



March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election



Dear Stanford, what about MLK?

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Recognized for outstanding community contributions page 9

# East Palo Alto Today



Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical

www.epatoday.org

East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

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## Free community space opens



Photos courtesy of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Clockwise from left to right, Dr. Priscilla Chan addresses an attentive audience on January 23, 2020 at the opening of the CZI Community Space at 801 Jefferson Street in Redwood City. Shown in the photo at the upper left, the Sequoia Conference Room, which is one of the smaller conference rooms at the CZI Community Space. The photo on the lower left shows people lining up during the opening reception to post their best wishes for the new space.

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

Has your nonprofit organization been looking for space to hold events and other types of meet-

ings? Well, not only is more space now available, it's free!

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) is offering free meeting and event space to

nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations located in and serving San Mateo County.

The CZI offer is also available to the City of Redwood City and San Mateo County

government agencies.

Officially called the CZI Community Space, the offered facilities are located in a renovated Redwood City building that features two con-

ference rooms, one main event space that has multiple size and setup options and access to kitchen facilities.

CZI held its grand opening continued on page 13

## Another start for trees in Jack Farrell Park

By Maya Briones

Canopy staff and volunteers spent several hours this year on the first day of February planting trees to replace the 9 trees that were vandalized last August in Jack Farrell Park.

After months of collecting feedback from residents and working with the City of East Palo Alto, Canopy staff members decided to plant the new trees in a larger stock size so that they would catch up to the size the vandalized trees would have been if they had not been cut down. The new trees also had protective cages for protection.

Canopy began the process,



Photo courtesy of Canopy

Everyone pitched in. Even little children carried shovels to install new trees to enhance Jack Farrell Park.

which led to the replanting, by meeting with city staff, with long time Canopy volunteers who had planted the first round of trees and with neighborhood residents. While it was evident that there was a

strong desire for trees in the park, there was initial uncertainty as to how to ensure that this would be the last time that the trees at Jack Farrell Park would be replanted.

Canopy began to reach out

to the neighbors around Jack Farrell Park for their feedback on what should be planted. Many residents suggested that Canopy find a way to protect the trees and post sig-

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# EVERYONE COUNTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The U.S. Constitution requires everyone living in the United States to be counted every 10 years.
- This count is critical to our children’s future and helps us get investments in schools, healthcare, and affordable housing that are vital to our communities.
- It only takes a few minutes to complete, and you can participate online, over the phone, or by mail.

**CENSUS BEGINS THIS SPRING.  
MAKE SURE YOU AND EVERYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS COUNTED.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [CALIFORNIACENSUS.ORG](http://CALIFORNIACENSUS.ORG).



# Community News Briefs

## EPA resident becomes first East Palo Alto board president of Menlo Park Fire-District

In January, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Fire Board did something new, it held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at its Fire Station 2 in the City of East Palo Alto to help acknowledge and celebrate the appointment of the first East Palo Alto Board President, Robert Jones, in its 104 year history. When President Jones was handed the gavel by outgoing President Virginia Kiraly, according to the fire district, it was not only done in front of his family and friends, but also in the City he has called home for over the last four decades, and a community he feels he can best represent, as a member of the five person elected Fire Board.

The Fire Protection District's 29 square mile service area covers the Town of Atherton, Cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, unincorporated areas of San Mateo County and is on contract to the SLAC National Accelerator and Laboratories.

The rich diversity and unique challenges associated with protecting and re-



Photo courtesy of Menlo Fire The outgoing Fire Protection District Board President, Virginia Kiraly, congratulated Robert Jones, its new board president, at the January 21, 2020 meeting held at its newly rebuilt Fire Station 2, which is located on University Avenue in East Palo Alto.

sponding to each community is one of the reasons, the district's press office reports, Fire Chief Schapelhouman asked the Fire Board to take its monthly meetings on the "road" for the next six months.

### Newly released voter information

Are you registered to vote in the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election? The deadline to register online or by mail was February 18, 2020.

However, don't despair, if you missed the February 18, 2020 voter registration dead-

line, you can "conditionally" register to vote and immediately receive a ballot at any county Vote Center.

As of February 29, 2020, East Palo Alto will have two Vote Centers: one in the City Room at the Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA at 550 Bell Street and the second one at the Saint Francis of Assisi Church on 1425 Bay Road.

To see the location of all forty two Vote Centers in San Mateo County, go online to: <https://www.smcacre.org/vot-e-center-locations>

According to Mark Church, Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder, "When a conditional ballot is cast, the Registration & Elections Division processes the registration, determines the individual's eligibility to register, and validates the individual's information. If the voter was indeed eligible to vote in San Mateo County, the registration becomes permanent, and the conditional ballot will be counted."

Here are the voter eligibility requirements:

- To be eligible to register to vote, a person must be:
  - a U.S. citizen
  - at least 18 years old by Election Day

- not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction and
- not deemed by a court to be mentally incompetent to register to vote.

Those 16 or 17 years old, can pre-register to vote. Those who are pre-registered will automatically become a registered voter on their eighteenth birthday.

All registered voters can change their party affiliation

through Election Day, without having to re-register or vote conditionally. But, voters who change their names, have cancelled or pending registrations, or are registering in San Mateo County for the first time must still vote a conditional ballot.

You can confirm your current registration status online at: [www.smcvote.org](http://www.smcvote.org) by click-

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## City, County, State & U.S. Government Meetings & Contacts

<p><b>East Palo Alto City Council</b></p> <p>The East Palo Alto City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers, East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Avenue; (650) 853-3100 or Fax: (650) 853-3115. Website: <a href="http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us">www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us</a></p> <p><b>East Palo Alto City Council Members</b></p> <p><b>Regina Wallace Jones Mayor</b> 650-709-9660 <a href="mailto:rwallacejones@cityofepa.org">rwallacejones@cityofepa.org</a></p> <p><b>Carlos Romero Vice Mayor</b> <a href="mailto:cromero@cityofepa.org">cromero@cityofepa.org</a> 650) 328-4363</p> <p><b>Ruben Abrica</b> (650) 804-3347 <a href="mailto:rabrica@cityofepa.org">rabrica@cityofepa.org</a></p> <p><b>Lisa Gauthier Mayor</b> (650) 387-4584 <a href="mailto:lgauthier@cityofepa.org">lgauthier@cityofepa.org</a></p> <p><b>Larry Moody</b> (650) 644-9110 <a href="mailto:lmoody@cityofepa.org">lmoody@cityofepa.org</a></p>	<p><b>East Palo Alto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Committees</b></p> <p><b>Planning Commission</b> Second and Fourth Monday</p> <p><b>Rent Stabilization Board</b> Second and Fourth Wednesday</p> <p><b>Public Works &amp; Transportation Commission</b> Third Wednesday</p> <p><b>Youth Advisory Committee</b> First Thursday of each month</p> <p><b>Senior Advisory Committee</b> Meets first Wednesday of the even numbered months from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. - City Hall.</p> <p><b>East Palo Alto Sanitary District</b> The East Palo Alto Sanitary District office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and re-opens from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for service. Regular Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.</p>	<p><b>Menlo Park City Council</b></p> <p>The Menlo Park City Council holds meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers located at 801 Laurel Street. You can subscribe to receive the agendas and minutes by e-mail when they are published. For questions about an agenda, call the city clerk at 650.330.6620.</p> <p><b>Menlo Park City Council Members</b></p> <p><b>Ray Mueller</b> 650-776-8995</p> <p><b>Cecilia Taylor-Mayor</b> 650-589-5073</p> <p><b>Catherine Carlton</b> 650-575-4523</p> <p><b>Drew Combs Vice Mayor</b> 650-924-1890</p> <p><b>Betsy Nash</b> 650-380-3986</p>	<p><b>Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees</b></p> <p>Arts Commission Bicycle Commission Environmental Quality Commission Finance and Audit Commission Housing Commission Las Pulgas Committee Library Commission Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Commission Transportation Commission</p> <p><b>San Mateo County Board of Supervisors</b></p> <p><b>Supervisor Warren Slocum Fourth District</b></p> <p>The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets on March 3, 17, 31, &amp; April 14, 28 2009 in the County of San Mateo Hall of Justice &amp; Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. Roll call at 8 a.m. 9 a.m. Regular &amp; Consent Agenda Items. 650-691-2121</p>	<p><b>State Officials</b></p> <p><b>Governor Gavin Newsom</b> State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916) 558-3160</p> <p><b>Assembly Member Marc Berman</b> District Address 5050 El Camino Real Ste.117 Los Altos, CA 94022 650 691-2121</p> <p><b>State Senator Jerry Hill</b> District Address 1528 South El Camino Real San Mateo, CA 94301 (650) 212-3313</p> <p><b>U.S. Government</b></p> <p><b>U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier</b> San Mateo Office 155 Bovet Rd, Suite 780 San Mateo, CA 94402</p> <p>Phone: (650) 342-0300 Washington, DC: (202) 225-3531</p>
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# On the Record: One Year of California for All

By Governor Gavin Newsom

There's no state in America quite like California. In troubled times for the Nation, California is where the American Dream is alive and well. The most diverse state in the world's most diverse democracy, California is big-hearted, thriving, inclusive and bold.

