

**COUNCILMEMBER  
KHAMIS 5TH  
ANNUAL FAMILY  
FIREWORKS SHOW:  
JULY 4 – P4**



**STEVE DINI'S  
SHAKESPEAREAN  
SHAKE-UP IS  
SCHEDULED FOR  
MAY 11 & 12 – P6**



**LELAND CHARGERS  
FOOTBALL TEAM  
TRAVELING TO  
FACE 7TH RANKED  
ARIZONA STATE – P8**



# Almaden Times

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MAY 4–MAY 17, 2018 ■ VOL. 31, NO. 10

## Local men offer a human touch to the homeless

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

“What if we made a difference?”

That’s what David Watkins asked his friend, Steve Lam, one day after seeing homeless people living under an overpass.

Their conversation led to the creation of “The Overpassed,” named for those passed over by society, as well as where some homeless live. Their purpose is to provide homeless men and women with basic necessities, as well as a human touch.

“When Steve and I first started approaching homeless people in tents, we were both a bit nervous,” says Watkins, “but you’d be surprised just how open many of them can be. The poorest man can have the most generous heart.”

“We see a lot of people here on the brink of giving up hope,” says Lam. “Our mission here, in addition to giving them things, is

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



(Back row L-R): Steve Lam, Richard Breck and David Watkins give their all to help those in need.

about rekindling their hope. We say, “It’s a beautiful day. You’re alive. Let’s start from there.” Sometimes they pray together, shar-

ing spiritual strength and support.

“We do this to see someone feel encouraged, inspired, and motivated,” says

Watkins. “Everyone deserves and needs help.”

On a monthly basis for four years, the two men have delivered care packages to a homeless encampment at St. James Park and under overpasses downtown along the Guadalupe River. More recently, their friend, Richard Breck has joined their efforts. In addition to interacting with the homeless, he secures corporate donations and created their crowd sourcing webpage at: [www.YouCaring.com](http://www.YouCaring.com) (search for *The Overpassed*).

Initially, Watkins brought water bottles, toothpaste and toothbrushes to the encampment. In March, they provided people with water, pita bread, granola bars, first aid kits, razors, scissors, pens and pencils, underwear and cat food. In April, they brought water, socks, shirts and jackets donated by high tech companies. They let the recipients choose which items they want, granting them that dignity.

After speaking with the homeless, they received requests for shoes, peanut butter, bug repellent, hand sanitizer, bungee cords and garbage bags. Diane wants garbage bags so she can clean up the encampment. George, David and Omar fix bicycles and would like bike parts, chain lubricant and tools. Nasia and Ernie hope

See *OVERPASSED*, page 18

## Leland student releases free app to facilitate language learning

### Teenagers helping our world

There are a myriad of different languages that people are using to communicate around the world, making it necessary for people to pick up a second language, even a third.

Addressing the need to learn a new language, Jeff Kim, 16, developed a new state-of-the-art iOS app that makes learning a new language both fun and efficient.

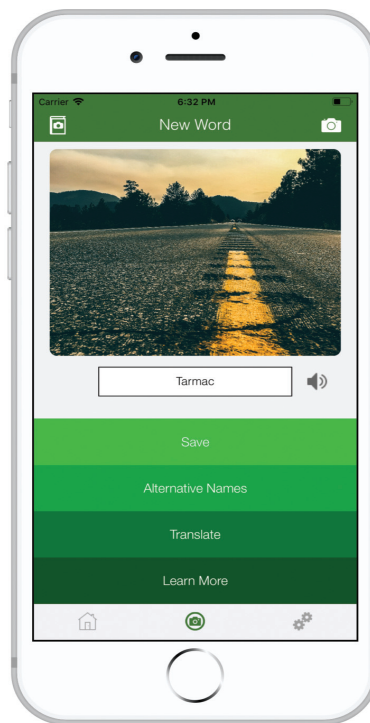
Kim, who is currently taking AP Spanish Language and Culture at Leland High School, learned the unfortunate reality of learning a language.

“The vocabulary is endless,” Jeff confessed. “Even after four years of learning Spanish, I still cannot say a lot of objects in Spanish without looking them up right now.”



Leland student Jeff Kim is addressing the need to learn new languages with his own iOS app called “Worldly.”

Jeff’s problems with languages extend beyond his classroom. “Whenever I try to talk with my relatives in South Korea, my efforts are always futile. I always have to pause and ask my mother to tell me how to say a certain word in Korean. Sometimes, my



mother does not know the answer because she has never heard of the English word before.”

That’s why Jeff Kim, now a junior at Leland High School, spent several months coding, designing, and testing Worldly, an iOS app that utilizes image recognition and cloud translation services to enable users to learn how to say anything around them in any language.

“Using Worldly is incredibly simple. Select languages to learn in Settings. Then, take a picture with your device’s camera or select a photo from your album, receive a classification of the object(s) in the photo, tap on Translate, and select a language from the ones that you chose in Settings,” Jeff explains.

Worldly has a multitude of features that enhances users’ learning

See *WORLDLY*, page 6

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## This Week:

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# Almaden Times

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# Valley Currents

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

## Councilmember Khamis 5th Annual Fireworks Show: July 4

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Grab your family and friends and head out to the 5th Annual Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show on Wednesday July 4th, starting at 3 p.m. at the Almaden Lake Park.

