

January 18, 2008  
Palo Alto, CA

## FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

### **Library Presents "*Memories of Wartime Shanghai*"**

Join us at the Palo Alto Main Library, 1213 Newell Road, on Friday, January 25, at 7 p.m. for *Memories of Wartime Shanghai*. This free program is the first in a series of Palo Alto City Library events celebrating Silicon Valley Reads: *The Distant Land of My Father* by Bo Caldwell. Historian Connie Young Yu will describe life in 1930s Shanghai, where the novel is set, and Meimei Pan will share stories of her parents' life and their dramatic escape from the Japanese invasion in 1941.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. Refreshments will be served. Visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/library](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library) for information about other events during this month-long program focused on the novel. Visit [www.siliconvalleyreads.org](http://www.siliconvalleyreads.org) for information about Silicon Valley Reads.

### **4 City Named "Energy Partner of the Year" by U.S. EPA**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named the City of Palo Alto as the "Energy Partner of the Year" for its Landfill Methane Outreach Program. Senior Resource Planner Karl Knapp accepted the award on behalf



of the City on January 8, in Washington, D.C. The City shares the award with Alameda Power and Telecommunications.

The EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) is a voluntary assistance and partnership program that promotes the use of landfill gas as a renewable, green energy source.

LMOP is pleased to recognize landfill gas energy projects that took innovative approaches to utilize landfill gas from municipal solid waste landfills, deliver environmental and economic benefits directly to the community, and promote landfill gas energy projects locally and nationally.

The EPA selected the cities of Palo Alto and Alameda in recognition of meeting their renewable energy goals by contracting for power purchases from three new landfill gas to energy projects – one in Santa Cruz County,

**4** Designates an item related to one of the City Council's "Top 4" Priorities.

one in Half Moon Bay and one near Pittsburg, CA. Santa Cruz is operating; the other two are under construction and expected to begin delivering electricity later in 2008. The output of these facilities will deliver approximately six percent of the annual energy needs of Palo Alto.

#### **4** Volunteers Needed January 26 for “Sandbag Saturday”

During the recent winter storms, Palo Alto residents volunteered to make and deliver sandbags to their neighbors who could not do the work themselves. On Saturday, January 26, 2008, volunteers are once again invited to help their community and neighbors at this special event.

Sandbag Saturday will take place at the Municipal Services Center (MSC) at 3201 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are asked to sign up for 2-hour shifts, which are scheduled from 9 – 11 a.m., 11a.m. – 1p.m., and 1– 3 p.m. Volunteers may help fill sandbags or assist fellow residents who need assistance lifting sandbags. The City’s sandbagging machine will be in operation so gloves, hardhats and safety goggles are required and will be provided as needed.

If you are a Palo Alto resident and need assistance, please go to the MSC after 10 a.m. on Sandbag Saturday. To volunteer and sign up for a shift, or for more information, call Paul Lufkin at (650) 617-3197.

#### **4** PANDA Graduates Participate in County-Wide Exercise

Thirty-two PANDA graduates participated in the third annual County-wide CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Exercise. The event took place at Moffett Field, and Palo Alto was well represented. A total of 187 team members focused on refreshing their search and rescue skills by teaming up with CERT members from other jurisdictions.



Moffett Field allowed planners to use vacated barracks which were staged the day before to simulate babies crying, dogs barking and people trapped. Team members had to search for injured and trapped victims. After completing this course, team members participated in the “E Ticket/Black Diamond” search, which challenged them to scale a partial wall, remove rubble to find victims, and escort them out of a partially collapsed opening in the wall. The exercise was deemed a success.



## **Storytelling Festival Back at Children’s Library January 27**

From folk tales to tall tales, from long ago to just last week – stories are funny, poignant and mysterious. Now that the newly-renovated Palo Alto Children’s Library has reopened, the Annual Storytelling Festival is back. On Sunday, January 27, sixteen storytellers will delight families with four hours of continuous storytelling from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Storytelling Festival is open to all ages but recommended for four years old and up. Join the festivities for the entire day or stay for a few stories. Explore the beautiful Children’s Library at 1276 Harriet Street and learn about their other programs and services. For more information, visit the web site at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/library](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library) or call (650) 329-2436.

## **Free Forum for Businesses on February 5**

The City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce will host “Recipe for Recovery,” a free forum for businesses about disaster planning and recovery, on Tuesday, February 5 from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the Palo Alto City Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Avenue. The event is an opportunity for businesses to ask questions, pick up free tools, and get key ingredients for creating a business disaster and recovery plan. The program will feature several private sector experts on business disaster planning. Breakfast and coffee will be provided.

To sign up for the free program on line, go to [www.paloaltochamber.com](http://www.paloaltochamber.com) or e-mail [programs@paloaltochamber.com](mailto:programs@paloaltochamber.com)

## **A Good Year for Water Pollution Prevention Awards**

Last year proved to be very good for the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant and its Bay Area partners. The City received one of the San Francisco Estuary Project Annual Awards for its outreach campaign to raise awareness about pesticides, grease, pharmaceuticals and other common pollutants. The campaign was kicked off by former Palo Alto Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto leading a flotilla of officials on the Bay!

A second award was received from the Estuary Project for the Bay Area-wide Pharmaceutical Pilot Take-Back Event, which Palo Alto staff helped lead. Also in 2007, City of Palo Alto Bay Area-wide leadership was again recognized through the Regional Water Board’s first Chen-Chung Wu Memorial Award for training others in dental mercury amalgam control, an area Palo Alto helped pioneer.