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Dear NEIGHBORS,

It’s hard to believe that it is already December - 2019 is coming to a close, and the holidays are upon us in wonderful Los Gatos! We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and enjoys time with loved ones.

This month, we have the pleasure of featuring the wonderful Ann Ravel and her family. For Ann, helping those in need is so important. She realized her ability to make a positive difference while in her position as the Santa Clara County Counsel, and has since worked on many court cases to help people in our community. We know you will enjoy learning more about Ann and hearing what she has planned for the future!

You’ll also have a chance to read about community events and more in this month’s issue.

Please feel free to send me any content you’d like to share. At Los Gatos Living, we love sharing what’s going on in our community!

See you in town.

STEPHEN GURUWAIYA
Publisher
sguruwaiya@bestversionmedia.com

GENEVIEVE LAUCHER
Content Coordinator
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TERESA NORA TROBBE
Contributing Photographer

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Cold War Christmas
A Peck Family Christmas
By Bill Peck

Clouds through the pines
Moved swiftly as we made
Our way through manzanita,
Toyon berries and blue spruce;
Mom in her Austrian fur vest;
Dad in his armored infantry
Field jacket; my sister and I
In blue jeans and flannel shirts.

I remember each year we took
Long trips to Dad’s mountain
Property, purchased with his
Mustering-out Pay Army gave
After the war. We’d leave the
Safety of the valley and drive
Up, up onto yellow dirt roads,
Winding along sharp ridges,
And grey cloud hidden peaks.
While secret radars scanned
Skies for Russian bombers,
We searched for perfect trees.

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Like you, I am frustrated with power shutoffs in our County. A utility company has a responsibility to provide safe, reliable services. Loss of power affects those who rely on such things as medical equipment like breathing machines, or for children who can’t go to school. And businesses need to be open each day to sell products and employ people. If regular sustained power outages are the “new normal,” I fear that a significant negative economic impact could ensue, resulting in employees facing layoffs from businesses that can’t absorb the losses. While the County can’t control what PG&E does, we are making it clear to Sacramento leaders who regulate PG&E that their actions have consequences for our residents. Entire neighborhoods have gone dark for several days (including my own), which is a huge public safety concern, particularly in rural areas. County and city resources have been stretched thin in order to help keep people safe during these outages.

Santa Clara County declared an emergency during the outage to ensure that resources are available to continue critical operations and to minimize impact to the community. The emergency declaration allows the County to coordinate with a large network of public and private partner agencies when circumstances are beyond the capacity of local services and personnel. The County is also supporting other jurisdictions (cities and counties) that are severely impacted by the power shutoff. We know that fire danger is real and we need to hear from PG&E on what they plan to do to ensure that ongoing shutoffs aren’t the new normal. As County Supervisor and Chair of the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee, I’ve requested PG&E representative appear before our Committee to answer questions. I am more than willing to detail the effects of their actions on our residents and businesses and help them plan better. We need real solutions and those usually happen by working together.

Residents understandably are asking, “What is being done to address homelessness?” The answer is that we are housing people. In fact, we’ve housed 12,400 people, including about 1,600 veterans and 3,800 kids, over the last 5 years! The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors recently approved two new sites for affordable housing developments. The County’s portion of the housing developments will be funded with $15.6 million from the County’s 2016 Measure A Affordable Housing bond and $17.4 million from the state-funded No Place Like Home bond for a total of $33 million. The Gallup and Mesa Apartments – located on a .38-acre site near Blossom Hill Road and Almaden Expressway – is comprised of 45 affordable units. The second project is the 425 Auzerais Apartments, which is a 130-unit affordable family development near downtown San Jose.

Our top priority is to use these voter-approved funds and other public investments to create affordable housing for seniors on fixed incomes, young adults with a mental illness and other vulnerable residents. With 21 affordable housing developments in the works (four of which are expected to be completed by the end of December), the County is now almost a third of the way toward our goal of financing 4,800 new affordable units through Measure A by 2027.

See you around Town!

Mike Wasserman
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1
www.supervisorwasserman.com
Los Gatos Union School District: 408-335-2000

Los Gatos - Saratoga Joint Union High School District: 408-354-2520

Administrative Headquarters: 14700 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos 95032

Administrative Offices Phone Number: 408-378-4010

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**EXPRESS CONTRIBUTIONS**

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Dr. Nava Fathi, Endodontist
408-358-8777, www.samendo.com
Dr. Nava Fathi is a graduate of the Arthur A. Dugoni Pacific School of Dentistry as well as the USC School of Dentistry graduate school of Endodontics. She currently serves as an associate professor at the Dugoni School of Dentistry. Dr. Fathi is a trustee on the California Dental Association and the American Association of Endodontists. She currently practices endodontics in her private office in San Jose, CA.

