

# COMING SOON!



Class of 2020 Humans of Harker magazine will be mailed to upper school homes early June

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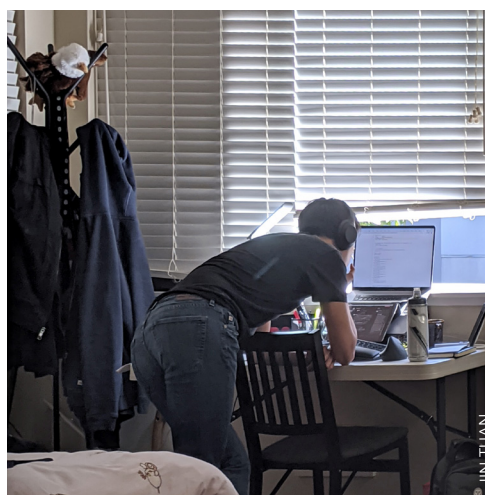
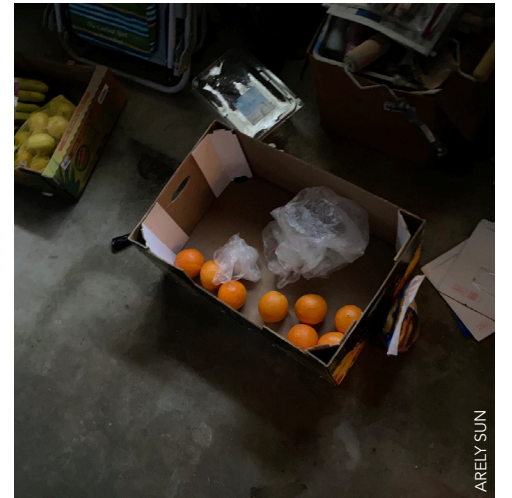
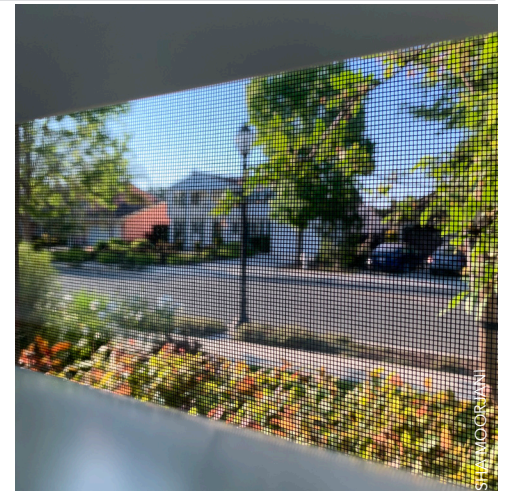
# WINGED POST

THE STUDENT  
NEWSPAPER  
OF HARKER'S  
UPPER SCHOOL

500 SARATOGA AVENUE, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95129

VOL. 21 NO. 5

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020



# WHEN WE LOST 'NORMAL'

It's been 17 weeks since the global coronavirus pandemic hit Santa Clara County with its first COVID-19 cases and 10 weeks since California instituted shelter-in-place orders, confining residents to their homes. Since March 12, Harker has adjusted to the new reality of Zoom classes, physical isolation and an uncertain future. Yet despite the hardships, the community has come together in new (virtual) ways to get through this crisis.

eric fang,  
gloria zhang  
& nina gee  
editors-in-chief  
& managing  
editor

One year ago, spirit week in full swing, students decked in white, green, black and gold packed the stands of the Zhang gymnasium as they cheered, danced and laughed with their class. Groups of friends walked by the newly ripe cherry trees in front of the Rothschild performing arts center. Teachers and staff lined rows of plastic chairs and wooden tables by Nichols Atrium and auxiliary gym for AP exams. The senior class donned their black and green gowns, in preparation for that long-awaited cap-tossing moment. Now, in May 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought on a new reality. Our usual schedules—going to school, speaking with teachers and meeting friends—have vanished. Instead, we have

classes and talk to friends over Zoom—a constellation of faces blinking on our screens. The future, including whether school will reopen in the fall, remains uncertain. Due to the pandemic, the upper school has been closed for 69 days; Santa Clara County has sheltered in place for 64 days. People rarely leave their houses. When they do, they wear masks and practice social distancing, maintaining an invisible 6-foot barrier of isolation. Instead of sitting in a rush hour traffic jam on 280, people stand in lines for hand sanitizer and toilet paper at the grocery store. This is our new normal. This is life under a persisting global pandemic.  
*Continued on page 2*



**CAUTION** The playgrounds at Garden Gate elementary school in Cupertino are covered with yellow caution tape to prevent their use.



**KEEPING DISTANCE** Sally Zhu's (9) family washes and dries masks on a clothes line in the backyard to reuse them.

# Graduation postponed, fall return to campus uncertain

*Continued from front page.*

Beginning May 28, construction, outdoor businesses and some outdoor activities in the Bay Area can resume with social distancing guidelines. Governor Gavin Newsom authorized California to begin Phase 2 of a four-stage plan to reopen. While many states have lifted some or all lockdown orders, the California State University system and several other colleges are planning for remote fall classes.

Though it remains uncertain when students can return on campus, the upper school has adapted classes, events and activities to our new reality.

Students have been taking 45-minute online AP exams this and last week. Stu-

dents in grades 9-11 will also take finals virtually from June 2 to June 4. The Athletic Banquet will be held virtually on May 26.

While the senior trip to Laguna Beach was canceled and graduation was moved to Dec. 19, the upper school found other ways of honoring the class of 2020. Baccalaureate and Senior Showcase will take place virtually on May 27 and May 29, respectively. A Senior Pick-Up Day, when seniors can pick up graduation items on campus without leaving their cars, has been scheduled for May 28.

Senior Class Dean Karl Kuehn, Head of Upper School Butch Keller, Director of Alumni Relations Kristina Alaniz, ASB President Avi Gulati (12), Senior Class President Roma Gandhi (12) and several

advisors honored the senior class in a video tribute called Lights on for 2020. Head of School Brian Yager also recorded a video message for the senior class.

The pandemic has created hardships for many members of the community. People remain isolated in their homes and worry about their loved ones' health. Unemployment in the state has reached nearly 25 percent, according to the Employment Development Department.

"We see unprecedented lines, sometimes a mile or two miles long [at food banks] — people that have never shown up before are showing up at food banks. This kind of stress that people are under takes a toll on them," U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) said in an interview with

Harker Journalism.

However, in many ways the upper school community has come together to support one another.

Harker guidance counselors wrote wellness letters to the student body via Schoology. Harker Spirit Leadership Team (HSLT) organized spirit activities over the week of April 13 that students could participate in remotely. Students and teachers made face masks and organized donation drives to help those in need. Friends reached out to check on one another.

"I'm setting up Zoom dates with my friends or groups of people I really care about," Amla Rashingkar (12) said. "Social contact is really important for making me feel like I'm not alone."



**OUT OF THE RACE** Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) (left) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) (right) suspended their presidential campaigns on April 8 and March 5, respectively.

## Road to 2020: COVID-19 impacts voting, Democratic field narrows

*eric fang*  
editor-in-chief

Over the past two months, Former Vice President Joe Biden pulled ahead as the presumptive Democratic nominee for the 2020 presidential election, and many states revised voting procedures in light of the pandemic.

Sixteen states postponed their primary elections, and many others expanded vote-by-mail options.

In its first ruling in a pandemic-related case, the Supreme Court decided on April 6 that the deadline for absentee ballot for Wisconsin's presidential primary election would not be extended.

The Democratic National Committee announced on April 2 that it would postpone the Democratic National Convention, which was scheduled for July 13-16 in Milwaukee, to August 17-20.

The Democratic presidential field has narrowed as presidential candidates

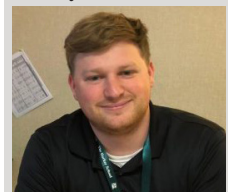
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) suspended their campaigns on March 5 and April 8, respectively, making Biden the presumptive Democratic nominee.

"I could not in good conscience continue to mount a campaign that cannot win and which would interfere with the important work required by all of us in this difficult hour," Sanders said in a video announcement.

Attendance coordinator Scott Engelhardt leaves Harker

*lucy ge*  
asst. news editor

Upper school attendance coordinator Scott Engelhardt departed from his role before spring break and moved out of state for familial reasons. Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs Amy Hauck will fill in as the attendance coordinator for the remainder of the school year. Engelhardt joined Harker in the fall of 2019. A decision has not yet been made over who will be the attendance coordinator next year.



Former Attendance Coordinator Scott Engelhardt smiles in his Main building office.

Upper school students elect ASB for 2020-2021 school year

*irene yuan*  
asst. photo editor

Upper school students elected Jason Lin (11) as 2020-21 Associated Student Body (ASB) president, Arusha Patil (11) as ASB vice president, Andrew Lu (11) as ASB treasurer, Helen Li (11) as ASB secretary and Calais Poirson (11) as ASB spirit coordinator on April 14.

Speeches and voting took place online this year due to the transition to virtual learning. There were 11 candidates: seven juniors and four sophomores.

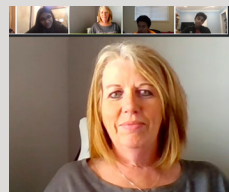


This year's junior class council officers were elected to the 2020-21 ASB.

Anna Eshoo, Bing Liu, Cathy Kuhlmeier visit journalism classes

*arushi saxena*  
news editor

Free press advocate Cathy Kuhlmeier, of the 1983 Supreme Court case *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*, spoke to second period journalism on May 5 about First Amendment rights. U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) discussed federal and local responses to COVID-19 with third period journalism on May 7. Oscar-nominated director Bing Liu, spoke to second period journalism on May 11 about his experience as a filmmaker.



Cathy Kuhlmeier visits second period journalism over Zoom.

Link Crew greets incoming class of 2024 at virtual Welcome Night

*sara yen*  
features editor

Link Crew greeted the class of 2024 at Welcome Night via Zoom on April 20 with over 200 participants. The size of the class of 2024 is still being finalized as students commit to high schools.

"We won't be surprised if there is a little more volatility in final enrollment in June," Director of Admissions Jennifer Hargreaves wrote in an email interview. "However, we have a very deep wait pool of highly qualified applicants."



A freshman walks at the matriculation ceremony for this school year.

Doctor speaks to Harker about working on front lines of pandemic

*lucy ge*  
asst. news editor

Family medicine physician Dr. Akanksha Kumar spoke to 63 Harker students and faculty via Zoom during long lunch on May 8 about her experience working on a COVID-19 team at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey.

Invited by Riyaa Randhawa (10), Dr. Kumar shared challenges that many members of the medical industry are enduring right now and spread a message of hope to the upper school.



Dr. Akanksha Kumar talked to upper school students about working on a COVID-19 team.

Harker Journalism receives national awards

*jessie wang*  
copy editor

Winged Post won First Place Best of Show at the National Scholastic Press Association's (NSPA) annual spring conference in April. Harker Aquila won a Gold Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) for its work in 2018-19.

Eric Fang (12) became the 2020 California Journalist of the Year and National Runner-Up in the annual Journalist of the Year competition held by the Journalism Education Association.



Eric Fang (12) presents on political reporting at a national journalism convention in D.C. last fall.

## Adjusted End-of-Year Schedule

- Monday, May 25**  
Memorial Day - No School
- Tuesday, May 26**  
3:30 p.m. Virtual Athletic Banquet  
6:30 p.m. Virtual Awards Ceremony
- Wednesday, May 27**  
6:00 pm Virtual Baccalaureate
- Thursday, May 28**  
Senior Pick-Up Day
- Friday, May 29**  
6:00 pm Virtual DECA Banquet  
7:00 pm Virtual Senior Showcase
- Monday, June 1**  
Special schedule / Finals review day (All periods - 40-minute classes)
- Tuesday, June 2 - Thursday, June 4**  
Finals exams for grades 9-11
- Monday, June 8**  
Pick-Up Day for juniors only
- Tuesday, June 9**  
Pick-Up Day for sophomores only
- Wednesday, June 10**  
Harker Blood Drive at Blackford Gym  
Report cards posted for grades 9-12
- Thursday, June 11**  
Pick-Up Day for freshmen only

### CORRECTIONS FROM ISSUE 4

Page 3, "Senate acquits Trump": President Donald J. Trump's rally took place on Oct. 10, 2019. The year was not shown in the caption text.

Page 4, "Impacts of coronavirus": Anita Chetty was credited as "upper school biology teacher." Her official title is Science Department Chair.

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*The Winged Post* is published every four to six weeks except during vacations by the Journalism: Newspaper Concentration and Advanced Journalism: Newspaper Concentration courses at Harker's upper school, 500 Saratoga Ave., San Jose, California 95129.

*The Winged Post* staff will publish features, editorials, news, sports and STEM articles in an unbiased and professional manner and serve as a public forum for the students of The Harker School. Editorials represent the official opinions of *The Winged Post*. Opinions and letters represent the personal viewpoints of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Winged Post*. All content decisions are made by student editors, and the content of *The Winged Post* in no way reflects the official policy of The Harker School. The opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of the student writers and not the Harker board, administration, faculty or adviser.

