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San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo drops his 'strong mayor' plan  
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The Delany sisters: Timeless treasure found at a used bookstore  
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AUGUST 2020 ■ VOL. 16, NO. 4

# Willow Glen *Times*

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Carol Sveilich

## Willow Glen author writes 'Reflections From A Glass House – growing up in an Eichler Home'

Carol Sveilich grew up in Willow Glen in the 1960s and early 1970s in an Eichler Home; the years just before Santa Clara Valley morphed into Silicon Valley.

Back then it was a thriving agricultural basin dotted with apricot and cherry orchards and Sveilich's youth in San Jose was a combo-platter of glass walls, cool music, useless gadgets, groovy neighbors.

Two reluctant parents from New York City, who loved a weekend party, every weekend, plus two kids on the loose equaled too much distress and plenty of adventures. The decade was filled with dreams and a distrust of the establishment, while popular culture overflowed with patchouli incense, psychedelic music, florescent posters, love beads,  
*See AUTHOR, page 2*



After years of contentious litigation, there goes the trestle. (Photo credit: Larry Ames, via Friends of WG Trestle/Facebook)

## After years-long preservation battle, Willow Glen trestle finally torn down

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

A construction crew has torn down the nearly century-old Willow Glen Trestle.

The order to demolish came from the City of San Jose.

The Sixth District Court of Appeal rejected a request by conservationists to block plans to dismantle the 98-year-old structure.

### History

The Willow Glen Trestle, part of that Western Pacific Line, harkens back in history to a raucous time, when a neighborhood became a city to fight one of the world's biggest railroads. Western Pacific was pushing their tracks through Willow Glen at breakneck speed, laying them straight up to buildings, buying structures then tearing them down to go through.

This century ago event inspired Willow Glen residents to band together and stop the destruction of their neighborhood due to this practice happening.

The Willow Glen Trestle, built in 1922 acted as a bridge for the Western Pacific Railroad and was acquired by the city in 2011.

Two years later, San Jose developed plans to replace it with a pedestrian bridge linking the city's Three Creeks Trail system.

**Some thought trestle to be a landmark**

The Willow Glen Trestle Conservancy was created and first filed suit in 2014 to block the bridge's demolition. The group contended that the city violated the California Environmental Quality Act by approving the bridge's demolition without preparing an environmental impact report, which would have required the city to look for alternative options that could preserve the trestle.

Although the Conservancy Group initially won their suit, the city appealed with the County's Superior Court inevitably siding with the city. The state supreme court opted not to take the matter up.

Thus, California's State Historical Resources Commission ruled that the trestle belonged on the state's Register of Historical Resources in 2017, but the city challenged that decision and won. The ruling was confirmed.

This decision ended a legal fight between the city and the preservation groups, which argued for more than seven years that the trestle should be

designated a historical landmark.

A new steel walking bridge is slated to soon connect the three trails as it crosses where the historic trestle once stood over the Los Gatos Creek in the Willow Glen neighborhood. In the future a commemorative plaque will be placed on the new bridge to honor the legacy of the Western Pacific Line train trestle.

"The removal of the trestle is a big win for the community after waiting years in the court system to complete a hiking, biking, walking trail for everyone to enjoy," Councilwoman Dev Davis stated.



A Western Pacific passenger train traverses the Willow Glen Trestle in 1955. Photo credit: bridgehunter.com

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## Times Feature

### Author

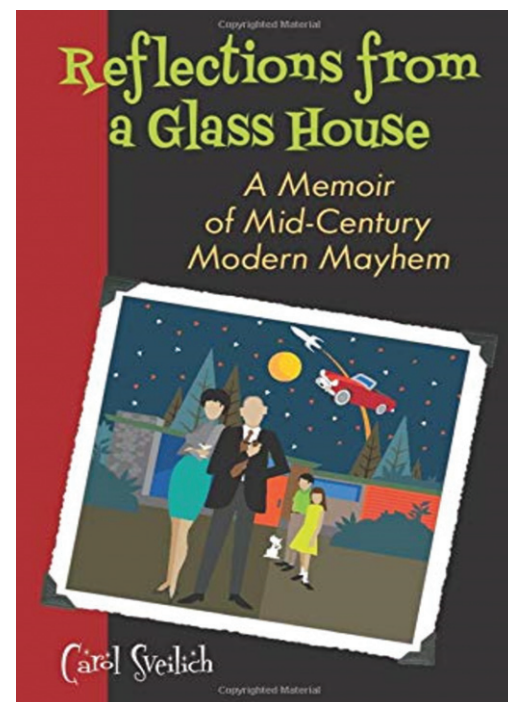
*Continued from page 1*  
and TV dinners in aluminum trays.

