



Sojourn to the Past page 10



Saying goodbye to Eli page 8



Hope House: a place for second chances page 9

# East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



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East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

November - December 2007

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## Inside News



Mayor Pat Foster

**A new mayor is elected.** After weeks of debate, the East Palo Alto City Council amended a resolution and elected its new mayor. See page 3.

**Picking up awards:** East Palo Alto non-profits and other Bay Area organizations picked up awards during the YMCA Activate America luncheon. See page 2.



Belinda Hernandez and Jade Jackson



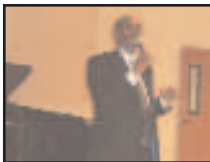
Sen. Barack Obama during a local campaign stop.

**Closing the gap.** Senator Barack Obama is making big strides in his presidential campaign.

Find out what some of his campaign supporters are doing locally. page 3.

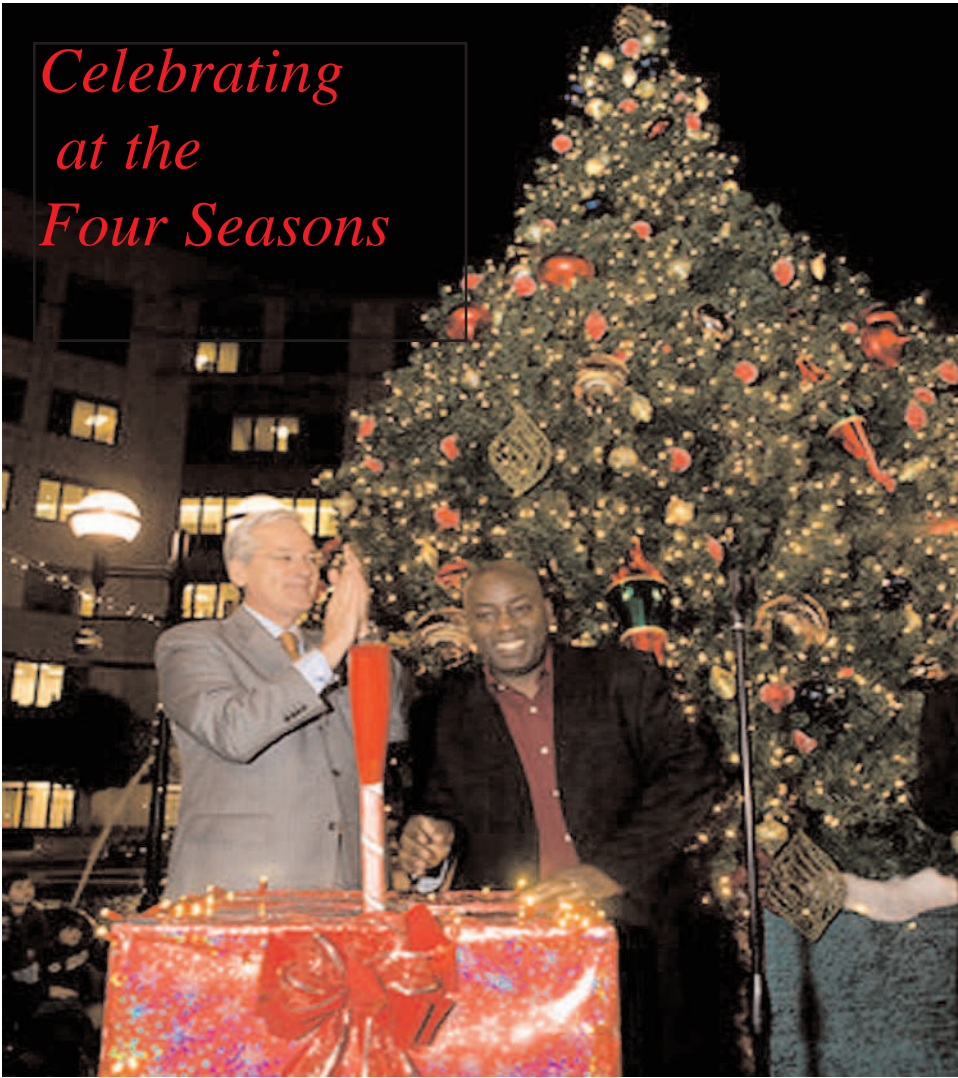
**Given a new lease on life.**

The Rev. Dr. Isaiah Jones literally came back from a death sentence. See story on page 8.



Rev. Isaiah Jones

## Celebrating at the Four Seasons



The Four Seasons General Manager Tracy Mercer applauds as City Council member David Woods, who was then East Palo Alto's mayor lights the Community Tree

## Retorno al Remitente

Por Candice Greenberg  
trans. Victor Ramirez  
EPA Today Contributors

La Agencia de Enfozamiento de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE) del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional ha estado ejecutando redadas argumentablemente inconstitucionales involucrando el arresto y remoción de inmigrantes indocumentados a lo largo del Área de la Bahía.

Estas redadas hacen parte de lo que llaman el programa "Operación

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## Return to Sender

By Candice Greenberg  
EPA Today Contributor

The Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been engaging in arguably unconstitutional raids involving the arrest and removal of undocumented immigrants throughout the Bay Area. These raids are part the so-called "Operation Return to Sender" program. These raids should worry us all, immigrant and citizen alike, because of ICE's flagrant

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## Some EPA tenants get huge increases

By Jeanne Merino and Victor Ramirez  
EPA Today Contributors

Hundreds of tenants of East Palo Alto's mega-landlord, Page Mill Properties, have received notices increasing rents by hundreds of dollars. Many of the rent increases

are for 18%, 20%, or 25% of current rent, and even higher in some instances.

