

Danville man makes finals
in Manischewitz cook-off

Cooking kosher



The Levy family—Samantha, Jordyn, dad Evan, Blake and mom Stacey—offer Evan's award-winning Southwestern Potato Kugel at their Hanukkah celebration Saturday. He will prepare his original recipe at the Simply Manischewitz Cook-Off next week in San Francisco.

by Dolores Fox Giardelli

Evan Levy cooked his Southwestern Potato Kugel when he and his wife Stacey hosted friends at a Hanukkah celebration at their Danville home last Friday evening.

The next morning, Evan made the kugel again when they had their family over.

Everyone wanted to taste Levy's Southwestern Potato Kugel. It's made him famous. Levy is one of 10 who have been chosen to make their original dish at the Simply Manischewitz Cook-Off taking place Dec. 20 at the Hilton in San Francisco.

"I created it just for the cooking contest," said Levy, 42. "I started thinking about the Manischewitz name, a traditional company with traditional Jewish ingredients. It's primarily on the East Coast so I was thinking about how to modernize it."

The contest rules call for recipes to include a Manischewitz product. Levy's used two packages of its potato pancake mix, plus chili spice, green chilies, corn and black beans—hence the "Southwest."

"It brings a lot of California to an old country recipe," said Levy. "I like it because it's versatile. If you are not keeping kosher, you could add chicken."

Levy, who grew up in Marin, learned to cook from his grandmother.

"I love to cook ethnic food, and my grandmother was a

strong influence," he said.

Neither his mother nor his two sisters shared this love of cooking with his grandmother like he did.

"My grandmother came here from Latvia when she was in her 20s," he said. "She came alone, and then met my grandfather in New York. They then moved to San Francisco, where they lived and raised their children."

When he was in middle school, his grandmother moved to Marin and lived down the street from his family. This was wonderful for him, he said, because they could spend more time together in the kitchen.

"I used to cook for my family," he said, recalling his childhood. "I took it on because it was fun."

He said his favorite traditional recipe is stuffed matzo balls because he remembers making them with his grandmother.

"She used to have this special recipe where she would stuff it," he said. "It was fun for us to make them and sit around and talk."

Levy, who is financial services manager for the city of Livermore, said he is the primary cook in his house.

"Cooking is my creative outlet," he said.

"We are not kosher but we do follow the Jewish dietary law," he added.

He and Stacey have three children: Jordyn, 12, a student at Charlotte Wood Middle School; Samantha, 10, and Blake, 7, who attend Sycamore Valley Elementary.

They located in Danville nine years ago and lived in

Danville Station. But they moved to Wood Ranch when their family began to grow—and so they could have a bigger kitchen. They now have three ovens, which Levy said he loves.

"I'm one of those who watches the Food Network and wishes that were me," he explained.

"Also I pride myself on being a nurturer and a giving person, and cooking is a good way to nurture people," he said. "I do love cooking for anybody, like entertaining."

He is on a committee at his temple, Beth Chaim, that supports members in their time of need, such as when they've just had a baby, been through surgery, or had a death in the family. Even though Levy may not know the people, he loves to bring them a home-cooked dish.

Levy read about the Manischewitz Cook-Off in the Jewish Bulletin, a weekly newspaper out of San Francisco.

"That Manischewitz name for me brought the feeling of warmth I got in my grandmother's kitchen," he recalled. "I said, 'I have to enter this.'"

"Kugel" means casserole, he explained; this is his wife's favorite food from her childhood so he knew he wanted to make a kugel.

He shared a secret to make a kugel more elegant: Pour the potato mixture in ramekins and cook them individually. He will bring a ramekin to the contest as part of his entry since the recipe is also being judged on appearance and presentation.

The colorful ingredients also add a nice touch to the dish.

"It looks beautiful," he said, "so golden brown."

The Manischewitz Cook-Off is being held for the second year, in three regions—Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco. Levy made the final 10 for the West out of thousands of entries.

"I was what's called the 'People's Choice,'" he said. "They picked nine contestants and those people are automatically in the competition. Ten other recipes were online for people to vote, and I won online."

The winners of the three regional contests get a trip to New York in February to compete for the \$25,000 grand prize package, which includes a kitchen by General Electric, co-sponsor of the contest, and cash.

Mayor Gavin Newsom has proclaimed Dec. 20 as "Simply Manischewitz Cook-Off Day" in San Francisco. The competition will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Hilton San Francisco Financial District, 750 Kearny St., and a complimentary kosher lunch will be served for all attendees.

The other nine semi-finalists include two others from California, four from Washington, one from Arizona, one from Nevada, and one from Texas. Their recipes range from Salmon Cakes to Beef Tenderloin with Marsala Mushroom Sauce. The entries will be judged 50 percent on taste; 20 percent, ease of preparation; 15 percent, appearance; and 15 percent on originality.

"A lot of our friends and family are going to be there," Levy said. "My sisters will be there."

But first they insisted they wanted to taste his creation. So the Levy family hosted the Hanukkah celebrations—and the pièce de résistance was—ta da! Evan's Southwestern Potato Kugel. ■

Southwestern Potato Kugel

2 boxes of Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix
4 eggs
4 cups water
2 cans black beans
2 cans mild green chilies
1 can corn, 11 oz.
3 tsp. chili spice
2 cups sharp cheddar cheese
6 Tbls. canola oil

Slightly beat the 4 eggs. Add 4 cups water to the eggs and combine. Add Manischewitz Potato Mix and stir. Let mixture stand for 5 minutes to thicken. Drain all canned ingredients, rinse and add to mixture, then add chili spice, and 1-1/4 cup cheese.

Spread 3 Tbls. of oil in 9.5-by-11-inch baking dish. Pour in kugel mixture and drizzle 3 Tbls. oil on top. Bake at 425 degrees for 45 minutes; add 3/4 cup cheese to top and bake for another 5-10 minutes.

Individual servings can be garnished with fresh cilantro, salsa and sour cream.

Epicure



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Epicure's holiday wish list for cooks & foodies

It's hard to shop for a passionate cook. After all, most cooks have usually equipped their kitchens with the latest tools—pots, pans, bakeware, knives, tableware, appliances and drawers filled with culinary gadgets. I know from experience—a cook in a kitchen store is like your kid salivating over the latest toy catalog or your handyman brother-in-law gone wild at the local home and garden center. Part of the pleasure of cooking well is the assurance that you have everything—repeat, everything—you might ever need

to make the meal of a lifetime. So, it can be challenging to find a cookbook or utensil that isn't owned by your favorite cook.

Still, you know the way to this person's heart and it isn't by gifting a pair of slipper socks, a Chili's gift card or a universal remote. So, unless you can scrounge up a pair of tickets to the Martha Stewart show or a Bon Appetit cooking cruise to France with Wolfgang Puck, you'll be looking for the latest and greatest culinary gift to surprise your personal chef on Christmas Day.

Here's a list that's likely to include at least one item that your favorite cook doesn't have ... yet. And, most items are available at a store or online site that welcomes returns and exchanges, in case your chef friend really does already have it. Happy shopping ... and may the (culinary) force be with you!

Jacqui lives in Danville with her pug, Nina Simone, and volumes of cookbooks and recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at jlovemarshall@yahoo.com.



Wish list

Cookbooks & Magazines:

- "Lidia's Italy: 140 Simple and Delicious Recipes from the Ten Places in Italy Lidia Loves Most" by Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, TV chef, offers 140 recipes through a culinary tour of Italian cities: Istria, Trieste, Friuli, Padova and Treviso, Piemonte, Maremma, Rome, Naples, Sicily, and Puglia ★★
- "Bouchon," Thomas Keller's bistro cookbook features 180-plus recipes from his two bistro restaurants ★★
- Cook's Illustrated, the consummate home-cooking magazine for aspiring chefs; six issues a year with no advertising and detailed illustrations, \$26.95 for one-year subscription ★★

Specialty Foods:

- Hudson Cream Flours, The 100-year Kansas-based Stafford County Flour Mills produces some of the finest home and commercial flours. www.hudsoncream.com ★
- Salumi Cured Meats Collection, Salumi is a Seattle-based company that uses traditional meth-

ods to create the highest-quality gourmet cured meats. The collection includes Agrumi (pork with cardamom and citrus), Coppa (dry-cured, marbled pork shoulder rubbed with pepper and peppercorn) and Guanciale (dry-cured pork used for flavoring vegetables, sauces and more). All three at an approx. weight of 3 lbs., Sur La Table, Walnut Creek ★★

- Dean & DeLuca Ballotins ★ A decadent assortment featuring Strawberry Balsamic, Jasmine Pearl, Blood Orange, Toasted Almond, Hazelnut Feuilletine, Caramel Fleur de Sel, Raspberry and Lemon Thyme Truffles. Each is wrapped in milk or dark chocolate. Comes in boxes of 10 (★★), 20 (★★★) or 36 pieces (★★★★), www.deananddeluca.com