In *Reflections From A Glass House*, the indelible memories of fumbling through school and the passage through adolescence near the "City of Love" are masterfully awash with comedic prose, amusing storytelling, and gut-wrenching recollections. Sveilich writes with observant precision about nostalgia, the highs and lows of youth, and the darkness of growing up in a family of disconnected souls that had humor as its connective tissue.

#### Modern houses called Eichlers

While each member of Sveilich's nuclear family seemed to reign from different solar systems, they also shared a quirky home in a distinctive and progressive neighborhood of unique mid-century modern houses called Eichlers. These were futuristic, but affordable homes constructed of glass walls, an open atrium in the middle of the dwelling, and ceiling globes that hung like planets. The author's own Eichler was filled with cats, chaos, and secret liaisons.

Sveilich's candid, touching, and often hilarious life story wraps around her family's home and neighborhood in a time filled with both angst and amusement. Baby Boomers will recognize themselves in Sveilich's mirror and young people will learn what it was like to try to "get back to



the garden."

Whether you grew up in the 1960s, or if you lived through the decade but never really grew up, you're going to enjoy Sveilich's ride through the music and pop culture scene with her family of misfits and friends by proximity. With the forensic eye of a counselor and the delicate heart of a complex youngster, Sveilich's story and musings are both heartbreaking and hysterical.

*Reflections from a Glass House* is available through Amazon.com.

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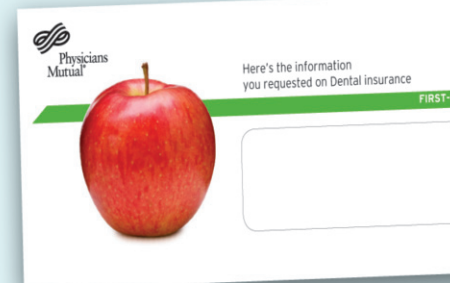
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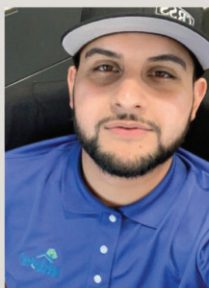
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Ernesto joined the team in July 2019. Ernesto previously worked in the banking industry and is attending school with a major in business administration. After a year under his belt and exploring the world of self-storage, Ernesto found his niche for a career in self-storage that complements his educational goals, Ernesto has advanced and continues to thrive as a self-storage 'whiz' while continuing to show his dedication to the business by providing exceptional customer service.

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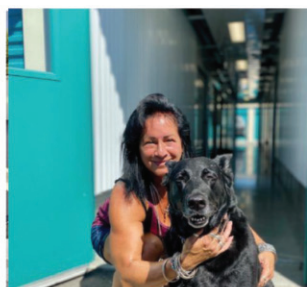
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Neowise makes a rare appearance

San Jose resident Richard James captured images which will not be seen again for more than 6,000 years on Saturday, July 18. James captured the image of the Neowise Comet at 10 p.m. above the Villages Golf and Country Club at the top of Valley View using a Sony A7rII with a 70-300 mm on a tripod with a five second exposure at ASO 800.

Photos courtesy of Richard James

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Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000  
PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU  
williamb@timesmediainc.com  
SR. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE: BRIGITTE JONES  
brigitte@timesmediainc.com  
STAFF WRITERS: NEHA BANDARU, ANKITA BHANOT, DIANE BLUM, FRANK SHORTT, NIRBAN SINGH, PANKAJ TYAGI, SRAVYA VOLETI  
ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM  
graphics@timesmediainc.com  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Valley Currents

current (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.

