

# Community Calendar

## Neighborhood Beat Meetings

**Beat One**  
Date: Friday, March 16th, 2007 Time: 6:30pm - 8pm  
Location: Community Room (2415 University Avenue)

**Beat Three**  
Date: Saturday, March 17th, 2007 Time: 9am - 11am  
Location: Palo Mobile Estates (1885 East Bayshore Road) Call 650-853-5939 for more information. Thank you!

## Candlelight Memorial

Sunday, March 18 at 4 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi Church Commemorate and celebrate the lives of those lost to violence in East Palo Alto.

## Cañada College to Host Fifth Annual Pre-Medical Conference

Students interested in pursuing a career in medicine are invited to attend the fifth annual Pre-Medical and Health Conference at Cañada College from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

The conference is open to the public and no registration is necessary. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. The conference will be held in the Cañada College cafeteria.

The college is located at 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. Free parking can be found in parking lots 3 and 6.

For more information, contact Kong at premed-health@yahoo.com or visit the club's web site at <http://www.canadacollege.edu>

[u/science/medclub/](http://u/science/medclub/).

**Gang Awareness Seminar**  
March 12 and 19, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Martin Luther King Recreation Center at 725 Monte Diablo Avenue, San Mateo. First seminar held on March 5.

The seminars are open to the community and are free of charge. Parents and their adolescent children are encouraged to attend.

Week two - gang structure and signs of youth gang involvement

Week three - Guest speakers: former gang members, community and parent prevention strategies, resource awareness, intro to PAL anti-gang activities for youth

For more information on these classes, contact the San Mateo Police PAL office at (650) 522-7749 or (650) 522-7554.

**St. Patrick's Day**  
In East Palo Alto  
Saturday, March 17, 2007  
12:00 noon to 4:00 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall

Corned beef and cabbage  
Irish beer, wine, Irish music and dance.

Story of St. Patrick acted out by youth of St. Francis Church.

Featured Speaker: Deacon Jeffrey Burns PhD speaking on the Irish in the Bay Area. Deacon Dr. Burns is a graduate of Notre Dame

University, South Bend, Indiana. He has been the archivist of the

Archdiocese since 1983 where he not only preserves old and dusty relics of the past but by his writings has kept them fresh as new. He has done much research and written many articles on the topic he will address.

Adults \$15.00; Couples \$25.00 Children \$5.00 (under 12) St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, Phone (650) 322-2152; Email: [sfofassis@sbc-global.net](mailto:sfofassis@sbc-global.net) Tickets are available at the door. RSVP would be appreciated.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 12:00 NOON** City Hall Plaza, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto. **ANTI-WAR RALLY AND MARCH IN DOWNTOWN PALO ALTO**

On the Fourth Anniversary of the U.S. Invasion of Iraq, a rally and march at Palo Alto's Civic Center Plaza to demand an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the threats of war against Iran. Hundreds of protestors from all over the Peninsula are expected to gather for the demonstration, organized by Peninsula Peace and Justice Center as part of a national week of local actions commemorating the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Contact: Peninsula Peace and Justice Center - Paul George: (650) 326-8837 or (650) 575-8207.

Frontline: A Conference on Violence, Gangs and Turf

The 4th Annual Frontline Conference will be held on March 29th, 2007 at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The Frontline Conference aims to provide opportunities for all systems, agencies and individuals that impact gangs and violence to build relationships, find common ground and learn from each other in an environment of mutual respect.

A diverse collection of over 60 presenters will use their experience, both professional and personal, to help participants understand the nature of gangs, discover resources for violence prevention and work to reduce violence.

<http://www.cjcj.org/frontline/index.php>

The Palo Alto Alumni Chapter, the official host for the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., celebrates its 60th Western Province Council (Regional Meeting/Conference) Friday March 23 rd  
Time 7:00 pm -Marriott Golden Gate Ballroom

Foundation Luncheon (\$50.00 a plate fundraiser).  
Date: Saturday, March 24  
Time 12:00 pm Marriott Crystal Springs Room  
The Palo Alto Alumni Chapter extends to you and your organization an invitation to participate in its public forums and events at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel,

1770 S Amphett Blvd Mateo, CA. lett Blvd, San Mateo, CA

This conference will be attended by more than three hundred college educated men and women from the Western United States, members of the community, and members of the fraternity. For Information Contact: Mr. Leon Worthy, Polemarch 510-724-3552 [leonworthy@aol.com](mailto:leonworthy@aol.com)

One East Palo Alto (OEPA) invites all to its March 2007 Quarterly Membership Meeting on March 27 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the East Palo Alto Senior Center at 560 Bell Street in East Palo Alto. For more information, call (650)330-7462 or email: [centralstaff@1epa.org](mailto:centralstaff@1epa.org).