Colin Triplett
Born and raised in Los Gatos, Colin Triplett, owner of Mint Condition Fitness, has a passion for helping others maximize life and health. When he was young, his long-time mentor passed away after a long battle with his physical and mental health. In his memory, Colin dedicated his life to ensuring others not fall into the same downward spiral as his mentor.

After earning his bachelor’s degree from Santa Clara University, Colin went on to found Mint Condition Fitness, which specializes in fitness over 48. Now as the #1 rated personal training studio in Los Gatos, he and his Mint team help members get more out of life by teaching them how to lose unhealthy weight, regain movement and stamina, and increase FUNCTIONAL strength.

Dr. Christine Throm, Au.D.
408-498-7760, www.losgatosaudiology.com
I believe in the idea of always expanding and always developing. That’s what motivated me to start Los Gatos Audiology and Hearing Aid Center – helping people to hear better, improving their communication, and improving their lifestyle.

For over 20 years, I’ve built my career in the South Bay, most recently at the Ear Nose and throat of Los Gatos. I’ve always dreamed of expanding into my own private practice to serve the needs of local residents in the city where I live. In 2008, I earned my Doctoral degree in Audiology from Arizona School of Health Sciences, and in November 2013, my dream arrived when I hung out my own sign here in downtown Los Gatos.

We would love to meet you at Los Gatos Audiology and Hearing Aid Center! Please contact us at 408-498-7760.

Victor Adint, CFP®, Berkeley MBA
Victor Adint is a Wealth Advisor and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional with Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.
Victor has a passion for helping people understand important financial concepts so that they can make smart and informed financial decisions. His approach to investment strategy and planning benefits from his corporate finance background as well as his economics and finance education at U.C. Berkeley and U.C. Davis.

Victor’s branch is located at 229 West Main Street, Los Gatos, CA, 408-402-3059.
Sal Liccardo: From Trial Lawyer to Author

By Genevieve Laucher

Three years ago, Sal Liccardo made the transition from trial lawyer to author. With over fifty years of experience as a trial lawyer, Sal has experienced the power of the court system to bring the truth to the surface. Because it was an unusual and powerful case, a true David and Goliath story, his friends and family asked him to write a book about it. As Sal moved from trial cases to mediations and arbitrations, he had the time to write a book about this incredible case, Her Right to Know.

Her Right to Know details the case of a young woman, rendered blind by “the pill,” who took on Big Pharma to fight to protect a woman’s right to know of the life-threatening risks of the oral contraceptive. The woman, Michelle, and her husband Dennis are locals themselves, and much of the story takes place around the valley.

The book takes its readers through the trial and places them in the position of the trial lawyer and in the seat of a juror hearing the evidence. Sal realized that there is a lot that the public does not realize about the court system, and that the jury system is very underrated. Because of cross examination, the truth comes out most of the time and is accepted by the jury. In this case especially, the pharmaceutical company had all of the resources in the world, but Michelle was still given a fair chance because of the power of the court to obtain evidence. The jury in Her Right to Know was very courageous and had to make a decision that was contrary to public opinion.

The court of law can really make a positive difference. Most importantly, it is a means to saving lives and reducing misery from defects in products. Looking back through history, Sal saw that safety items, such as airbags in cars, all started with lawsuits. Going through the court of appeals made important regulations come about.

Sal chose to self-publish Her Right to Know. Traditional publishers encourage getting help from ghostwriters, and it was important to Sal to keep the story fully truthful from beginning to end. Sal greatly enjoyed the writing process. The editing process was difficult, and with the help from his assistant and his wife, Laura, they edited the story numerous times, while Sal continued to work on mediations, consulting, and his remaining cases in the interim. Sal has handled many unusual and fascinating cases and is giving thought to writing about more of them.

PRAISE FOR HER RIGHT TO KNOW:

“This is a true story of a courageous woman rendered blind because a drug company hid the truth, and a courageous young lawyer who through our justice system heroically battled overwhelming odds to prove it. It puts the reader, whether lawyer or layperson, in the courtroom at the counsel table as well as in the jury box. It is a significant and inspiring book which all who use the American health system, especially women, should read. They owe a debt of gratitude to Sal Liccardo.”

—William Whitehurst, Past President of The International Academy of Trial Lawyers, The Texas Trial Lawyers Association, Registered Pharmacist

“A courageous true story written by a highly regarded, esteemed trial lawyer. This book reveals a courageous trial lawyer and an equally courageous young woman, as his client, search for the truth about the “Pill.” It further demonstrates the power of a jury to make the world a safer place. Having spent my life supporting the right to trial by jury, I heartily encourage reading this enlightening book.”

—Ron Rouda, J.D., Past National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)

“An enjoyable, compelling, well rendered read! It reads like a novel . . . enough plot twists to make it riveting.”

—John Lenahan, M.D.

“Her Right to Know is a quintessential David & Goliath story. Sal Liccardo takes us behind the scenes of a courtroom drama arising from the intersection of the pharmaceutical breakthrough of “the Pill” and evolving women’s rights. Whether you lived through these changes or take for granted their aftermath, are a consumer or a practitioner of law or medicine, or favor entrepreneurship or regulation, this instructive tale will inspire you with the human ability to find good from suffering and justice from the American jury system.”