This year, we've been working to build a California for All. Governing by our values of growth and inclusion, we have made principled yet practical investments in our people and our future.

Making sure that those investments are built to last, we have budgeted responsibly for the years ahead. Our balanced, on-time budget created the largest rainy day fund in state history and paid down California's wall of debt.

That budget addressed the biggest challenges we face. Today, I will share our work to tackle the high cost of living in California, prevent and prepare for emergencies, and combat homelessness.

First, we're working to confront the state's affordability crisis. It is our state's foundational



Gov. Gavin Newsom

economic challenge, which threatens lives and threatens futures. The things that make it possible to get ahead – housing, health care, saving for your kids' college or your retirement – are getting farther out of reach for Californians.

When I took office last January, I got to work to make life more affordable for all. Together, we expanded healthcare subsidies to middle-class Californians. We took on rising prescription drug costs by seeking to establish the nation's largest single purchaser system for drugs. We helped put higher education within reach of more Californians by providing two free years of community college to first-time, full-time students and negotiated tuition freezes at California's universities.

We also put money back in the pockets of California parents by doubling the state's Earned Income Tax Credit and adding a \$1,000 credit for families with children under the age of six. We eased the financial burden on parents by repealing the sales and use tax on diapers.

Second, we are making sure that California is ready for the next natural disaster, and that communities still recovering from catastrophic wildfires have what they need to rebuild.

We invested \$1 billion to build disaster resiliency, response and recovery – including funding the pre-positioning of emergency response teams in times of high-risk wildfire conditions. We launched Listos California, a statewide network of community organizations that build disaster resiliency in vulnerable communities. We also moved the state toward a safer, affordable and reliable energy future by drafting wildfire safety and accountability measures and working with the Legislature to create a \$21 billion wildfire fund.

Finally, we're working non-stop to confront the statewide crisis of homelessness, which

impacts 130,000 Californians in every corner of our state.

We're pursuing solutions that work. We made a historic \$2.75 billion investment — the most California has ever spent — on programs to fight homelessness and build more housing. That amount included \$650 million in Emergency Homelessness Aid to cities and counties so that they can implement the best local solutions for their communities. We're also striking at the root causes of homelessness, including the unacceptable lack of housing construction and unscrupulous landlords who price-gouge their tenants and unfairly evict them. We negotiated and signed the nation's strongest statewide renter protections and worked with technology companies to secure \$4.5 billion towards California's housing crisis.

We're "all in" on tackling this crisis because it is a major quality of life issue not just for the person sleeping on a sidewalk, but for everyone in their community. We recognize that every homeless individual is someone's child, parent, or friend. Many times, they are our service members, who served honorably in our military and fell onto hard times after

they got home. These individuals are often struggling with mental illness or substance abuse.

They deserve better than the reckless rhetoric and heartless cuts to the social safety net that Washington is offering. They deserve the thoughtful solutions that we are pursuing in California, in partnership with local governments, the private sector, and philanthropists statewide.

Make no mistake, we have so much more work to do. There are still too many Californians who do not get to share in the prosperity that they help to create. For them, and their children – and California's continued leadership in the nation and the world – we must boldly confront our remaining challenges. These challenges demand bold solutions, and above all, the courage for a change.

Fortunately, we have no shortage of courage here in California, a state of dreamers and do-ers who are not afraid to take risks for what's right.

In the year ahead, we'll continue to work hard and aim high on behalf of all Californians, and everyone who looks to our state as a beacon of hope.

## Fight over public charge rule change is not over

By Mark Hedin

Advocates gathered on a teleconference call for ethnic media on Jan. 31 agreed that despite a Supreme Court ruling earlier in the week that lifted an injunction blocking its implementation, the fight over the Trump administration's effort to change the public charge rule will continue.

The changes instruct the Department of Homeland Security to begin applying tougher standards in considering applications for green cards or for visas to enter the United States. Those standards are now set to take effect on Feb. 24, the Citizenship and Immigration Services agency announced on Jan. 30.

The Supreme Court decision did not rule on the merits of the case. Rather, it found that a lower court had overstepped its authority in October by issuing a nationwide injunction against the proposed changes scheduled to take effect that month.

At the press briefing, Congresswoman Judy Chu of California's 27th District, along with Mayra Alvarez of the Children's Partnership and lawyers Alvaro Huerta of the National Immigration Law Center and Madison Allen of CLASP, the Center for



Photo Ethnic Media Services.

Law and Social Policy, discussed the implications of the court's decision, gave suggestions on what steps people should or shouldn't take if they're concerned about how the new rules might affect them, and described what responses their advocates are planning, too.

"Our goal today it to help calm fears," Chu said.

"The lawsuits to stop this are not over," Huerta said, citing ongoing cases in California, New York, Illinois (the one state where an injunction blocking implementation of the rule remains in place), Maryland and others.

"These cases aren't going away," he said, echoing Chu's vow that, "I am committed to fighting back." Chu has introduced legislation in Congress, with 118 co-sponsors, to deny funding for implementation of the rule.

On Jan. 30th, USCIS announced that the agency will only apply the Final Rule to applications and petitions submit-

ted on or after Feb. 24, 2020 (except for in Illinois). DHS will NOT rely solely on an immigrant's receipt of the newly listed benefits before that date in the public charge determination.

In terms of practical advice for those planning to apply for a green card, a visa to enter the United States or to change their status, the panelists agreed that doing so promptly, ahead of that Feb. 24 date, is advisable.

They also warned that people in the country who already have green cards and are thus exempt from public charge assessments should be careful about leaving the country for more than 180 days, as their return would become subject to public charge testing.

Allen, after "strongly encouraging families to learn more," highlighted four things to remember about public charge rules:

"Use of benefits will not automatically make you a public charge," she said.

There are positive as well as negative factors that will go into the consideration of green card applications under the terms of the public charge test. For instance, having resources or a job can help. Other considerations include an applicant's age between 18 and 61 is best), health, income, assets, re-

sources, education and family.

Use of many benefit programs would not count against an applicant. These include but are not limited to WIC, CHIP, school lunches, health care for pregnant women, and emergency shelters.

A family member's use of public benefits will not count in how an applicant is judged.

"Information is power," Allen said. "We encourage you to get the facts and make a plan."

For legal advice, which the panelists all strongly recommended people seek, she suggested the Immigration Advocates Network's list of free legal services:

<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/>.

A key criticism of the proposed rule changes is that families will forego public benefits they need and to which they're entitled, thus endangering themselves and their children, out of caution and exaggerated worry.

"The scope is much narrower than feared," Huerta said.

But in all cases, the panelists said, it's prudent to get legal advice. "Get an assessment by an attorney," Huerta said. "We have to arm ourselves with facts."

Allen directed listeners to an online FAQ that addresses public charge rules concerns. It's published by the Protecting Immigrant Families campaign,

of which she is a part: <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/know-your-rights/>.

She also urged people to contact local, state and federal officials to make their positions clear on the proposed rules changes.

Alvarez, criticizing the White House administration's "relentless attack on immigrant communities" and its "inhumane approaches to immigration" said the proposed public charge rule change and the fears it has stirred up "hurt children's ability to develop and thrive," and threaten the country's long-term economic viability.

Chu, too, had spoken out about the disinformation that fuels the "steady stream of anti-immigrant policies emanating from the White House."

These policies "disproportionately affect people of color," she said, and make family reunifications more difficult. So as a society, we lose the common circumstance where immigrants bypass benefits because they are welcomed and helped by family that can provide child care, loans and more.

"The strength of our country is reflected in its diversity," Alvarez said.

This article by Mark Hedin is reprinted by permission from Ethnic Media Services



# Census 2020 offers opportunities for the community

**By Supervisor Warren Slocum**

Every 10 years, the federal government is required to count all residents in the United States, citizens and noncitizens alike, through a national census.

