



MOSAIC 2018

High School Urban Journalism Workshop

25th
anniversary



4

Grand opening: Great America debuts its new single-rail roller coaster to excited Bay Area crowds.



15

Culture: African American Community Service Agency hosts annual Juneteenth festival in San Jose.



16

Sports: Golden State Warriors celebrate their third NBA title in four years with fans in downtown Oakland.

LOCAL GROUPS ANSWER CALL TO AID REFUGEES COMING TO U.S.



Performers in colorful ethnic clothing parade at a World Refugee Day event at San Jose City Hall, June 15. (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

Advocacy organizations help people seeking respite from persecution in home countries

By PATRICIA WEI
Mosaic Staff Writer

Performers decked in ethnic clothing sang and danced at San Jose's World Refugee Day celebration at the rotunda in San Jose City Hall. Behind the cheering audience, refugee advocates set up booths.

They were answering the call to support people arriving in the Bay Area to escape persecution, in the face of a federal government that has grown more hostile to them.

"Organizations like ours are the ones who help them build their lives," said Natali Smiley, an En-

glish teacher with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). "We pick them up from the airport. We help them find cash assistance. From their first day to the day they apply for citizenship, we are there for them."

Organizations like IRC and Jewish Family Services (JFS) specialize in helping refugees resettle, providing services including English and vocational courses, career mentorship and pro bono law assistance. Refugees come from all over the

Jump to REFUGEES, page 8
Spanish version, page 12

Young people are the invisible homeless

By SARAH GAO
Mosaic Staff Writer

When Mariana, an engineering student at San Jose State University, argued with her family, she was kicked out of her home. Suddenly, in her first year at the university, she was left homeless with only a few belongings.

Mariana struggled to stay afloat academically.

"I was working from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. every night to support myself. All I had energy for between classes was sleep. I even had to drop two classes," said Mariana, whose name has been changed to protect her privacy.

A year later, she still lacks a stable home, though she has managed to stay in the engineering program.

While those living in tents or camped along creek banks are easily identified as homeless, high school and college students who sleep in cars, shelters, or on a friend's couch are homeless too, though they are often invisible.

Mariana, like many other homeless students, faces multiple barriers to graduating college, in addition to not having a home she can count on.

In the California State University system, one in nine students experience housing insecurity. And in California as a whole, about 4 percent of K-12 students identify as homeless, according to the California Homeless Youth Project.

Diane Kung, a teacher at Berkeley High School, works with a program at the school that helps at-risk

Jump to HOMELESS, page 13

Hard 'Core': Reaction mixed about new school math

By ALFREDO "BENJI" HERRERA
Mosaic Staff Writer

It was a nightmare walking into math class for Axel Martinez. An average day was filled with constant frustration regarding a new teaching method that left him feeling on his own.

"We need some guidance, we need some light," said Axel, a rising senior at Latino College Preparatory Academy in San Jose.

Axel was referring to Common Core math, which is designed to make students think critically about problems and how to apply their math skills in real-life situations. It's done through the increased use of word problems.

The goal is to give students a better idea

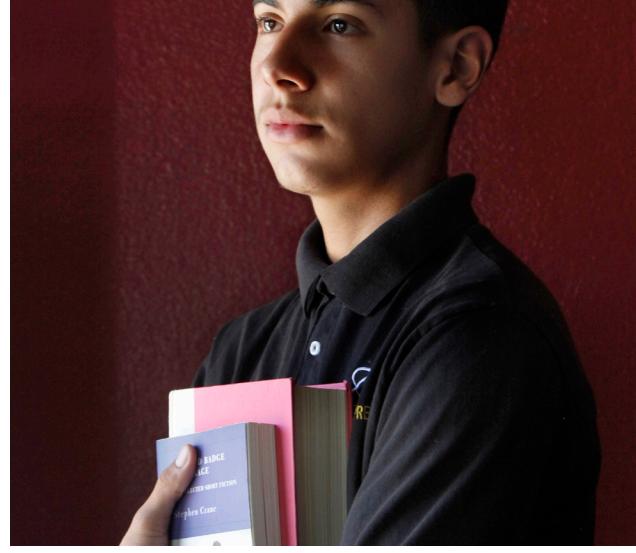
of the practicality of the problems they are solving.

Common Core has raised questions about whether complicating math really benefits students' understanding.

"Moving to Common Core is almost as if nothing changed," said David Goulette, a math teacher at Latino College Preparatory Academy who previously taught at San Jose State University. "They changed how they taught a couple of things. But the goal stayed the same."

Despite some benefits of the change, Goulette said the new curriculum "is not always the correct approach," and that a good math teacher will adapt their teaching style to fit

Jump to MATH, page 13



Axel Martinez, an incoming senior at Latino College Preparatory Academy, has voiced strong concerns about the Common Core math curriculum. He was photographed June 19, in San Jose. (Mya Hammond/Mosaic)

The Mosaic journalists

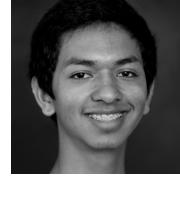


AARON VEASNA MACKENZIE

Aaron Veasna Mackenzie, an incoming sophomore at Downtown College Prep, may not have traveled the

world yet, but he plays the ukulele, writes stories and tutors kids. Aaron lives with his mom, his dad and one brother. He doesn't have singular taste in music — he chooses his music based on what he likes regardless of genre. He spends his free time eating pizza, his favorite food, going to his gardening club and reading. Aaron's favorite subject in school is biology, and he joined the Mosaic program because he likes to report and write stories as well as take pictures. Aaron lives on the east side of San Jose, so he has to wake up early to take the bus every day to San Jose State.

By Mya Hammond

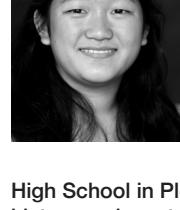


FERNANDO ANDRADE

Fernando Andrade is a junior graduate from San Jose's Downtown College Prep El

Primer. He is enrolled in De Anza College and plans to transfer to Arizona State University. He wants to become a marketing manager for musicians. He is a humble, but woke, individual who enjoys spending his time doing a variety of things from playing the guitar and piano to drawing and writing. He likes to try risky things from sledding down a steep hill (getting a bloody nose and almost breaking his arm) to rapping in front of hundreds of his peers.

By Orlando Lucio

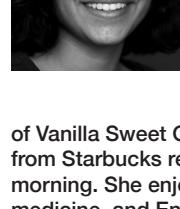


LINDSAY WANG

A hardworking student with an interest in writing and a love for English, Lindsay Wang is a rising junior at Foothill

High School in Pleasanton. She loves history and wants to chronicle it as it happens. Her parents are supportive, always working to help her improve herself as a person and to ensure her happiness. She also is a capable doubles tennis player who is great enough to cover her teammate with what she describes as "clutch saves." Her goal in Mosaic is to test her passion for journalism and to evolve as a person.

By Richard Nguyen

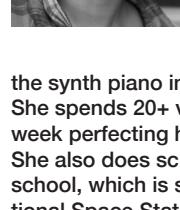


MANASI GARG

Manasi Garg, a rising sophomore at Saratoga High School, seldom gets enough sleep, but an order

of Vanilla Sweet Cream Cold Brew from Starbucks refreshes her every morning. She enjoys studying biology, medicine, and English. In the future, Manasi plans on opening a school in Pakistan or India for underprivileged children. She would want to retreat to Switzerland for a vacation to sample the delicious cheese, chocolate, and beautiful scenery. Manasi believes journalism serves as a platform to amplify people's stories, and it educates the public so they make better decisions. She will be a part of the journalism staff for the Saratoga Falcon, her school newspaper, in the upcoming school year.

By Emily Hung



MEENA RAKASI

Born in San Jose, Meena Rakasi is a straight-A student at Valley Christian High School. She is on the debate team and plays

the synth piano in her school band. She spends 20+ vigorous hours a week perfecting her musical craft. She also does scientific research at school, which is sent to the International Space Station. Most of Meena's extended family live far away, which is why she adores her close family, especially her little brother. She is bilingual — speaking English and a little Telugu, a language of south India. Meena hopes to acquire skills in Mosaic that will enable her to make a difference.

By Benji Herrera

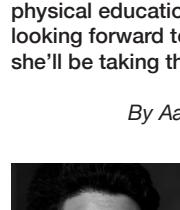


MYA HAMMOND

Mya Hammond, a 15-year-old rising sophomore at James Lick High School, tries to keep her independence

among five sisters and a brother. She's proud of living in East San Jose. The former Minecraft nerd, when not taking photos or playing the ukulele, could be found participating in track and field or cross-country or doing community service through the Leo Clubs. She's been on honor roll for four years and has an interest in both chemistry and physical education. She is really not looking forward to the seven classes she'll be taking this coming year.

By Aaron Veasna Mackenzie



ORLANDO LUCIO

Orlando Lucio is a 16-year-old incoming junior at Downtown College Prep. His interest in architecture developed from

seeing his father, the owner of a construction company, reading the layouts of buildings. He enjoys drawing and mechanical engineering. He joined Mosaic to gain experience in photography, enabling him to draw attention to topics he feels strongly about.

By Fernando Andrade

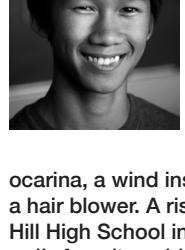


PATRICIA WEI

Born in San Jose, Patricia Wei is a 17-year-old incoming senior at Lynbrook High School. She has a strong passion for creating films

and writing stories for her school newspaper. She loves listening to "chill rock" music, especially songs by Phora and other artists from the 2000s. Patricia played varsity high school tennis her freshman year but stopped to spend more time with her family after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her favorite journalism memory is her story on vaping. When it came time to interview someone she knew who vaped, she realized she would rather write a feature about his life because of all the amazing stories he told her. At Mosaic, she hopes to cover many events happening in the community and hopes to be immersed in the city's rich culture.

By Berenice Manzano

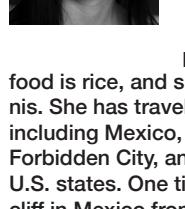


RICHARD NGUYEN

Richard Nguyen, 17, is a jack of all trades, dabbling in everything from wrestling to writing to playing the

ocarina, a wind instrument shaped like a hair blower. A rising senior at Andrew Hill High School in San Jose, Richard's favorite subjects include English, physics and chemistry. The youngest of four children, Richard most enjoys eating his mother's homemade curry. He is fond of romance novels, indulging in the picturesque world the books present as their reality. He joins Mosaic this year in hopes of experiencing professional writing and meeting new, interesting people. In the future, Richard wishes to pursue a career that allows him to wield creative freedom.

By Lindsay Wang



SARAH GAO

Sarah Gao, 15, is a rising junior at Saint Francis High School in Mountain View. Her favorite color is purple, her favorite

food is rice, and she is really into tennis. She has traveled to many places, including Mexico, Canada and China's Forbidden City, and has been to 10 U.S. states. One time she fell from a cliff in Mexico from about 20 feet into water, but lived to tell the tale. Her role model in life has been her dad, who helps guide her. In the classroom, her favorite subjects are English and history. This summer, she will attend a research mentorship program at UCSB. She wants to attend college out of state, particularly in North Carolina.

By William Butler



VALERIE WU

Valerie Wu, an incoming senior at Presentation High School in San Jose, is a self-proclaimed "Gossip Girl" addict. She has

watched all six seasons of it three times. That led her to fall in love with New York, where "Gossip Girl" takes place, and to set her sights on attending Columbia University. After college, Valerie plans to work as a diplomat or in politics. She sees politics as a way to give people who aren't being heard a voice. Valerie is passionate about social justice, which led her to become an officer for a social justice club and a feminist club at her school.

She has been recognized for her social justice achievements with her school's Frederick Douglass & Susan B. Anthony Award.

By Anahi Del Castillo



WILLIAM BUTLER

William Butler, a rising junior at Summit Public Schools Tahoma, was adopted from Guatemala City.

Since moving to the U.S., he has lived in San Diego, Palo Alto, Tucson and San Jose. He plays centerfield on his baseball team and co-founded a gaming club at his high school.

Will cites English and math as his two favorite subjects. While visiting Mexico, he explored the country's "old Mex" culture. When asked about his biggest inspiration in life, Will cited his mother as someone who pushed him to try new activities, cheered him on at sporting events, and encouraged him to work hard in school. Will is thinking of pursuing journalism in college and possibly playing baseball there as well.

By Sarah Gao



MOSAIC PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Directors

Joe Rodriguez

Sharon Noguchi

Managing Editors

Sal Pizarro

Robert Salonga

Maya Suryaraman

Photo Editors

Karl Mondon

Jim Gensheimer

Designer

Natalie Marinelli

Editorial Assistants and Web Editors

Eddie Gonzalez Antolin

Shauli Bar-On

Hannah Chebeleu

Perla Luna

Editorial Advisors

Elliott Almond

Leigh Poitinger

David Early

Tatiana Sanchez

Translator

Eddie Gonzalez Antolin

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Publisher

Sharon Ryan

Executive Editor

Neil Chase

Managing Editor

Bert Robinson

Printing Director

Kevin Garris

San Jose State University

Director of Journalism

Phylis West-Johnson

Production Manager

Mike Corpos

SPONSORS

The Mercury News

Bay Area News Group

San Jose State University

Simone Otus Coxe

Dow Jones News Fund

CCNMA Latino Journalists

of California

Elaine Elkin

The annual Mosaic Journalism Workshop for Bay Area high school students offers aspiring reporters, bloggers, photographers and videographers a two-week intensive course in journalism. Based at San Jose State University's Spartan Daily newsroom, Mosaic students report and photograph real stories under the guidance of professional journalists. Our survey of Mosaic alumni shows 14 percent become professional journalists and more than half go into related fields that require strong research and writing skills.

