APRIL 2018 ■ **VOL**. **14**, **NO**. **3**

Willow Glen 111105

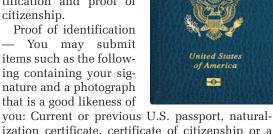
Willow Glen Post Office provides passport service on Saturday, May 5

To help customers who otherwise cannot schedule an appointment for passport service during the week, the Willow Glen Meridian Ave. Post Office located at 1750 Meridian Ave. will accept walk-ins on Saturday May 5, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To help speed up the process, customers should fill out forms ahead of time. Application forms and information on the costs and how to apply for a passport book and/or passport card can be found at usps.com/passport or travel.state.gov/passport. Customers can also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at (877) 487-2778. Customers can also email NPIC@state.gov for any questions regarding pass-

To apply for a passport, applicants need a valid form of photo identification and proof of citizenship.

Proof of identification You may submit items such as the following containing your signature and a photograph that is a good likeness of



PASSPORT

ization certificate, certificate of citizenship or a current and valid driver's license, government ID *A photocopy of the identification - front and

back - must be submitted with your passport application. Many post offices do provide photocopy service for an added fee.

Proof of citizenship includes any one of the fol-

- a. Certified birth certificate issued by the city, county, or state
- b. Naturalization certificate or certificate of citizenship, and
- c. An expired passport

A photocopy of the front and back of the Proof of Citizenship document is required.

USPS Passport Wallets, available in black or brown leather, are designed to hold a passport, cash, an ID, and up to seven credit cards. The wallets are available at passport acceptance offices and at usps.com/shop.

Runway prep



High school seniors begin preparation for walks on the runway for the 52nd Annual Presentation High School Fashion Show to be held on Saturday, April 21.

High School Seniors from Willow Glen participating in the April 21 Presentation High School Fashion Show, pictured (left to right) are: Row 1 (Kneeling L-R): Katelyn Hartley, Caroline Bustamante, Ellie Peyton, Samantha Ruppert Row 2 (L-R): Abigail Bergey, Mia Habib, Julia Gillas, Audrey Mullen, Madeline Whitney, Courtney Pastega, Bella Lopez, Natalie Borrelli, Maisie Martin, and Jillian Ritchie. Row 3 (L-R): Lily Chuck, Jenna Gomes, Sydney Bohn, Peyton O'Hara, Lauren Burchinal, Tyler Tassi, Sarah Vincent, Devin Ferguson, Sheridan Westlake, Abigail Montgomery, Samantha Knapp, and Maggie Curtin. Row 4 (L-R): Gianna Jelic, Kaitlin Badagliacco, Emma Komar, Elizabeth Martin, Nicole Morgan, Shaina Greenberg, Isabel Jaffer, and Kristin Lynch.

Cindy Hendrickson receives Honoree Unsung Hero Award

an Joser resident and Assistant District Attorney Cindy Hendrickson has received the Honoree Unsung Hero award in Santa Clara County.

The award was presented to Hendrickson in conjunction with National Crime Victims' Rights Week. She was honored last week at the annual luncheon for the 2018 Unsung Hero Awards.

The annual awards are intended to shine a deserving light on people who often work in obscurity to help and heal the county's victims of crime. There were a total of 12 honorees in all of Santa Clara



Cindy Hendrickson receives the Honoree Unsung Hero Award from Roy Lave, Chairperson, Women of Silicon Valley (Women SV). Cindy was nominated by Women SV and Mother's Against Murders (MAM).



Class of '68 50 Year Golden Reunion



Are you ready for TOO MUCH FUN?

SAVE THE DATES!

September 28, 2018 - Mixer September 29, 2018 - Reunion

Check out the class website for further information on:

- Event details, RSVP, Tickets, Lodging
- Alumni Jam Band
- Photos of the 40th Reunion (this was an amazing heart & soul event!)
- · Update your online bio
- Help us find missing classmates

www.willowglenclassof68.myevent.com

LETTER

Reader offers Persky recall opinion

Dear Editor,

As a former Mayor, I understand the importance of accountability for our elected officials. We can and should hold them responsible for their actions in office.

In the upcoming June election, it's time to hold Judge Aaron Persky accountable for his decisions to coddle convicted sex offenders. His lenient treatment of Brock Turner is really just one example of his favorable treatment of these dangerous offenders.