Page Mill Properties is the biggest owner of residential rental properties in the city. Over the last year and a half, Page Mill Properties has acquired numerous proper-

ties, all on the west side of town. Page Mill currently owns nearly 1500 units; nearly one-half of the rental units in the city.

"I don't know exactly how many families have received these huge rent increases" said Victor Ramirez, a para-

legal at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, "but judging from the number of phone calls we have received, I think it could be hundreds, potentially thousands of families if Page Mill is increasing the rents on all

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## City pays church for new water line

By Dana Tom  
EPA Today Intern

The East Palo Alto City Council agreed to reimburse the Faith Missionary Baptist Church the maintenance fees for the newly installed eight-inch water line that now lies underground in the street in front of the church. The



Photo courtesy of Dana Tom  
East Palo Alto resident Lorraine Holmes addresses the East Palo Alto City Council during the council's meeting on December 3.

Council authorized the \$21,000 to the church after a 4:1 vote at the City Council

meeting on Thursday, December 4th. The city was obligated to

reimburse the church for \$37,000 for the water pipe installation, according to Water Line Reimbursement Agreement, which was passed on May 20, 2003. However, the agreement did not specify about the ongoing maintenance fees that the church is now facing.

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## Inside

Editorial  
News Briefs  
Opinions  
TV Listings  
Youth News

# A chat with the city's police chief

By Dana Tom  
EPA Today Intern

At the "Chat with the Chief" meeting on Monday, November 5, Police Department Chief Ronald Davis addressed the Police Department's goal to continue to reduce crime in East Palo Alto. He also discussed various solutions to reduce crime that he and audience members proposed.

Davis presented fourth quarter of the year crime statistics and compared them to the 2006 fourth quarter of the year.

At that time there were 6 homicides and 57 armed assaults. Davis emphasized the importance of a strong

legal and community force to decrease crime rates in the East Palo Alto. In beginning the meeting, Davis explained that the cameras that surrounded the meeting room, were filming a commercial which would help recruit police officers for the East Palo Alto Police Department.

Although the hiring process is rigorous and many police officers are rejected by the department, Davis said that the number of applicants applying for police positions is low in the Bay Area.

"When you join the East Palo Alto Police Department," Davis told his audience, "You join more than the police department, you join a diverse, active, collaborative

and supportive community."

Davis then talked about the last October's press conference which was held in East Palo Alto with the California Attorney General Jerry Brown. He explained that the conference was held to update Brown about the effectiveness of several police and community projects that were designed to decrease crime among various groups in EPA.

Davis cited as an example, a group from the Pacific Islander community which recently successfully collaborated with other groups and rallied families at local churches to peacefully demand a ceasefire between two opposing groups.

Davis also explained his use of "the 3 C's, which he said includes "city leadership government collaboration, and community." He said that if one of these components is missing, then the crime reduction projects would not be as effective, and he stressed the importance of community participation in the effort to reduce crime.

Several audience members suggested methods of reducing the youth crime rate, including EPA resident Tommie Roberts, who said that 50 percent of the crime problems among youth are related to code enforcement. Roberts said that he notices the frequent congregations of teenagers on the street, and

he highlighted the police and the community's responsibility to "make these younger people feel proud of themselves" and to discourage their involvement in gangs.

EPA resident Rosemary Burgess pointed out the lack of community centers in the city. She said such centers once acted as a way to prevent gangs by giving the youth an alternative activity to attend after school and during the weekends. Davis agreed and emphasized that the police department would work to reinforce the gang prevention movement but that the community must also contribute.

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# East Palo Alto receives health award



Photo courtesy of Alice Ko

Belinda Hernandez, Debbie Schechter, Ruben Abrica, Pamela Reliford and Eli Cardenas

Representatives from East Palo Alto sat with 300 other groups from the Bay Area at the second annual Activate America Awards of Excellence luncheon which was held on November 30 at

the Marriott Hotel at Great America. Activate America is a national YMCA initiative that seeks to address the national health crisis.

The City of East Palo Alto was recognized for its efforts in creating the East Palo Alto Community Health Roundtable which brought attention to the city's health issues in a variety of ways.

East Palo Alto City Council

member Rubén Abrica received an award for his role in establishing the East Palo Alto Community Health Roundtable, a collaboration of local agencies, joined together to establish a common vision to work on addressing some of the health challenges faced by the greater East Palo Alto community.

According to Abrica, who is the chair of the roundtable, "Over 25 partners had been working hard to bring a series of activities to help communities of color develop healthier lifestyles."

Other award recipients

included the Ravenswood Family Health Center, which was represented by Belinda Hernandez and Jade Jackson.

Cobán Lopez, who serves as the membership director for the the East Palo Alto Family YMCA, also received an award for his work in the community.

Lopez was recently select-



Belinda Hernandez and Jade Jackson

ed as the Volunteer of the Year.

The Activate America Awards luncheon is an annual event. To find out more about Activate America, go to <http://www.ymca.net/activate/america>.


To learn more about the EPA Community Health Roundtable or its individual collaborative members, call Pamela Reliford, Recreation Services Supervisor with the City of East Palo Alto at (650) 853-5907 or e-mail her at [preliford@cityofepa.org](mailto:preliford@cityofepa.org).