A majority of the money raised for the 4th of July event comes from private donations. Recent contributors include Cinnabar Hills and Lee Brandenburg Golf Museum, The Schoennauer Company, Garden City Construction, the California Apartment Association, Naprotek Manufacturing, Millcreek Residential, Hunter Storm Company, Republic Services; San Jose Earthquakes, CORE Development, and PG&E.

If you, your family and friends would like to donate to the 2018 Family Fun Festival, send a check payable to Almaden Valley Women's Club July 4th and mail it to: Denelle Fedor, City of San Jose, Council District 10, 200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113; or you can donate online: [www.almadenwomen.org](http://www.almadenwomen.org)

If you cannot donate, but would like to volunteer, you can donate your time for the setup on Monday, July 3rd (set up), Tuesday, July 4th (event day - various shifts), and Wednesday, July 5th (clean up).

"The Annual Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show is a perfect community service opportunity for young adults looking to gain credit for community service hours," said Johnny Khamis, District 10 San Jose City Councilman. "Volunteering at the event provides family activity for parents and children, or for others who wish to help. Supplies, such as gloves, trash bags, and pick-up sticks are provided."

**Here's how you can help:**

**Volunteers/Volunteering/Training:**

Everyone interested in volunteering must register with Denelle on or before Friday, June 30th by 7:00 p.m.; no exceptions. We will not accept drop-in volunteer sign-ups on July 4th. There are roles for all ages and abilities. Volunteers must sign a liability waiver form (standard for City-sponsored events) and go through a brief overview of your area of interest.



The 2018 Family Fun Festival will feature a fireworks display over Almaden Lake.

**July 3rd—Set Up.**

Duties: setting up tables, canopies, signage, filling and positioning sand bags, and other set-up tasks for the event.

**July 4th—various duties**

Children's activities, volunteer check-in, runners, sanitation help, etc.; Post-fireworks festival area tear-down; July 5th— Post-festival Park Clean Up, with breakfast food & drink provided; Help pick up debris/discarded items throughout the park. If you do not see an area

where you feel you could help out, but you want to help - no worries, there are other assignments, some taking just an hour of donated time.

For more information about donating and/or volunteering for more information Please contact Denelle Fedor: [denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov) in order to discuss the opportunities, or if you have any additional questions, call 408.535.4993.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Sounding off on Judge Persky recall

Dear editor,

I am voting yes to recall Judge Persky on June 5 and encourage all of my neighbors to do the same. He's made several poor deci-

sions while on the bench, including giving Stanford swimmer Brock Turner just 6 months for sexual assault and delaying sentencing for a student athlete in a domestic violence charge who ended up assaulting another woman, months later.

I want someone on the bench with sound judgement and a strong sense of justice. I believe that person is Cindy Hendrickson. She's been a prosecutor for 22 years and grew

up in a multiracial family. I think she'll be a strong advocate of victims while protecting the rights of the accused. Vote yes to recall Persky and for Cindy Hendrickson to replace him. The people of Santa Clara County deserve a judge who understands complex socioeconomic issues and will take sexual assault seriously.

**Shalom Marquardt**  
Almaden Valley area

## LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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Times **Local News****Steve Dini's Shakespearean shake-up: May 11 & 12**By Jane Johnson  
*Special to the Times*

**H**ilarity ensues when a band of merry players consort to sail you through all - and I

mean all - of Shakespeare's works! Join Steve Dini, Joren Christensen and Mike Hanlon for a night of "Shakespeare Abridged" coming to the Pioneer High School Per-

forming Arts Center May 11 & 12. It might just be the most fun (and funny) fly through Shakespeare you, your family, your friends and/or your students will ever get.

Steve describes it as "... a parody which creatively condenses all of Shakespeare's 37 plays down into one 90 minute performance."

Joren commented "this play has a LOT of lines, and it's Shakespeare!" to which Mike completed "...and backwards!" You'll see what they mean - whether or not you've ever heard, read or seen Shakespeare before.

This smaller arm of Pioneer High's fundraising benefactor Glue Factory - known playfully as the Teeny Weeny Dini Shakespeare Company - has worked extremely hard to give you Shakespeare in a more modern and frankly funny and engaging way. They recognize through story telling that Shakespeare is often seen as boring, so they've turned it into anything but!

When you purchase your tickets and come to the show (and participate - yes, participate in this one - as an audience member so don't worry if you're afraid of the stage) you are insuring high quality shows to continue to come from the high school itself. And you get a night of laughs to boot!



Tickets are available in advance at <https://phsdrama.ludus.com> \$10 for adults and \$5 students and seniors 62 yrs and older. Doors open both May 11 & 12 at 6:30 pm for in-person ticket sales.

**Steve Dini** (center) and a band of merry players have condensed all of Shakespeare's plays into a 90 minute performance.

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Questions call: 408 268-1133





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Times Features

## Earth Day 'Walk or Bike to School' event successfully organized by Graystone Elementary Cub Scouts

By Cyntia Apps

Special to the Times

Cub Scout Pack 274 from Graystone Elementary celebrated Earth Day by organizing a Walk or Bike to School event on April 20.

The Graystone Walk or Bike to School event raised awareness in the community about how we can all contribute to improving our environment.

There were five different walking routes lead by Cub Scouts Parents Volunteers: - Camden & Harry; Almaden Rd & Almaden Expressway; Bret Harte & Camden; Via Valiente & Almaden Express way; and Alamos Creek Trail leaving from the Almaden Neighborhood Church.

