



Veterans Day Ceremony
SAN LEANDRO HONORS VETERANS
WITH 37TH ANNUAL CEREMONY..... **12**

WEEKEND WEATHER
Cloudy Cloudy and Rain
Friday thru Saturday
HIGHS: 69-71
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 47-55

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

AN INDEPENDENT HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SERVING SAN LEANDRO, ASHLAND, SAN LORENZO AND SHEFFIELD VILLAGE

VOL. 33 • NO. 46 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

SLHS Students Walk Out to Support Principal



Students and some teachers rallied at San Leandro High School Monday, protesting removal of co-principal Dr. Ronald Richardson.

Students say principal unfairly accused and removed from job

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Hundreds of students joined by some teachers walked out of San Leandro High School on Monday, protesting the removal of long-time co-principal Dr. Ronald Richardson, often called RO or Dr. RO on campus.

On Tuesday night, the protest came to the school board meeting. The crowd of about 300 filled every seat, filled every space along the walls, and extended out beyond all three doors to the city council chambers to lobbies beyond.

Banners at the school rally bore such slogans as “Fight for RO like he fought for us,” “You can’t spell San Leandro without RO,” and “No RO, no peace.” Flyers urged readers “Don’t believe the lies,” referring to rumors alleging misconduct by Richardson, and urging the district to “Tell the truth.”

Dr. Richardson, who had served as co-principal along with his brother, Dr. Reginald Richardson since 2014, had been last seen by students and teachers about 7 weeks ago. There was no official district explanation for his absence

see PRINCIPAL, page 10

PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Ballet Instructor Brings Lifetime of Experience

Police Arrest Man for Shooting in Parking Lot

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Students at San Leandro’s Conservatory of Classical Ballet, at 1035 MacArthur Blvd., expect to soak up some of the experience of their teachers, but 92-year-old Carlos Carvajal brings more than anyone has a reasonable right to expect.

Carvajal, who has taught a class at the conservatory for years, has danced and choreographed his way around the world as well as made a huge impact on Bay Area dance.

A native of San Francisco born to immigrant parents, he has toured Europe where he worked with several major ballets there as a choreographer and dancer, and choreographed dances each

see BALLET, page 5



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Carlos Carvajal, center, poses with students at the Conservatory of Classical Ballet in San Leandro.

Police arrested a suspect for the shooting and killing of a woman in the parking lot of Chili’s Bar & Grill at Bayfair Center on Saturday.

Later that evening, California Highway Patrol officers spotted the suspect’s car on Interstate 5 near Coalinga where they arrested 48-year-old Samuel Langworthy of Oakland.

Police say an argument between Langworthy and an adult daughter of his domestic partner led up to the shooting in the parking lot. Langworthy retrieved a handgun from his car and shot the victim in the head at close range, according to police.

The gun has not been recovered. Police say Langworthy

see ARREST, page 5

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

COMMUNITY
Moms run 5k at Marina Park. **Page 2**

DOWNTOWN
New mural brightens downtown breezeway. **Page 10**

VETERANS
San Leandro marks Veterans Day with ceremony. **Page 12**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



San Leandro Times

An independent hometown newspaper serving San Leandro, Ashland, San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

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Pets of the Week



Cassie

Cassie is a 1-year-old calico domestic shorthair. She is a mature young female looking for a home that will treat her like the diva she is. Cassie would do well in a home with older kids.



Kilo

Kilo is a 10-month-old albino Doberman. He is stubborn in his teenage years, so he tries to get away with everything he possibly can. Kilo would do best in a home with teens and up.

To adopt or meet Kilo or Cassie, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

“Many people prefer cats to other people, and many cats prefer people to other cats.”



PHOTO COURTESY NO EXCUSE MOMS

The San Leandro No Excuse Moms group held a 5k run on a Saturday last month at Marina Park.

Moms Run 5k, Make No Excuses

The San Leandro No Excuse Moms, a non-profit, free workout group hosted its first

Breast Cancer Awareness 5K on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Marina Park.

No Excuse Moms is Non-Profit started in 2014 by a mom in Sacramento. The free, weekly workouts are led by volunteer moms at city parks. Currently, there are approximately 350 U.S. groups and in 25 other countries, totaling 70,000 members.

The San Leandro group

has over 900 members on their Facebook page with four group leaders. Weekly workouts consist of yoga, walks, and cardio-and-strength training.

They hold annual events such as Step Bet, Plank Challenge, Turkey Trot and now Breast Cancer Awareness 5K.

More information on No Excuse Moms can be found on their Facebook page at No Excuse Moms San Leandro

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Hope Hospice to Host Zoom Workshop on Grieving

Hope Hospice offers a one-hour workshop over Zoom as a safe space to discuss the unique considerations of grieving during the winter holiday season.

Although this workshop is offered over Zoom, space is still limited due to the interactive nature of the presentation.

There is no charge to attend. Choose from one of following dates; the program is the same. Thursday, Nov. 16, from 1 to 2 p.m.; and Thursday, Dec. 14, from 2 to 3 p.m.

To register, call the Grief

Support Department at 925-829-8770 or submit an inquiry form at HopeHospice.com/grief.

For people who are processing the loss of a loved one, the winter holiday season can be painful.

Experiencing grief at this time may intensify feelings of loneliness or anxiety about being asked how you are coping.

You may feel disinclined to participate in holiday gatherings to avoid such questions, or because you feel lost without your loved one by your side.

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Community Calendar

League of Women Voters Meet and Greet

League of Women Voters of the Eden Area (LWVEA) is hosting a Meet & Greet at Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant, 3420 Village Drive in Castro Valley, for members and guests on Friday, Nov. 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This is a no host bar event. Come meet new friends and find out more about local issues of concern and how to get involved. RSVP via email to: lwvea57@gmail.com.

IDES St. John Pizza Lunch & Bingo

IDES St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will have a Pizza Lunch and Bingo on Saturday, Nov. 18, at noon with salad, pizza and dessert. Tickets are \$15 for lunch and four Bingo cards. Extra Bingo cards can be purchased for 25 cents each. For tickets and to RSVP, call Janet Re at 510-483-1132, Willie Calvo at 510-207-6326, or Kathy Dunlap at 775-722-8208.

All Saints Episcopal Church Chamber Music Concert

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro, will present a free chamber music concert on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m., celebrating the 15th anniversary of the All Saints Episcopal Food Pantry. Piano and cello duet featuring Aileen Chanco and Jennifer Kloetzel with a pre-concert talk by musicologist Dr. John Prescott. One hundred percent of a free-will offering taken during the concert will help support the Food Pantry.

