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 from the publisher *David King*

We have two new columns in the Diablo Gazette. Looking to find homes for sheltered pets, “Ruby Dooby Do to the Rescue” is hosted by Ruby, the ever-popular Concord Doberman Instagram celebrity, @rubydooby_do. Since we first wrote about Ruby, (Diablo Gazette, January 2017) Ruby’s Instagram account has ballooned another 12,000 plus followers to nearly 50,000 – simply incredible. Thanks to Jill Hedgecock, “Book Ends”, for masterminding (and writing) this feature.

We also welcome “Mrs. Butterbanks” who will delight you with her favorite baking recipes each month. Concord baker Sam Bowerbanks, has been blogging her tasty inventions for years.

Bernie Rosner is an Auschwitz holocaust survivor who now lives in San Ramon. He recalls the harrowing days and escape from the gruesome concentration camp to becoming an American citizen and now retired attorney. Clayton resident Ingrid Hempell grew up in East Berlin and East Germany, and can remember the days of the Allied bombing of Berlin (she was three) and life under the Russian occupation in East Germany. They are extremely grateful to the freedoms and opportunities that America afforded them. And Diablo Gazette is grateful for the opportunity to share these experiences, which we will do in three-part series starting in this edition.



theconcordian

by Edi Birsan, Concord Vice Mayor

Email me CityCouncil@cityofconcord.org | Add EDI in subject line

HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF VALUES/ACTIONS PAST

How many stories do we have of ghosts in a place like Concord? According to a Google search there are 12 pages of them on one site alone. Moving furniture, a lot of noise reports, a few apparitions and more mundane sensations that include humorous acceptance of the visitations to rather intense fear response.

Yet we have all through our society ghosts of the failure of past values that allowed us to demonize or institutionalize prejudice or down right rudeness. In our language, we have the expression of going ‘Dutch,’ a slam at the parsimoniousness of the Dutch or being Gyp-ed a warning that Gypsies are thieves.

History can haunt us and force us to try to exorcise the pain of the past and replace it with the memories of them as lessons for the future. We need not go into the African American experience here as an example as that is all amongst us.

The City of Concord on Sept 26 took a step in the direction of at least reducing the pain. For decades, the nation’s borders were poorly monitored and the interests of exploitation supported the buildup of over

10 million people arriving, working, raising families, and growing up themselves without documentation. That fact haunts some. For some others, it is a matter of exploitation now raising the specter of prejudice, divisiveness, and a perversion of a sense of justice and common sense.

As was said at the meeting, when a mother crosses the street against a red light with her 1-year old we do not give the 1-year old a ticket and certainly not 20 years later. We also do not give the mother a ticket 20 years later. That is simply not common sense or a just way to deal with decades old offenses and institutionalized lack of then enforcement.

The City of Concord declared its spirit of inclusiveness that its residents should live in concordance with one another and that the city will not be diverted from our values of concordance by those who would seek to exploit the ghosts of the past failures to bring a new reign of fear on those whose current situation demands a more just and common-sense approach to the past failures. I.C.E. and hate can find some other place to join forces.

Concord Trying to Land Amazon Headquarters

The city of Concord announced it is competing for Amazon’s second headquarters. The city is a natural fit for the tech giant, with its world class Reuse Project set to transform the 5,000-acre Naval Weapons Station into a transit-oriented development with approximately 6 million square feet of office/R&D/commercial space, a 120-acre campus district and 12,000 housing units. The project lies in proximity to both San Francisco and Silicon Valley, and is anchored by one of Concord’s two Bay Area Rapid Transit

(BART) stations, a general aviation airport and easy access to Interstate 680. “Concord is a logical choice for companies of all sizes, especially global brands looking for plentiful office options, often priced at a quarter of what is offered in nearby San Francisco and half the prices in Oakland,” said Concord Mayor Laura Hoffmeister. “We look forward to making our case to Amazon, and working with the company to design the Headquarters 2 campus to meet its precise needs.”

Whole Foods Market 365® to Open in Concord Dec 6

Whole Foods Market will open its first Northern California 365 brand store in Concord on December 6 in the new Veranda Shopping Center located at 2085 Diamond Blvd.

The Shopping Center is slated to open October 27. This will be the seventh 365 to open nationally. 365 stores are typically about 10,000 square feet smaller than a Whole

Foods store. It will feature a curated mix of products that adhere to Whole Foods Market’s standards - free of artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners, preservatives and hydrogenated fats. The store will feature an array of organic products, GAP 5 Step Animal Welfare rated meat, sustainable seafood, freshly prepared grab-and-go items and a variety of products tailored for individuals with special diets according to a company news release.

“We’re excited to bring the Whole Foods

Market 365 experience to Northern California, said Rob Twyman, Whole Foods Market regional president. This store will be our first 365 in the region, and we think Concord, with its strong sense of community, is a fantastic fit for shoppers looking for a streamlined grocery experience focused on convenience, quality and value.”

As America’s first national certified organic grocer, Whole Foods Market was named “America’s Healthiest Grocery Store” by Health magazine.

“Having Whole Foods in Concord makes total sense,” said John Montagh, economic development manager for the city of Concord. “It will provide that element of grocery shopping that’s not in the market currently.”

Visit the Whole Foods Market 365 website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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- “Mrs. Butterbanks” Sam bowerbanks
- “Ruby to the Rescue” Jill Hedgecock
- “Book Ends” Jill Hedgecock
- “Movie Mavericks” Jason Ruugard
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- “Inside Secret Service” Eric Enos
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Hurricane Irma's Furry Find a Happy Ending

by Jill Hedgecock.

Program Coordinator, Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club
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In September 7, as Hurricane Irma bore down on Florida, a Wings of Rescue plane headed west to California with its fuselage stacked floor to ceiling with crated pets. After a seven-hour flight, the aircraft touched down at APP Jet Center near Hayward International Airport and taxied towards a cluster of vans decorated with pictures of furry puppies and kittens. There, eager volunteers and staff from Walnut Creek's Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), Berkeley Humane Society, and East Bay SPCA waited to unload the precious cargo of 152 dogs and cats.

The evacuated animals came from the Humane Society of Broward County where they had been available for adoption in Florida. By clearing their shelters, it became possible to house family pets lost or displaced during Hurricane Irma until the animals could be reunited with their owners.

Elena Bicker, Executive Director of ARF, had received a call for help on September 5th and assembled the rescue mission in less than two days.

"It's amazing how quickly and efficiently these operations come together when you have multiple partners all with the best interests of the animals in mind," Bicker said.

When the plane's cargo door rolled open, Ms. Bicker stepped forward to take the first crate to a round of applause. Inside, a black and white cat peered curiously through the metal door of her carrier. As more caged cats and dogs were passed down to Ms. Bicker, wind sprinkled wisps of fur through the air like snowflakes. The woman reassured each animal with greetings such as "It's okay, baby," and "Welcome to California."

Perhaps it was the atmosphere of celebration, perhaps the pets sensed the collective goodness of the people who had assembled to take care of them, but only an occasional whine or meow could be heard among the rows and rows of crates. After the last animal was unloaded to another round of cheers, the triage began as volunteers sorted through the animals to assess the need for any immediate veterinary treatment and readied them for ground transport.

The 92 cats and 60 dogs were split roughly evenly between each of the three rescue organizations. Those pets not yet neutered or spayed will be fixed and the few animals with medical conditions will be treated prior to placement. ARF relies on foster homes to house the overflow, as well as puppies and kittens not yet old enough for adoption.

This was not the first shipment of furry victims to arrive in the Bay Area. The prior week, another plane transported 69 dogs and cats that had been rescued from flooded shelters after Hurricane Harvey. Mad Dog Rescue, Milo Foundation, Muttville Senior Dog Rescue and the San Francisco SPCA had coordinated with Austin Pets Alive in Texas to make the rescue happen. Charlie's Acres of Sonoma donated the use of a private jet for the operation. A planeload of 150 animals from Miami arrived on September 15, many going to the Marine and Peninsula Humane Societies, while another 26 Hurricane Harvey animals arrived at the Richmond-based Milo Foundation on September 17.

The speed and cooperation among all these non-profit groups speak volumes about the willingness of people to work together in the face of adversity for the benefit of our furry, four-legged companions. "Our goal now is to find these 'bicoastal' dogs and cats loving and safe homes in the Bay Area," Bicker said.

ARF's mission statement "People Rescuing Animals...Animals Rescuing People..." resonated on that overcast September day in Hayward. Thanks to ARF and the many other dedicated animal rescue organizations, the joy these Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Harvey animal survivors will bring to their Bay Area forever families offers a bright light to otherwise tragic events in Florida's and Texas' history.

Available ARF animals can be viewed at 2890 Mitchell Drive in Walnut Creek (Open Weds., Thurs., Sat. and Sun. noon to 6 p.m. and Fri. noon to 7 p.m.) or visit arflife.com. East Bay SPCA adoption information can be found at www.eastbayspca.org and Berkeley Humane's adoptable animals can be viewed at <https://berkeleyhumane.org/>. People not interested in or able to adopt can support these organizations by volunteering and/or donating cash or items. Gifts of large dog carriers, blankets and towels can be dropped off at ARF. Another alternative is to support ARF's family-based programs. In addition to hosting birthday parties, Camp ARF's award-winning themed camps provide youths with educational and engaging animal activities. Livermore-based Wings of Rescue is a 501c(3) charity that has flown 26,000 dogs and cats out of disaster areas or from high-kill shelters. It costs on average \$100 per pet to bring them to safety. To donate visit www.wingsofrescue.org/donate.

Photos courtesy of Diane Walsh.





1825 Yolanda Clayton

Another Clayton home **SOLD** by Terrylynn-n-Team



5615 Frank Pl Clayton

Another Clayton home **SOLD** by Terrylynn-n-Team

Staging Tip: A professional photographer can take that staged home from ordinary to exceptional. You've gone to all this work to purge and primp and stage to perfection. Don't lose sight of the "showcasing" of that work. The buyer eliminates homes on the internet BEFORE they even see your home in person. If your photos don't WOW! them, you won't make the cut.

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Concord and Clayton Is the Right Move

by Terrylynn Fisher

Your Market Data for August 2017*

*(Most recent)

With prices increasing in the San Francisco Bay Area, aspiring homeowners are looking toward the suburbs. Moving to Concord and Clayton is one of the best location decisions one can make when looking to settle in the Bay Area. Of course, we all know that already. The just released August data is suggesting the same.

Declining inventory continues to keep the pressure on home sales in our area. We are in a seller's market, meaning we are down to maybe a month of inventory based on our closing rate. In Concord (94521), the number of homes for sale is 39 (Aug 2017) vs 58 (Aug 2016). A 32+% drop in listed homes, and the solds this year (46) are about the same as last year (45), showing the demand is still there. In the Clayton market, the number of homes for sale is 13 (Aug 2017) vs 27 (Aug 2016). A 51% drop in listed homes, and the solds this year (15) are about the same as last year (17). The average sold price in Concord (94521) is up 10% from 2016 at \$662,000. The average sold price in Clayton is on par with last year at \$794,000.

WHAT AFFECTS SOLD PRICE? Your home's condition is a key factor in the number of offers and how high the price goes over asking, if it goes over asking price. The number of offers and sold price significantly decrease for homes not move-in ready. When buyers pay top of the price range, they don't want to have to put additional money into the home for repairs or improvements. Knowing which improvements to make that bring a return and good staging techniques are essential for maximizing price. "As is"

prices tend to be way below the cost of making the improvements that might bring a big return.

The National Association of Realtors just released a study of findings from the "Annual Profile of Home Staging", which finds that 25% of sellers paid to have their homes staged prior to listing and 50% of them saw a 1-10% increase in the value of the offer from buyers. From the buyer's perspective, 77% of buyers said it was easier to visualize the home as their own (a textbook staging goal), 40% were more willing to visit a home they saw online if it was staged (professional photography plays a huge role here), and 44% made an increase of 1-10% (in some areas it's actually more) in the value of the offer.

Choosing a Realtor experienced in these areas to help you plan, budget, and strategize your home sale can make a difference in the end result. Having current data of your neighborhood market can make all the difference. Even if you are staying put or are a young-old Boomer or Senior looking to plan your next move, staying informed on statistics, refinance CMA's, condition and staging information will help you make the prudent decisions when it's time.