Spring Career Fair on Thursday, March 29 from 4pm to 6pm in the Dining Hall (High School side), Menlo College. For more info contact: Menlo College Career Services 1000 El Camino Real o Atherton, CA 94027 or Fax to: 650-543-4001

FREE Lectures on Woman & Stroke Wednesday March 14th Menlo Park Senior Center Thursday March 15, Belmont Village in San Jose Wednesday March 21 - The Magnolia of Millbrae Tuesday March 27, Belmont Village in Sunnyvale 5:30 PM Tuesday April 10, Mills-Peninsula Health Services - San Mateo <http://www.psastroke.org/WomenStroke2007.html>

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS- Media Center



Sen. Joe Simitian

### Education Update

Wed 3/21 @ 9 PM Ch 28  
Thu 3/22 @ 1 PM Ch 28

Senator Joe Simitian hosts this recent town-hall meeting held at

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers. California's education budget and other public education issues are the focus.

### Not In My Back Yard from page 7

of peace and hope that has been rising around us, in part because of them.

When the dark days come again, as they surely will, the rays of light that have broken through these past few months will be there to guide us through to the other light, bright days ahead. All of us

must stand and continue to say, "No!" to those forces of darkness.

We must continue to shout loudly, "Not In My Back Yard!" We must continue to constantly work to keep the rays of light in and the forces of darkness out.

### Landslides: Should We Be Concerned?

Earthquakes aren't the only natural disasters for which area residents need to prepare.

Given the number of landslides that have occurred locally within the past few weeks, Henrietta J. Burroughs and her guests talk about the possibility of a major landslide hitting the area.

They also discuss whether local residents need to worry.



Guests sit on the set of "Talking with Henrietta" during their discussion on landslides. Sitting from left to right are: Ray Wilson, Henrietta J. Burroughs, Bill Parsons and Karen Adams. Supervisor Liz Kniss, who is not in the picture, also participated in the discussion.

This show airs on Channel 27: Mondays@8am, Thursdays@8 pm Fridays@noon, Saturdays@1:30 pm., Sundays@ 5 pm. The show can also be seen on the web at [www.communitymediacenter.net](http://www.communitymediacenter.net) at the above times. For more information, go to [www.epatoday.org](http://www.epatoday.org).

To see an excerpt, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0DvQjDESEs>

# More Community Opinion

## Three Cheers for the Virginia State Legislature!

It takes a good man/woman/child to do the right thing.

As Chairman of the California State NAACP Task Force on Reparations, I Marie Davis, applaud the slavery resolution passed by the State of Virginia's General Assembly. The House of Delegates unanimous 96-0 voice vote, and Senate 40-0 voice vote "to express profound regret" for their roll in slavery, was a bold and positive act. The resolution Language also expressed regret for "the



Marie Davis

exploitation of Native Americans and states that government sanctioned slavery "ranks as the most horrendous of all depredations of human rights and violations of human rights, and violations of our founding ideals in our nation's history."

It also states that the abolition of slavery was "followed by systematic discrimination, enforced segregation, and other insidious institutions and practices toward Americans of African descent that were rooted in racism, racial bias, and racial misunderstanding. This and other actions are great strides for Virginia and should be matched by all states.

I proudly state that California Legislature passed such a resolution in 2001, entitled Senate Joint Resolution No. 1. SJR 1-Relative to slavery,

Introduced by Senator Murray but the action was not printed in Northern California Media, only in the Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper in 2001. This unknown fact led Virginia Legislators to ask last week, "Are we the first and only state to pass this?"

John Conyers again introduced HR 40 to the House of Representatives on the opening day of the 110th Congress January, 2007. This was the tenth time since 1989, or the 18th year. This year, Representative Conyers will call for hear-

ings. on HR 40, "The Commission to Study the Reparation Proposals for African -Americans Act," also known as the "Reparations Act." "Is 142 years since the 246 years of government sanctioned slavery not long enough for Black Americans to wait for an apology?" If not, how much longer?"

**Marie Davis** has been an ardent supporter for years of the idea that the United States should make reparations to African Americans for its history of slavery.

## Ashes

escalated to the shattering point of no return. The final straw came on November 16, when Parliament adjourned for the year without making a decision on nationwide election. The people's representatives exit from the debate hall slammed shut the doors to civility and threw open the flood gates of disaster.

Fuelled by anger, youthful zeal and liquor, the streets of Nuku'alofa yielded to an army of civilians intoxicated with an unquenchable will to demonstrate and to blindly unleash on the unsuspecting "upper-class" their uninhibited primal judgment. The authorities were completely overwhelmed and powerless to defend or restore order. The weaponless peace officers sheepishly stood by as looters crashed through store-front windows and hauled away merchandise at will. They were reluctant accessories to vandalism and arson as camera phones and digital devices clicked and captured the incredible unfolding drama in living color.

Three months later and more than 700 arrests, 6 deaths, scores of local and foreign military personnel, and damages in excess of \$120 million, the capital is a virtual ghost town following Tonga's darkest day. Shortages are rampant and businesses of all sizes are displaced or permanently closed. There is however plenty of blame to go around. Proponents of a "change now-or-else" ideal justify the destruction and mayhem as a megaphone to get the attention of government. They say years of corruption and unchecked irresponsible leadership must be stopped at once. Leading the charge for the past decade is a prominent representative of the people who has enjoyed overwhelming support and successful re-elections. Some attribute his unwavering stance and adversarial relationship with the government as the only deterrent in an otherwise "out-of-control" and outdated system.

