#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

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### Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

**Biryaniz**, 246 Castro's specialty Biryani restaurant, was closed and "Upgrading" (said a notice) as of my last report here. Right after that, in late October, the site reopened as a different restaurant, **Zhangliang Malatang**, a hot-pot chain from China.

Hong Kong Bistro vacated 147 Castro (per announced plan to merge into parent Fu Lam Mum nearby). Perennially popular Amarin Thai Cuisine is now open there, an expansion standing in for the 174 Castro home base, currently closed "for maintenance" and directing customers to the new site ("Amarin 2"). Personnel at Amarin 2 told me its menu is basically the same.

In late January, upscale Japanese restaurant **Kappo Nami Nami** closed after 15 years at 240 Castro. Reportedly the lease was up, the owner-chef preparing to retire, and a new restaurant, **Sushi Arashi**, will replace it.

**Vida,** a spinoff from nearby Doppio Zero at Xanh's former site (110 Castro), is "Coming this Winter." Despite an August notice (on What Now SF) characterizing Vida as "a sister concept to Doppio Zero offering Italian cuisine," its website vidatapasmy.com indicates Spanish small plates (tapas) and drinks.

As of late January, these pending establishments remain works-in-progress: **Café 86** at 738 Villa. **Limón Rotisserie**, 800 California at Castro. **The Terrace** (975 W. Dana, where the old Yakko Sushi sign remains).

# Sign Up for the 2nd Annual Neighborhood Egg Crawl

by Joan Thunderbuilt

It's like Halloween with Eggs! Last year was an egg-citing event with over 130 hunters and 35 hider yards.

Treat filled plastic eggs will be hidden by neighbors across Old Mountain View front yards on April 2 for the Second Annual Neighborhood Egg Crawl. Hunters will be provided a digital color coded egg map to scooter, skip and scour the neighborhood for the hidden eggs.

Don't miss out. Sign up now. Advance registration required! Hunters and Hiders needed. (Hiders provide the treat filled eggs and hide in their front yard.) Complete details and registration form at omvna.org. •





♥ Lubim te, moja zeno Iva, uvijek i zauvijek! Tvoj Robert ♥

## Congratulations Emily Ramos

OMVNA congratulates Emily Ramos on joining the Mountain View City Council. We look forward to meeting you and discussing your thoughts on the future of Old Mountain View.

#### Safety Tips

## Sand Bags

by Susan Bickford

Did you experience flooding during the latest heavy rains?

Although Mountain View as a whole was much safer than other areas, there was still local flooding and other problems with water.

I have a small basement typical of California bungalows built in the 1920s. These days it is accessed from the backyard via a hatch system in my deck.

During heavy rains, I need to keep an eye out to make sure water doesn't get into the basement from around the edge of the hatch system.

About five years ago, I discovered that putting sandbags at the bottom of the stairs worked beautifully. The sand does not mold but over time the burlap disintegrates and the bags should be replaced.

Fortunately, sandbags are available for free from the City of Mountain View. Located at the City's Municipal Operations Center at 231 N. Whisman Road, there are signs to a pile of and a stash of dry bags.

It's a good idea to bring your own shovel but when I went recently, there were shovels available.

Wet sand is very heavy. Adding a hand truck or a wheel barrow is a good idea.

Do not overfill your sandbags. One third to one half is plenty, They weigh less and can be formed into shapes that place better.

For additional sandbag locations, visit the Valley Water website. For more information, call Public Services at (650) 903-6329.•

# Tori Ann Atwell Your neighborhood Notary Public & Certified Signing Agent 16501 996-0123

#### **Building Trends Profile**

## Old Buildings, New Businesses 2.0

by Jerry Steach

In a previous edition of Lamppost, we featured diverse businesses that had recently "set up shop" in the historic commercial district of Old Mountain View. Downtown continues to be a destination for businesses to open their doors – and not just restaurants and cafes, but those in professional services, as well. Two more examples reflect this trend shows no signs of abating.