—Marina Hsieh, Senior Fellow, Santa Clara University School of Law

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LINDA L. LESTER, Owner | LesterSquareLosGatos.com
Tonya Mills Tyszkiewicz and Israel Valencia share a love for cooking and creating happy memories over food. Both Tonya and Israel have many years of experience working in restaurants, Tonya at the front and back of the house, and Israel as a chef. Three years ago, they met working at a restaurant in Campbell, and Tonya, impressed by Israel’s exceptional cooking talent, begged him to help her start a catering business on the side. A month later, they quit the restaurant to focus on catering, and Table & Terrace was born.

They started small, purchasing ingredients and later paying themselves back and using any extra money to buy cooking supplies. As a small catering team of two, Tonya and Israel would have to cook through the night for a party. They were excited and passionate about what they were doing, though, and people’s compliments and thanks kept them going. As Israel said, it was better than any paycheck they could get.
For Tonya and Israel, there is no greater satisfaction than making a dish and having people enjoy it. They love getting to be a part of events and making memories for people. Table & Terrace caters a lot of special events big to small, including weddings, parties, and corporate events. They have sample menus that they use when they meet with people, but use their conversations to customize their dishes and constantly create new recipes.

Table & Terrace does events everywhere, but mostly in Los Gatos and Saratoga. They have a Facebook page and are working on a website, but most of their business is word of mouth. They started out just the two of them doing everything from the cooking to the setup and cleanup, but Tonya and Israel now have additional cooks and staff that come help with big events. Because Israel worked in so many restaurants in the area, he knows many cooks who want to work with him and help Table & Terrace.

They have a great team environment, where everyone is valued equally. It does not matter if they are a cook or a dishwasher, everyone jumps in to help with everything they can, and it is truly a group effort. The Table & Terrace team has a lot of fun and shares a lot of laughter. Working together as a close-knit team makes the whole experience enjoyable, from grocery shopping to late night cleanups. They are especially busy around the holidays, catering 12-15 events per month, and will soon be catering more events at Blanco, a new venue in downtown San Jose.

What really sets Table & Terrace apart is the quality of their food and the way they work with their clients. Their food is about 90% organic, for ethical reasons and to ensure the best quality and freshness. Israel loves to make foods that are influenced by different nationalities, and has a talent for making food look like art. When Tonya and Israel meet with clients, they find out their personal preferences, dietary restrictions, and allergies. They create personalized, custom menus based on their clients’ interests and needs. No matter how big they get, they want to stay this involved throughout the process.

Tonya and Israel also give back to the community whenever they can. They help out in the way they know how, by donating food and their time to different charities and catering fundraising events. They see what is happening in the community and reach out to help. A couple of months ago, they reached out to the family who tragically lost their son in the Gilroy shooting and catered his funeral services. They also held a taco party to fundraise for children who were separated from their families at the border.

Tonya, Israel, and their team love being a part of the community and providing comfort and joy through food at all types of events big and small. With their enthusiasm and deep care for their clients, Tonya and Israel help make their events truly special and memorable. You can reach Tonya and Israel at tableandterrace@gmail.com or on their Facebook page, Table & Terrace Catering.
By the time this article reaches you, I will no longer be your mayor. You will be deep into enjoying the holiday season. But here are some accomplishments the Town of Los Gatos achieved so far in 2019:

**Transportation and Parking**
- Continued the school bus pilot to reduce traffic around schools
- Continued to invest in street repairs to increase the Pavement Condition Index
- Launched the Comprehensive Parking Study
- Made it easier for businesses to share parking, do valet parking, and make parking lot improvements
- Completed the Almond Grove Streets
- Completed Blossom Hill Bike and Pedestrian Improvements
- Updated the General Plan to allow for Hwy 17 traffic improvements

**Quality of Life/Civic Enrichment**
- Provided over $130,000 to local community groups to support arts, culture, education, and human services
- Began a discussion of the Mills Act
- Referred to the Policy Committee an update of the Town’s Below Market Price regulations
- Made Council meetings more efficient by moving Council/Manager Matters to the end of the meeting (as well as any pulled Consent items)
- Updated the land use appeal process

**Downtown Reinvigoration**
- Set aside approximately $2M for a future North Santa Cruz/downtown streetscape project
- Tested diagonal parking, temporary parklets, bike lane and one-way street on a portion of NSC
- Increased sidewalk cleaning
- Approved a Parklet Program
- Provided funds to the Chamber for summer events
- Provided funds to the Chamber to explore the formation of a Property-Based Improvement District (PBID)
- Approved additional land use permitting streamlining pilots and directed the preparation of Ordinances to make all of the pilots permanent
- Updated Horse Drawn Carriage Regulations

**Prosperity/Revenue Generation for Town Services**
- Implemented voter approved sales tax measure
- Annexed County pockets less than 150 acres
- Approved regulations to allow Short Term Rentals and collect Transient Occupancy Tax
- Completed a comprehensive update to the Town’s fees and fines schedule
- Approved an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Imwalle for two Town properties

**Unfunded Liabilities**
- $8.9M payment to CalPERS
- Reduced the amortization from 30 to 20 years

**Emergency Preparedness**
- Approved the Los Gatos Wildfire Annex to the County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Completed a Wildfire Evacuation Assessment
- Participated in County Fire’s Strategic Plan

It’s been a busy year of progress in the Town of Los Gatos. I would like to thank residents, town staff and my fellow council members for their efforts.

