

A Day to Remember

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The passing of

Mrs. Barbara Mouton Page 4



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East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

February - March 2007

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Teens making a difference

Three hundred young people attended the first Go Smart Teen Summit held in East Palo Alto this past Saturday. The nearly all day event took place at Costaño Elementary School on

Fordham Street. It was facilitated throughout the day by Shanna Uhila Sloan and Gariel Negrete who were the mistress and master of ceremonies.

Event organizers had

planned for 250 kids, but several hours before the summit ended, registration cards ran out and sign in lists had to be used to accommodate the extra youth who attended. The

Teen Summit was held exactly one month after the East Palo Alto Peace March and Rally which took place on February 10 and it was designed as a follow-up to the march. As such, it was

an anti-violence event which focused on young people with the goal of bringing youth together so that they could learn from each other.

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Planting 1,000 trees



Workers making preparations for the tree plantings along the Bayshore Frontage Road

By Allan Johnson **EPA Today Contributor**

A vision of peace with roots in Africa has begun to grow in East Palo Alto, and a vision for youth with roots in East Palo Alto is

helping it happen. What Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate and the inspiration behind the planting of over thirty million trees in Kenya in the last three decades, began at the kick off of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative on April 30, 2006, ten

East Palo Alto youth working for Canopy, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit organization advocating urban forestry, under the auspices of the Sponsored Employment Program, will help

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Raids lead to shock and anger

By Melissa Lukin **EPA Today Contributor**

Maria R. (not her real name) has lived in the United States for over a decade. After years of abuse from her partner, and with help from local police, Maria finally escaped. Her partner was convicted of domestic violence, and Maria had built a safe and peaceful life for herself and her children. Until last week.

On February 1st, 2007, Maria was seized and detained by immigration officials who raided her Redwood City home. Her two U.S.-born children, ages 9 and 5, watched in dread as their mother was summarily removed from them.

What "crime" gave rise to this upheaval? Maria is not a terrorist. In fact, she is a volunteer domestic violence community educator, and one of an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants who live and work in the U.S. What is happening in our communities is as an assault on our most noble values -

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Foster children need parents

By Beth Walker EPA Today Contributor

Recent media and community attention has focused on the rise in street violence in East Palo Alto. What may be forgotten in the current crisis is the number of children who already experience violence in the home, and therefore, end up in foster care.

The need for more foster homes is great, said San Mateo County Supervisor Jerry Hill at the February 1 Fellowship of Faith luncheon.

Supervisor Hill came to address leaders in the faith community to encourage their congregation members to step forward as foster parents until the children can be reunited with their biological family or find a permanent home through adoption.

"Every child deserves a supportive family and home," said Supervisor Hill.

According to county statistics, there are 467 children and youths on average in San Mateo County's foster care system. Yet with only 144 beds in coun-

ty foster homes, more than 300 foster children are placed with relatives, in group homes or in foster homes outside their own county. Relocation severs their connections to schools, friends and their own community. Homes for foster youth in their teenage years are particularly hard to find, Supervisor Hill

"Of the 215 foster children from 13 to 18 years old, only 28 foster homes are available to that age group," reported Supervisor Hill.

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Inside

Editorial **News Briefs Opinions** TV Listings Youth News

Reflexiones acerca de las redadas

Por Melissa Lukin y Rhina Ramos

María R. (no su nombre verdadero) ha vivido en los Estados Unidos por más de una década. Después de años de abuso por parte de su pareja, y con la ayuda de las autoridades locales, María finalmente logró escapar. El hombre fue detenido y condenado bajo cargos de violencia doméstica y fue entonces que María construyo una vida segura y

tranquila para si misma y para sus niños. Esta era su situación la semana pasada.

El primero de febrero, 2007, María fue detenida por funcionarios de inmigración que invadieron su hogar en Redwood City. Sus dos niños de 9 y 5 años, nacidos en los Estados Unidos, miraron con terror como les quitaban a su madre.

¿Qué "crimen" ocasionó este trastorno? María no es un terrorista. De hecho, ella es una educadora voluntaria de violencia doméstica en la comunidad y una de lo que

se estiman algunos 12 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados que viven y trabajan en los Estados Unidos. Lo que está sucediendo en nuestras comunidades es un asalto en contra de nuestros valores más nobles - la compasión, la generosidad, y la justicia social - un asalto de proporciones trágicas. América siempre ha sido un símbolo de esperanza y refugio por todo el mundo. Estos acontecimientos podrían cambiar todo y llegar a convertir esta tierra de hospitalidad e integridad a

un bastión de exclusión e intimidación para millones de personas aquí y en el extranjero.

