

Leigh Weimers, longtime columnist for the San Jose Mercury News, dies

By Sal Pizarro
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It's difficult to put into words how much impact Leigh Weimers had on the Santa Clara Valley. And that's ironic because his words were what helped make the valley a more vibrant place.

Journalists are known for being a cynical lot. But as news of Leigh's death washed over the Mercury News newsroom, there was a palpable, genuine sadness. We had lost a friend, colleague -- and probably the paper's best ambassador to the community.

For four decades, his daily column captured the comings and goings of the valley and laid the foundation for a cultural renaissance in San Jose that took place as the region left behind fruit orchards for its silicon future. He was known as "Mr. San Jose," in part because he knew everyone but mostly because of his sincere belief in the city's ability to become a great metropolitan area.

At the Mercury News, Leigh started writing his column in 1965 and used it to highlight the people and places that made the valley special. He did it with a wink but without snark, and it was rare to find someone who knew him and didn't like him.

"Everyone adored him," said Lina Broydo, the public relations director of the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose for more than 20 years. "Once Leigh Weimers wrote about you, it was like a red carpet that welcomed you to San Jose."

"I'm convinced that when historians come to write about what has happened here over the past four decades, they'll compare Silicon Valley to Florence at the start of the Renaissance," he wrote in his final column. "After all, what took place in Italy back then was the development of new ways of looking at art, music, commerce, the world. And the technological developments here during the past 40 years have been no less global."

And it wouldn't have happened without him.

(Services will be held on September 17 at St Joseph's Cathedrals starting at 3:30)



In September of 1987, ComedySportz San Jose was born. Flash forward to 2012 and it brings us to where we are now: Our 25th anniversary. Join us September 13 - 15, 2012 for this once-in-a-lifetime event as we pay homage to our start in the South Bay by welcoming ComedySportz alumni from all over the U.S. as they return to play alongside current playerz and celebrate our place as the longest-running show in the Silicon Valley.

To further recognize our 25 years spent in the South Bay, these shows will also be fundraisers for our friends at Ronald McDonald House at Stanford, Second Harvest Foodbank, and the YMCA's Project Cornerstone. You can make a donation if you wish when you purchase your tickets to help out these worthy causes that directly impact our community.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR



Touring with Maria

Hudson River Valley



Hyde Park Hudson is a film that will be out in December about Franklin Delano Roosevelt's romantic relationship with his distant cousin. I have always wanted to explore this historic valley north of New York City so I decided to beat the rush and go before the crowds the film may entice.

It is an easy trip from Manhattan. The Metro north train from Grand Central Station to Poughkeepsie is less expensive than Amtrak and has the best views of the Hudson River Valley.

After arriving at the old station in Poughkeepsie, we had "Enterprise pick us up". Tip: check the opening hours of your car rental company. We would have stayed longer if they were open on the weekend.

Why would a car rental company close on a weekend in the summer? Hyde Park is not only the former home of the Roosevelt's, it also is the East coast campus of the Culinary Institute of America. The West coast campus is Greystone in Napa Valley.

The grounds are beautiful. It was the former site of the Jesuit Novitate. We took a tour and enjoyed a lovely dinner at the Italian restaurant. There are four restaurants open to the public.

The Roosevelt and Vanderbilt homes are now part of the National Park Service. The sites include FDR's birthplace and Presidential Library, Top Cottage, Eleanor Roosevelt's historic site, Val-Kill and the Vanderbilt Mansion. Most of the rangers gave wonderful tours of the area, including a discussion on the exact porch at Top Cottage where most of the film will take place.

Further north is Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, near the lovely town of Rhinebeck. The Frank Geary designed Performing Arts Center is amazing. Seeing it saves me a trip to Bilbao. It looks like a smaller version of the Spanish Guggenheim Museum.

South of Hyde Park and closer to Manhattan in Sleepy Hollow is Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate. The 6 story home and the art collection are amazing. Most of the modern art is in the basement.

Four days was not enough to truly enjoy this area. I would advise more time to hike, kayak and enjoy some of the art venues of Storm King and Dia Biacon as well as other estates of the wealthy millionaires who built their country homes overlooking the Hudson River.