Don't fall for Persky's claim that he should remain in office in order to maintain judicial independence. Judges have been recalled before when they demonstrate poor judgment like Persky.

Vote Yes to Recall Judge Persky on June 5th. Let's support the victims of sexual crimes in our county. Our mothers, sisters, and daughters deserve no less.

Robert Livengood Former Mayor City of Milpitas

'Take a Taste of the Valley of Hearts Delight' presented at Martial Cottle Park: May 5

"Spring Celebration, Take a Taste of the Valley of Hearts Delight" is the theme of this year's annual event at Martial Cottle Park on Saturday, May 5 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Santa Clara Valley's agricultural past and present will be presented. Eventgoers will learn how the Cottle family farmed for more than 150 years at the park location. The event is free; parking \$6.

Attractions include local arts and crafts, farm animals upclose, urban forest demonstration, antique autos and vintage farm equipment, gardening demonstrations, spring planting activities, kids activities, fresh organic produce, garden workshops, Jacobs Farm tours, live music and more!

Cottle Martial Cottle Park is located at: 5283 Snell Ave, San Jose.

Visit the County Parks website for additional information: www.parkhere.org.

Times Local News

Anika Kumar presented with 'Crystal Ball Award'

By William Bellou *Publisher*

nika Kumar (inset) has been recognized for the great things her non-profit, Forget Me Not, that she founded at the age of 15, is doing for the community.

In recognition of Kumar's work with seniors through *Forget Me Not*, she was presented with the Crystal Ball award from the Junior League on April 17 at the 49th Annual Recognition Luncheon.

The Junior League award is given to only 10 individuals in the Bay Area that demonstrate exemplary community service in making their community a better place. She is the youngest recipient of this award for this year.

The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon brings together more than 500 community members to celebrate voluntarism while recognizing individuals who generously give their time, energy, and skills to improve the lives of others.

Forget Me Not serves to partner high school students with isolated seniors who suffer from social isolation in a social companionship phone call program. Social isolation is the absence of social relationships, which is prevalent among adults over the age of 65 who are living alone and who are unable to participate in many activities. Isolation can lead to increased risks of depression, cardiovascular diseases, and feelings of denial, guilt, and self-loathing. Tackling the problem, Kumar designed the Forget Me Not companion program.

How it works

Seniors sign up for the phone call program by filling out a simple registration and interests form. High school students volunteer and are carefully paired with registered adults once they complete a mandatory training program. Student volunteers are trained by Britt Bassoni of the Episcopal Senior Communities, who also supervises the call sessions. Once a week, at a predetermined time, high school volunteers make social companionship phone calls of about 20-30 minutes in length to their respective older adults.

Panelist

Kumar was recently contacted by South by Southwest organizers to serve as a panelist to discuss ways to combat loneliness which can lead to increased incidences of depression,

suicide, isolation and even complications from chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Anika was featured prominently at the conference where she spoke of the effects of loneliness and isolation in the elder population and how to combat this prevalent issue.

The session was such a success that another session was added to accommodate all those that wanted

to attend. Her conversation garnered many accolades and she was the youngest person speaking at this very prominent and well attended conference. For this session, she was also featured in Forbes Magazine.

Jefferson Award

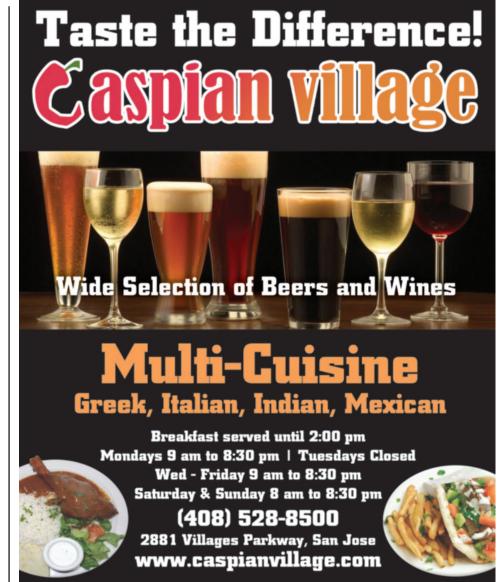
Last year, Kumar won the Jefferson Award and was featured on CBS news. The Jefferson Awards Foundation was created in 1972 by the American Institute for Public Service. Local winners are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition.