Looking forward to 2020, Los Gatos has plenty of good things on the horizon.

We wish you and your family a prosperous new year!
Santa Clara County Fire Department will continue its long standing tradition of supporting local holiday toy programs by collecting new unwrapped toys at all of its Fire Stations and Headquarters office. While County Fire hosts this annual tradition, they couldn’t support families in need without the generous support received every year from our community members.

Toys collected will benefit families throughout Santa Clara County by supplying much needed toys to programs including Campbell Community Toy Program, Community Services Agency of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, Hope’s Corner, Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office Santa Paws and the Valley Medical Center Pediatric Unit.

“The holiday season reminds us that there are many families in Santa Clara County that struggle to provide even the most basic necessities.” noted Luisa Rapport, Information Specialist for County Fire. “Being able to brighten the spirits of children in our communities and give them a reason to celebrate is what makes the Toy Drive special for us every year.”

Please join in on the spirit of holiday giving. Collections begin on Saturday, November 23 and toys will be accepted until Monday, December 23. Specific needs this year include toys and items appropriate for teenagers, who tend to be the most underserved in toy drives, but are equally deserving of something to brighten their holiday. Please consider donating sports equipment, balls, and activity-based items such as art supplies. Gift cards are also appreciated.

Find more information and a list of fire station drop-off locations at sccfd.org.
For Ann Ravel, making a positive difference in the community is always priority. Between her former position as the Santa Clara County Counsel, overseeing cases at the national leve and starting community programs, Ann strives to help those who need it most and make our community the best it can be.

Ann’s parents met in Brazil, where her mother worked for the American Embassy and her father, who was working for an airline as a meteorologist, took a week’s vacation. Ann’s mother flew out to Peru to where they were married shortly after. Ann’s brother was born in Chile, and the family moved to the United States where Ann was born. They returned to Chile when Ann was about five and her father worked for the U.S. government, but then returned to San Jose when her father got a position teaching at San Jose State.

Ann went to Willow Glen High School and later graduated from UC Berkeley and went on to Hastings Law School. She met her husband, Steve, in high school, and they got married after she finished law school. With most of Ann’s family still in Brazil, they traveled there often. Ann and Steve adopted their oldest son, Aaron, from Brazil. They have two other kids, Gabriel and Shana. Steve works as an adoption lawyer.

The Ravel family moved to Los Gatos in 1988. A great experience for the family was when the Brazilian soccer team playing in the World Cup stayed in Los Gatos. It was like a full-time party in town, and for the first time, Aaron felt a proud connection to his Brazilian heritage. He traveled to Brazil when he was older after graduating college and ended up meeting a young woman there. His story mirrors Ann’s parents – they quickly fell in love and got married, and she moved to the U.S. Aaron and his wife now have two children, ages nine and five, and he works as the head of a wine club in Healdsburg.

The Ravels’ second son Gabriel is also married and has a three-year-old daughter. He attended Harvard Law and was recently appointed by Governor Newsom as the general counsel of the California Health and Human Services Agency. The Ravels’ daughter Shana lives nearby in San Jose and works at the County of Santa Clara like Ann did. Shana says that she and Ann are going to have parallel lives. She has a baby who is ten months old.

Ann worked in the County Counsel’s office for thirty years and was the Santa Clara County Counsel, or lead lawyer for the county appointed by a board of supervisors, beginning in 1998. In this position, she realized the importance not only of responding to litigation, but also of making a real difference in the community. She started programs that are still going on today. One of her areas of focus was educational rights for children, assuring that kids in foster care had their individual educational needs met.

Ann also started a program to prevent elder financial abuse.
She sued financial institutions and relatives that were taking money from seniors who were not aware that this was going on. Through this program, hundreds of thousands of dollars were rightly returned to seniors. This was the first program of its kind in the country and has since been emulated in other counties and states.

Additionally, Ann started a program with a team of lawyers doing social justice affirmative litigation with the intention to bring cases on behalf of the community. The first case they filed was regarding lead paint poisoning. Lead paint had already been outlawed, but it was still on the walls especially in low income communities that did not have enough money to remove it. It caused hundreds of thousands of kids to have brain delays and deficits. Ann filed a case in 2000, other counties and cities signed on, and the case went all the way to the California and U.S. Supreme Courts. The litigation uncovered that the paint companies knew that the paint caused brain damage, but they sold it anyway, and they were ordered to remediate the paint.

