

mr



*February 2022*





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#### Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses  
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



#### COVER

*Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo State Park*  
*Photography by Mercury Freedom*

#### Coping with COVID-19

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elephant seals at Año Nuevo.

Guided walks  
provide a unique experience.

In fact,  
walking almost anywhere  
is better  
than staying inside.

This is a good time  
to call someone:  
an old friend, a relative,  
someone you miss.

This is a good time  
to take a picture  
of a person or thing  
that is important to you.

Make something new.

Fix something broken.

Plan a reunion.

Consider a trip.

Do something  
you always wanted to do.

Help

Create

Dream

It's time  
to cope with COVID-19  
by getting back to life.

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17803 Upper E. Zayante Road

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21446 Madrone Road

18085 Idalyn Drive

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730 Sugar Pine Road

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586 Skypark Drive

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## COMPASS

# resources

## Ham Radio Technician Class

John Pugh

Want a reliable way to communicate when the power, phone, and Internet are out? Would you like to be able to help your community when emergencies such as wildfires, heatwaves, and earthquakes arise? Or, perhaps you would like to make new friends by talking over the radio.

An amateur radio-technician-license class will be held over Zoom, **every Monday, from January 31 to March 28**, from 7 to 9 p.m. You will be taught the basics of amateur radio and all you need to know to get your ham license.

This class will use the book *2018-2022 Technician Class* by Gordon West (ISBN: 0945053908). It can be purchased from Amazon.

The sessions will cover an introduction, activities, opportunities, and license information, and FCC rules and radio waves.

It includes guidance on transmitting, repeaters, and emergencies; signal propagation and space; computers and modes; common troubleshooting techniques and electronics basics; electrical units, equations, and symbols; antennas and cables; and safety and exam information.

Those who wish to attend this Zoom class should purchase the book and sign up. Students are encouraged to take notes on the information presented.

You can sign up for the class or get more information by emailing [lphamradio@gmail.com](mailto:lphamradio@gmail.com). A \$20 fee will be required at the beginning of the first class.



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## County Road Improvements

Manu Koenig

First District Supervisor, Santa Cruz County

On December 2, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission approved my motion to increase funding for county roads from the current round of gas-tax money. This \$6.5 million will be used for essential projects, including resurfacing and improving bike lanes on Soquel-San Jose Road from Porter Street to Laurel Glen Road.

Roads are one of the most comprehensive investments we can make. They benefit drivers, delivery services, bus-riders, cyclists, and pedestrians. The list of county-road projects from this funding includes:

- Emergency routes resurfacing project: Alba and Jamison Creek roads, approximately \$1.8 million
- Soquel Drive buffered bike lanes and congestion mitigation, \$1 million
- San Andreas Road resurfacing, approximately \$1.6 million
- Soquel San Jose Road/Porter Street road resurfacing and multimodal improvements, 3.15 miles, approximately \$1.5 million
- Holohan Road resurfacing, \$440,000

Also exciting are some of the bike and pedestrian projects that will be done in the cities:

- Capitola, 41st Avenue intersection reconstruction at Capitola Road and Clares Street
- Santa Cruz, Ocean Street pavement rehabilitation and bike/pedestrian upgrades
- Scotts Valley, Granite Creek Road overcrossing, widening bike lanes, green treatment, and repaving of sidewalks
- Watsonville, complete downtown streets pedestrian and bike improvements

With these RTC projects, plus the 2022 Measure D projects, and continued storm damage repair, County Public Works is going to be busy. To review a complete list of projects, visit <https://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/RTIP-Approved-Projects.pdf>.

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# resources

## ***Making the Most of Mulch***

### **California Dry**

Tish O'Reilly

#### ***Pacific Mountain Horticulture***

"I live up high" is an expression I learned from longtime mountain resident Robbie Norman. We lived at about sixteen-hundred feet in the Summit area.

Altitude is a serious gardening consideration when we consider how to plant, where to plant, and when is the best time to start digging.

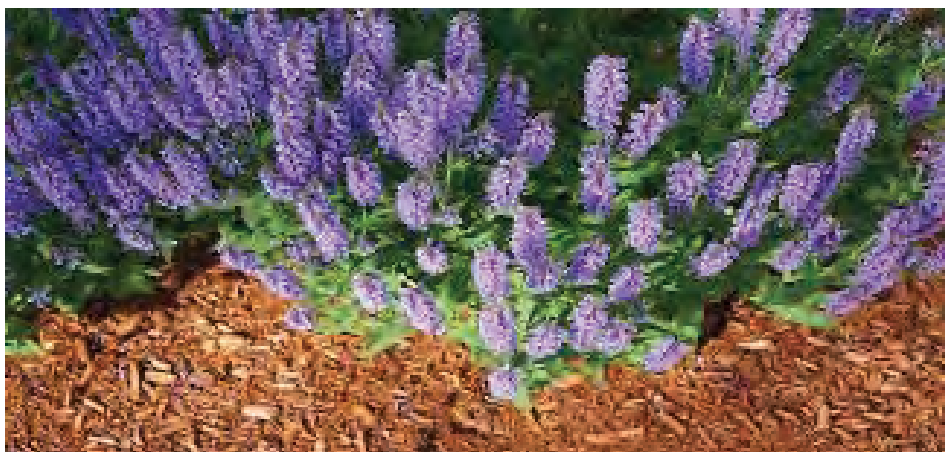
Of course, we consider esthetics. Everyone likes to gaze at a beautiful landscape, whether it is on the slope of a private pathway, a distant ocean view, or a garden.

The most critical component of gardening, however, is the soil. Although plants differ in their growing requirements and conditions, they all need well-mulched soil. Regular mulching with organic materials maintains a healthy, drought-tolerant garden.

If plants are to survive in California's Mediterranean-type dirt, the mulch must provide water-holding capabilities. An example of a good organic mulch is treated redwood. It has good staying power and increases the loftiness and texture, allowing plants better access to the soil's nutrients. It also makes weeding easier.

Here is a gardening tip. Treated redwood is a little more expensive than mushroom compost, but worked into the soil it will last twice as long and save you labor, material cost, and overall mulching expense. Remember, however, treated redwood is not a good top dresser of the soil. It will blow away in the wind if you don't mix the mulch well into the soil.

My favorite garden toppers for soil are cobblestones, redwood mulches, and gravel, but you can also use other mulches to create a fine garden finish. Mulch is your ticket to a beautiful and successful mountain garden, especially in our dry California climate. Keep mulching!