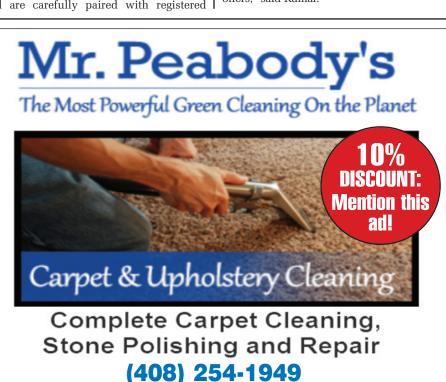
Commencement address

At her Notre Dame High School commencement address, Kumar reminded her fellow students that, "We are the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and achievers. May we never shy away from bold ideas, courageous decisions, and unflinching perseverance. May we never miss an opportunity to step up and take the plunge to change the world around us"

Kumar would like to expand *Forget Me Not* so it can have a positive impact with seniors living in other cities.

Kumar is currently studying molecular and cell biology and public health at UC Berkley. "I chose Cal because of the breadth of diverse opportunities and experiences the school offers," said Kumar.





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U2 returning to San Jose

Rock legends Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, and Larry Mullen, Jr. come to SAP Center in Downtown San Jose for U2s Songs of Experience Tour. Songs of Experience complements and serves as a sequel to their previous tour, Songs of Innocence. Due to Brexit and global politics, the group revisited the tone of the tour and the new album, rewriting lyrics, rearranging and remixing songs. U2 is one of the world's bestselling music artists in history, selling more than 175 million records worldwide, and winning 22 Grammy Awards. Throughout their career, as a band and as individuals, they have campaigned for human rights and philanthropic causes.

U2 is appearing at SAP Center on May 7 - 8 2018. Tickets are \$41-\$325+. Call 800-745-3000 or visit sapcenter.com/events/ detail/u2. SAP Center is located at 525 West Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113

Willow Glen Times

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Valley Currents

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

Largest 'World Class' bike and skate park opens in San Jose



As Mayor Sam Liccardo walked over to get on his bike to run the course peddling through the ribbon he said, "Where's my horsey?," which got a laugh from the crowd.

Bring your pedal power and glide like a bird

By Kevin Larsen

Times staff writer

housands flocked to the grand opening of the new Lake Cunningham Action Sports Park on a super blue sunny sky Saturday morning.

A blue satin ribbon was cut to open the park on April 14 and invite the whole city to begin using the largest bike and skate park in the U.S.A.

One spectator said, "This is pure joy to watch!"

The sound system and bike demo was like that of watching professional skiers in Squaw Valley going over moguls and it accentuated the excitement of the grand opening.

Peter Brandt of Robert Castillo's BMX Freestyle Bike Team began the show with a breathless announcer voice delivery describing the spectacular stunts of top flight BMX riders who put on a world class show.

At the end of the early morning demo, one person said, "I feel exhausted just watching that." It's true; the audience becomes one with the rider because each onlooker pulls for an incredible execution of the jump and stunt. Castillo's group has performed in more than 6,000 shows, including Las Vegas.

The show stopping BMX riders ran down the dirt track and went up and over many undulated hills preforming unbelievable flying acrobatics. They would spin their handlebars and entire bikes in air, and after executing numerous combined stunts, graceful as a bobcat, would regain their proper positions just prior to smoothly landing without a

Announcer, Brandt would draw the crowd into participation pushing for involvement with applause by impassionedly saying over the sounds of jagged music, "let's put it together for ..." or "a little voice from the audience..." It was like a Rock and Roll sermon of sorts.

Brandt wound up the crowd and drew everyone in with his expert tone and enunciation of words which contained savvy statements such as, "this guy demands the best out of himself each and every time," (during the

Then there was a crash, but quick as he fell and dragged across the dirt, the rider got right back up and the announcer with measured composure and a low kick back voice droned, "Wow, goin' for it, not afraid to take a crash especially for entertainment, try again and never give up!," to which indeed the rider got right back in the hunt investing in many other runs. This kind of talk was inspirational to young and old alike.

After a successful emotional run, some of the racers would hold their arm up high in the air and give a sign of having their thumb and little finger up with

the 2,3 and 4th finger clinched down into the palm of their hand. This communication surely traveled over here from Hawaii.

