

## MIDTOWN NEWS – January 6, 2017

Editor: Annette Ashton for the Midtown Residents Association. See [www.midtownresidents.org](http://www.midtownresidents.org)  
LIST SERV at [PaloAltoMidtown@yahoo.com](mailto:PaloAltoMidtown@yahoo.com). Great place to "chat"

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### 1) MIDTOWN TIDBITS

The National **Weather Service has forecast** that our area should expect rain this weekend with about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " for Saturday (about twice that in the foothills) and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " on Sunday (about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in foothills). We can expect some higher than average tide levels that could increase the likelihood of a flash flood event. However, the National Weather Service has not issued any warnings. There will be additional on-call City staff available to assist with any storm-related problems. The sandbag stations at Rinconada and Mitchell Parks and the Airport are currently stocked with filled sandbags and will be restocked for this weekend. Once this inventory has been depleted, empty bags and loose sand will be supplied at the sandbag stations and residents should come prepared with a shovel to fill the bags. OES has also placed "MilkJug Shovels" in the Sandbag Boxes in case folks don't come with shovels. I suspect sandbags will be used up quickly. Remember to stay aware of local conditions and to access updated information on creek levels, weather forecasts and more at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/storms](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/storms). PS Be a good neighbor and make sure there are no leaves or debris in street gutters.

**Midtown Shopping Center:** One of the key efforts for 2017 of the Midtown Residents Steering Committee will be any development in the Midtown Center. Word on the street: Plans for Peninsula Hardware will be the expansion of Mike's. Unfortunately the Midtown Garden has been removed for more parking; no current plans for development. Across the street, a Wells Fargo branch will open. The new owners are working on beautifying the building with paint, new parking and signage. The city required more parking and landscaping, so hopefully the work will be completed soon. .

EPREP: Do1Thing in January: **Make a Plan**. Understand what puts you at risk from disasters and take steps to lower your risk. Tasks

- Plan what to do if you have to evacuate.
- Choose two places for your family to meet. One should be right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.
- Take steps now to prevent damage to your home in a disaster.
- Once you know what disasters could happen in your community, there are things you can do to lower your risk of injury or property damage.
- Learn what disasters can happen in your area and decide what you will do in a disaster.
- Knowing what disasters could happen can help you know how to be prepared and what to do. Contact City of Palo Alto Emergency Services to learn more about the disasters in your area.

JANUARY 26: **CYBER-TERRORISM** free lecture with FBI SSA Elvis Chan at City Hall at 7:15PM. Reception at 6:45PM. FREE Gift to first 100 attendees.

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/inc/displayblobpdf2.asp?BlobID=55188>

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### 2) CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL EVENTS

**TALL TREE** : Call for Nominations due January 20 with awards diner May 27th. Categories include: Outstanding Business, Outstanding Non-Profit, Outstanding citizen Volunteer, Outstanding Professional. Sponsored by the Chamber of Palo Alto. Questions or for application call 324-3121 or [info@paloaltochamber.com](mailto:info@paloaltochamber.com).

Current **Water Blend Change**: Beginning December 29, the SFPUC will temporarily change the source of our typical water supply from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. SFPUC will deliver water from local surface reservoirs along the Peninsula. This is necessary to accommodate inspections and repairs of the Mountain Tunnel pipeline that delivers water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. The Hetch Hetchy shutdown is anticipated to continue through the beginning of March 2017. During this period, SFPUC will provide its wholesale customers (cities including Palo Alto, counties and water districts on the Peninsula) with treated water from the Sunol Valley and Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plants. In preparation for the Hetch Hetchy shutdown, SFPUC began taking water from the Sunol Valley Treatment Plant on December 23. Starting on December 29, these facilities will each provide about 80 million gallons per day (mgd) as supply to the SFPUC Regional Water System.

Apply for the **Transportation Funding Stakeholder Advisory Committee** that will advise the Council on future ballot measure seeking voter approval for a general tax on businesses, and other potential funding sources that the City could use to fund transportation programs & projects. Committee will complete its work by Nov 2017. Apply at <http://tinyurl.com/z7wh86f>.

