

*Palo  
Alto*

Vol. XXIX, Number 30 • Friday, January 18, 2008 ■ 50¢



# Weekly

Weekend Edition

www.PaloAltoOnline.com

'Persepolis'  
unfolds  
like life  
Page 17



# Steely Jam

Joseph  
Slusky  
improvises  
in the  
resolute  
world of  
metal  
Page 7

Marjan Sadoughi

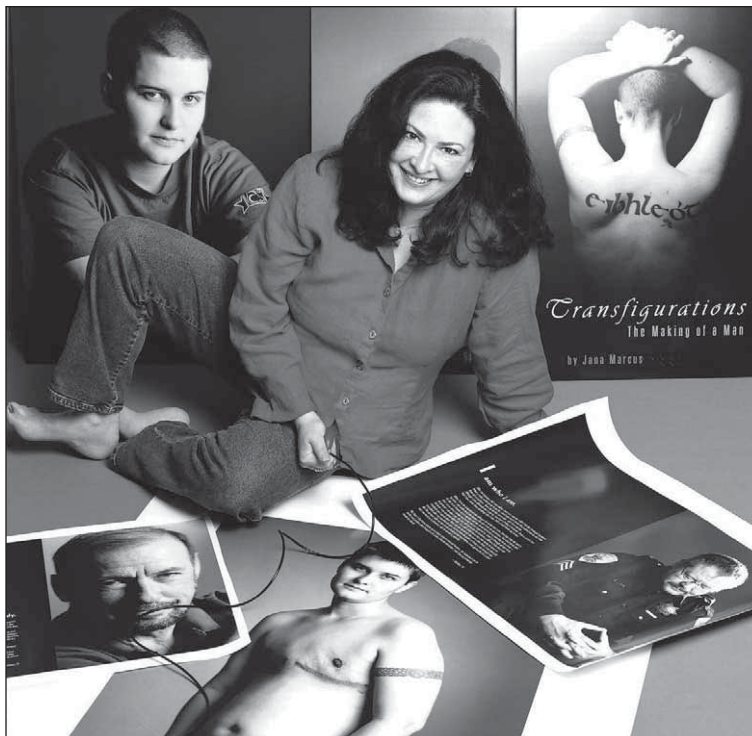
Worth A Look 10

Eating Out 11

Movie Times 18

- **Upfront** Foothill eyes Cubberley land deal **Page 3**
- **Sports** Prep basketball races getting tight **Page 21**
- **Home & Real Estate** One-day room makeovers **Section 2**





Photographer Jana Marcus is shown with images from her "Transfigurations" exhibit.



Jana Marcus

Lyle, a transgender man shown in the exhibit, praises Marcus' work as "classy."

attributes much of that to a "male-dominated society" in which women's appearances are so valued and men are not encouraged to show emotion or look too deeply within themselves.

"They're having to break down all those years of conditioning," she said.

Ultimately, Marcus' project grew into a 60-piece exhibit that has traveled widely in various incarnations and won numerous awards, including being honored by the Santa Cruz weekly Good Times as the best photo exhibit of 2006.

The complete exhibit includes many photos not in the small Stanford show, including transitional images of a woman becoming a man over a three-year period, and nudes photographed after gender-reassignment surgery. Marcus will show these in a slide show and talk at Stanford on Jan. 24.

At Stanford, the portraits — all of people who have already had surgery — are displayed with soft lighting, against pale-beige walls. The setting is apropos for the photos, which were shot in black and white with a formalist approach and a plain background. At first glance, the people may seem to be anyone you meet on the street.

"Some people said they look like public-service announcements or Gap ads," Marcus said. "Good," I said. "I want them to look normal, just like you and me."

Lyle, who was photographed at 43 and often is a speaker at exhibits, praises Marcus' work as "so well-done and so classy."

"Even though I was uncomfortable about being photographed, there was something about her passion, commitment and personality that made the experience very enjoyable," he said.

At exhibits, Lyle's written statement often sparks conversation; it begins with the words "I have a long history of hating black men and now I am one." He said he has had trouble learning to be a black man in a world filled with "caricatures and stereotypes."