The Mosaic, a non-profit, educational project, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

DONATE

Make checks payable to "CCNMA-MOSAIC" and mail to:

Mosaic

Joe Rodriguez

898 E. Taylor Street

San Jose CA 95112

MOSAIC ONLINE:

mosaicjournalism.wixsite.com/2018



(Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)

Guys put their best foot forward for YWCA walk

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event brings men of all ages together — in high heels — to fight sexual assault

By EMILY HUNG
Mosaic Staff Writer

Oak Grove High School senior Josh DeLeon took a pair of shiny, silver shoes with 3-inch heels from his mother's closet.

"Hey mom, can I borrow some heels?" he asked.

DeLeon planned to wear the high heels for Walk a Mile In Her Shoes, an annual event organized by the YWCA Silicon Valley, held on June 20 this year. DeLeon walked in lower heels at last year's event, but he refused to chicken out this year.

At Walk a Mile In Her Shoes, the young join the old, men join women and the police join everyday citizens as they walk to raise funds to end violence.

"I remember how everyone was together and how they were enjoying it," DeLeon, 16, said. "I was mostly inspired when I saw these little kids come to the stage and give a speech about their mother and they were wearing high heels. It was so nice to see our society together."

Each year, the event is flooded with men — approximately 90 percent of the hundreds of walkers at Santana Row are men who stand in solidarity, pledging to support survivors of violence and that they themselves will not be perpetrators of violence.

"I want to walk in someone else's shoes," DeLeon said. "In this case, I'm walking in a woman's shoes to see how they feel. It relates to how a woman is walking normally and nothing is happening, then all of a sudden some man harasses [her] and starts whistling at [her]."

DeLeon is a part of MyStrength, a club at his San Jose school for young men aimed at helping the community and understanding male toxicity, social norms and harassment. He learned about Walk a Mile In Her Shoes in 2017 after attending the YWCA's MyStrength summer program to develop his school club's curriculum.

"Women in our society are being treated unequally and are harassed constantly," DeLeon said. "I imagined in my head how I would feel if my

mother, sister or any family member that was a woman was being harassed and being called nasty words."

In the current climate, the MeToo movement has highlighted sexual harassment and assault, with both men and women coming forward saying that they also had experienced some degree of abuse.

Because of this, an increasing number of people now want to take action, and the YWCA — a multi-service agency that provides support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking — has provided a platform to do that.

"We have a goal to raise awareness so that when someone is registering for the walk, they're also signing an anti-violence pledge," YWCA's Associate Director of Philanthropy Jaime Woods said. "It's a continuum of violence and people are signing off to stand in solidarity with YWCA and our work. That's the one way we're raising awareness, but also raising funds for the critical services that we provide."

The YWCA has been around for

years before the MeToo movement, and continues to stay true to their mission of "eliminating race, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all."

David Adams, the team captain of Beer Channel, brought together a group of friends to work on raising money to aid the YWCA. The six team members have raised \$17,940 as of June 19, surpassing their fundraising goal of \$14,000.

"We're at a time when our society is changing," Adams said. "This is not something men would have done 15 or 20 years ago. There was a time when men would be afraid to do something like this. We're trying to break this barrier to say that ... this isn't a women's issue, this is a community issue and it's not going to get solved unless men participate."

If you know someone who has been sexually harassed or assaulted or has experienced domestic violence or human trafficking, you can call the 24/7 YWCA hotline at 800-572-2782.

The evolution of sex ed

By RICHARD NGUYEN
Mosaic Staff Writer

Joanne Winterstein, a longtime health teacher and girls basketball coach at Andrew P. Hill High School, in San Jose, remembers a student who dropped out 10 years ago because she got pregnant. Sex education at the time, Winterstein said, failed to expose the student to information that might have helped prevent this.

"There was a stigma with sex, so no one really talked about it," Winterstein said.

Sahar Ghorashi, a new teacher at Andrew Hill who graduated high school in 2008, echoed the idea, saying she did not have comprehensive sex education.

"I had no formal sex ed. Most of what I learned was from the internet. Back then, abstinence was a big priority," Ghorashi said.

Now that Ghorashi has become a teacher, she's noticed the effects of sex education -- and sometimes its absence -- had on her peers. She also highlighted an overhaul in required lessons that took effect in 2016.

There still "is a lack of knowledge in a lot of adults on STI (sexually transmitted infections) safety," Ghorashi said. "But now, it's changed to include trans and LGBTQ issues, and more about consent and healthy relationships. The results haven't been seen, but they will be positive."



Free condoms are available at the LGBTQ Youth Center in San Jose. (Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)

Students at Andrew Hill who received their sex education before these changes generally learned about anatomy, sexually transmitted disease, contraception and safe sex.

Conversely, students from charter schools or private schools say their sex education was brief and underwhelming, and while they learned about anatomy, there was less attention paid to contraception and disease, with a stronger focus on abstinence.

"I didn't have very many questions, but if someone did, they would

not ask teachers. I didn't feel like we could," said Victoria La, a student at Valley Christian High School.

However, students from various schools agreed they received little to no information about LGBTQ issues. They did not learn about the problems members of the LGBTQ community faced with their identity, their sexuality and their community.

A transgender senior at Andrew Hill talked about his experience, and he mentioned exclusion, bullying and the effect the experience had on him.

"I had (sex ed) freshman year and there was nothing about gay sex or queer safety. I did receive a little bit of bullying with me being trans. People would say, 'you aren't a boy because you weren't born a boy,' and that kind of affected me emotionally," said the student, who asked not to be named because he has not publicly revealed his sexuality. "I want them to talk more about gender identity and expression, and gender versus biological sex. I want this so that my classmates can understand me."

Great America opens new rollercoaster



June 14, 2018 (Mya Hammond/Mosaic)

Great America debuted its new single-rail, 106-foot tall RailBlazer rollercoaster this month at the theme park in Santa Clara. Eight people at a time can ride a series of inversions and drops at speeds approaching 52 mph.

New York Times reporter speaks at Rotary club

By MEENA RAKASI
Mosaic Staff Writer

Norwich, a cozy town nestled in the Vermont wilderness, looks exactly like every other New England community. But it isn't: Since 1956, the town of 3,000 people has produced 11 Olympic athletes.

Last Wednesday, award-winning sports journalist Karen Crouse spoke to the Rotary Club in downtown San Jose and to a group of aspiring journalists at Mosaic about her career and the secrets of Norwich's success.

Crouse, who writes for the New York Times, recently published a book dissecting the Norwich mentality, called "Norwich: One Tiny Vermont Town's Secret to Happiness and Excellence."

The key to the small town's success, according to Crouse, lies in staying true to the long-forgotten spirit of youth sports, where the activity rotates with the season and participation is valued over victory. That attitude is lost in today's approach to youth sports in most places, where "parents dangle college scholarships and professional contracts like carrots," Crouse said.

Crouse demystified the Norwich mentality, and also shared her experiences as a youth athlete. She said that



New York Times reporter Karen Crouse gives advice to Mosaic students. (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

"youth sports taught me the intrinsic benefits of delayed gratification, resilience and being coachable."

As a child, Crouse swam at the Santa Clara Swim Club, a prestigious institution whose athletes over the years have gathered more than 33 Olympic medals. She remembered how when she was growing up, swimming was simply fun and the Olympics seemed attainable.

"You'd see Olympians in the club, on the deck, as your neighbors, in the grocery store," she said. "They were demystified." The constant presence of elite athletes made her goals seem less remote and unreachable.

However, since she stopped swimming, she has seen the club, spurred

on by overzealous parents, turn to the cutthroat model of excellence plaguing youth sports. Perhaps not coincidentally, Santa Clara Swim Club hasn't fostered an Olympian since 2000.

Like the Santa Clara Swim Club of Crouse's youth, in Norwich, children grow up seeing high-performing athletes at the grocery store. Norwich, says Crouse in her book, manages to evade the tunnel vision plaguing modern youth sports, where parents and children push too hard, too fast. In Norwich, children are encouraged to participate in sports throughout high school, even if their performance is lackluster. Sports rotate with the season, and in winter, many adults,

including many Olympians, volunteer at the ski slopes, ensuring each child knows the basics of skiing.

This, Crouse writes, is the secret to Norwich's disproportionate number of Winter Olympians. To Norwich, the benefits of youth sports lie not in careers or scholarships, but in character growth. There is no pressure to perform, only an expectation to try.

As Crouse writes articles about 8-year-olds investing in \$400 high-tech swimsuits in Santa Clara, Norwich stays suspended in time.

Instead of chasing success, parents want their children learning time management, teamwork, and a willingness to grow.

As a result, Crouse believes that Olympians from Norwich are far more grounded than most of their counterparts. Crouse told Mosaic that far too many athletes focus on "becoming better performers, not better people," causing them to spiral into addiction and mental health disorders when they face letdowns in their sports. Norwich athletes recognize that whatever pitfalls they succumb to, they still have "intrinsic value as people of their communities."

In a time where youth sports are blueprints for success at all costs, Norwich offers a different path, she said: winning is second to having fun.

Teachers combat school shootings one child at a time

By MEENA RAKASI
Mosaic Staff Writer

In Dan Mendez's classroom, sixth-grader scrawls line every square inch of wall space. Not all the papers are filled with the typical school report; many are about love — both for others and for themselves.

While the national debate searching for solutions to school shooters is nebulous and widely hypothetical, teachers fight the battle in small, actionable steps: by fostering love for both community and self at a young age.

"Character education is very important," said Mendez, a teacher at Evergreen Elementary School in San Jose. "I tell my students, 'those are little seeds being planted, but you have to grow them. Treat other people well.'

To be sure, Mendez and other teachers recognize the causes of school shootings are complex.

"You have mental instability, and a lack of family togetherness, and violent video games, and cyberbullying, and normal bullying, and then you add the assault rifles," said Kari Emerson, a language arts teacher at Miller Middle School in Cupertino.

"All these problems compounded into this."

Still, the teachers believe the foundation they instill in children in their

most impressionable years can make a difference.

Melissa Gunter, a music and history teacher at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, encourages all her students to reach out and talk to her, from setting aside time for prayer requests at the beginning of each class to staying inside during lunch and having conversations with students. She wants every student to understand that their emotions and responses to even mundane events deserve to be shared.

Some teachers are taking more aggressive action. Emerson is always on the lookout for character education programs, like Project Cornerstone, which helps youth cultivate a sense of social responsibility and self-worth, and petitions the school to implement them.

She and Mendez also pick out students with leadership skills to reach out to the less social kids in her classes.

"Some people like being alone, but you have to make sure that's by choice," Mendez said.

Emerson believes school gun violence is just a recent manifestation of a pervasive problem within American culture: toxic masculinity.

"Society has molded these boys to where they have to be a certain way, they have to act a certain way to be a man," she said.

The idea of toxic masculinity is not new. William Pollack, the director of the Centers for Men and Young men at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts, was quoted in The Daily Beast as saying, "We socialize healthy, normal

teachers find it useless, with no long-term effects, others are encouraged. Emerson pointed out that in particular, the Parkland students have been sending buses across the country to register teens to vote.

"You have mental instability, and a lack of family togetherness, and violent video games, and cyberbullying, and normal bullying, and then you add the assault rifles," said Kari Emerson, a language arts teacher at Miller Middle School in Cupertino

boys to 'stand on their own two feet' for fear that otherwise they won't be real boys... they're taught not to tell anyone when they feel pain, because they should be stoic, and they certainly shouldn't cry."

One thing's for sure: the idea of arming teachers was met with widespread rejection.

"I'd be scared to death with some of these teachers [having guns]. This whole thing is just stupid," Emerson, a gun owner herself, said, adding that "even police officers don't always aim right."

As for student activism, while some

"There's action going on to vote. That changes things," Emerson said.

However, Emerson, Gunter and Mendez all agree that school shootings have given them a chance to focus on their kids' feelings and not just their academics.

Back in Evergreen Elementary, Mendez pushed his students daily to vocalize kindness and appreciation for each other, in hopes of ingraining the routine before middle school.

"I think all these things help develop the kids' characters and show them, 'there is appreciation for you.'"

Anime fans pan Western adaptations

By LINDSAY WANG

Mosaic Staff Writer

When a group of robots dressed as geishas, or traditional Japanese hostesses, attacks a business conference, intelligence agent Major leads the counterattack. Though set in an Asian-styled city, Major is white.

This is a scene from "Ghost in the Shell," a 2017 adaptation of the 1995 anime film of the same name.

Last year marked the release of two mainstream live-action anime movies: "Death Note" on Netflix and "Ghost in the Shell" in theaters. Both were widely criticized by anime fans who disliked how different the live actions were from the source material. Fans are also less than enthused about the upcoming "Naruto" live action, which is currently in script development.