Terrylynn Fisher, Real Estate Broker Associate (CalBRE# 00615420) with Dudum Real Estate Group (CalBRE# 01882902) is a veteran of real estate, author of blogs, industry magazine articles on staging, and delivers sage real estate advice when assisting Centennials to Boomers and their circle of friends and family. (925) 876 0966 [www.BuyStage-Sell.com](http://www.BuyStageSell.com)



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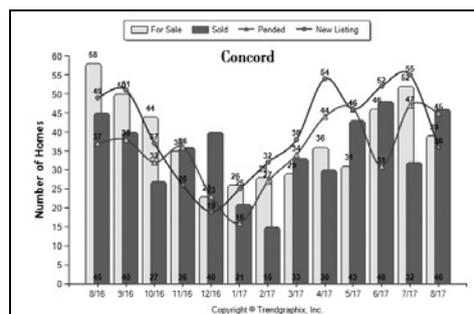
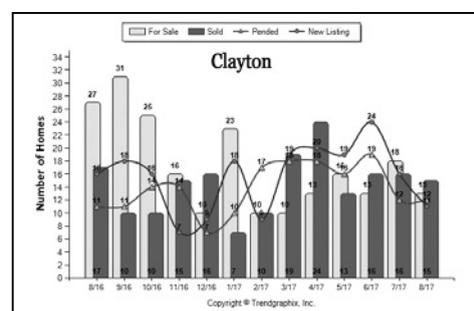
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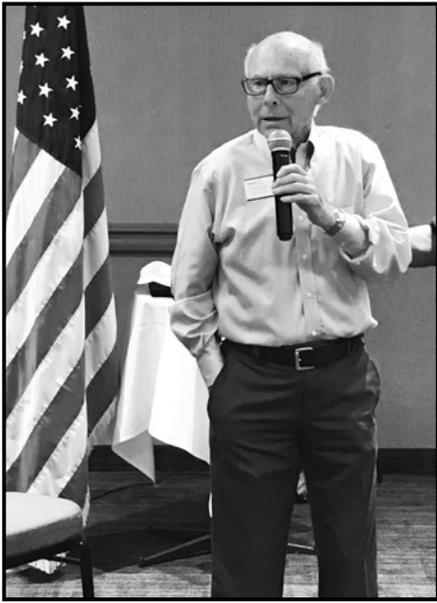


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From Auschwitz to America

The Round up to Auschwitz, Part 1 of 3



Bernie Rosner, of San Ramon, 85, is one of the last remaining Holocaust survivors. In a presentation to Rotary of Concord and Concord-Diablo Rotary on September 8, he shared this story.

"I believe there is some historic significance to the fact that the current generation of audiences will be the last who will be hearing the story of those terrible days from those who actually lived through them."

Rosner's life went from happy to horror, which for 45 years he put those events and memories out of his mind. "I heard and read about Holocaust survi-

vors and even their children who would not talk or even think of the things that happened because the memories were too painful. This was not the case with me. I shut the past out simply because I did not consider it relevant. I was in a new country starting a new life and my focus has always been on the future, not the past," he said.

Then starting about the mid 80's, he came to realize that you can't chop your life up into compartments and jettison the parts that you considered irrelevant. It's a part of who you've become whether you like it or not.

In 1992 Rosner visited the Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington DC. While there, he was given access to the archives including the logs of prisoners entering the Mauthausen concentration camp. Combing through the microfiche files, he found the following entry for September 19, 1944, "Bernat Rosner, Prisoner number 103,705", and the "floodgates of memory and emotions overwhelmed me." Up to that point, there was nothing tangible that connected him to his former life. It was then that he decided he must tell his story.

This decision was met with a series of coincidences that are as unique as any other aspect of the story of his life. In the 1980's, he met an Orinda man, Fritz Tubach, whose background and history was opposite of Rosner's. Rosner, a survivor of Auschwitz, Fritz was raised in wartime Germany. His father was a Nazi and Fritz in his early youth was a member of Jungvolk, the Cub Scout equivalent

of the Hitler youth. Now they were both Americans. They had both accepted the fact that you are responsible for your own actions and not for those of your father or other members of your nation or race.

They shared stories and formed a friendship and together wrote a book "An Uncommon Friendship" which has had a fair degree of success and has been translated into German, Italian, and Dutch.

Rosner was born in Hungary in a smallish, rural town called Tab. For 12 years he lived basically a normal happy childhood shaped by the rigor and discipline of Jewish Orthodox upbringing and a sensitive and literate mother.

Antisemitism was certainly present in Hungary. It was institutional in terms of laws that restricted the freedom of Jews from practicing certain professions, or owning land, and limiting the number of Jews who could be admitted to law, medical and other professional schools. Despite this, Rosner insists his childhood was basically happy and tranquil.

His life changed with dramatic suddenness on March 19, 1944, the day the Germans had taken over the country and the government. The effects of this takeover were immediate and disastrous. Anti-Jewish edicts began. Jews could not travel at all. Prominent families in the community as well as those suspected of subversive activities or associations began to disappear.

Within a month, all Jews had to wear a prominent yellow star on their outer clothing. By May, all Jews were herded into a ghetto. "My family was lucky in

this respect, our home was already within the area designated as part of the ghetto," Bernie muses. However, his home had to suddenly house an additional 16 to 18 relatives who came from outside of the ghetto boundaries.

By the end of June, on a 24-hour notice, all Jews were ordered to be ready for departure in front of their homes with no more than one suitcase per person.

"Three images stand out for me from the day on which we were marched down the main street of Tab to the brickyard next to the railroad station. The first was the behavior of some non-Jewish inhabitants who stood on the sidewalk as we were herded by and jeered comments like 'You Jews are finally getting what's coming to you.'" Most town people simply retired into their homes, closed their blinds to not have to see their fellow citizens being driven down the street like cattle.

"The second image was on the way to the station. I witnessed my mother's humiliation at being stripped naked in a crowded room and hand-searched by Nazi thugs.

"The third was at the brickyard where an elderly woman standing up to recite her Sabbath prayers was clubbed bloody and unconscious by one of the guards."

From Tab, they were shipped to a central collection point about 50 miles away and joined by seven to ten thousand others collected from other ghettos. Then they were loaded into cattle cars and headed for Auschwitz.

Next month: Horror inside Auschwitz.

Clayton's Ingrid Hempell: Life in Postwar East Germany

[Ingrid Hempell is now retired living in Clayton. Many may remember her French restaurant, La Croquet, which is now Moresi's Chop House. After attending the life story presentation of Auschwitz survivor Bernie Rosner at Rotary of Concord Rotary and Concord-Diablo Rotary luncheon on September 8, Hempell stood up to convey her concerns. The horrific history of WWII and its consequences, the human toll is getting lost on today's children. She fears that apathy will cause invaluable lessons to be forgotten in future generations.]

Hempell is now offering her own life experiences in speeches that reveal the dark side of what the history books do not communicate. She lived in Berlin, Germany, and was three years during the allied bombing of Berlin and the eventual surrender of Germany. In this three-part series, Hempell describes the painful years of growing up under communist rule behind the wall and her eventual journey to America, a country which she is eternally grateful.]

Bombed, Occupied, and Isolated

The end of Hitler's "One thousand Year Reich" in May of 1945 followed one of the most diabolic human atrocities in history, because it included the willful murder of innocent men, women, and children, and the development of a brutal blitzkrieg war machine.

As a result, my childhood and youth was spent in a desperate world of rubble and ruins, of hunger and cold, and the loss of my father.

Being born in 1941, I do not remember too much about the war itself. But etched in my memory are the terrible sounds of the sirens announcing the approaching planes carrying the bombs that would fall on Berlin. At night, my mom would pull



me out of bed, wrap me in a blanket and race with me to the bomb shelter in the cellar of the four-story house where we stayed with my grandparents, next to the historical Zion's Church (built in 1873). I was too young to fully understand what was going on, but the fear in the eyes of the grown-ups affected me. Then came the sounds of the explosions, closer and closer, until the walls rattled, some plaster fell, and the lights went out. My mom tried to comfort me as I cried. After the explosions stopped, there was an eerie silence, and then the lights came back on. The grown-ups started talking in hushed voices, and some would smile a little in relief. The last bombing attack on Berlin happened April 21, 1945.

The building we were in was spared, but the rest of the street and the apartment house where my parents used to live was completely demolished. Later, my mom found my burnt baby carriage in the rubble.

We lived in the part of Berlin that later became East Berlin. My father, a furniture maker, was forced to join the war effort. He could come home for a short period in December of 1944 because his father was ill, but by the end of the month, he had to leave, otherwise he

would have been declared a deserter, punishable by death. We never saw or heard from my father again. We received no news of his whereabouts either. He was just missing. For the rest of her life,

my grandmother kept repeating, "Mine Ernst, oh, mine Ernst, where is he? He must come home to me again." My father's brother lost one leg in the war, but at least he came back.

When the war ended on May 9, 1945, Berlin was a wasteland, as was most German cities. The winter of 1945/46 was extremely harsh. We were cold and hungry. Many, more people died, especially the elderly. The allies had divided Germany and Berlin in four occupation zones, the American, the British, the French, and the Russian sectors. Berlin was located like an island in the middle of the Russian occupied zone. When the Russians arrived in Berlin in 1945, they took a terrible revenge on the German people. It is still called the "Rape of Berlin." There were about 130,000 victims. All civic ways and means of getting supplies to the people had collapsed.



There was no hope of things getting better anytime soon. The Russians established a Communist political and economic system in East Germany. Banks, farms, industries were seized and re-

organized. Natural resources, leftover equipment, even our scientists were taken to Russia. Protesters went to prison. Laws, currency, and school systems changed under the new Communist leader Walter Ulbricht. In school, it seemed that the

main subjects were all about the Great Russian October Revolution of 1917 and their various five and ten-year achievement plans. Russian language studies became mandatory. The state controlled the press, churches, and education. Western news, radio, or papers were not allowed. Trade and travel was restricted. The Iron Curtain cut off Eastern European satellite states, East Germany and of course East Berlin from the rest of the world.

Photos courtesy: WikiCommons

Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene Teaching Clinic Seeking Patients



Individuals who have not had their teeth cleaned in 3+ years, have a low cost option and an opportunity to help students progress their academic and career goals. The Diablo Valley Hygiene Teaching Clinic is looking for patients for this semester to help train our next generation of dental professionals in the DVC's Life Health Science (LHS) building on Tuesday 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m.; Wednesdays 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Thursday from 1:30p.m.-4:30 p.m.

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The DVC Dental Hygiene Teaching* Clinic offers low cost, high quality dental cleanings. Teaching Clinic offers a \$5 initial evaluation to identify new teaching patients. This fee is waived for DVC

employees and students. The initial evaluation takes approximately one hour. Your teeth will be evaluated for build-up of plaque and calculus. This is a good way to get a general idea of what is going on around your teeth and gums, however it does not take the place of a comprehensive dental exam with your dentist. If you qualify, you can apply to be a teaching patient for low cost x-rays and cleanings which require multiple 3-hour visits.

Students must complete 10 clients this semester, four of which must meet a certain level of case difficulty, meaning they want patients with more build-up on the teeth. In addition to cleaning difficulty, students must also have full mouth x-ray requirements, nitrous oxide requirements, sealant requirements, root desensitization requirements and numbing/ anesthesia requirements to fulfill. The Last day of teaching clinic is December 14.

You must call and schedule an appointment. The LHS building is located at 321 Gold Club road in Pleasant Hill, next to parking lot 4. For more information contact the DVC Dental hygiene program 925-969-2692.



parentfootprints

by Dr. Dan Peters www.DrDanPeters.com

Banish the Boo and Conquer the (Worry) Monster!

Soon ghosts, witches, zombies, princesses and superheroes will be ringing our doorbells and screaming trick or treat. With piles of candy, cool costumes, and parental permission to have lots of sugar, it's no wonder that Halloween is one of children's favorite holidays.

But there is a darker side to the spooky holiday. In my work with families and children, I've seen kids (young and not so young) with anxiety and worry start to ramp up as soon as the October calendar appears. These children are thinking about real monsters, imaginary monsters, and yes the (Worry) Monster. They can worry about anything including Halloween itself, costumes, and confusing social skills such as being invited by friends, to doorbells ringing without warning, and over the top spooky neighborhoods.

Halloween is fantastic for most children and teens and teens. But for the special needs child, overanxious child, or quirky kid it can bring out old and new fears. Anxiety, worry, and fear are the companions of things that go bump in the night. Halloween is built around the fear factor and this holiday is unpredictable, creepy, and most of all can be SCARY.

Fortunately, I have spent decades helping children of all ages (and parents too). Here are proven ways to banish the

Halloween Worry Monsters.

Host a Halloween party. Avoid complicated trick or treating for your socially anxious child. Have a smaller party at your home that you can control and scale down the massive neighborhood spectacle.

Write a social story. Anxious tweens and teens can benefit from an easy to understand social story that maps out the holiday and allows for pre-planning. Social stories are narratives you can create with your child about how the day and night will go and what to expect.

Create a time-based schedule. With your child, plot out the evening starting with getting dressed up and ending with counting candy at the kitchen table.

Have a buddy system. Encourage your children to invite a favorite friend to join the trick or treating. By being proactive, the social anxiety can be avoided.

Seek out the sweet, not the scary. For the younger set, avoid the houses where startling décor and spooky music will give your children nightmares. Skip the houses that are fear factories and stick to the sweeter sites.

Halloween is a wild holiday but as a parent you can control many elements of the night and successfully make it a fun holiday for your family instead of a nightmare.

Why Age 7 is the Right Time to See an Orthodontist

By the age of 7, the first adult molars erupt, establishing the back bite. During this time, an orthodontist can evaluate front-to-back and side-to-side tooth relationships. For example, the presence of erupting incisors can indicate possible overbite, open bite, crowding or gummy smiles. Timely screening increases the chances for an incredible smile.

