

# Perspectives

## From the Editor's Desk

*Not In My Back Yard!*

The first three months of this New Year have been a momentous time for the City of East Palo Alto. It has been a time in which the community stood up and said a resounding "No" - no to violence, no to gunfire going off in the middle of the night or during the day, for that matter; no to criminal activity in the city.



**Henrietta J. Burroughs**

The community has risen to take back the city. It has struggled to its feet to take back its power and make the city a peaceful place in which to live.

Life brings its peaks and valleys, its sunny days and its dark nights. During these past three months, this community has been pulling itself through the valley and up the mountain side. It has been turning the dark into light. As Chief Ron Davis said recently, "We are the survivors." We are the battle scarred and the hopeful. It was the survivors who marched during the Peace and Rally March on February 3. It was the survivors who showed up wanting a better day, a better legacy for their children and themselves. It was, in turn, the children who showed up on March 10 one month later for the Go Smart Teen Summit, saying that they wanted the same thing.

Sometimes when you pass down a legacy, it is easy to see who will receive it and what they plan to do with it. This past Saturday, 300 young people showed up to pick up the torch for unity and peace that the adult marchers passed on. "We want to live in a better world," they said and by their questions to the leadership panel Saturday, one could see that they were interested in improving their educational system, finding alternatives to the prison system and juvenile hall, and living in a cleaner environment.

The positive momentum has started and it is up to the community to keep it going. East Palo Alto is a city on the move and good things are

happening. Good things have always happened here, but now they are happening loudly, boldly, triumphantly and dramatically.

Certainly, now teens and adults have taken the N I M B Y approach in the good sense of the word. Not In My Back Yard: they want to eliminate the criminal element from the city completely.

Residents are joining hands again and again to declare their unity and their determination to make this community a beacon of hope and a place where positive accomplishments prevail. They have also attracted those outside of the community who are coming not to buy drugs and partake in criminal activities, but to support the positive momentum that has taken hold.

Seventeen million dollars was raised, mostly from outside donors, to support the newly opened East Palo Alto Family YMCA, what better testament to the goodness of people, the determination of the human spirit and the power of people working in unison to bring a dream to fruition.

People are working together on many different levels to say they care. They care about children; they care about families; they care about the quality of life within the city and they care about the health and well being of those around them. During this momentous time, the energy expended and the ideas that have taken root will affect this community for months to come.

On March 18, many of us will attend the candlelight service to commemorate those who lost their lives during some of this city's dark moments. But as we celebrate their lives and remember them, we must commit ourselves to the monument

continued on page 14



Photo courtesy of Jennie Little  
This picture shows some of the students at the Edison Ronald McNair Academy in East Palo Alto who were celebrating the opening of their school's new library. See story on page 6.

## Letters to East Palo Alto Today

### Planting Trees

Dear Editor:

Well, I'm glad we are planting trees, but are they going to be like our young men and just grow up to become bulldozer fodder for developers. But no deciduous trees, so no color in the fall. It is also interesting that they are mostly next to the sound wall to make sure that they are not seen by many of us.

If I didn't know better, I'd say it was just another diversion. Meanwhile, how many trees have been destroyed without a permit. From what I've been able to tell, they are destroyed, stumps removed and no one the wiser.

Most of the landlords would be happy to have only plastic trees that they could occasionally wash off with a hose, rather than risk falling limbs and falling leaves/needles that come from improper maintenance.

So far, we are only planting them. That like the first part of making babies is the easy part. When they become teen-agers then the real work begins.

Court Skinner  
East Palo Alto

### Edgewood Shopping Center

Dear Editor:

I am writing to seek community support for one of the businesses at the former Edgewood Shopping Center on Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto.

You have probably seen the demise and deterioration since Albertsons left. The buildings have been sold and the absentee owner has no consideration for the small businesses that remain.

I have been patronizing the hairdresser there, Sy Le (next to the Golf Shop) for about fifteen years. She has a clientele of people like me in north Palo Alto (older, low income) and Pacific Islanders in particular from East Palo Alto--people who shopped at Albertsons. I see people bring their children to her not only because she is inexpensive, but because she is a friendly, genuine person who likes them.