Bajo un programa llamado "Operación devolver al remitente", los funcionarios de inmigración (ICE) han estado coordinando redadas en ciudades a lo largo del país, con la mayoría llevándose a cabo últimamente en el Área de la Bahía, desde el condado de Contra Costa hasta San José. La mayoría de las agencias locales no participan activamente en estas redadas ya que reconocen la deportados. Lo que sí

importancia de mantener relaciones confiables con sus comunidades.

El trabajo desafiante de la policía local se facilita y el crimen disminuye cuando comunidades de inmigrantes trabajan en colaboración con ellos. Las pandillas, la violencia doméstica, el abuso de la droga y el alcohol, el crimen violento - ninguno de estos problemas pueden ser dirigidos efectivamente si los mismos miembros de la comunidad viven atemorizados de ser acorralados y



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Anniversary celebration for family clinic

By Kathleen Alexander EPA Today Contributor

t was a gala celebration that filled the Four Seasons Hotel Ballroom.
Over 200 people showed up on Friday, March 2nd to celebrate the Ravenswood Family Health Center's fifth anniversary. Tickets for the event cost \$150.00. It would have been hard for attendees to be disappointed with the evening's festivities,

since the event was filled with a silent auction, light entertainment and a program that probably honored everyone connected with the Ravenswood Family Health Center (RFHC).

Charlesetta Fishman the Chairperson for the event said she thought the evening was rewarding. "All of the participants and all of the attendees made our community look good, because we don't hear and read about the good things going on over here. I'm so glad that Friday night happened because it

shows that we are a city on the move and we are actually going places -- onward and upward. The people came not only to support the evening but to support the



Luisa Buada and her son Chago

Atiba Babatu, also known by many as Cecil Reeves, served as one of the auctioneers during the evening's silent auction. Babatu

cause," she said.

described himself as a devoted fan of the health center. In speaking of the fifth anniversary celebration, he said, "I think it was wonderful. I think the center does a wonderful job of servicing the community. It is the premier service agency in the community."

"It was truly a magical evening," Luisa Buada, the Executive Director of the RFHC, said. "In some ways it was wonderful. It was very East Palo Alto in the sense that it brought out the talent and the dynamism of the people who came together,

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Anniversary celebration for local bank



Katherine Pough

alifornia Bank and Trust, East Palo Alto's only bank, celebrated its fifth anniversary by holding its birthday party and hosting the East Palo Alto Chamber Mixer.

"I thought it was one of California Bank and Trust's best events," said Katherine Pough, the bank's manager. "This turnout was just fantastic in terms of the community support." While the event was held on March 1, the bank opened in East Palo Alto on Feb. 20 2002 which is its real anniversary date.

None of this mattered, of course, to bank officials in attendance or to the community members who came to help the bank celebrate.

"People thought that we were taking a chance in coming," said Nate Burns, who is the sales, service and marketing manager for Northern California Bank and Trust.

"We think it was the other way around. We are trying to

be the community bank with all of the services of our larger competitors.

Bank officials seemed impressed with the community turnout and the show of support.

The bank's customer's seemed grateful as well. "I feel appreciated and respected," James Bradley said as he explained why he was one of the bank's clients.

JT Turner, the President of the East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce opened the formal part of the celebration by acknowledging the chamber board of directors: Barbara Norparstak, Pastor Paul Bains, Shariifa Wilson, Anthony Ewell, Chris Stampolis, Betsy Yañez, Dominic Bannister, Kimberly Carlton.

Turner also acknowledged some of the community officials, such as Meda Okelo, Wilbur Lee, Raquel Medina

and Maria de la Vega, who attended.

Burns and several of his col-

leagues took the opportunity to promote California Bank and Trust's full line of services.

James Burks, the vice presidet of cash management spoke about new online banking features, while Ray Evangelista, the bank's investment officer spoke about investment tools the banks customers could use.

Event attendees feasted on the hor d'oeuvres, drinks and desserts as they listened to live entertainment supplied by the band Talon.

All of the bank's East Palo Alto employees were mentioned by name and praised

> for their friendly attitude and service.

"Whenever I come to the bank," Turner said, "I always walk through the door as one of the

family." What does the future hold for the East Palo Alto bank?