*For a hardy mountain garden,  
consider these deer-resistant,  
drought-tolerant, and frost-tolerant  
favorites. I call them my blue team.*

*Clockwise, from top left: bearded  
iris, plumbago, black and blue salvia,  
wisteria, and rosemary.*

*If you need me, you can find me in the  
garden, or visit [www.pacmthort.com](http://www.pacmthort.com).*



## ◆ Land for Sale! ◆



Over 1/2 acre lot in beloved Las Cumbres – Community Center, seasonal swimming pool, playground, playing field, & bocce court; tennis & basketball courts; community orchard & garden, miles of hiking trails, 1000 acres of common land; parks & picnic areas, and its own fire station! Several reports and letters available. **\$240,000**



11.6 acre parcel in Soquel with expansive views, from distant mountains to portions of the Monterey Bay from the proposed building site, plus a majestic redwood forest for hiking and exploring in your own back yard! Underground electricity on site. Prolific shared well, last tested at 30 GPM! Area of nice homes. **\$349,000**

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## community



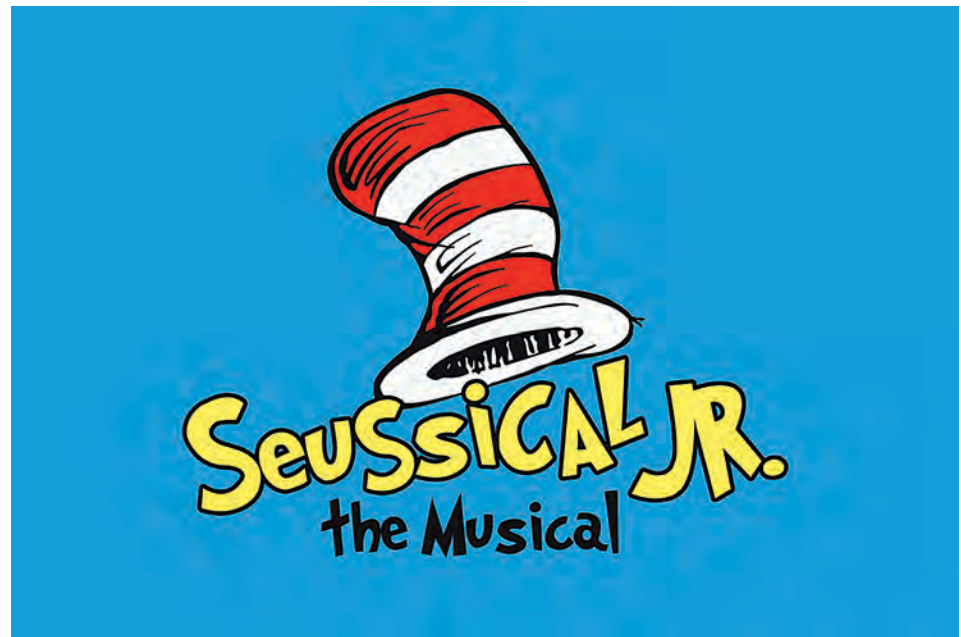
### Theatre in the Mountains Curtains Up: Help Needed Kiyoko Whiteside

"An unusual story will soon be unfurled of an elephant trying to save a small world."

Theatre in the Mountains is excited to announce that live, in-person performances will return to the Loma Prieta Community Center stage this spring with *Seussical the Musical, Jr.* This colorful, energetic Broadway musical for audiences of all ages offers upbeat music and a universal message.

Leading the artistic staff of *Seussical the Musical, Jr.* is Caitlin Papp. Caitlin directed *Annie, Jr.* and *The Addams Family* for the 2019-2020 season. She looks forward to bringing live theater back to the mountain community. Joining her will be *The Addams Family* choreographer, Kiyoko Whiteside. The vocal director to be announced soon.

All local fourth- through eighth-grade



students are invited to join us. No previous experience is required. We cast everyone who auditions.

The age range for this production has been expanded so that as many students as possible can participate. Rehearsal times will be more flexible to minimize conflicts. COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place. Rehearsals will be done in small groups when possible. Check our Facebook page for audition and performance dates.

Theatre in the Mountains is a volunteer organization. We are looking for at least one or two additional producers to put on this show.

If you are interested in volunteering, have questions about rehearsal times, audition and participation requirements, or other details, email Theatre in the Mountains chair Jennifer Daniher at [theatreinthemountains@gmail.com](mailto:theatreinthemountains@gmail.com).

On with the show!

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### C.T. English LEO's News

Miriam Watson and Eli Asheghian

The C.T. English LEO's Club thanks the community for donating over seventy new toys to the Marines Toys for Tots program. The LEOs partnered with Regale Winery and Vineyards, and the Summit Store.

This month, the LEOs are selling See's Chocolates. The proceeds will support local charities. You can purchase chocolates online and receive them by mail, for the same price you'd pay at a See's Chocolates store. Send a special Valentine to family and friends. To purchase See's Chocolates through our fundraiser, visit [bit.ly/SeesValentinesChocolates](https://bit.ly/SeesValentinesChocolates).

In March, the club will bury a pandemic time-capsule with artifacts. Students will include letters sharing their pandemic experiences, a COVID-19 test kit, various types of masks, a *Mountain Strong* decal, and other mementos. The LEOs plan to meet in ten years to open the time-capsule, share it with the community, and then rebury it for another forty years.

In the coming months, the LEOs will write encouraging cards to local hospital doctors and nurses. If you would like to join us, you can drop off your letters in the office at C.T. English Middle School. We hope to bring comfort to those who work hard to help us when we are in need.



*C.T. English LEO's Club members awaiting the arrival of the Marines.*



*The Marines with the Toys for Tots program pick up toys from C.T. English to deliver them to children in need throughout Santa Clara County.*

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## people

### Obituary

#### Harold Lee

Kristen Thompson

Harold M. Lee passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Sunday, December 19, 2021. He is survived by his loving daughter, his grandson, two great-granddaughters, and his older brother.

Harold was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. He moved to Boise, Idaho, and then to California in the 1970s. He worked as an electrical engineer for General Dynamics. Later, he came to the Bay Area where he worked for Atari, helping to create the home version of Pong. After that, he contributed to several other projects around the Santa Clara Valley, including a project to liquify natural gas for vehicles to reduce emissions.

In 1976, Harold purchased the historic Villa Del Monte in the Santa Cruz Mountains, which recently turned one-hundred years old. The legendary pool parties began in 1982 with volleyball in the pool, live music, great friends, and neighbors.

The Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 damaged the house and destroyed the garage. Pool parties resumed in 1992, with more great friends and musicians who were devoted to helping him keep the property in good condition.

Harold was very musical with a lovely baritone voice. He often accompanied himself on guitar. He also enjoyed disc golf, hiking, and camping throughout California and the United States with his longtime girlfriend.

Harold was married twice. He had other loving relationships and maintained friendly terms with all. He also had great friendships with several friends who bonded over intense games of snooker, volleyball, and cases of beer.

A memorial will be held at the Villa on **Sunday, April 10.**

He was a light to all. We miss him dearly. I love you, Daddy.







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Call Jeanette for more information. 408.348.1915.





# events

**Los Gatos Community Concert Association  
Passionate Pianist  
Plays In Los Gatos  
on February 20  
Kathy Morgan**

Maestro Eric Himy (rhymes with “steamy”) presents an encore performance at Los Gatos High School, 20 High School Court (off East Main Street) on **Sunday, February 20**. Masks, proof of vaccination, identification, and social distancing will be required so that you can enjoy the concert in safety. Doors open at 2:15 p.m.