Parents and students that lived outside the radius of the walking areas drove to



one of the walking locations to join the walking groups and support the event.

Photo Credit: Cyntia Apps



## Leland Chargers Football Team traveling to face 7th ranked Arizona State football team Liberty High School: Sept. 14

By William Bellou

Publisher

The 2018 Leland High School Chargers Football Team will be traveling to Arizona to face (7th ranked in the State of Arizona) Liberty High School in Peoria on Friday, September 14.

Liberty High School finished the 2017 season 11-2 and lost in the Arizona State semi-finals. The upcoming game's stadium location will be determined at a later date. Liberty is coached by Mark Smith.

To get this opportunity as a program and as a football family is very exciting," said Chargers Football Head Coach, Mike Ward. "It speaks to the hard work that these young men have put into this program the last few years and to the last few graduating classes of seniors who have helped put this program back where it should be."

The excitement among members of the Chargers football team is immense.

"I'm really excited about the experience for all of us," Said QB Carson Yates (class of 2020). "I'm also excited to test ourselves against a really good team from Arizona,

and play in the state where Pat Tillman went to college."

LB/DE Joey Taddie (class of 2020) said: "I'm excited for the opportunity. I think it'll be great for all of us as a team."

"I'm interested to see how we play on the road; on a long road trip, and see how we bond as a team," said HB Kekoa Lopez (class of 2020).

Coach Ward said the matchup will be an immense challenge for the Chargers against a very good Liberty program. "I am excited for all of our players, coaching staff, administration, school, and parents to all experience this together."

For more information, contact Mr. Mike Ward, Leland High School Head Football Coach: [mward@sjusd.org](mailto:mward@sjusd.org); 408-535-6290 ext. 62338.

Editor's note: Donations to help out the Leland Football Team's expenses are appreciated. Checks can be made out to: Leland High School (in the memo line write Leland Football Arizona trip) and drop it off at the school bank on the Leland High School campus.



The Leland High School Chargers Football coaching staff is all smiles after learning of the matchup with Liberty High School in Arizona. Pictured are (l to r) Robert Peng, John Mackey, Brian Marchetti, Mike Ward, and Mike Gray.

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# Apoorva advances to semifinals on Genius Junior NBC-TV show to compete May 13

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Apoorva Panidapu of San Jose has advanced to the semifinals on the new Sunday evening NBC-TV hit show, *Genius Junior*.

The semifinals will be telecast on May 13th, at 7 p.m. (Episode – 109: Big Problems, Bigger Brains). If Apoorva's team makes it to the finals, they will appear in the finals the same night at 7 p.m. May 13th.

Apoorva's team is called The Fast and the Curious, and she is joined by Treasure, a 9-year-old from Jupiter, Florida; and Sebastian, a 12-year-old from New Hyde Park, New York.

Here's how Apoorva felt during the last moments of the episode *Genius Junior: Braniums and Craniums*: "We couldn't believe we had actually conquered the Cortex. My heart was beating really quickly, I could feel adrenaline rushing through me up till that very last second when I answered the final question with only one second left on the clock. Everything felt like it was moving in slow motion. My family was cheering in the crowd and my team ran down the stairs to hug the host, Neil Patrick Harris."

Apoorva said she is thrilled about how well her team competed during the live broadcast. "I'm so grateful that we get to return for the semifinals. All the kids on the show were incredible and had their own set of skills and talents. I had a great time meeting all of them. Like one of the kids on the show said, "It's not about winning or losing," but a celebration of great minds."

Apoorva made her *Genius Junior* TV debut on April 22, a new kid's quiz show that celebrates bright kids in America, with only 36 chosen from across the nation to participate.

Apoorva is known to many of her friends as the "Human Calculator" because she can solve any math problem in her head faster than a calculator. She shares the same IQ (160) with the late Albert's Einstein.

Apoorva was the "Super Brain" for math; this means that she takes on the Number Cruncher round as an individual on the center stage, and has to answer all the math equations in 90 secs. She calculated and correctly answered every question, within seconds. Neil Patrick Harris, the team, and the crowd cheered for her as she completed her round and answered the seventh question when the timer was done. After the show, friends and family sent in tons of messages congratulating her performance.

If you missed the episode, all the recordings are available at [www.nbc.com/genius-junior?nbc=1](http://www.nbc.com/genius-junior?nbc=1)

## Invited to Prestigious Mathcamp

It was just announced that Apoorva has been invited to attend the international 5-week Mathcamp (Canada/USA)



Apoorva Panidapu celebrates advancing to the *Genius Junior* semifinals with her teammates.

this summer where she will be working with accomplished mathematicians on undergrad and graduate level topics while building problem-solving skills that will help in any field one chooses to study. Only 60 new students are selected worldwide for the camp. The camp invites talented high school students who are advanced in mathematics, and Apoorva was selected as a 7th grader. (Apoorva scored a perfect 800 in SAT Math and a close to perfect score in English. She was selected for study of exceptional talent with John Hopkins University.)

Editor's note: Apoorva will be speaking at the World's Largest Entrepreneurship conference, Tie Inflect, on May 5 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. The conference is expecting 5,000 attendees for two days of talks, demos and pitches. Apoorva's Topic: Making a difference - A polymath's perspective will be held in Hall A2 at 4:15 p.m. Miss San Jose, a senior at Stanford university, will be the moderator. Apoorva would be doing a live demo of her math talent and will take questions from audience.