"The only goal is to grow in

the community," Pough said. In talking about the bank's growth thus far, she said, "It's been steady, but, of course, we'd like for the numbers to increase.

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Atiba Babatu and Roy Clay



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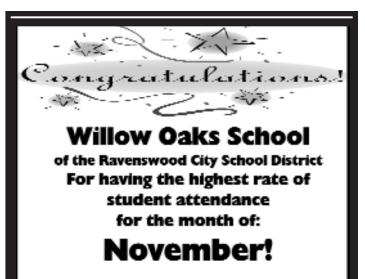
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News Briefs and Community Headlines

Mrs. Barbara Mouton, **East Palo Alto's first** mayor died Thursday March 15 at Kaiser-Permanente Hospital in Redwood City.

Below is an announcement of her death in a personal letter written by William Webster:

Dear Friends,

I regret to inform you that Mrs. Barbara Mouton, First Mayor of East Palo Alto, entered into eternity yesterday, Thursday, 15 March 2007, between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m. according to her daughter Manon Patterson.

Mrs. Mouton was hospitalized at Kaiser-Permanente Hospital in Redwood City on Tuesday, 13 March 2007, and passed away due to liver failure as the immediate cause of death according to her daughter. She was 82 years of age and would have been 83 on 15 July 2007. The last rites of the Roman Catholic Church were to be administered to Mrs. Mouton prior to her passing according to her daughter Maisha Mouton in a message transmitted to me by Tom Sagehorn at 1:00 p.m. Thursday.

Her earthly remains were transported from Kaiser to the sound of a siren all the way to Jones Mortuary in East Palo Alto. Funeral arrangements will be made by the family together at a meeting at 1:00 p.m. at

Jones Mortuary...

I have considered it one of the greatest privileges of my life to have known and worked with this extraordinary woman over the past eighteen years. She served as First Mayor of East Palo Alto following the intense struggle for incorporation of East Palo Alto leading to victory with the transformation of the East Palo Municipal Council into the first East Palo Alto City Council on 1 July 1983. Thursday, 15 March 2007 marks another significant milestone in the history of the City of East Palo Alto with the passage of the first of the five members of that first East Palo Alto City Council from time into eternity.

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WANTED! BAY AREA RES-**IDENTS FOR MTC ADVI-**SORY COMMITTEES

Do you know people who want to contribute their time and talent to improve Bay Area transportation? The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is seeking applicants to serve on one of three advisory committees - the MTC Advisory Council, the Elderly and **Disabled Advisory** Committee, and the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 13, 2007

For more information or to obtain an application, call 510.817.5757, go to MTC's Web site at

www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involve d/advisory/index.htm or visit MTC offices at 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, during regular business hours.

SEP Program Needs Mentors



Photo courtesy SEP Program

The SEP Program is preparing this summer's youth employment program and it needs mentors to assist.

The program wants to have a mentor for every young person (ages 14-24) who will be employed this summer.

Mentees will have a chance to: Guide a mentee through his/her summer internship, bond with a youth from East Palo Alto, conduct weekly check-ins with their mentee and commit to mentoring a youth for the nine weeks of the program.

For more information, contact:

Victor Lopez 1798 B-Bay Road East Palo Alto Ca 94303 (650) 373-1096 (650) 373-1090 fax Vlopez800@yahoo.com

East Palo Police Initiate

Phase 2 of ProjectSafe Neighborhood

CHP to implement "Operation Impact"

In response to a dramatic surge in violence in January, Chief Davis declared a crime emergency and initiated Project Safe Neighborhood. As part of Phase 1, the Department partnered with the San Mateo CountySheriff's Department, Menlo Park police, Palo Alto police, California Department of Justice (DOJ), county probation, state parole, the FBI, and ATF to implement a strategic enforcement program that targeted individuals suspected of committing violence. Since January 20, 2007, officers, deputies and state and federal agents have:

Made 84 arrests, Recovered 10 guns, Recovered 4 replica guns. Seized over 3.9 pounds of narcotics. The Department co-sponsored the Unity March and Rally (with over 1000 people participating) and partnered with No More Tears - a group of San Quentininmates - to produce a "Stop the Violence" public service announcement (which can be viewed on (www.epa.net). The Department also worked with several community and faith-based organizations to reconcile conflict between groupsinvolved in violence.

In February, there have been 2 shootings compared to 23 shootings (with 3 homicides) in January.

