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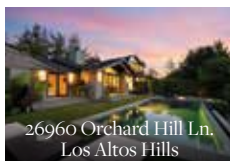
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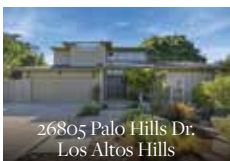
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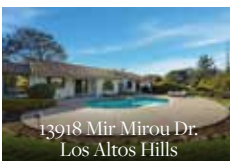
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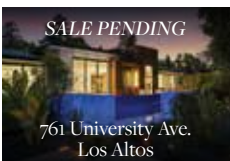
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Los Altos Town Crier

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COVER:
Illustrated by Loren Stump

ACROSS *two* CENTURIES

First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View
Celebrates *175 Years* of Service

BY AVA ACHARYA

Town Crier Staff Writer

Deep in Silicon Valley, Mountain View holds one of the oldest Protestant churches in California. In 2026, the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View marks 175 years since its founding.

According to Pastor Kim Dorr-Tilley, the church has remained a source of comfort, community and guidance since 1851, something which is as necessary today as it was 175 years ago.

“The backbone of faith is to give people hope, to carry on understanding of a greater purpose,” Dorr-Tilley said.



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“*The backbone of faith*
to give people hope, to carry on
understanding of a greater purpose.”

- KIM DORR-TILLEY
Pastor

San Francisco and San Jose, with shops, a school, a saloon and a hotel built along the street that became El Camino Real.

The area surrounding Mountain View was mainly agricultural, ushering the well known “Valley of Heart’s Delight” nickname.

Since 1851, the church has had four separate buildings. The first was built by Edward Dale in the late 1850s and located on Castro and Mercy streets in Downtown Mountain View.

Newman said that this first church cost \$1,000 to construct, with an additional \$250 spent on the church’s bell, marking an investment that Dale

made in his community. “In 1859-60, that was a lot of money,” Newman said.

FOUR BUILDINGS

The original church bell is still on display outside of the church’s modern building, standing the test of time by surviving the fire that destroyed this first building in 1911.

Newman pointed to this fire as an instance of the strength which the congregation found in the blossoming, interfaith community among early Mountain View residents.

“It was the Catholics at St. Joseph’s across the street ... who came running,” Newman said. “It was the Catholics

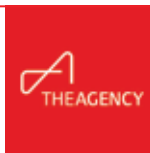
that helped the Presbyterians remove our brand new organ, pews, pulpit and other furniture out of there.”

Newman said that this act of kindness reflected the value, under God, each group held for one another.

“This may burn, but we have everything we need to praise God,” Newman added.

The church’s second building was constructed in this same location, in downtown Mountain View on Castro and Mercy streets, a couple of years after the fire. However, by 1948 this building was condemned, which forced the congregation to move yet again.

After 1948, they moved into a new



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“ (I thought) that's
beautiful.
Why is that not on display?
And so the bunch of us got
together and brought it
down. It was great. ”

- CINDY NEWMAN
Clerk of Session

building on the same property. Around this time, the congregation commissioned a stained glass depiction of Jesus Christ at the Garden of Gethsemane.

“It was dedicated at Easter, but then we needed to relocate to a larger property,” Newman said. The stained glass was removed and the building was repurposed by the city.

Newman described finding the stained glass years later, while working in city hall.

“(I thought) that's beautiful. Why is that not on display?” Newman said. “And so the bunch of us got together and brought it down. It was great.”

This stained glass piece was put on display at the church's current building on Miramonte Avenue in Mountain View, built in 1958.

Newman added that the land which holds the current building was purchased from the Bubb family, well known for developing farmland in Mountain View during the mid-20th century.

MODERN SERVICE AND CELEBRATION

Through their journey across a continent and several buildings, Dorr-Tilley said that the church has remained committed to forging community and comfort through God. She added that these values have felt particularly necessary while reflecting on the church's history and place in modern Mountain View.

“Why are we here? We are here to serve God,” Dorr-Tilley said. “We're here to follow his will to help others where we can.”

She said that their services have offered familiar comfort to those who have moved to Silicon Valley for job opportunities in the tech industry.

Dorr-Tilley also highlighted the missionary work and community service that the church is involved in.