It is necessary for her to

move quickly now that Africa City is successfully able to leave, and the Century liquors will apparently not be far behind. It will be dangerous for her to remain after that time--the deterioration of the shopping center is such that it is dangerous to go there now. I have often seen Peter Evans and Mr. Huynh patrolling the parking lot, especially in the evening.

The laundromat, which used to be maintained by clerks at Albertsons on off hours, is a shambles and contributes to the danger in the parking lot because the machines are broken and it is only a place to congregate, not do washing.

What Sy Le needs is immediate help from community people to resituate her business nearby. There is a space that would be good for her business in the Home Depot/Office Depot complex under construction. It would be a good location for the people in both East Palo Alto communities to follow her (although no longer on a convenient bus line for

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## EPA Today's Policies & Principles

In order to better serve the communities of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven, East Palo Alto Today has made the commitment to operate with high professional standards and to adhere to a strict code of ethical conduct. The principles and policies stated herein serve as an agree-

ment with our readers, advertisers and all others within our service area.

East Palo Alto Today is dedicated to conscientious journalism. We maintain this commitment by seeking and reporting the truth, acting with integrity, and serving the public interest. We will report the

news thoroughly and accurately and include multiple perspectives without favoring one over another.

We will hold ourselves accountable to common standards of decency, treating our colleagues, news sources, and the public with respect...

### East Palo Alto Today

**Publisher:** East Palo Alto Center for Community Media  
**Editor:** Henrietta J. Burroughs  
**EPA Mentorship Director:** Julie Patel

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# Community Opinions

## Live for peace after the march and rally

By LaDoris Cordell

I've had it. I've had it with the violence. I've had it with the divisions among us. I've had it with the hate that prevents us from living together in peace. I'm fed up and my guess is, so are you. Am I right?

Thank you all for coming out here today, to make your voices heard and to be seen. That's why marches and rallies are important. Look at us--all ages, colors, cultures coming together. We're from East Palo Alto and we're from Palo Alto, and beyond. As wide as that 101 freeway is, it cannot divide us. We are in this together. We can bring peace to this community, together.



LaDoris Cordell

What is peace? Peace is a state of tranquility or quiet; harmony; a pact or an agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of hostility.

Peace is not complicated. Yet, here we are, in the heart of silicon valley, where the greatest innovative minds live

and work, where the most prestigious university resides, home to one of the most richly diverse communities in the country, and we're not at peace.

That's why we're here today. We want to live in peace, now. So here's what we have to do. Actually, it's quite simple. We need to do just four things:

First, each and every one of us must decide that no matter how hard it gets, to always take the path of nonviolence. You cannot expect our young people to solve their problems peacefully if you don't embrace the concept yourselves. Your very being must exude peace. If we don't believe it, than our children won't, either.

Second, there were six shootings here in six days. The key word here is "shootings." We need a community outcry for gun control. Get rid of the guns. We need to prove that our community is much stronger and louder and more influential than the NRA which, with all of its millions of lobbying dollars, frightens our legislators away from voting for gun control.

We need to frighten our legislators into voting for it. No more guns in our communities. And if you can't go there, if you have to have your guns, then keep all of your guns and ban the bullets. If gun control is too hard to take, then let's have bullet control.

We can and must organize

as a force to be reckoned with, right now by going directly to our the legislators, the people who represent us--I'm naming names --- Boxer and Feinstein in the U.S. Senate, Anna Eshoo, Tom Lantos, and Mike Honda in the Congress, Ira Ruskin in the State Assembly, and Joe Simitian in the State Senate. Every last one of them need to hear from us. And you politicians all need to find the courage to fight for gun or bullet control.

