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OCT. 7 – OCT. 20, 2022 ■ VOL. 39, NO. 21

# EvergreenTimes

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## Thaniya Shankar of Evergreen receives Strauss Foundation Award

*\$15,000 public service scholarship to carry out project in her senior year*

**T**haniya Shankar of Evergreen Valley has recently been awarded the Donald A. Strauss Scholarship.

Shankar was one of 12 selected scholars among more than 300 applicants from across 22 California schools encouraged to apply to receive this public service scholarship.

The Strauss scholarships fund  
*See SCHOLARSHIP, page 2*

## EVERGREEN PUBLIC LIBRARY NOW OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK

### More than half of San Jose Public Library branches now open Sundays

**E**vergreen Public Library as well as 15 other public libraries in San Jose are now open seven days a week.

Expanding hours of operations means an expansion of essential library services available to San Jose residents every day of the week - including more frequent access to physical materials; programs and events; technology, such as computers and printers; and in-person support for every member of the community.

This historic move comes after the City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget on June 21, 2022, which included the library's expansion of hours, and is in direct response to the community's request for Sunday hours at the library.

"Libraries are critical resources and the lifeblood of our communities. For the first time in history, we will expand access to the vital services they provide to include Sundays, something deeply desired by our residents," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "We know that increasing availability to our libraries, especially in our lower-resourced communities, creates a pathway for success among students, job seekers, families, and community members."

In addition to Sunday hours offered at SJPL's main location the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, located in downtown San Jose; SJPL will



pilot Sunday hours from noon-5 p.m. at the following branch libraries:

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Alviso                     | 8. Edenvale         |
| 2. Dr. Roberto Cruz-Alum Rock | 9. Education Park   |
| 3. Bascom                     | 10. Evergreen       |
| 4. Berryessa                  | 11. Hillview        |
| 5. Biblioteca Latinoamericana | 12. Joyce Ellington |
| 6. Cambrian                   | 13. Seven Trees     |
| 7. East San Jose Carnegie     | 14. Tully Community |
|                               | 15. Vineland        |
|                               | 16. West Valley     |



To kick-off SJPL's new Sunday hours expansion, Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Librarian Jill Bourne welcome the community with special remarks and a community countdown to open the doors of the Berryessa Branch Library on Sunday Oct. 2. Mister Softee served free ice cream sundaes for the community.

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## St. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen Stanford Blood Drive: October 22

**S**t. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen is sponsoring a Stanford Blood Drive on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Francis Community Center located at 5111 San Felipe Rd in Evergreen.

The event is open to the public and any and all eligible donors are encouraged to come by that Saturday and become a blood donor.

Due to the large number of company sponsors being shut down, there is currently a shortage of blood types, so your donation can make a difference. Please wear your mask.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up in advance in order to minimize wait times.

To register, call Tom at (408) 476-6104 or visit: [https://sbcdonor.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/10048](https://sbcdonor.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/10048)

**SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER**



Times **In Memory**

**Valley Water Cross Valley Pipeline Extension Project will provide 22,000 gallons of water per minute**

*The water flow will provide benefits to wildlife and habitat*

Valley Water work at Anderson Dam is progressing on schedule.

The project will ensure Coyote Creek and the Coyote Percolation Pond in South San José have sufficient water to recharge groundwater and support the surrounding habitat and wildlife who depend on it.

To achieve this, Valley Water is undertaking the *Cross Valley Pipeline Extension Project*, which will extend an existing pipeline by about 1.25 miles so that water will feed into Coyote Creek near the Coyote Creek Golf Club. Currently, that water can only be released into Coyote Creek about one-quarter mile below Anderson Dam.

Once completed, Valley Water will be able to provide up to 22,000 gallons of water a minute directly into Coyote Creek.

The water will flow downstream and percolate within Coyote Creek and the Coyote Percolation Pond just north of Metcalf Road, replenishing the groundwater aquifer in Coyote Valley and South San José.

In addition to the water supply benefit, the flow of water will provide benefits to wildlife and habitat along Coyote Creek.

Valley Water is currently working on five projects con-

nected to the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project in an effort to strengthen the existing dam and spillway so it can safely withstand a large earthquake.

Two of the projects are currently under construction, including our work to build a larger outlet tunnel next to Anderson Dam. This larger outlet tunnel will allow Valley Water to release more water safely during major storms or emergencies.

Valley Water recently completed a milestone on the tunnel project by reinforcing the hillside with steel bars and concrete. In October, Valley Water’s contractor plans to begin digging a tunnel roughly 24-feet in diameter through the concrete layer and hillside.

The original Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project was split into two projects to accommodate building the new outlet tunnel at Anderson Dam. Valley Water is accelerating the design and construction of the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project so that the creek can handle the potential release of higher flows from the larger outlet tunnel at Anderson Dam.

Valley Water anticipates beginning work to retrofit the dam in 2025, a project that will last about seven years. Once completed, Valley Water will again be able to fill Anderson Reservoir to capacity.

On June 22, 2022, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded Valley Water \$5.8 million to help fund this vital infrastructure project.

“I would like to thank the California Department of Water Resources for making critical investments in our state’s water infrastructure,” Valley Water Chair Pro Tem John L. Varela said. “The southern portions of San Jose and Santa Clara County primarily rely on groundwater for their water supply. This critical project will help us maintain our groundwater levels and continue ensuring residents and businesses have a reliable water supply.”



Coyote Ponds, also known as Metcalf Ponds.

**Scholarship**

*Continued from page 1*

public-service projects that the students have proposed and will carry out during their junior or senior year.

The Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation, established as a memorial to the late Don Strauss of Newport Beach, is designed to award \$15,000 scholarships to as many as 15 California college sophomores and juniors annually.

Shankar plans to recruit volunteers from University of California Riverside to mentor and support elementary students on the autism spectrum at underserved schools in San Bernardino City Unified School District.

To address the educational barriers that exist in the Kindergarten to 6th grade public school educational system for students with autism spectrum disorder, Thaniya Shankar proposed the mentorship program Project LEAD (Learn, Encourage, Advocate, and Develop) to allow college students from University of California, Riverside to mentor elementary students on the spectrum in the San Bernardino City Unified School District, an under-resourced

community.

Students with autism display their own unique challenges that can benefit from individualized support. This program will not only promote a sense of community and belonging to autistic students, but also establish and strengthen academic and social skills that most autistic students lack.

By fostering peer mentor relationships for students with autism at the elementary school age level, there will be an increase in academic and social success in their educational journey and beyond, empowering the neurodivergent community to pursue postsecondary education and employment opportunities.

Project LEAD volunteers will curate lesson plans that not only allow autistic students to catch up to the mainstream academic curriculum, but also help with personal development and interpersonal skills, such as organization, abstract thinking, and communication.




This program will not only promote a sense of community and belonging to autistic students, but also establish and strengthen academic and social skills that most autistic students lack.

# EVERGREEN TEACHERS SUPPORT DR. STAN ROSE, JEREMY BAROUSSE AND MARISA HANSON

Evergreen teachers have considered the candidates for School Board and found Dr. Stan Rose, Jeremy Barousse and Marisa Hanson to be the best choices to improve our schools.

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OP ED

## California is withholding latest student school test results

By Dan Walters

The California Department of Education is — for no rational reason — refusing to release results of last spring’s academic tests, which are likely to be negative.

California’s Department of Education has finally acknowledged the obvious: It is arbitrarily delaying the release of results from this year’s round of academic testing.

In years past, scores from the spring Smarter Balanced tests of academic achievement have been released in late summer or early fall, but this year, the department denied a request for statewide results even though it authorized individual districts to make their data available.

Why?

Mary Nicely, chief deputy state superintendent for instruction, told EdSource, a website devoted to California education issues, which had requested the data, that the numbers would be released as part of a “dashboard” that includes other “metrics” on how schools are performing.

“We are on track to release the data as we did last year. If we can come out sooner, we will,” she said. “We are not withholding anything; people are working hard to finalize the data.”

That doesn’t wash.