At the front of 257 Castro St., there's a new threader in town – specifically, Center Tailor & Alterations, which provides repair services for a variety of materials, and also offers ironing services. Ali, the business's proprietor, said he was excited to open his business on the historic commercial stretch of Castro St., which he chose because of downtown's vibrancy, summing up his assessment of his Castro St. shop with, "This is a wonderful location."

Around the corner from Ali's shop, at 954 Villa St., is the Bay Area offices of LegalZoom, an online technology company that helps its customers create legal documents and offers attorney referrals. The 1930s Spanish Revival structure was originally home to the Airbase Laundry and later to the hugely popular Tied House restaurant and brewery, which operated there for three-plus decades until its closure in early 2020. The building was subsequently converted to office space and in late 2022, LegalZoom, as the colloquialism goes, hung out its shingle. In a nod to the historic building's previous tenant, the large, brightly lit Tied House sign above the door that once greeted customers was repurposed inside the LegalZoom's offices and now illuminates a meeting area.

Readers of this newsletter may recall that in 2019 the Air Base Laundry/Tied House/LegalZoom building and adjacent Weilheimer House, presently home to Chez TJ restaurant, were granted eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), thanks to a successful preservation campaign by local advocacy group Livable Mountain View. By extension of that NRHP designation, both buildings now are also listed on the California Register of Historical Resources. •

# MV Historical Association Board Openings

by Robert Cox

The Mountain View Historical Association is looking to fill two at-large board positions for the 2023-2024 calendar year. At large members typically work on projects where the board members interests align with the organization's needs. We are flexible as to assignments, but are particularly interested in people with an interest in social media, outreach, and publicity. We are a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history of Mountain View, California.

If you are interested in applying, or just learning more about the positions or our organization, please get in touch with me at robertcoxfrommountainview@gmail.com. •

We're all about engaging in the Sacred Act of Neighboring.

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Go to FrontPorchMV.org to find out more!



#### Art in Mountain View

# Journey: Dee Clements' The Essence of a Boy

by Don McPhail

Here's my take on Journey, by Dee Clements, the fine bronze sculpture situated at the Mountain View train station, a sadly under-visited location frequented by commuters running too late to give the statue a close look. It is referred to as "The Baggage Cart" on the city's web site. Clements is internationally recognized and his studio is in Loveland, Colorado:

The young man seems new in town, just off the train from many decades ago, and from someplace much smaller than here. He has the look of a hard-worker, but that's a first-impression and it's a bad idea to judge from appearances. It's a rugged and realistic sculpture, and a friendly one. You'd want to say hello to him; maybe ask if he needs directions.

Here's another take, excerpted from www.bcx.news, an informative art and literature web site:

Realistic detail. a sculpture of an old fashioned luggage cart on permanent display. Created in 2004 at the Mountain View train station. the sculpture is a marvelous work of superb detail, right down to the bolt heads holding the cross pieces together, and a "steel" strap down its center to support the luggage. The attire of the young man begins with long stockings under knee length pants capped with high-top, lace-up shoes.

Dee Clements' extraordinary artwork began back in 1984, with *The Bald Eagle*, for the National Audubon Society. This insight came from his web site: *Although my early sculpture was abstract in focus, I was drawn to the beauty of bronze figurative sculpture. When* 



I created my first sculpture out of clay, I had a sense I had found my passion. Since that first sculpture a main thread in my life has been to portray the content of a person, to capture through the face and figure the spiritual lessons of the individual. •

# Do You Recognize These OMVNA Steering Committee Members?

Would you recognize these people today based on their high school yearbook pictures? Go to: omvna.org to find out!









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# Jpcoming Events

Mercy-Bush Park



**Ava's Themed Potluck** 

APR

Saturday afternoon

2nd Annual Egg Crawl (in the neighborhood)

Sunday morning

**Spring Chalk Party** 



## **A Scavenger Hunt**

social@omvna.org

- fb.com/omvna
- @omvna

OldMTVevents+subscribe@groups.io

details @ omvna.org

Community events of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association (OMVNA)

♥To Cassie. Thanks so much for sharing your toys with me. Love Pippin 🕶

#### **Neighborhood News Sources**

- Join the neighborhood email lists: OMVNAtalk2@groups.io send email to: omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io OldMTVevents+subscribe@groups.io
- Online www.omvna.org
- Facebook www.fb.com/omvna
- Twitter @OMVNA

Opinions expressed herein are not official positions of the OMVNA Steering Committee or its members unless otherwise stated.

