go off to sleep-away camp include initiating basic self-care such as teeth-brushing, tying shoes and hygiene, making friends on their own and being able to trust adults in authority. Participating in sleepovers with friends or staying with relatives away from home successfully are also good signs of camp readiness, he said.

On the other hand, “if a child has never slept away from home, is afraid of the dark or is very shy or a picky eater,” he or she may have a hard time adjusting to camp life, he said. Though camp can be a wonderful experience in socialization and confidence building for shy or anxious kids, Shaw recommends preparing them for camp by sending them on one-night overnights or weekend programs first, or to camp with a good friend to ease the transition.

Nienow recommends a more traditional camp experience, offering a wide variety of activities, for first-time campers, especially those who come from urban areas or who otherwise don’t spend much time in the great outdoors.

For children with specific interests, a camp dedicated to one hobby, sport or topic may be a dream come true. However, parents should be sure their child really wants to focus intently on one interest rather than trying the more classic general-camp route.

“Choosing a specialty camp really comes down to making sure the child really and truly has the desire to go and devote themselves to this intense, in-depth experi-

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True Story
Lu Hugdahl of Mountain View opened up a safe deposit box at a bank in Los Altos in November of 2006. Two years later she went to open her safe deposit box and was horrified to discover four or five rings and three necklaces missing. On a police report she estimated two of the rings were worth approximately \$1,500.00, “one being a keepsake from a cherished friend who passed away”, as reported by the Los Altos Town Crier. Hugdahl was stunned.

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Obviously, “Price” is important, but your bottom line may be affected by other terms of the contract. Never accept or decline an offer based simply on price. Take a very close look at any Contingencies where the buyers specify other terms as a prerequisite to purchase.

Does the “Closing Date” allow enough time to accomplish what you need to? This is different than the “Date of Possession”. Pay attention to the Contract Expiration

Date, specifying how long you have to consider the offer before it is withdrawn. Consider all offers carefully and seriously.

Look at how much Earnest Money is being offered as a “deposit” towards the purchase price. Although not the most important aspect of an offer, you can usually assume that the higher the earnest money deposit is, the better qualified the buyers are to complete the purchase.

It’s great when you have an Offer in hand, but it’s better to feel you’ve made the best decision based on your understanding of all the terms involved.

Call Jackie & Richard for real estate advice.

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ALAIN PINEL
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Summer Camps

ence," Nienow said.

"If they're at a basketball camp, they're going to be playing basketball four or six hours a day," he said.

For techno-minded kids, a specialty camp such as TechKnowHow (www.techknowhowkids.com), which offers programs at Nativity School in Menlo Park as well as in two Palo Alto locations (El Carmelo School and the Etz Chayim Congregation Center) could be the right choice.

At TechKnowHow, campers can choose between a "Summer Computer and Lego" program and one in game design.

"Lego builders make creations which move with a motor, gears, battery box, and other specialty parts. It's a great way to learn how machines and vehicles actually work using a fun and familiar construction system," Director Sue Mofsie-Stevenson said of the first program, serving campers ages 5 to 14.

In the game-design camp, kids ages 10 to 14 use software to create 2-dimensional and 2-dimensional games of all kinds.

"Campers build the games completely, creating the behavior for the game objects, designing the setting, scoring system, and even adding music and sound effects," she said.

The cost of attending TechKnowHow runs from \$215 per week for half days and \$375 per week for all-day sessions.

Budget concerns can have a major impact on camp choice. Rates vary, but a standard entry-level sleep-away camp could start from around \$500 a week. Day camps or church camps can be cheaper, whereas high-end programs can cost thousands of dollars per week, Nienow said.

National Camp Association staff members such as Nienow offer free advice to any parent looking to choose a camp. A visit to www.summercamp.org puts the reader in touch with a variety of articles and tips on the camp-selection process.

Nienow said parents concerned with finding the right camp for their child should go directly to the source and check out interesting camps on an individual, in-depth basis. Speaking with the head of the camp can go a long way toward determining if the camp is a good choice, especially if the child has special needs or the parent has particular concerns.

"Check out what each camp is offering and make sure it's a good fit for child. Talk to the staff and the director; they want to talk to parents and make sure it's a good fit and that the child has a good time," he said.

No matter what type of camp a child attends, the experience will make a lifelong impression, Nienow said.

"Any adult who ever went to camp as a child remembers it. For many kids, it's their first time away from mom and dad, their first taste of independence, learning a new sport, finding a first love. They are impacted for life," he said. ■

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Requirements are simple—all you need is a love of children, nature and learning. You don't need to be a science expert. All of our volunteers are trained in our fun hands-on training courses. Join us to help ensure that all local children will receive hands-on, innovative environmental education. Current volunteer opportunities are on weekdays during the school day.