As Lyle wrote, he strives to be "a person of integrity" and "a 'white oxford shirt' kind of man: kind of bland, kind of comfortable." He wants to be seen as just another guy — and as a black man who fits in everywhere, who doesn't make

(continued on next page)

## The meaning of gender

Photos and views of transgender people fill Stanford exhibit

by Rebecca Wallace

Other than anatomy, what makes you a man or woman? Is it your instinct to pick up a crying child, your take-no-prisoners business sense? The way you stand?

Twenty photos now on exhibit at Stanford University's Clayman Institute for Gender Research show people who have weighed these questions from both sides.

The portraits, by Santa Cruz photographer Jana Marcus, are of transgender people from various backgrounds and ethnic groups. There are glamorous women with arched eyebrows; a goateed man carrying his young son on his shoulders; a San Francisco police sergeant in uniform.

All the photos are paired with statements by their subjects, including thoughts about what "masculinity" and "femininity" mean today.

"The desire for perfection destroys our sense of self," reads one statement, by 47-year-old Jennifer. "There's a pressure we put on ourselves to 'pass' and be accepted as women, plus the overwhelming societal expectation of what women should look like. The male perception of women greatly shaped how I eventually wanted to be seen as a woman."

On the other hand, Jack, 26, wrote: "If I can keep those wonderful qualities I had as a female, such as the ability to be patient and nurturing, thoughtful and compassionate, and combine them with the persona of my father, then the two intertwine to make for one incredible man." Jack hailed his father as "my hero," saying he "loves and protects his family the best way he knows how."

When Marcus began work on the project as a San Jose State graduate-school thesis in 2003, she thought it might focus more on her subjects'

life stories. The interviewing process changed her mind.

"After a while I realized that everyone's story of transition was the same. What was more interesting was the idea of what kind of men and women they wanted to be," she said. "They kind of know some secret after seeing both sides."

She became intrigued by the topic after a male roommate told her he'd previously been a woman. Marcus was speechless; while she'd certainly heard of men becoming women, she'd had no idea that the reverse could happen.

"The men who become women, we've seen horrible caricatures of them in the media. They kind of have a stigma to them, but we're aware that that's out there," she said.

As a longtime documentary photographer, Marcus has often been drawn "things I don't understand." She began photographing and interviewing transgender men (women-to-men). It wasn't easy to find people willing to take part, Marcus said. The first was a "friend of a friend of a friend," and after that experience went well, she began finding new people through word-of-mouth.

Marcus' thesis exhibit, "Transfigurations: The Making of a Man," was a success, and after her 2005 graduation she began photographing transgender women as well. She found the experience strikingly different.

"The women becoming men are so amazing, so self-actualized. They had thought so much about what it meant to be a man. They wanted to change stereotypes, be a feminist man," she said. "They wanted to be better than the men they had known."

But Marcus said the men becoming women were much more caught up in what they would look like. She

LIFE. Now Available on DVD.

**\$10 OFF**

**www.MyDirectorsCut.com**  
430 Sherman Ave. Ste. 314, Palo Alto  
(650) 32-VIDEO (328-4336)



**International School of the Peninsula**  
(650) 251-8519 • www.istp.org • Palo Alto, CA

### LANGUAGE CLASSES For Adults

Classes Begin the Week of January 28<sup>th</sup>

Offering Arabic, French, Mandarin, Spanish, Hindi, Japanese, Italian, Russian, and more.

14-week Evening Session for Adults

Call Today to Enroll!

International School of the Peninsula  
Nursery - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bilingual Immersion Program  
Mandarin/English and French/English  
Applications Due By January 25<sup>th</sup>

# BOWMAN

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The Bowman program builds confidence, creativity and academic excellence.



- ◆ Lower School - Grades K - 5
- ◆ Middle School - Grades 6 - 8
- ◆ Individualized, self-directed program
- ◆ Rich international & cultural studies
- ◆ Proven, Montessori approach
- ◆ State-of-the-art facility
- ◆ Low student-teacher ratio

**www.bowmanschool.org**  
4000 Terman Drive | Palo Alto, CA | Tel: 650-813-9131



## PRAYER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SPIRITUAL SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

"Dynamic prayer invites us to learn more about God and impels us to act on this knowledge, resulting in spiritual solutions for a healthy planet."



