

## MIDTOWN NEWS – February 16, 2018

Editor: Annette Ashton for the Midtown Residents Association. See [www.midtownresidents.org](http://www.midtownresidents.org)  
LIST SERV at [PaloAltoMidtown@yahoo.com](mailto:PaloAltoMidtown@yahoo.com). Great place to "chat"

### 1) MIDTOWN TIDBITS

**HOME EFFICIENCY GENIE:** Do you have questions about your home, such as: Where is that draft coming from and how do I fix it? Why did my water usage go up? How will buying an EV impact my electricity bill? Is my water heater nearing old age? What are the best replacement options? These are just some of the questions a Home Efficiency Genie House Call can help answer. Call the Genie today at 713-3411 to find out what you can do to improve the comfort and efficiency of your home.

#### Eprep Tip:

If you've been watching NBC's "This Is Us", Jack, one of the main characters, dies in a house fire. Learn from Jack's mistakes:

1. Check your smoke detectors at least once a month. And smoke detector batteries should be replaced twice a year unless your detector has 10-year non-removable batteries. Also, like other electronics, smoke alarms can fail over time, and could be less likely to detect smoke or issue a lifesaving warning. So if you can't remember the last time you replaced your smoke detector, now is a good time to do so
2. House fires often start in the kitchen. From 2006 to 2015, about 50% of fires in residential buildings were caused by cooking. Take these steps to keep your family safe: a. Stand by your pan: If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off. b. Watch what you are cooking: Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off. c. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove: Then no one can bump them or pull them over. d. Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby: Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.
3. Don't go back into a burning house for anything. Residential fire victims have often returned to the burning structure to rescue a pet or another loved one, and died from smoke inhalation. "Once you get out, stay out." (Sources: U.S. Fire Administration, Time magazine and APHA's Get Ready Campaign).

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### 2) CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL EVENTS

**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>

**LIBRARY NEWS:** The Library has rolled out its **new online library catalog**. The system is meant to enhance the library experience. The new catalog, purchased from BiblioCommons, gives users access to a social network that includes library users from throughout the Bay Area and the world. Users can rate, review and comment on items in the catalog; share reviews or reading lists; save custom searches; and follow the recommendations of librarians and other customers. Programs, events and digital media are also available from within the catalog. Open an account at [www.library.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.library.cityofpaloalto.org).

#### CITY COUNCIL

Feb 19: cancellation

Feb 26 at 6:30 PM. Special session Topic: Public Improvement corp, Financial Statement.  
<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63511>

Feb 26: Regular council, start at 6PM after closed session.  
<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63512>. Topics: RPP Status, Utilities Strategic Plan

#### UPCOMING COMMISSION & BOARD MEETINGS & OTHER

FEBRUARY 20: **Finance Committee** at 6 PM in first floor meeting room City Hall. See <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63391>. Topics:Hydroelectric rate adjustment mechanism and city's bill-adjustment process for water leaks and metering errors.

FEBRUARY 21:Sp. **Rail Committee** Meeting at 8 AM. Topic: trenching tunneling white paper and its workplace <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63510>

FEBRUARY 22: **Historic Resources** Board at 8:30 AM in Council Chambers. TOPICS: Roof material for Junior Museum & Zoo & Eichler Guidelines. <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63543>

FEBRUARY 22 **Library Advisory** Commission at 7 PM in council conference room. Topics: Library Strategic Plan, Policy for Library Collection Development and ways to use the library impact fees.

FEBRUARY 28: **Planning & Transportation** Commission at 6 PM in Council Chambers. Topic: Housing Element.

MARCH 1: **Architectural Review** Board at 8:30 AM Council Chambers. Projects: JR Museum & Zoo, 350 Sherman, 500 Pasteur Dr, 3045 Park, 392 California Ave.

MARCH 1: **Directors Hearing**, 3 PM in first floor meeting room, City Hall. Project:1023 Middlefield. Build 2 Residential Condominium Units in Conjunction With the Construction of 2 New Single-Family Residences.

MARCH 6: **Connecting Palo Alto**: Community round table, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Art Center Auditorium. Topic is trenching and tunneling. See white paper <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63496>

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### 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](http://www.avenidas.org). REGISTRATION 289-5400.

#### **CLOSURE FEBRUARY 19** - Presidents day

Discounted day passes to the Palo Alto Y are available for Avenidas/Avenidas Village members! The usual price for a day pass is \$20, but you can purchase them for \$10@. They can be used to access all activities at the Y on the day of purchase, including fitness classes, gym equipment, and the pool. In addition, the joining fee (\$90) will be waived for members who would like to join the Y. Questions? Contact Tracy 289-5436 or Patrick Kelly at the Y, 842-2765.