San Leandro History Museum Documentary Series for Native American Heritage Month

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., is hosting free documentary screenings on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. in November (excluding Thanksgiving) to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. November 15 and 16: "Archaeology, History and Heritage of the Muwekma Ohlone" by Los Altos History Museum. November 22: "Interviews and Photography from Reclamation: Resilience of the Muwekma Ohlone" by New Museum Los Gatos. November 29 and 30: "The Colonizers Among Us" by Chairwoman Charlene Mijmeh TEDx Berkeley. No registration is required. Please email Dylainie Nathlich, Museum Curator at :dnathlich@sanleandro.org for more information

San Leandro Players Present *Bloody Jack*

The San Leandro Players present *Bloody Jack*, at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro, next to the historic Casa Peralta. The show runs Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Nov. 19; and on two Fridays, Nov. 10 and Nov. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general, \$15 seniors and under 12. For more information or reservations, visit www.slplayers.org or call 510-895-2573.

Arts & Crafts Swap Meet

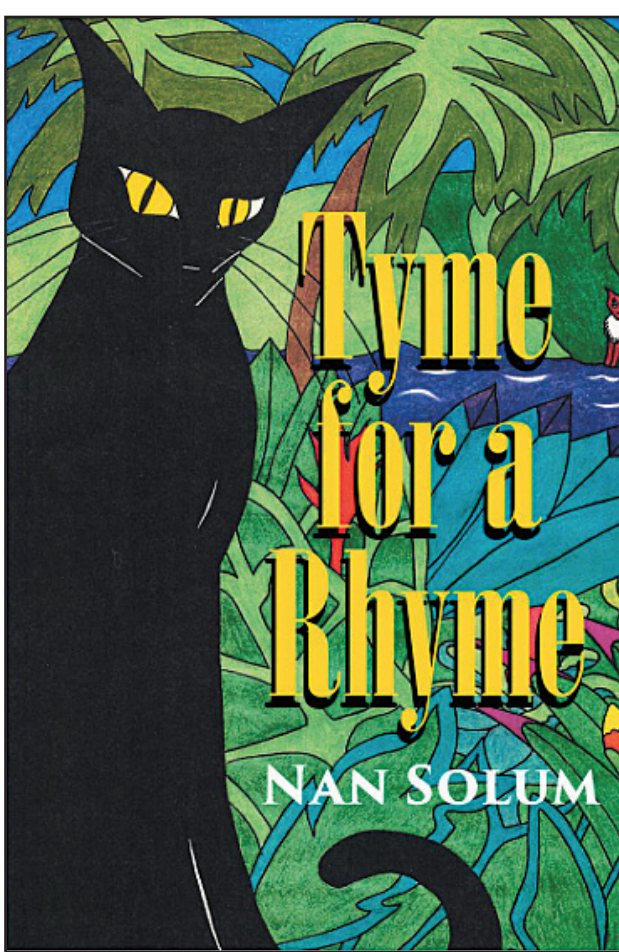
California BrainWaves hosts an Arts & Crafts Swap on the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Trustees Room of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Free, all ages and skill levels welcome. Neurodivergent-friendly. Donate, craft, grab goodies.

American Legion Post 649 Monthly Meeting

American Legion Post 649 in Castro Valley meets on the last Monday of every month at 1800 (6 p.m.) for dinner, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20385 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. For more information, call Jim Smith at 510-305-2280.

San Leandro Toastmasters

San Leandro Toastmasters meets every Thursday from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. online through Zoom. Email sanleandrotm@gmail.com for more information. Also, the Toastmasters meet in person at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on the last Thursday of every month from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.



Tyme for a Rhyme is an illustrated compilation of children's verses by San Leandro author Nan Solum. She wrote the book to entertain, teach, and perhaps bring a feeling of nostalgia to grown-ups who remember the old-fashioned poems and illustrations of their youth. Solum is an author, poet, hair model and dancer. *Tyme for a Rhyme* can be found on Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

St. Gerard Ladies Annual Bake Sale

Saint John's Church will host the St. Gerard Ladies Annual Holiday Bake Sale in the Community Meeting Room, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo, on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3. Saturday from 3 to 7:30 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be an assortment of baked goods, a raffle with prizes, trinkets and a treasure sale.

A Continental Breakfast will be available on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Workshop on CyberCrime

Learn about cyber crime trends and prevention at a workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Cherryland Community Center, 278 Hampton Road in Hayward. The FBI will conduct this workshop that provides an overview of the top cybercrimes facing our communities and offer practical tips to safeguard your household and businesses.

This event is co-sponsored by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, League of Women Voters of the Eden Area and SF Cause.

Mistletoe Madness Accepting Vendors For the Annual Craft Fair in November

Mistletoe Madness is Marina Community Center, accepting vendors for the 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San 2023 show of handcrafted Leandro. items for sale that will be To register or for more on Saturday, Nov. 25, from information, visit www.mistletoemadness.net. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the

As we prepare to gather for Thanksgiving next week, many blessings to you and family and friends.
Happy Thanksgiving!
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When it Comes to the Turkey, Timing is Everything



While there's nothing complicated about roasting a turkey, it never hurts to have a refresher before showtime since it's something most families only deal with once or twice a year. Preparing the big bird is mostly a matter of timing. If you haven't yet purchased a

frozen turkey, you should do that before the weekend. The general rule is to allow at least 1-1/2 pounds of turkey per person.

You can start thawing your turkey soon after you get it home by putting it – still in its wrapper and breast-side up – on the lowest shelf of the refrigerator (so it won't drip on other food items). Figure thawing time at one day for every four pounds.

To prepare the turkey for roasting, remove the wrapper, release the legs from the clamps and pull neck and giblets from cavities. Rinse turkey inside and out with cold water. Pat dry.

If you stuff your bird, do it just before putting it in the oven (never hours earlier). Stuff the neck cavity first, then turn the wings back to hold the neck skin in place or skewer if skin is too short. Fill the cavities lightly with the mixture; don't press it in because the stuffing will expand as it cooks. Use 1/2 cup of stuffing per pound for turkeys weighing up to 10 pounds; for turkeys weighing more, use 3/4 cup per pound. Stuffing should reach 165°F.

To save time and ensure safe,

complete cooking without the risk of overcooking your turkey, consider baking your stuffing in a covered casserole, instead of inside the bird.

If you don't stuff your turkey, the addition of 2 cups of coarsely chopped celery, onion and carrots to the cavity will enhance the fragrance and add to the flavor of the pan juices.

This recipe makes a good simple and basic stuffing.

TRADITIONAL SAVORY STUFFING

- 1-1/2 pound loaf day-old bread
- 3 cups chopped onion
- 2-1/2 cups chopped celery
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley

Tear bread into 1/2-inch pieces, or use 3 quarts plain dry stuffing; set aside.

Sauté onion and celery in butter or margarine just until tender. Add to bread along with salt, poultry seasoning, and parsley. Toss lightly until well mixed.