Specialty Items:

- Chef's Jacket, Traditional and non-traditional styles in white or colors. Williams Sonoma, Walnut Creek or www.chefsemporium.net ★★
- Foodie Fight: A Trivia Game

For Serious Food Lovers, Sur La Table ★★

Stocking Stuffers:

- Utensil Pot Clip, A stainless steel clip attaches to the side of any pot to hold a spoon or other utensil in place, Crate and Barrel, Walnut Creek ★
- Cake Taster, The Kitchen Table, Walnut Creek ★

I.O.U. Certificates:

- Sous Chef R Us. Offer to do all shopping and kitchen cleanup for a special meal in 2008. Any cook would love to be relieved of these chores to focus more on the cooking. Note: This gift includes displaying great patience as they explain in much detail about each item on the shopping list and send you to several places. !!!
- Gourmet Out. Commit to take the cook to a restaurant he/she has been longing to experience for a three- to five-course meal in 2008. Start saving now, make the reservation early, and mention that your guest is a foodie and ask if your friend could meet the chef! !!!
- Uno Mas. Create an I.O.U. for one not-yet-owned utensil made by Rösle or J.A. Henkels. Your I.O.U. includes actually purchasing the item but just knowing these names will astound your cook and generate a lively discussion about cooking tools. !!!
- Lifelong Learning. Treat him/her to a cooking class at Draeger's, Blackhawk. The new store offers a variety of interesting classes by local and sometimes celebrity chefs. Go to www.draegers.com for a class schedule through April 2008. !!!

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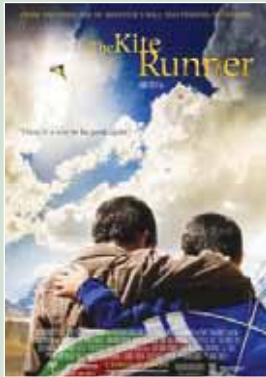
A movie review of what's **READY TO RENT**

The Kite Runner

★★★

Rating: PG-13 for some violence and mature themes

Run Time: 2 hours, 2 minutes. In Dari and English with English subtitles



Marc Forster ("Finding Neverland") adapts Khaled Hosseini's wildly successful first novel to the big screen with empirical grace.

Guilt is the narrative thread running through a sprawling tale that spans two continents, three decades and a world of hurt. Kabul, Afghanistan circa 1978, is a cultural haven ripe with progress and promise. Twelve-year old Amir (Zekeria Ebrahimi) lives a life of luxury as the son of well-to-do businessman Baba (Homayoun Ershadi). He pals around with best friend Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmizada) who doubles as the son of the family's beloved servant.

Standard childhood mischief prevails; differences between Hazara and Pashtun be damned. Hassan worships the ground Amir walks on, displaying his loyalty in subtle ways both large and small. The boys join forces to run a kite in the annual Kabul kite flying ceremony, culminating in a startling and rousing triumph.

But the thrill of victory is short-lived, tainted by a shady act of cowardice that will haunt Amir's days for years to come.

The decay of Afghanistan's proud political scene deems it necessary for Amir and his father to abandon home and country and relocate to Fremont, Calif., (home to the Bay Area's largest Afghan community) where Dad toils at odd jobs and encourages his son's higher education and his dreams of becoming a writer.

Years later an urgent phone call from an old family friend is all it takes to send the adult Amir (Khalid Abdalla of "United 93") back to his shattered homeland and a thorny date with destiny.

Forester makes every effort to appease legions of Hosseini fans, of which I am one. "Kite" is pleasingly faithful to its source material, weaving an enriching tapestry of dramatic ethnicity and tradition. The dread is palpable, particularly in modern-day Taliban-infested Kabul.

But a formulaic blueprint screams crowd-pleasing rather than risk-taking. "Kite" pits good against evil in oversimplified terms, an exercise in futility for enthusiasts of dark emotional tones. Pacing is a bit rushed; a niggling feeling of something fundamental left on the cutting room floor.

Performances are sound, particularly that of the still-waters-run-deep Abdalla. Piece looks wonderful, shots of Kabul pre- and post-militia as silent witness to its skewed politics.

Genuine if not exactly inspiring.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

OF NOTE



Scouts provide efficient light

Danville Girl Scout troops No. 545 of fifth-graders and No. 1614 of third-graders recently distributed compact fluorescent bulbs to John Baldwin Elementary School. They—along with the Girl Scouts of Northern California—are working with Climate Project and Sierra Club to end global warming.

Girl Scouts in Northern California are handing out 160,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to residents living in Contra Costa County. The light bulbs use less energy than incandes-

cent lights, and they are supplied by the California Public Utilities Commission, in partnership with PG&E and the Sierra Club.

"We are delighted to take part in the Climate Project's nationwide effort," said Marina Park, chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of Northern California, which has 325 troops.

The Scouts who handed out the compact fluorescent bulbs are: (front, l-r) Ashley Hamano, Madison Lai, Caroline Grossman, Riley Arbuckle, Madison Idso, Nicole Marchesani, Haley Lawrence; (back) Ashley Arbuckle, Haley Talbot, Colette

► Continued on page 25

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The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

More sleep needed for teenzzzz

I can tell you firsthand that teenagers don't get enough sleep. As I sit down to write this column at 10 minutes past midnight and still unfinished with my homework, I am so pleasantly reminded of this fact. As it turns out, there is a reason, more than just the mounds of homework and activities kids are involved with, that explains why the majority of teenagers—nearly 80 percent—rarely get the recommended nine hours of sleep each night.

During adolescence our circadian rhythm, the body's 24-hour biological clock that dictates when we sleep and wake, temporarily resets. This change is primarily due to the fact that teens produce the hormone melatonin—a chemical associated with sleep—later in the day than do adults and even younger children. Teenagers are actually biologically programmed to go to sleep later (and thus wake up later) than the rest of the population. Unfortunately, this biological change happens to hit during a chaotic time in life, when teens are juggling homework and school, extracurriculars and a busy social life, and are already likely to suffer from too little sleep.

Because of this biological shift, many teens do not begin to feel remotely tired until at least 11 or 12 at night, even though they know an alarm awaits them at 6:30 the following morning. To wake up at 6:30 a.m. and still get the advised amount of sleep, a teenager would have to go to bed at 9:30 the previous night. This rarely happens and so, day after day, teens function on far too little sleep than is healthy and safe.

Though sleep is still very much mysterious to the scientific world, its importance is undeniably clear. Even short-term sleep deprivation can have drastic effects. Without sleep, teens are more irritable, less

responsive, less able to focus, and less inclined to exercise. Teenagers lacking sleep rely on caffeine to keep them alert during the day. According to a Sleep Foundation poll, 28 percent of high school students reported dozing off in class, and 14 percent admitted to arriving late or missing class altogether because they overslept. Not getting enough sleep also poses a significant danger to driving, as driving drowsy is arguably just as dangerous as driving drunk.

Sleep is so important that our bodies build up a sleep debt when we don't get enough, and will make up the lost sleep another night. Thus, chronic sleep deprivation, which never allows the body a chance to catch up, can create serious problems. If loss of sleep becomes chronic—that is, if it persists longer than one month—teens are at an even higher risk for developing insomnia, depression, obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

The Sleep Foundation reported that 12th-graders sleep an average of 6.9 hours on school nights, an hour and a half less than the average 8.4 hours of sleep sixth-graders get. What is even more shocking is that 90 percent of polled parents reported that their kids get enough sleep, when in reality, only 20 percent of teens actually do.

That teens naturally go to sleep late and have to get up early for school does not make the problem any better. Currently only 16 percent of high schools in the United States begin class later than 8:15 a.m., according to Richard P. Millman of Brown University. Mild nationwide controversy has sparked over whether schools should start classes later.

Difficulty waking up in the morning, moodiness or depression, dozing off during the day and inability to concentrate are all indicators of too little sleep, and are symptoms

I suspect many teens suffer from. There are ways to combat the issue, however. Experts advise setting a regular time to go to bed and wake up every day. Sleeping on a schedule lets the body know when it is time to sleep, and can help to set a new rhythm. It is important to exercise regularly but not before bed, as exercise revs up the body. Exercising five to six hours before bed can actually help one sleep better.

To improve sleep, teens should avoid naps longer than 30 minutes during the day, and no caffeine should be consumed after 4 in the afternoon. Keeping the lights dim and engaging in relaxing activities like reading before bed can also help. Reports have indicated 97 percent of youths have at least one electronic item—a television, computer, etc., in their bedroom. However, watching television or surfing the Web right before bed can hinder sleep.

