

MIDTOWN NEWS – January 19, 2018

Editor: Annette Ashton for the Midtown Residents Association. See www.midtownresidents.org
LIST SERV at PaloAltoMidtown@yahoo.com. Great place to "chat"

1) MIDTOWN TIDBITS

Palo Alto **Christmas Tree Composting**. If you are a City of Palo Alto resident, there is still time to properly dispose of your Christmas tree. The city is picking up trees curbside for four weeks following Christmas Day. Trees will be brought to the ZWED facility in San Jose for composting. Make sure to remove any decorations or stands, and place the tree next to your compost cart. More details at City of Palo Alto Zero Waste

Winter Lodge **Spring Ice Skating Class** registration will begin on Monday, January 29 at 10:00 am. You may register in person or by phone. The Spring Session of classes will run 9 weeks from February 12 through April 15 and includes a 1/2 hour group lesson once a week, free practice time, rental skates and 2 extra free practice passes for \$234.00. For more information please visit www.winterlodge.com.

LAST CALL: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - ANNUAL ROTARY HIGH SCHOOL **SPEECH CONTEST!**
Wednesday January 24, 7 PM, Palo Alto City Council Chambers. Prizes total \$1550. 2017-18 Speech topic theme: "Rotary Making a Difference". Each speech must be between 4-5 minutes, original student work, and incorporate the theme and one of the Rotary mantras: Is it the TRUTH?, Is it FAIR to all concerned?, Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIPS?, Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? QUESTIONS AND REGISTRATION? Contact Annette_G@att.net

Nominations for **Tall Tree Award** until Feb 9th in the following categories: Outstanding Business, Outstanding Nonprofit, Outstanding Citizen Volunteer, Outstanding Professional or Business Person. Event will be May 19th. Application at Chamber web site www.paloaltochamber.com

2) CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL EVENTS

JANUARY 20: **NATIONAL WOMEN'S MARCH** in San Francisco & San Jose.
<https://womensmarchbayarea.org/#join-a-march> and <https://tinyurl.com/y8mrcoaw>

In San Jose: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-march-2018-san-jose-tickets-39716001630> from 11 AM - 2:30 PM at San Jose City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street. March approximately one mile down Santa Clara Street to Arena Green East (near the SAP Center) for a rally with speakers, music and food. This is planned as a peaceful, non-partisan and family-friendly event.

Peace Action of San Mateo County Sat, Jan 20th, At 3 - 4 pm, corner of 3rd and El Camino in San Mateo in front of the Bank of America. In SF.

BOARD & COMMISSION OPENINGS: Currently recruiting for the following positions. Applications due March 20 at 4:30 PM. Historic Resources Board, Human Relations Commission, Public Art, Utilities Advisory Commission. <http://bit.ly/bcapplications>

Grand Boulevard Palo Alto study: Before any improvements get underway, your ideas and input are needed. Take the interactive survey: www.gis.fehrandpeers.com/GBIPaloAlto. See Weekly article about the portion of El Camino in Palo Alto that will receive a state grant for "beautification" and enhancement: <https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2018/01/12/city-seeks-input-on-grand-boulevard-project>. Stay up-to-date on this project, see <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=4119>.

CITY COUNCIL

January 22: Start 6 PM after closed session. <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/62863>. Topics: Weed abatement, Stanford GUP, Upgrade Downtown, Infrastructure Plan and Projects.

UPCOMING COMMISSION & BOARD MEETINGS & OTHER

JANUARY 23: Supervisor Joe Simitian hosts Public Meeting at city hall at 6 PM on **Stanford General Use** Permit Application. The meeting will be live streamed at <http://midpenmedia.org/>. Written comments may be submitted by following this link: https://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Programs/Stanford/Pages/GUP2018_CEQA.aspx. Nadia Naik sent this comment "For those of you interested in writing a comment, this link might help you write comments (it was done for another project, but is still relevant). <http://calhsr.com/environmental-review/how-to-write-an-eir-comment/>." Nadia is a resident from North Palo Alto and is very active with Rail Crossing issues and general Palo Alto issues.

JANUARY 23: **Parks & Recreation** Commission at 7 PM in 1st floor meeting room, city hall. Topics: election of chair/vice chair; Buckeye Creek Hydrology Study; open a 7.7-acre site at Foothills Park to the public; lighting plan for a turf field at Cubberley Community Center; and the Baylands Boardwalk Improvement project. <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/62966>

JANUARY 25: Canopy Annual **Mayor Tree Planting** and awards ceremony 5:15 - 7:30 PM, City Hall.

JANUARY 25: **Historic Resources Board** at 8:30 AM in council chambers. Topics: 526 Waverley St. (restore the F acade of a building and to reclassify from a Category III to Category II historic structure) and Eichler Design Guidelines.

JANUARY 25 and 27: **Zero Waste Plan** 10-11:30 AM 1/15 City Hall first floor city hall meeting room; 1/27 Art Center meeting room.

FEBRUARY 1: Directors Hearing: **850 Boyce Ave.** Individual Review - 1 story home to 2 stories.