Eric is likeable, as well as an excellent and intense player. A graduate of the renowned Julliard School, he plays music from Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Gershwin, and other classic composers. His own arrangements of *Rhapsody in Blue* and *An American in Paris* have amazed audiences worldwide. *The Washington Post* says he displays “awesome technique and musicianship.”

Non-season tickets go on sale on **February 6**. Prices are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors, and \$5 for students. For additional information, go to [lgcca.org](http://lgcca.org), email [info@lgcca.org](mailto:info@lgcca.org), or call 408-529-8913. Tickets are available at <https://lgcca.org> and at the door.





**New Museum of Los Gatos  
In the Company of Trees**  
Julie Ericsson

Jane Olin—*In the Company of Trees*, guest curated by Helaine Glick, is on view at New Museum Los Gatos, in the Spotlight Gallery, from **January 14 through June 5**. Olin's striking, dreamlike images of California's iconic trees recalls other great historic photographers who captured this landscape, and confronts the urgency of the climate crisis.

"Many of us have a favorite memory of walking in the woods in California, experiencing the majesty of trees," says NUMU executive director Ami Davis. "Jane's photographs are dreamlike, capturing trees' personalities and nobility. Jane's photographs remind us about our intertwined relationship with nature."

Trees have played a meaningful role in Jane's life since childhood. But now, because of climate change and human mismanagement, trees are threatened across the globe. With renewed curiosity and a sense of urgency, Olin began a wide-ranging photographic exploration of trees. *In the Company of Trees* features work from that undertaking—including the most recent addition to the series, *Intimate Conversation*. Olin's expressive approach and her innovative process prints reveal a haunting and singular perspective on trees. The exhibition addresses our conception of trees, offering new, eye-opening information about their ecological gravity.

Jane Olin has studied with some of the founding artists of traditional West Coast photography, but she has forged her own distinctive path. Her current work takes shape in the wet darkroom, but differs from the traditional gelatin silver process



**Jane Olin, "Intimate Conversation 28 (The Dance of the Forest Spirits)" (2020)**

by introducing unorthodox ways of working with the developing chemistry. Her methods open the door to creative exploration, and provide her with an opportunity to work in a collaborative and intuitive way with each piece. The resulting prints are lyrical, dynamic, complex, and full of mystery. Major support for Jane's exhibition was provided by the Town of Los Gatos, and an anonymous donor.

**About the Artist**

*Jane has lived and worked as a photographer in the Monterey Bay area for over thirty years. She learned the skills and tenets of the historic Group f/64 from the assistants and students of Ansel Adams. She participated in workshops with Ruth Bernhard, John Sexton, Joyce Tenneson, Brian Taylor, Martha Casanave, Holly Roberts, and Christopher James. Jane is the recipient of numerous jurors' awards. Her series Site Sight Unseen was featured in a two-person exhibition at the Center for Photographic Art in 2016. In 2018, the Triton Museum of Art hosted Beyond My Reasonable Self, a solo exhibition featuring work from the series Site Sight Unseen and Intimate Conversation. Jane founded Salon Jane, a women's photography collective, in 2014. New work from Intimate Conversation was highlighted in The Ethereal Zone at the Monterey Museum of Art in 2018, and in Present Tense at the Center for Photographic Art in 2020.*

**First District News**

**Upcoming Community Meetings**  
Manu Koenig

In 2022, Santa Cruz County First District meetings will shift from Zoom to in-person monthly meetings. If you prefer, you can still participate in the meetings via Zoom. These community meetings will take place at rotating locations throughout the First District on the second Thursday of every month. We invite you to join us at upcoming meetings, beginning in February.

**Summit constituent meeting**

The meeting on **Thursday, February 10**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., will focus on the mountain community. You can attend in-person in the Forum Room on the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District campus, 23800 Summit Road, or via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98411667502>.

Visit our website for a full list of upcoming community meetings: <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Government/BoardofSupervisors/District1.aspx>.

**Get in touch**

Reach out to us any time. Call 831-454-2200, or email [first.district@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:first.district@santacruzcounty.us). We hope to hear from you soon.


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# calendar

## ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

### Mondays

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at Skyland Church, 8 p.m.

### Tuesdays

Qi-gong classes, 8:45 to 10 a.m. at Skyland Church. Call 831-247-5617.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email [altesta@gmail.com](mailto:altesta@gmail.com) or text 650-465-8513.

### Wednesdays

Tai chi for beginners is held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Los Gatos Recreation Center.



### Thursdays

Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Burrell CDF station on Highland Way.

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) on the Pavilion lawn. Visit [pamsyogafitness.com](http://pamsyogafitness.com) for details.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email [altesta@gmail.com](mailto:altesta@gmail.com) or text 650-465-8513.

Yoga at Skyland Church, 7 p.m. \$10 per class

Integral yoga at Lakeside School (held online currently), 6:30 to 8 p.m. Visit [www.lgsrecreation.org](http://www.lgsrecreation.org).

Alcoholics Anonymous, Redwood Estates Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.



Live local bluegrass at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

### Fridays

Karaoke at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, starting at 6 p.m.

### Saturdays

Summit Toastmasters 95033, meets on Zoom, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit <https://summittoastmasters95033.toastmastersclubs.org>, or call Laur d'Armien, 408-634-3493.



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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Saturday, January 29

A mountain blood drive, sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, will be held at the Building Blocks Preschool parking lot, 23845 Summit Road, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, email [mountainblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:mountainblooddrive@gmail.com).

### Sunday, January 30

Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School (Mountain School) hosts an open house, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the little red school house on the Lakeside School campus, 19621 Black Road.

### Monday, January 31

The Lakeside School Community Foundation holds a dine-out fundraiser at Asian Box, in the Pruneyard Shopping Center, in Campbell. Flyers are available in the Lakeside school office, or at [www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers](http://www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers).

### Friday, February 4

The Lakeside School Community Foundation will hold a free, outdoor, PG-rated movie night at 6 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. Masks will be required. Check [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org) for the most up-to-date information.



### Thursday, February 10

Santa Cruz County First District supervisor Manu Koenig hosts a mountain community meeting, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. You can attend in-person in the Forum Room on the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District campus, 23800 Summit Road, or via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98411667502>.

The Bookmobile visits the mountains:

**Lakeside School**  
9:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
**Building Blocks Preschool**  
12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.  
**Redwood Estates Pavillion**  
4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

### Wednesday and Thursday, February 16 and 17

Lexington School students perform *Alice in Neverland*, directed by Barbara Lougee. Watch as a modern-day Alice follows the white rabbit down a rabbit hole, and finds herself in Peter Pan's Neverland. For tickets and details, visit [lexhsc.org](http://lexhsc.org).



### Sunday, February 20

Maestro Eric Himy performs at Los Gatos High School, 20 High School Court (off East Main Street. Doors open at 2:15 p.m. Masks, proof of vaccination, identification, and social distancing will be required. For additional information and tickets, go to [lgcca.org](http://lgcca.org), email [info@lgcca.org](mailto:info@lgcca.org), or call 408-529-8913.

### Thursday, February 24

The Bookmobile visits the mountains:

**Lakeside School**  
9:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
**Building Blocks Preschool**  
12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.  
**Redwood Estates Pavillion**  
4:15 to 5:15 p.m.