Third, you need to register to vote. If you are 18 years or older and not registered to vote, shame on you. If you are about to turn 18, make registering to vote your birth-

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## Raising the Popsicle index in East Palo Alto

By Court Skinner

I attended a recent city council meeting after a couple of senseless homicides of children had raised the consciousness of the citizens and listened to the passionate concerns expressed by our citizens. Emotions ran high, but I remained skeptical that this energy would be turned into practical solutions for the city.

Dr. Mark Alexander, recently honored by KQED and the Union Bank for his communi-

ty contributions during their Black History Month award ceremony suggested that when he was a kid life was much simpler and after school programs just happened and any adult could keep a kid in line. He opined that this was no longer the case today, but in spite of that he has put together a successful children's track program to reduce the obesity in kids. His comments came back to me the next day when I ran into the coach at Costano whose basketball

league had been put on hold by the school principal because of some "trouble" at the school.

I didn't know all the details, but my impression was that after school programs are the problem of the city and not the school and until the city was able to provide security then no games would be played. As the coach described the situation, everything was in place to run a basketball season - gym, teams, coaches, even the schedule.

What was missing? Security. Well, that seemed simple enough. After all a number of folks the previous night had said that more after school sports programs were the key to keeping kids out of trouble. All we needed in this case were a few volunteers to make sure everyone was behaving themselves. The police department didn't have the manpower and the school district didn't have the money, but a number of fathers had spoken out so it seemed an ideal match. Lets get them all

together, match their availability with the game schedule and start the league.

Well, as Dr. Alexander pointed out, life is no longer so simple. Before anyone can volunteer to be in the vicinity of children, they must prove that they are not a danger.

Applications, embarrassing questions, fingerprinting are all involved and this takes time and patience. So it has now been a month, and while the school district did have

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## "Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Down"

By Solopani Tulua

This line from the nursery rhyme would not be found headlining your typical tourism brochure, especially one from any of the exotic islands of the Pacific. However, in the afternoon of November 16th 2006, the tiny capital of the Islands of Tonga was rocked by perhaps the most devastating event in recent memory. What began as a political rally outside of the Parliament House, ended with mobs of people looting and setting fire to most of the business district. Hours later, thick clouds of smoke hovered over the remains of the once tranquil streets of Nuku'alofa (city of love). In its wake, were debris, ashes

and the greatest shock to the sleepy disposition of the land where time begins.

Tonga is the first to see the light of day, due to its position on the National Dateline. Tonga is also the last remaining Kingdom in the Pacific with the proud distinction of being called the "Friendly Islands" by the English explorer Captain James Cook. The carefree people of these isles have for the most part lived up to its namesake. With approximately 150 islands and a population of around 100,000, Tonga is ruled by King George Tupou V, who ascended the throne after the passing of his father, the late King Tupou IV, in September of last year.

The Bay Area was intro-



Solopani Tulua

duced or became re-acquainted with the Tongan Royal Family last July in the tragic accident that claimed the lives of Prince Tu'ipelehake, his wife and their driver. The outpouring of support from the community at large was overwhelming. The Prince had just arrived to commence a series of town hall meetings with local Tongans regarding

historic political movements toward a more democratic process. He was honored by the commoners, who referred to him as the "People's Prince." He championed their vision and dream for an equal and more level playing field in the political arena. However, to some, the snail's pace dialogue known as "talanoa" was unbearable. Rhetoric and political maneuvering would need to yield to action . . . "real" action!

The socio-political atmosphere in Tonga has seen a radical shift from passive acceptance of the "status-quo" to fearless demonstrations of dissatisfaction that culminated in a national strike of the civil servants that crippled the government

for months. Emboldened by their victory, leaders from this movement joined forces with pro-democracy supporters to push for an overhaul of the monarchy to favor a more democratic rule. By appealing to the highly charged emotions of the general population, public rallies and marches drew greater numbers and became increasingly daring. The Prime Minister, as the front man for the government, was the natural target for the onslaught of verbal assaults launched by the "demo" camp. The repeated demands for a resolution only resulted in impasse. Undaunted and with reckless resolve, the efforts were

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# Understanding and preventing strokes

**By Annette Glanckopf**  
EPA Today Contributor

The first in a series of PSA (Peninsula Stroke Association) spring lectures on "Women and Stroke" was held at the Menlo Park Senior Center on Wednes-

day March 14. The speaker, Nanette Hock, is a registered nurse whose career spans 25 years of caring for patients with stroke.

