

CUESTA CONNECTIONS

The Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter | Fall 2017



See Claire on her stilts at the annual CPNA picnic on September 30th!

SAVE THE DATE

Neighborhood Picnic Coming Up!

Join in the fun at this year's neighborhood picnic on Saturday, **September 30th from noon-3:00 pm** at the Cuesta Park large barbecue area. CPNA and Rose Market will provide the drinks and main food, and everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Don't forget a serving utensil! No alcohol please.

There will be plenty of musical entertainment from Boris Burton throughout the afternoon, with sets by singer/songwriter Rachel Ostrowski and opera singer Karen Michelle Buck (see profile on page 11 of this issue) starting at 1 pm. There will also be a kids' activity table with crafts to keep little hands busy. For you sporty types, the volleyball and horseshoe courts will be open and available for our group, and quite possibly,

conditions permitting, a parents vs. kids soccer scrimmage — so get ready!

In addition, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be hosting a safety fair and will have the neighborhood emergency trailer on hand. Representatives of the Mountain View Police and Fire Departments will also be present to answer any questions you may have.

If you are able, please bring canned goods for the Mountain View Community Services Agency (CSA). Beans, tuna and peanut butter are especially appreciated. No glass containers, please.

Come meet new neighbors while catching up with old friends. See you and your family there! 🍂

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LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

Long Time Residents: The Ronchi Family

By Paul Hammer, Nilda Ave.

Bentivoglio E. Ronchi (Ben), was born in Italy in 1892. He became a carpenter, and immigrated to San Francisco. There he met Nilda Olari whose parents had immigrated from Italy to San Francisco, where Nilda was born in 1909. Ben and Nilda were married in San Francisco in 1928, when Ben became a US citizen. Their eldest son, Anthony, was born in San Francisco in 1931. Ben worked as a union carpenter to support his family.

Coming to Mountain View

In the late 1930s, Ben built four row houses in the Potrero district of San Francisco. The houses wouldn't sell because of the Great Depression. Ben worked out a deal with an orchard owner in Mountain View to trade two of the row houses for the farmer's orchard. The orchard property, where Nilda Avenue



From left to right: Nilda, Richard, Ben & Anthony Ronchi in their backyard at 1038 Nilda Avenue.

now runs, was bounded by El Camino to the north and what is now Hans Avenue to the south. The back fence lines of the houses now on Nilda were the east and west boundaries of the orchard. The property was entered from El Camino where the farmhouse sat.

Ben's orchard grew apricots. The orchards to the east and south grew plums. To

See Nilda History, p.2

Nilda History, continued from cover

the west were the previously subdivided lots of Bonita Avenue where some houses had been built. Those houses were built by individual owners, and thus were all different (not tract homes). The only other streets in the area at the time were Boranda, Cuesta, and Camille Court. Camille Court started at Bonita and dead ended into the Ronchi property.

The Orcharding Years

Ben, as a union carpenter, continued construction work. In the fall, he would take time off construction to help with the apricot harvest. In downtown Mountain View, there was a business named Castles that sold products for orchards. One would walk into the establishment and see the floors were covered with a white dust which was the product called bluestone. This was used to control insects and fungus. Ben would contract with workers to come and spray the trees. There was one man who drove the tractor, and another on the back with a sprayer with a long pole. The sprayer wore a sort of raincoat that was like a fisherman's garb. The spray prevented the fruit from getting the blight called "scab".

In his younger years, Anthony liked to sit out on the porch of the farmhouse with a neighbor friend. They'd wait for cars to come down the El Camino because they wanted to see cars. In 1946, Ben's younger



Ben and Nilda Ronchi's 1928 wedding portrait, taken in San Francisco.

son Richard was born at San Jose National Hospital. As a young boy, Richard would be sent downtown to Food City to buy tobacco. The people at Food City would sell him the tobacco because they knew his parents. It was a different time.

Education

Richard went to Highway School from kindergarten through 3rd grade. Highway School sat on the corner of El Camino Real and Calderon where Two Worlds now resides. To get to Highway School, students used an underpass beneath El Camino. This was constructed because Anthony and Richard's cousin, Barbara, was killed on El Camino, going to school. Highway School was condemned in 1955,

but for the following few years was used as the initial site of Foothill College.