- Feb 20: Lotus Dance Fitness 3:30-4:30 PM FREE
- Feb 21: Blood Pressure Screening 9:30-10:30 AM Senior Friendship Day @ CCC, Building M. Dropin, FREE
- Feb 22: Movie "Wilson" 1:30-4 PM, \$0/\$2 includes popcorn. Get ticket at front desk
- Feb 22: Workshop: iPad for the Complete Beginner 2-4 PM @ Channing House. Space is limited. RSVP required. 289-5400. \$10/\$20.
- Feb 22: Book Club: "The Vinegar Girl" by Anne Tyler, 2:30-4 PM, Avenidas @ CCC. Drop-in, free.
- Feb 23: Presentation: "Why Social Media?" 11am-12:30 AM, Avenidas @CCC. Registration required. 289-5400, \$0/\$10.
- Feb 26: Senior Adult Legal Assistance appts available for Santa Clara County residents age 60+. 650-289-5400 for appt. FREE.
- Feb 27: Massage appts available. Call 289-5400. \$35/\$45 for 30 min.
- Feb 28: Mindfulness Meditation 2:30-3:30 PM every Wednesday, Avenidas @ CCC. Drop-in, FREE

**Peninsula Photo Contest** submissions from Feb 22- April 2, categories: Portraits, Moments, Life in 650, Abstract, travel, The Natural World. Adult and Youth Divisions. [www.peninsulacontest.artcall.org](http://www.peninsulacontest.artcall.org)

Project Enybody is hosting the **Earth Needs You ART Contest!** Enter art, photos, or writing that shows how being environmentally conscious is important. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third places winners. The deadline to submit your entries is February 28 at 11:59PM. <http://www.enybody.org/earth-needs-you-art-contest.html>

**CALL FOR COACHES:** The Recreation Division needs MSA coaches for tennis and track & field at the 3 middle schools in Palo Alto! The season begins March 19<sup>th</sup> through the 2nd week of May. Practices will be from, 3-4:30 PM M-Th, & Wed. practices can start as early as 2 PM. Matches for tennis will mainly be played on Wed. starting as early as 3:30 PM & go until 6 PM. T&F meets can be any day throughout the week (M-F, no weekend commitments). If you are interested or know some who is interested, please contact Chase Hartmann at [Chase.Hartmann@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Chase.Hartmann@cityofpaloalto.org).

**CALL for SHORT STORIES:** PA Weekly: Deadline April 6: Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners in each category: Adult, Young Adult (15-17) & Teen (12-14). Full details at [https://www.paloaltoonline.com/short\\_story/entry.php](https://www.paloaltoonline.com/short_story/entry.php)

Talking with Henrietta "**Building Community Using Food.**" Some people think that you can build community by using food. Four show guests discuss the current food revolution and some of the issues surrounding our present and future food supply. See this thought-provoking discussion over the internet and on Comcast 30 through February 24 on Sundays@5 PM, Mondays@2 PM, Tuesdays@8 PM, Wednesdays@2 AM, 11 AM and 6 PM., Thursdays@8 PM and Fridays@3:00 AM & 12 PM. It can be seen on Channel 27 on Wednesdays at 10:30 PM. Get more information about this show at <http://www.epatoday.org/tv.html#foodrevolution>

FEBRUARY 17: **Palo Alto Philharmonic** "Winter Concertos" at 8 PM at Cubberley. FEE: \$22/\$18/\$10 at the door (general / senior / student)

FEBRUARY 17: **Teens Exploring Code III:** Calling all hackers! Registration is open for Think Funded, Teens Exploring Code III - a beginner-friendly hackathon where designers, programmers, entrepreneurs, and anyone excited to learn comes together to build a product in just 15 hours! Food, t-shirts, workshops, and mentors will be provided. If you're interested in being a mentor, contact us for more details. Visit our website for more information and to sign up! from Ages: 13-19 from 7:30 AM - 11:30 PM at Mitchell Park Community Center.

FEBRUARY 20: **La Comida** celebrates Chinese New Year. 11:15 AM - 12:15 AM at Stevenson House. Suggested \$3 Contribution. Lively music, lucky envelopes and more

FEBRUARY 22: USGS monthly lecture "**Cascades Volcano Observatory.**" Research, monitoring, and the science of preparing society for low-probability, high-consequence events by Seth Moran, Scientist-in-Charge, USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory. Topics: Volcanoes in the Cascade Range erupt twice per century on average, with eruptions often lasting for years. Although eruptions are generally not as high-consequence as large earthquakes, they are still high-consequence events. When a volcano wakes up there can be intense public interest - which requires crisis management, even if the eruption is small. At USGS HDQ 345 Middlefield Rd, Menlo Park at 7PM in Rambo Auditorium.

FEBRUARY 22-25: **Smuin Ballet** at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. 831-218-8410. [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org)

FEBRUARY 23: Films of Vision and Hope, "**Look and See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry.**" 7:30-9:30 PM, Main Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston. All ages welcome! FREE, Donations appreciated. RSVPs required. Go to <https://openspacetrust.org/event/look-see-film-screening/>

MARCH 1: At the JCC: "**Ultimate Purim Party**" from 8:30 -10 PM. FEE: \$30-\$50. The Jewish festival of Purim is celebrated every year on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Adar (late winter/early spring). It commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot "to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day," as recorded in the Megillah (Book of Esther). Celebrate the holiday with us at a movie-themed Purim party with an open bar, snacks, photo booth, tattoo artist and unlimited fun! Enter the costume contest to win great prizes. Ages 21 and over.

