November 30 Hotel De Anza  
HOLIDAY PARTY

January 25  
Olla Cocina Restaurant

January 12  
San Jose Museum of Art

SILICON VALLEY CONCIERGE ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO A  
Members Only Event!

NOVEMBER 9, 2016 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
TIED HOUSE CAFE AND BREWERY  
65 North San Pedro Street, San Jose, CA 95110

LET US GIVE THANKS
Campbell Chamber of Commerce  
The Silicon Valley Concierge Association  
La PanotiQ Bakery Cafe  
and  
La Tartine FoodService

invites you to the  
Citti’s Florist Social  
November 17, 2017  
990 E. Hamilton Ave - Campbell  
5:00pm - 7:30pm

Help us support the  
Second Harvest Food Bank  
by bringing in canned foods to donate

SAVE THE DATES

Follow Us!

SILICON VALLEY CONCIERGE ASSOCIATION
HOLIDAY TREE WALK
November 25-27, December 3-4, 10-11

Get in the holiday spirit by bringing family and friends to ride Roaring Camp’s daytime steam train to Bear Mountain. At the summit, guests may sip hot cider and delight in viewing a tree-lined walk of beautifully decorated holiday trees. The live trees are provided by Patchen California Christmas Tree Farm, Los Gatos.

To add to the festive spirit and bring hope to families in need, visitors may bring a new and unwrapped toy to Roaring Camp’s depot to benefit Santa Cruz County’s Toys for Tots campaign. Toys collected will be distributed through participating agencies to children who otherwise would have less. For each donated toy, Roaring Camp will deduct $2 per train ticket, whether purchased online or in person.

SANTA CRUZ HOLIDAY LIGHTS TRAIN
Nov. 25-26; Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-23

A seasonal tradition returns to Santa Cruz with the Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train. Vintage excursion cars, adorned with thousands of colorful lights, roll through city streets past homes of Santa Cruz. Revelers on board join in a holiday sing-along, sip hot-spiced cider, listen to musical entertainment, and enjoy a visit from Santa. The merriment continues at Santa’s Kingdom at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Ticket holders have a choice of one activity: “Holiday” miniature golf, laser tag, or arcade games. The activity ticket is included with the Holiday Lights Train ticket price.

Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Trains depart and return in front of Neptune’s Kingdom on the Boardwalk of Santa Cruz at 5:00, 6:30, and 8:00 pm for a 60-minute round-trip excursion. Ticket prices are $31 adults, $25 children ages 2-12 years. Advance reservations recommended. For tickets and information, call 831-335-4484 or visit www.roaringcamp.com

The boardwalk at Santa Cruz is a 90-minute drive from San Francisco, 45 minutes from the Monterey/Carmel area, and 30 minutes from the San Jose area. Take Highway 17 or scenic Highway 1 to Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. A surface parking lot is located directly across the street from the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

Symphony Silicon Valley presents
THE NUTCRACKER

Who: Stars of Moscow Ballet Company direct from Russia with Oksana Bondareva and Andrei Bolotin
What: The Nutcracker with choreographer by Michael Bessmertnov
When: December 16 through December 24, 2016
Where: San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 South Almaden Blvd, San Jose, CA
Why: The tradition of professional ballet in San Jose continues with Tchaikovsky’s magnificent music performed LIVE by Symphony Silicon Valley conducted by Maestro George Daugherty

Tickets: $52 - $100 premium. $38 - $80 value.
Box Office: 408.286.2600 x23 or www.symphonysiliconvalley.org
From exciting musicals or British comedy to taking in a wine tasting seminar or enjoying seasonal activities, November is brimming with fun things to do. See our November issue for more or, for a full guide to the area, visit dineshopplay.com.

SHOPPING With the Christmas holiday season nearly upon us, fun shopping events this month give you an opportunity to get your gift buying done ahead of time. An annual holiday shopping tradition in Los Gatos, the Christmas Goose Boutique (Nov 10-13) offers a vast selection of handmade goods, dolls, antiques, collectibles, decorations and more. Decorated in holiday splendor, the Yuletide Marketplace (Nov 18-19) at the Montalvo Arts Center features 27 different vendors offering unique gift items. Jingle Fest (Nov 19-20) is a one-stop-shop for all holiday decorations, ornaments and kitsch. And check out the largest indoor arts and crafts shows on the West Coast at the Harvest Festival (San Mateo: Nov 11-13; San Jose: Nov 25-27).

