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DECEMBER 2021 ■ VOL. 17, NO. 12

# Willow Glen Times

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## San Jose Police investigating Willow Glen traffic fatality

San Jose Police officers responded to the area of the 1500 block of Hillsdale Ave. at Jarvis Ave. in Willow Glen to investigate a solo vehicle traffic collision.

Officials reported that a 1997 Chevrolet truck was traveling eastbound on Hillsdale Avenue when it left the roadway and collided with a tree on the south curb line of Hillsdale Avenue.

The lone driver/occupant of the vehicle was pronounced deceased at the scene. Investigators are investigating the cause of the truck veering off the roadway.

This is the 51st fatal collision and the 53rd victim of 2021.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Aldinger #4183 of the San José Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

Submit crime tips and remain anonymous by using the P3TIPS mobile app, calling the tip line at (408) 947-STOP, or on www.svcrimestoppers.org. If the information you submit leads to an arrest, you are eligible for a cash reward from the Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers Program.

## Downtown Willow Glen stores and eateries re-emerging despite Covid-19

San Jose's downtown Willow Glen springs back for the holidays

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy San José Spotlight

The quaint character of downtown Willow Glen stores and eateries is re-emerging, even though the COVID-19 pandemic hit businesses hard.

In the past weeks, tree-lined Lincoln Avenue, between Minnesota Avenue and Willow Street, saw foot traffic increase as customers wandered into retail boutiques like Bella James, to paint pottery at Petroglyph or shop for gifts and lunch with family.

With those encouraging signs, the Willow Glen Business Association plans to pull out all the stops this holiday season to lure business back.

The local business association—established in the 1930s—plans to host a Small Business Saturday on Nov. 27 to help buoy the economy. This will be followed with a Holiday Bubbly Walk on Dec. 4, which



SusieCakes Manager **Rebecca Berroteran** presents customer **Ursula Carrasco** with a cupcake. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

helps residents discover Willow Glen establishments while sampling champagne and enjoying lunch with friends in town beforehand.

"We're excited about the response to the Bubbly Walk and anticipate about 1,000 people attending," said Willow Glen Busi-

ness Association member Kandy Stevens. "The response has been very positive and uplifting."

Throughout December, the association has created a list of holiday events to help businesses get back on their feet. There is the annual Christmas tree lighting on Dec. 2

and a strolling Santa on Lincoln Avenue during the weekends of Dec. 11-12 and Dec. 18-19.

### Willow Glen's unique history

With its charm and variety of restaurants, mom-and-pop stores, crafting studios and gyms, downtown Willow Glen has a unique history. See **DOWNTOWN**, page 12

## Celebrity Chef Joanne Weir to open a rooftop restaurant in Willow Glen

Copita has been named the Best Mexican Restaurant in the Bay Area; Restaurateur expects Copita Tequileria y Comida in Willow Glen to be most vivacious restaurant around

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Copita Tequileria y Comida, the famed Mexican Tequileria in Sausalito, will open a second location now under construction at the northeast corner of Willow Street and Lincoln Avenue in the heart of Willow Glen.

The stunning two-story restaurant site, inspired by the romance of San Miguel Allende, is lovingly brought to life by renowned celebrity chef Joanne Weir and Larry Mindel, the leg-



The new Copita Tequileria y Comida is actually two restaurants in one, employing nearly 100 staff members. The completion of the restaurant is targeted for summer 2022.

endary restaurateur.

Copita has been named the Best Mexican Restaurant in the Bay Area by 7 X 7 Magazine and featured on the cover of San Francisco Magazine as one of the best Mexican restaurants in the Bay Area.

The new Copita Tequileria y Comida is actually two restaurants in one comprising 6,400 square feet employing nearly 100 staff members. The completion of the restaurant is targeted for summer 2022.

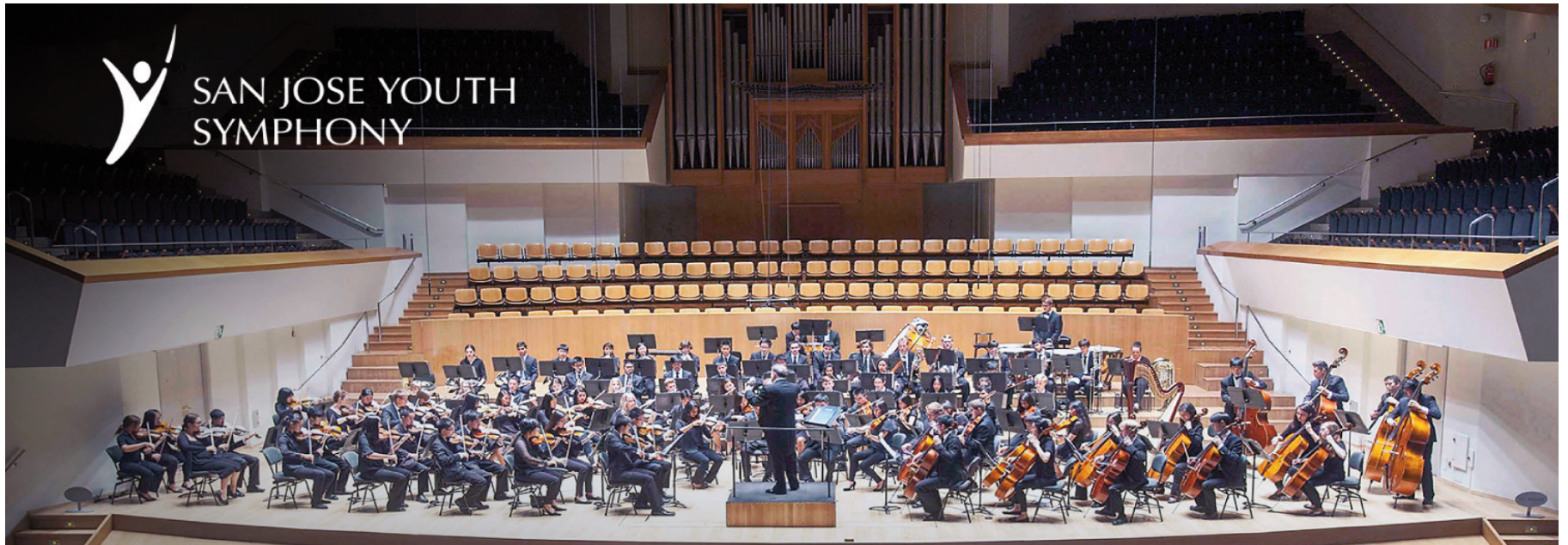
The highlight is the rooftop bar. Overlooking bustling downtown Willow Glen, the second-story terrace provides plenty of intimate seating around small tables and fire pits, places to gather and celebrate while enjoying a variety of small plates and a robust cocktail menu.

