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*April 2022*





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**Lisa Sgarlato**  
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Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

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**Lisa Sgarlato**  
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Santa Cruz



**209 Vista Prieta Court Unit 209**  
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Classified and business directory	\$9 per formatted line

#### Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses  
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



#### COVER

Photography by Bruce Fournier

#### The Egret

To tell a great egret  
from a snowy  
is not a great feat.

Just look at their greatness  
and look at  
their feet.

The snowy egret  
has feet  
that are yellow.

The great's black feet  
carry a much  
greater fellow.

But look at the  
snowy we show  
you today.

A hunter  
ready to spear lunch  
in his very own way.

It may seem  
a reflection,  
but it could be  
something to eat.

So snapping it up with  
a sharp-pointed beak,  
it holds on  
with bright-yellow feet.

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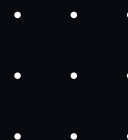


## 22800 Summit Road

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**Offered at \$650,000**



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## resources



### **Laurel Curve Highway 17 Wildlife Undercrossing** Neil Wiley

Why did the mountain lion cross the road? Because he could go under it.

Animals and humans will soon be safer on Highway 17's Laurel Curve. The wildlife undercrossing is under construction. Work extends from 6/10 of a mile south to 2/10 of a mile north of Laurel Road.

The first phase of work focused on removing the concrete barrier between travel lanes, grinding and paving the road, and placing a temporary guardrail. Travel is switched to a newly paved roadway closer to the center guardrail. K-rail is being placed near the road's shoulders. This allows crews to work behind a protective concrete barrier.

It took the support of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, various resource agencies, and Caltrans to make this project happen. More than 460 acres of mostly undeveloped land on both sides of the highway have been preserved in a conservation easement by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. This lack

of development and a large natural drainage make this a good place for animals to cross under the highway. Changes in the design, materials, and safety features will also make it safer for drivers.

The contractor for this \$5.4 million project is Graniterock. Their work should be completed by the end of July 2022. The total cost of the entire project will be about \$12 million. It should be worth the cost.

According to Caltrans, "Laurel Curve is the deadliest section of Highway 17 for wildlife." Collisions with vehicles between 2012 and 2017 killed approximately 250 animals on Highway 17. The 85-foot-long wildlife underpass will save the lives of mountain lions, deer, bobcats, foxes, skunks, and other animals.

What about people? For years, Laurel Curve's break in the cement barrier allowed left-hand turns. It was a dangerous convenience.

In nine months of 2010, over 150 crashes took place on this non-barrier stretch of highway. In 2012, a Nissan Altima driver lost control on the wet pavement and swerved into oncoming traffic. The two-car accident resulted in a death.

Caltrans responded with a temporary median barrier and a high-friction surface treatment. Although this eliminated head-on crashes, many drivers have lost control on this curve. A sign indicates drivers' speed. I watched the traffic for almost 15 minutes. Not one driver passing that sign obeyed the posted limit.

The animals may be smart enough to use the underpass, but if humans continue to drive too fast and pay too little attention, Caltrans must find a way to control driver behavior or rely on driverless cars.

### **South Skyline FireSafe Council 2022 Spring Chipping Program** Ed Hayes

The South Skyline FireSafe Council offers free brush chipping for defensible-space clearing and fuel reduction around properties. Applications must be submitted by **Thursday, April 15**. To apply, visit our website at [www.southskylinefiresafe.org](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org). Your home must be within the SSFSC boundaries, and brush piles must be stacked properly (see the checklist at our website). Brush piles will be inspected one week prior to the start date for chipping. We can't chip branches on new construction or commercial sites. For more information, email Ed Hayes at [edandcarolynhayes@gmail.com](mailto:edandcarolynhayes@gmail.com), or call 408-872-1715.

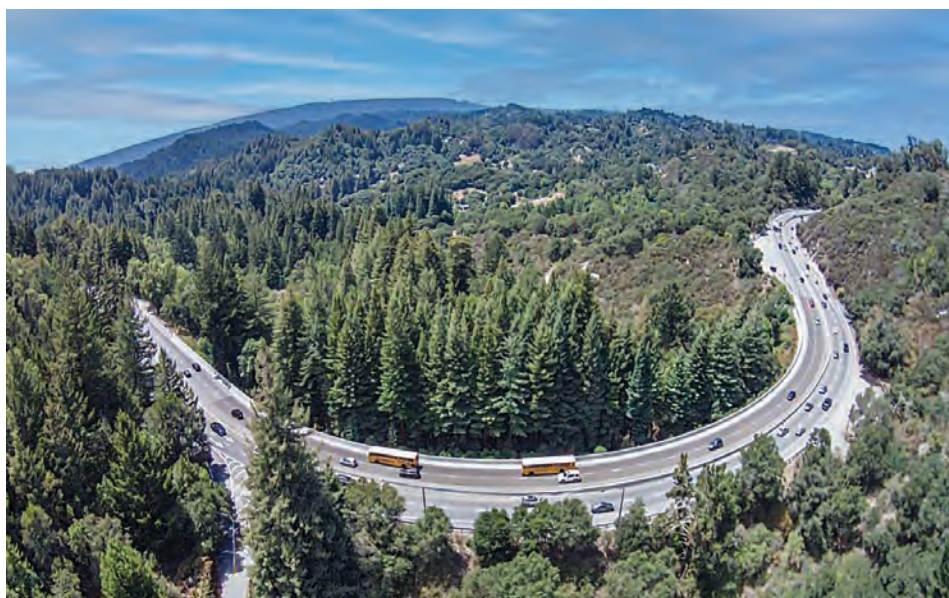
### **First District News** Manu Koenig

Santa Cruz County supervisor

**Active Transportation Plan.** The County of Santa Cruz Active Transportation Plan calls for projects to make it easier and safer to walk and bike on county roadways. It is the first comprehensive plan for future pedestrian facilities in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The plan identifies community needs, as well as recommendations for infrastructure projects and programs for walking and biking. This plan is a partnership between the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, Public Health Department, Ecology Action, and Bike Santa Cruz County. The project is funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant and local matching funds.

**Greenway Initiative Analysis.** In February, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors requested an analysis of the Santa Cruz County Greenway Initiative. The analysis addresses the initiative's potential fiscal impact, adherence to planning and zoning rules, land use, infrastructure, and the community's ability to attract business investment. To view or download a copy of the report, go to [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us), and look under "news and announcements."

The report includes background information about the Greenway Initiative, and a description of railbanking. On March 8, the board of supervisors voted to accept and file the report and adopt a resolution to place the Santa Cruz County Greenway Initiative on the ballot for the next general election on June 7.





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**17300 Weaver Road  
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Lovely 4 bedroom mountain home with sweeping views of the ocean and Santa Cruz mountains on 40 acres. Surrounded by open space with privacy. Amenities include pool, tennis court, and separate oversized garage/workshop. Truly an estate property.

**910 Pinecrest Drive  
Boulder Creek, CA 95006  
\$449,000**

Imagine building your dream home on this private 5+ acres of rolling hills property. Upper and lower portions of property have been cleared and are ready for many uses. The home burned in the CZU fire. Great way to be part of rebuilding this neighborhood.