## CITY COUNCIL

- January 9: Start 7PM with Study Session - Year in Review. Agenda at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/55312>. Topics: Commendation for Sheri Furman, MRA Chair, appointment to boards and commissions.
- January 16: No Council: Martin Luther King Day
- January 23: Prescreening 4146 El Camino Real from Rm15 to RM 30, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Regarding the Next Network Initiative & Impacts on Bus Service in Palo Alto, Evergreen RPP.
- January 28 Council Retreat: Palo Alto Arts Center, 1313 Newell Road, 9:00 AM. Agenda: Council Annual Priority Setting: A. Process Foundation: B. Public Comment: C. Individual Nominees (Council Member Explanation): D. Action: Final Grouping into Priorities, Vote and Approval
- January 30: Appeal re 429 University Avenue, Comp Plan Land Use & Community Design Element, Study Session on the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Master Plan, Mid-Year Budget
- February 6: Study session: Stanford GUP. Topics: Weed Abatement; Downtown RPP; Accessory Dwelling Units; Pets in Need Contract Agreement; Annual Report on Development Impact Fees for Fiscal Year 2016

JANUARY 10: **PAUSD Study session** on district's equity plan and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) at 8 AM at the district office, 25 Churchill Ave.

JANUARY 10: **PAUSD meeting**. Topics: Resolution agreement from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights on sexual-harassment investigations: new course proposals, an audit report and negotiations processes; proposed resolution to support immigrant students, the allocation of \$60 million for elementary-school capital improvements, a conceptual design for a remodel at Hoover Elementary School. All at 6:30PM in district office.

JANUARY 11: **Planning and Transportation Commission** at 6PM Council chambers. Topics: Proposal for a new home at 670 Los Trancos Road and continue its discussion of the city's retail-preservation ordinance. Agenda at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/55413>

JANUARY 11: **Utilities Advisory Commission**. Topics: Updated Utilities Legislative Policy Guidelines; 2017 Water Integrated Resource Plan Guidelines; and amendment to Utilities Rule and Regulation 27. Starts at 7PM in first floor meeting room city hall. Agenda at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/55416>

JANUARY 12: **Historic Resources Board** Meeting, Chambers, 8:30 AM.

JANUARY 12: **Human Relations Commission** Meeting. First floor meeting room, city hall at 7:00 PM.

JANUARY 17: **Comprehensive Plan** Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting. Rinconada Library, 5:30 PM. Topic: Business Element. See <http://www.paloaltocompplan.org/>

JANUARY 19: **Architectural Review Board** Meeting: Council Chambers, 8:30 AM Projects: 3225 Hanover, 3181 Porter Drive, 1451 Middlefield

JANUARY 19: **Public Art Commission** Meeting. First floor meeting room, city hall at, 7:00 PM

JANUARY 24: **Parks & Recreation Commission** Meeting. Chambers, 7:00 PM

JANUARY 25: **Planning & Transportation Commission** Meeting. City Council Chambers, 6:00 PM

JANUARY 26: **Historic Resources Board** Meeting. Chambers, 8:30 AM

JANUARY 26: **Library Advisory** Commission Meeting, First floor meeting room, city hall at,, 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 1: **Utilities Advisory** Commission Meeting, Chambers, 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 2: **Architectural Review Board** Meeting. Chambers, 8:30 AM

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### 3) LOCAL EVENTS/NEWS

**Stanford for You.** Some very cool events. See <http://tinyurl.com/jftpdca>

**Stanford Continuing Studies:** Classes start in January. See [www.continuingstudies.stanford.edu](http://www.continuingstudies.stanford.edu). Featured course: Creative Entrepreneur, Intro to mergers & Acquisitions, marketing w/o money, Financial Planning, Pubcc speaking, Business Writing, Tools for Strategic Mgmt.

Cantor Art Center on Stanford campus "**The Wonder of Everyday Life**" (Dutch Golden Age Prints) through March 2017.