Specifically, Dorr-Tilley noted efforts to offer aid to people living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are experiencing the extreme negative effects of cobalt and lithium mining, rare-earth minerals used in tech production.

“I feel so strongly about our support of them, because we are in an area that, I'm not going to say is responsible, but it's in an area that can do something through advocacy and awareness, and that's really significant,” Dorr-Tilley said.

On July 19, First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View hosted a special sermon and activities in celebration of the church's 175 years of service.

The service highlighted the church's history through different eras, including early settler faith, the revival of the Great Awakening, civil justice and the age of modern tech exploration.

“We're celebrating 175 years of God's faithfulness to us,” Dorr-Tilley said. “We can say we were faithful to God all this time, and we have been, but the celebration is about God's faithfulness to us.”



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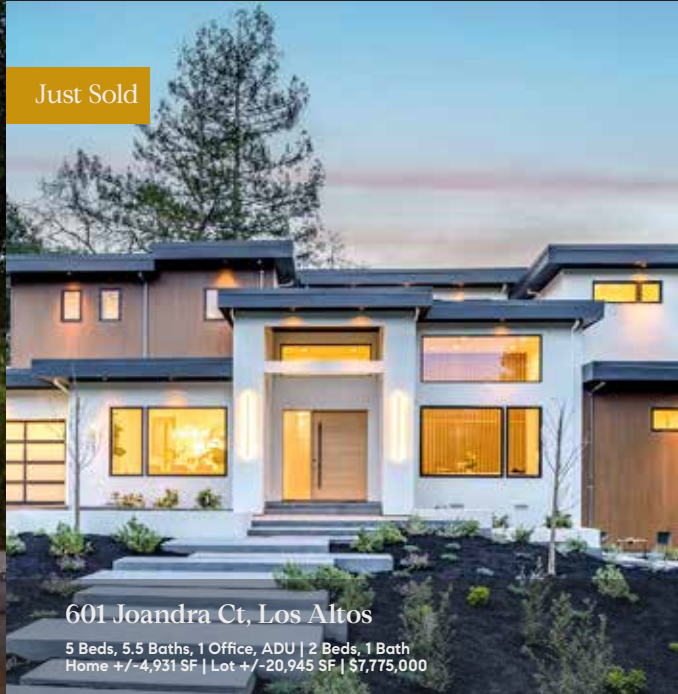
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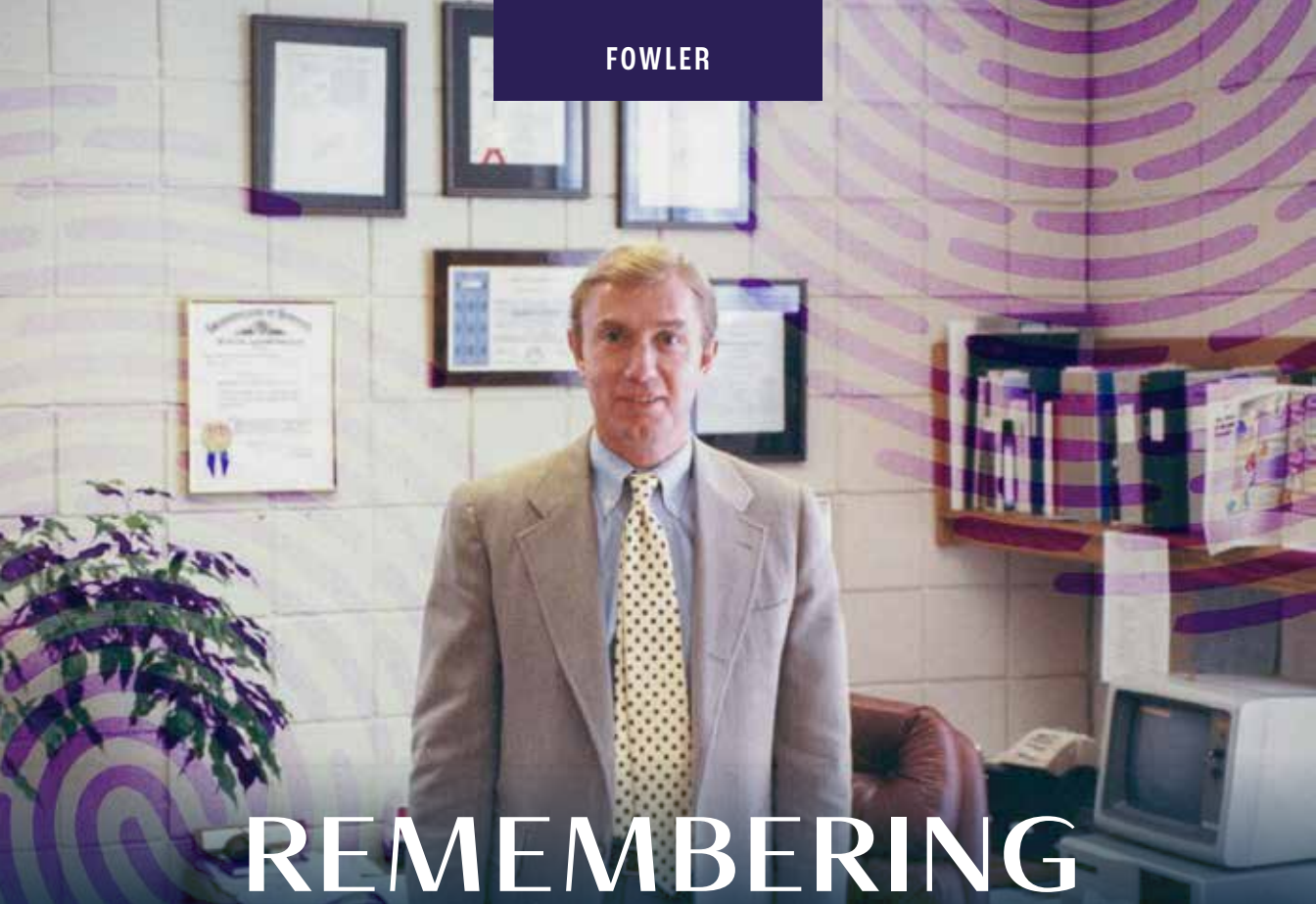
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REMEMBERING Randall Fowler

