LOCAL NEWS

Holiday happenings in San Jose

Season features Nutcrackers, mariachis, fun runs

Participants in the 2019 Santa Run Silicon Valley get into the spirit as they make their way down The Alameda in San Jose. This year’s 5k run/walk and kid’s run is set for Dec. 11 and benefits SJ Aspires. (Photo by Anne Gelhaus)

By ANNE GELHAUS | Bay Area News Group
For the first time in a few years, folks are able to celebrate the holidays in proper fashion, and San Jose venues are stepping up with some holly jolly events.

The holiday season kicks off the day after Thanksgiving with Mariachi Sol de Mexico presenting “A Merry-Achi Christmas” at the Hammer Theatre Center in downtown San Jose. Led by fifth-generation mariachi and 11-time Grammy Award nominee José Hernández, the 13-piece ensemble will perform two shows Nov. 25, at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., featuring favorite holiday tunes from both sides of the border.

The Hammer is also the place for “Cool Yule,” a concert by the San José State University Jazz Orchestra that mixes mainstream jazz repertoire with holiday classics. The jazz orchestra is directed by Grammy Award-winning baritone saxophonist and composer Dr. Aaron Lington. The Valley Christian High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Marcus Wolfe, will also make an appearance at the concert, set for Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hammer Theatre Center, 101 Paseo De San Antonio in downtown San Jose.

Tickets for “A Merry-Achi Christmas” are $35-$45, and tickets for “Cool Yule” are $30 at hammertheatre.com or 408-924-8501.

**San Jose Nutcracker**

New Ballet is bringing “The San Jose Nutcracker” back to the California Theatre Dec. 16-18. Presented in partnership with History San Jose, the ballet tells the story of Clara and the Nutcracker using historical references to Santa Clara Valley.

New Ballet will also perform “My Very First Nutcracker” Dec 18 at 11 a.m. at the California Theatre, 345 S. First St. in downtown San Jose. The 45-minute performance is for younger audiences, who are introduced to the ballet's characters and settings.

Tickets start at $25 at https://newballet.com/nutcracker.
The Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is hosting “Menorahs and Miracles” Dec. 4, 1:30-4:30 p.m., in partnership with Jewish Silicon Valley. Participants can learn the traditions of Hanukkah by making celebratory candles; watching a puppet show in Hebrew, Russian and English; and listening to songs performed by Yavneh Day School students. The event also features a miracle scavenger hunt, a glow-in-the dark dance party and a traditional Hanukkah treats.

For more information, visit https://www.cdm.org/celebrate/community-celebrations/menorahs-miracles.

**Spirit of The Row**

Santana Row is hosting holiday performances by community groups and schools in front of the holiday tree in Santana Row Park Tuesdays Nov. 29-Dec. 20, 6-7 p.m.

On Nov. 29, dancers from San Jose Dance Theater, Nor Cal Dance Arts, Volaré Studio, Dance Expressions and Lisa Dance Company perform excerpts from “The Nutcracker.”

There will be more “Nutcracker” excerpts from New Ballet of Dec. 6, along with performances by students from The Harker School, Nor Cal Dance Arts and the Willow Glen Middle School Choir.


The series wraps on Dec. 20 with Almaden Spirit Athletics, Sreenidhi Mudigonda, the Presentation High School Choir and PNC Music Company.

For more information, visit https://facebook.com/events/s/spirit-of-the-row/1135053970776338.

**Santa Run**

Santa Run Silicon Valley will be live this year for the first time since 2019. The 5k run/walk and kid’s run is set for Dec. 11 and benefits SJ Aspires.
All 5k participants will receive a holiday-themed long-sleeve race shirt, plus post-race milk and cookies at Christmas in the Park. The first 100 registrants receive a free Santa suit! All participants will have the option to purchase a Santa suit during registration for $10.

The 5K kicks off at 3 p.m. at Santa Clara and Market streets in downtown San Jose. The fun run for kids ages 2-10 starts at 4 p.m.

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Anne Gelhaus is editor of Silicon Valley Community Newspapers.
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