LELAND HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM: FOSTERING A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT - P4



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FEB. 22-MARCH 7, 2019 ■ VOL. 32, NO. 5



Almaden Tines

San Jose teacher housing a hot topic at SJUSD meeting

Bret Hart and Leland land to be repurposed?

By Kyle Martin

Special to the Times s the housing crisis intensifies, the San Jose Unified School District is pushing a plan to build new "teacher housing" as a means to offer district employees below-market rate homes — but not everyone is on board.

Residents, teachers and education advocates packed a SJUSD board meeting Thursday, February 7 to debate the proposal to move existing schools to make way for affordable teacher housing. Supporters said it offers a lifeline for Silicon Valley's struggling educators while opponents called it "outrageously inefficient."

A list of district properties was submitted to the board in September as part of a "Master Plan for San José Unified Properties." The nine schools include Walter L. Bachordt Elementary School, Peter Burnett Middle School, Selma Olinder Elementary School, Gardner Elementary School, River Glen K-8 School, Second Start-Pine Hill Non-Public School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School. The board mulled the possibility of moving a few schools to repurpose the land for housing developments for lower income families working for the district — like teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians and more.

Specifically, administrators See HOUSING, page 8

Raising money and support for challenged athletes



Molly Cuevas (right) with Ella Rodriguez at the fundraiser for Molly's Run Across America. Photo by Whitney Kanavel

Molly Cuevas takes on incredible challenge of running 3,000 miles across America

By William Bellou Publisher

olly Cuevas has set an incredible goal of run-**⊥** ning from California to New York to raise awareness and funds for Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) to help individuals with physical challenges get access to sports.

Molly, who graduated from Leland High School in 2012, will start her courageous journey from Santa Monica, CA on April 1 and run for more than 3,000 miles (40 miles per day) until she reaches Montauk, NY.

"I am running across the country to make a statement See CUEVAS, page 16

A RAPT AUDIENCE

DAR hosts Student Recognition Awards, honors Almaden Valley participants

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

ay Area students shared their award-winning essays with a rapt audience at a recent ceremony hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Los Gatos Chapter.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a national volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism.

The thought-provoking, historical essays, which ranged from Women's Suffrage to Columbus, were written by students from both public and private

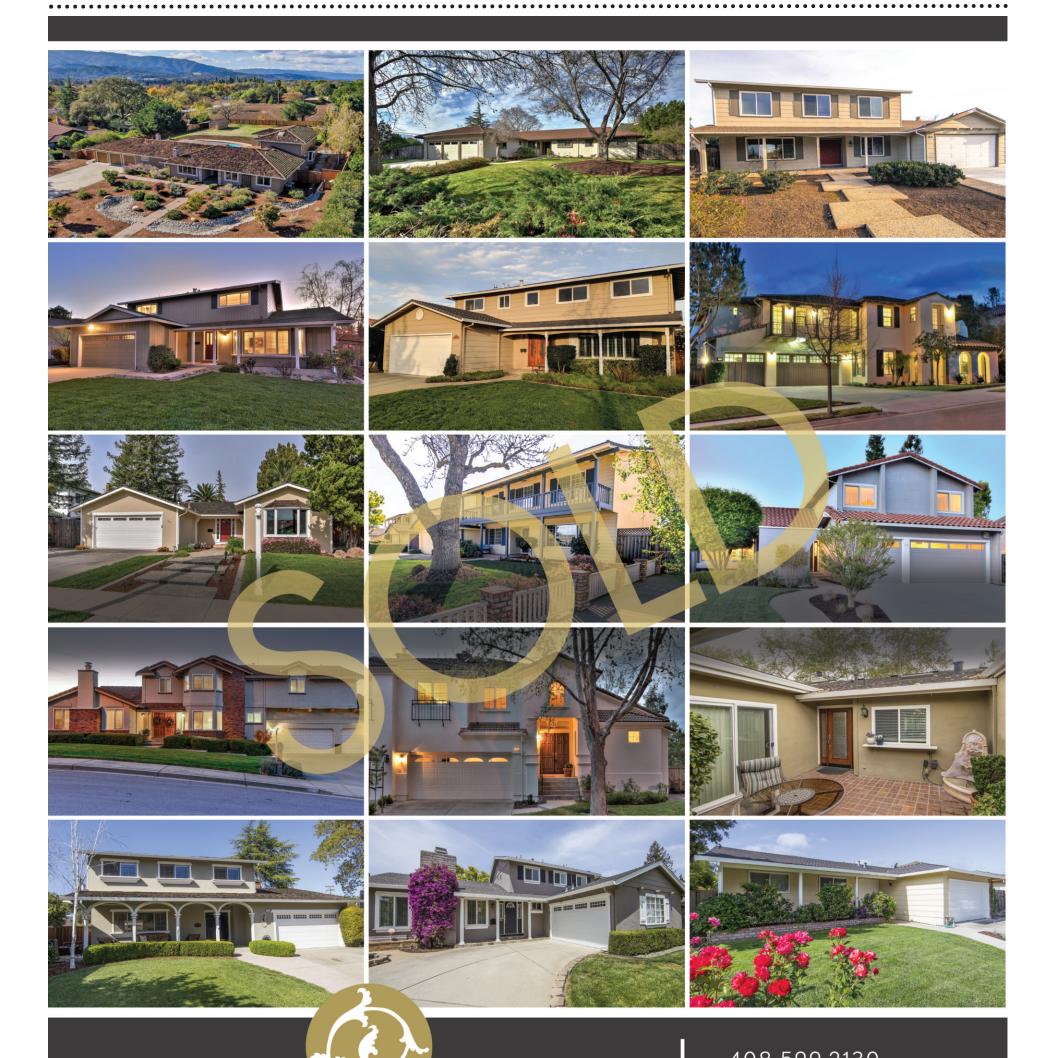
schools and chosen based upon the students' research and writing abilities.

Some papers were presented as first-person narratives, transporting listeners to other time periods, while others spared no detail in comparing Columbus' vessels with modern-day ships. These students, as well as Good Citizens Essay winners, exhibited enthusiasm and confidence as they addressed the crowd.

"When the kids read, their personalities come through," says DAR American History Essay Awards Chair Sue Fitzpatrick. "They learn a lot while preparing See AWARDS, page 21



(L to R): DAR Am. History Essay Awards Chair Sue Fitzpatrick; Leland High School student Nethra Srinivasan and DAR Citizens Essay Awards Chair Trish Gasvoda. Christopher Columbus essay winner Srinivasan shared her detailed essay about Columbus' vessels compared with ships of today.