There’s absolutely no reason that data already given to school districts should not be made public now and included in the “dashboard” later.

It’s likely that the test results will show a sharp decline in the abilities of California’s school children in basic skills, such as reading and math, due to the state’s shutdowns of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

State officials probably want to sugarcoat the bad news by delaying it until after the Nov. 3 election and combining it with other material that would dilute its importance. Tony Thurmond, the state schools superintendent, will be on the ballot along with Gov. Gavin Newsom and other Democratic officeholders and while all are favored to win reelection, bad news on schools would be embarrassing.

We know that the post-pandemic test results are likely to be disappointing. That’s been the pattern in other states. Los Angeles Unified has already released its quite negative test results, reversing about five years of gradual progress in the state’s largest school system.

In L.A. Unified, about 72% of students did not meet state standards in math, five percentage points higher than pre-pandemic testing. In English, 58% were subpar, two points higher.

“The pandemic deeply impacted the performance of our students,”

*See TESTING, page 6*

# Valley Currents

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

## San Jose sign thieves caught in the act

By Loan-Anh Pham  
*San José Spotlight*

Election signs are disappearing across San Jose, and local candidates are asking would-be thieves to keep off the grass.

It’s part of an ongoing trend that candidates say disrupts the democratic process.

San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan, who is running for mayor, said hundreds of campaign signs have disappeared in the span of a few weeks — and there is video evidence of some thefts. His campaign has distributed more than 5,000 signs and replacing missing ones is costing the campaign thousands of dollars.

One video obtained by Mahan’s campaign filmed on Aug. 28 shows home security camera footage of a car pulling up to a residence as a passenger runs out and removes a sign before leaving. In another video obtained by the campaign and filmed on Sept. 23, an individual walks up to a campaign banner outside of a business, and removes it from a chain-link fence. San José Spotlight reviewed both videos, one of which clearly shows Mahan’s name on the sign being stolen.

While the thieves are unidentified, Mahan said the scale of the thefts indicate more than random vandalism.

“San Jose is better than this. We should embrace debate and discussion—not make our politics so toxic that people feel that theft is an appropriate response to political disagreement,” Mahan told San José Spotlight. “I certainly call upon my opponent Cindy Chavez to send a clear message to her supporters that theft and vandalism are wrong. All campaigns should do that—and I am certainly asking my supporters not to retaliate.”

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez’s mayoral campaign is facing the same problem, said Brian Parvizshahi, a spokesperson for her campaign.

“(Supporters) feel proud to put



Lawn signs, long a staple during election season, have been disappearing since the June primary. Candidates from various campaigns have reported signs as stolen or missing. Photo by Loan-Anh Pham.

(out) a sign to show their support. And then they feel violated when it’s stolen from them,” Parvizshahi told San José Spotlight. “If someone supporting Cindy is taking down Mahan signs—please stop. It’s not being helpful. We hope the Mahan campaign would encourage the same.”

Campaign signs were targets ahead of the June primary election, which experts said could be particularly damaging for first-time candidates who need to build name recognition and visibility. Some candidates have also

faced opposition mailers and digital text campaigns, efforts that are often funded by special interest groups. It doesn’t stop there: transitions of power between successors and predecessors of an office can also be rife with conflict.

**Lifting lawn signs**

The stolen signs aren’t unique only to the San Jose mayor’s race. Irene Smith, a San Jose City Council District 3 candidate, said her signs have gone missing too. She said stolen or vandalized campaign signs indicate a political

*See SIGNS, page 7*



## CosmeCon held at Eastridge Mall with VIP Champagne Happy Hour

Eastridge Mall recently held their annual CosmeCon annual beauty convention. The free event included cosmetics giveaways, speakers, pop-up shops, raffles, and several other activities.

Headliner **LaLa Romero** spoke about beauty, women in business, and her experiences bringing neighborhood styles to the world.

The event closed with an exclusive Champagne Happy Hour and mixer for VIP guests.

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Times **Community News**



East Side Union High School District amends policy for serving meals

East Side Union High School District today announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals to students under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for 2022-2023 school year.

East Side Union High School District is offering breakfast and lunch free for all students.

Federal mandated nutrition standards for school meals are in effect, ensuring that meals are healthy and well-balanced, and providing students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school.

School meals offer students milk, fruits and vegetables, proteins, and grains, and they must meet strict limits on saturated fat, sodium, calorie, and portion size requirements. School lunches will meet standards requiring:

- Age-appropriate calorie limits
- Larger servings of vegetables and fruits (students must take a least one serving of produce)
- A wider variety of vegetables, including dark green and red/orange vegetables and legumes
- Fat-free or 1% milk (flavored milk must be fat-free)
- All whole grains



• Less sodium  
All students will be served lunch and breakfast at no charge at the following sites:

- Andrew P Hill High School
- Calero High School
- Foothill High School
- Independence High School
- James Lick High School
- Mt Pleasant High School
- Oak Grove High School
- WC Overfelt High School
- Yerba Buena High School
- Evergreen Valley High School
- Piedmont Hills High School
- Santa Teresa High School
- Silver Creek High School
- Adult Transition Program North
- San Jose Conservation Corp

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

For additional information please contact: Sonia Vargas, Child Nutrition Services, 830 N Capitol Avenue San Jose, CA 95133, 408-347-5191, [vargass@esuhd.org](mailto:vargass@esuhd.org).

Testing

Continued from page 4  
said L.A. Unified Superintendent Alberto Carvalho. "Particularly kids who were at risk, in a fragile condition, prior to the pandemic, as we expected, were the ones who have lost the most ground."

If L.A. Unified had enough guts to tell its voters and parents the harsh truth, there's no valid rationale for Thurmond not to do so for the entire state.

After its request for statewide results was denied, EdSource pressed the issue with a letter from its attorney requesting reconsideration.

"EdSource considers delay tantamount to denial as it effectively robs the public of its vital role in overseeing the CDE (Department of Education) and individual districts and in holding both accountable to its stu-

dents and the public. This is especially important during what continues to be one of the most challenging and impactful times to our educational system due to the COVID pandemic," EdSource attorney Duffy Carolan wrote.

EdSource's letter told the Department of Education that it "cannot identify any 'public' interest in non-disclosure that could justify its denial position, let alone an interest that 'clearly outweighs' the substantial public interest in access to this information."

This is not only a politically tinged education issue but a major test for the state's Public Records Act, which allows public agencies to withhold information only under extreme circumstances. If records can be withheld for obvious political purposes in this case, the Public Records Act might as well be junked entirely.

Dan Walters is a CalMatters columnist.



Times **Community News**

# Fourteen people died on San Jose streets — in one month

By **Tran Nguyen**  
*San José Spotlight*

**S**anta Clara County might see another record breaking year in homeless deaths, with 14 people dying on the streets in September alone.

As of Sept. 23, 167 unhoused people have died in Santa Clara County this year—roughly 73% of them died in San Jose, according to county's data. The number is following an alarming trend the region has seen in the last decade.

"It's an avalanche," homeless advocate Shaunn Cartwright, who also helps organize the annual memorial for those who died on the streets, told San José Spotlight. "We're right on track to hit the same number from last year again."

The number of unhoused deaths in the region has significantly grown in the last few years. According to a 2017 study done by the county, homeless deaths in the heart of Silicon Valley jumped 164% between 2011 and 2016, from 50 deaths to 132. The number has only grown larger since then—with 172 deaths in 2019 and 227 deaths in 2020. The county saw a staggering 250 homeless deaths last year—the highest in the last decade.

The growing number is a sobering reminder of the cruel reality for thousands of unhoused people, and the failures of local lawmakers to protect the most vulnerable in the community. Despite unprecedented efforts from the county and city to address the growing homelessness crisis, their work continues to fall short. Residents are becoming homeless at a faster rate than people are being housed. Santa Clara saw

its unhoused population grow 3% during the pandemic, totaling 10,028 people as of this February.

Roughly 60 homeless deaths this year were drug-related, and county officials vow to not let up on finding solutions—such as temporary shelters, permanent homes and mental health and substance use services.