Letters to the Editor may be submitted to Manzanita 70 or emailed to [wingedpost2020@gmail.com](mailto:wingedpost2020@gmail.com) and must be signed, legible and concise. The staff reserves the right to edit letters to conform to Post style. Baseless accusations, insults, libelous statements, obscenities and letters that call for a disruption of the school day will not be considered for publication. Letters sent to *The Winged Post* will be published at the discretion of the editorial staff.

*The Winged Post* is the official student newspaper of Harker's upper school and is distributed free of cost to students.

- 2019-2020 NSPA **First Place Best-of-show** publication
- 2018-2019 NSPA **Pacemaker**
- 2017-2018 NSPA **Pacemaker Finalist**
- 2017-2018 NSPA **Best-in-show** publication
- 2017-2018 **Gold Crown**-winning publication
- 2016-2017 NSPA **Pacemaker Finalist**
- 2016-2017 **Silver Crown**-winning publication
- 2015-2016 **Gold Crown**-winning publication



# Be brave:

On Jan. 24, Harker journalism ran its first story on the coronavirus outbreak, reporting 1,287 worldwide cases. Over the few months, we watched — and continued reporting — as the virus traveled around the world, creeping closer and closer to home in what felt like a hyperreal sci-fi movie.

It still seemed distant, but we took precautions as the headlines morphed around us. Then, nearly two months ago, everything turned upside down.

On March 12, as seventh period wound down, we found out that school would be canceled and that we would be learning remotely until at least spring break. That date has since been moved to the end of the school year. With Gov. Gavin Newsom laying out guidelines, we wait in expectation for Phase 2 of reopening as we move into June.

We're on the wrong side of the movie screen now, and we're scared.

Fear is natural in such uncertain times. The United States COVID case count has ballooned to 1.47 million as of May 17, with 2418 of those within Santa Clara County. California, the fifth-largest economy in the world, has come to a grinding halt with Gov. Newsom's shelter-in-place directive, now extended until the end of May. The fear of a second wave in the fall looms over us, along with uncertainties about the possibility of an effective vaccine.

Concrete pillars we've always leaned on are flexing: prom canceled, AP exams held online, graduation moved to December 2020. With our daily lives disrupted, Harker has emphasized efforts to con-

# Our actions matter more than ever now

nect our community. Students enjoyed Spirit Week dress-up days with virtual backgrounds. Head of School Brian Yager sent weekly letters home to parents with updates on school-wide changes.

Yet even as uncertainty swirled, we slowly adjusted to Zoom classes, learning how to stay in contact with our teachers and peers in new ways. We've adjusted to waking up right before the 8 a.m. bell (and we take long naps after school).

But as the temperatures heat up and summer beckons, we feel concern about summer internships and fall college apps. As our 2020 seniors graduate into uncertainty, they face their own nagging question: "Will we meet our new college peers in front of a screen?"

The rest of us contemplate whether we'll be allowed to return to the Saratoga campus in the fall. We want someone to tell us that it's all going to be over soon, that by June, the world will, at the snap of a finger, return to normalcy — but it won't.

So, we have to be brave in our own way: waking up every day, getting dressed, attending classes on Zoom. In a nationally broadcast graduation event on Saturday, former President Barack Obama said, "America's gone through tough times before — slavery, civil war, famine, disease, the Great Depression and 9/11. And each time we came out stronger, usually because a new generation, young people like you, learned from past mistakes and figured out how to make things better."

With courage, we will get through this together.

# Not the way we wanted to say goodbye



eric fang, gloria zhang & nina gee  
editors-in-chief & managing editor

Eight months ago, we became the new editors of the *Winged Post*, excited for a year filled with community-driven content and visual-heavy design. Over the next several months, our *Winged Post* and *Aquila* staffs continued to strengthen our coverage, with a special focus on covering the 2020 presidential campaign.

A pandemic was never on our radar. As editors of the *Winged Post*, we grappled with the question, "What place do we as the upper school's newspaper have in this pandemic?"

Sheltering in place means that the *Winged Post*, like many other organizations, hasn't operated as it did before. But at its core our obligation to the Harker community remains the same: to spotlight every corner of our community and lend a microphone to diverse voices.

To produce this issue under shelter-in-place orders, we transformed how we organize, create and distribute *Winged Post*.

Instead of creating our paper in our home base of Manzanita 70, we planned pages and coordinated coverage from our homes. We had Zoom staff meetings, using screen shares and group texts to build pages.

This pandemic has shaped and re-defined our lives, from learning new hobbies to joining COVID-19 relief efforts.

But even though coronavirus is omnipresent right now, we do not want COVID-19 to be the only point of coverage. That's why this issue also includes a special section on the Bay Area's housing crisis — a story our staff has been investigating and working on since October.

While we can no longer hand students and teachers freshly printed papers in person, we can still reach the Harker community through our hard-working USPS, who will deliver Issue 5 right to your doors.

This is not the way we wanted to say "Goodbye" to you, our readers — or to our staff. As our 2020-21 editors are being selected, we want to express our gratitude in this last issue to our journalism family. Thank you, and we couldn't have wished for a better team and community.

# Heart of Harker

counseling team  
guest writers

We hope you are all doing well and wanted to remind you that we are still here and available to help support you however we can both through email and zoom.

We all recognize what a difficult and challenging situation we are in. We have been sharing some tips with you each week and hope to highlight them for you here:

It is important to find a routine and keep to a schedule, both for your daily school routine and your sleep schedule. To practice good sleep hygiene, it's important to go to sleep and wake up at about the same time everyday and to stay out of your bed throughout the day. During the weekdays you can follow the school day schedule by taking movement breaks during passing periods as well as lunch time connections with friends. And even though you may not have after school activities at this time, you can still take a break, grab a healthy snack and get creative by doing something that brings a smile to your face.

Staying connected with our friends through FaceTime, Zoom Text or any other way is another important way to support ourselves through these times. Hopefully you have managed to find even more creative ways to connect like virtual yoga, baking together through zoom and then sharing the baked goods by dropping them off at your friends' door. Ever thought of trying a DoorDash pizza party! How about combining time outside while connecting with friends by doing a talk and walk down the block. Tap into that creativity again!

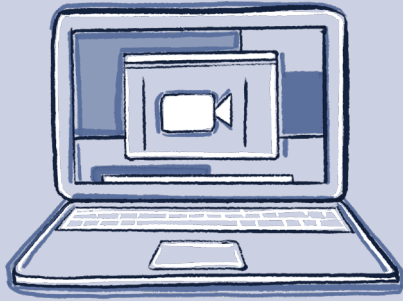
# Deliberately schedule some time out of your day to do something you enjoy and care for your body and soul.

It is also important to stay connected with our family. Since sheltering in place is truly out of our control, we can all use this as an opportunity to connect or reconnect with our family by spending some quality time together. We are blessed to have more time for sit-down dinners so try to have fun by cooking a family meal together or support a local business by enjoying some take-out. But don't stop with dinner. After dinner you can dust off those board games or watch a comedy series on Netflix.

Practicing self-care throughout your week is of the utmost importance. Try incorporating something new each day or each week. Self-care can be something different for everyone. What is important is to deliberately schedule some time out of your day to do something you enjoy and care for your body and soul. Exercise and meditation are great ways to go about self-care, but it can also be listening to music, playing an instrument, dancing it out, journaling, reading a book, doing some deep breathing, baking and getting creative in the kitchen, going for a bike ride, watching a comedy, going for a run, cuddling with a pet or watching some puppy videos on YouTube. The possibilities are endless!

Most importantly, do not hesitate to reach out for support. Although not there physically, remember there are supports all around you. If you are finding yourself having a hard time with the adjustment to remote learning and sheltering at home, your teachers, your advisor and your counselor here at Harker are ready to support you when you reach out!

Access the counseling team's wellness letters on *Schoolology*.



Talk around campus:  
**Zoom edition**

isha moorjani  
reporter



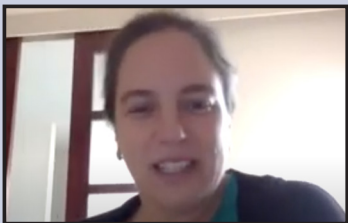
SHRAY ALAG (11)

“ I feel like I’m sleeping later because I actually feel like I have more work to do. I don’t know if that’s a byproduct of the online learning system, or if that’s just maybe more time management or something like that.”



UMA IYER (10)

“ I would say screen time [has been the biggest challenge]. I have three classes each day, so it’s quite a while, and then homework after school.”

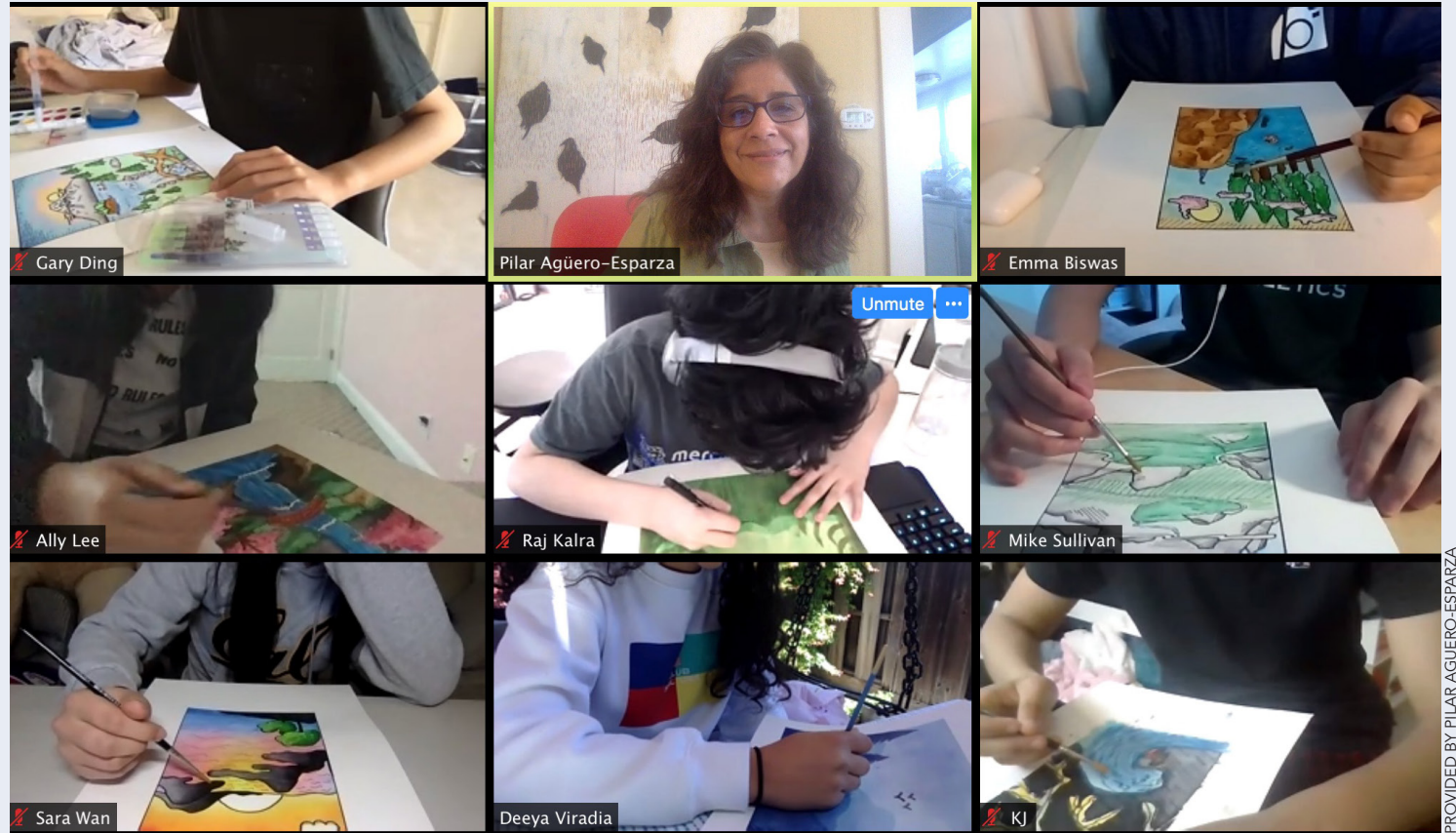


JULIE TURCHIN  
PSYCHOLOGY TEACHER

“ I’m trying to learn the ukulele. So I have a friend who plays the ukulele who’s teaching me, and then he’s trying to learn the piano, which I know how to play, so we swap lessons.”

# GOING VIRTUAL

## Teachers adapt hands-on activities to online format



**KEEPING CREATIVE** Students work on a watercolor project in upper school visual arts teacher Pilar Agüero-Esparza’s Study of Visual Arts class. She made and mailed packages of art supplies to each student to help them continue their art at home.

brian chen  
reporter

With campus closed and a shelter-in-place order throughout California, teachers have adapted to online learning, inventing replacements for hands-on activities and labs.

**Art**

Visual arts teacher Pilar Agüero-Esparza worried that certain assignments would be impossible to complete if her students didn’t have specific tools at home, such as markers or even rulers. She created packets of basic materials that she mailed to each of her students.

In addition, Agüero-Esparza has experimented with video tutorials as a means to give students a visual lesson that differs from the usual lecture.