Girl power awaits

But wait a moment, something was missing. There were no girls riding over the mounds and doing stunts. For sure, the new Cunningham Bike Park will change all that and San Jose will lead the way with you go girl BMX championship winners too! It's just a matter of time.

History in the making

The announcer with his motorboat voice then asked the swarm of people over the entrancing sounds of invigorating laid down song selections "Do you guys want to see some back flips," to which the crowd began to cheer. The riders had it all planned out and ran in order in what is referred to in the BMX realm as a "train." One right after another did a different variation of a flip or personal trick innovation move maneuver. The announcer said, "No way, throwing in a variation and that's what it's all about, feeling the love at Cunningham Bike Park and it's an honor to be here." This marked the first time the words "Cunningham Bike Park" were officially broadcast during an event. It was history in the making! The audience just knew that in the years that lie ahead many professional races and ecstatic competitions would be put on at this Cunningham Park location for it's a new generation of bike parks for other cities to duplicate and revere throughout the world. Once again, San Jose has become the leader and innovator in building a world class park. Park management also has put together summer concerts in the past and has offered "Free College Student Fridays," too, so keep an eye on their website and stay tuned for upcoming information on exciting events and special days to

Everyone gets their bike on

After the exhibition was concluded speakers came to the podium. Witnessing the thrills of pure bike riding triggered childhood memories.

Ash Kalra

"I grew up in south San Jose." said Ash Kalra, California State

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Times The Valley

Assembly member. "We lived in a small cul-de-sac and I remember back when my older brother and some of his friends set up a kind of ramp for bikes to jump out on the street and I thought, gee, that doesn't look too safe." Kalra went on to say that sure enough someone got hurt; so it's wonderful that today in San Jose, instead of kids building ramps at home in the streets, they now can come to a safe place to ride and jump their bikes. "This is what the city is able to do when the community comes together," said Kalra. "Creative and forward thinking ideas were used to plan such a place and that there are no other places like this in California. We need places like this that are accessible to everyone!"

Dave Cortese

"I want everyone to know that I am the first person to show up at this BMX Park with a suit on, I hold the record now," said a jovial Dave Cortese as he spoke to the crowd (always dedicated and devoted to the county, he also was on his way that day to another very important event honoring Veterans).

Cortese said: "It took many years but now it is a reality! People of all ages are to play in this city. In 2008, I cut the ribbon for the opening of the skate board part of Cunningham Park and former Vice Mayor Rose Herrera and San Jose City Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas have carried the torch to keep it all going. It is important to let your representatives know what you want. Your investment is to let your representatives know and it may take years but eventually it can be done! This new bike park as an actual example that citizens work hand and hand with those in city government to make things happen in ways the general public want and need."

Nova

Sitting on her bike and awaiting the start of the event. Nova traveled more than 50 miles to attend as spectator and rider. She said, "I was heavy when I first started to ride dirt bikes at different tracks. Through riding I met my best friends; it gives me so much joy in my life to ride. It gives me a real sense of freedom and I don't know how to properly say it, but mountain bike and trail riding keeps my stress down at home and work. I think this Cunningham Bike Park is awesome!" When asked how she felt she said, "I feel like I am not even in San Jose." This was a true statement when one sees all these people on pedal powered bikes, it makes one think that they are in the outback of Yosemite. It's a kind of dirt, sky and tree thing.

Cindy Chavez

"Wear your helmet, especially the little ones," said County Supervisor Chavez. She said that the City of San Jose shows such respect "complete respect for all of us which live, work and play in our community," in building and opening up a new large bike and skate park of this size. Chavez said that the park shows that the city loves and appreciates all and that "we value children in our community." She concluded by saying: "To the city of San Jose, well done!"

Lars Thomsen

Thomsen who is a leader in the bike movement in San Jose and owner of Trail Head Cyclery in San Jose said, "Holy Smokes, you guys ready for the park to open!" Thomsen said that the park involved lots of planning and over the past eight years. He and others were pleased that City leaders listened to the things they wished to include in the bike park to make it the best it could possibly be. He said, "What you want is almost as important as what you don't want. Then he exuberantly said, "Dirt jump line, pretty sweet!, slalom run great, dual slalom run even better, and I am so pumped that we have a dual slalom track." He was pleased that the bike park was completed and those in Parks and Rec really listened to what he came to them with as he heard from the

biking community that surrounds him and gave him input on the construction. Thomsen reflected that when people use bikes they create family time and health and fitness. Bikes he said reduce congestion and there is no better way to see a new place than on a bike. "Sylvia Arenas took the reins from Rose Herrera and kept it all going. Justin Beck (bike park manager) was the glue that kept the project all going forward over many years, massive props to them, I'm done talking, let's go ride bikes!"