Inventor of the Digital Fingerprint Scanner

BY AVA ACHARYA

Town Crier Staff Writer

From background checks to digital logins, identity verification has become a central aspect of day-to-day life, but a huge portion of modern identity verification would be impossible without digital fingerprinting.

The scanner that made this technological shift possible was invented by Los Altos Randall Fowler, who spent nearly a decade building and testing the machine in his home garage.

Fowler died in December of 2025, but his work has had a permanent impact on both tech development and modern police work.

UPBRINGING AND EARLY LIFE

Randall Fowler was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1939. He grew up in a small house, near a manufacturing plant. Following his parents' divorce, Fowler lived with his mother and grandparents and several extended family members. He was the youngest in the household.

The family relied heavily on subsistence farming to support themselves, something which Fowler yearned to move away from.

"He really was excited to go to school," said Fowler's daughter, Chrissie Hopkins. "He grew up really wanting to do something more with his

life. He didn't just want to be a farmer."

Fowler became the first person in his family to attend college, going on to study at the Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville, where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering. He went on to Arizona State University for his master's, before teaching at San Jose University and earning a PhD at Stanford.

Around this time, Fowler began working with defense contracting firms. Hopkins said that the idea behind a digital fingerprint scanner came to Fowler after a friend experienced the downfalls of inconsistent identity verification while trying to get hired.



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PRODUCT CONCEPTION

In the late 1960s and early 1970s Fowler worked for Thompson Ramo Wooldridge Inc. (TRW Inc.). While TRW Inc., was hiring additional staff, someone who Fowler knew failed the required background check.

“(Fowler) thought, ‘Whoa, this doesn’t make sense,’” said Tom Hopkins, Chrissie Hopkins’ husband and Fowler’s son-in-law. “‘There’s got to be a better way to identify people,’ so then he started researching and came up with the idea of unique fingerprints.”

Ink-based fingerprinting was popularized as a means of identification in the early 20th century. However, it was often inconsistent as the ink being used could easily smear.

By eliminating the need for ink, Fowler eliminated these inconsistencies.

“It allowed them to start capturing more detail on fingerprints, so it enabled a higher resolution,” Tom Hopkins said.

Fowler filed the original patent for a “fingerprinting arrangement” device in 1979 and spent the next decade developing the technology in his home. Eventually, he entered into a contract with the FBI, Chrissie Hopkins said.