The lecture was provided by PSA with lunch donated by the Menlo Park Senior Center and blood pressure

screening by volunteers from West-med College and San Jose State University. PSA is a non-profit serving San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and is dedicated to educating the public on stroke - risk factors, warning signs - and providing support for stroke survivors and their care takers.

Why is stroke important? Stroke is the Number 3 cause of death in the US and the Number 1 cause of adult disability in the US and worldwide.

Every 45 seconds someone in the US has a stroke. Stroke kills more women than breast cancer. For more information see the PSA web site [www.psastroke.org](http://www.psastroke.org)

The three key messages from the lecture were:

1) "Stroke is a medical emergency - call 911 - not

your doctor's office"

2) Stroke is treatable - this is a departure from past medical thought.

When one experiences the symptoms of a stroke, it is critical to get to the emergency room within three hours of symptom onset.

3) "Stroke is preventable - the best way to treat a stroke is to prevent one

If you would like to arrange a lecture on stroke for your church or community group, please call the PSA office at 650-565-8485

Annette Glanckopf is a



Photo courtesy Annette Glanckopf  
Luncheon attendees get their blood pressure checked.

Palo Alto resident who edits and publishes the Midtown News which appears online. She is also the President of the PSA Board of Directors.

For more information about cities and dates for future luncheons in the series, see the EPA Community Calendar in this issue.



Sketch by Palo Alto artist Geri McGilvray

# East Palo Alto Sanitary District News

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District Board of Directors voted at a Special Meeting on Tuesday, February 6 to appoint Michael Davidson to fill the board vacancy left by former Director Larry Moody.

A special inaugural ceremony will be held this month to officially swear Davidson in. Contact the Sanitary District for the date and time

East Palo Alto Sanitary District  
901 Weeks Street  
East Palo Alto, CA  
(650) 325-9021

The current board of directors includes:  
Glenda Savage-Johnson, President

Joan Sykes-Miessi, Vice President  
Bethzabe Yañez, Secretary  
Michael Davidson, Director  
and Leroy Hawkins, General Manager

### MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Directors of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District holds its regular meetings at the district office on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

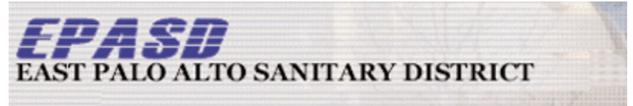
When the day for any regular meeting of the Board falls on a legal holiday, the meeting is rescheduled.

All board meetings are televised and can be seen on Channel 29 on the Public Access station on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.



Bethzabe Yañez

The District is pleased to announce and congratulate Bethzabe (Betsy) Yañez who received a certificate in Special District Leadership and Management at the Special District and Local Government Institute Finance Seminar in Monterey last October.



### REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

- o March 1, 2007
- o April 12, 2007
- o May 3, 2007
- o June 7, 2007
- o July 5, 2007
- o October 5, 2006
- o November 2, 2006
- o December 7, 2006

### 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

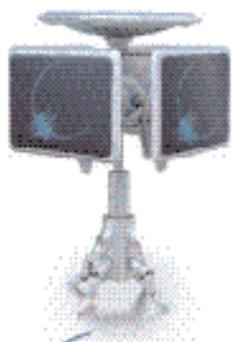
#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

Closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

for lunch (650) 325-9021



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# Lifecycles

## Recognizing Local Heroes

### Mrs. Barbara Mouton

In 1983, Mrs. Barbara Mouton, was selected as East Palo Alto's first elected Mayor. This past January, Mrs Mouton was selected by television station KQED to be a recipient of its Local Heroes Award. Mrs. Mouton was one of six awardees selected by the station in honor of Black History Month which is celebrated in February.