Downstairs, diners can savor Copita's modern, sophisticated take on Mexican cuisine in a more traditional, beautifully appointed full-service dining area. Both settings feature plenty of outdoor space to take advantage of the spectacular local weather and to accommodate customer preferences in post-Covid dining.

Copita is famous for its exciting re-imagining of classic Mexican fare—creating the best of See **RESTAURANT**, page 10



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Griffes - Poem for Flute and Orchestra  
Hiob - Symphonic Fantasy, Fathers' Land  
Wieniawski - Polonaise Brillante No. 2 for Violin and Orchestra  
Tchaikovsky - Capriccio Italian

# 12/4

Tickets available now at [sjys.org](http://sjys.org)  
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## JACKIE JONES

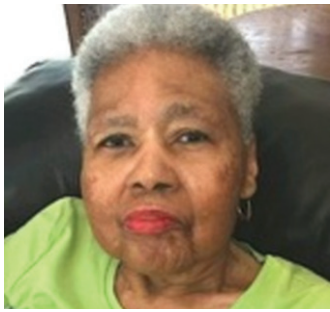
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## IN MEMORY

## Verdis Y. Crockett

Aug. 19, 1934 - Nov. 9, 2021

Former Principal of Willow Glen High School

Verdis Crockett passed away Nov. 9, 2021 at the age of 87.

Born on August 19, 1934, in Kansas City, MO, Verdis graduated in 1956 from the University of Kansas.

Crockett moved to San Jose in the early '60s with her husband, and became a well-respected educator. She taught at Roosevelt Junior High and later became Vice Principal and Principal of Willow Glen High School, making her one of the first Black school administrators in San Jose.

A devoted wife and mother, Verdis cherished spending time with her beloved family. Verdis was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Wilbert O. Crockett. She is survived by and will forever be in the hearts of her son, Roger O. Crockett, and his wife, Gail T. Crockett; her daughter, Jennifer M. Crockett, and her wife, Holly Anderson Crockett. She is also survived by several cousins and many loving friends.

A memorial will be held in honor of Verdis' life on Dec 2 in San Jose. For details and to RSVP visit the website [www.wocrockett.com](http://www.wocrockett.com). You may make donations in Verdis' name to the Alzheimer's Association. (Visit the website <https://bit.ly/3DnevWb>)

## Willow Glen Times

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## Valley Currents

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

## Italian Heritage Foundation presents 33rd World of Italian Opera, dinner and holiday boutique December 3

The Italian Heritage Foundation is presenting the 33rd *World of Italian Opera* 12 noon, Thursday, Dec. 3 in San Jose.

The event includes dinner (a box dinner prepared by Tony and Alba's Restaurant), a special artisan boutique, and this year a special tribute to former President of The Board of Opera San Jose, Frank Fiscalini.

Fiscalini was former Vice Mayor of San Jose and Superintendent of Schools for the East Side Union School District. He has always been a proud booster of opera San Jose and his leadership in the early days of the opera company



helped make it the national institution it is today. The Opera in the Schools Program is still a vital part of the company's vision.

All Covid safety precautions and guidelines set forth by the county of Santa Clara and city of

San Jose will be followed.

To make your reservations for the Italian operatic repertoire and holiday music, visit: [www.IAHFSJ.org](http://www.IAHFSJ.org) or reservation by calling our office at 408-293-7122..

## San Jose business owners fear being displaced from historic Willow Glen District

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

**D**ozens of Spanish-speaking businesses in the bullseye of rezoning on Willow Street rallied to force the city to rethink its position.

Other business districts may not be so lucky. San Jose officials are exploring land-use changes to four business districts: Willow Street, North 13th Street, Willow Glen and Taylor Street in Japantown. The city wants to redesign ethnically diverse business communities with multi-story apartments. This requires rezoning commercial neighborhoods to include residential construction.

Most of the businesses along Willow Street between Highway 87 and South First Street, known as Calle Willow to the locals, are Latino-speaking and lower-income. Residents worry the change in zoning will bring more expensive apartments, which will cause rents to rise and family businesses to be displaced or close.

"Right now this community is like a small city of Latino culture," Miriam Raigoza, owner of Unlimited Barber Shop, told San José Spotlight through a Spanish interpreter. "The culture could change with this policy."

Community organizers, business owners and nonprofits such as Sacred Heart Community

Service rallied Wednesday along Calle Willow with signs asking supporters to save the neighborhood from being rezoned. Signs in Spanish urged the city to remove the neighborhood from the plans.