"If 'Death Note' was a stand-alone movie, it'd be OK at best, but as an adaptation I think it was a failure," said anime YouTuber Connor Colquhoun, who has over 300,000 subscribers on his channel "CDawgVA."

In live-action "Death Note," high schooler Light Turner and his classmate Mia Sutton lead secret lives as death god Kira, killing criminals by inscribing their names on the pages of a mysterious notebook. A brilliant detective pursues Kira as the deaths grow in number.

Colquhoun thought the live action changed Light Turner's character.

"Light within the original anime and manga is extremely intelligent and an emotionally manipulative genius. However, in the live action, Light becomes a more relatable character," Colquhoun said, adding that the changes "completely spoil the character of Light and the believability of the thriller."

"Ghost in the Shell" has inspired controversy over the casting of Scarlett Johansson as Major, a robot with a human brain implant created to be the perfect soldier. Claims of white-washing cropped up after the announcement of Johansson's role as Major. Not all fans agree.

"It doesn't really matter what her

skin color is as long as she is a good actress," said fan Carlos Flores, amid shelves chock full of manga volumes in Nikaku Animart, in San Jose's Japantown.

Cory Krome of Oakland, who began following anime a decade ago, said, "If there's going to be more future live-action adaptations, there needs to be some Japanese actors in the films, not just American actors."

Bruno Snarr of Pittsburgh, who began watching anime nearly 20 years ago, had some theories on why live actions are unsuccessful. He said that "some of what happens in Japanese storytelling and in manga do not translate well to American storytelling."

Live actions condense seasons of character and plot development into one two-hour movie. The upcoming live-action adaptation of "Naruto," for instance, must boil down three separate series with a total runtime of 300-plus hours into a tiny fraction of that. Many fans are pessimistic about the outcome.



Naruto merchandise awaits customers at Nikaku Japanese Arts. (Will Butler/Mosaic).

As they are now, Western live-action adaptations have nearly zero credibility among the anime community. Colquhoun doesn't have hope for their future, concluding that, "I'm a huge anime and Japanese culture fan, and I love anything that gets more fans into anime and Japanese culture. But I don't think that live actions are the way to expand."

March For Our Lives propelled South Bay teens to more activism to prevent mass shootings

By MANASI GARG

Mosaic Staff Writer

A few students from Prospect High School in Saratoga came home from competing furiously at a Feb. 17 speech and debate tournament, but they were far from tired. They had heard that students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida — where the deadliest high school shooting in American history had occurred just three days earlier — were planning a movement called March For Our Lives to protest gun violence in the United States.

Instead of going to sleep, the debaters piled into a living room and stayed up late into the night to plan a march in San Jose.

Five weeks and \$45,000 of fund-raising later, the student leaders — Novia Dattatri, Hiwad Haider, David Lei, Joel Rodriguez, Julie Son, Hazel Stange, Izaiah Tilton and Daniel Voskoboinik — along with 35 volunteers organized a peaceful protest march March 24 beginning at San Jose City Hall. Nearly 30,000 people

were estimated to have attended.

However, to the teens, the success of this march didn't indicate a stopping point — if anything, it was a foundation upon which to build further plans to prevent mass shootings.

Stange, the youth outreach coordinator of San Jose March For Our Lives, explained the march's significance.

"I have the privilege of not being a shooting victim yet, but I also have the duty of a student to ensure that these shootings stop," said Stange, who graduated from Lincoln High School in San Jose this spring.

The lead team members see voter registration as one of their next missions. Although most teens aren't old enough to vote, the team believes getting them politically active is crucial to keep the March For Our Lives movement alive.

"It's important to have your voice heard," said Joel Rodriguez, the Interscholastic Coordinator for March For Our Lives San Jose. "Your voice is what empowers you, and if we don't empower our youth, we have a whole generation of people that are just bystanders."

The March For Our Lives leaders

also hope that once the younger generation can legally vote, they will vote out politicians who are taking money from the National Rifle Association.

Although California already has the strictest gun laws in the nation, Rodriguez said that he wants the state to "set a precedent for other states to follow." Stange said she believes March For Our Lives has jumpstarted legislation to fight gun violence.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager introduced a law in early March to ban gun shows at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, which passed in May. Yeager was unavailable for comment, but his colleague, Supervisor Cindy Chavez, said the law was brought forward after concerns of public safety following the Parkland shooting.

Chavez said she also believes that the March For Our Lives movement pushes back on old thinking about firearms in the community.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the work of these students — their effort, their leadership — has inspired actions like this here and across the country," Chavez said.

Eventually, the leaders of the San

Jose movement hope there are universal background checks at both state and federal levels, the removal of semi-automatic rifles from the public sphere and implementation of better mental health services.

However, there are many obstacles ahead. One is finding new students willing to take up the cause next year, Rodriguez said. He said all but two of the current leaders will be leaving for college.

Stange said the group is holding interviews, looking for young people who are passionate, responsible and trustworthy. She also hopes the future isn't just marches, but also sit-ins, education, campaigns and public forums.

Although some of the departing leaders say they would want to organize another march next year, they know it's really up to the incoming group.

"Once we have a new board, we're going to pick up again, we're going to find new strength in them," Rodriguez said, "Of course, we're all going to mentor them... but I don't really know what the final agenda is."

San Jose quilt exhibit focuses on firearms, other polarizing issues

By EMILY HUNG

Mosaic Staff Writer

The white police officers' arms wrap around the black victim, strangling him. Stitched in bold, red letters across the victim's face, "I can't breathe" has come to symbolize Eric Garner's plight July 17, 2014, when he died after an encounter with police in New York City.

This image, stitched onto a quilt by Yosief Teckle, questions the role of a police officer in today's society.

In the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, the common comforter is transformed into a form of personal political expression as professional artists and school-age children stitch their opinions on issues such as police brutality and gun violence. The exhibitions are on display until July 15, when the quilts will be taken down and shipped to the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts.

The hallway that leads to the "Guns: Loaded Conversations" multi-artist exhibition and another exhibition by Thomas Knauer is filled

with youth artwork, from young children to 21-year-old adults.

"I believe that children shouldn't be worrying about these adult concepts," museum exhibition curator Amy DiPlacido said. "They have to become very mature quickly."

But more people have turned to expressing their feelings through creative means.

Knauer, who has an entire section of the gallery dedicated to his work, makes quilts depicting messages on issues from gun violence to chronic illnesses. He picked up sewing after falling ill with a rare form of muscular dystrophy, hypokalemic periodic paralysis, and later being diagnosed with mast cell disease.

To illustrate his daily pill-taking routine, he stitched all the pills he needs to take into six columns and eight rows onto a quilt titled "Self-Portrait with Illness: Daily Meds." The pills, at relative scale, are placed in the order that he takes them.

He does not only address his illness, though, as he also looks into broader issues.

"I make quilts because I'm angry,"



Visitors at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles view a quilt depicting the 1999 Columbine High School massacre. (Mya Hammond/Mosaic)

Knauer said by phone from New York City. "The world makes me angry, and I make quilts about it. I don't know what else to do. Direct activism seems to get me nowhere, but maybe I can reach one or two people to open and change minds since people are generally close-minded."

One of Knauer's quilts in the museum displays a precise map of Charleston, South Carolina, around the Emanuel African Methodist Church where Dylann Roof killed nine African Americans in 2015.

"We see quilts as this safe and comfortable item, and we don't see it as a site for protest," Knauer said. "It allows viewers to expect something pretty, but what they come away with is something different."

The museum has attracted visitors with contrasting backgrounds and personal opinions, but the creative means of using quilts to illustrate a deeper message has resonated with

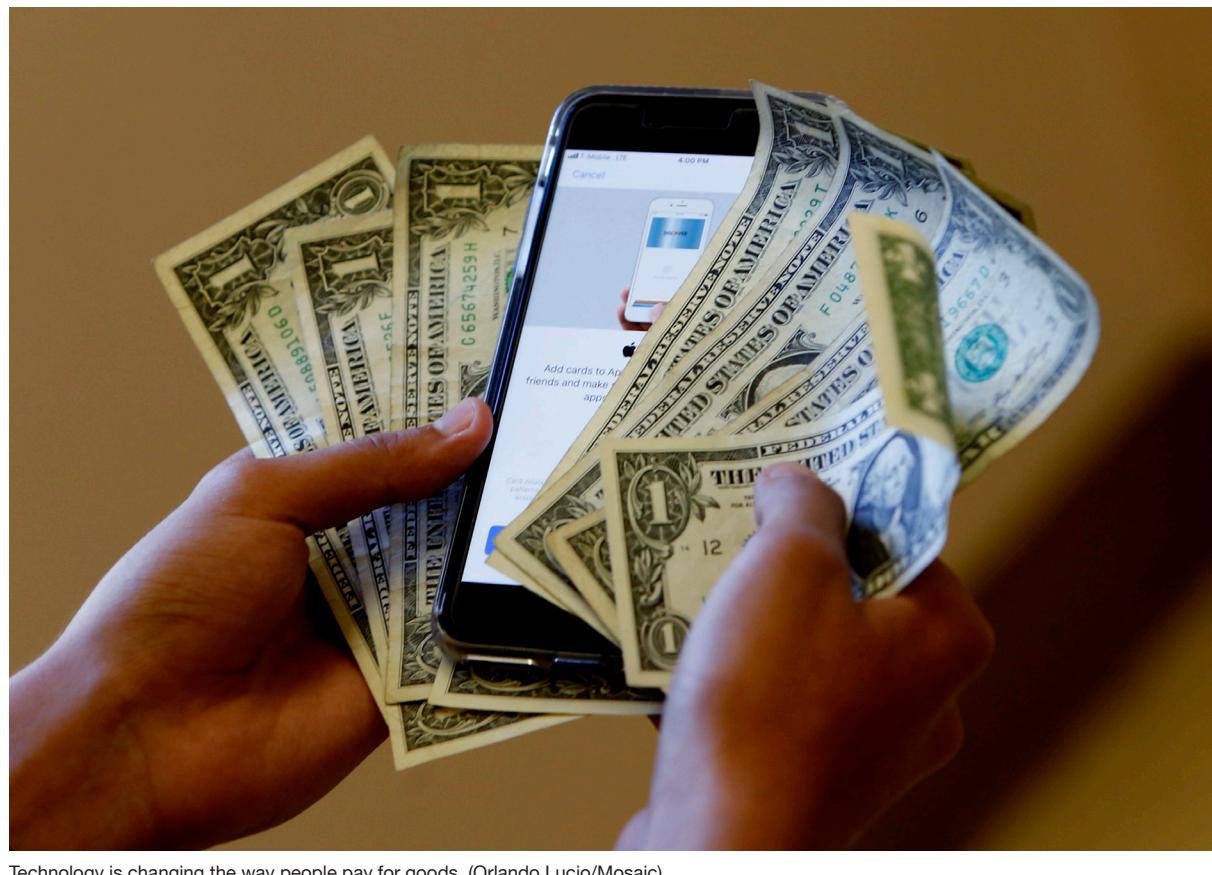
visitors.

Deb Cashatt, a museum visitor and member of Studio Art Quilt Associates, does not oppose civilian possession of guns, but she believes that there needs to be some control such as background checks to prevent assault rifles and machine guns from being circulated among the public.

"The variety of styles that people use to talk about such an important issue is interesting," Cashatt said. "In the beginning of the museum, I saw a flag [quilt] and I wondered, 'Why did [the creator stitch] fruits and vegetables as the stripes? What was she trying to tell us?'

The San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles is open Wednesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6.50 for seniors and students. Admission is free for members and children 12 and under. The first Friday of each month is "pay what you can."

A NEW AGE OF MONEY



Technology is changing the way people pay for goods. (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

How E-commerce affects how we choose to spend

By AARON VEASNA MACKENZIE
Mosaic Staff Writer

The simplicity of physical cash is being beaten out by a growing digital economy, affecting spending habits in noticeable ways.

The basis of this digital economy lies in electronic commerce, or E-commerce, which refers to any transactions conducted online. A branch of it, mobile commerce, or M-commerce, specifies transactions done through or on phones.

According to eMarketer, a market research company, E-commerce retail sales worldwide made up \$2.304 trillion, about 10 percent of total retail sales globally, in 2017. This rose from \$1.845 trillion in 2016, making up about 8 percent of global sales, and from \$1.548 trillion in 2015, which was roughly 7 percent of global retail sales.

Even without those numbers, E-commerce is still a unique form of business. The internet is known for having an impact on the way many people think and go about their daily lives. This impact, it seems, spreads to the ways in which average people spend their money as well.

Christian Sherrill, director of business development and advocacy at Next Gen Personal Finance, describes a “pain” that one feels while shopping, referring to the nagging sensation one would feel when forking over their money over.

“That pain is what leads you to make the decision more thoughtfully. When you’re online, most of that pain and friction falls away,” he said.

Next Gen Personal Finance is a Palo Alto-based nonprofit that provides a free curriculum to help teachers educate students about making

smart financial decisions. Sherrill said the pain he described isn’t as present in E-commerce, because pressing some buttons and entering some information to make a purchase is a less engaging experience.

“It’s an extension of the same psychological impulses of paying with dollar bills over a credit card,” Sherrill said. “There’s a separation between the shopping moment and when you have to face the consequences.”