Contact the newsletter team at: editor@omvna.org

Submissions for our May 2023 issue are due by April 19, 2023

#### **Mountain View History**

# Joseph E. Williams: Early Old Mountain View Landowner

by Susanne Martinez

The 1889 map of Old Mountain View shows that a large plot of land, running between Castro and Shoreline (previously called Bailey Avenue) along what is



today El Camino, was owned by a Captain Joseph E. Williams.

According to his biography, published in 1888, Captain Williams was born in 1830 on Prince Edward Island and went to sea at an early age. He spent a number of years on large ships crossing the Atlantic, visiting the ports of Europe. Around 1870, he landed in San Francisco, and like many early Mountain View settlers, spent some time in the Sierra gold fields. His marriage in San Francisco in 1879 to May Thomson was reported in the Alta California newspaper. In 1887, he settled in Mountain View where he

purchased forty-two acres just off Castro where he grew peaches, apricots and grapes. In 1888, he built "a two-story dwelling in the Queen Anne style" on the land, (San Jose Mercury News, September 18, 1888). Captain Williams died in 1911.

Captain William's orchards are long gone. Around 1924, the land he owned became the site of the old Mountain View High School and today includes the Park Place apartment complex, a number of restaurants and commercial entities as well as Eagle Park and swimming pool. •

#### What's Up

# Update on New Development in Old Mountain View

by Robert Cox

In September 2022, The California legislature passed Assembly Bill 2097. This new law, which went into effect on January 1, bans cities from requiring parking in new developments within one half mile of significant transit stops. Since most of Old Mountain View is within one half mile of either the Caltrain station or El Camino Real, this new law affects new development in almost all our neighborhood.

The primary motivation for the bill was to lower the cost of new development and to encourage the use of alternatives to automobile use. The downside is that parking will become increasing more difficult to find as parking-lite new developments make greater use of our neighborhood street parking to accommodate their tenants.

Several already approved projects that were on hold during the COVID pandemic are now coming back to the city to take advantage of the new state law. One example is the Marwood project, a four-story building at 701-727 West Evelyn Avenue, south of the train station. The project will include 23,454

Continued on page 7

#### **Public Library**

## Winter Events at MV Public Library

by Kyle Hval, library.mountainview.gov

#### Free Tax Help at Mountain View Public Library

IRS-certified volunteers will be available to assist in preparing federal and state income tax returns for free every Tuesday and Saturday from February 4 through April 18. This service is available to households with a 2022 income of \$60,000 or less. Please bring the social security card or ITIN for each person on your tax return (taxpayer, spouse, children, etc.). For more information about



required documents and information you'll need to bring with you, please review the event listings on the Library Events Calendar.



# African American History in Verse

Join us Thursday, February 16 for an evening of poetry and conversation about African American history and culture with award-winning poet and author Marilyn Nelson.

Marilyn Nelson is a three-time finalist for the National Book

Award and she's one of America's most celebrated contemporary poets. She is the author or translator of eighteen poetry books for adults and children, five chapter books, and she published a memoir entitled *How I Discovered Poetry*, which was named one of NPR's Best Books of 2014. •

# Pick Up a Book Club Bag

**Book Club in a Bag** allows Mountain View Public Library card holders to reserve and check out kits with 10 copies of a popular book to host their own book clubs. Each kit comes with discussion questions, tips for running your own book club, and more information to take the guess work out of hosting a book club. Just one library card is needed to check out a Book Club in a Bag kit, you just need to provide the people and the place to meet!