For 4th grade, Richard transferred to Bubb, which had just opened. There Richard finished elementary school, and then went on to Graham Middle School and St Francis High School. In those days, Bubb was a K-6th grade school and Graham was a 7-8th grade school.

Housing Construction

Ben may have had the idea of subdividing the orchard land and building homes as early as when the property trade was made. Richard still has a pamphlet titled "How to Subdivide Your Land," dated 1939. But World War II came and Ben's plans

1948 aerial photo. The dotted line indicates the orchard property purchased by Ben Ronchi before it became Nilda Ave.



1956 aerial photo. The dotted line surrounds the homes built by Ben Ronchi and his son Anthony on the street they named after Nilda Ronchi.



were delayed. In about 1950, Ben secured financing with Bank of America, engaged a draftsman for the home designs, formed a relationship with a real estate broker, and began construction. Ben named the new street after his wife, Nilda. Anthony had also become a union carpenter, and was made the project foreman.

The original concept for Nilda Avenue was for it to extend to El Camino. The apricot trees were removed and construction began before the new street was graded or paved. Ben moved the farmhouse to its current location at 344 Camille Court, and oriented it so its front door would face the new street. Ben wanted a new home for himself and his family, and he wanted that home to have a basement. The basement was dug and the concrete forms were put in place in the location of what is now the Camille Court extension out to Phyllis Avenue.

Before the concrete for the new basement was poured, the city stepped in and changed Ben's plans. The city decided that Camille Court would be extended through Ben's property, and Nilda Avenue would dead end into Camille Court.

The hole for the basement was filled in, and the new family home was built at 1038 Nilda, where it is today at the corner of Nilda and Camille. Because of the city's change, the front door of the old farmhouse now faces a fence.

The first few houses were built toward the south end of the street. Until the street was paved, the farm tractor was used to pull contractors out of the mud. The street and sidewalks were put in during 1952. Stamps with this date can still be seen in the sidewalks. At one point, Ben went to City Hall to pick up permits to start three more houses and the building inspector said, "Hey Ben, take ten. We don't want you to have to come down anymore for a little while!"

In 1952, Anthony's US army draft notice came. Ben went down to the Union Hall and said he would stop the project if his foreman was drafted. Anthony was given a deferment, and went into the army after all the homes were built in 1954.

Since Construction

The Ronchis built good relationships with their new neighbors on the street.

Richard once said, "If I ever got in trouble, it would beat me home!" One of those new neighbors, Don Teep, the original owner of 1067 Nilda, once said, "The (one car garage) houses here were \$10,300 or \$10,700, depending on the style. I bought one but didn't know how I was ever going to keep up with that \$90 per month house payment!" Don and his wife raised their three sons and one daughter in their 3 bedroom / 1 bath Nilda house.

Richard also became a union carpenter. Ben, Anthony, and Richard continued to do construction jobs in the area. Nilda died in 1991, and Ben died in 1994 at the age of 101. Just this past June 15th, 2017, Anthony died. At this time, Richard is preparing the house at 1038 Nilda for sale.

This author appreciates and thanks the Ronchi family for their efforts building our neighborhood and their contributions to our community. 🍂

Local History Matters is a recurring column exploring the history of our neighborhood and prominent figures who have helped to shape it.

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How can I help you?

Nancy Adele Stuhr



Mountain View Neighborhood Specialist

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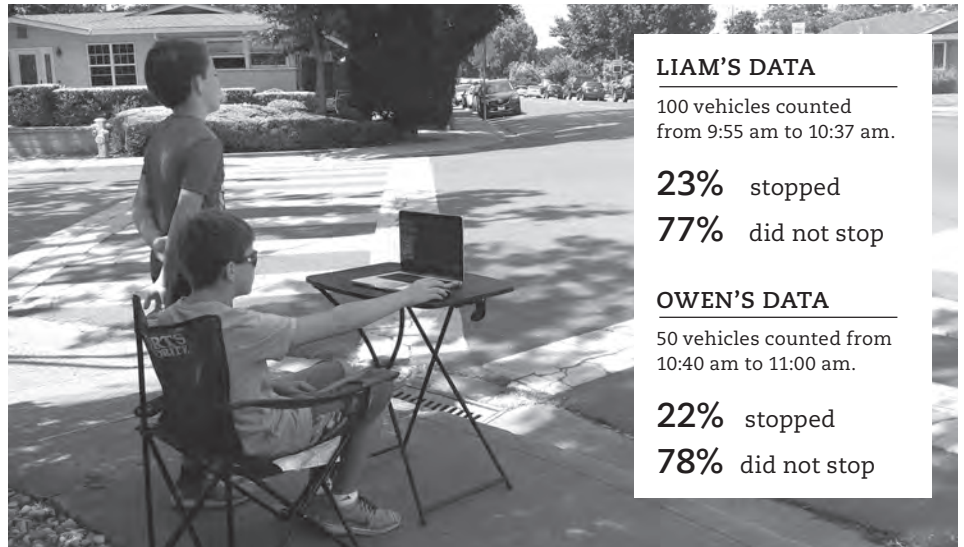
To Stop Or Not To Stop