H. DIXON TAYLOR, D.D.S., M.S.D.

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Arborglyph Detective: The Kid Tree

by Shereen Motarjemi

In the bank of a creek just off Pleasant Hill Road stands an old tree bearing evidence of visits by children. There are dozens of etchings and initials carved into the bark, in numerous styles. This was a popular kid place! What do these "ancient" arborglyphs reveal? Who were these youngsters and what became of them?

Many of the carvings date back to the 1960's and 70's, to a time when Pleasant Hill was more rural and children freely roamed its creeks. Kids from that era knew that creeks are special places. There are pollywogs to catch and rock dams to build. There are trees to climb and critters to watch. But one of the creek's

greatest draws was what was absent from it: grownups. This was one of the few places where a kid could be free.

"Meet at the tree," was all a child had to do to find friends in those days, and when kids congregate, there can be mischief. It's easy to imagine why a youngster would carve his initials in a tree. It's an announcement, "I AM ME and I AM HERE!"

I set out on a mission to uncover the mystery of one such carving and close the books on an early Pleasant Hill love story. (You can just call me Shereen Motarjemi, Arborglyph Detective.)

In those days, parents were less concerned that children were out of earshot

the whole day. Moms were confident that their kids would be home when they got hungry.

In 1968 Joel Primrose lived on Mercury Way near Grayson Creek and spent his summer days from "6:30am to sunset" exploring the fields, orchards and creeks in Pleasant Hill. Joel loved the outdoors, but that's not all he loved. His heart belonged to beautiful Katie Clark, with her freckles and dark hair. He did his darnedest to woo his beloved, like carrying her books and carving their names into the tree. He would find excuses to ride his bike past her house many times each day. From Katie's point of view, he was a pest and she rejected his overtures again and again.

Today they are both in their late 50's, happily married to other people. Joel

served in the military and then had a long career as a fire fighter - an appropriate path

for someone with his energy. Katie stayed in Pleasant Hill to raise her family. Even though they lost touch decades ago, each remembers the other from that time in 5th grade when Joel secretly carved: "Joel LOVES Katie" into an old buckeye tree next to a creek.

Please feel free to share comments at shereen56@yahoo.com



Your OCTOBER 2017 Guide to the Bay Area

The Diablo Gazette's

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

FUNDRAISERS

Pancake Breakfast - Supporting Veterans of foreign Wars – 2nd and 4th Sundays includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, beverage. 8 – 11 a.m. Willow Pass Road, Concord \$5, \$3 Children under 12. <http://www.vfwpost1525.org>

October 7
Chief Philip Kader 5K Walk – Benefits the Auxiliary's education Scholarship Program for youths released from juvenile hall who are enrolled in college or trade school. \$25 Registration. register at juvenilehallauxiliary.org.

October 16-21
20th Anniversary Collection Drive. Prizes and giveaways when you bring your household hazardous waste such as batteries, cleaners, pesticides, and leftover paint. These can pollute our waterways and need to be properly disposed of (and not put down the drain or into the garbage). Central San, the agency that cleans our wastewater in central Contra Costa County. Their Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHW) is located at 4797 Imhoff Place in Martinez (near 680 & HWY 4). Open Monday-Saturday from 9am-4pm.
Eligible Communities: Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and unincorporated Central County areas.

October 20-22
The Contra Costa County Historical Society is partnering with Amy's Hallmark Shop for a fundraising weekend where 15% of pre-tax purchases will benefit the Coco County Historical. Shop for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas ornaments, gifts and greeting cards. Amy's Hallmark Shop, 20 Crescent Drive, Suite B in Pleasant Hill. For more information, visit www.cocohistory.org or Call (925) 229-1042.

OUTDOORS

Concord: Todos Santos Park OFF the Grid Mondays. offering cuisine from around the world from 5 to 9 p.m. Full lineup available at <http://offthegridsf.com>.

Farmers' Markets
Concord Tuesdays, 10am to 2pm, year-round, rain or shine, Thursdays 4P-8P, Todos Santos Plaza. • **Martinez Sundays,** 10am to 2pm, year-round, Main St. and Estudillo.
Walnut Creek Diablo Valley Farmers Market Saturday 9a.m. - 1 p.m. Shadelands Business Park, N. Wigett Lane and Mitchell Dr. Also, from Contra Costa Certified Farmers Market - North Locust St between Giamona and Lacassie St. Sundays 9 am - 1 pm, Year Round, (925) 431-8361 <http://www.cccfm.org>
Pleasant Hill – Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm May 6 -Oct 28; 136 Trelany Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA
Pittsburg – Saturday 9:00am to 1:00pm, May 6 - Oct 7; 600 Railroad Ave, Pittsburg, CA

FAMILY EVENTS

Galindo Home and Gardens Tours - 1721 Amador Avenue, Concord. Visit the fully-restored 1856 Victorian home of Francisco Galindo, one of Concord's founding fathers, and his wife, Maria Dolores Manuela (Pacheco) Galindo. This includes the 1875 addition by Francisco Galindo's son, Juan "John" Galindo. No reservations needed. Fee \$5 for adults and children over 12. One of only a few Victorian ranch houses in the country. By 1880, the structure was reconfigured in the Queen Anne style, with bay windows, sweeping steps, and a broad porch. Visitors can tour the 10 rooms and see 15 original pieces of Eastlake furniture. for more information go to concord-historical.org.

October 4
Monthly Dinner with the American Legion 517 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building on 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Social hour starts at 5:30pm and dinner is at 6:15pm. All Veterans Welcome. Assemblywoman Catharine Baker will be the speaker. It is \$15 per person

and \$25 per couple. Any questions, call Mike at 925-766-6114.

October 7
Orchid Extravaganza Show & Sale. Diablo View Orchid Society presents "Orchid Extravaganza" Orchid Show & Sale at First Lutheran Church, 4000 Concord Blvd., Concord from 10AM to 5PM. The event includes Ribbon Judging, sale of orchids and supplies, workshops, repotting service, and raffle! \$5 or \$3 with coupon available at www.dvos.org, Under 12 Free

One-Day Ham Radio Class: October 7, 7:30AM-5:00 PM at Benicia Senior Center, 1201 East 2nd Street, Benicia. \$30. Includes all study material, venue, day-long refreshments, handouts, freebies and the federally required exam fee. All instructors, facilitators and VE's are volunteers. Register at www.BeniciaARC.com. Class size is limited. Contact Ham Class Registrar, Art Mayoff (925) 212-9953'

October 14
Oktoberfest 2017- 11AM-6 PM. Walnut Creek. Live music. Tumblehouse Down, Sons of Soul Revivers, Mustache Harbor. Karl Leberz Band. Biergarten, Autobahn, micro brews-Kinder Platz, arts and crafts, gourmet food. Locust Street between Civic Drive & Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Bonanza Street between N. California & Commercial Lane.

Jordan Rosenfeld presents "Get Intimate With Your Characters: Mastering Point of View For Dazzling Character Development" at the October 14 luncheon workshop of the Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club (CWC) at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. From 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, followed by a luncheon. The cost is \$45 for members, \$55 for guests. Reservation deadline is noon on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. Go to CWC Mt. Diablo website at: <https://cwcmt-diablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>.

October 27
10th annual Trick or Treat. Friday, 2-5pm Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 N. Civic Drive Calling all goblins, superheroes, princesses & witches! You're invited to creep through downtown collecting Halloween treats from participating businesses while you visit booths and businesses. WCD encourages participants to be eco-friendly. Please bring your own favorite candy bag!

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society – Friday 8-10pm. Monthly show. All aboard the Diablo Valley Lines Railroad model show. See one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. 2751 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek. \$3.00 Adults \$2.00 Seniors (60+) & Children (6-12) Children under 6 FREE. Cash or Checks Only

October 28
Munchkin Masquerade & Mr. Jelly Belly's Halloween Breakfast. Breakfast: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Enjoy a sweet morning at Mr. Jelly Belly's Halloween Breakfast event with entertainment and activities for the whole family. Munchkin Masquerade parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Children in costume parade through the Jelly Belly factory led by Mr. Jelly Belly and Kelly the Clown. Reservations are required. Tickets and breakfast menu are available online at www.jellybelly.com. The first 300 children will receive treats. Costumes are encouraged. Free factory tour once the Halloween activities are finished at 11:30 a.m. Complimentary candy factory tours daily, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at One Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield. For more information (800) 953-5592 or visit www.JellyBelly.com.

2nd Annual Concord Spiritsfest-2pm-8pm. Come for the Fun, stay for the Boos. Whiskey, wine, beer, food, music four bands), and art for you at the Galindo Home. 1721 Amador Concord. Rotary Club of Concord. Tickets in-

CALENDAR continues on page 9

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Downtown Martinez Local Craft Beers & Home Brew!
 Sample delicious craft beers and home brew inside downtown businesses.
Get info and tickets at ZombieBrewCrawl.com
 \$25 per person until 10/9 then \$30 10/10-10/21 then \$35 at the door (if not sold out)
 \$10 donation per ticket goes to Main Street Martinez a 501c3 organization
Costumes Optional. Prizes awarded for BEST Zombie Costume and BEST Zombie Group

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ADVERTISER TESTIMONIAL

"Right on target, I have received a few comments on the article "Concord and Clayton is the Right Move" (September 2017), and the owner liked (seeing his listing in) the ad." – Terrylynn Fisher, Real Estate Broker

with Tilly Turner photos by Micah
Views of the Valley



Music and Market series draws large crowds to Todos Santos Plaza in Concord



Clayton wraps up another successful season of Concerts in the Grove with the ever popular nine-piece band, East Bay Mudd



One of many extraordinary carvings at the National Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa



Rubber Ducky, you're the one. An angel tries her luck at the Walnut Festival at Heather Farms in Walnut Creek.



Everybody Polka at the Clayton Oktoberfest

**COME FOR THE FUN
 STAY FOR THE BOOS**

SpiritsFest
 Rotary Club of Concord, CA

**Sat. Oct 28, 2017
 2-8 PM**

TICKETS: \$60 – includes entry, 6 drinks, 4 bands and all the food you can eat!

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1721 Amador Ave., Concord
www.facebook.com/SpiritsFestConcord

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"We had our first CWC meeting after (taking) the summer off and quite a few of our guests say they saw the announcement in the Diablo Gazette. Thanks for supporting our group!"
 –Jill H. Walnut Creek

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CALENDAR continued from page 7

clude commemorative wine glass, six tastings tickets and all the food you can eat. \$60. For more information, go to www.spiritsfest.org.

VISUAL ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC

Concord 29th Annual Music and Market Series
9/7/2017 Fresh Original Songwriting! Co-bill: The Next of Kin, rustic sounds with a modern flair plus Whirl, the Future of Pop/Rock.
9/14/2017 Annie Sampson Concord's Blues and Soul Diva

Concord Pavilion
General sale tickets are available online at LiveNation.com, Ticketmaster.com or charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Tickets are also available at select Wal-Mart locations. For general Pavilion information, call (925) 676-8742 Oct 12 -- Luke Bryan

October 12
House of Floyd. The City of Concord will present a family-friendly music and science event at Todos Santos Plaza from 6 to 8:30 p.m. when House of Floyd performs Pink Floyd's complete Dark Side of the Moon accompanied by a laser light show. Also featuring "Ask a Scientist" booth. See science demonstrations and learn about citizen science projects that anyone can join. Sponsored by Lennar I Five Point. For more information, contact Florence Weiss, (925) 671-3404.

October 15
Joan Cifarelli's jazz combo "JaZ" is always one of the most popular groups which perform on the Clayton Valley Presbyterian Concert Series. 3:00 PM. Tickets will be available at the door for \$15. Located at 1578 Kirker Pass Rd. Clayton.

October 19
"The 1940's Radio Hour", Clayton Theatre Company's fall production will run 10/19-11/4/17 @ Endeavor Hall 6008 Center St., Clayton. A live radio broadcast takes place on Dec. 21, 1942. The spirit of that bygone era when the world was at war and music like "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" was playing on the radio. If you attend a FRIDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE-come dressed in your best 1940's costume and you will receive a free popcorn. Please visit claytontheatrecompany.com to purchase tickets.

October 19-22
"Z is for ...Zombie!" presented by Synergy Theater. "Z is for... Zombie!" is a completely improvised spoof of zombie apocalyp-

se movies in which nobody knows who is a zombie and who is still human - not even the cast! Who will be eaten and converted into a brain-sucking zombie? And, who will be the last human improviser standing? Nobody knows until the very last scene! Thursday - Saturday at 8:15 pm and Sunday at 3:15 pm. The Leshar Center for the Arts, George & Sonja Vukasin Theatre, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets \$20 at www.lesharartscenter.org or (925) 943-7469.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Al-Anon Family Group 7:30 p.m. Mondays, St. Martins of Tours Anglican Church & Pre-school, Concord. 932-6770 or www.ncwsa.org.
- Alcoholics Anonymous - 925-939-4155 or www.aa.org.