**23589 Skyview Terrace  
Los Gatos, CA 95033  
\$299,500**

Located in the Villa Del Monte community in Los Gatos, this property consists of 3 parcels which totals 3.5 acres. One of which has potential for a flat building site and the other has great views with little tree work.

**363 Orchard Hill Road San  
Juan Bautista, CA 95045  
\$995,000**

Beautiful 17.75 acres with approved Map for three parcels. Two 5 acre parcels and a 7 acre parcel. Perfect for a developer/builder or a family that wants to be close together. A great deal of potential can be found right here. Beautiful views out over the valley & hills.



**18805 Bear Creek Road,  
Los Gatos 95033**

**2.43 Acres | 5,726 SF  
6 Bed | 7.5 Bath  
\$5,345,000**

**Additional lots priced at  
\$1,745,000 & \$1,945,000  
Totals 7.77 Acres!**



Welcome to 18850 Bear Creek Road! Nestled in the redwoods, this 5,726 SF Generational Chalet Style Home on 2.4 acres is surrounded Vineyards and Open Space. Consisting of 6 bedrooms and 7 1/2 bathrooms, it's just 3 minutes to downtown Los Gatos. Amazing views of Vineyards, Lexington Reservoir and Downtown SJ. Amenities include a Gym, Wine Cellar, Home Theater, Security System, Chef's Kitchen, Elevator, and a 1,088 SF Garage. Highest quality of custom construction with amenities and comforts galore. Additional 668 square feet designated for living space. Can be purchased with the lots on either side of this home for a total of almost 8 acres and 2 additional approved home sites.



**Keith & Shelly Kanady**

Broker Associate  
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**KTP** KANADY TEAM  
PROPERTIES

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# resources

## Pots and Planters

Tish O'Reilly

Although repetition by its very name is repetitious, in the garden, repetitive planting can be relaxing and lovely.

Let's talk about garden pots. With spring coming, a shopping excursion to the nursery can be delightful, but overwhelming. When considering new potted plants, or refreshing existing pots, they need good soil, drainage, and healthy plants for either sun or shade, depending on where you place them.

When choosing a pot, and planning on multiple plants in each one, plants prefer to be repotted into a container a size or two larger than the one they are now in. Any larger than that and the plants get confused and take longer to root themselves.

Here's another hint: if a plant description

calls for full-to-partial sun, it means that morning sun is best.

If it's a single plant per container for a more formal statement, or two or three plants per pot for a colorful display, choose plants that will grow to various heights. This allows each of them room to be seen. The professionals call this the thriller, filler, and spiller.

With a variety planting, have at least one or two of these plants the same for each pot. This does several things. First, the eye begins to relax as it recognizes the familiar



or repetitive plants. Second, there is a feeling of abundance or space as the eye looks from one pot to another. Whether the pots are placed outside your living room and kitchen windows, on the landings of your stairways, or meandering across your property, garden repetition allows the eye to focus and then release as it moves from container to container, adding to a more expansive view.

The same plants in your potted planters can be planted in your garden beds. Combinations of miscanthus, erigeron, plumbago, pomegranate, boxwood, or cistus are very low water users. Year after year, these deer- and drought-resistant beauties will give you the fullness of a well-planted blooming landscape.

You can find me in the garden.



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**4250 Nova Drive, Santa Cruz, CA ♦ \$2,695,000  
5 Beds ♦ 3 Baths ♦ 2,800 SqFt ♦ 6,839 SqFt Lot**



Turn-key Opal Cliffs Executive home with incredible ocean views situated in one of the hottest neighborhoods in Santa Cruz. Just minutes away from world-class surf spots, Jade St Park, crowd favorite restaurants like Zameen, Süda, and East Side Eatery, plus easy access to everyday amenities like grocery and hardware stores. The house features a spacious 5 bed/3 baths with an ideal floor plan with the majority of the sleeping quarters on the second floor, away from the common areas except for one bedroom, perfect for visitors. The primary suite, located upstairs, has a private deck with ocean views and overlooks the lush backyard, an oversized shower with bench seating, and has tons of storage space in the walk-in closet. Downstairs features 2 bedrooms as well. Offering the best of California living with outdoor living areas in both the front and back yard. Cozy up in front of the gas-powered fire pit in the front yard and enjoy a glass of wine while watching the sunset over the gorgeous pacific ocean or play a rousing game of corn hole with your neighbors. A true gardener's paradise, full to the brim with flowers of every kind! This unbeatable microclimate ensures beauty and bounty all year long!

**4250novadr.com**

**Jayson Mandani**  
*Founder, Realtor®*  
DRE# 01431948

831.234.6683  
jayson@roomsantacruz.com  
roomrealestate.com





# community

## The Summit/Highland Shaded Fuel Break

David Fullagar and  
Larry Lopp

The first phase of the Summit/Highland shaded fuel break has been funded with a grant from CalFire of about \$1.3 million. The work will be administered by the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County.

Work will start at the east end of the corridor, at the junction of Highland and Mt. Bache, and proceed west. We expect that the grant will allow work to be completed as far as the Loma Prieta school district property. We are seeking additional funding to complete work on Summit Road all the way to Highway 17.

We have received permission forms to allow work from more than 35 percent of parcel owners along the Summit Road-Highland Way corridor. Among landowners at the east end of the corridor, where we expect to begin work by late May, the percentage is close to 80 percent.

Ben Abeln is spearheading the effort to contact property owners in person, and has received a positive response from most

people he has contacted. He found the March *Mountain Network News* coverage to be very helpful. Everyone who read the article understood the importance of a shaded fuel break and supported the project.

For this project to be successful, we need close to 100 percent of landowners to sign the permission form. In the coming weeks, Ben will make additional visits to homeowners who have not yet signed the permission forms. This project will not interfere with a homeowner's responsibility to create landscaping and defensible space around their homes. The shaded fuel break stops where your landscaping and defensible space starts.

Creating a shaded fuel break along this critical corridor will provide an escape route for mountain residents in a fire or other emergency, as well as providing access for first-responders. Scan the QR code here to access a link to FAQs.



Scan this QR code to obtain more information and answers to FAQs



## Write a Poem Jen Siraganian

My name is Jen Siraganian. I'm the current Los Gatos Poet Laureate. One of the most important duties of a poet laureate is to encourage the public to read and write poetry. To this end, and in celebration of National Poetry Month, I am thrilled to announce the first annual Los Gatos Poetry Contest for children, teens, and adults.

As mountain residents, we are blessed to be surrounded by nature's poetry: wild turkeys walking through the yard, a sea of fog filling the valley, and the silhouette of

**Whether You Are Buying or Selling, Choose a Knowledgeable, Reputable Broker to Represent You! Exciting new listings coming up in all price ranges! Call me for an update.**



**Boulder Creek Beauty!** 2-storey home on nearly 5 acres featuring eat-in kitchen plus formal dining/family room, separate office, laundry hookups, detached garage, and much more. Beautiful, usable yard, with towering redwoods, fruit trees, and garden area. Near Big Basin Park, but had no fire damage. A bargain! Call for details.



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**

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redwoods against a streaky pink sunset. We have a tradition of poetry writing in the mountains. When Sara Bard Field purchased The Cats estate in 1919, she established a poet's cottage.