In 2017, the paint companies tried to get a measure on the ballot to use state bond money to pay and have the previous judgement null and void. The California legislature considered making an agreement with the companies to take the measure off the ballot but make a deal on the issue. A senator asked Ann whether they should sign the deal and she said no, that the state should not have to assume the companies’ responsibility. It was then that Ann decided she wanted to run for state Senate. She realized how important it was to have someone willing to fight for the county.

Continued on page 10
Through a number of cases, including a case challenging Prop 8 and a case against tobacco companies which brought smoking cessation funding to the county, Ann came to the attention of the Obama administration. She was asked in 2009 to go to Washington D.C. as a deputy assistant attorney general to oversee torts and consumer litigation. There, she started and oversaw cases including the “Big Short” case, the oil spill in the gulf, and worked on a program to provide compensation for 9/11 responders.

After she worked in D.C. for a couple of years, California Governor Jerry Brown asked Ann to be the chair of the California Fair Practices Commission. She filed a case against the Koch brothers, providing important information to the public and getting back millions of dollars to the state.

In 2013, President Obama nominated Ann to serve on the Federal Election Commission, which she did from 2013 to 2017. She spoke out that the commission was dysfunctional and informed the public about who is behind different political campaigns. She even got to go on the Daily Show and was also interviewed by Zach Galifianakis, Rachel Maddow, and had articles in the New York Times.

When Ann returned to Los Gatos full-time, she began working on civic engagement. She believes that the solution to many issues is for more people to participate in the community, connect, and participate in politics by voting. She taught at Berkeley law school, works at law firms, and started a program at MapLight, a nonprofit in Berkeley, on digital deception. It is important for the public to understand the lack of regulation on the Internet and be able to navigate the propaganda. She recently presented on this topic at the U.S. Senate.

Ann loves being a part of the Los Gatos community. She loves the beauty and spirit of the town, and one of her favorite activities with Steve is walking around town with their dog Harpo, an adorable Wheaton terrier. They also enjoy going out to dinner at the many wonderful restaurants in town and love town events like Jazz on the Plazz.

Although Ann is running for state Senate. She will continue to be very involved on the local level and also deeply cares about the whole state. Ann is passionate about making the community the best it can be by working to solve issues such as traffic and housing affordability. She loves hearing ideas from everyone in the community and seeks to talk to people with all different perspectives. Ann believes that the community can come together to solve problems, help others, and be a truly incredible place to live.
What is 6U? You’ll know the space as Del’s Antiques, and the new name honors the location on 6 University Avenue. But the name is not the only change. 6U combines antique and modern objects that would complement and beautify any home.

Del’s Antiques has been in Los Gatos for over 30 years and in the 6 University location for the past 20. Del and Gabriel Martinez, a mother and son team, were the store proprietors. With Del recently retiring, Gabriel, noticing a decline in business, planned on closing Del’s Antiques. But at a cocktail party before the store’s closing, friends and clients, including Caron Rakich, convinced Gabriel to keep the store open with a change of artistic direction.

Gabriel and Caron partnered together to modernize the store and changed the name to 6U to reflect its new path. They recognized that people love mixing antiques with modern pieces and 6U is the perfect place to find both. This sets it apart from other establishments; rather than having to travel the world to track down the perfect objects, 6U will have it all.

Gabriel has more than 30 years of experience procuring antiquities and artistic objects. 6U will offer a personalized ‘concierge’ customer service experience. Caron and Gabriel love finding unique, one of a kind pieces that delight their clients. Next year, they will be traveling the world to continue bringing one of a kind objects to 6U.

6U will also exhibit works by unique artists- one of those artists is Robert Stivers, a photographer and painter born and raised in Palo Alto. His work is displayed in museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and many more. He has been published many times over and has been collected by famous celebrities such as Ellen DeGeneres, Charlize Theron, Olivia Wilde, Donna Karan to name a few.

Another artist whose work you will find in 6U is Jacalyn Beam, an award-winning Plein Air impressionist painter who is published in many books and national magazines. Additionally, Sieglinde Van Damme, a photographer and clothing designer, brings award-winning original contemporary art-to-hand and art-to-wear. 6U will be the perfect place to find beautiful and unique pieces from these contemporary artists in addition to antiques.

6U is currently open limited hours and by appointment. They will announce their Grand Opening in early 2020. With its rich history in the community and Gabriel and Caron’s mission to bring in beautiful antiques and modern objects, 6U will be an amazing addition to Los Gatos!
Even in the cold and rain, citrus will add sunshine (and loads of vitamin C) to your day! And, don’t just settle for a normal navel orange. Branch out by trying one of the many mandarin, kumquat or limequat varieties that are available. How about an Australian Finger Lime (aka citrus caviar)?