### Monday, February 28

The Lakeside School Community Foundation holds a dine-out fundraiser at Willow Street Pizza in Los Gatos. Visit [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org) for more information and a flyer.



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# 2021 REAL ESTATE MARKET REVIEW

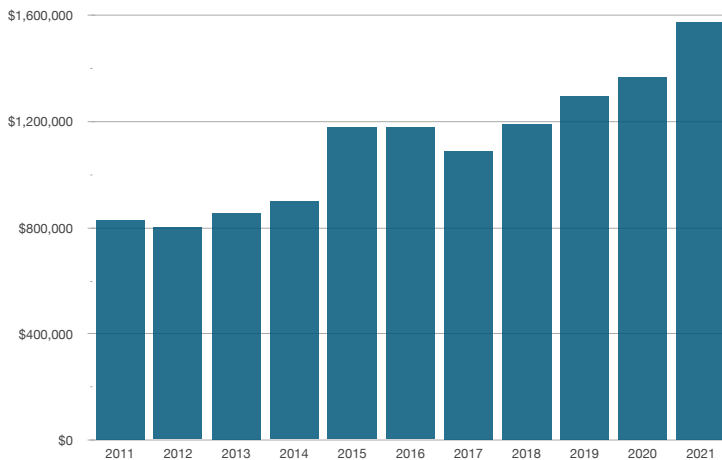
## FOR 95033

Demand for mountain properties remained strong in 2021 while available inventory plummeted to all time lows. When real estate activities resumed following the COVID-19 lockdown of March/April 2020, we saw an immediate surge in the number of buyers seeking larger rural properties, prioritizing quality of life and space (indoors and out) over commute times, as most workers were no longer required to go to the office. This trend continued through 2021 with demand far outstripping supply, leading to frequent multiple offers and continued price appreciation. Sales activity slowed in the second half of 2021, but mostly due to the lack of available inventory... we held onto the gains of the prior 18 months.

The number of active listings across all price ranges hovered between 20 to 30 for much of the year, and by December had fallen to a historic low of only 10 homes on the market.

While we saw double digit appreciation in all price ranges, the most significant change we have witnessed since the beginning of the pandemic is the dramatic increase in demand for high end and luxury mountain homes and estates offering acreage, views, privacy, and sanctuary. We saw unprecedented numbers of mountain homes selling for over \$2million and even \$3-4million or more, where almost no demand previously existed. High end properties in more remote locations also sold quickly and for premium prices.

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**REBECCA SMITH**

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Rebecca@sereno.com

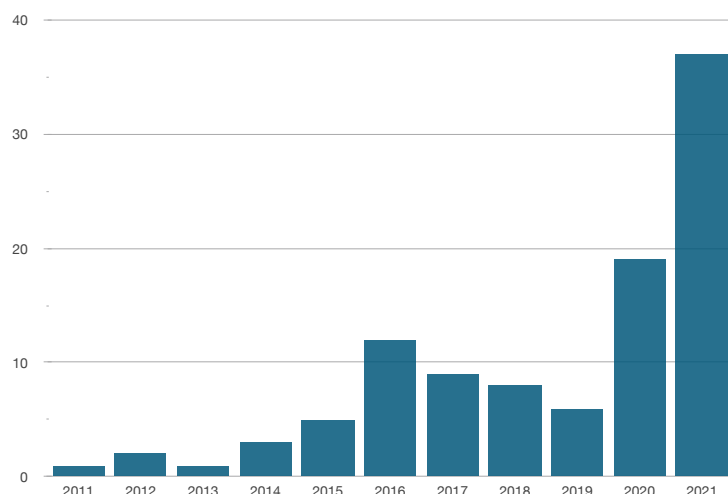
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## BY THE NUMBERS

### NUMBER OF SALES OVER \$2,000,000



As we begin 2022 with prices at record highs and only 9 homes on the MLS in January, this market offers prospective home sellers the best opportunity and market conditions we have EVER seen in the Los Gatos Mountains. Without a crystal ball we can't predict how long this will last, but there is no realistic possibility of the pent up demand being satiated by any number of new listings coming onto the market this spring. If you've been considering retiring or moving out of the area in the near future, there is no better time to sell your mountain home than NOW.

And in case you need one more reason...

**PROPOSITION 19:** Replaced Props 60 & 90 for transferring taxable value of your current principal residence. As of April 1, 2021 homeowners over the age of 55 are now able to transfer their tax basis anywhere in the state of California. Furthermore this opportunity is no longer limited to one time only, or for homes of equal or lesser value. The tax basis may be transferred up to 3 times, and to a replacement home of any value (with the difference in price added to the transferred basis).

## LOS GATOS MOUNTAINS 2021 SALES STATS

### SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

185

### MEDIAN HOME PRICES

\$1,365,000 (2020) TO \$1,575,000 (2021)

15.4% ↑

### MEDIAN SALE PRICE

FROM \$1,191,900 IN 2019 BEFORE PANDEMIC

32% ↑ Approx.

### PROPERTIES SOLD OVER \$2,000,000

37

### PROPERTIES SOLD OVER \$3,000,000

HIGHEST SALE \$4,100,000

7

### RECORD LOW INVENTORY

ACTIVE LISTINGS IN JUL

ACTIVE LISTINGS IN DEC

39 ↑ High

10 ↓ Low



**BRI SECVIAR**

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**JOHN & BARBARA HARRIMAN**

**408.656.8209**

Barbara.Harriman@sereno.com

John - DRE 01903724

Barbara - DRE 01389088

sereno —



# nature

## Being Ready for the Unexpected Bruce Sudweeks

I was a Boy Scout and a Boy Scout leader for more than 25 years. The Boy Scout motto, *Be Prepared*, is always on my mind.

SCUBA diving can be dangerous if you are not prepared. It is a good idea to check the swell report, tide tables, weather report, and other details before diving. About seventy percent of my dives are at night after work. I enjoy night dives, but they require extra preparation. I specialize in using underwater camera equipment, so one of the decisions is whether to use a wide-angle or macro-camera setup.

On this trip I decided to go hunting for small critters, so I used my macro-camera setup. My dive buddy did the same. Our plan was to photograph small, interesting sea creatures. The dive went well. We saw many interesting subjects to photograph.

I had a strange sensation that felt like a semi-trailer was passing me in slow motion. I listened for passing boats but heard no motors. After checking my surroundings, I saw a colorful sea slug to photograph. After taking a few shots I signaled my dive buddy and he began taking photographs, too.

I turned away to look for my next subject, but I stopped when I saw a gray wall. It took me a moment to realize that the gray wall was a baby whale about 25 feet long.

It was a great opportunity, but I couldn't take a picture, because I didn't have the right setup. I had to simply relax and enjoy the moment.

When I signaled my dive buddy, he was too busy photographing a sea slug. I don't have a baby grey whale photograph to share, but I can show you a colorful sea slug.