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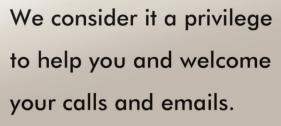


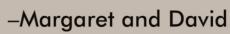






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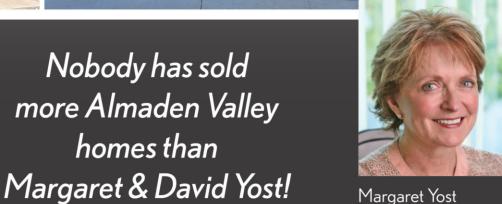














Margaret Yost Cal BRE #00947936

David Yost Cal BRE #01450671

This Week:

SCHOOLS

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LOCAL

5th Annual STEM Faire at Dartmout: A celebration of student **learning: PAGE 15**

CITY

Taking a look at District 10's 2018 July-**December report card: PAGE 14**



CALENDAR

Symphony Silicon Valley presents Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony: PAGE 19

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Almaden Times

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Vallev Currents

cur | **rent** (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.





Above: Students pose along with Gay Brasher. All students are currently 5th graders at Horace Mann Elementary. Right: The students hold their certificates.

LELAND HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM

Fostering a competitive spirit in the S.J. Unified School District

eland High School boasts one of the largest speech and debate teams in the nation.

What makes Leland's debate team unique is its commitment to fostering a

competitive spirit and spreading public speaking within the San Jose Unified School District community.

One example of this is Leland's longtime commitment to Horace Mann Elementary School in San Jose. For the past 12 years, Leland head coach Gay Brasher has offered instruction in public speaking to students in 5th grade and often to those in 3rd and 4th grades at Horace Mann.

Brasher usually takes a small group of Leland High School students with her to engage the elementary school students to work on research and presentation skills. Their arrival is greatly anticipated by the elementary school students, who recognize these students as their "speech teachers." In turn, Leland High School students are always amazed by the 5th grade students who demonstrate such willingness to volunteer and participate in class.

The positive learning

environment created by these "speech sessions" encourages even the shyest students to speak up. Horace Mann Elementary is an International Bac-

calaureate School, and the high school

students will continue to help prepare the students in Ms. Lidia Cisneros and Ms. Leanne Bellmer's classes.

Elementary school tournament

This year, Leland coordinated with

Horace Mann to organize one of the first elementary school speech tournaments in California. Students had the choice of entering events such as Campaign speech, Young Activist, How-To, Poetry/Prose Reading and Student Congress. Eighty elementary schoolers representing ten schools and organizations participated in the tournament. There is an expectation that the number of participants will nearly double next year and continue to grow in the future.

Judges for the school tournament were Leland and San Jose High School students. Horace Mann will be able to host the tournament for years to come. The tournament creates the chance for more students to participate in public speak-

At the end of the day, after a challenging but exciting tournament, the elementary students went home with a greater confidence in public



High school students were the judges and tournament workers at the tournament. From left to right: Leland Students: Devon Shao. Nikhil Kulkarni. Adriel Lee. Annie Borders, Hannah Lee (Tournament Director), Ashley Lee, and Cindy Zhao, San Jose High Students: Nicole Hoang and Paloma Ballin.

THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM

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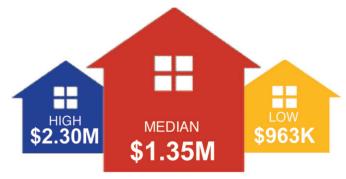
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GLOBAL

95120 MARKET UPDATE

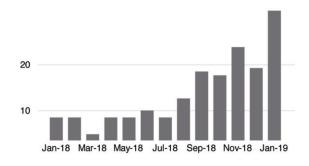
The average Single Family Home costs \$1.35M and sells in 45 days for 98% of asking price based on 13 sales in January 2019

MEDIAN SALE PRICE





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Times Community



The Bellarmine cast rehearses a dance number from Disney's Newsies.

Bellarmine Theatre Arts presents Disney's Newsies

Bellarmine College Preparatory
Theatre Arts presents Disney's
Newsies.

Newsies is a hit Broadway musical about the Newsboys Strike of 1899, when child labor unionized to demand fairer treatment from the likes of publisher Joseph Pulitzer.

Based on the Disney film, the production features songs by eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken (Beauty & the Beast) and Tony-winner Jack Feldman.

Disney's Newsies is the 30th show directed by Peter Canavese, 23 of which have been Bellarmine productions. An alumnus of Bellarmine and Santa Clara University, Canavese is now in his 22nd year of directing at Bellarmine.

"I see Newsies as the heir to West Side Story because it's a very athletic, dance-intensive show and because New York City is so deeply imprinted on its DNA as the show's proud setting and birthplace," noted Canavese. "We have a terrific choreographer in Pauline Locsin-Kanter (whose impressive dance credits include Promises, Promises, A Chorus Line, and work on the Disney animated feature Mulan) and a great vocal director in Gina Adams (whose previous vocal direction of Bellarmine productions include The Who's Tommy, Shrek The

Musical, and Spamalot. All three of us have had designs on this particular show for years. The rights just became available, so we were ready at our earliest opportunity to 'seize the day' and 'carry the banner," added Canavese, referencing two songs from Disney's Newsies.

In addition to Bellarmine students, featuring junior JP Micallef in the lead male role of Jack Kelly, the cast of 32 performers includes several female students from Presentation, Notre Dame, and Los Gatos high schools; a home school student; and 6th grader Donovan Cozort from St. Lucy's. The design team and crew of 40 includes Gregg Carlson, technical director; Maren Alessandri Lane, lighting director/designer; Ryan Stohs, orchestra director; Kathleen O'Brien, costume designer; and Tristan Foster, stage manager.

Disney's Newsies is presented March 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9 at 7:30 p.m., and March 3 at 2:00 p.m. All performances occur in the Main Stage Theatre of the Sobrato Center for Humanities and the Arts on the Bellarmine campus, 960 West Hedding Street, San Jose.

Attendees are asked to please park on campus and to bring a can of food, which will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. Tickets are available online at: www.bcp.org.







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Times **Feature**



South Bay Philharmonic to perform March 1 at Foothill Presbyterian

South Bay Philharmonic will perform March 1 at Foothill Presbyterian on Friday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Foothill Community Concert Series is proud to be the home of the South Bay Philharmonic orchestra. This volunteer orchestra astounds audiences with an ever-growing repertoire of both modern and classical music.

Directed by George Yefchak, the South Bay Philharmonic includes both professional and amateur musicians, giving young musicians a much needed entry point into the world of orchestral music, and it's a thrill to see them rise to the occasion.

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BEETHOVEN: SYMPHONY NO.2

Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Road, San Jose; Admission: \$12.50 advance / \$15.00 door; Children 12 and under are admitted free. Admission includes a post-concert reception with a chance to meet the artists.

Tickets are available at the door, or online at www.foothillpc.org/fccs. Online tickets are available up to 48 hours prior to concert start. Tickets purchased online will be waiting for you at the door.

About South Bay Philharmonic

The South Bay Philharmonic are musicians who come together to rehearse and perform orchestral music. They're unique among "community orchestras" because they accept players with a wide range of skill levels, from perhaps "high-school level" to near "professional."





Residents, teachers and education advocates packed a SJUSD board meeting Thursday, February 7 to debate the proposal to move existing schools to make way for affordable teacher housing. *Photo courtesy of San José Spotlight.*

Housing

Continued from page 1

are looking to relocate Leland High School and Bret Harte Middle School in Almaden Valley, one of the most affluent enclaves of San Jose.