Mayor Liccardo

The Mayor said, "Well Good Morning on this momentous occasion! I want to thank everyone at this history marking day as we celebrate the evolution of Lake Cunningham into a 10-acre Action Sports Park as California's greatest bike park meets California's largest skate park." He shared a memory of his early childhood when he recalled hearing his mother say when he took his bike out for rides, "don't do wheelies Sam!" Then Liccardo thanked the entire Parks and Recreation Team saying, "it takes a lot of people pushing together to get these projects done." He gave praise to all and said every kid whether big or small can enjoy this park."

Sylvia Arenas

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Councilwoman Arenas was not able to make the event. However, she delivered this important quote to the community

Continued, next page





Park

Continued

at press time, "Lake Cunningham Action Sports Park combines the existing largest skate park in California with a brand new bike park that has the most riding features of any bike park in America. Teenagers are sometimes the residents most in need of our support, and at the same time, the hardest to reach. This park creates an amazing place for teens to congregate, learn from mentors, and develop perseverance."

Angel Rios Jr.

"I know we are all ready to put our helmets on and ride. This park was created for everyone. The Parks and recreation mantra is, 'We Build Community Through Fun!," said Rios Jr. who is Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood services. "We manage public spaces that allow people to connect to people and places. We are in the business of providing such parks. It takes a team. We believe that the quality of parks lead to quality time, quality play, all improving our quality of life," said Rios Jr.

Aaron Jones

"It's good that the skate and bike park is there for the inner city kids for something to do," said Jones who is owner of San Jose Bikes and the Skate Virus skateboarder shop. "More activities within the city for people to do and experience is really a good thing. If you are going to ride the dirt park consider getting a special bike for that style of riding. Our shop sells some BMX bikes and dirt jumpers that are more specific for riding in this kind of park. We welcome all ages to look at bikes and to enjoy this awesome new park. You can always come visit us and will show you and let you try out specific top notch models for dirt riding."

Parker and Spencer

Two riders "Parker" and "Spencer" said the new bike park was great because the tracks are already in place (meaning that

often dirt bikers have to take lots of time to make and prepare slalom tracks to run). They also gave approval to the main jump line (this is a carefully designed run of hills and ramps).

Scooters and skateboards can squabble

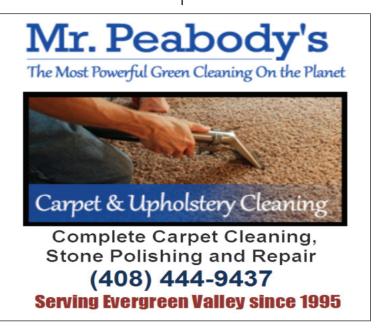
In our world often one group of people can steer away from hanging out with another for within the Venn diagram of friendship, exclusivity of the groups in the outer circles can sometimes be separated by rides of choice. At the event, an old school skateboarder with young daughter earnestly said that they wanted the bikes and trikes to stay clear of the bowls in the classic skateboard cement zone areas. Though the bike and skate park is monitored by earnest city workers they suggested, "if anyone is under 18 years old it might be good to have a parent near to watch over what they are doing," (meaning sometimes a young person might not recognize the swift danger if skating down into a bowl that has a fast rider entering behind them). It was thought that large kids might run down some of the smaller tikes unless everyone is careful. These are some of the rough edges that will be figured out over time in the combination world's largest skateboard and Bike Park in the U.S.A. Some riders push it to the max and that means the energy in the park is never boring for feats of courage are always taking place.

Liccardo rides the trails

As the Mayor walked over to get on his bike to run the course he said, "Where's my horsey?," which got a laugh from the crowd. A little while later, Steve Bennette, a 40-plus year resident of San Jose said face to face to the mayor, "thank you for being the face of San Jose, I think you're the best Mayor we've ever had."

A little girl named Abby was rolling her bike with her dad and said, "I've been watching the jumps and they look really cool. I

Continued next page



want to come back and try it all. Good Job San Jose!" It's also a healthy place for teenagers to go and get away from it all. To unplug and visit a safe place with a vibe they like; a kind of 21st century hangout.