*Elephant seals and a gopher snake by Mercury Freedom*





*Sunbeams breaking through the clouds by Dorian Merritt*



*Surfer by Bruce Fournier*



# exploring

## A cool winter hike Fremont Older Open Space Preserve in Saratoga Neil Wiley

A group of young boys left a Boy Scout troop to form their own unofficial Explorer Post sixty-eight years ago. I was one of them. Instead of chasing merit badges, we just wanted to hike. We were always looking for challenges, including wandering through private property, riding railroad boxcars, hunting for snakes, and sliding down a toboggan slide without a toboggan. One such adventure took place in Dan Ryan Woods Preserve in Chicago, on a winter day with temperatures hovering around zero degrees F.

The pond looked frozen. But, as we skated across without skates, our leader broke through the ice. By the time we got him out, he was freezing. We were miles from a road. We broke into a cabin, found some firewood, and heated him enough to save his life.

As you might expect, this experience has made me cautious about winter hikes, even here in sunny California. I was looking for a good place to explore when the temperature is in the thirties and cold rain is a possibility.

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve is a good winter choice. It offers 14.7 miles of trail over 732 acres. Most of the trails are in

full sun. The uphill climbs are steep enough to keep you warm, but gentle enough to avoid heart failure. It's all worth it to see the rolling green hills so beautiful in winter. Even better, the distant views of the entire peninsula are crisp and clear with less smog.

I saw no frozen ponds, but I did walk along a shallow creek on Creekside Trail. If the weather changes, it is only a few miles back to your car and Saratoga restaurants.

Of course, nothing is perfect. I didn't experience rain or lightning, but they could be dangerous in this open environment. Also, Fremont Older has limited facilities—one primitive porta potty, no running water, and a limited parking area that barely serves 21 vehicles. When I drove in at 8:30 a.m., I saw lots of spaces, but when I returned at noon, the lot was full, and cars were parked along the nearby roads. (Two women begged me for my parking space.) Although more parking is available in the adjacent Stevens Creek County Park, it's a long walk. You'll have better luck early on a weekday.

The Hunter's Point Loop offers a nice, moderate hike when you don't have time for

a day-long trip. You can hike the 3.1-mile loop in two to three hours. All the views are nice, but the prize is the summit of 945-foot Hunter's Point. Although not as high as our mountains, the hill offers a 360-degree view, displaying the entire peninsula, Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, the East Bay hills, San Francisco Bay, our own Mount Umunhum/Loma Prieta range, the Saratoga foothills, and the coastal range. On a clear day it is spectacular. And even if you don't like scenery, Hunter's Point is a good place to talk with fellow hikers.

The easy-to-climb hills to Hunter's Point offer little challenge for families and leashed dogs, but my fear of cold made the climb a little difficult. It didn't help that I was wearing four layers of clothing. By the time I reached the top, I noticed that many people were wearing T-shirts and unitards.

Bikers and equestrians may find this trail too short. You can extend the hike by continuing down Hayfield Trail west to Coyote Ridge Trail and the 1180-foot Maisie's Peak.

Another popular trail is the 2.6-mile Seven







Springs Trail Loop. It has more scenic views. The elevation gain is 561 feet.

The longer Parker Ranch Trail to Nob Hill Loop is 4.2 miles out and back, with an elevation gain of 830 feet. If you want even more adventure, visit nearby Stevens Creek County Park or Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve.

The house built by editor Fremont Older is still standing, but is now a private residence. Public tours, when available, are scheduled by Midpeninsula Open Space.

**Limitations.** When conditions are too wet, the Toyon and Wedding trails are closed to bicyclists and equestrians. Dogs are welcome on leash, but leash laws are strict. For what it's worth, the *BringFido* guest rating is 4.3 out of 5 bones. Don't forget potable water and containers for you and your dog.

**Directions.** Parking is located off Prospect Road in Saratoga. Take Highway 17 to northbound 85, and then turn left on De Anza Boulevard. Drive about a half mile, and then turn right on Prospect Road. At the first stop sign, turn slightly left and cross the railroad tracks to remain on Prospect Road. Follow Prospect Road for 1.3 miles. Prospect makes a few turns. You'll go past the Saratoga Country Club to the preserve parking lot.

For your GPS, use the address 22898 Prospect Road, Saratoga, California 95070. For preserve information, call 650-691-1200, email [info@openspace.org](mailto:info@openspace.org), or visit [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org).

I recommend bringing a paper map, compass, or a trail app for your phone. Although signage is good, curving trails and many intersections can be confusing. Bring a jacket, hat, and gloves in case of cold or rain, and water in case you get too warm.

Don't let the winter keep you inside. Get out and hike.





# history

## Marlene's Mountain History Archive Books Neil Wiley

We have been adding treasures to the Mountain History Archive for over forty years. Books are among my favorite exhibits because they cover specific subjects in detail. They have the depth that we can't present through a series of articles. Books may be less cool than the Internet, but they can pack more detailed, organized content.

Here are some books that reflect past times in the Santa Cruz Mountains:

One of the first books I read about our mountain community was Stephen Payne's *A Howling Wilderness: A History of the Summit Road Area of the Santa Cruz Mountains*. Stephen is a key member of the Loma Prieta History Museum. He grew up here, and he still lives in nearby Felton.

In 1974, he took a history course at Cabrillo College from the well-known "history dude" Sandy Lydon, a history professor at Cabrillo College. Stephen wrote a paper about the mountain pioneer Lyman Burrell that became the cornerstone of his master's thesis at San Jose State University and led to publication of his first book. It concentrated on the pioneering period from 1850 to 1908.

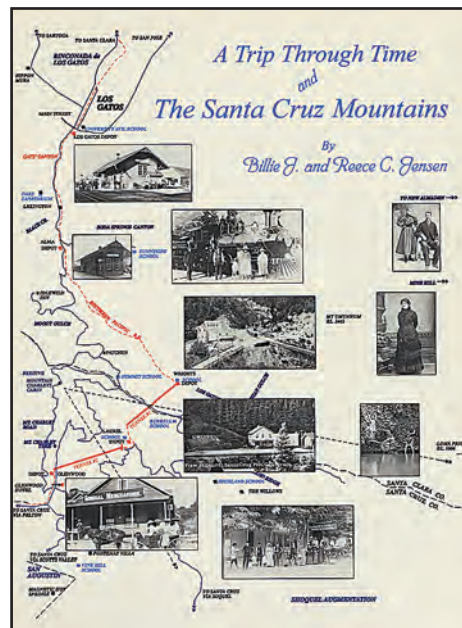
Published by Loma Prieta Publishing Company in 1978, the book is now out of



Stephen Payne

print, but you should be able to find it by searching local county and college libraries. It's a great introduction to mountain history. Stephen told me that he plans to republish the book soon.

Billie J. and Reese C. Jensen's *A Trip Through Time and The Santa Cruz Mountains* was published by Ghostly Gallimaufry in 1994. The authors cover many of the same stories from the same period as *Howling Wilderness*, but their major contribution is more than ninety large



photographs, maps, and other visuals.