- Bereavement Support Group: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 4:30 - 6:00 pm. pre-registration. Call 925) 887-5681
- The Bridge A program that provides support to children, teens, adults and their families grieving the death of a loved one. Hillcrest Congregational Church, 404 Gregory Lane Pleasant Hill. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month Through June. Pre-registration is required. (925) 887-5681 or email: griefservices@hospiceeastbay.org.
- Cardiac Care Support Group - 7 p.m. second Thursdays, John Muir Walnut Creek or Concord. 947-5206.
- Fibromyalgia Support Group - 2nd Friday of each month. 11A.M. - 1 P.M. Concord Library, 2900 Salvio St. Concord. More info: Call Joyce 925-671-2779
- Concord Neuropathy Support - 1:30 p.m. 3rd Thursday of every month at the First Christian Church, 3039 Willow Pass Rd. Concord For more information call 925-685-0953
- Debtors Anonymous (DA) meets every Friday Night 7:00 to 8:30 PM, First Baptist Church, 1802 Downtown Martinez. Call (925) 228-9111 or go to: www.debtorsanonymous.org.
- Hearing Loss and Cochlear Implant Wearers Support Group - 7 p.m. 1st Wednesdays, Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. HLAADV@hearinglossdv.org or 264-1199.
- Hospice East Bay has announced a new schedule for their support groups and classes. All, except drop-in, require pre-registration. Call (925) 887-5681 or email griefservices@hospiceeastbay.org. Our Bereavement Services are provided free of charge to all community members in need. Services are provided at the following locations, unless otherwise noted: Pleasant Hill Office, 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill and our Brentwood Office, 80 Eagle Rock Avenue, Suite A, Brentwood.
- Drop-In Grief Support Pleasant Hill 4:30 - 6:00 pm 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
- Drop-In Grief Support Brentwood 4:30 - 6:00 pm 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month
- Drop-In Grief Support in Spanish Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 500 Fairview Avenue, Library, Brentwood 4:30 - 5:30 pm 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month Through April 6
- Drop-In Grief Support for Seniors 55+: Pleasant Hill Community Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Game Room, Pleasant Hill 10:00 - 11:30 am, Mondays Through March 28
- Drop-In Pet Loss Support Group Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek 5:30 to 7:00 pm 2nd Tuesdays of the month
- Parent Loss Support Group - Evening Pleasant Hill Mondays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm April 18 - June 13
- Spouse and Partner Loss Group - Afternoon Pleasant Hill Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm April 14 thru June 2
- Spouse and Partner Loss Group - Pleasant Hill, Thursdays, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, May 2 thru June 27
- Understanding Grief Class - Pleasant Hill, Thursdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, June 16
- Creative Writing Workshop Explore various styles of creative writing and discover a new way to give voice to the story of your loss and grief. No writing experience necessary. 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill Wednesday, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, March 23. Pre-register by March 21
- Forget-Me-Not Workshop - Decorate a flower pot in commemoration of your loved one, and take home a seed packet of Forget-Me-Not flowers to plant in their memory. 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill Tuesday, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. April 12. Pre-register by April 5.
- HIV/AIDS Support Group - 7-9 p.m. 2nd & 4th Thursdays, John Muir Concord. 925- 674-2190.
- John Muir Behavioral Health Center 2740 Grant Street Concord. Call 925-942-0767 or www.namicontracosta.org
- Leukemia Society Family Support Group - 7 p.m. first Thursdays. 947-4466, ext. 32797.
- Nar-Anon - 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, John Muir Concord. <http://naranoncalifornia.org>.
- Pet Loss Support Group, Second Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7PM. (925) 887-5681. Pre-registration required.
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program - 472-5777.
- Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its meeting on November 9th in the Sterns Conference Room at John Muir Medical Center - Walnut Creek Campus (1601 Ygnacio Valley Road) from 7-9 p.m. Contact Ann Dzuna at 925-376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Andrea Ouse Becomes Concord's New Community and Economic Development Director



The City of Concord has selected Andrea Ouse as its new Community and Economic Development Director as of September 18.

Ouse will lead the Planning, Building, Transportation, Engineering, and Economic Development divisions. She replaces Victoria Walker who retired last month.

"Ms. Ouse has a particularly strong background in long-range planning, environmental analysis and development review, and excels at multi-disciplinary programs and projects," said

City Manager Valerie Barone. "Her 25 years of experience in community development, her leadership role in the Vallejo organization and her collaborative approach with the residential and business community make her a perfect fit for our organization."

Ouse worked for the City of Vallejo for five years, three as Planning Manager before being promoted to Director of Community and Economic Development where she oversaw the Planning, Building and Economic Development divisions. Prior to her employment with Vallejo, she was the managing principal with LSA Associates for the South San Francisco office.

She holds a B.S. degree in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and a Masters in Public Administration from Cal State University East Bay.

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. **OCTOBER 16TH-21ST**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY
20TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION DRIVE
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Go to CentralSan.org for information and a list of eligible communities

AWESOME GIVEAWAYS!

Resident Tales

"A Halloween Medley"

by Virginia Highsmith

The Broom put on a Witch's Hat
And danced around the room
The Backyard Chorus formed a line
And serenaded the Moon.
The Dog howled "Hound Dog" in the Key
of D



The Cat meowed "Shrimp Boats" that hit a piercing High C

The Donkey held down a "Blues Chord" on E



To add a little harmony.

The Cow mooed the "Cow Boogie Woogie"

And the Frog croaked "Let it Be, Let It Be"

The Pig grunted a little of "Elmer's Tune"

And the Ghost moaned "Fly Me To The Moon"
The Owl found the "Lost Chord" but tossed it in the hay

Then sang a few bars of "I Did It My Way"

The Bat flapped his wings to four fourth time



And the Crickets formed a "Chorus Line"

The Rabbit added "It Had To Be You"

And the Pumpkin on the gate post lit up and just said "Boo"

Then the Dog and Cow

danced a swinging fox trot

The Donkey danced "The Phantom Waltz" with the Cat

The Rabbit and Frog did the "Bunny Hop"

And the Owl tapped out "Doo Waps" with the Bat

The Pig joined the Crickets in a "Conga Line"

The Ghost danced a tango with the Broom



And the Pumpkin turned into a carriage and took off for the Moon

I'm going to end this- I wouldn't want you to think

That I'd had too much hard cider to drink.



The Ghost danced a tango with the Broom

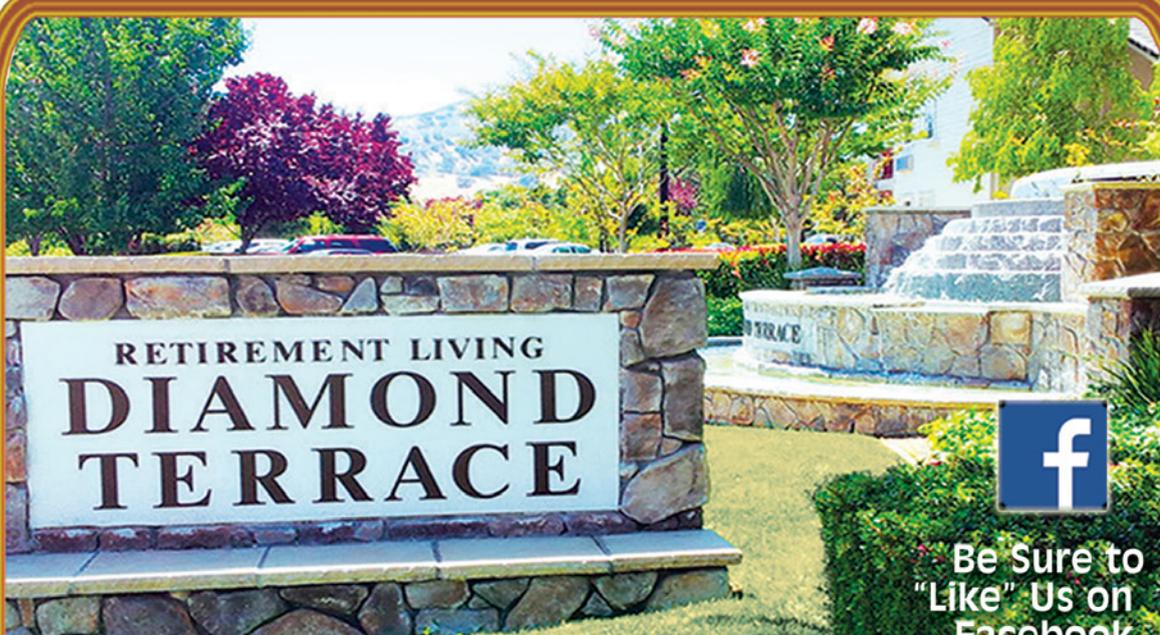


And the Pumpkin turned into a carriage and took off for the Moon

I'm going to end this- I wouldn't want you to think

That I'd had too much hard cider to drink.





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ATTENTION GHOULS AND GOBLINS

Whether you are looking to play tricks or enjoy treats, appear at Diamond Terrace on Saturday, October 28th at 5 pm.



Halloween Spook-tacular!

Prizes for the most boo-tiful costumes! So come kids of ALL ages, if you dare....

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Mrs. Butterbanks, aka Sam Bowerbank, always finds the time in the middle of her busy schedule to destroy her kitchen one concoction at a time. With the freshest ingredients gathered from her backyard garden along with fresh eggs from her chickens, she creates beautiful and tasty dishes and desserts that have to be approved by her two teenage daughters and of course her "well-fed" husband. You'll find more of her fabulous recipes on her blog butterrequired.wordpress.com.

Pumpkin Butterscotch Muffins

It's Autumn! Leaves are changing colors, the morning air has a crispness to it, gourds start appearing on front porches, we break out the sweaters and fuzzy socks... BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. In my kitchen Autumn means it's PUMPKIN time. HOORAY! I adore the aroma of pumpkin baking in the oven, it's such a warm and cozy smell (that is, if warm and cozy were actual smells) pies, cakes, bars, cookies... I love them all. Of course, my bathroom scale complains every morning, but I tell it to stop being such a drama queen. That's just the kind of relationship we have. Here's one of my kids' favorite pumpkin



recipe. These muffins are yummo.

- 1 (15 oz) can pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 cups white sugar
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground

- nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 1/2 cups butterscotch chips (Trust me on this one.)

I always use butterscotch chips, but if you want to make them Halloweeny, then add

one cup of candy bones or eyeballs.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, use your mixer on medium speed to mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Add the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Mix in the butterscotch chips, or bones (if you so prefer to mess with those partaking) and scoop (I use a size 16 ice cream scoop, it's the per-

fect muffin size) into the prepared pans. Bake for 20-25 minutes and test with a toothpick, it should come out clean. If it doesn't, bake for another two minutes and test again. Makes 24 muffins.

Tip time: Place your muffin paper liners in the pans and then spray with cooking spray. It makes for an easier pan clean-up. I sprinkle sparkling sugar on the batter before baking to add a happy sparkle and crunch. Who doesn't like that? Well, my bathroom scale, I suppose.

Ruby Dooby Do to the Rescue

Each month a hard to place dog in foster care will be featured to give them extra exposure to find their forever home. For October, I've picked a "pawsitively special dawg", a senior dog. Advantages of adopting an older animal are that they have an established temperament, are emotionally mature and are beyond the housebreaking and chewing phase.



a safe and loving sanctuary for senior dogs regardless of breed, health or ease of placement. The standard \$200 adoption fee helps cover vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, micro-chipping, and medical/health expenses incurred while readying them for adoption. To adopt BRADLEY COPPER, fill out the on-line application at: <http://www.tailsofgray.org/adoption-application-1.html>. You can also support Tails of Gray by buying their dog art (<http://www.tailsofgray.org/dog-art.html>).

Editors Note: Ruby Dooby Do is Concord's Instagram celebrity with more than 49,000 followers. [Instagram.com/rubydooby](https://www.instagram.com/rubydooby) Do. Special thanks to Jill Hedgecock, Program Coordinator, Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club for her help in translating canine for this article. www.jillhedgecock.com.

Gentle BRADLEY COPPER landed in a local shelter as a stray. Although all of his teeth were literally falling out of his swollen mouth and had to be extracted, he has remained a sweet little love bug. Bradley gets along with other dogs and is friendly with all people. At about 11 years old and 12 lbs, he's suitable for almost any home.