"I encourage you to continue the course," said Patrick Bernhardt, president of the San Jose Teachers Association. He stood as a staunch supporter of the initiative and asked the board to move forward with the Master Plan.

Bernhardt said, like many of his colleagues, he worries teachers leaving San Jose to work elsewhere will continue to harm the quality of life and education in the school district.

"We cannot sustain that trend," Bernhardt said. "I think that something has to be done."

But some Almaden Valley residents at Thursday's meeting pushed back against moving two high-performing schools to build affordable homes, including Greg Braley, an Almaden parent and staunch opposer of the plan.

Braley in November launched a petition to remove Bret Harte and Leland from the list. His petition calls the Master Plan a "very bad option" for reasons including harm to home values, traffic worries and pedestrian safety walking to school in the area.

"As residents of the Almaden Valley neighborhood, we are strongly opposed to San Jose Unified School District's consideration of relocating Leland High School and Bret Harte Middle School in order to build low cost employee housing units," the petition says.

The petition drew more than 6,500 signatures.

Stephen McMahon, the district's deputy superintendent, asked the board to consider the plan as it moves forward to another board session later in the year. No vote or motion was necessary Thursday, as the agenda item was just an update on the Master Plan.

When asked by board president Kimberly Meek what interim options there are for housing teachers with more immediacy, McMahon said it would not be the best use of already limited district funds. Instead, McMahon said the next step is to narrow the list to a smaller number of preferred locations and move ahead

"We're looking at the best way to attract and retain teachers," he said.

With the ability to offer below-market rate housing for district faculty, McMahon said that gives the district the ability to price-out the relatively cheaper areas outside of San José, offering a major tool in teacher retention.

Johanna Latz, a special education teacher for Schallenberger Elementary School, said she's all too familiar with the exodus of teachers and faculty in the district, having experienced high turnover in her department.

Supporting teacher housing is something Latz said could help build stability in district employees, specifically in those who struggle to make ends meet for those working two or more jobs just to stay in education. "Everybody deserves to work one job, without needing long commutes," Latz said.

While Latz lives in a house of her own, she says it's because she bought it in 1999 for about \$250,000, whereas now it would be worth about \$1 million — something neither she, nor her many colleagues, would be able to afford today.

Latz said with skyrocketing housing costs amidst a housing crisis in the Bay Area, a "coming tsunami of rent increases" is going to further drain the pool of district employees and make matters worse for those already trying to cope financially. Teacher housing, she said, would help. "It could be one way to encourage people to be teachers," she said. "It's hard for us to compete. This would make us more competitive."

Board vice president Teresa Castellanos offered her support of moving forward while the Bay Area continues to combat a housing crisis.

"I know that families are suffering a lot. I know that people are renting garages without bathrooms and no kitchens for \$2,500 in the low-income areas," Castellanos said. "I know that they compete with landlords who would rather rent to six students who each share a room and pay \$1,000 to \$1,500 each and then that three bedroom house is being rented for \$6,000 to \$8,000 in downtown San Jose."

Low income families simply cannot compete, she said.

"Until the state of California decides to do something about public education, we're going to be in this constant struggle," Castellanos said. "It is really hard to get up here and make constant budget decisions knowing that you cannot add any more to the pot and that the quality is going down because the cost is going up."

Acknowledging the realities the district faces with underfunding and understaffing, Castellanos said "it's going to get worse before it gets better."

Kyle Martin at kylebmartin96@gmail.com or follow him @Kyle_Martin35 on Twitter. Article courtesy of San José Spotlight.

AMY MCCAFFERTY

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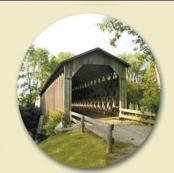
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6K AND 10K RUN | KIDS RUN (AGES 2-7)





Times Feature



PICTURE THIS

The City of San Jose recognized Leland Bridge Parent Group's valuable work with the group being presented a service award certificate by **Johnny Khamis**, Almaden – District 10 City Councilman. The award was presented to **Kathy Xiong**, the president of the Leland Bridge Parents Group at their annual event earlier this month.

AWC Scholarship application and Logo Design Contest open to area high school students

Eligible high school seniors are invited to apply for a scholar-ship which will be awarded by the Almaden Valley Women's Club.

Each year the Almaden Women's Club produces the Art & Wine Festival held in September at Almaden Lake Park. Proceeds from that event are awarded via grants to area charities and money is set aside for scholarships for local high school seniors.

The Almaden Valley Women's Club has a motto: "Friendship through Service." Community service is very important to the membership and is one of the criteria for the scholarship. Students are asked to present an essay detailing projects or volunteer hours which helped improve their communities. High school seniors graduating in the current academic year and who reside in the 95118, 95120 or 95123 zip codes are welcome to submit an application. The deadline for the scholarship is March 29, 2019.

More details can be found at:

www.almadenwomen.org/scholr-ships

Logo contest

The Almaden Valley Women's Club also sponsors a logo contest and would like to invite students to participate in the annual contest. The winning logo will be used on the Festival's wine glasses and featured at the annual Art & Wine Festival on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019 at Almaden Lake Park. Any student who resides in or who is enrolled in a public, private or home school program in the 95118, 95120 and 95123 zip codes and is between the ages of 11-18 at the time of submission, is eligible to participate.

AVWC will select one winner and four finalist logos from the submissions. The winner will be awarded \$200. The runners up will also receive a monetary award. The deadline for the logo entries is April 5, 2019.

For more information on the logo contest, please visit: www.almaden-women.org/logo-contest



The 2018 AVWC Scholarship winners, from left: Yanet Wossenseged, Sabrina Tian, Thanh-Thuy Nguyen, Karoline Imobersteg, My Hoang and Evan Leung.

Times Features

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Leland High School, Bret Harte Middle competing in Science Bowl competition

team of students from Leland High School and Bret Harte Middle School in Almaden Valley are participating in an upcoming competition to determine the team to represent California in the middle school National Finals of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science's National Science Bowl (NSB).

This year marks the 29th NSB, which the Department of Defense Office of Science launched to interest today's youth in pursuing careers in science and math.

Bret Harte and Leland students are hard at work studying, practicing, and strategizing to win their local, regional, and finally the national competition. Both school teams are composed of four students, one alternate, and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach. The competition tests the students on a range of science disciplines including biology and chemistry.

The winning team members from the regional competition will receive all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D.C., to compete in DOE's National Science Bowl from April 25 to April 29. The winner of the national competition will win prizes for the team members and their schools.

Thousands of students from middle and high schools across the country are looking forward to a bit of an adrenaline buzz and a dopamine high as they prepare to compete in the Department of Energy's (DOE's) 29th Na-tional Science Bowl® (NSB).

