SAN JOSE'S RUTVIK GANDHASRI FINISHED SIXTH IN SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING **BEE - P4** 



JEAN GREY STEALS THE SHOW IN 'X-**MEN: APOCALYPSE**<sup>3</sup> - SEE MOVIE **REVIEW**, **P12** 



**BUS TRIP FOR EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS: WE MADE OUR VOICES HEARD FOR EDUCATION** IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY' - P6

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# JUNE 2016 **VOL. 12, NO. 5** Willow Glen Jimes

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## **HEARD ON THE STREET**

A community has questions:

"Anybody know why the iconic Willow Glen mural, corner of Minnesota and Lincoln, was painted over?"

• "Is the gas station at the corner of Curtner and Lincoln awaiting approval(s)? They seem stuck in limbo."

If you have other burning community questions, or some answers to share, send your comments, questions and concerns to editor@timesmediainc.com and watch this space in future editions of the Willow Glen Times.

## **TRAGIC LOSS Residents react to the** fire at Dick's Bakery

n Sunday, May 22, there was a devastating fire at Dicks's Bakery, a Willow Glen business that drew customers from all over Silicon Valley. "I was sorry to learn about the fire at Dick's

Bakery this morning," said Susan, who hails from Gerald Way.

"Who doesn't love their burnt almond cake? Often imitated but never duplicated, she said."

On the morning news reporting the fire, the front of the business looked undamaged, but the worst of the fire damage was in the back of the building.

"I'm sorry to hear about this, Susan. I also LOVED their burnt almond cake,' said Tracy.

"I too, am sorry to hear this," said Bob from Bird Avenue. "They are a great local business. I hope they recover soon."

## **Trznadels to celebrate 75th** wedding anniversary

#### By William Bellou Publisher

remarkable Willow Glen couple, Al and Jean Trznadel, are hitting a milestone most dream about and never achieve. They will soon be celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary.

Al met Jean Granowicz at Sanders Confectionary Company in Detroit, Michigan and were married on June 15, 1941.

Soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Al joined the Navy in December 1941 and was stationed in South Pacific driving the landing crafts taking marines

and sailors to land mainly in the Philippines.

When the war ended, Al went to college and later worked in the automotive industry.

The Trznadels moved to California in 1960. Al received a job offer from United Technology where he successfully designed the valve that controls the fuel on Saturn Rockets.

Al and Jean raised two daughters that attended St. Christopher's church and school in Willow Glen. The children attended Notre Dame High School. Three Grandchildren all See 75 YEARS, page 3









Gorgeous Copperwood town house situated in the heart of Almaden Valley. This home has been updated throughout with a Transitional flair and offers 1,451 square feet of living space, 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Walking distance to all major conveniences, shopping, hiking and Almaden Golf and Country Club.

#### Main level

Tile foyer

• Updated kitchen with granite slab counter and breakfast bar, cherry wood cabinetry with pull-outs, stainless steel appliances including Bosche electric glass top induction cook top, and glass slider to patio promoting alfresco dining

• Spacious dining area adjacent to kitchen with tile floors, recessed lighting and an arched doorway to Living room

 Open Living room with vaulted ceilings gives this room a grand appearance and features hardwood floors, recessed lighting, tile fireplace and windows on either side allow natural light to flood this room
 Powder room with stately pedestal sink and tile floors

• Oversized rear patio is beautifully manicured making this the perfect place for summer entertaining

#### Second level

 Master bedroom with vaulted ceiling, triple door closet with built-in organizer and glass slider to private balcony

• En-suite bath features separate dressing area with his and her sinks, granite slab counters, white cabinetry and Shower room with tile walk-in shower and glass enclosure

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Times Local News

NEW TO SAN JOSE!



## 75 Years

Continued from page 1

attended St. Christopher's, with two girls attending Presentation and graduated from Santa Clara University. A grandson went on to Bellarmine and graduated from St. Mary's in Moraga. The most recent additions to the family are to great granddaughters, just four and five months old.

Though the years they have battled together serious illness. Al has survived a heart attack and quadruple bypass surgery, an aneurysm and prostate cancer. Jean battled breast cancer twice and uterine cancer most recently.

