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DECEMBER 2020 ■ VOL. 16, NO. 8

# Willow Glen *Times*

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## City of San Jose launches 'Cash for Trash'

*City partners with Mastercard, Valley Water to engage homeless residents in battle against blight*

A pilot program, "Cash for Trash" under the BeautifySJ initiative has been launched that will battle blight in San Jose by incentivizing homeless residents to pick up trash at encampments in exchange for programmable and reloadable cards from Mastercard.

"All too often, we hear people point at the homeless as 'the problem' as they look at the blight, trash, and encampments in our community. I have spoken with many homeless residents who have expressed a desire to be part of the solution. Through "Cash for Trash," we enlist our homeless neighbors in our battle against blight while paving a pathway for future interactions that will open many of our homeless residents to services and assistance," said Mayor Liccardo. "Thanks to Mastercard and to Valley Water for their collaboration in this innovative venture to clean our creeks, streets, and neighborhoods."

"Cash for Trash" will now take place at 40 locations throughout San Jose. Site locations are determined with input from Valley Water. BeautifySJ crews will distribute Cash for Trash bags at each location, redeemable at \$4 per bag. Participants can turn in up to five bags for a total of \$20 which will be loaded onto a Mastercard City Key card. These debit cards are program-specific cards that Mastercard has enabled maintenance-free, as part of this partnership. Funds can be used to pay for essential items with minor restrictions on items like alcohol and tobacco.

During the first week of the program at two sites, 27 homeless residents enrolled and collected over two tons of trash. San Jose is the first city in the country to launch a program like Cash for Trash, paying homeless residents per bag of trash to be a part of the solution. This innovative program engages with homeless residents, putting them in contact with city staff with the potential to lead to further opportunities to offer needed resources. The program will also help to tackle the exacerbated blight accumulating on streets and in waterways near encampments.

Funding for Cash for Trash is made possible through an allocation of \$50,000 from the City of San Jose designated for trash clean up. In addition, Valley Water partnered to provide a \$180,000 grant (\$60K per year through the year 2023) to the program.



Allergy Diagnosis for All (ADFA) founder **Grace Guo**.

## High school student creates app that predicts allergens

By Daisy Zeng  
*Special to the Times*

A local high school junior has created an app that takes input from users then corroborates data to find allergen patterns.

As the founder of "Allergy Diagnosis for All" (ADFA), Grace Guo has developed an iOS app called MyAllergy.

The app is dedicated to helping patients predict their possible allergens so they can discuss the results with professional allergists.

Users list the ingredients of all consumed food and drinks and select their symptom level (good, bad, or ok) for that day. MyAllergy compiles all this information, finds patterns, and presents you with a list of possible allergens.

The app has already had positive results in testing. One tester, who contributed the data she had collected for almost an entire year, received results that matched those of her professional allergist.

Two other students, Aditya Murthy (vice-president) and Daisy Zeng (secretary/treasurer), have joined the effort to make a positive impact on allergy sufferers in our community.

This organization will be hosting a webinar on December 6, 2020, at 4 p.m. (PST). Anyone is welcome to join us by using the information provided below.

Here's the Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/9492972609?pwd=eHpXeXRxbGF3WVpKZ0NGeGtjS0tPUT09>

You may also find the meeting invitation on our official website [allergydiagnosisforall.org](http://allergydiagnosisforall.org) on the events page.

All contributions made through [allergydiagnosisforall.org](http://allergydiagnosisforall.org) will go to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI). We appreciate your support. For more information please download the MyAllergy app or send us an email at [allergydiagnosisforall@gmail.com](mailto:allergydiagnosisforall@gmail.com).

## Santa and the Willow Glen Library

The theme of the 2020 ornament is a combination of Santa and the iconic neighborhood structure - the Willow Glen Library.

The ornament features Santa reading his favorite book (perhaps *The Night Before Christmas*?) outside the library which displays a sparkly Christmas tree.

Like last year, the ornament is a 3-dimensional sculpture within a blown glass globe, topped off with a red tassel.

The rim of the base is dated with the year 2020 and the bottom of the base identifies the ornament as the ninth in a series.



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**SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15**



Times **Community News**

## Adopt a youth or family for 'Winter Wonderland'

Each year, United Way Bay Area's community and their Emerging Leaders group host the Winter Wonderland event to bring together local families.

