

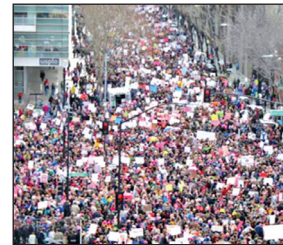
VOLUNTEERS GIVE THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS TO LOW-INCOME CHILDREN – PAGE 4



LICCARDO AND ARENAS SPEAK AT D8 COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE MEETING – PAGE 3



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Point Church Christian parishioners and Gurdwara Sikh members work together to help the less fortunate.

Paper houses and dreams held together

By Kevin Larsen
Times Staff Writer

Hands get cold when you sleep outside, and those without a place to stay strive to survive, and that's why the Point Church Christian parishioners and Gurdwara Sikh members work together to push back the cold.

On a regular basis both organizations plan and work together to get things done, and they have young adults participate to learn how to carry on the helping of the less fortunate.

Early in the morning on weekends the two organizations drive to sites where people chose to live in the cold. Many sites are near forests or creeks but some are along highways too. They take the kind time to unabashedly ensure that each human being is given some little things to help them survive.

Those attending the Point Church believe deeply in Jesus and these caring principals stated on their website:

"We believe a have a special calling and commitment
See PAPER HOUSES, page 18

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS



Mayor Sam Liccardo held the audience spellbound during his State of the City address.

Mayor Liccardo's 'Tale of One City' showcases innovativeness and unity

By Kevin Larsen
Times Staff Writer

In his third State of the City address held at Gunderson High School on Saturday, Feb. 11, the most noticeable thing was that the presentation by San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo was electric and held the audience spellbound.

In his speech, Liccardo offered support to immigrants, acknowledged the increases in police staffing, vowed to create a state-of-the art transportation system, com-

mitted to providing housing for the homeless and promised a more beautiful San Jose.

Hundreds of residents along with city staff packed Gunderson High School's gymnasium to listen to the mayor's stunningly vibrant vision for the city. Dressed like Steve Jobs (no tie, casual sports jacket, brown leather belt and jeans), the San Jose mayor held the entire audience spellbound with words and views that resonated with the audience

See ADDRESS, page 17

NOTHING BUT Cakes

A gift sure to sweeten their day.

San Jose
2721 Aborn Road, Suite 10
(408) 238-7500

LeyVa Boys Basketball team wins Section Championship

The 7th Grade LeyVa Boys Basketball team beat Chaboya in the Section Championship game with a score of 39-33 on Feb. 9.

This Evergreen match up was highly contested during the season as they both met undefeated in the middle of the regular season and Chaboya took the win by three at Chaboya.

The LeyVa Bulldogs continued their winning ways in order to meet the Colts again in the final and taking the win when it really counted.



The basketball team is coached by a kind, dedicated, and long-time PE teacher and coach at Leyva named Dan Spencer.

"This year's 7th grade boys basketball team was truly one of a kind," said Spencer. "Our motto all season was to outrun and out-work every team we played."

Spencer said he appreciates the dedication, work ethic, and the commitment to excellence the team displayed that carried us all season and in the end helped us win a section championship.

"I am so proud of what they accomplished," said Spencer.

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

Times Features

Paper houses

Continued from page 1

to reach out to common people, many of whom are poor, to care for their physical, material and spiritual needs, and welcome them into the life of the Church.”

“We believe in caring for those in physical, emotional, and spiritual need to conveying the love of God for people in need and as a way for us to be formed in the character of holiness.”

“We believe participation in groups in which we hold each other accountable for good deeds and spiritual practices as we respond to God’s call of holiness of heart and life.”

The Sikh’s who attend the Gurdwara (place of worship) have similar beliefs too;

“Blessed is the godly person and the riches they possess because they can be used for charitable purposes and to give happiness.”

Guru Amar Das

“A place in God’s court can only be attained if we do service to others in this world.”

— Guru Granth Sahib Ji 26

Charity is a key component of Sikh teachings because the Sikh’s embrace the teachings that their actions and compassion are essential for their spiritual life. They believe all religions and all nations must be helped to live a good and peaceful life and it is good to share one’s earnings with the community and to remember God. The Gurdwara is open to the public and one can visit their history room to learn more.

Point Church and The Gurdwara join hands to hand out blankets together

In understated ways they get in trucks and drive over to most all the houseless encampments to offer help.

Those receiving the blankets, tarps, and more express in heartfelt ways;

“It’s a blessing from God.”