Through all of the various health issues Al and Jean said they had each other to lean on. "That's what we attribute living such a long and happy marriage."





Oakmont Senior Living's newest project is now under construction and scheduled to open in the early fall of 2016!

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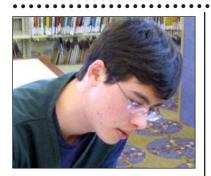
\$1.5 million is needed to preserve the Tower or it will be demolished.

Learn more ... donate today!

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The Umunhum Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are tax deductible.



## **Eric Wang** voted **'Volunteer** of the Year'

By Sean Eastwood Times staff writer ric Wang, Almaden Branch Library's math tutor has nominated been "Volunteer of the Year."

Every year, each of the twentyfour San Jose branches elects a volunteer they want to acknowledge as their Volunteer of the Year. From these nominees, one volunteer is selected for systemwide recognition as San Jose Public Library's Volunteer of the Year.

Eric helps K-12 students oneon-one every week with any of their mathematics challenges. The library staff stated that he deserves special recognition due to his merits in versatility, dedication, and management skills.

Eric is a versatile tutor who helps in math subjects ranging from elementary to upper high school. Eric's pleasant personality makes customers of all ages feel at ease.

Eric offers tutoring year-round and recruits and selects other teen volunteers to assist in the library's tutoring program to expand the number of students for the program.

#### Willow Glen Times

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Valley Currents

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

## **Rutvik Gandhasri finished sixth in Scripps National Spelling Bee**

By Sandhya Iyer Times staff writer

utvik Gandhasri of San Jose represented the Bay Area in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. on May 22, and came in sixth in the nation, with the chance to return to the competition next year.

Rutvik, a seventh grader, won 2016 CBS Bay Area Spelling Bee after competing with 49 spellers in 14 rounds that took nearly 4 hours and received a gold medal and a dictionary. Rutvik won second place last year.

The winning word? Jarabe — it's a Mexican dance.

"I feel really awesome about representing the Bay Area at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, especially after placing second last year," said Rutvik. "It makes me feel a lot better."

KCBS radio anchor Stan Bunger gave the 9 to 14-year-olds easier words at first, but they got progressively harder.

Rutvik's favorite book series is the popular Fable Haven by Brandon Mull. He loves to work with Lego Robotics.

Rutvik Gandhasri was born with an innate talent to spell. At five years old, he entered his first spelling bee and garnered third place. Even though that competition was informal, and simply encouraged young children to develop speaking skills, it set a trend for Rutvik's success.

From second grade onwards, the young champion participated in spelling bees organized by the North South Foundation, consistently performing with excellence.

Being selected to the Scripps bee (the ulti-



Bruno Cohen, President & General Manager at KPIX TV (left), presented a gold medal to Chaboya School student Rutvik Gandhasri. Also pictured is KCBS radio morning co-anchor Stan Bunger, who served as the official pronouncer.

mate honor for any speller) has been a dream for Rutvik ever since he was seven years old.

His current success has inspired his younger brother, Rishik, a fourth grader at Silver Oak Elementary, to follow in his footsteps. At only 10 years old, Rishik came in 9th place at the CBS Bee this year.

Both brothers are voracious readers and enjoy browsing through both fiction and nonfiction stories. Their mother, Usha Gandhasri, says that reading a variety of books is what helps them develop their vocabulary the most. Every week, Rutvik spends one to two hours studying words, but the time devoted to review

is cranked up to four hours before competition. To prepare for Scripps in particular, Rutvik focused more on the origins of obscure words.

His favorite word, 'omphaloskepsis,' means meditating while looking at one's own bellybutton, and is derived from Greek roots.

And while Rutvik masters new spelling techniques, he continues to be involved at Chaboya and in the community. He frequently participates in Math Olympiad competitions and helps underprivileged children gain a grasp on Lego Robotics, another thing he's extremely passionate about.

## **Parks and Recreation Dept.** celebrates 60 year anniversary

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department.

Activities and offerings, starting with a Diamond Anniversary Package to commemorate the celebration, including a Diamond Package for just \$60, allowing visitations to 29-county regional parks.