SEASONAL FUN The Silicon Valley has tons of family events and activities to get your season's greetings on. A winter wonderland in downtown San Jose, Christmas in The Park (Nov 25-Jan 1) features amusement rides, attractions and food treats to please the young and young at heart. Get in a little skating action at the Downtown Ice (Nov 18-Jan 16) outdoor rink, the perfect place to glide your cares away. California Great America is magically transformed during Winterfest (weekends, Nov 25-Dec 30), where guests can skate in front of the iconic Carousel Columbia, view live holiday shows, experience 18 rides and attractions, and more. And a Bay Area tradition for over 35 years, the Great Dickens Christmas Fair (Nov 19-Dec 18) recreates the streets of Victorian London with over three acres of authentically-dressed actors, caroling and period music, parades, and plenty of fun children’s activities.

WINE EVENTS Take in the last splash of colorful autumn hues and celebrate the end of harvest season with tastings of award-winning wines at a variety of local events sure to please the oenophile. Partake in an exclusive tasting of the Cabernet Sauvignon produced from the Santa Cruz Mountains American Viticulture Area, including rare and older vintages, at Premier Cruz (Nov 12). Further explore the Santa Cruz Mountains‘ viticultural region at Winegrowers Passport Day (Nov 19), a quarterly event which gives participants an inside glimpse at over 50 area wineries generally not open to the public. And at J. Lohr Winery in San Jose, enjoy a special flight of four wines specially paired with gourmet cheeses at Wine & Cheese Fridays (Nov 4, 11, 18 & 25), or learn all about Bordeaux-style red wine blends at a special Wine Education Class (Nov 16). Cheers!

MUSIC Take a virtual journey to Hagia Sophia, Constantinople’s Great Church, with Cappella Romana (Nov 4) at Stanford University’s beautiful Bing Concert Hall. The renowned choir collaborates with Stanford’s Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA) and its Art and Art History department as it digitally imprints the church’s reverberant acoustics over the sublime Byzantine chant, complemented by visuals designed to create a totally immersive experience. Other concert highlights in November include The Pointer Sisters (Nov 4) at the Campbell Heritage Theater; Suzanne Vega (Nov 11) at Montalvo Arts Center; and Galantis (Nov 16) at San Jose’s City National Civic.

ON STAGE In the mood for a musical? A new national touring production presented by Broadway San Jose, directed by three-time Tony Award winner Jack O’Brien and with music by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, The Sound of Music (Nov 8-13) features the spirited, romantic and beloved story of Maria and the von Trapp Family. Staged by Broadway By The Bay, Disney’s Beauty and The Beast (Nov 4-20) offers an exuberant mix of humor, romance and excitement to audiences of all ages. Feeling Scrooge-y? Take a feel-good dose of A Christmas Carol (Nov 11-20)! Put on by CMT San Jose and featuring an all-kids cast, join Scrooge on the magical journey through his long and bitter life, as he realizes what he’s been missing and ditches his “Bah! Humbug!” attitude.

For something a little different, Tandy Beal & Company’s production of Nutz Re-Mixed! (Nov 18-Dec 4) is an exuberant new Nutcracker for the 21st Century, featuring Mexican Folklorico dancers, hip-hoppers, ballroom dancers, Mongolian contortionists and gymnasts in a zany holiday spectacular. On a more serious note, San Jose Stage’s latest production, The Night Alive (Nov 16-Dec 11), is an extraordinary tale of hope and redemption that is sure to take audiences on a surprisingly emotional trip. For opera aficionados, Opera San Jose stages Rossini’s The Barber of Seville (Nov 12-27), considered one of the most popular comic operas of all time.

COMEDY The British are coming to San Jose in Together Again At Last…For The Very First Time (Nov 5-6), featuring comedian/actors John Cleese and Eric Idle of Monty Python fame. Hilariously blended scripting and improvised bits with storytelling, musical numbers, exclusive footage and aquatic juggling, the duo creates a unique comedic experience with every performance. Check out Bill Maher (Nov 12) brings his special brand of political humor to what is sure to be one of the most talked-about elections in modern history as he performs an exclusive Election Week engagement at the City National Civic in San Jose. Also headlining at the Civic is Cedric the Entertainer (Nov 19), a comedian best known for crowd-pleasing performances in hit films such as “Barbershop”, “Be Cool”, “The Original Kings of Comedy”, and the “Madagascar” animated franchise, just to name a few.

