

# Celebrating Black History Month

Peace Lutheran to offer 'Harriet Tubman' jazz oratorio > **page 5**

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## It's all about art

Pioneer Art Gallery makes a scene in Danville

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# Danville

## Plans for new fire stations

District breaks ground for new Danville firehouse

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**CHINESE CLUB REACHES OUT TO ALL CULTURES**

**PAGE 14**

# CHINESE NEW YEAR



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# Streetwise

ASKED AT PEET'S COFFEE IN DANVILLE

## Q: Which presidential candidate would you choose to be stuck with in an elevator?



It would be Barack Obama. He's by far the most interesting and most pertinent. Before he dropped out, Kucinich—there are so many things wrong in the country and in the world that need to be addressed at fundamental levels.

**Gregory Cornia**  
*importer*



Kucinich. He'd be an interesting guy to talk to. He has a lot of the right ideas but he's too independent to be elected.

**Jim Buhl**  
*retired*



I'm undecided who to vote for but in an elevator I'd go with Hillary. I think she's an interesting person—I've been following her since Clinton was president. It would be fun being stuck and talking to her.

**Cathy Smith**  
*accountant*



I'm visiting from England but I would choose Barack Obama. He'd be better than what we've got now. And I'm sure I'd like conversing with him better than Hillary or McCain.

**John Backshall**  
*retired*



Ron Paul. I'd talk to him about getting rid of the Federal Reserve because it's bankrupting our country. I could talk to him about that for hours.

**Chris Swallow**  
*barista*

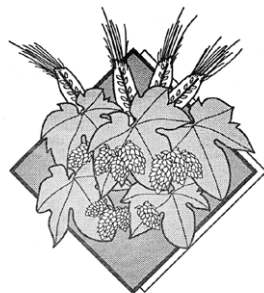
COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

### ABOUT THE COVER

The Culture to Culture Foundation is celebrating Chinese New Year at the Danville Veterans Memorial Hall on Wednesday. Festivities will include a Lion Dance, which will begin outside on Hartz Avenue. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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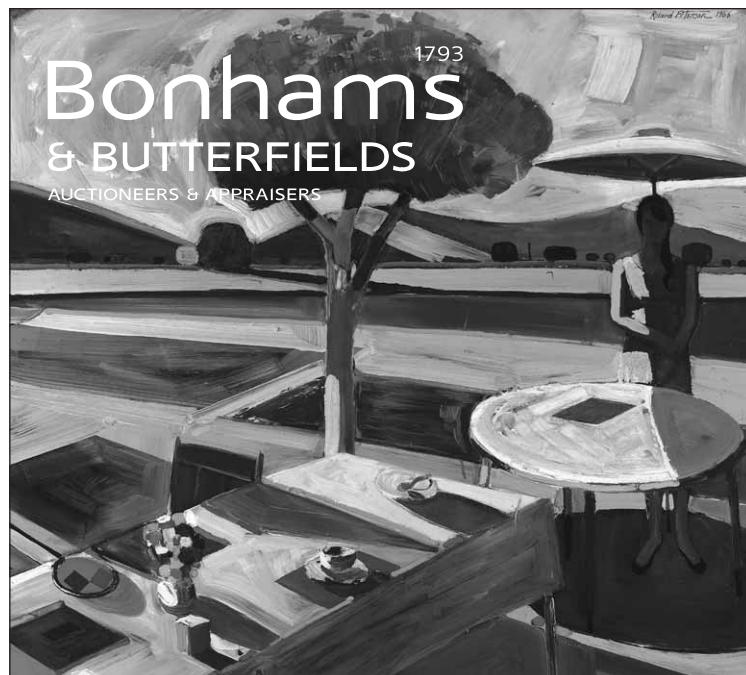
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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ They feel stigmatized. ”

—Mental health professional Chia-Chia Chen about members of the Asian community suffering from mental problems. See story, page 14.

**Alamo fundraiser nets \$59,000**

Alamo Community Foundation's first fundraiser netted approximately \$59,000 to pay for Alamo incorporation feasibility studies required by the state. Two hundred people attended the silent auction and dinner in late January including Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., 15th) and County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho.

"We put our faith in the people of Alamo, and the people of Alamo came through like champions," said Ellen Sanchez, Foundation Vice President of Operations.

In total, the studies will cost approximately \$200,000, and more fundraisers are planned. To get involved, call Barbara Munkner at 837-2937.

**They love you, yeah, yeah, yeah**

The San Ramon Valley High School Instrumental Music Benefit Concert tomorrow night will be a Beatles tribute with a band called the Sun Kings. The event is sponsored by the San Ramon Valley High School Wolf-Tones Instrumental Music Boosters.

"I've been told that if you close your eyes ... just listen ... you feel as if you are truly at a Beatles concert," said Cathy Coleman, Wolf Tones member and event organizer. "This will be a wonderful show for all ages."

The Sun Kings hail from Alameda, and their show will include Beatle songs from 1963-1970. The San Ramon Valley High School Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble will also perform.

The concert will begin at 6:15 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at the high school's Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd. in Danville. The price for front and center row tickets is \$40. For more information, call the box office at 229-2710 or visit [www.communityconcerts.com](http://www.communityconcerts.com).

**Get that special something appraised**

The Heartland Danville Antiques & Art Faire on Sunday will feature \$10 verbal appraisals by certified antique appraisers. Approximately 40 artisans and antique dealers, the antique appraisal clinic, themed activities and local merchants will be open for business between the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and Cottage Jewel on Railroad Avenue.

The event will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10; certified antique appraisers will be available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., standing on the museum steps. Girl Scouts will host a bake sale as a fundraiser for the Blue Star Moms, and Boy Scout Troop 815 will be involved in the set-up, beverages and activities. The event is produced by the Discover Danville Association with the support of the museum and Cottage Jewel. For more information, call Marcia Harmon at Cottage Jewel at 837-2664.

**Supervisor holding informal coffee**

County District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho will hold an informal community outreach coffee from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Peet's Coffee and Tea, 435 Railroad Ave. in Danville.

"I rotate these sessions throughout my district as another way to seek input and stay in touch with my constituents in a relaxed and informal way," said Piepho. "I look forward to meeting with folks, answering questions and discussing issues."

The third district includes Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville, San Ramon, most of Walnut Creek, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay and Knightsen. For more information, call 820-8683.

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## Fire district breaks ground on Camino Tassajara

Alamo station will remain on Stone Valley Road

by Jordan M. Doronila

The fire district celebrated the groundbreaking last week of a new firehouse being built on Camino Tassajara across from Tassajara Hills Elementary School in Danville and adjacent to the Mustang Soccer Complex.

"This is a culmination of several years of work and planning," said Craig Bowen, district fire chief. "It's allowing us to build a fire station to meet the responses of the growing (population)."

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District held the groundbreaking Friday, Feb. 1. More than a dozen people attended the event, including fire chiefs and other public officials.

The facility will house Fire Station No. 36, which will move from its present location further down Camino Tassajara past Johnston Road. The new location is closer to neighborhoods on Camino Tassajara, noted Bowen.

The new station will be a one-floor, 7,000-square-foot building, and will house three firefighters, one fire engine and one wildland vehicle, Bowen said. Construction will begin this month, and the station will be finished in October 2009. The cost of the project is \$3.4 million.

The fire district also plans to rebuild Fire Station No. 32 at its same location on Stone Valley Road in Alamo, a quarter mile east of I-680.

► Continued on page 6



Fire Chief Craig Bowen says the new station on Camino Tassajara will be closer to the neighborhoods than the current Station No. 36, which is several miles away.

JORDAN M. DORONILA

## Town sees Fresh and Easy opening in spring

Company says distribution center may take longer

by Natalie O'Neill

Danville's Fresh and Easy Neighborhood Market is on track to open this spring, town staff says. But getting the British Grocery store chain's Bay Area distribution center up and running could be a different story.

"Everybody wants them in as quickly as possible," said David Crompton, principle planner for the town.

All Bay Area Fresh and Easy stores will be

supplied through a Northern California distribution center, said Fresh and Easy spokesman Brendan Wonnacott. But it's still too early to tell when the distribution center will be open for business, he said.

The company announced last week that 18 Bay Area stores would open, beginning in 2009. Once the center is available, Bay Area stores can open independently, as their cities and towns permit.

The supermarket chain is taking over the old Albertson's building in Green Valley Center on Diablo Road and plans to make only minor changes to the venue, which could make Danville among the first opened store locations.

New signage and some interior remodeling, to make the space available for two tenants, are the only significant building plans. In the works are a proposal for a pharmacy to take over just less than half of the 26,500-square-foot space. No exterior changes are planned.

"They're not making any major changes," said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo.

He said as far as he knew the store would be ready to open this spring.

Fresh and Easy locations will include Hayward, San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland and Oakley in 2009.

In December, Fresh and Easy representatives told the Danville Design Review Board that getting locations open as speedily as

possible is a top priority.

"It's up to them," Crompton said, explaining the town could be ready for the opening as soon as late winter 2008.

Although the chain has gained media attention for setting up camp in low-income spots with little access to fresh foods, like San Francisco's Hunter's Point, Wonnacott said the store defies socio-economic categorization. Danville and Walnut Creek are the lone affluent cities where Fresh and Easy stores are planned among the 18 Bay Area locations.

"It's really a store for everybody. Regardless of neighborhood, everybody wants fresh wholesome food," Wonnacott said. ■

## Super Tuesday vote is in

Bob Hansen (left) checks in a voter at the polling place set up in the Alamo Elementary School library shortly after 8 a.m. on Super Tuesday while Alamo resident Karen Rice waits to be of assistance. Contra Costa County voters differed from those statewide in their lack of support for the Indian gaming Measures 94-97; while statewide they passed by an 11 percent margin, in this county they failed, by less than 1 percent. Hillary Clinton won with 49.61 percent of the vote in this county; statewide she received 51.9 percent. Local Republicans favored John McCain with 47.01 percent; statewide he received 42.1 percent.



DOLORES FOX CHARDELLI

## 'Harriet Tubman' concert Sunday

Oratorio will celebrate Black History Month

by Natalie O'Neill

Entertainment. Art. Spirituality.

Music serves different purposes for different people.

For Harriet Tubman and the thousands of slaves who escaped through the Underground Railroad, music was a language—used to send signals and directions about where and when to escape.

Communication through music during slavery is just one subject that will be touched on during "Harriet Tubman: Bound for the Promised Land," a 15-piece Jazz Oratorio, on Feb. 10 at Peace Lutheran Church's celebration of Black History Month.

The Jazz Orchestra will tell the story of Tubman's journey, written by Stanford University's Marcus Shelby, one of the Bay Area's premier bass players.

"It's utterly unique," said the Rev. Steve

Harms, senior pastor of Peace Lutheran Church.

While teaching at the university, Shelby created a curriculum that explored Tubman's connection to early jazz roots through field hollers, work songs, ring shouts and the blues. And he was struck by what a profound role music played in assisting the escape.

"All of these clues were being given through songs," Harms explained.

Today, music can be used as "an awakening," Harms said, a reminder that we are glad to be alive. It's a form of preaching and one way to connect to God, he said.

"Music sustained the spirits of these folks," Harms said of the slaves. "It stirs the heart. That has to be nurtured constantly, otherwise it becomes stale."

The free event will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10. For more information, call 648-7000 or visit [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org). ■



## Tony La Russa comes to bat for San Ramon Valley Little League

About 250 baseball fans of all ages celebrated the 50th anniversary of the San Ramon Valley Little League last Friday night at Diablo Country Club, where local baseball great Tony La Russa signed autographs and addressed the crowd of enthusiasts. He spoke about the importance of practicing the fundamentals of the sport at the beginning of each season and said players get good by constant repetition. "That's what spring training is all about," said organizer Bill Hooper, an Alamo resident who is president of the Northern California Regional Little League. "Now when I face my team in a couple of weeks, I can say, 'Remember what La Russa said.'" Read more and see photos at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com).