I am one of the many victims of sleep deprivation, rarely getting to bed before midnight on weeknights amid my homework and various responsibilities. Sleep is one of the most important gifts a person can give their body, and it so often gets harmfully neglected. Teen sleep deprivation is a far more serious issue than is realized. Now that we understand the unavoidable biological mechanism that causes teens to get tired later, it is crucial we make the societal changes—namely less homework and later school times—that will guide teens back on track, not spin them further out of control.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a senior at San Ramon Valley High School who spends her free time going to concerts, enjoying her friends, and playing the piano. E-mail her at ohara5@comcast.net.

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



"SAN RAMON VALLEY: ALAMO, DANVILLE, AND SAN RAMON" BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZINE

Essential farm equipment

A Caterpillar 60 tractor powers a Junior Monarch five-wire hay press in Green Valley around 1920. Hay presses of this type, powered by horse or by tractors, baled most of the hay in central California until 1945. The five-wire bales weighed about 250 pounds each. The conversion from horses to tractors reduced the need for so many farm laborers.

A movie review of what's **READY TO RENT**

Joe Ramirez

Halloween

The Weinstein Company DVD
2 hours, 1 minute
Director: Rob Zombie

Who could have thought that director/performer Rob Zombie, the man who practically owes his career to lovingly annoying '90s icons "Beavis and Butthead," would become not only a movie director one day, but a talent that may even be embraced as one to be reckoned with, and who raised the art of what's considered trash to ber-trash. It is his remake of "Halloween" that I'm referring to that takes the original John Carpenter movie, which has such an intense cult following to the point of mania, and filters it through Zombie's own '70s horror-fueled brain whose been feasting on exploitation movies of one kind or another for the last thirty years. What comes out is a type of nightmarish carnival ride that Ray Bradbury may have written about; whose Midwestern iconography of October shadows, distorted physiognomies and ritualized violence and pathos stays with you long after its all-too-familiar plot has been digested.

What is interesting and somewhat comforting about Zombie (a.k.a. Robert Cummings) is his love for an era that has long passed into American folklore. His are the adolescent sentiments of the '50s, '60s and '70s, when monster and sci-fi movies looked back further still to the movies thirties and forties and influenced generations of kids (especially boys—naturally) up until the early '70s. Zombie (along with Carpenter in his original) infuses them all into "Halloween" so as you feel the layers of the decades all surfacing within the movie, and its style is almost mesmerizing to both the audience and even the characters. It's so that at one point there may be a killer behind a possible victim, but like director Zombie, he's too entranced by Bela Lugosi's eyes from 1931's "White Zombie" which flickers on the TV in order to register danger.

If you haven't seen the original, or its legions of rip-offs from around the world, I admire your monkish zeal. "Halloween" takes place in Haddonfield, Ill. in what looks like the '70s or early '80s where young Michael Myers festers with the pain of an unbearable family life which is causing some unnerving behavior. Finally, on Halloween, he adorns a ghoulish mask (it's actually a William Shatner mask turned inside out) and lashes out, killing a school bully and continuing with his drunken step-father and abusive sister. This leads him to immediate incarceration and into the care of Dr. Loomis (the much underrated Malcolm McDowell) who watches Michael change throughout the years from a tortured teen to a hulking "shape" whose only motivations are escape for a warped family reunion.

My thoughts when I heard that Zombie was remaking "Halloween" were (and I'm paraphrasing) "that's stupid" and "leave well enough alone." I take those things back, however, because what makes Zombie's "Halloween" so successful is the ardor of the director himself. He takes what has now become almost embarrassingly passé, the faceless killer and the screaming teenager, and has made something spookily refreshing. We know what is going to happen, but it's how we get there, with Zombie adding a strange sense of tragedy to the movie of how a boy becomes a monster, that hooks us. Think what you will, I say "Halloween" is Zombie's major step towards expressing a sincere passion for the American Grand Guignol.

**Of Note**

► Continued from page 23

Smith, Jessica Wright, Jewel Morgin, Cailey Steffens, Amelia Phillips, Kayla Birdsall, Tia Kim and Amber Smith.

Cubs collect candy

This Veterans Day, Den 7 of Pack 815 packaged more than 450 bags of Halloween candy they collected at Greenbrook Elementary School to help out the Blue Star Moms with their care packages for troops. Helping out are (l-r) den leader Neri Rocca, Antonio Rocca, Adam Perrine, Zachary Tufer, Max Schmidig, Nick White, Jacob Davis and Jacob Ehrlich.

Job's Daughters

The Danville Bethel of Job's Daughters International will be hosting its 108th semi-annual Installation of Officers at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Danville Grange, 743 Diablo Road, Danville.

The following have been elected officers for the upcoming six-month term: Mari Gilliland, queen-elect; Lauren Muhleman, senior princess-elect; and Megan Gordon, junior princess-elect. Gilliland is a sophomore and member of the San Ramon Valley High School drama department. Muhleman plays the flute and is a junior at Campolindo High School in Moraga. Gordon, a sophomore at Monte Vista High School, is

active in vocal music and lacrosse.

Danville Bethel Job's Daughters International—is an organization for young women ages 10 to 20. The group works on projects to raise money and help charities. Members also do art, photography, writing, sewing and sports. Regular monthly meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Danville Grange.

The organization is asking women not to wear hats, gloves or pantsuits at the installation in January. For membership information, contact Leah Muhleman at 829-8505.

Brownies raise the red, white and blue

Brownies performed the flag ceremony at the 26th annual Mayor's Installation and Community Service Awards in Danville last week. Brownie Troop No. 858, third-graders from Green Valley Elementary School, also gave U.S. historical tidbits at the event.

"This was a very special moment for the girls," said Bridgit Pelly, troop leader.

Attending the installation were the following: (front row, l-r) Ava Schulte, Savannah Sturla, Louise Marshall, Keely Prosser, Julia Van Warmerdam; (middle) Megan Brear, Natalie Riddel, Julia Leong, Matea Olson, Megan Pelley; (rear) Amanda Hanson and Lea Miller.

Helping the homeless

The Home Builders Association of the Northern California

Women's Council collected thousands of pounds of food and raised more than \$7,000 in cash and gift cards for the needy. The group also received help from subcontractors and trade partners.

"We are thrilled with the effort from the home builders and all our volunteers," said Beatrice Stonebanks, the group's vice-president and chairwoman of the 2007 Food and Gift drive. "It has been very exciting to work with people who are so dedicated to this great cause."

This year's drive benefits the residents of Shelter Inc. of Contra Costa County, the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition of Hayward (FESCO), Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, Mission Solano of Fairfield and Shepherd's Gate of Livermore.

The Food and Gift Drive is held to mark Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, a national event that takes place the week before Thanksgiving. For more information on the annual Food and Gift Drive, contact Julie O'Connor at 820-7626 or e-mail joconnor@hbanc.org.

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Tuesday, January 22	7:00pm	Grades 4 - 5
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Wednesday, January 30	7:00pm	18 Months - 3 Years
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Big smiles for the Weekly

Greenbrook Girl Scout Troop 216 brought along a Weekly to have fun at the Gilroy Gardens in May: (back row, l-r) Ally Antipow, Bryn Powers, Katie Mitchell, Lauren Sardi, Baylee Bobele, (front) Camille Rodriguez, Lindsey Parnas, Amanda Diehl, Brianna Cohn and Dara Foran.



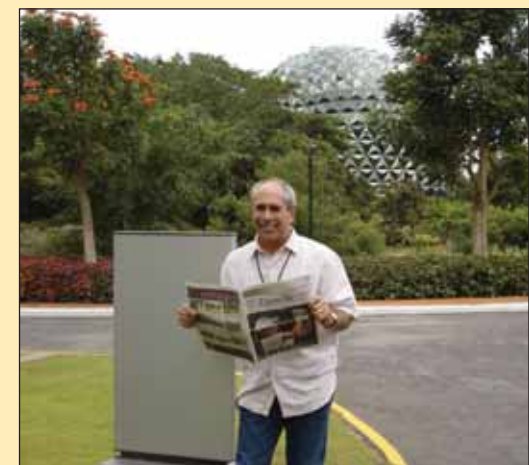
Touring Colombia

Vic Georgiou (left) and Jim Yoder (right) visit Monserrat, a shrine to the Virgin Mary set on a peak overlooking Bogota, with their host family in Colombia, Jesus and Amparo Marin.