ART EXHIBITIONS A major exhibition at Stanford University’s Cantor Arts Center, The Wonder of Everyday Life: Dutch Golden Age Prints (Nov 16-Mar 20) features approximately 55 works on view by Rembrandt van Rijn and his Dutch peers. The prints were created during an extraordinary moment in the history of prints, when unprecedented economic prosperity and patronage elevated printmaking in the Dutch Republic during the 17th century. Works in the show include portraits and self-portraits by Rembrandt that demonstrate how he revolutionized etching, using it with the intimacy and directness generally associated with drawing. Also don’t miss the ongoing Beauty—Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial (thru Feb 19) at the San Jose Museum of Art. The fifth installment of the popular contemporary design exhibition series organized by Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, this global overview of design today focuses on aesthetic innovation, celebrating design as a creative endeavor that engages the mind, body and senses.
Dining With Bella!

On a beautiful fall day, a group of people met to celebrate a dear friend’s birthday. Several months ago, we were lucky enough to ride in a Royal Coach party bus, and I wrote about it in this article.

The bus itself is a marvel, with more than adequate seating for 25, a kitchen, multiple large screen televisions, a table/banquette, and a restroom larger than most folks guest bath. If you ever find yourself needing to transport a group of people, in style, this is the way you do it.

We set out for a four hour tour of Sarah’s Vineyard in Gilroy. The ride was beautiful and we drank some of the Sarah’s Vineyard Brut Sparkling Wine on the trip to the winery.

Founded in 1978 in a hidden corner of the southwestern Santa Clara Valley, Sarah’s Vineyard produces handmade wines using traditional techniques. Tucked in the Santa Cruz Mountain foothills near a windy mountain pass, our vineyard enjoys coastal microclimate of foggy mornings, sunny afternoons tempered by strong ocean breezes, and chilly nights that are ideal for premium Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Rhone varietals.

The environment is truly lovely, and we were able to taste five different wines and then our host purchased the most favored bottles.

There is adequate seating, both covered and unique umbrella tables. In addition, there are two Bocce Ball courts, although one of them had a sizeable divot in the center, thankfully, it wasn’t the one we reserved.

Our group brought a large picnic lunch with many delicacies, so we aren’t able to provide input on the food offerings at Sarah’s. The wines, by and large, were of the lighter fare, except for the Cabernet which was my favorite.

Here’s a hint. If you go in the fall, bring a light jacket. The wind was coming at us in a pretty good clip, and those of us who brought one were glad that we did.

Till next month…Ciao

The Best South Bay Dive Bars
By Joanna Metheny

While the South Bay has no shortage of swanky spots to grab a drink, sometimes you just want to relax and get away from it all. Enter the dive bar. Dive bars offer the perfect place to kick back, where having a stiff drink and good conversation with friends is more important than being dressed to kill or trying to impress what’s-her-name. More often than not filled with local regulars, these South Bay dive bars welcome friends and strangers alike and will be more than happy to pour you a stiff drink for a chill evening.

Beefy’s Cabin
This cozy little hole in the wall is one of the South Bay’s best darts pubs, and is tucked at the end of a short row of nondescript businesses just off of El Camino. With an entire wall devoted to steel tip darts, the bar hosts several league teams, as well as Saturday night tournaments. Inside there are also two pool tables, a fully loaded jukebox, and plenty of tables for conversation with friends. The bar is fully stocked, but is cash only. Despite having changed both names and owners a handful of times, Beefy’s has a decade’s long history of attracting local regulars, many of whom have remained loyal despite the evolving interior ambiance. Don’t believe us? Just crack open the electrical box at the end of the darts wall to see where prior owners have etched their mark, or take a look at the “ton 80” wall over the bathrooms where years of darts players have recorded their high scores.

Da Silva’s Bronco’s
It doesn’t get more down-home than Bronco’s. Sister bar to Beefy’s Cabin, Bronco’s Cocktail Lounge is located just around the corner from Santa Clara University. Owner Mike Da Silva certainly makes his clientele feel like they’re at their home away from home in everything from the friendly staff to couches for lounging. Where else can you find beer pong tables except for your buddy’s garage? Like Beefy’s, Bronco’s also has a handful of steel tip darts boards, a couple of pool tables, and a DJ.