COVID-19 IMPACT

Majority of Santa Clara County Supervisors call for sales tax increase due to COVID-19 impact

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez wants a public vote for an additional sales tax

By William Bellou  
Publisher

COVID-19 is impacting the financial health of counties around the country as health and social services needs are increasing. For Santa Clara County, that impact could be more than \$400 million less revenue in the new 2020-21 fiscal year from fees, sales and property taxes. To avoid drastic cuts in services, on Tuesday, July 21 a majority of the Board of Supervisors endorsed a November ballot measure proposed by supervisor Cindy Chavez, seeking voter approval of a five-eighths of 1 percent sales tax in addition to the current county sales tax rate of nine percent. "COVID-19 and the necessary actions taken by the county in

response to it have created a temporary, drastic financial crisis that threatens not only our ability to fund the public health response to the pandemic in the months ahead but also our ability to adequately fund the basic safety net, and emergency and public safety services that residents rely upon during normal times," wrote board President Cindy Chavez, who proposed the public vote on the additional sales tax. Joining Chavez' proposal are Supervisors Dave Cortese and Susan Ellenberg. They asked county staff to come back to the board Aug. 6 with a proposed text of the sales tax measure. Voting against taking this first step towards a sales tax boost were Supervisors Joe Simitian and Mike Wasserman. If the majority of the board continues to support the plan in August, it will be on the Nov. 3 ballot. The tax would expire in 2025. The "five-eighths of one cent" sales tax would generate an estimated \$250 million a year in new

revenue "to ensure adequate funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, maintain essential services, and support critical priorities, for a period of 60 months," wrote Cindy Chavez. The county plans to convene budget hearings in August to address a projected deficit that "may be well over \$400 million," Chavez said. The Office of the Assessor expressed that the 2020-21 fiscal year will be significantly impacted by lower property tax revenues. The supervisors also approved, on a unanimous vote, a COVID-19 communications plan to streng-

then communications about COVID-19 for residents in underserved neighborhoods, partnering with community-based organizations. The county will contract with 25 to 30 organizations that will be able to use their networks in hard-to-reach communities. The contracts will be from three to six months, and will range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. "It just makes sense to take advantage of networks that are already working among the County's diverse populations," Cortese said. "These residents live in areas that have been hardest hit by coronavirus."

Covid-19 communications plan now targets hard-hit San Jose areas

Board Approves Supervisor Cortese's proposal to strengthen outreach to residents more likely to become infected

To strengthen communications about COVID-19 with residents in underserved neighborhoods, the County of Santa Clara will partner with community-based organizations that are already trusted messengers in these areas. At the Tuesday, July 21, meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Supervisor Dave Cortese's proposal (Item 9 on the agenda) to ensure that the populations that are most likely to become infected with COVID-19 are receiving information in a variety of languages delivered by representatives of organizations they know. "While we're trying to bridge the digital divide in disadvantaged areas, we know that social media and online com-

munications leaves out thousands who urgently need the information but who don't have a connection to the Internet or access to computers," said Supervisor Cortese. "They also tend to have jobs that cannot be done remotely and that put them out into the community where they are exposed to the virus." The County will contract with 25 to 30 organizations that will be able to use their networks in hard-to-reach communities. The contracts will be from three to six months, and will range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. "It just makes sense to take advantage of networks that are already working among the County's diverse populations," Cortese said. "These residents live in areas that have been hardest hit by coronavirus." The Emergency Operations Center is seeking partnerships with CBOs from a broad range of disciplines including, but not limited to, the arts, culture, See PLAN, next page



Supervisor Cindy Chavez proposed a public vote for an additional sales tax.

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Times **In Remembrance**

# Della Felicetta

January 16, 1931 -

July 10, 2020, San Jose

Della Felicetta passed away on July 10th with family by her side.

Dee was a California native who grew up and lived in Willow Glen most of her life. She was born to Peter and Delia Crisham, both Irish immigrants.

During her childhood she lived with her parents, her sister, Patty and brother, Peter in residence attached to the Crisham Grocery Store on Coe Avenue in Willow Glen. She attended St. Leo's Grammar School and Notre Dame High School.

