

**ASHRITHA ESWARAN
OF SAN JOSE
COMPETES IN U.S.
WOMEN'S CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP - P4**



**ANTON CAO OF
SAN JOSE ATTENDS
THE 2016 WHITE
HOUSE SCIENCE
FAIR - P5**



**REPORT UNCOVERS CRISIS OF
UNDEREMPLOYMENT IN
SILICON VALLEY - P11**

APRIL/MAY 2016 ■ VOL. 12, NO. 4

Willow Glen *Times*

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BRIDGING HISTORY

District 6 San Jose City Council Candidates Forums May 5, 11

Two candidates forums for District 6 San Jose City Council candidates will be held in May.

The events are sponsored by the Neighborhood and Community Leaders Group is presenting two City Council District 6 Candidate Forums. All eight City Council District 6 Candidates have confirmed they will be participating.

The first will be presented on Thursday, May 5 at Dwell Christian Church, 1292 Minnesota Ave. San Jose. The second forum will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1100 Shasta Ave, San Jose.

Willow Glen exercise studio giving back

LIFT, an exercise studio on Lincoln Avenue, is hosting a monthly community giving program entitled LIFT Gives on May 15. All proceeds go to nonprofits.

Each month, a LIFT instructor and one staff member select a local nonprofit as the beneficiary of a donation. This month, all proceeds benefit Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence.

The inaugural LIFT Gives on April 2 raised more than a thousand dollars for Autism Speaks.

LIFT is located at 1202 Lincoln Ave.

To reserve a spot in the next LIFT Gives class, call (408) 292.2263 or visit liftexercise.com.



California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously finds Willow Glen Trestle eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places

The Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle nominated the Willow Glen Trestle for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was approved yesterday following a public hearing before the California State Historical Resources Commission in San Francisco. The nomination was contested by the City of San José.

In 2014, the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle won their

public-interest lawsuit challenging San José's refusal to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) to consider alternatives to demolition of the evocative 1922 Trestle as part of the Three Creeks Trail. The City's appeal of that decision to the Sixth District Court of Appeal remains pending. The City also prepared an EIR but has not yet reconsidered the demolition based on that EIR.

The City's Historic Landmarks Commission had previously
See TRESTLE, page 6

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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The Flamenco Society of San Jose to perform 'JUERGA!'

The Flamenco Society of San Jose, (a non-profit organization that promotes the art of flamenco) would like to announce a performance titled "JUERGA!", featuring flamenco singers, guitarists and dancers with emotional intensity.

"JUERGA!" will be an exclusive performance in the Bay Area, held May 21 in the Rose Garden neighborhood.

The Flamenco Society is celebrating its 30th anniversary. We are the only organization offering Flamenco performances in the South Bay.

Local ballet dancers transition to Menlo Park

Silicon Valley Ballet closed their doors last month after 30 years. But good news – four of SVB's dancers have transitioned to a nearby professional ballet company - Menlowe Ballet in Menlo Park.

Menlowe will be even better with some of the local talent from SVB. And these four dancers from SVB will be performing in Menlowe Ballet's Spring show.

The dancers moving to Menlowe Ballet include:

- Amy Marie Briones, Soloist
- Junna Ige, Principal Dancer
- Maykel Solas, Principal Dancer
- Akira Takahashi, Soloist

You can see their photos at <http://www.menloweballet.org/dancers/>

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Valley Currents

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

Ashritha Eswaran of Evergreen competes in Chess Championship

By William Bellou
Publisher

Chess champion Ashritha Eswaran, 15, has been invited to the invitation-only 2016 U.S. Women's Chess Championship in St. Louis for the second year in a row last week.

Eswaran, a sophomore at Notre Dame High School in San Jose, is among only 12 of the nation's best female chess players invited to participate in the prestigious event. In 2014, she was the youngest player and won a prize for the Best Game of the Tournament, had three wins, and was the youngest and lowest-rated player in the tournament.

Eswaran began playing chess when she turned seven, and at 13, she received her National Master title. Her ratings have risen rapidly, in January 2010, she had a rating of 650 and by Feb. 2014, she became Candidate Master. She received training first at the NorCal House of Chess and then with Bulgarian GM Dejan Bojkov.