Randall Fowler's prototype fingerprint arrangement recording device. The technology has since been condensed.
PHOTO BY CHRISSIE HOPKINS

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Top: Fowler at his college graduation. He was the first person in his family to graduate from college. Right: Fowler riding in a limousine, on his way to the NASDAQ stock exchange for his first IPO. COURTESY OF CHRISSIE HOPKINS



“He was basically just trying to solve a problem,” she added. “It just happened to be the FBI who said, ‘Hey, we want in.’”

By allowing for higher resolution scans and easier digitalization, Fowler’s technology aided in establishing the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database.

AFIS is a national digital record of fingerprints recorded during police proceedings, and its introduction significantly streamlined interstate criminal investigations, Chrissie Hopkins said.

“Now that it was digitized, people didn’t have to fax (other departments) and say, ‘Hey, do you have anyone that matches this?’ They could put it into this easier search,” she added.

On the government administration side, Tom Hopkins said, fingerprint scanners allowed for more security when accessing sensitive information digitally. This became even more convenient as the scanner’s mechanisms condensed, eventually developing into a standard feature in modern phones and computers.

SETTLING IN

While teaching and studying in the South Bay years earlier, Fowler met his future wife. Although the couple lived together all over California, Chrissie Hopkins said, Fowler always had an affinity for Silicon Valley.

“They met in Sunnyvale, so they always wanted to come back this way to this area,” she said. “And then they finally, after about five years, got their chance to move to Los Altos and stayed there ever since.”

Fowler founded his Mountain View-based biometric identification company, Indentix Inc., in 1982. He used the opportunity to settle his family in Los Altos, where he stayed until his death in 2025.

“The company was founded to design, develop and manufacture these machines, taking this patent and turning it into an actual producible machine,” Tom Hopkins said. “He’d always joke that he was tired of working for other people, and the only way



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He grew up really wanting to do something more with his life. He didn't just want to be a farmer.”

- CHRISSIE HOPKINS
Randall Fowler's Daughter

to not work for other people would be to start his own company.”

In addition to cherished memories, Tom Hopkins added that Fowler was always drawn to the Silicon Valley community that surrounded Fowler and his family.

“They were longtime Los Altos resident supporters, and they always had that strong draw to Los Altos,” Tom Hopkins said. “They gave a lot to the community.”

Due to a series of mergers, Identix Inc., is no longer operational in its original form. However, the technology that the company developed and implemented is still widely utilized.

RETIREMENT AND LEGACY

“(Fowler) loved golf, loved his family and loved writing,” Chrissie Hopkins said.

Fowler retired from Indentix in 2000. Chrissie Hopkins said that, in retirement, Fowler enjoyed time with friends and family, as well as time on the golf course and creative writing.

She recounted a conversation that she had with her brother after their father's passing, in which they reflected on his career and area of study.

“Dad didn't study what he wanted to,” she said. “He wanted to be a writer. So that's why in his later years he did start.”

She added that for much of his life, Fowler felt that he was unable to pursue his passion for writing due to the financial constraints that he was under.

“He always was focused on making sure he could just make enough of a living that he could send his kids to college, and pay for their college, and let them study whatever they wanted to,” Chrissie Hopkins said.

Although Fowler passed in 2025, the machine that he built will continue to influence personal security.

“He was well ahead of his time,” Chrissie Hopkins said. “A lot of technology stories have come up that way.”



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A century of service:

Mountain View Kiwanis turns 100

BY ROBERT HENELY
Mountain View Kiwanis



When the Kiwanis Club of Mountain View held its first meeting in 1926, the world outside the window looked nothing like the one we know today. There was no Silicon Valley – not even the idea of one. Instead, the Santa Clara Valley was a sea of orchards, celebrated up and down the state as the “Valley of Heart’s Delight.” Each spring, apricot, prune and cherry blossoms turned the valley floor the color of snow, and nearly every family was tied in some way to growing, picking, packing or canning the fruit

that made this corner of California famous around the world. Mountain View sat right at the center of it. It had grown up around a stagecoach stop on El Camino Real and a railroad depot near Castro Street, a small farming town with big neighborly instincts. So when a group of local business and civic leaders chartered a Kiwanis club here in 1926 – barely a decade after Kiwanis International itself was founded in Detroit in 1915 – they were planting something that would outlast the orchards themselves. In August, that club turned 100.