December is a great month to rest and relax – even here in California this is the slowest time of year for our gardens. And, with our crazy holiday schedules, isn’t that a happy coincidence? Hopefully, we will get enough rain this month to take care of our veggies, plants, and trees. However, the rain gods don’t bless us, so be sure to add some supplemental water – especially to that cool season garden that you planted in October! Don’t take the whole month off; get in a little exercise by raking up all those fallen leaves and debris so that the not-so-desirable bugs and fungus won’t be able to over-winter and take hold in the spring.

Onion
I LOVE onions! I think most people have either a love or hate relationship with the bulbous beauties. Although some folks (like my husband) won’t touch, let alone eat, a raw onion – he can devour an entire order of onions rings without hesitation! There are many types of onions: white, purple, red, yellow, green, shallots, scallions and leeks (a mild member of the onion family that tastes like an onion mixed with a cucumber). Onions are thought to help reduce the risk of developing colorectal cancer, gastric ulcers, help regulate blood sugar, lower blood pressure, and even help promote sleep and reduce depression. If you don’t like them raw, try grilling, roasting, or sautéing. Truly, what’s NOT to love???

What to Plant in December
Key: • Seed | • Transplant | • Bareroot
• asparagus • • garlic • • onions
Local nurseries should have a good supply of these.

Ready to Harvest Now
• grapes • almonds • mandarin oranges • walnuts • avocados

Green Tip of the Month
According to Use Less Stuff, if each family reduced their holiday gas consumption by just one gallon (approximately 20 miles), we would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons!

If you have a question or comment, I’d love to hear from you...
Rebecca Jepsen, 408-357-3990, rjepsen@compass.com
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Wishing You & Yours
A Happy Holiday Season and
A Fabulous, Fun-Filled 2020!

If you are thinking about making a move . . .
Call Me, I am here to help!

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$2,388,000

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DR. ZEIDLER’S ANNUAL BRA DAY BRINGS TOGETHER THE COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

By Virginia Nicoletti, Photos by FotosbyT.com/Teresa Nora Trobbe

An inspiring event for the community, Breast Reconstruction Awareness (BRA) Day 2019 was held on October 24th at the Toll House Hotel in Los Gatos. Hosted by Dr. Kamakshi R. Zeidler, founder of Aesthetx, the premier plastic surgery and dermatology practice in the Silicon Valley, this eighth annual event united medical and technology visionaries to focus on the education and support of breast reconstruction after breast cancer. BRA Day directly benefits Cancer CAREpoint, a non-profit organization that provides personalized counseling, assistance, resources and education to all Silicon Valley cancer patients, families and caregivers.

“My patients are the inspiration behind this event and I am constantly amazed by the courage they show throughout their breast cancer journeys,” says Dr. Zeidler, board certified plastic surgeon, board member of Cancer CAREpoint and one of the few women in the Bay Area formally trained in advanced breast reconstruction.

This year, BRA Day celebrated Dr. Carl Bertelsen’s retirement from his distinguished career as a breast surgeon. Dr. Bertelsen transformed Stanford’s Cancer Center South Bay (CCSB) into a thriving breast center and has been recognized for his clinical excellence in patient care of breast cancer. Gay Crawford, a founder of Cancer CAREpoint, introduced Dr. Bertelsen and was happy to be honored by the group. Dr. Bertelsen, who was instrumental in the development of the sentinel lymph node technique, also spoke about being a pioneer in nipple sparing as an option for patients—a critical step in making breast reconstruction have beautiful results.

Dr. Zeidler brought together many of her partners to sponsor BRA Day including Stryker Endoscopy, Sientra, Puregraft, Galatea, Allergan, Good Samaritan Hospital, Fotos by T, G2 Anesthesia, Timeless Skin Spa, and Clarins. Her technology sponsors provided intriguing demonstrations of the technology advancements and products that are used in the breast reconstruction process. A leading...
authority and principal investigator for many clinical trials, Dr. Zeidler collaborates with these companies to bring new technologies and innovative products to the field. With a true passion for establishing strong partnerships with leading businesses in the aesthetic space, her role as an author and strategic medical advisor has been paramount in developing new state-of-the-art products for both aesthetic and reconstructive breast surgery.

BRA Day 2019 also showcased a special photo installation featuring breast cancer survivors taken by Teresa Trobbe of Fotos by T. The patients wore t-shirts in the shoot featuring one word that best-defined what breast reconstruction means to them after battling breast cancer. For many women reconstruction is an important step in restoring physical beauty and confidence. The event also included a creative bra decorating contest where the winning entry was from Good Samaritan Hospital.

“I am a passionate advocate for women’s health and look forward to bringing my patients, technology partners and the community together again for our ninth annual BRA Day in October 2020 to benefit Cancer CAREpoint,” says Dr. Zeidler.