"There's a lot of concern about driving out low-income people who are already here, and also losing out on the cultural flavor of the neighborhood," Brett Bymaster, executive director of Healing Grove Health Center, told San José Spotlight. The center sits just blocks from Calle Willow.

Bymaster pointed to an apartment building called The Neo, located at 975 S. First Street. "It's expensive and those units haven't been filled," he said.

Willow Street is one example of how rezoning diverse neighborhood pockets could change the face of the city. Community meetings were held at Willow Street, North 13th Street, Lincoln Avenue and Taylor Street, where residents and city officials offered different solutions for the maximum number of homes in each neighborhood.

Officials recommended the San Jose Planning Commission remove Calle Willow from consideration of any changes to its zoning after hearing from residents. The commission will vote on recommendations for each of the districts Nov. 10.

City officials are looking at the business dis-



Residents speak at a rally in support of Calle Willow business owners on Nov. 3. Photo courtesy of Omar Torres.

tricts along the north side of Taylor Street, and Willow Glen—along Lincoln Avenue between Coe and Minnesota avenues—to rezone and add between 50 to 65 housing units depending on lot size.

Calle Willow and the surrounding Guadalupe-Washington neighborhood have seen rapid change in the past few years as more tech workers move into the city.

The neighborhood's latest struggle with the influx of tech workers saw the impending painting over of a mural depicting Latino culture. The new owner of the building where the mural is painted wants to fill it with tech workers.

Some displacement could already be happening, according to some business owners. Maria Mendoza, owner of El Aguaje Agua Purificada located at 218 Willow Street, sells purified water. The building is in the process of being sold to another owner, which could mean higher rents.

"Please think of the community, the low-income community that lives here," Mendoza told San José Spotlight in Spanish through an interpreter. "This policy will not only affect small business owners, but people living around here. Rents will be high."

Contact Lloyd Alaban at [lloyd@sanjosespotlight.com](mailto:lloyd@sanjosespotlight.com) or follow @lloydalaban on Twitter.



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Times **Local News**



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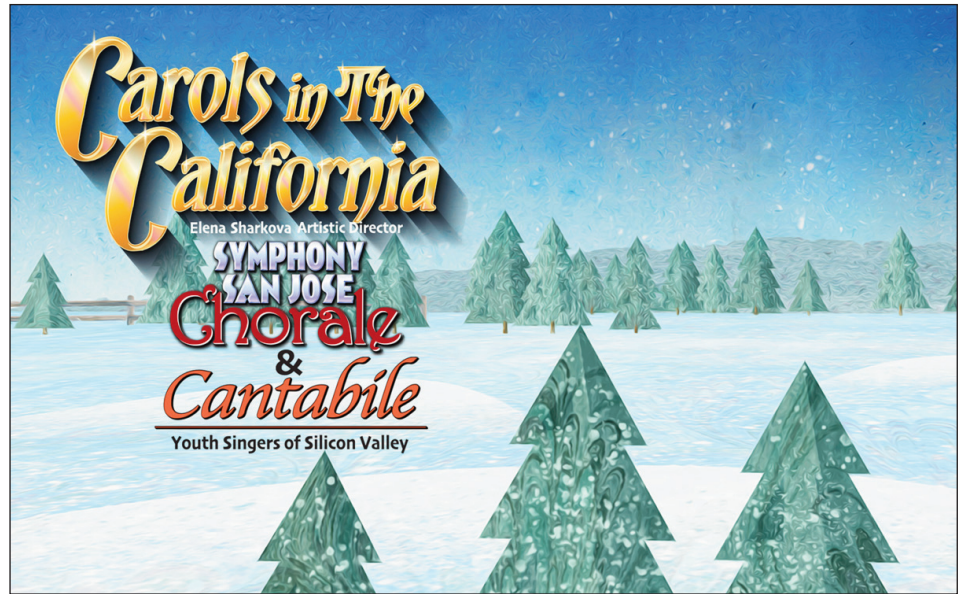


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**Symphony San Jose Chorale Presents 'Carols In The California' Saturday, Dec 14 In San Jose**

*14th Annual Family Tradition Returns for One Night Only*

**A** Family Holiday Tradition returns! The Symphony San Jose Chorale under the baton of Elena Sharkova presents the 14th Annual "Carols in the California", an exciting and festive program of holiday cheer. Come for a traditional sing-along of your favorite carols with choir and brass ensemble and prepare to be dazzled by performances of classical works by members of Symphony San Jose and the SSJ

Chorale all in the warm glow of the beautifully restored California Theatre.

And while downtown, enjoy Christmas in the Park, The Holiday Ice Rink Under the Palms, and Winter Wonderland rides and games just two blocks from the theater. San Jose comes alive with the Holiday Season, with activities and memories for the entire family! All-day parking is available for just \$5 at the city-owned garage on Second and San Carlos Streets.

**WHO:** Symphony San Jose Chorale  
 See *CHORALE*, page 8

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Times **Local News**

# San Jose destiny coach films his eBook in space ahead of Russian movie crew's arrival

## Out of this world event

By **William Bellou**  
Publisher

A new eBook is launched into outer space, a first in publishing history.

San Jose native Michael-John Toste sent his first new autobiography into space, which was filmed on board the ISS during its 3-million-mile mission.