Della married the love of her life, George Felicetta in 1958, after meeting at a Catholic singles club. They were blessed with a daughter, Regina Madigan (John) of Mountain View and two sons, Vince Felicetta (Kelly) of Capitola and Rob Felicetta (Nancy) of Carson City, NV. Grandma Dee was doubly blessed with five grandchildren Keara, Elise, Joey, Danny and Lauren, one great-grandchild, Maggie and nieces and nephews who she was delighted to spend time with locally and on family vacations.

Della graduated from San Jose State University, received a teaching credential and also earned a Master's degree in Special Education from UC Santa Cruz. Over her long career she worked at various schools



in San Jose where she fulfilled her passion of teaching children and positively touched many student's lives. After retirement she volunteered at the Thrift Box in Willow Glen, and the One-Room School House at the San Jose History Museum.

Dee enjoyed life to the fullest, especially loving get-togethers with family and friends. She always greeted friends and family with such joy that each person knew they were loved and appreciated. She was the life of the party, singing, dancing, talking and playing cards. She had a passion for anything having to do with Ireland, especially enjoying the annual family

St. Patrick's Day Party and Irish Bread. She also had a special place in her heart for Capitola, where she and George owned a home and spent much of their family and leisure time near the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

Dee and George belonged to the Valiant Investment Group, a tight knit group of couples who invested, socialized and traveled for more than 50 years. They were

like family and Dee cherished each and every member of the group. She also enjoyed investing on her own and had keen investment savvy.

She cherished being a part of a special group of neighborhood ladies, the "Bridge Club," which still meets for monthly lunches. They all raised children together and were a source of joy and support for her.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

### Plan

*Continued from previous page*  
theatre and performance, health and nutrition, economic empowerment, youth, faith-based and service organizations.

They include African American Community Services Agency; Alum Rock Counseling Center; ConXion; Far East Dragon Lion Dance Association; Friends of Hue Foundation; Gardner Health Services; Healing Grove; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; International Children Assistance Network; Immigrant Resettlement and Cultural Center; Latino Business Council of Silicon Valley; Minority Business Consortium; Mountain View Day Worker Center of Mountain View; The Sí Se Puede! Collective that includes SOMOS Mayfair, Amigos De Guadalupe, Grail Family

ly Services, the School of Arts and Culture and Veggielution; Story Road Business Association; Unity Care; Ujima; and the Vietnamese American Roundtable.

The County will continue to engage with other community organizations in moving forward with this outreach and communications plan.

Supervisor Cortese's proposal was approved along with other outreach plans that include establishing a Community Health and Business Engagements Team, a unified County Branding Campaign and a Multicultural Arts Campaign.

There is a one-time cost of \$1.5 million over six months to add at least 67 Community Health Workers to provide outreach to businesses and individuals in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

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Times **Community News**

## New face of Silicon Valley Leadership Group announced

By Stella Lorence

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Barclays Capital executive Ahmad Thomas is the new CEO of the powerful Silicon Valley Leadership Group, becoming the fourth person to lead the 43-year-old organization and its first African-American CEO.

“As the economic capital of California, Silicon Valley is looked to as a leader in economic growth, innovation, public policy and now, more than ever social issues,” Thomas said in a statement. “Our community has always had serious issues to tackle, but with unprecedented economic challenges brought on by a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic and reckoning with systemic racism, we need to lead with industry-wide initiatives that drive both the national dialogue and bring about real, measurable change.”

Thomas will take the reins on Aug. 10. He succeeds Carl Guardino, who announced in January that he was leaving SVLG after 23 years. Guardino revealed last month that he’s accepted a position as the executive vice president of global government affairs and policy at Bloom Energy.

“Running track in school, we learned how to successfully pass the baton on to the next runner,” Guardino said in a statement. “After nearly 24 years, I am excited to pass the baton of leadership to someone I have known and respected for 16 years, whose collaboration, courage and creativity will well-serve our 340 member companies, our employees and the communities in which we live and conduct business.”

Prior to joining SVLG, Thomas worked as an investment banker for Barclays, where he gained experience leading the firm’s California and Silicon Valley regional municipal banking teams as well as other social impact projects.