The next national census is in April 2020. The information gained will ensure everyone is equally represented in our political system and that government resources are allocated fairly.

It is also used to make important decisions about community programs and



**Supervisor Warren Slocum**

services, like where to build homes and parks, establish public transit routes, build new roads and offer language access services.

Large segments of the

county have historically been hard to count or are expected to be less likely to respond given the current political climate.

East Palo Alto is one of those hard to count areas. Therefore, we are working with trusted community partners to educate, motivate, and activate residents in participating in the Census.

The county is seeking proposals from community organizations to assist in outreach to activate residents to complete their 2020 census surveys.

Applications should detail culturally and linguisti-

cally-tailored strategies for motivating and educating the least likely to respond to residents that they propose to target for census outreach. Strategies can be a mix of what has worked in the past or new innovative ideas. For more information and to apply at <https://cmo.smcgov.org/census-2020-community-events-rfp-oca1004>

To pledge to count and get reminders about the census go to:

<https://cmo.smcgov.org/census-2020-san-mateo-county>



### CONTACT US

400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

(650) 363-1800

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@SMC\_CommAffairs

## Tree replacements

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Photos courtesy of Canopy  
Community residents and neighborhoods kids pose for photos after their hard work planting trees in Jack Farrell Park on Saturday, February 1, 2020.

nage that would tell people that these trees were planted for the neighborhood by the neighbors.

The signage is still being developed. Canopy's Teen Urban Foresters and its high school interns tabled and gathered input on a voting board with pictures of the proposed trees. A barbeque and Tree Care Work Day was held to allow for more conversations around green spaces in East Palo Alto.

In January, Canopy staff tallied the results and found that two trees were tied: the Forest Green Oak and Catalina Ironwood.


The Forest Green Oak, while not a native oak, has a high canopy with interestingly lobed leaves. This tree is deciduous, so it will display beautiful fall color. The Catalina Ironwood is native to the Channel Islands of California and is evergreen with beautiful white flowers in the spring. While these trees are quite different, Canopy staff members agreed that they each will add great character to the park and provide many benefits to all users.

While the issue of tree vandalism will not be solved with this one planting, it is hoped

that this great effort by Canopy, the City of EPA, and most importantly neighbors of this community will inspire others to respect nature and understand the value that trees bring to East Palo Alto.



Photo courtesy of Canopy  
The Live Oaks along with other tree varieties planted by Canopy look majestic along East Bayshore Road.



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# From the Editor's Desk

Twenty-twenty is a year that brings enormous opportunities!

We're in the first quarter of a new year - a year that, like each new year brings its own challenges and opportunities.

But, this year is different from most years. Yes, our income taxes are still due in April.

But, 2020 is a special year. Why?

Most people in this country probably know that the U.S. election happens every four years and the U.S. Census occurs every ten years.



Henrietta J. Burroughs

How fortuitous that in 2020, we have both an election year and a year for the census!

The outcome of our elections and the results of the 2020 Census will have enormous repercussions for all of us.

You might already have heard that. But make no mistake about it. The impact of both will be nationwide. The impact of the election will definitely have worldwide consequences.

Considering the major impact that both events will have on our life and the fact that we have advance notice about each occurrence, we need to be aware of the opportunities that these two significant events bring us - before and when they happen.

Of course, each day that we live, move and have our being on this earth is special. But, being alive in this special year leaves each of us with the responsibility to recognize that through our participation in the election and in the 2020 Census, we have the capacity to individually exercise more power and influence than we might normally have in any other year.

You've heard, perhaps, often that our individual vote counts. Do you believe it?

Well, there are at least 10 recorded cases in U.S. history, where a candidate lost an office by a single vote.

You can read about each case at [https://www.menlofloss.com/article/59873/10-elections-decided-one-vote-or-](https://www.menlofloss.com/article/59873/10-elections-decided-one-vote-or-less)

less and do more research on each election.

You can make sure that the candidate of your choice does not lose because you failed to cast your vote.

Locally, the East Palo Alto Sanitary District has six candidates, who are vying for three open positions on the district's board. Three of them are incumbents. Do you know who the six are and their views about the sanitary

district? Do you know what each is promising? Find out about the state ballot proposition and all of the candidates running in the March 3 election online at <https://votersedge.org>. Yes, 2020 is a year when we can exercise our power and influence. But, power stays with the one who knows how to wield it. Educating oneself is a necessary step to using one's power wisely. Elections present us with an opportunity to learn about the issues and the candidates, and now is a time to learn as much as we possibly can.

Education is critical! Knowledge leads to good decisions. Electing good candidates comes from good decision-making. Good decision-making leads to other wise choices.

Choosing to be counted in the 2020 Census is a wise choice! When you realize that each person, who is counted in the State of California during the census, is worth, according to the latest data, \$2,000 in government funding, then doesn't it make sense to participate in the census?

So, let's make this *the year* - the year to stand up and be counted and the year to elect local, state and national candidates, whom we think, truly represent the vision that we have for our future and that of our family.

Good vision is 2020! Let's make use of it. Let's let those around us and *the whole world* know that "We count!" whether they think so or not.



Photo by Menlo Fire District photographer Peter Mootz

February 17, 2020 marked the tenth anniversary of the tragic airplane crash that took place in East Palo Alto on Beech Street. The crash took the lives of its three passengers, who were Tesla engineers, destroyed property and traumatized many local residents. This photo, showing the scene of the tragedy, was released publicly for the first time by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District in February to mark the anniversary of the crash.

## Letters in East Palo Alto Today

### Cast Your Ballot

Dear Editor:

It's voting month. Lots of choices, some might say too many, but we do have a month to sort them out and select those who will serve us best.

There are 20 choices for the Democratic Party nominee for president.

There are seven for the 13th Senate District and there is no majority there'll likely be a runoff election in November.

There's only one choice for our member of the county board of supervisors.

Vote for that one anyway. And finally for a change there are non incumbents running for the East Palo Alto Sanitary District's Board of Directors. Three are incumbents, three are challengers. As required they all reside in our city. Find a way to communicate with them. They'd love to talk to you. Facebook, email, phone. Read the flyer. Ask them questions.



Court Skinner

The sanitary district is one of the more important overnment entities in the city. We all take advantage of its services.

I would recommend that everyone plan to attend a meeting of the board.

There isn't one before the election, but they are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 911 Weeks Street, East Palo Alto.

Pick one, or two, or three candidates and vote.

It's a short ballot so please fill it all out and put it in the mail or in the collection box on time.

And by the way there's another election coming up starting in October of 2020. Be prepared!

Court Skinner,  
East Palo Alto Public Works & Transportation Commissioner

### On EPA City Surveys

Dear Editor:

There have been surveys about what the residents want. No more are needed. The council needs to build alignment amongst themselves so they are trusted and people feel like they care. A good start would be to spend more time with the constituents.

Please don't accuse me of being negative. Fixing anything requires starting with the truth. I've had about 9 articles in the paper to help create awareness about the positive factors. Also took 15 of our high school students to a private meeting with Jackie Speier. There's lots more.

Ivan Temes  
East Palo Alto, CA

## 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 agreement 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 the other.

We will hold ourselves ac-

countable to common standards of decency, treating our colleagues, news sources, and the public with respect.

We are committed to maintaining our independence by avoiding partnerships, investments or business relationships that would compromise the integrity of our news reports.

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# Opinion

The ideas expressed on this page are solely the views of the individual authors who do not represent East Palo Alto Today's board or staff

## Dear Stanford, what about MLK?

By **Kyra Brown**



Kyra Brown

"Action expresses priorities." This quote comes from nonviolent leader, Mohandas Gandhi.

This past Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as I read a "San Jose Mercury News" article entitled: "At Stanford, King's legacy lives in what was supposed to be its temporary home," by Lisa M. Krieger, I realized that Gandhi's words still ring true. Dr. Clayborne Carson, History Professor at Stanford University and Director of The Martin Luther King Jr., Research and Education Institute and The Martin Luther King Papers Project (since 1985), is interviewed in the article.

The mission of "The Pa-

pers Project" is this: "To publish the definitive fourteen-volume edition of The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr., a comprehensive collection of King's most significant correspondence, sermons, speeches, published writings, and unpublished manuscripts."

As I did a little more research, I learned that "The Papers Project" is not only an arm of the The King Center, in

Atlanta, Georgia, but that the late Coretta Scott King, personally invited Dr. Carson to lead the initiative! In short, the Mercury news article documents the anxiety that Dr. Carson feels (with his own retirement on the horizon) in wondering what will become of the Project. Simply stated, "The Papers Project" has been "temporarily" housed in a portable on Stanford University's campus, for the past 34 years. I am in agreement with Dr. Carson, that "King's legacy deserves better."