Place in two buttered, covered

casserole dishes or stuff loosely into neck and body cavities of turkey.

Skewer cavity openings to secure stuffing. Tie legs together and twist wing tips under the back.

Casserole Method

Bake stuffing covered at 325°F for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 10 minutes longer. Drizzle with juices from the turkey roasting pan for additional flavor and moistness. Makes 8-10 cups stuffing after baking.

Roasting the Turkey

Place turkey, breast up, on a rack in a shallow roasting pan 1 to 2 inches deep. Heat oven to 325°F.

Roast turkey until a meat thermometer (don't depend on pop-up timers) indicates the internal temperature registers 180-185°F in the thigh and 170-175°F in the breast.

The drumstick should twist easily in its socket, and juices should run clear, with no traces of pink when pierced with a fork.

When the skin is light golden brown, about two-thirds cooked, shield the breast loosely with a tent of foil to prevent over-browning.

When done, let the turkey stand 15 to 20 minutes before carving.

TURKEY GRAVY

Turkey drippings
Giblet broth
Cooked giblets, chopped
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
Salt to taste

Cover giblets and neck with 3 cups water in a small saucepan. Bring to boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer for an hour or until giblets are tender. Drain, reserving broth and discarding neck. Chop giblets.

Pour turkey drippings from roasting pan into 4-cup measure. Remove 1/4 cup fat from the drippings and place in a pan. Skim off and discard remaining fat from drippings. Add giblet broth to drippings to make 4 cups.

Blend flour into the pan with the fat until smooth, then add drippings and broth mixture.

Cook and stir over medium heat until gravy comes to a boil and thickens. Stir in salt and pepper and add giblets.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): There's no need for that suspicious Aries mind of yours to work overtime, either at home or on the job. Remember that appearances are often deceiving.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): A new opportunity might seem riskier than you would like. Examine all sides; then rely on your good sense to guide you toward the right decision.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might be enjoying your new relationship, but if you're still unsure of a commitment, continue to hold off. Your instincts are usually right.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): You might feel under pressure these days, but be careful not to blow off steam in a way you'll later regret. Opt for a calm discussion to air out grievances.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): A difficult situation will need more than your personal charm to resolve it. Put that Leonine intelligence to work, and you'll soon come up with a prudent solution.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A friend might resent your well-intended attempt to offer advice. Back off and let things settle down before you try again. Meanwhile, be cautious about investments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Be careful about taking on added obligations at work and/or in your personal life without first checking to see whether you can handle the extra load.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A rejection is no reason for you to give up. Check to see what went wrong and make adjustments. Then try again! Success is in your aspect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Things should be looking up at work, as your ideas begin to find favor with both bosses and co-workers. Romantic aspects also improve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Be more loving with your spouse or partner to prove that you're not taking them for granted. In addition, business deals will need careful scrutiny.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): As the holidays approach, be wary of those who can take unfair advantage of your generous nature. Also, an old injury flares up and needs attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Expect to see some old friends at upcoming holiday gatherings, including some who were -- and could once again be -- very special in your life.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

T	O	M	B	E	L	S	A	A	R	M
E	W	E	R	Z	E	U	S	B	A	A
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Ballet: School on MacArthur still rebuilding from the pandemic

continued from front page

week for a leading Venezuelan television show.

"I danced in every major theater in South America," he said.

But his native land, and his native city, drew him back. He worked with the San Francisco Ballet, the San Francisco Opera, and the Oakland Ballet. But he also danced in events put on in area parks by Chet Helms, often credited as the father of the San Francisco counterculture, and explored setting dance to avant-garde music.

Carvajal has home movies of the 1967 Human Be-In, which he attended. It became a fabled precursor to that year's Summer of Love in San Francisco.

"It was a beautiful full-on summer day in January at the Polo Field (in Golden Gate Park)," he remembers.

Carvajal had helped create "Voyage Interdit" ("Forbidden Trip"), the first psychedelic ballet, for San Francisco Ballet the year before.

"I'm the son of a stage hypnotist," he explained. "I knew a bit about the inner workings of the mind."

Eyebrows were raised by "Voyage Interdit," he said.

They raised further when he choreographed "Genesis 70," based on Terry Riley's avant-garde composition "In C."

"Some of the audience loved it. Some walked out," Carvajal remembers.

But he had reached the limit of the work he could do with that dance company, having attracted an audience that the management of the time said they did not want. So he left, and formed his own — followed by some of the dancers from "Genesis 70" and also by critics it had impressed.

He was working with Oakland Ballet when he met Ann Fisher, then dancing with the company.

She went on to become artistic director of Berkeley Ballet Theater

"Carlos was a real inspiring teacher," Fisher said.

She was living in San Leandro and just starting a family, and was interest-



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Dancer and dance teacher Carlos Carvajal, at left, poses with dancer and dance school owner Ann Fisher in front of the San Leandro Conservatory of Classical Ballet on MacArthur Boulevard.

ed in moving into teaching dance. She looked around San Leandro and saw other kinds of dance were being taught, but thought the town could use a dance school focused on classical ballet.

She founded the conservatory in 2001, welcoming all genders, all ages and all

"I'm a dancer!"

body types.

"A great deal of care is taken to train each dancer to use their muscles in a way that is both technically correct and safe for their particular body," its website proclaims.

Fisher hired Carvajal to teach a class as soon as she could.

The school is still rebuilding from the pandemic, which was a setback.

"When Covid hit, we had to transfer every aspect of the business online," she said. "We had to change our choreography, as nobody could circle or hold hands if they were by themselves."

Fisher said some students have been with the school since the beginning, and several students have become well-known dancers. Thea

Patterson danced professionally in the Bay Area and elsewhere, has taught dance widely, and is now on the faculty of UC Berkeley, where she teaches dance — as well as hiking. Taylor Lim has danced, among other places, in Romania and Luxembourg, and now dances with the Olympic Ballet Theater in Washington State.

Fisher is delighted to have Carvajal still teaching, but he almost didn't become a dancer at all. Despite his family having been famous performers in the Philippines, and his father being one in the United States, his parents wanted him to do something more reliable in the U.S.

They wanted him to become a doctor. But he kept practicing his music in secret, and a junior high school course introduced him to folk dance, which opened a new world. He was principal cellist with the San Francisco Junior Symphony, and headed a folk dance group by the time he was 19.

He dutifully got as far as his third semester of pre-med studies at City College of San Francisco, though, before he put down his books one day and put on his dancing shoes.

"I'm a dancer!" he told himself. He soon had his first professional contract with the

San Francisco Ballet, and a long career followed.

He made no effort to discourage his own two daughters

from careers as performers.

His daughter Calliope, better known as Calli Carvajal, was an award-winning belly dancer who became a leading New York hair stylist and now does makeup and hair for the San Francisco Opera.