On the other side of the aisle, the government and its

supporters say that they are not opposed to change and have in fact consented to recommendations made by a bi-partisan committee set up for this very purpose. They support a gradual and systematic change as they venture out into this new and uncharted territory. What they are opposed to, is the "rush" to implement and impose prematurely a system that will undermine the monarchy which has been in place for centuries. There is also the question of how to reconcile Tonga's delicate system of hierarchy with the need for equalization.

While this monumental and complex issue of reform has undergone tremendous scrutiny both locally and internationally, the fiercest debate centered not on the "if" but on the "when" such a transition should take place. Whatever the outcome, all future dialogues will all be tempered by the dark undertone of the events of November 16.

As a Tongan national living abroad, mixed emotions plunged me headlong into an

abyss searching for light and reason. Finding neither, I came to a landing. Except, my footing was not secure. I stood not on solid ground nor sinking sand. I felt movement but was not steadily advancing. I braved a few steps forward and felt soft powdery substance under my feet. There was an eerie and uneasy feeling to this. I suddenly realized that I was having difficulty breathing. "Why hadn't I reacted sooner to the smell of sulfur that greeted me upon my descent. Was I suffocating from smoke inhalation? Am I somehow trampling on ashes?" As fatigue set in, my legs gave way. In desperation, I called out in anguish. "Please . . .God . . .Help!" "Ashes, ashes, we all fall down."

(Post script): Recovery and reconstruction efforts are underway with assistance from neighboring countries like New Zealand and Australia. Plans and designs for a new downtown infra-structure have been submitted for approval. The partnering of the local brain

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trust with overseas consultants have fortified the resolve of business owners and government agencies alike to rebuild.

After all that has been said and done, the burning question remains; "Who won?" In my opinion, No One! Tonga fell on that fateful afternoon. Not the government, not the democratic movement. We collectively fell. No amount of finger pointing and philosophizing would do. However tragic this may have been, our fall may also hold the key to our eventual rise. For it is in falling that we learn how to rise. And it is in rising that we learn how to stand.

Will Tonga be able to rise from the ashes triumphant? Only time will tell. Meanwhile, we can anchor our hope on The One who took the ultimate fall so that we can rise from our individual ashes and experience a newness of life!

Solopani Tulua and his wife, 'Ofa, have four children. They have lived in and around the EPA community since 1993.

### Are you interested in writing for East Palo Alto Today?

The newspaper will sponsor writing classes for interested residents starting in April.

For more information, call (650) 327-5846, ext. 311 or email: [epatoday@aol.com](mailto:epatoday@aol.com)

**Congratulations!**

**Cesar Chavez Academy**  
of the  
**Ravenswood City School District**  
For having the highest rate of student attendance for the month of:  
**December & January!**

# Raids

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compassion, generosity, and social justice - an assault of tragic proportions. America has always been a beacon of hope and refuge throughout the world. Recent events could change all that, as we turn the land of welcome and integrity into a bastion of exclusion and intimidation for millions here and abroad.

Under a program called "Operation Return to Sender" immigration officials (ICE) have been conducting raids in cities throughout the country, most recently throughout the Bay Area, from Contra Costa County to San Jose.

Most local enforcement agencies do not actively participate in these raids, recognizing the importance of maintaining trustworthy relationships with their communities.

The already-challenging

task of law enforcement is made easier and crime decreases when immigrant communities work as partners with them. Gang activity, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, violent crime - none of these can be effectively addressed if these same individuals live in fear of being rounded up and deported.

What will happen is that law enforcement will have greater difficulty combating these problems because the community will be afraid to speak out.

This benefits only those who are willing to terrorize and destroy communities, not those who work to improve them. It also increases the risk for those living with abuse, making them less likely to call for help.

And who will help Maria now? For the past week,

while she remains in jail, far from her children, a friend is caring for them. But who will continue to watch over them? Will the state place them in an already-overburdened foster care system? Who will house, feed, and nurture them?

And where will they learn compassion and grace, attributes critical not only to becoming contributing members of society, but equally essential to the soul of our country? What are we teaching them, really? How do the events of recent weeks enhance the potential for Maria's children to thrive and succeed?

All sides of the immigration debate agree that the U.S. desperately lacks, and desperately needs, a sane immigration policy. Even many people who support building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico recognize

that deporting 12 million people is not a viable option. Without immigrant labor, agriculture cannot provide the produce we take for granted. Business owners rely on the labor of immigrants.

And millions of legal residents and U.S. citizens would find their lives unmanageable without the immigrants who care for their children, pick and prepare their food, build and repair their houses, clean their homes and workplaces, and perform hundreds of other low-paid jobs that allow us to enjoy comfortable lives.