Phase 2 As part of Phase 2, the Department has partnered with the California

Highway Patrol (CHP) to implement "Operation Impact" starting on March 7, 2007, through the end of May 2007. The CHP will assign one sergeant and six officers to increase patrols and traffic enforcement in the City.

The CALIFORNIA GOVER-NOR'S OFFICE OF EMER-**GENCY SERVICES (OES)** is acceptingApplications for the Gang Violence Suppression Multi-Component Program

The Governor*s Office of **Emergency Services (OES)** is now acceptingapplications for the Gang Violence Suppression (GVS) Multi-Component Grant Program. This program supports a multi-disciplinary effort by agencies to work in collaboration to combat gang violence. This collaboration must include Law Enforcement, Probation. Prosecution, Education and Prevention components. Applicants must be law enforcement, schools, district attorney's offices, and community-based organiza-

To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 22,

A copy of the Request for Applications (RFA), can be obtained from the

OES Web site at www.oes.ca.gov by following these steps: select OES

Divisions and Regions, For more information contact the Office of Public Information

916-845-8400

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

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

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

Dumbarton Dialogue launches area conversations

By Surlene Grant EPA Today Contributor

he State Transportation Commission announced the allocation of long-range transportation funds, just as residents, business owners and other interested parties are preparing to participate in a cross-jurisdictional discussion that will ultimately help to prioritize some of the projects and designs that will receive those funds.

The Dumbarton Dialogue will be holding the first of a series of cross-jurisdictional meetings on March 17 and March 31. The meetings will bring to together interested individuals from the six participating cities - East Palo Alto, Atherton, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Redwood City.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate.

The dates, times and places for the meeting are - Saturday, March 17 - 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Municipal Building, 2415 University

Avenue, East Palo Alto and Saturday, March 31 - 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mitchell Park Community Center, Mitchell Hall, 3800 Middlefield Road Palo Alto.

The Dumbarton Dialogue Project is a civic engagement program designed to augment the City / County Association of Government (C/CAG) 2020 Peninsula Gateway Corridor Study.

The project seeks public input and participation for the study and possible traffic mitigation solutions along the Dumbarton / Highway

101 corridor.

Participants will help to identify the benefits of cross-community communications; learn more about the potential 2020 Peninsula Corridor Study traffic mitigation projects generated by community input; explore criteria for evaluation of potential projects, and initiate the development of common ground through cross-city dialogue.

Through the series of meetings the Dumbarton Dialogue project anticipated building mutual understanding, defining common inter-

ests and developing shared solutions among the participants for mitigating the traffic problems in the Dumbarton corridor.

For more information go to www.dumbartondialogue.co m or call (510) 352-7826 Spanish Translation is available for the Dumbarton Dialogue Project meetings. Please call (510) 228-6682, if you desire translation services during the meetings

Surlene Grant is the consultant for the Dumbarton Project.

Mid-peninsulans to receive community service awards

By Ike Guinn EPA Today Contributor

Local Peninsula organizations/individuals will receive Outstanding Service Awards at the 60th Kappa Alpha Psi Western Province Council (Regional) Public Meeting. The program will feature Keynote Speaker San Jose City Councilman Forest Williams and will include



Goro Mitchell

Fraternity dignitaries, surprise guests, entertainment, and presentation of awards. The following is a list of the awardees with the names of the organizations that they represent.

Gloria Brown, African American Health Advisory Committee.

Goro Mitchell, Executive Director of the East Palo Alto Community Development Institute.

La Doris Cordell, Palo Alto

city council & Stanford Univ. Vice Provost.

Arnold & Anita Webb/Model Citizens, San Mateo Branch N.A.A.C.P.

Ben Parks, Coach, Menlo Atherton High School, Motivator, Role Model.

Montez Davis, Bring Me A Book Foundation, Mountain View, CA

The Public Meeting is

scheduled for Friday March 23rd, 7:00 p.m., at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel, Golden Gate Ball Room, 1770 S. Amphlett Blvd. (Freeway 101 & 92 interchange)

There will be a V.I.P. Awardees Reception Friday, March 23rd, 6:00 pm San Mateo Marriott, Bay Bridge-A room. For more information, call (650) 948-7126.

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Local students get new school library



Photo EPA Today Music teacher Alisha Fitzhugh leads some of her students through their presentations

t was a fun filled time of good cheer as students, administrators and donors celebrated the reopening of

the Edison Ronald McNair Academy library.