His other daughter, Celina, became even more famous, though her stage name masks her family one. She is Lena Hall (from the Spanish pronunciation of Carvajal), a singer and the winner of the 2014 best actress Tony Award

for "Hedwig And The Angry Inch."

San Leandro Conservatory of Classical Ballet's annual production of the "Nutcracker Suite" will premiere December 3 at the San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave.

For more information on the conservatory, call (510) 568-7728, email them at info@conservatoryofballet.com or visit their website at www.conservatoryofballet.com.

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Arrest: Gun not found

continued from front page

thy told investigators that he discarded the gun somewhere along the freeway but he was not specific on the location.

"The San Leandro Po-

lice Department would like to express our gratitude to the officers of the California Highway Patrol, Central Division", said Lieutenant Abe Teng of the San Leandro Police Department. "Their

assistance in locating Langworthy allowed us to provide the victim's family the swift justice they deserve."

Police sent the case to the district attorney this week for charging.

REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Sales Down Heading Into The Holiday Season

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

With Halloween in the rearview mirror, Thanksgiving advertising visible everywhere and Christmas decorations starting to appear, we are headed towards the Holiday Season. Officially beginning the day after Thanksgiving and lasting until January 2nd, for many it is their favorite part of the year. As holiday preparations begin, thoughts turn to turkey dinners, seasonal parties, family gatherings and more. Consequently, thoughts tend to turn away from ... Real estate.

The slowest season in the real estate calendar is usually November and December. Peaking in September, sales usually begin to ease towards

the end of the year and then come to life again in the spring. This year, however, with the sudden decrease in interest rates, some think we may see a bump in sales through to the end of the year. There is a caveat, however ... we will need homes to sell.

With 62% of current mortgage holders across the country locked in at rates at 4% or lower, there is not a lot of incentive for homeowners to sell. As a result, many of the homes hitting the market are there because circumstances dictate they be sold, including deaths, divorces, job relocations and the like. As result, the number of single-family homes available for sale in Castro Valley in October, 2023 dipped 25% from same time last year. Available homes in

San Leandro dropped 35.4%, Hayward saw a larger dip of 36.8%, while San Lorenzo led the pack at a whopping decline of 61.5%. Alameda County as a whole saw a decrease of 28.6% in available properties for sale over last year.

As a result, Castro Valley sales prices are up 7.4% from October, 2022. Hayward prices increased 8.3%, San Leandro came in at 7.4% and San Lorenzo noted a 4% gain. While Castro Valley's current list prices are .7% higher than last year, Hayward's list prices have soared 14.8% in the same period. San Leandro comes in a bit lower at 9.46% while list prices have begun to decline in San Lorenzo, down to a .1% gain. Alameda County, on the other hand, has decreased county-wide to -1.1%. Everyone is down, however, from the peak at the end of the summer.

Where do we go from here? While the numbers are higher than last year on average, the seasonal declines have already begun. Will lower rates reverse the decline? We're going to have to wait to see.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association.



Pots and plants in winter

Your outdoor pots and their plants need protection from the cold. Large wooden or concrete planters can be left in place and their plants covered with straw or mulch. Clay, ceramic or glazed pottery may crack when it's cold out, so wrap them with bubble wrap. With smaller containers, you can group them and wrap them all up together, or move them inside. Pots and their plants can also be buried in the ground and covered with soil or mulch. - Brenda Weaver

Source: extension.psu.edu

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

4339 Omega Avenue 94546: \$1,150,000 [3 BD - 1,726 SF - 1947
4053 Milton Avenue 94546: \$1,200,000 [3 BD - 1,940 SF - 1959
2776 Sydney Way 94546: \$1,215,000 [4 BD - 2,056 SF - 1952
4670 Lockridge Way 94546: \$1,439,000 [4 BD - 2,106 SF - 1961
7963 Pineville Circle 94552: \$1,450,000 [4 BD - 2,340 SF - 1997

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$1,150,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$1,215,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,450,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$1,290,800

Hayward

22139 Castille Lane #56 94541: \$580,000 [2 BD - 1,163 SF - 1983
22103 Vista Del Plaza Lane #22 94541: \$670,000 [3 BD - 1,453 SF - 1982
1251 Terrace Avenue 94541: \$719,000 [2 BD - 850 SF - 1928
25470 Huntwood Avenue 94544: \$730,000 [4 BD - 1,565 SF - 2007
648 Overhill Drive 94544: \$750,000 [3 BD - 1,161 SF - 1958
242 Sullivan Way 94541: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,651 SF - 2010
25945 Peterman Avenue 94545: \$870,000 [3 BD - 1,268 SF - 1956
27865 Pebble Court 94542: \$1,020,000 [3 BD - 1,928 SF - 1967
17202 Los Banos Street 94541: \$1,100,000 [5 BD - 2,391 SF - 1949
3112 Freestone Place 94541: \$1,120,000 [3 BD - 1,922 SF - 2017
2149 Edgebrook Place 94541: \$1,265,000 [3 BD - 2,020 SF - 1989
22177 Prospect Street 94541: \$1,650,000 [5 BD - 3,971 SF - 1908

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$580,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$835,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,650,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$939,500

San Leandro

16630 Liberty Street 94578: \$720,000 [2 BD - 927 SF - 1954
115 Oakes Boulevard 94577: \$830,000 [2 BD - 1,068 SF - 1923
14752 Lark Street 94578: \$849,000 [3 BD - 1,279 SF - 1945

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$720,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$830,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$849,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$799,666



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THIS NEWSPAPER**

How to Protect a Slope from Erosion (During Winter Rain)

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

How might I protect my slope from eroding with the heavy rains predicted for this winter? I just finished planting it with creeping rosemary. Because it was planted late, I don't expect it to be very effective in holding the ground. Jute netting has been suggested.

I'd be concerned with hillside erosion from the upcoming rainy season, too. It should be an issue when the soil becomes saturated, probably around the holidays or shortly after. Jute Netting or Erosion Control Mesh is designed to be a soil surface and slope stabilization solution for erosion control. It's made from a coarse, woven yarn and will biodegrade naturally within six months to two years, depending on microbial action, after clearing the debris and weeds. It's installed much like landscape fabric by laying it down over an area before planting. You start at the top of the slope, securing the edges with Bio Stakes every two to three feet. The seams are overlapped four to six inches, and you fold the bottom six inches under at the bottom of the slope. Plants are then planted through the large opening in the mesh, but you can cut it if necessary for larger planting holes. When sowing seed, the seed is sowed first with the netting laid over the top. All is not lost since you've already planted; I'd stretch the net over the planted area and push the vegetation through the opening, cutting it if necessary. Another option is Straw Wattles or Erosion Logs. They're commonly seen



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pears.jpg#/media/File:Pears.jpg>

at construction sites along freeways and are preferred in those areas with established plants. They're an excellent way to control sediment, erosion, and stormwater runoff. Straw Wattles are long, tubular rolls of noxious, weed-free rice straw wrapped in black plastic netting or burlap. They're approximately eight to sixteen inches wide and twenty-five to thirty feet long, with a three to five-year life span. Wooden stakes are driven into them every four feet to secure them. Water is released through the wattle at a slower, steady rate. Jute Netting and Straw Wattles are probably not at your favorite garden center but at an irrigation and landscape supply supplier, such as Horizon (www.horizononline.com)

My Anjou pears are not ripening. This is my first crop, so I'm unsure what to do next.