The internet also has ways of making people more likely to make purchases. It’s called retargeting, or remarketing, a large part of online marketing. It uses code that drops cookies — packets of data that go back and forth between internet servers and browsers to let other browsers know that you visited a site — to tailor relevant ads to viewers. If you’ve ever looked up a brand of shoes online then seen similar ads for shoes while on different websites, that’s remarketing at work.

“You’re just getting bombarded with products and the type of product you’re looking for,” Sherrill said.

Remarketing works to capture the attention of those surfing the web, sending constant reminders of products that consumers desire or may potentially need. And once consumers want something, it’s easy to buy it online, so much so that one might not have the time to consider whether what they’re purchasing is completely necessary.

“It does a good job of resurfacing that fear of the moment when you’re not going to have one of those products,” said Morgan Robison, a 23-year-old teacher with Teach For America, a nonprofit that trains teachers and places them in underserved communities. “I could go on Amazon

and buy a bottle of shampoo, then a pair of sunglasses and something to fix something in my house.”

As our shopping and spending habits change, small businesses that are unable to keep up may find themselves on shaky ground.

A point of sale (POS) system is the place where customers execute their payments for the goods or services provided by a business. They are becoming more advanced than ordinary cash registers, and they bring a digital efficiency to businesses. They allow businesses to complete more systematic tasks such as accepting mobile payments, sending orders or service requests to other in-store terminals and keeping track of inventory and sales. POS systems can be an asset, but many businesses, especially small ones, do not have them.

“Our limitations fall within the parameters of what our POS provides,” said Anthony Jwanouskos, an operations manager at the brewhouse Original Gravity Public House in San Jose.

Financial obstacles often prevent small businesses from acquiring newer POS systems. This can impact the success of a business, making it less effective at catering to the needs of consumers. This extends beyond just POS systems and to other outlets of E-commerce.

“As they become more popular,” Jwanouskos said, “everyone wants to use them.”

Original Gravity has adapted modestly to the new methods of E-commerce. So far, Jwanouskos said he hasn’t seen much difference in business since new purchasing technologies took hold in his industry. He sticks firmly with the position that when it comes down to it, “cash is king.”

OPINION

K-Pop stars are redefining the genre for Asian-American youth

By VALERIE WU
Mosaic Staff Writer

For Asian-American youth, K-Pop's global popularity is something we've been waiting for.

In the predominantly Asian community of Cupertino where I grew up, second-generation immigrants felt disconnected from our cultures. Asian parents insisted that we should achieve academic excellence before we could examine our heritages. With no representation in American media, we turned to K-Pop — a genre of South Korean music characterized by its use of audiovisual elements — to find people who looked like us: Our idols represented us in ways that mainstream American music did not.

BTS — a seven-member boy band — is a K-Pop group that has become a symbol of diversity in the music in-

dustry. Much of their music is influenced by a variety of genres, including hip hop, rock and R&B. They've become widely known in the industry for their lyrics about social issues, including mental health, female empowerment and income inequality.

The group's numbers are unprecedented: their album “Love Yourself: Tear” peaked at No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart, a first for a Korean-language album; their songs have been downloaded more than 1.6 million times in the United States alone; and they were the first Korean group to perform at the Billboard Music Awards as well as win “Top Social Artist” two years in a row.

Critics of BTS are quick to dismiss their success as a strange phenomenon. What many don't realize is that since the group's debut in 2013, its global fan base has played a key role

in their rise to the top.

As an Asian-American girl living in a society where I often feel my voice is less valuable than others', BTS is much more than just another Korean group. They have taught me that Asians have as much of a chance to be represented, even if we speak a different language or do not embody the dominant Western ideals of the music industry.

When an American interviewer takes the time to learn the names of all seven members or when I see a poster of BTS alongside others of Taylor Swift or Kanye West, I am reminded of the fact that BTS has redefined the definition of “mainstream” not only for themselves, but for the entire K-Pop industry and its audience.

To idolize BTS, or K-Pop for that matter, is to acknowledge pop culture outside of America. To understand

BTS' success is to appreciate their representation of their Asian audience.

So before immediately dismissing BTS as another K-Pop group attempting to break into the global market, it's worth asking ourselves if we understand the meaning of “going global.” The global market is not just the Western market, and groups like BTS are not overly eager to assimilate. Rather, they are bringing their culture into America in spite of racism and xenophobia.

In this sense, the band's rise to the top is more necessary than ever — it teaches the next generation of Asian-American youth that we can be visible too. Through a greater appreciation of K-Pop and what it symbolizes, we can enable others to better understand the value of Asian culture, as well as the importance of keeping it alive.



Japantown project will provide arts groups with a place of their own



FROM TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE: An artist's rendering shows the future Creative Center for the Arts building; A banner hanging in Japantown celebrates the San Jose neighborhood's 125th anniversary; Lifelong Japantown resident Mollie Nakasaki, 87, crosses Jackson Street with Jake McCluskey on the way to lunch, June 20. (Will Butler/Mosaic)

New Creative Center for the Arts 'only contributes to the vibrancy of the area'

By VALERIE WU
Mosaic Staff Writer

For the residents of San Jose's Japantown, a cultural revival is coming.

One of the last three historical Japantowns in the United States, Japantown has faced challenges in sustaining its heritage through cultural activities. Arts organizations struggle with expenses, especially because of the high cost of rent in Silicon Valley.

The Creative Center for the Arts, a key ingredient of the planned Japantown Square Project, aims to address this issue. By providing services for the nonprofit creative sector, the center will serve as an inexpensive space for artists to collaborate and foster ethnic unity.

Arts catalyst group Silicon Valley Creates is leading the development of the 52,000 square-foot

space, which will be located on North Sixth Street between Jackson and Taylor streets.

The center — which is expected to cost \$30 million to build — also will provide affordable space for arts organizations, helping to sustain the identity of the neighborhood for Japantown's diverse residents.

San Jose Taiko — a leading Silicon Valley arts organization dedicated to the Japanese art of taiko drumming — is one of the partners moving into the new space and has played a fundamental role in its development.

San Jose Taiko co-founder Roy Hirabayashi said the goal is to make the center a cultural hub for the neighbors.

"The community at large has been very supportive," he said. "It's a space that benefits them. The center only contributes to the vibrancy of the area."

Leslie Kim, the youth volunteer coordinator at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, echoed Hirabayashi's sentiments.

"I think it's really exciting to have a space for having those conversations about culture, especially because having a physical anchor for Japanese-American youth is so important," she said.

San Jose Taiko Executive Director Wisa Uemura said the mission of the 21st century model is to keep the spirit of the community alive. Amidst increasing gentrification in Silicon Valley, projects like Japantown Square maximize creative activity in the area by equipping organizations with the resources they need to effectively engage with residents.

"The idea with this is that we can contribute to the needs of the larger ecosystem," said Uemura, who also serves on the center's planning committee.

"When we contribute to the sustainability of Japantown, we're also

sustaining a lovely neighborhood and ensuring Japantown's artistic vitality. We want to be a part of the fabric, not tear it apart."

The center serves as a symbol of Japantown's history, as well. After the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II, the neighborhood's residents have honored the collective spirit represented in the center's creation.

"From internment, we learned how to make the most of what we have together," Uemura said. "It's something that still lasts today."

Although much of the preliminary development is finished, fundraising and actual construction of the complex remains to be done. The center is expected to be completed in 2020.

"I think what I want people to know about this project is that this new center will really generate interest in not just Japantown, but the larger community," Hirabayashi said. "It's been a long time coming."

Trans march promotes recognition of overlooked community

San Francisco event looks to instill respect, pride among transgender people

By RICHARD NGUYEN
Mosaic Staff Writer

Transgender people face problems with their identity and discrimination that are not recognized by society, so the community has come together to raise awareness of these issues and share pride by participating in the June 22 15th annual San Francisco Trans March.

Some of the biggest problems transgender people face include a lack acceptance from their families, gender dysphoria and exclusion.

One transgender student from Valley Christian High School said the biggest issue for her is that people do not understand her or what she goes through.

"I think the biggest issue is a lack of general education. There is a fundamental misunderstanding from the public about what being transgender means. People are unaware of things like gender dysphoria, which is like a mind-body disconnect," said the student, who asked not to be named because she has not publicly revealed her sexuality. "It can create anxiety

and depression, and people don't understand it. It's like describing a headache to someone who's never felt pain."

As a transgender person, she said she wants respect, acceptance, and understanding. "A little bit of respect would be nice. You know, a little less judgment and more understanding, and maybe just patience," she said.

According to the event's website, the march strives to create a place of safety for everyone, and giving the transgender community a place to meet like-minded people, and demonstrate the pride they have in who they are.

"The San Francisco Trans March envisions a world based in safety and justice for all, regardless of gender identity and expression," the website reads.

Gabrielle Antolovich, president of the Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center in San Jose, said that the march brings people together.

"Events like this bring light to these issues because people come and people talk about them," she said.

Another important event for the com-



Gabrielle Antolovich, president of the Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center, stands in front of a rainbow banner at the group's San Jose headquarters, June 19. (Mya Hammond/Mosaic)

munity is Transgender Day of Remembrance, on Nov. 20, dedicated to memorializing transgender people, especially those of color, who died from acts of violence fueled by prejudice.

Antolovich said the tragedies have been vital to helping society realize their preju-

dice was unimportant compared with the people who were important in their lives.

"Through tragedy, people realize maybe their prejudice needs to be set aside," she said. "Transgender people could be your children, parents, cousins, aunts or uncles, or your best friend."

FROM PAGE 1 // REFUGEES

globe: the Middle East, Africa, South America, Asia.

"The Torah says, 'protect the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt,'" said Mindy Berkowitz, executive director of JFS in Los Gatos. "My people were refugees too."

Kelsey Coplin, community coordinator at Catholic Charities, echoes a similar connection to the cause.

"My grandfather was a refugee and traveled the same passage in the Mediterranean that the Syrian refugees are traveling through today," Coplin said. "It's heartbreaking and not fair to hear about everything they have gone through, but it is amazing to see their resiliency and find that humanity among us all."

Coplin's organization established one of California's few foster programs for refugee youth who arrive without parents or guardians. They pair them with foster families, and currently have a high school graduation rate of 90 percent. The foster program provides services for the youth until they are 25 years old. Coplin's favorite memories include community events with the foster families, such as picnics.

At picnics and other events for the families, "everyone from different backgrounds and religions comes together to have fun," Coplin said. "It makes me wish the rest of the world could be like this."

Smiley remembers a student who crossed the Sahara Desert on foot and spent eight or nine years in hard labor. Upon arriving at the IRC office, the student expressed gratitude for everything — even receiving a bus ticket, she said. Although he has moved to another state, Smiley said he still calls her, telling her that he misses his family.

"I come home every day thinking about how beautiful it is to create such a personal relationship with these students," Smiley said, adding that her students are as young as 22 and as old as 64.

JFS also embraces the familial environment among staff and refugees. Most of the refugees who receive support there are not Jewish, and many of them were taught to fear Jews back at home. But in America, they are accepted into a larger family.

"The refugees from Iran especially will say something like, 'Jewish family is my family.' They know that we are their safe place," Berkowitz said. "All we want to do is help with no strings attached."

Many of the refugees at JFS, from regions ranging from Iran to Africa, were also taught to not get along with each other. But through meeting with each other in language lessons, they bond.



Akoma Arts performs a traditional song at the World Refugee Day in downtown San Jose, June 15. (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

"They learn to become friends, colleagues and help each other," Berkowitz said. "There's this feeling of 'we're in this together.'"

Recently, rhetoric and policies of the Trump administration have made it more difficult for these agencies to help refugees, staff members of JFS, IRC and Catholic Charities said. JFS staff member Azita Eshagh notes that for the past two months, her agency has received zero new arrivals. Her agency has filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration after the third travel ban was issued in November.

At Catholic Charities, legal specialist Sreela Mokherji said every week the number of youth qualifying for refugee status has decreased.

Nicole Dubus, a social worker and assistant professor in social work at San Jose State University, believes these policies have contributed to a growing sentiment of fear over accepting more refugees.

"There's a fear of scarcity," Dubus said. "Many residents fear what's going to happen to them if others receive aid. But research shows that new arrivals better the community,

contributing their own culture."

World Refugee Day and the refugee organizations that come together on days like June 15 celebrate just that.

Berkowitz advocates for trans-culturalization, where refugees move to a new place, bringing parts of their own culture along with them.

