



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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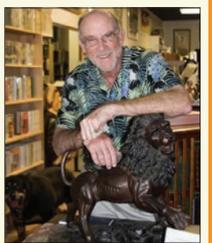
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JoanAnn Radu-Sinako

**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:20	20:09
Aug. 11	06:21	20:08
Aug. 12	06:22	20:06
Aug. 13	06:23	20:05
Aug. 14	06:24	20:04
Aug. 15	06:24	20:03
Aug. 16	06:25	20:02



Courtesy photo

Temple Israel's Board President Genevieve Pastor-Cohen (right) and her husband, Josh Cohen, participated in this year's Fourth of July parade.

Temple Israel Looks Enthusiastically to Future

Dennis Evanosky

Temple Israel has been part of the fabric that defines Alameda since 1896, when the congregation began meeting in Encinal Hall at Bay Street and Lincoln Avenue. The community had no real organized presence here, however, until the establishment of the First Hebrew Congregation of Alameda in 1920. Members attended services in rented halls until 1924, when the first synagogue arose at Oak Street and Alameda Avenue.

In 1977, the school district purchased this property. Three years later, the congregation broke ground for a new place of worship, the current temple on Bay Farm Island. Over time, a series of part-time rabbis and cantors led the congregation. In 1996, Rabbi Allen Bennett signed on as part-time rabbi and served until 2012. In an effort to grow the congregation, the then-Temple leadership decided to hire full-time clergy. Rabbi Barnett Brickner was hired as the congregation's first full-time rabbi.

One year later Cantor Brian Reich began work as the temple's full-time cantor and director of religious education. After five years, the anticipated results did not come to fruition and the congregation found itself financially challenged. The board made the difficult decision not to renew the clergies' contracts, and allowed them to expire on June 30. Reich retains his position as education director.

The board turned to Rabbi Steven Chester and asked him to help the temple set its priorities and define what the congregation should look for in a new rabbi. Chester, a native of Minnesota, grew up in Pomona. He attended UCLA and rabbinical school and spent a year in Israel before his ordination in 1971.

Chester worked in a small congregation in Jackson, Mich., and served as the Jewish chaplain for that state's prison, before moving to Stockton. In 1989, he became rabbi at Oakland's Temple Sinai, a position he held until his retirement in 2011.

"We are grateful that Rabbi Chester came out of retirement to help us," Temple Israel's President Genevieve Pastor-Cohen said. "Rabbi Chester is loved by so many. He will help us discover who we are and what we want for our future. He will help us heal." Chester is tending to the temple's pastoral activities. He officiates at weddings and funerals, visits the sick and tends to the temple's births and bar- and bat-mitzvahs. He is also leading two Friday services and one Saturday morning service.

Pastor-Cohen said that the temple has found a way to bring out hidden talents in the members of the congregation. "The entire community is playing a part in keeping the synagogue and the love of the synagogue going."

The temple is reaching out to its congregation with education. Pastor-Cohen said that Reich plans to tailor classes and activities to mirror the community. "We want to address the lifestyles of families with kids and those whose kids are grown and out on their own," she said. Also, the temple will be hosting local artists to work with young children from the Alameda community and focus on art, music and dance.

Temple Israel participated in this year's Fourth of July parade and staffed a booth at the Art & Wine Faire. Temple Israel is also looking beyond the Island City to spread the word about its congregation here. "We are in discussions with the Jewish Community Center (JCC) East Bay to bring programs to the temple to help attract communities outside Alameda, focusing on both family-oriented and adult learning," she said.

According to Pastor-Cohen, congregants are hosting 10 house meetings for members to meet Rabbi Chester who plans to report outcomes and recommendations to the community after the High Holy Days, which begin on Sept. 20.

For more information about Temple Israel, call 522-9355.

Housing Going Up in Long-Vacant Lot

Dennis Evanosky

Work got underway recently at the old Island High School property at Everett Street and Eagle Avenue.

The Alameda Housing Authority (AHA) acquired the property from the Alameda Unified School District in a 2014 land swap. AHA stated that plans for the property involved a collaborative process with the neighborhood.

Anne Phillips Architecture will team up with general contractor J.H. Fitzmaurice to execute plans that include 20 one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. These units will be sold to

households earning below 60 percent of the area's median income, AHA stated. Housing and Urban Development set Alameda County's 2017 median income at \$97,400; 60 percent of that figure is \$58,440.

Construction should be completed early next year. More information including eligibility and waiting list updates will be posted at www.alamedaahs.org by late 2017, AHA stated.