Teams competing in the regional Science Bowl middle school competition:

| Bret Harte | San Jose | California |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Challenger | Sunnyvale | California |
| Challenger-Middlefield | Palo Alto | California |
| David Starr Jordan Middle | Palo Alto | California |
| Joaquin Miller Middle | San Jose | California |
| John F. Kennedy Middle | Cupertino | California |
| Redwood Middle | Saratoga | California |
| St. Joseph Mountain View | Mountain View | California |
| Sunnyvale Middle | Sunnyvale | California |
| The Harker School | San Jose | California |
| West Valley Middle School | San Jose | California |
| Westborough Middle | So. San Francisco | California |
| | | |

Teams competing in the regional Science Bowl high school competition:

| Science Down ingir School Competition. | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------|--|--|--|
| BASIS Independ. Silicon Valley | San Jose | California | | | |
| Del Norte High | San Diego | California | | | |
| Henry M. Gunn High | Palo Alto | California | | | |
| Hillsdale High | San Mateo | California | | | |
| Homestead High | Cupertino | California | | | |
| Leland High | San Jose | California | | | |
| Lincoln (Abraham) High | San Francisco | California | | | |
| Lynbrook High | San Jose | California | | | |
| Monta Vista High | Cupertino | California | | | |
| Palo Alto High | Palo Alto | California | | | |
| Proof School | San Francisco | California | | | |
| Prospect High | Saratoga | California | | | |
| San Luis Obispo High | San Luis Obispo | California | | | |
| Saratoga High | Saratoga | California | | | |
| St Francis High School | Mountain View | California | | | |
| Stanford Online High School | Stanford | California | | | |
| The Harker School | San Jose | California | | | |

The competitions start this month, with four students from each team facing off in a fast-paced, question-and-answer format. The competition tests students' knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics.

The winning team from each of the 47 middle and 64 high school regions will compete in the National Finals, held in Washington, D.C. from April 25 to April 29, 2019. At the Finals, winning teams can score exciting adventure trips to Alaska and national parks across the country to learn first-hand about science in the field; as well as trophies, medals, and supplies for their schools' science departments. But to many, the ultimate prize simply is the prestige of winning the National Championship.

The NSB draws more than 14,000 middle and high school competitors. Since the first competition in 1991, more than 290,000 students have faced off in the National Science Bowl Finals. The knowledge that former competitors have acquired – and more importantly, the collaborative skills and study habits that they've learned along the way – have led them to success in a variety of fields. Many have become researchers; others are science and math professors at some of our nation's most prestigious universities.

The 2019 competitors will follow in the footsteps of previous National Science Bowl contestants, and will blaze a trail for students in science, math, and engineering, Earth science, physics, energy, and math.

The Department of Energy Office of Science manages the National Science Bowl, and sponsors the finals competition. Doe's Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States, and is working to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

SitterAdvantage free app helps keeps kids safe

There are literally dozens of apps on the market designed to find and pay for a local babysitter.

The newest developed by What To Do With The Kids helps sitters keep the kids safe and occupied when the parents aren't there.

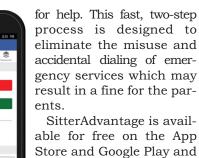
The SitterAdvantage app offers emergency help including important information about the kids and an easy way to con-

tact the parents at any time all in the palm of their hand.

SitterAdvantage was developed by Brian Presley, a former youth worker, camp program director, stay-at-home dad and the owner of the parenting website What To Do With The Kids.

SitterAdvantage is designed to easily enter important information about each kid including any allergies, handicaps and disabilities they may have as well as any medications they may be taking. A photo can also be taken and becomes part of the kid's profile which can be used if the kid goes missing. The parent's information is also easily entered which includes: their name, address and cell phone number where they can be reached easily.

When the Emergency page is opened the "Call 911" icon appears along with each kid's profile. With one touch the phone feature appears with 911 programmed. Once the sitter is sure there is an emergency, they select dial to call



SitterAdvantage is available for free on the App Store and Google Play and will make your sitter, nanny or caregiver better and helps keep the kids happy and safe when the parents are not there.

For more information visit www. whattodowiththekids. com/sitteradvantage.

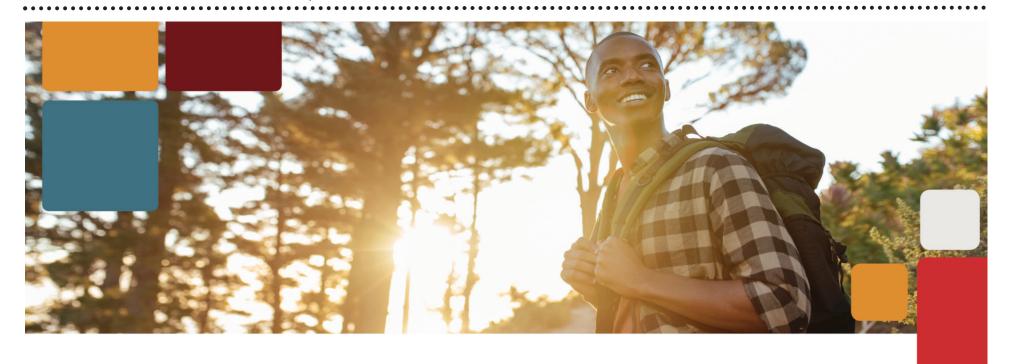


The Georgia Institute of Technology presented degrees to three students of Almaden Valley.

Gustavo Chaurais and Jialing Dailey both received a Master of Science in Computer Science, and Justin Tai received Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology has more than 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled, and Georgia Tech is ranked in the nation's top 10 public universities by U.S. News and World Report.





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²APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are valid as of 2/4/2019 and are subject to change after account opening without notice. Interest is paid at tier rates on balances within each tier. Total interest paid is the sum from each tier. Blended APY shown assumes the amount deposited is held in the account for one year. Withdrawing funds before one year will result in a different realized rate. Blended APY for higher tiers: \$1 - \$2,000 is 3.00% APY; \$2,000.01 - \$5,000 is 3.00% - 2.40% APY; \$5,000.01 - \$10,000 is 2.40% - 1.70% APY; \$10,000.01 - \$50,000 is 1.70% - 0.74% APY; \$50,000.01 - \$10,000 is 0.74% - 0.50% APY; \$100,000.01 - \$9,999,999 is 0.50% - 0.20% APY. No minimum deposit required to open an account. Limit one Money Market Select Account and one Money Market Select IRA Account per account number.

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Times **Features**



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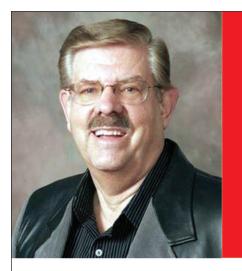
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5301 McKee Road, San Jose Admission: \$12.50 advance / \$15.00 door Children 12 and under are admitted free. Admission includes a post-concert reception.