UWBA is working with Emergency Food and Shelter agencies, as well as SparkPoint

Centers to make this a brighter holiday for many families.

Families will come from SparkPoint Napa, SparkPoint Solano, Family Supportive Housing of San Jose, and SparkPoint Fremont (Union City Family Center).

This year's Winter Wonderland will provide over 80 families and 100 youth with gifts from their Wish and Need Lists. Attendees typically experience a magical night filled with music, dinner, gift-



giving, and other fun activities, however, due to the current circumstances, Winter Wonderland 2020 will happen remotely. Please help us provide each youth with \$100 worth of gifts and a basket of food for their family's

holiday celebration.

Learn more about the needs of specific families and children you may wish to sponsor. Registration ends November 27. Learn more by visiting: [www.roonga.com/uwbawinterwonderland20](http://www.roonga.com/uwbawinterwonderland20)

Editor's note: Gifts should be dropped off or mailed by or on

December 1st, so there is time for volunteers to wrap the gifts. If you purchase your gifts after December 1st, they ask that you wrap the gift.

## Tickets on sale now for drive-through Christmas in the Park

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Tickets for San Jose's beloved holiday tradition, Christmas in the Park, are now available for its new venue due to COVID-19.

It might seem a bit early to start thinking about Christmas, but Jason Minsky, the executive director of Christmas in the Park, has been hard at work coming up with a social distancing venue.

Instead of a stroll through downtown's Plaza de Cesar Chavez, Christmas in the Park will instead be a drive-through event at History Park on Senter Road. And — like the annual Fantasy of Lights show at Vasona Park — you have to reserve a day and time to visit in advance.

A change in venue for Christmas in the Park, the first time in its 41-year history, was required because a loss of sponsorship revenue due to the pandemic, not to mention the lost vendor and ride income normally taken in during a normal year.

"People are going to expect to see Christmas in the Park from a car, and I think they're going to be blown away," he said. "They're going to be overwhelmed by

how much more there is to see," Minsky said.

As a bonus, the regular Christmas in the Park displays, the historic and replica buildings at History Park also will be decorated, along with the illuminated replica of the San Jose Light Tower.

"There will be light tunnels, giant snowflakes and hundreds of decorated trees, with the whole visit choreographed to music. Santa Claus will be around, too," said Minsky.

### Drive-thru pricing

The pricing for Christmas in the Park drive-thru is \$20 per vehicle for standard-sized cars and trucks up to 8 ft. high (no buses or limos)— from 5 to 10 p.m., and \$10 during "twilight hour" between 4 and 5 p.m. Reservations are in 15-minute windows, with hundreds of cars able to visit in a single day.

There's no option to visit during the day due to the emphasis on illuminated displays.

Understanding not all families can afford the admission, Minsky said tickets also are being distributed through non-profit partners including Somos Mayfair and Catholic Charities. You can donate to sponsor another car when purchasing a ticket.

For more information and to reserve a spot visit: [www.christmasinthepark.com](http://www.christmasinthepark.com).



## Corvette Car Club drops off Thanksgiving meals to those in need in San Jose

The holiday spirit had some car club members using their prized Corvettes to deliver goodies to people in San Jose this past weekend.

The Vetted Corvette Club of Northern California cruised the streets of San Jose, dropping off Thanksgiving meals to 50 people, many of whom have disabilities and live in care homes.

Members of the club contributed cash to buy food to last beyond the holiday and got some local businesses to donate too, including Mesquite and Oak restaurant.

The Vetted club president, who is an essential worker for the city of San Jose, said this was the club's first Thanksgiving drive, "but it won't be its last."

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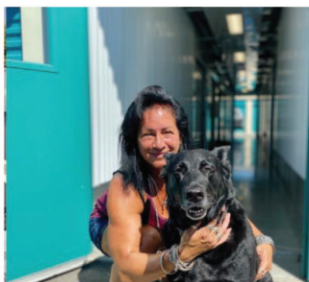


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## Mark Tramiel joins RE/MAX Gold

RE/MAX Gold has announced that realtor **Mark Tramiel** (above) is the latest addition of the growing real estate franchise, located at 1122 Willow St #100, San Jose, CA 95125.

Mark brings to the office more than seven years of local real estate and commercial property management experience.