I encourage the readers of *Mountain Network News* to summon their inner poet by writing a poem and submitting it to the Los Gatos Poetry Contest. In addition to winning an opportunity to read your work at a special reading hosted by the Los Gatos Library in April, prizes have been donated by several Los Gatos establishments, such as Forbes Mill, Great Bear Coffee, Loma Brewing Company, and Wooden Horse.

Contest entries are due **Friday, April 1**. More information is available at <https://forms.gle/xfVx1aiaAtvCpoNm6>, or by scanning the QR code in the contest flyer below. Grab a pen and write a poem.

If you have children, don't miss Storywalk in Oak Meadow Park, made possible with help from The Friends of the Los Gatos Library. I was thrilled to select *Kiyoshi's Walk*, written by Mark Karlins and illustrated by Nicole Wong. I'll read the book and host a children's haiku lesson in April.

If you have questions, or want to hear about upcoming events, email [poet@losgatosca.gov](mailto:poet@losgatosca.gov).

### 8 pm, Los Gatos, California Jen Siraganian

At first, an echo seeps  
through redwoods,  
a noise-glimmer across 17,  
a high-pitched teen-yell  
or wine-dripped laughter,  
until a howl responds to another.

My three-year-old in a diaper  
and Snoopy pajama top bangs  
on glass until escaping to the deck.  
His brother stumbles behind,  
bedtime on hold. Fists clench,  
mouths stretch into Os.

A dog joins in, sometimes  
a turkey mistakes us for mating calls.  
We merge, a patchwork of fog  
and loneliness. My San Francisco  
friends yell for nurses, the mountains  
howl for no virtuous reason.

No, we howl because we've been  
inside for 22, 45, 67 days. We howl  
to forget for thirty seconds, maybe  
until 8:01, that we are caged  
and waiting to be released  
upon the world.

### New Book From a Mountain Resident **Journey Through Marathell** Lani Christianson

Santa Cruz Mountains resident Lani Christianson has published her first fantasy novel, *Journey Through Marathell*.

Kalen and her German shepherd, Tyler, leave their home in the Santa Cruz Mountains for a hike, and step into another world. Kalen

is pleased to find that she can now hear Tyler's thoughts, but where are they? Her priority is to find the way back—until Tyler disappears. Now her search for a way home becomes a search for her beloved dog. In her quest for Tyler, Kalen discovers who she really is.

Suitable for young adults and beyond, it's now available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle formats.



### A New Children's Book **Wildfire!** Misty Knightly

According to firefighters, there is no longer a wildfire season. We experience fire incidents throughout the year.

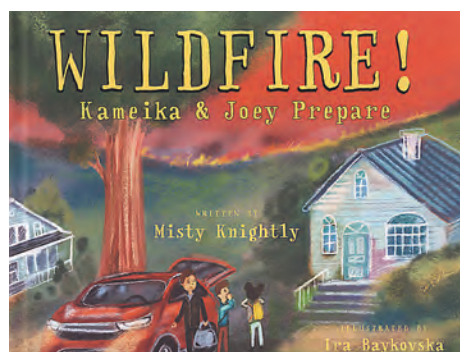
It's critical that we prepare and educate our children. *Wildfire! Kameika & Joey Prepare* is a new book that includes fact boxes, Q&A with a fire captain, and evacuation tips. Children can learn about go bags, defensible space, and making a fire-escape plan with Kameika and Joey. What does it mean when the fire-danger sign changes from low to high? What can you do to prepare and be safe?

Readers join Kameika and Joey as they prepare for a potential wildfire, then are told to evacuate to safer locations because of a nearby fire, and eventually, one of their homes is lost.

This book will start the conversation for families who live in wildfire-prone areas.

Joey and Kameika show kindness, support, and friendship throughout the story. Parents will appreciate the valuable message of compassion and empathy.

The book is available from Amazon, Ingram, libraries, and bookstores.



## LOS GATOS POETRY CONTEST

**DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2022**

JUDGED BY TOWN POET LAUREATE JEN SIRAGANIAN

First, Second, and Third Place will be awarded in the following categories:

- Youth (ages 0-12)
- Teens (ages 13-18)
- Adults (ages 19+)

Winners will be invited to a special reading hosted by the Los Gatos Library in April, National Poetry Month!

**Submit here:** <https://forms.gle/FYpUDEV1df29SQHm8>

Eligibility: Entries must be written by individuals who live, attend school, or work in Los Gatos. One entry per person.

Prizes include gift certificates and products from the following local sponsors: Azuca, Forbes Mill Steakhouse, Glazier, Gooseberry Designs, Great Bear Coffee, Loma Brewing Company, Oak and Rye, and The Wooden Horse

Questions? Email [poet@losgatosca.gov](mailto:poet@losgatosca.gov)



## events

### Theatre in the Mountains Who's in Whoville? Kiyoko Whiteside

Rehearsals for *Seussical, Jr.* are now underway. The cast of 39 third- through eighth-grade students is working hard to learn the music, staging, and choreography for our return production. After a two-year hiatus, these performers are enthusiastic about getting back on stage and presenting a fantastic show.

Theatre in the Mountains relies heavily on volunteer support from production families and community members. We appreciate those who have volunteered to build and paint sets. If you would like to be involved in this production in any way, join us for a set workshop, costume or prop-making, or for a performance weekend. Email [theatreinthemountains@gmail.com](mailto:theatreinthemountains@gmail.com).

Tickets will go on sale in April. Performances will be **Friday through Sunday, May 13 through 15**. Visit [www.theatreinthemountains.org](http://www.theatreinthemountains.org) for more information or to purchase tickets.



### CTE Home and School Club Spring Garden Fundraiser Lila Jones

Spring is in the air and it's time to plant flowers. Now is your chance to purchase bulbs, seeds, and other gardening supplies while benefiting the students and teachers at C.T. English Middle School.

The CTE Home and School Club has partnered with Flower Power to raise funds for teacher grants, teacher-appreciation events, and student activities.

Order your gladiolus, deer-resistant salvia, butterfly-flower mat, lilies, seeds, and other gardening supplies before **Sunday, May 15**. Orders begin shipping directly to you in early April.

To order, visit [www.flowerpowerfundraising.com](http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com), click on *Buy Bulbs & Help a Cause*, and enter CTE in the search box. If you have any questions, email [treasurer@ctehsc.org](mailto:treasurer@ctehsc.org).



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**Loma Prieta Club  
A Non-Picnic Fundraiser  
Susan Zerweck**

Sadly, we had to cancel another fabulous and fun Loma Prieta Club picnic at Radonich Ranch due to you know what. However, the wonderful, hard-working LPC ladies won't let COVID-19 stop them from raising funds for our community.

This year, you have an opportunity to win the vacation of your dreams in our getaway raffle. You could win a vacation at not one,



but six wonderful locations. They include three nights at Northstar at Tahoe plus \$500 cash; three nights at Aunt Ginny's River View Cottage on the Russian River; four nights at a beautiful Bodega Bay home with gorgeous ocean views; three nights at Whiskey Towers Ski-in, Ski-out Condo; a six-night escape to beautiful Kauai, plus \$1,000 toward airfare or rental car; or a one-week getaway to San Francisco's Historic Club Donatello.

Here is another opportunity to win. Our members have assembled 10 incredible baskets. Each is worth hundreds of dollars. Our Santa Cruz beach basket includes a night at the Dream Inn, rolling cooler, beach blanket, wine, and more. You could win a doggy basket with free pet sitting, or the ultimate garden basket with two \$150 gift certificates, a patio umbrella, and chairs.