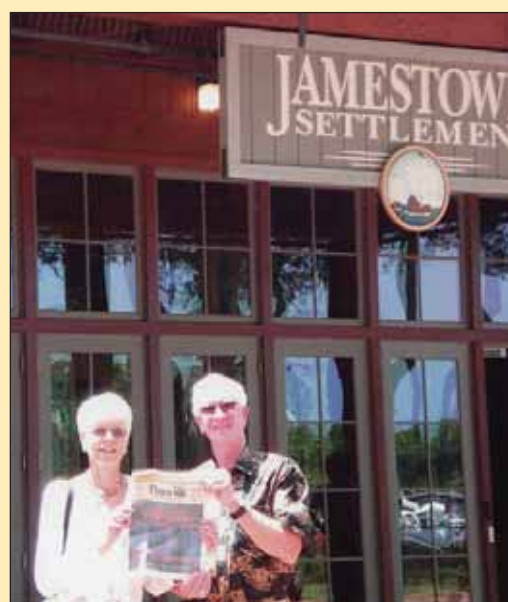
Cruising with their Weekly

Four couples and their Weekly enjoy a 10-day cruise of the Douro Valley in Portugal in June: Marge and Ron Reading, Dick and Kay Briggs, Brian and Brenda Hill, and Ed and Vibs Lichtman.



On business in India

Danville resident Del Chandler catches up on news back home while visiting Mysore, India, on a business trip in October 2006. He reported that his colleagues thought he was a bit fanatical hauling around his copy of the Danville Weekly.



News in the old settlement

Pat and Gary Rosecrans brought along their Weekly when they visited the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia, which was celebrating its 400th anniversary as the first English settlement.



North African pottery barn

Pat and Roi Peers of Danville and their Weekly visit a pottery foundry on the island of Djerba during a recent trip to Tunisia.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to travel@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.



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Weekly at the Parthenon

While visiting the Acropolis last June, (l-r) Erica and Samantha Miller of Danville share their latest hometown news with Kristiana Tzavaras, formerly of Danville but who now lives in Athens.



When in Rome, visit the Coliseum

Gladys and Vicki Spencer visited Rome with a group from the Moraga Presbyterian Church—and their Weekly..



Celebration at Mission Beach

Mark Corti, Jill Corti, Val Compton, Bob Compton, Dani Corti and Josh Bartels spend a family weekend (Weekly included) at Mission Beach in San Diego to celebrate granddaughter Danielle receiving her master's degree in Education from Point Loma Nazarene University in May.



Ooh la la

Kaleigh and Amanda Olla remembered to bring their Weekly to Paris, where they are sightseeing at the Eiffel Tower in June.



What time is it?

Anabelle Wilkinson and Baylee Burke enjoy their Weekly while posing in front of Big Ben in London last summer.

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Calendar

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Auditions

Women's A Cappella Chorus

Come join Pride of the Pacific Chorus in making a joyful noise at 7:30 p.m., every Wednesday, at Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. The new chorus is starting its journey to greatness under the direction of Dr. Greg Lyne. Call (209) 830-7444 or visit www.prideofthepacific.org.

Class Reunions

Monte Vista High School 20 Year Reunion

The Monte Vista High School Class of 1987 is seeking members for its 20 year reunion. The reunion is planned for February 2008. To receive your invitation, e-mail monte_vista_1987@yahoo.com.

Clubs

Alamo Cribbage Club The club plays cribbage for fun. It meets at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 284-7044 or e-mail almoy1@prodigy.net.

Alamo Rotary The Alamo Rotary meets at noon every Wednesday at Roundhill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road. Call Mark Kahn at 837-3262.

Alamo Women's Club Federated The club meets on most Wednesdays at its clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd. It holds a business meeting and tea the second Wednesday at noon; meets for Mah Jong at 10:30 a.m. the third Wednesday; and holds a luncheon with program at noon the fourth Wednesday. For information, call 552-9733.

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club This club is open to new and long-time women residents of Alamo and Danville interested in making new friends in the area. Their Prospective Member Coffee is held the fourth Thursday of the month, and a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday. Call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvillenewcomers.com.

Bay Area Single Christians BASC club is a free, large, online group with event listings for Christian single adults around the S.F. Bay Area. See information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bascingles/>.

Bay Books Book Club San Ramon Bay Books hosts two book clubs reviewing different books. The first club meets at 7 p.m., the second Tuesday of every month; the second book club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, both meeting at the San Ramon store, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 855-1524.

Business Development Network BDN is a group of professionals that share resources and develops business through relationships. It meets 7:45-9 a.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Denny's, 807 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call Bonnie at 648-0222.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Memories and Santa at the Museum

Santa Claus is coming to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and will be visiting children from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Dec. 15 and 22, in downtown Danville. Parents are welcome to bring their own cameras. While at the museum, families can enjoy the "Christmas Memories" exhibit, which is open until Jan. 5 and features three fully decorated trees from different eras and old-fashioned Christmas cards (above) from the early 20th century. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The museum is open 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Call 837-3750.

Chinese American Senior Center

This club is for seniors and meets from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., every Monday and Tuesday, at the Alamo Women's Clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd. Activities include cultural diversity classes and activities. Anyone who would benefit from the classes and activities is invited. Call 831-9988.

Concord IORG Rainbow Girls

International Order of Rainbow for Girls (IORG) is a service organization for girls ages 11-20. The Concord

group meets at 7 p.m., every second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at Diablo Valley Masonic Center, 4035 Treat Blvd., Concord. Call 914-0058 or visit www.whatsimportant.org.

Danville AM Toastmasters Club

The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at Father Nature's, 178 E. Prospect Ave. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact Dave Miklasevich at 899-1543 or dmik210@yahoo.com or www.danvilleamtoastmasters.org.

Danville Job's Daughters Job's Daughters is an international organization for girls between the ages of 10-20 with Masonic heritage who like to have fun and make friends. The group meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd. Call 829-8505.

Danville Lions Club The Danville Lions Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Brass Door Restaurant, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Join as their guest to learn the contribution you can make as a Lion. For information, call 984-1541.

Danville Mid-day Referral Group, BNI Danville Mid-day Referral Group, a chapter of Business Network International, meets from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., every Wednesday, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Call Eric Samuels at 946-1400.

Danville PM Toastmaster Club #1785 The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com.

Danville Rotary The Danville Rotary meets at noon every Monday at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, visit www.danvillerotary.org.

Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary The Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club meets for breakfast at 7 a.m.,

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Delta Nu Psi Delta Nu Psi provides packages to troops in the War Zone. The group collects donations before the third Friday of every month in front of Longs Drug Store in Alamo and before the third Saturday at Lunardi's in Danville. It puts together the packages on the third Wednesday of every month. For information, e-mail Alicia at deltanupsi@comcast.net.

Diablo Diggers Dance Club The Diablo Diggers Dance Club meets five times a year for dinner and dancing with a live band in the Danville or Walnut Creek area. The club is looking for a few new members, couples only. For information, call 938-0316.

Diablo Singles Dance Club Diablo Singles Dance Club dances regularly the last Wednesday of the month from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at the Arts Education Building, corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. All are welcome. Call 837-2851.

Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit www.diablovalleyflyfish.org.

Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome (\$2 donation). Annual membership fee is \$30 (\$20 for seniors 65+). For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

Diablo View Toastmasters AM Afraid of public speaking? Loose your fears and develop communication and leadership skills by meeting with the Diablo View Toastmaster from 7:55-8 a.m., every Tuesday. Call 838-9163 or e-mail marie@mmwi.com.

eWomen Network Accelerated Networking Luncheon The eWomen Network holds its monthly accelerated networking luncheon from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Call 984-9658.

Express to Success Women's Network Holiday Party Express to Success will host its December meeting with lots of holiday cheer, music and a White Elephant gift exchange at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Cost is \$5 per meeting. Proceeds benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity. Call 202-9077 or visit www.expresstosuccess.org.

Friends of the Danville Library Friends of the Danville Library are renewing annual memberships and recruiting new members to help support, raise funds and sponsor programs for the Danville library. There are many benefits of being a Friend including merchant discounts, volunteer opportunities and preview of book sales. Dues and donations are tax deductible. Application forms are at the library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4455.

Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club The Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club is a place to learn, share and discuss. It meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month, at 3223 Crow Canyon Road, second floor Conference room, San Ramon. Call 397-2093.

Juggling Writing and Real Life Tri-Valley Writers will host Susan Taylor Brown, who will present "Writing at Red Lights: How to Keep Going When the World Tells You to Stop" at 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15, at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Call 462-7495 or visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

Kiwanis San Ramon Valley The San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m., every Thursday,

at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo. Meetings include networking, lunch and a guest speaker. For information, visit its Web site at www.kiwanis-srv.org or call 244-1227.

Model RC Boaters Association The Danville Model RC Boaters Association seeks new members. To learn more, call president Rich Mahan at 785-0421.

Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society The society meets from 1:15-3 p.m., the third Thursday of every month except August, at the California Savings Building, Rossmoor Shopping Center, Tice Valley Blvd. and Rossmoor Parkway, Walnut Creek. Guest speakers are at each meeting.

Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group Get questions answered, solutions for problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of every month, at the Alamo Safeway Community Room. For information, call 837-1111 or 829-5501.