By Paul Hammer, Nilda Ave.

How often do vehicles stop at stop signs? What does it mean to “stop” at a stop sign? My sons, Owen (10) and Liam (12) thought about this and looked into these questions. Owen thought “under 25% would stop.” Liam said “1 in 10 would stop.” There was talk about whether a “rolling stop” was a stop. It was decided that “wheels must come to a complete halt” to be a stop.

Prepared with their predictions and definition, Liam and Owen set up a monitoring station on the corner of Hans and Bonita on the morning of Thursday, August 11, 2016. This intersection was chosen because it is a 4-way stop, has high traffic volumes, and is heavily used by children going to and from schools. Wheels were carefully watched and results recorded: Liam’s prediction was pessimistic. Owen’s was close to the results.

During the monitoring there were three notable events. First, one vehicle



LIAM’S DATA
 100 vehicles counted from 9:55 am to 10:37 am.
23% stopped
77% did not stop

OWEN’S DATA
 50 vehicles counted from 10:40 am to 11:00 am.
22% stopped
78% did not stop

Owen and Liam monitoring vehicles at the intersection of Hans Avenue and Bonita Avenue.

drove through the intersection without slowing, as if there was no stop sign. And, at different times, two Google self-driving cars (the panda-looking ones) came through the intersection. Both Google cars stopped.

During the monitoring, the estimated age of the driver was not tracked. However, it was noticed that many of the drivers who did not stop were adults, not teens.

In this study the majority of cars did not stop. But is a vehicle that doesn’t stop at a stop sign unsafe? Although data wasn’t gathered for this question, it was agreed that almost all the vehicles were driven safely because there were no close calls. Of course the one vehicle that did not slow at all was not safe.

Do you stop at stop signs? 🍂



Naveen with his parents, Kavita and Bernhard, watching the solar eclipse in Oregon. Top right: photos of the eclipse taken by his family.



Watching the Eclipse

By Mia and Naveen, age 9 and Luca, age 6

We went to Oregon to see the eclipse with our family and friends. We went there because we wanted to see totality. From Mountain View it took 11 to 12 hours to get to Oregon.

When we got there, we started to set up our tents and got ready to watch the eclipse. We met people from Holland and China and Los Angeles. And then the eclipse started so we put our solar eclipse glasses on and looked at the sun because we didn’t want to get blind. When we looked into the glasses everything was dark except a small

orange dot that was the sun. We saw a black circle that was the moon slowly covering the sun. It became colder and colder and darker and darker.

After about an hour the moon totally covered the sun. This is called totality. We took off our glasses and looked at the eclipse. We saw the sun’s corona and pink solar flares on the edges. It was really cool.

Coming home took a really long time but we are glad we went. 🍂

Kids of Cuesta

We asked kids in our neighborhood, "What was your favorite part of the summer?"

The kids learned new things:

Getting to drive the golf cart at Pebble Beach while my dad played golf.

PATRICK, AGE 9

That I can go swimming.

JENS, AGE 6

Learning to fish with Grandma.



NICO, AGE 9

I went to 2 different baseball camps: a Giants camp and a Stanford camp.

SAMUEL, AGE 10

I spent my summer playing travel girls softball. We had so much fun traveling, and out of 7 tournaments, we won 3 and placed in 2 others!

CAMRYN, AGE 12

They traveled far and wide:

The best part of my summer was my trip to Austria.

CODY, AGE 7 AND SOMETHING

I think the best thing about my summer was going to Sequoia National Park.

ROBERTO, AGE 10

Going to Lebanon.

ANGELINA, AGE 8

Going on the Rubicon.

