

Noted Physician Tackles Medical Ethics

OLLI course at LLLC explores new and difficult questions

Submitted by Franette Armstrong



Dr. M. Michael Thaler

Photo provided

Dr. M. Michael Thaler has a message for you: "If you haven't heard of 'personalized medicine' just wait a year. There is going to be a groundswell of forces that will put your entire DNA into your medical records for any doctor to see and use."

Whether this and other revolutionary new technologies are a good thing is the subject of a new 6-week course at the Lafayette Library. Through case studies it will delve into the advances in genetics, organ transplantation, robotics, imaging, and information technologies to ask students, "Is there a way to reduce cost and improve care without sacrificing patient rights? Who should get expensive new drugs and procedures and who should decide?"

Dr. Thaler promises you won't need a medical degree to understand and debate these issues.

The Nuremberg Code, the gold standard of medical ethics that arose after WWII, is of more than passing interest to Thaler, who began life in Nazi-invaded Poland and spent his early teens in a refugee camp. At 15 he was sent to Canada for high school and then medical school at the University of Toronto, where as a pathology resident he made a discovery that is saving lives every day – how to perform CPR on children without injuring them – which led to the first of his more than 200 scientific papers in a

medical career spanning over four decades.

Residencies and fellowships took him to Paris and Harvard and led to a 34-year career in pediatric medicine at UCSF, where he is professor emeritus in the school of medicine and recipient of the Chancellor's Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to Society. It was as president of the Northern California Holocaust Center that he became interested in Nazi medicine.

When he gave up his active role at UCSF, Thaler didn't give up his passion for learning and teaching. He obtained a degree in the history of health science at UC Berkeley, and taught this and the history of the holocaust for 11 years at UC Santa Cruz. "But in the end there was too much driving over Hwy 17," he said, so he began teaching UC Extension, Cal undergraduate classes and an OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) course at least once a year.

Thaler is fluent in five languages and reads three others. Father of two and grandfather of five, he and his wife don't get a chance to travel like they used to. "We're into cruises now ... it's the only way to keep everybody together. Forced house arrest!"

His class begins Tuesday, April 1 from 10 a.m.-noon. For more information go to olli.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-9934.

New OLLI Classes in Lafayette

Three new six-week courses from UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute begin April 1 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center:

Health Care Reform: Medical Practice and Medical Ethics taught by M. Michael Thaler, MD., will analyze the unprecedented ethical, economic and legal challenges brought about by new medical technologies – 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays.

Proust and His World taught by Larry Bensky, former national affairs correspondent for KPFA Radio and manager of Radio Proust explores the literature and times of Marcel Proust, one of the 20th century's most widely quoted authors, who was influenced by writers such as Anatole France, artists such as Monet and Picasso, and musicians such as Saint-Saens and Debussy – 10 a.m. to noon, Thursdays.

Art and Architecture of Turkey explores Turkey's culture through architecture, sculpture, paintings, mosaics and manuscripts in Ankara, Akhtamar Island, Yazikaya, Cappadocia and more. Art historian and former Cal State San Francisco professor Kerrin Meis has led tours and traveled extensively in Turkey and has taught many classes about Byzantine and Islamic art – 1:15 to 3:15 p.m., Thursdays.

Student and Science Teacher All Smiles at Science Fair

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



From left: Jason Pollack and Page McClun

Photo provided

St. Perpetua science teacher Jason Pollack congratulates eighth-grader Page McClun, who was the first place ribbon winner and finalist in biological sciences at the recent Diocesan Science Fair, held at St. Joseph High School in Alameda. Not

pictured are Carson Kontny, first place ribbon winner and finalist in the physical sciences category, and Meghan Hohman, first place ribbon winner and finalist in the behavioral sciences category.

It's what we do



25 Years of Caring, Recognized for Excellence

Exploring Care Options? Considering In-Home Care?

Eldercare Services will work with you to reduce family burdens and stress by helping you make important decisions and transitions throughout the aging process.

- Flexible and Stable, Full-Service Agency
- Reliable & Professionally Trained Caregivers
- Expertise You Can Trust



Accredited by The Joint Commission

Call for an initial Complimentary Professional Assessment
888-714-8381 or visit EldercareAnswers.com

Excellent Care AT HOME



Heartfelt & Supportive Care
At All Times...

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite D Lafayette
(beside Trader Joe's)
www.excellentcareathome.com



Our mission is to provide personalized care, help maintain independence and enhance our client's quality of life on a daily basis.

- Fully bonded and insured
- Geriatric care management
- Hourly care
- Live-in care
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Medication reminders

Call to schedule a free assessment and plan care review. 925-284-1213



Dr. Patel

- Specializing in Medical Marijuana
- Graduate of Northwestern University (Evanston, IL)
- Graduate of Touro University College of Medicine (Vallejo, CA)
- Member of the Society of Cannabis Clinicians

Improve your Health with Marijuana

Call today to schedule a consultation with Dr. Patel

Did you know?

Medical Marijuana is available in the form of a lotion, cream, or ointment to apply to areas of pain.

710 S. Broadway, Suite 204,
Walnut Creek (next to Safeway)
925.708.9351

www.pentsaomed.com

PEN TS'AO
MEDICAL CLINIC

Expertise. Experience. Excellence.



24/7 On Call HOME CARE Experts

Let us help your loved ones retain their pride, dignity & independence with our full-service home care.

- Bathing, dressing, grooming & toileting
- Light housekeeping & meal preparation
- Transportation, shopping & errands
- Medication reminders & physical activities
- Companionship & more

Best Home Care For Le\$\$

Call (925) 317-3080
now to book your
FREE initial assessment



\$1000 off
First Month of Live-in Home Care Service*
*6 months minimum, offer expires 04/30/14

(925) 317-3080 • www.CareIndeed.com • 65 Moraga Way, Suite 9, Orinda, CA 94563



"Nothing makes me happier than to see you smile!"

- Comfortable, Convenient Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Certified in Full Mouth Reconstruction

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

Scott D. Lothamer, DDS
Moraga
925-376-4602
1030 Country Club Drive

\$40 off
mention this ad to receive \$40 off any dental treatment

Member:
ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD

