

Mayor Liccardo forms advocacy organization 'Solutions'
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Choosing a chief
San Jose police chief finalists talk racial equity, biased policing and use of force – **SEE PAGE 7**

Enchanting book helps newcomers navigate the 'American Dream'
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MARCH 2021 ■ VOL. 17, NO. 3

Willow Glen Times

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Theatreworks Silicon Valley and Opera San José offer world premiere Hershey Felder, Puccini

Livestream 5pm, Sunday, March 14 (Plus streaming on-demand through March 21)

Two leading Bay Area arts organizations, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and Opera San José, will offer viewers the World Premiere livestream of Hershey Felder, PUCCHINI, a new work by and starring virtuoso pianist/performer Hershey Felder, with opera guest stars baritone Nathan Gunn, soprano Gianna Corbisiero, and tenor Charles Castronovo.

Presented by Hershey Felder Presents Live from Florence, Hershey Felder, PUCCHINI tells the story of a young musician captivated by the world of opera, particularly by

Giacomo Puccini's immortal works La bohème, Tosca, and Madama Butterfly. When, through a series of unusual circumstances, the young musician meets the musical master himself, secrets are revealed that open a whole new world for the young man. Filmed and performed on location in Lucca, Italy, in the very home where Giacomo Puccini was born.

This sumptuously filmed world premiere gives home audiences a front row seat as Felder presents another masterwork, this time delving into Puccini's life and music. Felder is joined in this production by three internationally renowned opera stars: baritone Nathan Gunn, soprano Gianna Corbisiero, and tenor Charles



At right: Opera guest stars **Charles Castronovo**, **Gianna Corbisiero**, and **Nathan Gunn** join virtuoso performer Hershey Felder for the World Premiere livestream of "Hershey Felder, PUCCHINI" March 14, 2021. TheatreWorks and Opera San José are offering streaming access. Photo courtesy of Hershey Felder Presents.

Castronovo. Hershey Felder, PUCCHINI is directed by Felder & Stefano Decarli, with associate direction by Trevor Hay. Production design is by Hershey Felder. Film production and live editing is by the DeCarli Live film company. Live broadcast and sound design production are by Erik Carstensen. Line producer is Annette Nixon. Meghan Maiya is the Director of Development. Costumes and Hair are by Camilla Saccardi.

Tickets

Hershey Felder, PUCCHINI will be streamed live 5pm PST, Sunday, March 14, 2021 (with streaming on-demand access through March 21). To buy tickets (\$55 per household) or find more information, the public can visit TheatreWorks.org or Operasj.org. Ticket sales directly benefit the arts organization through which they are purchased. Patrons who purchase a ticket to the event will be emailed a link to stream the program at home on their computer, SmartTV or other device.

St. Patrick's Day; the one day of the year everyone calls themselves Irish

Unless you've been living under the Blarney Stone you already know that March 17 is St. Patrick's Day.

It's the one day each year that everyone and anyone calls themselves Irish – if not by birthright, then in spirit.

If you have been living under the Blarney Stone, lucky you! We bet you can share a thing or two about how a religious feast day commemorating the famed Irish patron saint who brought Christianity to Ireland ended up being a day celebrated almost globally, usually involving copious amounts of green beer and whisky shooters.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries around the world than any other single-day national festival, largely due to America's enthusiasm for what many consider a holiday, although it is not an official holiday in America.

Parades are the heartbeat of St. Patrick Day festivities in America. This is not surprising, since the first parade held in St. Patrick's honor took place in America, not Ireland, in 1601 in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. And the first actual St. Patrick's Day parade also took place in America, in 1737, although it was pretty much just a stroll down the middle of a street in Boston by a few Irish Protestants to honor the patron saint of their motherland. The first St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City was held in 1762, fourteen years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence and was organized by Irish troops serving in British colonies. Today the world's biggest St. Patrick's Day celebration is the annual parade in New York City, where more than two million spectators line the parade route, all claiming to be Irish, at least for the day. – *NationalToday.com*



Holy Spirit School Almaden offering safe Pre-K in-person Open House: March 21

Holy Spirit School in Almaden Valley is offering a safe opportunity to visit its campus and learn about their Pre-K program. The school which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, gradually reopened for in-person learning starting with Pre-K in August

through 8th grade in early November.

The Open House, which will be held on March 21, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., will include an opportunity to meet and chat with Holy Spirit Pre-K Director, Debbie D'Amico, visit the Pre-K classroom and tour the main campus with a student ambassador.

All visitors will be required to wear a mask, complete a health screening and make an appointment before coming on campus. Families should call the school office to schedule their visit for the March 21 open house; 408.268.0794

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Michelangelo is expected to survive a
stabbing attack. Photo courtesy of SJP.

Man charged in tortoise stabbing, preschool break-in

A 40-year-old man accused of
breaking into a local preschool and
stabbing a tortoise has been
charged and jailed without bail.