Fifth and sixth graders gathered in the school courtyard on a sunny, spring like day to sing songs, recite poetry, and do a few dance steps to the rap song that they sang. While they were very excited about the reopening of their library,

they were also very well behaved.

"This went over well," Alisha Fitzhugh said. Fitzhugh is the school's music teacher who led the students through all of their upbeat and inspiring presentations.

"I'm so proud of the students," she said.

Moneel Chand, the 8th grade student body president, who was introduced to the audience as one of Edison McNair's top students, said, "We've never had a library and it's good that children can learn. Now anybody can become smart and gain knowledge."

During their presentations, the students read the poem "Dreams" by Langston Hughes and sang "I am beautiful and smart." They then danced in place as they sang a rap song with the words, "I like big books.... Please read them books... those big old books."

Douglas Harrell, McNair's principal and the person who came up with the idea for the new library, told theaudience, "One skill that will save everyone's life is the ability to read. If you can read, you can teach yourself anything.

our kids for years to come," he said.

Mary Noonan, the vice president and grants manager of the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation(EPAK), said that she was impressed with the presentations.

"People care," she said. "It was wonderful. The tears welled up in my eyes. It was a very special day."



Photo courtesy of Jennie Little

"Because we have a func- from left Stephany Garcia, Erendira DelRio Chavez, Brandy tioning library, we can serve Smith, Estefani Baez, Narcissus Ita, Leticia Pena and on the back row: Daisy Mendoza

> McNair's new library was initiated by EPAK which donated \$7,500 in seed money which was matched by the school. The project began in May 2006 and culminated with the opening of the new library last Wednesday, March 7.

This is the first library the school has had in seven

years and the library currently has 6,000 books.

Karen Shannon, an EPAK volunteer who works in the library said that the reopening of the library has been a very positive thing for the school."The students have been very enthusiastic in checking books out.

Live performance at the **East Palo Alto Library**

Sereptha Strong **EPA Today Contributor**

ast Palo Alto saved the best for last for its ■ Black History Month celebration. Indeed, it was an honor and pleasure to have Marcus Shelby, jazz bass player, performing in East Palo Alto Community Room and City Council Chambers this past February 28.

secret codes, languages, several other performers. rhythms and voicings - this is what Marcus Shelby articulated in his lecture-musical demonstration of the history of jazz and how it relates to Harriet Tubman. Marcus Shelby on bass and his musicians which included



photo courtesy of Sereptha Strong

A program filled with Audience members watch Marcus Shelby and

a drummer, pianist, trumpet player and the voice of Harriet Tubman as rendered by the powerful voice of Faye Carol, Marcus started with a relaxed lecture style and interspersed it with live musi-

ples of jazz and blues. He started the slave songs and secret codes during Harriet Turbman's day and showed how it relates to n d

evolved to the musical form that we have in jazz today. Mr. Shelby included samples of Duke Ellington's work and the original secular oratorio he did on Harriet Tubman which will premier this May 2007 at Yerba Buena Gardens. The audience was encouraged many times to ask questions and certainly they did. The interaction of lecturer and audience participation coupled with live music created a dynamic and exciting program. Afterwards, one lady felt so compelled that she had to tell the audience that she came all the way from Stockton for the program, so that her daughter could hear more about Harriett Tubman. Many attendees completed evaluations to express how much they enjoyed the program, as it was entertaining as well as educational.

Indeed, it was an unforgettable night with Marcus Shelby's quartet and vocalist, Faye Carol! As one attendee put it, "Marcus Shelby is an innovative and avant garde artist of high caliber." She added that coupled with the subject matter and his learning, she could not miss this event. At the bottom of her evaluation, the attendee stated that she had an excellent post-event discussion, as did many other program attendees. "Well chosen, San Mateo!" she stated. This program is highly recommended for the entire family and especially teens.

For more information about Marcus Shelby's upcoming programs intheSan Francisco



photo by Darwin Eustaquio

Marcus Shelby

Bay Area visit his website at www.marcusshelby.com. For more information about Marcus Shelby's lecturerecorded music demonstrations at San Mateo County Libraries, visit our website at www.smcl.org. Marcus Shelby will appear at Pacifica-Sharp Park Library, Foster City Library, Portola Valley Library, San Carlos Library and Belmont Library. For specific dates and times, please visit or call those San County Mateo branch libraries

Sereptha Strong, Public Services Librarian, East Palo Alto Library,

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