One mom said, "I am so happy they built this park for I come here and watch my son ride." She said that the workers at the Skate Park are so nice that she regards them as "family" and her son is absolutely thrilled about this new bike park opening up and joining with the skate park. "He just loves coming to ride here!" she said.

Never a dull moment

The bike park has many features which manufacture lots of excitement for the biker, skater and onlooker. The 8.5 acre bike park is designed well, with trails that zig zag to gradually take people up to the top where comfortable benches allow all to rest and view both the jump bike runs and the 68,000 square foot skateboard park. As you walk the trail you get exercise and inspiration in watching particular ramps which are used in unique ways of expertise by riders one right after another. There is never a dull moment by the onlookers who place themselves in strategic points of on-looking interest along the trail.

Free to watch

The only fees are for riders. Visitors get a thrill just by watching. All San Jose parks can be entered at no charge by walking, jogging, skateboarding or bike riding. It is a philosophy of the city to welcome all! Anyone can walk the trail of the bike park. It's a great place for a family destination; just to watch top flight bike riders and skaters is invigorating. Viewing others get in shape at such destinations is contagious and builds community which perhaps subliminally allows all to

realize we are all part of the same family of man and womankind (a new inclusive term coined where else but here in Silicon Valley).

At the conclusion of the event hundreds of riders lined up on trails to take the plunge with many moms, dads, girlfriends and boyfriends waiting at a point on the trail to cheer on their loved one on. Bike enthusiast Thompson's words rang true when he said, "Sam Liccardo and Sylvia Arenas are the finest folks and Parks and Rec have gone above and beyond to build the greatest bike park in California. Ride on San Jose!" Wow, could this be the new coining of a catch phrase that is reminiscent of the 60's counter culture. Will the words "Ride On!" catch fire and take over in lieu of the phrase "Right On" and perhaps spread across the country. Ya, "Ride On," meaning look forward and never get hung up on the past. Well, we'll just have to wait and see but remember, you read it here first in the Evergreen Times! "Ride On!"

Editor's note: The bike park includes these features and riding areas:

- Dual Slalom Track
- Beginner Pump Track
- Advanced Pump Park
- Dirt Jump Park
- Freeride Park
- Skills trails
- Drop trails
- 47 wood riding features
- Bicycle repair stations

All are encouraged to learn more by following Lake Cunningham Action Sports Park on Facebook and Instagram. The website for the park is www.sjactionsports.com/facilities/lake-cunningham-regional-bike-park



Foothill Community Concert Series CLASSICAL > AMERICANA > WORLD > EARLY

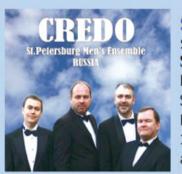
Located in the eastern foothills of San Jose, Foothill Community Concert Series provides affordable, family-friendly live music to the South Bay.

MAY CONCERTS



SOUTH BAY PHILHARMONIC
FRIDAY, MAY 11TH AT 7:30 PM
\$10 ADULT, KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE
The South Bay Philharmonic closes their
season with Dvorak's Ninth Symphony
along with the Telemann Viola Concerto
in G Major, with Karen Allendoerfer as
soloist. Their full 65+ piece orchestra will

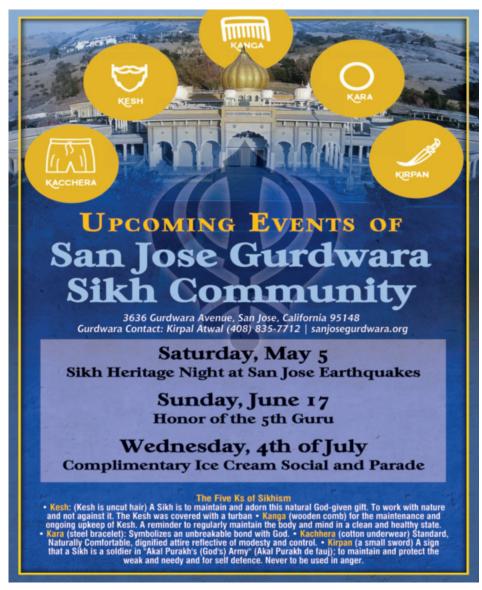
fill the hall with wonderful sounds.