"No deaths are acceptable," Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, who has co-led efforts to address the mental health and substance use crisis in the region, told San José Spotlight. "We have to work harder and smarter and faster to get people into treatment and into stable housing so that we can end that circumstance of people dying on our streets."

Supervisor Otto Lee, who is also pushing for more mental health and substance use services, said the county needs to do more to prevent these deaths. Lee and Ellenberg recently demanded county officials take immediate action on a number of delayed projects that would help combat the crisis.

"It's heartbreaking, especially since many of these deaths could have been prevented," Lee told San José Spotlight. "We're pushing county administration to quicken the expansion of services, beds, and treatment, but we also need a more concerted effort to get more Narcan to our unhoused residents and encampments. We're making progress but not swiftly enough."

San Jose mayoral candidate and Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez said she's particularly concerned with the number of people dying of fentanyl overdoses.

"We need to continue to expand detox beds, make Narcan readily available to reverse the effects of overdosing on opioids—including fentanyl—and hire more police and fire personnel which has been devastated these past few years," Chavez told San José Spotlight. "To prevent these needless deaths, we can't abide by San Jose's current status quo that has governed our city."

San Jose mayoral candidate and Councilmember Matt Mahan said building more temporary, quick-build housing on public land such as the county Fairgrounds could



Rows of makeshift tombstones filled the plaza outside the Santa Clara County Government Center during the 2021 homeless deaths memorial. *Photo by Tran Nguyen.*

be a solution.

"Our current homeless policies are literally a death sentence for many homeless residents," Mahan told San José Spotlight. "We need to make sure every city in our county and every county in California is doing their fair share, so San Jose is not overburdened as we struggle to solve this humanitarian crisis."

Six of the 14 homeless deaths this month happened during the weeklong heatwave when temperatures hit 109 degrees. According to the county's data, at least one unhoused person died a day between Sept. 5 and Sept. 9. The causes of death in these cases are still pending, but county officials

confirmed with advocates at least three homeless people died from the heat.

Todd Langton, an advocate with the group Agape Silicon Valley, said the county failed to plan for water needs during the heatwave. Many local organizations rely on the county for supplies such as bottled water, but he said supply was limited during the hottest days of the year.

"It just left me with the impression that there's a lack of planning, a lack of care and a lack of concern at the county level," Langton told San José Spotlight. "Something has got to change, and our county and our city needs to find its soul, because it was lost long ago."

## Signs

*Continued from page 4*  
climate that is intolerant of other candidates and viewpoints.

"It's not so minor because it's suppressing the right to free speech in a political process. It's a right that we all guarantee," Smith told San José Spotlight. "We should take it more seriously than the Halloween (toilet papering) of a house."

Smith said each sign that goes missing means a volunteer or herself takes extra time to replace them. Her campaign is using cable ties to help residents secure signs to their homes.

Lawn signs represent a campaign's financial efforts and should be left alone, said Omar Torres, also a candidate in the District 3 race. He said more than 50 signs have been taken from his campaign.

"I hope that lawn signs are not being taken out of spite," Torres told San José Spotlight. "Before a supporter of a candidate steals a lawn sign, they should think of all the hard work the candidate has done to

get such an expensive lawn sign and investment from their donors as well."

Bien Doan, a San Jose City Council District 7 candidate, estimated hundreds of his signs have gone missing from residents' yards and local businesses. Stealing a sign can constitute petty theft, a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment and/or fines up to \$1,000 in California.

"Stealing signs is a very minor symptom of the more concerning problems our (District 7) community faces, such as experiencing the highest violent crime rate in the city," Doan told San José Spotlight.

District 7 Councilmember Maya Esparza felt the stolen sign pain during the June primary, a concerning trend that limits civic engagement, said campaign spokesperson Nick Kaspar. The campaign has not yet distributed signs for the general election.

The consequences of vandalized and stolen campaign signs go deeper than just politics, officials like Mahan said.

"It matters because we all want to live in a city where people obey the law and political differences are addressed with debate," Mahan said, "Not theft."



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NOTEBOOK

Op-Ed

# The growing popularity of Pickleball

Pickleball has quickly gained popularity in the U.S. in the past year because of its ease of entry into the sport and it's also fun to play.

Evergreen community college has eight nicely built Pickleball courts that attract enthusiastic players every day; it's particularly a great fortune to residents living in the Evergreen area.

My family began using it a few weeks ago, mainly as a family/friend activity using the fields of our Evergreen district schools for leisure exercise after school hours.

Unfortunately, I had a not-that-good experience toward the end when I played Pickleball with my family and friends last time. So I decided to share my experience on Nextdoor.com for the purpose of raising awareness of the needs of family/friend players on the Pickleball court outside the group of competitive players.

Briefly, we were told by some seasoned players that we should play games and keep scores. If you lose the game, people who put their racket outside the court will come in and replace you for the next game. While waiting outside, someone can even keep the score for the players using the court, and get in once

their game is finished.

As I wrote in the original post on Nextdoor.com, I understand the merits of these rules for competitive players, yet these rules, by no means, are incompatible with family/friends players. I felt extremely uncomfortable when the seasoned players told me those rules. It's a family activity for us, and we just picked up the game a few weeks ago. Also, we waited for about an hour for another family to finish their play. We had zero complaints about the wait time simply because they came first, "first come, first served."

After I received various comments on Nextdoor, I contacted Vincent Cabada, who is in charge of facilities at Evergreen Valley College. I learned that he has been well aware of different groups of players using the court, competitive players and family/friend players, and endeavored to issue rules that make the best use of the court which would work for everyone.

In the meantime, I was encouraged through Nextdoor.com neighbors to reach out about the tension between competitive players and family/friends players on EVC Pickleball court.

We may need more Pickleball courts available given the rising demand in the community and better designed rules about how to use the court for different purposes. I think it has significant implications for the welfare of our community.

**Shaohua Lu**  
*Evergreen Valley*

*Editor's Note: Played with a special paddle and a plastic ball with holes in it, Pickleball is a fun sport with many of the same elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. It uses a badminton size court and slightly modified net.*

## Marlene Iwamoto named Second Deputy County Librarian

Marlene Iwamoto will oversee strategy and staff development

The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) has named Marlene Iwamoto Deputy County Librarian for Strategy and Staff Development.

In her role, Iwamoto will take the lead on implementing the Library District's new strategic plan, which is intended to ensure that library services continue to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities served in an inclusive way.

"Marlene brings with her over two decades of experience working for SCCLD, getting to know the organization from the ground up," said County Librarian Jennifer Weeks. "She understands what makes the Library District most effective and is ideally equipped to help us adapt and progress as we strive to best meet the evolving needs of our patrons."

Iwamoto began her career with SCCLD in 1997 working as a library page. She credits her years as a library clerk as the impetus of her desire to serve the community, as well



as the time when she was able to hone her customer service skills.

"Libraries have tremendous potential to positively affect the lives of our communities," Iwamoto said. "I hope to help improve the depth and diversity of our offerings in terms of programs and services, working closely with library staff to identify new opportunities."

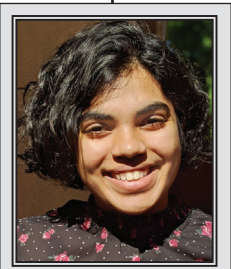
Iwamoto has worked at every SCCLD library and served in both frontline and management positions. In 2017, she became the Community Librarian for Los Altos and Woodland libraries, where Iwamoto oversaw expanded library hours, the introduction of passport services, and launched their Go Go Biblio outreach service.

Since 2019, she had served as a Library Services Manager for Organizational Development, where Iwamoto oversaw staff development, system-wide initiatives, and partnerships with groups like the Children's Advocacy Center and the Gilroy Strong Resiliency Center to implement mini-library collections at each location. She also was instrumental in obtaining a California State Library Community Connections grant to fund a Community Outreach Specialist, connecting patrons with community resources at the Milpitas Library and Ochoa Migrant Center in Gilroy.