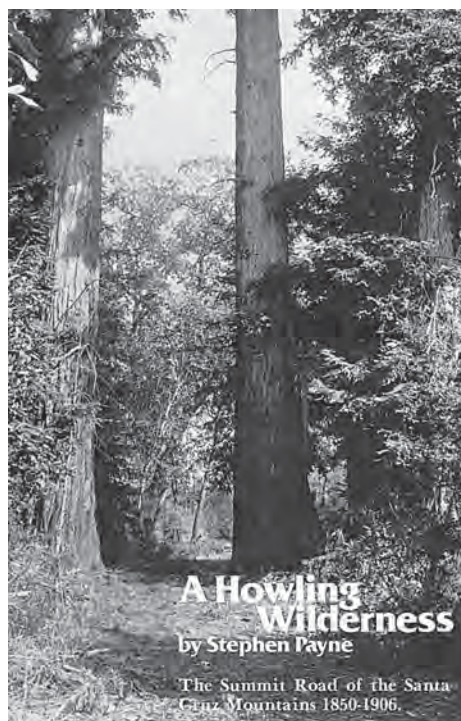
William A. Wulf is known as the unofficial historian of Los Gatos. We published his *A History of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Early Los Gatos* as a series of articles in *Mountain Network News*. He gave Marlene many gifts of history for her archive. I appreciate and share his dedication to history and community. Copies of the collected articles should be available at the Los Gatos Public Library.



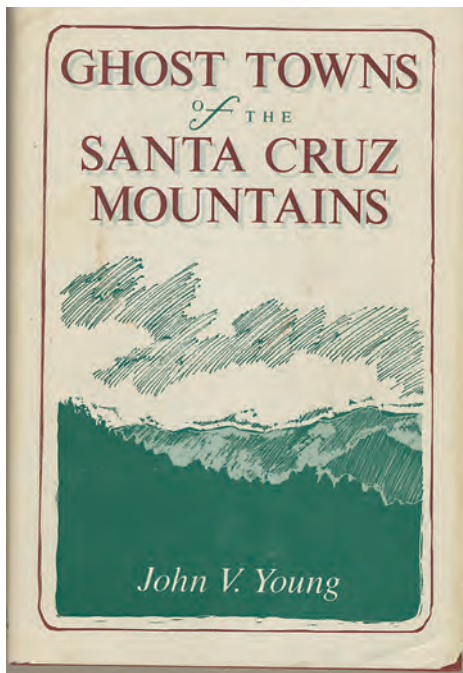
William Wulf



A young cub reporter, John V. Young, wrote a series of Sunday features for the *San Jose Mercury Herald*, beginning in April 1934. They were entitled *Ghost Towns of the Santa Cruz Mountains*. He talked to old-timers, read old diaries, and researched histories. Readers loved the true stories, tall tales, and local history that became a book in 1979. The chapter titles: Mountain Charley, More Bear Fights, The Summit District, Patchen, The Railroad, the Village of Burrell, Austrian Gulch and Germantown, Along White Wash Alley, Skyland and Highland, Buffalo Jones and John C. Fremont, Lexington Begins, The



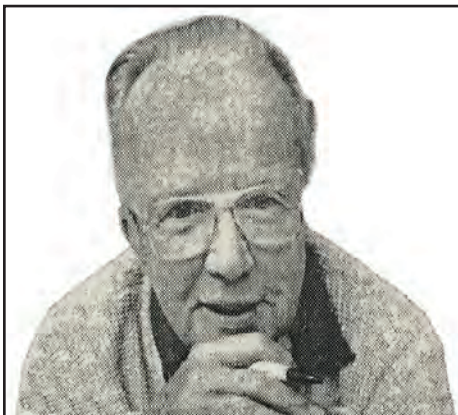




History of Alma, The Tevis Estate of Alma, and Glenwood. As the author said in his postscript: "The hamlets of these stories represent only a fragment of the Santa Cruz Mountains, but a vital fragment rich in lore and legend."

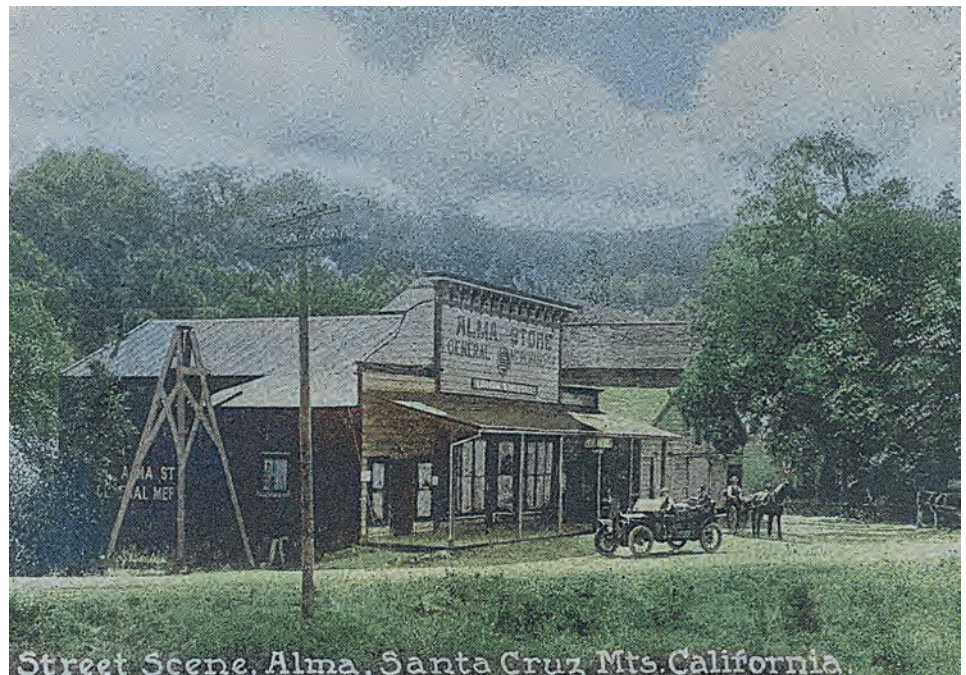
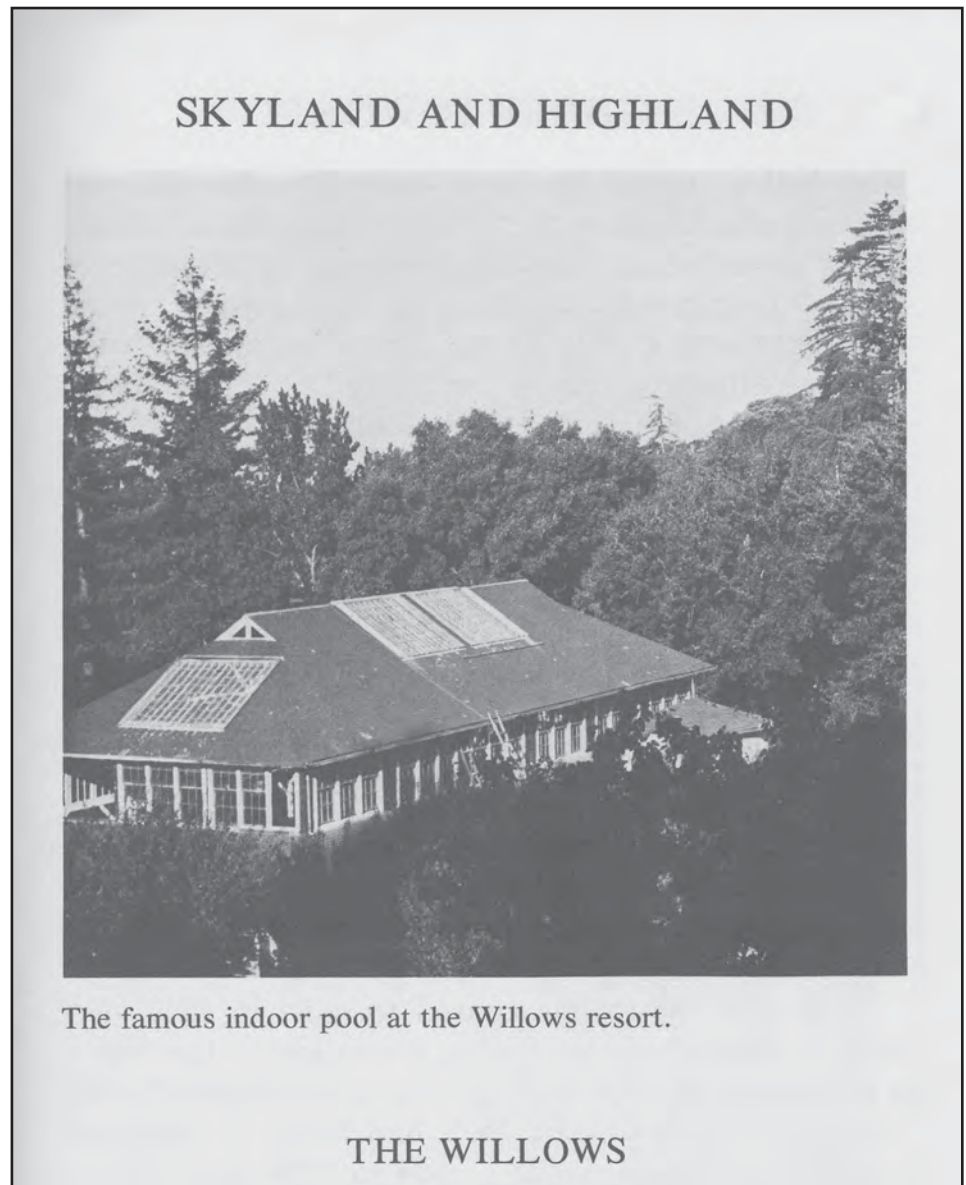
The book was published by Paper Vision Press, Santa Cruz, California. This book may still be available in local bookstores and online.