Prosecutors say George Robles
attacked the class pet named
Michelangelo at Play 'n' Learn's garden
earlier this month.

The suspect stands accused of
felony animal abuse, commercial
burglary and vandalism and will
likely face prison time if convicted.

Although the tortoise sustained
serious injuries, Michelangelo continues
to recover after receiving care from a
local veterinarian.

"Our thoughts are with the children
and teachers at Play 'n' Learn," DA
Jeff Rosen said in a statement. "We
will work diligently to protect that
preschool and get accountability for
the innocent victims of a heartless and
heartbreaking crime."

The crimes began on Jan. 27,
when security footage caught Robles
sneaking into the preschool through
an unlocked door at approximately 5
a.m. before making off with nearly
\$2,000 worth of computers, iPad Minis
and other electronics, according to
authorities.

Robles' crime spree continued a
few days later on Jan. 30 when a
nearby resident called 9-1-1 to report
hearing glass breaking at the school
at 11:25 a.m. When the owner arrived,
she reportedly found the tortoise
impaled with a stick. Police found the
defendant nearby.

An arresting officer filed a
request for the magistrate to review
bail, because the alleged crime was
eligible under emergency Covid rules
for immediate release. The request was
denied, and the defendant was released.

The next day, Jan. 31 at approximately
7 p.m., Robles allegedly forced his
way into the preschool again, this time
pilfering another \$1,000 in computers
and some groceries—all in full view of
security cameras. When the owner
arrived the next morning, Robles
reportedly fled. San Jose police
arrested Robles at about 4 p.m. near
the school. "This time," the DA's
announcement continued, "after a
hearing, the defendant was remanded
without bail."

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Extreme winter storm disrupts Bay Area COVID vaccine shipments

COVID-19 vaccines destined for Santa Clara County have been delayed due to the massive winter storm that has battered many areas of the U.S.

The delays have affected counties throughout California, including Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa, causing some to consider canceling appointments and vaccination events.

The setback comes as vaccine shortages have forced some vaccination sites to suspend operations. Some appointments for second shots on Friday may have to be canceled.

The storm also delayed doses that were supposed to go to Kaiser Permanente.

Michael McGuire of Willow Glen named to University of Minnesota Dean's List

Michael McGuire of Willow Glen has been named to the 2020 fall semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

McGuire, a sophomore, is a College of Science and Engineering major.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

The University of Minnesota is a public land-grant research university in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Twin Cities campus is the oldest and largest in the University of Minnesota system and has the sixth-largest main campus student body in the United States, with 51,327 students in 2019-20. It is the flagship institution of the University of Minnesota System, and is organized into 19 colleges, schools, and other major academic units.

Willow Glen Times

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Valley Currents

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

Mayor Liccardo forms advocacy organization 'Solutions'

Non-profit advocates for safe re-opening of schools

By William Bellou
Publisher

With a large number of school districts still remaining closed due to the pandemic as well as growing inequities for families who lack internet access and other educational resources, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo decided to take matters into his own hands.

Last week, Liccardo founded a 501(c)4 advocacy organization called Solutions San Jose, which will be dedicated to safely re-opening campuses—starting with elementary schools—and advocating for other policy solutions.

In a Feb. 11 email obtained by San Jose Inside, Liccardo cites a report that found a low risk of coronavirus transmission in elementary schools in two studies conducted at the start of the pandemic in Oise, France which found the presence of antibodies in students and teachers attending in-person school without masking or social distancing. One study, which looked at high schools, found that 43 percent of teachers, 59 percent of other staff



Sam Liccardo launched non-profit "Solutions" San Jose last week.

and 38 percent of students had antibodies compared to a community prevalence of 9 percent. The elementary school study found only 9 percent of students, 7 percent of teachers and 4 percent of other staff had antibodies.

In the email, the mayor also notes that Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, has backed recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to re-open more schools.

Liccardo said in the Feb. 11 email that "fail-

ure to re-open public schools violates the civil rights of our poorest families, creating a 'separate but unequal' education system."

"High-income parents can work from home, send their kids to private schools, hire tutors, create learning pods, buy extra internet bandwidth and help their children succeed in scores of other ways," Liccardo explained. "Our low-income students—despite the city spending more than \$10 million to provide broadband connectivity to tens of thousands of

homes—struggle with little other support and fall farther behind, while their parents must either work outside the home in essential jobs, or forego their paychecks."

While Liccardo's rush to re-open schools has been met with push-back from organized labor, the mayor included a link to a petition to safely re-open schools (ipetitions.com/petition/safely-re-open-our-schools).

So far the petition has garnered more than 3,200 signatures as of late afternoon, Wednesday, Feb. 24.