The actual value is more than three times the price at 200-dollars. The offer includes a one-year, all park vehicle or vessel entry pass, 50-percent off two nights of camping, and 25-percent off a one-hour boat rental at Vasona County

The 60-dollar price also includes four walk-through tickets to the county parks' premier holiday event, Fantasy of Lights.

#### Park.

The 60-dollar price also includes four walk-through tickets to the county parks' premier holiday event, Fantasy of Lights. The 2015 Walk-Thru was a sellout last year and the popularity of the overall event continues to grow each year.



Vasona County Park

at

The package arrives in a

reusable canvas tote bag with a

commemorative 60th Anniversary

ranger cap and other assorted gifts.

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are

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The 60th Anniversary Diamond Package is available for purchase now through Dec.31, 2016 while supplies last.

To purchase the 60th Anniversary package call the County Parks office at 408.355.2201.

#### 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

items

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JUNE 2016 
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Times Feature



Bus Trip for Education participants pose for a group photo at the end of the day. Photo by Sharat G. Lin

## **'We Made Our Voices Heard for Education in Santa Clara County'**

By Supervisor Dave Cortese

Special to the Times er statement was simple and direct: "The quality of school food is not good. It tastes like rubber, and the majority of times it's microwaved. It's contradictory. Our First Lady is promoting healthy eating and fresh food."

Her question: "Why can't schools serve fresh food?"

That question from 12th-grader Victoria Nguyen of Oak Gove High School was just one of the concerns that students brought to legislators during our May 17, 2016, Bus Trip to Sacramento for Education, an annual event sponsored by my office and the Silicon Valley Education Foundation.

Our group this year – one of the largest in

recent history at 208 – included about 100 students from Oak Grove, Independence and Santa Teresa High Schools and LeyVa Middle School. Along with the adult advocates for education, we filled four buses on the journey to Sacramento and a large auditorium in the State Public Health Department Building once we got there.

Speaking to us this year were Senators Jim Beall, Jerry Hill, Bob Wieckowski and Trevor Taylor from the Office of Senator Bill Monning; Assemblymembers Mark Stone, Kansen Chu, Evan Low, Richard Gordon and Kaitlyn Schultenhenrich from Assemblymember Nora Campos' office; and State Controller Betty Yee.

The students were prepared and their arguments clear. Quality school lunches aren't

important just because they taste better, but nutrition is important to growth and brain development, as well as replenishing our energy reserves so we can study and learn.

The answers from Assemblymember Mark Stone was supportive. "It's unacceptable to be living in one of the three largest agricultural areas and not have healthy food as part of the lunch program," he said. "But it's an initiative that kids could do in their schools. It's harder on the state level."

Another student asked about the rising cost of college tuition and why slots for California students are being given to foreign students. And why schools don't' offer more career education or gender neutral bathrooms? Why haven't our textbooks been updated for 20 years?

Quipped Senator Jerry Hill, "Nothing has happened in the past 20 years you need to worry about."

But seriously, he said, the emphasis shouldn't be on textbooks anyway, but giving students more access to tablets and other electronic tools. "There should be a rechanneling with the electronic environment," he

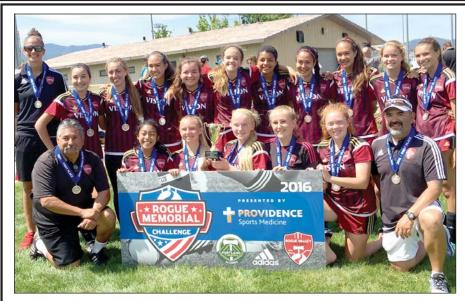
said.

The adults, of course, also got a chance to ask their questions and raise concerns. But our legislators wanted to give a strong message to students to start getting involved in government now. Their concerns are important and what the legislators do has a bigger impact on them than anyone else in the audience.

"It's so important that you're here," said Senator Evan Low, who pointed out that he is closer in age to the students in the group than many of his peers in the State Senate. "We work for you. You are our bosses. It's important that you hold us accountable. But we ask for your help. Make sure you vote."

Senator Low echoed the message I delivered to students early in the day: The elected officials speaking to you today need to respond to your concerns or eventually, someone else will be elected to their offices.