Mark specializes in luxury properties, income properties, working with 1st time buyers, and listing your property to maximize your profits.

Mark understands the importance of providing his clients with the latest marketing technology, market information and industry leading expertise. He is a member of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors.

In addition, he holds a leadership role in his current homeowner's association. Mark graduated from the University of Denver where part of his studies focused on negotiation techniques & conflict resolution. He will use his abilities to maximize your real estate potential.

For more information about Mark Tramiel, contact him directly at 650.388.0168 or by email at Mark.Tramiel@nocalgold.com. Please visit TramielRealEstate.com or RE/MAX Gold at www.remaxgold.com to start finding your next property.

## Willow Glen Times

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# Valley Currents

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

## USPS expands letter writing holiday tradition after 108 years

*'Dear Santa, I've been good all year!'*

**L**et's face it; this year has been a struggle for so many people in more ways than one.

Thoughts of kids, the holidays and wondering how to provide for them may also be weighing heavily on many. But take heart, Santa and the Postal Service are way ahead of you, and they are here to help.

The USPS Operation Santa program celebrates its 108th year in 2020 by opening up for nationwide participation. Now, more than ever, the program is needed to help less fortunate kids and families during the holidays.

The Postal Service established the USPS Operation Santa program to help those in need at the holidays experience the joy of opening presents — and to create special holiday memories.

Since it began, millions of less fortunate children and their families have been helped by the kindness of others. The program is for every person of every belief, or non-belief. The purpose is to help as many deserving families as possible. And that can only be done if good-hearted adopters step forward.

To participate in the USPS Operation Santa program as a possible recipient of holiday gifts, all you have to do is write a letter, put it in a stamped envelope with a return address, and send it to Santa's official workshop address as seen on the example envelope above. Letters will be accepted Nov. 16 – Dec. 15.

### Program Details

Hundreds of thousands of letters are written to the USPS Operation Santa program every year in hopes of being adopted by kind

Full Name  
Street Address  
City State ZIP Code



Santa Claus  
123 Elf Road  
North Pole 88888

and generous people across the country. These letters are opened by Santa's Elves and, for safety reasons, all personally identifiable information of the letter writer is removed (i.e. last names, addresses, ZIP Codes) and uploaded to USPSOperationSanta.com for adoption.

Beginning Dec. 4, letters will be available for nationwide adoption by visiting USPSOperationSanta.com — all from the socially distant safety of your own home. Potential adopters can read the letters and pick one, or more, that they'd like to fulfill. For security reasons, potential adopters must be vetted by going through a short registration and ID verification process before they are allowed to adopt any letter.

Companies also help adopt letters. Every year many companies create teams and adopt several letters; all the better to help grant that special wish to deserving families and kids.

### How to Write a Letter

Sending a letter to Santa is easy if you know how. The Postal Service is here to help with guides and tips to help kids write and send their best letters ever. All the information you could possibly need to write a letter, address an envelope, put on a stamp and send it on its way can be found on USPSOperationSanta.com.

The only thing the Postal Service can't help with is to tell kids what to ask for. That is up to their imagination. These tips are also good all year-round for sending thank-you cards, birthday cards, or letters to Grandma and Grandpa just to say,

Dear Santa I want a  
Frozen Doll and a Wil  
and a white Bop and a  
Chock Bop D and cerech  
sand and a Mikeraphone  
and a Gatar and and  
OQaa Beads and a  
Gam Ball Mechian  
and my mom need  
a computer.  
Love Jamie

"Hi."

### USPS Operation Santa History

While the Postal Service began receiving letters to Santa more than 108 years ago, it wasn't until 1912 that Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local Postmasters to allow postal employees and citizens to respond to them. This became known as Operation Santa.

The complete history can be found online at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom, which can be found at <https://about.usps.com/holidaynews>, along with additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines.

*Editor's note: The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.*



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Times **Community News**

## City of San José Department of Transportation awarded grant for bicycle, pedestrian safety education

The City of San José Department of Transportation received a \$110,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) that focuses on the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.

"This grant supports several important components of our Vision Zero traffic safety program," said John Ristow, City of San José Director of Transportation. "With the OTS funding, we are able to better engage residents through neighborhood walk audits and Vision Zero workshops. This results in a stronger, community-focused safety effort."

"Our goal is that education will change poor behaviors and make our roads safer," OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. "This funding will help ensure the safety of those out biking or walking."