Pamela Reliford contributed to this article.

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*To you, from us*

**Happy New Year!**

*East Palo Alto Today*

# News Briefs

## New mayor elected



Mayor Pat Foster

On December 3, the East Palo Alto City Council elected City Council member Patricia Foster as the city's new mayor. Foster's election came after weeks of sometimes heated debate over the meaning of Resolution 730 which stipulated the rules for the mayor's selection.

In the end, the majority of the five member council voted to change the wording of the resolution to allow the mayor to be elected by the majority vote of the council. The previous ordinance stated that there would be an annual rotation with the mayor's position going to the council member who had not served as mayor.

Donna Rutherford was elected as the vice mayor.

Without the modifications that were made to the previ-

ous ordinance, Council member A. Peter Evans would have automatically become mayor.

To give your comments on the election go to the EPA Today website at [www.epatoday.org](http://www.epatoday.org) and click on EPA Today's Online Blog.

## City loses its attorney

Long time city attorney Michael Lawson officially left his position with the City of East Palo Alto on December 7 to become Hayward's new city attorney in January.

Lawson served as East Palo Alto's attorney for 15 years.

In announcing his departure from the city, Lawson told EPA Today, "On a personal note, I have mixed feelings about leaving, because I have attachments with East Palo Alto.

"Hayward presents new opportunities that I welcome. I go into my new position with the city confident and humble that they're selected

me and I look forward to joining their team."

## Obama closes the gap



Sen. Barack Obama poses with EPA resident Patrick Brock and his grandson Marcelle.

Sen. Barack Obama's supporters are undoubtedly ecstatic that national polls show him closing the gap between himself and Democratic front-runner Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Obama's East Palo Alto supporters held their Obama Campaign Kick-off last month and they say that they are gearing up for the primary on February 5. For more information, contact Glenda Savage-Johnson

Team Coordinator CD14 Area1 at [glenrena@gmail.com](mailto:glenrena@gmail.com)

## OEPA elects new board members

On December 1, One East Palo Alto (OEPA), held both its annual membership meeting and its "Families in Motion" Holiday Party.

Those attending the combined event elected five candidates for OEPA's 2008 Board of Directors. All heard the "state of the organization" address given by OEPA staff members: Jacqueline Greely, Alisi Tulua-Tata, Julio Garcia, Kava Tulua and Finance Committee Chair, and Keisha Woods. The new and re-elected OEPA Board Members are: Maria-Teresa Fernandez, Soana T. Halapio, Rashid Herd, Bernardo Huerta, Art Lim, John Liotti, Angah Miessi, Ysedra Mustiful, Barbara Noparstak, Richard Tatum, Keisha Woods and Dee 'Uhila.

## Ravenswood City School District Honored

In recognition of its investment in transforming the lives of children with disabilities, the Ravenswood City School District was named inaugural recipient of the TASH Breakthrough in Education Award for the nation's Most Promising Inclusive School District. The school district was honored at the TASH 2007 annual meeting which was held Dec. 5-8 in Seattle.

TASH is an international organization that advocates for the inclusion of people with disabilities. The award recognizes the contributions

continued on page 15



Photo courtesy of Kara Baptiste Ravenswood City School District

# Belle Haven's 1st quarter honor role students

Honor Role students	Lorena Silva Kaleigh McNally Robbins Fredric Wynn Christian Soria Giovanna Hernandez Maria Valencia	Chris Guardado Nolvin Guerra Jennifer Mansilla Jessica Pacheco Faith Prince Anysleydi Ramos Adilene Ricardo	<b>4th grade</b> Sabrina Mataele Ronelle Jones Adrain Estrabo Yesenia Garnica Ricki Guzman Tania Miranda	Lute Leaatoa Nancy Rivera Daisy flores Hernandez Erika Andrade	Sophia Pizarro Analis Roman Solis	Edward Mora Annabell Ricardo Gabriela Capi Zamora
<b>Kindergarten</b> Andres Garcia Harmit Chahal Alan Molina Antonio Rangel Rafael Yepez Diana Martinez Laura Castillo Joanna Oseguera Siaosi Langi Felix Lopez	<b>1st grade</b> Giselle Garcia Vicky Tonga	<b>3rd grade</b> Juliana Parker Raven Powell Brenda Cachay Juan Godinez, Eunice Barrera	<b>5th grade</b> Alex Cruz Foai Sau German Estrella Julissa Churape	<b>6th grade</b> Giovanni Hernandez Erick Nunez Jerson Sanchez Amy Ayala Roman Mendoza Akanesi Manuofetoa	7th grade Ara Nolasco	Daniel Guerrero Uta Leaaetoa Amber Carillo Jose Carlos Garcia
	<b>2nd grade</b> Jesus Alvarado				8th grade Silvestre Arroyo Sonia Barrera Bryan Garcia Jessica Isais Magaly Miranda Shawntavia Mitchell	Submitted by <b>Bridget Matheson</b> Interim Community School Director Belle Haven

# City, County & State Government Meetings & Contacts

**East Palo Alto City Council**  
The City of 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: [www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us](http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us)

**East Palo Alto City Council Members**

**David E. Woods- Mayor**  
(650) 853-1907

**Patricia Foster- Vice Mayor**  
(650) 328-3944

**Ruben Abrica**  
(650) 321-4001

**A. Peter Evans -**  
(650) 321-1009

**Donna Rutherford**  
(650) 327-7926  
East Palo Alto

**Boards, Commissions, Committees**

Planning Commission  
Second and Fourth Monday

Rent Stabilization Board  
Second and Fourth Wednesday

Public Works & Transportation Commission  
First and Third Wednesday

Youth Advisory Committee  
First Thursday of each month

Senior Advisory Committee  
Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month - 6:30p.m. - City Hall.