Contributions of immigrants also infuse and enrich our lives in every area, such as art, medicine, literature, architecture, politics, and sports.

As our name suggests, we at CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship

Abuse) are deeply committed to working with communities from all backgrounds toward a common goal of peace and non-violence. We count among our partners people of good faith wherever they may be found. Immigration raids that terrorize communities and tear apart families are counterproductive. We can, and must, do better.

Editors Note:

According to the information on its web site, "CORA provides free and confidential services to victims and survivors of domestic/dating violence and abuse, including child and teen witnesses, in San Mateo County. [It's] services include a 24-hour hotline, support groups, legal services, emergency and transitional housing, and more, in English, Spanish, and Tagalog."

# Teens

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Members of the "Listening" panel sit on the stage.

According to event organizers, the teen summit was also designed to give East Palo Alto youth a forum where they could lend their voice to the ongoing discussion of crime and violence and talk about what it would take to eliminate it.

"We wanted to build on the momentum of the march," Dr. Faye McNair Knox said. "We wanted to showcase the positive talents and skill of the youth. We wanted there to be an opportunity for them to engage in dialogue with people they would ordinarily fear and make those same people accountable."

Knox was referring specifically to the event's afternoon "Listening Panel" which featured area policy and decision makers. The panel included: East Palo Alto City Council Members Ruben Abrica and David Woods; Pastor Paul Bains, from St. Samuel Church of God and Christ; San Mateo County's Chief Probation Officer Loren Buddress; Menlo Park's Vice

Mayor Andy Cohen; Palo Alto City Council Member LaDoris Cordell; East Palo Alto Police Chief Ronald Davis; Ravenswood City School Superintendent Maria De La Vega; Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, who is the president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors; Madelyn Martin, who is the Dir. of Community Prevention and the Early Intervention and Southern Regional Director for the San Mateo County Human Services Agency and San Mateo County's Assistant District Attorney Steve Wagstaff.

In introducing the Listening Panel and in acknowledging the audience, California State Assemblyman Ira Ruskin said, "I'm impressed that you're here today. This is a great idea." Ruskin urged those in the audience not to "tear them to pieces" referring to the panel, just "tell them what you think."

The panel fielded about ten questions ranging from

why there were no sidewalks in the midtown section of East Palo Alto to what were the alternatives to incarceration. Several questions focused on education and dealt with ways to improve the educational attainment of East Palo Alto youth.

The question and answer session with the panel was moderated by Gail Ortega, who is the director of the Office of Community Service and Service Learning at Menlo College. Ortega is also the college's Director of Multicultural Student Affairs. In responding to one question about education Ortega said, "We can go smart or we can play dumb. If you choose to go dumb, for teens who lined up to speak to the 'Listening' panel on you.

...You have a right to an education." Prior to Ortega's comments, East Palo Alto Mayor Woods said, "We are a smart people. We are already smart, but we need to use our smarts in a positive way."

After the panel was over, Supervisor Jacobs Gibson said that she thought the summit was "really a testament to who East Palo Alto is. 'We can want to create change' she said, 'but if the

time is not right, it doesn't happen. I can see we are all in sync and we are ready to create the change we want."

"The young people are demonstrating that they can actually make a difference in this community. Ultimately, it will help them see that each of us has the responsibility to create the change that we want to see."

Khabral Muhammad, the community outreach organizer for OEPA, said, "many times people make decisions about young people without consulting them and they have false ideas about them. For example, 87% of crimes



Shanna Uhila Sloan holds the microphone for teens who lined up to speak to the "Listening" panel

in this country are committed by people over 25. We're hoping to come out of this with a more efficient dialogue between politicians and young people."

Dominic Blanks, a 32 year old who has lived in East Palo Alto for 29 years, said that he loved the teen summit. I wished that there had been something like this when I was growing up," he said.

Stephen Ashford, another 32 year old who teaches at the East Palo Alto Charter School, said that he thought the summit was great for the

community and the teens because they found out about the services that are available to them, the other opportunities that they have and the things that they can do besides getting into trouble.

Ashford later moderated a summit workshop which featured well known rappers such as Dontae of dem Hoodstarz, Kontac, Bandida, Mac n Ak, The Federation, Mugzi, RickRock. Other panelists included Pastor Ward and Keak Da Sneak.

The summit provided the youth with eight other workshops: "So You Want to Get Into College," "How to Get Out the Game: Exit Strategies for Street Life," "Latino Education/Educación Para Latinos," Police Encounters: Knowing Your Rights and Obligations," Bridging the Cultural Divide: Reconciling Cultural Differences and Dissolving Hidden Friction," Youth Voices Being Heard: Poetry and Spoken Word," It Couldn't Ever Happen to Me: Making Smart and Health Decisions," and Environmental Justice: What You Don't Know About Your Community."

Patricia Finau said, "The teen summit was a successful event to remember and to keep going for kids. We needed this. The feedback is very important as well. Every organization here wants to plan for the kids, but they don't consult the kids," she said.