- Grant funds will be used for a variety of activities promoting bicyclist and pedestrian safety

- Education workshops geared toward youth and older adults

- Education on the importance of safety equipment that improves visibility such as reflective armbands, bicycle headlights and taillights



- Community walks and bicycle safety courses
- Bicycle helmet inspections
- Distribution of bicycle helmets to those in need following education presentations

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant program runs thru Sept. 30, 2021.

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*Click on the Holiday Market Page to see all of the exciting events scheduled.*

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*To secure your tickets call the IAHF office 408-923-7122. A book of 15 tickets is \$20. **The Raffle will be held on December 18, 2020; last day to purchase tickets is December 16, 2020.***

*Enjoy your winnings before the holidays! **Buona Fortuna!***

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Times **Community News**

## Loaves & Fishes delivers hot meals to 65 distribution locations in San Jose

With the need for food assistance services rising, the City of San José is working with local non-profit organizations in order to meet the continuing food demand and support San José residents.

Loaves & Fishes is one such organization that provides local support.

"We've gone from 2,500 to over 7,000 meals a day," said Gisela Bushey, CEO of Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen. "That's a 300 percent increase just since the beginning of March."

Since 1980, Loaves & Fishes has prepared, packaged, and delivered hot meals from as far south as Morgan Hill to the foggy corridors leading into South San Francisco.

However as Loaves & Fishes revealed their brand new 12,000 square-foot home in an industrial block near the 880 highway one theme soon became crystal clear— San José is home.

"We needed to centralize our services and that led us on this hunt for a building here in San José," Bushey admitted. "With the majority of our services being here in Santa Clara County population wise, 70 percent of our meals are provided to the City of San Jose."

According to Loaves & Fishes, the 40-



Loaves & Fishes' centralized kitchens enable the nonprofit to prepare hot fresh meals that are loaded onto temperature-controlled vehicles to ensure food quality and safety.

year, San José-based nonprofit will be able to serve upwards of 10,000 meals in the next year and a half once the commercial kitchen is up and running.

This new centralized kitchen comes at a time when City leaders are looking to partner with community-based nonprofits to meet the increasing demand for food.

Loaves & Fishes was one of several recipients of the City's Collective Impact Grant (CIG), which provides additional funding for community-based organizations that are actively distributing food and necessities to San José residents in



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## Times Community News



Loaves & Fishes has prepared and delivered hot meals for San José residents in need for over 40 years. Photos courtesy of Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen.

need.

"It's really enabled us to be able to create more delivery locations. We currently have 55 partner organizations, and are delivering to 90 sites throughout Santa Clara County," said Bushey. "We actually, for the first time in 40 years, have a waiting list asking for our food. And so we are now going to be able to provide those meals because of this grant."

Loaves & Fishes' ability to prepare, package, and deliver hot meals to where they are needed is an absolute game changer when it comes to providing food efficiently and quickly.

The San José nonprofit's fleet of eight temperature-controlled trucks ensures food is maintained at safe temperatures while allowing drivers to abide by health safety protocols for food handling and COVID-19.

Loaves & Fishes is looking to add a ninth delivery vehicle to its food-providing arsenal and aims to reach 105 delivery locations by the end of December

2020.

Thanks to the generosity of financial donors and grants like the Collective Impact Grant, community-based nonprofits like Loaves & Fishes are reaching vulnerable residents when they need it most.

"What makes us different is we take food that is uncooked, we prepare it and then we deliver it to partner organizations serving the same population," said Bushey. "This [grant] is going to enable us to provide 121,000 pounds of shelf stable groceries and prepare 154,000 hot meals between now and the end of the year."

Loaves & Fishes is in need of donations, partners and volunteers. Learn more by visiting [www.loavesfishes.org](http://www.loavesfishes.org) today.

To find out how you can access food resources in your neighborhood, please visit: [bit.ly/SCCFoodMap](http://bit.ly/SCCFoodMap). To find out about volunteering, visit: [www.loavesfishes.org](http://www.loavesfishes.org).

## San José seeking residents to serve on redistricting commission

The city of San José is seeking residents to serve on its redistricting commission and you don't need to be a redistricting expert to apply.

Commission members ensure fair representation in San Jose City Council. San José is one of the few cities in California where residents can play a lead role in the redistricting process.