FEBRUARY 1: **Architectural Review Board** at 8:30 AM in council chambers. Projects 620 Emerson (Commercial - 1 to 2 stories), 2775 Embarcadero (Master Sign Exceptions Baylands).

3) LOCAL EVENTS

Avenidas Activities at <http://www.avenidas.org/>. Samples of classes follow. Programs on the 2nd floor of Building I at Cubberley. New revised website at www.avenidas.org. REGISTRATION 289-5400.

- Jan 25: Book Club: "To Say Nothing of the Dog, 2:30-4 PM . FREE.
- Jan 26: Cyber Security - Do's and Don'ts of Online Security at 10:30 AM in Room 2. Registration Required. FREE for Avenidas members, \$10
- Jan 27: Journey Card Collage Workshop: Creation & Reading, 9 AM - 2 PM. FEE: \$25 + \$5 materials
- Jan 29: Presentation: Sleep Like a Baby, 1:30-2:30 PM. FREE
- Jan 31: Mindfulness Meditation, 2:30-3:30 PM. FREE.

Talking with Henrietta: **"How One Woman Unknowingly Changed Human History."** HeLa cells have improved human health in unexpected ways. Show guests discuss how these cells sparked multiple controversies involving family bitterness, charges of exploitation, racism, poverty & greed. See this compelling discussion on Comcast 30 through January 28, 2018 on Sundays@5 PM, Mondays@2 PM, Tuesdays@8 PM, Wednesdays@2 AM,11 AM.& 6 PM, Thursdays@8 PM and Fridays@3:00 AM & noon. It can also be seen on Channel 27 on Wednesdays at 10:30 PM. Get more information at <http://www.epatoday.org/tv.html#henrietalacks>

JANUARY 20: At Mitchell Park Library: **"Travel Through the Fabulous Alps!"** Dan Bergen will provide pictures, maps and commentary as he discusses Stephen O'Shea's fascinating new book, The Alps: A Human History from Hannibal to Heidi and Beyond. Emphasis will be on history and geography, with a contemporary - humorous - social commentary from 3 - 5 PM. FREE

JANUARY 21: At the JCC **"Preschool Open House"** from 9 - noon. FREE. Join us at our OFJCC Leslie Family Preschool Open House, 3921 Fabian Way.

JANUARY 21: At the JCC: **J-Camp Registration Kick-Off & Overnight Camps Fair** from noon - 2PM. FREE. Start planning for summer. You and your children will be able to meet and ask questions of vendors and camp staff while they showcase activities and programs. Meet representatives from several Jewish overnight camps and learn about what makes each one unique. There will be a kosher-style hot dog BBQ, face painting, camp games and a bounce house. We'll also be raffling off one free week of camp.

JANUARY 22: Jean and Bill Lane Lecture Series. **Claire Messud Reading** at Cubberley Auditorium, School of Education 485 Lausen Mall, Stanford. at 8 PM. FREE

JANUARY 23: Palo Alto Chamber sponsors **"Palo Alto Powerup! Entrepreneurship"** Series Event from 2- 4 PM at Comerica Bank, 250 Lytton. FEE: \$15 mem, \$20

JANUARY 23: Palo Alto Chamber sponsors **"New 2018 California Employment Laws."** Get a legal update from two experienced employment attorneys who will answer your questions about new 2018 labor laws, harassment, parental leave, equal pay, and more! 2:00 - 4:00 PM at the Comerica Bank Conference Room - 250 Lytton Avenue. FEE: \$15 mem, \$20

JANUARY 24: Stanford Continuing Studies **"Mary Shelley's Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus"** at 7:30 PM Bechtel Conference Center, Encina Hall, Stanford. FREE

JANUARY 26: At the JCC: New Century Chamber Orchestra presents: **"Mozart Birthday Celebration"** from 8 - 10 PM. FEE: \$29 to \$61. Artistic Partner Daniel Hope and New Century Chamber Orchestra celebrate Mozart's birthday with a debut appearance by German pianist Sebastian Knauer. Marking the composer's birth date that same week (January 27).

JANUARY 28: At the JCC: **"Mandy Harvey in Concert"** from 7:30 - 9 PM. FEE: \$40, \$35 Mem/J-Pass, \$25 Students. Mandy Harvey is a deaf American singer-songwriter. A Vocal Music Education major at college, she lost her hearing at 18 and dropped out. After pursuing several career options, she returned to music and performs at clubs, concert stages and festivals. Though her hearing loss is profound, Mandy's timing, pitch and passion are perfect and she still finds joy in music. American Sign Language will be included.

JANUARY 28: Palo Alto Historical Assn. - PAHA lecture **"California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley."** Speaker: Robin Chapman from 2- 4 PM at Lucie Stern Community Center.

JANUARY 31: Palo Alto Chambers sponsors **"Fake News"** from noon to 1PM at Mitchell Park Community Center El Palo Alto Room. FEE: \$15 mem, \$20.

FEBRUARY 1: Acterra recommends: GreenTalk at the Los Altos Library, **"We Have Electricity, Let's 'Switch' To Using It"** at 7 PM. Topic: Switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity & how we can make that happen.