For the getaway raffle, tickets are \$5 each, or five for \$20. For the basket raffle, tickets are \$1 each, or six for \$5. Tickets can be obtained from any Loma Prieta Club member. They will also be on sale at Summit Store on **four Fridays in April**, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Funds raised support local community needs and college scholarships for Los Gatos High School students. The drawing will be on **Wednesday, May 4**. For information, email [ralph\\_susan@comcast.net](mailto:ralph_susan@comcast.net).

**Building Blocks Preschool  
Raffle**

Leanna Lane

Support Building Blocks Preschool by participating in our raffle, with a chance to win great prizes. All money raised will support scholarships for local mountain children. Raffle prizes include 49ers and San Jose Sharks tickets, a Palm Springs weekend getaway, wine baskets from local wineries, a Summit Store wine/gift basket, a family photo shoot, Shred Dog and 49ers gear, a skin-care gift certificate, a succulent wreath, and tickets to Roaring Camp Railroads.

Tickets are \$10 each. Winners will be announced on **Saturday, April 30**. Purchase tickets online at <https://www.buildingblocksc.org/support>.



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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.

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 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.

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.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Wednesday, April 6

Spring IB parent night will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the Lexington School multi-purpose room. Staff will run several short, rotating workshops to explain the different aspects of our IB program.

### Thursday, April 7

A Loma/CTE concert in the Loma Prieta school gymnasium. The first show, from 6 to 6:30 p.m., is for Loma Prieta parents and family. The second show, from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m., is for parents and family of CTE band members. Shows are limited to family members for COVID safety.

### Thursday, April 14

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 through Saturday, April 20 to 23

Lakeside School Community Foundation holds a silent auction online at <https://lscf2022.ggo.bid>.

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### Monday, April 25

Lakeside School Community Foundation holds a dine-out fundraiser at Erik's Deli Cafe in Los Gatos. Print out a flyer at [www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers](http://www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers), and 20 percent of your purchase will be donated to LSCF.

### Thursday, April 28

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.

### April 29 through May 1

Celebrate Arbor Day by joining the South Skyline Sudden Oak Death blitz. It's easy, free, and a great activity for children to learn about forest health. Packets are available from April 29 through May 1 at the Saratoga Summit CalFire Station. The mandatory training is online and takes just 30 minutes. For information, see [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org).

### Saturday, April 30

Free "creating your college list" workshop for high-school juniors and transfer students. Parents welcome. Kristen Hunsbedt is a 95033 resident and former college-admissions representative. Mountain Bible Church (23946 Summit Road), from 2 to 3 p.m. Email [klhadvising@gmail.com](mailto:klhadvising@gmail.com) for more information.

### Friday through Sunday, May 13 to 15

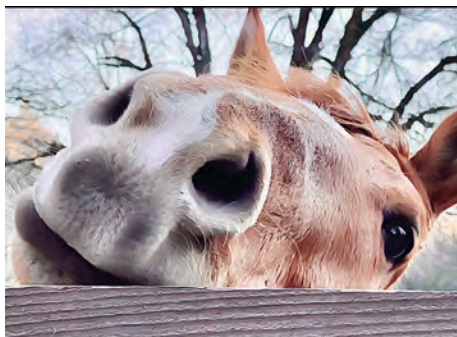
Theatre in the Mountains presents *Seussical, Jr.* Information and tickets at [www.theatreinthemountains.org](http://www.theatreinthemountains.org).

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# exploring

## *A Hike for Non-Hikers* **Mt. Madonna County Park** Neil Wiley

Spring has sprung. It's a good time to go outside. But, you don't have to be a seasoned hiker looking for a daylong trek. After all, you may be sharing the hike with your children. Their curiosity is fueled by lots of energy, but you might find it exhausting. Here is how you can escape the confines of your house without hurting your feet.

Drive south on Highway 17 to Santa Cruz, then turn left on Highway 1. Hopefully, before someone asks "When do we get there?" you'll see the sign for Highway 152. Turn left to drive through scenic Watsonville up through the more scenic Hecker Pass. When you reach the top, turn left on Pole Line Road. (The road is prettier than its name.)

At the gate house entrance, pay \$6 for parking. Be sure to ask for a free map and brochure. The rest is easy.

Just past the gate house, drive your car to the first right to visit Valley Views 1, 2, and 3. You don't even need to get out of your car. But, when you see a bench on the right side, you can get out and walk a few steps to enjoy the view of southern Santa Clara Valley and the mountains beyond. Even if the children don't appreciate the view, they can run around on the grass.

If you haven't seen the sign for Twin Giants, drive around the loop until you



find it. A grove of giant Redwoods is only a short distance from the road. You can walk around the giants and touch their many descendants.

Next, drive north up the park's main road. If you are a hiker, you could take a long uphill walk up Blue Springs or Rock Springs trails to the northern part of the park. Either way, you can see the amphitheater, park office, museum, bathrooms, two deer pens, and a giant meadow. It's a good place to rest or picnic, even if you haven't been hiking.

A short walk to the east of this park center takes you to a historical site. You can read about it on a sign on the left (north) side of the road. Continue along the road a little farther. Numbers on the right show you the way to pieces of history: a plaque, broken walls, stairways that lead nowhere, and open windows without glass.

These are the last vestiges of Henry Miller's fourth house. Built in 1901, this vacation home included seven bedrooms

and baths, a living room with a veranda on three sides, and a notable accessory—a 3,600 square-foot ballroom. Now it is all interesting rubble. So much for long-term real-estate investment. On the other hand, Henry ended up with 13,000 acres of land.

You can see all this within a few steps of your car, not bad for a hike without hiking.

If, however, open air experience has encouraged your spirit of adventure, this 4,605-acre park has many miles of trail.

The most family-friendly trail is named for the California newt. This 1.5-mile trail takes about an hour and 15 minutes.





Cell service may be spotty, but you can use your mobile phone and the Agents of Discovery app to hear about the park's natural, cultural, and historic resources. For information, email [interp@prk.sccgov.org](mailto:interp@prk.sccgov.org). Other popular short-trail networks with colored markers are named Banana Slug, Gray Fox, and Mountain Lion.

Want more exercise and adventure? Mt. Madonna offers 14 miles of trails for hikers and equestrians. You can always wander, but be sure to carry a map. If you like more planning, you can sign up at [alltrails.com](http://alltrails.com). You can see descriptions, pictures, and maps of 21 trails in Mt. Madonna Park. They range from easy to hard. In the first seven listed, the longest is the 9.3-mile Mount Madonna Loop. The shortest is the 2.4-mile Meadow Trail Loop.

Want to stay longer? Choose from 118 drive-in and walk-in reservable campsites with barbecue pits, food lockers, and picnic tables. RV sites and yurts are also available.

Dogs are welcome on leash, but bicycles are prohibited on all park trails.

For more information, call the park office at 408-842-2341. You can set your GPS destination for 7850 Pole Line Road, Watsonville, California 95076.