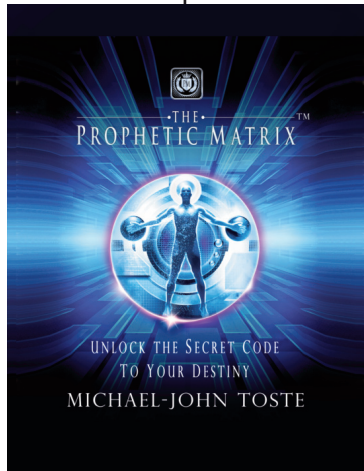
His revolutionary book, *"The Prophetic Matrix: Unlock the Secret Code to Your Destiny"* fulfilled its own destiny while traveling in the International Space Station's Destiny Module.

Last month, a Russian film crew made headlines by beating Tom Cruise in the race to shoot the first movie in space. Then William Shatner of Star Trek fame recently became a passenger on board Blue Origin's *New Shepherd* starship. Prior to that, however, in a ground-breaking first-ever event, rock star turned author Michael-John Toste's *"The Prophetic Matrix: Unlock The Secret Code To Your Destiny"* became the first commercial literary work in the history of publishing to debut in outer space prior to its global release on Earth.

A digital version of the book was transmitted to the Destiny module of NASA's International Space Station and filmed on a monitor for its interplanetary visual premiere while orbiting the world at approximately 17,500 miles per hour. The nonfiction title traveled over three million miles by the end of its tour in space.

This historic space age release comes amidst a modern-day renaissance of space travel, with Elon Musk of SpaceX, Jeff Bezos of Blue Origin and Richard Branson of Virgin Galactic: all racing to explore the stars. "I'm excited to become a member of an elite group of space pioneers in the 21st Century," says Toste. "This opens a broad door of opportunities for future publications to send their titles to spacecraft filled with celestial travelers touring the stars."

After accomplishing its mission in space, *"The Prophetic Matrix"* made its terrestrial debut in an official global premiere event at Immanuel College in Adelaide, South Australia. *From Earth to the Heavens: An Interstellar Book Release*, hosted by Immanuel College principal Kevin Richardson, featured time-stamped footage of the book filmed and recorded in the Destiny Module that was projected on



a large screen for a group of collegiate space enthusiasts. The students in attendance received an honorary certificate documenting the historic ceremony and a commemorative *The Prophetic Matrix: Making Space History in 2021* medallion to mark the occasion.

*"The Prophetic Matrix: Unlock The Secret Code To Your Destiny,"* the first book of The Prophetic Matrix trilogy, chronicles Michael-John Toste's rock star life as the lead vocalist of the concept rock group, the All Sports Band, and the life lessons he learned on his tour de force odyssey exploring the entertainment industry. It also offers greater understanding of how to face the challenges and circumstances of life and discover answers regarding how to unlock the secret code to your destiny. "The fact that the book made its debut on the Destiny module of ISS is serendipitous," says Toste. "In this aspect, it is fulfilling its own destiny."

*"The Prophetic Matrix: Unlock The Secret Code To Your Destiny"* is now officially available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Target.

To view the historic film footage of *"The Prophetic Matrix's"* interstellar debut on the International Space Station, you can visit [www.PMLaunch.Space](http://www.PMLaunch.Space).

### About Michael-John

Michael-John Toste is a musician, author and an International Destiny Coach who lives in San Jose's Willow Glen district. He was previously the lead vocalist of the concept rock group, the All Sports Band, who achieved chart success throughout the 1980s, including two Billboard Hot 100 hits in the US and a top 20 hit in Germany. With appearances on MTV, Solid Gold, Nickelodeon, and American Bandstand, the All Sports Band was voted the third most popular group in America. Toste's upcoming album *Phenomenon* features Grammy award winners including Deniece Williams, Bobby Kimball of Toto, and Larry Dunn of Earth, Wind & Fire. Toste hosts a weekly, hour-long radio program called, "Your Day of Destiny," and has released his debut book, *"The Prophetic Matrix: Unlock The Secret Code To Your Destiny."*

For more information about Michael-John Toste and his upcoming ventures, visit [www.PMLaunch.Space](http://www.PMLaunch.Space), [www.ThePropheticMatrix.com](http://www.ThePropheticMatrix.com) or [www.Michael-JohnMusic.com](http://www.Michael-JohnMusic.com).



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Holiday Unguided Tours & Boutique:

**Thurs-Sun 11am-3pm**

Photos with Santa:

**Dec 4, 9am-12pm**

Holiday Champagne Lunch Teas:

**Dec 2-5/ Dec 9-12, 12pm-2pm**

Holiday Evening Open Houses and Boutique:

**Dec 16 & 19, 5:30pm-8pm**

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### Safe At Home

Safe at Home program addresses home repair and maintenance issues that may otherwise present a safety risk or that limit access to or within the home.

### Ways to get involved

**Volunteers** Join us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, April 17 & 24, 2021, as an individual volunteer or with your corporate or community group.

**Contractors** We work with contractors that possess CA contractor specialty (Class C) in painting, plumbing, HVAC, roofing or electrical.

**Donate** Sign up to sponsor an upcoming neighbor in need build or donate at [www.rtsv.org](http://www.rtsv.org) today.



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Times **Feature**

**Chorale**

*Continued from page 6*

**WHAT:** "Carols in the California"

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 7pm

**WHERE:** The California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose

**PRICES:** \$36 (\$26 for attendees under 26 years old.)

**BOX OFFICE:** 408.286.2600 or [www.symphonysanjose.org](http://www.symphonysanjose.org)

Or visit the Box Office between 10am and 5pm, Monday through Friday at 325 South First Street in downtown San Jose, between San Carlos and San Salvador Streets just one-half block from the California Theatre. Easy,

inexpensive parking just one block away at San Jose City Garage on San Carlos Street with entrances on 2nd and 3rd Streets.