## Fire

► Continued from page 5

The district purchased the southwest lot at the corner of Danville Boulevard and Hemme Avenue in Alamo two years ago, with plans to build a new station on the site for Station No. 32, but a statistical analysis concluded that its current location serves the Valley best, said Bowen.

Station No. 32 has six fire personnel, two engines, one ambulance and wildland vehicle. Half of the crew can respond to a call, and the rest of them can be on standby so Alamo has good coverage, Bowen said.

"The response time from that station is the (quickest)," he said. "Our goal is to have a five minute response 90 percent of the time."

"We can best meet the needs of the community from that station," he added.

The new fire station on Stone

Valley Road will take two to three years to build.

"We are in the design phase right now," Bowen said. "Once we have a preliminary design, we will have formal meetings with the Alamo Improvement Association and the Contra Costa Planning Department."

**"Our goal is to have a five minute response 90 percent of the time."**

—Fire Chief Craig Bowen

Bowen said the district has not decided what to do with the land on Danville Boulevard and Hemme Avenue, and it will retain ownership of the property for the time being. He noted there have been several interested parties wanting to buy the lot. ■

## Assembly candidate Buchanan reports \$166,000

*Democrats will present three candidates at forum in March*

by Jordan M. Doronila

School board Trustee Joan Buchanan has raised more than \$166,000 from nearly 400 donors to run for state assemblywoman of District 15.

"It shows we really have a good broad base support," said Buchanan, an Alamo resident who has served 17 years on the San Ramon Valley Unified School District board. "This is a great way to start our campaign. I am extremely gratified by the amount we've raised and the number of people involved in giving."

She is running for the Democratic nomination against Steve Filson, a small business owner and a retired Navy and commercial airline pilot with labor negotiations experience; and Steve Thomas, a union electrician and environmentalist who worked in finance for more than 10 years. The Democratic clubs in

the district will host a forum for the contenders on March 11.

Buchanan noted she has reached out to different groups—parents, teachers and local business groups—and she wants to solidify her base in the San Ramon Valley with the intention of expanding her campaign to reach other cities in the 15th Assembly District.

The district includes Alamo, Danville, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, Brentwood, Livermore and parts of Pleasanton, as well as portions of the Sacramento Delta communities of Stockton, Galt and Elk Grove.

Buchanan said she had doubts about continuing her candidacy when her son Chris needed surgery to remove a brain tumor the size of a grapefruit. But Chris, who survived the operation, said otherwise.

"He sort of looked at me during the biopsy," said Joan Buchanan, "and said, 'Mom, you're staying

in the race.'"

"It was a difficult time," she added. "That's all I could say."

Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., San Ramon) currently represents District 15, but his last term is about to expire. If voters had approved the proposition to extend term limits for the California Legislature and Houston had decided to retain his seat, Buchanan said she would have continued to run.

"Absolutely," she said.

The Democratic forum for the Assembly candidates will take place from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. in San Ramon. The three candidates will attend the event to answer questions regarding the state budget, healthcare, the Delta and education. A donation is suggested of \$10 and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information, call Sally Sweetser at 335-2647. ■

## Lab lectures begin tomorrow

*Talks present cutting-edge science to students*

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's popular "Science on Saturday" lecture series, targeted at middle and high school students, returns Feb. 9 and runs through March 8.

Each presentation in the series is a collaboration of Lab scientists and a science teacher and highlights cutting-edge Lab science aimed at the understanding of students.

This year's lectures are:

- Feb. 9—Geothermal Energy: Harnessing the Heat Beneath your Feet
- Feb. 16—Our Dark and Messy Universe: How One Particle Might Light the Way
- Feb. 23—From the Sun to the Sun: The Story on the National Ignition Facility and Our Energy Future
- March 1—Greenhouse Reduction: Underground Storage of Carbon Dioxide
- March 8—Protecting the

Nation's Livestock: Corralling Foreign Diseases. This lecture and demonstration will be presented by Lab scientist Pamela Hullinger and Patti Carothers, Monte Vista High School teacher.

All lectures are open to the public and held at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Two presentations are offered each Saturday, at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis and there is no preregistration. Admission is free.

Teachers attending the presentations will receive a copy of the PowerPoint slides used in the lecture, and a DVD with the movie from the talk.

For more information about Science on Saturday, directions and a map, go to the Web at <http://education.llnl.gov/sos/> or contact Richard Farnsworth at 422-5059. ■

## Councilman says 'no' to parking lot bonus

*Town awards \$28,000 for finishing work on time*

by Jordan M. Doronila

Town Councilman Mike Shimansky said the contractor that rebuilt the parking lot at Sycamore Valley Park in Danville did not deserve a bonus.

He argued against the extra pay at a Town Council meeting last month but nonetheless the council voted 4-1 to recognize the completion of the parking lot and in favor of the bonus to the contractor.

"I don't have problems paying for what he did," Shimansky said. "The contractor did a nice job."

"But giving somebody a \$28,000 bonus to complete a contract that he willfully entered into (is questionable)," he added. "I don't see the logic in that. I don't think we ought to use the taxpayers' money for somebody to do a job that he bid on and had a contract for."

Council members approved the

contractor's bid from Galedrige Construction Inc. in May. The original contract amount was \$467,530 with a bonus of \$28,000 if the work were completed on schedule. Shimansky also voted against the bonus in May.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said Galedrige deserved the bonus because it finished the project before the deadline last summer. The town paid \$510,108, which was less than the \$542,284 budget allocated for the parking lot. There was also an increase of \$14,577 due to several additions to the project.

"The project had a very finite window to work with which had to substantially be completed or we were going to experience some major inconvenience," Calabrigo said.

The contractor built 86 additional parking spaces in the parking lot plus made improvements to landscaping,

pedestrian walkways and traffic circulation in the existing parking lot on Holbrook Drive, which serves Sycamore Valley Park, Sycamore Valley Elementary and the Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Preserve. Galedrige had a timeframe from June to August and had to work around soccer tournaments to get the parking lot finished.

Calabrigo said the town broke the project into two phases. Phase one was the demolition, paving and striping, which were finished prior to the beginning of the new school year. Phase two dealt with landscaping, which could be worked on while school was in session.

"School officials and park users and everyone were pleased with the outcome," Calabrigo said. "It's very difficult for that size project to get done within a two-month window with the other activities going on." ■

# Diablo Views

BY JORDAN M. DORONILA



## Jersey boy says goodbye

I ran away from home when I was 10, dashing through the dark. The police found me hiding behind a tree, wearing red pajamas and white sneakers, and brought me back to my parents—who were quivering with tears when they saw me return.

People wondered if I was running away again when I left New Jersey for California 16 years later. My sister Cara almost cried watching the film “Into the Wild,” saying the movie’s main character reminded her of me because he left his parents without telling them where he was going.

I quit a possible future as a journalist working in the media empire of the Tri-State Area and moved to California in October 2005. I had heard the Golden State had gorgeous beaches and redwood trees rising high in quiet forests. I found it hilarious that Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gary Coleman and a porn star were running for governor.

I found California’s craziness appealing because it was different from what I was taught in school, at work—and especially at home.

“You should be in computers.”

“You should be wearing better clothes.”

“You should get married.”

I was aching to leave those expectations behind and ensconce myself in California’s mantra “of being with the moment.” Although, I realized this particular state of mind didn’t work so well due to my hyper personality.

I applied to the master’s program in journalism at UC Berkeley with the aim of shoving my degree in front of my relatives’ faces and saying: “Ha. I went to Berkeley. And where did you go to school?” I didn’t get into Berkeley. I wrote my statement of purpose the day before the application deadline, and my draft contained numerous misspellings, disjointed paragraphs, fragments and redundancies. (I heard Professor Michael Pollan was ticked when I misspelled his name.)

My ego was shattered and I was distraught over what to do next. The only thing I had going for me was my job as a staff reporter for the Danville Weekly. I remember starting there Nov. 11, 2005, and sitting at my desk, looking out my window, hearing the calm and staring at the big Oak Tree. How the hell did I wind up here? I asked myself silently. Being in Danville felt like being in the Pennsylvania town Punxsutawney in the film “Groundhog Day.” Everything seemed so clean and perfect and everyone was so enthusiastic about their town that it drove me crazy at first.

But a dear friend of mine—who isn’t talking to me now for reasons I will not disclose—shared his wis-

dom in understanding relationships.

“You have choices,” he said. “You can fret and revel in your own self-righteous indignation.”

He stomped his foot for dramatic effect.

“Or you can respond by saying, ‘Mmmmm....That’s intriguing,’” he said.

“There are both easy and difficult relationships,” he continued. “Both are valuable and reveal something distinctly authentic that is inherent inside of you.”

Then it clicked, but it took work.

I explored my creativity within the bounds of the small weekly, collaborating with a dynamic and talented staff. Together, we brainstormed ideas regarding different story angles, cover concepts, photos and layout design. I wrote stories about being black in Danville, spirituality, special education, religion, Islam and Judaism, entrepreneurship, crime (even though there wasn’t much). I saw the world through the eyes of strangers with different views and wrote about their experiences.

I rode the Goodyear Blimp above the San Francisco Bay, seeing the wonderful watery swells and the sunny haze above the city. I went to the halls of the state Capitol for a glimpse of state politics. I visited Richmond High School with the idea of doing a comparative story between a student there and one at Monte Vista. I experimented with my writing, which was often over-the-top, causing my editor to roll her eyes and tell me: “No, that’s just doesn’t work.”

The other enjoyable aspect of the job was getting to know my sources, the different personalities in this area. After working here for more than two years, I am surprised how large my business card file is and how many people in town know me. A town councilman nominated me to participate in the San Ramon Valley Leadership program, and I was flattered.

But the most important experience working for the Danville Weekly was it reminded me why I became a writer: the love of the creative word. I devoted my energies to reading and writing when I moved to Danville in mid-August, fortunate to find a nice home (occupied with three other crazy roommates) in a peaceful neighborhood. My rent was cheaper and I was tired of commuting from Oakland and hearing quarreling neighbors scream and bang against the doors in my apartment building. I also wasn’t fond of the drug addicts and prostitutes at a nearby cafe.

Now my journey with the Danville Weekly has run its course. I want to say a big thank you to Danville for indirectly helping guide me through my growing pains. Later! ■

## TAKE US ALONG



## All in the family

The Caselle family included the Weekly while attending the retirement ceremony in Arlington, Va., for Army Chief Warrant Officer Michael A. Caselle, who lives in Sabillasville, Md., with his family. Pictured are mother Shirli Caselle of Danville, Michael, wife Anna, father Mike Caselle, and daughters Sierra and Sienna.

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

## Kiwanis calls for grant applications for \$40,000

*Last year money went to Discovery Counseling, Street Smarts and more*

The Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley has issued a call for community nonprofit organizations throughout the area to apply for more than \$40,000 in grants to be awarded during 2008. Ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, the Kiwanis grants are designed to support programs and projects that help both specific organizations and the broader community.

The bulk of the grants will be awarded in May, said Grants Chairman John Lineweaver. Additional money will be held in reserve to provide emergency grants, fund Kiwanis community service projects, support four local Kiwanis-sponsored high school Key Clubs, and support Grad Nights for the San Ramon Valley school district high schools. The total of this direct youth support will exceed \$23,000, making a combined total of \$63,000 for community service grants and funding by Kiwanis in 2008.

Lineweaver noted that Kiwanis generally recognizes grant applications from projects that serve residents of the San Ramon Valley, although nonprofit organizations need not be located in the Valley itself. Specific eligibility criteria are listed at [www.kiwanis-srv.org](http://www.kiwanis-srv.org).

In 2007, 38 separate nonprofit organizations received grants, including the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Discovery Counseling Center, Down Syndrome Connection, Loaves and Fishes, Meals on Wheels, the Taylor Family Foundation, Valley Humane Society, Hospice of the East Bay, Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Senior Helpline Services, Monument Crisis Center, Street

Smarts, and the San Ramon Valley YMCA.