Pleasanton DeMolay This Pleasanton chapter of DeMolay is an organization for young men between the ages of 12-21. They meet at 7:30 p.m., the first and third Tuesdays of every month, at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. For information, contact Ken Varallo at 455-8586 or raptors2@comcast.net.

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Calendar's, 1101 S. Calif. Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's, 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

San Ramon Valley Rotary Club This club meets for dinner at 7 p.m., every Wednesday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Guests are welcome. The club offers a great way to make new friends while making a difference in your community. Call Bill at 838-9110.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club This club provides support, information and friendship for mothers of any number of multiples meeting every second Tuesday of every month, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. R/T discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.; roundtable discussion is open to all current and prospective members from 7:30-9 p.m., hosted by a twin mom member. Dads and babies welcome! Call 948-0004 or visit www.tvmotc.com.

Concerts

'Christmas at the Mission' Ohlone Chamber Singers presents its 22nd annual "Christmas at the Mission" at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 and at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at Ohlone College Smith Center, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, staff and students and \$8 for children under 12 years old. Call (510) 659-6031 or visit www.smithcenterpresents.com.

'Festival of Carols' Contra Costa Children's Chorus and Diablo Symphony Orchestra presents the "Festival of Carols" concert at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$12 for youth. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

'Let the Angels Sing' Monte Vista High School choir will perform "Let the Angels Sing" concert with a harp and marimba, along with children's and adult choirs, at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The concert is free. Call 837-5243 or visit www.srvumc.org.

Contra Costa Wind Symphony Winterfest Contra Costa Wind Symphony presents "Winterfest" from 7:30-10 p.m., Monday, Dec. 17, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. The concert will include a sing-along of familiar carols. Call 944-5392 or visit www.ccwindsymphony.org.

Double Beauty Shop Quartet Yellow Wood Coffee and Tea will host Monte Vista High School's Double Beauty Shop Quartet at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 15, at Yellow Wood Coffee and Tea, 215 Alamo Plaza, Suite E, Alamo. This event is free. Call 837-1175.

Events

Farmers Market The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com.

Holiday Wine Tasting and Dance Party Blend Night Club will host a Holiday Wine Tasting and Dance Party from 8-10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14, at Blend, 519 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Call 945-8340.

Tour of the Blackhawk Museum Blackhawk Museum sponsors a docent-led tour of the museum's Renowned Exhibitions at 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The tour is free with admission. For information, call 736-2280.

HO-scale European model trains, track layout and scenery from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., until Jan. 6, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 736-2751 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org or www.theshopsatblackhawk.com.

Exhibits

'Christmas Memories' Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host "Christmas Memories" exhibit until Jan. 5, at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues in downtown Danville. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The museum is open 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Call 837-3750.

European Train Exhibit Blackhawk Museum will host the layout of

Fundraisers

Book Sale Friends of the Danville Library will host a book sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19 and noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Proceeds will benefit Friends of the Danville Library. Memberships for the Friends of the Danville Library will be available at the door. Call 837-4889.

► Continued on page 30

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Health

Achieving Healthy Weight Loss

Danville Library will host a workshop on "Achieving Healthy Weight Loss" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Dr. Nathalie Bera-Miller will discuss the key ingredients of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. Call 837-4889.

African Drumming Circle Drumming has been shown to boost immune system functions and metabolism. Join Patricia Frame and experience this fun way to get "good vibrations" from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

Mindful Chi Kung Chi Kung is a moving meditation that integrates mind, body and spirit to enhance

health and strength the immune system. Learn about this system to empower you from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This is free for cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107.

Open Gym Town of Danville is offering Adult Open Gym from 7:30-9:15 a.m., Saturdays, and High School Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Sundays, both at Los Cerros Middle School Community Gym, 968 Blemer Road, Danville. Discounted pass cards are \$4 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3386.

Holiday

Celebration of Christmas Come and enjoy the music of Christmas featuring local high schools, middle

schools and other performers at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, 655 Old Orchard Dr., Danville. Sing-alongs will be included. Call 743-1547.

New Year's Eve Comedy Show Laugh into 2008 with the hilarious comedy of Larry "Bubbles" Brown and "Chicago" Steve Barkley, at Mudd's Restaurant, 10 Boardwalk, San Ramon. The "East Coast" show is at 7:00 p.m., with a toast at 9:00 p.m.; the "West Coast" show is at 10:00 p.m., with a toast at midnight. Tickets are \$35 for the East Coast show; \$45 for the West Coast show. Call 264-4413 or visit www.laughalotproductions.com.

Santa Claus at the Blackhawk Plaza Santa Claus will be at the Blackhawk Plaza every weekend throughout the season to pose for photos with children. Times include noon-7 p.m., Friday-Monday, Dec. 14-24, at Blackhawk Plaza. Additionally, Santa will take pictures with pets from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9. Call 736-2751 or visit www.theshopsatblackhawk.com.

Kids and Teens

"Mountain Musers" from Montana Danville Library Foundation will host Harry and Lela's dog sled team, "The Mountain Musers" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. The program will include learning about sled dogs, sledding safety and courtesy, and the job of the sled dog. Call 837-4889.

Free Online Tutoring Available Contra Costa County Library is offering free homework help from expert online tutors to students grade 4-12 and beginning college from 1-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, at <http://ccclib.org>

Sticky Fingers Workshop Lindsay Wildlife Museum will host a series of Sticky Fingers Workshops from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 18-21, at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost for each class is \$10 for museum members; \$15 for non-members. Each day will have a different theme, activities and live animal encounters. To register, call 935-1978.

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer School-age children participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan.

12, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

YMCA Activities The San Ramon Valley YMCA hosts a number of activities including Adventure Guides/Princesses, Adventure Trailblazers, Youth Basketball, Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer for children of all ages. For information, call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Couples and Cancer Come with your partner for a group discussion on the impact of cancer on relationships from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Share struggles, solutions, issues and insights to support your relationship during and after cancer treatment. Call 933-0107.

Lebed Method: Focus on Healing This workshop is a six-week series of a total body exercise set to music from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Jan. 17-Feb. 21, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. It helps you regain and maintain range of motion, relieve pain, and reduce the risk of lymphedema from any kind of cancer. Call 933-0107.

Life Beyond Cancer The Wellness Community will host this six-week workshop designed to help cancer survivors make the transition from active treatment to life after treatment ends from 6-8:30 p.m., Jan. 22-Feb. 26, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Managing Stress in Your Life Danville Library will host a workshop on "Managing Stress in Your Life" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Discussion will include current research, unique ways to deal with stress and ideas for coping. Call 837-4889.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Group This 16-week series is for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Jan. 9-April 23, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Guest medical experts will present information to assist in understanding the disease. Call 933-0107.

Open Your Heart Through Art Using art and movement, the series promotes self-awareness and connection of body, mind and emotion. Each session is guided through the use of different art mediums, voice and movement exercises from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mondays, Feb. 4-March 10, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This is free for cancer patients. Call 933-0107.

Understanding Clinical Trials Learn about clinical trials, what they entail and how to find them for your type of cancer from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Local clinical trials will be discussed. Call 933-0107.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a New Best Friend Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit its Web site at www.tvlar.org.

Free Computer Instruction The Danville Library is offering free computer instruction on Word, Excel, Powerpoint or the Internet by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit the Danville Library Information Desk or call 837-4889

One Warm Coat San Ramon Valley Rotary Club is hosting its 12th anniversary of One Warm Coat until Dec. 15. They are collecting coats, sweaters and blankets for men, women, children and infants in clean and good condition. Drop-off points include: Diablo Lodge, 950 Diablo Rd., Danville; Curves, 9500 Crow Canyon Rd., Danville; Moda Mi, 140 E. Prospect Ave., Danville; Pascal's French Oven, 155 Railroad Ave., Danville; ReMax Accord, 313 Sycamore Valley Dr. W., Danville; Heritage Bank, 387 Diablo Rd., Danville and Oscar's Jeweler, 15 Alamo Square, Alamo. For information, contact Elizabeth Forth at 820-4077; Dany Gregory at 838-9110 or Mark at 552-9900.

Recycle for Breast Cancer Recycle for Breast Cancer is open seven days a week accepting free dropoffs for computers, monitors, cell phones, laptops, servers and TVs, at 31 Beta Ct., Suite C, San Ramon. Call 735-7203 or visit www.recycleforbreastcancer.org.