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Taking a look at District 10's 2018 July-December report card

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis

Special to the Times

ach six months my staff and I meet together to gain knowledge about a specific aspect of

our great City and to assess what we've accomplished over the past six months and what we'll be working on during the months ahead. In December, we held this team meeting. Mike Boulland, a retired histoteacher, published author, and collector of local artifacts, gave us a thorough overview about the influence of the native populations and early settlers on the course of the Santa Clara Valley and the impact that the quick-

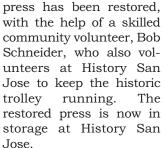
silver (mercury) mining operations had on the growth of San Jose. We are grateful for Mike's informative presentation!

In reviewing the accomplishments for the second half of last year, we noted the following:

- Hoffman-Via Monte safety & beautification efforts continued by working with property owners to facilitate replacement of failed pavement in parking areas. Phase I was completed and Phase II is in the works.
- Gained City and County approval of the land swap to facilitate safety improvements for Branham Lane along Martial Cottle Park.
- Worked with PG&E and City staff to ensure the PG&E pipeline safety tree removal process to minimize the impact on District residents, obtain and distribute replacement trees, and gain resources for other improvements yet to come.
- Incentivized the unhoused without employment to clean up litter by supporting the Mayor's pilot program to expand Downtown Streets Team outside of downtown. The pilot program employs 25 unhoused individuals at \$15/hour to clean up our City.
- City Council approved funding for the remaining interoperability radios for Police & Fire, to allow various public safety agencies to easily talk with one another in a disaster.
- Organized and hosted another great celebration of the birth of the USA with the 5TH Annual July 4TH Family Fun Festival & Fireworks Show at Almaden Lake!
- Distributed a Tax Transparency chart to inform the public of the potential impact on residents of each new or extended tax on the November 2018 ballot.
- A version of Bond Honesty legislation that I lobbied State lawmakers to implement was passed that required

that ballot statements for bonds show the cost-per-unit-of-assessed-value of those bonds as part of the ballot summary.

• The historic Almaden Winery wine



- Wall painting continued, with the long Branham Lane wall getting its turn at a makeover.
- Sponsored, facilitated, and participated in a successful annual Veteran's

Day Parade when challenges with the United Veteran's non-profit status threatened the annual observance.

Another thing that I have the opportunity to do, as your Councilmember, is to support worthwhile cultural, educational, and recreational non-profits through grants that each City Council office administers with funds received through the naming rights agreement with SAP for the SAP Center (aka the Shark Tank). Here are some highlights of the programs that I supported in the first half of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:

- •Supported educational endeavors to uplift our community with a total of \$5,585.00 in grants, including worthwhile initiatives such as the Commission on the Status of Women, Sunday Friends, Parkview and Los Alamitos Elementary Schools, the Bret Harte Educational Association, the San Jose Police Foundation, and Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers.
- Supported recreational programs to benefit the health and welfare of our community with a total of \$9,500, including the Almaden Valley Community Association, Christmas in the Park, the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association, South Valley YMCA, and the San Jose Parks Foundation.

I look forward to supporting further worthy cultural, educational, and recreational endeavors through the use of the SAP Grant funds in the months ahead and continuing my work to improve the City of San Jose to make it a welcoming place to start or grow a family or business, and to achieve your own version of the American Dream!

Times Classifieds Work! (408) 494-7000



District 10
Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

Times Features

Santa Clara County Firefighters participating in 28th annual Firefighter 'Stairclimb' to support Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

2019 Stairclimb dedicated to Jacob Tenczar of Almaden Valley in help win his fight against advanced cancer

anta Clara County Firefighters are participating in the 28th Annual LLS Firefighter Stairclimb on Sunday, March 10th.

The annual event supports the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and this year is dedicated to Jacob Tenczar of Almaden Valley helping in his fight against Cancer.

When many young adults are setting their sights on college and their futures, Jacob Tenczar was preparing for the fight of his life. Just as Matt was graduating from high Leland High School, Jacob was diagnosed with stage 3C Non-Seminoma Testicular Cancer, the most advanced stage.

Since June of 2018 Jacob has been fighting his cancer and receiving treatment at Stanford University Hospital from some of the best cancer treatment professionals in the world

Jacob's plan was to become a firefighter, but unfortunately his cancer diagnosis put a stop to that.

Santa Clara County Fire-fighters, Local 1165, want to inspire Jacob in his fight and are running this year's Stair-climb to support him. A portion of the funds raised will be used to bring Jacob on the trip to Seattle, to join the fire-fighters as they climb in his honor.

A day as a firefighter

One of the local Fire Chiefs heard about Jacob's cancer diagnosis and offered him to spend the day with the fire department, which made him extremely happy.

What is the LLS Firefighter Stairclimb?

The LLS Firefighter Stair-climb is the world's largest on-air stair climb competition, and annual fundraiser held at the second tallest building in the United States west of the Mississippi, the Columbia Center. All participants are career or volunteer firefighters who will climb up the building in full turnout gear, weighing over 50 pounds, while on-air. Through-



Jacob Tenczar training to be a firefighter at SVCTE (Silicon Valley Career Technical Education) center. He was there for two years as a supplement to his high school courses at Leland.

One of the local Fire Chiefs heard about Jacob's cancer diagnosis and offered him to spend the day with the fire department, which made him extremely happy.

out the 69 flights of stairs, 1,356 steps, and 788 ft. of vertical elevation gain, we all remember that every step forward is representative of moving closer to a cure. Although this is an extreme test of physical endurance, it pales in comparison to what cancer patients endure.

Please consider making a donation to Team 1165: www.bit.ly/2Sg6P4A.

To learn more about Jacob's story visit: https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jacobtenczar

Santa Clara County Firefighters Local 1165 is an affiliate of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and represent employees of Santa Clara County Fire Department. www. local1165.com.



Dartmouth Middle School recently hosted its 5th annual STEM Faire, and treated the community to an engaging and interactive exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, S.T.E.M.

5TH ANNUAL STEM FAIRE AT DARTMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

A celebration of student learning

By Jadelynn Dao

Special to the Times

arlier this month, Dartmouth Middle School opened its doors to celebrate its 5th annual STEM Faire, and treated the community to an engaging and interactive exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, S.T.E.M.

This event was designed to bring the community together – with parents, teachers and students as well as representatives from local high schools, universities and companies in Silicon Valley. They all came together to celebrate STEM education and shared a fun evening with science projects, creative art, robotics, hands-on activities, and mini-projects to take home.

For the students at Dartmouth Middle School, this was also the perfect venue to showcase some of the projects they have been working on in their Project Lead the Way (PTLW) Engineering and Math classes. One of the exhibits included a hands-on demonstration of creating beautiful artwork using Desmos Math, which is an interactive way to graph math functions and linear equations to generate drawings. This fascinating display was complemented with a creative wall-size painting from the San Jose Museum of Art and the unique logo designs from the school's MakerSpace Graphic Arts group. It was amazing to see what kids can do with y=mx+b!

Among the crowd favorites were the interactions with local robotics teams- from middle school, high school and university levels. FIRST Lego League (FLL) team TechFusion, who recently won the Champion's Award at the NorCal FLL Championship in Berkeley, CA, presented their award-winning robot and research project. They gave hands-on demonstrations of Lego pneumatic engines and let kids program their robot to drive around using gyroscopic and servo sensors.