Funds are raised by the Kiwanis Club through staging the annual Danville 4th of July Parade and an annual golf tournament held each April at Round Hill Country Club.

Applications are on the Web site or call Lineweaver at 837-3665. The deadline for submissions is

Monday, March 10. Winners will be announced at a Grants Award Luncheon on May 22.

The Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley holds weekly luncheon meetings at noon Thursdays at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. The lunch is a good chance for prospective members to learn more about the organization. ■

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

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### POLICE BULLETIN

#### Explosives found, man arrested

Danville police arrested a man on charges of possessing an illegal explosive device after two 911 calls brought officers to the 800 block of Diablo Road last Friday. Explosive materials were found, and police blocked off the area for about three hours as a cautionary measure.

"At about 12:30, a 911 dispatch center received calls about a disturbance with a gun involved," said Lt. Mark Williams. They arrived at the residence and detained Neil Cooper, 27, of Danville, who was identified as the person responsible for the disturbance.

"We did a protective sweep of the residence and during the sweep, we located stuff that looked like bombs—three road flares tied together with electrical tape, wires coming from the bottom, connected to a 9-volt battery," said Williams. "The device looked extremely real."

Police locked down the house and began an

evacuation process of the area between El Cerro Boulevard and Bobbie Drive. Police set up their command post in the parking lot at Sloat Garden Center, and police rerouted school traffic via Bobbie Drive and Turrini Drive.

"Acorn Learning Center (at 816 Diablo Road) was immediately evacuated to Vista Grande School," said Williams.

Danville police called the Walnut Creek bomb squad, which examined the device and determined it was not an actual bomb. However, the squad found that Cooper had five to six explosive devices concealed in a circular cardboard tube. He also had a .22-caliber handgun, an air gun, police baton and other police items.

The District Attorney charged Cooper on Tuesday with three misdemeanors: possession of an explosive device, possession of a deadly weapon, and brandishing a replica firearm.

### POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available from its incident summary report:

#### Sunday, Jan. 27

- Suspicious circumstances on Ilo Lane at 3:21 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Mariposa Ct. at 6:05 a.m.
- Stolen vehicle, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 8:59 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Century Cir. at 9:47 a.m.
- Vandalism on Elati Ct. at 11:39 a.m.
- Battery on Hartz Way and Railroad Ave. at 1:52 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls at Glen Arms Dr. at 2:16 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Green Valley Rd. at 2:30 p.m.
- Public nuisance on Golden Hills Ct. at 4:28 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Harlan Dr. at 10:45 p.m.

#### Monday, Jan. 28

- Grand theft on Brooktree Dr. at 10:45 a.m.
- Identity theft on El Pintado Rd. at 10:59 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 1:04 p.m.
- Identity theft on St. George Rd. at 1:53 p.m.

- Suspicious circumstances on Del Amigo Rd. and Verona Ave. at 3:07 p.m.
- Public nuisance on Richard Lane at 6:28 p.m.
- Petty theft on Gerbera St. at 6:34 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Matadera Cir. at 7:24 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on Matadera Cir. at 8:21 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Center Way and Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:55 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 29

- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Camino Encanto at 11:17 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Fostoria Way and Silverwood Ct. at 11:57 a.m.
- Public nuisance on Laurel Dr. and Princeton Lane at noon
- Public nuisance on Las Barrancas Dr. at 3:55 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Dunhill Dr. at 4:27 p.m.
- Noise disturbance on Love Lane at 5:59 p.m. and 6:06 p.m.
- Public nuisance on Amesbury Ct. at 7:51 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Tunbridge Rd. at 9:03 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 30

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on I-680 and Diablo Rd. at 2:04 a.m.
- Noise disturbance on Love Lane at 9:47 a.m.
- Petty theft on Railroad Ave. at 11:37 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Montego Dr. at 2:51 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:32 p.m.
- Computer data access fraud on Los Robles Ct. at 5:22 p.m.
- Littering on Shirlee Dr. at 6:16 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Crow Canyon Rd. and El Capitan Dr. at 7:47 p.m.
- Vandalism on Milano Ct. at 8:41 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:01 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Clydesdale Dr. at 11:35 p.m.

#### Thursday, Jan. 31

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 8:32 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:44 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Contada Cir. at 2:02 p.m.

### OBITUARIES

#### Patrick John Selak

Alamo resident Patrick John Selak died Jan. 14 at the age of 87.

He was born Sept. 30, 1920, in London, Ontario, Canada. He graduated from the University of Detroit with a degree in Chemical and Nuclear Engineering. He was selected for Combat Engineers Officers Candidate School and later for a top secret assignment—the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

He married the love of his life, Virginia Shearer, in Toronto on May 20, 1944, and they had seven children. He had a lifelong love affair with hockey and was an unabashed Sharks fan. He began skating at age 4, and played in prep school and college. Upon moving to California, he joined the Concord Bruins in the NorCal Senior League. He also coached for 10 years and was hired

by the Sun Valley Rink to teach hockey skating. He was a dedicated member of St. Isidore's parish in Danville since 1954, a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, and past president of SIRS Organization.

He was preceded in death by his two sons, John Patrick and Michael William. He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Virginia; children, Bonnie (Tom) Sr., Carol, Debbie, Paul (Deborah), and Jennifer (Aaron); seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A Memorial Mass was celebrated Jan. 21 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville. Donations may be made to Kaiser Hospice, 200 Muir Road, Martinez 94553.

#### Joseph William Boyd

Joseph William Boyd, a Danville resident, passed away Jan. 13 at the

age of 16.

He was born June 22, 1991, and lived with brain cancer since infancy. He loved and embraced the miracle of life, and touched and inspired all who came in contact with him, especially the students of St. Isidore School. He loved music, playing catch and being a part of his siblings' everyday activities. His smile and laugh would light up any room.

He is survived by his parents Joan and Kelly; and his brothers and sisters Justin, Alex, Samantha and Kelli Ann. His everlasting life was celebrated at a Mass of the Angels at St. Isidore's Church on Jan. 17, and burial will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Alton, Ill. Donations may be made to the Joey Boyd Scholarship Fund c/o Saint Isidore's School, 435 La Gonda Way, Danville.



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# Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

## Millstein brings home gold

California boys figure big in Maccabi Water Polo



Michael Millstein

Michael Millstein, a junior at Monte Vista High School and co-captain of its water polo team, worked with his USA Water Polo Team to bring home the Gold at the 11th Pan American Maccabi Games. The Games took place from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"The entire experience of playing and winning a gold medal for my country was by far the highlight of my athletic career," said Millstein. "There's nothing like hearing USA chants and knowing that they are for you, or standing on the podium and singing our national anthem."

The USA "A" Team was undefeated in the tournament and defeated the Brazilian Team in the final competition. The team consisted of current and former college and high school players from across the United States, including California players from Pasadena, La Canada, Redondo Beach, Culver City, Hidden Hills and Los Angeles. Millstein, at 16, was the youngest player on the USA Team.

"Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel sent a contingent of close to 500 to the 11th Pan American Maccabi Games, in the Open, Youth, Juniors and Masters categories, joining an estimated 3,000 athletes from more than 20 countries," said Phyllis Magerman, chairwoman of the U.S. 11th Pan American Maccabi Games organizing committee.

Millstein, an Alamo resident, led the Mustangs this season with 51 goals, 55 assists and 56 steals, said Carole Carluccio, Monte Vista High School's water polo statistician.

Since 1948, Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel has sought to enrich the lives of Jewish youths in the United States, Israel and throughout the Diaspora through athletic, cultural and educational programs. The organization is the sponsor of the U.S. Team to the World Maccabiah Games in Israel, the world's third largest international sporting event. It also sponsors U.S. participation in Maccabi competitions in Pan America, Europe and Australia and supports Jewish youth through the JCC Maccabi Games. ■

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Left-handed Danville golfers playing for James Cup

Three Danville residents, Steve Jacobus, Wally Mattson and Rick Rodriguez, are members of the U.S. Team to play in the James Cup International Match Play Championship being held today, Feb. 8, in Christchurch, New Zealand. The U.S. Team, with a record of 4-0, will be defending the James Cup.

The James Cup is an amateur golf championship with a unique feature—all of the players are left-handed golfers. The championship is held bi-annually, and previous host countries include Spain, Canada, Ireland and Taiwan.

This year's International Team includes players from Japan, Canada, England, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand. The championship will be contested at the Clearwater Golf Club, the home of the HSBC New Zealand PGA Championship, which was held the week preceding the matches.

The U.S. Team will again cross the pond in June 2009 to Sweden, hopefully to again defend the James Cup.

### Swimming in the fast lane

Madison White and Jacob Wooldridge from the Crow Canyon Sharks were awarded the most outstanding swimmers for their age group in the 2006-2007 season, at the recent Pacific Swimming 2008

Awards Banquet. White, a Danville resident, was recognized in the 11-12 age group, where she has broken five USA Pacific records in backstroke. Wooldridge was honored as an outstanding swimmer for the long course season in the 9-10 age group.

These swimmers were picked from 100 teams and approximately 12,000 swimmers in Northern California and Nevada. Pacific Swim is the third largest in the United States.

A week later, White and David Morgan of the Sharks were picked to compete at the Pacific Swim All Star Meet in Carson City, Nev. Morgan won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, and finished with six top-10 (individual races). He also helped win all four relay races in the 11-12 age group, setting three National All-Star records in the process.

White, 13, won the 100 backstroke and finished in the top-10 five times individually. She was also part of the 200 medley relay team that broke the National All-Star record that had stood for 15 years in the 13-14 age group. Marissa Neel, a Danville swimmer from the Concord Terrapins, was also part of the record-setting team. She finished fourth individually in the 100 butterfly and fifth in the 200 butterfly.

Pacific Swim scored 998.5 points to win the meet. Swimmers from Washington, Oregon, Canada and Southern California also competed.

## PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 8

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Foothill, 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Dougherty, 7 p.m.

**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista at San Ramon Valley, 5:45 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 11

**Men's Basketball**  
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
Monte Vista at Amador, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Livermore, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista at Foothill, 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 15

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Monte Vista, 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Monte Vista, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 16

**Wrestling**  
EBAL Varsity Championships at Livermore High, 9 a.m.

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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Accidents waiting to happen**

Downtown Alamo is dangerous to drivers and can be deadly to pedestrians. With 14 driveways and two streets opening onto a 1,200-foot stretch of Danville Boulevard, it is an accident waiting to happen. Throw in the bicycle packs, and the section is even more hazardous.

There are four categories of drivers on the road: residents going to local destinations; residents headed outside the immediate community; outsiders who have come into Alamo to do business here or for a social event; and the much-maligned commuters who are passing through and often cause a backup during rush hour. The commuters have the right to travel the road, like it or not, and they are not necessarily any more dangerous than the local drivers when they are in a hurry.

The question is: How can this dangerous situation be alleviated? Some changes have been made recently, such as the additional left-turn lane southbound onto Stone Valley Road, and the flashing lights at Jackson Way. And Supervisor Mary N. Piepho has asked the California Highway Patrol to enforce the speed limits. Yet this stretch of road remains dangerous.

If we were starting from scratch, the solution would be obvious. Have Danville Boulevard go around the shopping areas rather than smack dab through the middle. But it is too late for this option. Perhaps the parking lots of the shopping areas on either side of Danville Boulevard should be merged and the cars all funneled out at one or two stoplights in addition to those at Stone Valley Road. These lights would be an inconvenience to drivers traveling north and south, which would encourage people to stay on the freeway, and they also would stop the traffic to allow pedestrians to cross safely.

Surely this situation has come up in other places as freeways have cut through communities and their former highways have become alternate rush hour routes. Drawing on experiences throughout the county, state or even the country, can't our County Public Works Department find a way to alleviate the danger? Preferably before a fatal accident happens.