From orchards to a movement

A century is a long time to keep showing up. Through the Depression, a world war, the disappearance of the orchards, the rise of the aerospace and semiconductor industries, and the arrival of the tech giants who now define the region, the Kiwanis Club of Mountain View kept doing the quiet, unglamorous work that holds a community together: supporting children, backing local schools, and lending hands wherever they were needed.

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At a 1964 gathering of Mountain View Kiwanis past presidents, the club offers a playful sendoff to “Sput” and welcome to “Tom,” reflecting the humor and fellowship that marked many Kiwanis traditions.
COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW KIWANIS

“Pull on almost any thread of community service in this area, and you’ll find it leads back, eventually, to that 1926 club in Mountain View.



Photographed during the club’s 85th Anniversary in 2011, the Children’s Shopping Spree is a Kiwanis Club of Mountain View program that helps local students prepare for the school year. In partnership with the Mountain View Whisman School District and the Mountain View Police Department, children shop with Kiwanis, Key Club and adult volunteers for clothing, shoes and other school essentials.
COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW KIWANIS

That work has taken countless – sponsoring and mentoring high school Key Clubs, awarding scholarships to graduating students, maintaining and improving community parks, running Christmas tree lots, helping distribute food through Second Harvest and putting on the family-friendly Harvest History Festival that celebrates the valley’s agricultural roots. The guiding idea, repeated by Kiwanians everywhere, has stayed remarkably constant: to improve the world one child and one community at a time.

How the local clubs grew up together

What many residents may not realize is how tightly our local service clubs are woven together – and how much of that thread runs back to Mountain View.

In 1947, a handful of Mountain View Kiwanians, among them Larry

Nelson of the Los Altos Pharmacy, dreamed up a simple, joyful idea: Invite local families to march their pets through downtown Los Altos in matching, colorful outfits on the Saturday after Mother’s Day. The first Pet Parade was such an instant hit that the Kiwanians decided the growing tradition deserved a club of its own. And so the Kiwanis Club of Los Altos was born that same year – about five years before Los Altos was even incorporated as a city, making it the first service club in town.

The Pet Parade has now marched down Main and State streets for nearly eight decades, drawing thousands of spectators and a wonderful menagerie of dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens, turtles and the occasional very brave worm. It remains one of the most beloved heritage events in the area – and it began as a Mountain View Kiwanis idea.

The connections didn’t stop there. In 1979, Los Altos Kiwanian Walter Chronert and two physical education teachers launched the Kiwanis Special Games, an event created to celebrate children with special needs and one that excludes no one. Today, it is carried on as a proud partnership among several Bay Area Kiwanis clubs. And in 1987, the Los Altos club, that direct descendant of Mountain View Kiwanis, became, by its own account, the first Kiwanis club anywhere to formally welcome women as members, helping push the entire international organization toward a more inclusive future.

It’s a good reminder that the institutions we cherish locally rarely stand alone. Pull on almost any thread of community service in this area, and you’ll find it leads back, eventually, to that 1926 club in Mountain View.

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A tradition begins. In June 1927, Mountain View Kiwanis members volunteered for one of the club's first community improvement projects, laying the foundation for 100 years of service. COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW KIWANIS



A hundred years, and a night to celebrate

A milestone like this doesn't come around often, and the Kiwanis Club of Mountain View marked it in style. The club hosted its 100th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, Aug. 8, with an

evening of dinner, live music and dancing. It was a celebration not only of a remarkable century of service, but of the generations of volunteers, families and neighbors who made it possible – and an invitation to help shape the next hundred years.

Whether your family has been here since the orchard days or you arrived last year, you're part of the community these volunteers have spent a century serving.

For more information on the Kiwanis Club of Mountain View, see kiwanismountainview.org.



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Los Altos plastic surgeon

retires after

52

years

BY AVA ACHARYA
Town Crier Staff Writer



Although Dr. Harry Mittelman's 52-year-long career in the South Bay has come to an end, his legacy of innovative patient care leaves a lasting impact that has expanded across medical disciplines and shaped modern plastic surgery. This legacy is not something Mittelman takes lightly.