Tails of Gray, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Clayton, offers



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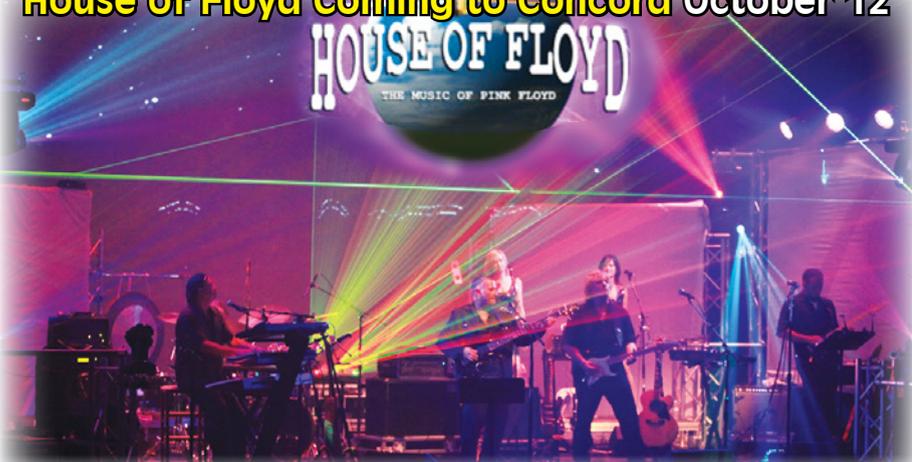


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House of Floyd Coming to Concord October 12



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THE MUSIC OF PINK FLOYD

The City of Concord will present a family-friendly music and science event at Todos Santos Plaza on Thursday, Oct. 12 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. when House of Floyd performs Pink Floyd's complete "Dark Side of the Moon" accompanied by a laser light show. Local singer-songwriters will start the evening with a "Singing for Science" opening segment. The evening features an "Ask a Scientist" booth where participants can meet and question scientists from a variety of disciplines. There will also be science demonstrations and the opportunity to learn about citizen science projects that anyone can join. The evening is sponsored by Lennar I Five Point. For more information, contact Florence Weiss, (925) 671-3404.



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by Jill Hedgecock, Program Coordinator Mount Diablo California
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Someone is Watching

If you liked the movie, "The Rear Window" by Alfred Hitchcock, then "Someone is Watching" by Joy Fielding (2016, Zaffre Publishing, paperback, \$6.71) is the Halloween book pick for you.

Bailey Carpenter, a private investigator, seems to have it all—a silver Porsche, a sizable inheritance, a ritzy apartment and a satisfying career. But her life is ripped apart after a brutal rape and now she can't bear to leave her apartment. She is also forced to confront that her idyllic version of her lifestyle isn't quite as perfect as she once believed. Not only are her half-siblings suing over the family fortune that Bailey and her brother, Heath, inherited, but she's also involved with a married man. The attack has forced her to confront these harsh realities of her life. So it is not surprising that when her estranged half-sister, Claire, and spunky fifteen-year-old niece, Jade, come to help Bailey through this difficult time, Bailey readily sets aside their legal differences and accepts Claire's help. During one visit, Jade picks up a pair of Bailey's stakeout binoculars and bursts out laughing at a man in the high-rise across the street who is flexing his muscles in front of a mirror. The man Bailey dubs "Narcisse" meets the description of the man who raped her and she becomes obsessed with observing his playboy lifestyle for clues to his guilt.

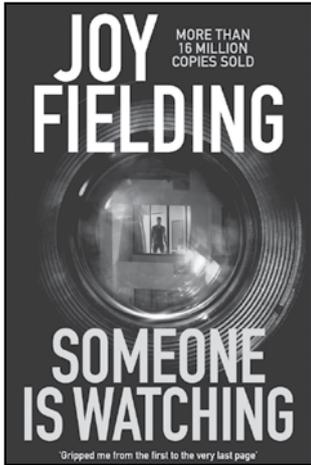
Readers have to be careful accepting Bailey's view of the world. Her traumatic

experience has caused hallucinogenic episodes and it is never clear if she is reporting actual events. So on a stormy night when Bailey observes Narcisse looking back at her with his own set of binoculars, it isn't clear if it really happened. Fielding's technique of making Bailey an unreliable narrator serves to ratchet up the tension in this edge-of-your-seat read.

After contacting the police about her suspicions that her handsome neighbor may be her rapist, Bailey is dissatisfied with law enforcement's lack of action and decides to take matters into her own hands. Her sleuthing soon has her making reckless decisions and questioning her own sanity at the

strange activities occurring in his apartment. After a few therapy sessions, Bailey's courage is restored. Emboldened with a new confidence, Bailey decides to trust her instincts and resumes spying on Narcisse. Part detective novel, part thriller, this book delivers a nail-biter.

Joy Fielding is the author of the New York Times bestsellers "Still Life", "Charley's Web", "Heartstopper", "See Jane Run", and other acclaimed novels. "Someone is Watching" is a bit slow to get started, but then hold on, the rollercoaster ride is about to begin. Though I wasn't all that surprised by this book's conclusion, the story kept me engaged to the final pages and I would not hesitate to read other novels by Fielding.



Author Jordan Rosenfeld offers Workshop at California Writers Club

Jordan Rosenfeld will present a workshop on "Get Intimate With Your Characters: Mastering Point of View For Dazzling Character Development" at the next luncheon workshop of the Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club (CWC) at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Ms. Rosenfeld will discuss how to unlock the essentials of each POV using key "cues" to reveal character as well as other secrets of powerful character development.

Rosenfeld is the author of five books on writing, has written three novels, and has been published in numerous magazines and newspapers, including The Atlantic,

The New York Times, Scientific American, and Writers Digest.

Sign-in starts at 8:30 am. The workshop is from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, followed by a luncheon. The cost is \$45 for members, \$55 for guests. Reservation deadline is noon on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. To reserve a spot, go to CWC Mt. Diablo website at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>.



So You Want to Write a Book

Four local authors will discuss their writing and publishing journeys and offer tips for

aspiring writers followed by a Q&A session on Thursday, November 2nd, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Moraga Library.

Camille Minichino has released 25 traditionally published mystery novels, plus many short stories and articles. She teaches science at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, and holds writing classes throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Robin Gigoux recently published her first novel "Chronicles of an Occupational Prostitute", written under the pen name of Peechi Keane. "Chronicles" is a fictionalized story about a single mother in her dream job turned nightmare, where



managers mistreat employees and co-workers abuse each other.

Marlene Dotterer has self-published four science fiction

and fantasy novels: "Shipbuilder", and "Bridgebuilders", both part of the Time Travel Journals series, "Moon Over Donamorgh", a historical fantasy and "Worlds Apart", a modern urban fantasy.

Judith Marshall – Judith's debut novel, "Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever" won the Jack London Prize awarded by the California Writers Club, was optioned for the big screen and adapted into a screenplay.

If you have any interest in writing and/or being published, this is a "must-attend" event. Moraga Library is located at 1500 St. Mary's Road in Moraga. For more information call 925-376-6852.



moviemavericks

by Jason Rugaard www.moviemavericks.com



"It" focuses exclusively on the childhood portion of author Stephen King's gargantuan 1,138-page novel, that was first published back in 1986. Ironically, that was the same year Rob Reiner's adaptation of King's novella, "The Body", was released to critical acclaim, a film that "It" aspires to be. The adulation of 1980's pop culture is at its nadir in 2017, and "It" shows signs of being heavily inspired by Spielberg's classics from the era, Netflix's "Stranger Things", and about half dozen other influences. That doesn't make it a bad film, it just comes with an aura of pandering and feels late to the game. "It" is a tale of two halves and that's the case with this film. The first hour is remarkably skillful filmmaking that rightly evokes nostalgia, sympathy, and unease. The second hour is flat, routine, and lacking any sense of dread.

The children in a small Maine town are disappearing at an alarming rate and no one seems to notice. The story is set during the summer of 1989, nicely evoked through a detailed art design, Bill Denbrough (Jaeden Lieberher) is the leader of a collection of kids dubbed "The Losers Club", all bullied, picked-on, or shamed by the town's resident bad seed, Henry Bowers (Nicholas Hamilton). During the course of summer break, the group decides to go and try to locate Bill's missing brother, Georgie, who disappeared down a storm drain eight months prior.

They say half of directing is in the casting and Andy Muschietti has done an outstanding job in assembling

a flawless cast. The main kids are delightful, unforced, foul-mouthed, little personalities that never veer into the obnoxious. The supporting cast is filled with actors that make you cringe at their despicable nature, human or otherwise. Most are aware of the central figure of evil incarnate in the form of a demonic clown named Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård). But the clown isn't really frightening or interesting, and the lack of any genuine scares or jump moments becomes disappointing by the film's lengthy 135-minute running time.

Stephen King's best works, and conversely his best film adaptations, have always focused on the horrors that people do to one another. The supernatural aspects of his library aren't nearly as compelling as his malicious characters. A miscalculation was made in moving the time period to the decade of excess. The original story was an early 1960's set tale, which makes the actions of Bowers a bit more understandable than the more constrained 1980's. The 1990's television miniseries is a different entity that shouldn't be compared to the 2017 incarnation, it's like comparing the Matt Damon starring in "Bourne Identity" to the Richard Chamberlin television miniseries, it just ain't right. The under-18 set will, of course, find their way into auditoriums screening "It". Perhaps it will spur them to seek out better iterations on this theme and story. That movie is called, "Stand By Me".

Director: Andy Muschietti
Stars: Bill Skarsgård, Jeremy Ray Taylor, Jaeden Lieberher

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GHOST STORIES

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Readers Report: Strange Brushes With the Paranormal

Tombstone of Tune

I was maybe nine years old and staying with my sister over the weekend who lived in Martinez. She had stepped out. So, I decided to compare dates on the tombstones at a cemetery nearby. The boneyard was quite old and unkept, but featured grand mausoleums and statuary that I found to be very fun to climb up and leap from. In my youth, I was misdiagnosed with epilepsy and felt a convulsion approaching while on top of granite slab. I attempted to find a safe place to recline and let the fit work itself through, but it kicked in before anything could be done.

All I can recollect is being restrained by a pair of arms and laying my head on a lap. My head was being stroked and I heard a female's voice singing to me. When I fully awoke, no one else was present. Naturally, I thought it was my sister who was there to keep me from injuring myself. She was very musically talented.

When I arrived back at her apartment she was prepping a meal and asked if I could help her cut some vegetables. I agreed and asked her how long she was out shopping.

"A couple hours," she replied
"When did you get back?"
"Just now."

I could see much of what she had purchased was still in grocery bags on the counter.

"But weren't you at the cemetery?" I asked

"Why would I go there?" she replied
"I... don't know" - M. N., Concord

Everything Will Be Okay

My wife and I were early in the discussion of separating, including spending time apart halfway across the country. We were carefully trying to work out a solution for caring for our two-year-old child if in fact, we were to separate.

On one weekend, my wife Diane was staying with her older brother, David, and his family in his newly purchased home, a nice but moderately older house in an upscale neighborhood. Divorce weighed heavily on our minds, as was the awkwardness of staying with family (in my case in-laws) during such a personally sensitive period in our lives. We were both feeling uneasy.



It was Sunday morning. David and his family went to run errands, leaving my wife and I alone. The house was quiet as we sat and both began reading sections of the Sunday paper. At one point, I hear a woman's voice. There was a certain quality of the voice that came from the room, yet not in the room. It had a slight reverberation, a blur or echo to it, like what one might hear if half asleep. I didn't quite understand what the voice said though. I looked up to see if it was my wife who had spoken. She was already looking up from the paper and was scanning the room and peering into other rooms and up the staircase to the second floor.

"What are you looking for?" I asked.

"I just heard a woman's voice.

"I did too," I said. "but I didn't understand what was said."

I think she said, "Everything is going to be okay," Diane said. We were both puzzled and shrugged it off.

When the in-laws returned, we told them the what we had heard. Her brother, David certainly was skeptical, and thought we were trying to play a joke on him since he had just purchased the house.

A few weeks had past, and we heard from David. He suggested that maybe there was a mystical house guest after all. Doors open and closed, curtains would move when no windows were opened, his daughter had seen a strange woman in a red dress standing on the stairs at night, and many other unexplained occurrences.

David's family learned to accept that they had a spiritual roommate and never became unnerved by it. Instead they embraced and even enjoyed it. They remained in the house for many years thereafter.

Normally, I would attempt to dismiss each occurrence with a plausible rationale in the true skeptic's fashion had it not been for the morning it spoke to Diane and me. - Jeff K., Concord

bol of death and darkness and acts as a reminder that Halloween once was a festival that marked the boundaries between life and death.

Looking in a mirror at midnight on Halloween was thought to reveal a boyfriend's face

According to tradition, if a person wears his or her clothes inside out and then walks backwards on Halloween, he or she will see a witch at midnight

Halloween is thought to have originated around 4000 B.C., which means Halloween has been around for over 6,000 years.

Many countries, such as France and Australia, view Halloween as an unwanted and overly commercial American influence

Local Ghost Stories and More

Are you ready for more ghost stories? Try the book "Legends and Lore of Clayton California" by E. Byrd. with over 50 accounts of strange activities reported in Clayton and surrounding areas. Or try "Ghosts of America" with 12 Online pages of ghostly activities in Concord. http://www.ghostsofamerica.com/9/California_Concord_ghost_sightings.html



Ouija Works

On Halloween, my kids break out the Ouija board. Every time they summon up the spirits, they appear at the front door asking for candy. - Trick or Treat!