# Pat Dando was a mentor to me

By Johnny Khamis  
Special to the Times

For those of you not familiar with Pat Dando, she served as the Councilmember from District 10 for ten years and as Vice Mayor during a portion of her time on the San Jose City Council.

Dando later went on to lead the San Jose – Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce. Pat was a mentor to me and many others in our community and I considered her a friend. Most importantly, however, Pat was a dedicated public servant and community leader who would find a need in the community and then go about the hard work of bringing together people and resources to fill that need.

Whether it was a need for youth counseling, a place where the Almaden community could gather, educating the public about the signs of stroke, or creating a hospital unit where stroke victims could receive specialized care to improve their chances of recovery, Pat was there to lead and help.

Because of Pat's inspirational and effective leadership, members of the community, led by Rich Crowley, have spearheaded an effort to remember her and inspire in others Pat's spirit of volunteerism and community leadership. I looked up to Pat because she was a doer, not just a talker. It's important that young people – and all of us, young and old, for that matter - have strong servant leaders like Pat to look to as role models, and I am proud to support this initiative.

The first idea that was floated was to add Pat's name to the Almaden Community Center, given her role in ensuring that the new Almaden Library would also have a community center to serve as a focal point for an area of the City that had long lacked a central gathering place. She also ensured that the project was accelerated ahead of other projects funded by a voter-

approved bond measure.

I convened a group of community leaders to discuss this first proposal. After a healthy discussion, it became clear that a name change for the center was not something around which people would unify. Because of the strong sense of community identity the Center provides, some felt that naming the Center for a specific person may dilute this sense of community or diminish the contributions of other community leaders.

Rich Crowley took these concerns to heart and went about brainstorming other ideas for honoring Pat that would bring people together, as she would have wanted, and came up with an alternative which he discussed with Pat's family. I convened another meeting of community leaders at which Rich presented his new idea: honoring Pat through improvements to the Almaden Community Center entry area – creating a welcoming space near the outdoor entrance that would incorporate a statue of Pat, so that she would be there to welcome people to the facility, and describing the story of what she did and

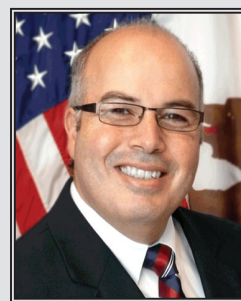
why others would do well to follow her example in building the Almaden community. The concept was inspired by a model that exists here in Almaden: the bench and statue of Officer Jeffrey Fontana in Martin Fontana Park, near the dog park entry. Rich provided color photos with this example.

This new idea was warmly embraced by the group as, in the words of Almaden Senior Association President Bill Hubka, "something everyone can be proud of that adds to the community and doesn't detract."

Bill Baron noted that the welcome plaza improvements would be privately funded and also presented the idea to establish a \$100,000 endowment to set aside money for children's programs at the library. This legacy would benefit children and have Pat's memory honored over the long term. This would also be privately funded, with no City money involved.

I am excited to be a part of this effort to honor a great community leader.

If you have any questions or want to find out how you can be a part of this project, please feel free to reach out to me at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or 408-535-4910 and I'll be happy to connect you with those leading the effort. Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis, 200 E. Santa Clara Street - 18th Floor San Jose, CA 95113.



**District 10 Report**  
Johnny Khamis,  
City Councilmember



Pat Dando



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Times **Feature****'I Can Still Do It!' author to appear at book signing**

Book signing at Barnes & Noble in Almaden on Saturday, May 12

By William Bellou  
Publisher

The unstoppable spirit of a plane crash survivor is chronicled in local resident Karen Trolan's new book: "I Can Still Do It."

Through her extensive regimens of physical therapy, adaptive sports, and travel, Karen describes how she recaptured the joys of her earlier life, stating: "I can still do it" in spite of becoming a paraplegic.

Karen Trolan, a local Alain Pinel real estate manager and dedicated mother of three, was piloting her family's Cessna on the Labor Day Weekend out of the Truckee Airport when the plane crashed eight years ago. The crash changed Karen's life forever, but with great courage, she wrote her new book to inspire others.

"The ability to give back to others by helping and teaching also inspires me to work hard every day," says Karen. "I'm so very grateful that I was able to return to every one of the teaching and mentoring roles in the work world that I enjoyed prior to the crash, including my volunteer activities."

**Volunteer efforts**

Karen actively volunteers with the local disaster aid response team, ski patrol, Girls on the Run, coaching soccer, and teaching first aid. She adaptively does mar-

tial arts, water skis, snow skis, rides horses, kayaks, and swims. Karen calls her journey one of "pushing through" adversity, exemplified by recently being inducted into the "Legends of Martial Arts Hall of Fame."

"Karen Trolan is a fighter, survivor, teacher and friend," said Jeff Barnett, VP & Regional Manager, Alain Pinel Realtors, Los Gatos. "After a horrifying crash she continues to define courage and passion and has the ability to change people's lives with her will power and love. She is an amazing lady!"