#### **Quick facts:**

- Kit has 10 copies of a popular book, a discussion guide, and a sign out sheet
- Check out for 6 weeks
- Can be renewed once

#### **2023 OMVNA Steering Committee**

David Lewis Subcommittee Chairs Chair: Vice-Chair: Robert Cox CERT: Sherril Brennan Treasurer: Larry Rush Historical Preservation: **Jerry Steach** Secretary: Jamsheed Agahi Robert Cox Residential Parking: Jamil Shaikh & Roberto Miller At-Large: Max Hauser Lorraine Wormald Old MTV Eventors: At-Large: Kristin Bailev Newsletter: Susan Bickford Advertising: advertising@omvna.org April 24, 2023 Community Liaison: Jamil Shaikh **Next Meeting:** 

# Notes from the Chair

# January 2023

David Lewis,
OMVNA Steering Committee Chair

As January ends in Old Mountain View, we still have encouraging news with COVID; our cases continue to decline; folks aren't dying as fast as before from COVID, the stuff we put down our toilets doesn't indicate a massive new surge—in fact, the numbers are declining rapidly.

The latest COVID Omicron subvariant, XBB.1.5, hasn't caught on in the West Coast, possibly being blocked by the Rocky Mountains—the new version may not take well to high altitudes, or by the lack of persons to infect out here, and it looks like those of us who have taken the bother of being vaccinated and boosted are relatively safe.

Most of those getting sick are the unvaccinated (over 90%); most of those getting seriously ill (or dying) are the unvaccinated and elderly. Most of us are quite safe now.

On the other side, we continue to have frequent reports of folks driving badly; perhaps an aftereffect of the pandemic, or having to go back to work in person, made worse by an epidemic of potholes, that don't seem to care if you're driving badly or not.

The State of California, and Senator Wiener, continue to weigh heavily on Old Mountain View, with demands for a large amount of new housing in our area, insisting that new development does not require parking (everyone will take Caltrain), and developers are starting to take advantage of the new minimal parking requirements. There are now severe constraints on the City Council's ability to restrain or control development, and the State has put in a host of other measures to ensure development will continue unrestrained.

The monsoons arrived and stayed for a while, giving us a large part of our normal year's rainfall, though we still need more just to get to average, and even more to replenish all the water lost in several years of severe drought. A lot of the rainfall came

Continued on page 7

#### **MTV Eventors**

# Community Fun Trifecta

by Joan Thunderbuilt

We wrapped up 2022 with 3 community events:

The Rangoli Chalk Party was held on Sunday, Oct 16th. Over 200 neighbors showed up to learn seasonal dances and bring the sidewalks to life with rangoli drawings all around.

Hot Chalk-a-lot on Sunday, Dec 4th was an opportunity for neighbors to share in conversation, hot chocolate, and chalk artistry. Participants ranged from very young to very young at heart.

The Caroling Crawl was a small but joyful group who braved the rains on Saturday, December 10th. (Who knew it was the early days of the deluges yet to come). Having joy still to share, a caroling flash mob serenaded lucky diners along Castro Street on December 22rd.

After a wonderful 2022, you can expect more exciting opportunities to connect with your neighbors in 2023.



# What Can Ava's Do For You?

by Joan Thunderbilt

Join us at an Ava's themed potluck on Saturday, March 18th from 3-5pm. Meet Juan, your neighborhood Grocer and share what you would like to see in a neighborhood grocery where you might shop regularly.

Buy your organic ingredients from Ava's on Castro St. to up your potluck game. Bring to Mercy-Bush Park on 3/18. Fresh lemonade will be provided.•

#### Page Six

## Utilize the Sun—Solar Powered Laundry

by Kristen McGuire-Husky

Did you know that for a few dollars at the hardware store and a few minutes of your time you can dramatically reduce the energy consumption of one of the most energy hungry appliances in your home? Dryers use far more energy than most appliances such as refrigerators and TVs. You can save energy by drying your clothes in the sun instead of mindlessly tossing them in the dryer. Modern washers are great at not leaving clothes soggy and synthetic fibers dry fast, making line drying a much quicker and easier process than it was in years past.