Trivial Treats

Black and orange are typically associated with Halloween. Orange is a symbol of strength and endurance and, along with brown and gold, stands for the harvest and autumn. Black is typically a sym-

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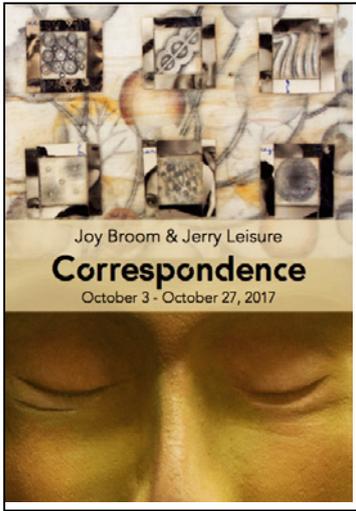
OCTOBER	IN THE NIGHT	BLACK
TIME FOR	PRICKLE	CAT
VERY SCARY	CRISP	ORB
GHOST	AIR	SLEEP
STORIES	HARVEST	GOOD
HAUNTED	HOWLING	LUCK
HOUSE	LAUGHTER	
GOOSE BUMPS	ONE	
CREEPY	EYE	
CRAWLY	OPEN	
CREAK	RED	

Correspondence Exhibit Showcases Encaustic Pieces and Woodcarvings



aRt Cottage

by FROgard www.aRtCottage.info



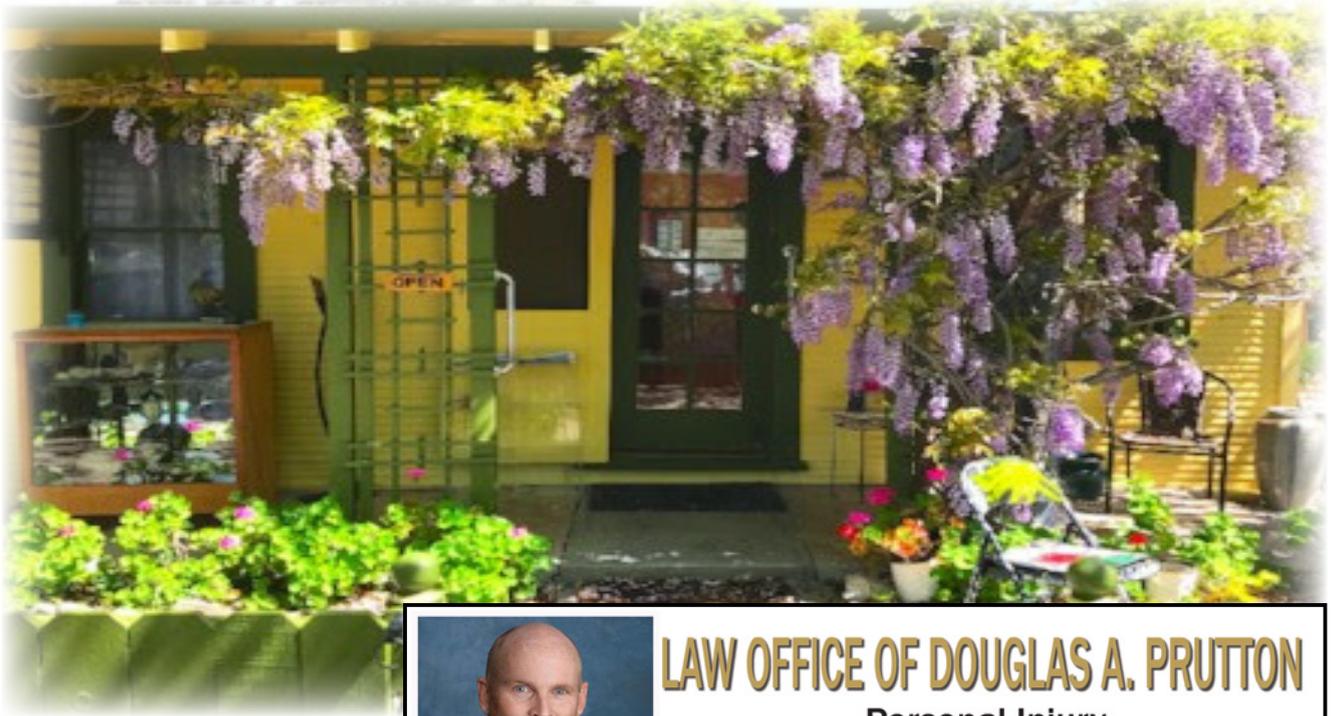
Jerry Leisure and Joy Broom are both artists. They are both married to each other, and they both have taught at Diablo Valley College for many years. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I am welcoming them to the aRt Cottage to show their work. Jerry

will have some of his 3D wood carved sculptures on exhibit. Joy will have many of her encaustic pieces and so much more on display. Joy has taught watercolor classes to many artists in Contra Costa County. She has also been a featured resident artist at the San Francisco de Young Museum. Both Jerry and Joy are productive artists that show in many venues, including many solo shows. I have been a student in Joy's beginning and advanced watercolor classes and learned more than I ever expected.

Their work is unique and full of surprises. These two professional artists have been around the block and create unique stuff. Jerry's hand carved wood sculptures are weird and beautiful at the same time. Joy's layering of natural materials from seeds, cocoons, branches, etc. and coating her final product with purified beeswax for binding and sealing really give it a special depth. There are many wonderful surprises in this exhibit.

As always, there will be live music at the artist's reception on October 7th, from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

featuring a wonderful ukulele group - the "Phoe'va". This is a lively group so be prepared for some real fun. Refreshments will be served, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. As always, the public is welcome to this free event. The exhibit ends on October 27th. aRt Cottage is located at 2238 Mt. Diablo Street in Concord. Hours are 11-5 Tues.- Fri. Sat. Visit artcottage.info or call (925) 956-3342.



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computer corner

by William Claney, Computers USA

Tech in English

Kaspersky Labs Banned by Feds

Was it the Russian connection, or just crappy anti-virus software that prompted the US Government to remove Kaspersky Labs from the approved contractor lists? All federal agencies have been ordered to remove Kaspersky software and replace it with something else.

I know spying and hacking are a real concern these days and people are depending on security and IT experts to keep them safe. One way they do that is to purchase software they think will protect them and Kaspersky's anti-virus is one often purchased.

From what I can gather, the decision to remove Kaspersky from the government list of approved vendors is about their ties to the Russian government. According to Engadget, "Kaspersky Lab's ongoing fears that it would lose US government contracts due to its alleged links with the Russian government have been realised [sic]. The Trump administration has removed the Moscow-based cyber security company from two lists of approved vendors covering IT services and digital photographic equipment."

I cannot comment on the validity of such an effort, but I do understand the reasoning for it. As everybody knows, the region is ripe with hackers, spy's and general computer bad guys, isn't it? Well, according to DailyMail.com, China is the Internet attack capital of the world with nearly half of all hacks originating there, Indonesia holding the number two spot, with Russia close behind. So could this decision to remove Kaspersky be politically motivated?

According to Panda Labs, an Anti-Virus company, 30% of US computers are currently infected with some kind of hack. Take notice 1 in 3 of you have already been hacked and most of you don't know it because your software isn't

fully protecting you, or you aren't using it right. While I understand everyone, including the kid next door, is a technical genius these days, perhaps you could use some help from a pro. (Quick note: If you have mycyberguards.com offerings you are safe.)

So, if you have Kaspersky are you safe? Well, yes with the understanding, in my opinion, Kaspersky is better than nothing. Are there better products? Short answer: yes.

Singling out anti-virus in the world of global hackers fails to recognize that virus attacks are not nearly as effective these days as cyber-attacks are. Cyber-attacks are expensive (\$\$\$\$) once you have experienced them but a great defense is not (\$\$\$).

There is hope in that regard. I believe there are many security companies already offering better products. Yet, there you sit Kaspersky software regaled in the belief they've got you covered. Perhaps a review is near?

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Marble Robotics Eyeing Concord



Marble Robotics is looking at Concord to run a pilot to test its robots for up to two years, with a focus on the neighborhoods surrounding downtown Concord.

Marble Robotics' fleet of intelligent courier robots would join a growing roster of autonomous technology providers, including Starship Technologies and vehicle companies based at the GoMentum Station, such as EasyMile, Uber Advanced Technologies Group (OttoMot to Llc), Baidu and Honda.

Marble's zero-emissions robot is perfectly suited to transport essentials such as groceries, meals and sundries. Each robot contains a swappable cargo bay designed to efficiently transport various types of goods, because the best way to transport warm meals may not be the best way to transport sundries. With safety as a top priority, each device is equipped with 360-degree sensor vision, roves at casual walking speeds and can stop instantly, even in the most unexpected cases.

"We are excited about the possibility of welcoming Marble Robotics to Concord.

Autonomous technology is the future of safely and efficiently transporting both people and goods, and we're fast becoming the capital of autonomous tech," said Pedro Garcia, Economic Development Specialist of the City of Concord.

Concord recently allowed Starship Technologies to test its personal delivery devices in the downtown neighborhood. That one-year pilot kicks off soon and allows local businesses and customers the convenience of automated fast delivery of food and other goods.

The city is also home to GoMentum Station, the nation's largest secure testing facility for autonomous and connected vehicle technology. A recent state budget appropriation of \$3.5 million ensures continued support of the public-private partnership between Concord, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and Stantec.

(At time of press, Concord City Council has not yet approved of the pilot program, but is expected to on a vote on October 3.)

Students in Mt. Diablo Unified School District Make Gains Assessment Testing

Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) students continue to make gains on state assessments, and remain slightly ahead of their peers at the state level, according to the California Department of Education. Results from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Tests (CAASPP), showed the number of students who met or exceeded the state standards increased. Nearly 17,000 students across the district took the computer-adaptive tests, or about 97% of eligible students.

"We are pleased to see improvement, and continue to applaud our students for working hard to build their skills and confidence in critical thinking, analytical writing and real-world problem solving as measured in these assessments," said Dr. Nellie Meyer, Superintendent of MDUSD. Meyer recognizes that there is more work to be done to meet more rigorous standards.

"The CAASPP is but one tool we use to see how well our students are doing in school. We also have monthly, weekly and even daily measures for monitoring student success," said Meyer. "We have much to do to close achievement and opportunity gaps, but are grateful to have these scores provide us updated information that allows us to focus on the needs of all students and support teachers and schools in their work to achieve college and career readiness."

These are positive signs, however, 50% of MDUSD students have met or exceeded standards in English language arts/literacy and 38.6% in mathematics, figures that are ahead of state level performances.

In English Language Arts (ELA), the percentage of students who met or exceeded standards rose for the third year in a row. In Mathematics, overall gains went up slightly.

The CAASPP tests changed from a fill-in-the-bubble approach to a modern, online testing system that provides results quickly, and includes optional interim tests and a digital library of resources to use throughout the year.

ELA and mathematics scores improved significantly at Mt. Diablo High School; Diablo View Middle School, Pine Hollow Middle School, Wren Avenue Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, and Strandwood Elementary. More students overall are meeting or exceeding standards. More African American and Hispanic students are meeting or exceeding standards in English Language Arts. More Special Education students are meeting or exceeding standards in English Language Arts.

"There are some real success stories across the district, and we'll look closer at the strategies used at these schools to see how they can be more greatly leveraged districtwide," Meyer adds.

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Beyond Berkeley: Fervor and Framing in a Year of Social Unrest

By Nik Wojcik

Dizzying displays of flag-inspired fashion, bright orange plastic barricades, streets heavily lined by officers drenched in riot gear, military-style tanks, handwritten signs jutting above tensely divided crowds, black bandannas, boisterous name-calling back and forth across blocked intersections, bull horns blasting calls to action above the fray, protesters and counter-protesters on high alert for the flash bang – that warning that comes before the gas.

It's just another weekend in Berkeley. Scenes like this, which once caused alarm, have become a common occurrence in cities across the country in the post-election era. Sometimes they peak



Notchil Johnson and other Refuse Fascism members

at the screaming match phase and fizzle out relatively peacefully. At other times, seemingly innocuous situations escalate on a dime and people are seriously hurt. Berkeley is far from alone in this phenomenon – nationwide, major cities are experiencing similar activity – and participants come in from all over the place, including from our quiet surrounding suburban communities. The impact reaches far and wide.

But the city and campus that gave birth to the Free Speech Movement has become a symbolic epicenter for a fight between what many see as the extreme right and left of a contentious political spectrum. That's been a default way to describe the opposing sides, but the description is inaccurate. Things are hardly that simple, and as the Nov. 4 mass protest approaches, it is clear that things are far from over.

Examining how both ends re-frame concepts like the First Amendment and fascism to hurl accusations and insults at each other is a good first step in understanding the complexity that surrounds today's landscape.

Free Speech

Milo Yiannopoulos took to the iconic steps of Sproul Hall at University of California, Berkeley Sunday afternoon, determined to speak despite cancellation of what was billed as Free Speech Week. The Berkeley Patriot, a right-leaning student organization, collaborated with Yiannopoulos in an effort to facilitate a series of speeches by controversial right-wing personalities. The formal plans were scrapped by the student group itself following failures to affirm speakers and provide specific schedules required by the campus to ensure public safety.

Members of the organization largely blame what they see as overreaching bureaucracy for the event's dissolution. Chase, a Yiannopoulos supporter and Berkeley Patriot member who declined to give his last name, said the university gave the group deadlines for financial deposits that did not account for the time difference between California and Florida, where Yiannopoulos resides. The tech student was disappointed in the cancellation.

"We were supposed to bring people here who the University had shut down in the past - let them speak," Chase said. "You know, the Free Speech Movement was here at Berkeley - that's what this campus stood for and we wanted to bring that back."