This property has a history that stretches back to 1853, when squatter Franklin Pancoast grew British Queen strawberries there. In 1891 Everett

School sprung up on the site. The school lasted for 80 years when the school district demolished it in 1971, replaced the building with "portable classrooms" and moved Island High School onto the site.

In 2006, Island High moved to 250 Singleton Ave., the site of the former George Miller Elementary School. In April 2013, the school district unceremoniously brought in the bulldozers and razed the old Island High School portables, leaving a fenced-in patch of pavement behind. The property has remained vacant since.



City of Alameda

Homes like the ones above will be part of a development on Eagle Avenue at Everett Street that will replace a lot that was once home to Island High and Everett schools.



World Baseball Begins

Sun Staff Reports

A packed house attended the World Baseball Tournament opening ceremonies at College of Alameda Aug. 6. Ten teams marched onto the field in full uniform to enthusiastic applause. The Alameda team won the skills competition that followed. Day one ended with a welcome party for 500 guests hosted by the Alameda World Tournament Baseball Board at Crab Cove. Games have taken place every day this week, except Wednesday. The finals are set for this Saturday at College of Alameda. There is no admission charge. Above, Alameda coach Ken Arnerich addresses the crowd on opening day.

Celebrating Wine, Women, Music, More

Sun Staff Reports

Marking 10 years in business can be a challenging milestone to reach, especially in the arts business. But on Saturday, Aug. 19, Rhythmix Cultural Works (RCW), Alameda's destination for the arts, will do just that. The #Rhythmix10 anniversary gala will present an exceptional roster of live entertainment, women winemakers, brewers and distillers plus tasty bites from an array of Alameda eateries from 2 to 5 p.m. All proceeds from the event support free cultural arts education programs for youth in Alameda and Oakland.

The salute to great music, wine, beer, spirits, and food will feature a guided tasting and panel discussion with vintner Dalia Ceja of Ceja Vineyards, brewer DeVonne Buckingham of Drake's Brewery and distiller Caley Shoemaker of Hangar 1. Also on tap are live performances of Cuban Salsa, Japanese Taiko, Puerto Rican Bomba and world music.

As part of the festivities, there will also be an archive exhibit documenting RCW's ongoing evolution in the East Bay community. The



Maurice Ramirez

Julia Cepeda of Taller Bombalele will be among the performers at Rhythmix Cultural Works' 10th anniversary Gala Saturday, Aug. 19.

Shooter Sentenced

Ekene Ikeme

An Alameda woman was sentenced to 16 years in a California state prison Friday, Aug. 4, for the 2015 fatal shooting of her then-boyfriend three weeks before Christmas.

Donna Marie Qualls, 55, pleaded no contest to a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter on July 7, for the killing of Emmanuel Emmett Christy, Sr. She was initially charged with murder. Christy was 73 years old at the time of his death on Dec. 3, 2015.

Qualls' lawyer, William DuBois, told the courtroom last Friday that his client still misses and loves Christy and "has felt terrible" about the shooting. He argued that Qualls intended to prod the victim with the gun to wake him and the gun went off accidentally.

On the fatal morning, Qualls called 911 and told the dispatcher "I shot him. He's been hurting me and he told me to give him money." Officers arrived at the scene of the apartment on the 700 block of Buena Vista Avenue around 10:19 a.m. to find Qualls, who again confessed to the killing and was arrested.

Qualls said the couple had been in a relationship for about 10 years. She said Christy, an Oakland resident, came to her apartment about 6 a.m. and went to one of the bedrooms to lie down, according to Alameda Police Detective Alex Keden, who was at the scene the day of the shooting.

Qualls told detectives she and Christy then argued over money, he

punched her in the head and she fell into a bathtub. Qualls said Christy apologized, told her he loved her and went to sleep. But Keden said Qualls said she later stood over Christy, asked him, "Why won't you leave?" and then retrieved a revolver and ammunition from her son's bedroom.

Qualls returned to the bed, put the gun to the left side of his head and fired one shot, Keden said.

City Wants Parking Input

Sun Staff Reports

The Public Works Department is conducting a parking survey and hopes to hear from residents, businesses and visitors about parking in the city's shopping districts.

In 2014, the City Council authorized improvements to metered parking in both districts including replacing parking meters with credit-card-enabled smart meters and adding improved signs to attract more motorists to the Civic Center Parking Structure on Oak Street.

Public Works is currently preparing to update the City Council on the status of these improvements. The department encourages the public to provide input by taking a 23-question survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/JBBZM9X. The survey closes Friday, Sept 1.

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