**Dance**

Dance classes, such as Kinetic Krew and Harker Dance Company have moved online.

Dance teacher Karl Kuehn moved auditions for next year’s dance teams online, a format popular within the dance community even before the pandemic.

“I’ve gone to campus and led warm-ups that the students have followed on Zoom. We’ve recorded choreography that we’ve sent out to the dancers for them to learn, and then for them to send back to us so that we can assess our progress,” Kuehn said.

**Orchestra**

While music groups have had to adjust to virtual rehearsals, the pandemic has had surprising benefits for student musicians, according to instrumental music teacher Dr. David Hart. Dr. Hart assigned students to record themselves playing, allowing for increased individual feedback than in a traditional group setting. Many online resources such as live performances are also now free for students.

Currently, Dr. Hart is working with orchestra students to record a final piece as a parting gift to the seniors, who had their final

year shortened by the pandemic.

“We’re doing a group recording remotely. It’s a lot of work, but we’re going to do a click track, and they’re recording a piece that Spencer Cha [(10)] wrote, featuring all of our seniors,” Dr. Hart said.

**Science**

Lab-heavy courses like chemistry teacher Andrew Irvine’s classes are unable to continue certain assignments as planned. In his class, Irvine assigned labs that didn’t use chemicals.

“We did a half-life activity where kids were away from their computer, they had to find 100 pennies to do this activity and collect data. So it was a lot of experience without the chemistry,” he said.

He plans to use online simulations to help teach upcoming units, recognizing that the new format will require on-the-spot changes.

“Sometimes, something I do in class doesn’t make a connection, or my kids need more time on it,” Irvine said. “It’s flexible, but we have a plan.”

## Flattening the curve: COVID-19’s impact over time

eric fang, mark hu, arya maheshwari,  
sarah mohammed & aditya singhvi  
editor-in-chief, stem editor, aquila managing  
editor, reporter & aquila sports editor

**Jan. 21**

First case of COVID-19 in the U.S.

**Jan. 25**

First case of COVID-19 in California

**Jan. 27**

First case of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County, as determined by later studies. The first case was originally thought to be on Jan. 31.

**Jan. 30**

World Health Organization (WHO) declared a “public health emergency of international concern.”

**Jan. 31**

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a national public health emergency.

**Feb. 28**

A Santa Clara County woman became the second person in the U.S. to contract COVID-19 without traveling to other countries or being in contact with a known sick person. A resident of Solano County became the first case in the U.S. on Feb. 26.

**March 4**

Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in California. Harker started taking precautionary measures. Administration asked all employees to take 15 to 20 minutes at the end of each day to sanitize workspaces. International school trips were canceled, and self-serve stations in the cafeteria closed.

**March 9**

The first death from COVID-19 in Santa Clara County was a woman in her 60s. She was the third case in the county.

**March 10**

Santa Clara County banned gatherings of 1,000 people or more.

**March 12**

All four of Harker’s campuses closed for students after a parent of a non-teaching staff member in the upper school, with whom that staff member lives, tested positive for COVID-19.

**March 16**

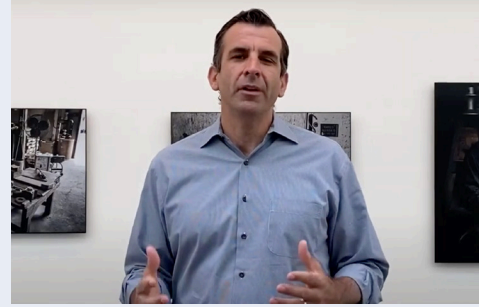
The Santa Clara County Public Health Department announced a “shelter-in-place” directive in place until April 7, joining five other Bay Area counties. The Dow Jones had its largest point drop in history, losing 2997.10 in a day.

SOURCES: SANTA CLARA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CALIFORNIA PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



PROVIDED BY LAURI VAUGHAN

**HOMEMADE** Campus librarian Lauri Vaughan sews a mask from fabric scraps. She and a friend have donated over 1,000 masks to food banks and Harker's drive.



PROVIDED BY ANDREW LU

**DONATION DRIVE** San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo commends the upper school's Come Together Against COVID Donation Drive in a video address.



PROVIDED BY CINDY LIU

**MEAL WITH LOVE** Medical staff from Highland Hospital in Oakland hold up thank you signs after receiving a delivery from Meal with Love, started by parent Cindy Liu.



PROVIDED BY WILL YASHAR

**PRINT TO PROTECT** Will Yashar's (10) 3D printing machine churns out a mask structure for health care workers treating COVID-19 patients in local hospitals.

# Harker community donates money, meals and masks to combat COVID-19

eric fang, nicholas wei & sally zhu  
editor-in-chief and reporters

To help combat COVID-19, members of the Harker community are coming together to organize donations of money toward relief funds, masks to homeless shelters and meals to health care workers.

The upper school collectively raised \$11,030 in a drive called Come Together Against COVID, organized by the Associated Student Body (ASB) council and class councils for each grade. All proceeds went to the Silicon Valley Strong Fund, a relief fund for residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations severely impacted by the pandemic.

"Our goal in organizing Come Together Against Covid was two-fold: to provide relief for those in our broader community who are struggling, and to bring together the Harker community during these difficult times," ASB Treasurer Evan Cheng (12) said.

Student council launched the fundraiser on May 6 with a video in advisory featuring a personalized message from San Jose mayor Sam Liccardo encouraging Harker students to participate. To incentivize student participation, student council released fun

videos made by members of the Harker community when certain donation milestones were hit.

Student council also partnered with Medical Club and Key Club to organize a donation drive of homemade face masks for homeless individuals, who are unable to socially distance.

**"We realized that a lot of people want to actively help out with fighting coronavirus beyond staying at home."**



OLIVIA GUO

**ALICIA XU (12)**  
KEY CLUB VICE PRESIDENT

"It was difficult for us [Key Club] to figure out how we would continue working on the club's goals when we can't meet or hold any fundraisers really, and we realized that a lot of people want to actively help out with fighting coronavirus beyond staying at home," Alicia Xu (12), vice president of Key Club, said.

Students could drop off masks in a donation bin in front of the upper school from May 4 to May 11, and masks were sent to shelters like Life Moves, WeHope shelter and West Valley Services.

In addition to members of the Harker community who are sewing homemade masks, students are 3D printing plastic parts for face shields for health care workers. Will Yashar (10) and Bennett Liu (12) send the parts they make to Maker Nexus, a company that assembles the face shields and delivers them to hospitals.

"Everyone's helping in their own way. [This] was just the way I could help," Will said.

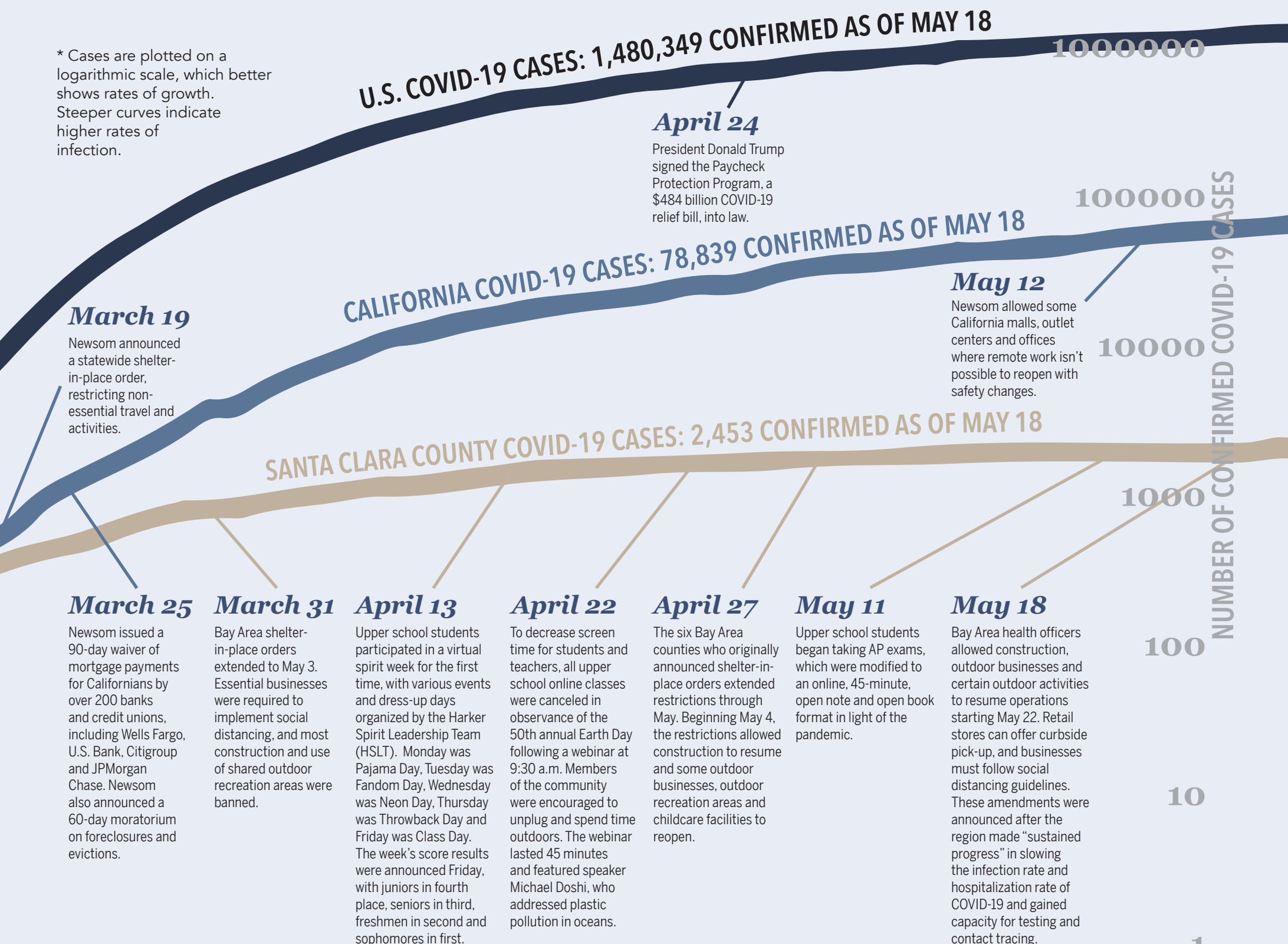
Upper school parent Cindy Liu noticed another problem facing health care workers – many are so busy treating COVID-19 patients that they have no time to cook. Liu worked with two other Bay Area women to create Meals with Love, which partners with local restaurants to bring meals to staff at local hospitals.

"We reached out to whomever we could find and told them we were trying to [bring] support at least twice a week to those ICU [intensive care unit] or ER [emergency room] doctors. We started fundraising over the phone on April 5, and within three days we already received over \$8,000. It was amazing," Liu said.

## Ways to Help

- Donate to the Silicon Valley Strong Fund at [bit.ly/sanjosestrong](http://bit.ly/sanjosestrong)
- Learn to make homemade masks at [tinyurl.com/yb744tva](http://tinyurl.com/yb744tva)
- Donate to a charitable organization providing direct relief to the COVID-19 pandemic at [tinyurl.com/ubecefe](http://tinyurl.com/ubecefe)
- Make plastic parts for face shields for health care workers and donate them to Maker Nexus at [maker nexus.com/covid1](http://maker nexus.com/covid1)
- Donate to Meal with Love at [bit.ly/dono2MWL](http://bit.ly/dono2MWL)
- Check in on neighbors and friends
- Donate to food banks like those on page H in the housing package
- Check [handsonbayarea.org/covid19](http://handsonbayarea.org/covid19) for more volunteer and donation options

\* Cases are plotted on a logarithmic scale, which better shows rates of growth. Steeper curves indicate higher rates of infection.





PROVIDED BY ADITI KHANNA, SHOUNAK GHOSH, GABRIEL YANG & ARISSA HUDA

# LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN

**FIND YOUR FUN** Students have found creative outlets to spend their extra time stuck inside during quarantine, ranging from playing an instrument to BMX biking.

sabrina zhu  
reporter

As she gently presses on the strings with one hand, Arissa Huda (9) strums her acoustic Hohner guitar with the other, playing a version of Selena Gomez and Kygo's "It Ain't Me." She smiles and nods her head to the music, which has quickly become her new hobby and form of escape during this period of isolation.

When spring break started, Arissa's mother encouraged her to begin playing the guitar again, something she hadn't done in over seven months. She chooses her favorite songs and learns them online, where she can find sheet music written in "tab."

"I'm playing a lot of Ed Sheeran, like 'Photograph' and 'Happier.' His guitar songs are just really great," Arissa said. "I learn online, and they tell you which string, which fret, and which finger to use."

In these stressful times, returning to her old hobby has brought a lot of comfort to Arissa.

"I think music in general provides a really good solace and escape. Because my hands have this muscle memory, I don't have to think when I play: I can just

listen to the music."

Aditi Khanna (12) has recently discovered a new activity, as well: knitting. She began by following YouTube tutorials from the internet, and she's quickly learned to make her own pieces. Currently, she's working on a scarf, designed with the colors of her friend's college.

"During the quarantine, I got bored of doing the normal things I was doing, like watching TV," Aditi said. "I was looking at the screen all day, so I decided to do something new that was creative and that could also take my mind off of things."