FEBRUARY 3: **WINTER GARDENING** Expert gardeners will be on hand at the Palo Alto Demonstration Garden, 851 Center Drive from 10-11 AM. Demonstrations will include winter gardening tasks such as pruning roses and planting bare-root fruit trees, and master gardeners will be available to chat about cool season vegetable beds, lawn replacements, spring gardening tasks.

FEBRUARY 3: At the JCC: **"Opera for Families: All You Need Is Love...and Opera"** from 10:30 - 11:30 AM. FEE: \$18, \$15 Mem/J-Pass/Children (all ages). This whimsical and love-filled program will explore the many expressions of love in the world of opera with a selection of pieces from operas and musicals, enhancing their performance with insightful explanations, role-playing games and exercises that will help the young audience explore different aspects of opera.

FEBRUARY 8: Acterra lecture: **How We Know It Was Climate Change:** Connecting Extreme Weather Events with Global Warming, 7:30 PM at Lucie Stern Community Room. Dr. Noah Diffenbaugh, Senior Fellow at Stanford University studies the climate system, including the processes by which climate change could impact agriculture, water resources, & human health. See his recent op-ed in the New York Times. <https://tinyurl.com/ya8lm6v5>

FEBRUARY 8: At the JCC: [An Evening with Author Dr. Irvin D. Yalom](#), 7:30 - 9:00 PM. FEE: \$34 Ticket w/book bundle, \$20, \$18 Mem/J-Pass holders, \$12 Students. Psychiatrist Irvin D. Yalom has made a career of investigating the lives of others. Now, he turns his writing and therapeutic eye on himself. This is not simply a man's life story; Yalom's reflections on his life and development are an invitation for us to reflect on the origins of our own selves and the meaning of our lives.

FEBRUARY 17: Environmental Volunteers: [Baylands Bioblitz](#) from 9 AM - 1 PM at Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, 2775 Embarcadero Rd. Join Environmental Volunteers for a day of community science and discovery at the Baylands Bioblitz. Bring your smart phone or camera and collect observations of plants, animals, birds and bugs found in the Baylands.

OLD

JANUARY 19: Friday Night at the Art Center: FREE from 7-10 PM. Celebrate the opening of their new exhibition, "Through That Which Is Seen."

JANUARY 20: Gamble Garden "PLANTING SMALL FRUIT TREES" from 10 - 11:30 AM. FEE: \$20 mem; \$35 public.

JANUARY 20: At JCC "Battle of the Bands" from 6:30 -9:30 PM. FEE: In Advance: \$10 Mem, \$12, At Door: \$15. Battle it out with other local teen bands of all music genres. For middle and high school students.

JANUARY 25: USGS Monthly lecture. ShakeAlert: The Path to West Coast Early Warning System. How a few seconds can save lives and property. Rambo Auditorium/Bldg. 3, 345 Middlefield Rd., at 7 PM.

JANUARY 26: Films of Vision and Hope. "Inhabit" at 7:30PM at Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E Charleston. FREE, Donations appreciated.

JANUARY 30: At the JCC: IRISH MUSIC AND TALES...Irish stew of music, song and story from 1 to 2:30 PM FEE: \$15. For more, contact Michelle Rosegaus mrosengaus@palaltojcc.org or 223-8616.

JANUARY 30: Volunteer for Avenidas Early Literacy Program. Winter Gathering for current and prospective reading tutors on Tuesday, from 2:00-4:00 PM. RSVP to Michael Kass at mkass@avenidas.org or 289-5419.

JANUARY 31: Cafe Scientifique: "Why Did the Robot Cross the Road?" A Discussion of Social Interaction with Autonomous Technologies of the Future with David Sirkin, PhD, Research Scientist at the Center for Design Research, and a lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. Stanford Blood Bank 3373 Hillview Breezeway at 6 PM. FREE: Complimentary Beverages and Cookies

FEBRUARY 3: Gamble Garden: "Lush Landscapes With Little Water" from 9:30 - 11:30 AM. RSVP. FEE: \$20 Member (use promo code IRIS) / \$35 Non-member

FEBRUARY 7 to Feb 28: Avenidas Jumbo Memory Training, 2 - 4 PM. Proven effective in up to 95% of participants for up to 5 years. FEE: \$99/\$115

FEBRUARY 10: Canopy Tree Walk: Palo Verde from 10:00 to noon. Meet at Palo Verde Elementary School, Louis Road.

FEBRUARY 10: Gamble Garden: Lunar New Year. 9 – noon. Enjoy activities for the family including: Tours of our famous Camellia beds, Learning and speaking Chinese characters, Chinese paper folding and cutting, Red packet craft, Chinese New Year Story Telling. Free but registration is requested: <https://www.gamblegarden.org/event/lunar-new-year-second-saturday-february-2018/>

FEBRUARY 13 & MARCH 20: Wally Stegner Lectures. For tickets & more: www.OpenSpaceTrust.org/Lectures. 2/13 - Gina McCarthy; 3/20 - Winona LaDuke