Perhaps the parking lots of the shopping areas on either side of Danville Boulevard should be merged and the cars all funneled out at one or two stoplights.

**YOUR TURN**

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that Friday's edition.

Submit Letters to the Editor of up to 250 words to editor@DanvilleWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Danville Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information, contact Dolores Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 29.



**Guest Opinion**

BY VLADO BEVC

**Signs and the first amendment**

Signs always have been of interest to the solons who run Danville as they are the media for town hall telling us how things should be. Election signs have always been very much on the mind of town hall. If everything could be put up at will, opposition candidates might run successfully against the incumbents. No way. As content still cannot be overtly regulated in America, the town hall banned any signs whatever.

Political candidates brash enough as to put up a sign promoting his name (and little else), or opposing those annual parcel taxes, special measure taxes and taxes on taxes, get their signs removed by the town's "maintenance" (demolition?). Signs promoting various prom queens just happen to be overlooked in this process.

Then there are signs of "general community interest" such as notices of garage sales and "Happy Birthday Joe" placards. We all wish a very happy birthday to Joe and hope that it is not Joe Stalin whom the well-wishers have in mind.

Years ago town officials, including the then city attorney and then town manager, took out a sign on private property promoting a museum. The courts let them go with a gentle slap on the wrists "for destruction of property." The gross violation of a citizen's right of free speech and use of her property was not noticed. Officials explained that no one wanted to abridge that lady's civil rights, they just had some good clean fun taking a chainsaw to the sign on their own free time! Does the desire for such clean fun still linger?

Signs of "general community interest" are rather destruc-

tive when attached with duct tape or other adhesives to traffic signal poles wreaking havoc with the paint job. The town would not use a repellant coating for poles that would prevent postings because such chemicals would damage the environment. Those signs show the address of the culprits and town could send a bill for repainting to them. Cops could look into that but they have much higher priorities. Like sending three police cars out if someone is handing out educational materials (a no-no!) to parents in front of a school.

There are taxpayer-provided bulletin boards and kiosks in parks and the library. These are "rented" to favored groups such as Little League, never-heard-of dramatic clubs, etc. Not everyone can obtain place to set up a bulletin board from the town much less a place on those existing. The town must first be satisfied that the material is politically correct. The decision is made by a clerk who does not read her e-mail, does not return phone calls and is seldom in her office. The library's bulletin board is controlled by the county librarian. Did the Founding Fathers envision such practices when writing the First Amendment?

The question is: Are the town's services only available to some and not to others and should the pipsqueak towns in the valley really be in the position to control free speech?

*Vlado Bevc, Ph.D., a Danville resident since 1970, was one of the residents who resisted its incorporation. He was on the staff of the California Public Utilities Commission for 25 years, is the author of "Liberal Forces in 20th Century Yugoslavia," and is working on a book, "All about Energy."*

# “A Doctor’s Confession To The Town of Danville..”

*And why, despite all, I still do what I do*

Dear friend,

Confessions are tough. Real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know, when I meet people in town they usually say, “Oh, yeah, I know you, you’re Dr. Garrido. I’ve seen your ad with that picture of you and your cute little niece and nephew.” Well, I’m the guy in the middle with the hat on.

**Years ago something happened to me that changed my life forever.** *Let me tell you my story.*

*I had heard of people having seizures before, and thought nothing of it, until that one fateful day... I remember walking down the hall in middle school all by myself. Suddenly a cloud of numbness overcame me. I fell to the ground, and started shaking uncontrollably. I was in the midst of my first seizure. After my first bout, I kept it quiet. I didn’t tell my friends or family. I was embarrassed. In fact, I was downright scared. A week had gone by and it didn’t happen again, so I thought I was safe. Boy was I wrong.*

A week later, I was at an air show. There were hundreds, if not thousands of people there. I remember, going to buy a hot dog, when I felt that familiar cloud of numbness hit, like it did the week before. I fell to ground, loss all control of my body, and again started violently and uncontrollably shaking.

My mother and father panicked. With tears down their eyes, they rushed me to the hospital and I underwent an exhaustive battery of tests and procedures to determine just what was wrong with me.

After MRIs, Cat-Scans, EEGs, Blood Work, and a number of other tests, they determined that I was healthy... at least physically. The MDs said that since I was fine physically, I must be making it up. So, they sent me to a Psychiatrist.

The Psychiatrist said I had “*been making it up in my head.*” After considering mind altering drugs (that was the only option, according to him), my family and I decided against it.

Fast forward 10 years of suffering, and countless seizures. After doing some research, I went to see a chiropractor. He did an exam, took some films, and then ‘adjusted’ my spine. After just **one adjustment**, I’ve been seizure free ever since. It was then that I decided to devote my life to chiropractic.

It’s strange how life is, because now people come to see me with their seizures.

Also they come to me with their *headaches, migraines, chronic pain, neck pain, shoulder/arm pain, whiplash from car accidents, backaches, ear infections, asthma, allergies, numbness*, just to name a few.

**Here’s what some of my patients had to say:**

- ▶ “...after 1 week the 30 yr. pain in my right leg was gone!” –Carol
- ▶ “I rarely get headaches and my arm numbness is gone!” –Barbara
- ▶ “I was taking Ibuprofen for pain...Chiropractic is a Life-Saver” –Patricia
- ▶ “My menstrual cramps have **DISAPPEARED!**” –Kim
- ▶ “I no longer wake up in the morning with agonizing low back pain!” –Philip



Several times a day patients thank me for helping them with their health problems. But I can’t really take the credit. ***My confession is that I’ve never healed anyone of anything.*** What I do is perform a specific spinal adjustment to remove nerve pressure, and the body responds by ***healing itself.*** We get tremendous results. It’s as simple as that!

Being a chiropractor can be tough, because there’s a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about my profession. But the studies speak for themselves, like the Virginia study that showed that over 90% of patients who saw a chiropractor were satisfied with their results. **That’s just incredible!**

Forty-eight million Americans **no longer have health insurance**, and those who do have found that their benefits are reduced. That’s where chiropractic comes in. Many people find that they actually save money on their health care expenses by seeing a chiropractor. Another way to save...published, peer-reviewed research indicates that the immune system may be enhanced by chiropractic adjustments. The immune system is the system that helps

the body fight colds, the flu, and many other sicknesses. Maybe you won’t be running off to the doctor as much once you start chiropractic. This is especially important if you are **self-employed**. And an entire week of care in my office may cost what you could pay for **one visit** elsewhere.

**You benefit from an Amazing Offer-** Look, it shouldn’t cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health care expenses, *you may as well write one for a lesser amount for chiropractic.* When you bring in this article, you will receive my entire new patient exam for only **\$17**. That’s with x-rays, exam...the whole ball of wax. This exam could cost you \$250-\$350 elsewhere. But, please call **right away** because this offer expires on February 29th, 2008 and I don’t want you to miss out. By the way, further care is very affordable and you’ll be happy to know that **I have affordable family plans.** In fact, I love taking care of families and children (just like I take care of my very healthy niece and nephew in the picture to the left). Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. **High costs can add up very quickly.** By law, this offer excludes Medicare/Medi-caid patients.

**Great care at a great fee...**Please, I hope that there’s no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You’ll get great care at a great fee. **We just have that low exam fee to help more people who need care.**

As a graduate of Life West Chiropractic College, my wife and I moved to San Ramon where we wanted to start not only a practice, but raise our family. We love it here.

Our assistant is Desiree, and she is a great person. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee.

Our office is called **BACK TO HEALTH CHIROPRACTIC** and it is located at 801 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite B (we are ½ block south of the Livery). Our phone number is **925.820.1500**. Call Desiree today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you.

*Yours In Health,*

- **Dr. Johannes Garrido, D.C.**

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Chia-Chia Chien, an Alamo mental health professional, talks about breaking the stigma surrounding the Chinese community regarding mental health. She has started the Culture to Culture Foundation, which supports and encourages Asians who have mental issues to seek assistance and support.

# HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY HEARTS

Chia-Chia Chen on a mission for  
mental wellbeing

story and photos by Jordan M. Doronila

**T**urmoil. Terror. Screaming. Suicide.  
Help. Help me please.

Many Asians suffering from severe bi-polar, mania and mental distortion refuse to seek help—they fear others will judge them as crazy, said Chia-Chia Chen, an Alamo mental health professional.

Chen noted she saw a high volume of cases where Asians denied having mental problems when she worked for the Berkeley Mental Health Clinic for 28 years.

“Ninety-five percent of the Asian population, who are in crisis and in severe tragedy, seek help at a late stage,” said Chen. “They feel stigmatized.”

“They don’t know where to go,” she added.

She recalled police escorting Chinese clients to her clinic when they disturbed their neighbors, while screaming and pacing frenetically. Families brought their loved ones to the clinic after seeing them throw violent fits, overdose on drugs, refusing to eat and cutting themselves. Chen received cases where children would even hit their parents.

Nonetheless, Asians were embarrassed in admitting they had mental problems, she said. She remembered her clients having no trouble telling her about their pain—except in the mind.

“Do you have a headache?” she would ask them.

“Yes,” her patients would say.  
 “Do you have neck pain?”  
 “Yes.”  
 “Do you have back pain?”  
 “Yes.”  
 “Do you have trouble sleeping?”  
 “Yes.”  
 “Are you losing weight?”  
 “Yes.”  
 “Are you depressed?”  
 “No.”

Chen started the Culture to Culture Foundation, which includes the Chinese American Senior Center of Contra Costa and the Chinese American Mental Health Network, as a support group for Asians. The mental health network helps Asians get over the shame of having mental issues, and it has a strong network of psychiatrists and psychologists available for assistance.

Many Asians suffer from depression in the U.S., Chen said. Asian-American women have the highest suicide rate among women in the U.S. over the age of 65, according to a study.

Their depression stems from cultural traditions. The elderly were seen as heads of their family in China. Family members listened and looked up to their elders. When children became adults and got married, they stayed close to their parents and grandparents.

However, the U.S. culture is much different. It trains children to become independent, and they move away from their families after maturing, often forgetting their parents. For instance, in China, a relationship between a mother and her son would be close, and he would continue the bond even after he got married. But in the U.S., a Chinese son may have a tendency to give more importance to his wife—rather than his mother.

“Children drop them and let them go,” Chen said. “They feel they have been deserted.”

“It’s not that they don’t love them,” she added. “It’s just a different culture. They feel isolated and lonely.”

Additionally, young Chinese couples are busy working, and may neglect their relationships with their elders, who moved from their native land to be closer to family. Elders visiting families in the U.S. are taken aback when their grandchildren ask them: “How long are you staying?”

“When you hear that, you are hurt,” Chen said.

She said the greetings that Asian seniors receive in the U.S. are not as warm or welcoming as they would like them to be and their social status becomes equal when they arrive in the U.S. In addition, elders cannot speak English well, which creates a language barrier, Chen noted, and they need their children to drive them around.

“Who wants to be totally dependent on their kids?” Chen said.

As a result of the cultural differences, tensions smolder between different generations of Asians.

“The elderly suffer from a loss of engagement and feel very angry,” Chen said. “They can’t mobilize themselves.”

Like Asian seniors, young Asians are immersed in pressures: to achieve high expectations. Parents place great importance on education and success.

“They feel their children’s glory is their glory,” Chen said. “If their dream can’t be carried out, then their children will be carry it out.”

Many Asian parents have their kids learn the piano, violin, dancing and other activities at an early age. They work on everything with their kids—advanced placement courses, taking the SAT and PSAT exams and other academic endeavors.

They also encourage them to become engineers, doctors, lawyers, accountants, computer professionals and businessmen.

“These are fields with a bright future,” Chen said. “They make good money and bring good social status.”

When offspring fail to meet their parents’ expectations, they may become depressed, unstable or even commit suicide. Plus, when many children come to their families with their problems, their parents tell them what they need to do.

“It’s either ‘yes’ or ‘no,’” Chen said. “Parents think kids know nothing.”

“Children are seeking an understanding,” she added.