See all **Avenidas Activities** at <http://www.avenidas.org/>. Don't forget to PRE Register at [www.avenidas.org](http://www.avenidas.org) or by calling 289-5400. Selected events and news below. See full schedule at <http://tinyurl.com/mfhqpuv>.

- Mondays: Chinese Classical Mahjong from 1-4 PM. FREE
- Fridays: English Chat Club from 12:30 PM. FREE
- Fridays: "Club Avenedles" Needlework Club at 2:30 PM. FREE
- Fridays: Drop in bridge games at 1:30PM. FREE plus non scary duplicate bridge at 1PM. FEE: \$2/3
- Jan 9: UNA Film Festival "Mr. Dial Has Something to Say," 2-3:30 PM. Free.
- Jan 10: Try it Free! Pilates Technique 5-6 PM
- Jan 12: Movie: "Wish I was Here" 1:30-4 PM \$0/\$2 includes popcorn. Get ticket at front desk.
- Jan 13: Garden Club: "Arboretum All-Stars" by Santa Clara Master Gardeners, 1:30-3PM Free. All ages welcome.
- Jan 13: Lotus Dance Fitness Demo from 2:30-3:30 PM. Free.

**Deborah's Palm Events:** See all events at [www.deborahspalm.org](http://www.deborahspalm.org). Call: 473-0664. Ongoing Free Classes & Activities.

- Janaury 11 start: Job Search Strateg y <http://tinyurl.com/hnhwxqk>
- January 12 start: Women 50+ in Transition <https://www.smores.com/03wu7>
- January 18 start: Linkedin Workshop <http://tinyurl.com/h3lxl63>
- January 20 start: How To Manifest what is important to you in all aspects of your life <https://www.smores.com/dw1q1>
- January 28:Gratitude, Healing, Happiness workshop from 9:00 AM - noon; FEE: \$50 <http://tinyurl.com/jbtalzr>
- January 31 start: Finding Joy & Resilience Through Creative Expression

Through January 15: Museum of American Heritage (MOAH) 351 Homer, celebrates the rich history of technological innovation from 1750 to 1950. Special Exhibit "**Explore the Wonders of the Annual BayLUG Holiday LEGO® Show**" & Pop-Up Exhibit with a treasure trove of festive holiday scenes. Browse through the imaginative holiday creations, which include intricate holiday trains, miniature cities, suspending sparkly LEGO® ornaments, unique holiday scenes, and beautiful snowflakes! (Fri to Sun from 11 -3:45). Closed on Dec. 24 to Dec. 25, 2016 and Jan. 1, 2017. FEE: \$3 cash

JANUARY 6/7 and Jan 20/21: **Rummage sale** to benefit Lucile Packard. 807C East Bayshore, E Palo Alto. from 10 AM - 1PM.

JANUARY 7: **FABMO "free day"** at which much of our inventory will be available for the taking (except not for resale) as a means of making more space available for new materials. 970 Terra Bella Avenue, Suite 8, Mountain View.

JANUARY 8: The **New Esterhazy Quartet** at All Saints Episcopal at 4PM. Details at [www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org)

JANUARY 10: Retired lawyer Oak Dowling will explore the drama behind the hearings of **Manhattan Project physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer** from 1 - 2:30 PM at the JCC. Details at [www.paloaltojcc.org/Community-Tuesdays](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/Community-Tuesdays)

JANUARY 11: Stanford historian, Jack Roave, to give talk on **Electoral College**. He will speak about the history of the Electoral College and the implications of the system in today's world at a free talk at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills at 7 PM. Details from PA Online at <http://tinyurl.com/jlv4m8u>. RSVP at <https://electoralcollege.eventbrite.com>

JANUARY 12: **On Meat Without Animals**, considering cellular agriculture at 5:30PM CEMEX Auditorium Stanford. FREE. See [www.ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu](http://www.ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu)

JANUARY 12-14: **FABMO Selection event** with spectacular treasures available. Make appt at <http://tinyurl.com/zpt4nox>

JANUARY 16: At the JCC: **Mitzvah Day** from 8:30am-12:30pm. Location varies by project, throughout bay area. FREE. Join hundreds for a community-wide day of "tikkun olam" ("repair of the world") as part of a National Day of Service to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Participants of all ages will work on projects addressing issues of poverty, hunger, housing and homelessness, aging, the environment and more. Pre-registration is required and space is limited in each service project.