In June 2015, Eswaran won first place in the U.S. Girls Junior Championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma

National Rating and Rank from USCHESS.org

- Current Rating USCF: 2235
- # 2 in Top Age 15 Girls in the Nation
- # 21 Women Category in the Nation
- # 8 Top Girls Under 21 Category in the Nation (Updated March '16)



Ashritha Eswaran of Evergreen Valley is pictured here with "Young Star" teammates (left to right) Jeffery Xiong, Kayden Troff, Samuel Sevan and, of course, Garry Kasparov. The first-ever Congressional Chess Match at the Rayburn House Office Building on June 18, 2014 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Paul Morigi/Invision for Invision for Saint Louis Chess Club/AP Images). Below inset photo: Eswaran won the All Girls National "under twelve" with an excellent score 5.5/6. Ashritha is pictured here with her trophy as USA champion in April 2012.

despite being lowest seed. She won with a 6.5/9 and qualified to play in the 2016 US Women's Championship. The very next day, she flew to Cali, Colombia for the 2015 Pan American Youth Chess Championship, where she tied for first place, but ended up getting the Bronze through a tie break in Girls Under 18 section.

In August of 2015, Eswaran won first place at the Pam Am in El Salvador, and received title of Woman International Master. This year in February, Eswaran played

and came in an impressive third in the incredibly competitive American Continental Women's Championship in Lima, Peru, for the second time.

Eswaran is also a part of the "Young Stars - Team USA" program which is sponsored by the Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF) and the Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL). Other accomplishments throughout her career: All-Girls National Championship U12 (2012) and again in 2013 in U14 section. She



played in the World Youth Championships four times from 2012-2015.

OP ED

Renters Rights Coalition calls for rental reform after inadequate Council response

Last night, the most intense mobilization of San José tenants and their allies in decades forced the City Council to make the first real changes in its ineffectual rent control ordinance since 1979. Shockingly, the Council failed to make improvements to the law that would be strong enough to stem the current massive tide of displacement of low-income and diverse families and individuals in our community.

This anemic response flew in the face of the City Housing

Department's expertly-researched study of the ineffectiveness of the City's rent policies and the profitability of rent-controlled properties. It was also an insultingly inadequate response to story after story of hardship that renters told, hour after hour, late into the night at City Hall. Our lower income neighbors—workers who cook the food, care for those who are elderly and ill, and clean the floors; seniors; families with children; and people with disabilities—also have the human right to live in health,

safe and secure housing in San Jose.

Our large and growing coalition of community based-organizations—together with swelling ranks of renters—who see daily the effects of poor housing conditions, unfair evictions, and skyrocketing rents, will not allow this weak and ineffective response to stand. In the weeks and months to come, our coalition will again press this City Council for stronger rent caps and meaningful protections against unfair evictions and

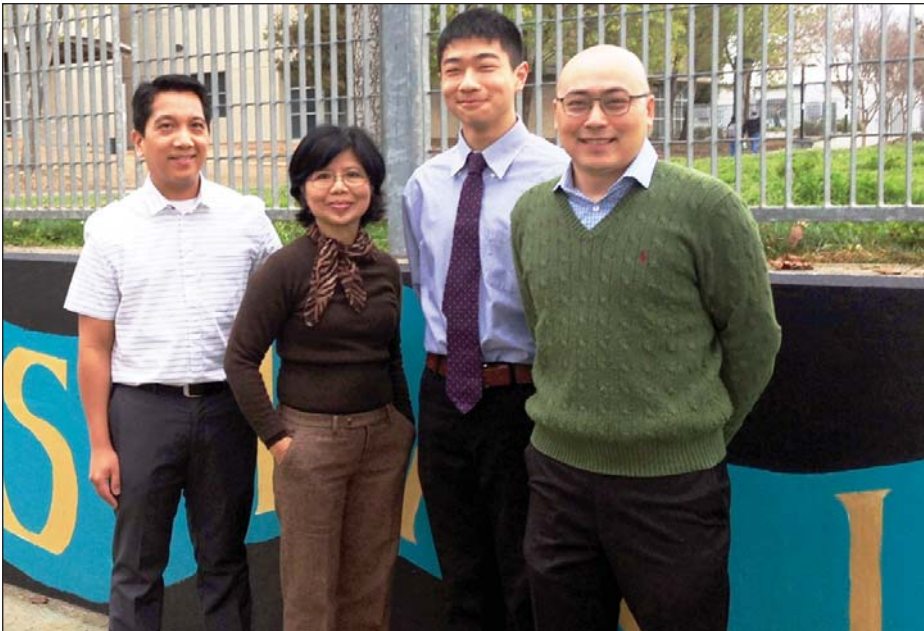
displacement. And we will keep coming back until renters are treated justly in our community.