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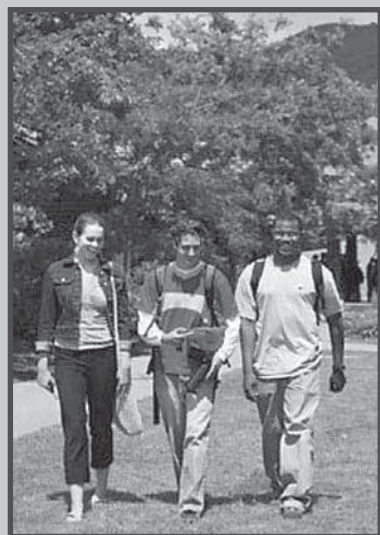
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The Energy Primer for Kids The Energy Primer for Kids is a 25-page booklet of simple facts pertaining to current energy issues and is useful for adults that are evaluating energy related claims of politicians. For a free copy, write to Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583. A speaker is available for groups wishing to hear about the global warming propaganda. Call 837-7612.

Toys for Tots and Food Bank Giving Countrywide Home Loans is a drop-off location for toys for the Toys for Tots program and filled Food Bank brown bags until Dec. 15. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday; located at 7 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 314-7003.

On Stage

"A Christmas Carol" Center REPeritory Company presents "A Christmas Carol" until Dec. 16, at Center REPeritory, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$38; family four packs are available for preview performances at 2 p.m., Dec. 6-8. Call 943-7469 or visit www.centerrep.org.

"Nixon's Nixon" Center REPeritory Company presents "Nixon's Nixon" at various times, Jan. 31-March 1, at Center REPeritory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15-40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas Front Row Theater presents a realistic dramatic and musical story based on the inspiration for Clement Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas" at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 14-23, at Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for youth and \$10 for all matinees. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

'Wigged Out!' Hair on Stage (formerly Victoria's Hair on Stage) presents "Wigged Out!" playing until June 21, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The box office is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) or visit www.wiggedout.org.

Starquest Disney Hollywood Christmas Come see Peter Pan, Tinkerbell and all your favorite Disney Princesses at "Starquest Hollywood Christmas" at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at Del Valle Theater, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children. Call 943-7469 or visit www.lesherartscenter.org.

Recreation

World Walk to Wellness 2008 Enjoy a self-guided walk around the Pleasanton Sports and Community Park from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, Dec. 31, at the park, 5800 Parkside Dr., Pleasanton. The walk is about 5,000 steps (2.15 miles) or a 20-minute, 2000-step walk led by Mr. Pedometer at noon. Call 226-0888 or visit <http://walking10000.org>.

Seniors

Bridge Seniors meet to play bridge from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every Friday at the Danville Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Experienced players only. Cost is \$1. Reservations are required. Call Jerri Kaldem at 837-6283.

Buzz Sessions Town of Danville presents Buzz Sessions for seniors from 1-2:30 p.m., each fourth Tuesday of the month, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. These events are free, but register to reserve your place by calling 314-3400.

Danville Senior Citizens Club The club meets from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. New members are wel-

come. Membership is just \$15 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

Grandmother's Club Grandmothers of all ages meet for lunch at 11 a.m., on the second Friday of every month, at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Lunch and fellowship. If interested, contact Fran Britt at 743-4026.

HICAP Appointments The Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) offers its services free to anyone on Medicare or at least 60 years old with questions about health insurance coverage. Appointments are available the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of every month by appointment; call 314-3400.

Laugh Club Research has shown increased levels of endorphins, neurotransmitters, immune system cells, and decreased levels of stress hormones. This club meets at 10:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$1 facility use fee and is open to the public. Call Fred Turner at 216-4590.

Prime Time Prime Time for seasoned citizens meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. Activities include line dancing, English handbells, ceramics, wood carving and more. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$4. Rides are provided by County Connection Link for \$3.50 round trip; call Gloria at 837-5229. For information, call 820-6387.

Senior Sneaker Trips Town of Danville hosts Senior Sneaker Trips to different attractions throughout the area. For a list of dates, go to the Danville Community Center at 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Seniors Program Danville Veterans Memorial Hall Lounge hosts a senior drop-in program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Front St., Danville. Activities include playing cards and board

games, visit with friends and meet new people. Call 314-3400.

St. Isidore's 'Young at Heart' Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m.; bring brown bag lunch from until August, beverage, fruit and dessert are provided. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

Valley Oak Respite Center Activities for Seniors Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The cost is \$30 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040, ext. 53.

Spiritual

Art Show with Love and Laughter Enjoy an art show with love and laughter with Leona Lani Lee, who creates spiritual art, and comedian Veronica Dangerfield at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14, at Unity Church, 1871 Geary Rd., Walnut Creek. This event is free for families and children. Call 694-8040 or visit www.godsart.biz.

New Year's Retreat San Damiano will host a retreat titled "Leaving the Old-Welcoming the New," Dec. 30-Jan. 1, at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Look back to see where you've been and notice how far you've come. Cost is \$195 for private, \$165 for shared. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

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Sports

Adult Open Gym Basketball Danville Parks and Recreation Department holds drop-in basketball year-round at the Los Cerros Middle School, 968 Blemer Road, for ages 18 and over. Drop-in times are 7:30-9 a.m., Saturdays. Bring your own ball. Cost is \$3 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3400.

Adult Softball Adult Softball plays pickup softball at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays year-round. New members welcome. Call Bob Randall at 855-4646 for more information

Danville Tennis Club The Danville Tennis Club meets 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9-11 a.m., Saturdays for drop-in tennis at San Ramon Valley High School. This free co-ed club provides play for 4.0 to 5.0 and very

strong 3.5 level players. See information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/danvilletennisclub>.

Get Fit in 2008 Town of Danville will host "Get Fit in 2008" with My Own Marathon from Jan. 1-May 3. This marathon is designed for individuals who like to complete a marathon at their own pace. Participants will walk a total of 26.2 miles. To register, visit the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us. The final mile will be completed on May 3 at Spring Fest.

Support Groups

Addiction Counseling Narconon offers free counseling, assessments and referrals to centers nationwide

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American Chronic Pain Association The ACPA group meets from 11a.m.-1 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville.

Bipolar Support Group The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842

Blue Star Moms California Blue Star Moms is a support group for families of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It meets at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Peggy at 866-7035 or Patty at 838-9096 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

Cancer Support Groups Free support, education and stress management for cancer patients and their loved ones, including general support groups for all types of cancer patients as well as cancer specific groups for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, brain tumor, support groups for caregivers and life after cancer. Groups meet at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. For times and days, call 933-0107.

Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery is a forward-looking and balanced Christ-centered recovery program for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the program starts at 7 p.m., every Friday, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Childcare available for ages 5-11. Call 736-5100, e-mail celebratercovery@eastbayfellowship.org or visit www.eastbayfellowship.org

ClutterLess Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a

psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. Join the group at their meeting from 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays, at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Dr. Optional \$2-5 donation. Call 297-9246 or visit www.clutterless.org.

Danville TOPS The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m., every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870.

Find Help For Addiction Problems with drug or alcohol addiction in a loved one? Don't know whom to turn to for help? Contact Drug Rehab Resource for a free confidential consultation to find the help you need. Call (866) 649-1594 or visit www.drugrehabresource.net.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Are you having trouble controlling the way you eat? There is a solution to weight and diet obsession. This effective 12-step program has proven results. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Wednesday, at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. For a complete listing of East Bay meetings, call 838-1837 or visit www.foodaddicts.org.

Hospice Offers Support Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa offers a variety of support groups and workshops for people experiencing grief and loss after the death of a loved one. Individual grief counseling for Hospice families is also available. Groups are offered from 7-9 p.m., Friday evenings at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo. All groups and workshops are offered without fee and require pre-registration. For a schedule of groups in the Pleasant Hill area, for additional information and/or to register, call 887-5678.

Man to Man Prostate Cancer San Ramon Regional Medical Center offers "Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group" from 7:30-9 p.m., the

second Tuesday of every month, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building, West Day Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Call 933-0107.

Newly Formed Proactive Group for Women Support Group for FIBRO, CFF and Chronic Pain meets 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. Call 234-5621 or e-mail dsashby@msn.com.

Overeaters Anonymous The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. There are many different groups that meet at different times and places, visit www.dvig.org.

PFLAG The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7:30 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.

SRV Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, undereating and bulimia. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Call Gordon at 899-3117 or visit www.foodaddicts.org.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's Disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of each month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

Volunteering

Animal Fosters Urgently Needed Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) is looking for short-term fosters for dogs, puppies, cats and kittens. ARF will provide the food, supplies and vet care; all you need to do is provide the love. Call 296-3173 or visit www.arf.net.

Anna's Program Hospice of the East Bay is asking for volunteers to help with Anna's Program, a program which provides support to women diagnosed with recurrent breast cancer. Volunteers provide companionship and practical assistance. To apply, call 887-5678 and ask for the Volunteer Department or e-mail volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

Blackhawk Museum Docent Training If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! Call 736-2280, ext. 238.

California Independent Film Festival Association Support the Arts in the Tri-Valley by joining the California Independent Film Festival Association. The donation of the membership will support independent film events. For information, visit www.caindiefest.com.