As I began to process this reality, I came to realize that the current state of affairs regarding "The Papers Project" perpetuates racial inequality as it pertains to access to uni-

versity resources. Therefore, it is undoubtedly a looming example of both structural and institutional racism, in the United States, no matter how subtle.

I find it hard to believe that I would be writing this article if a white male were the subject of conversation. And yet, just two months earlier, Stanford withdrew its application for a 17-year expansion plan, the largest proposed development in the history of Santa Clara County. I submit that if a university has the financial means to expand its campus at this magnitude, it certainly has the resources to properly house The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project. In fact, "The Papers Project" has

been in existence double the amount of years that it would have taken Stanford to expand their campus, had the university not withdrawn its development application this past November. This fact alone is most certainly appalling, to say the least!

In summary, Stanford proposed to build 550 units of on-campus housing with an estimated 9,500 person increase in its student population. However, student advocacy groups such as Stanford Coalition for Planning an Equitable (SCOPE) 2035, aimed to push the university to not only increase the

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## Every count matters

By **Walter Manuofetoa**

If there was ever a time that we all need to rally together, IT IS NOW! The 2020 Census is upon us and your participation is extremely vital to the East Palo Alto and Belle Haven communities.

For decades, historically hard-to-count populations have led to inequitable and unequal access to valuable resources and political representation.

JobTrain in Menlo Park, along with many other community based organizations including One East Palo Alto (OEPA), Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, and the East Palo Alto Center for

Community Media are making a difference in the community by raising awareness and providing educational information/resources about the importance of the 2020 Census.

### What is the Census?

Once every 10 years the federal government is required to count everyone living in the United States regardless of age, race, or immigration status.

The next National Census Day is April 1, 2020. California stands to receive \$115 billion if we achieve an accurate census count.

This funding helps pay for schools, hospitals, roads,



Walter Manuofetoa

and many other vital social programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), and Headstart — resources many people living in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven rely on.

In addition, census participation ensures that your voice is heard because cen-

sus data is used to determine the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives per state and the structuring of political districts.

JobTrain is committed to getting our communities counted so that we can receive the proper funding allocations and political representation for the next ten years.

For more information about the census, visit: <https://2020census.gov/en/w/hat-is-2020-census.html>

### JobTrain's Efforts


Recently, JobTrain has been engaging with the local community to raise aware-

ness on the importance of the 2020 census.

As the Census Community Outreach Specialist for JobTrain, I have been facilitating bi-monthly meetings with the Census Community Action Team (CAT)—OEPA, Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County and the EPA Center for Community Media — discussing ideas of how to motivate and empower the community to participate in the 2020 Census.

Jobtrain will hold two U.S. Census kick-off events in March—one for community leaders and the second kick-off will be open to the general


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# Lifecycles

## Patrick Emanuel Brock - March 17, 1950 - January 23, 2020

Patrick Emanuel Brock was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1950 (March 17, 1950), in San Francisco, CA to the union of Joseph Clayton and Ozella Brock, who preceded him in death. He was the fifth of six children.

Patrick was baptized on January 7, 1951 as a Roman Catholic in San Francisco, CA at Sacred Heart Church. He



Patrick Emanuel Brock

received his first Holy Communion on May 12, 1957 at St Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, CA.

Patrick and his family moved to Palo Alto, CA ub 1962 where he attended Terman Middle School. Patrick also attended Woodside High School in Woodside, CA where he played football as a Woodside Wildcat.

Patrick excelled with his

pursuits in life. He always had a mind for business. As a child, Patrick would wear suits to grammar school. In 1969, Patrick opened his first business, the Nairobi Cleaners, located in East Palo Alto, CA with his partner, Steve Smothers. They operated te cleaners for five years.

In 1974, Patrick moved to Hawaii where he continued his entrepreneurial endeav-

ors. He moved to New York in 1980, and finally returned to California in 1990. In 1992, Patrick began dating his soulmate, Sue Kepney. They married in 2002 ad has spent the last 17 years happily married.

Patrick worked for Free At Last in 1991. He founded Brock & Co. in 1992, and The Start Up Entrepreneurship Program, which later devel- continued on page 12

## Fred R. Dorn - March 28, 1940 - December 25, 2019



Fred Dorn

Fred Dorn, a resident of East Palo Alto for 35 years, died on Christmas Day, 2019, of heart failure.

Fred was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and grew up in Houston, Texas.

After graduating from the University of Texas with a BA In Anthropology, Fred joined the Peace Corps in 1965

where he met his wife, Midge. He taught English and learned to read and write Thai in a small town in northern Thailand.

When he returned to the United States, he became a technical writer for many years for several Bay Area technology companies. He retired in 2001.

Fred also enjoyed being in productions at Menlo Players

Guild including Bus Stop, Once Upon a Mattress and Annie Get Your Gun.

He particularly loved performing in musicals and sang the songs often at home.

He had many interests including photography, music, ham radios and electronics including building computers and traveling to Mexico to study Spanish.

He also loved his family

and they enjoyed spending time together, sharing lots of laughter.

In 2017 Fred and Midge moved to Davis, California..

In the last year, he had several falls eventually leading to his death.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years and his daughters, Lisa and Erin.

## Ollie Hamel -January 10, 1918 - November 29, 2019



Ollie Hamel was born to the parents of Mr. Louis and Mrs. Emma James, Sr, on January 10, 1918 in Oklahoma. She was the youngest of five children.

In the late 1940's, Ollie Married Lionel Hamel, Jr. in California.

Ollie was known for her kindness and was loved dearly by her husband, cousins, extended family and friends. Ollie spent the last four years of her life in a nursing home where the staff expressed what a kind lady she was and that she never complained.

Ollie leaves to cherish many wonderful memories her husband, Lionel Hamel; cousins: Carl Walker, Kermit Walker and Jo Neatha Bass; sisters-in-law, Bobbie Sue Melton (Robert) and Betty Glass (Kenneth); brother-in-law Clarence Hamel (Charleen); several nieces

and nephews, and other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, Louis James, Jr. and Milton James, and sisters, Dora Stroud and Rhodie James.



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# Lifecycles

## Recognized for outstanding community contributions

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

It was, indeed, an honor to introduce Pastor Paul Bains as the recipient of a Black Legend Award this past February 15 at the Hammer Theater in San Jose, when he was inducted into the Silicon Valley Black Legends Hall of Fame.

Pastor Bains is known in the community as the founder of the St. Samuels Church of God in Christ and the co-founder with his wife Cheryl Bains, of Project WeHOPE.

As a member of the Class of 2020, he was one of 10 recipients of the award, which is given annually to outstanding Black

Americans, living in Silicon Valley, who have made recognizable contributions to their communities, while showing professional excellence, leadership and a genuine concern for those around them.

As a recipient of the award, myself, in 2018, it was a personal thrill to both  
continued on page 10



Photo by Elizabeth Jackson

Pastor Paul Bains addresses the audience after his induction into the Black Legends Hall of Fame on February 15, 2020 in San Jose, CA. Henrietta J. Burroughs, who introduced him at the event, stands at the far right.

## Deacon Ray Leon Mitchell - August 25, 1938 - December 10, 2019



Deacon Ray Leon Mitchell

Deacon Ray Leon Mitchell was born on Aug. 25, 1938 to Francis Cain and Rayfield Mitchell in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was the second oldest of eight children.

Deacon Mitchell attended Booker T. Washington High school in Louisiana until he left and went into the Navy.

While stationed at Moffet Field in Mountain View, CA he met and married Alberta McGee. To this union, three children were born; Donald, Latonia Yvette and Xylidine Denine.

They traveled around the world for the next sixteen years and eventually settled down in East Palo, CA In

1974, he retired after 20 years of Navy service. A year later in 1975, he went to work for the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Palo Alto, CA where he worked for 20 years.

He later joined Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist church where he became an ordained Deacon, Sunday

School Superintendent, Sunday School teacher and Vice-Chairman of the Deacon Board. Deacon Mitchell was a very faithful member and worked hard for the church and loved every minute of it. No one or anything could change his mind

continued on page 12

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# How to avoid the flu

By Dr. John Chang

A sore throat. A headache. Body aches. A persistent cough. We've all had those symptoms and it's easy to immediately chalk it up to a common cold. But what if it's a more serious virus, like the flu?