The Renters Rights Coalition of Silicon Valley is a partnership of local community groups comprised of Affordable Housing Network, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, People Acting in Community Together (PACT), Sacred Heart Community Service, Silicon Valley Debug, Silicon Valley Rising and Working Partnerships USA.

LET THE WILLOW GLEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to editorial@timesmediainc.com or via postal mail to: Willow Glen Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124

Times **Education**



Anton Cao (third from left) earned a perfect score on the AP Calculus AB exam in 2015 and was among of only twelve students in the world to earn every point possible on the exam.

Cao attends White House Science Fair

Anton Cao of San Jose attended the 2016 White House Science Fair held last week in the White House East Room.

Cao earned a perfect score on the AP Calculus AB Exam in 2015 and was among of only twelve students in the world to earn every point possible on the exam.

President Obama is hosting the final White House Science Fair of his administration, celebrating students in a board range of STEM fields.

As an honored guest, Cao is interacting with other students, professional scientists, high-level senior government officials, and private sector representatives.

The President will also announce new commitments in support of the Administration's "Computer Science for All" initiative announced earlier this year, as well as the "Educate to Innovate" campaign to ensure that all students are engaged and prepared in STEM subjects.

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Times **Cover Story**



This map demonstrates the location of the trestle in relation to greater Willow Glen and the planned Los Gatos Creek Trail. Map: L. Ames

Trestle

Continued from page 1

voted, unanimously, to designate the Willow Glen Trestle as a City landmark, but its recommendation was overturned by the City Council. The EIR considered conflicting opinions as to historic status but relied on the opinion of one historic expert to conclude that the trestle was not historic.

"Now that the State Historical Resources Commission has determined that the Willow Glen Trestle qualifies as an historic resource eligible for listing on the California and National historic registers, California law requires that the City treat it as historic," said Friends of Willow Glen spokesperson Dr. Larry Ames. "We are thrilled that this issue has been conclusively resolved."

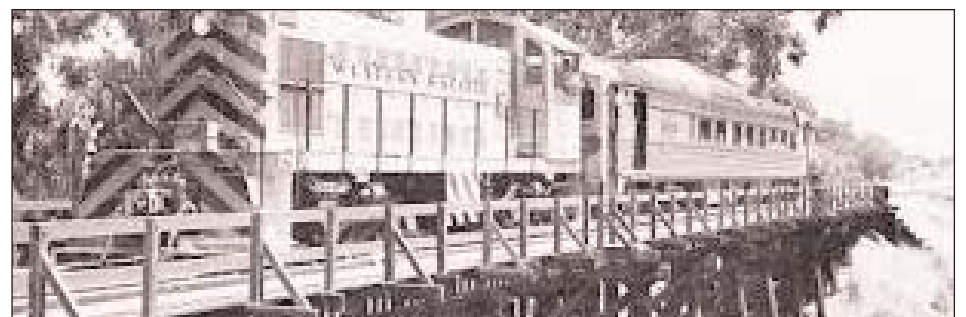
The EIR prepared by the City had concluded that the trestle could be safely rehabilitated for use in the Three Creeks Trail project, but could be slightly more costly to maintain over the next 50 years than a new steel bridge. Since the EIR concluded that the trestle was not historic, its demolition would have no adverse environmental impact. That conclusion is no longer valid.

One of the speakers in favor of historic status was Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, the former California State Historic Preservation Officer. Another was Seth Bernstein, an expert in historic resources, who explained to the Commission how the

