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**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:12	20:00
May 4	06:10	20:01
May 5	06:09	20:02
May 6	06:08	20:03
May 7	06:07	20:04
May 8	06:06	20:05
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## School Documentary to Debut next Wednesday

Ekene Ikeme

Students and the teacher from the Encinal High Digital Video and Filmmaking class are premiering a documentary film they produced about the Lum Elementary School closing at Wood Middle School (WMS) Wednesday, May 9.

The film, *Once a Lum Bear, Always a Lum Bear*, addresses the impact the school closing had on former students and the community, according to the Digital Video and Filmmaking class teacher Paul Igaz. The students interviewed former Lum's students and their parents.

"There was a mix of reactions," said Igaz. "But there was certainly a vocal group of parents who opposed closure."

About 35 students worked on the film including Dorothy Perillo-Dutton who edited the film. Igaz said he gave the students tons of freedom to make the film.

"I think I gave them a lot of free rein," he said. "I told them that we had to avoid taking a stance on the issue in terms of for or against closure, and should instead focus on capturing the feel and uniqueness of the community."

The film does not touch on the causes or the politics that led to Lum's school closing. The Board of Education for the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) voted unanimously on May 23, 2017, to close the Lum campus indefinitely in June of last year.

The decision came after consultation from several geotechnical, structural and architectural engineering firms all concluded Lum's building foundations cannot withstand the significant soil liquefaction in the event of a strong

**A report revealed a seismic upgrade for Lum would cost about \$34 million and a new school would cost \$33 million.**

earthquake. Liquefaction refers to the sudden, temporary loss of soil's shear strength during a strong earthquake.

In a March 2017 report, geotechnical engineering firm, Miller Pacific Engineering Group, declared the "potential liquefaction of sandy layers between the ground surface and a depth of 50 feet may result in ground surface settlement of between roughly five to 10 inches."

The district was notified of the potential problem when they were preparing to build a new classroom building on Lum's campus. The decision ended a month-long debate about the sustainability of Lum's infrastructure. School officials and a group of displeased Lum parents held several contentious board meetings last spring with parents demanding the school stay open.

In January, a report revealed a seismic upgrade for Lum would cost about \$34 million and a new school altogether of similar size would cost \$33 million, according to Quattrocci Kwok Architects, the Santa Rosa-based firm upgrading Alameda High School. The school board has not decided on a resolution.

The film will be shown at WMS, 420 Grand St., at 6:30 p.m.



Courtesy Alameda Fire Department

## Firefighters Deliver Infant in Transit

Fire department helps mom give birth in ambulance

Dennis Evanosky

About 8 a.m., last Friday, Alameda Fire Department (AFD) firefighters (left to right) Rich Gianuario, Jeff Weidler, Dave Port and Rickey Staley answered a call aboard Medic 1, one of AFD's three ambulances. A conventional enough call, they thought: transport a woman in labor from her home in Alameda to the hospital. Everyone agreed it would go normally. The baby had different ideas. The newborn decided not to wait, and, as Medic 1 traveled down Interstate 880, the firefighters delivered a healthy baby girl. Mom and daughter — whose names AFD did not disclose — are doing well, the fire department later stated on Facebook.

## Union Pres. Files Suit

Ekene Ikeme

The president of the firefighters' union filed a claim against the city seeking more than \$200,000 in damages for "false" and "malicious" accusations made by city employees that has damaged his professional reputation.

Jeff DelBono, president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 689, filed his first claim with the City Clerk on March 21. He amended the claim on April 19. DelBono cites City Manager Jill Keimach, Councilmember Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and other city employees with "knowledge of their falsity and with reckless

regard of the truth for the purpose of damaging my employment" as the reason for the claim.

DelBono cites several instances, including one where Ashcraft made "false and malicious accusations of crimes and misconduct" last November at The Local, a cafe on Park Street. Another example took place at Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, also on Park Street, in February. The claim does not describe the false accusations made, but said Becca Perata-Rosati, who runs a local public relations firm, witnessed the November incident. Alameda Fire Chief Edmond Rodriguez, who was selected by Keimach for the fire

chief position, to the dismay of the union, was present during the February conversation, according to the document.

DelBono also listed Vice Mayor Malia Vella and Councilmember Jim Oddie as witnesses. The two were accused of trying to influence Keimach's hiring decision. Keimach said that DelBono also tried to influence her decision on the new fire chief.

Keimach was placed on paid administrative leave in March when it was revealed that she secretly audio recorded a conversation between her, Vella and Oddie.

## Programs Highlight Japanese Alamedans

Sun Staff Reports

Two special programs from the Buena Vista United Methodist Church (BVUMC) and the city are coming up during Asian and Pacific-American Heritage Month that highlight the Japanese-American experience in Alameda.

**BVUMC Celebrates 120 Years**

As BVUMC celebrates 120 years as a faith community, it will hold a special program titled "Building Beloved Community: Past, Present, and Future." The program mirrors the Japanese-American experience with war-time mass incarceration to similar war-time hysteria impacting Muslim communities today.