After finding some old string and needles, Aditi dove into this new hobby, asking her sister for help when she needs it. She's found that it's been really simple and something you can do without thinking, which has been especially helpful and soothing during the past few weeks.

"I feel like it really enhances my focus on my main tasks," Aditi said. "It's a great stress-relieving mechanism for me - one that I wouldn't have started if there wasn't this quarantine. But I think I'll definitely continue [even past quarantine]."

Gabriel Yang (10), on the other hand, has recently gotten into cooking. With his older sister home and ready to share her favorite recipes, he had been improving his skills and making dishes all through-

out spring break.

"I was really bored over the break, and my sister came back from college," Gabriel said. "She just really wanted to teach me a lot of the recipes that she's learned."

Gabriel and his sister look together online for YouTube tutorials and videos with recipes, exploring the foods they enjoy. Most of their creations have been successes, with only a few bumps along the road.

"A lot of my classes are being let out early, so if it's 11:45 [pm]... I can go out biking. I'll go around my neighborhood...and just enjoy being outdoors."



SHOUNAK GHOSH  
SOPHOMORE

"We made some pretty easy and simple desserts, like soufflés, pancakes and peanut butter cookies, things like that."

Cooking has helped to relieve the boredom Gabriel has been experiencing

over spring break by occupying him with tasks and by bringing him some delicious food.

For some, like Shounak Ghosh (10), physical activities have quickly become new parts of their daily lives.

Shounak recently started BMX biking, a style of biking that specializes in jumps and tricks. He learns by watching online tutorials and by building small ramps with cardboard boxes and wooden planks. Then, he moves onto real-life courses, in the streets of his neighborhood.

"When you're just walking down the street, there are a variety of obstacles that most people don't notice," Shounak said. "But when you have a bike, you start to notice that you can hop onto and off of this curb, and hop onto and off of this bench ... little things you can play with and just have fun with it."

Although he falls frequently and faces difficulties when learning new tricks, Shounak still thinks that BMX biking is worth it. And now that school has moved online, he has a lot of time to practice.

"A lot of my classes are being let out early, so if it's 11:45 [pm] on a B/D day, I can go out biking until 1," he said. "I'll go around my neighborhood and bike and just enjoy being outdoors."

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.

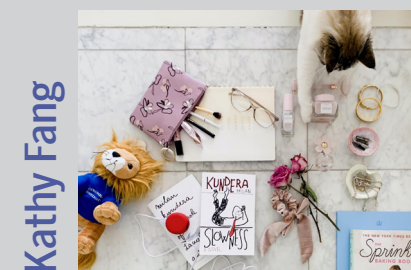
## Harker Journalism's quarantine essentials:



Eric Fang



Shinjan Ghosh



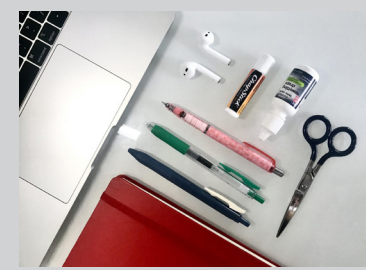
Kathy Fang



Jin Tuan



Emily Tan



Sara Yen



Sabrina Zhu



Michael Eng

# STORIES from QUARANTINE

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHELLE LIU

The following memoirs were submitted by TALON yearbook reporters. Each story reflects an aspect of quarantine that the reporter has encountered.



ANUSHKA BUCH

## Euphoria

anoushka buch  
TALON Student Life &  
Conservatory Editor

Right now, in Advanced Graphic Arts, each member of our class of six is creating a promptless, self-assigned project; the direction each of us goes in is completely up to the artist. Originally, I'd planned to do a photoshoot with a friend for the work, but the shelter-in-place order destroyed any hopes I'd had of procuring either a model or a setting.

My photography usually centers on the presence of other people: my portfolio is chock-full of faces that aren't my own. That's true for a lot of photography — street, environmental, and traditional, among others — you'll rarely see the artist's face in their own work.

In quarantine, we just have ourselves.

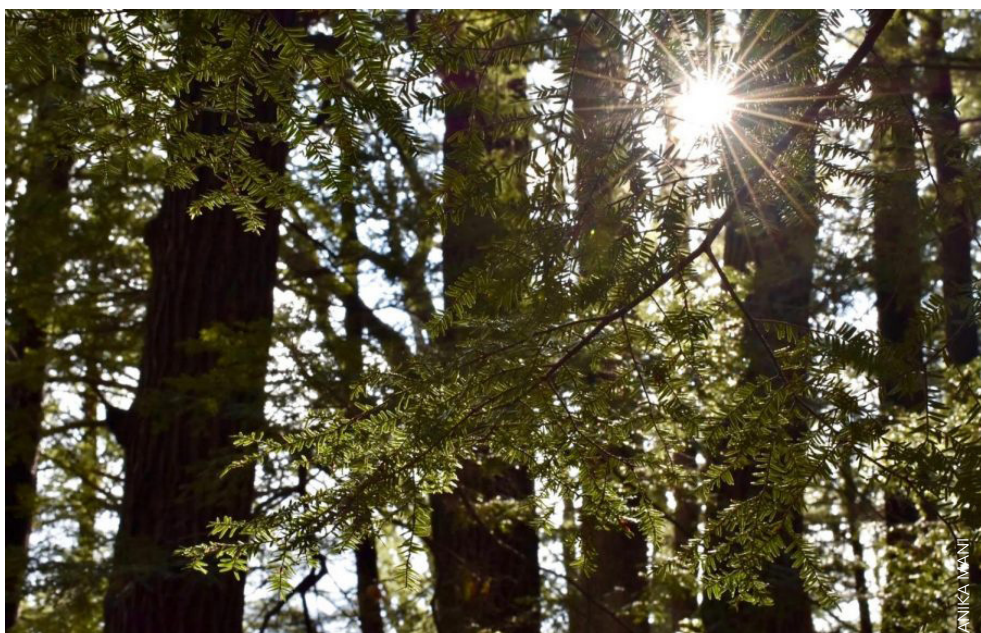
So I used my time in isolation to see if I could do it all: be both model and photographer. By wrapping my desk lamp with colored tissue paper, I was able to create golden lighting, and I even used a stack of old AP and SAT prep books to create a makeshift tripod. Using the self-timer feature on my camera, I was able to create a photoshoot using only myself.

I ended up doing three shoots to represent three emotions: determination, melancholy and euphoria. Each one took me close to three hours, but I learned that I didn't really need anything besides myself — I could do my own makeup, create my own setting and pose for myself.

Forcing myself to adapt to this situation broke down a barrier I'd always subconsciously held. On my own, I could make tiny changes until I had it the way I wanted. Knowing now that I can create all on my own in just a couple of hours is a good feeling to have, like I have art just sitting in the corner of my room, waiting to be brought to life.

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.

"In quarantine, we just have ourselves. So I used my time in isolation to see if I could do it all: be both model and photographer."



ANIKA MANI

## Hiking in the woods

anika mani  
TALON reporter

Surrounded by the tall, lush green redwood trees, I stroll through the empty woods. The sun peeks out of one of few clouds in the sky and warms the crisp air. Swarms of bees buzz, and a soft breeze rustles the leaves producing the familiar sound of spring that I have not heard in a while. It's the perfect day to take a break from electronics and enjoy the natural atmosphere. Time seems to fly as we continue exploring the vulnerable wilderness.

Barely anyone leaves their house due to the outbreak of COVID-19 across the Bay Area and the U.S. at large, so, therefore my brother, father and I have the whole nature preserve to ourselves. Wildlife takes the opportunity to come out, and

I see more creatures than I ever have before. Small critters scurry across the dusty path, while birds chirp loudly.

My father suggested that we go on a hike in the nearby hills one day to occupy ourselves during the shelter-in-place order. Since our spring break plans to travel to Florida were canceled and I was stuck inside my house watching Netflix, a small hike seemed like a huge opportunity.

Hiking is a family tradition: whether we are away on vacation or right outside my house, my family and I frequently explore our surroundings. Due to our busy lives, we do not spend much time together and we like to spend the rare occasions where we are all together with nature.

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.

"Hiking is a family tradition: whether we are away on vacation or right outside my house, my family and I frequently explore our surroundings."



LAVANYA SUBRAMANIAN

## A game to remember

lavanya subramanian  
TALON reporter

Being quarantined during spring break prohibited me from doing my usual vacation activities, such as hanging out with friends and going out to eat at my favorite restaurants. So instead, my family suggested we start a game night tradition. Along with Milbourne, a family-favorite card game that involves players attempting to reach the goal of 1000 miles, we also played Pictionary, Codenames and completed two puzzles.

Originally, the idea of a game night didn't entice me. I had never been a huge fan of board games, preferring to curl up in a blanket reading a good book or having a movie marathon. To me, game nights seemed like a futile attempt by my parents to force family bonding and prevent my incessant Netflix binge-watching. And in a

way, it was exactly that.

What I didn't expect was to be completely invested by the second night. As the last days of spring break approached, I found myself wishing for more game nights, and not just because of how much fun the games were. Even though I spent every day at home with them, the only time my family congregated, if ever, was for short dinners. These game nights made me appreciate my family more and realize that a 15 minute dinner is not a sufficient amount of time with them.

Although I'll be overjoyed that I can see my friends or go to my favorite restaurants again once shelter in place is over, I'm definitely going to miss the side effect of forced family bonding. Being stuck at home has taught me that spending quality time with my family is important, and that won't change after quarantine ends.

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.

"As the last days of spring break approached, I found myself wishing for more game nights, and not just because of how much fun the games were."



With the class of 2020 on its way out the door, let's take a look at some memorable moments from these last four years, starting from August of 2016 all the way to May of 2020.

1

NICOLE CHEN

# Celebrating the SENIORS

gloria zhang & nina gee  
editor-in-chief & managing editor

The class of 2020 is on our way out the door, and with us goes a cacophony of memories from the last four years. Let's take a look back at the last four years:

In terms of national news, Donald Trump was officially elected president on Dec. 19, 2016. By graduation, our class will have had not one, but two presidential elections occur during our time as high schoolers. The class of 2020 also discovered the meaning of becoming socially-aware citizens, attending the annual Women's March, the March for Our Lives, the Global Climate Strike and more.

On-campus, our class also achieved many milestones. 2017 marked the year where we reveled in our new post-freshman status, and the year when the annual Homecoming Eagle painting and the spring rally dances became some of our strong suits. Junior year began the college grind. The year was full of ups and downs but ultimately prepared us to become seniors. The 2019 year began with senior sunrise, where more than 160 students gathered on Davis field at 6 a.m. to watch the sun rise over the Rothschild Performing Arts Center and all the buildings of the upper school campus. For many, this was the beginning of new aspirations, as well as the beginning of the end (or perhaps, the end of the beginning).

We have had to deal with unprecedented events in our time here. Our years here at Harker are probably its rockiest yet. Without our long-awaited end-of-year events, we missed the "normal" experiences of Harker seniors. No prom. No Laguna Beach. No May Graduation. While our senior year and the usual milestones that mark it have been taken from us, the last four years haven't all been for naught. We've grown and changed as friends, as students, and as human beings. There's nothing we cannot do.



2

NICOLE CHEN



4

KATHY FANG



3

ALYSA SULEIMAN



6

IRINA MALUGINA



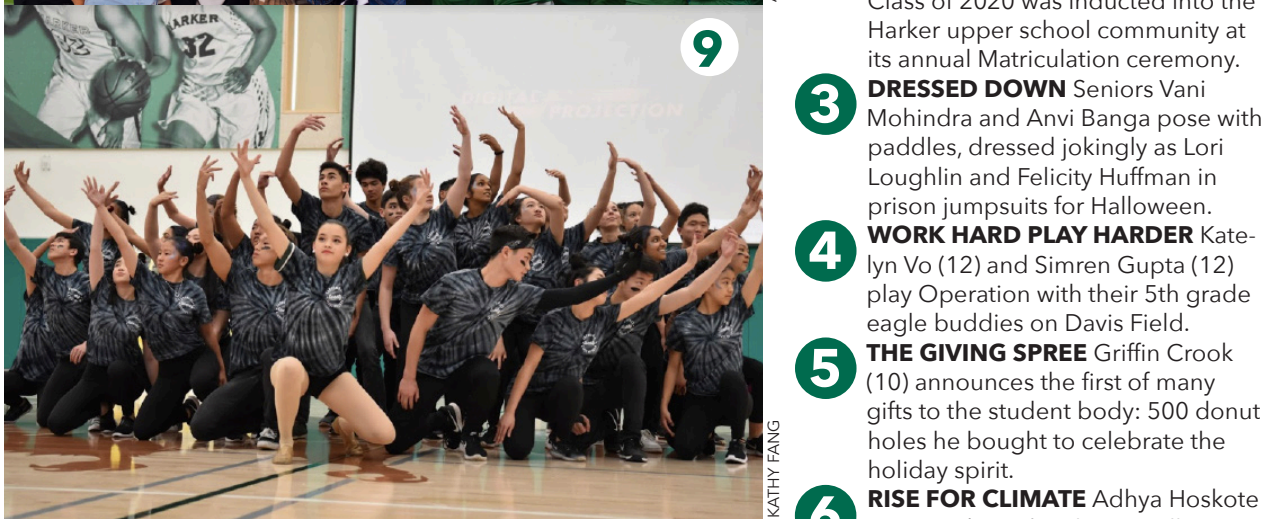
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KATHY FANG



8

ANNA VAZHEPARAMBIL

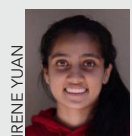


9

KATHY FANG

- 1 LINE-UP** The class of 2020 shows their spirit during the 2018 spring rally on Davis Field.
- 2 BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FREINDSHIP** On Aug. 19, 2016, the Class of 2020 was inducted into the Harker upper school community at its annual Matriculation ceremony.
- 3 DRESSED DOWN** Seniors Vani Mohindra and Anvi Banga pose with paddles, dressed jokingly as Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman in prison jumpsuits for Halloween.
- 4 WORK HARD PLAY HARDER** Katelyn Vo (12) and Simren Gupta (12) play Operation with their 5th grade eagle buddies on Davis Field.
- 5 THE GIVING SPREE** Griffin Crook (10) announces the first of many gifts to the student body: 500 donut holes he bought to celebrate the holiday spirit.
- 6 RISE FOR CLIMATE** Adhya Hoskote (12) speaks at the climate rally organized by many of the current seniors on Green Team in March of 2019.
- 7 SELFIE** Prerana Acharyya (12) holds up her phone as she takes a selfie with a few of her friends at Senior Sunrise on the first day of school.
- 8 VICTORY** The varsity boys' soccer team, boasting celebrates their historic CCS win.
- 9 A GALAXY FAR FAR AWAY** The Class of 2020 launches into their 2018 spirit-winning dance to a Star Wars remix.