**Book signing**

The community is invited to meet Karen at her upcoming book signing at Barnes and Noble – Almaden Plaza on Saturday, May 12 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information, about Karen Trolan's inspiring book "I can still do it!" including ordering a copy online, visit: [www.icanstilldoit.com](http://www.icanstilldoit.com)

**HEART OF THE PARK CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, May 19, 2018  
1:00 to 4:30 PM  
Jeffrey Fontana Park**

**Bird Tour at 12:00    Five Islands Dedication at 1:00  
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[www.MyWatershedWatch.org](http://www.MyWatershedWatch.org)



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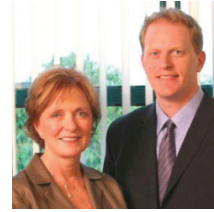
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Times **Feature**

NEWS BRIEFS

Have you tried the new ‘My San Jose’ app?

Want to get that pothole or street light fixed, or report graffiti, illegal dumping, or an abandoned vehicle?

With the new My San Jose app or using [sanjoseca.gov/mysanJose](http://sanjoseca.gov/mysanJose), it's now quick and easy to file and track a City service request or to reach one of the City's customer representatives.

Local post offices offer events to mark National Small Business Week

Post Offices throughout the Bay-Valley postal district will hold events to mark National Small Business Week ending May 5.

The week-long events will include Grow Your Business workshops in many of the Post Offices in their lobbies. Participants will receive mailing and shipping tips and information on how they can use USPS services to grow their businesses.

The following post offices will have business booths in their lobbies to provide information for small business owners on how to help grow their business through the USPS.

**Willow Glen**  
1750 Meridian Ave  
San Jose CA 95101  
Friday, May 04, 2018  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Campbell**  
500 W. Hamilton Ave  
Campbell, CA 95008  
Friday, May 04, 2018  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
For more information, visit:  
[sba.gov/national-small-business-week](http://sba.gov/national-small-business-week)



What do mothers really want on Mother's Day?

With Mother's Day around the corner, Almadeners are looking to find the perfect gift for Mom on her big day, Sunday, May 13.

A new Mother's Day survey, conducted by [topchasback.com](http://topchasback.com), found that found that three quarters of Americans (75%) plan to purchase a Mother's Day gift, and 3 in 5 (60%) will spend between \$6 and \$50 on their matriarch.

The survey polled a cross section of 1,135 adults, aged 18 and over, on their purchasing habits for the second Sunday of May.

Here are some additional insights from the survey:

What does Mom really want on her special day?:

- Spending quality time with the kids (55%)
- Breakfast, lunch and/or dinner (47%)
- Gift card (43%)
- Participating in a family activity (41%)
- Something homemade (37%)
- Americans plan to gift mom:
  - Flowers (43%)
  - Spending quality time with Mom (37%)
  - A greeting card (35%)
  - Breakfast, lunch and/or dinner (32%)
  - Gift card (30%)

Buying habits: 46% of Americans will purchase Mom's gift at Walmart, 37% will shop at a department store and one in three (33%) will shop at Target.

Photo credit: [pineappleclothing.com](http://pineappleclothing.com)

**UPCOMING EVENTS OF San Jose Gurdwara Sikh Community**

3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, California 95148  
Gurdwara Contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712 | [sanjosegurdwara.org](http://sanjosegurdwara.org)

**Saturday, May 5**  
**Sikh Heritage Night at San Jose Earthquakes**

**Sunday, June 17**  
**Honor of the 5th Guru**

**Wednesday, 4th of July**  
**Complimentary Ice Cream Social and Parade**

**The Five Ks of Sikhism**

- **Kesh:** (Kesh is uncut hair) A Sikh is to maintain and adorn this natural God-given gift. To work with nature and not against it. The Kesh was covered with a turban
- **Kanga** (wooden comb) for the maintenance and ongoing upkeep of Kesh. A reminder to regularly maintain the body and mind in a clean and healthy state.
- **Kara** (steel bracelet): Symbolizes an unbreakable bond with God.
- **Kachhera** (cotton underwear) Standard, Naturally Comfortable, dignified attire reflective of modesty and control.
- **Kirpan** (a small sword) A sign that a Sikh is a soldier in "Akal Purakh's (God's) Army" (Akal Purakh de fauj); to maintain and protect the weak and needy and for self defence. Never to be used in anger.

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Make Music San Jose is facilitated by the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs.





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## Times Features



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## 'District 10 April Cleanup Challenge' brings out dedicated community volunteers

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer

In honor of Earth Day 2018, the City of San Jose held a city-wide clean up competition among the Council Districts throughout the month of April.

The question is will Almaden District 10 become the winning San Jose City Council District?

The winning district will be determined by the district with the most participating volunteers. If District 10 wins, Councilmember Khamis will host a Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast and present the community with the winners' trophy.

### April cleanup activities

Last month, a dedicated group of 27 volunteers showed up for the first Action Plan Workday at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park (GOGP).

They hauled more than five truckloads of green debris, removing invasive weeds from the soft, wet earth. The horehound plants in the driveway circle were removed, as well as the weeds near the restroom. This spot was a focus area due to its proximity to the well-used facilities.

Another group of volunteers went hunting for baby Blue Oaks. The search crew found more than 100 new Blue Oaks that they marked for protection. The Blue Oaks are native to the park and are very slow growing, so they easily get choked out by invasive species.

Volunteers from the community spruced up the Almaden Community Center, pulling weeds, spreading mulch, and trimming plants.

More than 30 volunteers at Jeffrey Fontana Park on April 10th were followed by 23 volunteers at TJ Martin Park on Wednesday April 11th. Middle and high school volunteers were joined by Boy Scouts and Orchard Supply Hardware employees to spread 100 bags of mulch in the gardens facing McAbee, pull lots of weeds and trim huge stacks of green waste from native shrubs and trees along Thorntree Drive. Four hours of hard work resulted in healthy, groomed gardens and a much improved environment for the McAbee end of the park.