**Menlo Park City Council**  
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. An agenda is posted in advance of the weekly meeting, and past agendas and minutes are filed by the date they were held. If you have questions about an agenda please call the City Clerk at 650.330.6620.

**Menlo Park City Council Members**

Kelly J. Fergusson -**Mayor**  
(650) 327-4533

Andrew M. Cohen - **Mayor Pro Tem**  
(650)327-5332

John C. Boyle  
(650)323-5438

Richard Kline  
(650) 228-5166

Heyward Robinson  
(650) 330-6631

**Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees**

Arts Commission  
Bicycle Commission  
Environmental Quality Commission  
Housing Commission  
Las Pulgas Committee  
Library Commission  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Planning Commission  
Transportation Commission

**San Mateo County Bd. of Supervisors**

**Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, Fourth District**

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets on February 7, 28 March 7, 14, 28, 2006 in the County Government Center: Hall of Justice & Records 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. Roll call at: 8a.m. 9a.m.

Regular & Consent Agenda Items.

**State Officials**

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-445-2841  
Fax: 916-445-4633  
Email: [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov)

**Assembly Member Ira Ruskin**  
District Address  
5050 El Camino Real Ste.117  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
650 691-2121

**Senator Joseph S. Simitian**  
District Address  
160 Town & Country Village  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
(650) 688-6384

## From the Editor's Desk

### The times are changing

Out with the old, in with the new. It will soon be that time when we look back on this year, remembering what gave us hope as we try to forget the things that make our lives more difficult.

Since the end of the year has not come yet, some might think it's too early to become philosophical.

As I think of the mission and the goals of East Palo Alto Today, I am reminded of a phone call I received a few months ago.

The call came shortly after an issue of East Palo Alto Today was distributed. The caller told me that he would not allow the paper to be distributed within his organization.

When I asked him why, he referred to a full page ad on the last page of the paper which warned readers about the devastating effect of AIDS.

The ad addressed the steps that one should take to protect oneself from the disease.

During our phone conversation, the caller said that he objected to the fact that the ad promoted the use of condoms and gave unmarried people, particularly teenagers, the idea that it was alright to have sexual relations before marriage.

I personally do not believe that the ad does any of these things. I told the caller that I was sorry that he would not allow EPA Today to be distributed inside his organization as long as the ad appeared. But we would continue to run the ad as long as the client wanted it to run.

Some of you have known people who've died of AIDS. You might even have relatives who are currently sick with the disease. If you know of someone with the dis-

ease, then you might be aware from first-hand experience of the pain and the grief that AIDS causes.

If giving a family member correct information could spare them from suffering, wouldn't you give it to them? We would.

We believe that information can be liberating. In fact, having the right information can be life saving. In some countries, millions of people have already died and thousands are dying daily. These are people who might have been saved if they had had access to facts and proper preventative care.

East Palo Alto Today was launched to give the residents of this community critical information that they can use to improve their lives. This is our mission and this is what we will continue to do: to dispense information and let people use it as they choose. We think the ad on page 16 provides our readers with lifesaving information, which they can use to protect their health as well as their lives.

To deny people information is to deny them a critical tool that they need to make wise choices about the issues that they face in everyday life.

We urge our readers to get information, seek truth, look for the facts, try to double check what you hear and what you read. Take responsibility for your life and use the information that you get wisely. The choices that you make now might just save your life and the life of someone you know and love.

Well, it is the season. On that note, we'd like to wish you a happy holiday filled with good cheer.



Henrietta J. Burroughs



## Letters in East Palo Alto Today

Support Barack Obama  
Dear Editor

As Americans, we dream of a President who is honest, personable, intelligent, and wise.

We want a leader with courage and integrity who has known the struggles of an everyday American. A lot of people have stopped believing that may even be possible.

I haven't stopped believing. I support Barack Obama because he is that leader.

This campaign for the president is unparalleled in history. Our need for an honest, fresh-thinking leader could not be more urgent.

Americans are hungry for change and Barack Obama will bring that change when he is elected.

We have less than 40 days before the start of the Democratic primaries and

caucuses, we need to act now.

Join me in supporting Barack by making a donation to my personal fundraising page:  
<http://my.barackobama.com/page/outreach/view/main/Janet4change>

Thanks,  
Janet Wells  
Palo Alto

"Faith-Based Initiative" in Iran  
Dear Editor

It's time for the president to stop his promotion of action against Iran. It's not fact-based. You could call it his "faith-based initiative." Other countries are enriching uranium, like China, yet we don't think this is a cause for war. Israel quietly built a nuclear arsenal, but we didn't demand inspections. (This was probably the original motive for both

Iraq and Iran's nuclear programs). Is nuclear know-how alarming? Japan has it, yet we are not alarmed.

Continuing to play "chicken" with Iran could lead us into yet another war, a disaster for those who have to fight it and die, and also for the already-spiraling deficits in the United States.