# Children

Approximately 120 children from East Palo Alto enter foster care each year, according to a 2003 UC Berkeley study funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Beyond the need for a bed and a warm meal, foster parents need to be nurturing, child-oriented people, said former foster child Conrad Lenox. Lenox, a Palo Alto resident and member of Fellowship of Faith, lived in six foster homes and three orphanages before he was adopted at age seven.

"If kids know only one thing, it needs to be that they are loved," he said. "Foster parents need to be completely, totally invested. Anyone can have a child, but how they raise them will affect them for the rest of their lifetime."

While there remains a critical need for homes, San Mateo County is also one of the few counties in California to have passed a Foster Parent's Bill of Rights. With recent county and state legislation making foster parenting requirements easier, the support is growing for the work foster parents do in raising someone else's child.

The County of San Mateo offers monthly orientations (visit [www.smchsa.org](http://www.smchsa.org) and go to "Children and Family Services" and "Foster Care/Adoption" for details) and several private foster family agencies actively recruit throughout the county.

Help One Child, a faith-based organization, has partnered with San Mateo County and other foster fam-

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ily agencies to help recruit and support new and existing foster families. The government reaching out to work with the faith community is becoming increasingly common. According to San Jose Mercury News reporter Kim Vo's article "Calling for Angels," "the effort mirrors a national trend as child welfare agencies from California to Texas to North Carolina increasingly work with religious groups to recruit foster and adoptive parents among the faithful."

"So many children need homes," said East Palo Alto resident and foster-adopt parent April Pekary. "I think every believing family should at least think about it and consider foster care. It's a way to change the world."

**HELP ONE CHILD**

Call for free information about Foster Care!

Learn how our ministry recruits and supports families raising foster, adoptive and relative children.

Get the facts from San Mateo County, private foster family and Christian adoption agency representatives.

Call Judy at 650-917-1210 or visit [www.helponechild.org](http://www.helponechild.org)



Finding 500 Homes Through 500 Churches In 1000 Days



Attend an Information Session:  
858 University Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024

# Ask Aunt Sue

AUNT SUE IS HERE AT THE EAST PALO ALTO TODAY NEWSPAPER

Do you want some advice on your love life, relationships or life in general? Well now is your chance. East Palo Alto Today has an advice columnist, "Ask Aunt Sue."

Now you have a new friend to listen to your problems, concerns and questions.



Email: AskAuntSue@hotmail.com

"Judy" from East Palo Alto asks:

Dear Aunt Sue:

I have a "friend" who is being abused by her boyfriend and she wants to get out of the relationship, what can she do?

Dear Judy:

Although I've been a Christian woman most of my life, and I know of the passage to turn the other cheek. I also know that if some man was to try to abuse me, it would take nothing short of an act from god to save him from my wrath!!!

Love is about caring for another person and NOT about pain, sadness, or abuse.

If a man hits you, it is NOT your fault, but the fault of the man. I know that it is hard sometimes. You want to love him and he claims he loves you. He says that it will never happen again, that he will get help.

If you love him and want to help him, the only thing that you can do is to leave him

NOW!!!

Take your things if you can, but if you can't, leave them. Get your purse with your keys and go. Things like clothing, t.v., stereo, etc., can be replaced, but your life can not.

Go somewhere where he can not find you. Ask your company to relocate you to another branch out of the area.

Start your life over. You do not need to be alone. There are organizations out there for women like use. That's right use.

Contact: Support Network for Battered Women- 650-940-7855

A Safe Place- 510-536-SAFE Women INC.-415-864-472

Family Violence Project- 415-252-8900 Next Door-408-279-2962,

Shelter Support Services- 650-342-0850

CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse)

There is also: SAN JOSE EMERGENCY HOUSING CONSORTIUM PO Box 2346 San Jose CA 95109 Voice: (408) 291-5440 Fax: (408) 298-6152

SCCBW (Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women)

Remember if a man abuses a woman once, it can lead to twice. Twice can lead to four times and so on. Please let Aunt Sue know how your "friend" is doing.

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Email: AskAuntSue@hotmail.com or send your letters to:

Ask Aunt Sue  
East Palo Alto Today  
321 Bell Street  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

"CommunityConnections"  
**Open House**



Peninsula Volunteers  
Rosener House  
Adult Day Services

Wed. April 4, 2007, 5:00-6:30 p.m.



**Presentations by the Rosener House Rehabilitation Team**

- \*Physical Therapy *Improving strength and balance; reducing risks of falls*
- \*Occupational Therapy *Physical assistance techniques for caregivers; home safety*
- \*Speech Therapy *Help for people with communication problems and swallowing disorders*

**Learn about other resources for maintaining independent living and assistance for caregivers**

**Tour the Rosener House Adult Day Center**  
500 Arbor Road, Menlo Park  
Refreshments \* Respite Provided  
More information? 650-322-0126

March is  
Women's  
History (or Herstory)  
Month

# Letters

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seniors in Palo Alto).