# Like life, distribution ain't fair

By Apoorva Panidapu

Let's time-travel back to kindergarten. You and I have found 4 cute rocks during recess, but we have to split them between us to take home to our rock collections. Easy enough, we each get two rocks—that's only fair!



Gems in STEM  
By Apoorva Panidapu



But what if there are five rocks? Who decides which of us gets the extra rock and who gets the short end of the stick (or should I say rock)? What if I found more rocks (because I rock) or you care more about them? If we can't figure this out, we'll need to battle it out... race you to the swings! Last one there is a rotten egg.

While this decision doesn't really matter, we all learn the concept of fair distribution pretty early on. The same concept comes up in one of the most important parts of the United States government: the US House of Representatives. In the House, there are 435 delegates that must be distributed amongst 50 states as fairly as possible, so that the citizens' votes will be accurately represented in the Electoral College to determine our president...a decision slightly more important than sharing rocks. (I want to quickly note that the Electoral College is a very flawed system, but that's beside the point for right now.)

These representatives are usually elected to give a voice to the constituencies in certain geographic regions. So, we ask the next question: how do we assign representatives to states so that it is proportional to their respective populations?

Wait, why do we want it to be proportional? Well, think about this. California (the best state) has a population of over 39 million people, whereas Wyoming has a population of around 580,000 people. If California and Wyoming both got one representative, a Californian's vote would be worth like 1/39,000,000 of a vote while a Wyomingite's vote would be worth about 1/580,000 of a vote—about 70 times more! Not super fair

to us Californians.

Unfortunately, it's impossible to perfectly distribute delegates proportionally since that would give most states a non-integer number of delegates (and we can't exactly have .73 of a person). So, we have to somehow decide which states get more or less delegates than they are mathematically entitled to. #Favoritism?

To help us make this decision, we have a variety of apportionment methods, which are basically just algorithms to decide where these extra delegates go.

An example of one of these methods is Dean's Method, first proposed by Professor James Dean at Dartmouth College in 1832. The basis of this method is something called the harmonic mean, which is a popular kind of numerical average!

Harmonic mean is one of the three so-called Pythagorean means; the other two means are the more popular arithmetic mean and geometric mean. For example, the arithmetic mean of a and b is just the normal average of them:  $(a+b)/2$ . The geometric mean is defined to be  $\sqrt{ab}$ . Fun fact, the value of the harmonic mean is always smaller than the other two Pythagorean means!

Harmonic mean is calculated by taking the reciprocal of the arithmetic mean of the reciprocals of the given values...phew, that was a mouthful. Let's look at an example to make sense of it!

Say we have two numbers: 4 and 6. The reciprocals of the 4 and 6 are  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{6}$ , by definition. Then, the arithmetic mean, which is just the average, of  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{6}$  is  $(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{6})/2 = (5/12)/2 = 5/24$ . Finally, the reciprocal of their arithmetic mean is  $1/(5/24) = 24/5 = 4.8$ . So, the harmonic mean of 4 and 6 is 4.8. Weird...who even uses this?

Well, this unique numerical average comes up in situations where we want to find some sort of average rate. While the harmonic mean is not as well-known as the other Pythagorean means, this unique numerical average comes up in situations that have to do with some sort of average rate. Once again, let's do an example!

Suppose Rainborca is biking to the ocean from home. On her way there, she averages 4 miles per hour (mph), and on her way back, she averages 6 mph. Because we're nosy, curious mathematicians, we ask her what

See GEMS, next page





## Gems

*Continued from previous page*

her overall average speed for the entire trip was! At first, she makes a common mistake and says her average speed was  $(4 + 6)/2 = 5$  mph, applying the arithmetic mean to this question. Unfortunately, this doesn't work because Rainborca didn't travel for the same amount of time on the two trips.

The correct average speed can be found using harmonic mean! From before, we know that the harmonic mean of 4 and 6 is 4.8, so her average speed is 4.8 miles per hour.

How can we be sure this is true? Well, we know the average speed/rate is equal to the total distance over the total time, using the common equation  $\text{distance} = \text{rate} \times \text{time}$ . If we let the distance between the ocean and her home be  $d$ , the total distance is  $d + d = 2d$ , because she goes there and back. Since  $\text{distance} = \text{rate} \times \text{time}$ , we have that  $\text{time} = \text{distance} / \text{rate}$ . So, the time Rainborca takes to bike to the ocean at 4 mph is  $d/4$  and the time she takes to bike back home at 6 mph is  $d/6$ , so the total time she took on her trip is  $d/4 + d/6$ . Now, we can calculate that Rainborca's average rate =  $\text{distance} / \text{time} = 2d / (d/4 + d/6) = 2 / (1/4 + 1/6) = 2 / (5/12) = 4.8$  miles per hour, aka the harmonic mean of 4 and 6. Voila! It's like magic...or is it just math? <3

The harmonic mean is also often used in circuit analysis to find the equivalent resistance of resistors in parallel, capacitors in series, or inductors in parallel, to name a few examples! There are also many applications for something called the weighted harmonic mean, which associates corresponding weights to each value in the mean. However, since Dean's Apportionment Method is only concerned with the standard harmonic mean

(where all weights are equal), we won't get into the details of the weighted version.

Speaking of Dean, let's get back to our original discussion of apportionment! (I guess the conversation always somehow returns to politics...)

Dean's Method shares similarities with the more popular Webster's Method and Hill's Method, except Dean's Method uses harmonic mean as the cutoff for rounding whereas Webster's method uses arithmetic mean—the conventional average—as the cutoff point and Hill's Method uses geometric mean.

Dean's Method is actually rarely used because it tends to favor small states more than other methods. Remember our fun fact? Let me remind you: the value of the harmonic mean is always smaller than the other two Pythagorean means! So, Dean's Method lowers the threshold needed for small states to round up to another delegate, meaning, in the name of fairness, we can't use it in real life. (Turns out, the US uses Hill's Method to distribute delegates!)

Okay, enough talk. How do we actually run Dean's Apportionment Method? Well, you better stick around, because we'll go through each step of the method next time! I like to keep y'all on your toes.

Until next time! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvap-writes@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvap-writes@gmail.com).

*As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too. It will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end.*

## Times In Memory

### IN MEMORY

## Valermina Defiesta

June 10, 1936 - August 12, 2022

Valermina Defiesta, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend passed away peacefully on August 12, 2022.

Valermina was 86 years old. Valermina was born in Pepeekeo, Hawaii on June 10, 1936. She was raised by her parents, Cecilia and Leoncio Domingo in Naalehu, Hawaii and grew up with her siblings Juanito, Ludy and Pacita. She moved to Oahu to attend high school at Mid-Pacific Institute.

After graduation, Valermina moved to San Jose, to attend San Jose State University. She received a Bachelors of Science in Occupational Therapy in 1957.

Valermina (Val) and Rosalino (Rosi) met at a San Jose State University Oriocci dance in 1956. They dated, were engaged and married on August 8, 1959 and raised two children, Valerie and John, in San Jose.

Val and Rosi celebrated their 63rd Wedding Anniversary on August 8, 2022. Val worked for the City of San Jose for many years and worked for the Mt. Pleasant School District for more than 15 years and subsequently retired.



Val was a cancer survivor and later became a certified Reach to Recovery Visitor for the American Cancer Society for 11 years. She and Rosi volunteered every Tuesday at Martha's Kitchen in San Jose prepping meals for the community for over 20 years. Val enjoyed growing orchids, cooking and quilting. She loved growing an organic vegetable garden and participated

in Plant an Extra Row for the homeless program by taking fruits and vegetables to Second Harvest Food Bank. She competed in orchid shows and received many honors. She loved to travel with Rosi and friends. She has traveled to the Philippine Islands, Panama, Caribbean, Asia and Europe. The family traveled to Dunsmuir, CA and enjoyed their annual camping trip. Her favorite activity was spending precious time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Val will be dearly missed by her husband, Rosalino Defiesta, her children Valerie and Michael Ng and John and Donna Defiesta, grandchildren Dominic Defiesta, Hi'ilani and Nathaniel Hadley, Aukai Ng, Jordan Defiesta, Sherissa Manglona, Leana Manglona, Teana Manglona and great-grandson, Aukanai'i Hadley and great-granddaughters, Shylah Perry and Danni Perry, her siblings Juanito and Fely Fagaragan and Pacita Fagaragan-Dean, nephews, nieces and many friends.