The robotics teams from Branham and Leigh High Schools also brought several of their VEX robots and even invited the audience to drive their awesome creations around. VEX Robotics is part of the PLTW curriculum at these high schools, which engages students in using the engineering design process to address real-life challenges. With further complexity and design innovation, the robotics team from San Jose State University shared their experience designing and building robot rovers as part of the Uni-versity Rover Challenge (URC). It was interesting and inspiring to see the variety of robots engineered by different age groups.

The STEM Faire also featured a high school research

project that uses Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to teach traffic cameras to count cars and use the data with "smart" traffic lights to mitigate traffic congestion. The student researchers used AI techniques and Python Programming to find ways to address their concerns around Bay Area Traffic, striving to create instrumental change in their community. Other exhibits included STEM presentations from Santa Clara University, Stanford Polymer Collective, UC Berkeley, Next-Flex, City of San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Garden City Sanitation, Google, Wonder Workshop, and many other organizations that graciously volunteered their

While the Dartmouth STEM Faire was a fun and interactive event for the entire family, it also provided educational opportunities to learn about technology from local companies and community groups while leading the students to explore possible STEM career paths. The event invited the community to see 21st-century learning, interact with cool gadgets and inventions, and have a lot of fun by being immersed in science and technology.

The STEM faire included science projects, creative art, robotics, product demos from high tech companies, and many hands-on activities.

Times News

Cuevas

Continued from page 1 and prove that you can accomplish great things if you put your mind to it," said Molly. "CAF has a similar message of resiliency and perseverance. It's easy to raise money for a foundation just by asking - not that there is anything wrong with that but it's not my style. I want to put in the work and really get people's attention so they will be exposed to CAF and their incredible mission," explained Molly. "The end goal is to of course finish the run successfully, but to also educate as many people as I can about this life changing foundation."

"Sports have been a huge part of my life and have made me the hard-working, self-assured, go-getter person I am today, said Molly. "I was fortunate enough to be born with full physical capabilities, and to be frank, I took it for granted up until a few years ago. Sports create a sense of confidence, community, inclusion, and empowerment. I believe everyone deserves a chance to participate in such meaningful experiences."



Molly Cuevas (Photo by Whitney Kanavel)

First fundraiser

The first fundraiser for Molly's ambitious journey was held at the home of Mike and Jen Labarbera, good friends of Molly, on February 9. Molly was joined by Susan Butler, CAF's development

Director in Northern California, and Ella Rodriguez, age 14, a recipient of CAF services.

Butler explained that CAF provides opportunities and support to people with physical challenges so they can pursue an active lifestyle

through physical activity and competitive athletics. In 2018, CAF distributed 2,806 grants across 95 different sports totaling \$4.3 million in support that goes towards adaptive sports equipment, training and competition expenses.

Butler continued, "Our mission to support individuals with physical challenges by providing access to sports depends on the efforts and generosity of extraordinary supporters like Molly. We are grateful for Molly's efforts to shine a light on our mission and her commitment to getting more people into the game of life through sport."

Ella's story

Ella attended the fundraiser to share the impact that CAF has had on her life and world at large. She was born with a clubbed foot and three toes. It was determined that amputating Ella's foot would give her the best functioning leg possible. At nine months old, Ella's foot was amputated and she learned to walk on her first prosthetic leg.

"At age nine, she became discouraged about the difference between herself and able bodied peers, "said Ella's mom, Susan. "Ella wrote a letter to Santa asking for a list of friends that wore prosthetics just like her. I posted the request on Facebook and immediately CAF responded and connected Ella to several girls in the Bay Area who were



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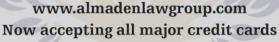
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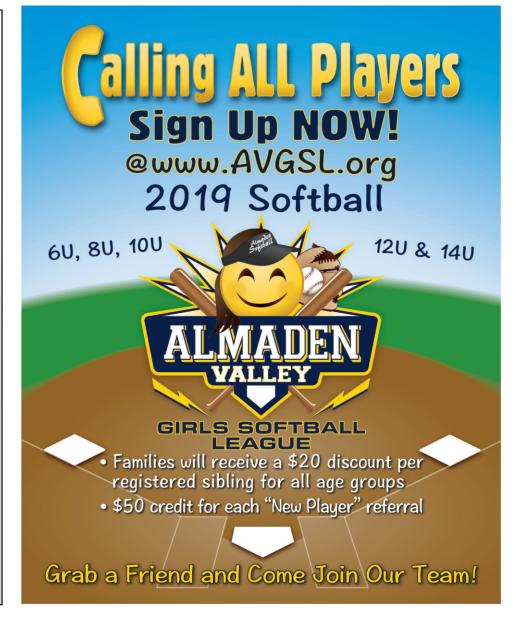












Times Feature

also amputees and we headed for the San Diego Triathlon Challenge where she received her first running prosthetic.

Ella ran cross-country for her middle school team and she received the 6th grade Athlete of the Year award. "There are many champions in this life, and CAF has been just that for Ella," said Susan. "We are so thankful for everything they have done for Ella and the many other people in the adaptive sports community."

Ella currently competes in track and field at Christopher High School in Gilroy where she is also a cheerleader. She also competes in wheelchair basketball."

A whole new world has opened up for me in the past five years since I've been a part of the CAF family," said Ella. "I have become confident and proud of who I am, which affects my performance as an athlete, student and as a person. Now I get much joy mentoring new or younger athletes on my team and watching them grow and improve. CAF allows people to achieve their dreams by providing equipment, travel and training. Beyond that, it also touches the hearts of athletes and their families."

Training for the big run

Molly has been training to run across the U.S. for the past 11 months. She hired a coach, Bree Lambert Sanders, a successful and well known ultra-runner in the Bay Area to help her prepare for this challenge. "I can't imagine a life without sports and to think that someone could miss out on athletic opportunities and the life skills that come with athletics because of a physical disability really saddens me," said Molly. "I want to do all that I can to help people get those chances and to live out their dreams."

About Molly Cuevas

Molly attended Santa Teresa and Leland High School where she lettered in Tennis, Soccer, Track and Field Hockey. She graduated from Leland in 2012. Molly received a scholarship from Adelphi University where she majored in Sports Management, and minored in Marketing graduating Magna Cum Laude. She also received a minor in Communications from Murdoch University while studying abroad in Perth Australia. As a student athlete Molly



L-R: **Ella Rodriquez, Molly Cuevas,** and **Susan Butler** at the fundraiser for Molly's run across America

was Northeast Conference Rookie of the Year, three-time All-American, Academic All-American, holds virtually all AU offensive records, numerous conference records and is currently the all-time NCAA DII Assist per game leader. After holding internships with the Major League Soccer and the San Francisco 49ers, Molly went on to manage the social media platform for Rocktape. She currently serves as Rocktape's Marketing and Communication Coor-dinator.