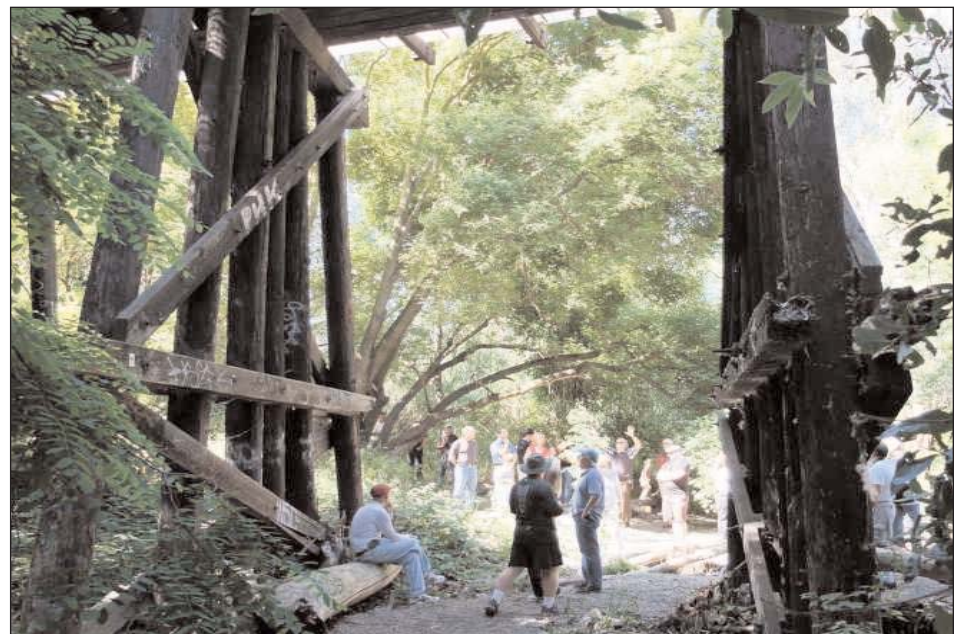
trestle helped to shape the community of Willow Glen.

"Now that the trestle is confirmed to be an historic resource, demolition is unlawful because rehabilitation for the Three Creeks Trail project is feasible," said Friends' lawyer Susan Brandt-Hawley, "and the City's appeal is moot." Gayle Frank of Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC* SJ), who also spoke in favor of listing at the hearing of the state Commission added: "We are so pleased with the unanimous vote that will protect the Willow Glen Trestle." Martha Heinrichs, a member of the Friends group, stated: "This amazing 94-year-old wooden train trestle in Willow Glen has supported many decades of history here in Santa Clara County when we were known as the 'Valley of Hearts Delight.' It is an important link to the families that farmed and had orchards here; to those workers who labored picking the crops to send to the canneries; to those who worked in the canneries; and to those connected with the railroad. One can see how closely genealogy, history, and historic preservation are connected with this train trestle: a treasure worthy of recognition and preservation."

"We are long-time trail advocates. We commit to working with the City to secure funding to rehabilitate the trestle as a safe, long-term segment of the new Three Creeks Trail," added Dr. Ames.



While the trestle once carried trains, it now has become a historic resource.



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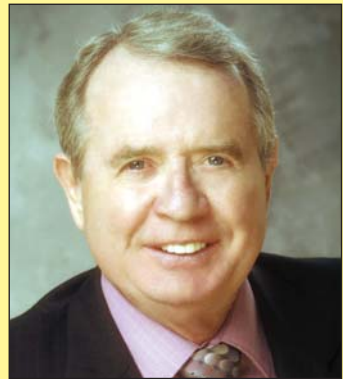
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The Episcopal Church in Almaden 6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243 Web: www.eca-sj.org
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Cambodian. Spanish at 1:00 PM.

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We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.church-stanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Church Office 408-268-3214
Clergy: Fr. Allan Boyd
Experience our Lord Jesus Christ in the beauty and magnificence of Holy Week & Easter after the manner of the earliest Christians. All are welcome to our warm, multicultural Church community, where services are done primarily in English. What happens when you reunite created matter to its Creator? Come and see!
Holy Week Services preparing for Eastern Orthodox Easter on May 1:
Wednesday 4/27 7 a.m. Pre-sanctified Divine Liturgy
7 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction (anointing of oil for healing of body and soul)
Thursday 4/28 7 a.m. Morning Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
7 p.m. Nailing of Christ to the Cross - Reading of the 12 Gospels
Friday April 29
7 a.m. Royal Hours
3:30 p.m. Descent from the Cross
7 p.m. Lamentation Service
With candlelit funeral procession around church
Saturday April 30 8:30 a.m. St. Basil morning Vespers Divine Liturgy
11p.m. Candlelight Resurrection Service - "Come receive the light!"
Midnight-Sunday Pascha/Easter Service - Divine

Liturgy
Sunday May 1 Easter Sunday
11 a.m. Agape Vespers - Christ's Good News in many languages
1-5 p.m. Pascha/Easter picnic at Almaden Lake Park Cinnabar 1,
6099 Winfield Bl., San Jose 95120

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com
www.stfrancisofassisi.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O. - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd.
Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel
Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cibari Auditorium)
Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