She and the other award recipients had their profiles presented in sixty second spots throughout the first week in February. Mrs. Mouton was interviewed at the Community Development Institute Mrs. Barbara Mouton, East Palo Alto's first elected Mayor, was selected



Mrs. Barbara Mouton being interviewed by KQED's Jim Yager

by television station KQED to be a recipient of its Local Heroes Award.

Mrs. Mouton was one of six awardees selected by the station in honor of Black History Month which is celebrated in February.

She and the other award recipients had their profiles presented in sixty second spots throughout the first week in February.

Mrs. Mouton was interviewed at the Community Development Institute by KQED TV producer Jim Yager. She received her award at a dinner at KQED on February 6. In speaking about Mrs Mouton, Goro Mitchell, the Executive Director said, "She is a legend. It is an honor to work with her in this community."



Larry Moody

Larry Moody, who is on the Board of Directors for the Ravenswood City School District and the Director of Urban Ministries for the Menlo Park Presbyterian

### Larry Moody

Church was selected last November to be one of nine local "Unsung Heroes."

Honorees for the award were nominated by the public and selected by committees comprised of Bay Area residents and the San Francisco Public Library staff.

The award, which has been given for 18 years, was presented to Moody for his role in founding the Community Partners for Schools, a youth

peer mentoring group in East Palo Alto and for his work in developing a network of support for low income families by connecting them with successful business people and college interns.

Moody also directs a ministerial effort that provides support for foster care children and he is also the founder of the Fellowship of Faith a consortium of faith based organizations and nonprofit groups which meet monthly

### Suzanne McKechnie Klahr

East Palo Alto resident Suzanne McKechnie Klahr was awarded the prestigious Jefferson Award for Public Service. The Jefferson Award is the equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize for public and community service for more than 30 years.

Suzanne was given the award for the founding and growth of BUILD, a non-profit agency. BUILD provides real-world entrepreneurial experience that empowers youth from under-resourced communities to excel in edu-



Suzanne McKechnie Klahr

cation, lead in their communities, and succeed professionally. Through the BUILD program, high school students learn how to start their own businesses as they receive academic support throughout their four years in high school. The organization is based in East Palo

Alto, and works with over 160 students in the community. In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service, a 501c3 public foundation, to establish a Nobel Prize for public and community service - The Jefferson Awards. By honoring the Jefferson Award recipients, it is the goal of the American Institute for Public Service to inspire others to become involved in community and public service. For more info., see [www.build.org](http://www.build.org).

### Pastor Paul Bains

Pastor Paul Bains is the senior pastor at St. Samuel Church of God in Christ in East Palo Alto. This past February he was one of six honorees chosen to receive the Midpeninsula Community Media Center's Local Heroes Award.

Bains was chosen for "creating a series of non-profit programs that have substantially benefitted the people of East Palo Alto."

He is a trained chaplain with the East Palo Alto Police Department. He started the Chaplaincy Program in 2005.

In 2000, he and his wife Cheryl founded Project We H.O.P.E., an East Palo Alto nonprofit, which was created to provide counseling for 1,160 kids who were suspended from their local schools.

He and Cheryl are the parents of three daughters.

Bains will be featured on Channel 27 with the other

six honorees on Sunday, March 18, at 1 pm and on Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The six interviews will be played one after the other.

For more information, contact him at [pbains@projectwehope.org](mailto:pbains@projectwehope.org).



Rev. Paul Bains

### Rosemary Steele

Rosemary Steele who is known in the Community as "the diva of job development" recently retired as the Director of Corporate Relations of OICW (Opportunities Industrialization Center West) after 35 years of service.

During her career Rosemary provided career counseling and job placement to hundreds of East Palo Alto residents. The OICW Alumni Association named an award in her honor.

The Rosemary Steel award is presented annually to an outstanding graduate who exemplifies OICW's philosophy of self sufficien-



Rosemary Steele

cy and outstanding achievement.

Sharon Williams, OICW's executive director said "This award is based on our appreciation for Rosemary, who was originally a trainee at OICW, and who has done so much to help OICW -- and our trainees -- succeed over the years."