Student volunteers took on TJ Martin Park

on Burchell, pulling weeds, trimming trees and shrubs, and spreading mulch that had been placed in the park 18 months ago. The Martin-Fontana Parks Association (MFPA) appreciated all the volunteer help.

Sue Bowling from Adopt-a-Park who made sure the work was completed correctly, tools were kept neat and accounted for, and who kept the volunteers going with her humor. Pat Pizzo showed the youth how to prune and trim and how to tell invasive species from desirable native species.

The group appreciated learning so much about the plants by sending an appreciation letter. Be sure to notice the newly-refreshed areas of TJ Martin and Fontana Parks as you walk through. The MFPA invites you to join them on May 19 for their annual Heart of the Park fundraiser event to see how nice the parks look.

On April 28, 29 volunteers painted the big wall on Branham Lane that runs from Vistapark Drive to near Snell Avenue with the work completed in only four and a half hours!. Once again, Orchard Supply Hardware was out in force working side-by-side with residents to tackle the biggest wall in D10 painted so far – over 16,000 square feet!

The Great American Litter Pickup was held at Pioneer High School on April 21 where tools and supplies were available so that volunteers could pick up litter around the Blossom Hill area. Volunteers picked up 129 bags of litter along Blossom Hill Road from Meridian to Snell, around the VTA stations, and several of the shopping centers, including Oakridge Mall. Other areas in D10 include shopping areas in Almaden and Santa Teresa. Thanks go out to the Chinese Church in Christ South Valley, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints who each sent out large groups of volunteers.

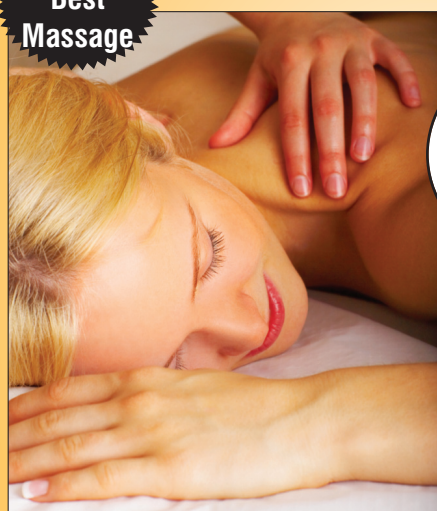
There were many other volunteer efforts throughout the month of April that are not included here but officially we had 545 total volunteers for the month! Almaden and District 10 residents regularly pickup trash on their walks, or organize cleanups, without any fanfare. It's this dedication and care for the community that makes this such a great place to live. Thank you everyone!



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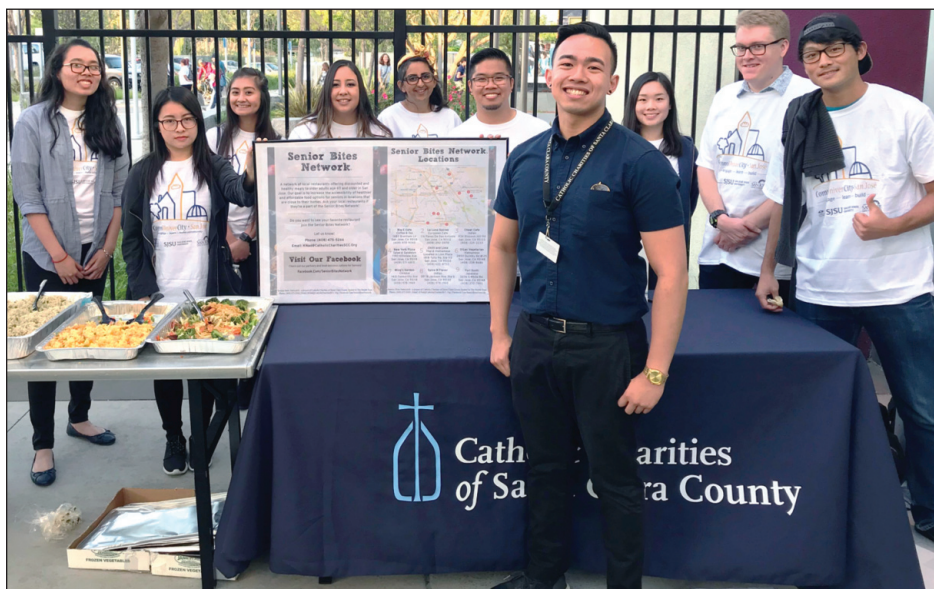
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Times **Your Community**

Senior Bites coordinator Kevin Nad (front) and San Jose State University students bring awareness to Senior Bites at Roosevelt Community Center.

## Take a bite out of 'Senior Bites Network'

*Addressing food insecurities for older adults*

By **Shama Saleem**  
*Special to the Times*

Students from San Jose State University and CommUniverCity came together at the Roosevelt Community Center to bring exposure to several nonprofit programs in San Jose, on April 25.

Of these programs, one standout was the Senior Bites Network.

Senior Bites is a new program in partnership with Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County that seeks to build relationships between the senior community and local restaurants. Senior Bites' objective is to reach out to local restaurants and collaborate with them to create healthier and more affordable meal options that address the nutritional needs of the senior community.