## HUMANS of HARKER



IRENE YUAN

Note from the editor

Hi Harker! I'm Saloni Shah, and I'm the Editor-in-Chief of Harker journalism's signature project, Humans of Harker. The project aims to discover the collective story of our senior class: their experiences, their life advice, the reminiscences about the past and their hopes for the future. We want to honor the Class of 2020 and celebrate together. In this spirit, we will

be mailing a Humans of Harker magazine to every family during late May that includes the seniors' photos, quotes and answers to some of their senior survey questions. We hope that you will take the time to know and appreciate the stories of our graduating class. You can find the full profiles on our online website, [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com)



# WHAT DOES SHELTER-IN- PLACE MEAN



# WHEN SHELTER IS UNAFFORDABLE?

## ‘Like pouring on gasoline’:

Bay Area’s pandemic response complicated by ongoing affordable housing crisis

eric fang, lucy ge, nina gee,  
varsha rammohan, arushi  
saxena, alysa suleiman,  
anna vazhaeparambil,  
sara yen & gloria zhang

On March 16, Bay Area officials in six counties announced shelter-in-place directives, mandating that residents only leave their homes for essential purposes.

But what does sheltering in place look like in the Bay Area, one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the U.S.?

“When people don’t have jobs or their hours are cut, it makes it harder for them to pay their rent,” Los Angeles Times Housing Reporter Liam Dillon said. “It’s almost like the coronavirus poured even more gasoline on an affordable housing crisis that was already raging.”

The shelter-in-place order highlighted the fact that over 34,000 people in the Bay Area don’t have a stable place to shelter in, making up the third-largest homeless population in the U.S.

“Folks who have been living on the streets for a while are more likely to be facing underlying health conditions or be more medically vulnerable than existing residents,” said David Low, Director of Policy and Communications at Destination: Home, an organization working to end homelessness in Santa Clara County. “Certainly there are also folks who have a hard time physically staying distant from other people.”

While federal, state and local governments have put in temporary protections to stop evictions and house the homeless, the pandemic may have long-term effects as the U.S. enters a recession and affordable housing construction slows.

“There are evictions moratoria in place right now, but those moratoria will expire in the coming months,” Dr. Renee Elias, Executive Director of the University of California at Berkeley Center for Community Innovation, said. “We may actually see more displacement once shelter-in-place requirements are fully lifted.”

Still, some housing experts are hopeful that the pandemic may call attention to the housing crisis and inspire changes.

“If we make good policy changes that support residents through this crisis, [COVID-19] is going to have very little effect [on gentrification and displacement],” said Kathleen Wortham, Health and Housing Senior Associate at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a public policy organization. “But if we don’t support those in our communities who may be one paycheck away from losing their home, then it will absolutely exacerbate our issues.”

*“A teacher’s salary is **nearly not a living wage** in the Bay Area.”*

- English teacher Beverly Manning

# ‘Missing middle’ in crisis

Bay Area’s rising rents and high home prices unsustainable for teachers

For six years, chemistry teacher Andrew Irvine, 39, lived in a single-family home in Willow Glen, San Jose, about five miles from the upper school. Last year, he received a notice from his landlord that the rent would be increased by 22 percent, from \$2,700 a month to \$3,300 a month.

This was a price Irvine and his wife, who works as a nurse in San Jose, could not afford. The landlord evicted Irvine and his family.

“There’s no restriction on no-cause eviction on single family homes [in Willow Glen]. We had no legal recourse,” Irvine said.

Priced out of the Willow Glen rental market, Irvine sought the relative stability of owning a home. But with the Bay Area’s housing costs, finding an affordable home close to the upper school proved a challenge.

Irvine looked to Boulder Creek in Santa Cruz County. In addition to the more affordable home prices, the town’s woods and spacious mountain roads appealed to Irvine, who wanted room to grow cacti and keep a pet turtle. With some family support, Irvine got a down payment that made his mortgage payments comparable to his previous rent.

His commute time more than doubled, from 20 minutes to 45-60 minutes.

Irvine’s experience with rising rents, unaffordable home prices and a long commute is shared by many teachers across the Bay Area, who are finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the high cost of housing in the region.

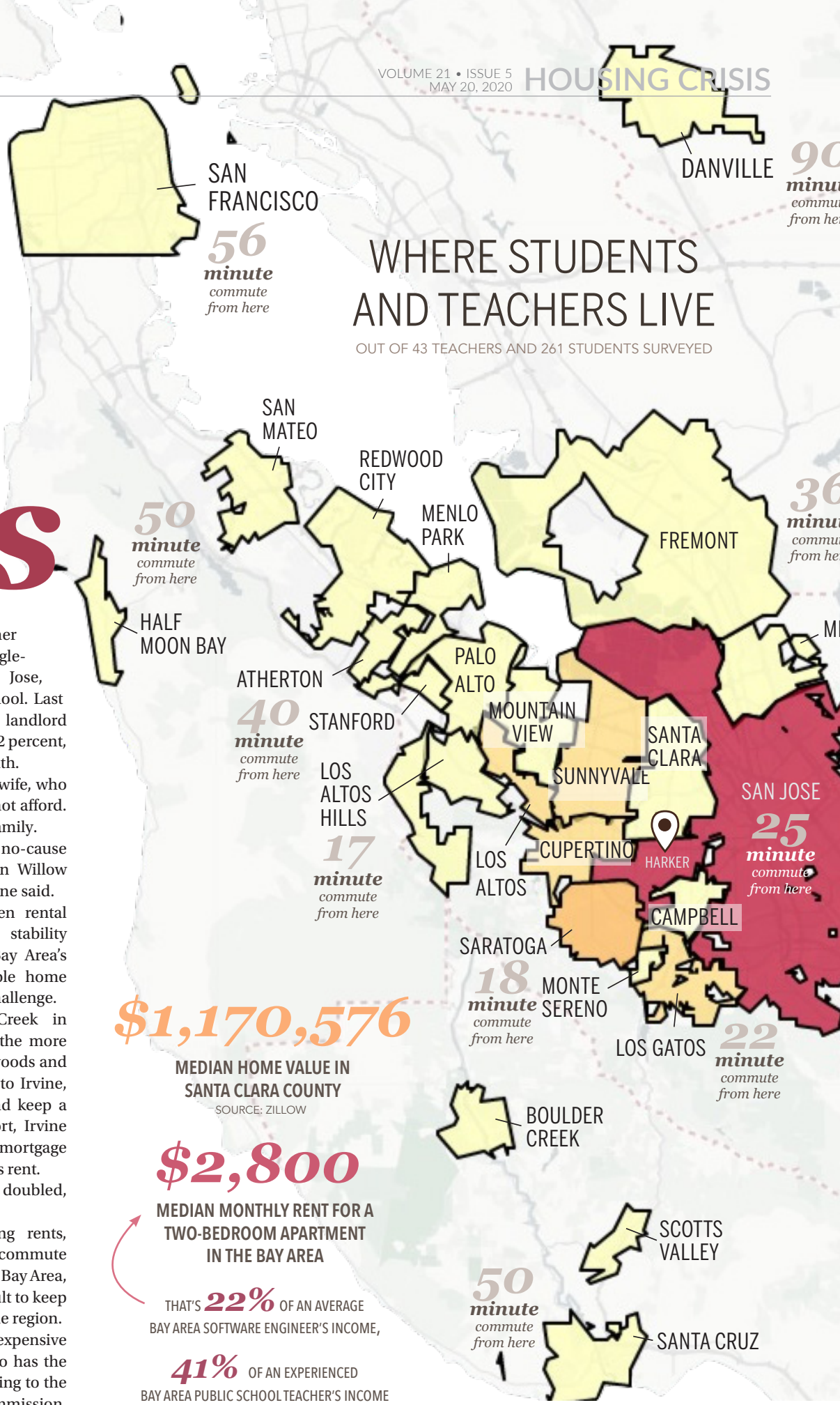
The Bay Area is one of the most expensive housing markets in the U.S. and also has the fastest-growing home prices. According to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, home prices in the Bay Area are nearly twice that of New York and D.C. metro areas and increased by 143 percent from 1997 to 2018.

Spending more than 30 percent of household income before taxes on housing is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as being cost-burdened. Spending more than 50 percent is defined as being severely cost-burdened.

According to the latest census data, in the Bay Area in 2018, 48.1 percent of people were cost-burdened, and 23.9 percent of people were severely cost-burdened.

The COVID-19 pandemic adds to the problem. As shelter-in-place orders swept across the Bay Area, thousands of people were laid off from their jobs. Employers filed plans over the first three weeks of April to eliminate around 53,500 jobs, a number almost four times larger than the job cuts filed throughout March. Many people are finding it increasingly difficult to afford already high housing costs.

“Because so many Bay Area renters were already in precarious positions even before the pandemic happened. I think there was a rush



**\$1,170,576**  
MEDIAN HOME VALUE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
SOURCE: ZILLOW

**\$2,800**  
MEDIAN MONTHLY RENT FOR A TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN THE BAY AREA

THAT’S **22%** OF AN AVERAGE BAY AREA SOFTWARE ENGINEER’S INCOME,

**41%** OF AN EXPERIENCED BAY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER’S INCOME

AND **107%** OF A FULLTIME BAY AREA STARBUCKS BARISTA’S TOTAL COMPENSATION

SOURCES: RENTHOP, LINKEDIN, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

According to Dillon, even if housing prices were to fall as a result of the pandemic, incomes are likely to fall faster, leaving as many or more households cost-burdened as before.

“I think [the government] is working extremely hard to support tenants, both at the state and local level. What I think we’re finding is, and this kind of goes back to the fact that the rent is too d— high, it’s still not enough,” said Kathleen Wortham, Health and Housing Policy Senior Associate at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. “We’re going to have to keep pushing to do more funding programs, like for rental assistance.”

While cities across the country struggle with gentrification and housing insecurity, these issues are particularly acute in the Bay Area due to the abundance of high-wage jobs in the region. In 2017, the Bay Area added 3.5 times as many jobs as it did housing units.

With all this competition for housing, middle-wage earners like teachers are often the hardest hit. This “missing middle” population earns too much to qualify for subsidized housing units but not enough to afford homes in more expensive Bay Area neighborhoods, preventing teachers from living in the communities in which they teach, creating long commutes and limiting teachers’ abilities to engage with students and school activities. In some cases, teachers have had to leave the Bay or give up teaching entirely.

## LEAVING THE BAY

For many Bay Area renters, wages have not kept up with housing cost hikes.

Between 2010 and 2019, average rent in San Jose increased by 74 percent from \$1,550 to

“Things are still expensive in Santa Cruz, but not nearly as expensive as here. But the commute can be an issue. And that’s the downside.”




**BRIGID MILLER**  
ENGLISH TEACHER  
LIVES IN SANTA CRUZ  
30 TO 120-MINUTE COMMUTE

“I would love to be able to stay here [after retirement]. I love California. I don’t think I can afford to, and that saddens me.”



**BRIAN LARSEN**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER  
LIVES IN SAN JOSE

“Part of the reason tuition goes up each year is to allow us to compensate our faculty more every year. We try to keep pace with the rate of inflation in the Bay Area, which factors in housing cost increases, it’s not just cost of bread and other stuff.”



**BRIAN YAGER**  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

“When I moved to California, I let go of the idea that I would own property ever again. I had a good situation, I had a lot of luck, I had a lot of help from people who wanted me to come here and found ways to jump over the structural problems like helping to find a home at below-market rents.”