CCI Volunteer Puppy Raising Program Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) are looking for special volunteers interested in raising a CCI puppy for 15-18 months and are now accepting applications. For information, call 1-800-572-BARK (572-2275) or visit www.cci.org.

Child Abuse Prevention Council The Contra Costa County Child Abuse Prevention Council needs volunteer speakers for the community education

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Meet Tigger, a young adult male orange tabby housecat with the sweetest disposition. Tigger is super friendly and loves attention. He "makes muffins" to show how contented he is and rubs his face on your hand as if to say "I'm yours!" Tigger also loves to play with toys. Visit Tigger (#73974) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. We're sure Tigger will brighten your day.



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program. Volunteers must complete a mandatory 24-hour speaker's training course. For information, call 946-9961.

Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art Volunteers are needed with secretarial skills for the Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art. For information, call Beth Batchelor at 837-5654 or Nana Dicta Graves at 777-1717.

Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art The academy seeks new volunteers and members to help with tasks ranging from bookkeeping to recruiting instructors. The group meets noon-1 p.m., the second Friday of the month at Richard's Art & Craft Store, 225 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call Beth Batchelor at 837-5654.

Friends of Discovery Discovery Counseling Center has received more than \$5 million, thanks to Friends of Discovery. The organization is looking for volunteers who can commit eight hours per month in the Thrift Station, 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call Le Anne, 837-7998.

Handbell Choir Seeks Ringers The Agape Ringers are seeking teens and adults with musical backgrounds to rehearse from 7-9 p.m., Thursdays, in Danville. For information, call Margaret at 837-6371.

Help Your Senior Neighbors A lot of Danville seniors need rides to their appointments, stores or to special events. The Seniors' Club at Veterans Memorial Hall is looking for volunteers to provide rides on an "as-needed basis" on one or more Mondays a month. Call Jenn Overmoe at 314-3476 for more information.

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa This organization is looking for volunteers to help serve in East Contra Costa County. Positions open are: men and women to provide companionship and practical support for terminally ill patients and families, licensed hair stylists and certified massage therapists. Call 887-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospicecc.org.

Hospice and Palliative Work at Bruns House Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa Bruns House In-Patient Hospice is looking for volunteers to fill two- to four-hour shifts during the weekdays and weekends. For an application, call 887-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospicecc.org.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum Docents are needed to lead class tours, teaching children and others about our important connection with wildlife and the world we share. No experience needed. Call 627-2444 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Make a Difference Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living (RCJL) in Danville provides assisted living, Alzheimer's and skilled nursing care in a community our residents call home. Volunteers play a key role at RCJL and opportunities are available for students and adults. For information, call Volunteer Coordinator Irma at 964-2098.

Museum of the San Ramon Valley The Museum of the San Ramon Valley welcomes volunteers and has a current need for greeters who give three

hours one day a month to welcome visitors to the museum, register their attendance, and give them an introductory tour of the Waiting Room and the Museum Store. Call Carmen Curtis at 837-9781 or the museum at 837-3750.

Rides for Seniors in Lafayette Rides for Seniors, based in Lafayette, is looking for volunteers (25 years and older) to allow seniors "to age in place" in their homes and be safe when transported to a doctor appointment or grocery shopping. If you are available for a couple of hours periodically, call 284-6699. Fingerprinting and DMV background check required.

Search and Rescue The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team needs volunteer members to respond to missing person incidents, disasters and other critical incidents. Team members are on call 24/7 year round. The program provides required training including wilderness traveling, first aid, map and compass, tracking disaster response and search skills, and may additionally include special training for canine, equestrian, technical, mountain bike or other rescue skills. For information and applications, visit www.contracostasar.org or call 646-4461.

Sheriff Seeks Senior Volunteers The Sheriff's Valley Station Office in Alamo is seeking people interested in assisting law enforcement in the community. Citizens should have a clean criminal history and would be responsible for one shift a week for four-and-a-half hours. Interested applicants should call James Hogan or Elmer Glasser at 837-2902.

Trails Maintenance East Bay Trail Dogs is an all-volunteer group that has built, repaired and helped maintain single-track trails in the East Bay Regional Park District, the Mt. Diablo State Park, and Walnut Creek open space. Volunteers meet the fourth Saturday and one weekday each month. To participate, call Harry at 443-3925.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer or a Foster with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Orientations are held from 1-2:30 p.m., the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month, at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Registration is not required to attend the orientation; cost is a \$10 optional donation. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org.


Valley Children's Museum Needs Volunteers If you are interested in working with kids, Valley Children's Museum is looking for you! For information about volunteer opportunities, call 461-6574, 3 # or e-mail Linda@valleychildrensmuseum.org.

Volunteer Interpreters The California Medical Association seeks community volunteer interpreters for Contra Costa County to assist physicians when other interpretation resources are not an option. If you possess a proficiency in any foreign language and experience interpreting in a health care setting, you are encouraged to apply. Contact CMA at (866) 241-4262, or e-mail communityvip@cmanet.org.

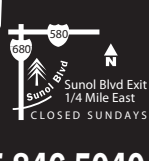
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

Pregnant? Considering Adoption
Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

Writers Wanted
The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://aaj.aan.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

"Good" & Safe Toys selection



Bay Area New Years Eve Party
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Stress Management Psychotherapy

130 Classes & Instruction



Danville Boot Camp for Women
Discover YOUR Inner Athlete! Outdoor Exercise Class Women of all fitness levels. 1hr/day, 3,4,5 day/wk. 457-4587 ContraCostaBootCamp.com

133 Music Lessons
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MUSIC CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

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Piano. Grace 510-352-0546
Pleasanton Shop MTAC/MA

140 Lost & Found
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\$500 Police Impounds
Cars from \$500! Tax Reps, US Marshal and IRS Sales! Cars, Trucks, SUV's, Toyota's, Honda's, Chevy's, more! For Listings call 1-800-298-4150 xC107. (AAN CAN)

Donate Vehicle
Running or not accepted! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatments, Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

Donate Your Car
Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

2000 FLEETWOOD WILDERNESS
Special Edition, 26' Tow-type travel trailer, 6200# gvw. Front queen bed. Center side kitchen w/4-burner stove. Ref, TV, Radio, AC. Cable hook-up & telescoping antenna. Rear bath with comb. tub/shower, sink & toilet. Outside awning. Located in Danville. \$10,750. (925) 820-3816

BMW 2003 X5 3.0i - \$25,999

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 660 Concord Place, Dec. 15, 8-4 Moving Sale

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89
Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39
Hood's Sarsaparilla bottle - \$28
James Bond Special Edition DVD
Lenox Rose China - \$900.00
Olympic Pins - \$3
Precious Moments
Radio Flyer pumpercar - \$50 OBO

230 Freebies

Free 36" TV - FREE

240 Furnishings/ Household items

Candles - \$15
Custom Coffee Table - \$400
Sewing Machine, Viking Designer 2 - \$1,950
Signed Print - \$7

245 Miscellaneous

\$8 Prescription Eyeglasses
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Craftsman table saw - \$75 obo

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Electric Toy Train Sets - \$45-\$175

Great Dog Needs Good Home - \$1.00 dona

Jack Russell Puppies - \$700.00

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260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

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Kid's Stuff

340 Child Care Wanted

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345 Tutoring/ Lessons

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Jobs

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Assistant to the Webmaster/ Online Assistant

Embarcadero Publishing Company, parent company of this newspaper, is looking for a fast-learning, energetic person to help with the production and up-keep of our Web sites and online projects. You'd work on our team providing web support for our seven local web sites. Ideal candidates would be well versed in HTML/PHP. Adobe Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Fireworks and JAVA experience a plus.

This position is available immediately, part-time (approx. 20 hours) and you will work out of our Palo Alto offices — telecommuting is not ok. Students needing to work around school schedules are also welcome, but there are set times that you will need to be available.

In addition to Web work, there are also some administrative duties as well (such as data management). This is not a Web designer position, but there are opportunities to be a part of the design process.

Please submit a cover letter, with a summary of your experience, hours you are available, three URLs of past work and why I would want to hire you with your resume to webmaster@embarcaderopublishing.com. If you don't send a cover letter, your resume will not even be considered. Make sure the subject says: WEB ASSISTANT.

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We are looking for an Account Executive with a proven sales record, excellent organization and communication skills and a strong ability to build and foster client relationships. The successful candidate will be able to develop strategic creative briefs, marketing plans and proposals and comfortable making cold calls and prospecting. A background in media sales is a plus.

The Danville Weekly is a division of Embarcadero Publishing Inc., a dynamic organization with a 27-year history of a commitment to high quality journalism. We offer a compensation plan of a base salary plus commission on sales from the first dollar, medical and dental benefits, paid vacation and 401(k).