Pears are best harvested before they ripen and allowed to ripen off the tree. Tree-ripened pears will not develop their peak flavor or texture. Harvesting too late can lead to overripe and mushy pears. It is essential to harvest Anjou pears at the right time to ensure optimal flavor and texture. Pick the fruit when green, complex, and full size for the particular variety. To harvest pears, lift the fruit until the stem separates from the branch. Do not pull or twist. If the stem does not break easily, allow the fruit to remain on the tree for a few more days. Comice, Winter Nellis, and Anjou. The aroma is a good indicator of the pear's ripeness. So, smell the pear to determine its ripeness. A ripe Anjou pears will have a sweet fragrance.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com, questions sent buzz@dirtgardener.com.

New CA Law Addresses Gap In Medical Decision-Making

Q. My best friend of many years is in the hospital and is not able to tell her doctors her wishes regarding medical care. She has no close family members and—unfortunately—has not designated a Health Care Agent in writing, nor is she now capable of doing so. Is it possible for me, her long time friend, to speak for her?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

A. Yes! Under a new California law effective this year (2023), in the circumstances you describe, her doctors are now permitted to select a medical “surrogate” (agent) to make health care decisions for your friend.

The new law, known as AB 2338 and now codified in CA Probate Code § 4712 provides that where, as in your friend's case, she has not designated a Health Care Agent/Surrogate in a written Advance Health Care Directive, and is not capable of designating someone orally, that her health care providers may now choose a “surrogate” for her.

The choice would be from a list of adult persons, whom her health care providers determine...

“...has demonstrated special care and concern for the patient, is familiar with the patient's personal values and beliefs to the extent known, and is reasonably available and willing to serve.”

The choice would be from the following list of persons, without any preference in hierarchy:

1. the spouse or domestic partner of the patient;
2. an adult child of the patient;
3. a parent of the patient
4. an adult sibling of the patient
5. an adult grandchild of the patient
6. an adult relative or close personal friend

While other states with similar laws have opted to designate a preferential hierarchy, the new California law purposely does not! This decision was intentional and was apparently the subject of much debate, and was made in recognition that families and relationships are not all the same.



So, now, your friend's doctors are free, in the circumstances you describe, to choose you to speak for her, as a “close personal friend” who has “demonstrated special care and concern...is familiar with [her] personal values and beliefs...and is reasonably available”. Some feel that the new law now gives legal legitimacy and protection to what doctors have long been doing, albeit informally, in circumstances where the patient could not speak for herself.

Good wishes to you and to your friend. She is lucky to have you by her side.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney who has been helping East Bay families for over 30 years with Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Probate, Medi-Cal Planning, and related matters. Please visit his website at: www.LawyerForSeniors.com, or call (510) 247-2555.

Grief Workshop Today

For people who are processing the loss of a loved one, the winter holiday season can be painful. Experiencing grief at this time may intensify feelings of loneliness or anxiety about being asked how you are coping.

Hope Hospice offers this free one-hour workshop today, Thursday, November 16, from 1 to 2pm, as a safe space to discuss the unique consider-

ations of grieving during the winter holiday season. We also will talk about how to prepare for gatherings that you choose to attend, as well as spending time alone to honor the memory of your loved one privately.

Although this workshop is offered over Zoom, space is still limited. To register, call our Grief Support Department at (925) 829-8770. This program is free of charge.

WEEKEND GARDENER

Vegetables

For a bumper harvest of broccoli, pinch out the main shoot a month after planting. This will result in fewer—but larger—side shoots and the biggest overall yield. Cutting the main shoot after the head has already formed will result in more side shoots, but they will be smaller in size.

Set out garlic, onions and shallots from sets, planting them where they can dry out for the month before harvest next June or July.

Roses

Stop watering and feeding roses. Prune lightly to remove long, bloomed-out canes, but hold off hard pruning until January when the bushes are fully dormant.

Trees

Now that shade and ornamental trees have shed their leaves, their need for pruning to correct any problems is readily apparent by their fully exposed branches. Though pruning can be done any time in fall and winter, there are good reasons for doing it now to eliminate potential hazards of weak, broken or diseased limbs crashing down in the storms that will be coming in the next few weeks. Major problems with trees should be left to professional arborists.

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By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 601328
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Ultimate Carpet Cleaning, at 25673
Eldridge Ave, Hayward, CA 94544. Ala-
meda County, is hereby registered by
the following owner(s): Rodrigo Garcia,
located at 25673 Eldridge Ave, Hay-
ward, CA 94544. This business is con-
ducted by An Individual. This business
commenced 04/20/2015
s/Rodrigo Garcia
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires October 10, 2028
OCT 26, NOV 02, 09, 16, 2023
0993- SLT

FILED
OCT 19, 2023
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 601488
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
1. Cunningham Ventures LLC, 2. John
Jay Associates located at 1333 Morgan
Avenue, San Leandro, Ca 94577, in Al-
ameda County, is hereby registered by
the following owner(s): Cunningham
Ventures LLC, 1333 Morgan Avenue,
San Leandro, Ca 94577. This business
is conducted by a Limited Liability. This
business commenced 10/19/23
s/ John Cunningham
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires OCT 18, 2028
OCT 26, NOV 02, 09, 16, 2023

FILED
September 25, 2023
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600991
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Don Bablo Cleaning Service at 705
Peterson Street, Oakland, CA 94601.
Alameda County, is hereby registered
by the following owner(s): Marta Cruz
Ramirez, located at 705 Peterson Street,
Oakland, CA 94601. This business is
conducted by An Individual. This busi-
ness commenced N/A
s/Marta Cruz Ramirez
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires September 24, 2028
OCT 26, NOV 02, 09, 16, 2023
0990- SLT

FILED
September 25, 2023
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600991
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Don Bablo Cleaning Service at 705
Peterson Street, Oakland, CA 94601.
Alameda County, is hereby registered
by the following owner(s): Marta Cruz
Ramirez, located at 705 Peterson Street,
Oakland, CA 94601. This business is
conducted by An Individual. This busi-
ness commenced N/A
s/Marta Cruz Ramirez
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires September 24, 2028
OCT 26, NOV 03, 09, 16, 2023
0991- SLT