**ABOUT THE CHORALE**

Symphony San Jose Chorale performs classical masterworks

**ELENA SHARKOVA**



and contemporary music with the symphony, as well as a wide range of pieces, from jazz to liturgical and everything in between. Performances include Movies in Concert, a capella programs, and appearances with smaller instrumental groups in San Jose and peninsula locations throughout the San Francisco Bay area. Maestra Elena Sharkova, who directs the Symphony San Jose Chorale and the Cantabile Youth Singers, is an internationally recognized conductor, lecturer and master teacher.

**ABOUT CHORALE DIRECTOR, ELENA SHARKOVA**

Russian-American conductor Elena Sharkova is recognized nationally and internationally as an inspirational, versatile, and effective conductor, choral clinician, music educator, and lecturer. She has conducted professional, university, youth, and community choirs and orchestras in 17 countries across North America, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. Elena has served as a jury member at numerous national and international music festivals and competitions.

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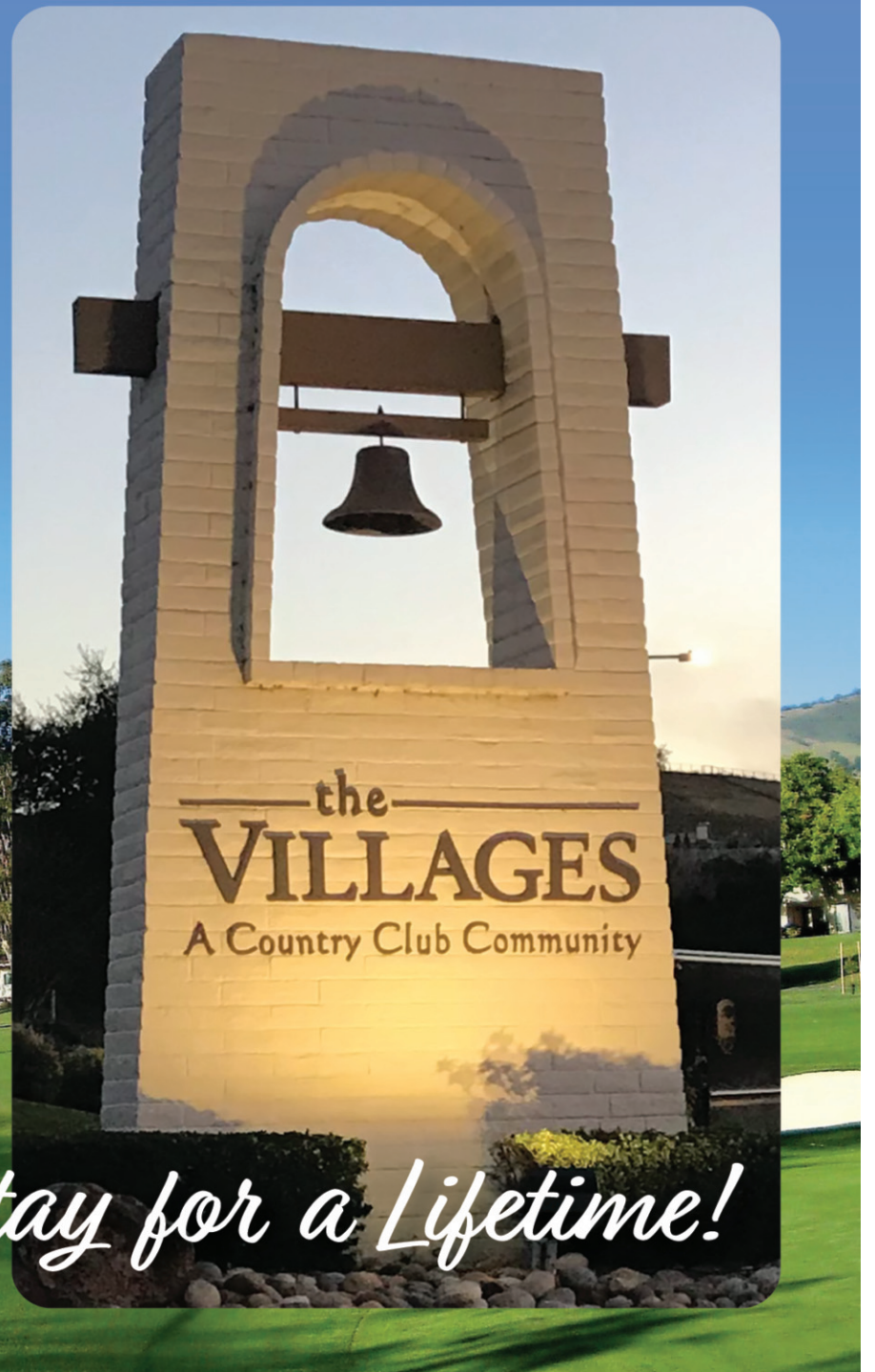
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Times **Feature**



## Italian American Heritage Foundation

Proudly Presents the 33rd Annual

# World of Italian Opera

### Friday, December 3, 2021



*Irene Dalis*  
*Diver, Impassiona, Legend*

How a Metropolitan Opera Star  
Granted America's Unique Opera Company

Join us for a wonderful evening with dinner, selected arias by Opera San Jose, and a boutique where you can purchase handcrafted Christmas gifts.

Join friends of the IAHF and Opera San Jose for this community-wide celebration.

**6:00-7:00 p.m. Boutique and no-host Bar.**  
**7:00 p.m. Holiday Dinner.**  
**8:15 p.m. Performance by Opera San Jose.**

RSVP and/or call (408) 293 7122 or go to our website at [www.IAHFSJ.org](http://www.IAHFSJ.org).