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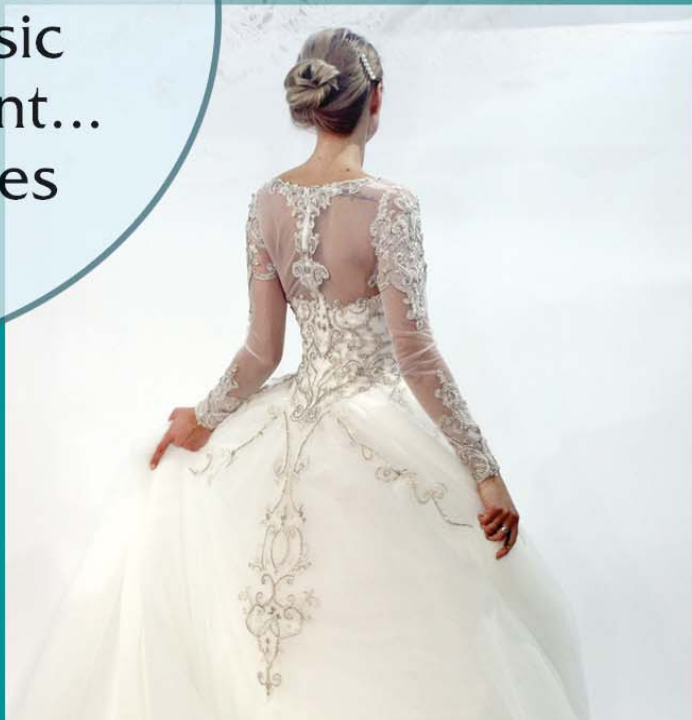
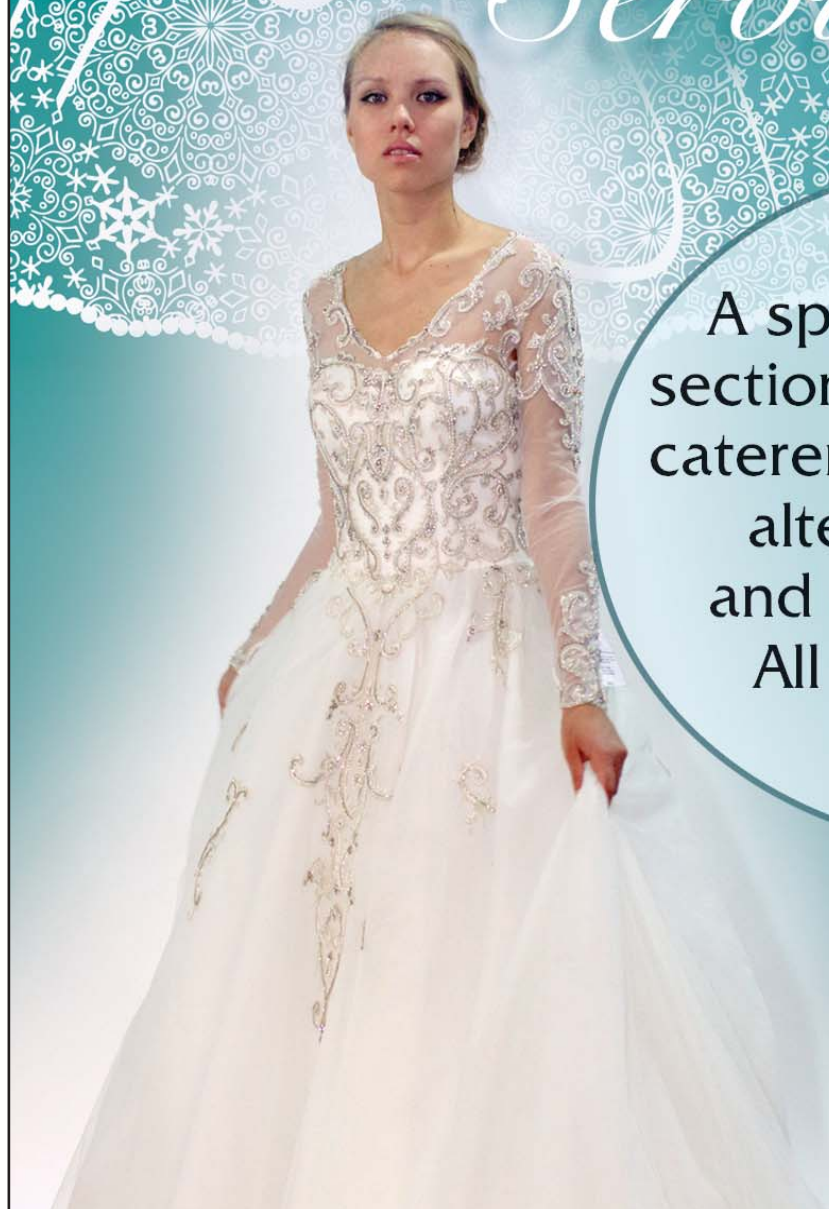