Thomas also worked as a senior aide to U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, where he was responsible for tax, financial services, critical infrastructure, federal budget and labor issues. During his time with Feinstein, he helped develop five bills that were signed into law, and began working with SVLG on tax and economic issues.

“Ahmad showed a keen understanding of complex subjects, insight that has only grown over the years,” Feinstein said in a statement. “Ahmad’s practical understanding of how businesses interact with the community will be invaluable as he carries on the work of Carl Guardino, who made transportation, housing and career development cornerstone issues for the SVLG.”

Thomas’s priorities for his new role at SVLG include partnering with community college programs that channel two-year degree candidates into technology jobs and using investments from member companies to bolster affordable housing, renewable energy and social impact infrastruc-

ture projects. He also advocates for more racial equity in Silicon Valley by helping member companies hire more minority candidates and funding more Black- and Latinx-owned startups.

Thomas is a California native who resides in Menlo Park with his wife, Reena Thomas, and their two sons.

Contact Stella Lorence at [stella.g.lorence@gmail.com](mailto:stella.g.lorence@gmail.com) or follow on Twitter @slorence3.



**Ahmad Thomas**, named as CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership Group. Ahmad Thomas, an investment banker and former legislative aide in the U.S. Senate, has been picked as the new chief executive officer of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Photo courtesy of SVLG



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Founder & CEO



# Local teen writes book on the ups and downs of teen life, setting a relevant course of rediscovery

*Kimaya Saijpal's book is relevant in this time of COVID-19*

**K**imaya Saijpal, a high school sophomore, has written about the ups and downs of teen life in her book *Angst, Anxiety, and Acceptance: a Relatable Guide to a Teenager's Life*.

Kimaya's new book is light-hearted, relevant, temperamental, unapologetic, sensitive and hopeful, all at the same time.

New Year Publishing, who published the book last month, was impressed with Kimaya's talent for writing and also recognized that while teen years are exciting, they can sometimes be excruciating, filled with doubt and despair. One of the reasons the publisher short-listed Kimaya's book was for the content and its relevance in this time of COVID-19.

Kimaya said her passion for writing started early in life; blessed with a vivid imagination. "I started writing as a way to show the people in my life that they are not alone and that

everyone is just waiting for someone to tell them that 'where you are in your life is completely ok,'" Kimaya said.

*Angst, Anxiety, and Acceptance* sets the readers on a course of discovering themselves and finding their voice. Through raw and relatable poems and fictional stories, she has captured the emotions of an adolescent trying to form their own identity, while dealing with the world's expectations of them.

In her book, Kimaya relates, "I never realized that more than half the problem was my constant self-deprecation, and if I could learn to love this part of me, then no one's opinion could stand in my way. The more I didn't care, the more I noticed that others were too focused on themselves to spend much time on what I did or how I looked. As long as I was smiling and waving at my teachers and friends, they would reciprocate. The reason is simple: humans are masters at picking up on emotional atmospheres and mirroring those feelings."

Kimaya explained that, "We all think that every dirty look is directed at us, that every glare is because of us. But we don't see the mirror behind us, and we don't realize that both of us are looking and judging ourselves. Once we understand this, the answer is simple. Love yourself for who you are, and who you want to be."



"Love yourself for who you are, and who you want to be."

— **Kimaya Saijpal**

Kimaya is a lead vocalist and plays the guitar. "Music is life and life is music" is her mantra. Kimaya is also passionate about teen mental health issues and at the school she attends she has started a student club on stress reduction and meditation which has become quite popular. She also manages her own website [www.KimayaKalm.com](http://www.KimayaKalm.com), which concentrates on meditation for teenagers, by teenagers, to help educate them on the powerful benefits of meditation.

"If my writing can help motivate someone to tell their own unique stories, in the ways that they excel in, then that's all I can ask for," Kimaya said. "Write a song, write a book, create a piece of art; but make your story heard. It's these stories that leave the greatest impact on others and it's this notion that'll push society further into the future."

*Editor's note: To purchase Kimaya's book, visit: [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and enter the search word Kimaya.*

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# San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo drops his 'strong mayor' plan

By Carly Wipf and Mauricio La Plante  
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

After a month of pressure and community outcry, Mayor Sam Liccardo on Monday, July 27, 2020 quietly dropped his push for a 'strong mayor' initiative that would extend his term by two years and increase his powers.