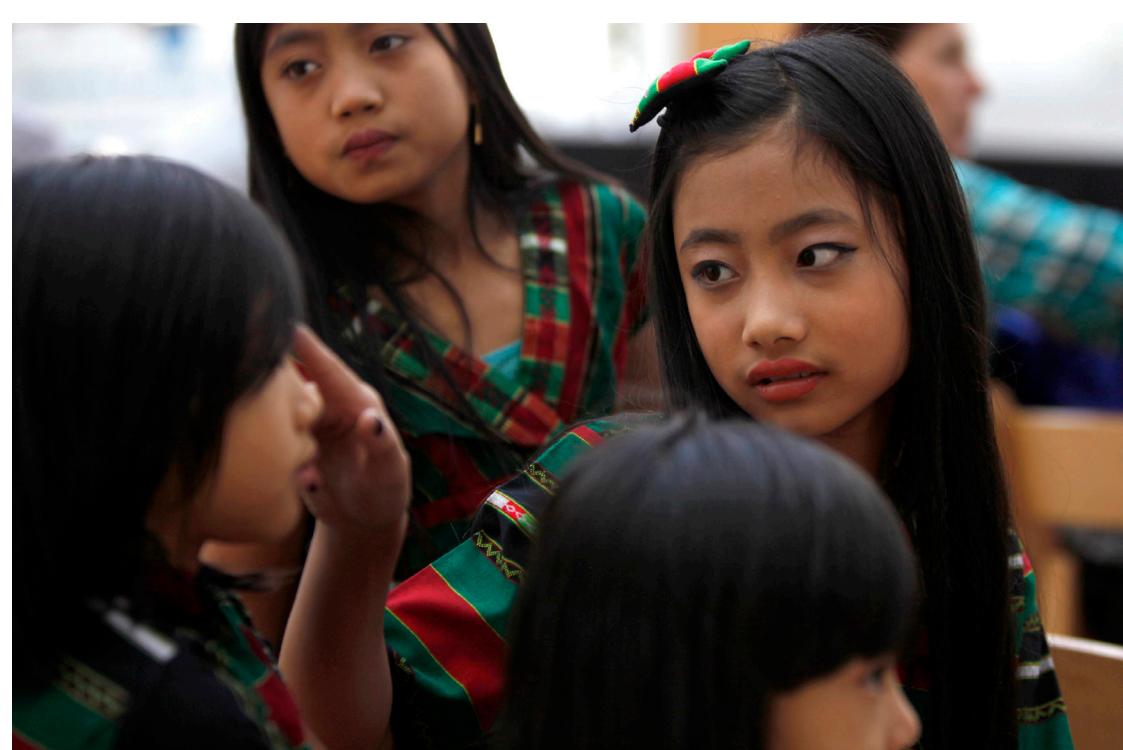
"It's beautiful when refugees come here and can honor where they're from," Berkowitz said. "They just want to live with freedom, be self sufficient, contribute and give back. We just want to show them love."



In her traditional Persian dress, Parmeeda Nasab, second from the left, joins others in ethnic dress onstage at the World Refugee Day at San Jose City Hall, June 15. (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)



International Rescue Committee teacher Natali Smiley showing support at World Refugee day (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)



Manu Cing (right) helps prepare her younger sisters for their dance performance. (Mya Hammond/Mosaic)

“I come home every day thinking about how beautiful it is to create such a personal relationship with these students,” who range in age from 22 to 64, said Natali Smiley, an English teacher with the International Rescue Committee

14-year-old venture capitalist planning to ‘change the world’ and inspire women

“My mom told me that girls with dreams become women with visions.”

By MANASI GARG
Mosaic Staff Writer

When 14-year-old Taarini Dang isn't busy being CEO of her venture capital firm Dang Capital and her startup Million Champs, speaking at tech conferences around the globe or working on her second book, she spends her time like many other teenage girls — watching Netflix at her home in San Jose.

Her favorite show? “Supergirl,” in which the main character breaks barriers as a female hero in a traditionally male role. It's a story she can identify with.

Early on, Dang realized the gender stereotypes society placed on women. While her friends played with Barbies and other dolls, Dang's world was filled with robots, LEGOs and science experiments.

“My friends thought I was weird,” Dang said, “because robotics and science are typically a man's game.”

As she got older, she continued to notice the disparity between the number of females and males in STEM fields. Of the 50 kids on the robotics team at her middle school, Basis Independent Silicon Valley, there are only 10 girls — and most of them are there at the urging of their parents. This trend is reflected nationally, where only one in four tech workers are women, according to the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

Dang said she believes the reason so few women are in STEM fields compared with men is because they are conditioned from a young age to prioritize their outward appearance over work in order to fit society's standards of beauty.

“As a young child, Disney is so popular,” Dang said. “We idolize these princesses, who are just sitting down and waiting for their Prince Charming. They don't talk or do anything of substance, and that's what young girls play with and are introduced to.”



Taarini Dang doesn't let age stop her from being successful, though only 14, Dang has already founded 2 companies, written a book, and has spoken at tech conferences around the world. Wednesday, June 20, 2018 (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

In seventh grade, Dang had just started her company, Million Champs, a program that aims to cultivate 1 million young entrepreneurs by 2028, but was disheartened because a friend's older sister was getting more attention for finishing as runner-up in the Miss Santa Clara pageant.

“I realized that this is what the real world is like. They only care about women in beauty pageants and models. They don't care about women in tech, and that's what made me want to give up on all of this, on all of my hard work,” she said.

Then Dang had a revelation. If others wouldn't speak up about women's roles in society and in STEM, she would take a cue from her TV superhero idol and do it herself, becoming her own “Supergirl.”

“There is a shortage of women in STEM, and even though women have the capability to do a lot — we make up half of the world's population — society denies them opportunities. That is something I want to change,” Dang said.

Dang started an Instagram account called “classywomenn,” posting inspirational quotes and advice to encourage women to overcome issues like domestic violence and discrimination. It has more than 85,000 followers from 10 countries.

She's also going beyond social media. Her startup, Million Champs, teaches young girls and boys a step-by-step process for turning an idea into a company. And her venture capital firm, Dang Capital, which has a goal to invest in women in

tech, has raised \$100,000, mostly in contributions from family and friends. She hopes to increase her fundraising, setting her goal at \$1 million.

Dang has a fellowship lined up with SoGal, a venture capital firm whose mission is to invest in startups with diverse leaders and build a community of women in tech. Founder Pocket Sun said she is very impressed with Dang's level of deep thought, something she hasn't noticed with most teenagers.

“A lot of other teenage girls could get really distracted by things that are more transient, things we all got confused by as teenagers,” Sun said. “I think Taarini has a very different take on the world. She's more about what can I do to give back, how can I help, can I do something my peers aren't doing right now.”

Dang also appeared on “Good Morning LaLa Land,” a live-stream talk show, earlier this month. One of her mentors, Los Angeles-based author and speaker John Livesay, helped Dang prepare for the show, which also featured filmmaker Tosca Musk, the younger sister of Tesla's founder Elon Musk. “(Dang) was less nervous than Elon Musk's sister, so she's got a lot of poise for her age,” Livesay said.

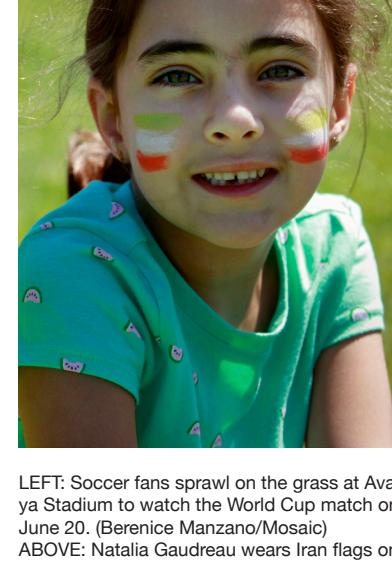
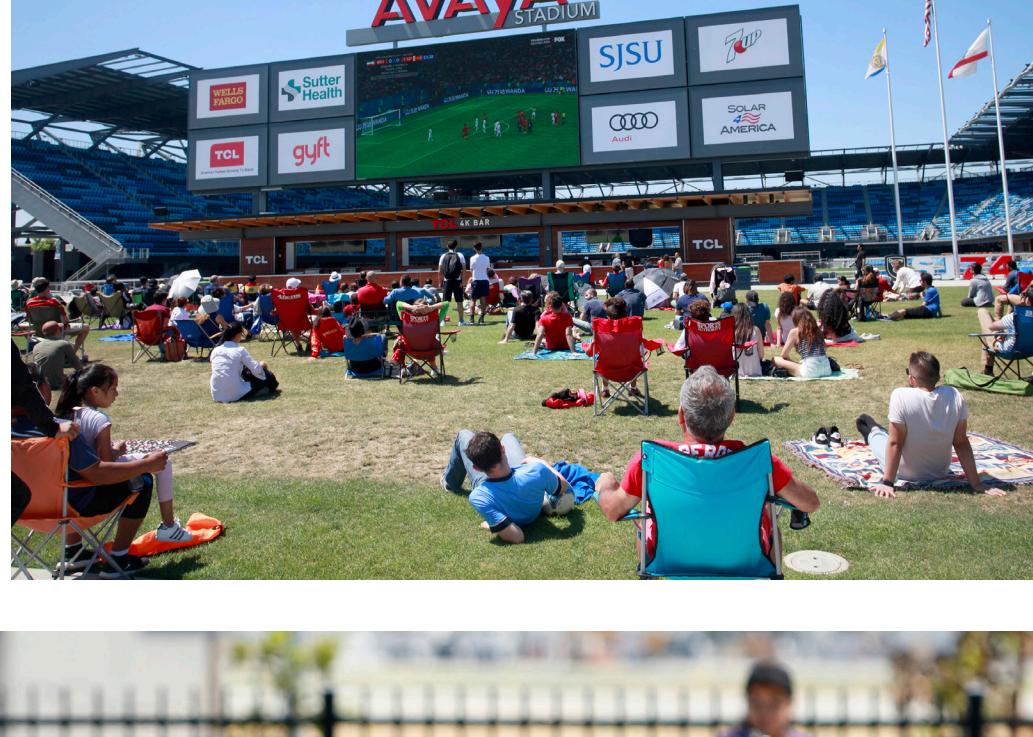
Dang gives a lot of credit to her parents, both investors who work in the tech industry, who exposed her to STEM at a young age.

Her parents would talk about recent developments in technology at the dinner table and took Dang to tech conferences beginning in fourth grade. Even when others questioned her ability to become an entrepreneur at such a young age, her family always supported her.

“When I was 8,” she said, “my mom told me that girls with dreams become women with visions.”

As a young woman, Dang has a vision already: “I want to change the world.”

FIFA World Cup spectators take in the game



LEFT: Soccer fans sprawl on the grass at Avaya Stadium to watch the World Cup match on June 20. (Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)
ABOVE: Natalia Gaudreau wears Iran flags on her cheeks. (Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)



Soccer fans react while watching the World Cup match between Iran and Spain during a watch party at Avaya Stadium. (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

COLLEGE STUDENTS WALK STUDY-MONEY TIGHTROPE

Figuring out how to pay for school can sap school performance

By ALFREDO "BENJI" HERRERA

Mosaic Staff Writer

Grades. College Loans. Jobs.

San Jose State University student Marlen Espinosa lives with this constant struggle.

"I work overtime to try avoiding getting myself into a student loan," Espinosa said.

Espinosa is an example of a situation that has become increasingly common on college campuses. According to the Student Loan Report, college students who have to borrow money for school take on an average of \$27,975 in loan debt.

To avoid incurring high debt, Espinosa said she works 40 to 48 hours a week between two jobs.

At the same time, she also has to worry about maintaining grades in her classes.

"I'm a full-time student and full-time worker," Espinosa said.

The average day for Espinosa consists of waking up early to head off to San Jose State. From 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., she is in class.

After her school day is over, she goes to work at the Aqui restaurant from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. This schedule is repeated every weekday, and on the weekends she spends eight hours daily working at Taco Bell. She then goes home to catch up on her homework — leaving no time to do anything else.

"It extremely stresses me out," Espinosa said.

Valerie Carr, a neuroscientist and assistant professor at San Jose State University, said there are many biological effects that these levels of stress can have, such as affecting health and cognition.

Carr said the fight-or-flight response humans

get when confronted with a large task or facing a deadline can give people a healthy level of stress that can push them to work harder and finish the task at hand.

"In the long term, however, stress can lead to maladaptive changes such as decreased immune system function, ulcers, and memory impairment," Carr said. "Immune system suppression can increase susceptibility to illness, and can cause muscle wasting and bone loss, as well as brain atrophy and dysfunction."

The main reason Espinosa can handle her heavy load is because she keeps a daily planner. She said it helps her reduce the stress of college and working, but she still has difficulty keeping up with her personal life.

Student loans don't offer much more relief. San Jose State University graduate Erika Valderrama lived in constant frustration because of her student loan.

Valderrama said that she took out loans every year to pay for school in addition to working two jobs to support herself.

She said she lived in the dorms in the first year of college but she then moved to an apartment with a few friends. They split the rent among them, but still Valderrama said it was expensive.

Valderrama said financial aid and her jobs took care of some expenses, which allowed her to pay off part of her loan. Without that, she said, she would have graduated with around \$35,000 in debt.

When one of her roommates moved out, she struggled with bills and lost sleep. She said it hurt her school performance.

"I would wake up in the middle of the night and

"I would wake up in the middle of the night and think about the bills I had to pay." — Erika Valderrama, SJSU graduate

think about the bills I had to pay," Valderrama said.

Carr said the stress can wear people down physically and mentally. In response to stress, the body releases the steroid hormone cortisol.

"Cortisol's effects on brain function can also help explain the phenomenon of 'blanking out' during an exam or during a class presentation," Carr said.

Valderrama said she wasn't aware of available resources like food pantries, extra financial aid and free online books to help students soften their college expenses.

"Schools should give more of an effort to advertising these resources," Valderrama said. "I did not know about these programs until my last year of college."

How helping the environment needs big and small thinking

"If everyone does one thing, two actions, three actions, then collectively it'll make a difference." — Jennie Loft, San Jose Environmental Services Department

By AARON VEASNA MACKENZIE

Mosaic Staff Writer

It has become commonplace for people and industries to take eco-friendly actions, yet more often than not, they aren't inspired by a desire to help the environment. Oftentimes, something must push them to get them going.