MASON, AGE 10

I liked going on vacation to Disneyland and Monterey

MADELINE, AGE 8

Going to New Jersey. I went to the boardwalk and played in the ocean with my family.

EVAN, AGE 10

Going to Japan.



NOAH, AGE 9 AND LUCA, AGE 6

And enjoyed the simple pleasures of summer:

Smelling the flowers

JUDA, ALMOST 5

No school so I have more time to play with my friends!

NAVEEN, AGE 9

Playing in the water.

LEO, AGE 4

Popsicles!



RICHARD, AGE 4

My birthday!

MIA, AGE 9

Going to a hotel.

ALEXANDRO, AGE 5

Going to the beach.

ALTHEA, AGE 5



Mia (2nd from left) and Luca (far right) enjoy the eclipse with their brother and parents.



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CPNA Neighborhood Development Update

By Merry Yen and Ben Lindahl, Nilda Ave.

To accommodate skyrocketing demand for housing, Mountain View has a record number of development projects in progress. We briefly summarize those developments within the Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association boundaries (courtesy of the Mountain View City Planners).

The complete list of current projects is listed on the City of Mountain View website: <https://goo.gl/nWVJBi>.

For an overview of Mountain View's approach to projects on El Camino Real, see P38, the El Camino Real Precise Plan: <https://goo.gl/4gxyiF>

1313 and 1347 W. El Camino Real

This 4-story, mixed-use project has commercial space on the ground floor, 24 apartment units on other floors, and 2 levels of underground parking. It is located on a 0.45 acre site on the southwest corner of West El Camino Real and Mountain View Avenue.

Impact: It is expected to house 50 to 55 residents (based on the expected 2-2.3 people per unit). The latest plans had 51 underground parking spaces and 11 at-grade parking spaces.

Schools: According to recent demographic studies by the Whisman School District, they expect 0.09 students per market rate apartment, and 0.64 students per affordable apartment (of which there are 2). This equates to about 3-4 students for the Mountain View Whisman district.

Status: The project is under review and would qualify for a 32.5% State Density Bonus. The Mountain View Planning Department is currently scoping a traffic study. However, their preliminary calculation is that the increased traffic is less than any of their analytical or impact thresholds.

The Mountain View Planning Department will send out notices when it is ready for a public hearing, expected in 3-5 months.

1101 W. El Camino Real

This residential project has 52 ownership units (condominiums) ranging in size from 1 to 3 bedrooms. The project is located on the south side of West El Camino Real between Miramonte Avenue and Castro Street (where Harv's Car Wash stood). The project is being developed by Regis Homes.



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!! Returning December to our Castro Street Mountain View Location !!

Impact: The project will have an underground parking garage providing a total of 84 vehicle spaces. A traffic study was performed as part of the project review.

Based on the information available, the project site is in the Mountain View Whisman School District and the associated schools would be Bubb Elementary and Graham Middle School. City Planners do not have information on the projected number of new students at this time.

Status: Approved by the City Council on November 12, 2014. The developer has been slightly delayed in their schedule. City Planners don't know the exact completion date at this time.

Reports, plans, and documents associated with Council's approval can be viewed through the Council agenda (<https://goo.gl/k7JAqo>). You can review traffic study information in the Mitigated Negative Declaration document (attached to the agenda).

801 W. El Camino Real

This mixed-use project has 164 apartment units and 10,800 square feet of commercial space. Located on a 2.39 acre project site on the southwest corner of West El Camino Real and Castro Street.

Status: Approved by the City Council on December 9, 2014. Currently under construction.

982 Bonita Avenue

This condominium project contains eight 2 and 3-story apartments in three buildings, with interior courtyards and a common area. 6 units have 3 bedrooms, and 2 units have 4 bedrooms. Proposed is a traditional architectural style with horizontal siding, gable roofs and front porches, considered compatible with the residential character of the neighborhood. Located on a 20,665 sq. ft (0.47 acre) project site east of Bonita Ave. between West El Camino Real and Hans Ave., in the R3-1.5 Zoning District.

Impact: The project would demolish 4 existing residential units to construct 8 new 2 and 3-story condominiums with below-grade parking and a Heritage Tree Removal permit to remove six trees. On the street frontage will be a 2 unit 2-story building. Underground parking will meet the City requirements of 2 spaces per unit; guest, ADA, and bicycle parking and will also be underground. A traffic study would not be required for a small scale project like this one that meets the required City development standards.