The Patio
Another Sunnyvale dive bar favorite is The Patio, situated right on El Camino near Wolfe. While it doesn’t look like much from the outside, walk through the bar to find a large open-air covered patio out back. Smokers will be delighted to find a rare Bay Area spot to enjoy a drink, play a game of pool, and still get their nicotine fix. For those that don’t smoke, the inside bar is just as chill on weeknights. Drinks are stiff, staff is welcoming, and there are plenty of games from pinball and darts to video games and cards.
Light up The Row; Santana Row’s Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony
Tuesday, November 15th
Santana Row celebrates the holiday season with the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The festivities will include photos with Santa Claus, live music, costumed characters, special guests, performances by local theater groups and the lighting of the 40-foot tree, making this one of the most exciting holiday events in Silicon Valley.

3p.m. to 8:30p.m. — Elf on The Shelf Scavenger Hunt, pick up a list of locations at the Santana Row Concierge.
5p.m. to 9p.m. — Photos with Santa and The Magic Elf in Park Valencia.
7p.m. to 7:30p.m. — Tree Lighting Ceremony in Santana Row Park; featuring a short performance of The Nutcracker, Miss California 2016 Jessa Carmack, and local school groups. This year will also feature a performance from So You Think You Can Dance: Next Generation Winner Lil’ Kida!
6p.m. to 9p.m. — Live music, choirs, carolers, Jose and activities for children and families.

Plus, When you spend $300 or more on Tuesday, November 15th and present your same day receipts to the Santana Row Concierge you will receive a FREE pair to tickets to The Nutcracker performed by San Jose Dance Theatre! Tickets are available while supplies last, and a limit of one per customer. For more information, contact the Santana Row Concierge at 408.551.4611

Live Weekend Entertainment
Friday evenings beginning at 5p.m.
Saturday’s beginning at 12p.m.
Sunday’s beginning at 12p.m.

Live entertainment can be found in the Oak Tree Lounge (in front of Pinkberry) or Santana Row Park (near the large chess board). Live entertainment is subject to change, and weather permitted. For a complete list of weekend entertainment available, contact the Santana Row Concierge Center at 408.551.4611.

Letters to Santa
November 15th-December 11th

Write a letter to Santa and receive a reply! Beginning November 15th, every child who leaves a letter for Santa in the mailbox outside of the Santana Row Concierge will receive a reply from Santa himself! Each letter must include the child’s name and a legible mailing address. The letters must be dropped in the box by December 11th to guarantee a response before Christmas. Blank letter forms are available at no cost inside of the Santana Row Concierge, located between Sino restaurant and Left Bank Brasserie.
#SJCRobots - Introducing Silicon Valley Airport’s New Customer Service Agents

- SJC is the First U.S. Airport to Offer Robots; High-Touch and High-Tech Innovation is Transforming How Silicon Valley Travels

Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) is transforming how Silicon Valley travels with #SJCRobots, the airport’s new customer service agents.

Named Norma, Amelia, and Piper, they are the first robots to be deployed at a U.S. airport, and are engaging and entertaining travelers while assisting them with locating dining, shopping, and other services.

- Three robots are now in SJC’s terminals (post-security) at gates 11, 21 & 25
- They promote concessions, assist with wayfinding, & engage/educate/entertain
- Travelers can choose their language preference - English, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish

TapSnap 1050
One of the Top LGBTQ-Owned Businesses in the Silicon Valley!

We are so proud to have been recognized by the Silicon Valley Business Journal as one of the Top LGBTQ-Owned Businesses in the Silicon Valley

CVB Launches Visit Santa Clara

The Santa Clara Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) in partnership with Destination Advantage LLC, has launched a new Visit Santa Clara website at www.SantaClara.org.

As the official destination marketing organization for the city, the website is the leading source of visitor information featuring a calendar of events, online hotel reservations, attraction ticket and hotel package discounts, Convention Center highlights, and much more. Destination Advantage LLC, is a leading destination marketing firm, having done work for CVBs in San Francisco, Las Vegas, and San Antonio, among others. “We’re excited about the new website and all that Visit Santa Clara is doing both on the web and in social media” says Lisa Moreno, General Manager and CEO of the Santa Clara Convention Center and Santa Clara Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information, visit www.santaclara.org.
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Nemea Greek Taverna
Neto Sausage
Pacific Art Leagues
Pasta Pomodoro
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Film and Photography

The organizers may film and photograph the event. These materials will be used online and offline to promote Silicon Valley Concierge Association and to advertise future events. By attending the event you agree to appear in such films and photographs.

Valley Access Electronic Magazine - Contributors

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SVCA Web-site www.SiliconValleyConcierge.com

Valley Access E-Magazine (VAM) svconcierge@mindspring.com

Deadline to submit articles for E-Magazine is the last Friday of the month. Note: Articles and special dates appearing in the VAM are subject to change without notice.

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