The San José Redistricting Commission

allows residents to incorporate public input to propose City Council maps that would last for the next decade. This process will determine how well San José's communities are represented in local government.

As a San José resident, you can shape the redistricting process by serving as a commissioner. Candidates are community members who are impartial, representative of the county's diversity, and committed to creating fair maps for San José's communities.

Applicants must apply by December 13, 2020. To apply for the redistricting commission or several other commissions, visit: <https://sanjose.granicus.com/boards/forms/76/apply>



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Times **Community News**



**IN MEMORY**  
**Shirlee Louann Bigger**  
**February 25, 1933 -**  
**October 20, 2020**

*Resident of Willow Glen*

It is with heavy hearts that the family announces the passing of **Shirlee Louann Bigger** (pictured above) on 10/20/2020. Shirlee was preceded in death by her parents (Elam and Nadalie Bone) as well as her husband of 46 years, William Bigger. Shirlee is survived by her Son Michael, her Son Mitchell, by her Grandchildren Cameron, Kalen and Bret as well as by her Brother Michael Bone (Chris and Tina).

Shirlee was born in Willow Glen, when Willow Glen was a City, and lived there her entire life. Shirlee attended Willow Glen Elementary, Lincoln High and San Jose State. In 1937, at the age of 4, Shirlee and her family moved to Glenn Ave, directly next door to the family of an 8 year old boy, William Bigger. During that time, they enjoyed playing with their friends in the surrounding cherry orchards as most of the streets in Willow Glen were not yet developed.

In 1957, Shirlee married “the boy next door” and was married to Bill for 46 years until his death in 2003. Shirlee’s childhood house is still in the family and is now occupied by the 4th generation of her family.

Shirlee worked for over 30 years as a Senior Loan Underwriter for San Francisco Savings and Loan. After her working career was over, Shirlee was able to enjoy many years of retirement. Shirlee attended virtually all of her grandkids events and sports. She was an avid local sports fan, especially of the San Francisco Giants. She also loved to attend lunches and other functions with her lifelong friends, “The good old girls”.

Shirlee was the rock of the family, a very loving and kind person with a laugh and smile that was infectious to those lucky enough to cross her path.

A special thank you to Bridge Hospice for their compassionate help during this most difficult time for the family.

Shirlee requested that any donations were to be made to a local animal organization as she truly loved all animals.

Your family loves you very much and will miss you every moment of every day for the rest of our days. However, we find solace in that you are now pain free, at rest and with God for eternity.

Due to Covid-19, private services have been held.



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# Happy Hollow Park and Zoo is back after eight month closure

After a nearly eight-month closure because of the coronavirus pandemic, San Jose's Happy Hollow Park and Zoo reopened Tuesday, Nov. 10 for members-only after an eight month closure. Non-members may begin making reservations beginning Nov. 24.

Visitors to the popular zoo must make a reservation online and must follow new protocols put in place to keep crowds small so as to allow for social distancing.

"We're so excited to finally welcome everyone back," said Happy Hollow Zoo spokesperson Charlotte Graham. "We have put a robust reopening plan in place, and now we're really just looking forward to providing a fun and safe experience where people can enjoy the outdoors, stretch their legs and learn about nature, our animals and wildlife conservation."

Members of Happy Hollow have begun making online reservations for members-only days, which will run thru Tuesday Nov. 21. The general public can begin making reservations Nov. 13 for visit dates beginning Nov. 24.

## Walk through the Zoo

Happy Hollow's first phase of "Walk through the Zoo" reopening features discounted admission for access to a one-way walking path that weaves through the park's two zoo areas with rescue wildlife and endangered species. At the end of the walk, visitors will get a glimpse of the newest animal zoo member, a black-and-white ruffed lemur pup, named Koa.

Staffers and guests ages two and up will be required to wear face coverings at all times while in the park. Because of this requirement, the park's picnic areas are closed and guests should not bring food or drinks inside the park.

Happy Hollow also will require that all guests and staff complete a quick health screening before entry, including a temperature check and a handful of yes-or-no questions related to symptoms and potential COVID-19 exposure. Visitors are asked to arrive 10 minutes before their reservation time to complete the health screening.

Julio Serrano, guest services specialist at the park, reminded visitors in a video

message to "stay with your group, take turns at viewing areas and maintain a 6-foot distance from staff and other guests who are not part of your household."

