



COVERING THE ARTS AND LOCAL FEATURES

Deadline set to apply for LGCF grants

The Los Gatos Community Foundation is accepting grant applications from local nonprofit organizations that sponsor programs that enrich the town's quality of life.

Priority is given to community development programs that improve a nonprofit's facilities or services.

Applications are available at www.losgatoscommunityfoundation.org. Deadline is May 1.

Free Junior Ranger program at Vasona Park

The Santa Clara County Parks Department is sponsoring a free Junior Ranger program for kids ages 9-11.

The program will be held April 13-17 at Vasona Park from 10 a.m. to noon.

After-school programs are also being held at other county parks on different dates.

Visit www.parkhere.org or call 408.846.5632 for more information.

Author of 'Not a Genuine Black Man' to speak

Bay Area radio personality Brian Copeland's memoir, *Not a Genuine Black Man: My Life as an Outsider*, is the latest book selection of the Silicon Valley Reads program.

People throughout Santa Clara County will read Copeland's book about growing up in the 1970s as one of the first African-Americans to live in San Leandro.

Copies are available at the Los Gatos Library.

Copeland will talk about his book on March 23, 6:30 p.m., at the town council chambers, 110 E. Main St. An informal discussion group will meet at the library on March 19, 6 p.m.



Photograph courtesy of Mission Valley Chorus

The Mission Valley Chorus took to the stage at the Cribari Center Auditorium in San Jose before heading to New York for a performance at Carnegie Hall.

Local women take the stage in the Big Apple

Chorus performs at famed Carnegie Hall

By SHANNON BARRY

Like so many others, members of the Mission Valley Chorus experience music as a universal language with a power to transcend boundaries and bond people who are miles apart.

More than 70 women from all over the Bay Area meet in Los Gatos to practice every Tuesday night. Some drive in from San

Francisco, Oakland and Modesto, while others make a short commute to sing music in the classic American four-part harmony style known as barbershop. Fourteen of the 74 members of the chorus live in Los Gatos, Saratoga or Campbell.

The award-winning chorus's dedication was showcased when it took stage at Carnegie Hall on Feb. 15 as a part of the Sweet Adelines Reunion Festival. It performed Gloria Estefan's "Reach" and Elton John's "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?" among others.

The performers spent five days in New York preparing for the concert

and paid their own way to get there. "That's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Jan Ehrhardt, a bass in the chorus.

Each February for nine years, Carnegie has featured seven to eight choruses from around the world and the Mission Valley Chorus was able to participate as a part of the 10th anniversary.

"If somebody told me 10 years ago I was going to be singing at Carnegie Hall, I would say no way," said Vicki Wendell, a baritone.

Mission Valley Chorus is affiliated with Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide organization of women singers committed to

advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance.

Many unexpected things happened during the New York journey.

Before the performance at Carnegie Hall on Sunday, *The Saturday Early Show* on CBS News asked members to perform songs outside for the show and then treated them to breakfast and a tour of the studio.

Although the women said they appreciated the gesture, they added it was difficult to sing love songs on