LETTER Pandemic provides risks to teachers

Dear Editor,

My name is Wendy and I've been a teacher for 15 years. I am a first generation college graduate from a farm working family from the Salinas Valley.

No one wants to be back in the classroom more than educators. I want to welcome every one of my students back to my classrooms in a way that keeps everyone safe: students, their families and staff.

Unfortunately the school I work at is one of the oldest in my district and suffers from horrible ventilation and is in a zip code where the COVID cases are high.

As California continues to struggle to control the pandemic, which is still impacting many communities disproportionately, a phased-in approach that responds to local conditions and transmission rates has to be part of a responsible return to in-person instruction.

Any path to bringing students back to campuses will require implementing multi-layered mitigation strategies that consider community conditions and include robust cleaning and updated ventilation systems, asymptomatic testing of students and school employees, six-foot social distancing and enforcement.

To reopen schools for in-person instruction, the state must ensure all employees required to report in person have been provided the opportunity to be vaccinated before students return to campus. The vaccine distribution should prioritize educators in schools already open and schools in communities with high transmission rates.

We must take a comprehensive and data-driven approach to reopening schools that includes addressing community spread. After all, no matter how safe of a bubble we put around our schools, the students and staff inside go home at the end of the day. If mitigation efforts are inadequate in the community, the risk of it being brought back to school increases significantly.

Wendy Cruz-Alcantar
San Jose

San Jose to build innovative homeless housing apartments

New community to revive Guadalupe River Park

Mayor Sam Liccardo has introduced an innovative approach to building interim housing at 1/5 of the cost and 1/10 of the time of regular apartment developments.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the City has constructed three emergency interim housing communities that will serve more than 300 previously unhoused San Joseans.

San Jose has been expanding programs that provide a work-first approach to self-sufficiency for unhoused residents through its San Jose Bridge initiative which has shown early success in getting unhoused residents jobs and permanent housing.

The newest proposed community would be located in San Jose Police Departments' overflow parking lot, a short walk from Guadalupe River Park, and could enlist future residents of the site to act as stewards of the park.

Mayor Liccardo released the following statement:

"We have an opportunity to bring these successful approaches to Guadalupe River Park, where we will build a housing community for unhoused residents, including a corps of stewards who will revive the park by repairing, cleaning, and beautifying it. Peter and Susanna Pau have generously donated more than \$3 million in prefabricated housing for the project, and we are actively fundraising from other partners. I hope that our collective efforts will demonstrate to our community, and many others, how our unhoused neighbors--too often pointed at as 'the problem'-- can be active participants in the 'solution'."

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Times **Community News**

Blue Shield to oversee California's vaccine rollout

Program is run 'at cost' making zero profits for Blue Shield

By William Bellou
Publisher

Blue Shield California has set a lofty goal of getting 3 million people per week inoculated against COVID-19 starting next month under a contract that gives it control over the state's vaccine rollout.

The health plan provider released a 55-page contract last week following Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent announcement that the Oakland-based nonprofit health insurance giant would take over the administration of vaccines.

Until now, counties allocated vaccine doses to hospitals, medical centers and other sites as they saw fit. Blue Shield will take that responsibility through Dec. 31, 2021.

Here are the key points to the contract:

1. Blue Shield to choose which health care providers will give the shots. The company promised to distribute the vaccine with "a focus on equity" and an eye on the communities hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic.
2. By April 30, Blue Shield's goal is to vaccinate 4 million Californians per week, or 1 million more per week than it hopes to inoculate starting March 1. The state has administered about 6 million vaccines total so far, according to Newsom's tweet on Monday.
3. Providers are to give 95% of the vaccine



Blue Shield, a nonprofit health insurer, was founded in San Francisco 78 years ago.
(Steve Rhodes/Flickr)

doses within a week of receiving them and to make them available to most people within an hour distance in rural areas and 30 minutes in urban areas. For those who are homebound or cannot travel to get a shot for health reasons, Blue Shield must find a way to get the vaccine to them.

4. The state will set monthly goals for vaccinating a certain number of people in communities most vulnerable to COVID-19 or deemed by the state to be under-resourced. For example, Blue Shield must have administered vaccines to at least 60% of disproportionately impacted populations by the end of March and at least 50% to people living in communities ranked in the bottom 25% of the Healthy Places Index.

5. Blue Shield must report to the state every day where there are low-performing vaccine providers or where COVID-19 rates spike.

6. Blue Shield cannot bill the state more than \$15 million during the contract's term and has to run the program at cost, making zero profits.



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Times **Feature**

San Jose police chief finalists talk racial equity, biased policing and use of force

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Seven law enforcement leaders vying to be San Jose's next police chief Saturday, Feb. 13 answered questions from residents about everything from racial equity to biased policing and use of force.

The virtual forum was facilitated by Gary Peterson, who led the recruitment process. He picked a handful of questions from more than 500 submitted through an online survey.