Look at the map: We already have Iraq a mess, with Syria and Jordan up to their ears in Iraqi refugees. Iraq is on one side of Iran. Afghanistan, on the other side of Iran, is sliding back into Taliban and warlord rule. Pakistan is in turmoil. How could getting sucked into another mess help anything?

Libya renounced its nuclear program through diplomacy. Let's repeat that success.

Gertrude Reagan  
Palo Alto



HOURS:		ABIERTO:
Monday-Thursday	8:30 am - 7:00 pm	Lunes - Jueves
Tuesday	1:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Martes
Fridays	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Viernes
Saturdays	8:30 am - 12:00 pm	Sabado

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### East Palo Alto Today

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**Editor:** Henrietta J. Burroughs  
**EPA Mentorship Director:** Julie Patel

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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, management or staff.

## Climate, social justice and faith

By Marianna Grossman Keller



Photo courtesy of Rachel Levy  
Marianna Grossman Keller

Floods of biblical proportion in East Palo Alto? Climate change is not just a distant threat, endangering polar bears in the Arctic. Global warming is an issue of social justice, because the poor are hurt more and flooded first.

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans portends what is to come, if we continue to spew carbon dioxide (CO2) and other green house gases into the atmosphere. More CO2 leads to more heat warming the air and the oceans, which in turn leads to changes in weather such as more severe storms and floods. The newly repaired levees in East Palo Alto won't be of much help if the sea level rises as polar ice melts. Immediate effects

of climate change include higher rates of asthma and more deaths from extreme heat and wildfires. Some farmers already see dust bowl conditions, as drier soil and fierce winds blow away topsoil, leading to higher food prices.

Scientists and religious leaders are calling us to face the urgency of the problem while there is still time to prevent the worst damage. As Pope Benedict XVI recently

said, [T]he human race must listen to the voice of the Earth or risk destroying its very existence." The Evangelical Environmental Network "urge(s) individual Christians and churches to be centers of creation's care and renewal, both delighting in creation as God's gift, and enjoying it as God's provision, in ways which sustain and heal the damaged fabric of the creation which God has entrusted to us." Action is the best antidote to anxiety.

The good news is that there is much that each of us can do individually and collectively. Churches are starting programs to distribute energy efficient light bulbs (CFLs) and to speak out for policies that will save energy and water. They are discovering that making their facilities

energy efficient saves money, too.

People of many faiths came together for the Mid-Peninsula Interfaith Convocation on Climate Action in Palo Alto on October 28th. A leading scientist of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC - awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Dec. 10th) reported on the status of climate science. Strategies and tools for actions to address the spiritual, moral and practical dimensions of the climate crisis were presented by the Reverend Sally Bingham, an Episcopal priest, founder of Interfaith Power and Light, and other speakers. There is a resource guide and video on the website . <http://interfaithconvocation.googlepages.com/home>.

Due to the enthusiastic response of participants, a new Peninsula/South Bay Working Group of Interfaith Power and Light will have its first meeting on January 17, 2008. Social justice and the climate are high on the agenda. People of all faith traditions and backgrounds are encouraged to join. Contact Marianna Grossman Keller at 650-424-or [Marianna@minervaconsulting.com](mailto:Marianna@minervaconsulting.com) for more information.

**Marianna Grossman Keller** chaired the Mid-Peninsula Interfaith Convocation on Climate Action. She is a Partner of Minerva Consulting for Sustainability and Innovation. She is a passionate advocate for building a sustainable society that is beneficial for both people and the planet.

## The Local Scene

By Court Skinner  
EPA Today Contributor

Pick up the surplus bread from Costco,  
Deliver it to Dr. Jay at Bread of Life,  
Stop and chat a bit about a generation gap, young parents  
Who focus more on shoes than discipline and matters of the heart and mind,  
About volunteers who don't know how to serve with a smile and a kind word,  
Those whose decisions have brought them to the point of needing a free meal,  
About the ignorance of board members,  
About research into a severely debilitating form of arthritis,  
About what happened to a culture that treated all grandmas as the grandma.  
I tell her about Sam and Dave, about maps and money, about propaganda,

About Edgewood and Solari.com where outrage gives way to local solutions  
I leave her with CD copies of the Solari lectures from Catherine Austin Fitts  
To give her spirits a lift...like she's given mine,  
Leaving me new cause for optimism.

Then on to the more technical challenges.  
To scan and print a decal for a T-Shirt making machine,  
To clean the spam, scam, and spy-ware from an ailing laptop  
Used by the minister at the Born Again Christian Church,  
To install a new Vista PC at the Creative Montessori Learning Center  
So teachers can teach a bit more efficiently,  
To make DVD's of the history of Juneteenth,  
To show prospective supporters of that celebration.

And at each stop listening to the stories that keep the local scene alive.

Patrick hires Andre to fix the floor drain trap that leaves the Senior Center ladies room a smelly mess.

Someone donates a big TV to the Senior Center, a neighbor his time and truck to pick it up.

A senior lady, she is both, who teaches sewing at the Senior Center,  
Falls at home on Friday,  
Remains on the floor until Monday,  
Is rescued by a coworker, who decides she has been missing too long,  
Vanishes into the medical system,  
While get well cards and a fruit basket wait to be delivered.  
I hope she's well.

Carlos, a student,

introduces me to his mother's friend whose computer is laid low. Now fixed.