“I am very grateful.”

“We are happy they are doing this for us.”

“Nobody should have to live like this.”

“They really don’t know how much they help us for it has been extremely cold during the night.”

“We appreciate their help because our tent was taken and our things thrown away.”

Challenging issues face those without a place to live

It was explained by one person who has diabetes that when they try to use a restroom at a gas station they are often refused. The same is true for some large big box stores and discount places. They are told they are not welcome. This person expressed a situation that actually occurred:

“I was in need of going to the bathroom. I have diabetes. There was no place to go. No public restrooms near. I asked if I could use the restroom in a large store and was refused. I had to crouch down so as not to relieve myself. I think all stores should allow all bathrooms to be used by all.”

Actual examples of discrimination are expressed:

“Some small convenience stores reserve the right to not serve us.” So, if a person is without a home and wants to buy a small item from a little mom and pop store, they are told to go away and not served. This means that the houseless person has to walk for miles to find another store to buy the item.

Harassment experienced

An individual expressed that some agencies told them that they would tag their goods and



“We appreciate their help because our tent was taken and our things thrown away.”



kindly bring them all over to the houseless shelter (homeless shelter). What allegedly occurred is that the good things such as bicycles and such were missing after the move leading some to ask who took them and more importantly lose trust in others.

Hired security companies may need more training

Some complained that when they do sleep

outside the security people that patrol the areas they sleep harass them. “They saw me walking and tried to scare me by pulling the truck toward me so I would jump back because they know I am homeless.” This same person stated that they were often the brunt of slurs and that “they snicker at us.” Something profound was expressed too! “We are like anyone else. We pay like anyone

else for things. Some of the large companies spend millions and millions of dollars as members of Habitat for Humanity but don’t help us.”

Hi, I can pay you \$1700 per month for rent with City Voucher for a year and a half, can you rent to me?

No. That is the answer often heard. Seventeen hundred dollars a month in rent and turned away. This is actually the situation in our Silicon Valley right now. It is seen that the Veterans also have the same pressing need and it is said that leaders in San Jose are approaching key organizations to try to get all to help transition these paying renters. Finding rental opportunities is hard.

“I ain’t scared of work...”

This kind and strongly built man expressed and he and his wife want better conditions for those without places to stay. Such people are very gracious and intelligent often asking questions such as, “how did you enjoy the holidays,” in meaningful sincere ways. There is a joy in communication. What a wonderful change from the often rushed conversations that are experienced in our Valley with pocket phones chiming, voiced sentences in the air and frequently heard multi-tasked well dressed techi-faithfuls having lone conversations with shopping with their lit up blue electronic attachment riding along in an ear all the day waiting in anticipation of never let them wait phone calls.

Homelessness (House-less-ness) is not a nomadic way of life

It is improper to refer to those without houses as “The Homeless,” for that is a pejorative term. Instead we all must understand that to be houseless is temporary. It is not a way of life and sometimes tough to get out of it. To be homeless can happen even if people with a child and a baby hold out \$1700 in guaranteed rent monies for a year and a half to potential rental places or private parties (City Voucher after waiting often over a year and a half to be approved).

Point Church parishioners and Sikh members of The Gurdwara show strength in working together to help the poor

Tyler Wiest, member of the Point Church expresses in words the merit of two organizations joining together to help others, “I feel I am doing what I have been called to do by God. There isn’t any apprehension because it’s what Jesus would have done, and the Holy Spirit leads me to do so. I also feel The Point Church and the Gurdwara Temple of San Jose were meant to be neighbors, so that we could do great work in the community together as we grow in our spiritual relationships.”

Sukhdev Bainiwal of the Gurdwara expressed, “we are pleased to work with the Point Church and that we partner up. The Point Church has been very kind and helpful in our same mission of helping those in need.”

To donate or contact the two groups please call the following:

The Point Church

(Services on Sunday at 10:30, all welcome). Contact Pastor Greg Gates. 3695 Rosse Terrace Circle, San Jose, CA 95148. Sundays @ 10:30 AM. (408) 270-7646; info@thepoint.church

Gurdwara Sahib - San Jose (The Gurdwara)

The largest Gurdwara in the U.S.A. (Open 365 days a week, food served to all, tours available, all welcome.) Gurdwara address: 3636 The Gurdwara Ave., San Jose, CA 95148. Contact: Mohinder Singh Bajwa, office phone number: (408) 274-9373; www.sanjosegurdwara.org.