Last year's widespread influenza season was the longest in 10 years, lasting 21 weeks and infecting more than 37 million Americans. Preliminary results estimate the flu killed between 36,400 and 61,200 people, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It also resulted in nearly 650,000 hospitalizations.

As winter nears, consider these tips on how to help yourself and those around you manage the flu season.

1. Don't wait. Get vaccinated.

Flu season continues through the winter and well into spring. Getting a flu shot right away is a good step to help protect yourself, your



Photo courtesy United Healthcare

family and those around you. To find a list of flu vaccine providers near you, visit the CDC's Flu Vaccine Finder. Keep in mind that it will take your body about two weeks after vaccination to develop protection against flu.

2. Avoid spreading germs.

To help avoid spreading germs, wash your hands regularly and cover your mouth (with the inside of your elbow, not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. A sneeze ejects 100,000 viral particles into the air that can travel 200 feet.

3. Feeling symptoms? Check it out.

If you think you might

convenience care retail clinic or urgent care clinic, or schedule a virtual visit. Treatment for any viral illness starts with lots of rest, liquids and acetaminophen or aspirin (though aspirin should not be given to children).

People who are very sick or at high risk for serious flu complications may be treated with antiviral drugs such as oseltamivir, commonly known by the brand name Tamiflu. Your primary care physician can assess whether an antiviral medication is right for you.

4. If you're sick, stay home.

If you suspect you have the flu, stay home to prevent

spreading it to others. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others one day before symptoms appear and up to seven days after becoming sick.

5. Know your risk level.

The flu is of greatest concern for the very young, the very old or those with co-existing medical conditions. Here are some examples of groups at risk and the steps they should consider taking when symptoms begin:

- Pregnant women should contact their obstetricians to report their symptoms.

- People with diabetes, particularly those using insulin who develop difficult-to-control glucose levels, should

contact their physician at first symptoms of the flu.

- Those with weakened immune systems should alert their physician of their flu symptoms.

- Those experiencing an increasing shortness of breath, especially people with chronic asthma or heart failure, should go to an emergency room for treatment.

Symptoms of a cold are often similar to the flu. Make sure you know what to look for and when it's time to see a doctor or go to an urgent care clinic before it becomes serious.

Dr. John Chang is a senior medical director for United Healthcare.

## Recognized



nominate him for the award and introduce him at the Black Legend Awards ceremony as a member of the East Palo Alto community, whose work has benefitted and is still benefitting so many in the Bay Area.

Some in the East Palo Alto community might remember that Pastor Bains and his brother started Bains Moving Company in the early 80's and grew its revenues to three million dollars annually.

Pastor Bains later started-Bains Facility Moving, which grew into a five million dollar company.

Then in 1999, he and

Cheryl turned their attention to the plight of East Palo Alto's youth and started Project We-HOPE to address, youth violence, gang prevention and truancy.

Next, he opened House of Hope, a reentry home for men leaving the criminal justice system.

In 2010, after starting a discussion with community leaders to address homelessness, Pastor Bains opened the first and only emergency warming shelter, which two years later stayed open year-round.

Many local residents have received spiritual and emotional support during personally, difficult times because of the police chaplaincy programs that he started in East Palo Alto and Mountain View.

Through the Dignity on Wheels mobile van, which is connected to Project We-HOPE, the homeless in four area counties and 14 local cities now have access to showers, laundry facilities and restrooms.

Most recently, Pastor Bains collaborated with the City of East Palo Alto to start the RV Safe Parking Program to assist RV dwellers, who park their ve-

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hicles on East Palo Alto streets.

Those who've heard him speak have probably heard him say, "None of us is as strong as all of us."

When asked what advice he would give to students, he listed three things:

- \*Work hard and form relationships with lots of people.

- \*Relationships can be the basis of changing a community.

- \*Always do your best to find the best in everyone.

Inducted into the Silicon Valley Black Legends Hall of Fame with Pastor Bains, who received the Harris-Washington Spiritual Award, were: Bryan Monroe, for his contributions in journalism; Robert Poynter - education; Joseph F. Bass - public service; Steve Jackson - business and entrepreneurship; Antoinette McCoy - S.T.E.M; Dr. Edward Anderseb - health and medicine; Ulysses Beasley - law and justice; Betty Ann Howard - community service and, posthumously, Cozetta Gray Guinn, who received the art/theater/music award.

The Community Organization Award went to the San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild.

See more photos and get additional information at the Black Legends Hall of Fame website: <https://www.blacklegendsawards.org>

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# Be counted in the 2020 Census

By Evelyn Benitez



Evelyn Benitez

Nine questions will shape the lives of everyone for the next ten years. The highways you took for today's commute; The child care that your kids, siblings, or cousins attend; The free or reduced lunch program given to students from K-12; The financial aid deposit or check you will receive within the next couple of weeks to help finance your college education. All of the resources mentioned are significantly dependent on the data collected from the US Census.

The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, along with other organizations, are promoting the importance of the 2020 Census to ensure that

those living in San Mateo County receive the proper funding for essential resources. Legal Aid will also be providing legal support to other organizations in San Mateo County who are working in Census outreach.

I decided to work for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County because I understand the systemic issues that many marginalized communities, mainly persons of low-income and color, endure. Majoring in Political Science at UC Berkeley has opened my eyes to see how inequality tends to function

along racial and class lines, manifesting in the context of wealth, income, social mobility, political power, education, and discrimination in the US. Ultimately, I decided to apply for the project coordinator position at Legal Aid because I want to help members of my community with legal issues that disproportionately impact them. I chose to take an active role with the 2020 Census because I wanted to ensure that those living in San Mateo County do not miss their opportunity in receiving equal representation. I hope to increase the politi-

cal power of groups who have historically been undercounted and, consequently, underrepresented.

Why does the Census Matter?

The 2020 Census will play a vital role in determining the apportionment of the House of Representatives and how states and local districts are drawn. In other words, the results of the Census will dictate how California is represented politically. The number of seats in the House has not changed since 1911. If one state gains

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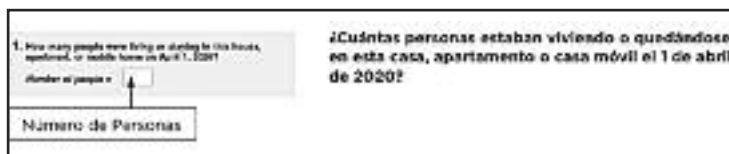
## Hágase contar en el Censo 2020

Por Evelyn Benitez

Nueve preguntas darán forma a la vida de todos los que viven en los Estados Unidos durante los próximos diez años. Las carreteras que tomaste para el viaje de hoy; El cuidado infantil al que asisten sus hijos, hermanos o primos; El programa de almuerzo gratis o reducido para estudiantes de K-12; El depósito o cheque de ayuda financiera que recibirá en las próximas semanas para ayudarlo a financiar su educación universitaria.

Todos los recursos mencionados dependen significativamente de los datos recopilados del Censo de los Estados Unidos. La Sociedad de Asistencia Legal del Condado de San Mateo, junto con otras organizaciones, están promoviendo la importancia del Censo 2020 para garantizar que las personas que viven en el Condado de San Mateo reciban los fondos adecuados para los servicios esenciales. La Sociedad de Asistencia Legal también proporcionará apoyo legal a otras organizaciones en el Condado de San Mateo que están trabajando en el Censo 2020.

Decidí trabajar para la Sociedad de Asistencia Legal del Condado de San Mateo porque entiendo los problemas sistémicos que muchas comunidades marginadas, principalmente personas de bajos ingresos y color, padecen. Haber estudiado Ciencias Políticas en UC Berkeley me ha abierto los ojos para ver cómo la desigualdad funciona en líneas raciales y de clase, manifestándose en el



courtesy of <https://www2.census.gov/>

contexto de riqueza, ingresos, movilidad social, poder político, educación y discriminación en los Estados Unidos. Finalmente, decidí trabajar en La Sociedad de Asistencia Legal porque quiero ayudar a los miembros de mi comunidad con problemas legales que los afectan desproporcionadamente.

Elegí ayudar con en el Censo 2020 porque quería asegurarme de que las personas que viven en el condado de San Mateo no pierdan la oportunidad de recibir una representación equitativa. Espero aumentar el poder político de los grupos que históricamente no han sido contados y, en consecuencia, subrepresentados.

### ¿Por Qué es Importante?

El Censo 2020 desempeñará la determinación de la distribución de la Cámara de Representantes y cómo se dibujan los estados y los distritos locales. En otras palabras, los resultados del Censo dictarán la representación política de California. El número de representantes en la Cámara no ha cambiado desde 1911. Si un estado gana un representante, vendrá al costo de que otro estado pierde un representante. Por esta razón, el recuento exacto de todas las personas que viven en California es crucial. Participando en el Censo 2020

ayudará a que California reciba representación equitativa.