Aesthetx, is the premier plastic surgery and dermatology practice in the Silicon Valley. Dr. Kamakshi R. Zeidler, Dr. R. Laurence Berkowitz and Dr. Amelia K. Hausauer offer unique areas of expertise, the latest techniques and an integrated approach to provide patients with an unprecedented level of customized care and beautiful, natural results. Aesthetx is located at 3803 South Bascom Avenue, Suite 100, Campbell, CA 95008. For more information please contact 408-559-7177 or visit www.aesthetx.com.

The Friends of Los Gatos Library Speaker Line Up  By Alyce Parsons

What a fantastic group of speakers The Friends of Los Gatos Library have lined up for the first three months of 2020. Your membership in the Friends helps us provide for these fantastic speakers and brings the community together. As an added bonus, members of the Friends of Los Gatos Library will receive preferred seating.

Starting off the year on January 11, Jim Bostwick, nationally recognized trial lawyer, will present a riveting account of how he came to write his bestselling book, Acts of Omission. Bostwick is noted as one of the Top 4 Trial Lawyers by the California Bar Journal. He is also featured in Newsweek, Town and Country, and Forbes. “Bostwick spins a powerful, informative tale drawn from real life. The courtroom scenes leap off the page and will leave the reader cheering for justice.” (Walter H. Walker III, bestselling author The Crime of Privilege) Set in the Bay Area, Acts of Omission has everything, courtroom drama, personal relationships, suspense and mystery. It’s a great read.

On February 8th, Silicon Valley Reads 2020 selected author, Julian Guthrie, award winning journalist, will speak on her bestselling book Alpha Girls: The Women Upstarts Who Took On Silicon Valley’s Male Culture and Made the Deals of a Lifetime. Julian follows the careers and lives of four entrepreneurial women in the venture capital world who were instrumental to the rise of such companies as: Salesforce, Tesla, Oracle, Imperva, Trulia, and Facebook. Her book is currently being adapted for a television series. The Friends of the Los Gatos Library are so excited to be one of the first libraries to host Julian Guthrie on February 8th, right after Silicon Valley Reads Kickoff event January 23.

Come and hear Jill Avery Henderson tell you about her unique company Life Launch on March 7th. Her life mission is to teach life skills to young adults, preparing them for the real world with confidence. Jill Henderson is a life strategist and empowerment coach for youth. She believes “The greatest gift we can give our children is the self-sufficiency and independence they need to adapt to life’s inevitable challenges.” Her passion for helping teens and parents succeed in life is evident in her programs. The Friends of the Los Gatos Library are looking forward to hosting Jill.
December 7 is the last day for Medicare Annual Enrollment (AEP). If you have Original Medicare (Parts A and B) what does this mean for you? In previous articles we have discussed your choices to fix the coverage gap created when you only have Original Medicare: You could enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan which includes drug coverage (MA-PD) or a Medicare Supplement which necessitates purchasing a separate Medicare drug plan (PDP).

For those of you who chose to cover their gap by enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan (Part C or MA-PD), the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (October 15 thru December 7) provides you the opportunity to review your Medicare Advantage plan. Current members receive information regarding plan changes such as a decrease/increase in copays, coinsurance, and out of pocket maximum. There can be changes in the provider network (doctors, hospitals, clinics, etc) and/or the drug formulary (list of drugs covered by the plan).

If you have a Medicare drug plan (PDP), it should also be reviewed. The insurance company providing the drug plan mails an Annual Notice of Changes. Even if the number or type of prescription drugs you currently use hasn’t changed, please check the notice. Changes may include an increase/decrease in monthly premium, the annual plan deductible, the drug formulary, and/or the drug tiers.

With a Medicare Supplement, you can enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan with drug (MA-PD) coverage effective January 1. The Medicare Advantage plan replaces the Supplement AND Medicare drug plan.

Let’s say that for some reason you change your mind about the Medicare Advantage plan you kept or the new one you chose for next year. You have options AFTER December 7. There is still time to do something different. Examples of possibilities include: disenroll from a Medicare Advantage with drug coverage (MA-PD) and return to Original Medicare. In this scenario you should enroll in a Medicare drug plan (PDP) so that you can have drug coverage and won’t be fined. Or you could enroll in a new Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage (MA-PD).

During the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP), October 15-December 7, if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage (MA-PD), you can change plans as many times as you want. However, the last plan you choose and submit by December 7 will determine which Medicare Advantage plan you are enrolled in effective January 1.

In the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment (OEP), you can disenroll in the Medicare Advantage plan you selected by December 7 and enroll in a new Medicare Advantage plan. But you can only do that once.

Medicare Drug plans (PDP) cannot be changed after December 7. Call the agent who helped you enroll. Discuss with them why you want to make changes or why you are unhappy with your choices. A knowledgeable agent can advise you regarding the rules for Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment (January 1-March 31.)
Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to once again bring Los Gatos Yule Love It to Town for the month of December. Join us for some fun events and shop local this holiday season!

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**2019 National Wreaths Across America Day**

The South Bay’s annual Wreaths Across America Day honoring veterans is Saturday, December 14, at the Los Gatos Memorial Park cemetery.