"In the 1980s, one of the biggest components of litter was beverage containers. People would drink, then throw them out the window. The solution was AB 2020," said Bruce Olszewski, a lecturer at San Jose State University who is director and founder of the campus nonprofit Center for the Development of Recycling.

"Basically what it said is we're going to put a fee on this bottle. At the time it was 2 cents, now it's 5 cents, but the idea was that if we put an economic value on this, people won't throw them away," he added. "And sure enough, what happened? You had people collecting them on the streets. If they did go into the garbage, you had cities that would sort them out to get the economic value back."

Olszewski also said that incentives also lie in consumer habits.

"Probably the best example is people buying organic, this massive movement that's happened, and you have industry that's now responding to the market," Olszewski said.

Purchasing organic has proven environmental impacts. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the practices of organic agriculture have numerous benefits, including the improvement of soil nutrient retention and the reduction of soil erosion, groundwater pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

"The thing about organic is that, most people, they're thinking about what it means to them. If I'm eating organic, I'm not consuming chemicals, herbicides, pesticides. I'll be healthier," he said. "But the reality is they're also impacting the entire ecosystem, because organic systems have fewer negative environmental impacts."

Another policy that has proven effective is the California Oil Recycling Act, which requires oil manufacturers to pay per-gallon fees and also offers

money in exchange for recycling oil.

"You could run a campaign and encourage people to recycle their oil," Olszewski said, "or they put a price on oil, a fee, that encourages the recycling of oil. And by doing that, California now is a major recycler of oil."

Olszewski acknowledges a significant environmental impact can be made by changing the ways people live, but argues the most efficient way for this change to happen is through government and industry.

Jennie Loft, public information manager for San Jose's Environmental Services Department, agrees that non-environmental incentives are big motivators for eco-friendly behavior, but still believes people changing their habits can have a significant impact, particularly in California.

"Cost is always a big incentive," Loft said. "But if everybody takes a few actions, it would take us all very far."

Loft mentioned California's plastic bag ban to show residents' environmental progress. Proposition 67, approved in 2016, prohibited stores from providing single-use plastic bags to customers. After the proposition passed, the nonprofit Californians Against Waste found that 11,847 plastic grocery bags were found on California's coasts in 2017, down from 65,736 in 2010.

"San Joseans have been ready to step up," she said. "If everyone does one thing, two actions, three actions, then collectively it'll make a difference."

Asian cancer survivors and support groups reach out to those too afraid to ask for help

Advocates want to eliminate stigma for group that has seen rising rates of breast cancer

By PATRICIA WEI

Mosaic Staff Writer

With every phone call she makes in her assuring, friendly voice, Suh Chen gives hope and advice.

Suh Chen was 60 years old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After she finished her treatment, she started volunteering at Chinese Cancer Care Foundation's New Hope organization in Milpitas, helping a group of patients that faces cultural and language challenges in the Western health system and is often hesitant to ask for help.

The rate of Asian-Americans diagnosed with breast cancer has been rising for 15 years, according to an April 2017 report by the Cancer Prevention Institute of California. In addition to the challenges of treatment, such as chemotherapy, surgery and radiation, many Chinese people find difficulty telling others about their diagnosis.

"Disclosure can be difficult for those in the Asian community," said Grace Fong, a professor in Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. "People are afraid of others not reacting in a positive way. Cancer used to be seen as a death sentence, and there's still a stigma attached to it."

Blanche Chen, founder and CEO of Heart of

"For them, telling other people about financial struggles or sad emotions can be difficult, so they don't seek outside help," Blanche Chen said.

When Suh Chen — not related to Blanche — was diagnosed with breast cancer in November 2015, she started reading scientific journals to learn more about her disease. In her phone calls with fellow patients, she often shares what she has learned.

"Being able to help someone makes me happy," Suh Chen said. "I'm willing to share my experiences because my friends did the same for me. If I can bring them hope and information, I'm happy."

New Hope and Heart of Hope provide a number of services to accommodate the needs of cancer patients, including transportation to and from appointments and meals for pregnant women. They also have seminars where patients can ask questions to Chinese-speaking doctors. These services are aimed at encouraging cancer patients to be honest and advocate for their health.

"Cancer patients often have to make rapid decisions that will impact their survival," Fong said. "This is a time to think about yourself and be honest with others. It's too much to suffer by yourself."

Christine Chen, 34 and a Texas resident, was

eight months pregnant when her gynecologist noticed a lump on her breast. After her baby was born, a mammogram, ultrasound and biopsy revealed that she had Stage 4 breast cancer — cancer cells

were found in her lymph nodes and parts of her bones. At the same time, her mom was also diagnosed with breast cancer.

Christine and her mother went through chemotherapy together. (They are not related to either Suh Chen or Blanche Chen.)

Like other breast cancer patients, Christine Chen found her biggest supporters in her family.

"I wanted to be positive and strong so that my mom would be happy," Christine Chen said. "Family is the most important part."

Christine Chen said she also found support through online Chinese group chats, where she asked questions about topics ranging from chemotherapy to beauty. Although several support groups exist, Chinese-speaking groups were a more comfortable way for her to open up.

"Even though we've never met each other and we live in different parts of the world, we're like friends," Christine Chen said.

Fong said many Asian-Americans who are diagnosed with breast cancer today have no family history of the disease. But should they be diagnosed,

Fong, other cancer survivors and social workers encourage them to open up to other people and seek outside support.

"Asking for help is not weak. It shows that you are strong enough to allow others to help you on your feet," Blanche Chen said. "One day, you will be able to return that help."

Entregan comida gratis a las familias – donde viven

Por ANAHI DEL CASTILLO

Escritora de Mosaic

En una pequeña mesa en la sombra afuera de su complejo de apartamentos de San José en un día de junio, Gloria López se sienta con sus dos hijos, de 3 y 4 años de edad, dándoles duraznos y leche, comida proporcionada por un programa para menores de edad que ofrecen comida gratis durante el verano — no muy lejos de donde viven.

López, de 37 años, actualmente está desempleada y, si no fuera por este programa, tendría dificultades para encontrar la próxima comida para sus hijos de 7 y 8 años.

“Me gusta este programa porque mis hijos están de vacaciones y pueden disfrutar de la comida,” dijo López, quien vive en los Apartamentos Valley Palms de San José.

Aunque el verano es emocionante para muchos niños, algunos se encuentran sin una fuente confiable de alimentos. Durante el año escolar, a muchos se les da desayuno y almuerzo en la escuela a través del programa de alimentos a precio reducido y gratuito financiado por el gobierno federal.

El gobierno también proporciona algunos fondos para alimentos durante el verano. Pero debido a que poco padres no están conscientes de esto, los niños a menudo terminan pasando hambre, poniéndolos en riesgo de perder terreno académicamente, así como también pasar por problemas físicos y emocionales.

“La dura realidad es que alrededor

del 85 por ciento de los niños que son elegibles para el programa de comidas escolares no participan,” dijo Diane Baker Hayward del programa de alimentos de Second Harvest Food Bank de los condados de Santa Clara y San Mateo.

Para cambiar esto, Second Harvest y una coalición de distritos escolares, bibliotecas y otras organizaciones están trabajando para crear conciencia sobre el programa de comidas de verano y expandirse en sitios móviles que lleven los alimentos a los niños más cerca de donde viven.

El verano pasado, la Coalición de Nutrición Infantil sirvió casi 670,000 comidas y este verano espera suministrar 800,000 comidas en 120 sitios en los condados de Santa Clara y San Mateo. En algunos lugares, el desayuno y los refrigerios de la tarde están disponibles, así como el almuerzo.

Los socios de la coalición alientan a los padres y niños a llenar sus platos con comidas saludables y bien balanceadas de carne o una alternativa de carne, granos, vegetales, frutas y leche.

Incluyendo a López, hay seis miembros de la familia que viven en un apartamento en Valley Palms. Hace unos cinco años, López trabajó en una taquería, pero actualmente, solo su esposo trabaja. El tiene que trabajar dos turnos para poder tener suficiente dinero para todo lo que necesitan.

Al igual que López, la residente de Valley Palms, María Gonzales, tiene cuatro hijos y dijo que es difícil comprar comida porque los precios son muy altos. “Tengo que proporcionar

comida tres veces al día para cuatro niños,” dijo Gonzales.

En Valley Palms, el programa sirve de 65 a 75 almuerzos por día y espera expandirlo a 150, dijo Aundraya Martínez, trabajadora de la comunidad del condado de Santa Clara que trabaja con la coalición.

padres sobre este y otros sitios mediante volantes, carteles y pancartas, y entregando perchas a 70,000 hogares donde los ingresos son bajos.

También esperan que la alimentación móvil que hayan establecido en parques, centros juveniles y complejos de viviendas para personas



Un voluntario del programa Summer Food Summer Fun entrega almuerzo gratis a un niño en el centro de recursos de Valley Palms jueves, 14 de junio, 2018 (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

Ella dijo que en este complejo de apartamentos, muchos de los residentes tienen un ingreso anual de \$12,000 a \$15,000 y tratar de mantener dos o tres trabajos a la vez.

El mismo día que Gonzales estaba comiendo con sus hijos, la estación de comida en Welch Park en San José atrajo a pocos visitantes. Los coordinadores de la coalición están trabajando para sensibilizar y educar a los

de bajos ingresos, así como en las escuelas, marque la diferencia.

Han hecho diferencia en la vida de López.

“No iría a ningún otro programa si no fuera en mi complejo de apartamentos,” dijo López, “por lo caro que es el gas.”

*Traducido por Eddie Gonzalez Antolin
English version on Page 13*

Refugiados y grupos locales celebran las culturas diversas

Grupos locales responden a la llamada para apoyar a personas que huyen de la persecución

Por PATRICIA WEI

Escritora de Mosaic

Artistas e intérpretes cubiertos con ropa étnica cantaban y bailaban en celebración del Día Mundial del Refugiado en la rotonda del Ayuntamiento de la ciudad de San José. Tras la audiencia y las porras, voluntarios y defensores de los refugiados ponen puestos para tratar de ganar fondos extras.

Los defensores responden al llamado para apoyar a personas en el área de la bahía que tratan de escapar la persecución ante un gobierno federal que ha crecido más hostil hacia las personas que buscan refugio.

“Una vez que el gobierno aprueba a un refugiado que llega a los Esta-

ndo servicios como cursos de inglés, clases vocacionales, tutoría de carrera y ayuda legal gratis. Personas que buscan refugio vienen de todas las partes del mundo: el Medio Oriente, África, América del Sur, Asia.

“El Torá dice que ‘protege a los extraños, así como tu fuiste extraño también en la tierra de Egipto,’” dijo Mindy Berkowitz, directora ejecutiva del grupo de ayuda JFS en Los Gatos. “Mi gente también fueron refugiados.”

Kelsey Coplin, coordinadora de la comunidad en Caridades Católicas, hace eco a la conexión similar de esta causa.

“Mi abuelo fue un refugiado y viajó el mismo camino en el Mediterráneo que los refugiados Sirios están viajando a través de hoy,” dijo Coplin. “Es

dad que hacen con las familias que apoyan, tales como días de campo.

En días de campo y otros eventos familiares, “todas personas de diferentes procedencias y religiones vienen a divertirse,” dijo Coplin. “Me hace tener esperanza que el resto del mundo pueda ser así.”

Smiley recuerda a un estudiante que cruzó el desierto de Sahara a pie y duró ocho o nueve años en trabajos forzados. Al llegar a la oficina de ayuda de IRC, el estudiante expresó su agradecimiento por todo — incluso al recibir un boleto de camión, dijo. Aunque se ha movido a otro estado, Smiley dijo que él todavía le llama, diciéndole que extraña a su familia.

“Regreso a mi hogar cada día pensando sobre qué bello es crear una relación tan personal con estos estudiantes.”

Saben que este es un espacio en el que pueden confiar,” dijo Berkowitz. “Todo lo que queremos hacer es ayudar sin esperar nada de regreso.”

Muchos de los refugiados en el centro de ayuda JFS, de regiones que varían entre Irán y África fueron educados a no llevarse con el uno al otro. Pero al conocerse entre sí y aprender el lenguaje se empiezan a ayudar entre ellos mismos,” dijo Berkowitz. “Existe un sentimiento de que estamos en esto juntos.”

Recientemente, la retórica y agenda política de la administración Trump han creado más dificultades para estas agencias para poder ayudar a refugiados, voluntarios y miembros de las organizaciones JFS, IRC y Caridades Católicas se han expresado.

Azita Eshagh es miembro de la organización JFS y explica que estos dos últimos meses, su agencia no ha tenido un refugiado nuevo. Su agencia ha metido una demanda en contra de la administración Trump después de la prohibición de viaje que pasó en Noviembre.

En Caridades Católicas, Sreela Mokherji, una especialista legal dijo que cada semana el número de jóvenes que califican para ser refugiados a bajado.

Nicole Dubus, una trabajadora social y profesora asistente de trabajo social en la Universidad Estatal de San José, cree que estas políticas han contribuido a crear más miedo y paranoia en contra de los refugiados.