I extended my explorations by taking Pole Line Road out of the park to Summit Road, and drove along the ridge on dirt and occasional gravel to Loma Prieta Way. Signs say it is not a through road, but if you have all-wheel drive, don't mind a dirty or muddy car, and are willing to drive 10 miles an hour, it is passable. It's not recommended, but it was an adventure.



april 2022



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

page 19



# history

## Marlene's Mountain History Archive Histories of Mountain Travels Neil Wiley

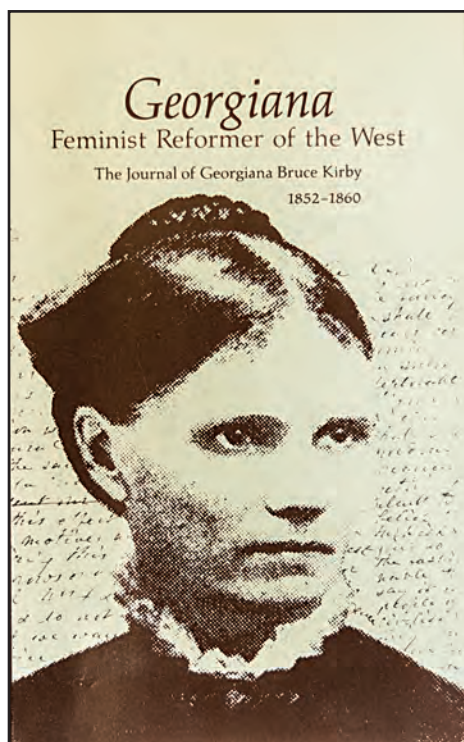
I think you will agree that living in the mountains is different from the valley. It was always this way. Valley people live in the pit. We live in the hills. They are urban. We are rural. They live close together. We are spread out. They walk to the store. We must drive.

This difference is reflected in many mountain histories. People who lived here needed to travel—by foot, wagon, train, or car. To get there required a trail, road, train track, or highway. How we got there was important.

Marlene's Mountain History Archive includes several books that show how we traveled.

From the book *The Ohlone Way*: "The two Ohlone women now head away from the crest of the hills down the side of a ridge, and follow the path alongside a tiny creek. The path is wide enough only for one person, but is well worn, stamped into the ground by thousands of footsteps. The mother had followed her mother along this same trail. And her mother had followed her grandmother. It had been so from very ancient times."

The book *Georgiana* is a journal of a local feminist reformer. She was a friend of Eliza Farnham, who came to our area from the east in 1850. Georgiana says that "Santa



Cruz was then one of the most isolated, hard-to-reach regions of the entire state. There were no bridges to link the generally poor roads, and as yet no clear path over the mountains. That situation was remedied in part by Eliza herself, when she became one of the first Yankees to cross the summit to the Santa Clara Valley on a wagon trail." Farnham Road was named for her.

The book *Perilous Trails, Dangerous Men* reported many stagecoach robberies, including one near the summit that involved Mountain Charley in 1874. A Concord coach was slowly coming up the

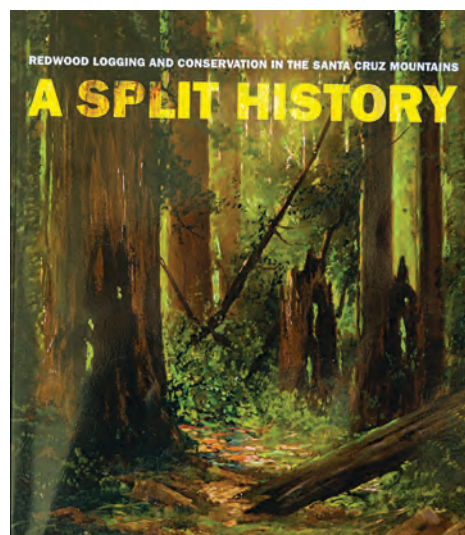
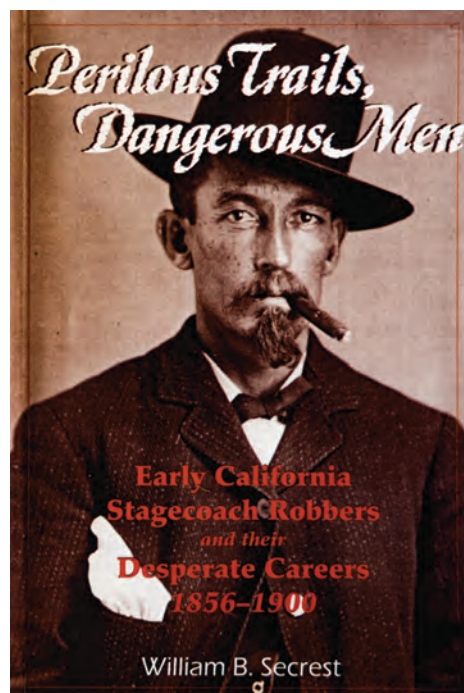
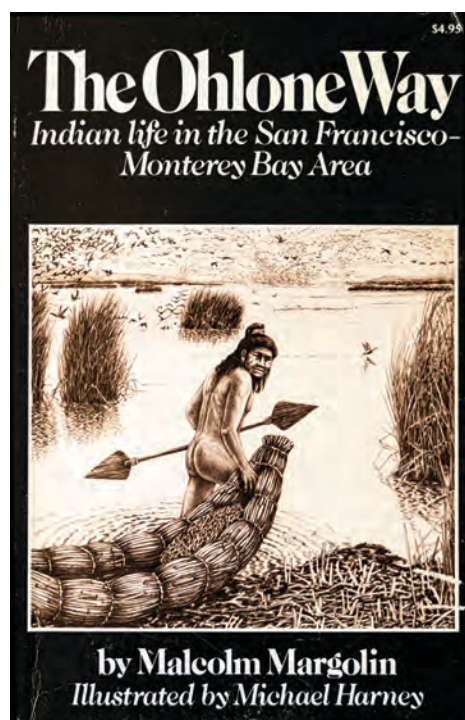
grade when two masked men carrying shotguns demanded passengers' wallets, then watches, then coins. They wanted more, but the horses were getting restless, and couldn't be held back.

A deputy recruited Mountain Charley and his Henry rifle to help catch the bandits. The posse found them in an old barn near Jones Road. Several shots were fired, but Mountain Charley's rifle was the only one that met its mark: the bandit leader's arm. The fugitives soon surrendered.