**Success begins in Kindergarten**  
**El éxito comienza en kinder**



**2007 Elementary School Tours**  
**Excursiones de los**  
**Plantales Escolares 2007**

Plan a visit to our schools and see for yourself.  
Planea una visita y mira con tus propios ojos.

<b>Belle Haven:</b>	3/27, 3/28 (8:00 a.m.)
<b>Costano:</b>	3/21 (8:00)
<b>Green Oaks:</b>	Date to be announced
<b>James Road:</b>	Date to be announced
<b>Willow Oaks:</b>	Date to be announced

NOTE: If the listed dates are not convenient, please call and make an appointment.

Ravenswood City School District  
(650) 329-2800 ext. 164  
[www.ravenswood.k12.ca.us](http://www.ravenswood.k12.ca.us)

East Palo Alto Today is on the Internet

See [ww.epatoday.org](http://ww.epatoday.org) for up-to-date local news

and information and back issues of

East Palo Alto Today

# Fulfilling a Dream

The East Palo Alto Family YMCA had its grand opening February 10. It was a gala event that was seven years in the making. Below are pictures from the trial opening which took place January 20 and pictures and quotes from the grand opening festivities.



Photo courtesy Meda Okelo

Ken Coleman, Caretha Coleman, John Savage, Patricia Foster, Ruben Abrica. Sharifa Wilson has her back to the camera as she holds the large scissors that cut the ribbon on opening day.

**"I thank you for pushing us, listening to us, humoring us, and yes sometimes even challenging us to get the job done. And we did. I invite you to experience the dream... , feel the magic. You all deserve to pat yourselves on the back... in the fulfillment of this dream."**

*Caretha Coleman  
Chair, Capital Campaign*

**"We are an extended family. I will do everything that I can in my power to keep working with the East Palo Alto Family YMCA to make it an even better place."**

*Ruben Abrica  
East Palo Alto City Council*



Some of the onlookers watch the East Palo Alto Family YMCA's opening day festivities.

**"We would not be here if it were not for children and families...We also believe in the YMCA's four core values: honesty, respect, responsibility and caring."**

*Sharifa Wilson  
Board Chair, Lewis and Joan Platt  
East Palo Alto Family YMCA*



Faida Jama visited on Saturday, January 20 during the East Palo Alto Family YMCA's trial opening with six year old Zack Wade and seven year old Ajani Jama.



Photo courtesy of Meda Okelo

John Savage, Board Chair, YMCA of the Mid-Peninsula, in front of the building as Y teens enter. The creation of the East Palo Alto Family YMCA was the result of 700 donors who contributed \$17 million.



Photograph courtesy of Rebecca Matthews

# A Day to Remember

Dee Uhila, far left, with marchers on University Avenue. Uhila advises, "Anytime you see young people, invite them to stay off the street and do something positive."

People came from cities throughout the Bay Area to participate in East Palo Alto's first Peace and Unity March and Rally on February 3. Here are some of the things they said.

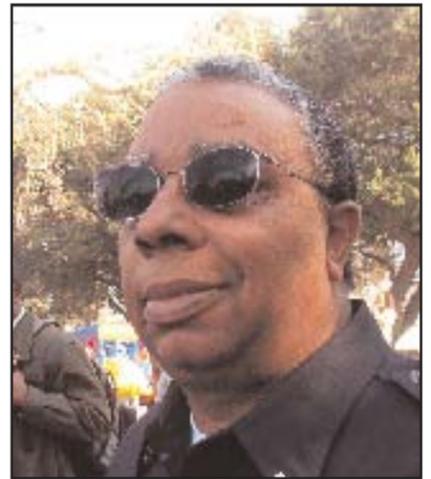


"Four weeks ago, I met with these wonderful people. We needed to bring the community together. We can live in peace. Thanks, East Palo Alto. I encourage the young people to keep the peace."