The forum was delayed twice after the city received questions, including from San José Spotlight, about why no external candidates were being considered. The additional time allowed the city to include Justin Doll and Larry Sciroto, two outside candidates, in the finalist pool.

Five of the candidates are either current or former officers with the SJPD, with four of them still with the department: Deputy Chief of Police Anthony Mata, Deputy Chief of Police Heather Randol, Police Captain Jason Ta and Acting Police Chief David Tindall. Jeremy Bowers became Piedmont chief of police in 2016 after a career with the SJPD that began in 1996.

Doll is the chief of police in Anchorage, and Sciroto a retired assistant chief from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Police Department.

Four of the seven candidates are people of color, and Randol is the only woman candidate.

The city is looking to replace former Police Chief Eddie Garcia who retired in December. The selection of a new chief comes after much turmoil for the San Jose Police Department, including racist Facebook posts, excessive force complaints and officers targeting and taunting peaceful protesters.

Racial equity

The forum opened with each candidate explaining how they'll address racial equity and systemic racism in policing. They all agreed that law enforcement has a role in promoting equity, and vowed to work to reverse the culture in the department. They also pledged to create more racial bias training to ensure all residents are treated equally.

Mata pledged to work with groups, such as SOMOS Mayfair and Silicon Valley De-Bug, as he's been doing as Deputy Chief.

"Through these partnerships, I have been able to identify barriers and limitations and made the necessary changes to policy and procedures so that we provide just and equitable services," Mata said.

Randol, the first woman to lead the SJPD detectives bureau, said acknowledging bias exists in the brass is the first step.

"We have addressed crime without considering the wider impacts it has on communities," she said. "And that's something we have to look at and consider. We, the police department, can no longer ignore our role in contributing to this current situation."

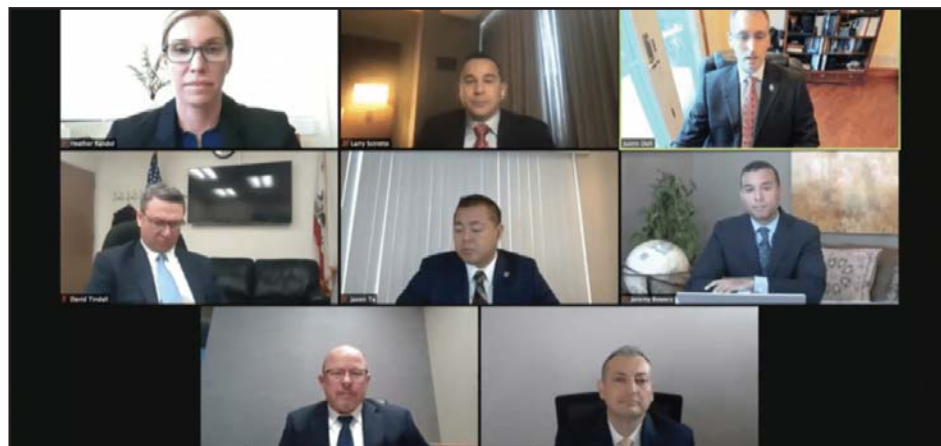
Sciroto agreed, saying that some officers might not be familiar with how some police

policies originated in the Jim Crow era. "But community members are very aware of how they've been treated and have a lived experience in that environment and that level of trust is diminished because of it," he said.

Quality-of-life crimes

The candidates agreed on the importance of working with mental health professionals to deescalate crisis situations and promised to incorporate technology in policing.

See CANDIDATES, page 9



The seven candidates for next Chief of Police along with facilitator Gary Peterson. Photo by Lloyd Alaban.



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Times **Community News**

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The author, **Senait Mesfin Piccigallo**, is pictured in Kenya processing her visa to come to the U.S. in 2007.

Enchanting book helps newcomers navigate 'American Dream'

'You're in America – Now What? 7 skills to integrate with ease and joy'

By **Kevin Larsen**
Contributing writer

Her name is Senait Mesfin Piccigallo and she has traveled and volunteered in many countries to help the less fortunate.

With her life experiences she carefully crafted words to help guide new immigrants acquiring skills and understanding of the American culture.

If you know of any person new to America or who is planning to visit a foreign country, this helpful book will be a good friend for them to take along on their journey.

Author Senait Mesfin Piccigallo states, "This book talks about the skills needed for one access and navigate all the complexities of this ever-changing culture and how to sharpen up their existing skills while acquiring new ones that will help them not only survive, but thrive in the U.S.A. culture."

The author continues, "Moving to a new country and integrating into a new culture has always been challenging, even under the best conditions. New immigrants need to learn English quickly, so they can communicate, look for a job and housing, and to be able to settle down. However, the need to master a tremendous range of skills from communication to building a support system from scratch along with any confidence issues can be challenging, especially while figuring out the norms and values of the U.S. culture."