Old Mountain View has an ideal climate for drying clothes outdoors. Clothes hanging on a line or rack will easily dry most of the year. Spring is a great time to get started with hanging laundry since the sun is abundant and temperatures are warming.

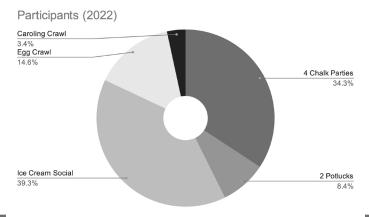
First find a location that works best for you. A nice sunny spot is best but clothes will dry in the shade if sun is not available, a location near your laundry is most convenient. Fancy clothes lines and special clothesline rope can be purchased at our local True Value, but I have found that paracord and a few sturdy screw hooks work best for stringing a laundry line. Posts or trees make great anchors for the line. Stand alone racks can be purchased if you don't have room for a line and are also useful for small items, but I just hang my small items on the edge of the laundry basket and leave it in the sun with the rest of the laundry.

If you plan to sun dry your laundry, start the washer around breakfast time, by your morning coffee break the clothes will be ready to hang. I typically hang foldable items like pants on the line and hang my shirts on hangers to dry so they are all ready to go directly into the closet when they are done. Heavy items like jeans or towels might require a flip to get both sides dry, but most clothes will be dry by evening with no further effort. Items that are not completely dry by sundown can be tossed in the dryer for a few minutes or laid out inside for the night. Some items like towels might also need an air fluff to get them fluffy.

So the next time you are doing laundry, think about using our abundant sunshine to get your clothes dry rather than using the power hungry dryer. •

# 2022 Neighborhood Events Participation

900 participants at 9 events, April—December







#### **Profiles**

# KiwiCo's Pop-up Store On Castro

by Bruce Karney

What if your kids could build their own toys from cleverly designed kits?

What if they learned STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) concepts while playing with them?

What if these toys were created by a Mountain View company and sold online around the world?

Welcome to KiwiCo's pop-up—the company's only brick and mortar store—at 285 Castro. It's spacious, well organized and well stocked. The store opened in December and will be closing in May. Check out the photos and rave reviews on Yelp!: https://tinyurl.com/mrxajfaa •

#### **Downtown Update**

Continued from page 4

square feet of office, 6,984 square feet of ground floor retail. The original proposal called for a three- story underground parking garage, which would be shared with a hotel, to be built by the Robert Green Company. The new proposal reduces the parking to a single floor of underground parking and decouples the project's parking from the hotel's parking. This will allow for 56 employee parking spaces and storge for 44 bicycles. An office of this size would typically accommodate between 69 and 138 employees. To offset the lack of parking on site, Marwood will contribute \$8 million toward downtown parking initiatives. Marwood expects their new proposal to be approved by the city council in April 2023.

A wider city council discussion of how to handle parking in the downtown is expected later this year. As always, the public will be invited to participate. •

**♥** Thank you MV Eventors for bringing fun events to the neighborhood 🎔



#### **Notes from the Chair**

Continued from page 5 quickly, much of it did not soak in and ran off instead. While there was some local flooding and some local damage from wind, rain, mudslides, etc., most areas are OK after the storms. Old Mountain View seems to have lost very few if any trees, and CA-1 has not collapsed into the sea, as has happened in some previous storms (although there were some mud slides). You can still drive to and through Big Sur, if that is your fancy (we like to have lunch at Nepenthe). •

◆ Happy Valentines Day, Eric. Love, Marian

# Get Involved Learn More

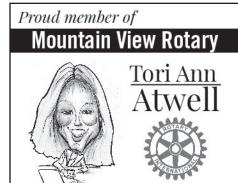
livablemv.org

Large Building Projects in Old Mountain View

Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association Steering Committee does not advocate for or against building developments in Mountain View. To be involved or learn more about some building issues, please join "Livable Mountain View"

wwwlivablemv.org The time to effect change is way before the project is presented to City Council for final vote. •





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