Status: This project and application are in the early review stages. The City has a rigorous design review process and the application is in that process now with staff discussions. It is considered an "incomplete" application at this time. Once the application is complete, the project will be scheduled in the next couple months for the Design Review Committee (DRC) meeting with the City architects and staff. The application and plans are public records and one can review them at the Planning Department.



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Supporters of Bubb School
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Elder Care in Mountain View

By Paul Hammer, Nilda Ave.

There are times when life forces a person into the situation of having to learn about a subject about which they know nothing and have no interest. This happened to me in 2009 when my active, healthy, independent, 78 year old father had a stroke and could no longer care for himself or his affairs. This was my beginning of learning about elder care in our area.

My siblings and I decided to move my Dad from Southern California to the Mountain View area where he would be near us and we could care for him. It was agreed my brother would manage all our Dad's money/bills/assets, and I would drive Dad to/from all doctor's visits (there are many).

We moved Dad first into a Residential Care home, which turned out to be unacceptable. After two months there, we moved him to a large Assisted Living facility, which was much better. During the first two years, my father had minor strokes and seizures while the doctors worked tweaking his medicines to bring things under control. When my father had one of these episodes and was found unresponsive, the Assisted Living staff would immediately call for an ambulance and he spent the next few days in El Camino Hospital. After this, he was required to spend 3-4 weeks in a nursing care facility where he underwent therapy and evaluation. Once he was deemed capable, he was allowed to return to his room at Assisted Living.

Today, with the right balance of medications, my father is in a steady state and has not done the episode => hospital => nursing care => assisted living process for years.

The above story mentions multiple levels of care. Here is a summary of the available levels, listed in order of lowest to highest in cost. Prices shown are what we have paid or were quoted for my Dad between 2009 and now.

Independent Living:

- A community for seniors with some meals provided; do not provide meds or anything medical; may do laundry & room cleaning
- Unlicensed
- Specific prices unknown, my father hasn't been well enough to live here

Assisted Living:

- Has 1 nurse on staff with assistants who can distribute meds; provides laundry, meals and cleaning
- Residents must be able to dress, bathe, use the bathroom, and get to/from meals by themselves. Walkers and wheelchairs acceptable.
- Licensed and governed by the CA Department of Social Services
- \$4,100 per month with meds, cleaning and laundry

Residential Care Home:

- Falls in-between Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing; do meds, laundry, cleaning and may do personal care (changing diapers, & showering for example)
- Usually a single family home turned into a care facility, often by adding wheelchair access; residents may share a room

- Licensed and governed by California Department of Social Services. These licenses seem to be up to 6 residents, with a 3:1 resident to caregiver ratio
- \$4,500 single room; \$3,900 shared room per month base rates, not including meds; additional services provided cost more

Skilled Nursing:


- For disabled persons needing long term care whose conditions aren't serious enough for hospital care
- These facilities do meds, IV fluids, catheters, change dressing, diapers, full showers, rehab, etc
- Residents may share a room
- Licensed and governed by the California Department of Health
- \$8,000 per month; \$309 per day = \$9,108 per month

In-Home Care:

- In-home care used by people needing the Assisted Living level of care or above. In some cases, such as when a Skilled Nursing level of care is needed, the caregiver may live in the home.
- Pricing unknown.

Continued on next page: Elder Care

SALE



Friends of the Mountain View Library

Friends of the Mountain View Library

Book Sale:

October 28 and 29, 2017

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday, Oct. 28 | 9:00 am–9:45 am 10:00 am–4:00 pm | Members-only Sale General Sale |
| Sunday, Oct. 29 | 11:00 am–4:00 pm | Bag Sale |

Volunteer with the Friends at www.mvlibraryfriends.org

Elder Care: continued from previous page

Hospital Care:

- All care available
- Licensed and governed by California Department of Health
- About \$3000 per day, depending on services prescribed (MRI, X-rays, labs)

Some facilities offer multiple levels of care: Independent, Assisted, and Skilled

Nursing. This allows a resident to stay in one facility as care needs change. While this a good idea, we found it may not be possible for a resident to stay where he/she is. All the facilities we toured were full or near full, and space may not be available when needed.