In a memo released Monday — a day before the San Jose City Council was set to vote on the controversial plan — Liccardo proposed creating a charter review commission to consider changes and instead pursue a November ballot measure that would only move mayoral elections to presidential years. The plan would no longer extend his term to 2024 or increase his powers.

"In recent weeks, several organizations have urged that we slow the process of charter reforms designed to lead to a more effective, accountable, and representative government," Liccardo wrote in the memo. "Given what has become a highly contentious political environment surrounding these efforts — they're right. We need to slow this down, to enable more outreach and community engagement."

The original plan, which drew the ire of five of Liccardo's council colleagues and dozens of community leaders, would've awarded him two more years in office and allowed him more powers, including hiring and firing the city manager and department heads. It was narrowly approved in a 6-5 vote by the City Council after nine hours of debate starting on June 30.

The City Council planned to hash out the measure's language on Tuesday in another high-stakes showdown.

Now, Liccardo suggests returning to the City Council in spring 2022 — his last year in office — to pursue a Nov. 2022 ballot measure that would "align mayoral authority" with the residents' expectations for a major city. He did not outline what additional powers the mayor should have, and instead, appears to leave that decision in the hands of the public in 2022.

The Nov. 2022 measure would also propose some campaign finance reform, including requiring councilmembers to recuse themselves from voting on certain items if they have accepted campaign contributions from those who might benefit. The measure would also prohibit campaign contributions and gifts from lobbyists and city contractors to City Council candidates.

Liccardo also suggested the Nov. 2022 measure bar city contractors or lobbyists from serving on city commissions.

"At the end of the day, our city belongs to its residents," Liccardo wrote. "I believe now as much as ever that our residents deserve to have the power to hold their government accountable. Let's move forward together in 2022 with long-overdue reforms."

Liccardo said the controversial strong mayor measure was meant to be a compromise after an initiative from labor leaders — called the Fair Elections Initiative — failed to gather enough signatures. That measure, however, had no language about

increasing Liccardo's powers or extending his term. At the time, Liccardo opposed that measure.

The plan fell apart after city unions and five prominent councilmembers — Magdalena Carrasco, Sergio Jimenez, Sylvia Arenas, Raul Peralez and Maya Esparza — opposed the mayor's push to increase his authority and extend his term. They claimed the measure was an unvetted power grab by Liccardo and criticized him for failing to do any community outreach on the plan.

"Since I first issued a memorandum in response to this hastily done deal, I have said we should be slowing down and utilizing the Charter Revision Commission," Peralez said. "This should have been the mayor's direction after hours of opposition back on July 1, but thanks to continued pressure from many community members and organizations, I'm certainly pleased with the opportunity we'll have in front of us tomorrow."

Peralez called the original measure politics at its worst in an op-ed for this news organization.

"I am happy to hear that Mayor Liccardo is reconsidering the strong mayor initiative," Carrasco told San José Spotlight. "It was a very bad idea from day one because it was a backroom deal and more importantly because of the negative consequences on our most vulnerable communities."

Carrasco said the five Latino councilmembers pushed hard to make sure their voices were heard.

"Pulling this from the ballot to have more community input is a good first step," she said. "We look forward to working with the mayor to make a better San Jose that's just and equitable and ensures that the political status quo respects the rich historic diversity of our city."

Terry Christensen, a political science professor at San Jose State University, is in favor of a strong mayor system "in theory," but said the council shouldn't make a decision based on what's best for other cities and should think carefully about San Jose's specific needs.

"Most big cities do have a strong mayor, because they need that kind of leadership to deal with the complex problems that they have," Christensen said. "That's what Liccardo was talking about when he first began advocating for this. He feels like he's in a position where a lot is expected of him. But he doesn't actually have the authority to be the kind of leader that people want."

Christensen noted that Liccardo's power under the current system makes him a mere "exalted member of the council."

"Maybe we need more than that," he said. But for now, Christensen supports Liccardo's decision to give strong mayor talks room to breathe. "I think they were rushing, pushing it through too fast and that it really is something that the community should



San Jose Mayor **Sam Liccardo** is pictured in this file photo.

have time to contemplate in some depth," he said.