Chen’s odyssey in mental health began in her home country Taiwan where she majored in sociology and

social work at Tung-Hai University. She said her grades weren’t high enough to study law; they were only good enough for sociology. Her peers wondered how she was going to make a living with her degree.

She recalled them asking, “What are going to do when you graduate?”

She moved to the U.S. to do graduate work at University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana in the 1970s. She said she had difficulties learning English and working with her American supervisor.

When she was an intern, she started counseling a couple that was pondering a separation. The couple asked her how she would know about their issues when she was single. Her supervisor told Chen the analogy that a doctor did not need to have cancer to cure a cancer patient.

Despite her language difficulties and inexperience, Chen persevered and received her master’s degree in social work. A woman who was being treated in couples therapy made her a white dress. Chen said she kept it for a long time. Talking about this gift still makes her cry.

“I like to hear people’s stories,” she said. “I like doing community service. It’s a good feeling. It’s an achievement.”

“I felt (social work) was good for me,” she added. “I never tried anything else. I never thought about doing something different.”

After graduating from Illinois, she moved to California and attained a master’s degree in public health at UC Berkeley.

She retired after serving nearly 30 years at the Berkeley Mental Health Clinic. But she continued working. In 2001, she started the Culture to Culture Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting mental health and emotional wellness within the San Francisco Bay Area’s growing Asian community, which she says has a population of 300,000.

The foundation’s senior programs started at the Alamo Women’s Club but moved last year to the Veterans Memorial Hall on Hartz Avenue, which now houses the town’s senior activities. Chen noted that the Town of Danville and Linda Stolow, a Danville senior activist, helped with the move.

“We want to share cultures,” Chen said. “We want others to learn from each other’s cultures.”

The programs include dancing and Tai Chi, and they are expanding to other cities in Contra Costa County such as Pleasant Hill and Lafayette. Chen noted that the activities for seniors help to keep them engaged and mentally healthy.

The Culture to Culture organization has expanded to giving scholarships to mental health graduate students in California State University, East Bay and UC Berkeley. It also has started a “Mental Health Warrior” essay contest where applicants of Asian descent write stories about overcoming severe mental issues. The winner of the contest receives \$5,000.

Chen received the 2005 Peter H. E. Haas Public Service Award, which is given to a UC Berkeley alumnus for public service and included a \$40,000 prize. She said she donated \$20,000 to the foundation and kept the rest.

Above all, Chen wants the stigma removed from people seeking mental help. Culture to Culture Foundation’s mental health network provides educational workshops about overcoming the stigma of having mental problems. Listening, instead of trying to solve people’s problems, made her a success in guiding her clients through the therapeutic process.

“Relax and understand with them,” she said. “It’s the process of working with them that helps.”

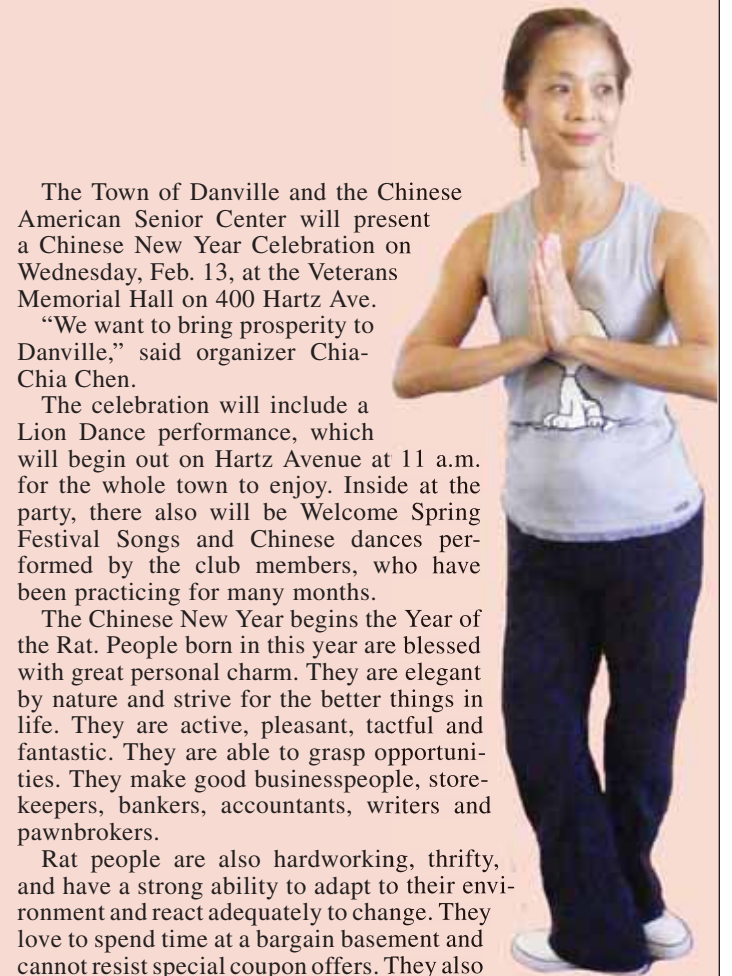
“People need to pay attention to this,” Chen said, about Asians acknowledging mental issues. The issue is still in the dark.

She noted her husband has been supportive of her public service, often helping her move tables for the foundation’s programs. She has two daughters who both graduated from Stanford University. One continued on to Harvard Medical School and now is an oncologist at UC San Francisco; the other went to law school at UC Berkeley and studied international law in Hong Kong through a Fulbright Scholarship.

“I’m a proud Asian parent,” Chen said.

For more information about Culture to Culture Foundation or a mental health assistance directory, call 831-9988 or visit [www.culturetoculture.org](http://www.culturetoculture.org) or [www.asianmentalhealth.info](http://www.asianmentalhealth.info). ■

## THE YEAR OF THE RAT



The Town of Danville and the Chinese American Senior Center will present a Chinese New Year Celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Veterans Memorial Hall on 400 Hartz Ave.

“We want to bring prosperity to Danville,” said organizer Chia-Chia Chen.

The celebration will include a Lion Dance performance, which will begin out on Hartz Avenue at 11 a.m. for the whole town to enjoy. Inside at the party, there also will be Welcome Spring Festival Songs and Chinese dances performed by the club members, who have been practicing for many months.

The Chinese New Year begins the Year of the Rat. People born in this year are blessed with great personal charm. They are elegant by nature and strive for the better things in life. They are active, pleasant, tactful and fantastic. They are able to grasp opportunities. They make good businesspeople, storekeepers, bankers, accountants, writers and pawnbrokers.

Rat people are also hardworking, thrifty, and have a strong ability to adapt to their environment and react adequately to change. They love to spend time at a bargain basement and cannot resist special coupon offers. They also have a tendency to hoard unnecessary provisions. They deny

themselves nothing and buy the rest of everything.

The birth years of the Rat are 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, and 2008. They are most compatible with people born in the year of the Dragon, Ox and Monkey.

The Chinese New Year Celebration will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and lunch will be served at noon. Attendees are asked to wear a Chinese outfit or something red. The cost is \$10 and reservations are needed. Call 736-1615.



## It's all about art

Pioneer Art Gallery makes a scene

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A place to see art; a place to make art. What more could an artist ask for?

The Pioneer Art Gallery on Hartz Avenue has taken off since its opening in October. When Blake Hunt Ventures agreed the Alamo-Danville Artists' Society could use the building while development plans are being finalized, the artists quickly renovated the downstairs into a spacious gallery. Upstairs is studio space.

"It's a great group of people," said Leslie Ruth, a watercolor artist who does her work in the studio. "You're free to come and go. Creativity flows."

Stephen Sanfilippo, gallery director and a landscape painter, said artists coming together is beneficial.

"You never stop learning how to paint," he said. "You continue growing as an artist."

Since the gallery's opening in the fall, exhibits have changed almost every week.

A showcase in late January featured artists from the district high schools. The schools did the initial jurying of the student art, then members of the Danville Arts Commission judged the finalists. Winners were:

- Katie Chabolla, Monte Vista High—Best of Show
- Zana Rymer, San Ramon Valley High—First Place
- Dan Ries, from San Ramon Valley—Second Place
- Natalie Gamarra, Tyler Haye, Hanna Lusignan of California High—Third Place

Honorable mention went to Mengru Liang of Dougherty Valley High School, Trenton Szewcuck of Monte Vista High School, and Michelle Farrell of San Ramon.

ADAS will be hosting a "Luau and Art" party tomorrow evening. The luau is a chance for the public to meet artists, see their work, and mingle with Hawaiians—and hula hoop, too.

A Hawaiian band and Tahitian dancers will perform, and a mai tai bar will offer both alcohol and non-alcohol beverages, and artists Kathy McCartney and Leslie Ruth will be featured. There will also be a drawing, with tickets \$5 each. Event tickets are \$29, to benefit the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

The Pioneer Art Gallery is open 5-9 p.m. Fridays; 1-9 p.m. Saturdays; and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. A schedule of events can be found at [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org).

For more information about the luau or Alamo-Danville Artists' Society, call 876-4985. ■

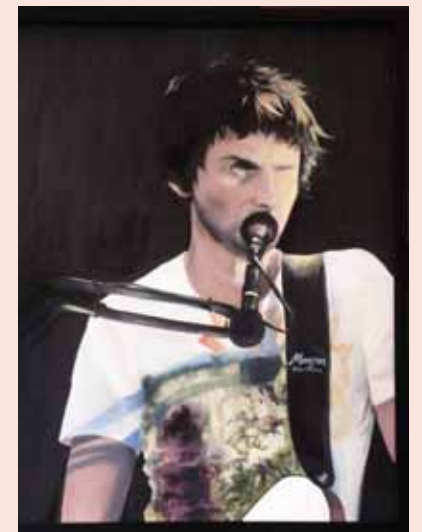
### Artists' aloha

What: Art and Luau party  
 Who: Alamo-Danville Artists' Society,  
 When: 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9  
 Where: Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville  
 Cost: \$29  
 Benefits: San Ramon Valley Unified School District  
 Information: Call 876-4985



JORDAN M. DORONILA

JORDAN M. DORONILA



Top: Watercolor artist Leslie Ruth paints a Hawaiian picture at the studio above the Pioneer Art Gallery on Hartz Avenue in Danville. In the background is Diane Prueett's watercolor painting on a glass window; Prueett's works are featured in the gallery, which is holding an Art and Luau party tomorrow evening.  
 Above: A black ink portrait by Zana Rymer of San Ramon Valley High School won First Place at the student art showcase last month; right, a picture of a rock star by Katie Chabolla of Monte Vista High School won Best of Show.



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

## Sweets for your Sweetie

**"Roses are red, violets are blue but, chocolate, flowers have nothing on you!"—Me**

When I win the lottery, one of my promises to myself is to have fresh flowers delivered weekly. I'll probably take that long-awaited trip to Venice and buy myself a brand-new red Jaguar then, too. In the meantime, my annual Valentine's Day fantasy is to receive some scrumptious chocolate delight from a loved one. It doesn't have to be from a lover or husband—a son, grandchild or good friend will do—as long as they translate their Feb. 14 expressions of love into chocolate, preferably the dark kind ... with nuts!

Believe it or not, chocolate is reported to contain the same chemi-

cal—phenylethylamine or phenylamine—that is produced in our brains when we are falling in love. In fact, chocolate can generate the same emotional "high" as do amphetamines. And while chocolate can be a "love booster" by stirring our emotions chemically, as with other artificially produced reactions, the euphoric feeling from chocolate is short-lived. Moreover, chocolate can be as addictive as love. All that said, I'll take a great piece of chocolate over a bad date any day ... and work off the calories later!