For more information on the Bus Trip to Sacramento or any topic, please call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@sccgov.org.



Vision Red Team Members: (Left to Right) - Back Row, Head Coach Lisa Lubke, Sophie Pace, Maddie Lewis, Lisa Lynn, Lauren Guerra, Callie Fitch, Jessica Simms, Thanairi Guzman, Amy Lynn, Rachel Welch, Sophie Guy, Front Row, Assistant Coach Greg Vasquez, Claire Amistoso, Faith Demaree, Leah Loftus, Emily Keller, Lindsay Arenson, Assistant Coach Frank Guzman (not shown Miranda Thompson)

### Vision Girls soccer team brings home 1st place

The U15 Girls Vision Red soccer team finished first place at the Rogue Memorial Challenge held in Oregon during the Memorial Day weekend.

They fought their way to the final championship game through several tough teams. They went into the finals undefeated, winning all four of their preliminary games.

The final went into overtime and then

penalty kicks, and Vision was able to prevail. They capped off a great Spring season; second place in the Norcal Gold U16 bracket and semi-finals in State Cup.

The Vision 00 Girls are always looking for strong committed players to join the organization. Contact Amy Keller by email for additional information Amykkeller@hotmail.com.



## Silicon Valley luxury homes prices edge higher

Both luxury home sales and prices in Silicon Valley edged higher in April as the local housing market continued to perform well, according to a new report by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

The figures are based on Multiple Listing Service data of all homes sold for more than \$2 million last month in Santa Clara County.

A total of 154 luxury properties changed hands last month, up 2.7 percent from the 150 sales at that level last year. April's sales total were 37.5 percent higher from March of this year, although some of that sharp increase was due to normal seasonal gains as the spring home-buying season kicks into gear. Meanwhile, the median sale price of a luxury property in April climbed 3.5 percent from the same month last year to reach \$2,699,000. Last month's median sale price was also up from March 2016, when it stood at \$2,611,500.

"Silicon Valley's housing market, including the luxury segment, remains one of the hottest markets in the Bay Area," said Mike James, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "There's never been any question about demand from buyers, but now we're gradually seeing some more listings coming on the market to meet that demand and it's helping to keep sales strong."

## THE GOSS REAL ESTATE GROUP PRESENTS



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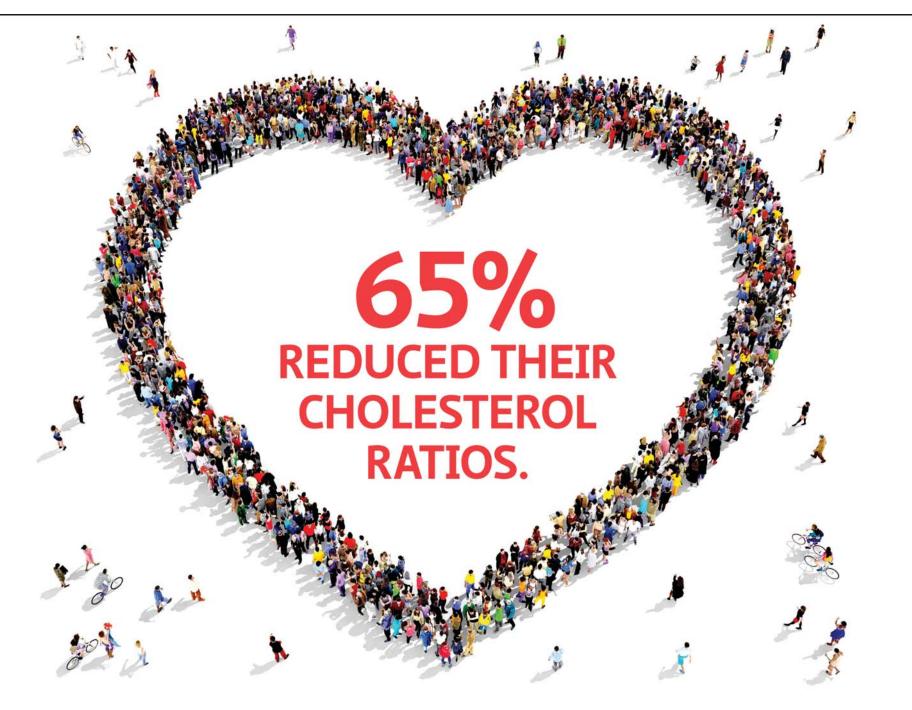
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Times Local News