JANUARY 16: MLK Day Obama Reunion and Remembrance Event from 6:30 - 9:30 PM, All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St. Keynote speaker is Brad Jenkins, Managing Director & Executive Producer, Funny or Die, and former Associate Director in The White House Office of Public Engagement. Brad started as an SVFO volunteer in 2007 and worked his way up the food chain. His talk is "**El Camino to the White House: My Obama Journey.**" Eventbrite link <http://tinyurl.com/zqysygd>

JANUARY 16: At the JCC: **Bernard-Henri Levy: The Genius of Judaism** from 7-8PM. Fee: \$18 Students with ID | \$35 | \$30 Mem & J-Pass| \$45 Premium Seating. Mr Levy is a journalist, activist, filmmaker and author. He co-founded the anti-racist group SOS Racism and served on French diplomatic missions. His latest book, "The Genius of Judaism," offers a new vision of what it means to be a Jew; a critique of a new form of antisemitism; and a provocative defense of Israel. Levy reveals overlooked Jewish roots of Western democratic ideals and confronts the current Islamist threat. He says that Jews are a "treasure" whose spirit must continue to inform moral thinking and courage today.

JANUARY 18: Avenidas will sponsor free sessions on estate planning. The first, "**Estate Planning Basics: Making Sure You Have the Right Plan in Place,**" from 2::30 - 4 PM. at Avenidas, 450 Bryant St. The second on, Jan. 27, from 11 AM - to 12:30 PM, "Fine-Tuning Your Estate Plan: Which Assets Should Go to Which Recipients?" Pre-register, call 289-5400.

JANUARY 21: At the JCC: **Peter and the Wolf** at 10:30 AM English; 11:45 AM Mandarin; 1:30 PM Russian; 2:45 PM Hebrew. FEE: \$25| \$18 Mem & Kids (all ages). Prokofiev's timeless piece "Peter and the Wolf" children's story is narrated and accompanied by a live orchestra and delightful multimedia.

JANUARY 22: At the JCC: **Leslie Family Preschool Open House** from 9:00-noon. Prospective students and families will meet with teachers, explore classrooms and have their questions answered. Preschool is dedicated to building strong relationships among teachers, families and students in a warm, nurturing environment. Children progress at their own pace and family education enhances parenting skills and fosters connections. We welcome all religions and cultures.

JANUARY 24 and 28: Art historian Brigid Barton presents a two-part lecture on **Matisse and Picasso** from 1 - 2:30 PM at the JCC. Details at [www.paloaltojcc.org/Community-Tuesdays](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/Community-Tuesdays)

JANUARY 25: *Creative Writing Program at Stanford* presents visiting poet, Robert Pinsky, at 8PM. Cubberley Auditorium, 485 Lausen Mall. Free. See [www.creativewriting.stanford.edu](http://www.creativewriting.stanford.edu)

JANUARY 25/Feb 1 (1-3:30PM); second session Jan 30/Feb6 (10 Am-12:30PM): **Rejuvenate Your Retirement** at Cubberley Room A7; FEE. Sponsored by the City of Palo Alto. Call 463-4900

JANUARY 27: **FABMO Special sale** of yardage and wallpapers. No appointments will be necessary. For more information, see <http://tinyurl.com/z7xj49e/>. Time 9-3.

JANUARY 28: Gamble Garden: "**A Cooking Class for the Entire Family** : Learn to Make Chinese Wontons for Lunar New Year" from 3- 4:30PM. Do you love Chinese wontons? Learn how to make this traditional Shanghainese dish in this hands-on class at Gamble. You will prepare the broth for the wonton soup, mix the meat and vegetable ingredients for the filling, master wrapping and cooking techniques. We will sit down and celebrate the Year of the Rooster and sample your freshly made wontons and other delicious Chinese treats. This is a perfect cooking class for you and your family! FEE: \$25 mem/\$35 non-mem.