Mittelman's impact reflects his commitment to high-quality care and expanding education, values which tie into his identity as an American immigrant and Holocaust survivor.

Mittelman retired from cosmetic facial plastic surgery at his Los Altos practice, the Mittelman Plastic Surgery Center, in the summer of 2026. The practice first opened in

1974, while Mittelman was teaching at Stanford University.

Prior to this, he attended Washington University for undergrad and the University of Kansas for medical school. Mittelman developed a focus on facial plastic and reconstructive surgery while completing postgraduate training in Chicago and the Bay Area. Mittelman continued to develop this focus while serving as a major in the United States Air Force.

"I gravitated towards facial cosmetic surgery in my residency, and at that time it was not done very much and it was pretty limited," Mittelman said. "It always was the most attractive to me because you could see the results right away and people were healthy, so

I tended to develop good relationships with patients."

Upbringing and early life

But Mittelman's journey to the present truly starts in 1941, in what was then the Soviet Union. Mittelman was born to Jewish parents who had escaped Nazi-controlled Poland the prior year, leaving a small town outside of Warsaw.

"My parents left their families and everything in 1940 to try to escape the Nazis," Mittelman said. "They got to the Russian side, where things weren't good, but they were better than the Nazi side."

While not a death sentence, the Soviet Union was a dangerous

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place for Jewish migrants and their children. Upon arriving, Mittelman's parents were arrested and placed into labor camps.

"They were caught because they weren't supposed to be in Russia," Mittelman said. "The Russians needed people so they didn't kill them, but they made them work in steel plants."

Mittelman was placed in an orphanage, where he remained until around 1945. However, even after World War II ended and Mittelman's parents were able to return to Poland, they faced great difficulty retrieving their son.

"My parents wanted to go back to Poland, where they were from, but they wanted to get me out first," Mittelman said. "That seems like it would be an easy task, but it wasn't."

They fought for the ability to see their child again, and eventually it paid off and the family was reunited. At the same time, Mittelman's parents believed that their entire extended family had been wiped out.

They chose to travel to the United States instead of returning to Poland after learning of a family member who had survived the concentration camps and was living in Kansas.

"Uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers, sisters, parents, everybody was killed except for my uncle," Mittelman said. "We found out that he was (in Kansas), so we went to the United States."

After spending several years in camps around Europe waiting for immigration approval, their journey into the United States included traveling through Venezuela and New Orleans to eventually reaching Kansas City.

Upon arriving, around age 9, Mittelman was a couple of years behind his peers academically and spoke very little English. However, he said, he quickly caught up.

Mittelman added that his gratitude towards the opportunities he was afforded in the United States impacted his approach to professional life, for

the sake of what he and many others had lost.

"I really appreciate the United States so much ... because of the opportunities that are here and the freedoms we have, and hopefully will continue to have," Mittelman said. "I don't think my parents ever thought, in those times when we were in Europe, that we would reach this kind of situation, and that I would be able to accomplish what I've accomplished."

"I was able to develop a lot of things, including surgical techniques that hadn't been done before and was able to teach people."

- DR. HARRY MITTELMAN
Mittelman Plastic Surgery Center

Achievements and medical advancements

And that gratitude, paired with an appreciation for the potential which the field of cosmetic facial plastic surgery held, drove Mittelman to forge his own path in a then-underdeveloped area of medicine.

"When I started in 1974, there were very few people doing cosmetic surgery, and plastic surgeons would frown upon people who were doing cosmetic work as opposed to reconstructive type work," Mittelman said. "I was able to develop a lot of things, including surgical techniques that hadn't been done before and was able to teach people."

One such technique that Mittelman developed was the use of lasers in office-based medical care. Previously, lasers had been used only in hospital-based care.

Lasers utilize concentrated light beams to vaporize problematic tissue without bleeding, by simultaneously closing blood vessels while performing the given procedure. In 2026, they are used in a wide variety of different procedures, both cosmetic and not. Some familiar procedures include intravaginal surgery, LASIK eye surgery and tumor removal.

While in Palo Alto, Mittelman conducted independent research on the use of lasers to treat allergies. The goal was to vaporize nasal turbinates, the area in the nasal cavity that swells when someone has a cold or allergies.