Senior Bites' development originated from the fact that many other senior meal programs in San Jose forces participants into memberships with annual fees and requirements that leave many seniors out of the picture. Senior Bites, on the other hand, not only encourages seniors to foster healthy lifestyles and support local business, but anyone over the age of 60 can walk into a location that has part-

nered up with Senior Bites and expect affordable options.

According to Kevin Nad, Senior Bites coordinator, the program was created after he surveyed seniors who trekked to the Roosevelt Community Center from all parts of San Jose for a daily, affordable, and nutritious meal.

"The idea behind the program came from Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County," said Nad. "The project was created in order to address the issues of food insecurities for older adults as well as supporting local businesses in San Jose."

Senior Bites is currently partnered with eight restaurants in San Jose. The menu includes mouth-watering options and the satisfaction of supporting San Jose local businesses all for less than \$8 per meal. Each restaurant worked hard to create menus of high quality based on nutritious food in smaller portion sizes that are more appropriate for seniors. The Senior Bites Network offers a variety of meals including American, Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese, and Indian cuisines.

For more information on locations, menu options, or participating in Senior Bites as a local restaurant, contact Kevin Nad, Senior Bites coordinator at [KNad@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org](mailto:KNad@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org) or visit [facebook.com/SeniorBitesNetwork.com](https://facebook.com/SeniorBitesNetwork.com).

## THE WISDOM TOOTH Un-bridging a bridge

By **Susan R. Di Bene DDS**

Q: I have a three-tooth bridge on my upper right that was made to replace one missing tooth. One of the support teeth which had a root canal years ago, has now fractured, and needs to be removed due to a severe infection of the bone next to the root of the tooth.

My dentist wants to remove the tooth and then make a four-tooth bridge to replace, my now two missing teeth. I don't like the idea that he said this will require "capping" another tooth by drilling it down and will create four connected teeth in a row with no way to floss. My husband, a retired

engineer, says "you can't support such a long span of bridge, with only two supports on either end; you need support in the middle". Doris in Los Gatos

A: Good call by your husband. His principles are correct and your mention of the inability to floss a four-crown bridge is spot on. A recent case that presented us with the same issue allowed us to remove the cracked tooth, fill the socket and the defect with synthetic bone graft material called Osteogen, place an implant and place three floss-able, permanent single crowns.

"The Doctor's Dentist" Dr. Di Bene practices Cosmetic, Implant and General Dentistry in Almaden and can be reached at 408-268-8420. Tune in and listen to Dr. Di Bene on 95.3 KRTY May 12th at 8AM & May 13th at 9PM!



## Cache Creek Casino

Tuesday, June 12

Arrive: 7:45 am  
Depart: 8:00 am  
Return: 7:00 pm  
Cost: \$35.00



Includes \$15.00 slot play or \$20.00 table match play with players card plus \$5.00 food credit, not valid for buffet.

Sign up M, T, W 9:30 am- 11:30 am at the Almaden Community Center.

Questions contact:

Sally: 408 826-9619  
Bea: 408 761-4002



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## Times Feature

## Whale Watching in Monterey CA Tuesday May 8, 2018



Join us for a wonderful day with Chris's Whale Watching Tours sailing the waters of Monterey.

There will be 2-3 hours of narrated interesting information about the landmarks and creatures of the sea along with whales, dolphins and local marine life.

Enjoy lunch on the wharf on your own at 1:00pm.

Bus leaves Monterey to return to San Jose at approximately 3:00 pm.

Sign up at the  
Almaden Community Center  
M, T, W 9:30-11:30 am.

Arrive: 7:15 am      Questions call:  
Depart: 7:30 am      Sally: 408 826-9619  
Return: 4:30 pm      Richard: 408 219-8641  
Cost: \$65.00 pp      Bea: 408-761-4002



## Senior Association Spring Fashion Show

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

2pm - 4 pm

Coffee, tea and dessert

Clothes supplied by  
Dress Barn Almaden

\$8.00 per person

Tickets on sale April 30th

ACC lobby MWF 8:40am - 10am

Cash or Checks only

Please bring membership card with you.

Models needed. Call Jeanne at (408)425-5723



Steve Lam gets to know the regulars by name and offers to pray with them.

## Overpassed

Continued from page 1  
for hair products.

"I wish there were more tents," says Casey. "There aren't enough and the ones we have are so thin, wind and water gets through them. We had two hospital blankets and put on all the clothes we had, but we were still frozen. We need better tents and sleeping bags. The nights are cold."

"When we finish handing out items and meeting people, there's a great feeling of accomplishment knowing you have brightened someone's day by being there," Watkins says. "It's a great feeling because you're helping people with things that they really need as well as giving them hope. Most just want someone to talk to. When I told one homeless man that we had a shirt and a jacket for him, he was shocked that someone took the time to do this for him."

Through the years, Watkins and Lam have gotten to know many homeless by name. They came to understand that many are regular people who had difficult things happen to them and/or can't make ends meet. Through the city's efforts, some of the people living on the street have found housing, but others are still waiting. Some have mental illnesses and/or prefer living in a community outdoors.

One woman, Valerie, has created a village under the overpass and shares what little she has. She offers a place to rest and some water to anyone walking by. "They're so poor," says Watkins, "but extremely rich with their hearts. Their attitude is whatever I have is yours."

Lam describes George as a gentle soul. "It's a pleasure walking around the neighborhood with him," says Lam. "Wherever he goes, restaurant owners and residents wave at him."