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Times **Notebook**



# Saratoga Symphony free concert slated for Sunday, Oct. 23

*Concert honors and supports Ukraine paying homage to the country's composers*

Here's your chance to enjoy a night of classical music with a free concert by the Saratoga Symphony on Sunday, Oct. 23, 3 p.m. at Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave., San Jose, CA.

All music program pieces were written by composers born in Ukraine. The pieces are all Bay Area premieres and composed 1910 – 1921.

This concert honors and supports Ukraine during its current difficult times.

Conductor Dr. Jason Klein talks about each music program piece for the audience before it is performed.

Concert program: "Honor to Ukraine" Nocturne; Piano Concerto (Ron Brickman, piano soloist); Crimean Sketches; Zaporozhian Cossacks

Editor's note: NO ticket or reservation needed. (Masks required for those attending). Location map: <https://saratogasympphony.org/concerts>

# San José Public Library awarded \$8.7 million for improvements at 9 branch libraries

*Largest library system in the South Bay to receive California State funding*

San José Public Library (SJPL) was recently awarded \$8.7 million from the California State Library Building Forward Infrastructure Grant.

The funding will be used to address capital improvement projects at nine SJPL branch libraries over the course of four years.

The Budget Act of 2021 (SB 129) allocated \$439 million in one-time funds to the California State Library for the grant program, the largest investment in public library infrastructure in over 20 years. The first round of funding awarded a total of \$254 million and prioritized projects addressing life safety, critical maintenance, and libraries serving high-poverty areas of the state.

The Library applied for funds in the first round of the program to address critical building needs, as identified by facilities condition assessment reports, in branch libraries that were prioritized using an Equity Index and the State of California's Poverty Measure Index. SJPL received a

SJPL Branch Library	Total Grant Award
1. Biblioteca Latinoamericana	\$3,625,045
2. Seven Trees	\$1,487,606
3. Joyce Ellington	\$705,664
4. East San Jose Carnegie	\$654,945
5. Bascom	\$652,746
6. Alviso	\$614,374
7. Educational Park	\$515,729
8. Hillview	\$265,021
9. Tully Community	\$147,757
	\$8,668,887

partial award of \$8.7 million and plans to submit additional branch library projects in future rounds of the grant program.

"This critical investment will ensure that our libraries will remain safe, accessible, and healthy places for another generation of San José children and families," said Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Thanks to Governor Newsom and the California State Library for their historic investment in those places that provide an equalizing force for so many of our young students who painstakingly work to overcome the barriers of poverty and inequitable educational opportunity."

The Biblioteca Latinoamericana and the Seven Trees Branch libraries received the largest awards.

The Biblioteca Latinoamericana Branch, which opened in 1999, will receive \$3.6 million to support existing improvement plans. Seven Trees Branch Library and Community Center, the City's first joint-use facility received close to 1.5M in future improvements.

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Times **Politics**

## State assembly republicans demand release date of 2022 student state test score data

Members of the California State Assembly Republican Caucus want the 2022 student state test score data to be made public.

The Caucus sent a letter to Superintendent of California Schools Tony Thurmond and the California Department of Education on Sept. 28 urging them to provide an immediate release date and an explanation for the delay for the results of the "Smarter Balanced" English, math and science statewide tests.

"As a mom, educator, and longtime special needs advocate, I know that early detection and treatment is always the best approach to addressing learning deficits," said Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares. "I am infuriated at CDE for their irresponsible and negligent refusal to release this data in a timely manner. We all know that COVID-19 school closures led to learning loss. The right thing to do is release the data so that parents and stakeholders can better plan interventions to reverse and improve student outcomes."

### Test scores allow parents to make informed choices

The test scores allow parents to make informed choices about their child's educa-

tion, especially after the many COVID school closures.

"Preventing the public from seeing these scores raises questions about just how poorly students are actually performing and does nothing to help our declining enrollment problem," said Assemblymember James Gallagher. "Obscuring this information on how students are faring for any reason is completely unacceptable."

The California Department of Education

***"Preventing the public from seeing the scores raises questions."***

***– Assemblymember James Gallagher***

(CDE) has delayed the public release of the 2022 Smarter Balanced scores until an undetermined date in the fall, which is a stark departure from the last seven years of testing. Preliminary 2022 results from Los Angeles Unified School District show a record decline in scores from before the pandemic.

### Why the delay?

The CDE has stated they are delaying the release of these results until they roll out the California School Dashboard, which compiles information on student demographic data and rates of chronic absenteeism, though in most years, Smarter Balanced results were released within the first two months of the student's next grade to determine their progress.



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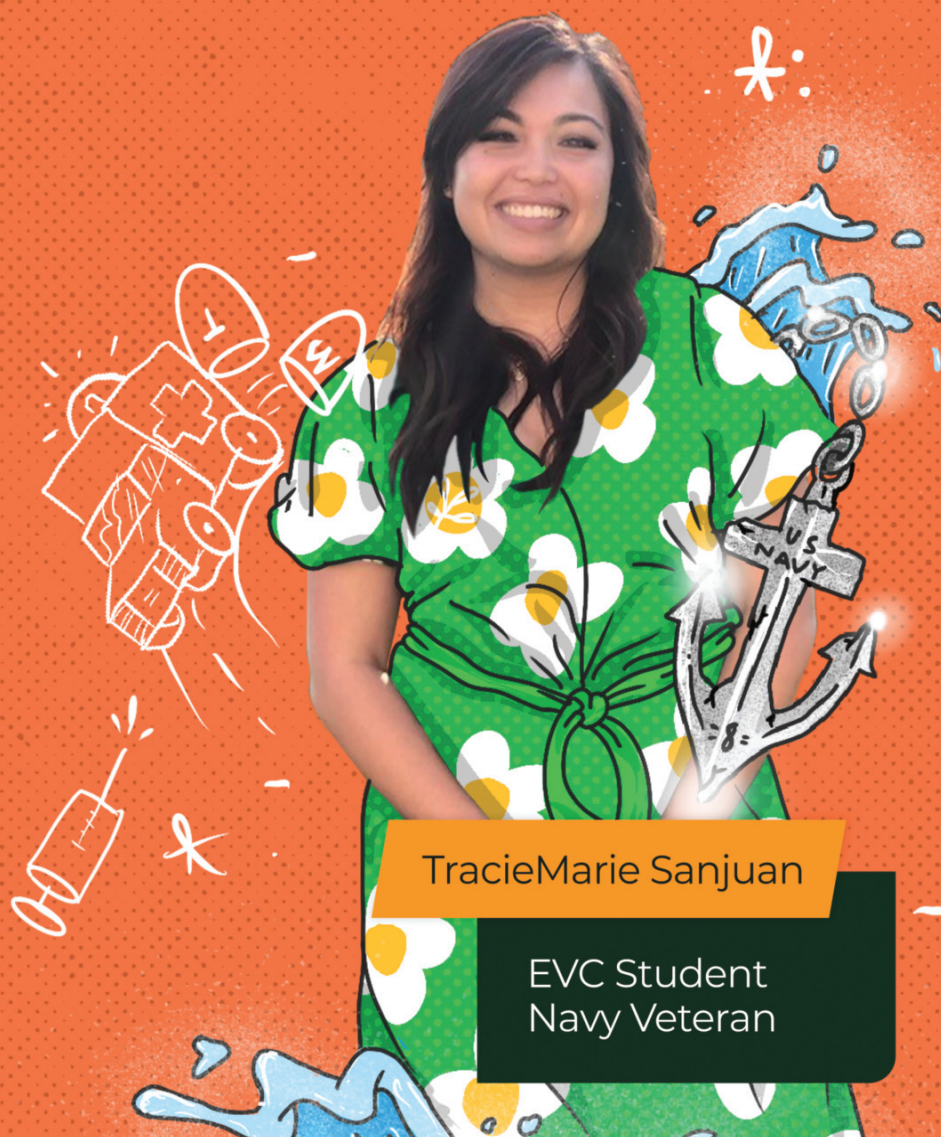


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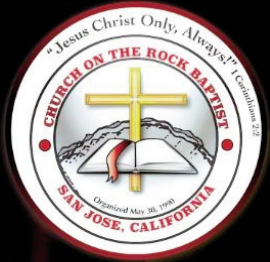
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Times **Community News**

This San Jose mural on 3rd and Santa Clara streets is one of many art projects that portrays the city's culture. Photo by Jana Kadah.