Calls from Pedro, Michael, James, who are still waiting for their "free" computers from Computers for Everyone.  
Carlos, the planning commissioner,  
Urges me to attend a press conference  
To celebrate with YUCA the DTSC's finding,  
That our local hazardous waste recycler must reduce, not expand.  
Fourteen years too late, but still cause for optimism.

Work with three young men with difficult pasts they are trying to move beyond,  
Each brilliant in his own way, but a misfit in a culture that,  
According to the latest poll,  
Believes that prisons are to protect the "good" people from the bad,  
That the billions it cost are really a bargain,  
Rehabilitation a false dream.

Learn that "graduates" of this system,  
Make up a large fraction of my city's population.  
No cause for optimism?  
Ah, more will join the three young men, and that's enough.

William, the advocate, is concerned that Carlos, the redevelopment director,  
Is insensitive, sees no need to retain affordable housing for the local residents,  
Carlos pitches city revenue

increases that won't cover the subsidies,  
Required to overcome the loss of rented units to be replaced by owned units,  
Nor interest on the bonds to finance the project.  
Aren't all entitled to live the American Dream,  
To rent our money and own our homes?  
"Renters have no pride in the property!"  
"Rental units are old and need to be replaced" ... with nice new condominiums.  
But, William also wants to produce an opera he has written,  
And that is cause for optimism.  
A short time with two grandsons, who brighten all days,  
With their perspectives, perceptions, and joy at living as play,  
More cause for optimism.

Learn that the replacement for the manager of the Ecumenical Hunger Program,  
Whose predecessor served for nearly 30 years, is gone in a week.  
Why? "She doesn't do hugs!", someone says. Perhaps she needed more.  
More cause for optimism?

That, from being local, from listening, from caring to do something,  
Something that is not enough, but, perhaps, will inspire others,  
Who will, in turn ... and  
That's cause for optimism,  
And investment in the local scene.

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# Retorno al Remitente

continued from page 1

Retorno al Remitente” Estas redadas deberían preocuparnos a todos, inmigrantes y ciudadanos debido a las violaciones flagrantes de las protecciones garantizadas a TODA la gente bajo la 4ta y 5ta Enmiendas de la Constitución de los E. U. sin importar el estatus.

En los casos más abrumadores, ciudadanos americanos hijos de padres indocumentados han sido mantenidos en custodia, oficiales de ICE han entrado a casas sin ordenes de cateo o sin permiso; o a los detenidos se le han negado información básica relacionada con sus derechos o dado información engañosa acerca de la identidad de los oficiales de ICE.

En marzo del 2007, el Concejo de la Ciudad de East Palo Alto unánimemente aprobó una ordenanza definiendo los modos aceptables para que ICE conduzca sus labores oficiales sin que desconozcan la buena relación que nuestra policía de la ciudad tiene con el público. ICE ignora nuestra ley local cuando los agentes

federales de ICE engañan a las víctimas de las redadas haciéndolas creer que son realmente oficiales de autoridades locales y se identifican a si mismos como “la policía.”

Nosotros tenemos una comunidad inmigrante grande que necesita saber que pueden llamar a la policía tranquilamente y reportar crímenes en su contra o en contra de nuestros vecinos; no es en nuestro interés tener a gobierno federal interrumpiendo la seguridad y crecimiento de nuestra comunidad.

Servicios Legales Comunitarios en East Palo Alto (CLSEPA) y el Centro de Recursos Legales Para Inmigrantes (ILRC) están preocupados por el impacto negativo de las redadas de ICE sobre nuestra comunidad, incluyendo ejemplos de conductas abrumadores en el curso de una redada o batida.

Las víctimas de las redadas en los condados de San Mateo y Santa Clara, que han sujetas a conductas abrumadoras de ICE durante el curso de una redada o detención, ahora tienen acceso a un panel de

abogados voluntarios que representan a víctimas en peticiones de supresión (una petición de supresión es usada para excluir evidencia ilegalmente obtenida – argumentado violaciones a la 4ta y 5ta Enmiendas.) Las víctimas de las redadas, sin importar el estatus migratorio, podrían ya saber acerca de una demanda colectiva que pudiera presentarse en contra de ICE – por un grupo coordinado de víctimas – quienes levantarán sus voces en la corte si los agentes federales continúan ignorando los derechos constitucionales a lo largo del Área de la Bahía.

Un primer paso necesario para proteger a la gente es educación comunitaria. CLSEPA, junto con ILRC, estahaciendo presentaciones legales para educar al público acerca de todos sus derechos constitucionales y como los miembros de la comunidad pueden protegerse a si mismos si son confrontados por oficiales de ICE. Estamos proveyendo al público con miles de tarjetas rojas laminadas de “derecho a guardar silencio”.

Que incluye un número de asistencia al cual cualquier persona puede llamar en

caso de una redada. Aquellos que llama a la línea de emergencia se les provee con varios fuentes de ayuda, incluyendo información y remisiones. Si usted quiere una presentación para su grupo de interés, religioso, o cualquier otro grupo, por favor llame a CLSEPA al número 650-326-6440 para programar una presentación.

Aquí hay algunos consejos para las personas que se vean confrontadas por oficiales de inmigración / oficiales de ICE, independientemente de su estatus legal:

Si esta arrestado o simplemente cuestionado, debe exigir su derecho a permanecer en silencio. Si habla, solo diga su nombre y exija su derecho a un abogado.