**ELLEN AUSTIN**  
DIRECTOR OF JOURNALISM  
LIVES IN SAN FRANCISCO  
65 TO 120-MINUTE COMMUTE


## SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS

**HARKER**  
RENTS OUT 15 HOUSING UNITS IN 4 APARTMENT BUILDINGS AT SUBSIDIZED RATES TO FACULTY AND STAFF

“The convenience of being that close to school was tremendous, especially at a time in my life when I needed it.”

**BRIAN LARSEN**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER, LIVED IN HARKER APARTMENTS FROM 1997-2002, 2004-2012


**SOPHIE RAVEL**  
BAY AREA REALTOR



HAS REBATED 25% OF COMMISSION TO CLOSING COSTS ON TEACHERS’ HOMES FOR PAST 12 YEARS

“I have more appreciation for closing a deal that has more history behind it than for someone buying a property as another investment of theirs.”

**SARAH CHAFFIN**  
FOUNDER OF SUPPORT TEACHER HOUSING

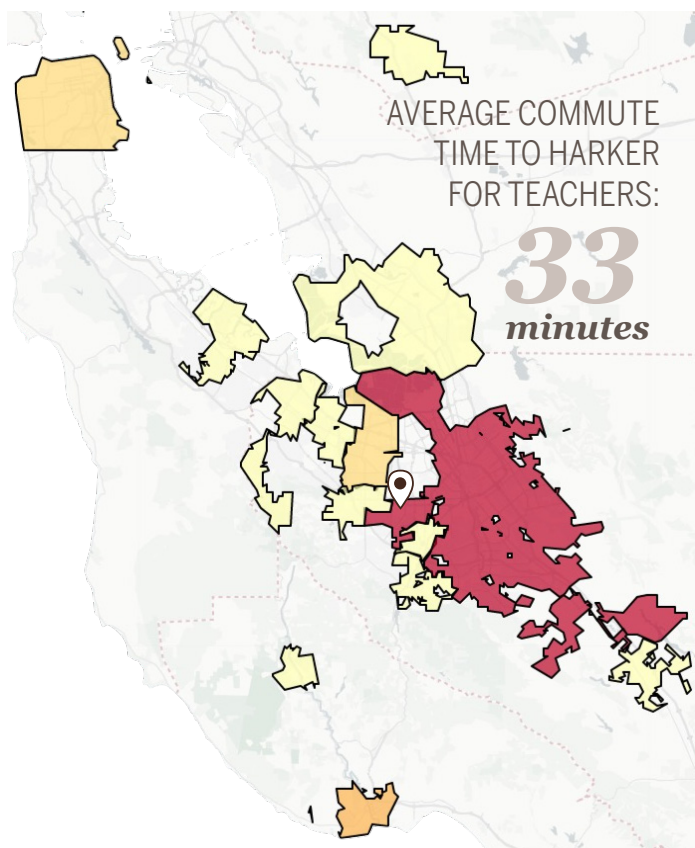


BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND TEACHERS

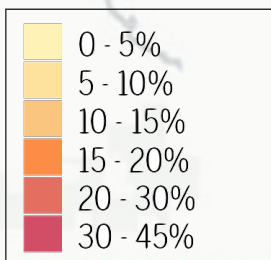
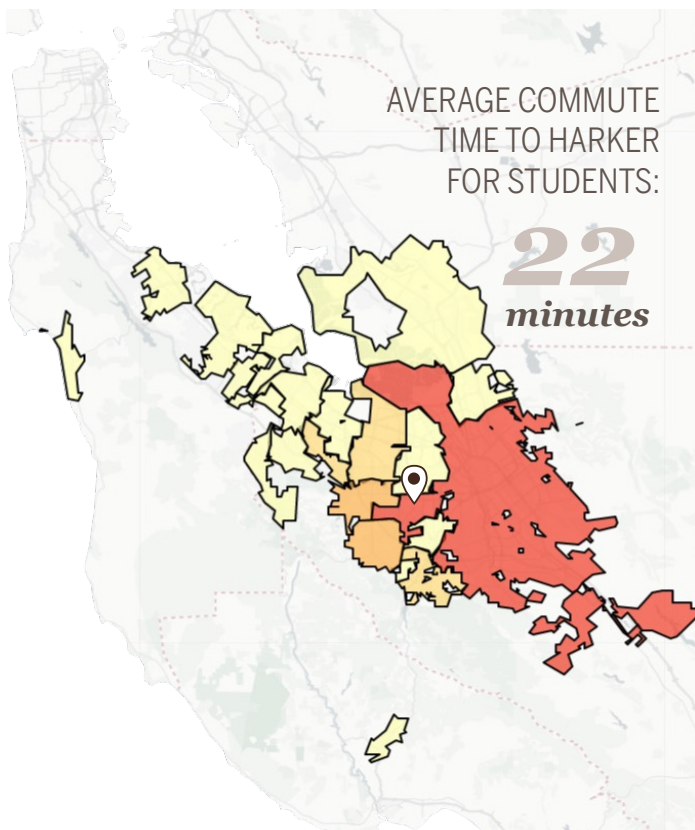
Support Teacher Housing is planning to:

- Build four units of two-bedroom two bathroom apartments in Los Gatos that will cost no more than \$2,017 a month to rent
- Raise \$1.2 million to fund this project

WHERE TEACHERS LIVE



WHERE STUDENTS LIVE



*"I don't know what happens when cities become literally unlivable for the people they need to make the cities run."*

- upper school visual arts teacher Trish Ludovici

Visual arts teacher Trish Ludovici lives in Oakland with her husband, who is also an artist. Despite having rent control, Ludovici worries about whether it will be sustainable for them to stay in the Bay Area long-term.

With student loans and no parental assistance, Ludovici and her husband are finding it difficult to save up for the high cost of homeownership in the region.

"If our house got sold, I don't know that we could afford to rent another place in the Bay Area and save any money towards owning anything," Ludovici said. "So then you have to do the math, right? Is it better to take a job someplace else that pays you less, but you save more money and you can afford a house later on? I don't know."

LEAVING THE BAY

According to a local loan officer who has helped over 75 Bay Area teachers get mortgage loans approved, homeownership gives teachers a much better chance of being able to continue teaching where they are. Monthly mortgage payments are fixed for a number of years, while rents typically increase every year.

But owning a home in the Bay Area isn't a possibility for most teachers.

According to the senior loan officer, in other parts of the nation where home prices and wages tend to be lower, teachers may be on an equal footing with other buyers. Here, teachers face competition from buyers with a lot more income and a lot more cash.

For Harker production manager Brian Larsen, 52, who has taught at Harker since

Miller's commute home, after picking up her two children from the middle school and the lower school, ranges from half an hour on a good day to two hours on a bad day.

"On the best possible day, no accidents, no major traffic, we get home at 4:30 p.m.. That's a dream day though," Miller said. "When I have a faculty meeting after school, I'm not getting home until closer to 6 p.m., which makes a mess of the schedule."

Teachers are not alone — in 2018, for the first time in a decade, more people left the Bay Area than moved in, as the region experienced a net loss of 3,013 people.

According to realtor and Harker parent Alice Xu, many people also leave the Bay for much farther locations: Sacramento, Seattle, Texas, Florida and even Mexico.

Larsen will be one of those people when it comes time for retirement. He and his wife plan to eventually leave the state.

"In my previous line of work when I was producing children's theater, I visited 42 states in the U.S. There are things in other parts of the country that I've enjoyed, but this is where I would prefer to stay," Larsen said. "I don't think I can afford to, and that saddens me."

Though people are leaving the Bay Area now more than ever, those moving out tend to be older and lower-income compared to those moving in. As a result, housing prices and demand for housing remain high.

THE PUSH TO BUILD

With prohibitively expensive housing costs near the upper school, administrators have to consider the housing barrier when recruiting and hiring highly-skilled teachers.

"Housing might be the number one factor [in new teachers' decisions to come here], and it didn't used to be that way," Keller said. "I remember my first year here [in 2007], I went to New York [for a teacher job fair], and I was interviewing teachers for days. It didn't matter where they came from, it just wasn't a big deal. Five or six years ago it became a big deal."

According to Head of School Brian Yager, while it's become harder to attract people from outside the Bay Area, Harker still recruits through a national network of consultants.

But the school has become "cautious" about recruiting teachers outside of the Bay Area, according to Keller.

While the constraints on recruitment haven't impacted the quality of teachers here, Keller said, it has limited the diversity of perspectives that teachers bring to the table.

"I think Mrs. Keller and I bring something different to San Jose because of where we're from [Virginia]," Keller said. "That [diversity] might not happen."

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.

**\$2,439**

MEDIAN MONTHLY OWNER COSTS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU 2018

**\$257,000**

AVERAGE DOWN PAYMENT IN SAN JOSE

FROM MARCH 2017 TO MARCH 2018

SOURCE: REALTOR.COM

BY COMPARISON, MEDIAN MONTHLY OWNER COSTS IN CHICAGO IN 2019

WERE **\$1,276**. THE AVERAGE DOWN

PAYMENT WAS **\$52,200**.

SOURCE: UNISON HOME AFFORDABILITY REPORT

1996, high homeowner costs mean that he and his family will continue to rent, despite the possibility of having to move on short notice.

For seven years, Larsen, his wife and six of their children had lived in a four-bedroom, three-bathroom house they rented in San Jose about five miles from the upper school.

"In October of this past year, our landlord sold the house, and we had to move quickly," Larsen said. "We have five total people at home right now, so three-bedroom two-bath, but we rent because there's no way we could purchase in the valley right now."

As home values exceed affordability, many teachers are leaving the Bay Area in search of cheaper and more attractive housing options. According to Irvine, several upper school faculty and staff members have moved to the mountains in Santa Cruz County for more affordable housing that meets the needs of their families.

When English teacher Brigid Miller's family needed a larger house to accommodate the arrival of her second child seven years ago, they moved from a home in Santa Clara a mile and a half from school to a home in the Santa Cruz mountains about 20 miles away.

A house with the same acreage in Santa Clara County would have been unattainable for Miller and her husband, Lester, a systems engineer in Los Gatos.

"Things are still expensive in Santa Cruz, but not nearly as expensive as here," Miller said. "But the commute can be an issue. And that's the downside."

\$2,697, while median household income increased by just 51 percent from \$76,730 to \$115,862.

On Jan. 1, California enacted statewide rent control. AB-1482, the Tenant Protection Act of 2019, limits annual rent increases to 5 percent but only applies to units at least 15 years old.

Before AB-1482, Bay Area cities differed in the amount of rent control they had, if any. Some teachers, like Irvine, faced rent hikes of over 20 percent in a year. Many upper school teachers chose to live farther from school in areas that limited rent increases.

"Our rent when we were in San Jose was jumping by huge amounts whenever they wanted to raise the rent," said theater teacher Jeffrey Draper, who moved to San Francisco 17 years ago and started teaching at Harker 20 years ago. "I think it would be really a challenge for us to have stayed in a region without rent control."

Draper said that he "lucked into" an apartment in San Francisco with a three percent per year cap on rent increases, which has protected him from rent hikes in the city. Currently, he pays \$2,000 per month in rent, while his neighbors pay \$5,500.

One of the trade-offs is the 45-minute commute, assuming that Draper leaves at 5 or 6 a.m. to beat the morning rush.

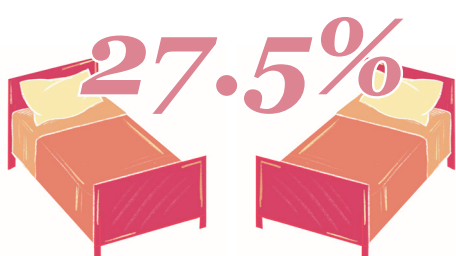
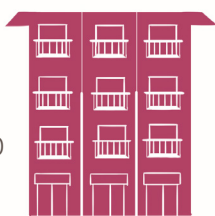
"It's not an amazing apartment, there are things we complain about, but because we have rent control, it's too expensive for us to move, so we're sort of stuck with it," Draper said. "Luckily we're happy."

The insecurity that comes with renting in the Bay Area means that many teachers live with the anxiety of potentially having to one day leave the region or give up teaching altogether.

**10%**

OF UPPER SCHOOL TEACHERS HAVE LIVED IN HOUSING RENTED OUT BY HARKER

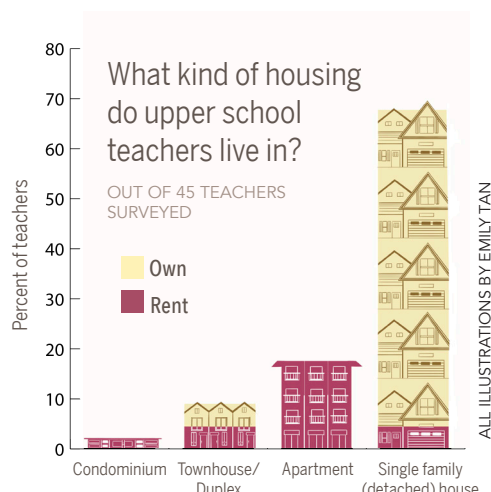
OUT OF 40 TEACHERS SURVEYED



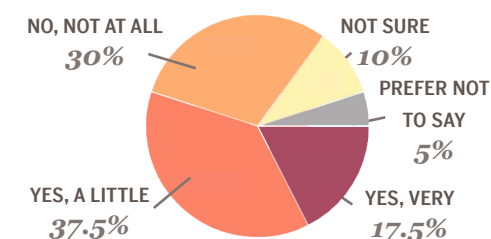
**27.5%**

OF UPPER SCHOOL TEACHERS HAVE LIVED WITH A ROOMMATE TO SAVE ON HOUSING COSTS WHILE AT HARKER

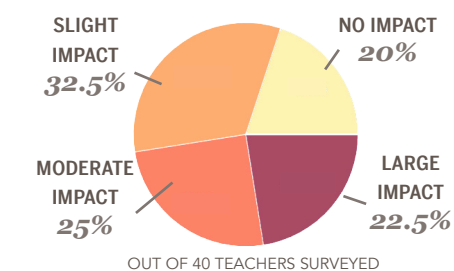
OUT OF 40 TEACHERS SURVEYED



Does housing cost factor into whether upper school teachers will continue at Harker in the next 5 years?