International speaker, Ron Ballard, is a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing and member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

Introduction by Ben Arnoldy from the Christian Science Monitor.

Thursday, January 24, 2008 7:30 PM  
Menlo Park City Council Chambers  
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park  
For more information call 650.322.5600.

Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Menlo Park

# Worth a Look

## Theater

### 'Copenhagen'

It's a high-powered meeting of the minds when two physicists, Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg, meet at the height of World War II. That's the premise behind Michael Frayn's drama "Copenhagen."

The play opens at 8 p.m. this Saturday night and runs through Feb. 3 at the Lucie Stern Theatre at 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto, presented by Palo Alto Players. Tickets are \$31 on opening night and \$30 thereafter. Go to [www.paplayers.org](http://www.paplayers.org).



Kimono stylist Nobuaki Tomita (left) comes to Mountain View on Saturday.

## Style

### Kimono show

Kimono styles through the ages will take the stage at the Commu-

nity School of Music and Arts this Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. Stylist and producer Nobuaki Tomita, with the help of models, will show how the garments are made and worn.

A short dance performance by the Michiya Hanayagi Dance Company will precede the event. The school is at 230 San Antonio Circle in Mountain View, and admission is \$15 general, \$5 for children and Japan Society members, and free for student members. Go to [www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org).

## Books

### Madeleine Albright

Tickets are selling fast to an appearance by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Thursday, Jan. 24, at Kepler's Books. Albright is scheduled to speak at 12:30 p.m. on her new book, "Memo to the President Elect: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership."

Tickets are \$35 general and \$29.17 for Kepler's members who buy them in the store (not online). Each ticket includes one copy of the book and admits two people. Kepler's is at 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park; go to [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com).

## Sculpture

(continued from page 8)

kind of the rock 'n' roll. That's the dance I'm wiggling to," he said.

And true to form, he's easygoing about viewers getting fingerprints on his art.

"It's about tactility," he said agreeably. "People can come up and touch my sculptures. If you're feeling like you want to touch this thing, then right on!" ■

**What:** An exhibit of painted metal sculptures by Joseph Slusky, made between 1987 and 2007

**Where:** Smith Andersen Editions, 440 Pepper Ave., Palo Alto

**When:** Through Jan. 25. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment.

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** Go to [www.smithandersen.com](http://www.smithandersen.com) or call 650-327-7762 to reach the gallery. The artist's Web site is at [www.josephslusky.com](http://www.josephslusky.com).

### About the cover:

Joseph Slusky poses with his 2000 sculpture "Full Fathom Five" at his Berkeley studio. Photograph by Marjan Sadooghi.

## Gender

(continued from previous page)

people afraid on the street or clutch their purses, he said. These occurrences were unpleasant surprises after his transition.

"Our culture has made such an intense business of selling fear, and the standard demonization of people of color," he said.

Visitors to the exhibit are sometimes surprised, sometimes moved. Parents of transgender people come up to Marcus crying and thanking her, she said.

In addition, Lyle said that visitors who are still grappling with their gender transition often confide in him and thank him for being so open.

"People say, 'You're so brave and courageous.' I haven't been able to understand why they would say that," he said. "For some people it's a life-and-death decision: 'I can't live another day not my authentic self.'" ■

**What:** "Transfigurations," a photo-documentary on transgender people by Jana Marcus

**Where:** Serra House, 589 Capistrano Way, Stanford University

**When:** Through March 21, open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Marcus and some of the exhibit subjects are scheduled to attend a lecture and reception on Thursday, Jan. 24, at 4:30 p.m. at Tresidder Memorial Union.

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** Go to the Clayman Institute for Gender Research's Web site at [www.stanford.edu/group/gender](http://www.stanford.edu/group/gender). Marcus' site is at [www.janamarcus.com](http://www.janamarcus.com).