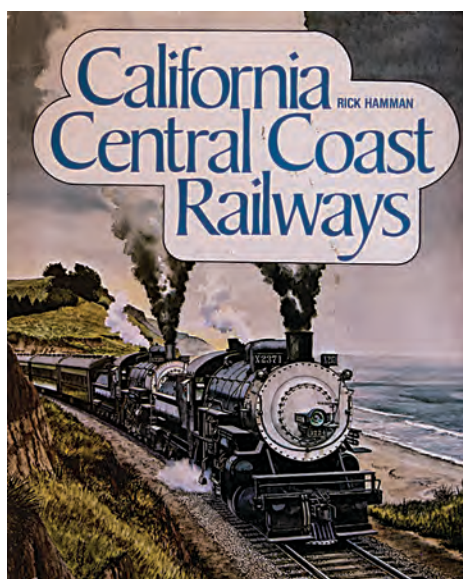
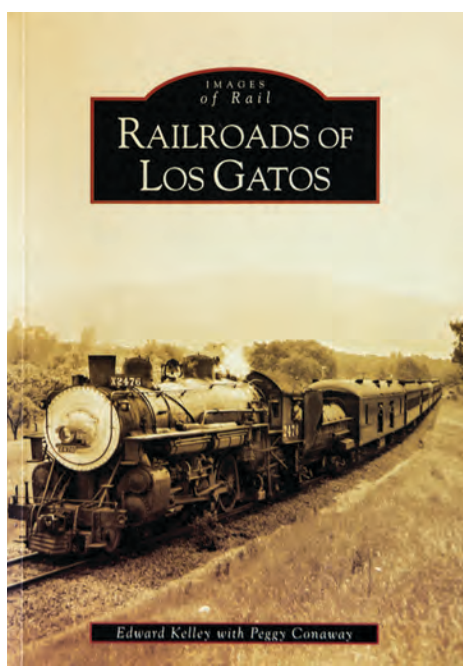
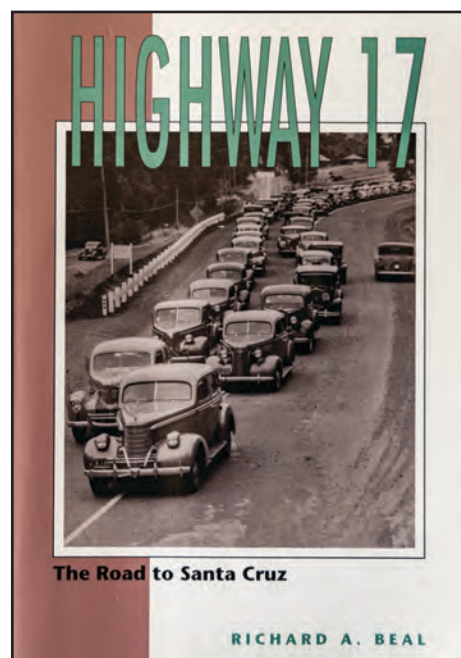
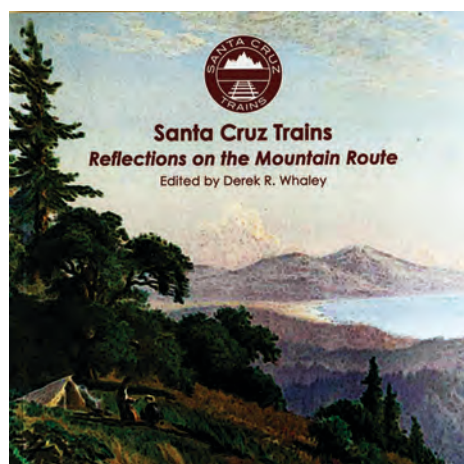
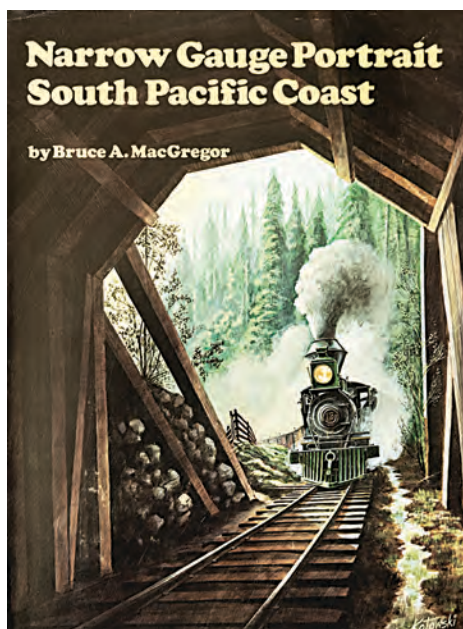
*A Split History* devotes a chapter to Laurel, F.A. Hihn's company town. The chapter reports that the location of the Summit Tunnel was obvious. In 1878, the president of the railroad wanted Hihn's timber to build his railroad. Hihn wanted the railroad to haul his timber from his sawmill to market. It was a successful arrangement for both, especially after the 1906 earthquake required the rebuilding of San Francisco. The train's success came from hauling freight from sawmills, orchardists, and farmers. It also carried passenger traffic to and from Santa Cruz and San Jose, with some periods of highly profitable picnic outings to Wright's Station.

No person has done more to publicize the South Pacific Coast Railroad than author/historian Bruce MacGregor. The Mountain History Archive has three of his big, beautiful, autographed books: 368-page *South Pacific Coast* (1968), 187-page *Narrow Gauge Portrait, South Pacific Coast* (1975), and the 672-page *The Birth of California Narrow Gauge* (2003), a magnum opus covering the technology of narrow-gauge railroads in Northern California.

Bruce MacGregor led a group of local train lovers, including me, on a walk on the rails from Felton to Santa Cruz. In 1982, he published *A Centennial South Pacific Coast*.







My historian wife, Marlene, convinced him to speak at a Mountain History Study Group before the biggest audience in the group's history.

Despite the high cost of accidents and repairs, MacGregor says that no component of the rail and real-estate program ever incurred an operating loss. In his first book, he says "In fact, the alliance proved the South Pacific Coast to be one of the best-paying eighty-mile railroads in the state."

MacGregor also encouraged other train lovers to write books, including Rick Hamman's 309-page *California Central Coast Railways*, Derek Whaley's 64-page *Santa Cruz Trains, Reflections on the Mountain Route*, and Edward Kelley and Peggy Conaway's 126-page picture book, *Railroads of Los Gatos*.

MacGregor encouraged Rick Hamman and his neighbor Mike Hart to rebuild our mountain railroad. They were making progress until an anti-railroad group spread the fake news that the railroad would be funded by making Highway 17 a toll road.

Speaking of Highway 17, our history archive has Richard Beal's second edition of *Highway 17, The Road to Santa Cruz*, published in 1990. This 212-page book offers a few pages of general-area history, followed by a series of quick profiles of

neighborhoods near the highway. This is followed by chapters on early transportation routes, highway construction, possible future improvements and changes, and transportation alternatives. A series of appendices present a technical description of the highway, maintenance, safety equipment, solving individual problems, descriptions of alternative routes, services, accident and traffic-density patterns, emergency services, area maps, and references.

The book is good reading, but after more than 30 years, some details have changed. What hasn't changed? Caltrans continues to make improvements, but drivers still drive too fast and don't pay attention.

We have returned to walking. Heavy traffic, aging infrastructure, pandemics, and fewer community activities have encouraged many people to go outside. More of us are on neighborhood streets and local pathways or going on longer hikes in parks and open-space preserves. Our history archive has books about that, too.



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# nature

## The Flamboyant Fringehead

Bruce Sudweeks

I typically learn things as a result of writing these articles. I tried my usual sources and came up nearly empty on my subject, so I decided to fill in the gaps.

The behavior of the yellowfin fringehead (*Neoclinus stephansae*) is a bit of a paradox. It is very much a recluse, yet it dresses in flamboyant colors and sports an outlandish hairdo as if it wants to be noticed. These fish are very rarely seen outside their caves. They are very curious, yet shy. They want to know what the diver is doing, but they will only watch from the safety of their caves.

Their wild hair style is called cirri.

Theories of its function include chemical sensing, tactile sensing, and camouflage.

My theory is that they like to show off, but only from the comfort of their domicile. Basically, they are closet exhibitionists. Finding a yellowfin fringehead on a dive is a treat. I really enjoy watching them watch me. Their eyes and faces are very expressive.