Piccigallo explains that rebuilding your life from scratch can be a lonely endeavor; one that may force new immigrants to make difficult decisions every day with limited information.

"While sorting through these challenges, eventually, every new immigrant runs

headfirst into a problem they haven't encountered before; the kind that leaves them unsure of where to start," Piccigallo said. "Luckily, there are many agencies who point us toward services available, like how to go about finding a job, where to go to apply for housing, which classes to attend to improve English, and mental health services. I have received the advantage of some of those services; however, I have yet to find a place to learn how to build a support system and what one needs to acquire to build one's confidence, handle racism, and in navigating the vast ocean of cultural diversity."

The 'Seven Skills'

Senait Mesfin Piccigallo shares about one of the seven empowering skills which she explores in her book aimed at helping any newcomer to America.

She states, "One of the skill sets I talk about in my book is self-confidence: how to nurture, build, and keep self-confidence in your new country. Most people think either you are born confident or you are not, which is far from the truth. Self-confidence is a skill that is important for anyone who wants to succeed in life, but it is vital when it comes to building your life here in the U.S. from scratch. Because without it, you cannot even think about achieving the dreams you brought with you, let alone achieve them, especially at this time of crisis with the pandemic, magnified racism, and life circumstances that weigh you down."

"How can you stay confident within yourself to tackle the hard life you meet every day while looking forward to a bright future where your American Dream is possible and at the same time try to culturally integrate? How can you feel confident when you meet Xenophobic people who tell you to go back to your country? How can you feel confident when people discriminate against you because of the color

See **PICCIGALLO**, page 20

Candidates

Continued from page 7

“We know that not every call requires a police response,” Mata said. “This is one way to create efficiency.”

Bowers meanwhile said reducing response times would mean quality-of-life crimes, such as car break-ins, can be stopped. “I would convene a workgroup to get together to ... look at our responsiveness,” Bowers said. “Looking at our priority dispatching, the capability of it and its performance.”

Accountability and discipline

The candidates said they’re aware of public outcry following the perceived lack of discipline for officers who have been accused of police brutality in other cities. They also wanted to ensure that officers are able to speak out against discriminatory behavior from their fellow officers without the fear of retaliation.

Randol and Mata would ensure officers have an easy way to report fellow officers should they overstep their role. Ta wanted to prioritize disciplinary issues when they come up and resolve them in a “timely” and thorough way. Scirotto recalled a time when he had to reprimand an officer who bullied a teen, promising to do the same if an SJPD officer was caught abusing his power.

“There is a difference between making a mistake of the mind and a mistake of the heart,” said Scirotto. “We took action to set an example for what is right and just that no officer is ever going to be above and beyond the profession and that immoral, unethical, unlawful behavior will be punished severely.”

Tindall wanted to ensure that no bad actors will be employed by the SJPD.

“Instances like George Floyd’s murder have marred the public’s trust in us. But I will continue to push for changes in arbitration so we can get transparency and accountability,” Tindall said.

Improving relations between the community and police

Peterson asked many questions about how the police engage with the public and build bridges between residents and the police. One idea included using multilingual officers for outreach.

“There’s no secret recipe to connect with marginalized communities,” Ta said. “But if you don’t have these connections, these conversations, you’ll never improve these problems you see with ineffective communication.”

The city’s new police chief will take the helm of a department that has been criticized in recent months after its handling of San Jose’s George Floyd-related protest in May. “Every single time any member of the police department... has a contact with a member of the community, that is an engagement and relationship-building opportunity,” said Doll. “It’s really incumbent upon the chief to set that tone for him or herself, but also all the way down through the entire organization.”

Recruitment and retention

Officials have lamented in recent weeks that the number of police officers are dwindling. Candidates pledged to encourage more San Joseans to apply to become

cops and push to recruit officers from different racial, religious and economic backgrounds.

Ta said the department must do more to hire mid-to high-level officers of color.

Tindall said he would convene a work-group working with the city’s Office of Racial Equity. Sciotto said he was proud of hiring diverse officers in Pittsburgh, including the department’s first transgender officers.

Next steps

Earlier this week, police leaders announced exploring the use of “less lethal” weapons in place of guns. Still, some say more needs to be done.

“The protests reflect mass imprison-

Officials have lamented in recent weeks that the number of police officers are dwindling. Candidates pledged to encourage more San Joseans to apply to become cops and push to recruit officers from different racial, religious and economic backgrounds.

ment and other structural problems, so changing one institution isn’t going to be enough,” Paul Knepper, chair of the Department of Justice Studies at San Jose State University, told San José Spotlight. “Making change happen on the scale we need to deal with will require all of us collaborating in ways we really haven’t done before.”

City Manager Dave Sykes announced the candidates will be interviewed by several community organizations and city officials in the coming weeks. The Chief will be selected in mid-March.