ST. PETERSBURG MEN'S ENSEMBLE SATURDAY, MAY 26TH AT 7:00 PM \$15 ADULT, KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE Led by Kirill Sokolov, the glorious voices of St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble will perform Russian ecclesiastical compositions from the 16th to the 20th centuries, as well as arrangements of Russian folk songs.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR ONLINE AT: WWW.FOOTHILLPC.ORG/FCCS





SILICON VALLEY COMIC CON

Huge San Jose gathering attracts geeks celebrating facts, fiction, and everything in between

By Jeff Baham

Special to the Times

To both real-life NASA technicians working on building space stations and fictional Imperial technicians working on building a Death Star, but that's exactly what happened downtown on April 6, 7 and 8 at the third annual Silicon Valley Comic Con, a convention that neatly celebrated almost every aspect of popular culture as well as the latest in science and tech by simply asking one question, the slogan for the weekend: "What does it mean to be human?"

The convention, which hosted hours-long lines Saturday morning, the busiest day of the 3-day event, was held at the San Jose Convention Center, where it hosted a huge showroom, an "Artists' Alley," a large event stage and several smaller panel rooms, a video gaming area, hidden spaces for photographs with celebrities, and large communal gathering spaces where fans, often dressed up as their favorite characters from pop culture, would share stories, enjoy a "Psycho" donut, or admire each other's cosplay.

NASA Astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison hosted one of the event's keynote addresses, speaking about her experiences as the first woman of color to travel to outer space. After her talk (which was introduced by Nichelle "Uhura" Nichols, the first fictional woman of color to travel to space), she was one of a few celebrities whom the convention hosted for a free autograph session, attracting huge lines of fans and parents with their young girls, many with dreams of their own future space adventures.

Signatures and photo ops

The free autograph sessions were popular, drawing hundreds of attendees to the back of the showroom floor. New York Times best-selling author Andy Weir was another celebrity hosted by the convention, who popped up a few minutes late amidst the swirling mobs of convention-goers. "How did you find me?" Weir asked one convention goer who had handed him a copy of his novel "The Martian" for a signature. "I'm still not even sure where I'm supposed to be!"

While the crowds on Saturday were immense, they were also manageable and reasonably well maintained. Convention staffers were polite and helpful, if often unable to answer anything more than the most general questions. But as seasoned convention-goers are aware, the best way to ensure a good time is to go with the flow, and flow the crowds did.

Many celebrities appeared at the convention just to sell their signatures (for anywhere from \$30 to \$100 and up a pop), or to take personal photos with their fans in special pre-paid "photo op" sessions. Star Wars was well-represented, with Ian McDiarmid, the Emperor himself, in attendance, as well as Mads Mikkelsen, who played Galen Erso – the architect of the original Death Star – from "Star Wars: Rogue One." Movie stars (such as Christina Ricci of "The Addams Family") and television stars (such as Krysten Ritter of "Jessica Jones") were happy to greet fans, and sign a photo – for a fee.

Stan's still the man

Stan Lee (co-creator of "Spider Man", the "Avengers", the "X-Men", and many others), a legend at any comic book convention, made an appearance all three days of the event, offering photo ops and autographs. Lee, at 95 years old, was just recovering from



Cosplay ruled the day: A dynamic duo dressed up as Rey and Poe Dameron from "The Last Jedi." At right: **Tony Dow** and **Jerry Mathers** from "Leave it to Beaver" answer fans' questions.

Photos by Jeff Baham

a recent bout of pneumonia and was not his usual smiling, jovial self. Rather, Lee was usually wrapped in a shawl and nodded off on occasion – causing many fans to question whether Lee should have been allowed to attend the gathering at all.

"Some people felt that they should have sold less tickets to make it easier on Stan," said Raul Vera, an attendee who paid to have his family take a photo with Lee. "He just didn't seem like the Stan Lee we typically know. He didn't smile much like he usually does and... you could tell this is a 95 year old man just coming off of an illness, trying his best to please a huge amount of people. I don't feel excited to share the photo we took with just about anybody. I personally feel sad when I see it. Guilty even."

Tinker Bell talks

However, other celebrities were lesser known in general, but not to their devoted fans. Margaret Kerry, a spritely 89-year-young woman who has had a long career in Hollywood, hosted her own booth from opening to close each day of the convention. "I'm tired, but it's been good," Kerry said Sunday afternoon as the convention was winding down. "Meeting so many fans and wonderful people is just a joy. It's pure joy."