El Censo también ayudará a dictar la cantidad de fondos que recibe California. Los datos del Censo se utilizan para asignar \$675 mil millones entre los estados, de los cuales

California recibe más de \$76 mil millones (más información: <https://cmo.smcgov.org/census-2020-outreach-recursos>).

El dinero que recibe California sirve para mantener los servicios y recursos que muchos de nosotros usamos diariamente. Específicamente, la construcción y reparación de autopistas, cuidado infantil y programas Head Start y WIC, asistencia educativa, vivienda de bajo recursos y asistencia nutricional, son solo

algunos de los muchos recursos que dependen en los datos del Censo.

Para garantizar que California conserve la financiación adecuada para los servicios esenciales mencionados, es necesario que todos, independientemente de su edad, estado migratorio o antecedentes penales, participen en el Censo 2020.

### Servicios de Asistencia Legal

La Sociedad de Asistencia Legal del Condado de San Mateo provee apoyo legal a los residentes de bajos ingresos en el Condado de San Mateo. Nosotros proveemos defensa legal contra el desalojo y asistencia en superar las barreras legales a la atención de salud. La Sociedad de Asistencia Legal también ayuda a la población de adultos mayores con una variedad de problemas como el abuso de ancianos, leyes del consumidor y cobro de deudas, el acceso a beneficios

continúa en la página 13

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# Be counted

continued from page 11

a seat, it will come at the cost of another state losing a seat. For this reason, the accurate count of all people living in California is crucial. Participating in the Census is the only way to ensure that California receives equal representation by taking California's changing demographics and growing population into account.

The Census also dictates the amount of funding California receives and how that funding is allocated. The Census data is used to allocate \$675 billion among states, of which California receives more than \$76 billion (more information: <https://cmo.smcgov.org/census-2020-outreach-resources>).

The funding California re-



Courtesy of <https://cmo.smcgov.org/census-2020-san-mateo-county>

ceives serves to maintain the services and resources that many of us use daily. Specifically, the construction and repair of highways, child care and Head Start and WIC programs, educational assistance, affordable housing, and nutritional assistance are only some of the many resources that are heavily dependent on Census data. To ensure that California preserves the appropriate funding for the essential services mentioned above, it is necessary that

everyone- regardless of age, immigration status, or criminal history- participate in the 2020 Census.

### Legal Aid's Services

The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County provides legal support to low-income residents in San Mateo County. We provide eviction defense and assistance with overcoming the legal barriers to healthcare.

Legal Aid also helps its senior population with an array of issues ranging from elder abuse, consumer law and debt collection, access to government benefits (e.g.,

Social Security, SSI, Medicaid), and advanced health directives. We also assist the immigrant community by providing legal support with VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), U VISA (immigration relief for crime survivors), SIJS (immigration relief for minor survivors of parental abuse, neglect, or abandonment), and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) petitions. Additionally, Legal Aid improves the well-being of San Mateo residents by educating them on the different public benefits they qualify for, regardless of immigration status, and connecting to agencies that can assist them with the enrollment process.

The Legal Aid Society of

San Mateo County is committed to ensuring that members of the most vulnerable communities are counted in the 2020 Census. We are grateful to be working alongside many invested organizations based in San Mateo County. We will do our part in empowering members of marginalized communities to take part in the 2020 Census.

For Census related questions, fears, or concerns, please contact our designated Census hotline at (650) 517-8940.

You count!

**Evelyn Benitez** is the project coordinator for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County and a member of JobTrain's Census Action Team.

## Patrick Emanuel Brock



Photo courtesy of the Brock Family  
Patrick Brock stands with Terrible Tom as he is inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame.

oped into the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center in East Palo Alto, San Jose and San Francisco, CA.

Patrick was very involved with community work and activities in East Palo Alto, CA. He assisted with Children's Day for 25 years, as well as the Reading Rainbow program.

Patrick is well-known for organizing East Palo Alto's yearly Blues Festival. He was inducted into the Blues Hall of

Fame as a Blues Promoter. At his demise, Patrick wore many hats in the community. They include: president of the Belle Haven Chamber of Commerce, liaison for

development projects and property manager.

He was involved with the revitalization of East Palo Alto not only with the city but through The Sobrato Organization, Sandhill Property Company and Brock and Company, a non-profit.

The "Boss" has left East Palo Alto and taken with him the happiness he brought to so many of us. He was one of six children of Ozella and Joseph Brock, both de-

ceased. Richmond Milton Brock, Sr.

Patrick leaves in this life to cherish his memories, his beloved wife, Karen Sue Kepney Brock of East Palo Alto, CA. He leaves behind a brother Luther,

sisters Ashah Al-Amin, Mona Lisa, a sister Bernardine (deceased) and brother Milton (deceased). His children Antoine, Waynette, Gee (deceased), Alisha, Patrick, Jr. and Cristian are tasked

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with continuing the legacy.

He also leaves his two best friends, Court Skinner and Owen Byrd and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends.

"He did not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it."

## Deacon Mitchell

continued from page 8

about his walk with Christ. He loved his family and sometimes would work two jobs to send his children to school.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and one brother. He leaves to cherish his memories - his loving wife of 58 years Alberta Mitchell; son-Donald Mitchell of San Jose, daughters - Latonia Yvette Mitchell of East Palo Alto and Xylidine Denine Mitchell of Sunnyvale; two sisters - Mary Ann Graham and Denise Johnson of Dallas, TX and one brother Troy Johnson of Dallas, TX; six

grandchildren - Elisha Mitchell, Tandra Mitchell, Niko Mavrakakis, Patrick Mitchell, Isaiah Mitchell, Destiny Mitchell and two great grandchildren.

He also leaves behind a mother-in-law, brother in law Earl McGee who was like a brother to him, three God children: Ainsley and Adrienne Hargest of Minnesota, Rickey Whitfield of Pennsylvania; two foster sons: Johnnie and John Earl Hill and a host of brother and sister in-laws who loved him very much along with other family members and friends.

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# Free community space

continued from page 1

for the Community Space on January 23, with an evening reception for CZI's existing partners, grantees and local government officials at the space's newly renovated facilities at 801 Jefferson Avenue in Redwood City.

In talking about the space, Dr. Priscilla Chan -- co-founder of CZI with her husband, Mark Zuckerberg -- explained its existence by pointing to CZI's goal of helping organizations to tackle some of the most critical issues facing our local communities and CZI's "broader work in education, disease research, housing affordability, and criminal justice reform."

Dr. Chan said that she believes CZI's work begins in its own backyard. So, it is opening its Community Space to local organizations that are in their own way supporting each other and leading efforts to strengthen their communities.



Photo by Henrietta J. Burroughs  
United Way Bay Area was the first organization to hold a meeting at the CZI Community Space on February 13, 2020. The meeting was a Census 2020 training session for select San Mateo County nonprofits.

In a one-on-one interview held the morning of the grand opening, Dr. Chan described the vision that she had for CZI when it started.

"Well, four years ago, we envisioned that we would be doing this ... bringing together people from different backgrounds. I will tell you we are in the phase ... [where] we have in these four walls and beyond our four walls ... a network of people from all

different walks of life, and we're in the [place]... where it's like, that's amazing!"

As the child of refugees, who came to America from Vietnam, Dr. Chan became tearful when the subject turned to children, the need to improve the plight of those in this country, who lack basic resources and opportunities, and the challenge we all face in dealing with different perspectives.

She talked about the importance of collaboration and said, "For us, it's being creative, bringing together, ... acknowledging that there's no one solution, and [asking] 'How can we work together to actually build a better future, cure disease, educate the whole child, build a more just society? And for me, that means, ... realizing that ... each person ... as talented and as skilled as they are ... gets to see one piece of the puzzle. You get to bring one set of experiences, resources to solve the problem. But it's sort of like that cartoon where everyone's feeling the elephant, and they're saying like, it's a tail, or it's a foot or whatever it is, we need to come together and realize that it's an elephant.'"

For Dr. Chan and CZI's staff, the CZI Community Space will fulfill its mission by bringing individuals and groups together to share their

thoughts, their goals and their dreams in the spirit of collaboration.

According to Cristina Huezo, the director of CZI Community, the space is available for "educational trainings, convenings, collaborative meetings, and community programming," and it is hoped by CZI staff members that community organizations will take every opportunity to use the space.