\$50 members; \$55 guests; \$25 students.

*This Program is dedicated to former Vice Mayor Frank Fiscalini, a long-time Board Member of Opera San Jose, for his contribution to the arts in the community.*

Due to pandemic restrictions, we will not have our traditional buffet. Instead, this year's caterer Tony & Alba's Restaurant will prepare pre-selected boxed dinner of either Chicken or Eggplant Parmigiana and Salad. *Dessert will be served during intermission.* IMPORTANT: Both Opera San Jose and the IAHF require proof of Covid-19 vaccination or a 72-hour valid Covid-Test certification. Mask is required, per County guidelines, unless while eating or drinking.

Event co-chairs: Ken Borelli, Jeanne McCann, Kay Virgilio & Tony Zerbo.

RSVP below, call 408.293.7122 or email: [iahfsj6@gmail.com](mailto:iahfsj6@gmail.com)

---

**Payment:** All IAHF events may be paid online at [iahfsj.org](http://iahfsj.org)

( ) Members at \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_; ( ) Non Members at \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_; ( ) Students at \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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List names of people in your party \_\_\_\_\_



## Restaurant

*Continued from page 1*

traditional Mexican preparations and flavors using the most delectable, highest-quality locally sourced produce and proteins.

Every item on the Copita's menu, from the chorizo to the sauces to the tortillas, is hand-made and 100% gluten-free. The seasonal menu features an array of mouth-watering tacos, tangy ceviches, succulent roasted meats, and other dishes, all crafted under the careful eye and exquisite palate of the Maestra de Cocina, Joanne Weir.

While Copita gets accolades for its food, it is also renowned for another reason: its love affair with tequila. In fact, it was a margarita contest between co-owners Weir and restaurateur Larry Mindel that spawned the restaurant in the first place.

"Larry's margarita was very tequila-forward; mine was more balanced," Weir recalls with a smile. Mindel ceded the win to Weir and suggested they open a restaurant together – the result was Copita.

**Chef: Joanne Weir**

While she may be an East Coast native, Chef Joanne Weir, the creative force behind Copita, has also been a Bay Area favorite for

more than 30 years. Whether you know her from "Plates and Places" or any other of her award-winning cooking shows on PBS, her acclaimed cookbooks (she's written nearly two dozen—her first, From Tapas to Meze, was one of Julia Child's favorites; another, Weir Cooking in the City, won a James Beard award) or the many cooking classes she offers here and abroad, you know that Weir's warmth, curiosity, passion for cooking, and most of all, her love of sharing good food, is contagious.

A fourth-generation cook who spent her formative years on her grandparents' farms, Weir was steeped in the locally sourced, organic tradition long before she joined Alice Waters at the famed Chez Panisse in Berkeley. Waters calls Weir "a true purist" who seeks out which ingredients are "the most alive and vibrant" and uses those ingredients "simply and beautifully." It's that vibrancy that makes the original Copita such a stand-out, and what Weir is eager to expand upon at the new location in Willow



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Times **Feature**

Glen. "I may not be steeped in traditional Mexican cooking, but I know flavors," she says. Her mission: clean, fresh flavors with Mexican flair. Weir is also a hands-on manager with a perfectionist's attention to detail. "If I'm going to put my name on this restaurant, I'll be there, tasting every dish that goes on the menu."



**The Restaurateur:  
Larry Mindel**

He may be best known locally for being the powerhouse behind Il Fornaio, MacArthur Park, Poggio and Prego, but restaurateur Larry Mindel has launched dozens of wildly successful establishments over his long career. "I always look for the opportunity to do something a little bit different, but a whole lot better, than the competition," he says.

Copita has a special place in his heart. Launched almost on a lark in 2012, the popularity of the charming little restaurant in Sausalito took off beyond anyone's expectations. It was so successful, in fact, that Mindel soon began thinking about a new location.

But the setting had to be just right. It was only when Mindel met Michael Van Every, who was looking for a restaurant partner worthy of the novel space he was creating in Willow Glen that things clicked into place. Once Mindel scrambled up the ladder to what would become the rooftop terrace, he knew the vision that he and Weir shared of an exciting and lively restaurant, one that people would want to visit over and over again, would come to life.

Mindel expects Copita to be the most vivacious restaurant around, one worthy of a special trip. According to him, a great restaurant begins and ends with exceptional food – a given, considering Weir's exceptional talent for creating memorable dishes. Combine that with a beautiful architectural setting and attentive, professional service, and you get a place people want to go back to, whether it's a casual Tuesday lunch or a special evening celebration. "When you take that first bite, or that first sip and go, 'Wow!'—that's the moment we live for," he says.

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**Developer Michael Van Every**

For developer Michael Van Every, the building that houses Republic Urban Properties' new office space and the restaurant that will set it apart is truly a labor of love.

Inspired by the gorgeous World Heritage city of San Miguel Allende, Van Every wanted to recreate the feel of the lively second-floor restaurant and entertainment establishments there that overlook the energetic hum of the streets below. "Republic wants to create landmarks that inspire people," he explains. "We knew that a two-story restaurant with a rooftop bar could be a pillar destination in what is already a great business and entertainment district."

He also envisioned an architectural style that would pay homage to some of San Jose's most beautiful neighborhoods. "We wanted to embody a romantic display of Spanish colonial architecture, the one true architecture of San Jose that's done really well and reflected in local neighborhoods like the Rose Garden and Willow Glen," he says.