Kerry, most famous for being the actress and reference model who acted out Tinker Bell's scenes from Walt Disney's "Peter Pan" for the animators, was one of the most popular guests on "autograph row," with a regu-



lar line of people wanting to buy an autograph or her autobiography, or to just give the real-life Tinker Bell a hug.

"Some people think that was Marilyn Monroe up there, in cartoon form," Kerry said, who was a model herself for a bit, winning a "best legs" contest in the '50s. "But it's not. That's all me. In fact, my husband watched the movie once and said 'Margaret, I'd recognize those thighs anywhere."

Nostalgia in full bloom

Television nostalgia was evident throughout the weekend, with celebrities from '50s and '60s television series hosting panels and selling autographs. In one altogether "ooky" panel discussion, Lisa "Wednesday Addams" Loring and Pat "Marilyn Munster" Priest sat on a stage and reminisced about working in television in the 1960s on their respective monster-themed shows – "The Addams Family" and "The Munsters." "I loved everyone on the show," said Loring, speaking of her stint on "The Addams Family." "My costars were really like family.

In fact, Carolyn ("Morticia") Jones was the only one I would let pull my first loose tooth. She got some Anbesol, tied a string around it, tied it to a doorknob, and slam. Wouldn't let my mom, wouldn't let my grandmother – wouldn't let anyone touch it but Carolyn. I spent a lot of time with her and I really, really loved her."

"Our shows were really about acceptance," Priest explained, talking about the fact that both of the monster series dealt with families composed of social outsiders. "When you know someone, you don't see race, you don't see anything, you just share whatever you have in common. Those were the moments to remember." The panel moderator concurred, noting that over the years since the early '60s when both shows aired, many psychiatrists have pointed to both the Addams and Munster families as examples of well balanced, loving families.

Take it or 'Leave it'

Tony Dow and Jerry Mathers from "Leave it to Beaver" also took part in a panel, talking about their time performing as Wally and "the Beav" in the popular family sitcom that ran for 234 episodes from 1957 through 1963. Tony Dow spoke of the authenticity of the show being one of the primary reasons for its success.

"Joe (Connelly) and Bob (Mosher), the creators of the series, would regularly have writers try to sell scripts to them for the show," Dow said. "So when they'd have these people come in and pitch stories to them, they'd sit there and say 'eh - we don't care about all that stuff. Tell us the worst thing that ever happened to you when you were a kid.' That's what they were looking for. Real stories about kids getting in trouble."

Jerry Mathers talked about how getting in trouble was likely the reason he was cast as Beaver. "They had try outs with 8,000 kids for Wally and the Beaver," Mathers said. "I'd try out, walk out, and the next week get a call back and go back, over and over." "Then for his last interview, he came in in his Cub Scout outfit, looking a little tense," Dow interjected. "The producers asked him what was wrong, and he said, 'I don't wanna be here - I want to go to my Cub Scout meeting."

"That got me into a lot of trouble," Mathers continued. "My parents had been taking me to these interviews for weeks, going back and forth. I walked right in and then right out of that interview, and my mom asked what happened. I said 'Well, they asked me if I wanted to be there and I said no – I'd rather be at my Cub Scout meeting." "I think getting into trouble was what finally got him the role," Dow concluded. "They wanted a kid that was real."

Geeks in a good way

From the most wholesome family entertainment of the 1950s through the hyperrealistic gritty television of today, the third annual Silicon Valley Comic Con had a celebration of popular culture for every preference. From dealers selling the popular "Pop!" vinyl toys to independent cartoon artists to, yes, even a good array of comic book collectors and vendors, SVCC offered a party platter filled with entertainment and fun to everyone who came. We can only presume that geeks – which is not a pejorative term to this crowd - from all over the west coast are already planning their costumes for next year's big event.

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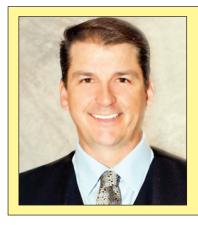
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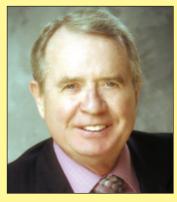
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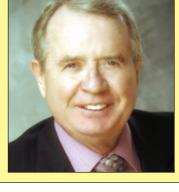


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