## San Jose invests big in public art

By Jann Kadah  
*San José Spotlight*

San Jose artists have the opportunity to receive thousands of dollars to bring their creative visions to fruition. It's the latest effort from City Hall to bring vibrant public art into the community.

The Creative Ambassadors program gives four San Jose-based artists \$9,500 each to create a community art project that invites participation from residents and celebrates the diversity of San Jose's cultural communities. Applications for projects are due October 10.

"The program is an opportunity to really build public will for the arts," Danielle Siembieda, senior arts manager for the city, told San José Spotlight. "There is a reciprocal environment where we are able to understand and connect more with different communities around San Jose through these creative ambassadors."

While the program has been around since 2018, the investment is the latest in a string of city initiatives to bolster public art in San Jose. This year was one of the largest allocations for public art — toppling even future investments in the next few years, according to the city's proposed budget.

Last year six artists used the money to create projects exploring body image, technology and San Jose's rich lowrider history.

"The Creative Ambassadors program allows folks to kind of approach the arts more outside of like the museum setting, or the gallery setting which might seem a little bit maybe elitist at times," said San Jose-based new media artist Ricardo Cortez, one of the grantees last year.

Cortez applauded the city for investing in art programs and public art — a recent phenomenon and the most he's ever seen in San Jose.

"It's adding a different element, a different layer to our cultural fabric," Cortez said. "Austin, for example, or other places

where they have a really vibrant artists culture that is heavily supported, the economy in those areas is booming, the nightlife is like off the hook. And San Jose gets overlooked but we could be that too."

### Millions for art

In the last decade, the city has invested millions to liven its public art scene — especially in the downtown core. In 2021, San Jose allocated \$6.9 million for artist grants, murals and other creative projects like the Sonic Runway.

That doesn't include the \$2.4 million from new development taxes that will fund public arts projects for the next five years. Some projects that will be completed in the coming years include the End of Watch Police Memorial, a window art display for the the 4th Street Parking Garage and the River Oaks Pump Station project which could create an educational artwork/gateway along the Guadalupe River Trail at City Hall.

Councilmember Raul Peralez also secured an additional \$250,000 this year to fund murals across downtown — particularly in historically underserved parts of the city.

"Public art does much more than just beautifying a community," Peralez told San José Spotlight. "It may bring pride to a lot of people. It sparks conversation, it preserves our history and culture."

Peralez said in the last five to eight years, the city really ramped up its investments and its evident in the city's streets, especially in the SOFA district. There are 250 art installations including murals managed by the city.

"We've seen a dozen murals go up almost every single year," Peralez said. "That was not like when I took office in 2014. The commentary I was hearing was that we were known as 'Tan Jose' because everything was just so tan and bland."



Times **News**

## East San Jose school nets millions from state

The Cesar Chavez Early Learning Center is receiving \$7 million through the California Department of Education's State Preschool program.

The Alum Rock Union School District site will use funding to expand early care and education programs, officials said.

Alum Rock's school board voted earlier this year to turn Cesar Chavez Elementary School into an early learning center.

The funding will significantly improve language development skills, reducing the district's population of English language learners over the years.

## WaterWise

### The whim of weeds

By Matthew Frazier

In the years I worked as a nursery consultant and nursery specialist in retail and wholesale garden centers and nurseries in San Jose and Santa Clara Valley, I emphasized the value in letting our turf lawns grow wild with an abundance of flowering volunteers, or weeds.

Many are annoyed at the prospect of allowing anything to grow in their lawns that isn't pristine and uniform. To this, I retort: "You will be rewarded very soon with your passive efforts."

#### Lawn weeds attract beneficial predatory insects and pollinators

Many of the flowering wild weeds which grow in our turf lawns and throughout our gardens and landscapes actually attract beneficial predatory insects and pollinators. When allowed to grow and thrive, in conjunction with planting California-native and Santa Clara Valley-native flowers ... We will see that balance and biodiversity will reign.

#### Use of potent herbicides has detrimental effects

The use of potent herbicides has detrimental effects on our water bodies as these chemicals, granular or liquid, combine with irrigation water from spray heads and sprinklers and make their way across the landscapes, to the storm drain inlets, through our sewers, and eventually to waterbodies where they injure aquatic life.

#### You will be rewarded for your passive efforts

Many may ask: "Am I supposed to let these weeds overtake my lawn which I work so hard to maintain?" To which I respond: "You will be rewarded for your passive efforts." One of the benefits of allowing wild weeds to grow and flower in our landscapes and lawns is that their root systems will draw valuable nitrogen to the upper levels of the soil, where it can ac-

tually help to nourish the root systems of our turf lawns and other botanicals.

#### Wildflower seed mixes on your lawn can bring about positive things

Our local garden centers and nurseries sell envelopes of wild flower seed mixes which can be used to overseed sparse lawns. Many of these wild flower mixes can thrive in tandem with wild flowering weeds. Butterflies and beneficial insects and pollinators will gradually make their way to the landscapes and create and maintain balance. In Santa Clara Valley and the neighboring valleys, we have migratory and song birds who appreciate the variety of color and structure of native flowers and plants which can be allowed to grow free form and wild.

There are seed mixes which are specifically for butterflies as well as 1-gallon native flowers and plants which can be purchased from small private nurseries throughout the Bay Area. This is also an opportunity to attract native bees who actually pollinate more effectively and efficiently than non-native bees introduced long ago. Add some small fountains and water features and you will more than likely see a flux of native hummingbirds arrive and congregate as well.

#### Doing research on what flowers to seed is encouraged

I encourage any who are interested and willing to research the botanical names and images of native flowers and plants and especially those which attract birds, insects, and butterflies. This creates the foundation for a healthy ecosystem within our landscapes and will beget more beneficial natural activity. Allowing our turf lawns to grow long in the heat and watering late at night will allow shelter for visitors as well. Thank you for your time reading this column. Best with your gardening and landscaping endeavors!

*Matthew Frazier is a retired Nursery Consultant/Nursery Specialist. He is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper, and Qualified Stormwater Manager. You may contact him at (408) 656-5622 – Mobile/Text; or by email: [kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com)*



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Symphony San Jose is presenting "la Grand Viola" Saturday, Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 23, at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First St., San Jose, CA.

Symphony San Jose is celebrating its 20th Anniversary concert season.

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"la Grand Viola" features acclaimed solo artists chosen for their virtuosity and their singular magic on their instrument. From Symphony San Jose: "With its deep, resonant sound, the viola is known as the orchestra's inner voice; but its solo magic is equally powerful.

**Featuring Europe's foremost star Timothy Ridout**

"Dazzling English violist Timothy Ridout, one of Europe's foremost young



From left: Conductor: **Tito Muñoz**. Soloist: **Timothy Ridout**, viola.

stars, performs two contrasting works, Williams' Suite for Viola and Paganini's

Sonata per la Grand Viola."

The program:

- Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: Ballade in A minor
- Ralph Vaughan Williams: Suite for Viola
- Niccolò Paganini: Sonata per la Grand Viola
- Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony No 4 Italian

Soloist: Timothy Ridout, viola. Conductor: Tito Muñoz.

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## Times News

## Mineta San José International Airport now powered by 100% renewable eEnergy; switches to TotalGreen service

Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) recently upgraded to San José Clean Energy's (SJCE) TotalGreen service for all City-owned buildings at the Airport.