# Palo Alto Children's Theatre

## THE GIVER

A Play by Eric Coble  
Based on the Book by Lois Lowry

Fri Feb 1 at 7:30pm, Sat Feb 2 at 2:30pm, Thu Feb 7 at 4:30pm,  
Fri Feb 8 at 4:30 and 7:30pm, Sat Feb 9 at 7:30pm

## The Tales of Beatrix Potter

Dramatized by Patricia M. Briggs  
Based on The Tales of Beatrix Potter

Fri Feb 29 at 7:30pm, Sat Mar 1 at 2:30 and 7:30pm,  
Thu Mar 6 at 4:30pm, Fri Mar 7 at 4:30 and 7:30pm,  
Sat Mar 8 at 2:30pm

AUDITIONS (Ages 8 yrs through High School):  
Tue Jan 22 & Wed Jan 23 at 3:45pm

## Stuart Little

Adapted by Joseph Robinette Based on the Book by E.B. White

Thu Feb 7 at 7:30pm, Fri Feb 8 at 4:30pm,  
Fri Feb 8 at 7:30pm, Sat Feb 9 at 2:30pm

Co-Sponsored by The Juana Briones Elementary School PTA  
Performed at Juana Briones School, 4100 Orme St., Palo Alto

# TICKETS

Please Call Palo Alto Children's Theatre Box Office  
(650) 463-4970 - Tue-Sat 1:30-6pm Child \$4 - Adult \$8  
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA. 94301

"The Giver" is produced by special arrangement with Harold Ober and Associates, New York, NY., and William Morris Agency, New York, NY. "Stuart Little" is produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

PRINTING FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO CHILDREN'S THEATRE

**PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL**  
**CIVIC CENTER, 250 HAMILTON AVENUE**  
**BROADCAST LIVE ON KZSU, FM 90.1**  
**CABLECAST LIVE ON GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL 26**

**COUNCIL AGENDA HOTLINE 329-2477**

**(TENTATIVE) AGENDA - SPECIAL MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**January 22, 2008 -- 6:00pm**

1. Opportunity to Replace & Enhance Cubberley Facilities
2. Approval of Request to Initiate a Preliminary Review of a Planned Community (PC) Application for a 3-Story Mixed Use Office/Retail Development at 2180 El Camino Real (College Terrace Center)
3. This Item Number Has Been Intentionally Left Blank
4. Finance Committee Recommendation to Adopt an Ordinance Authorizing the Closing of the Budget for the 2006-07 Fiscal Year, and Approval of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) from Finance Committee Meeting of December 11, 2007
5. Utilities Advisory Commission Recommendation to Utilize the Electric Supply Rate Stabilization Reserve to Cover Increased Supply Cost In Fiscal Year 2007-08 Instead of a Mid-Year Rate Increase
6. Adoption of a Resolution Summarily Vacating a Portion of the Abandoned Embarcadero Road Right-of-Way and Reserving a Public Utilities Easement Adjacent to the Town & Country Village Shopping Center, 855 El Camino Real
7. Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.11 of Title 2 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to Establish a Fee to Support Public, Education, and Government Access that Will Apply to Comcast as it Provides Service Under its State Video Franchise
8. Public Hearing: Approval of a Tentative Map and a Record of Land Use Action to Subdivide the Elks Lodge Site into Two Lots for a New Lodge and a Multi-Family Residential Project, Located at 4249 and 4251 El Camino Real
9. Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Section 9.04.010 ("Streets, Sidewalks, Highways, Alleys - Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited") of Chapter 9.04 ("Alcoholic Beverages") to Title 9 ("Public Peace, Morals and Safety") of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to Allow Consumption of Alcohol Within Legally Permitted Eating Establishment Seating Areas Subject to a Conditional Use Permit
10. Municipal Compost Facility Study: Preliminary Results and Approval of Staff Work Plan

**AT THIS POINT IN THE PROCEEDINGS, THE CITY COUNCIL WILL ADJOURN TO A SPECIAL MEETING AS THE PALO ALTO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Policy and Services Committee Special Meeting will be Held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 regarding 1) Audit of Employee Ethics Policies