If, you're now thinking of doing just that -- using the CZI Community Space, do be patient, because CZI is running a pilot program and is currently limiting the use of the Community Space to only a limited number of nonprofits. The space will be open to all eligible organizations in May 2020.

You can learn more about the CZI Community Space and see its membership requirements and space guidelines at [czicommunityspace.com](http://czicommunityspace.com).

## Hágase contar

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Graphic courtesy of <https://cmo.smcgov.org/census-2020-san-mateo-county>

del gobierno (por ejemplo, Seguridad Social, SSI, Medi-cal) y directivas de salud avanzadas. También ayudamos a la comunidad inmigrante con apoyo legal con VAWA (Ley de violencia contra las mujeres), U VISA (alivio de inmigración para sobrevivientes de delitos), SIJS (alivio de inmigración para sobrevivientes menores de abuso, negligencia o abandono de padres) y DACA (diferido Acción para los llegados en la infancia). Además, la Sociedad de Asistencia Legal mejora el bienestar de los residentes de San Mateo al educarlos sobre los diferentes beneficios públicos, independientemente del estado de inmigración, y conectar a individuos con agencias que le puede ayudar con el

proceso de inscripción.

### La Sociedad de Asistencia

Legal del Condado de San Mateo ayudará para que los miembros de las comunidades más vulnerables sean contados en el Censo 2020.

Estamos agradecidos de trabajar junto a muchas organizaciones en el condado de San Mateo que están dedicados al Censo 2020. Haremos nuestra parte para empoderar a los miembros de las comunidades marginadas para que participen en el Censo 2020.

Para preguntas, temores o inquietudes relacionadas con el Censo, comuníquese con nuestra línea directa del Censo al (650) 517-8940.

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# Community News Briefs

continued from page 3

ing the “my election info” button. While there, you can even see, under “Voter Registration,” the latest registration statistics, which are updated every two weeks.

## Upcoming local elections

The EPASD board election is turning out to be quite contentious with local residents weighing in online on all

sides, especially, in East Palo Alto community social media pages, where the new candidates running for the board are attacking the decisions made by the incumbents.

In all, six candidates are running for three seats positions on the sanitary board.

Those seats are currently held by Glenda R. Savage, Betsy Yanez and Goro Mitchell.

Mark Dinan, Edrick L.

Haggans, who has served on the board before, and Martha G. Stryker, the daughter of current board member, Dennis Scherzer) are seeking the three open seats.

Up for debate are charges by the incumbents of an EPASD budget surplus, secret rate hikes, the cost of replacement lateral sewer lines that might be passed on to homeowners and the

issue of whether there should be collaboration between the City of East Palo Alto and the East Palo Alto Sanitary District.

Some residents think that that collaboration was implied in the presentation that the EPASD’s Executive Director made to the East Palo Alto City Council at its regular meeting on February 18, 2020.

The presentation was the

first of its kind to the council by the EPASD. You can see the presentation online at the city’s website at <https://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/AgendaCenter>

You can read about the EPASD candidates at <https://votersedge.org/ca>, where you can also read about Proposition 13 - a measure that authorizes bonds for schools and colleges.

## Dear Stanford

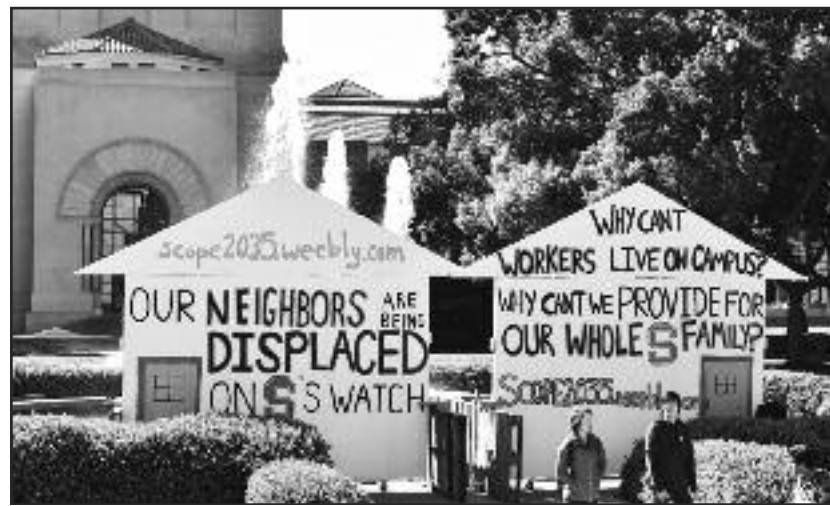


Photo by Nani Friedman

Groups of students vigorously protest the lack of housing for workers.

number of student housing units within its development

application, but to also contribute their “fair share” of

housing to largely overlooked populations in the housing discussion such as Stanford’s service workers and some of the most vulnerable populations in surrounding cities in the region (such as East Palo Alto residents) – who would no doubt be displaced, had this 3.5 million square foot project received a green light from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

As I expanded my research on “The Papers Project” being “temporarily” housed in a portable on Stan-

ford’s campus, I realized that there was a link between this situation and the university withdrawing its application for a 17-year expansion plan.

I realized that at the crux of both of these issues was/is Stanford’s unwillingness to build sufficient housing, much less its unwillingness to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable populations within their reach.

For this reason, I submit that perhaps Stanford can currently ignore the needs of the marginalized people which King fought for (like service workers and historically disenfranchised communities), because for decades,

continued from page 7

they have ignored the legacy of Dr. King, himself. If one does not honor a leader of marginalized people, he or she will not honor marginalized communities—for they are one and the same.

The reason that the building where “The Papers Project” is located can sit neglected for 34 years, is because it is indicative of the university’s priorities. Dear Stanford, Dr. King needs adequate and dignified housing, now. And so do the communities for which he fought.

Kyra Brown is an East Palo Alto resident, who is a regular contributor to the East Palo Alto Today newspaper.

## Every count matters

public. These kick-off events will inform the community about the resources Jobtrain offers regarding filling out the census and accessibility to its computer lab.

The time and location for the kick-off is to be determined. For information on these meetings go to [www.jobtrainworks.org](http://www.jobtrainworks.org).

Moreover, I am also making efforts to coordinate opportunities with local community-based organizations and churches to include census information presentations/ tabling on their weekly or monthly programs.

Foundation for a College Education, for instance, included my presentation on their agenda to talk about the importance of the census to their community on February 12, at the Community Church in East Palo Alto.

I have also engaged and established a relationship with the local priest of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Father Lawrence Goode.

Father Goode invited me to speak about the importance of the census to his congregation during the 11:30 am mass on February 2, 2020. He also invited me to speak with the homeless community his church serves on the fifth of February..

In addition, my JobTrain duties required my attendance at such regional meetings as the Pacific Islander Complete Count Committee (PICCC) and the Latino/a Complete Count Committee (LCCC): meetings held to establish better communication, share best practices, offer support, and network with different partners.

I hope to gain more understanding of the communities in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven by attending more such meetings, like the one held on Tuesday, January 14, by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors which allowed me to show support for the county’s resolution recognizing the importance of the 2020

Together, we can ensure that our community receives the resources it needs.



Learn more at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

Courtesy of <https://2020census.gov/>

Census.

This resolution was sponsored by Supervisor Canepa and Supervisor Horsley. Lastly, I was interviewed on the EPA Center for Community Media’s television show, Talking With Henrietta, about the importance and challenges of the 2020 Census.

Fears and misconceptions about the census in our current political climate have surfaced throughout California. JobTrain hopes to minimize such fears in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven by educating the community about the confidentiality involved with the census and the imp-

continued from page 7

portance of engaging more with trusted CBOs.

The census will not ask anyone anything regarding their citizenship status. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share your information with anyone, including Homeland Security, FBI, CIA, ICE, landlords, and other government agencies.

Your confidentiality is protected by law under Title 13 of the U.S. Code!

JobTrain will continue to collaborate with local and regional partners in order to reach and empower the community to participate in the 2020 Census.

I am committed and plan to continue the outreaching efforts on the census.

For more information and to book a presentation on Census 2020, contact me via email: [wmanuofetoa@jobtrainworks.org](mailto:wmanuofetoa@jobtrainworks.org) or call me at (650)-330-6462.