TotalGreen provides 100% percent renewable, emission-free energy from renewable sources such as sunlight and wind, thus completing one important goal of SJC's Sustainability Management Plan.

SJC Airport Director John Aitken said, "Partnering with San José Clean Energy to power Mineta San José International Airport with 100% renewable electricity is the latest step we are taking to reduce the Airport's carbon footprint as part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability".

"We're thrilled about the Airport's decision to upgrade to our TotalGreen service," said Lori Mitchell, Director of the Community Energy Department, which operates SJCE. "It shows their commitment to a clean energy future and helps advance the City's ambitious goal to be carbon neutral by 2030."

Upgrading to SJCE's TotalGreen service is part of SJC's overall Sustainability Management Plan, a platform for establishing SJC as global leader in environmental stewardship. The plan builds several initiatives around eight key dimensions: energy, water, waste, ground transportation, natural resources, social responsibility, sustainability governance and climate action.

In support of this plan and commitment, SJC has taken several important steps towards decarbonizing the future including:

- When SJC enrolled in SJCE's GreenSource service in 2018, the renewable energy content in Airport buildings increased by 12% (33% to 45%) and carbon-free energy content increased by 11% (69% to 80%).

- In 2019, SJC received a brand-new fleet of 10 battery-electric, zero-emission buses that are used to transport passengers and their luggage between SJC's parking lots, rental car center, and terminals. SJC's deployment was the first of its kind for a California airport and among the largest deployments for a U.S. airport.

- In January 2020, SJC completed the first Sustainability Management Plan to serve as roadmap for reducing resource consumption, environmental impact, and greenhouse gas emissions while promoting social responsibility. One of the specific goals outlined in the Sustainability Management Plan was to make the switch to SJCE's 100% TotalGreen option.

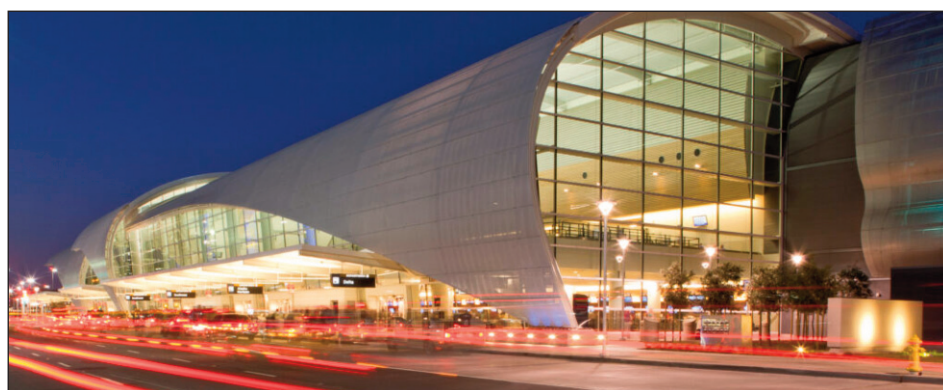
- To stay committed to the goals that were outlined in the 2020 Sustainability Management Plan, SJC secured the additional funding necessary to make the switch to SJCE's TotalGreen service for FY 22-23.

- In 2020, SJC helped to setup a Food Donation Program between a local community pantry and Airport concessions.

In recognition of its sustainable environmental practices, Mineta San José International Airport was awarded the Airport Carbon Accreditation Level 1 Certification in 2021 by ACI-North America. Air-

port Carbon Accreditation is the only global carbon management certification program for airports, providing a common framework for active carbon management with measurable goalposts, and recognizing the efforts of airports to reduce their carbon emissions through six levels of certification.

TotalGreen is verified to be 100% renewable by the Center for Resource Solutions Green-e certification program. The Airport choosing TotalGreen supports SJCE's investments in new renewables and reliability. Visit [SanJoseCleanEnergy.org/TotalGreen](http://SanJoseCleanEnergy.org/TotalGreen) for more information.



Upgrading to SJCE's TotalGreen service is part of SJC's overall Sustainability Management Plan.  
Photo credit: Ken Paul

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COMPASS



Times **Community**

# Presentation High School turns 60

## Alumnae remember Presentation High School's history

Presentation High School turns 60 this month!

The Willow Glen private school has thrived in the community by changing with the times, making it one of the top Bay Area all-girl schools.

"We're definitely not your grandmother's all-girls Catholic high school," says director Holly Elkins. "The sewing classroom is now the leadership room, and our uniform now includes pants. There are, however, fewer all-girl schools in our region than there were 60 years ago."

Kristina Luscher, who recently joined the school as its new principal, says girls schools are more important than ever when it comes to empowering young women.

"Research shows that girls at single-gender high schools perform better and gain greater self-confidence; they become more involved in activities, develop higher self-esteem and assume more

leadership positions."

### Sciences and the arts

Presentation High School is currently devoting a lot of its resources on both the sciences and the arts. The investment is paying off, as Presentation recently won the 2022 Outstanding School Award at the Synopsys Science & Technology Championship, the first all-girls school to do so. Nine students won awards at the competition, including one teacher. The school's robotics team won the 2021 CalGames and competes at the national level.



Nano Nagle



Members of the Presentation Ambassadors Club welcome students to Club Day at the Willow Glen private school. Presentation High School is turns 60 on Oct. 1, but director **Holly Elkins** says, "We're definitely not your grandmother's all-girls Catholic high school."

### Showing compassion to the poor and vulnerable

"We emphasize showing compassion to the poor and vulnerable," says Grace Bernal, the teacher in charge of service and immersion at Presentation.

Every holiday season, Presentation students and their families support Sacred Heart Community Service by providing food items, coats, blankets, hygiene products, toys and

diapers for clients served by the downtown San Jose nonprofit.

"We collected 888 Thanksgiving turkeys last year alone," Bernal says.

The bonds formed at Presentation extend beyond graduation.

"The most important thing I gained from Presentation is the sisterhood," says alumna Ellen Kamei, a Mountain View City Council member. "We formed a strong network, and I still stay in touch with my

classmates."

Soma Sengupta recalls that her daughter Shrobana, currently a student at UC Berkeley, thrived at Presentation. "She loved the emphasis on creativity and the opportunities for leadership. She found the teachers and college counselors to be very supportive."

### History

Presentation High School was founded by Nano Nagle, who was born to a wealthy family in Ireland. Nagle was educated in France, where she later entered a religious order. Eventually, she returned to her homeland, where she devoted her time to helping the destitute and infirm. She founded the first Presentation Convent in Cork, Ireland, in 1775.

### Presentation Alumnae remember school's history

When Presentation opened in the Fall of 1962, it was a time when President John F. Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev were squaring off over Russia's installation of missiles in Cuba, the death of Marilyn Monroe, and the Beatles' first hit, "Love Me Do" was released.

That same year in San Jose, where a large cherry orchard on Plummer Avenue in Willow Glen had been cleared, a new girls' Catholic high school opened—Presentation High School, taking its

*Continued, next page*

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Times **Community**

Presentation High School's freshman's class of 1962.

name from the Sisters of Presentation religious order that was staffing the school.

Presentation's main building had not been completed and classes had to be conducted in the St. Christopher's Gym, said Karen Shea Duncan, class of '66 which consisted of just 73 students.

"Leading up to the move-in day, students were excited to get out of St. Christopher's Gymnasium which was set up as a temporary school, Duncan said. "The students who rode the bus home every day would cheer for the workers as we passed by our future school. The workers would wave back! I guess we felt we were doing our part to speed things up!"

Move in day finally arrived on October 1, 1962. The Class of 1966 was happy to go to classes in the partially finished Presentation High School Main Building.