Into this setting, Copita fits perfectly. "Like Willow Glen, Copita has charm and sophistication," Van Every notes. He then adds confidently, "And, like Willow Glen, it will have history."

Check for updates about Copita Willow Glen, 1098 Lincoln Ave., on the website, [www.copitarestaurant.com](http://www.copitarestaurant.com).



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### *MENU*

Assorted Antipasti with herbed garlic bread;

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Pasta Bolognese;

Salsiccia Brasato with Finocchio & green onions;

Piselli alla Fiorentina (peas sautéed in creamy  
tomato/mushroom sauce with diced ham);

Dessert.

Disclosure: This menu may be subject to minor adjustments.

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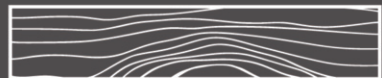
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Times **Local News**



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Hicklebee's employee **Barbara Black** said the community makes it a joy to work there. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

**Downtown**

*Continued from page 1*

town Willow Glen offers multiple enticements. Tucked amidst a residential neighborhood with an elementary school and library nearby, customer favorites include Hicklebee's bookstore, where famed Harry Potter author J.K.

Rowling read "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Bertucelli's La Villa, where customers purchase the family's famous raviolis; and shops like Whatnots & Dodads that attract residents from nearby neighborhoods.

Brenda Tirado, a native of the area, enjoyed window shopping with her daughter after sharing lunch at Lincoln Avenue's Siena Bistro. Tirado said she's seen changes on the avenue, but loves being able to walk to the restaurants and shopping.

"That's why we live here," she told San José Spotlight. "It's one of my favorite things about it."

Nearby laughter bubbled from the bustling lunch crowd at Crepevine. Manager Nuri Ramos said although some days are busy, the last two weeks have been slow. After being closed for three months during the pandemic, Ramos said the inconsistency in diners is still unnerving.

"The concern is always there, because we never know when we'll have to close again," Ramos said.

A newcomer to the scene is Arepas Latin Cuisine, which opened at the former Tacomania location that recently closed. Owner Joanna Torres knows it's risky to open a new restaurant, especially during a pandemic. She's counting on her South American cuisine to bring a new taste to the community. So far, the restaurant has seen a good turnout. Arepas is the only Venezuelan restaurant in the area.

"People say (the food) has amazing flavor and they want to try something different," Torres told San José Spotlight. "Around lunch and dinner time, it gets really crazy. I think I need a bigger kitchen."

Hicklebee's bookstore has been part of downtown Willow Glen since 1979. With its walls decorated in storybook characters and shelves full of books, toys and stuffed animals, it invites children to play, find a cozy nook to read or listen to stories told by renowned children's book authors. On Nov. 3, author and illustrator Brian Selznick shared his recent work, "Kaleidoscope." Selznick was the first in-person author the bookstore has hosted since the pandemic began.

The bookstore's loyal customers pivoted to curbside pickup during the pandemic,

which kept the shop in business. Customers returned immediately when the store reopened in July 2020.

Employee Barbara Black said support never wavered for the shop.

"It's the people who come in time after time," she said. "The community's been outstanding in supporting us."

**Support from city and residents**

San Jose Councilmember Dev Davis, who represents District 6, said the outdoor dining Al Fresco program she developed with Mayor Sam Liccardo in May 2020 helped restaurants survive and brought energy to the avenue. The program allowed businesses, especially restaurants, shuttered by the pandemic to extend onto sidewalks, parking lots and closed streets.

"There's just a really good mix of stores, places to eat and things to do that make it a fun atmosphere," Davis told San José Spotlight. "People want to go and spend time there."

The San Jose City Council extended the program to Dec. 31. Davis would like to see it remain beyond year's end.

Outside dining saved Bertucelli's La Villa. The Italian deli, which first opened in 1988, has been owned by the Bertucelli family for 29 years. Owner Patty Bertucelli said because of outdoor dining, the business fared fairly well through the pandemic.

"I'm humbled our customers were very loyal and supported us the entire time," she said.

Although Bertucelli didn't have to lay anyone off, she lost three employees and finding new workers remains difficult. She said she hasn't been able to fill the vacancies for six months.

SusieCakes, which opened five years ago, had a steady stream of patrons. Most of its employees are women, and the business lost a few workers during the pandemic due to distance learning and childcare issues, but it's now doing well, said manager Rebecca Berroteran.

"People came back to us," she said. "We're the neighborhood bakery so we get our regulars and people stop in after lunch for a sweet treat."

That loyalty was validated by repeat customer Ursula Carrasco. "The cakes are just excellent. They're old-style like my grandmother made," she said.

Resident Jane Curry, who has lived in the area for 30 years, said Willow Glen rivals Los Gatos. Willow Glen, annexed into San Jose in 1936, has remained a tight knit, supportive community.

"This is a real neighborhood where people know each other," Curry said. "It's an extraordinarily diverse population of people that care about the area."

Times **Local News**

# Permanent public artwork unveiled at Mineta San Jose International Airport

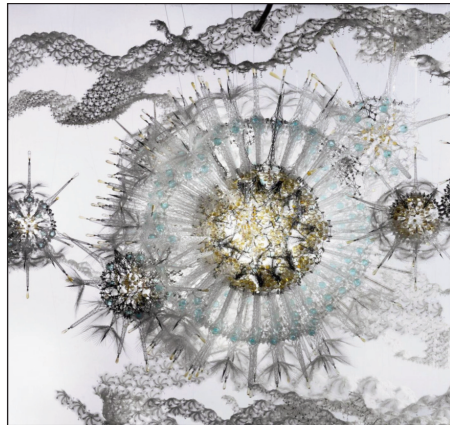
*“Threshold” – an exploration of creation through technology and aesthetics*

The City of San José and Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) welcome the installation of a new artwork in the pre-security Arrivals Hall of Terminal B. The work is by Philip Beesley & Living Architecture Systems Group on Nov. 18.