All kidding aside, experience and studies show that vitamins C, E and certain antioxidants definitely provide health advantages. Besides tomatoes, wine, tea and berries, dark chocolate is one consistently delicious source for these

healthy nutrients. Even Dr. Oz has endorsed dark chocolate as his preferred dessert for health-conscious people. So, this year, why not woo your favorite valentine with something dark chocolate-y, sans the guilt? You can offer your sweetie some health benefits, delectable flavors, a taste of romance and a little "love buzz" all in one. Makes red roses and a card sound like the long way around to your foodie's heart, doesn't it?

Here are a couple of tested recipes, sure to make someone profess their love back to you. Fair Warning: Indulge Responsibly!

*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 jlovelmarshall@yahoo.com.*

### RECIPES

#### Chocolate Ganache Cake (serves 6)

Note: Chocolate ganache is heavy cream and chocolate heated over a double boiler.

- 1/4 pound unsalted butter at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 extra-large eggs at room temperature
- 1 16-oz can Hershey's chocolate syrup
- 1 Tbsp pure vanilla extract

For the ganache:

- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 8 oz. good semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tsp instant coffee granules

For the instant Crème Anglaise:

- 1 pint Haagen-Dazs vanilla ice cream

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Butter and flour a 9-inch cake pan (even better, if it's heart-shaped!), then line the bottom with parchment paper.
2. Cream the butter and sugar in the

bowl of an electric mixer until fluffy, using the paddle attachment. Lower the speed and add the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl after each egg. Mix in the chocolate syrup and vanilla. Add the flour and mix until just combined. Don't over beat, or the cake will be tough.

3. Pour the batter into the cake pan and bake for 40-45 minutes, or until just set in the middle. Don't over bake. Let cool thoroughly in the pan.

4. For the ganache: Heat the heavy cream, chocolate chips and instant coffee in the top of a double boiler over simmering water just until the chocolate melts and the ganache is smooth and warm, stirring occasionally. Remove the mixture from the heat as soon as the chocolate melts to avoid any burnt taste.

5. Place the cake upside down on a wire rack and pour the warm glaze evenly over the top, covering the entire top and sides. (Hint: Tilt the rack to smooth the glaze, as needed.) Transfer the cake to a serving plate. (Hint: You can make the cake 1-2 days in advance, cool, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate. Don't

refrigerate the cake after it is glazed.)

6. For the Crème Anglaise: Place the ice cream in the refrigerator until completely melted. Serve as a cold sauce on a dessert plate with a slice of cake on top.

#### Kahlua Chocolate-Covered Strawberries (makes about 1 cup dipping sauce)

- 6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate pieces
- 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 1/3 cup Kahlua

2-3 pints fresh and firm strawberries

1. In top of double boiler, melt chocolate over simmering water.

2. Add milk; remove from heat. Add Kahlua; whisk until smooth.

3. Cool until thickened, about 1 hour. Wash, drain and dry strawberries; hand dip in sauce.

4. Dipped strawberries may be chilled, up to 4 hours. Or, hand dip them for your valentine in a romantic moment!



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

## Politics a bore to most teens

In light of the ongoing presidential primary elections, I thought it appropriate to explore the nature of teen participation in politics, especially in a year that will bring much change for all of us. For a significant number of teens (those who will turn 18), 2008 offers their first opportunity to influence the political process, some gaining the ability to cast a vote in the primary and November general elections.

Interest in the elections among teens seems to be split: While a small portion of students are fascinated, the vast majority could care less, either because they are not interested or because they are not 18 and cannot influence the outcome of the election anyway. I have come to fear most of my peers have grown generally apathetic to many of the political and other issues and events we are in the midst of.

"There are kids who are politically interested for one reason or another—from their parents or something else, but the majority of students do not even know what's going on. I would be surprised if you asked if they even knew there was an election," remarked Jeff Davis, a social studies teacher at San Ramon Valley High School. According to Davis, this apathy is nothing new.

"Kids are as disengaged as they have always been. The only reason youth voted in the 1960s was because of the draft. Had there not been a draft, kids would have been checked out."

"I don't think the teen vote is that influential," Davis continued, "because to put it simply, they don't vote—except that it appears candidate Barack Obama's success in Iowa was tied to getting young people to vote."

Indeed, 65,000 voters ages 18-30 participated in the Iowa caucuses last month (nearly three times the number of participants in 2004), and a whopping 57 percent of votes for Obama were cast by voters below the age of 30.

This election, the candidates are especially making large efforts to reach American youth. Most of the primary candidates have even created campaign pages on social networking Web sites like MySpace and Facebook to target young people, who are the primary users of such sites. Other Web sites, like the non-partisan group VoteHelp, also allow individuals to take surveys and quizzes that help to clarify their position on certain issues, and to find the candidate their views best match.

Some states are also trying to make the youth influence more significant, by extending the vote to 17-year-olds. In Virginia, teens that are 17 but will turn 18 by November's general election will be allowed to register and vote in

the current primary elections. Other states, like Maryland, are also considering changing their policy.

Even if not completely interested in the political scene, students should still be informed. For one reason or another—lack of interest, time, resources, etc.—students are not getting the information they need to form substantiated opinions, make an informed vote, and contribute to the democratic process. I think there is a general assumption that teens do not want to know, or that they do not care. But, this current generation of youth has been deemed "Generation Now" for a reason—it is possible that teens are interested, but need the news and information handed to them on a silver platter. Still, there is no excuse. There are many resources available, and teens should be making every effort to be informed, and to exercise the democratic rights with which they are endowed.

"Youth should take advantage of their right to vote, because at our age we are able to really figure out what we think and how we feel; if we allow ourselves to just vote the way our parents vote then we will possibly and probably end up voting against our own interests and our own beliefs," said SRVHS senior Mike Gibbons. "In addition, the laws that are being passed now will affect teens more than any other demographic for the next 10 or 20 years. We have the greatest interest in what laws get passed in the next five or 10 years because they will affect us most."

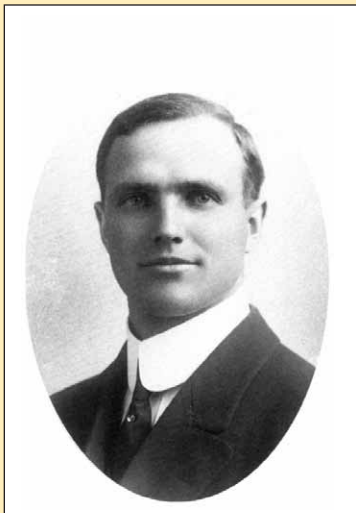
"I think forming an educated opinion and exercising it is essential to a functioning democracy," Venture High School senior Robbie Pruett noted. "The more votes are cast, the more opinions are represented; that is the definition of democracy."

America's youth have always been more or less uninterested in politics, and those who do vote frequently do so on the basis of family beliefs, not personal ones. The idea of engaging the youth of America as a whole is logistically impossible; but, in order to serve the interests of this significant part of the population, it is imperative that a large portion of American youth form and express their opinions via the vote. It is important to encourage young people to be aware, and to pique their interest and set in place voting habits at an early age in order to inspire lifelong democratic contribution.

*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 SAN RAMON  
BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZINE

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Three Girl Scouts who coordinated a holiday gift drive for Juvenile Hall celebrate their Gold Award—(l-r) Jenna Famular, Julie Famular, Shannon Grossenheider, executive assistant of the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary, and Mary Sampson.



Leah Wilke prepares for two benches on the Iron Horse Trail.

## Girl Scouts' path to gold

Nine San Ramon Valley High girls of Troop 452 earn Gold Awards

New benches, teaching kits, food for the needy—Girl Scouts in San Ramon Valley High School's Troop 452 saw these needs and filled them to earn their Gold Awards, which were presented Jan. 5.

The Scouts and their projects were as follows:

- Kelly Bull and Molly Enzminger designed, created and supplied preschool phonics kits to 23 state run preschools in Richmond. Each phonics kit consisted of a teacher tool kit, an individual learning center, and coloring pages for each letter of the alphabet.
- Jenna and Julie Famular and Mary Sampson ran a holiday gift drive for the teens in Juvenile Hall helping to ensure they did not feel forgotten during the holiday season. They collected and sorted gifts and baked 650 cookies for a holiday celebration luncheon on Christmas Day.
- Jill Murphy ran the Tri-Valley food drive filling the food pantries with

nonperishable food for the year, and she also provided a nutrition education center for preschoolers.

- Katie Mulloy provided materials and toys for the Early Learner's Fair in Richmond, a fair for approximately 500 preschoolers and their families who are not otherwise receiving preschool services.
- Julia Petraglia helped get two Girl Scout Troops (a Brownie Troop and a Junior Troop) off and running at Peres Elementary School in Richmond as she provided materials and ran a meeting for each troop to complete a nutrition badge.
- Leah Wilke designed and made two wooden benches, planted two trees, and led informational walks on the Iron Horse Trail informing local residents about what they can do to save the environment.

The girls celebrated with family, friends and guests at a dinner and ceremony at San Ramon Valley High on Jan. 5 where their pins

were presented by longtime troop leader and mentor Shirley Bull. The next day was a formal ceremony at Crow Canyon Country Club with an elegant luncheon hosted by the Girl Scouts of Northern California Council. The girls receiving their Gold Awards had an opportunity to speak briefly about their projects to the more than 250 guests assembled. The ceremony also marked the completion of 13 years of Girl Scouting.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement for Girl Scouts ages 14-17 or in grades 9-12. It symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. Prerequisites can take two to three years to complete, then each girl designs and leads a project that takes at least 65 hours and includes leadership, community service and organizational components. ■



Molly Enzminger (left) and Kelly Bull designed, created and supplied pre-school phonics kits to 23 state run preschools in Richmond.



Jill Murphy ran the Tri-Valley Food Drive and provided a preschool nutrition center.



Katie Mulloy provided materials and toys for the Early Learner's Fair in Richmond.

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## Cheerleaders hope to receive the special prize

Chelsea Werner from Danville; Tricia Bowles from Livermore; Abby Townsend and Katherine Saegert from Martinez; Tracy Masland from Lafayette; and Emma McGregor from Walnut Creek show their spirit. They are members of a special needs competitive cheer team from the Bay Area that will compete in Fresno at the Jamfest on Feb. 23. The cheerleaders will also compete at the Golden State Spirit Association Nationals where they hope to become national champs. The team, which is for ages 7 to 16, is based in Concord. For more information, call 685-3910.



## WEEKEND PREVIEW



BLACKHAWK MUSEUM

### 'Amore, Amore!'

Blackhawk Museum will host "Amore, Amore!" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Children will learn about what St. Valentine, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and some automobiles have in common. This event is free with paid museum admission. Call 736-2277.

## Art

**Last Chance Exhibit Ending** "Close to Home" and "Far Away" art exhibits by featured artists Robin Purcell and Diane Pruett will end on Monday, Feb. 11. The work of these two artists reflects their strong personal artistic visions. Gallery hours are from 1-5 p.m., Friday-Sunday. Call 648-0971 or visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org).

**Marilynn Gray-Raine** Pioneer Art Gallery will feature vibrant and romantic paintings by Marilyn Gray-Raine from 4-8 p.m., Feb. 14-24, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. The artist donates 10% of profits to the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation. A reception is planned from 4-8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16. E-mail [marilynn@marilyngray-raine.com](mailto:marilynn@marilyngray-raine.com).

**Suzanne D'Arcy** Alamo-Danville Artists Society will host oil painter, Suzanne D'Arcy, who will share her insights and techniques from 7:15-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Danville Congregational Social Hall, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. This event is free. Refreshments will be served. Call 691-5030 or visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org) or [www.suzannedarcyart.com](http://www.suzannedarcyart.com).

## Author Visit

**Richard Schwartz** Bay Books will host Richard Schwartz, author of "Eccentrics, Heroes and Cutthroats of Old Berkeley" at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 22, at Bay Books, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. This event is free and open to the public. Call 855-1524.

**Russell Banks** Rakestraw Books will host a luncheon with prize-winning novelist Russell Banks, author of "The Reserve," at noon, Friday, Feb. 15, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Tickets are \$15. Advance reservations are essential, call 837-7337.