**Walter Manuofetoa** is the U.S. Census Community Outreach Specialist at JobTrain in Menlo Park



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Election Day - March 3, 2020

Before the day, see candidates, issues, voting centers and other information at:

<https://votersedge.org/ca> and at <https://www.smcacre.org/elections>

### City of East Palo Alto meetings at 2415 University Avenue - March 2020

**Tues., March 3, 2020 6:30 p.m.**  
City Council - Regular Meeting

**Mon., March 9, 2020 7:00 p.m.**  
Planning Commission - Regular Meeting

**Tues., March 17, 2020 6:30 p.m.**  
City Council - Regular Meeting

**Wed., Mar 18, 2020 - 12 p.m.**  
Public Works & Transportation Committee - Regular Meeting

**Mon., Mar 23, 2020 7:00 p.m.**  
Planning Commission - Regular Meeting

### Other Events

**East Palo Alto Community Farmers' Market**  
**Wed, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020 - 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
Ravenswood Family Health Center, 1885 Bay Rd  
East Palo Alto, CA

**Bookmobile Stop**  
**Sat, March 7, 2020 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
The Home Depot, 1781 E Bayshore Rd  
East Palo Alto, CA

**Women of Color Conference - Sat., March 7, 2020 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1950 University Circle, East Palo Alto**  
Second Annual Economic Development Conference of women entrepreneurs of African Ancestry building their businesses locally, regionally and globally. Go to eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/2S4Jwco>

**Master Preserver Workshop: Pickling**  
**Sat., March 7, 2020**

See more community calendar events at the website for the East Palo Alto Today newspaper [www.epatoday.org](http://www.epatoday.org)

Collective Roots Community Garden, 1785 Woodland Ave  
East Palo Alto, CA

**Copy of Recovery 101: An Introduction to Strength...**  
**Tues., March 10, 2020 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

A workshop for Lived Experience Workers, peers, volunteers and community members  
The Barbara A. Mouton Multicultural Wellness Center, 903 Weeks St. - East Palo Alto, CA

**Bookmobile Stop**  
**Sat, March 11, 2020 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**  
University Square Park, 1956 McNair St,  
East Palo Alto

## Talking with Henrietta

Explaining the 2020 Census



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta  
From left, Walter Manuofetoa, Jonathan Garcia, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Ruben Avila sit on the set after the show taping on Thursday, February 13, 2020.

This show can be seen on Channel 30 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet at the days and times below until Fri. February 28 on Sundays@5 p.m., Mondays@2 p.m., Tuesdays@8 p.m., Wednesdays@2 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thursdays@8 p.m., Fridays@3:00 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

Talking with Henrietta also appears on Channel 27 on Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Get more information about this show on the East Palo Alto Today website at [www.epatoday.org/tv.html#explainingthecensus](http://www.epatoday.org/tv.html#explainingthecensus)

## Keep Community Media Alive



Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media and its media outlets by making a tax deductible donation and by purchasing one or more **T-shirts for \$15.00 each** (sm., med., large and x large), and one or more **water bottles for \$10.00 each**. See more ways to support the center's programs below.

## Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

The East Palo Alto Today newspaper is published by the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, a nonprofit agency that was formed in January 2003 to create media outlets in East Palo Alto and provide the type of positive, relevant information about the community that is not easily found elsewhere. If you like what you see in East Palo Alto Today, then we ask that you enable us to serve the community better. You can do this by completing the partnership card below and mailing it with your tax deductible donation which will go directly to the center's media efforts. You can read more about the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media online at [www.epamedia.org](http://www.epamedia.org). You can also donate to the center at the EPA Today and the EPA Media websites. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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Yes, I am interested in becoming a partner with the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media. Please accept my tax-deductible donation as a personal contribution \_\_\_\_\_ or as a contribution on behalf of my organization \_\_\_\_\_.

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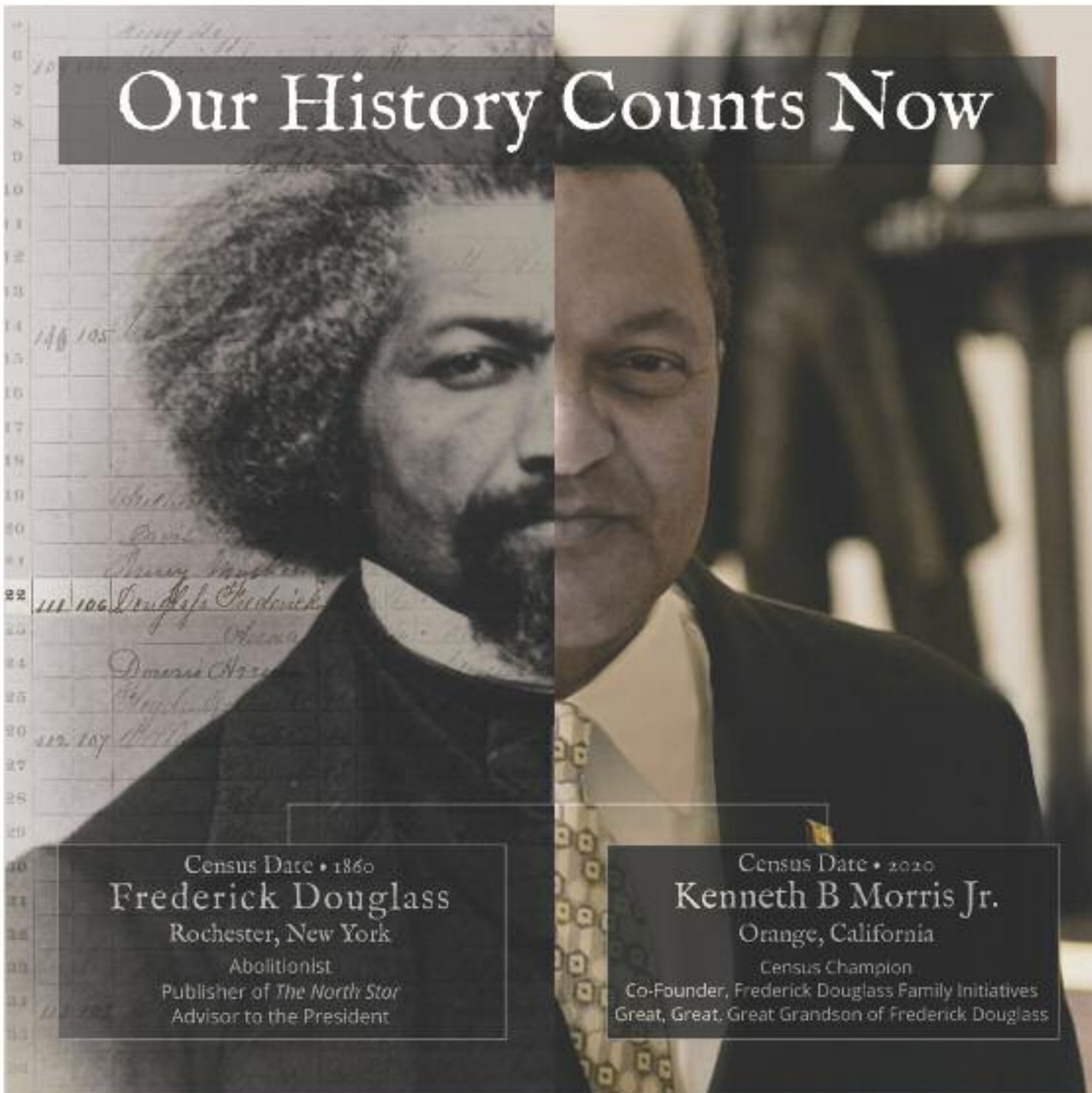
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\*The East Palo Alto Center for Community Media is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation - CA # 20-1415500

Mail donations to:

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# Our History Counts Now

Census Date • 1860  
**Frederick Douglass**  
 Rochester, New York  
 Abolitionist  
 Publisher of *The North Star*  
 Advisor to the President

Census Date • 2020  
**Kenneth B Morris Jr.**  
 Orange, California  
 Census Champion  
 Co-Founder, Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives  
 Great, Great, Great Grandson of Frederick Douglass

## A complete history begins with a fully counted people.

At a time when millions of his people were counted as three-fifths a person, Frederick Douglass, declared himself a whole human being and counted himself and his family in the 1860 Census.

One hundred and sixty years later Douglass' descendant Kenneth Morris Jr. will make sure he's counted in the 2020 Census. As a Census Champion, he understands the importance of being counted.

Our ancestors are counting on us and so is the future. We're counting for ourselves, our families, and our community. This includes the elderly, the system impacted, and our neighbors struggling to secure housing.

Count the past, the present, and the future by counting you and yours this spring.



Visit [cacensus.org](http://cacensus.org) for more information.