Left to right: Terry Meyer, Vice-President CSR Cares, Landa and Mark Keirstead, Founders One Step Closer, Tony Odom, President CSR Cares at CSR Real Estate Services. At right: Therapeutic riding session at One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding, Inc.

#### CSR Cares donates \$5,000 to nonprofit One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding

SR Cares Foundation, a non-profit established by CSR Real Estate Services, donated \$5,000 to One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding, Inc. One Step Closer offers therapeutic riding and other

equine assisted therapy to children with physical and emotional disabilities.

This is one of the largest donations One Step Closer has ever received. Mark and Landa Keirstead are founders of One Step Closer. "We want to thank CSR Cares for their generous \$5000 gift to our School Readiness Program for children with special needs," said Mark.

The School Readiness Program is an adaptive riding curriculum designed to help young children with special needs succeed in the classroom by developing attention span, eye-hand coordination, and appropriate behavior.

"When CSR Real Estate Services established CSR Cares, our goal was to donate funds to charities that

aligned with our mission of affecting positive change for children in our community," said Terry Meyer, Vice President of CSR Cares. "One Step Closer is exactly the type of specialized program that we want to support, and more donations to local charities will be made throughout the year."

About CSR Cares

CSR Cares, a 501 (c) 3 charity established by CSR Real Estate Services, has promoted community based organizations and institutions since 2014.

About One Step Closer

One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding Inc. is an award-winning equestrian organization offering therapeutic riding and other equine-assisted-therapy to individuals with physical and/or emotional disabilities and to U.S. Veterans recovering from physical and emotional trauma of war.

For more information, contact Mark and Landa Keirstead at (408) 778-3567 or email: one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net.

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progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We

are proud to be UCC, Open and affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local Innvision Shelter Feedings once a month San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship 9:00AM, Sunday School 10:00 AM Sundays. 1st Sundays in Worship: Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folk Choir 3rd Sundays at Coffee Hour: Round Table Disc. 4th Sundays in Worship: Blessing of Birthdays/Anniversaries/other "joy

Tuesday, AA Meetings, 8:15-9:15 PM Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

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CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mai info@eastvallevchurch.com We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

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-si.org 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 mem-ber feels welcomed, loved, valued and empow-ered 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 10:30AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

Evergreen Valley Church Visit our Web Site at wwww.evcsj.com 2750 Yerba Buena Rd. San Jose, CA 95121. Phone: 408-274-7422. Saturday worship is at 5 pm. Sunday worship services at 9 am and 11 am.. Excellent contemporary Christian music and Bible-based teaching. Nursery care and Children's Sunday School programs at 9 am and 11 am. Junior High students meet at 9am and High School students meet at 11am. Nuevo Comienzo: Servicio en espanol. Domingo 4pm.

First Church Downtown Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and back-grounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

#### Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Faith.Knowledge.Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are wel-come! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794

#### THE POINT CHURCH

www.ThePoint.Church 3695 Rose Terrasse Circle. San Jose CA 95148 Located at the top of Aborn Rd and Murillo Ave. Come be inspired and build your faith as we worship together this Sunday @ 10:30 AM. KidsPoint is our children's ministry, serving infants through 5th grade. It is a fun and safe experience for kids as they grow in their walk with God. ONE is our student ministry, serving 6th through 12th grades. We help lead students into a growing relationship with Jesus through conversations, fun and service. Because of the diversity of Evergreen we offer church services in 5 languages, each with their own auditorium and pastor.

10:30 AM English, Mandarin, Cantonese and

#### Cambodian. Spanish at 1:00 PM

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH 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 ir 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.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 6430 Bose Lane, San Jose, CA 95120 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 Vesperal 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 Vesperal Divine Liturgy

11p.m. Candlelight Resurrection Service - "Come receive the light! Midnight-Sunday Pascha/Easter Service - Divine

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#### 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.stfrancisofassisipreschool.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 opportu-nities 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, Sunday11:00AM, Igbo Mass -Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM

The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sundav 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!