## Classes

**Financial Planning for Special Needs Children** Town of Danville will host a class on Financial Planning for Special Needs Children from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This class is free, but registration is required by calling 314-3392 or visiting [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

**Summer Bulbs and Summer Veggies** Navlet's Garden Center hosts free gardening classes to the public. February classes include Summer Bulbs at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 17 and Summer Veggies at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 24, at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 837-9144.

## Clubs

**Alamo Women's Club** This club will host Betty Marvin who will speak as if she is Julia Morgan, who was a renowned architect, during their luncheon at noon, Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Cost is \$20. Reservations are required by calling 837-6548 by Feb. 21.

**Amador Valley Quilters** Amador Valley Quilters will host fiber artist Linda Schmidt, who is noted for her innovative approach to quilting, at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Linda will conduct a workshop the following day. E-mail [publicity@amadorvalleyquilters.org](mailto:publicity@amadorvalleyquilters.org) or visit [www.amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://www.amadorvalleyquilters.org).

**Blackhawk Republican Women Federated** This club will host Thomas Del Beccaro, author of "The New Conservative Paradigm," at their luncheon Monday, Feb. 11, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Social will start at 11:15 a.m., speaker at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$20. For reservations, contact Marianne Lyons at 820-6452 or [rlyons1009@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlyons1009@sbcglobal.net).

**Boost Writing with Critique Session** Tri-Valley Writers Club hosts feature speakers, published writers or industry professionals, who talk about their experiences, the writing process, and tips on getting published. The next meeting offers a critique session from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Call 462-7495 or visit [www.trivalleywriters.com](http://www.trivalleywriters.com).

**Diablo Black Men's Group** This group will host a bus trip to the historic African-American town of Allensworth, California, on Saturday, Feb. 23. Bus will pick up participants at 6:30 a.m., at the Park & Ride, Sycamore Valley Road parking lot, Danville. Cost is \$40 for adults, \$20 for students 16 and under; including

lunch. Call Spencer at (510) 714-7387 or Phillip at 939-5531.

**Diablo Bonsai Club** This club will host a workshop on "Formal Upright Style" from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Individual attention will be given to those interested in the art of bonsai. Call 937-4216.

**Mt. Diablo Branch California Writers Club** This club will host Hailey Lind who will speak on "The Art of Forgery: Inform Your Writing with Passion and Knowledge" from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Hungry Hunter Restaurant, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Call 930-2897.

**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.tvmtc.com](http://www.tvmtc.com).

## Concerts

**'Ragtime Stew'** Diablo Symphony Orchestra presents "Ragtime Stew," based on the works of Scott Joplin, at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$12-18. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.dlrca.org](http://www.dlrca.org).

**Jazz at Peace** Peace Lutheran Church will host a Jazz at Peace concert featuring the Harriet Toubman project with the theme of "Bound for the Promised Land" at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free. Visit [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org).

**Sounds of the Sixties** Danville Community Band will host "Sounds of the Sixties" at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 2, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Concert is free with paid museum admission which is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. Visit [www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).

**SRVHS Instrumental Music Benefit Concert** The Sun Kings, a fabulous Beatles Tribute Band, accompanied by San Ramon Valley High School Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble students will host a benefit concert from 7-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at the SRVHS Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Proceeds benefit the Instrumental Music Department. Tickets are \$10 for students and staff, \$25 for general admission (\$30 at door) and \$40 for gold circle. Visit [www.communityconcerts.com](http://www.communityconcerts.com).

## Events

**Heartland Danville Antiques and Art** Discover Danville Association will host an Antiques and Art Faire from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, in the Railroad Centre on Railroad Ave., Danville. The faire is free; antiques appraisal clinic will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at \$10 per appraisal. Proceeds will benefit the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Call 837-2664.

**USS Hornet Honors Aerial Firefighters** Aerial firefighters will be honored at a ceremony at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier, Pier 3, Alameda. The ceremony will launch a new permanent exhibit on the history of aerial firefighting in California. Cost is \$6-14. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit [www.uss-hornet.org](http://www.uss-hornet.org).



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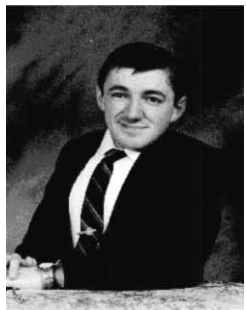
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## Fundraisers

**10th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt Run and Walk** Hats Off America will host the 10th annual Red T-shirt Run and Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will start the event. Cost is \$35; free for volunteers. All runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and lunch donated by El Balazo Restaurant. Call 855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us).

**9th Annual Benefit Concert for Vietnam Youth** Come to the Amador Theater for an afternoon of classical and traditional Vietnamese music from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Advance tickets are \$14; \$17 at the door. Proceeds benefit homeless children in Can Tho, Vietnam, and provide scholarships for college students in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. Call 275-9250 or visit [www.vnyouthprojects.net](http://www.vnyouthprojects.net). Tickets are sold at House of Woodwinds in San Ramon (831-8341).

**All You Can Eat Crab Feed** San Ramon Historic Foundation will host an All You Can Eat Crab Feed at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds benefit the foundation. Dinner includes crab, pasta, salad, bread, dessert and coffee. Call 828-0586 or 828-9329.

**Dakine Luau and Art Party** Mingle with artists and fellow Hawaiians at the Dakine Luau and Art Party from 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Enjoy live music, hula dancing, Polynesian food and a drawing. Proceeds benefit the San Ramon Valley School District art programs. Cost is \$29 per person. Call 876-4985.

**Family Breakfast** San Ramon Senior Foundation will host a Family Breakfast from 9-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at the San Ramon Senior

Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit, coffee and juice. Cost is \$3.50 for adults; \$2 for children. Proceeds will benefit the foundation. Call 833-2760.

**Seventh Annual Academy Awards Party** STAND! Against Domestic Violence and Brenden Theatres presents the seventh annual Academy Awards Party at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24, at Brenden Theatres, 1985 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. Advance tickets are \$45; \$50 at the door. Proceeds benefit STAND! Call 603-0138.

## Holiday

**4th Annual Cupid's Comedy Cavalcade** Johnny Steele presents the fourth annual Cupid's Comedy Cavalcade at 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$20. Call 314-3400 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

**A Valentine's Day to Remember** Patrick David's Events and ACE Entertainment presents "A Valentine's Day to Remember" from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14, at Patrick David's Event Center, 2460 Old Crow Canyon Rd., San Ramon. The night will include a performance by Etta James, an hour of hosted cocktail service, hors d'oeuvres and dinner. General admission tickets are \$350; \$450 for balcony seating and \$750 for seating around the stage. Proceeds benefit the Wheelchair Foundation. Call 855-2131 or visit [www.patrickclavids.com](http://www.patrickclavids.com).

**Valentine's Day Comedy Bash** If you're single and sick and tired of this holiday then come to the Valentine's Day Comedy Bash from 7-10 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14, at Mudd's Restaurant, 10 Boardwalk, San Ramon. Cost is \$15 (two item minimum), including free appetizers. Call 264-4413 or visit [www.laughalot-productions.com](http://www.laughalot-productions.com).

## Kids and Teens

**Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag** Valley Youth Council presents "Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag" for students in 9-12 grades from 7-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Iron Horse Middle School Gym, 12701 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$5 at the door. Call Chris at 314-3481.

**'Mystic Magic'** Brian Scott Productions presents "Mystic Magic" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Brian presents a show that is fun and can be enjoyed by the entire family. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

**When Mom or Dad Has Cancer** School-age children can 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, Feb. 9, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

**Youth to Youth Middle School Conference** Community Against Substance Abuse (CASA) will host the 14th annual Youth to Youth Middle School Conference from 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$35 with pre-registration, \$45 at the door. 6th-8th grade students will enjoy keynote speakers, workshops, teenbuilding activities, lunch, dinner and dance. Call 743-3059, ext. 328 or visit [www.srvcasa.org](http://www.srvcasa.org)

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Bringing Your Product to Market** Randall Shores, Marketing Consultant with the Contra Costa SBCD, will host a workshop on "Bringing Your Product to Market" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free, but registration is required by calling 646-5377 or e-mail [zaziz@contracostasbcd.com](mailto:zaziz@contracostasbcd.com).

**How to Discuss Concerns About an Aging Parent with an Aging Parent** Friends of the Danville Library will

host a workshop on "How to Discuss Concerns About an Aging Parent with an Aging Parent" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Discussion will include looking at concerns, options and choices regarding adult care and offer suggestions on communicating. Call 837-4889.

**Separation of Church and State** Catholics@Work will host James F. Hitchcock, Ph.D., author of "The Supreme Court and Religion in American Life," at 7 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. He will discuss holding the line that separates church and state. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Call 389-0704 or visit [www.catholic-satwork.org](http://www.catholic-satwork.org).

**Web Wizard Database Workshop** Danville Library will host the "Web Wizard Database" workshop at 6:45 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This workshop will help you learn how to use the library's online databases for kids; you will be able to find information for school assignments from home. Space is limited and registration is required by calling 837-4889.

## Literary Events

**Applications Available for Student Days** High school students in Contra Costa County are invited to apply to participate in the 2008 Student Days, a program that offers professional training in drama, art, photography and writing, at the Eugene O'Neill's Tao House in Danville. The program begins on March 5 with workshops on art; March 6 will focus on drama; March 12 with workshops on photography, and March 13 with workshops on writing. Applications are available by calling 820-1818 or visiting [www.myspace.com/eugeneoneill](http://www.myspace.com/eugeneoneill); applications are due by Feb. 15.

**Evening Book Group** Rakestraw Books host the Evening Book Group at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. The book selection is "Lady Chatterley's Lover" by D.H. Lawrence. Call 837-7337.

## Live Music

**Mark Anderson & Tamriko Siphrahvili** Amador Theater will host Anderson and Siphrahvili in concert performing two piano, four hand classical selections at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$15, \$20, and \$25. Call 931-3444 or visit [www.civcartickets.org](http://www.civcartickets.org).

**Youth Music Festival** Come and hear solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, ages 18 and under, at the Youth Music Festival from 8-10 p.m., Friday, Feb. 15, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Call 931-3444 or visit [www.civcartickets.org](http://www.civcartickets.org).

## Miscellaneous

**Host Families Needed** Host families in Danville are needed for exchange students that are coming from France April 11-23. Students are ages 14-18 and are coming with their teachers who are responsible for the group. The group is properly insured in personal liability and health insurance. To volunteer, e-mail Martine Casusse at [caussefly@wanadoo.fr](mailto:caussefly@wanadoo.fr).

**Methodist Preschool 30 Year Celebration** Join current and returning staff and families at the Methodist Preschool's 30 Year Celebration from 11:15 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Crafts, refreshments and school tours will be provided.

**Speaker Series for the Scholarship Essay Competition** Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley will host a speaker series for the Scholarship Essay Competition from 6-6:45 p.m., Feb. 25, March 3, 10, 31 and April 7, at the Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave.,

Danville. Students need to attend at least three sessions and will be able to interact with speakers as they discuss their specialty in the relation to the 10th Amendment.

## On Stage

**'Bus Stop'** Classic American play in which a mixed bag of bus passengers (and strangers) are stranded in a 1950s Topeka diner in a snowstorm. "Bus Stop" plays at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday and at 2 p.m., Sunday, until Feb. 9, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$22-25, \$15 for students and groups of 10 or more. Call 820-1278 or visit [www.danvilletheatre.com](http://www.danvilletheatre.com).

**'Man of La Mancha'** Diablo Light Opera Company presents "Man of La Mancha" from Feb. 15-March 16, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$28-40. As an extension of Valentine's Day, a reception with chocolates and champagne will follow the Feb. 15-16 performances. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.dlra.com](http://www.dlra.com).

**'Nixon's Nixon'** Center REPeritory Company presents "Nixon's Nixon" at various times, until March 1, at Center REPeritory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15-40. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.dlra.com](http://www.dlra.com).

