



Cupertino De Anza Lions Roar



President: Jeff Ludlum **First Vice Pres:** Vijay Caveripakkam **Second Vice Pres:** Leslye Noone
Secretary: Jill Eliason **Treasurer:** Al Knox **LCIF Coordinator:** Jen Smith **Membership Chair:** Norm Eliason
Director (Marketing Comms LCI only): Claire Kalia **Club (Service LCI only):** Sudha Kamasetty

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**WEEKLY AM MEETINGS ARE
EVERY THURSDAY AT 10:00 AM
AND
MONTHLY PM MEETINGS ARE THE
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30 PM
Via Zoom until further notice**



The President's Post

President Jeff's message to the Cupertino De Anza Lions

Our club rounded out 2020 like everyone else: trying to make the best of things in the midst of the COVID pandemic. In spite of things being considerably different this past year, our service, creativity, and fellowship, shown through.

With perseverance and the amazing generosity of others, we continued our core mission: serving folks in need, and having fun along the way. You'll read all about it in this edition of **Lions Roar**.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

We were astounded by the success of our Thanksgiving Food Drive (FD)! Because of Covid-19 we were unable to collect food at Lunardi's and Lucky stores as we have done in the past so we conducted the FD through social media and word-of-mouth. People happily gave food and donated money to the cause. The food was donated or purchased, the boxes were filled on Saturday 21 November, turkeys were picked up early Monday morning, added to the boxes and the deliveries began before 9 am. Each of

our 151 families received a box containing a turkey, fixings for a whole turkey dinner and some staples **and** they received a gift card to use to help contribute to each household's needs. Be proud of the work you did, Lions, **you fed 151 families in need!**



Local nonprofit CEO speaks to PM meeting

by C Kalia

Ewell Sterner, CEO of local nonprofit [Hunger at Home](#), presented to the PM meeting in December. He described how his team of chefs creates nutritious meals for local families from fresh produce and other food items donated from hotels,

farms and other institutions. Hunger at Home has donated 3.5 million meals to needy local families, and the need is greater than ever now due to the pandemic. The Cupertino De Anza Lions are planning a volunteer event to assist with this worthy effort.

Camp Via West Train Station by S Ratner

The wall train layout has been slow due to the Covid-19. Steve found a tool that will help with the end pieces (the turn-around sections). The tool is to hold the end pieces in place while Steve drills holes and attaches to the brackets on the wall. We have added wood stiffeners to the middle section of track



and the middle of the layout is complete. When the hoist arrived, we put the tool together and we were successful in putting the left end piece up in place. With this progress, we anticipate the completion of the train layout by the end of March.



Eyeglass Collection

Currently Lion Ray has three boxes stashed in his garage containing ~2,200 pairs of glasses, 24 ink cartridges and 12 phones. He plans to wait until a fourth box is filled before driving them all up to the Vallejo facility. If you know of a person or place of business that would be interested in having a collection box on their premises, please contact Lion Ray.

The Lions Eye Foundation by J Smith

The Lions Eye Foundation (LEF) of Northern California and Nevada celebrated its 60th anniversary last October. Since its inception in 1960, countless patients without health care coverage have had their eyesight restored by cataract removal and have been treated in many ways to counteract effects of diabetes, glaucoma and macular degeneration.

The clinic is situated in San Francisco and is funded from a variety of sources: wills and bequests, Helen Keller Fellowships, grants, donations from 300 Lions Clubs and subsidies from Sutter Health, whose patients are also treated there.

Last year, the clinic performed over 3,700 eye surgeries, diagnostic procedures, injections and laser-procedures valued at \$5.2m at a cost of only \$680,000 to the foundation. So, it is clear that a \$100 donation to LEF results in over \$800 worth of treatment for our clients.

Congratulations to De Anza for contributing over \$200 to Lions Eye Foundation last year. Lions Clubs greatly assist the service effort by referring patients and donating funds. Last March my previous club visited the clinic and was greatly impressed at the state-of-the-art equipment and the enthusiasm of the clinic staff. As an Advisor to the Lions Eye Foundation, I intend to organize a similar trip for De Anza Lions when the pandemic has receded.

Crab Feed

Covid-19 has brought another change to our Lions scheduled events and once more the Cupertino De Anza Lions will have to change our approach to a very important fundraiser. After many long hours of discussions with the Fish Market (our long-time partners in this event), it was decided that we will not be able to hold the Crab Feed this year. Several factors including estimated finances and workload involved led to the decision to cancel this event. But wait! As mentioned above, the Crab Feed is an important fundraiser and usually brings in at least 1/3 of our operating annual income. Lions Jenni and Carl are working to come up with a plan similar to what we did to raise funds in lieu of having the Golf Tournament where we approach friends of the Lions who usually participate in the Crab Feed and request a donation. It is in progress; expect more info. soon.

Via Lions Co-Op Garden Program previously known as Via West Greenhouse and Garden by D Zimdahl

If you recall, we began our 'green' project at the Via West Campus in July. We are happy to report that the planned picnic took place on a *fresh*, but sunny day, in the first week of November, with a handful of dedicated Lions observing Covid-19 precautions but having tons of fun anyway.

By that time, we had significantly extended the garden space, in fact, almost doubled it, and completed all bed coverings by stretching bird netting over rows of perfectly bent hoops, which are placed in 2-foot tubes for stability.