Of the costs mentioned, my father's insurance has only covered the hospital care. His insurance also covers medicines

with a co-pay. We are fortunate that my Dad worked full time as a mechanical engineer for over 30 years and invested well during that time. With his liquidated assets, and continued income (pension and social security) so far, my Dad has covered all his own health care and living costs. Facing these care prices, it is easy to understand why many elderly people live with family members. 🍄

Mobile Living in Mountain View By Kevin Bravo

I recently met Kevin, and was very curious about his creative living arrangement. So I asked him to share a bit of his experience of having a van as a home.

*Kavita Aiyar,
Newsletter Chair*

I bought a Ford E250 cargo van for \$7,500 and spent \$1,500 on various repairs, as well as several hours removing shelves and pressure washing the interior. I reasoned the ability to move on a moment's notice would counter the stress of a bad living situation. In the long run, I'd be able to work less for companies and more for myself, as cost of living would decrease as savings increase. It would also be smart to freely scope out different areas before I ever buy a house. If nothing else, it'd be a learning experience. In my most unsure moments, I rationalized it as mid-twenties shenanigans.

I cut out the sides of my mattress so it wouldn't fold like a taco between the back wheelhouses. I have a couple glass containers of food I dehydrated myself, a base camp duffel containing most of my possessions, a briefcase of stuff I need to get rid of but haven't yet figured out how, and a 40 liter pack for daily travel.

I learned that I will always lose things that aren't put back right away, as scanning the room doesn't really work with this little space. Actually, taking a

break in the middle of any task proves to be more bothersome when everything is so cramped, and I'm quickly learning to get things done, well, quickly.

Stepping out of bed onto pavement and seeing sunlight for the first time since yesterday is wonderful. What's even better is sleeping in till it gets too hot and stepping out into sunlight and cool air. I don't take my time fake-stretching to start running in the morning, because

**“The less I have,
the less I have
to protect.”**

*Kevin Bravo
Van-dwelling resident*

my only other option is to sit awkwardly on the sidewalk. I'm becoming less afraid of people. I probably won't get robbed in Mountain View, California, and if I do I won't get killed. Besides, the less I have, the less I have to protect.

Quality of life is dependent on many factors. I have a small bedroom, I have to drive to take care of hygiene, and relationships are out of the picture. On the other hand, I adjust to a normal sleep schedule. I shop around and find safe areas where I'm welcomed. I exercise and eat a diet that, in my opinion, is healthy, and I spend plenty of time outside. Being outgoing is a work in progress, but I

go home to a place I like only slightly less than San Diego and read and go for walks. My job doesn't stress me out because I know I don't need it. I don't spend time worrying about money.

And surprisingly, it's fun. 🍄



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Downtown Restaurant News

By Max Hauser, Guest Contributor from Old Mountain View

Sweetgreen, an inexpensive fast-casual chain with main-course salads and other meals-in-a-bowl, opened in May at 440 Castro (part of a former larger restaurant space).



Fans of departed eclectic vegetarian **Yam Leaf Bistro**, 699 Calderon at Church, hungrily await its pending descendant **Yami Grill** (<http://www.yamigrill.com>) following extensive remodeling.



Korean-fried-chicken franchise **Bonchon**, which includes general Korean and modern-international casual food (sliders, filled buns) and is popular already in Sunnyvale, opened in July under the same owner at 260 Castro.



216 Castro housed a series of popular Indian restaurants with related owners (Sue's Indian Kitchen in 1990s; Godavari; latterly **Shezan**, including Pakistani cuisine). Shezan's owners retired, selling the business to a nephew, who with partners is remodeling for a new restaurant, **Quality Bourbons & Barbecue** aka QBB ("BBQ" backwards), to open circa September.

The new **Peet's Coffee** at 420 Castro opened in late August.



The former downtown Srasa Kitchen location, 292 Castro, is well on the way to becoming **Pushcart Creamery**, a made-to-order ice-cream shop.

Shalimar Sizzle (246 Castro), closed after a brief initial run, is evolving (remodeling underway) to a biryani restaurant due to open soon.

East Street Tacos (or Tapas), 124 Castro, is closing at the end of August, to be replaced by a new establishment, **Chop & Pub**.



Icicles, offering "on-the-spot hand-rolled ice cream from scratch," is in the works for 282 Castro, near the pending and competing Pushcart Creamery.