Here are some memories of that first day from the Class of 1966:

"I remember there were three classrooms and a restroom open near the bookstore and that the office was open in the Main Building. There were workmen in the halls and building supplies to step over. I don't even recall whether there were benches outside. The student center was a hollow shell with pipes sticking up out of the floor, and it stayed that way for quite a while. The statue of the Blessed Mother was an empty pedestal, and there wasn't much in the way of landscaping. We worked alongside our parents in the evenings and on the weekends assembling lockers. It wasn't third world, but it was definitely 'roughing it' for many months. It certainly was better than one class in each corner of the St. Christopher's Gym!" (Maureen Curran '66 Clark)

"I was a new freshman in a new school and in a new building. I was experiencing a 'first' each step of the way. This was the beginning of the history of Presentation High School! It

was a once in a lifetime honor!" (Nadine Dutra '66 Dell Bittain)

"The first day of class on campus was unique in that there was still ongoing construction. I'm not sure if all the buildings even had roofing yet. Workers were everywhere. It must have been a challenge for the sisters. I do remember that on one of those first days, the sisters and most of the students did the "bunny hop" down the middle of the hallway! That was pretty neat since the sisters were still wearing full habits! The scene would have made a great YouTube video!" (Kathy Swift '66 Ronan)

"Presentation was a big empty space! There were 62 girls and 3 teachers using 6 finished classrooms. Two classrooms were used for lunch rooms. One classroom was used for music and to practice our calypso moves. We wore our PE uniforms but Ms. Heller, the PE teacher, never suited up! She just stood on the sidelines with her clipboard! She did have us do drill team exercises, and we performed at volleyball games. Sister Gregory always had a tape measure and was always checking building progress. The nuns did their best to keep us out of the workmen's way. One whole wing was still under construction as well as the Center. That was a pivotal year for us as a class. We endured a lot, and we became quite full of ourselves. We were essentially seniors for four years and did not conform or take direction well. I believe everyone gave a sigh of relief when we graduated!" (Linda Della Maggiore '66 Christensen)

"We began our classes in Healy Hall at St. Christopher's. I believe there were 80 of us. When we moved into Presentation, there were workmen on the roof. Sister Gregory had our dads assembling lockers after school, and she would walk down the hall in case one of the dads needed to swear. Sister

See PRESENTATION, page 21



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



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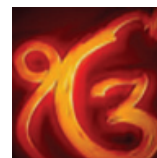
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**Evergreen Times**



Times **Feature****Presentation***Continued from page 19*

Fidelmia, Sister Gregory, and Sister Raphael were our three instructors." (Genevieve Phillips '66 Pereira)

"Memories of our eventful first day at Presentation are sparse, but I do recall excitement and anxiety entering the St. Christopher's Gym shyly embracing the 60+ girls of our freshman class. The school was not finished, so long rows of tables in the Gym would suffice as desks for the class of '66. We took a walk to view the new school, which would not be completed for three months. Walking around the unfinished campus was wonderfully fun and exciting. During those first three months we would become part of the work crew for the school. Under the direction of our brilliant school architect, Sr. Gregory, we did a variety of work around the unfinished buildings. We wielded screwdrivers, hammers and pliers putting together desks, chairs, and the lockers that still line both wings of the main hallways. Physically helping to build lockers bonded life-long

friendships and Presentation's legacy for over 50 years!" (Sally DiSalvo '66 Longinetti)

"Foremost in my mind about the first day of classes was the location. We were seated at tables (u-shaped in placement if I recall correctly) in St. Christopher's Gym! The school was not yet ready. Sister Fidelmia, Sister Gregory, and Sister Rafael team-taught the class of '66 in the gym for several days before we moved to the school's classrooms. When we did move to the school, the carpenters were still working. I remember being distracted by a burly construction worker, several long, 2x4s propped on his shoulder, walking down the hallway! It was pretty unique! To a 15-year-old, such whimsical sights were way more interesting than Latin verbs!" (Kathy Swift '66 Ronan)

To celebrate its 60th anniversary, Presentation held a free community carnival on Oct. 2 on the campus at 2281 Plummer Ave., San Jose.

For more information, visit <https://www.presentationhs.org/support-pres/60th-anniversary>.



***"When we did move to the school, the carpenters were still working. I remember being distracted by a burly construction worker, several long, 2x4s propped on his shoulder, walking down the hallway! It was pretty unique!"***



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**Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;**  
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## Employment

### Lead Database Administrator

Sify Technologies North America Corporation seeks Lead Database Administrator in Santa Clara, CA and Philadelphia, PA. Partner with architects of different engineering/application teams to engineer complex technical product in order to provide business solutions to various business divisions as a part of DBA Engineering project activities. Implement and administer Oracle streams for live reporting server, database consolidation, zero downtime migration. Travel to unanticipated client sites within the US. May need to relocate. Work from home is an option. **Send resume to: katta.reddy@sifycorp.com**

## Notices

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*Jackie Jones presents...*

# 663 East Garland Terrace, Sunnyvale

**Just Listed!**  
Open House Saturday & Sunday 1-4

Perfectly situated behind secure gates you will find a wonderful place to call home. From its open, airy atmosphere that lets in an abundance of natural light to the inviting living room with gas-lit fireplace, this unit feels like home. The spacious dining area adjacent to the kitchen and living room is perfect for gatherings of all sizes, while the balcony and main level backyard patio welcome guests to enjoy year-round California dining. The kitchen is complete with modern appliances and more than enough room to whip up gourmet meals with a second informal eating area and private balcony. This unique home continues to a lower level where you will find a two-car garage and a separate spacious hobby/workout area.

**Offered at: \$1,265,000**

### Home Summary

- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Two full bathrooms and one half bathroom
- ◆ 1,368 square feet of living space
- ◆ Gorgeous condo in the wonderful Cherrywood community in Sunnyvale

### Interior Features

- ◆ Open, airy atmosphere inside that is bathed in natural light and features great flow between spaces
- ◆ Spacious, inviting living room with gas-lit fireplace, plush carpeting, and glass sliding door to private patio

- ◆ Extra room on lower level off garage that can be used as a hobby area, home gym, or office
- ◆ Dining area adjacent to kitchen and living room with lovely chandelier
- ◆ Kitchen with ample counter space, modern appliances, range hood, large stainless sink, laminate wood plank flooring, breakfast bar with seating, and secondary dining area with glass slider to private balcony
- ◆ Spacious primary suite with plenty of natural light, two spacious closets, and glass slider to the second balcony
- ◆ Primary bathroom features brightly-lit vanity, walk-in shower, roomy dressing area, and luxury vinyl plank flooring
- ◆ Wonderfully appointed secondary bedrooms and full bathroom with shower over tub
- ◆ Half bathroom on main level right off utility room

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Virtual Tour

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**Therese Swan**  
408.656.8240  
tswan@tswan.com  
DRE 01355719



*The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/ RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.*

***If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.***



# 21290 CINNABAR HILLS ROAD

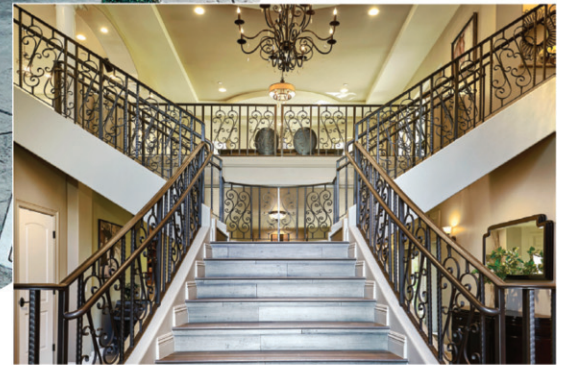
**\$3,599,000**

**5 Bed**

**4+ Baths**

**5000 Sq Ft**

**2.5 Acres**



## A One-of-a-Kind Home

Unbridled elegance in this architectural masterpiece with private driveway and wooded views. This stunning custom estate showcases an open floorplan celebrating indoor/outdoor living. Outdoor entertaining with complete built-in kitchen and patios, solar heated infinity pool & spa with waterfall feature. Two-story foyer with a grand imperial-style staircase. A formal living room with fireplace, wine bar, and Juliet balconies. Expansive family room, gourmet kitchen with multiple prep stations and island, and sliding doors to the outside. Executive office and gym area. Top Almaden Schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.

**More Photos and Full Video Available at**  
**[AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com](http://AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com)**



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