This space is too big for Sy Le to afford by herself. She needs a partner or partners to be able to make the move. Thank you for your support of small community business,

Jean Libby  
Palo Alto

### Remembering an Abolitionist

Dear Editor:

February 23rd is the 200th anniversary of the British Parliament's vote to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. It is also the release date of a film (Amazing Grace) about the man who led the British Abolition movement, William Wilberforce.

While the film does not have much to do with abolition in the United States, Wilberforce certainly did. Abolitionism had widely dif-

fused origins and its advocates lived on both sides of the Atlantic.

The movement's leaders wrote and visited, financed and supported each other from the late 1780s through the 1850s. In the United States, major figures including Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and William Wells Brown publicly praised Wilberforce and were moved by his example. In 1815, one African American minister called him "the immortal Wilberforce," and upon his death in 1833, the principal of a school for free black children in New York City wrote a sixteen-page eulogy as a tribute to the British leader.

The abolition movement was always far more than one man's story. It begins and ends with the millions of black people who endured,

resisted, rebelled, and ultimately overcame.

But Wilberforce's is a story that inspires us with a sense of the difference one person can make, and then what can happen when thousands or millions make a similar commitment and rally to a worthy idea whose time is at hand.

James G. Basker  
President, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History  
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www.gilderlehrman.org

### Apocalypse Now

Dear Editor:

"A war of choice" is how some pundits characterized

the Iraq War when we learned there were no weapons of mass destruction. We didn't have to invade.

The aftermath of the war has been characterized by both by huge failures in planning and execution, and by horrific operations like Abu Ghraib. This is well documented in books like Fiasco and The Assassins' Gate. Now, the hype machines are spreading alarm and half-truths about Iran, diverting our attention from our multiple failures in Iraq.

Huge naval forces are being moved into the Persian Gulf. We provoke Iran with CIA cross-border operations. It reminds us of the run-up to the Iraq war.

In 2010, will pundits write that war with Iran (affecting Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and far, far beyond) was an

"Armageddon of Choice"?

Gertrude Reagan  
Palo Alto, 94303  
650-856-9593  
February 23, 2007

Editor's Note:  
Those interested in writing a letter to the Editor can send their letters to:  
epatoday@aol.com  
or write to:

Editor  
EPA Today  
321 Bell Street  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

EPA Today's web address is:  
www.epatoday.org

Phone number is:  
(650)327-5846, ext.311

# Trees

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Meda Okelo works with a volunteer

bring to fruition.

This project has the ultimate goal of planting 1000 trees in East Palo Alto during 2007 and is largely funded by a grant to Canopy from

the California Department of Forestry. Its initial plantings, along with some of the infrastructural work necessary to keep the young trees alive, have begun the third year of Sponsored Employment Program (SEP) efforts to provide East Palo Alto youth with learning and earning opportunities that successfully employed 150 young men and women (from 14 to 24) over the summers of 2005 and 2006. SEP, with individual and organizational partners who serve as nurturing employer-sponsors or com-

munity mentors, began as a community initiative after violence in East Palo Alto induced a committee brought together by One East Palo Alto (OEPA) to ask youth what could be done to help. Their answer-jobs-has been the reason OEPA, El Concilio of San Mateo County, OICW, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation have worked together to organize and fund SEP on their behalf.

The youth-Manqhoba Shibambo, Vanessa



OICW students work on sprinkling equipment.

Falepouono, Ramiro Lopez, Mario Mora, Amanda Prasad, Renita Bhartu, Mataele Heehau, Damar Francis, Ariel Amos, and Aaron