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Neighborhood Milestones



Jason and Amy Papciak welcomed **Bradley Michael Papciak** on May 22, 2017, weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces, and measuring 20.5 inches long.

Bradley is a very happy and healthy baby boy, and already enjoys walks through Cuesta Park!



Leo, Ben, and Merry (pictured above) are thrilled to introduce the newest member of the Yendahl clan:

Ari Eric Yen Lindahl!

Born on Friday, April 14, 2017 at 8:59 am, Ari weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 20.5 inches.

We love our little lion cubs (Leo means lion in Latin, Ari means lion in Hebrew)! #awesomefoursome



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Meet Our Neighbor, Karen Michelle Buck

By Kavita Aiyar, Stamm Ave.

Her neighbors on Begon Avenue can attest to the fact that Karen Michelle Buck can turn anything into a song. When I arrived at her house for this interview, we started discussing how to say the name of her street. “I say Bee-gen, you say Bay-gen,” Karen sang to me, “I say to-mayto, you say to-mahto.” It was a funny, spontaneous little number, and immediately showcased Karen’s vocal abilities, creativity, and sense of humor. Not surprisingly, Karen is a professional opera singer.

Karen was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. After her musical studies at McGill University in Montréal, Karen moved to Germany to follow her dream of becoming a professional opera singer. During her stay, she sang many roles in opera, operetta and musicals in both Germany and Austria. Her favorite roles to date have been Susanna in “The Marriage of Figaro” and Adele in “Die Fledermaus”.

While performing the role of Carlotta in the Stuttgart production of “The Phantom of the Opera,” Karen met her husband, Matthias Baumhof, in appropriately dramatic fashion. She was onstage and he was playing keyboards in the orchestra pit, their eyes met, and they have been inseparable ever since! Karen, Matthias and their two daughters moved to Mountain View from Sydney, Australia a couple of

years ago. It was the first time any of them had lived in the United States.

“We have been very welcomed in this neighborhood,” says Karen. “People have been especially open and loving, knowing we come from abroad. It’s been a very interesting experience for our family to live in the U.S. after knowing Canada, Europe and Australia.

Since settling in Cuesta Park, Karen has continued her work as a singer, is a member of the local German language choir (Germania Verein Chor in San Jose) and also offers private voice lessons both at CSMA and the German International School in Mountain View. She will also be teaching in additional local schools this year, having recently been recruited to participate in CSMA’s Music4Schools program.

Karen enjoys holding vocal workshops in her home, and is interested in holding community vocal workshops specifically for the Cuesta Park community one morning a week. She and Matthias also lend their talents supporting different causes, interests and non-profits. Her rendition of the Disney classic “Let it Go” which was converted into “Lettuce Grow” was a popular part of a fundraising campaign for Veggielution, the non-profit where I work, back in the spring of 2015. (You can check it out online at <http://bit.ly/1OZN70Q>).

“It’s so diverse here, and you meet so many people from all over the world. I feel like more of a global citizen because of it.”

Karen Michelle Buck


I was curious whether being in the heart of Silicon Valley has impacted Karen’s ability to find fellow artists and musicians. “The focus is tech, sure,” she says, “but people are bringing their language, culture and music with them. The people I meet in tech are interested in music or are musicians themselves. Matthias, my husband, is the perfect example: software engineer at a startup by day and pianist and composer by night!”

Clearly, she is enjoying the voyage of discovery. “When you’re new to a place, especially a quieter, suburban setting, you may have to dig a little deeper to find those things, but they absolutely exist here. Even this weekend I have a pianist from Germany, a cellist from Denmark, a violinist from Israel, Matthias and myself all in a casual concert at my house. It’s an amazing multi-cultural thing, and it just came together.”

Karen Michelle Buck in the role of Carlotta, the opera diva, for “The Phantom of the Opera” performed in Stuttgart, Germany.



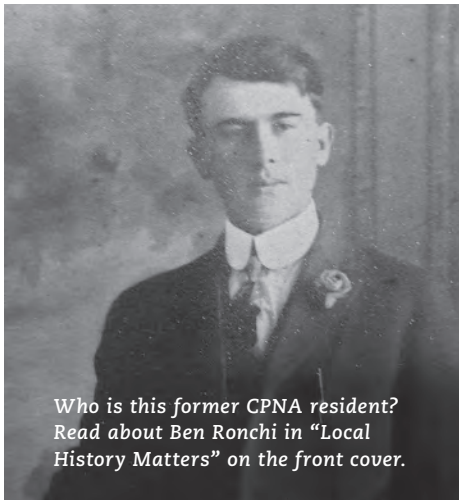
Karen is looking forward to meeting more of her Cuesta Park neighbors in the near future. “It’s so diverse here, and you meet so many people from all over the world. I feel like more of a global citizen because of it.”