MARCH 5: At the JCC: **"What Works for Women at Work"** from 8-9:30 PM. FEE: \$18, \$15 Mem & J-Pass, \$10 Students. An essential resource for any working woman, "What Works for Women at Work" is a comprehensive guide for mastering office politics as a woman. Authored by Joan C. Williams, one of the nation's most-cited experts on women and work, and her daughter, writer/attorney Rachel Dempsey, the book offers a multi-generational perspective into the realities of today's workplace. Based on interviews with 127 successful working women, over half of them women of color, "What Works for Women at Work" includes 35 years of research and presents a toolkit for getting ahead in today's workplace.

MARCH 7: Bay Area author Channy Chhi Laux will share her memoir "Short Hair Detention: **Memoir of a Thirteen-Year-Old Girl Surviving the Cambodian Genocide**" at 7 PM at Town and Country Books Inc.

MARCH 8: At the JCC: **"Jewish Plays Project"** from 7:30 - 9:00 PM. FEE: \$15, \$12 Mem & J-pass, \$8 Students. The Jewish Playwriting Contest (JPC) is an international search for the next generation of Jewish theater. The JPC has collected and vetted 1,132 plays from 884 writers in 32 states and nine countries. They have actively developed 48 of those plays, and 26 have gone on to production in New York, London, Tel Aviv and around the U.S., where they have been seen by over 15,000 audience members. The contest employs an innovative, competitive process involving an Artist Panel in New York, more than 90 Community Readers in eight cities, and the combined voice of over 600 people every year.

MARCH 11: **Canopy Tree Walk**: "Sense-Sational" at Mitchell Park from 10am - noon. RSVP at <http://canopy.org/get-involved/tree-walk-sign-up/>

MARCH 24: **Tree Planting: Cubberley** Community Day from 9am – noon. Volunteer at <http://canopy.org/get-involved/volunteer-signup/>

APRIL 19: Acterra **"Party for the Planet"** honoring San Mateo County Supervisor, Dave Pine at 6 PM the JCC. FEE: Early Bird \$200. See <https://www.acterra.org/party>. Proceeds benefit Acterra's acclaimed local environmental programs.

## OLD

FEBRUARY 17: Environmental Volunteers: Baylands Bioblitz from 9 AM - 1 PM at Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, 2775 Embarcadero Rd.

FEBRUARY 17: At the JCC: MatheMagic! Show with Bradley Fields from 11 - noon. FEE: \$18 Kids, \$25 Adults.

FEBRUARY 17: Law of Harmony & Christian Science Healing lecture at Lucie Stern at 3 PM. FREE

FEBRUARY 24: At the JCC: International Guitar Night from 7:30 - 9 PM. FEE: \$40 Premium, \$30, \$28 Mem & J-Pass.

FEBRUARY 27: At the JCC: Phantoms at the Opera-Festive Purim Lunch and Concert from 11:30 AM -1:30 PM. FEE: \$20 or 2 punches on Community Tuesdays Punch Card.

FEBRUARY 28: At the JCC: Anima Allegra from 7 - 9 PM. FEE: \$35-\$55, Licedei (pronounced "Lee-tsee-dei") are legendary, unique clowns from St. Petersburg, Russia.

FEBRUARY 22: Gamble Garden. The Palo Alto master gardener program will hold a FREE workshop on "Growing Vegetables in Containers" 7 to 8:30 PM at Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road.

FEBRUARY 22: USGS Monthly Lecture: The USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory at 7 PM, USGS HDQ, Rambo Auditorium/Bldg. 3, 345 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park

MARCH 4: Chinese New Year Faire at Mitchell Park Community Center from 2-5 PM.

MARCH 10/11: At the Bing: Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Stanford Symphonic Chorus, & Stanford University Singers. Tickets at [www.live.stanford.edu](http://www.live.stanford.edu) or 724.2464.

MARCH 14, 21, and 28, 11am-noon at Gamble Garden Little Garden Explorers: A Series of Three Classes for Kids and their Grownups. FEE. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y8epw332>

MARCH 25 at Gamble Garden Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 AM, 11AM, and 12:30 PM. FEE:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ya76yudk>

APRIL 14: GREAT RACE FOR SAVING WATER from 9 AM - 1 PM, Baylands Race - a 5K run/walk and kids 1K fun run. FEE. Register at <https://www.sweattracker.com/Registration/SavingWater>

APRIL 27-28: Adolescent Mental Wellness Conference "Overcoming Cultural Barriers to Access" at the Santa Clara Convention Center. To register for the conference: <http://adolescentconference.stanfordchildrens.org>