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Times **OpEd**

Report uncovers crisis of underemployment in Silicon Valley

A new report by Working Partnerships USA, The Center for Popular Democracy and the Fair Workweek Initiative, uncovers the widespread epidemic of underemployment in San Jose. Released as San Jose's Opportunity to Work campaign gathers signatures for a first-of-its-kind ballot initiative to help hourly workers gain access to more hours on the job, the report's findings provide one explanation for the growing inequality that has plagued Silicon Valley, as the growing prevalence of part-time jobs have denied many the chance at a meaningful paycheck. In San Jose more than four out of every ten hourly workers do not have full-time employment at their primary job, forcing one out of every three households into financial uncertainty.

"Silicon Valley is one of the wealthiest regions in the country, but even in an economic boom, far too many working people can't earn enough to make ends meet," said Working Partnerships USA Executive Director Derecka Mehrens about why her organization started investigating this issue. "The data and the worker stories point to a crisis of underemployment characterized by the rise in unstable, part-time jobs. The minimum wage is finally catching up, but working people can't even make it on \$15 an hour if they aren't getting enough hours at work."

The report, A Hidden Crisis: Underemployment in Silicon Valley's Hourly Workforce, shows that a raise in the minimum wage alone will not move working families out of poverty, arguing for the need to reform work schedule policies that have not kept up with changing employment structures. Locally, the Opportunity to Work Initiative would require large employers to offer additional work hours to current qualified workers before hiring new staff to fill the need.

"Most Americans count on good wages and enough hours to make ends meet," said Carrie Gleason, Director of the Fair Workweek Initiative at the Center for Popular Democracy. "San Jose has been a leader in the country's movement to raise the minimum wage and so it makes sense communities are calling for more hours. The data shows what we all know - we have too little say in the hours we work. It's getting harder to have a paycheck families can count on when employers only offer half a job without stable hours. San Jose's economy is thriving and the Opportunity to Work Initiative will help ensure that working people in the city thrive."

The data also highlights how underemployment dis-

proportionately impacts people of color, women, and immigrants, with sixty three percent of hourly part-time workers being women and sixty nine percent being people of color.

Salvador Bustamante, Executive Director of Latinos United for a New America, explained, "By the time people pay rent, they have next nothing left to get through the rest of the month and put food on the table. How can they get by on only 10 or 20 hours a week of work? They're stringing together two or three jobs just to make ends meet and it puts a huge strain on their families and their health."

Alejandra Mejia, a 10 year McDonald's employee and leader in the Fight for \$15, shared the impact of this trend on her own family: "My work hours have always been up and down. This week, they only gave me eight hours, even though they keep hiring new people. I'm a single mom with three kids. I can't support my family on so little. I'm already on food stamps and if I can't pay rent, I literally don't know where we will go."

"Public policy like the Opportunity to Work Initiative would give 64,000 part-time workers in San Jose the chance to work sufficient hours for a reliable, livable paycheck," said Ben Field, Executive Officer of the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council. "Currently, more than three-fourths of the part-time workforce earns less than \$15 an hour. Opportunity to Work, coupled with an increase in the regional minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2019, will help these workers pay their rent and put food on the table."

Part-time hourly workers, of which 58 percent are rent-burdened (paying more than 30 percent of their household income for rent) and 45 percent lack access to job-based health insurance, find it more and more challenging to meet their most basic needs as the cost of living continues to skyrocket. From the groundbreaking San Jose minimum wage increase in 2012 to the Opportunity to Work Initiative, Silicon Valley continues to serve as a model for the rest of the country of how the new economy can generate shared prosperity.

Working Partnerships USA is a community organization that drives the movement for a just economy by bringing together public policy innovation and the power of grassroots organizing. We build the capacity of workers, low-income neighborhoods and communities of color to lead and govern. Based in Silicon Valley, we tackle the root causes of inequality and poverty by leading collaborative campaigns for quality jobs, healthy communities, equitable growth and democracy that works for all.

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