No mienta, no de documentos falsos, y no de información sobre su estatus legal ni su país de origen. Diciendo mentiras le puede dañar mucho más que si se permanece en silencio.

Permanezca el silencio.

Si un oficial de inmigración llega a su hogar, no abra la puerta. A través de la puerta puede pedir ver una orden de cateo, firmada por un juez. Pídale al oficial que deslice el

documento por debajo de la puerta. Si la orden no le da al oficial permiso entrar a su hogar o si no entiende la orden de cateo porque esta escrita en ingles, no abra la puerta. Si no sabe que hacer, permanezca en silencio.

Si un oficial de inmigración le para en la calle, no revele su estatus migratorio o país de origen. Es mas seguro permanecer en silencio.

No firme ningún documento sin hablar con un abogado.

Desarrolle un plan de seguridad. Haga un plan con sus compañeros de trabajo, miembros de su familia y sus vecinos en caso que alguien sea detenido o si agentes de ICE se presentan.

Haga arreglos para el cuidado de sus niños o ancianos familiares en caso que haya una detención. Si ICE le detiene, es posible que no le den tiempo de hacer los necesarios arreglos de sus seres queridos.

Si tiene acceso a un teléfono durante una redada de ICE, llame a la Línea de Asistencia de United Way al 415-543-6767. Si no tiene acceso a un teléfono, guarde silencio y no responda preguntas.

## NO LE DIGA NADA AL AGENTE DEL SERVICIO DE INMIGRACION SI TRATA DE HABLAR CON USTED.

Usted tiene derecho a mantenerse callado. Usted tiene derecho de hablar con un abogado.

## NO ABRA LA PUERTA SI UN AGENTE DEL SERVICIO DE INMIGRACION ESTA

TOCANDO A LA PUERTA. Si el agente dice que tiene una orden de cateo, pídale que la pase por debajo de la puerta para verificar que esté firmada por un juez o magistrado.

Si necesita ayuda, llame a la Línea de Asistencia de United Way al 415-543-6767 de Lunes a Viernes, 5:30am – 5:30pm.

## ENTREGUE ESTA TARGETA AL AGENTE.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales.

Yo no deseo hablar con usted o responder a sus preguntas con base en mis derechos de la 5ta Enmienda de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos.

No le doy a usted permiso de entrar a mi casa con base en mis derechos de la 4ta Enmienda de las

Constitución de los Estados Unidos. Yo solo le daré a usted permiso de entrar a mi casa si usted me muestra una orden de cateo firmada por un juez o magistrado.

Si usted tiene tal orden, dígame y deslízcala por debajo de la puerta. Si usted necesita ayuda, llame a la línea de asistencia operada por United Way al 415-543-6767. Esta tarjeta esta disponible para ciudadanos y no ciudadanos.

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Favor de llamar a Housing Services Department at (650) 853-3109.

Released by the City of East Palo Alto Housing Services Department 9/11/2007



**THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY.  
IT'S PART OF YOUR DAILY LIFE.**

**SO DON'T DISPOSE OF USED COOKING OIL OR GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN.**

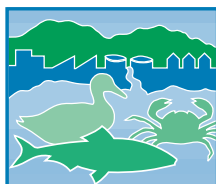
We live, work, and play in a watershed that flows to the Bay.

When grease is poured down sinks, it can solidify and cause sewer backups into houses or onto streets. Raw sewage can enter storm drains, creeks and the Bay, which harms wildlife.

**POUR COOKING GREASE OR SMALL AMOUNTS OF OIL INTO A SEALED CONTAINER** (solidified with an absorbant such as used paper towels for liquid cooking oil) and place in the garbage.

Deep frying a turkey? Bring your leftover frying oil to the Recycling Center, located at the east end of Embarcadero Road across from Byxbee Park. For more information, call 650-329-2598 or visit our website.

[www.cleanbay.org](http://www.cleanbay.org)  
**WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER**



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epa-lat

# Lifecycles

## Given a new lease on life

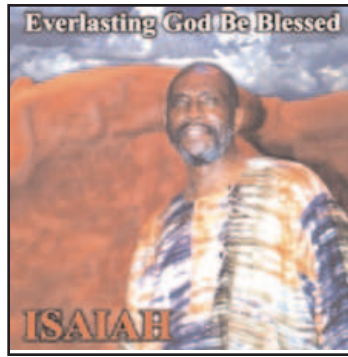
In March of this year, the Rev. Dr. Isaiah Jones went to his doctor and received a death sentence. His doctor told him that he had terminal cancer and had only six to eight weeks to live.

For years, Rev. Jones was the pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church on East Meadow Road in Palo Alto. He was long considered a very talented and creative musician as well as an inspiring minister. He is well known for his musical talents and his compositions. He has authored four CD's. His song "God Smiled on Me" is fea-

tured in Whoopi Goldberg's movie "Clara's Heart."

He was in the original cast of Langston Hughes play "Black Nativity," and he has appeared in the Billy Graham Crusade and in Robert Schuller's "Hour of Power."

Rev. Jones resigned himself to his doctor's sentence and resigned from his church. Hundreds in the community turned out to say goodbye at the event that was held in the church in his honor. But, Rev. Jones said that when he told his son of his cancer and the doctor's prediction, his son respond-



The cover of Rev. Isaiah Jones' CD "Everlasting God Be Blessed"

ed, "Good." Rev. Jones said that his son told him that now he could use his faith to do the inner work that would

lead to his healing.