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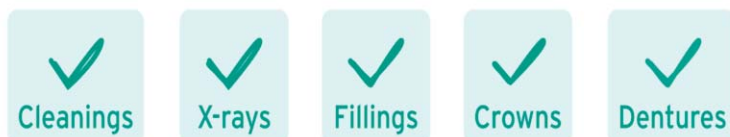
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Elizabeth Jane Teresi

Mar. 18, 1929 - Jan. 27, 2021
65-year resident of Willow Glen

Elizabeth "Betty" Teresi passed away peacefully at Good Samaritan Hospital on January 27th with her family by her side. Betty was born in San Jose, California to Frank E. Panella and Mary E. (Dorsa) Panella. She attended Sacred Heart School and graduated from Notre Dame Catholic High School in 1947.

She met her lifelong love and husband, Daniel Thomas Teresi, in 1946 at a family wedding, and the two were married in 1951 at Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph in San Jose. They were blessed to enjoy 69 years of marriage, a tribute to the wonderful life they made together. After they married, they moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming where her husband was stationed in the U.S. Air Force.

Upon leaving the Air Force, the couple moved back to San Jose until 1954 when they relocated to Meridian, California for a year. In 1955, they returned to San Jose and settled in the Willow Glen neighborhood where they raised a family and lived for the next 65 years. Betty lived her life with joy through her family, cooking gourmet meals, and entertaining many friends and family. She also enjoyed going on many cruises with her husband Dan.

Betty is survived by her husband, Dan; her two children: Dennis Teresi, Denise Robertson Barthold (Curtis); four grandchildren: Kyle Robertson (Victoria), Natalie Robertson, Katherine Barthold, and John Barthold; sister-in-law Vivian McGonagle; six nieces and nephews and many more that were an important part of her life. Betty was predeceased by her parents Frank and Mary Panella; siblings Barbara Panella, and Bernard "Buzz" Panella; in laws Thomas and Millie Teresi.

A memorial service will be announced due to Covid-19 restrictions. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Loving Memory of Elizabeth Jane Teresi to the Stanford Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund, designated to Breast Cancer.



at Notre-Dame de Lorette Catholic school, she earned her college degree from the Misericordia School of Nursing in Winnipeg and ventured out west to San Jose, Ca. in the early 1950s in search of the American Dream.

A 45-year resident of Willow Glen, Madeleine worked as a registered nurse at San Jose Hospital, O'Connor Hospital, and after taking a career break to raise her 3 sons, she returned to work at Good Samaritan Hospital. She enjoyed travel, music, dancing, skiing, and cheering for the local sports teams. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She cherished her family and was happiest when surrounded by her loved ones at holiday gatherings, barbecue pool parties and family vacations.

Madeleine is survived by sons Robert, Thomas, and James; daughters-in-law Audrey, Carol and Crystal; grandchildren Michael (Nora), Laura, Kimberly, Jared, and Patrick; great grandchildren Haruki and Reika; and sister Lola Champagne. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years Rudy; parents Joseph and Marie-Ann Jeanson (nee Gregoire); brother Greg; and sisters Paule, Gabrielle, Therese, Jean and Marie.

Madeleine is interned at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery in a private service for family only.

Masako Nishimura

January 9, 1922 - February 24, 2020

Masako "Mako" Nishimura passed away a year ago on February 24, 2020 at the age of 98 years old and is survived by her son Ronnie, nephew Donald, granddaughter Vikki (Jody) and great-granddaughter Kaci. She was preceded in death by her parents, older sister, husband and most recently by her younger sister Misako.

Mako was born in Madera, CA on January 9, 1922 and moved back to Japan for a few years to attend traditional Japanese school. Her father arranged for her to marry Masataro (Lefty) in a traditional Japanese ceremony before the age of 18. Mako moved to San Francisco, but since the marriage wasn't legal, she was detained on Angel Island until someone could claim her as family. Once she turned 18, she and Lefty were legally married in Reno. In 1942, Mako and Lefty were initially sent to an assembly center in Tanforan and then transferred to an internment camp in Topaz, UT. While in camp, Mako worked at a nursery school taking care of preschool kids.

In 1944, their son Ronald was born. When the war ended, she went to work for a former client who offered her and Ronald room and board. About a year later, the family was reunited and Mako continued working as a housekeeper until Ronald was eight years old. For the next 28 years, Mako worked for her friends' Japanese cleaning shop. After they closed, she went to work for the next 20 years at a small wholesale food warehouse.

Mako retired at the age of 85. In
See MEMORY, next page

Madeleine Ricci

December 4, 1927 - January 10, 2021
45-year resident of Willow Glen

Madeleine Ricci passed away peacefully in Livermore, CA on January 10, 2021.