*This is the tip  
of the iceberg.  
In future issues,  
we plan to show you  
many other mountain  
stories from books,  
articles, and unique  
history projects.*



John V. Young

february 2022



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

page 25



# **schools**

## **Lexington School** Deanna Wilk

The last moments of school before the holiday break were filled with students jumping through snowflakes in their pajamas. Our Home and School Club fired up its snow machine again—operated by none other than Frosty the Snowman—and filled the air with plump white flakes of magic. This year, our caroling third-graders added their sweet voices to the festive atmosphere, singing *Feliz Navidad*, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *Let It Snow*, and *Hanukkah O Hanukkah*. Third-graders had practiced many songs with musician and parent Ruth Gerson, who thoroughly enjoyed leading the enthusiastic singers. Our HSC made the send-off extra sweet, giving packages of homemade cookies to parents as they picked up their children.

Earlier in the week, on December 13, it wasn't snowflakes falling, but rain, just in time for our outdoor fourth- and fifth-grade winter concert. As principal Mr. Deppong said, "Rain didn't cancel Woodstock in 1969, and a torrential downpour didn't cancel our winter concert."

The band aptly performed *Rain, Rain* and *Au Claire De La Lune*. The choir sang *Himmel und Erde* and *Peaceful Night*, and our orchestra performed *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* by Mozart and *Jingle Bells*, among many other songs. Parents enjoyed and supported our resilient musicians for their memorable performances. Thank you to music teachers Ana George, Alyson Ancheta, and Aryn Krijnen, our amazing







students, and One Community LG, which funds our music program.

Third-graders researched several winter holidays—Christmas, Kwanzaa, Solstice, Pancha Ganapati, Hanukkah—and shared what they learned with fellow students at our last assembly of 2021. It was a great way to head into the holidays, recognizing the various ways people celebrate, and seeing the common holiday themes of caring, generosity, and nurturing family and friends.

That theme filled classrooms during festive holiday parties and especially the Secret Santa exchange. Each student picked a name out of a hat and made a homemade gift for another student. Menageries, clay animals, sewn dolls, and toys made out of foam, clay pots, and other recycled materials




were some of the thoughtful and lovingly crafted gifts students made for each other.

The first week of January saw more COVID-19 cases, but Lexington remains open to in-person learning. Testing is available to students, their families, and staff at the district office. Close contacts of positive cases are notified to be tested.

Thank you to those who are testing voluntarily, masking indoors, and isolating when testing positive. Our individual efforts are enabling in-person learning to continue.

Lexington's school play resumes in-person. Support our young thespians on **February 16 and 17** as they perform *Alice in Neverland*, directed by our theatrical librarian Barbara Lougée. Watch as a modern-day Alice follows the white rabbit down a rabbit hole, and finds herself in Peter Pan's Neverland. How will she enlist the help of the unpredictable and squabbling characters inhabiting Neverland to get her home? It's not easy, but it's lots of fun. For tickets and details, visit [lexhsc.org](http://lexhsc.org).

*Photos by Jason Deppong and Hayley Brodeur*



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# schools

## Lakeside School Community Foundation Holly Stewart

Before our holiday break in December, Lakeside students enjoyed the return of the Rojelio Dance Academy. This was the first dance academy and performance since March 2020. Our transitional-kindergarten through fifth-grade students practiced and mastered many dance moves while exploring their athleticism, rhythm, and gross-motor skills. The weeklong academy, which has been conducted at Lakeside for more than a decade, culminated in a lively, limited, in-person evening performance.

The expressions of joy on the children's



faces indicated that this was a highlight of their year. Your donations to Lakeside School Community Foundation make the Rojelio Dance Academy possible.

We thank the hardworking teachers and staff of Lakeside who helped the children learn their routines, and were flexible in scheduling to accommodate the academy.

We also appreciate our volunteers, including Eric Horton, Toby Horton, and Brian Demers for setting up the sound and lighting; Dr. Joyce for recording the performance; and Shama Marshall, Cody Franks, and Toby Propp for preparing seating and the stage. Finally, to the family members, thank you for coming out to celebrate the children's hard work.

LSCF is currently recruiting new board and voting members for the upcoming year, starting July 2022. We thank the board members who plan to step down after their current term, after serving countless volunteer hours for many years. We hope new parents and community members will step up and contribute to help shape the school, the enrichment curriculum, and events. Please email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org) to express interest or ask questions.