Donations

To cover logistics, Molly will need at least \$300 per day for her three month run to New York. You can be a part of the "Miles By Molly Movement" whether it's meeting up to run a portion with her, sending her a kind note, or donating. All of the current information will be on her website at www.milesby molly.com.

Editor's note: A gofundme.com page has been set up to help Molly achieve her goal of running across America for CAF. To access the gofundme page, visit Molly's website: www.milesbymolly.com. Sponsors of "Miles byMolly" include: El Mexicano (premiere sponsor), RockTape, BR Printers, Balega, CLIF Bar, and UltrAspire.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of Molly's run across America, email: molly@milesbymolly.com.



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The Things We Don't Say

Ann Bridges: This Silicon Valley executive re-booted as an author of fast-paced international thrillers, winning 2015 Best Business Fiction for her debut novel *Private Offerings*. Its sequel, *Rare Mettle*, inspired the 2018 non-fiction collaboration *Groundbreaking! America's New Quest for Mineral Independence*. Yet her latest novel, *Kit's Mine*, is an unabashed love story of freedom against the harsh backdrop of 1870 California. Ann is a featured speaker at leading business

tured speaker at leading business conferences, talking about the impact of technology worldwide. She lives in San Jose.

Roberta R. Carr: After a rewarding career in health care, Roberta reinvented herself as a full time writer. She creates slice-of-life stories that are driven by a character's emotional journey. Her travel experiences usually weave their way into her plots. Her latest novel, The Things We Don't Say, is a sequel to The Bennett Women. She also co-wrote a children's book, Vanessa's Rotten Day, with her 10-year-old granddaughter. Roberta lives in Novato with her husband, Andy

Larry Gerston, one of our authors in 2011, returns as our moderator. He is professor emeritus of political science at San Jose State and the political analyst at NBC Bay Area. Although he continues to teach and write academic books, he has become a children's author. His latest is Wendell The Working Worm. Larry lives with his wife in Los Gatos.

W. Bruce Cameron is the award-winning # 1 New York Times and #1 USA Today Bestselling author of 15 books, including the A Dog's Purpose series, A Dog's Way Home, The Dogs of Christmas and the Kirkus Award-winning Repo Madness series, among many others. He is the #

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she produced, directed and co-wrote the film Cook Off?, in which she also stars. She co-wrote and directed the film Muffin Top: A Love Story, in which she stars. She is a former member of Chicago's Second City, a stand-up comic, and the author of the nationally-bestselling feminist memoir, The Girl Genius Guide To Life.

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Times Feature

Symphony Silicon Valley presents Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony

Symphony Silicon Valley presents Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. at The California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

The opener is a musical tour through the folk traditions Bartók studied, full of life and complex rhythm.

Barber's virtuosic violin concerto follows, combining lush Romantic lyricism and angular 'modern' energy, with a brilliant ending that is a notorious test of the violinist's skill.

In the second half of the concert, we hear Tchaikovsky's magnificent symphony, with its unparalleled mastery of all the orchestra's voices -- famously played through without a pause in WWII Leningrad during a ferocious bombing attack.

Program

Béla Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances; Samuel Barber: Violin Concerto, Op. 14; Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64. Conductor: John Nelson; Soloist: Anne Akiko Meyers, violin

PRICES: \$50 - \$94.

BOX OFFICE: 408.286.2600 or www.symphonysiliconvalley.org

Or visit the Box Office between 10am and 5pm, Monday through Friday at 325 South First Street in downtown San Jose, between San



Anne Akiko Meyers

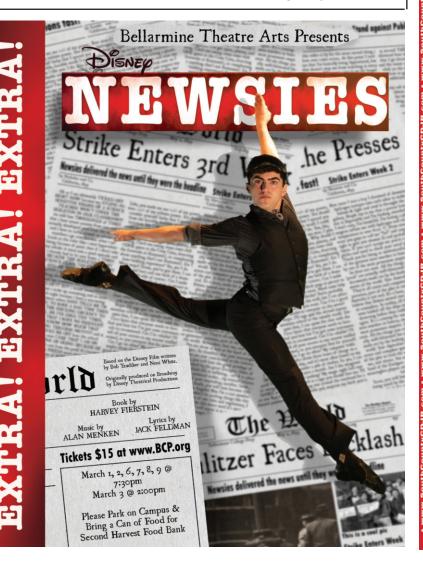
Carlos and San Salvador Streets just one-half block from the California Theatre. Easy, inexpensive parking is just one block away at San Jose City Garage on San Carlos Street with entrances on 2nd and 3rd Streets.

About John Nelson

The distinguished conductor John Nelson is internationally renowned for his interpretation of large Romantic works including the great works of Berlioz. Central to John Nelson's work is the great sacred choral literature. John Nelson holds the title of Directuer Musicale Honoraire of the Ensemble Orchestral de Paris and Artistic Director of Soli Deo Gloria.

About Anne Akiko Meyers

Violin superstar, Anne Akiko Meyers, is one of the most indemand violinists in the world. Regularly performing as guest soloist with the world's top orchestras, she presents ground-breaking recitals and is a best-selling recording artist with 36 albums. Meyers is known for her passionate performances, purity of sound, deeply poetic interpretations, innovative programming and commitment to commissioning significant new works from living composers.









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include:

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- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought provoking theater productions, informative lectures. and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment.
- · Our facilities also provide rental space for community based groups that promote understanding. wholeness, growth, and education. Some of these include the Old Orchard School, Orchard City Indivisible, AA, etc. Our activities flow from our
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- · Passionate Faith
- Loving Respect Deep Connectedness
- Intentional Growth
- · Shared Laughter Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our

worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right

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6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (0&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday. Tuesdays, AA Meetings 8:15 - 9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

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5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118 408.265.5837 www.bibleroad.org We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simplejust like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM

Worship at 10:30 AM Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club).

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We are a Multicultural Christian Community committed to making Christ known to our Neighbors, Community and World. Sunday Schedule: Coffee and Conversation 9:15am Worship 9:45am, Sunday School for all ages 11:15am Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Our NEW Children's Building is Open! Uplifting music, Biblical teaching, ministries for Children, Youth, College & Career, Small Groups for all adults, Ministries to Men. Women, Seniors, Celebrate Recovery Please see website for details and meeting times www.eastvalleychurch.com Senior Pastor - Pastor Ron Johnson Community-Life Pastor Pastor Patrick Boyd, Children's Ministry Co-Directors – Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalleychurch.com

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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are

joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school vear we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM. Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conver-

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make in your life!

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Faith.Knowledge Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120 Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday -Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th. and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school



office at 408-268-0794

thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH

3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148 (408) 270-7646 English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM Spanish Service: 11:00 AM Cambodian Service:

11:00 AM Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM Mandarin Service: 11:00AM Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

PM - 8:30 PM

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable. intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC): Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group

and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.church-



stanthony.com. Fr. Larry

Hendel. Pastor.