Josh Jacoby and Jacob Brito came to the plaza together as fellow students to observe what was going on. Neither aligns with

either side of the extremes – Brito stays to the middle of the political road and Jacoby leans Liberal on social issues and varies fiscally. They both appreciate that the new chancellor seems to be making a priority of free speech on campus.

"Allowing Milo to speak, allowing Ben Shapiro to speak is a step in the right direction," Brito said. "At least people can actually voice their stuff here. This is almost like a mixer, bringing people together, allowing ideas to be spoken."

Jacoby was less positive about what the day could accomplish. He doesn't feel people can find common ground "with this kind of template, this kind of conversation."

"It's a lot of people yelling at each other and not listening," Jacoby said.

Chancellor Carol Christ issued a statement on Aug. 23 maintaining the university's commitment to facilitating the event. However, the group's lack of planning was cause for concern, especially in light of the extensive damage the campus incurred when Yiannopoulos attempted to speak earlier this year. That February fallout served as a catalyst for fired

up self-proclaimed patriot-themed groups, arming them with a new unified "Free Speech" mantra that has since been echoed at rallies and protests across the country.

A huge number of people turned out, both from the "Team Milo" camp supporters and those protesting against his

targeting of DACA students, as Breitbart reported on Jan. 31. Given the situation's growing volatility, the university and Berkeley Police Department determined they could not guarantee protection for Milo or the crowd. The violence that ensued was carried out by a small number of activists on both sides and did not represent the majority of people that came out to make their voices heard. But regardless, the gauntlet was thrown down that night and the debate over what constitutes free speech versus hate speech became a national dialog.

The use of constitutional language made for strange and sometimes contradicting allies. Patriot groups were seen alongside more extreme alt-right activists. Black, gay conservatives wearing Make America Great Again hats stood on the same side of the line with Nazis in Charlottesville. The aesthetic created an equivalence narrative that many find uncomfortable.

Recent rallies and protests have shown evidence that the bond between these unlikely bedfellows is beginning to crack.

Some activists on the right, like John Turano (aka. Based Spartan), have expressed remorse for the alignment. Although he still showed up in his characteristic American flag pants, bare chest and "MAGA LIKE A MOFO" hat, he was seen in several heated debates with former allies over the course of Sunday's events.

Some patriot groups like the Oath Keepers have been noticeably absent from events they once consistently attended. Following their participation withdrawal from the Golden Gate Park rally that failed to happen in August, Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes told the SF Examiner that his organization "cannot and will not be involved in any event where known white nationalists are allowed inside the security perimeter."

Defectors are dubbed "alt-light" by more extreme groups and are accused of taking money from left-wing organizations like Refuse Fascism to switch sides. The water is getting muddy and straight lines are becoming harder to draw.

Continues next page...

Why Women Choose to be a Surrogate

by Megan Cohen

People often wonder why a woman would choose to be a surrogate. Often, surrogacy appeals to women who have watched their friends or family members struggle with infertility. Maybe they have been a shoulder to cry on for someone experiencing the frustration and heartbreak of being unable to conceive. Many have offered support to loved ones who have been devastated by one or more miscarriages. Others may have seen programs on television or read stories about couples who connect and bond over the surrogacy process and want to experience this unique opportunity to help. Whatever their reasons, many women have found surrogacy to be one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

If you are wanting to become a surrogate, the first step is learning what gestational surrogacy is, and if you qualify to accept this new role.

What is Gestational Surrogacy?

A gestational surrogate becomes pregnant through IVF and gives birth to a baby that is not biologically related to her. The embryos are created by a doctor using the egg and sperm of the intended parents, or that of a donor—not the surrogate! There are legal contracts between the surrogate and the intended parents which outline all of the details of the surrogacy, including any compensation the surrogate will receive and how medical insurance will be handled. Before the baby is born, the intended parents will have a court order that says they are the baby's parents and that their names go on the baby's birth certificate, not the name of the surrogate.

What are the requirements to be a gestational surrogate?

The intended parents' fertility center doctor decides whether a woman is a good candidate to be a surrogate. This doctor will meet with the potential surrogate, review her pregnancy and delivery records, and will perform an examination. Every doctor has different requirements, but here are some of the general guidelines for who may be qualified to be a surrogate.

Good Health

You must be at a healthy weight, which will be determined by your age, height, and other factors. Being significantly overweight can cause complications during pregnancy and childbirth and could put your health at risk. Along with having a healthy weight, you will need to be in good overall health, with no significant medical complications or concerns and you must live in a smoke-free environment.

Good Mental Health

When applying to become a surrogate you will be required to speak with a mental health professional to talk about the surrogacy process and the emotions that come with it. This experience comes with many emotions and you must be in the proper mental state to handle them.

Be of a Certain Age

Surrogates are typically required to be older than 21 but younger than 39. However, this guideline can vary in each situation and may be considered alongside your age and other factors. Age restrictions are often placed on surrogates because pregnancy at an older age can cause medical complications.

Have Your Own Children

Surrogates must have had at least one uncomplicated full-term pregnancy, and ideally will be finished having their own children. This shows that you are able to carry a pregnancy to term without any of the issues that many intended parents have faced. Even though you've had easy pregnancies in the past, having a baby comes with medical risks, particularly at delivery and potentially after delivery with post-partum complications.

Why Do Women Choose to be a Surrogate

Surrogacy is truly a unique way to help a couple's dreams come true, to build a family. Becoming a gestational surrogate can be a rewarding and life changing experience for all.

Megan Cohen is an attorney in Lafayette at Family Formation specializing in adoption and assisted reproductive technologies. To learn more go to www.familyformation.com or see the Family Formation ad on Page 2.

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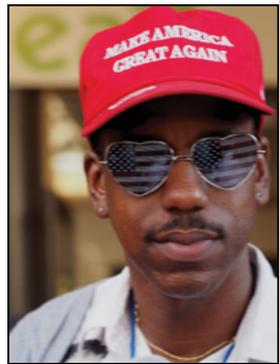
John Turano (flag) and other right-wing activists arguing

Milo did speak Sunday, albeit to a very small number of people who were only allowed to bring in cell phones and were made to pass through metal detectors. The restrictions made it difficult for press and the general public to enter the area, and the lack of amplified audio made the speech hard to hear above the roar of the crowd behind the barricades. Trump supporters hosted the informal “free speech” event in the very same space where nearly 53 years ago Mario Savio infamously urged students to put their bodies “upon the gears and upon the wheels” of the machine.

Fascism

“Get out of the road FASCISTS! Stop blocking the intersection FASCISTS!” The man stood alone on a curb at the intersection of Telegraph Avenue and Durant Street as he yelled at a group of protesters gathered in the center of the street. He told the Diablo Gazette that his name didn’t matter – the only thing that mattered were the words he’d written on his piece of poster board.

The group he was heckling was largely comprised of Refuse Fascism members with a number of their own anti-fascist signs. Not to be confused with Antifa, the organization is heavily involved in these events and are very public about who they are and the changes they want to see. They don’t shy from the opportunity to give their names and spread their message with media, and they don’t mince words when they call Trump and his administration fascist.



RC Maxwell, blurred line.

Xochitl Johnson of Refuse Fascism had earlier taken the opportunity and the trip through the metal detector, unmasked and unapologetically, to heckle Yiannopoulos while he attempted to speak at Sproul Plaza. She too used the word fascist, repeatedly.

That word carries a heavy charge and its use warrants some examination. Does either side have a valid point? Encyclopedia Britannica clearly states that “there is no universally accepted definition of fascism,” which is partially due to “the fascists’ well-known opportunism—i.e., their willingness to make changes in official party positions in order to win elections or consolidate power.”

However, they do identify the following 23 general common characteristics present among most fascist movements between 1922 and 1945: opposition to Marxism, opposition to parliamentary democracy, opposition to political and cultural liberalism, totalitarian ambitions, conservative economic programs, corporatism, alleged equality of social status, imperialism, military values, Volksgemeinschaft (“racially unified and hierarchically organized body”), mass mobilization, the leadership principle, the “new man”, glorification of youth, ed-

ucation as character building, decadence and spirituality (disdain for decadence and encouragement of spirituality), violence, extreme nationalism, scapegoating, populism, revolutionary image, anti-urbanism, sexism and misogyny.

The thorough explanations and historical examples are well worth reading for context.

Johnson explained during another recent protest in San Francisco that Refuse Fascism is determined to “drive the Trump/Pence regime from power.”

“It has all the earmarks, all the hatred, all the actions of a fascist government,” Johnson said. “Everybody can see the brutality of what they’re bringing down, from the immigrant roundups to the Muslim bans – every day, what they do becomes normalized.”

On the other side of that argument, Chase agrees with Trump’s “America first” agenda.

“I think America has to look out for its people over people of foreign countries,” Chase said. “I think that Islam is an existential threat, the spread of Islam at least, especially to gays and women that it oppresses wherever it goes.”

He says he feels threatened for his views and has been punched in the past. “They all talk about safe spaces and this space isn’t very safe for me all the time.”

Sunday’s events were marked by just a few arrests, minor skirmishes and a tense moment at the doors of Revolution Books, where several Trump supporting protesters attempted to gain entry by force. In other words, it was a relative success in comparison to other similar gatherings. However, increased aggression was seen in the days that followed and on Tuesday, four people were arrested for a fight that broke out inside the “Empathy Tent” set up near Sproul Plaza – that’s right, in a space provided for participants to cool off and communicate. What’s next?

So far, 2017 has been largely defined by a fevered pitch of protests, rallies and general social activism. Although it may be exhausting to keep up with and sometimes difficult to understand, the conflicts are unresolved and an end to these actions is nowhere in sight.

Refuse Fascism, in collaboration with other organizations, is calling for a nationwide day of mass protest on Nov. 4. They hope that thousands will take to the streets in every city, big and small, to demand change in the current administration. Guaranteed, right-leaning counter protesters will take the opportunity to assert their positions as well.

Let’s hope it turns out better than it did in the Empathy Tent.

Perhaps the best closing words for this story are those spoken by Franklin D. Roosevelt in a radio address to American people on another Nov. 4 in 1938:

“Remember that the Fathers of the American Revolution represented many religions and came from many foreign lands.

Remember that no matter what their origin they all agreed with Benjamin Franklin in that crisis: ‘We must indeed all hang together or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.’

Remember that in these grave days in the affairs of the world we need internal unity—national unity. For the sake of the Nation that is good advice—and it never grows old.”



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2017-2018 Contra Costa County Announces Teachers of the Year

In an electrifying and packed Concord Hilton banquet room, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Karen Sakata,

announced Paula Raj, of the West Contra Costa Unified School District and Marissa Ware, of the San Ramon Unified School District as the 2017-

2018 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year. (TOY)

Raj teaches Spanish to grades 9-12 at De Anza High, in Richmond. The 35-year teacher has been with the high school for the past 21 years.

“Every day when I greet my students, I am ever cognizant that what I do may have an impact far greater than what I can see. Each student is someone’s child and deserves to be treated with the respect, kindness, and caring of their teachers. Each student is an individual who brings their uniqueness to the classroom, if only we give them voice. Over the years, I have learned so much from my students and I’m always in awe of the new and profound perspectives they bring to class,” said Raj.

Marissa Ware was well on the road to becoming a physical therapist, but

changed college course to education. The 18-year educator has been teaching grades K-3, at John Baldwin Elementary, in Danville for the past six years.

“In our classroom, every day begins with a squeeze and a smile, and ends with a hug, handshake, high five, or this year’s student created ‘hand-blam,’” says Ware. “Every child is nurtured and embraced

for their unique learning style, academic and emotional needs, cultural background, and individuality. Inclusion is paramount. Which of my students is interested in baseball or Pokémon, fairies or fashion? Knowing these snippets of information allows me an entry point into their lives and increases their engagement in learning.”

The evening’s sizable audience included the TOYs’ family members and friends, local educators, business partners, and elected-official representatives.

Raj and Ware will now compete with all the other California county representatives in the California State TOY competition. The California State Teachers of the Year are expected to be announced in early October. The county TOY program is coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education.





Fall Crop of Artichokes Has Arrived

Nearly two-thirds of the state's crop of artichokes comes from the area around Castroville and Salinas, with the remainder growing further south. The moderate climate with cool summers and mild winters, as well as the cooling fog make for ideal growing conditions. And with these conditions, California can offer two crops per year, the spring yield and the fall/winter crop. The fall crop has arrived and is here through November.

Get fresh artichokes from Hall's Organic Farm in Spreckles, Northridge Farms out of Salinas, and several others. You won't find better artichokes than at your local farmers' market. They're fresh from the field and you'll be happy knowing you're supporting small family farms.

Many people don't know how to prepare a fresh artichoke, usually buying artichoke heart already prepared. But we want you to try fresh artichokes because the flavor surpasses anything you've had in a jar. This spiny-looking vegetable is absolutely delicious if you know how to approach it. Young artichokes are much easier to prepare, as the flesh is still tender. The hairy 'choke' (hairy center of the artichoke) is less developed and edible so it doesn't

have to be removed. Older or bigger artichokes are just as delicious but need to have their thistle, or choke, removed. Simply cut the artichokes in half and remove the hairy bits with a spoon or a paring knife. Either young or old, they are delicious!



Steamed Artichokes with Mustard Aioli

2 artichokes
Aioli: 1/2 cup mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard,
1/2 lemon, juiced
Trim the stems of the artichokes so there is just a half inch of stalk left at the base. In

a medium pot or Dutch oven, place the artichokes side by side so they are standing upright. Fill the pot with water until it covers just the base of the artichokes, about 1 inch. Cover the pot and bring the water to a boil. Turn the heat back down and simmer until the artichoke leaves are tender, about 40 - 50 minutes. Remove from the pot.

To eat, pull off outer petals one at a time. Dip base of petal into aioli, pull through teeth to remove soft, pulpy portion of petal. Discard remaining petal. Spoon out fuzzy center at base; discard and enjoy the heart portion of the artichoke. Serve with aioli dip. Recipe: PCFMA Staff



Buying a Home For Sale By Owner

Buying a Home For Sale By Owner For Sale By Owner (FSBO) homes are just that – homes that are being sold without the assistance of a real estate agent. As a buyer, you may be wondering about buying a FSBO home, especially if you're working with an agent. While there are certain risks and challenges you may face, a home that is FSBO can be a good opportunity. Here's what you should know.

The buyer can use an agent. Even though the seller is not using an agent for the transaction, it does not prevent the buyer from using one. However, it does mean that the seller needs to agree to cooperate with your agent. Agents make a living from the commissions they receive. In order for them to earn a commission from a FSBO transaction, the seller needs to agree to pay their commission, or to apply a credit at closing so the buyer can pay the fee.

You should still get a mortgage pre-approval before making an offer even though you and your agent will be dealing directly with the seller. Although a seller is likely more inexperienced about the process than an agent would be, it can still signal to them that you are serious about buying their home. In a busy market, this is especially true, as the sellers may get more than one offer.

Be sure to include contingencies. When writing up the purchase contract for the home, make sure you include any necessary contingencies. You want to make sure that you legally have a way out of the deal if the house doesn't live up to your expectations. Contingencies you'll want to consider including are: appraisal,

mortgage approval, inspection, clean title, and insurability.

Decide who pays for what. There are additional fees associated with buying and selling property, and you will want to make clear from the beginning which party is paying for what. Ask your agent for advice on who would customarily pay for these fees.

Don't skip the house inspection. When buying a FSBO home, you definitely do not want to skip the inspection. Make sure to hire a reputable house inspector. Even if the seller is honest, they still may not know all the hidden problems in the house.

Use an escrow account. In a typical real estate transaction where both parties are represented by agents, earnest money and other fees are deposited into an escrow account that is held by a neutral third party until closing. Do not hand your earnest money deposit directly to the seller. There is usually a small fee associated with opening an escrow account, and it should be decided beforehand who will pay for that.

Be sure to request a Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange (C.L.U.E.) report. It will show you if any insurance claims have been made on the home in the last five years. You'll be able to clearly see if the home has suffered any damage in that time, such as flooding or fire.

The bottom line is this. If you find a FSBO home you love, don't think you have to go it alone. A trusted real estate agent can help you through the process, from the initial offer down to closing day. Compliments of VirtualResults.net.



Easy Fall Apple Crisp

Why is this one of our Fall favorites recipes? As the Apple Crisp bakes, the wonderful smell of Fall fills your home! Also, the taste is a giant wow factor that both our families love. It's easy to make and you can adjust the ingredients per your preferences.

Ingredients for Apple Mixture:

- 6-8 Granny Smith Apples (or mix apple varieties)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Ingredients for Topping (when you mix this crumb mixture together, we recommend using your hands as shown in the photo)

- 3/4 cup Flour
- 1 cup Brown Sugar
- 1/2 cup cubed cold butter
- 1-2 tsp Cinnamon (we like a lot of cinnamon!)
- 3/4 cup Quick Cooking Oats

Preheat your oven to 350°. Peel, core and slice the apples. We use a cool kitchen gadget that does all three at the same time. It's a huge time saver for us and



it's fun to use. It makes us want to peel more apples. LOL!

Add the apple mixture to a lightly sprayed baking dish. We use a casserole dish.

Sprinkle and cover the apple mixture with the crumb topping. Bake approximately 40 minutes until golden brown and bubbling.

Serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. ENJOY!

We have more Fall fabulous dessert recipes on



the blog at www.frugelegance.com. Try our Pumpkin Dump Cake or our Easy Pumpkin Pie Minis. Come on over and don't forget to say HI!

FrugElegance is where Frugal and Elegance come together. Carol and Randi, the FruGirls, are local home stagers and decorators. You can also find them blogging about many other ways to live an elegant life for less.

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[Editors Note: Much of our understanding of Secret Service comes from Hollywood. Few of us have ever met a Secret Service Agent, or maybe you have and don't know it. "Inside the Secret Service" is about life as a Secret Service agent. These are real life experiences of Eric Enos, a Concord resident who spent years as a Secret Service agent.]

Protectee Assignment: Vice President Chaney To the Middle East:

Andrews Air Force Base (now known as Joint Base Andrews) is home to several air wings including the 89th Air Lift Wing whose fleet is made up of various types of U.S. Air Force (USAF) jet aircraft, used by various senior U.S. leaders. The most recognizable of the fleet are the two Boeing 747's which the world knows as Air Force One. Andrews is also the originating and terminating point for Secret Service "car planes," a term coined by the Service referring to the various USAF transport planes used to move Secret Service vehicles, personnel, and equipment, around the world in support of Presidential and Vice-Presidential trips. Car planes are incredible work horses that carry unbelievably heavy payloads.

It was March 2002, six months after the 9/11 attacks. We were at war in Afghanistan. The lobby at Andrews AFB was full of Secret Service personnel. We had been there since late afternoon and were restlessly waiting while Air Force personnel and Secret Service technicians loaded our car plane for a thirteen hours flight from Andrews AFB to Amman, Jordan. This was the first of four middle eastern countries we would be visiting on this trip in support of Vice President Cheney.

How Can the C17 Globemaster III Fly?

Our flight tonight would be in a C17 Globemaster III, the newest and most advanced transport in the USAF's fleet. As I would later learn during the flight, it had a fully armored cockpit, could refuel in flight, had advanced anti-missile technology, and its engines had thrust reversers which meant 1) increased maneuverability during descent, 2) the plane could



backup on the ground, 3) greatly reduced chance of ingestion of sand and other debris into the engines while taxiing, and 4) it could land on less than 3500 feet of dirt runway. All very important features given the fact our country was now involved in a desert warfare campaign.

We finally boarded the C17 well after dark, via the ramp at the rear (aft) of the plane. The belly of the plane was loaded with three armored limousines, each secured to the floor by a maze of chains and turnbuckle fasteners. Along both walls of the plane were our fixed fold-down jump seats -- for the next thirteen hours. Separating the seated agents from

"Bank 90 Degrees and Deploy the Flares." Flying the Friendly Skies



Agent Eric Enos (right), with the C17 flight crew on way to Amman, Jordan.

the limos were two, strapped down, four-foot high rows (one on each side of the limos) of gear consisting of our travel bags, disassembled magnetometers, K-9 cages complete with bomb dogs, and multiple containers housing our communications equipment, weapons, etc. On the C17's ramp was an armored Secret Service GMC Suburban and a van, both chained down in the same fashion as the limos. I looked around the at my cramped surroundings and lode and wondered how this thing was ever going to get off the ground. We were then briefed on preflight safety features and restrictions by a member of the USAF flight crew, the Loadmaster, Bruce. Next, the four Pratt & Whitney engines fired up creating a roar in the belly of the beast. The lighting inside the plane was set to red, reduced light. We taxied forever, then the engines screamed at full thrust and we barreled down the runway and were somehow finally airborne.

During the first thirty minutes or so, light conversation and occasional laughter could be heard over the muffling drone of the engines, but most had earphones in and relaxed with eyes closed

and tried to get as much sleep as possible in the cramped and uncomfortable conditions.

After a few miserable hours of falling in and out of light sleep, I got up to get a drink. I navigated my way, via the soft red lighting, over the outstretched legs of sleeping personnel and secured cargo,

to the water cooler located in the front of the plane. Next to the cooler sat Bruce at his station. Being in no hurry to get back to my jump seat, I introduced myself to Bruce and we struck up a conversation. He was a very friendly guy who had to be as bored as I was. I was interested in how he did his job, what it entailed, and how he determined exactly where things such as armored limos and suburbans, tanks, helicopters, and personnel, were to be positioned inside the belly of a C17. I knew it wasn't the same thing as cramming suit cases, bags, and kids, into the family SUV for vacation. Bruce described that before anything was placed inside the plane, he had to input the weight of each item,

vehicles, equipment, baggage, people, bomb dogs, the plane, and its fuel weight at takeoff into the computer. The computer calculated and generated loading scenarios with optimal weight distribution for takeoff. Bruce was responsible for loading and positioning everything per the generated specifications and insuring it was secured properly. In addition, he was responsible for the safety of the passengers and crew members. Part of that responsibility was not allowing personnel to ride (sleep) in the comfort of any of the vehicles on board (agents were always pushing for this). However, in the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, a person inside a vehicle could die because he/she would not be able to get oxygen in time, which was located at each of the jump seats. I returned to the discomfort of my jump seat where I again fell in and out of sleep or read my Tom Clancy book.

The Cockpit

At about 3:30 a.m. Bruce came up to me and said, "Hey Eric, I just talk to the guys up there, they said to come on up." With that, I went up to the front of the plane and climbed the steps into the cockpit.

Although dark, the cockpit was awash in a very soft green light from the instruments which were everywhere. I introduced myself to the pilots; three young, squared-away, guys. They explained that because of the length of this flight, a third pilot allowed for a rotation in which each could take turns sleeping (a bed was located behind a wall at the back of the cockpit). I sat in one of the two jump seats located behind their seats. We were somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean. The moonlight reflected brightly off the black water. It was fascinating talking with the crew and hearing of their recent round the clock deployments delivering supplies into the warzone of Afghanistan. They said this was the first time they had flown a Secret Service detail and enjoyed the change of pace.

We had a good time exchanging work stories. I thanked the guys for the cockpit invite and gave each of them a Secret Service lapel pin and a challenge coin (I always carried Secret Service "chum" with me for times like this). The pilot then removed the velcro flight patch from his jumpsuit and gave it to me. Something I cherish to this day. He then said, "Hey, we're going to do an in-air refuel at about 5:30 if you wanna come up." (If I want to come up? Are you kidding?)

Turbulent, In-Air Refueling

A few hours later, I climbed into the cockpit and took the seat I previous-

ly occupied. I put on the headset so I could hear them communicating with the KC135 air tanker we would soon be linking with. The tanker was out of a US Air Force base in England. We were in clouds with zero visibility. I listened as we vectored closer (apparently) to the KC135. Suddenly we broke through the clouds. About 200 feet above and in front of us was the huge underbelly of the four engine KC135. It was an amazing sight, one I had only seen in videos, as the two planes communicated with each other gently bringing us closer and closer. I could see a person's head in the small window located in the tankers belly. This was the fuel boom operator who was now lowering the boom towards our cockpit. Once we were about 50-60 feet apart, the boom held just feet above us as we delicately closed the gap. We locked our position and the boom was further extended, appearing as if it would breach our cockpit window. It extended behind our heads and a split second later, we were hooked up and began taking on fuel. Our refueling was interrupted several times by turbulence and each time the boom immediately disconnected and retracted. Finally, after 27 minutes, refueling was complete. We had taken on 109,000 pounds of jet fuel. It was truly an incredible experience. I returned to my seat in the belly of the C17 an enlightened man.

"...Bank 90 Degrees and Deploy the Flares"

I dozed in and out for the remaining hours of the flight. As I felt the plane begin to descend Bruce hollered over at me, "Hey, Eric, they want you in the cockpit." This was surprising. A few of the guys asked what they wanted me for. "I don't know," I said.

When I arrived in the cockpit, the pilot said, "We thought you would like to check out the landing." These guys were great. I took my seat as we continued our descent and peered out over Amman, the capital of Jordan. The city appeared drab from the air (and on the ground). A maze of three to five-story tan and gray cement dwellings that went on for miles. I remember wondering to myself how vulnerable were we to an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) or other attack during our descent. We were commenting on the landscape when out of nowhere the pilot, in mid-sentence, leaned over to the co-pilot and in a very calm, cool, and collected, manner said, "If we get a missile lock, we'll go directly toward the threat, bank 90 degrees, and deploy the flares." He then went right back to where he left off in our conversation about the landscape. I was shocked. But, it all made sense. These guys had recently flown missions in and out of hot-zones in Afghanistan under constant threat. Now they were flying an American military plane into another middle eastern destination, albeit a US ally. I always appreciated working with the military while with the Secret Service. They always displayed such respect, professionalism and poise under the weight of the most dangerous of responsibilities, this at such a young age. Within a few minutes, and without any missile threats, we made a very smooth landing in Jordan. For everyone else on the plane, it had been another boring uncomfortable car plane trip. For me, it was a flight I would always remember.



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