## Seniors

**'Love is in the Air'** Town of Danville Senior Services will host the Moonglowers Orchestra at the "Love is in the Air" Valentine's Day Party from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$3. To register, call 314-3392.

**Crime Prevention Workshop** Town of Danville Police Department will host a Crime Prevention Workshop for seniors from 9-10 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St., Danville. Topics will include identity theft, fraud, personal safety and home safety. This workshop is free. Call 314-3491.

**Golden Crane Senior Center** The Golden Crane Senior Center is open for all seniors from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., every Monday, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. The offerings include classes in exercise, yoga stretch, Luk-Tung Kuen, dancing, karaoke, Chinese brush painting, calligraphy, English as a second language and jewelry. Visit [www.goldencrane.org](http://www.goldencrane.org).

**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.

**Valentine Bingo Luncheon** San Ramon Senior Foundation will host a Valentine Bingo Luncheon from 12:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$12.50 per person. Proceeds benefit the variety of programs and services that the foundation offers to senior citizens. Call 973-3250.

## Sports

**Danville Sea Devils Swim Team** Danville Sea Devils Swim Team will be holding new swimmer registration from 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the Danville Station clubhouse. All abilities between 4 and 18 years are accepted. Visit [www.sea-devils.org](http://www.sea-devils.org).

**'Give Ice Hockey a Try' Day** Women ages 18 and older can learn to play ice hockey in a fun, safe and encouraging environment from 6:30-8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at Belmont Iceland, 815 Old County Rd., Belmont. Gear and on-ice instruction will be provided; the day will finish with a scrimmage. Cost is \$20. Register by email at [ncwhl.ghatd@gmail.com](mailto:ncwhl.ghatd@gmail.com) or visit [www.ncwhl.com](http://www.ncwhl.com).

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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**Pregnant? Considering Adoption**  
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### 120 Auctions

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**Lender Foreclosure Auction**  
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### 220 Computers/Electronics

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### 230 Freebies

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Let's discover the joy of music!

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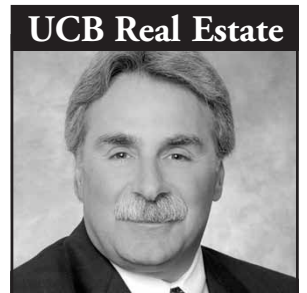
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## PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

## Puttin' on the ritz with Fritz

Meet Fritz. This 8-month-old, neutered male brown Tabby with beautiful striped markings is a butterball. He is friendly, playful and a real looker. When Fritz was a kitten he had entropion, a painful medical condition in which the eyelids fold inward causing the eyelashes to rub against the cornea. The resulting irritation is like having sand in your eyes all the time. Valley Humane Society provided Fritz, and two siblings Freddy and Freckles, with corrective eyelid surgery so they could all enjoy a pain-free and bright-eyed future. For more information about Fritz, visit him and his siblings at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street. It's open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumanesociety.org.

## Stable existing-home sales expected in early 2008

Pent-up demand could help improve market

by Jeb Bing

Over the next few months, existing-home sales are expected to hold fairly steady as indicated by pending sales activity, then rise later in the year and continue to improve in 2009, according to the latest forecast by the National Association of Realtors.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said there is a pull and tug exerting itself on the market.

"On the one hand, we have a pent-up demand from the 4 million jobs added to our economy over the past two years of sales decline," he said. "On the other, consumers continue to wait for additional signs of market stabilization. There are more people with financial capacity now than in 2005, but many are trying to market-time their purchase. As a result, the exact timing and the strength of a home sales recovery is a bit uncertain. A meaningful recovery in existing-home sales could occur as early as this spring, or it may be further delayed toward late 2008."

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contracts signed in November, fell 2.6 percent to a reading of 87.6 from a strong upward revision of 89.9 in October, but remains above the August and September readings and indicates a broad stabilization. The index was 19.2 percent below the November 2006 level of 108.4.

"Although there could be some minor slippage in the first quarter, existing-home sales should hold in a narrow range before trending up," Yun said.

The PHSI in the South rose 2.3 percent in November to 100.7 but is 19.8 percent below a year ago. In the West, the index slipped 2.1 percent to 86.6 but is 18.5 percent lower than November 2006. The index in the Midwest fell 4.1 percent in November to 82.1 and is 18.6 percent below a year ago. In the Northeast, the index dropped 13.0 percent in November to 70.1 from a spike in October, and is 19.1 percent below November 2006.

Existing-home sales for 2007 will probably total 5.66 million, the fifth highest on record, then edge up to 5.70 million this year and 5.91 million in 2009, compared with 6.48 million

in 2006. Existing-home prices for 2007 are likely to be down 1.9 percent to a median of \$217,600, hold even this year and then rise 3.1 percent in 2009 to \$224,400.

"Rising home prices in the affordable mid-section of the country are likely to offset declines in some of the previously hot markets," Yun said.

There are wide variations in housing market conditions around the country, with nearly two-thirds of the metropolitan areas showing price gains. Healthy increases in metro prices are occurring in places such as San Jose; Beaumont-Port Arthur, Texas; and Bismarck, N.D.

"Our consumer survey shows buyers today are in it for the long-haul, planning to stay in their home for a median of 10 years. This is a wise approach to housing because the data shows the longer you own, the better your investment," Yun said.

New-home sales are projected at 773,000 for 2007, and declining to 669,000 this year before rising to 730,000 in 2009, but well below the 1.05 million 2006. With an appropriate slowdown in production, housing starts, including multifamily units, are forecast at 1.36 million for 2007 and 1.09 million this year before edging up to 1.10 million in 2009; starts totaled 1.80 million in 2006. The median new-home price should drop 2.1 percent to \$241,400 for 2007, and then rise 0.4 percent to \$242,200 this year and gain another 5.9 percent in 2009.

"Some policy changes, such as raising the loan limit on conventional mortgages, would provide a significant boost to home sales, increase liquidity, strengthen home prices and lessen foreclosures, but it is unclear as to if and when the measure will be implemented," Yun said.

NAR strongly supports raising the Government-Sponsored Enterprise loan limit to at least \$625,000 from the current \$417,000 so that more consumers will have access to lower interest rates on safe conforming mortgages.

"NAR estimates that raising the GSE loan limit will result in interest rate savings for an additional 330,000 homeowners," Yun said. ■

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### ALAMO

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>35 Summer Meadows Ct.</b>	<b>\$2,390,000</b>
Sun 1:30-4:30	
Lou Plummer, Alain Pinel Realtors	925.791.2600

### DANVILLE

<b>3 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>421 Garden Creek Pl.</b>	<b>\$519,950</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-8883
<b>1948 St. George Rd.</b>	<b>\$759,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-8883

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>842 Matadera Cir.</b>	<b>\$1,199,888</b>
Sat/Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-2508
<b>200 Alicante Pl.</b>	<b>\$1,298,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 855-6410
<b>410 Bridgeside Cir.</b>	<b>\$699,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-8883
<b>1409 Harlan Dr.</b>	<b>\$969,900</b>
Sun 1-4	Prudential California Realty 314-2430

<b>5 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>104 Parkhaven Dr.</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-8883
<b>308 Sunset Dr.</b>	<b>\$1,249,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-8883
<b>634 Ambience Wy.</b>	<b>\$1,315,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker 831-3337
<b>100 David Ln.</b>	<b>\$1,949,000</b>
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel 791-2600

<b>6 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>39 Green Gables Ct.</b>	<b>\$1,899,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1-4	Prudential CA 858-4198

### DUBLIN

<b>3 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>8579 Longford Wy.</b>	<b>\$510,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Re/Max 830-4764
<b>8081 Crossridge Rd.</b>	<b>\$729,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker 784-3068
<b>5781 Hillbrook Pl.</b>	<b>\$749,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-8883

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>10762 Inspiration Cir.</b>	<b>\$1,028,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel 583-1121
<b>7795 Bloomfield Terrace</b>	<b>\$1,385,000</b>
Sun 1:30-4:30	Hometown GMAC 800-362-6257

<b>8035 Holanda Ln.</b>	<b>\$569,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 577-5510

<b>5 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>4939 Sequoia Ave.</b>	<b>\$824,900</b>
Sun 1-4	Hometown GMAC 417-8603

### PLEASANTON

<b>2 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>7730B Canyon Meadow Cir.</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker 847-2300

<b>3 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>6322 Alisal St.</b>	<b>\$1,155,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1-4	ReMax / Accord 997-8001
<b>7229 Valley View Ct.</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>
Sun 1:30-4:30	Re/Max Accord 699-3122
<b>1909 Fiorio Cir.</b>	<b>\$644,000</b>
Sun 12-5	Keller Williams 426-1111
<b>1037 Hometown Wy.</b>	<b>\$749,900</b>
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel 447-2723

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>72 Castlewood Dr.</b>	<b>\$2,350,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1-4	Sotheby's 484-2045
<b>946 Madeira Dr.</b>	<b>\$819,950</b>
Sun 1-4	Allied Brokers 846-3755
<b>4844 Funston Gate Ct.</b>	<b>\$875,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-8883
<b>2518 Larricket Ct.</b>	<b>\$899,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Allied Brokers 872-8286
<b>3645 Dunsuir Cir.</b>	<b>\$929,000</b>
Sun 1:30-4	Alain Pinel 998-9747

<b>5 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>7914 Paragon Cir.</b>	<b>\$1,899,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel 846-6500

### LIVERMORE

<b>2 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>2871 1st St., #905</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 397-4320

<b>3 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>657 South M St.</b>	<b>\$830,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker 847-2300

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>	
<b>6608 Tiffany Cmn.</b>	<b>\$549,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Hometown GMAC 963-8322
<b>1657 3rd St.</b>	<b>\$625,000</b>
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel 583-1121

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2007

### Alamo

- 1671 Ridgewood Road** Hardie Trust to R. Dahl-Mirzad for \$880,000
- 1601 West Livorna Road** Carney Trust to Smith Trust for \$1,150,000

### Danville

- 524 Buttonwood Drive J. & T. Hutchens to J. Cronk for \$1,130,000**
- 606 Colmar Court** KB Homes to D. Lovato for \$836,500
- 4060 Eagle Nest Lane M.** Edwards to W. & L. McCracken for \$1,365,000
- 230 Marigold Street G.** Scalarone to A. & R. Lai for \$750,000

- 1347 Monterosso Street** Lennar Homes to P. Yang for \$1,425,000
- 1359 Monterosso Street** Lennar Homes to M. & J. Michel for \$1,304,500
- 81 Monza Court** Prosser Trust to C. & K. Keane for \$1,350,000
- 411 Pelham Court** Ponderosa Homes to M. & C. Tsang for \$1,301,000

### Walnut Creek

- 3636 Chucker Court** S. Meyer to Lee Trust for \$800,000
- 2823 Dapplegray Lane J.** Drellich to M. & K. Edlinger for \$655,000
- 2871 Fyne Drive** Ginsberg Trust to R. Brown for \$650,000
- 1233 Honey Trail** GIMLI Limited to R. & N. Degger for \$3,100,000

- 6406 Horseman Canyon Drive** Alexander Trust to Bell Trust for \$930,000
- 636 Joshua Court** G. & S. Hyde to K. Master for \$749,000
- 1702 Parkside Drive C.** Hutcheson to Y. Bechtold for \$550,000
- 3520 Rossmoor Parkway #4** Sullivan Trust to H. & C. Marlowe for \$360,000
- 1547 Siskiyou Drive** J. & A. Jonsson to W. & C. Coates for \$400,000
- 1351 Springbrook Road J.** Lucas to A. Widerstrom for \$648,000
- 657 Terra California Drive #6** D. & S. Merrill to Thayer Trust for \$955,000
- 4032 Walnut Boulevard R.** & C. Lee to A. & H. Williams for \$1,088,000

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Danville Sycamore

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West Side Danville .93 Acre

X5000



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





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