Marina Latu  
event organizer standing with **Jesse Norfleet**

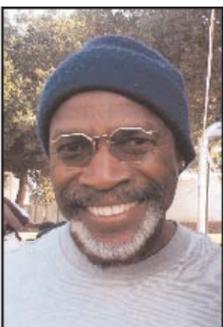
"We have taken tragedy and turned it into something positive. If we are to have the respect of the world, we've got to keep this up."

Lt. Rahn Sibley  
21-year veteran  
East Palo Alto Police Department



I remember when all of the drugs came in 1968. It started as a fad and then it consumed us. They started pushing pills — then heroin came in, then the city went down ."

Tommie Moore  
Union City resident



"Everyone responded positively to make this happen. The young people brought each other out here. It was a real embrace. This was the right idea, at the right time and the right place. I was amazed looking at the march. It looked like an army."

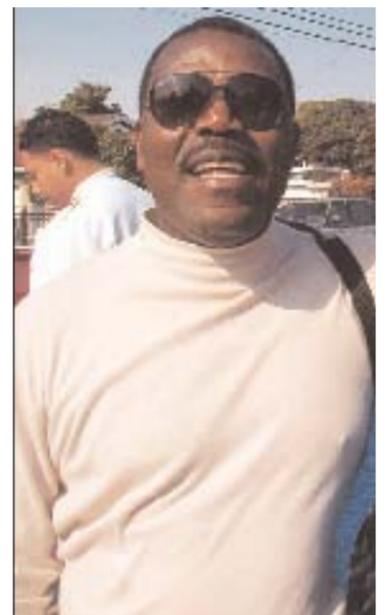
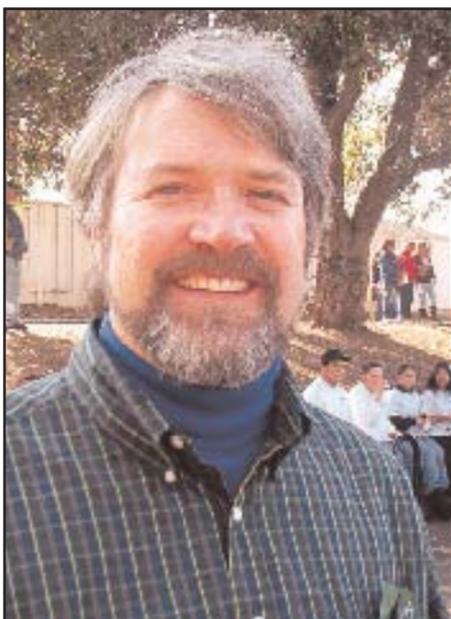
Dr. Faye McNair  
Executive Director of OEPA

"The whole gang-related issue is due to the disenfranchisement of the community. But there is insufficient political and involvement to make things happen in the schools and in the community. Wherever you go in Colombia, and Palestine, for example, people will develop their own organization to provide services to their communities."

Dr. Larry Bruguera  
Medical Director at the Ravenswood Family Health Center

"We can't sit and wait for a situation to fester. We need to be proactive. This is the beginning. We have to do something public and something loud. This is a good beginning."

Angah Miessi  
Community Leader





**Luis Guzman**

# Local student selected youth of the year

The Boys and Girls Club gave its Youth of the Year Award on Friday, March 2nd to 16 year old Menlo Park resident Luis Guzman. Guzman was one of 10 finalists competing for the award.

All of the finalists came from the three local Boys and Girls Clubs on the Peninsula. The clubhouses are located in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City.

Guzman and the other award finalists were honored in a catered event at the Four Seasons Hotel in East Palo Alto.

The contest recognizes the



**Hashima Brumfield, Luis Guzman, Francisco Espinoza, Joseph Garcia and Elizabeth Quintero.**

personal challenges and obstacles a young person has to face along with the contributions the person makes to his or her family, school and community.

and committed to what he did.