Talking about bird netting: those feathered friends definitely took a liking to just about everything that is growing out there. Their favorite still seems to be the broccoli plants that for some still unknown reason shot up to 5 feet, with sumptuous leaves and tiny crowns bordering on the nets some even poking through, which made it even easier for those rascals to pick on everything in reach. Bird lovers should take note, however, that despite this unwelcome avian behavior, we always made sure that these cheerful creatures had a fresh tray of water during the hot summer and fall months, and we rescued at least 2 little guys that found their way into the netting, but not out.

The additional beds were used for radishes, turnips, parsnips and fennel, which are all growing nicely. We were able to harvest a pretty big basket of radishes recently. The bounty was divvied up into 16 bags for West Valley Community Services, who have received 194 bags of garden-fresh foods so far. Lions Dagi and Joan are learning a lot about gardening, soil

and seeds having great success with a few crops (e.g., dill, arugula, mustard, and salad greens) while other



seeds were 'no shows' (like the carrots) and yet other plants turned out to be plump kohlrabi when we expected cabbage.

With changing weather [and a greenhouse that needs quite a few improvements to be fully functional in winter], we also experienced some surprises: an early first frost killed the zucchini and some tiny bean plants, while it seemed to spur on the peas to produce more and more pods for the past 3 months. Who knew!

We have also cleared the ubiquitous star thistle (prickly weeds) between the garden and the greenhouse. We'll finish clearing additional space in the former goat pen which will become a potato patch and 4 additional raised beds below the greenhouse for outdoor seeding and planting. The greenhouse is in line to get an improved irrigation system and additional space will be created for seeding pots and trays.

We are scheduling **three work parties** from **9:00-1:00 on 23 and 30 January and on 6 February** to ready the expansions for seeding and planting as soon as it is recommended. Volunteers are welcome to join us for whatever time you can give us—the work hours will include a picnic or a breakfast break under the magnificent Oak Tree. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we'll take every precaution and measure to make sure that everybody is following the rules, i.e., masks and social distancing.

De Anza Dollars by A Knox

The Cupertino De Anza Lions Club treasury is almost in daily operation handling dues, fundraising receipts, and donations of money to needy, charitable purpose. During these days of lock down,

zoom and social distancing an important sharing has been curtailed.

The gratitude expressed by the actual recipients of our efforts is amazing and comes often. As these expressions kept piling up on the desk, we knew it was past time to share with our members. Treasury would like to take this opportunity to bring you some recent expressions:

- Matt and Leslie from Camp Via have sent a photo album of some of the families they serve with greetings, "To the wonderful members of the De Anza Lions Club." To be shared at the first opportunity.
- "On behalf of those who benefit from your (De Anza Lions Club) leadership in the fight against cancer, thank you for your generous gift to City of Hope."
- A picture from Nuru International of a now thriving family with thanks for being part of assisting thousands of families being transformed forever.
- A letter from Carolyn Donnell, Heart of the Valley, known to us as Services for Seniors, Inc. for helping them support the independence of seniors in West Santa Clara Valley.
- A letter from the Braille Transcription Project of Santa Clara County, who receive no federal, state, or local funding beyond donations such as that given by the De Anza Lions.
- A letter from Susannah Schaefer, CEO of Smile Train, an international effort to see that every child born with a cleft receives the treatment they need.
- A letter from Sujatha Venkatraman, Associate Executive Director of West Valley Community Services for helping them in providing food for the table and a roof over the heads of persons needing assistance.
- From the YWCA of Silicon Valley two home-made cards of gratitude expressing great thanks for the food boxes and gift cards.

Student Speaker Contest by S Kasamsetty

On behalf of the Cupertino De Anza Lions Club, it's our pleasure to announce the 84th Annual Student Speaker Contest sponsored by the California Lions Multiple District 4. This is an excellent opportunity for high schoolers to showcase their skill.

This year's topic is: **Distance and Online Learning: Pros and Cons.** Thus far we have received about 45 registrations with the deadline to register being 21 January. There is no limit to the

number of students who can apply. Please encourage as many HS students as you know to register at: <https://forms.gle/wW5NowiTJyBxwFDQ8>.

The Preliminary Qualifying Event sponsored by the Cupertino De Anza Lions Club will be on 27 February. The 4 to 6 winners from Prelims will automatically qualify for a final contest which will be sponsored by California Lions MD4 and held on Saturday, 6 March at 4:00pm. Please e-mail us at speakercontest@gmail.com with any questions.

The winner of our Cupertino De Anza Lions club-level contest will be awarded \$100.00 with larger amounts awarded at the higher-level contests. The Final Contest winner will receive a \$10,000.00 scholarship. Accumulative winnings for the Final Winner will be \$21,500.00! I am happy to share that last year, Helen Hu, a high school student from Lynbrook High took home the prize, a scholarship contribution of \$ 4,500.00! Register today and please forward this to your interested friends and families!

This event is chaired by Lions Sudha Kasamsetty, Liang Chao and Ray Lancon. We will be providing all the help and resources needed to make our students successful in the contest.

A Blast from the Past late 1990's



Jim Sherman restored this 1934 Ford Coupe in his garage. We used it in many Cupertino Parades (does anybody remember parades?). Lion Jim passed away 12/5/2007 at the age of 77.

Happy New Year! Yours in Lionism, L Noone, editor