The program is timely given that on April 25, the Supreme Court began oral arguments on an amicus brief filed against the third iteration of the Trump administration's travel ban on majority Muslim countries. The brief was filed by Karen Korematsu, Holly Yasui and Min Yasui: the children of litigants who challenged orders that led to the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

"We are reminding the Supreme Court that when it 'looked the other way' in 1943 and '44 and failed to hold the government to the requirements of the rule of law and the Constitution, it was a civil liberties disaster," said Don Tamaki, a civil rights attorney who joined in the filing, "Let's hope they don't do the same thing again."

The BVUMC's program will connect the Japanese-American wartime legacy of the church to these recent civil-rights violations through a book reading, film screening and panel discussion.

The event will begin with featured author Karen Tei Yamashita reading from her recently published *Letters to Memory*, an excursion through Japanese internment using archival materials from the Yamashita family.

The reading will be followed by a screening of the film *And Then They Came for Us* by Abby Ginzburg. The film narrates how 75 years ago, Executive Order 9066 paved the way to the profound violation of constitutional rights that resulted in the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. The film brings history into the

present, retelling this difficult story and following Japanese-American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban.

The film will be followed by a discussion with Cookie Takeshita, a former World War II internee, who will share her personal experience and Tamaki who will speak on the current Stop Repeating History campaign. This campaign draws on legal strategies from the Japanese American movement to challenge the Muslim Travel Ban.

In addition, Sacha Maniar, the National Security and Civil Rights Program Coordinator with Asian Law Caucus will share the impact on Muslim Communities today and what action is being taken.

"As we continue to remember the Japanese American legacy, we must

also lift up how similar rhetoric is negatively impacting communities today," says Rev. Michael Yoshii, who has been the pastor at BVUMC for 30 years. "This is a pivotal moment for our community as we rise up in support of those who are targeted now."

The program will take place on Sunday, May 6, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the church sanctuary, during BVUMC's 59th annual Spring Bazaar. The event is free and wheelchair accessible.

**City to Screen Film Featuring Longtime Resident**

The city will host a screening of the award-winning new documentary film, *The Ito Sisters: An American Story*, on Saturday, May 19, at 3 p.m. in City Hall. The feature-length film tells one family's story of becoming American in the face of a series of natural and man-made disasters. The screening is being held to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

One of the three sisters at the heart of the film, Lillian Ito Nakano, was a longtime resident of Alameda. Her husband's family helped to found the Alameda Buddhist Temple in 1916. *The Ito Sisters* captures the rarely told stories of the earliest Japanese immigrants and

## News in Brief

### Alameda to Consider Minimum Wage Increase

Alameda City Council recently directed staff to draft a minimum-wage ordinance that increases wages above what state law requires. The Council cited concerns over the high cost of living in the Bay Area and growing income inequality.

In April 2016, the state of California adopted legislation to reach a statewide \$15 per hour minimum wage by Jan. 1, 2023. In the Bay Area, 16 cities have implemented minimum-wage measures that are more aggressive than state law. Alameda's current minimum wage, which follows the state standard, is \$10.50 for small employers

with 25 or fewer employees and \$11 for those with more than 25 employees.

The city will host public workshops and stakeholder meetings later this spring and early summer with the intention to present a draft ordinance to the City Council in September. For more information, contact Eric Fonstein at [efonstein@alamedaca.gov](mailto:efonstein@alamedaca.gov) or 747-6895.

### City of Alameda's Electric Rates to Change in July

Electric rates will change on July 1 for residential and commercial customers. At its April 23 meeting, the city's Public Utilities Board approved a 1 percent overall rate increase for fiscal year 2019.

The increase, which goes into effect July 1, will help Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) fund improvements to its aging infrastructure, such as cables, poles, transformers and circuit breakers. AMP currently provides rates that average 17 percent lower than those in neighboring communities.

According to AMP, the rate increase will help the utility move toward a structure that ensures fairness for all customers by aligning the rates for each customer class with the cost of providing service. As a community-owned and locally operated electric system, AMP does not make a profit on rates.

Visit [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com) for more information on AMP's rates and how to manage energy usage.

## Norma Arnerich Passes

Local matriarch was known for contribution to golf

Dennis Evanosky

Norma Arnerich passed away at home last Friday, less than a week after she celebrated her 91st birthday and just seven weeks after the death of her husband of 69 years, Anthony "Lil" Arnerich. The romance that blossomed into a lifetime together began at Bushrod Park in North Oakland. Lil was playing baseball, Norma was keeping score. Their union bore three sons and a daughter.

Sons Melvin of Rancho Murieta, Calif., Ken of Alameda; and daughter Laurie of Brentwood survive their mother; son Ronald died in August 1993. In addition Norma

leaves 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

The community will best remember Norma for her contributions to the game of golf. A plaque at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex recalls the 1997 opening of an academy that bears her name.

"Norma was the first woman appointed to the Alameda Golf Commission," the plaque recalls. She served as a Golf Commissioner for eight years,



from 1978 to 1986. She sat for three of those years as its chair. She helped create the Mif Albright Golf Course — a place for seniors and juniors to enjoy the game. In 1991 she played an instrumental role in creating the Alameda Junior Golf Program.

The plaque at the golf complex reminds us that Norma created the tree beautification

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