City union leaders who opposed the strong mayor initiative said they support the changes unveiled by Liccardo on Monday.

IFPTE Local 21 Representative Matt Mason said he hoped weeks of work and opposition to the mayor's initiative played a hand in changing Liccardo's mind.

Mason said that if the City Council tries to expand the mayor's powers, they should consult with the community first.

"That's what we've asked for in the very

beginning, was a study, like any other major charter change, and that we will then see what the community and the other stakeholders think about additional powers," Mason said. "I think it's too early to say what our position would be because we don't know what the community is going to say, all we know is the community did not want this at this time."

Although some unions, such as the San Jose Police Officers' Association and the Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Sprinkler Fitters trade unions, supported the initiative — creating a rift in the labor camp — Mason said this was a step toward gaining consensus among labor in San

Jose.

"We're a family in labor and sometimes families have fights," Mason said. "Sometimes they become more public than we like but there's always a way to find a way back to the dinner table and to break bread together and I'm confident that will happen in this case."

Contact Mauricio La Plante at [mslaplante19@gmail.com](mailto:mslaplante19@gmail.com) or follow @mslaplantenews on Twitter. Contact Carly Wipf at [carly@sanjosespotlight.com](mailto:carly@sanjosespotlight.com) or follow @CarlyChristineW on Twitter

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# Delany sisters: Timeless treasure found at a used bookstore

By Denelle Fedor  
Special to the Times

Like many of us, my family was eager to venture out after staying inside for the past few months.

I decided to make a day trip out of purchasing my stepsons summer reading books at our favorite used bookstore, Tom's Used Books in the central valley.

I love used bookstores. Where else can you physically stand and consume hundreds of books that populated centuries of American culture – from love stories to science fiction – from mysteries to biographies. The fact is, only a used bookstore offers this luxury.

Once we arrived, I thoroughly enjoyed looking through all the used books, DVD's, records, and other items for sale. I picked up a few Sunset books from the 1970's, a 1940's Michael Shayne mystery and a DVD collection of comedy greats from the 1950's.

As I was making my way to the register, a small book with a beautiful older woman on the cover caught my eye. The book, titled, *On my own at 107 – Reflections on Life Without Bessie*, by Sarah L. Delany with Amy Hill Hearth was written in 1997. I quickly scanned the back of the book to see what it was about. It said that Sarah "Sadie" Delany and her younger sister Bessie Delany - were centenarians - they both lived to be over 100 years old – with Bessie passing at age 104. This memoir was about the first year of Sadie's life without her sister. The description interested me, so I bought it.

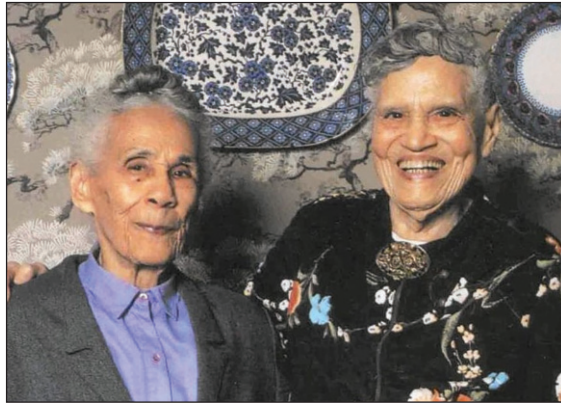
Sadie and Bessie Delany were well-educated African-American women in an era when few blacks or women attended college. The sisters were devoted to each other

and Bessie's death was a severe blow to her older sister.

Little did I know that after reading Ms. Sadie Delany's book that it would have such a lasting impression on me. It prompted me to look these two women up and by doing so, I quickly realized the positive impact and contributions they had on American history. Sadie Delany was the first black person to teach home economics for high school students in the New York public schools. She taught for more than 30 years before retiring in 1960 at age 70. Bessie Delany was the second black woman to earn her license to practice dentistry in the State of New York. They were two of ten children. Even though they encountered numerous obstacles and challenges, both sisters worked hard, saved their money, and put themselves through college to earn their degrees.