FILED
November 1, 2023
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 601809
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
(1) Mendoza Real Estate, (2) Mendo-
za Insurance Service (3) Mendoza TC
located at 16280 Deanne Court, San
Lorenzo, CA 94580. Alameda County,
is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Yuobela LLC, located at 16280
Deanne Court, San Lorenzo, CA 94580.
This business is conducted by a Limited
Liability Company. This business com-
menced N/A
s/Carlos Mendoza Torres
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires October 31, 2028
NOV 16, 23, 30, DEC 7, 2023

ABANDONMENT FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NUMBER 586411
The following person has abandoned
the use of the fictitious business name:
Direct Parts Imaging,
at 17640 Via Arriba San Lorenzo,
CA 94580.
Full name of registrant is:
Zhong Yuan Liang,
at 17640 Via Arriba San Lorenzo,
CA 94580.
The Fictitious Business Name Statement
Direct Parts Imaging,
was filed on 02/09/2022 in the county of
Alameda. Original File Number 586411.
I declare that all information in this
statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true in-
formation, which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime). This statement
was filed with the County clerk of Ala-
meda County on: top right stamp date.
NOTICE - This fictitious name statement
expires five years from the date it was
filed on, in the office of the County Clerk.
A new Fictitious Business Name State-
ment must be filed prior to that date.
The filing of this statement does not of
itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state
or common law (see Section 14400, et
seq., B&P Code.) This statement was
filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of
Alameda County on 10/16/2023
OCT 26, NOV 02, 06, 16, 2023
0980-CVF

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

New Mural Brightens Downtown Plaza Breezeway

Local businesses adapted to a new reality when the pandemic struck San Leandro. For restaurants like Asia Delight (156 W Juana Ave), which operate as both a dine-in and carry-out service, it was anything but business as usual.

Asia Delight, located on the breezeway next to Sons of Liberty, boasts tall windows and customers enjoying various Chinese specialties. However, during COVID, the restaurant could not capitalize on this feature.

During the pandemic, new restrictions on building capacity and increased demand for delivery, forced Asia Delight's management began utilizing their indoor dining space as extra storage. While this solved a problem for the restaurant, it also created an unsightly view from the public breezeway.

Asia Delight partnered with the Downtown San Leandro Community Benefit District and agreed to revitalize the space by transforming its windowpanes into a mural, designed by Julia Marquis, depicting two koi fish swimming.

"I wanted to create something that would complement Asia Delight's business while also bringing in a pop of color and movement to the breezeway," said Marquis, a multi-disciplinary artist. "San Leandro is a beautiful city, and I feel honored to be a part of its efforts to support public art."

"With every gaze, I found myself appreciating the artist's canvas, reminding me that true art isn't just seen; it is felt," said restaurant owner Wing Ming Tsang.

The City's Economic De-

velopment Department funded the project to beautify the shared breezeway space and attract people to the downtown area.

"Downtown San Leandro is the place to gather with friends and family for a great meal," said Katie Bowman, the City of San Leandro's economic development manager. "The City is happy to partner with the Downtown San Leandro Community Benefit District to bring art and color to downtown to highlight the benefits of the vibrant and diverse community."

The San Leandro Community Benefit District invites you to visit the mural and explore the downtown area's vast array of international cuisine. For more information about Downtown San Leandro, visit www.downtownsanleandro.com



PHOTO BY JULIA MARQUIS

Asia Delight recently installed a mural by Julia Marquis in the breezeway of the Downtown Plaza.

Principal: SLHS students demand return of co-principal Richardson

continued from front page

until just before the Veterans Day holiday weekend, though rumors had been flying.

Last Thursday, November 9, the district held an after-school meeting for teachers and staff and revealed that Ronald Richardson had been removed from his position after an investigation upheld complaints made against him. The following day, emails were sent to parents and students saying he would no longer be at the school, without specifying why.

A media release from the district on Monday, November 13, though, read in part:

"Earlier this year, serious allegations were raised by an administrator at San Leandro High School against one of the school's co-principals. These allegations included inappropriate behavior towards a subordinate, failures to uphold student safety, and threats of retaliation for documented concerns."

The release went on to say that an outside investigation of the allegations substantiated "many" of them, but that Ronald Richardson has been removed from the position rather than terminated.

Reginald Richardson, Ronald's brother, remains as San Leandro High School principal, the emails to parents and to students said. The parents' email said the district is looking for a replacement for Ronald Richardson at the high school.

Those making the accusations against Ronald Richardson have not discussed them in public, but his supporters lost little time in denouncing those charges.

Student Angel Alvizar put it simply: "I just think he should come back. He did not do anything wrong."

"The news of Dr. RO's separation from SLHS came as a shock to everyone in the community and was accom-

panied with no information about what led to his release." walkout organizers said in a press release. "It has since been discovered that Dr. RO did not violate any education code or break any laws, and the investigation conducted by the district was both limited and biased," the walkout organizers said.

Maricela Turner, a senior in the high school's Social Justice Academy, said she's heard rumors but no solid charges with evidence.

"We've been talking about this all the time for the past seven weeks," she said. "We heard the rumored charges, and have overheard some of the people making those charges talking to each other. We think the charges come from people who don't like his restorative-justice approach at the school."

That was seconded by Joya Brandon, who teaches English in the Social Justice Academy.



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Banners abounded at Tuesday night's San Leandro school board meeting where hundreds of San Leandro High School students and several teachers came to demand the reinstatement of Co-Principal Dr. Ronald Richardson.

"We think there has been a concerted effort since these two men (the Richardson brothers) set foot on this campus 10 years ago," she said. "Given as there's a lack of understanding of the restor-

ative justice approach, there's an old guard that believes in punitive measures toward the students."

Some parents have also expressed opposition to Ronald Richardson's removal.

Aaleyah Gaphoor, mother of one student at the high school and one recent graduate, said the charges against the co-principal went opposite to everything she had come to know about him.

When she and other parents had a complaint about a coach, not only did he take them seriously, but insisted on following the law and proper procedures "to a T."

"He is admired by the students, peers, faculty and parents. I am deeply concerned that he was terminated on false, misleading and biased information," Gaphoor said.

"This is an unjust release of our principal. We demand both that he come back and the district tells us what led to his firing," said English teacher Jenna King.

Maricela Turner was quoted in the walkout organizers' press release as saying, "Dr. RO has never been just a principal. To many of our students, he is a father figure, an uncle, a mentor, an advocate, a protector, and at times, one of the only people in our corner."

"And for many of our teachers, he is a brother, a friend, a thought partner, a motivator, Dr. RO's humanizing approach to education, rooted in love, community, and equity, makes our school better. We are ready to fight for him because we have no doubt in our minds that he would do the same for us."