Don't forget to change the batteries in your home smoke detector. New batteries mean saved lives in case of a house fire.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><b>March 2007</b></span> <span><b>Senior Center Daily Calendar</b></span> <span>Hours: Mon. Wed. Thur. Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tues. 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.</span> </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <b>5</b> Contin. Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Dominos 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	<b>6</b> Most services, programs, breakfasts, special luncheons and classes are operated by the East Palo Alto Senior Center, Inc., a non-profit organization.  <b>6</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Bible Study 10 - 11 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m. Cancelled Reading Class 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m. Soul Line Dancing 2:00-3:30 p.m.	Free Computer Access Computers, Internet, printers, copier & fax machine New hours for the tap room 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Tap Room is CLOSED WEDNESDAY'S (fees for extra copies, etc.)  <b>7</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Cancelled Tai Chi Class 10-11 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Senior Club 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>1</b> Country Breakfast 8:30-10:00a.m. Brown Bag Program 9-11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45-1:45 p.m. Bingo 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Dominos 2p.m. - 3 p.m.  <b>8</b> Country Breakfast 8:30-10:00a.m. Brown Bag Program 9-11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45-1:45 p.m. Bingo 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>2</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. New Class - Music Appreciation 10:30-11:30 Dominos 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:30-1:30p.m.  <b>9</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. New Class - Current Events Discussion 10:30-11:30 Dominos 1:00 to 3:00 Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:30-1:30p.m.
<b>12</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Dominos 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	<b>13</b> Cont. Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Bible Study 10 - 11 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m. Reading Class 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m. Soul Line Dancing 2:00-3:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Tai Chi Class 10-11 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Senior Club 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>15</b> Ctry. Breakfast 8:30-10 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screening 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Brown Bag Program 9-11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45-1:45 p.m. Bingo 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>16</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Music Appreciation 10:30-11:30 Dominos 1:00 to 3:00 Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:30-1:30 p.m.
<b>19</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Dominos 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	<b>20</b> Cont. Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Bible Study 10 - 11 a.m. Chat With the Chief 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m. Reading Class 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m. Soul Line Dancing 2:00-3:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Tai Chi Class 10-11 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Senior Club 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>22</b> Ctry. Breakfast 8:30-10a.m. Brown Bag Program 9-11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45-1:45 p.m. Bingo 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>23</b> Senior Center Closed City of EPA work furlough day
<b>26</b> Senior Center Closed Cesar Chavez Day	<b>27</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Bible Study 10 - 11 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Reading Class 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m. Soul Line Dancing 2:00-3:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Tai Chi Class 10-11 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m. Senior Club 1 - 2 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>29</b> Ctry. Breakfast 8:30-10 a.m. Brown Bag Program 9-11:30 a.m. Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:45-1:45 p.m. Bingo 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Dominos 2 - 3 p.m.	<b>30</b> Continental Breakfast 9-10a.m. Current Events Discussion 10:30-11:30 Dominos 1:00 to 3:00 Hot Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior Game Day 12:30-1:30 p.m. Printed on 3/12/2007 6:26 PM

## Center Anniversary

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and they came with so much passion. A lot of the people who were there Friday were there in the beginning. Others joined along the way to give support," Buada said.

"It really takes a community effort to do something as important as improving the health status of the community. It was a great celebration of everyone's contribution. Everybody on the staff was pulling and a rooting for this. I think Friday night was a wonderful celebration of that success," she said.

Five years ago, when the Ravenswood Family Health Center (RFHC) opened its doors, it brought back medical services to East Palo Alto. The health center was born of the efforts of a Blue Ribbon Task Force made up of community members and healthcare leaders from San Mateo County and the Lucile



Dr. Margarita Pereyda, Margaret Allen, Dr. Dena Bravata and Marie McKenzie

Packard Children's Hospital.

Today, RFHC is governed by a volunteer community board of directors, 64% of whom receive patient services at RFHC. The board's current makeup guarantees a community presence and a patient voice to reflect the health care needs and concerns of the clients.

The Friday night gala on March 2 was held to recognize the community partnerships that created and now sustain the clinic.

The emcee of the event was Halili Knox, who is well known to many in the com-

munity. She is daughter of Dr. Faye McNair Knox and she grew up in East Palo Alto. In November 2005, Halili Knox made her national television debut as

co-host of "Double Take", a weekly interior design show on HGTV.

Knox and those who attended the Friday evening event had a lot to celebrate. For example, in the five years that RFHC has been operating, it has grown at an amazing rate, enrolling over 17,500 patients. Since so many people in the community are in need of affordable medical care, RFHC added more exam rooms and two more clinic sites in 2006.

The Ravenswood Mobile Health Clinic, donated by

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, operates two days a week at various Ravenswood City school sites. It offers health care for students and their families.

Once a week, the mobile clinic serves the homeless in locations throughout East Palo Alto and Belle Haven. In September 2006, RFHC took over the operation of the Belle Haven Clinic, formerly run by the County of San Mateo.

The newly renovated clinic is next door to the Onetta Harris Senior Center and it provides care to both children and adults.

Last year, 63% of its patient population had no insurance at all. To cover the cost of their care, RFHC has to raise \$2.8 million from private sources such as foundations and individual donations. This is 40% of RFHC's total annual budget.

Julio Garcia, Board Chair, said "We have a commitment to make sure anyone who needs medical care is seen, regardless of their income or immigration status and we have to raise a lot of money to do that."

The RFHC staff hoped its fifth anniversary celebration would raise support for the health center's pediatric and prenatal services.

"We know not everyone will be able to afford the ticket price for our Four Seasons event," Luisa Buada said prior to the celebration.

"So we are planning a special community fifth anniversary celebration this summer when the weather is warm and we can have an outdoor party with plenty of room for everybody"

For more information, contact: Kathleen Alexander Development Director (650) 330-7418.

## Live in Peace

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day present to yourself.

Fourth, and finally, our young people need jobs. They need a place to be when they are not in school, where they can earn money and be introduced to a trade or profession. Last summer my friend and colleague on the Palo Alto City Council, John Barton and I created "YES"---youth employed for the summer. We wanted businesspeople in Palo Alto to provide summer jobs for young people living in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City. We put out the

call, working with CollegeTrack, we had young people ready and willing to work, and very few if any folks in Palo Alto stepped up. Why?