#### Worship listing

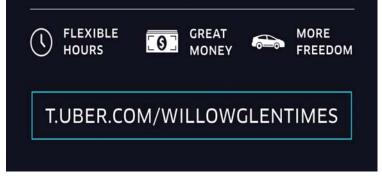
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red: members of the cast of the X-Men trilogy of films

## **REVIEW:** X-Men: Apocalypse

By Steven A. Leonard Times movie reviewer he name of this film should have been called X-Women Apocalypse.

As soon as Jean Grey made her appearance I knew that the screenwriters were up to something spe-

cial. I remember her from X-Men: The Last Stand. In that alternative Universe she was Jean Grey - The Dark Phoenix. She was the Queen of Darkness with unlimited power.

The emotional impact of that film was felt when she asked Wolverine, "Will you die for them?" Wolverine responded, "I will not die for them, but I will die for you!" It was Wolverine's willingness to die for her that changed her soul from dark to light. In this film, her power was not unleashed for darkness but for the light. In this timeline she uses her unlimited power for the light.

Every human on this earth has been given gifts and power from above. We all have been granted free will. We may use our gifts and power for good or evil; for freedom or slavery, for light or darkness.

The mistake that mankind makes is that they believe that death, pain, sickness and weakness is a curse. They begin to use their gifts and power for darkness when they can't protect their loved ones or when they suffer the loss and death of a loved one. No one can appreciate how precious life is without death, pain, sickness and weakness. Death is an illusion. Time is an illusion. These are the great teachers of our reality. The reality of our universe is dependent on our perception and our position in the time space continuum.

The Great Dark One rises again in this film. He calls himself Elohim, a name for God in the Old Testament. Since the dawn of civilization, he was worshipped as a god. Apocalypse, the first and most powerful mutant from Marvel's X-Men universe, amassed the powers of many other mutants, becoming immortal and invincible. Upon awakening after thousands of years, he is disillusioned with the world as he finds it and recruits a team of powerful mutants, including a disheartened Magneto, to cleanse mankind and create a new world order, over which he will reign.

The irony of the film is that he gets rid of all nuclear weapons on the planet and we call him pure evil. Let me get this straight. He gets rid of all nuclear weapons on the planet and the



Jean Grey in the 1980s-set X-Men: Apocalypse.

rest of humanity thinks that it's a really bad thing to do. I must have fallen asleep during my ethics class in college.

Jean's unlimited power was kept under lock and key by Professor Charles Francis Xavier's mind control before she became the Queen of Darkness in X-Men: The Last Stand.

The Dark One didn't see her coming until it was too late. When Jean's power was finally unleashed by Xavier and she walked in and faced the Dark One, it created an emotional impact on me. She let go of all her fears and embraced her gifts and calling. It made me proud and brought tears to my eyes that Jean was finally able to reach her full potential. It made me leap for joy that the Queen of Darkness was now able to become the Queen of Light.

The Dark One's eyes were opened and in the end he finally understood who had the real power all along. It was a surprise when it turned out to be one of the X-Women. It was a delight for me when Raven was able to remind Magneto who his real family was and it was his real family that he should be fighting for.

A key part of the film was when Storm pointed to a portrait of Raven and proclaimed, "She is my hero. I want to be just like her." In this film, Raven proclaimed that she was not a hero. Many mutants that heard her speech being televised live throughout the world in the previous film (X-Men: Days of Future Past) said that it was her speech that changed their lives forever.

The movie never loses sight of the emotional stakes. Fassbender, Lawrence and McAvoy class up the proceedings, and along with a cast of younger mutants and a surprise cameo, make it a lot of fun. Best superhero stuff I've seen this year, full of character-building and quick action beats.

For the seventh in the X-Men movie series, and fourth he has directed, guru of all things mutant Bryan Singer has created something for everyone. X-Men: Apocalypse is highly entertaining for fans of the X-Men brand; one of Marvel's most reliable

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