Community Workshop on Saturday To Plan San Leandro's Future

City seeks public comments on developing economic strategy

San Leandro residents, workers, and business owners are invited to share their ideas for the City of San Leandro's next economic development strategy at a community workshop on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Leandro, 2200 San

Leandro Blvd.

Refreshments will be served.

The city is developing a new Economic Development Strategic Plan that it says will allow San Leandro to overcome recent challenges, adapt to changing times, and build an economy that benefits the

entire community.

The community's voice plays a pivotal role in developing this plan, so a workshop is being held to share ideas about the most important economic opportunities and challenges, as well as the best ways to support local businesses, to bring in new,

emerging industries, or to attract more high-quality jobs for the community.

More details about the strategy and registration links can be found at www.sanleandro.net/strategy.

Interpretation will be available in Spanish and Cantonese.

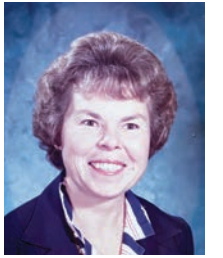
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Polina Vitz

December 12, 1938 ~ October 26, 2023



With her family around her, on October 26 Polina Arensburger Vitz left us after a brief struggle with gall bladder cancer. Born on a collective farm in Soviet Russia on December 12, 1938, Polina was orphaned in World War II. In 1943, she made her way as a refugee to Tallinn, Estonia, where she was adopted by Konstantin and Marina Arensburger. They were a Russian couple who fled to Estonia after the Russian Revolution, and who wanted a younger sister for their son Dimitri. In September 1944, the young family fled again as the Soviets invaded Tallinn. They ended up in Sulz, a small town in Germany. Fortunately, when the war ended, their town was placed in the French zone of Germany and they were permitted to stay instead of being forcibly repatriated to the Soviet Union. Despite the scarcity of food and goods after the war, Polina and her brother had an almost normal childhood for several years in Sulz.

In 1950, the family immigrated to San Francisco as DPs (displaced persons). By age 12, Polina had her second family, third language, and fourth country. Marina Arensburger soon began work as a Russian language teacher at the Army Language School (later the Defense Language Institute) in Monterey. The family joined the already large Russian community associated with the school. Polina attended Russian school and joined the Russian scout program. She graduated from Monterey High School, Monterey Peninsula College, and San Francisco State University in 1960 with a BA in elementary education. She also earned a master's degree in Russian Studies from Middlebury College. Her first teaching positions were in the Monterey school district's schools on Fort Ord.

In 1962, she met her future husband, Martin, who was in the Russian-language training program at the ALS. Sensing that his future was with Polina in California, not his native Ohio, Martin landed a city planning job in Alameda. In June 1963, they married at the small Russian Orthodox church in Seaside. This past summer they celebrated 60 years together.

Martin soon began working in Richmond, where he and Polina started their family. Polina left teaching in Berkeley to raise their three children. When Martin was offered a city planner position in San Leandro in 1969, they bought the Tudor-style house that Polina adored. She was a loving mother and supported her children as they went through the San Leandro public schools. At the same time, she passed on her culture and language by leading not only her own children but others of Russian heritage through Russian school and Russian scouts in Palo Alto on Saturdays. Polina loved to share her Russian background, including much-coveted invitations to spectacular Russian dinners for 20 or more friends and family.

As her children grew, Polina frequently worked as a substitute teacher, known affectionately as Mrs. V. She returned to full-time teaching and spent 17 years teaching third grade at St. Felicitas parish school in San Leandro. After retiring, she had more time for her interests, including knitting, crocheting, sewing, and gardening. She freely gave her creations to many, even sewing hundreds of face masks for seniors in the early days of the Covid pandemic. She also visited over 50 countries with her family, mother, and husband, including Machu Picchu, the Matterhorn, Australia, East Africa and Russia.

Polina will be remembered as the supportive core of her family by her husband Martin, her children Alexander, Gregory (Mick'l), and Katherine (Georg), and her grandchildren, Nikolai, Kasey, and Mason, and Michael and Elizabeth. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother Dimitri. In her native Russian, Vechnaya Pamyat' - Eternal Memory.

Funeral services were held November 6 at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Berkeley, and interment followed at Lone Tree Cemetery, Hayward. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to either the San Leandro Education Foundation (SLED) or the San Leandro Scholarship Foundation, in honor of her long commitment to education.

Melanie Rose Blaha

November 22, 1942 ~ November 8, 2023

Born November 22, 1942 of Frank Vincent Melewicz and Naomi Marion (Pink) Melewicz, Melanie would tell her life stories giving much credit to her parents:

1. Melanie never had a home because she moved every two years with her younger brother Frank, her mom and dad who was a Navy Commander meteorologist starting in World War II. Melanie adapted to each new residence, including far-away places like Newfoundland, Canada and the Island of Guam, but did not like the racial segregation she experienced in Virginia in 1956.

2. Melanie's Father who was strongly family oriented, taught Melanie the value of family and provided family adventures, gatherings, and annual reunions, which Melanie has carried out her entire life. Melanie's Father taught Melanie at age 11 how to tie flies, how to fly fish and how to play golf with men's clubs on Navy golf courses before it was acceptable for women to play golf. Melanie's Father and Mother taught Melanie to be a devout Catholic, never lie, cheat, gossip or hurt anyone and to be gracious and help anyone in need, which Melanie has carried out her entire life.

3. Melanie's Father told Melanie that her only job was her studies in school, to which

Melanie complied and as a result, Melanie:

a. Won a bicycle in an essay contest and created the first school news magazine in the 5th grade "The Redwood Bark"

b. As a HS senior, purchased and completed modelling school to learn finer points of grace and etiquette.

c. Learned proficiency in five languages, compared to eight her father mastered.

d. Performed as a thespian in multiple plays.

e. Went way beyond in attaining her Master's Degree in English where her professor stated that her thesis, as an original work was equivalent to a PhD thesis.

4. Melanie's Mother, showed Melanie how to be a hard-working and devoted wife and mother, which Melanie adopted and applied to her own husband Jerome and their children Jerome, Jr. and Jennifer.

5. Melanie's professors, mostly PhD Sisters of the Holy Names, taught Melanie how to be a spiritually devout loving woman, unafraid to also be a professional woman in 1964 when professional women were relegated to be a teacher, nurse or airline stewardess. As a result, Melanie broke ranks to be a professional woman in a men's controlled world and by the grace of God became a professional researcher, writer and editor for:

a. The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC.



b. National Education Magazine in Washington, DC, (one of Melanie's articles was read to the U.S. Congress and is archived in the Congressional Record.

c. U.S. Department of Interior, working on the Clean Water Act in San Francisco, CA (which became the Environmental Protection Agency "EPA").