Maria Lange

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Kids & Families Corner

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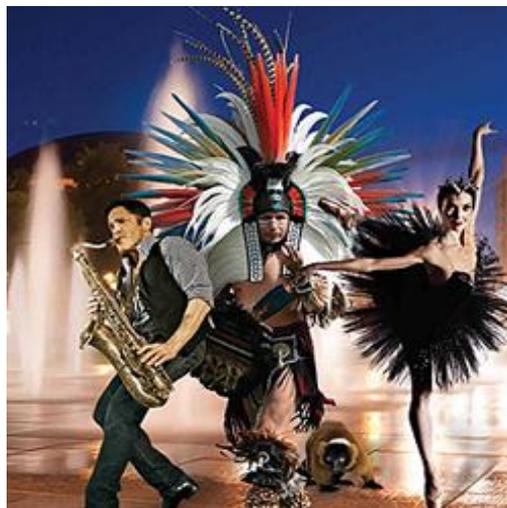
Summer seems to have vanished like donuts in the break room, but, luckily, we are blessed here in the Bay Area with advantageous weather that allows the festival season to carry on well after the summer season is over. Check out those fantastic festivals on LiveSV.com!

<http://www.livesv.com/categories/index/31/0/FESTIVALS>

It's **Screen on the Green!** Bring the family, along with flashlights, blankets, and low back chairs to enjoy a film on the 25-foot inflatable outdoor movie screen. In addition, the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and William E. "Bill" Mason Carousel will be open for rides before the film. **September 28th** only at Oak Meadow Park in Los Gatos. For more information, call 408-399-5770 or visit <http://www.livesv.com/event/detail/441493501>

The **Chinese Moon Festival** is celebrated by billions of people who celebrate with dances, feasting, and moon gazing. Enjoy Lion Dancers, bamboo painting, calligraphy, chess, and delicious traditional moon cakes! **September 30th** only in Overfelt Gardens Park in San Jose. For more information, call 408-251-3323 or visit <http://www.livesv.com/event/detail/441486379>

At the **Taste of Morgan Hill**, savor the flavors of local restaurants, wineries, and breweries while listening to fabulous musicians and viewing artwork from artisans in an exciting festival atmosphere. There will be two stages of live music, a Kids' Zone, a custom and classic car show, and more! **September 29th-30th** in Downtown Morgan Hill. For more information, call 408-779-9444 or visit <http://www.livesv.com/event/detail/441484407>.



Discover the Unexpected at [LiveSV.com!](http://www.livesv.com)



Asian
Sept 2012



San Francisco Film Society Presents Hong

September 21-23
New People Cinema
(1746 Post Street, in Japantown)

This year's series expands to nine films for Bay Area audiences in a variety of genres including crime thrillers, family dramas, and over-the-top romances featuring HK superstars Andy Lau, Tony Leung, and Louis Koo. Films to note are Opening Night's *Love in the Buff* and LGBT drama *Love Me Not* with the director in person!

Asian Art Museum
Chong-Moon Lee Center
for Asian Art & Culture
200 Larkin Street
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415.581.3500

Psycho Donuts- News



Psycho Donuts will be featured in the full-length documentary film, *OF TWO MINDS*, premiering on Saturday, September 1, 2012 in San Francisco at the Roxie Theater as part of the United Film Festival

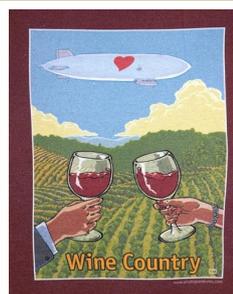
OF TWO MINDS is an award-winning feature documentary from the creative team behind *WORDPLAY*, *IOUSA*, *SUPERHEROES* and *THESE AMAZING SHADOWS* that explores the extraordinary lives, struggles and successes of a few of the over five million Americans living with bipolar disorder.

In 2009, Psycho Donuts was at the center of a controversy, regarding the company's distinctive marketing and branding approach. Mental health groups opposed the company's theme and staged protests outside the company's store in Campbell, California. Subsequently, Psycho Donuts' owner met with mental health leaders, and the parties agreed upon changes to amicably resolve the conflict.

In conjunction with the film's premiere in San Francisco, Psycho Donuts will once again be selling *The Bipolar donut*: a chocolate cake donut, topped with chopped peanuts and shredded coconut. The donut will be available for a limited time only. Psycho Donuts will donate 10% of all Bipolar Donut sales to homeless charity, Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen.

Jordan Zweigoron, Chief Psycho at Psycho Donuts, said, "Given our unique history with the mental health community, it's both ironic and heartwarming for Psycho Donuts to be featured in an emotionally charged documentary about bipolar disorder. Psycho Donuts is pleased to support a local homeless charity, where many residents struggle with mental illness." Note from Toll House Hotel:

We're Coming to Wine Country!



Pop the cork, it's time to celebrate - Eureka is heading to Wine Country!

Airship Ventures is proud to announce that the world's largest airship will be offering passenger flights out of the Charles Schultz Sonoma County Airport the weekend of Sept. 20th – 23rd.

"From the earliest days of Airship Ventures, we have dreamed of bringing the joy of airship travel to the scenic vistas of California Wine Country. Several years in the making, the day has come."

"We invite you to join us aboard our majestic airship, the Zeppelin "Eureka", and be among the first in history to sail above wine country via passenger airship."

