

Valley Views

AlmadenTimes

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Almaden residents celebrate Santa Teresa Library 1st anniversary

By Mike Boulland
Special to the Times

On a beautiful, sunny February day, more than nine hundred fifty residents celebrated Santa Teresa Library's 1st Anniversary Birthday including Kitty Monahan from New Almaden, Friends of Santa Teresa Park members, local author of "Birds of a Different Feather" Matt Beasley and his illustrator Jennifer Morillo in attendance.

Credit for this outstanding event goes to Branch Manager Ruth Barefoot, committee members Maureen Kluska, Mike Boulland, and the library staff for organizing the celebration by opening the building to local community and history groups.

"I want this celebration to be about the community and its rich history, but most of all I want to involve the community with many enjoyable family activities," said Barefoot.

Barefoot and her library staff created wonderful children's craft centers, story time events and gave library tours with Conroy Cougar, who also drew caricatures of children. Joining them in supporting the celebration was Claire Cano, president of the Friends of Santa Teresa Library; Dazzling Divas, a local tap dancing group; and Judge Paul Bernal with his collection of historical early California soldier uniforms.

Bernal's descendants were among the first pioneer families to settle Rancho Santa Teresa and Rancho San Vicente in the early 1820s. Their holdings included the New Almaden mining rights. Bernal's booth was one of the highlights of the event as everyone watched in delight in seeing bright eyed, smiling pre-school children being dressed in adult sized historical Californio soldiers uni-



Above: Friends of Santa Teresa Park Maureen Kluska, Mike Boulland, Ed Jackson, Kitty Monahan and Elaine Drake participated in the Santa Teresa Library's first anniversary festivities. At left: A child dressed in an oversized Californio soldier's uniform supplied by Judge Paul Bernal at the Santa Teresa Library's first anniversary celebration. Photos by Ron Horii

forms that were too big for their bodies.

"I enjoyed the event today," said Bernal. "The visitors were surprised to find out how much history is in their back yard."

San Jose Councilman Ash Kalra and Library Director Jane Light joined in the event by presenting a wonderful salute to the remodeled library complex and giving everyone slices of birthday cake.

Ron Horii, a local nature photographer, impressed the audience with his awe-inspiring photo presentation of the Almaden and Santa Teresa valleys taken from

the top of Coyote Peak. Horii's pictures captured the hidden beauty of the Santa Teresa hills with vivid colored photos of double rainbows, excellent hiking trails with vista views of the valley floor showing a distant San Francisco and Oakland in the background.

Also featured in the celebration was Sam Drake, a local Geocacher, who taught his audience how to do Geocaching in the parks which is a modern treasure hunt game using GPS and the internet. His audience was delighted when he invited them to go outside with him to find one of the hidden Geocach treasures outside the library's entrance.

In the late afternoon, the library guests and staff enjoyed entertainment by the soothing sounds of old time favorite dance music played by the Tenor Band while drinking their warm cups of coffee and tea and relaxing.

Letters to the Editor

Invitation from Councilmember Nancy Pyle

Join me on Friday, Feb. 11 at the 4th Annual Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Resource Fair for Seniors! I along with Councilmembers Ash Kalra of District 2 and Donald Rocha of District 9 are hosting this event to bring together vital information for seniors. Health is

increasingly important as we grow older but not everyone knows how to become or remain healthy. If you are interested in your health this is the event for you!

Registration is free and begins at 8:30 a.m. [in the Macy's Courtyard] and will be followed by a free healthy breakfast. To encourage healthy activities like walking we will also be giving away a free pedometer to the first 500 registered participants. The main event begins at 9 a.m. with a Resource Fair featuring health information for seniors followed by a healthy walk

around the mall with exercise stations to highlight possible at-home exercises. Then at 10:30 a.m. we will host a raffle thanks to the generosity of our resource fair participants and other donors.

For more information about this upcoming senior walk and resource fair, please call my office at (408) 535-4979 or e-mail laura.covan@sanjoseca.gov. We hope to see you on Friday, Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Nancy Pyle
District 10 councilmember

Have an opinion?

Let the Almaden Times hear from you! Send your letters to Managing Editor Jeanne Carbone at jeanne@timesmediainc.com or via postal mail to:

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