FEBRUARY 12: Gamble Garden: **JAPANESE MAPLE PRUNING** from 9:30- noon. Fee: Mem \$25; Non-mem \$35

FEBRUARY 18: **Yoga for a Healthy Back** from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM. FEE: \$30. sponsored by Common Ground. Do you have sporadic back pain or soreness from gardening? This class is designed to assist those who have had issues with acute or moderate back pain, as well as those who would like to learn how to use yoga to maintain a healthy back. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. We will be outside in the garden with the use of chairs. For more info and to register online: <http://bit.ly/2gKaemg>

FEBRUARY 18: Gamble Garden from 3-5 PM for tea and a special program! Gamble Board member Mary Powell will lead a discussion of the acclaimed book, "**The Invention of Nature**" by Andrea Wulf. This book details the forgotten life of Alexander von Humboldt, the visionary German naturalist whose ideas changed the way we see the natural world. FEE; Advance Registration \$15. At the door \$20.

MARCH 4: **Mother's Symposium** at Stanford with keynote by Anne Lamont at Dinkelspiel Auditorium on the Stanford Campus. The event is from 9:30AM -12:30PM.

## OLD

JANUARY 6: Palo Alto Photography "The Poetry of Place: from Mexico to Cuba and Beyond" at 7:30PM at Mitchell Park Community Center, FEE. See [www.paloaltophotoforum.org](http://www.paloaltophotoforum.org)

JANUARY 7: At the JCC: "Opera for Families: Viva Italia!" from 10:30-11:30 AM. FEE: \$18| \$15 Mem, Children (all ages) and J-Pass

JANUARY 14: Avenidas Block Party & "Building for the Future Kickoff" from 11AM - 2 PM. Music, Activities, Art Displays, Food trucks

JANUARY 14: Common Ground Classes: "Bare-root Tree Planting" at 2 - 4 PM at Common Ground, 687 Arastradero Road. Feb 3 from 2-4 "Early Spring Fruit Tree Grafting." Go to [www.commongroundgarden.org](http://www.commongroundgarden.org)

JANUARY 14: Canopy Tree Walk in Old Palo Alto Neighborhood 10 AM - noon. For the most up-to-date details, check out <http://canopy.org/our-work/tree-walks/>

JANUARY 21: Summerwinds offers free class in "Tree Pruning and Care" at 11AM.

JANUARY 23-March 6: Tai-Chi at Mitchell Park Center! From 7:30-9PM. FEE. For more, see <http://tinyurl.com/jxmljnv>

JANUARY 26: Annual Mayor Tree Planting and Awards Ceremony. 5:15- 7PM at Mitchell Park Community Ctr. RSVP by January 20 to [shannon@canopy.org](mailto:shannon@canopy.org).

JANUARY 26: CYBER-TERRORISM keynote with FBI Special Supervisory Agent Elvis Chan. Citizen Corps Council awards ceremony, reception. FREE gift to first attendees. See <http://tinyurl.com/jzotcxy>

JANUARY 31: Jimmy Chin: Wallace Stegner Lecture at 8PM at MT Ctr for Performing Arts. Tickets available for purchase online at [www.openspacetrust.org/lecture](http://www.openspacetrust.org/lecture)

FEBRUARY 4: Common Ground Classes: "Early Spring Fruit Tree Grafting" from 2-4 PM. Common Ground, 687 Arastradero Road. For more or to register, go to [www.commongroundgarden.org](http://www.commongroundgarden.org).

FEBRUARY: CANOPY tree walks include: Feb 11- Johnson Park to Gamble Garden; March 11- Mitchell Park (part of Arbor Day Festival)' Apr 8 - Midtown Neighborhood; May 13- Southgate Neighborhood; Jun 10 - Rinconada Library and Art Center; Jul 8 - Junior Museum and Zoo; Aug 12 - West Bayshore Neighborhood; Sept -; College Terrace Neighborhood; Oct 14 - Greenmeadow; Nov 12 - Gamble Garden.