

# New teachers and staff members join the LGHS team

by Emily Chen  
Sports Editor

Heading the music department is Joey Fortino. After teaching for 11 years at Gilroy High School, Fortino explained, "I decided to leave my hometown school because of the obstacles some administrators had put in front of music education." Fortino has always loved music and its moving effects on the musicians and the audience.

Megumi Shibamiya discovered a passion for mathematics, and she also enjoys the Japanese language. Previously a teacher at Cupertino and Aragon High Schools, Shibamiya explained, "I came to teach at LGHS because of the opportunity to teach my two subjects, Japanese and Math."

Sarkis Kel-Artinian explained why he came to LGHS, "I believe in lifelong learning. After teaching many years at Leland, I decided it was time to try something new, so that I keep on learning." Kel-Artinian has an educational philosophy that includes the belief that math is a language that helps students to understand the world and take responsibility.

Stephanie Lipman came to LGHS after deciding with her fiancé to find a school and district where they could buy a home and someday raise a family. She also fell in love with the campus. Lipman initially taught English at El Camino High, and took part in Yearbook, Speech, AVID, and Peer Helpers there.

John Rue the other new English teacher, explained, "I came to Los Gatos because I felt a way to make a difference in the world was to teach kids who are going to go to college." Not only was he a teacher at Lynbrook and Branham High Schools, Rue was also an admissions counselor at the University of Michigan and a freelance development counselor for the Ministry of Education in Ghana.

Linda Jones, the new technician, works in the Attendance Office. She came to LGHS for its beautiful campus and fantastic reputation. Jones finds that working alongside the friendly, knowledgeable, and diligent people here at LGHS to be extremely rewarding.

When Heath Clark started working here this year in the Special Education Department, he also decided to be green. "I live close by, got rid of my car, and [now] bike to school!" he explained. Before he came to LGHS, Clark worked in different areas at Leland High School, from teaching to aiding a student with cerebral palsy.

Also in the Special Education Department, Heather Cisowski, an alumnus of LGHS, wanted to give back to our community. "I began teaching with a program called Teach for America which recruits top college graduates who are NOT education majors and puts them through a summer 'teacher boot camp' and then sends us off to teach in the most highly disadvantaged schools in the country," Cisowski explained.

Along with teachers, the school gained other staff members. Laura Larios, the new psychologist, explained that, "This actually feels like a homecoming for me. My family and I lived in Los Gatos from 2001 to 2006, and are thrilled to be back!" With 20 years of experience, she worked at UCLA Medical Center's Pediatric Unit, and at a range of schools from pre-K to high school in areas ranging throughout California.

Kat Burke entered the world language department to teach Spanish. Like all the new teachers, Burke was thrilled to work at Los Gatos. In 14 years of teaching, Burke has taught Spanish, English as a Second Language, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing across the United States and in England. Not only does she want bring awareness to her students, but Burke also strives to gain awareness herself.

Mike Navrides has worked at various schools for the last 20 years, with the past 11 years at our rival school, Saratoga. As the founder of the AP Statistics program at SHS, Navrides took up the open statistics position after Kenny Lewis retired last year. Navrides discovered his love for teaching at his college fraternity where his "brothers" constantly asked him for help.

The next time the word freshman comes to mind, remember new staff members are freshmen as well.

# Upcoming town council elections bring new perspective

by Kimia Pakdaman  
Opinion Editor

Seeing the campaign posters on lawns that read "Peggy" or "Rice" for town council signals that the Los Gatos' Town Council elections are approaching.

There are four candidates running for two seats on the council. The candidates are Michael Kane, Barbara Spector, Steve Rice, and Peggy Dallas, who all have experience in community service and local government. Spector is the only candidate who is rerunning for her previous spot on Town Council, so Los Gatos is bound to see something new after the elections.

Kane's experience in local government ranges from being the Treasurer for the Chamber of Commerce to a former member of Chair of the Planning Commission. Because the Planning Commission is a major component in the Town Council, Kane's experience would help

him aid the town.

Spector has been a member of the Town Council for four years and on the Planning Commission for eight years. As mayor, Spector will make sure to keep the funding for redevelopment, such as repaving

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roads or the new library. Spector wants to continue to protect Los Gatos' hillside. "I strongly feel that our hillsides are what makes us, Los Gatos, different," commented Spector.

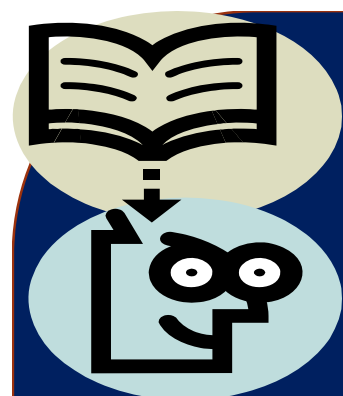
She also hopes to make Los Gatos the lead agency on a partnership to find funding and property for a recreational center. Spector is the

only candidate re-running for her previous spot on Town Council.

Rice has also served on the Planning Commission and was the past president of Los Gatos' Rotary Club. "One of my biggest concerns is around the finances of the Town. In less than two years, the Town's operating budget will be 'in the red,'" explained Rice. He hopes to keep Los Gatos from feeling the effects.

Peggy Dallas serves on the Architectural Standards Committee. Dallas feels that her experience as an architect helps her with land use issues. Dallas also wants to work for more valuable things for teens to do in Town—such as places to shop, to play, or hang out," additionally Dallas hopes to fix traffic and parking issues at LGHS.

The elections, which are on Nov. 4, will inevitably bring a new point of view and knowledge to the Town Council. All four candidates have experience and a spirit for keeping Los Gatos a prosperous and thriving town.



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