She was born on December 4, 1927 and raised on her family farm in the French speaking small town of Lorette, Manitoba, Canada. After being educated by the nuns



Times In Memory

Memory

Continued from previous page

between these years, Mako and Lefty would spend time helping on weekends at May's Coffee Shop, in Japantown. Lefty passed away in 1992 but Mako continued to live in San Francisco. She loved hanging out with friends, shopping, playing Hollywood Rummy and helping out family friends. After 70 years in San Francisco,

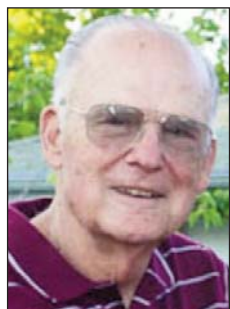
Mako decided to move to San Jose to be closer to her family and spend more time with her great granddaughter. She was always very generous and loved spoiling kids. She lived a long, healthy and hard-working life filled with optimism and no regrets.

Robert Landucci

June 25, 1929 - Feb. 2, 2021

Robert (Bob) Landucci, age 91, passed away peacefully in his home in San Jose, on February 2, 2021. He was preceded in death by Virginia, his wife of 64 years. He is survived by his son, Bob Landucci Jr. and his daughter, Diane Glueck. Bob has 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Bob loved com-



petitive sports beginning early in his life when he was a quarterback for both Belarmine and San Jose High. He was a proud veteran who served in the Army in the Korean War. Following his service, Bob spent his career as a dedicated worker for Laura Scudder's potato chip company. Bob enjoyed watching football and basketball games. He was a 49er faithful and a true Warriors fan, who never was without his Warriors cap on.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Grace Hospice and all the caregivers that took care of Bob.

A small and intimate celebration of life will be held on March 19, 2021 at 11 AM at Willow Glen Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in Bob's name at act.alz.org.



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Times **Community News**

Piccigallo

Continued from page 2

of your skin or because of the way you look or because of your gender? How can you stay confident with limited language skills while trying to communicate your needs?

How can you stay confident when you are talking to people who seem to know a lot about everything, and you feel like you have a lot to learn? Life happens to new immigrants as it happens to everyone, but it does not give us a break saying, 'Oh, wait, you are busy building your life from scratch and integrating to your new home, so I am going to give you a break.' No, while you are busy building your life, it continues to happen, divorce, birth of a child, death in your family, COVID-19, riots, etc. Immigrants are constantly faced with challenges more than the average person and are constantly meeting circumstances that make them feel less confident."

"My book addresses all these questions that we face as new immigrants and gives tools on how to build and keep our self-confidence despite the circumstances and achieve our American dreams," Piccigallo said.

Author's intensive research creates new approaches

The author has interviewed immigrants who have integrated to the U.S. culture successfully and those who struggled, for 13 years she has lived in the US.

The research approaches of: 1. in-depth interviews, 2. focus groups, 3. participant observation, and 4. survey questions have been incorporated into the book.

"This is the book I needed when I moved to the US, and it's the book many of my clients, whom I have coached throughout the years, needed when they moved here – the same skills that would help anyone planning to move to a different country," states Piccigallo.

Americans can say 'Hello how are you' and walk away

In sharing a humorous situation that many newly arrived immigrants experience, Mesfin Piccigallo states, "One of my



Author **Senait Mesfin Piccigallo** and her book "Now What? 7 Skills to Integrate with Ease & Joy."

cultural shocks when I moved was how people say, 'Hello, how are you?' and you are prepared to tell them how you are, but the other person has already moved on. For most people, 'how are you' is just a formality, and they don't really expect the person to tell them, 'How are you? I am fine, thank you,' is all they want to hear. I find it funny when people don't know how to handle it if you in fact start telling them how you are, which happened to me a lot when I first



moved to America. Now that I am more culturally aware, when a person asks me how I am, I answer, "Do you want the longer version or the shorter version?" Most of the time, people will feel puzzled and ask me, "What do you mean by that?" and I share what 'How are you' means in my culture and what I understand it means in this culture which can be a wonderful conversation starter, leading to an understanding of cultural values.



Piccigallo's attends her graduation ceremony from Asmara University in Eritrea with her mom and university friends. in 2001.

Praise from others on the book

Professor Yonas B. Keleta, PhD states, "I wish I had this kind of resource before moving to the U.S. to make my cultural integration a lot smoother. I have never seen or read a book that is so well written and well thought out to make the life of an immigrant simpler! I highly recommend immigrants from all corners of the world to use it as a reference to make the process of their cultural integration a lot easier and joyful! The author walks you through many essential topics that the immigrant needs to know to make their life journey more successful, to make your cultural integration process easier in a foreign society."

A gift for 'new arrivals'

The author has written a very important book to help those coming to America and also for those going to live in another country in our world. This would be a wonderful gift to hand to anyone we know who is a new arrival or those who have been in the US for some time but still struggle in achieving their dreams and feel stuck. In the future, Piccigallo is planning to translate the book into many languages.