It was in 1990 that Ms. Hearth, who was a New York Times columnist at the time, heard about Sadie and Bessie Delany – the two centenarian sisters who lived together – Sadie age 104 and Bessie age 102 in a beautiful 2-story brick home in Mount Vernon, New York. Not only were their ages extraordinary, these two sisters had an incredible life story to share with the world. Ms. Hearth contacted the sisters to ask if she could interview them for an article in the New York Times. Hesitant at first, they cautiously agreed and invited Ms. Hearth to come to their home.

Ms. Hearth's story about the two trailblazing sisters appeared in the New York Times



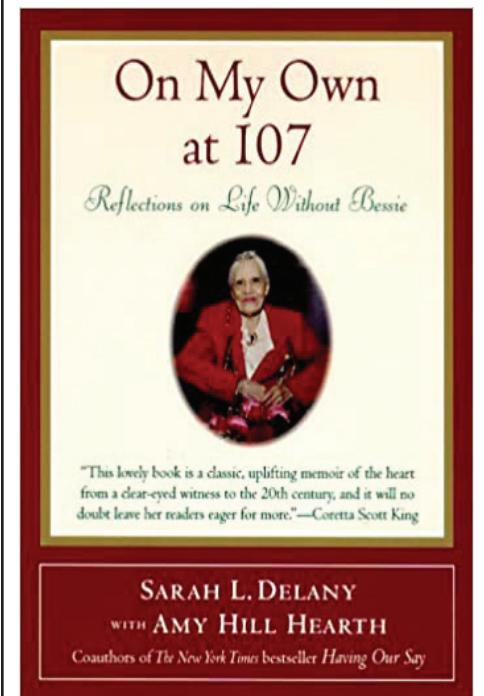
Bessie Delany (left) who passed away at 104, and Sarah Louise Delany, who passed away at 109.

in 1991. It was so well received that a publisher asked Ms. Hearth to write a book about Sadie and Bessie's lives. When Ms. Hearth presented the publishers request to the sisters they were not completely on board, thinking that the world was not really interested in what two "black" women over 100 had to share. However, Sadie and Bessie trusted Ms. Hearth and soon agreed to the idea. The book, titled, *Having Our Say: the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* was published in 1993. It sold more than five million copies, remained on the best seller list for more than 100 weeks and was translated to six different languages. The sisters appeared on Good Morning America and *Having Our Say: the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* became a Broadway Play before becoming a movie starring Diahann Carroll and Ruby Dee in 1999.

The sisters and Ms. Hearth wrote another best seller titled; *The Delany Sisters' Book of Everyday Wisdom* published in 1994. This

book was in response to the thousands of letters the sisters received asking them for advice after *Having Our Say: the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* was published. The book I bought was the only one Sadie penned before her death at age 109 in 1999.

I am thankful for used bookstore owners as they provide us a place of limitless treasures. There is much to be learned by taking the time to visit, explore and absorb used bookstores. I know I am grateful for Tom's as I would never have learned about these two fascinating and lovely women otherwise. As our economy slowly reopens, I hope you find time to visit a used bookstore and find your own treasures. I know I'm glad I did.



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In a more recent and high-profile exam-

ple, the investigation into the cause of the 2013 accident that killed the actor Paul Walker revealed that the Porsche Carrera GT in which he was riding had 9-year-old tires. The California Highway Patrol noted that the tires' age might have compromised their drivability and handling characteristics, according to an article in the Los Angeles Times.

A tire's tread will wear out in three to four years driving 12,000 to 15,000 miles per year normal driving, long before the rubber compound does. But if you drive much less than that, or have a car that you only drive on weekends, remember aging tires could be an issue, especially when you purchase a used car that may have sat on a car lot for undetermined amount of time.

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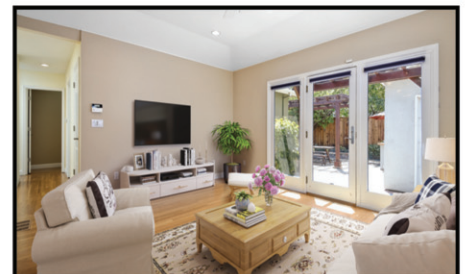






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