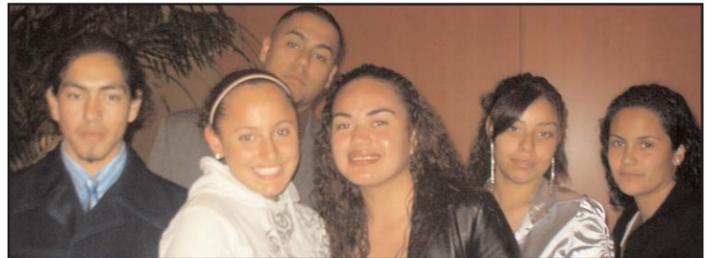
"They were trying to show me that if I worked hard, I would get recognized," he said.

When asked why he thought he received the award, Guzman said that he had worked hard and he was dedicated

Last year's winner was Elizabeth Quintero, who went on to be chosen as the Northern California 2006 Youth of the Year. She also holds the California State Youth of the Year award.

For more information

about the award, about why Guzman was selected and the Boys and Girls Clubs go to: <http://www.bgcp.org>. or contact Chris Canter [chris@bgcp.org](mailto:chris@bgcp.org) 650-322-8065 x 102



**Martin Moreno, Ivan Martinez in the back row, Yvette Ortiz, Nola Palefau, Lizath Chavez and Emma Quiroz.**

## East Palo Alto spelling bee winners



**Araceli Castañeda,**  
5th Grader

And the winner is ...Araceli Castañeda, 5th Grader ....Thirty East Palo Alto students participated in the city's first spelling bee.

The event was held in the East Palo Alto Public Library on Thursday, February 15.

The students were in grades three through nine.

The event was sponsored by the Quest Learning Center which operates under the San Mateo County Library System.

Here are a few of the answers first place winner Araceli Castañeda gave when she was interviewed.

**What did you do to prepare for the spelling bee?**

First, I just kinda looked at the words that were kinda hard. Then I read them, and then I wrote them down 5 times, without looking at the words. I did that every other day (for 1 whole week before the spelling bee). Also, when I was on the bus, my friend tested me.

**What did you do to stay calm or relaxed during the spelling bee?**

I wasn't really calm. Inside I was kinda nervous.

**What did you think when you won?**

I thought I was going to come in second. When I won 1st place, I couldn't believe it.



**Edgar Linares**  
4th Grade,  
Second Place Winner



**Moises Macias**  
3rd Grader  
Third Place Winner



**Some of the students who came to watch.**

4th Place: Jamie Ayon, 6th Grader and 5th Place went to Samisoni Tautuaa, a 5th Grader

The Quest Learning Center is a free after school literacy-based tutoring program for students in grades 3rd through 12th. It is operates from 3:00 - 6:00 PM Monday-Friday, with the exception of Wednesday's when it's open from 1:30 - 5:30 PM.

The Quest Learning Center is supported by the Ravenswood City School District, the City of East Palo Alto, and by major funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the San Mateo County Library.

For more information, contact Darwin Eustaquio, Quest Learning Center Director: (650) 321-7712 x226.

## Costaño students win essay contest

Costaño Elementary School students held a special assembly to honor the students who wrote winning essays to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The essay contest was sponsored by the Peninsula Bay Chapter of the Links. The chapter's President Marthelia Hargrove, and chapter members Sara Boyd, a former counselor at Menlo Atherton High School and retired newspaper columnist Loretta Green presented the students with their monetary awards which



**Loretta Green and Sara Boyd present awards.**

were donated by the Links.

The second grade winners were: first prize winner Alex Orejel who received \$75.00, second place winner Lisabeth Salcedo who

received \$50.00; third place winner Johnae Askew who received \$25.00 and fourth place winner Sione Moala whom received \$10.00.

The fifth grade winners were Jennifer Rodriguez (\$100.00), Guillermina Ortez (\$75.00), Michael Craig (\$50.00), Kareli Farias and Zulema Haribo (\$10.00).

The Links chapter is also one of the sponsors of the annual Mid-Peninsula Celebration of the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The students standing from left to right holding their certificates: Sione Moala, Johnae Askew, Lisabeth Salcedo and Alex Orejel. Marthelia Hargrove stands to the far right.