Our January Dine Out fundraiser will be at Asian Box, in the Pruneyard Shopping Center, in Campbell on **Monday, January 31**. Provide our flyer to your server and 20 percent of all food and beverage sales will be donated to LSCF. Flyers are available in the Lakeside school office, or at [www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers](http://www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers). Our February Dine Out will be at Willow Street Pizza, Los Gatos, on **Monday, February 28**. Visit [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org) for more information.

COVID-19 and weather-permitting, we will hold a free PG-rated movie night on **Friday, February 4**, at 6 p.m. Plan on dressing warmly as it will be held outside. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. Masks will be required when not actively eating or drinking. Fifth-graders will sell popcorn, cheese and pepperoni pizza,



**VAN KOL** 701-690-0091  
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drinks, and sweet and salty snacks, to raise funds for science camp. Please check [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org) for the most up-to-date information.

The children of Lakeside will once again participate in a Read-a-Thon. Our kickoff for pledge requests is **Friday, February 11**, via Pledgestar, an online pledge-request system. Our students will read from February 28 through March 4 to coincide with Read Across America. If you receive a pledge request from a Lakeside student, consider making a donation. All money raised goes toward our fundraising goal of almost \$132,000 this year to support science, art, physical education, dance, music, gardening, counseling, teacher stipends, and more.

LSCF will hold our annual auction, our biggest fundraiser of the year, in a hybrid format. From **Wednesday, April 20, through Saturday, April 23**, we will hold our silent auction online. The live-auction event will be in the evening of **April 23**. We are hopeful that the current COVID-19 surge will be over, and that we will be able to spend an evening of fun together, bidding on wonderful items, and raising funds to benefit the students of Lakeside School.

LSCF is seeking volunteers from our community. Please see our list of auction-related-volunteer spots at <https://www.lakesidescf.org/volunteer> and email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org) to express interest or ask questions.



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# schools

## **Building Blocks Preschool Enrollment and Fundraising Kickoff** Alexandra Hughmanick

Building Blocks staff and families are gearing up for our 2022 fundraising campaign and 2022/23 enrollment. We are a co-op preschool, which means parents operate the school. This special place is unique in our community and offers a loving, nurturing, and adventurous place for our children to learn and play.

Each year we raise money for the Building Blocks annual fund that provides all teaching supplies and activities. It also underwrites operational costs and scholarships for families in need. Please consider supporting our local mountain preschool.

We are partnering with Bonfire, an online T-shirt fundraising platform, to create "Mountain Kid" shirts in a variety of baby, youth, and adult styles. The logo was created with love for our mountain community. All proceeds go directly to Building Blocks.

In addition, we're fortunate that Shred Dog, a high-performance, consumer-direct outdoor outfitter for children



and adults, is offering 15 percent off apparel and 15 percent of proceeds to benefit the school when you use the code BUILDINGBLOCKS. Our website has more details. Shred Dog is owned

and operated by mountain residents and Building Blocks families.

Support from our community makes a huge difference. We are grateful for your contributions. Check out the Building



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Blocks website: [www.buildingblockscoop.org/shop](http://www.buildingblockscoop.org/shop).

For more links to our Bonfire and Shred Dog fundraisers, and other ways to support our school, watch for more exciting opportunities in the spring, including a raffle for amazing prizes. We also hope we can safely host some in-person community events.

Current families can enroll beginning **January 31**. Enrollment for new families begins **February 14**. Due to COVID-19, we won't have an open house, but teachers will offer private campus tours and be available to answer questions. Families can direct their questions to [membership\\_bb@lpcf.org](mailto:membership_bb@lpcf.org), or visit [www.buildingblockscoop.org/admissions](http://www.buildingblockscoop.org/admissions).



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# schools



## Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School Raffle

Amanda Demers

It's time for LGSONS' annual winter raffle. This year, we're offering two amazing outdoor-focused prizes.

The first option is a family vacation to Joshua Tree for four nights and five days, including national park passes. This off-the-grid model home is minutes from the National Park Boundary, and a ten-minute drive to the park entrance. The wonder and awe of Joshua Tree awaits you and your



family. Joshua Tree is nature's best playground for children, climbers, and stargazers.

The second raffle option is an ultimate outdoor-adventure package, complete with everything to make your outdoor dreams come true. The package includes gift cards for REI and Sports Basement, a set of two camping chairs, water bottles, a huge Patagonia gear package, and a California State Park day-use pass to get out and



explore. Enjoy everything you need for family time spent outdoors.

Fundraising efforts make up 20 percent of our school's annual budget. We cannot operate without the generosity of our community to help keep our doors open. All proceeds benefit Mountain School's general fund to support school improvements, curriculum, staff development, and more.

To purchase tickets, email [fundraising@lgsons.org](mailto:fundraising@lgsons.org), or scan the QR code below with your phone. In your email, indicate how many tickets you would like, and the raffle prize you would like. You can split your tickets across both prizes.

If you are interested in learning more about Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School (LGSONS), visit us online at [www.lgsons.org](http://www.lgsons.org), email [info@lgsons.org](mailto:info@lgsons.org), or join us for our open house on **Sunday, January 30**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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### Loma Prieta Joint Union School District School News

Charlotte Khandlwahl

Happy Valentine's Day to the mountain community from Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools.

We are so grateful for the love and commitment of our community over the years to support the education of our children. Many people continue to share their love and talents with us long after their children have graduated and moved on to college and beyond. We are delighted

to announce that one local mountain superchef, Craig Ponkey, will stir tasty things up in our commercial kitchen to allow us to offer healthy, fresh lunches to students. Longtime mountain residents will remember Chef Ponkey as the wizard behind many tasty meals at Theatre in the Mountain productions, or for his years as chef at Dio Dekka in town.

Thanks to his talent at the helm, we can offer (for a fee) lunches to all students on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning February 1. He will need volunteers, as he plans for all meals to be made from scratch. If you have a few hours and love cooking, laughter, and camaraderie, email Cathy Vance at [c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us](mailto:c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us) to sign up and make it possible.

District parents will find tempting menus and additional information coming soon on how to use MySchoolBucks, an online payment option associated with PowerSchool, on our district website, and in the weekly Wednesday News, posted on our website to review.

Plans are still underway to meet next year's state requirement of providing meals for breakfast and lunch for all students in transitional-kindergarten through eighth-grades next school year. Stay tuned for future updates.



### Loma Prieta School District Enrollment for 2022-2023 Superintendent Kevin Grier

It is time to register your child for kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. We also welcome the enrollment of all new students to our schools.

To help us prepare for your child's arrival in August 2022, we ask that you complete the online registration process now. Visit the district website at [www.loma.k12.ca.us](http://www.loma.k12.ca.us). From the home page, select the *For Parents* tab across the top banner and then select *Student Registration*. At the end of the online registration process, print and complete a few forms by hand, and submit some additional hard-copy documentation to Julie Bourque, secretary at C.T. English Middle School.

New legislation may make transitional kindergarten available to all students at the age of four. Your input will help us anticipate TK program needs.

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