Beach scenes by Ksenia Kuzmina

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### Condors in the Pinnacles Mercury Freedom

On a sunny Friday in early February, I hiked Pinnacles National Park with a fellow photographer friend, trail hiking up to the High Peaks area where we hoped to get views of the California condors. When we reached the peaks, we followed the birds to an area with wonderful views of these soaring marvels. We witnessed amazing scenes of condors courting and mating.

California condors are the largest birds in North America, with wing spans up to

nine-and-a-half feet. They weigh 18 to 26 pounds. Their incubation period is 53 to 60 days. They can live up to 60 years.

Condors once soared the entire West Coast and into the Rocky Mountains, but habitat loss, hunting, and poaching reduced their numbers. They suffered from eating lead in buckshot and the detrimental effects of DDT. (Lead pellets in shotgun shells are now illegal in California, and DDT is banned).

By the 1970s, the condor population had been greatly reduced. According to an article in *The Smithsonian*, "In 1979, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began the California Condor Recovery Program, and in 1987, when the population totaled a mere 27 condors, wildlife officials captured the surviving wild birds and made them part of an existing captive-breeding program. In 1992, the program began to release the birds back into the wild."

Once controversial, this program has been an exceptional success. About 500 condors are alive today: 325 condors in the wild, and 175 birds in the breeding-and-release program. Condors have been reintroduced to northern Arizona, southern Utah, Pinnacles Park, Big Sur, Los Padres, and Baja California.

These magnificent birds once again fly free and create families. It is a soaring wonder.



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# schooLS

## Lexington School

Deanna Wilk

The red curtains parted once again, in-person, for a Lexington School original play, *Alice in Neverland*, written and directed by our theatrical librarian Barbara Lougée, pits a confident, modern-day Alice against the hundred-year-old ideas and characters in Peter Pan's never-changing Neverland to comic effect.

When Alice and the White Rabbit unexpectedly end up stuck in Neverland, everyone in Neverland wants them to leave. Soon enough, we see a new side to these trusty old characters. We see an emaciated Croc, cheered by White Rabbit, who points out that all clocks eventually unwind. Alf, the jovial pirate, finally feels heard as Alice begins to understand his Cockney rhyming slang. After learning American Sign Language, Tinkerbell sees life and friends beyond Peter Pan. Tiger Lily stops waiting for someone to save her and does it herself. The natives embrace their language and stop pretending to not know proper English.



Even Captain Hook's mind expands as he realizes that a democracy might elevate his situation. Dutiful Wendy realizes she's not anyone's mother.

Three entertaining performances, featuring some raucous Stomp-inspired stick music, showcased the talents of Lexington's 19

third- through fifth-grade thespians. Thank you to our performers, student sound technicians, assistant directors, parents, Home and School Club, principal Jason Deppong, and Barbara Lougée.

Lexington had a special celebration of Lunar New Year this year. On Lunar New



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Year's Eve, each student received a red envelope and treat with the traditional wish bestowed to friends and family for another safe and peaceful year of happiness and health. At an assembly, students learned about the origins of this celebration in many parts of the world. They made Chinese lanterns and characters over lunch. Students put peacemaking and happiness into practice with a suggestion from first-grader Victoria, who suggested making lunchtime Valentine's cards in many



languages to display at the school. They brought cheer.

It's fun for everyone when the children lead. First-graders invited parents to the classroom as they celebrated Passport Day. They shared what they learned about different countries, cultures, similarities, and differences. Our student-led conferences were another opportunity for students to show leadership, selecting work from the year to show parents what they have learned and reflecting on their academic goals.

Spring IB parent night will be on **Wednesday, April 6**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in Lexington's multi-purpose room. Lexington staff will host short workshops to explain the different aspects of our IB program. This event is open to the community. Afterward, principal Jason Deppong and IB coordinator Kristin Johnson will hold an informal get together at the Toll House.



Kindergarten registration for children born on or before September 1, 2017, and transitional kindergarten for children born from September 2, 2017, to February 2, 2018, is in progress. Online registration is at [www.lgusd.org](http://www.lgusd.org).

To learn more about Lexington, a California distinguished school, and our IB program, visit [www.lex.lgusd.org](http://www.lex.lgusd.org), call our office at 408-335-2150, or attend our upcoming IB parent night. We look forward to welcoming you.

*Photos by Barbara Lougée,  
Lance Lougée, and Jason Deppong*

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# **schools**

## **Building Blocks News**

Alexandra Hughmanick

Building Blocks Preschool relies on engaging families to work with educators to create an enriching and safe environment for our children to grow. Co-director and Tuesday/Thursday teacher, Nicole Gomez, attended the California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools convention in March, and brought back the latest tools and ideas about child development and early learning.

Keynote speaker Amanda Morgan, creator of NotJustCute.com, is an avid protector of early childhood, and helps parents and educators understand the value of the early, formative years. Her discussion about intentional teaching, with whole-child development as the focus, was easy to digest and apply in homes and classrooms. She emphasized that human development happens within the context of human relationships. She shared five tips for strengthening relationships with children: Get down to their level (eye to eye), create a warm, safe environment, ask open-ended questions, be present and responsive when talking to your child, and give them “think time.”

Teacher Nicole, who also serves as



the president of the Santa Clara Valley Council of CCPPNS, shared, “Attending the convention left me feeling inspired, not just to return to the classroom with new activities and ideas, but because I felt encouraged that we are already doing these things at Building Blocks. To be reassured by experts in the field that we are doing the right thing for the children in our community reminds me that, amidst all the chaos of our current world, our little corner of it is on the right track.”

Registration for the 2022-23 school year is now open. Find more information about our summer and fall programs at [buildingblockscoop.org/admissions](http://buildingblockscoop.org/admissions).



## **Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School Mountain School Amanda Demers**

Spring abounds as the season of April showers and May flowers emerges from its long winter slumber. This season is full of newness. It’s a time to search for jiggly newt eggs at Lake Ranch, to make nesting bags with strips of old paper, yarn, and ribbons, and to find all the colors of the rainbow in wildflowers. Our outdoor classroom jumps to life this season as our teachers, parents, and children settle into the last trimester of the school year.

“Bring your water boots!” headlines many of our teacher’s weekly notes this month as the late-season rain makes for squishy conditions for exploration. Classes visit Hidden Villa to see the baby animals that are the mascots of spring. Other classes will explore Lexington Reservoir via the overflow culvert, “excited to find a muddy path, an ecosystem overflowing with specimens to investigate, a big culvert that cuts under the highway, and a close-up view of the



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big reservoir.” says teacher Lilo of our Wednesday 2s class.

This season brings the return of our school’s cooking program. The program was previously on hiatus due to local health guidelines. Our teachers and parents are excited to have this integral program back. “Cooking in the Mountain School classroom has evolved over the years, but the emphasis has always been on fresh, healthy foods where children can share and experience the whole process,”

explains teacher Maggie, who is a former Mountain School mom and a California Culinary Academy-trained chef. “At snack time it’s about more than just eating, it’s about giving the children an understanding of where food comes from, a chance to experience preparing different foods, and the joy of tasting and eating a variety of good foods.”