6. Melanie loved working at EPA as one of the first professional women with various positions of writer/editor, public relations officer, manager of 28 employees, creating a new fun reading NEWS publication "Staff Flash" and her favorite job as EPA liaison and hosting many International dignitaries and delegations coming to EPA to learn environmental technology to assimilate and use in their home countries.

7. Melanie's favorite story is how she was spiritually compelled to come back to California in 1970 and how she flew out with faith that she could get a job as a writer/editor in San Francisco. She hand carried her resume to multiple government agencies over Thanksgiving

week and on Friday was hired as a professional writer/editor to transform scientists' research and reports into common language for the public to understand what EPA was doing to clean the water of rivers, lakes, and oceans.

8. Melanie loved to tell her story of how she met her Husband, Jerome, in the 4th grade in Castro Valley, CA, how she moved to Newfoundland after 6th grade at age 11 and re-met Jerome at age 27 when she had just started her job at EPA; how her girlfriend, Shirley, from the 6th grade told her about Jerome was still unmarried and attending law school in San Francisco, where classes are over 90% men, and asked Melanie to go on a date with Jerome so that Melanie and Shirley could go to the law school parties to meet the men. The other side of that story is that the first time Jerome saw Melanie in the 4th grade, he fell in love with her. She was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen and she was the smartest, best writer, best artist in the class. But Jerome, at age 8, could not tell Melanie that he loved her and had to love, pure and chaste from afar. That, Jerome was heart broken when Melanie moved to Newfoundland. Then at age 27, when Shirley mentioned to Jerome that Melanie Melewicz was in San Francisco and was not married, Jerome was on a mission to woo his first love Melanie to be his wife. Jerome called Melanie and asked: Do you remember me from Redwood School, "yes, sort of"; Are you married? "No", would you like to go on a date? No, I am a little busy" and finally Melanie agreed to go on a date the next evening. On first sight of

Melanie, Jerome thought "that's the girl I am still in love with and want to marry". On the second date at a stop light, Melanie saw light reflecting off Jerome's face and thought "that's the man I'm going to marry". Then to Jerome's proposal of marriage, 52 days later Melanie said "Yes, Jerome Blaha, I will marry you." Melanie and Jerome each had the loves of their lives and Melanie had a whirlwind of adventures with Jerome for the next 52 years.

9. Melanie loved children. From the birth of Jerome Jr. (JJ), Melanie constantly loved him and secondly from the birth of Jennifer constantly loved her as the most precious gifts that God could have given Melanie. Melanie gave all of her love to educate them and expose them to adventures such as regularly learning about all the animals and having fun at Marine World Africa, USA, athletics such as soccer, swimming, tennis, and to God through attending church and bible school. Melanie taught JJ and Jennifer to be curious about everything, be not afraid to ask questions and be studious; they too became proficient in several languages.

Melanie is survived by her husband, Jerome, son, Jerome Blaha, Jr. (and wife, Pim), daughter, Jennifer Cheek (and husband, Morgan), grandchildren Austin and Olivia Cheek, brother, F. Michael Melewicz (and Valery), sister-in-law, Judith Blaha, and 20 nephews and nieces.

10. Melanie's humility kept her from ever talking about herself and her dedication to helping others.

Melanie loved to see reasons to compliment almost anyone for their achievements. She would take the time to listen to needs of others and compassionately encourage them to work hard to accomplish their goals, including many children, persons considering college or employment, disabled persons or anyone in need. Melanie also accepted heavy duty tasks to help others or the community in putting on fund raising events for Church, Schools, Charities and Rotary. Melanie also served when called upon as a singer in St. Mary's Choir, President of OLG School Board and Public Relations Administrator and member of the Oakland Museum Women's Board (for over 30 years).

11. Most of all Melanie lived a virtuous life of loving every person she met. She was able to avoid gossip and ever wanting or wishing harm or hurt to any person. Even if that person hurt Melanie in some way, Melanie would immediately forgive that person. Her husband, Jerome, says that he has never observed any woman on earth more loving and forgiving than Melanie. The love of Melanie will be missed but not forgotten as an example for each of us to follow.

12. Melanie's life will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023 at Redwood Chapel, 19300 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, followed by a meal together.

Veterans Remembered on their Day in San Leandro

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Girl Scout troops from San Leandro and San Lorenzo sang the National Anthem as veterans of all ages sang along with them.

Veterans and their families, friends and supporters came to San Leandro's annual hometown Veterans Day ceremony at the Senior Center on Saturday, November 11.

San Leandro Mayor Juan Gonzalez pointed out something in the National Anthem when he took the stage. He brought everyone's attention to the last verse, and sang it: "Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

"That's a question," the mayor said. "And the answer is yes."

This land is free, Gonzalez said, because of our veterans. People in the service right now are protecting our country, training in the desert, even engaged in cyberspace, so that we may have life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the mayor said.

This year's ceremony honored World War II veteran Joe Trujillo, and Korean War veterans Patricia Ryan and Lee Irwin.

Irwin said he came to San Leandro in 1949, had four kids and a great life. He said that other veterans were more deserving of the honor than himself but he appreciated the honor very much.

American Legion Post 117 and the City of San Leandro host the ceremony. Post Commander Don Reed spoke and reminded the audience it's not just veterans but military spouses who have a lot to endure.

In a utopian world, there



PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

Girl Scout troops from San Leandro and San Lorenzo carried the flag for the ceremony as Koren War veteran Lee Irwin guides them toward the stage.



At the end of the ceremony, the crowd came outside for the flag raising.

would be no war, Reed said. But wars have freed slaves, prevented genocide and toppled terrorists.

Reed asked veterans in attendance to stand as the hymns of each of the branches of the military played.

American Legion Post 117 Chaplain gave the invocation and said a prayer, and then the crowd moved outside for a flag-raising ceremony, as Post 117 bugler Alan Osofsky played "To the Colors."



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Thanksgiving Week Service Schedule

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NOVEMBER 19 - 25, 2023					
If your collection day is:	Mon. 20	Tue. 21	Wed. 22	Thu. 23	Fri. 24
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 20	Tue. 21	Wed. 22	Fri. 24	Sat. 25

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Your Organics Cart isn't just for yard trimmings.

Use it for the collection of food waste and food-soiled paper too!

When your holiday party is over and you have unusable leftovers, put them in your **organics** cart. All food scraps and food-soiled paper belong in the green containers, along with decorations such as pumpkins, poinsettias, garlands, and wreaths. *Be sure all material is free of any paint, glue, excess soil, plastic, or metal.*

For a full list of what belongs in your **organics** cart, visit: www.SanLeandroSorts.com.

ORGANICS CART TIPS

- Layer/cover food waste with yard waste.
- Freeze or refrigerate wrapped food scraps before placing them in the cart.
- Keep the lid closed.
- Put the cart out weekly for service (even if it isn't full).
- When the cart is empty, rinse it out over a landscaped area using only water.



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