Wreaths Across America is a nationwide, Christmas season ceremonial event whose purpose is to honor deceased veterans by placing live, evergreen wreaths at soldiers’ gravesites. In 2018 over 1,800,000 wreaths were placed on headstones at 1,640 participating cemeteries across the United States including Los Gatos.

Although Wreaths Across America is a national remembrance, the purpose really comes alive at each local ceremony and event. At the Los Gatos Memorial Park event, hundreds of volunteers place wreaths on the headstones of the more than 2,800 veterans’ graves at the cemetery. 2019 marks the 26th year of the national day of recognition but just the third year of the Los Gatos event.

The December 14 event in Los Gatos is an impressive ceremony consisting of several presentation elements designed to reinforce the organization’s ongoing theme; Remember, Honor and Teach. Several hundred people of all ages attend and sit under a large canopy to enjoy music by an Army Honor Band, hear spoken messages by local civic and military leaders, and engage in the patriotic ceremonial aspects. Elements of the ceremony include Posting of the Colors, placement of 8 ceremonial Wreaths acknowledging 8 branches of the military, and the playing of bagpipes and Taps.

Like many charitable, nonprofit organizations, Wreaths Across America functions by volunteer involvement and is driven by donations; in this case the purchase/donation of large, evergreen wreaths. The goal of the Los Gatos volunteer committee is to ensure that every veteran headstone at the cemetery receives a wreath. 2,350 wreaths were purchased by donors in 2018; 450 short of the 2,800 necessary to cover every headstone. To purchase wreaths ($15 each) go to: www.WAALOSGATOS.ORG. The deadline is Dec. 1.

Local event coordinator and Chairwoman Cindy Greer says, “The event gathering is an amazing experience, witnessing so many people from the greater community coming together for such an incredible reason. Yes the ceremony is impressive and emotionally compelling, but the sense of common purpose and respect for our veteran heroes of the past knits us together in appreciation for our veterans.”

Wreaths Across America is a free event open to ALL people. Gates to the December 14, Los Gatos event open at 10:00 am when the band starts with the remembrance ceremony starting at 11:00 am. Los Gatos Memorial Park is located at: 2255 Los Gatos-Almaden Rd. (Car pooling is encouraged and those who are able should consider parking off site.) For more information email: cindy@waalosgatos.org

Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit 501(C) (3) organization and not a political organization.
Caregiving During the Holidays

By Maria Nicolacoudis, Executive Director, Hearts & Minds Activity Center

The holidays can be a wonderful but also challenging time for caregivers, friends and family members of persons living with dementia. While dementia can sometimes lead to unpredictable and unexpected behavior, some planning and reframing of expectations can make this a time that everyone can enjoy. Here are a few tips for making the holiday experience joyful for everyone:

1. **Live in the Moment:** This is a busy season, but slowing down and taking the time to be in the moment can actually save time. Take a deep breath, let go of the lists of things to do and appreciate the experience you are having with your loved one. This will make them feel calm and secure and allow for an easier transition to a different activity.

2. **Time to Reminisce:** Many persons with dementia experience past memories as if they are the present. This can be a wonderful time to learn more about their past or experience the joy of past memories by looking at old photo albums or listening to “oldies” music.

3. **Ask for Help:** Don’t be afraid to ask for help from friends and family. Anything from sitting with your loved one while you are trying to wrap gifts, shop or bake to asking for help with those same tasks. We often underestimate the ability of friends and family to help and they often want to, but just need some guidance.

4. **Keep it Simple:** Modify the environment so that sensory stimulation is at the appropriate level for your loved one. Too much noise, blinking lights, and crowds of people can be difficult for someone with dementia to process. Keep all of these to a manageable level for your loved one to enjoy.

5. **Short Visits:** Limit the time visiting with family and friends to a level that your loved one can enjoy and participate, but not become exhausted and confused. Persons with dementia want to be included and enjoy being social, but trying to keep up with conversations can be exhausting.

6. **Modify Activities:** Instead of going to a crowded holiday fair, take your loved one on a tour of lights in the car. Schedule your activities such as holiday dinners, receptions, etc., for earlier in the day to avoid sundowning.

7. **Rest:** Get rest and make sure your loved one gets rest. If possible, sleep-in, take naps, go to bed earlier.

8. **Communicate:** Let your friends and family know how best to interact with your loved one.

9. **Stay Local:** Travel can be exhausting and confusing. If you need to travel, seek out organizations that provide overnight or short-term residential care.

10. **Respite Care:** Enrolling in adult day social respite care, such as the Hearts & Minds Activity Center in San Jose, provides a break for the caregiver as well as a fun and engaging experience for your loved one.

However you spend your holidays, try to give yourself the gift of care and comfort which can be as simple as a few quiet moments to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee or a phone call with a friend.

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### October Sales in Los Gatos and Monte Sereno

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