Pictured: Happy Hollow Park and Zoo reopened Tuesday, Nov. 10 after being closed for eight months.



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Lemur cub "Koa" was born at Happy Hollow Zoo last spring.



# San Jose Police Dept. participates in Special Olympics Northern California law enforcement Torch Run

The San Jose Police Department has raised funds and awareness for Special Olympics Northern California (SONC) by participating in the 2020 Law Enforcement Torch Run on November 5.

The Torch Run features more than 3,000 law enforcement personnel from hundreds of local agencies carrying the Special Olympics Flame of Hope throughout Northern California. In past years, the annual Torch Run would culminate in June at the SONC Summer Games in Davis. Due to COVID-19, however, Summer Games was canceled this year.

San Jose Police Department has been involved in raising money and awareness for Special Olympics for more than 25 years. Officers participate in various fundraising events such as Tip-A-Cop, Polar Plunge, Cop on Top of



Donut Shop, Fuel the Dream, Torch Run, and numerous other events. Officers also hand out medals to athletes at various sporting events and coach different Special Olympics sports.

If you wish to support Special Olympics through SJPD's Law Enforcement Torch Run, visit [Bit.ly/torchrun20](http://Bit.ly/torchrun20). All the money raised goes directly to Special Olympics Northern California.



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Times **Community News**

# Community and volunteers rally around 'Gifts for Teens' mission

By Jan Giroux

Special to the Times

"Pandemic or no pandemic, the show must go on." That was the motto this year for the Gifts for Teens steering committee.

Even though the number of holiday gift bags decreased, there was no lack of enthusiasm, creative thinking and can-do spirit from the community and committee.

Generous donations were received from many businesses in the South Bay willing to help "Gifts for Teens," a non-profit that creates and distributes gift bags to community agencies that serve foster, low income and homeless teens that are often overlooked by local youth programs.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the following: Walmart Almaden store for their grant of \$1,000, Carl's Jr. for 400 gift meal cards and ongoing sponsor Emerald Hills Golf and 400 admission passes. Funds were contributed by the Almaden Valley Singles, Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Dentist Susan Di Bene and tasty protein bars given by local Sprouts, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods Markets. In

addition, each of the 400 gift bags had a \$25.00 gift card from either Target or Walmart.

Welcome additions to our gift bags included a warm hooded sweatshirt, hygiene kits, fun teen items and hand sanitizers. To add a more personal touch, the Gifts for Teens Club, students at Pioneer High School, made 400 personalized, hand-written notes, one for each teen recipient.

The assembly and filling of bags were prepared in an outdoor setting complete with shade tents, distancing, masks and sanitizers per County COVID protocols. Thank you to the San Jose Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for use of their space.

Committee members along with a limited number of community volunteers from the Almaden and Blossom Hill Chapter of National Charity League, Pioneer High School students, History Club of Los Gatos, and Xi Iota Zeta Sorority assembled and filled bags on September 19, October 17 and 20th. Agencies receiving gift bags this year include: Sacred Heart Community Service for teens of low-income families, Advent who serves teens suffering from substance abuse and the Bill Wilson Center for their foster teens and homeless drop-ins.

The generosity of AAUW members, community businesses and volunteers during this pandemic year has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Knowing that you contributed to making a merrier holiday for a deserving teen is a reward in itself.

# Jet carriers Southwest, Hawaiian, Alaska resume service from San Jose to Hawaii

*Uplifting news amid the dreary coronavirus travel doldrums*

Three airlines have announced they are resuming flights connecting San Jose with several islands in Hawaii.

Alaska Airlines resumed flights to Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii and to Lihue on Kauai on Nov. 1 and to Kahului on Maui on Nov. 2. Flights to Honolulu resume on Dec. 2.

Hawaiian Airlines resumed service between San Jose International Airport and Honolulu on Oahu on Nov. 2. Service is scheduled for Nov. 18.

Southwest Airlines resumed service to Honolulu, Maui, and Kauai on Nov. 4. Flights to the Big Island resume on Dec. 6.

"We are happy our partners at Hawaiian, Southwest, and Alaska are expanding their flight offerings by resuming operations to Hawaii," said John Aitken, director of aviation with the city of San Jose. "As we continue to show signs of recovery, we look forward to safely welcoming back more flights and providing our passengers with expand-



ed travel options," Aitken said.