You can contact Karen about voice lessons, or the Cuesta Park community vocal workshops via her website at www.singingwithkaren.com 

Artists in Residence is a recurring column about notable artists who live or work in the Cuesta Park neighborhood.

CPNA EVENTS:

- The **CPNA annual picnic** is scheduled for September 30 at the large BBQ picnic area of Cuesta Park from 12–3 pm.
- **Star Gazing**, hosted by Steve Nelson, will take place at Bubb Park on October 27 from 7:30–9:00 pm (weather permitting). Telescopes will be provided. Children are welcome and encouraged to attend. CPNA Halloween maps will be handed out at the event.
- In December, we hope to coordinate another **Christmas Caroling** event. Look out for more details on CPNA's Yahoo Group and www.nextdoor.com.



Who is this former CPNA resident? Read about Ben Ronchi in "Local History Matters" on the front cover.

NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

Join the CPNA Yahoo Group to stay up to date on the latest community news. The group is open to all residents and those owning residential property within the CPNA boundaries. Email your membership request to CPNAtalk-subscribe@yahoo.com; please include your street address!

You can also find Cuesta Park represented on www.nextdoor.com.

WHAT IS CPNA?

The Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) was formed in 2002 to promote a sense of community pride in our neighborhood, to increase emergency preparedness, to sponsor social activities for residents, and to act as a common voice to express our neighbors' wishes and grievances to the City of Mountain View.

CPNA is not a homeowners' association. We do not enforce any covenants that homeowners may have, and we are not exclusively for homeowners. Anyone who lives in the neighborhood is automatically a CPNA member, including a large number of renters, many of whom

have lived here for decades. Our neighborhood boundaries are Miramonte Avenue, El Camino Real, Grant Road, and the back side of Cuesta Park/Villa Siena Senior Living Community.

The CPNA Steering Committee consists of:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| President: | Aileen LaBouff |
| Vice President: | Jan Peters |
| Treasurer: | Pam Miller |
| Secretary: | Kavita Aiyar |
| Member-at-large: | Safdar Ighanian |
| Newsletter Chair: | Kavita Aiyar |
| Social Chair: | Peter Pirnejad |
| CERT Chair: | Hugo Penafiel |

NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

By Hugo Penafiel, Leona Lane

The Cuesta Park Community Emergency Response Team (CPNA-CERT) is composed of neighbors who volunteer their time to prepare for emergencies. Many of the volunteers have taken the City of Mountain View's CERT program (approximately 20 hours over 6 sessions) FREE of charge. Check online for the next scheduled training at www.mountainview.gov/depts/fire/preparedness/cert.asp

We have approximately 50 block volunteers, but we're always looking for additional help. Whether it's an earthquake, fire, flood, pandemic flu or plague of locusts, we want to make sure that our neighborhood is as prepared as possible! As you have read in recent headlines, flooding by the Oroville Dam and the San Jose neighborhood near Coyote Creek, or Hurricanes Harvey or Sandy, there is always a need to plan and prepare your family for a variety of events (expected or not!)

Feel free to contact CPNA-CERT at penfiel-cpnacert@yahoo.com for more information. See upcoming CERT events at right, or check our CPNA-CERT on-line calendar at <http://cert.cpnamv.com/events/>.

CERT-trained participants only:

- **CERT Continuing Education** class
September 23, 9 am–12 pm
Held at Fire Station #4
(229 N. Whisman Road).
Class topic: Disaster Medical

Neighbors & CERT-trained people:

- **Monthly Radio CERT Exercise**
First of every month at 8:00 pm

All CERT volunteers use their GMRS radios to check in with the CERT Command Post and review general CERT announcements. This also allows people to check that their radios are in working order.
- **City-wide CERT Drill**
Saturday October 21, 1 pm–4 pm

The event takes place throughout our neighborhood and at the CERT command post located on the east side of the field at Bubb school near Barbara Avenue.