George is well known for repairing bicycles, which he donates to other homeless people. "After a rainstorm, the streets are wet, and water gets in their worn-out shoes giving them foot sores," says Lam, "so bikes are helpful to ride on and for carrying their things. George is amazing. He helps people through sharing his skills and material possessions."

About a month ago, two police officers came to the encampment and asked for George by name. They had heard about him through the community and offered him subsidized housing: even though it's only 500 square feet, George calls it his castle.

"George and Valerie are community leaders," says Lam. "They give their time and possessions and influence people in positive ways. When you give out love you receive it in return."

Casey came to San Jose from Mississippi. "Down South, everyone is very hospitable," she says, "but out here, no one cares about the homeless." Interestingly, it was the homeless community that came to her rescue. "When I got off the bus, I had on shorts and a tank top and it was October. Within 10 minutes, people were bringing me sweats and shoes. I was like, 'You're homeless, too,' and they were like, 'No, girl, don't worry about it.' Everyone helps each other down here." When Casey finds work and gets paid, she pays back their kindness. "I come down here, and I'm like, 'Hey bros, you guys take care of me. Let's eat!' The homeless community here is so big and so helping."

"When I hear the life stories and struggles people face," says Breck, "I think they just need someone to listen. It's an amazing thing to see the support they have for each other. It's a strong, caring community."

Richard, a blind homeless man who hangs out at the minimart, is another generous person. One day, after speaking with Breck, Richard told him that although he'd like to talk with him more, there were others who needed Breck's time as well, and he should talk with them.

One of the Overpassed goals is to change how residents view the homeless. "People pretend they're not even there," says Watkins, "but taking a moment to care might provide the catalyst to someone taking the next step, like checking into an addiction clinic."

Breck sees homelessness as a situation with some people struggling with depression and others with addiction. "The wealthy have ways to deal with addiction," he says. "The homeless need help. We're trying to bring them help and hope."

"People see the homeless holding up signs asking for money and think they're lazy and should be working or that they're addicted to drugs and alcohol," says Lam, "but a lot of the time, mental illness brings people down. George lost his job as a mechanic trying to help a lady who was financially challenged pass a smog check. She reported him for fudging it. He had previously lost his son in a gang shooting (his son wasn't in a gang) which resulted in his wife suffering from depression and



Times **Feature****Mama Jean.** *Courtesy of Steve Lam*

they're getting divorced. After he lost his job, he found himself on the street. It could have happened to anyone."

"We spend a lot of time under the overpasses," says Breck. "A block away from SAP and Adobe and other high-tech companies, they're sleeping next to the river. It's pretty scary at night: the rats come up from the river and crawl all over them." It also gets rough in St. James Park at night after people have been drinking. "The nights are full of tension," says Breck. "You never know what will happen."

On a recent visit, some of the men remembered them from last time and stopped to say, "Thank you." Sometimes, homeless people approached the bench where the merchandise was placed. Other times, Lam and Watkins approached them.

"Hi, buddy," says Lam to veteran John Anthony, a.k.a. Big John. "How are you doing? What do you need?" He chose a t-shirt and a pair of socks and went to sit on the bench with his "brothers."

"I'm the real deal down here," says Big John. "I spoke with the mayor. The mayor wants to help this homeless thing. Now I have a home."

After receiving congratulations, Big John turns serious. "We need people to care," he says. "You don't know what it's like 'til you live it. Out of 63

people I said, 'Good morning' to, only four replied or even looked at me."

The long-term goal of The Overpassed is to raise funding as well as awareness to make a greater impact. They recently created a Facebook page and plan to create a webpage of success stories and eventually become a nonprofit corporation. Lam hopes that once people know about the needs of the homeless, their hearts will go out to them and they'll want to help those who need it most.

"I want to encourage people to get back on their feet and make them feel that they're not alone," says Watkins. "That's what The Overpass is all about."

*Editor's note: To see photos and learn more go to: [facebook.com/theoverpassed/](https://facebook.com/theoverpassed/)*

**Dave Watkins and Steve Lam** share merchandise and conversation with the homeless in St. James Park.

Press day: May 15, 2018

Deadline: May 13, 2018

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Visit our Web Site at [www.evcsj.com](http://www.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

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Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) [firstchurchdowntown.com](http://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 backgrounds. 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!

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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.



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ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. [www.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com) or [www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org](http://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 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!

**For Worship listing ads, call 408.250.5242**

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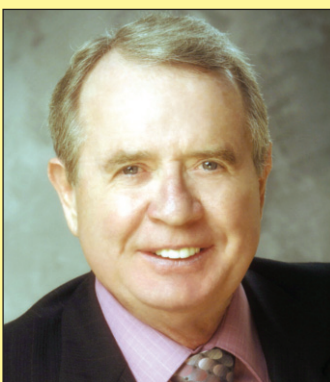
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[facebook.com/pioneerleland.68reunion](https://facebook.com/pioneerleland.68reunion)

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[www.willowglenclassof68.myevent.com](http://www.willowglenclassof68.myevent.com)

### 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
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  - Photos of the 40th Reunion (this was an amazing heart & soul event!)
  - Update your online bio
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License #01355719

Swan has been Almaden Valley's #1 Agent each year since 2009. And 2017 was no exception! Swan has been recognized by Wall Street Journal/RealTrends as Top 250 Individual Agents in Nation by Dollar Volume. She is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the Bay Area.



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