What impact do their commutes have on upper school teachers' overall satisfaction with their jobs?



# 'Who belongs?'

Development and displacement change the face of Bay Area communities

**20.1%**

OF STUDENTS ARE SEEING GENTRIFICATION IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS  
OUT OF 194 STUDENTS SURVEYED

**42.5%**

OF TEACHERS ARE SEEING GENTRIFICATION IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS  
OUT OF 40 TEACHERS SURVEYED

GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK EACH PROMISED

**\$1 BILL**

TO BUILD **20,000** NEW HOMES EACH IN THE BAY AREA.

SINCE

**2015**

SAN JOSE HAS BECOME AN "ADVANCED GENTRIFICATION AREA"

WITH A DEMOGRAPHIC CONSIDERED MODERATE TO HIGH-INCOME

SOURCE: URBAN DISPLACEMENT PROJECT

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY TAN

In elementary and middle school, Simren Gupta (12) often visited a Chinese restaurant down the street from where she lives in Sunnyvale. The restaurant had been around since before she was born.

When Simren started learning Mandarin in middle school, she practiced by speaking with the restaurant's owners.

Three years ago, the restaurant got a notice from the landowners that it would be shut down to make room for a new apartment complex.

The restaurant is just one example of how Bay Area neighborhoods are changing. As rising real estate costs are displacing people and businesses, upper school teachers and students have noticed differences in their communities.

"Even around my house, local businesses have been shut down and replaced with big corporations," Simren said.

Bay Area cities find themselves juggling having more big businesses to grow the economy, more housing for people moving in and more protection for current

residents in danger of being displaced.

The COVID-19 pandemic may worsen the situation. As small businesses and lower-income households are likely to be hardest hit by the pandemic's economic toll, more of them may be displaced in the near future.

At the same time, less money may be available to build affordable housing.

"In a lot of ways, the Bay Area is very resilient. However, at the same time, there's a lot of ways in which we have not fully recovered from the financial crash of 2008. One of the ways that we haven't been quite as resilient is in home construction, home permitting and home entitlements," Kathleen Wortham, health and housing senior associate at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG), said. "It's going to take a lot of work to make sure that we're building up our workforce and political will to get housing built."

With little open space left to build and complications like the coronavirus, development in the Bay Area walks a fine line between helping and hurting the communities around it.

"At first I was like, why don't we just stop landlords from charging residents too much money, but a lot of landlords aren't that wealthy as well and they're doing what they can... It's because the foundations of our housing system are flawed."



**JAI BAHRI (12)**  
WORKED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR JOE SIMITIAN'S OFFICE

## THE PUSH TO BUILD

In 2017, California Governor Gavin Newsom said 3.5 million new homes needed to be built by 2025 in order to meet the state's housing needs.

According to California's housing department, new housing units have been built at the rate of 80,000 per year over the last decade, and each unit of subsidized affordable housing in California costs about \$450,000 to build, making Newsom's goal ambitious if not impossible.

The shelter-in-place order has also slowed development. From March 31 to May 4, six Bay Area counties prohibited most types of construction. Even as restrictions eased and construction continued on May 4, the pandemic may have lasting effects on development and affordable housing construction.

"The housing and real estate market can change so quickly that sometimes a month's delay can cause developers to lose money," Bay Area News Group Housing

Reporter Marisa Kendall said.

According to Wortham, some processes like inspections and permitting may take time to move online to comply with social distancing guidelines, contributing to a slowdown in construction.

Other obstacles that predate the pandemic stand in the way. San Jose faces particular challenges as the "bedroom" of the Silicon Valley. More people spend the night in San Jose than work there.

"We're the biggest city in this area by far, but 85 percent of our usable land is zoned for residential. That means that the city has to figure out how to pay for all the infrastructure, all the services, the parks, everything else that residents need to make a city livable just from residential property taxes, and it doesn't work," Elisabeth Handler, public information manager of San Jose's Office of Economic Development, said.

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.

## BIGGEST BUILDERS

Some of the biggest contributors to the housing problem are also those throwing the most money at solving it.

In June, Google announced a \$1 billion housing plan, promising to build 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area over the next decade. In October, Facebook matched that offer, dedicating \$1 billion to building 20,000 homes of its own. In November, Apple invested \$2.5 billion into funding affordable housing projects, helping first-time homebuyers with mortgage payments and supporting vulnerable populations.

"What these tech companies are doing is they're filling the gap," said Vince Rocha, Senior Director of Housing and Community Development at SVLG. "A lot of projects may have acquired the land, or they just need a little bit of extra resources to get the project done."

In August, Google also unveiled a plan to build a whole community of its own: a mile-long "transit village" near Diridon Station, a Caltrain stop and bus hub in downtown San Jose.

Google's transit village would include 5,000 new homes of mixed income levels and 6.5 million square feet of office, retail and community space.

"Google has envisioned their development as very different from a typical

corporate campus," Handler said. "In fact, we're not even using the word campus because it will be more like a downtown neighborhood. Their whole point was to make it permeable, to be part of connecting East and West and North and South San Jose, not creating a little, round fenced-off blob in the middle of the city."

Local residents have protested Google's plans for a new campus since the company's announcement. Protesters fear that the campus will lead to increased rent in the area, driving out local residents and businesses.

"While I think we need more housing, we know from our research that transit station areas are more likely to experience gentrification and displacement," Anna Cash, former director of University of California at Berkeley's Urban Displacement Project, said. "There needs to be a lot of awareness and thoughtfulness around the policy strategies to mitigate that."

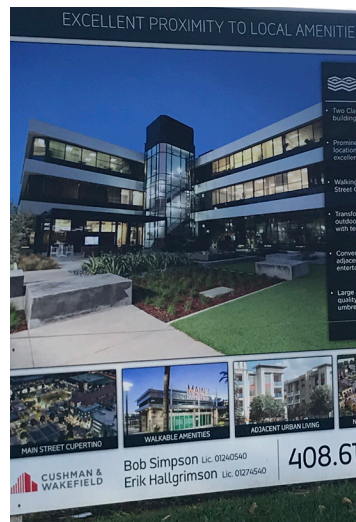
Some say tech companies are still not doing enough to address their role in the housing crisis.

"A lot of these corporations don't pay their fair share of taxes," Cash said. "I think taking that step would be a more systemic way to support the communities around them."

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.



**BULLDOZED** Construction machinery digs up the parking lot of the former Vallco Shopping Mall in Cupertino. On May 7, a judge approved plans to convert Vallco into 2,402 housing units, half of which are below market-rate, and 1.8 million square feet of offices.



ALL PHOTOS BY ERIC FANG

**THE OFFICE** (LEFT) A sign shows a soon-to-be-built office complex within walking distance from Main Street Cupertino. The complex will take up 114,895 square feet.  
**RENEWAL** (RIGHT) A run-down part of Vallco mall remains standing amid construction of a new mixed-use complex. Construction had been stalled from June 2018 to early May 2020 because a community group called Friends of Cupertino sued the property developers, opposing the increased traffic that development would bring.

## SO, WHO BELONGS?

Concerns of displacement and gentrification often accompany development projects like Google's Diridon campus.

According to Victor Farlie, Senior Executive Analyst at San Jose's Office of Economic Development, displacement can happen directly through rent increases or indirectly through changes to the community or the general economy.

Many are concerned the pandemic could worsen displacement.

"Small businesses have been hit really hard," Kendall said. "[Many] were telling me they're making 30 percent of their normal profit. They're not sure if they're going to be able to pay rent."

Due to legacies of discriminatory housing practices, the danger for displacement is especially high in minority-majority neighborhoods that have historically faced disinvestment.

As people search for cheaper housing closer to the city core, they enter low-income communities, and landlords realize new tenants can pay more in rent than old tenants.

But the problem isn't as simple as greedy landlords, as Jai Bahri (12) learned in his time as an intern in Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian's office.

"At first I was like, why don't we just stop landlords from charging residents

too much money, but a lot of landlords aren't wealthy as well and are doing what they can," Jai said. "It's because the foundations of our housing system are flawed."

Upper school visual arts teachers Trish Ludovici and Joshua Martinez have noticed displacement creating demographic changes in their neighborhoods. Ludovici noted that recently, many older Black and Latino families have moved out of North Oakland and younger, white couples have moved in. Martinez said that since 2008, he's seen 18 houses on his block in the San Francisco Mission District be renovated and sold and several families evicted.

"We had a huge Central American population in my neighborhood, and now it is predominantly upper-middle-class white Americans," Martinez said.

San Jose faces similar displacement pressures, as limited affordable housing is available.

"We need South San Jose, Almaden Valley, Willow Glen to open up their communities to being home for extremely low-income families," Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, executive director of the community organization Somos Mayfair, said. "People don't want low-income people in their communities, which reinforces the question, 'Who belongs?'"

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.

# ‘An epidemic situation’

## Vulnerable homeless population hit hard by COVID-19 pandemic

As the Bay Area issued social distancing guidelines in response to COVID-19, many people experiencing homelessness found them impossible to follow.

Overcrowded shelters and encampments are breeding grounds for the virus, and research from the University of Pennsylvania suggests that people experiencing homelessness are twice as likely to be hospitalized and two to three times as likely to die from COVID-19 compared to the general population.

To help with the pandemic response effort, Destination: Home, a Santa Clara County organization working to end homelessness, became activated as one of the county’s Emergency Operations Centers, typically used for crisis situations like natural disasters.

**“We know that folks who have been living on the streets for a while are more likely to be facing underlying health conditions or be more medically vulnerable than existing residents.”**



**DAVID LOW**  
DIRECTOR OF POLICY  
& COMMUNICATIONS,  
DESTINATION: HOME

“We’ve been working to assist [the] homeless and unsheltered because both have a harder time practicing social distancing or other preventive measures,” said David Low, the director of policy and communications at Destination: Home.

Destination: Home has been helping to open mass shelters and distribute sanitation supplies. On March 23, it also launched a 11 million dollar financial assistance initiative to aid families at risk of becoming homeless as a result of the pandemic. The organization received 4,500 applications within three days, with 10,000 households on the wait list.

Compass Family Services, an organization dedicated to helping homeless families in San Francisco achieve housing stability, has also stepped up to house the homeless. According to Anthony Carrasco, the external affairs and policy manager at Company Family Services, the organization is currently housing around 60 families in hotel rooms.

“Hotel rooms are far superior to live in than congregate housing shelters, because living in hotel rooms allows the homeless to actually social distance and follow shelter-in-place guidelines,” Carrasco said.

But more remains to be done. A count conducted on Jan. 24, 2019 by the city of San Francisco reported 9,784 homeless individuals in the city, including people staying in housing

shelters, jails and hospitals. According to Carrasco, this number is far higher now, as the coronavirus pandemic has forced many more tenants out of their apartments.

Carrasco thinks that one way that the government can help is to strike out rental debt for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic, noting that it is far cheaper to prevent a family from being homeless than to help a family off the streets.

The Bay Area already faced a growing homelessness problem prior to the pandemic. The latest point-in-time (PIT) count by city officials in 2019 estimated that over 34,000 people were homeless in the Bay Area, an increase of over 22 percent since 2017.

The actual number of people experiencing homelessness in the Bay is likely to be higher. PIT counts can underestimate these numbers by two to three times due to technical difficulties and seasonal differences in rates of homelessness.

As opposed to New York, which provides shelter to 95 percent of its homeless population, the Bay Area suffers from a lack of affordable or government-subsidized housing. In 2017, 67 percent of the Bay Area homeless population was unsheltered. Even prior to the pandemic, San Francisco shelters already had all of their beds occupied, leaving at least 5,000 people in the city unsheltered.

What causes so many people in the Bay Area to become homeless? Destination: Home said it’s fundamentally because of a lack of affordable housing, particularly for low-income residents.

“When folks can’t find an affordable place to live, they become severely rent-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent utilities, and become just one emergency away from ending up on the street,” Low said.

Most people in Silicon Valley become homeless after losing a job or experiencing a change in family composition, according to a 2019 Destination Home study.

The best way for Silicon Valley residents to help, Low said, is to tackle the systemic driver of homelessness by advocating for more affordable housing units to be built.

“We need people to use their voice, show up to city council meetings, write the councilors while these decisions are being made to make sure that these developments are getting built,” Low said.

Raising awareness helps as well. People experiencing homelessness often face dehumanization and stigma from other people in their communities who don’t know of or understand their struggles.