There are probably lots of reasons, but I think one of the main reasons was, a sense that this was not their problem. And they are oh, so wrong. This is our problem. Each life lost in this community is our loss. Each child and young person injured as a result of gang and drug violence, is our injury. It's not about us in Palo Alto versus

them in East Palo Alto. If you think that way, I feel sorry for you. I implore the business community in Palo Alto to step up this summer and become a part of the solution. Hire these decent, talented young people who are trying their hardest to move forward. I don't think it's too much to ask.

Maya Angelou is one of the world's greatest poets. I close with this poem which she calls "Human Family."

I note the obvious differences  
In the human family.  
Some of us are serious,  
Some thrive on comedy.  
Some declare their lives are

lived  
As true profundity,  
And others claim they really live  
The real reality.  
The variety of our skin tones  
Can confuse, bemuse, delight,  
Brown and pink and beige and  
purple,  
Tan and blue and white.

I've sailed upon the seven seas  
And stopped in every land,  
I've seen the wonders of the  
world,  
Not yet one common man.

I know ten thousand women  
Called Jane and Mary Jane,  
But I've not seen any two  
Who really were the same.

We love and lose in china,  
We weep on England's moors,

And laugh and moan in guinea,  
And thrive on Spanish shores.

We seek success in Finland,  
Are born and die in Maine.  
In minor ways we differ,  
In major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences  
Between each sort and type,  
But we are more alike, my  
friends,  
Than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,  
Than we are unlike.

LADORIS H. CORDELL is a Palo Alto City Council member, a special counselor to the president of Stanford University and a retired Santa Clara County Superior Court judge.

## Popsicle Index

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money to pay for the fingerprinting at \$52 per application, the number of applications has so far not matched the need and the basketball season is still on hold.

A few years ago, a friend of mine, Catherine Austin Fitts (see [www.solari.com](http://www.solari.com)), suggested an index for neighborhood quality of life which she called the Popsicle index. This was the percentage of parents in a neighborhood willing to send their children to the nearest place to buy a Popsicle by themselves anytime before bedtime. She noted sadly that while the Dow Jones Index had gone from 500 to 10,000 in a few decades the Popsicle index in many neighborhoods has dropped from near 100% to less than 10%.

In some cases the distance is a factor, in others the traffic and in many just fear. While this is not an easily quantifiable index, it does provide a visual picture that's useful to describe our current situation. The current city council

majority and the city staff appear to be proponents of the gentrification model to deal with that situation. How else can we explain the concern over a humble hot dog cart? How else can we explain the invitation to a major developer to propose a concept without enlightening them regarding the existence of an apartment house, under rent control restrictions, on the area in question. Both are irresponsible, but a reflection of our current reality.

Smaller developers have also been misled by our staff in what appears to be a misguided zeal for gentrification. Sadly, however, even successful gentrification does not solve the problems of the current residents. At best it can displace them and leave the city populated with new people who don't care. I was such a person ten years ago, so I know how easy it is to be oblivious. Now, I think we need to tackle this problem head on. If that means a

change in the management, or the vision, or the budget priorities, or even the elimination of the redevelopment approach, then the citizens need to make this happen. The council, the school board and the staffs of both organizations work at the pleasure of the people, not the other way around. Let's make our Popsicle index begin to move in the right direction.

Ruben Abrica suggested at the February 20, 2007 council meeting that we should change the guidelines or ordinance so that temporary use permits for things like hot dog stands on currently unused properties, regardless of the long term plans are easier to get and don't require the city council to intervene. This is certainly a step in the right direction.

As Dave Tschang points out at every city council meeting we do need to encourage our entrepreneurs. At a recent meeting of a planning commission meeting it was suggested that blindly following

state guidelines may not get us the affordable homes that we need and that some outside the box approaches might provide better incentives.

At that same February 20th meeting several people pointed out that misleading developers, even if unintentional, leads to appeals and lawsuits that we often lose. We can welcome developers, but on our terms. Explain to them the reasons for our low Popsicle index and let them bring truly useful proposals for the citizens to digest, don't leave the impression that blight creates a blank slate and they merely need to provide us a pretty picture to make it go away.

Real people need practical approaches and not simply barriers that prevent the implementation of ideas that do get children doing things that are fun and productive, adults working at what they love, citizens who care that the streets are clean and potholes are repaired, and schools that work. Donna

Rutherford, at that meeting, suggested that a city council-school board committee be revived and put to work. We all live in the same place, she said, and are faced with the same problems.

Some staff are fearful of bringing serious issues to the fore at school board meetings or city council meetings, but a venue needs to be created to eliminate this fear. When we can't get a basketball league off the ground, because of the concern of a principal over the lack of security that could be easily provided by a few volunteers, then we are too fearful. If you want to help out, go see Mrs. Ruth Woods, the after school program coordinator, at the Ravenswood School District Admin Building on Euclid and get a volunteer form. This will allow you to volunteer for lots of activities. It's a bit of work to fill out, requires you to schedule a fingerprint appointment, but it's well worth the effort.