-- Brian Hall, CEO



For more details or to book online visit www.airshipventures.com/fly-with-us/locations/wine-country or call (650) 969-8100 x111.

Toll House Hotel

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INSIDERS' TRACK

NOTES FROM MY CLIPBOARD.....

SVCA's motto has always been to provide the best service we can. That includes being prepared in a rapidly changing hospitality industry and learning from the past.



Following are items you may find interesting:

• TRAINING

Fortune Magazine in its August 13, 2012 issue has an article about its "Startup Idol winner "Axonity" and its founder Carol Leaman, CEO. The introductory sentence reads: "The problem with corporate training is obvious: almost nobody pays any attention." Axonity wants to change that. While initially targeting the retail industry, Leaman is exploring ways to expand into such areas as hospitality, entertainment, health care and even oil and gas. Instead of packing training into a grueling engagement, the startup breaks lessons into shorter ongoing sessions consisting of trivia-style questions and mini games. Each training takes 90 seconds or less to complete. Over time the cloud-based software picks up on areas that workers are having trouble with and personalizes training accordingly. There is, at this time, no formal training for the hospitality industry. Concierges and front-desk staff may want to be on the lookout for "Axonity".

• TECHNOLOGY

Concierges cannot be asked to be competent in all new technologies, no matter how user-friendly those may be. However, the hospitality industry should also not forget that in the face of social networking, Internet search engines, and GPS systems that provide for directions and destinations, and interactive communications such as twitter, personal assistance should not be neglected. Employers would do well to provide their staff with the tools that can supplement their interpersonal skills.

"Step it up, hotels". The SJMN in its lifestyle section had this to say under the above heading, referring to a J.D. Power & Associates survey: " Until the industry makes some changes here are the key tips from J.D. Power for making your hotel, corporate headquarters visit etc. a surprise experience: "Have a problem during your stay? Call the front desk/concierge ASAP to see if it can be resolved". I may add here that, referring to technology again, that an up-to-date listing of all IT and Telecommunications hard- and software service companies has become an almost indispensable part of your tool kit. Make a note of it.

MISCELLANEOUS

SVCA wants to thank Santana Row and a select group of hospitality and retail companies for hosting a well- planned and interesting evening for SVCA members and guests. Details should be in everybody's portfolio for visitors and guests to the San Jose area.

As dynamic as the hospitality industry is it behooves its members to take a critical look at their skills inventory and experience. Linked-In and similar data bases will soon make traditional resumes obsolete. So, take a good look at your profile and let prospective employers know about you!

The SJMN in its 7/30/2012 edition had an article in its "Around the Peninsula" section that was headlined: "Travel industry takes aim at 3 tax measures". Cathy Keefe, spokeswoman for US Travel Association had this to say on the subject: "We are still in a shaky economic situation. This isn't the time to overly tax travelers and drive them away."

I couldn't agree more. Notwithstanding the sizeable number of IPO millionaires in the Bay Area and their customers, hotels and restaurants would do well to recognize that tourists may select other, less expensive destinations if lodging absorbs too large a share of one's travel budget.

As always, I welcome any comments and suggestions to "Insiders' Track".

With best wishes for a successful fall 2012

Gus Holweger

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Woofstock

**Sunday, September 23rd
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Join Furry Friends Rescue at The Mountain Winery for a very groovy day of Wine Tasting, great Live Music and Woofstock Fun with your Pets!

Wine tasting will be located on the outdoor plaza, boasting breathtaking views of the Silicon Valley.

Enjoy beautiful vistas while dancing or listening to Woodstock music by awesome live bands. Check out the Silent Auction, Raffles, Dog Showcase and special guest artists/vendors. There will be Yappy Hour goodies for your dog. Mingle and relax.

Peace, Love & Rescue!

Wine, Beer, non-alcoholic beverages and food offerings will be available for purchase.

Parking is FREE.



Art by dianewat.com

FESTIVALS, FAIRS & SHOWS

Sept 8-9: Mountain View Art & Wine Festival. More than 600 exhibitors take part in this artisanal event celebrating all manner of arts and crafts, music and wine. Head downtown for international food and drink, live music from local hit makers, a kid's park, microbrews and wines. Sat & Sun, 10-6pm. (Mountain View: Castro St.; 650/968-8378)

Sept 15-16: Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival. Local and regional artistic talent combine at this festival featuring nearly 175 booths of arts, international foods, vintners pouring fine wines, microbrews and more, in addition to live music on three stages, all in picturesque Central Park. Sat & Sun, 10-5pm. (Santa Clara: Central Park Pavilion, 909 Kiely Blvd.; 408/615-3140)