"That was sort of the beginning of it," Mittelman said. "We developed the laser and we could use it not only for that, but use it for laser resurfacing of the face and for undermining the skin without having as much bleeding."

Mittelman helped to establish one of the first office-based medical laser companies using this technology, which was subsequently acquired by Johnson & Johnson in the early 1980s. Today, this technology is utilised across office-based medical care.

Mittelman also developed, and patented, proportional facial implants that have since been licensed and applied internationally.

"Before I developed those implants, the chin implants used to be a very small button in front of the chin, but it didn't really mimic the anatomy of the face," Mittelman said. "So what I did is design an implant that extended beyond that area and tapered into the rest of the mandible, so now it looked natural."

This style of implant, which mirrors natural facial anatomy, has since become the medical standard, Mittelman said.

Mittelman also developed facial implants for the nasolabial groove, or the area where cheeks meet the nose and upper lip. Additionally, he developed cosmetic surgical procedures which have since become popular.

"We've become known for the



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The modern iteration of the medical laser that Mittelman helped develop. Mittelman gained exclusive privileges to use military technology when developing office-based medical lasers. The technology caught the interest of Johnson & Johnson.

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Tapered jaw implants, which Mittelman invented and have since been used worldwide. Includes Pre Jowl Chin (top) in size small and Mittelman Pre Jowl Chin Implant in size extra large (bottom).

AVA ACHARYA/TOWN CRIER

Mittelman mighty mini tuck,” Mittelman said.

According to Mittelman’s website, this procedure lifts small areas of the skin on the lower face and neck. Doing so creates a more youthful appearance without the need for major surgery, as is the case with traditional face lifts.

Throughout his career, Mittelman has been awarded twice by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. These awards include the F. Mark Rafaty Memorial Award and the William K. Wright Award, as well as formal recognition for his leadership while chair of the organization’s Emerging Issues and Technology Committee.

However, the over 25 years Mittelman served as the Academy’s fellowship director hold a much deeper connection to his greatest source of professional pride: educating the next generation of plastic surgeons.

Teaching the next generation

“It’s the reason I have been in practice for 52 years,” Mittelman said. “Not just because I enjoy it, and I do enjoy it ... but for teaching.”

Mittelman added that in the early

stages of facial plastic surgery, a concrete fellowship program did not exist.

“It was people like myself that were early (to the field) that we developed the concept of a fellowship program,” Mittelman said.

This shifted the way in which education surrounding facial plastics operated, because people now had a concrete route to train and specialize, Mittelman said. After finishing residency, the fellowship program allowed new doctors to gain tangible experience.

Mittelman said that contributing to this program and passing on his own expertise is the crowning achievement of his career.

“Somebody would come to me for one year of their life to learn facial cosmetic surgery, being able to have that kind of relationship. ... I learned stuff from them – not necessarily about how to do facial cosmetic surgery,” Mittelman said. “That has been the highlight of my 52-year-long career.”

Mittelman also expressed great appreciation for his wife and family, including four children and 10 grandchildren, as well as his staff at the Mittelman Plastic Surgery Center. In retirement, Mittelman enjoys his time with family, as well as his time golfing.

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Licensed in 1986, Denise Welsh has represented buyers and sellers in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto and throughout the greater Santa Clara County and San Mateo Counties.



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Denise came to real estate from international marketing, at a Fortune 500 company where she developed skills in contract formation, negotiating and communication. Four decades later, those skills still shape the way she works: straightforward advice, thoughtful preparation, and personal involvement from the first conversation through closing.

The strongest measure of that approach may be how often one relationship leads to the next. Denise has represented families through multiple chapters — from that first home to a larger one or more suitable location and, years later, working with their children.

Sales and service comprised a large portion of her business with recognition for production and sales. However, Denise has also devoted significant time and energy with her trade associations as a Board Director, Committee Chair and in local Leadership for the past 16 years. For four years, Denise served on the Federal Taxation and Finance Committee at NAR with trips to Washington, D.C. and multiple meetings with local legislators.

Most notable achievements and awards:

- 1997 President's Club (Coldwell Banker)
- 2001 President's Circle (Alain Pinel Realtors)
- 2004 Lifetime achievement for Sales and Production
- 2007 Executive's Circle (Intero Real Estate)
- 2017 President, Silicon Valley Association of Realtors
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