Word of the expansion in air travel options out of San Jose serves as a welcome counterpoint to the dreary travel picture due to the coronavirus.

# Downtown Transportation Plan sponsors logo contest

Aspiring student artists of Santa Clara County may enter the San José Downtown Transportation Plan sponsored logo contest.

MoveSanJosé is looking for a vibrant, eye-catching logo design for their new transportation initiative, in which they aim to make travelling around and in Downtown San José safer, easier, and more affordable for all.

There is a \$700 Grand Prize (\$100 each for three runners-up), for involved emerging local artists providing an important artwork that will help identify and improve transportation equity in San José.

- The contest is open to all Santa Clara County residents enrolled part- or full-time in a degree-granting college, university, or polytechnic institute.

- All entrants must be 18 or older as of October 1st, 2020.

Entrants must submit preliminary designs by email to [movesanjoseca@gmail.com](mailto:movesanjoseca@gmail.com) 11:59 p.m. on Monday, November 16th, 2020.

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- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

## Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

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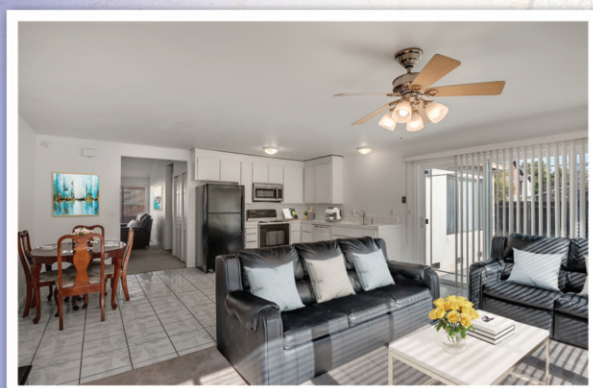




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# Opera San José announces new virtual performance of Jake Heggie's 'Three Decembers' starting Dec. 3

*What an enchanting way to support the arts!*

Opera San José has announced it will present a new fully staged production of Jake Heggie's chamber opera, "Three Decembers."

Met with critical acclaim, "Three Decembers" has been hailed by Opera Today as "a modern masterpiece" with "a score filled with pleasures" that "provokes feeling and demands emotional reaction." Declared "an engaging crowd pleaser" by the Chicago Tribune, this lustrous one act, 90-minute foray into one riveting family is composed for three singers (soprano, mezzo-soprano, and baritone), is sung in English, and offers a thrilling experience for theatergoers and opera lovers alike.

The new production features world-renowned mezzo-soprano Susan Graham in the central role, alongside celebrated Opera San José Resident Artists soprano Maya Kherani and baritone Efraín Solís, in a world-class digital production offered via on-demand streaming beginning December 3, 2020.

Based on the unpublished play "Some Christmas Letters" by Tony Award winning playwright Terrance McNally, "Three Decembers" follows the captivating story of a famous actress, Madeline Mitchell, and her two adult children, Beatrice and Charlie over three decades (1986, 1996, and 2006), bringing to mesmerizing life a family struggling to connect, as long-held secrets come to light.

With a brilliant, witty libretto by Gene Scheer and a soaring musical score by Jake Heggie, "Three Decembers" is a 90-minute fullhearted American opera about family – the ones we are born into and those we create.

An intimate, dual-piano arrangement was created and conducted by Opera San José Resident Artist conductor Christopher James Ray specifically for this vibrant production, which was captured in Opera San José's new Fred Heiman Digital Media Studio and directed by Tara Branham.

"Three Decembers" will launch its digital performances with a celebratory gala featuring a post-show conversation with Susan Graham, Jake Heggie, and the full artistic team on December 3, 2020, and then will be available to stream on demand for a limited time.

Tickets are \$40 per household (includes on-demand streaming access only) or \$50 per household (includes on-demand streaming access plus admission to the post-show gala Dec. 3). For more information or to purchase tickets, the public can visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org) or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).



World-renowned mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** appears as famed actress "Madeline Mitchell" in Opera San José's new fully staged production of Jake Heggie's chamber opera "Three Decembers." Offered via on-demand streaming beginning December 3, 2020, this world-class digital production will be available at [operasj.org](http://operasj.org). Photo Credit: Mark Leialoha

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