The author states, "It's very natural when you first move to any new place to stick to what you know. To engage only with people who speak your language, who are from your own religious group, and people who you feel comfortable with. However, eventually, it's important for you to make an effort to step outside of your community and have friends from other cultures and learn to appreciate their uniqueness. Put aside your judgment and work on culturally integrating fully to this colorful and beautiful country that we call home while you are introducing your values and ways of belief. After all, we teach others best by being an example. Be confident and proud of being an Immigrant, and bring your beautiful beliefs, ideas, culture, and most of all, those delicious cuisines from your country of origin."

Editor's Note: To pre-order the book, visit bit.ly/3u5yFzO. For more information, visit anchoringthenewyou.com or follow Piccigallo on Facebook at bit.ly/2M1i6E0.

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Times **Community News**

**San Jose Youth Symphony
to hold general auditions
for 2021-22 Season**

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) will be holding its annual general auditions for the 2021-2022 Season during the first two weeks of April.

The auditions will be held on two consecutive Thursday, Friday afternoons and all day on two Saturdays (April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17, 2021).

All student musicians are welcome, ages 8 and up, who play orchestral instruments (woodwinds, brass, percussion & strings) or who are interested in performing jazz.

Students who participate in their high school marching bands are also welcome to audition.

To submit an audition application, visit: www.sjys.org to join one of SJYS's 12 orchestras and instrumental ensembles.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2021.

About the San Jose Youth Symphony

The San Jose Youth Symphony is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the US. Founded 69 years ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.

SJYS member musicians, of ages 8 to 20, are selected from more than 650 applicants through our annual spring General Auditions. SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras; a chamber orchestra; two flute choirs; concert winds, saxophone, percussion, jazz and harp ensembles; and

two string ensembles. Each group rehearses weekly from September to May or early June and performs a scheduled series of concerts each season. In addition, member musicians participate in a weeklong summer camp and receive special coaching and participate in masterclasses from professional and renowned musicians in the Bay Area.

The premier group of SJYS is its Philharmonic Orchestra, led by SJYS Music Director and Conductor, Yair Samet. The orchestra performs its season subscription concerts at the historic and beautiful, California Theatre, in downtown San Jose, as well as in its annual Season of Hope Concerts in December at Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, now an over-25-year-long tradition. The orchestra also travels biannually on its International Concert Tours, and have performed in renowned concert halls in Japan, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Croatia, and more.

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San Jose Mayor urges San Joséans to get COVID vaccine

Leaders seek volunteers for outreach to underserved communities

Mayor Sam Liccardo was joined by Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and Gardner Health Services' CEO Reymundo Espinoza, to call for volunteers to support vaccine outreach on Feb. 18.

Liccardo is encouraging underserved communities to make appointments for vaccinations, as those communities continue to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

"Vaccination provides the only viable route for us to get to the other side of this pandemic, and we can all play a role in helping our community get access to safe and effective vaccines," said Mayor Liccardo. "Anyone willing to help us engage in outreach, staff vaccination centers, or offer other volunteer assistance can sign up through our SiliconValleyStrong.org website."

San José's most vulnerable residents continue to be disproportionately affected by the virus, with higher infection rates than affluent areas. Out of 45,483 Latino seniors, only 12,072 have been vaccinated, or almost 26 percent, compared to 60 percent

of white seniors. These vaccines are extremely safe and effective and are available at several sites across the city, including some without appointments.

"There is no cookie-cutter approach when trying to vaccinate a population as economically and culturally diverse as we have in Santa Clara County," said Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez. "We must have mass vaccination centers in large urban areas hard hit by coronavirus and we must go directly to the residents of diverse, disproportionately COVID-infected communities with pop-up vaccinations tents and mobile units. We need trained volunteers to do all of this vaccination work because the execution of the vaccine programs is critical to getting the job done."

The following are available vaccination clinics in San Jose:

- Public Health Story Road Hub - 1775 Story Road, San Jose, 95122
- Wednesday/Thursday/Friday: Sign-ups start at 9:30 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis, No advance appointments
- Mexican Heritage Plaza - 1700 Alum Rock Ave., San Jose, 95116
- Open Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: Sign-ups start at 9 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis, Vaccinations given from 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., No advance appointments



ments

The following sites are available for vaccination by appointment only, to schedule, visit sccfreevax.org.

- Valley Health Center Tully - 500 Tully Rd. SJ
- Santa Clara Fairgrounds - 2542 Monterey Highway, Gate D, SJ, 95111
- Berger Auditorium - 1555 Berger Drive, SJ, 95112
- Valley Health Center - 751 S Bascom Ave Bldg Q, SJ, CA 95128
- Valley Health Center- East Valley - 1993 McKee Rd, SJ, CA 95133

Residents interested in volunteering can sign up at www.siliconvalleystrong.org.

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