Sept 16: Celebrate Saratoga. At this family-friendly event, sample a wide array of foods; peruse wares from local merchants at sidewalk sales; enjoy wines from the Santa Cruz Mountains viticultural region as well as a variety of beers; and catch live music of all types. 12-7pm. (Saratoga: Downtown, Big Basin Way & 5th St.; 408/867-0753)

Sept 16: ¡VivaFest! Running Sept 8-18, San Jose's annual **Mexican Heritage and Mariachi Festival** offers an 11-day series of events celebrating Mexican heritage, with music and dance workshops as well as a Latin movie series at the Tech Museum. The festival's big day is Sept 16, starting with a 10am Mariachi Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph (80 S. Market St.), followed by the outdoor Feria del Mariachi (12-7pm). For more info, call 800/745-3000 or visit www.vivafest.org

Sept 15-Oct 14: Northern California Renaissance Faire. This lively recreation of a Renaissance-era harvest fair delivers the essence of both adventure and romance—from gallant knights and fair maidens to regal queens, strolling musicians and jousting matches. The venue is the Casa de Fruta roadside fruit stand-turned-visitor attraction, which transforms itself into Willingtown, a Renaissance village complete with costumed denizens. Fair-goers are invited to attend in their own period costumes. Weekends, 10am-6pm. (Hollister: Casa de Fruta Country Park; 408/847-FAIR)

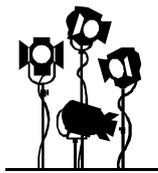
OPERA/MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Sept 8-23: Opera San Jose presents George Bizet's **The Pearl Fishers**. Set on the tropical island of ancient Ceylon, in this exotic tale of forbidden love two fishermen have their friendship tested when a mysterious woman from their past ignites a jealous rivalry. Tues-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. (San Jose: California Theatre, 345 S. 1st St.; 408/437-4450)

Sept 21-22: San Jose Taiko presents **Rhythm Spirit 2012: Taiko+Technology**. The traditional Japanese taiko drumming company draws inspiration from Silicon Valley's technology-driven culture for their biggest annual performance. Fri, 8pm; Sat, 2pm & 8pm. (San Jose: Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, 1700 Alum Rock Ave.; 408/293-9344)

Aug 22-Sept 16: TheatreWorks presents the regional premiere of **Time Stands Still**. This insightful drama from Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Donald Margulies follows a war-scarred photojournalist and her foreign correspondent lover as they are thrust homeward, having to choose between love and liberation, stability and struggle. Tues-Wed, 7:30pm; Thurs-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2 & 7pm; 8/22, 8pm; 9/9, 7pm. (Mountain View: Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.; 650/903-6000)

Aug 30-Sept 22: San Jose Repertory Theatre presents **The Death of the Novel**, a world premiere by Jonathan Marc Friedman. Brilliant young novelist Sebastian Justice (Vincent Kartheiser from AMC's "Mad Men," pictured on left) claims to be the most well-adjusted, depressed agoraphobic in Manhattan. Identities blur in this enthralling and evocative story that takes a look at the modern world through the eyes of a brilliant and tragically wounded artist. Directed by Rick Lombardo. Tues-Wed, 7:30pm; Thurs-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 3 & 8pm; Sun, 2 and/or 7pm. (San Jose: 101 Paseo de San Antonio; 408/367-7255)



Sept 20-Oct 21: City Lights Theatre Company presents **44 Plays for 44 Presidents**, fun, fast-paced glimpse that the 44 men who have led our country, from their humiliating defeats to their greatest successes, the first days of the Oval Office to Barack Obama. Thurs-Sat, 7:30pm; Sun, 2 & 7pm. (San Jose: 529 S. Second St.; 408/295-4200)

ART

Sept 12-Dec 8: ZERO1 Biennial ZERO1. This international showcase of art and technology consists of more than 100 artist projects, exhibitions, performances, public art installations and programs planned in collaboration with more than 40 cultural partners. The event takes place throughout Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area, with its "hub" at the ZERO1 Garage (439 S. 1st St., San Jose). A network of curators from different countries brings a global perspective to the Biennial exhibition held at the ZERO1 Garage, where emerging artists share and present their work, applying principles of artistic creativity to real world innovation challenges. In addition, a series of exhibitions, programs, pop-up



installations and performances are being held at a variety of San Jose locations including the Tech Museum, ICA, MACLA, San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, WORKS/San Jose and more. Opening events include a Grand Opening Reception of the ZERO1 Garage (Sept 12, 6-10pm); an Opening Party (Sept 13, 7-11pm) at the ZERO1 Garage, with a live performance by the International Space Orchestra; and a Street Festival (Sept 14, 6pm-midnight), with outdoor projects by over 100 emerging artists at the SoFA district in downtown San Jose. For more information on these and other events, visit zero1.org.

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