“Hay miedo de escasez,” dijo Dubus. “Muchos residentes temen de lo que les va a pasar a ellos si otros reciben ayuda. Aunque está comprobado que cuando gente viene a vivir de otros lados del mundo, las comunidades en las que viven mejoran, cuando contribuyen con su propia cultura.”

El día Mundial de los Refugiados y las organizaciones de refugiados son las que se unen en días como el 15 de Junio para celebrar exactamente eso. Berkowitz lucha para que diferentes culturas puedan vivir en paz, en un lugar en donde los refugiados puedan compartir y vivir su propia cultura.

“Es bello cuando refugiados vienen aquí y pueden honrar al país de donde son,” dijo Berkowitz. “Lo único que quieren es vivir con libertad, contribuir trabajar y devolver lo que se les ha dado. Solo queremos mostrarles nuestro amor.”

*Traducido por Eddie Gonzalez Antolin
English version on Page 1*



Estudiantes de la Academia de El Grito de la Cultura realizan danza tradicional en el Día Mundial de los Refugiados en el Ayuntamiento de San José, viernes, 15 de junio, 2018 (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)

dos Unidos, ellos están por su propia cuenta,” dijo Natali Smiley, una profesora de inglés que es parte de el Comité de Rescate Internacional por su siglas en inglés IRC. “Organizaciones como la nuestra son las que ayudan a construir sus vidas aquí. Los recogemos del aeropuerto, les ayudamos a encontrar ayuda financiera. Desde el primer día hasta el día que aplican para la ciudadanía Americana, estamos allí con ellos.”

Organizaciones como la IRC y Servicios Familiares Judíos por sus siglas en inglés JFS se especializan en ayudar a familias a adaptarse proporciona-

desgarrador e injusto escuchar sus historias y saber por todo lo que han pasado, pero es impresionante ver brillar su humanidad entre todos nosotros.”

La organización de Coplin estableció uno de los pocos programas de jóvenes refugiados que llegan sin sus padres. Usualmente van a vivir con una familia que los acogen y los apoyan por lo que están pasando, y actualmente tienen una tasa de graduación de preparatoria del 90 por ciento. El programa de acogida ofrece servicios para los jóvenes hasta los 25 años de edad. Los recuerdos favoritos de Coplin incluyen eventos de la comuni-

antes,” dijo Smiley, añadiendo que sus estudiantes más jóvenes son de 22 años mientras los más grandes son de 64.

La organización JFS abarca también el ambiente familiar entre el personal y los refugiados. La mayoría de los refugiados que reciben apoyo no son Judíos, y a mucho de ellos los enseñaron a temer a la gente judía. Pero en América, son aceptados como si siempre hubieran sido parte de la familia.

“Los refugiados de Irán especialmente dicen cosas así como ‘la familia Judía es igualmente mi familia’.

*Traducido por Eddie Gonzalez Antolin
English version on Page 1*

Food bank takes summer meal delivery on the road

By ANAHI DEL CASTILLO
Mosaic Staff Writer

At a small table in the shade outside her San Jose apartment complex one weekday in June, Gloria Lopez sits with her two sons, ages 3 and 4, feeding them a lunch of peaches and milk provided by a program that offers kids free summer meals – not far from her front door.

Lopez, 37, is currently unemployed and if it weren't for this program she would be struggling to find the next meal for her sons and her two other children, ages 7 and 8.

"I like this program because my kids are on vacation and they can enjoy food," said Lopez, who lives at the Valley Palms Apartments in San Jose.

Although summer is exciting for many children, some find themselves without a reliable source of food. During the school year, many are given breakfast and lunch at school through the federally-funded free- and reduced-price meal program.

The government also provides some funds for meals over the summer. But

because few parents are aware of this, kids often end up going hungry, putting them at risk for losing ground academically, as well as for physical and emotional issues.

"The harsh reality is that about 85 percent of kids who are eligible for the school meal program don't participate," said Diane Baker Hayward of Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

To change this, Second Harvest and a coalition of school districts, libraries, and other organizations are working to raise awareness of the summer meals program, and to expand into mobile sites that bring food to children closer to where they live.

Last summer, the Children's Nutrition Coalition served nearly 670,000 meals and this summer it hopes to sup-

ply 800,000 meals at 120 sites in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. At some locations, breakfast and afternoon snacks are available as well as lunch.

Coalition partners encourage parents and children to fill their plates with healthy, well-balanced meals of meat or a meat alternative, grains, vegetables, fruit and milk.

Including Lopez, there are six family members living in one apartment at Valley Palms.

About five years ago, Lopez worked at a taqueria. But currently, only her husband works. He has to work two shifts to make ends meet.

Like Lopez, Valley Palms resident Maria Gonzales has four children and said it's difficult to buy food because prices are so high.

"I have to provide food three times

a day for four children," Gonzales said.

At Valley Palms, the program serves about 65 to 75 lunches a day and hopes to expand it to 150, said Aundraya Martinez, a Santa Clara County probation community worker who works with the coalition.

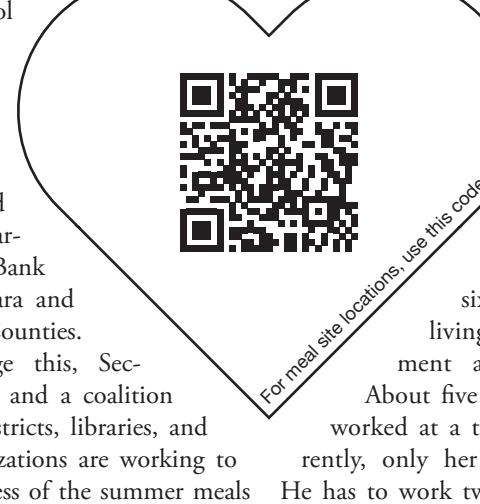
She said that at this apartment complex, many of the residents have an annual income of \$12,000 to \$15,000 and are juggling two or three jobs.

On the same day that Gonzales was eating with her children, the food station at Welch Park in San Jose attracted few takers. Coalition coordinators are working to raise parents' awareness of this and other sites by making flyers, posters and banners, and delivering door-hangers to 70,000 households where incomes are low.

They're also hoping the mobile feedings they've set up at parks, youth centers and low-income housing complexes, as well as at schools, will make a difference.

They have for Lopez.

"I wouldn't go to any other program if it wasn't at my apartment complex," Lopez said, "because of how expensive gas is."



Without a home, these students struggle in school

FROM PAGE 1 // HOMELESS

students. In her more than two years teaching at Berkeley High, she has known five or six homeless students.

"I've talked to a student whose entire family was evicted," Kung said.

One of her students was kicked out of her home by her mother and was forced to live out of her car during the last six weeks of her senior year.

The previously high-achieving student then watched her grades drop several letters. She currently attends a University of California campus, but Kung said that she easily could have had her admission revoked after what happened.

In the Santa Clara Unified School District, one in 30 students identifies as homeless, according to EdData. Like Kung, Kate Flowers, a teacher at Santa Clara High School, has seen students who were left to live on their own. Many of them lived with parents who struggled with employment instability and substance abuse.

Flowers said that teachers often may not know a student is homeless.

"They keep a low profile and may not reach out for help," Flowers said.

Not having a home makes school a struggle for them.

"My homeless students often have issues in attendance, getting to school, focusing in class, attention, and completing homework. Many of them are trying to hold down jobs at the same time."

None of her homeless students have made it to college. Many of them try to get jobs right after high school to support themselves.

At San Jose State University, nearly 15 percent of the student population has been homeless at some point during their college education.

"What happens to a lot of our students is that the lease on the apartment they're sharing ends, and they don't know where they're going to stay afterward. A lot of them can't afford to live on campus or pay the entire rent for an apartment on their own," said Marko Mohlenhoff, a student affairs case manager at the university.

Living in one of the most expensive housing markets in the country doesn't help. An average one-bedroom apartment in San Jose costs \$2,807 per month, according to Apartments.com. Room and board on campus at San Jose State University costs \$14,867 per year.

The Bill Wilson Center in San Jose assists homeless students by providing free housing. The San

Jose State University Wellness Center provides students with shelves of free food spread across campus where students can take what they need.

Mariana tried staying at the Bill Wilson Center, but she said its schedule often did not match up with her own.

"If the shelter closed early, I would not have anything to eat that night. The showers were only open between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Often times I was not able to shower."

Rev. Kathleen Crowe has created a program at the Grace Baptist Church which provides free housing for homeless San Jose State University students just a few blocks from campus, along with showers and a food pantry.

She spoke about a student who found an offer for an apartment near the university on Craigslist. After arriving at the university, the student discovered that the offer was a scam. With no place to stay, she sought shelter at Grace Baptist.

Another student was flooded out of his apartment in his senior year, Crowe said. For a while, he lived in his car and considered dropping out of college, but was able to continue his studies after finding housing at the church. He now works a part-time job to support himself financially while studying at the university.

Crowe said many of her students feel embarrassed about being homeless. They often try to keep their homelessness a secret from their peers, as Mariana does.

"I became very socially withdrawn after I became homeless. I lost many friends because I was ashamed," Mariana said.

Now Mariana stays at the Grace Baptist Church, which has made it easier for her to focus on her studies.

— By the Numbers —

» **1 in 9 California State University students experiences housing instability**

» **1 in 30 of students in the Santa Clara Unified School District is homeless**

» **Average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in San Jose costs \$2,807 per month**

Sources: California Homeless Youth Project, EdData, Apartments.com



The Rev. Kathleen Crowe helped found a homeless shelter at Grace Baptist Church that is used by many San Jose State University students. (Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)

Students, teachers despair about frustrations, hope for untapped potential of Common Core mathematics

FROM PAGE 1 // MATH

the students' needs.

For example, he said the high-level language in the College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM) textbook is an obstacle for English-language learners.

"It's an abrupt switch from what you are used to. CPM is awesome if you're used to it. CPM is hard to transition to midstream," Goulette said.

For Archbishop Mitty student Kritika Yerrapotu, "it did not click," and her grades suffered after the switch.

"Math in eighth grade jumped around everywhere. The curriculum was not well put together," she said.

Kritika said the change in curric-

ulum was too quick for students to understand, and she didn't feel that Common Core accomplished it any better compared with traditional math.

She said she believes she can still apply the math skills she learned in her regular math class to real life, and that Common Core made it a lot more complicated.

Chelsey Martinez, a student at Latino College Preparatory Academy, said she believes that with proper execution of Common Core, the change to Common Core will benefit students.

"It takes way longer than the regular curriculum and it's a lot of teamwork and struggle. But it gives better

comprehension," she said.

Chelsey said it's worth it to teach Common Core because students will be able to apply it more often in real life.

Anne Wustrow, a math teacher at University Preparatory Academy, said Common Core "allows students to get their hands dirty," and helps students think for themselves.

Some students disagree, and think Common Core is so bad that they turn to private schools, like Samuel Branchears, a junior at Valley Christian High School.

"Common Core lacks rigor and the concrete structure of curriculum," Samuel said.

Samuel said it was not focused and

it ruined the flow of learning. If the idea was to give students a deeper understanding, he said he doesn't feel that Common Core does that effectively.

Ever since he made the switch to Valley Christian, he said he notices that students who are in Common Core generally fall behind in understanding math concepts.

"It sets students relatively behind and makes students have to catch up," he said. "It's not efficient."

Kritika said she believes that there is hope for Common Core.

"The reasoning and goal behind Common Core was good," she said. "The execution of it was not well done."

OPINION

Personal View: The mentally ill need compassion, understanding more than inflexible rules

By FERNANDO ANDRADE*Mosaic Staff Writer*

I was recently admitted to Fremont Hospital for a disorder known as manic depression. My six days in this facility wasn't extravagant — it met my expectations — but during this time I was able to see a number of young people with different mental ailments and their effects on patients.

One patient that really stuck out to me was a 14-year-old boy whom I will call Joseph. He was admitted because he ran away from home multiple times and had shown signs of self-harm. This was his second time in the facility and third time in a mental ward.

Joseph is very artistic and suffers from both attention deficit disorder and depression. Other patients ganged up to pick on him, and he proceeded to shout about wanting to kill himself and harm others. This caused great concern for me and the staff in the facility.

But he refused offers of help, and I can explain why. During his stay in the facility, he was being treated not as a human but as a freak with ailments that made him

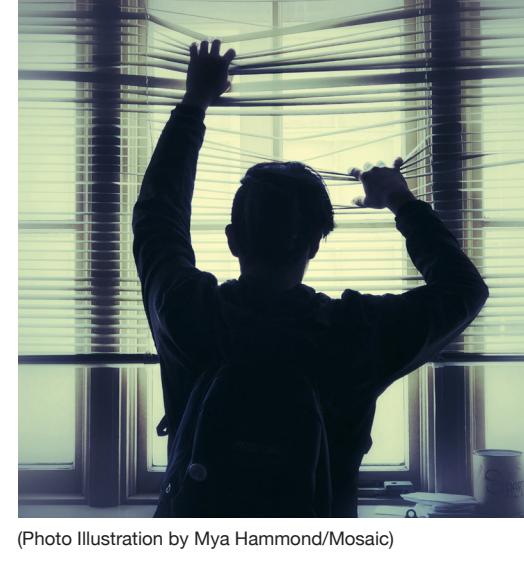
different from the rest. I made an effort to show compassion and empathy toward every patient, not only the few I thought shouldn't be there. But I saw the staff treating every child there as though they were incapable of thinking for themselves.