God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means 'disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Puniab of old British India A Guru who is a "teacher' or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the vear and serves complementary vegetarian meals We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our

ST FRANCIS OF ASSIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ofassisipreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose, Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations. St. Francis of Assisi

Chapel Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM For more information, please call or visit us at the . Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads. call 408 250 5242

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Times Cover Story

Awards

Continued from page 1

for the essays, from research to mastering public speaking. When they bring their siblings, you can tell it's a big deal in their family. It's definitely a great source of accomplishment for them."

The Los Gatos Chapter of DAR has been recognizing essay winners for at least 40 years, according to Fitzpatrick. "One of our key things is education," she says. "Last year, we received 80 essays and I read them all. You can tell the students put a lot of effort into them."

Fitzpatrick says that the first thing she looks at is the bibliographies to see if students use books in addition to the internet. "I see if they have the flavor of what you're really looking for and the topic," she says. "Today's winners definitely did."

The DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. Trish Gasvoda, DAR Good Citizens Essay Award Chair, welcomed the students, parents and school advisors. These high school seniors represent their schools as role models by exhibiting dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools and communities. They were given two hours to write the essay without any prior knowledge of the essay's topic before opening their envelope.

Julie Son, from Prospect High School, won first place for her essay against gun violence. Cameron Lin, from Saratoga High School, received second place and Aleksandra Yusim, from Branham High School, took third. Both Theresa Nguyen, from Presentation High School, and Ronan MacRunnels, from Bellarmine College Preparatory, received Honorable Mention.

"It means a lot to me to win," says Son, "because the DAR audience is the demographic I want to hear this message. The younger generation needs to be included to make it a better society for everyone. I'm active in Never Again and the gun control movement. As someone who is passionate about this topic, it was really exciting for me to get to speak about these issues."

As she participates in leadership services on campus, the Good Citizenship Award was meaningful to Lin, who focused on politics for her essay. "As we move forward as a society, it's important to reflect on the problems that have happened and not repeat history's downfalls," she says. "To be able to break this down was special and it was wonderful to be able to think about it."

Winning a Good Citizenship Award was also important to Yusim. "It really means a lot because I think there's so much value in the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism," she says, "and to have it recognized as something people can strive towards is a great thing."



Above: The DAR essay winners were all smiles after sharing their compelling essays. Right: (I to r): Fitzpatrick; Challenger School, Almaden student Madeleine Lloyd and Gasvoda. "It's important to me that I have a voice in my community," says Lloyd. Below: (I to r): DAR Am. History Essay Awards Chair Sue Fitzpatrick; Challenger School, Almaden student Joshua Balmin and DAR Citizens Essay Awards Chair Trish Gasvoda. "I like writing," says Balmin. "It's a lot of fun organizing my ideas."



The American History Essay Contest was established to encourage young people to think about the nation's history in a new light. The contest is open to students in grades five through eight. Each year, a topic aligning with academic standards is announced. Essays are judged for historical accuracy, adherence to the topic, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation and neatness.

Each student author receives a certificate of participation from the chapter and the chapter winners receive bronze medals and certificates. State winners receive certificates and silver medals. National winners receive special certificates, medals, and a mone-

tary award.

This year's American History Essay focused on The Women's Suffrage Campaign and the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted American women the right to vote and hold elective office. "Many Americans at the time viewed this as a radical change," says the instructions. "Imagine you are living in 1919, while the women's suffrage campaigns were having impact on Americans politically and socially. Discuss the pros and cons of this new amendment."

The winners in this category wrote persuasive essays, bringing the compelling issue to life. They include: Joshua Balmin, Grade 6, and Madeleine Lloyd, Grade 8, of Challenger School, Almaden; and Nitya Jayaprakash, Grade 5 and Nicholas Tran, Grade 7, of Challenger School, Shawnee.

Balmin says he enjoys the writing process and worked hard on his essay. "I had to spend a lot of time writing in a way that sounded right," he says. "I like writing. It's a lot of fun organizing my ideas."

Lloyd found her topic on Women's Suffrage both relatable and thought-provoking. "As a girl, it's important to me that I have a voice in my community and am treated as an equal," she says, "because I believe I have the same capabilities men do. I feel honored to be recognized because I love this topic and writing." Lloyd also appreciated the DAR members. "I think these women are really connected to American History and the community," she says, "and it's really nice to be honored by them."

Jayaprakash enjoys searching for information and putting the pieces together. "I wanted to research even more," she says, "but I went over the word limit. I feel happy receiving the award. I didn't expect it, but it's nice to have it."

Tran agrees. "I didn't expect to win it," he says, "but it means a lot. It's a good accomplishment."

Since 1996, DAR has partnered with the National Italian American Foundation in its national essay contest in honor of Christopher Columbus. Each year, a new topic is chosen for students in grades nine through twelve. Essays are judged for historical accuracy, adherence to the topic, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation and neatness. Each student participant receives a certificate of participation from the chapter. The national prize is awarded by the National Italian American Foundation.

This year's Christopher Columbus contest focuses on comparing the technology of the ships Columbus used versus the ships of today. "The three-ship fleet of Christopher Columbus included two ships known as caravels, Nina and Pinta, and one larger ship which served as Columbus' flag ship, Santa Maria," says the instructions. "Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these late fifteenthcentury ships compared to the modern ships of today and how they would have been prepared for his voyage." Nethra Srinivasan, of Leland High School, received high accolades as the District VI winner for this contest.

"It took a lot of research," says Srinivasan. "I learned a lot of interesting things about ships I wouldn't have learned if I hadn't done this essay."

"She's won three times through the years," says DAR member Aylene Kuhn of Srinivasan. "What a writer! I watched her grow. She's only a ninth grader. She's wonderful."

"Choosing a winner was a difficult decision made by three judges," says Gasvoda. "They struggled to choose the winning essays. They were all excellent."

Almaden Times Real Estate

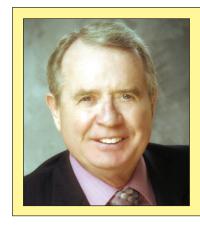


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References Available

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Singles

Almaden Valley (Senior) Singles

The organization that brings single residents of Almaden Valley (95120) over 65 to enjoy a social life close to home and take part in community service.

Come and join us for our monthly breakfast which are held at 9 am on the third Tuesday of each month at Cup and Saucer,

> Princeton Plaza Mall, 1375 Blossom Hill Road.



We'd love to hear from you!

Almaden **Times**

19460 GRAYSTONE LANE

Unique, 2.20+/-acre parcel with a multi-level, 4,580+/-sf home and amazing views in desirable Almaden Valley. Five bedrooms, three-and-one-half baths.

Living room with vaulted ceiling and wood-burning fireplace. Kitchen with granite counters and oak cabinetry. Family room with wet bar. Master bedroom with spectacular views. Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland Schools.

Very private and serene, this property is adjacent to the Santa Clara Valley Water District open space. basically a "No-Build Zone." The house is powered by 35 owner-owned solar panels.

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Therese Swan 408.656.8240 | tswan@apr.com

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