Send a cover letter with salary requirements and resume to Mary Hantos, advertising sales manager, mhantos@danvilleweekly.com; The Danville Weekly, 315 Diablo Road, Ste. 100, Danville, CA 94526; or fax to Pleasanton, CA 94566; or fax to 925-837-2278. EOE; drug-free workplace

550 Business Opportunities

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US Home Funding seeks lic. loan officers to work from home. Strong support staff, excellent commissions. Fax: 866-255-3371 or email: hr@ushomefunding.com (Cal-SCAN)

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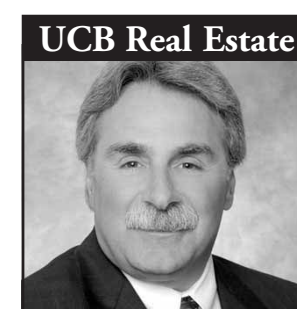
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Real Estate

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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2007

<p>Alamo</p> <p>Total sales reported: 4 Lowest sale reported: \$375,000 Highest sale reported: \$850,000 Average sales reported: \$622,500</p> <p>Danville</p> <p>Total sales reported: 28 Lowest sale reported: \$465,500</p>	<p>Highest sale reported: \$2,873,000 Average sales reported: \$1,017,196</p> <p>Diablo</p> <p>Total sales reported: 1 Lowest sale reported: \$1,850,000 Highest sale reported: \$1,850,000 Average sales reported: \$1,850,000</p>	<p>Walnut Creek</p> <p>Total sales reported: 22 Lowest sale reported: \$135,000 Highest sale reported: \$1,130,500 Average sales reported: \$627,273</p>
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HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2007

<p>Alamo</p> <p>172 Alamo Square Callagy Trust to D. & V. Giri for \$515,000</p> <p>1650 Cervato Circle R. Stewart to J. Fergus for \$750,000</p> <p>1470 Danville Boulevard #10 J. Walker to K. McIlvaine for \$375,000</p> <p>228 Stone Valley Way L. Spady to R. Amatrone for \$850,000</p> <p>Danville</p> <p>1143 Blue Spur Circle Shapell Industries to Khaleel Trust for \$1,087,000</p>	<p>341 Bolero Drive Martin Trust to G. & N. Long for \$1,030,000</p> <p>1530 Colchester Street Lennar Homes to H. & B. Anderson for \$1,155,500</p> <p>2001 Colmar Street KB Homes to M. Mok for \$1,088,000</p> <p>2012 Colmar Street KB Homes to N. & W. Damian for \$1,151,000</p> <p>2018 Colmar Street KB Homes to H. Suh for \$986,000</p> <p>2025 Colmar Street KB Homes to C. & J. Chin for \$928,500</p> <p>2041 Colmar Street KB Homes to J. Yang for \$910,000</p>	<p>204 Garden Creek Place T. & G. Dolan to K. Grizard for \$533,000</p> <p>307 Karelian Street Shapell Industries to C. & S. Francioch for \$466,000</p> <p>366 Karelian Street Shapell Industries to P. & S. Sullivan for \$465,500</p> <p>750 Kirkcrest Road Ageno Trust to Morris Trust for \$2,873,000</p> <p>220 Live Oak Drive M. Sabah to V. Burgos for \$1,012,000</p> <p>1943 Mantova Street KB Homes to P. & M. Kiteley for \$1,053,000</p> <p>1952 Mantova Street KB Homes to C. Hogan for \$955,500</p>
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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DANVILLE

4 Bedrooms	
842 Matadera Cir. Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$1,282,888 260-2508
200 Alicante Pl. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$1,375,000 800-816-4974, ext. 4003
5 Bedrooms	
104 Parkhaven Dr. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$1,200,000 260-8883

SAN RAMON

2 Bedrooms	
9024 Craydon Cir. Sat/Sun 1-4 UCB / Brian Wright	\$265,000 417-7138
2557 Twin Creeks Dr. Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker	\$349,000 785-9373
4 Bedrooms	
3012 Kittery Ave. Sat/Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker	\$649,000 785-9373
2748 Mohawk Cir. Sat 1-4/Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker	\$829,000 785-9373
5 Bedrooms	
3526 Sandalford Wy. Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker	\$999,999 785-9373

DUBLIN

4 Bedrooms	
7823 Crossridge Rd. Sun 12:30-3:30 Hometown GMAC	\$779,000 997-2411

5 Bedrooms	
4939 Sequoia Ave. Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC	\$834,900 417-8603

PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms	
2911 Liberty Dr. Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC	\$614,500 963-8322
1037 Hometown Wy. Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	\$749,900 447-2723
4 Bedrooms	
1397 Whispering Oaks Wy. Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	\$1,049,000 846-6500
3302 Prairie Dr. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$1,098,000 463-0436
307 Brianna Ct. Sat 1-4/Sun 1-4:30 J. Rockcliff	\$1,249,000 699-9508
4677 Helpert Ct. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$729,000 463-0436
2518 Larriquet Ct. Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers	\$919,000 872-8286
5 Bedrooms	
5725 Ohana Pl. Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	\$1,999,995 846-6500

LIVERMORE

4 Bedrooms	
2551 Vintage Ln. Sat 10-1/Sun 2-5 Valley Brokers	\$1,365,000 437-5830
819 Wall St. Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	\$598,999 583-1121
1657 3rd St. Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel	\$625,000 583-1121

Open Sat & Sun 1-4 pm



Remodeled One Story Danville Home with European Flair!

Gorgeous home has everything... 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 3 car garage with 2760 sq ft of living space on a 12,100 sq ft lot with beautiful landscaping, swimming pool, Jacuzzi & redwood deck. This home features an oversized Family Room, with stacked flagstone fireplace, 52" plasma TV on the wall, Surround system, office nook including built-in work station and cabinets. This huge great room also has a gourmet kitchen with a 9 foot island, cherry cabinets, granite slab counters, stainless appliances including built-in refrigerator, and wine frig. With aged pecan hardwood floors, crown molding throughout, new carpet in the bedrooms, new baseboards, new light fixtures, flash water heater, new furnace, new air conditioning, new tile roof, Anderson windows & sliders, retextured walls and ceilings, and all baths have been beautifully updated. The Master Bath has an oversized Italian Travertine shower with 2 shower heads, dual vanity. This is the home you have been waiting for. Offered at \$1,375,000 www.200AlicantePlace.com

Move Right In! Please call us to schedule a private showing!

The Combs Team .com



Nancy P. Combs

Professionals You Can Count on!

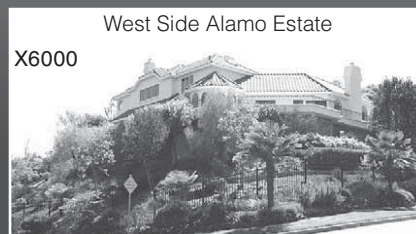
Call Joe and Nancy
925-989-6086

Visit www.thecombsteam.com



Joe Combs

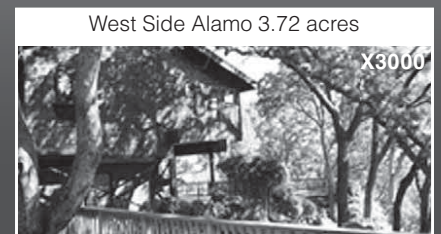
24 Hour Free Audio Tour (866) 374-0607



West Side Alamo Estate

X6000

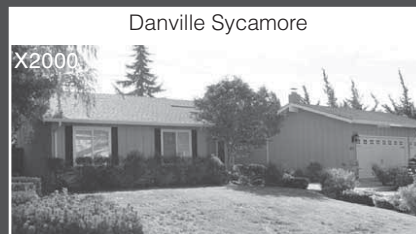
Gated Estate Property in West Side Alamo Updated \$2,239,000



West Side Alamo 3.72 acres

X3000

Four bedroom with Guest Home, pool and incredible views \$2,179,000



Danville Sycamore

X2000

Beautifully updated single story on large lot on cul de sac Street. 4 bedroom, 3 car garage, and pool. Price \$915,000



West Side Danville .93 Acre

X5000

Prime West Side Danville Location. Updated 3 bed and 3 bath with an office. Mostly flat lot with view. Priced to sell \$1,450,000



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Read Joe and Nancy's Real Estate Column in Alive East Bay Magazine





He's here because we're here.

Jerry Bishop, former cardiac bypass surgery patient

One-time teacher, full-time grandpa and part-time Santa, Jerry Bishop is back sorting out who's been naughty or nice. The heart surgeons, cardiologists and cardiac care team at San Ramon Regional Medical Center have put a glow back in Santa's cheeks.

As always, from everyone here at your hospital, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a very healthy New Year.



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This testimonial reflects results achieved by this patient. As each case is different and must be independently evaluated and managed, actual results will vary.