The artwork - *Threshold* - is a pair of sculptures enclosed in glass display cases, flanking the airport’s arrival hall. The artwork offers a dream-like display of crystalline rays, clouds, and nest-like forms, composed of more than sixty thousand individually crafted sculptural elements.

New kinds of digital fabrication were invented in the artist’s studio for this work, including innovative heating and laser-cutting techniques. Intertwined throughout the sculpture are clusters of small glass orbs, filled with prototype liquids used by researchers investigating near-living cells that reflect the surrounding colorful bustle of the airport.

“The Airport is excited to offer travelers such compelling art as they arrive and depart the Bay Area through San José,” said John Aitken, Director of Aviation at



SJC. “We are always looking for ways to enrich the airport experience for travelers and tap into the ingenuity of Silicon Valley. *Threshold* does just that, and we appreciate the investments at our airport in support of the arts.”

“*Threshold* is an exquisite addition to the City’s permanent public art collection, exemplifying innovation at the intersection of art and technology,” says Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of Cultural Affairs. “The artwork will enrapture airport visitors.”

Artist Philip Beesley said: “Nature and technology are intertwined within this artwork. *Threshold* offers a new kind of gateway to Silicon Valley.”



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Times **Feature**

**The Tabard Theatre Company announces Holiday Musical Revue 'A Merry Little Christmas Cabaret'**

The Tabard Theatre Company announces A Merry Little Christmas Cabaret. This big band holiday musical will open to live in-person audiences and simultaneous livestream on December 10 and run through December

19. The year is 1964 and the head of the recording label, in response to deflating record sales and the growing momentum of the British Invasion decides to go for a tried and true strategy to boost the numbers... a Christmas album. But to get the record to market in time he has to start right away! Who cares if it's the middle of July in Los Angeles? It's time to get into the Christmas spirit. Welcome to this madcap adventure including yuletide cocktails and Hawaiian shirts!

The show will also be available for on-demand viewing Dec.20 through December 31. Single tickets for the play are \$19-

\$48. Tabard Theatre is an all-vaccinated venue and will be checking proof of vaccination at the door for in-person patrons. Facial coverings are also currently required.

A Merry Little Christmas Cabaret will feature Le Perez, Semhar Gebrat, Bobby Singer, Lena Heuman, Chris Fernandez and Stephanie Whigham. Also featured will be the musical skills of members of San Jose's Nineteen Jazz Orchestra.

**Details**

Tabard Theatre is located in the heart of historic San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose. Tickets: \$19-\$48. Visit [www.tabardtheatre.org](http://www.tabardtheatre.org) or call (408) 679-2330.



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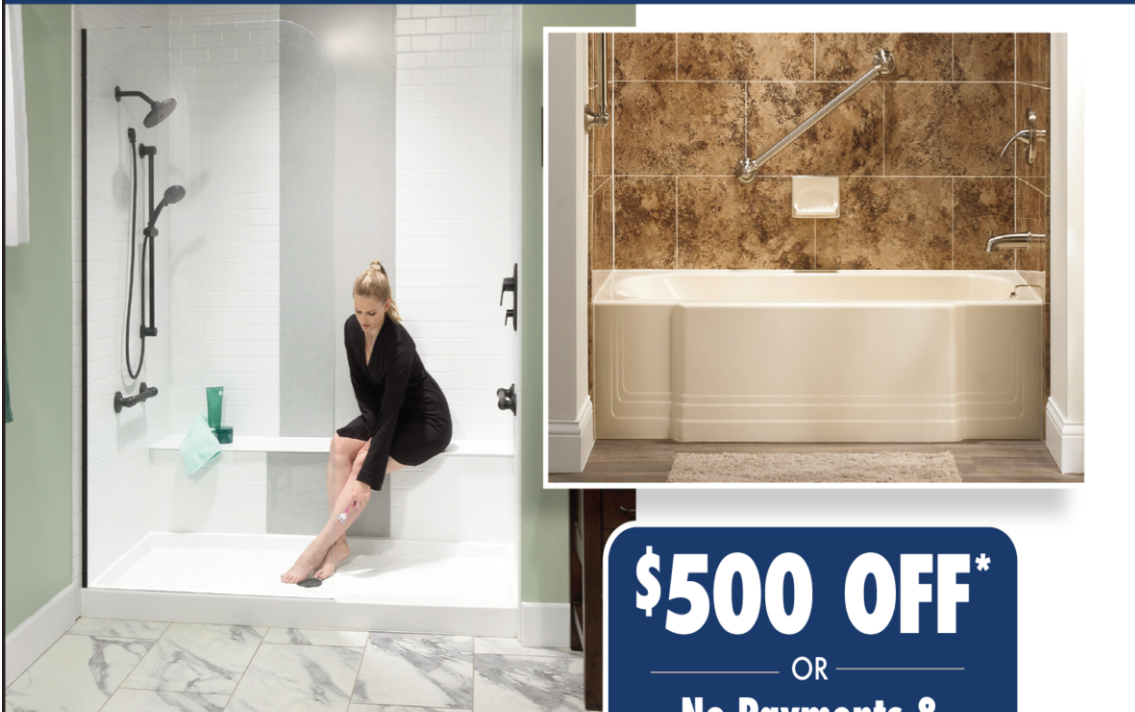
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