What I was seeing was similar to what my mother and sister saw when they came for a visit that left them completely dismayed.

I believe that the majority of patients only need someone to care, which was something my mother told me upon my return. If we show compassion, others will comply. Not because they feel obligated, but because they respect the individual enough to respect their authority.

I shared snacks of Starbucks and Skittles — and even my Bape hoodie — with Joseph, and he seemed to gain respect for me. When I asked him to stop doing something because it was against the rules, he would listen and stop cursing at or fighting with the others, even though he sometimes had trouble complying.

I made Joseph a promise. If he complied with the ground rules of the facility for two days, I would let him keep my hoodie. I no longer have the hoodie, and that's



(Photo Illustration by Mya Hammond/Mosaic)

why I believe we should show compassion to gain mutual respect instead of forcing someone to obey.

Joseph is only one case. I am only one case. But I believe this happens in facilities across the nation, and we are blind to what happens on the other side of the wall until we're the ones there.

The treatment wasn't too bad because of the staff who tried to form connections with patients, like one psychiatrist I met named Kate. However, not all psychiatrists and nurses react this way.

So I choose to say: Treat people like people, regardless of difference or race.

OPINION

Brandy Melville's "one-size-fits-most" claim is a joke

By SARAH GAO*Mosaic Staff Writer*

When Brandy Melville first opened its doors in the United States in 2009, it quickly became one of the most popular teen clothing brands.

What the fashion industry did not know at that point was that it would harm the self-esteem of teenagers everywhere.

Brandy Melville only carries one size throughout its entire clothing line, including shirts, sweaters, pants, skirts and dresses. It claims that one size, which runs close to the super-skinny side, fits most teens. False.

Now, the "one size fits all" trend that Brandy Melville pioneered has swept across the fashion industry. H&M and Forever 21, other teen retailers that previously carried all sizes, started carrying only one size in some of their clothing, following Brandy Melville and spreading the harm.

When Raksha Sen, a junior at Saint Francis High School in Mountain View, shopped at Brandy Melville for the first time, she experienced a shocking disappointment upon returning home. After trying on the clothes, she realized that none of them fit.

"You feel uncomfortable returning the clothes. When the cashier asks you why you're returning them, you have to say that they're too small for your body."

In a large sign hung in their stores, Brandy Melville claims that their "one size fits most."

Really? According to their website, their skirts are based on a waist measurement of 24 inches, and their pants can stretch up to a size 2. Considering the fact that the average American woman is a size 16, their one size certainly does not fit most.

"At one point you have to realize that they have unreal expectations," Raksha said.

This unreal expectation has caused teenage girls to feel insecure about their bodies.

"People see models that wear this type of clothing, and they feel like they need to have that type of body to be on trend," said Risa Mori, a senior at Lynbrook High School in San Jose.

Expecting women of various heights and weights to fit one size of clothing is illogical. And the results of this assumption are atrocious. When women cannot fit into the one size being sold at a store, they feel fat and unattractive.

They immediately want to lose weight to be able to fit the clothes being sold at a popular retailer, resulting in eating disorders.

Approximately 7 million American girls and women have some form of a serious eating disorder, according to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

Previously healthy young girls and women have developed anorexia, bulimia and other eating disorders that can result in suicide.

A simple solution to the problems brought about by stores only carrying one size is for them to simply start carrying all sizes.

Everyone is different. Let's start recognizing that.

OPINION

Teachers union's ad campaign unfairly paints charters in a bad light

By EMILY HUNG*Mosaic Staff Writer*

When my dad drives me to school, we always listen to the radio. I usually don't notice the advertisements, but one day, a particular one caught my attention.

This advertisement promoted the California Teachers Association's Kids Not Profit campaign. It claimed that charter schools attempt to divert students from local public schools, cherry pick their students, deny admission to students with special needs and are run by billionaires whose primary interest is to create a monopoly.

The campaign, launched last August, strives to improve traditional public schools and hold charter schools to a degree of greater accountability and transparency. But its effect has been to depict the entire charter school sector in California as being in disarray and unable to fully educate its students.

California is home to the largest number of charter schools in the United States, with an estimated 630,000 students enrolled in 1,275 public charter schools across the state in the 2017-18 school year. In addition, there were 27,000 new charter school students and 56 new startups as well, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

Over the past five years, public support of charter schools has only continued because of their reputation for serving disadvantaged students.

As expected, charter schools were an issue in the state's Primary Election this month as, unfortunately, Democrat Gavin Newsom claimed one of the two spots in November's general election for governor, forc-

ing the California Charter Schools Association — which had supported former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa — to reconsider whom to direct their resources to.

It has been widely reported that Newsom is not a strong supporter of California's charter schools and claims that he will temporarily halt approvals of new charters until there is agreement on conflict-of-interest rules.

As a student who has attended charter schools since kindergarten, I can attest that although the statements made in the Kids Not Profit campaign might apply to some charter schools, it does not apply to all schools, especially not in Santa Clara County. And the campaign ignores the clear benefits of a charter-school education.

Having briefly attended a traditional public high school as well as three charter schools, my experience is that there's a clear difference in the education a student is able to receive at a charter school but is unable to receive at a district-run high school. I found the teachers at my charter schools, by and large, to be more dedicated and more willing to tutor or provide a student with help.

During the weeks I spent at Prospect High School, I often had to send the same email more than once because teachers either did not check their emails or skipped over the message. After school, most teachers would leave right away, making study hall the only time to ask questions. By comparison, my teachers at my current charter school, University Preparatory Academy, typically respond to my questions through email within a few hours. I even had one teacher who would reply within minutes. I can also usually receive help from them

before school, during lunch, study hall and after school — or whenever they are in their classrooms.

Charter schools tend to have smaller class sizes by design so each student can receive more attention from the teacher. This year, my English class consisted of 16 students, and my elective class had 10.

Furthermore, California charter schools do not hand-pick their students. They are required to follow the same admission policies as traditional public schools. If there are more applicants for a grade level, students are entered into a lottery system.

And they do not turn down students with special needs. Every school I've attended had a special education resource specialist on site. Out of the 9,863 students enrolled in charters in Santa Clara County in the 2016-17 school year, 865 were students with special needs, according to the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Transparency is also not an issue at my school, as all board meeting documents and agendas are made available to the public. From expulsion documents to agenda items, anyone has the ability to access and read what the school's board of trustees discusses during meetings.

Charter schools and traditional public schools should coexist side by side. I see charter schools as a platform that improves educational opportunities for minority students, especially those without access to private schools. Charters serve as a better option for students who enjoy an environment with fewer students and who look for the quality education that suits them. Charter schools have provided me with the opportunities I've needed to develop my interests and grow into the person I am today.

POETRY**By FERNANDO ANDRADE***Mosaic Staff Writer***PEACEKEEPER**

I try to keep peace, and maintain order.
It doesn't matter to me, your labels or disorders.
Everyone is a human, Everyone needs love.
I love you like a brother, For he loved us.
"Who is he?" You may ask,
Jesus Christ, that holy man,
Who came to this earth free of sins,
Who gave himself for remission of our sins.
I try my best to abide in his laws,
For if I do that, I won't feel small.
I'll work for a purpose, larger than my own,
I am the peacekeeper, learning self control.

DEPRESSION, DEPRESSION

Depression, depression, when does it lessen?
All through my life, turmoil and tension.
Depression, depression, you never get mentioned.
I tuck you away, but the pain never lessens.

Depression, depression, I finish my sentence,
Before I sit back and count all my blessings.
Oh depression, I won't miss you friend,
This is the day when our friendship ends.

Oh depression, I won't cling any longer,
Aware of my suffering and it makes me stronger.
Oh depression, now you'll be depressed,
Back to a seedling, you'll be compressed,

And instead I will bloom a beautiful flower,
For self-realization, is actual power.

PAINTING PRODIGY MAKES A BIG SPLASH

By ANAHI DEL CASTILLO
Mosaic Staff Writer

In fifth grade, while many of us were running around on playgrounds, Tyler Gordon of San Jose had just discovered his endless supply of painting talent.

Tyler, who turns 12 on Sunday, paints black, white and gray portraits of celebrities he finds on television, or of people who want a portrait of themselves. He has painted Kevin Durant, Jay-Z, Beyoncé, the Beatles, Oprah and many more famous people.

"His paintings are shadows and negative space," said Nicole Kindle, his mother.

He has sold dozens of paintings, started a Facebook page to promote his art and this month appeared on Steve Harvey's show, "Little Big Shots."

A budding entrepreneur, Tyler also promotes his art on other social media platforms, including Twitter and YouTube.

Last weekend, Tyler was at San Jose's Juneteenth celebration at Plaza de Cesar Chavez, where he live-painted for several hours, fueled only by a baloney sandwich. He sold more than 40 paintings that day, he said.

Tyler's living room in San Jose is

filled with his painting supplies and the art he has made. He paints there sitting on a stool. Lately, he said he's been at it for about four hours every day, to fulfill the orders that have come pouring in since he appeared on "Little Big Shots" and at the Juneteenth festival.

Despite Tyler's accomplishments, his mom said that he is still a normal kid who plays outside most of the time, thinks he's Superman and still has to finish his homework.

"His school comes first," Kindle said. "If I see a grade slipping, that's a priority."

Kindle was the one who encouraged Tyler to start painting, and she instantly recognized his talent.

"I've never seen anything like that," Kindle said on Oli Pettigrew's TV show, "Right This Minute." "I've been pushing, trying to get him everything he needs."

Tyler's accomplishments come despite life-changing hardships. For a while, he was in a wheelchair after breaking his hips, and he is nearly deaf, Kindle said.

On Steve Harvey's show, Tyler got a big surprise when one of his heroes, Kevin Durant of the Golden State Warriors, appeared in a video.

"Keep inspiring," Durant told Tyler. And undoubtedly Tyler will.



Tyler Gordon, 11, paints portraits of Jay-Z and Beyoncé at his home. (Will Butler/Mosaic)

Hundreds celebrate Juneteenth Freedom Day

Hundreds of families from the Bay Area gathered in San Jose Saturday to celebrate Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, marking the emancipation of slaves in Texas in 1865. The African American Community Service Agency's 37th Annual Juneteenth festival at Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park featured music, spoken word, arts and various food booths.



Shemica Johnson (left) leads a conga line at Plaza de Cesar Chavez during the Juneteenth Festival, June 16, in San Jose. (Berenice Manzano/ Mosaic)



DJ playing music during the Juneteenth Festival. (Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)



Plaza de Cesar Chavez fills up with families enjoying the festival. (Berenice Manzano/ Mosaic)



Ava Ransom, 2, smiles at her mother. (Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)

Warriors for the WIN



Stephen Curry acknowledges cheers during the Golden State Warriors NBA championship parade in downtown Oakland. (Will Butler/ Mosaic)



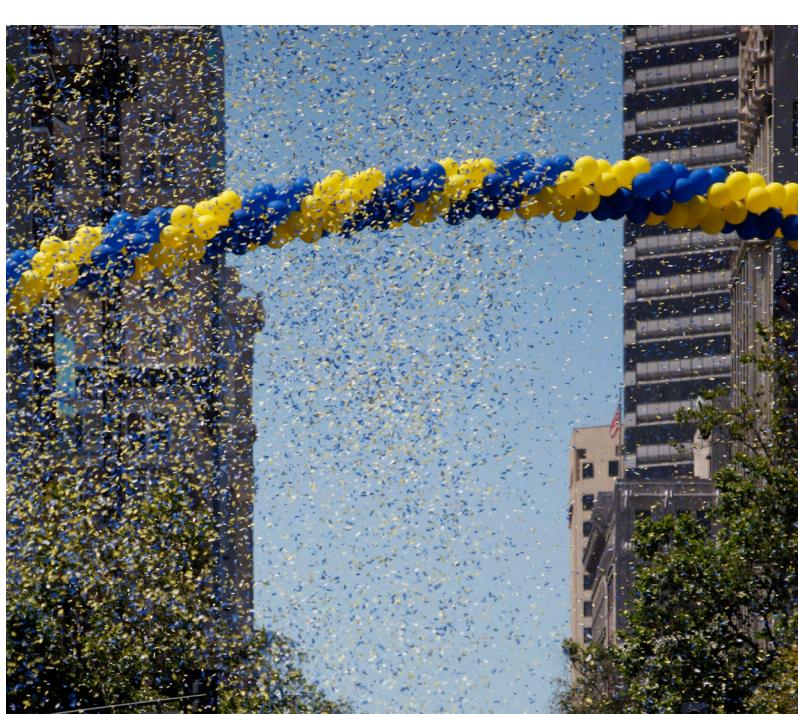
Dedicated fan Robert Rohner drove 12 hours to attend the parade. (Orlando Lucio/Mosaic)



Balloons introduce the NBA champs (Mya Hammond/ Mosaic)



Shaila Lazenby and Sariah Slaughtek light up with excitement as the Golden State Warriors approach during their NBA championship parade on June 12. (Mya Hammond/Mosaic)



The Cal marching band leads the parade. (Mya Hammond/ Mosaic)



Downtown Oakland fills with jubilant fans. (Berenice Manzano/Mosaic)



The Cal marching band leads the parade. (Mya Hammond/ Mosaic)



A sea of hands reaches for basketball star Stephen Curry. (Mya Hammond/ Mosaic)