The parent-facilitated cooking project isn’t complicated—the idea is to keep things as simple as possible. Foods are based on what



is in season and what skills are required for preparation. Teachers usually incorporate the chosen food into the day’s activities or extend the concept with stories at circle time. Everyone smiles when they hear “*Whose mom is the cooking mom?*” ring out from across the room.

For more information about our school, visit us online at [www.lgsons.org](http://www.lgsons.org), or email [info@lgsons.org](mailto:info@lgsons.org). Enrollment is open for 2022-2023, and we have space available for children ages 3 through 5.





# **schoo**ls

## **Lakeside School Community Foundation School News Holly Stewart**

In March, our students participated in the read-a-thon. We appreciate the families that participated in and encouraged their children to read voraciously. Almost two-thirds of our students participated, reading an impressive 9,298 minutes in five days. They raised almost \$13,000 to benefit the Lakeside School Community Foundation. Congratulations to Dashiell Rogers for collecting the highest dollar amount, and to Madelyn Cameron for reading the most, with 1,073 minutes. Way to go, readers.

Due to ongoing COVID concerns, LSCF will hold our biggest fundraiser of



**Madelyn Cameron and Dash Rogers**

the year as a silent auction online. Bidding will be open from noon on **Wednesday, April 20, through Saturday, April 23**, at 6 p.m. To browse and bid on the exciting packages we offer, visit our auction website at <https://lscf2022.ggo.bid>. One generous Lakeside family donated \$5,000, which was matched by Apple in a 2:1 match for a total of \$15,000. We hope that parents, grandparents, community members, and supporters will donate to help us meet that match. Find a unique getaway, a handmade piece of art, sumptuous dinner gift cards, or fun activities while supporting LSCF and helping to enrich the education of the children of Lakeside School.

Check to see if your company offers corporate matching at our website: [www.lakesidescf.org/corporate-matching](http://www.lakesidescf.org/corporate-matching). All money raised supports science, art, physical education, music, our garden program, school counselor, dance program, and teacher stipends.

Items purchased at the auction will be available for pick up at the Lakeside School Community Center on Black Road on **Sunday, April 24**, from 10 a.m. to noon. We thank our generous sponsors: Realtors Karen Izzo and Rebecca Smith, and South Bay Kids Dentistry.

Our next dine-out event will be **Monday, April 25**, at Erik's Deli Cafe, in Los Gatos.

Present our flyer to your server and 20 percent of all food and beverage sales will be donated to LSCF. For more information and to print out a flyer, visit [www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers](http://www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers).

We need volunteers for our second Campus Beautification Day on **Saturday, April 2**, from 9 a.m. to noon. We need help painting benches and picnic tables, trimming hedges, mowing the field, turning sand, chipping branches, and cleaning up previously trimmed areas. To ensure we have enough snacks and drinks, register to help at [www.lakesidescf.org/volunteer](http://www.lakesidescf.org/volunteer).

We are recruiting new board and voting members for the new fiscal year, starting July 2022. We thank the dedicated outgoing board members who put in tireless volunteer hours for many years. We hope to see new parents and community members step up and contribute to help shape the school, curriculum, and events. For more information, email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org).

Visit our website at [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org) to learn more about the LSCF mission, purchase Lakeside gear, explore volunteer opportunities, view our calendar of events, and donate. We cannot do this without your financial support and volunteer hours. Helping our students takes our entire community. Thank you.

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## Local Artist Inspires Young Artists With Small And Large Mosaics

Charlotte Khandelwal

Kathleen Crocetti has inspired the creation and installation of new mosaic art pieces at C.T. English Middle School. She is the talented artist and instructor behind the Watsonville Brillante mosaic project at the Watsonville Civic Plaza parking center. That project involved more than a year of work by adult and student volunteers. The tile mosaics rise six stories. They will eventually cover 12,500 square feet of the structure.

Kathleen has made the concrete in Santa Cruz and surrounding areas more colorful for two decades. You may have walked past her works at the Tannery, Soquel and Laurel Street bridges, and the Barson stairs. As a former middle-school art teacher, she supported our project at C.T. English by providing discounts, donating supplies, and sharing her expertise with our own visual arts teacher, Helen O'Dea. Helen said, "Kathleen gave us glass at a reduced price, boxes of leftovers, and repurposed donations. She even loaned us her own sets of pricey tile crimpers to cut the materials to the right sizes and shapes to fit the patterns. The students have a need to create and express themselves, and they were committed to their art."

She felt it vital they create together, hands-on and in-person, leaving their mark on the campus after more than a year off campus, behind a screen, and separated. She believes the mosaic project was good for students individually and as a collective community. The mosaics also bring color to our still-new, yet slightly generic stucco and concrete construction.

Helen asked the students to bring the courtyard to life by reflecting the plants and wildlife of our Santa Cruz Mountains in their mosaic panels. The students worked in groups to design, plan, and execute their works, culminating with installing and grouting them in C.T. English's main quad and courtyard. She plans to repeat the assignment next year.

Visit the school on a weekend or early evening, and enjoy the representation of our native wildlife and the expression of art by our talented eighth graders.

To find out more about Kathleen Crocetti or her nonprofit, Community Arts Empowerment, visit [communityartsempowerment.org](http://communityartsempowerment.org).

**Art at Loma and C.T. English has been supported for the past decade by generous donations from the community to our schools and Loma Public Education Fund. Our annual giving campaign is underway. Learn more at [www.lpef.org](http://www.lpef.org).**



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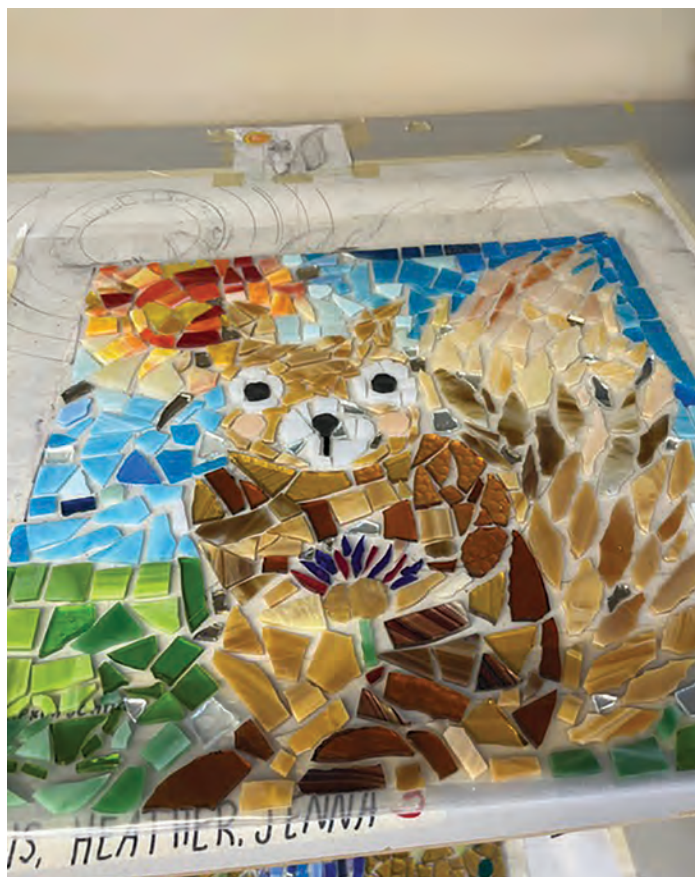
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