So, he sought another medical opinion. This time his new doctor told him that he did not have to die, that his cancer could be brought into remission and that he could be healed. After the first round of his chemotherapy treatment, the cancer was in fact, brought into complete remission and Rev. Jones was given another lease on life.

Rev. Jones shared his powerful, personal story at the December 6 Fellowship of Faith luncheon which was attended by representatives



Rev. Dr. Isaiah Jones

from various local churches, area nonprofits and other community groups.

After Rev. Jones shared the story of his new found life and his faith, and received much applause for the miracle behind his new embrace of life, he told his listeners, "I thought I was excited about God, but I'm really excited about God, now. I want to thank all of you who prayed for Isaiah."



Larry Moody and Eli Cardenas

Since life is ongoing with its entrances and its exits, there are, obviously, times when people can say hello and then there are the times when they are forced to say goodbye.

## Saying goodbye to Eli

With Eli Cardenas, the time had come for many in the community to tell him, "Goodbye." After three years of working in the East Palo Alto community as the Executive Director of the East Palo Alto Family YMCA, Eli Cardenas announced that he was leaving his position to explore other opportunities.

During the first week of December, Cardenas attended several events in which he

was honored for the contributions he had made to the community and for his admirable outreach activities in overseeing the successful completion of the East Palo Alto Family YMCA.

The Y's staff and board held separate events to praise his accomplishments. During the December 6 Fellowship of Faith luncheon, he was given an award.

He told those who honored

him that he would always attend community meetings, hear about the challenges facing the community and ask himself what could he do?

One answer was evident to him. He said it was "Listen, listen, listen."

Cardenas has overseen the construction of YMCA's in several cities in the Bay Area. In East Palo Alto, he also built bridges between

himself and the community.

At the evening staff dinner held in his honor Saturday, December 8, he was not only teased for the "tidbit" notes he gave staff members, but he was also ribbed for his memorable ties.

"Today is a day of celebration," he said, "and I thank all of you."

Many took the time to tell him, "We thank you."

## Breaking the bad news cycle

By Allan Johnson  
EPA Today Contributor

Some communities seem to have a monopoly on bad news. When the terrible news seems constant, and when the news always seems to be about youth, the community suffers in a number of ways--primary among these is an increasing level of cynicism among the youth whose misadventures receive more attention than their successes.

How to break this cycle -- bad news leading to more bad news -- is a challenge everywhere. In East Palo Alto, a dedicated group of youth and young adults are rising to the challenge. This new initiative should not be interpreted as any kind of proof that people have not been working to turn this around for years.

The real story is that many individuals and organizations, often with the same ideas and problems, have come together through the efforts of the City of East Palo Alto

Community Services Department and started working together. The amalgam doesn't presently have a name, but it has an exciting idea.

The idea is that young people should be "armed" with skills in the arts in order to express their feelings and assist the community in turning around what has previously been monopolized by the bad news alluded to previously.

A good example is how For Youth By Youth (FYBY) and the Youth Entertainment Program (YEP) discovered each other and began an outreach that now includes the Palo Alto Media Center and the JobTrain Digital Multimedia classroom and lab.

Twelve youth participated in a crash course at the Media Center, on December 1 and 2, to learn how to produce and film their own shows. They had the able assistance of professionals at the Media Center, who demonstrated their ideas and their value for everyone with a cable con-



Frank Bakari Thompson and Elizabeth Moala.

nection and an interest in seeing the truth about area youth.

The product of this project will be available for viewing in the near future. In the meantime, if you want to talk to some of the young adults who are helping this project get off the ground, talk to Frank Bakari Thompson or Elizabeth Moala.

Thompson is a Mass Communications graduate from Clark Atlanta University. He approaches this project with the idea that, "cutting arts projects from school budgets means youth have to find other ways to express themselves positively, because art is power."

Furthermore, Thompson says, "Highlighting some of the violent and degrading art that glorifies values that are

not held by the majority of youth almost creates those values, and it has to stop somewhere. Why not here? Why not now?"

Moala, a centerpiece of many programs and projects involving youth in the community, created YEP as part of the Sponsored Employment Program. Its continuation and connection to youth working either toward graduation or on vocational training at JobTrain reflects her commitment to developing alternative pathways for youth to express themselves through arts as diverse as fashion design and dance.

"Once our kids get training in the arts, and we're taking thirty of them to Cogswell Polytechnical College for music production training next weekend, what they have to say starts to rub off on other kids," Moala said.

Thompson and Moala are by no means the only young adults associated with this effort. Delana Lindsey, Justin Phipps, and Wyatt Grant come to this unnamed asso-

ciation from YEP and FYBY.

Danielle Fairburne, Youth Outreach Coordinator at the Media Center has also been instrumental. Last here, but by no means least, is another young adult--Pam Reliford with the City of East Palo Alto.

When asked how this group got started, Thompson says, "That's the funny thing. FYBY and YEP were doing their own things, and the Media Center had this interest in involving youth, and Pam was looking for ways to involve the city in something like this, and we all sort of found each other."

What comes next is more of the same sort of energy that has the youth and their youthful supporters working many weekday evenings and weekends to develop this voice that will speak for some of East Palo Alto's finest young people. Moala adds: "And y'all should make sure to listen up."

Allan Johnson is the Director of Youth Programs for JobTrain, formerly known as OICW.