“We’re just people who have happened on mishaps and stuff like that,” Rudy, who lives at the Interstate 280 off-ramp across the street from the upper school, said. “We’re no different than anyone.”

From San Jose to Oakland to Santa Rosa, these are some of their stories.

Visit [harkeraquila.com](http://harkeraquila.com) for full article.



**AROUND THE CORNER** A mattress and a shopping cart full of personal belongings sit on the corner from the upper school. According to the latest counts by city officials, in 2019 the homelessness in San Jose.

## Bike trail for some, home for others: Life in

**“This right here is Little Mama. She saved my life, and I saved hers. A lot of people don’t like us here, and I know that. But where are we supposed to go? A lot of shelters don’t even take dogs.”**

**CINA HONE, 49**

Lived on the Joe Rodota trail from August to January 2019 with her 12-year-old chihuahua. Hone’s friend had brought Little Mama to her on a night when she had planned to commit suicide.



ERIC FANG

**“This highway [State Route 12] is horrible to live by. It subliminally puts people in a place where they don’t think they can be anywhere else. Like they’re criminals.”**

**STEPHENS WILLIAMS, 59**

Lives near the Joe Rodota Trail and visited friends there. Between finding his current house and being evicted from his home in Santa Rosa, he had been unsheltered for six months.



ERIC FANG



the sidewalk on Kiely Blvd., around here were 9,706 people experiencing



**34,682**

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE BAY AREA

**9,784**

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

**9,706**

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN JOSE

SOURCE: 2019 POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS BY CITY OFFICIALS



**1. LIFE ON THE TRAIL** A woman walks along the Joe Rodota Trail, which was home to over 250 people, in Santa Rosa on Jan. 25. Over the month of January, city officials cleared the two-mile-long encampment, sending some people to shelters and some to temporary "pallet buildings" a two-hour drive away. Others had to set up their tents elsewhere.

**2. HOUSING 4 ALL** Supporters of Moms4Housing, a group of mothers protesting the lack of affordable housing in Oakland, rally on Jan. 14 outside a vacant house that the mothers were occupying. Moms4Housing drew national attention to the tens of thousands of Bay Area homes that are bought up by developers and left empty amid growing rates of homelessness.

**3. FAMILY KITCHEN** Megan Chiang, a junior at Archbishop Mitty High School, pours a cup of milk at Loaves & Fishes' East San Jose location, which serves dinner to over 100 people every weekday. Megan has volunteered there once or twice a week since the summer of 2018.

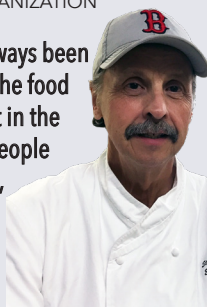
**4. FROM THE HARKER GATES** Rudy lives in an orange tent by the Interstate 280 off-ramp across the street from the upper school. Rudy was evicted from his apartment in Santa Clara in 2015 after he lost his job as a machinist in South San Jose and his wife died from cancer.

**5. CYCLING THROUGH** The California Department of Transportation posted a notice by Rudy's tent in mid-February, ordering him to vacate the site by the next week. Rudy said that he cycles between multiple locations to avoid getting in trouble with law enforcement. "I've been living here on and off for the last four years," Rudy said. "I know at least 50 people that live right in this area and we all just try to make the best of it."

HOW IS THE HARKER COMMUNITY HELPING?

**STEVE MARTIN**  
HEAD CHEF  
DONATES HARKER'S EXTRA UNCOOKED FOOD TO STAND UP FOR KIDS, A SAN JOSE ORGANIZATION

"My decision has always been to have a purpose for the food and not to just throw it in the trash. There's a lot of people in need, and it is good, healthy food."



NERINE UYANIK

**ARUSHA PATIL (11)**  
INSTALLING A COMPUTER LIBRARY AND A QUIET MINDFULNESS AREA IN THE SUNNYVALE COUNTY WINTER SHELTER

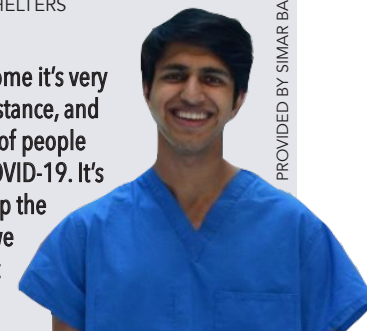
"I work on a desk, and I still have trouble focusing. Can you imagine working in an environment where everyone is talking, where you may not even feel completely safe? So how can we create an environment to allow people to feel more comfortable?"



ANNA VAZHAEPARAMBIL

**SIMAR BAJAJ (12)**  
HELPING MEDICAL CLUB, KEY CLUB AND STUDENT COUNCIL DONATE FACE MASKS TO HOMELESS SHELTERS

"Without a home it's very hard to social distance, and that leaves a lot of people vulnerable to COVID-19. It's important to help the overlooked, so we wanted to target [shelters]."



PROVIDED BY SIMAR BAJAJ

the 2-mile-long Santa Rosa trail encampment before it was cleared in January



ERIC FANG

"It was hard hit after hard hit. Rent got really high after the [Tubbs] fire [in 2017], and I lost my roommate so I just wasn't able to keep my house [in Petaluma]. I bought a motorhome and moved back to a property on Stony Point Road but that got foreclosed. Then my car got stolen."

**JOSEPH VICINO, 37**

Lived on the trail for six months with his dog, Rocky. In 2017, Santa Rosa saw a 9.3 percent increase in housing prices, according to a county report.



ERIC FANG

"I think [social services] should come to us and talk to us because a lot of times it's hard for us to walk. We don't have money to take the bus. I've seen a lot of people like that. Or their health is bad or they're disabled."

**MARY LOPEZ, 58**

Lived on the Joe Rodota Trail for three months. Lopez had been calling local shelters, which were all full, every day, and was looking for a roommate who could share the cost of rent.

DESIGN BY ERIC FANG

# Helping the unsheltered in San Jose

Where to volunteer or donate:

1 CityTeam San Jose, which runs a men's shelter and another shelter for homeless pregnant women 18 & over. CityTeam also runs a dining hall and a learning and career center. [cityteam.org/san-jose](http://cityteam.org/san-jose)

2 Stand Up For Kids, which helps unaccompanied homeless and at risk youth through mentoring and short-term housing. [standupforkids.org](http://standupforkids.org)

3 LifeMoves, which provides interim housing and support for homeless families and individuals in shelters throughout San Jose. [lifemoves.org](http://lifemoves.org)

4 My New Red Shoes, which provides new shoes and clothing to homeless or disadvantaged students and helps increase overall attendance and quality of education within underprivileged communities. [mynewredshoes.org](http://mynewredshoes.org)

5 Bay Area Rescue Mission, a nonprofit that serves hot meals and provides shelter and vocational training to people experiencing homelessness. [bayarearescue.org](http://bayarearescue.org)

6 Compass Family Service's fund to house homeless families in hotel rooms during shelter-in-place [charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/hotel-rooms-for-the-homeless-sf](http://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/hotel-rooms-for-the-homeless-sf)

7 Silicon Valley Strong, a fund to help residents, businesses and nonprofits affected by COVID-19 [siliconvalleystrong.org](http://siliconvalleystrong.org)



NICOLE TIAN

Despite passing by a homeless encampment just a few yards from the upper school gates each day, it's been too easy for us as Harker students to avoid really seeing it. Despite hearing our teachers say they had to rush to make their 90-minute commutes home, we weren't really listening. And despite living in the midst of an affordable housing shortage throughout the Bay Area, we rarely talk about the situation unfolding right in front of our eyes.

From researching and reporting on the Bay Area housing crisis over the last 10 months, we've seen how the crisis is not only happening around us, but happening to us.

The housing crisis affects how much time we spend commuting and where we can afford to live, both now and in the future. It affects whether many of us will be able to return to the Bay Area after college. It affects what our local communities look like and what neighbors and businesses we interact with on a daily basis. Moreover, it affects whether our teachers can continue being our teachers and what they may have to sacrifice to do so.

To understand the myriad ways that the housing crisis impacts us and our communities, we interviewed over 60 people across the Bay Area, starting with our teachers, administrators and classmates and working our way outwards to realtors, property developers, researchers, city officials, mortgage loan agents, nonprofit organizations, lobbying groups, activists, volunteers, people experiencing homelessness and more.

What we've learned from these scores of conversations is that the situation is complicated, to say the least, and deeply personal.

Just as the crisis affects many different people in many different ways, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Any progress will require the dedicated effort of diverse organizations and individuals across public and private sectors.

But these interviews have also reminded us that we can be a part of that effort, even as high school students.

We can donate our time, money and food to local organizations; write to our elected representatives to support affordable housing initiatives and public works programs; vote in local, state and national elections for candidates that support affordable housing; raise awareness through writing, advocacy and art; or simply become better informed about the issues impacting those around us.

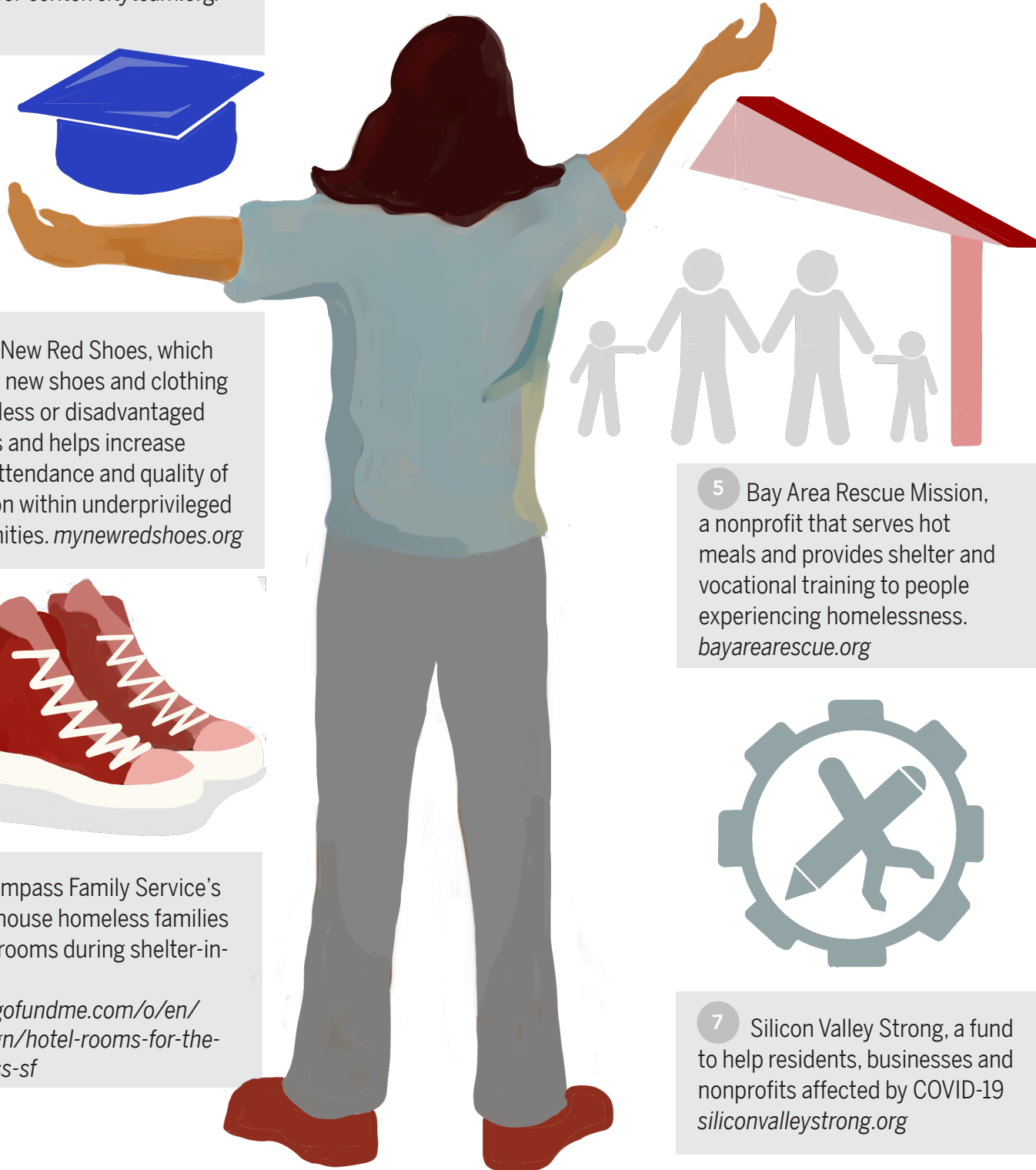
We have the ability to shape the conversation on fair and affordable housing for everyone in the area.

In journalism, we have a saying: 'Comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable.'

Through this package, we hope to share the experiences that have made the housing crisis so real and pressing to us, and to give a microphone to underrepresented voices.

We hope this package provides a step in what will be a long, comprehensive effort to call attention to the housing crisis and spark the dialogue that will affect real change at Harker and schools across the region.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICOLE TIAN



Where to donate food:

1 West Valley Community Services, which offers a weekly food pantry to families facing hunger crises. [wvcommunityservices.org](http://wvcommunityservices.org)

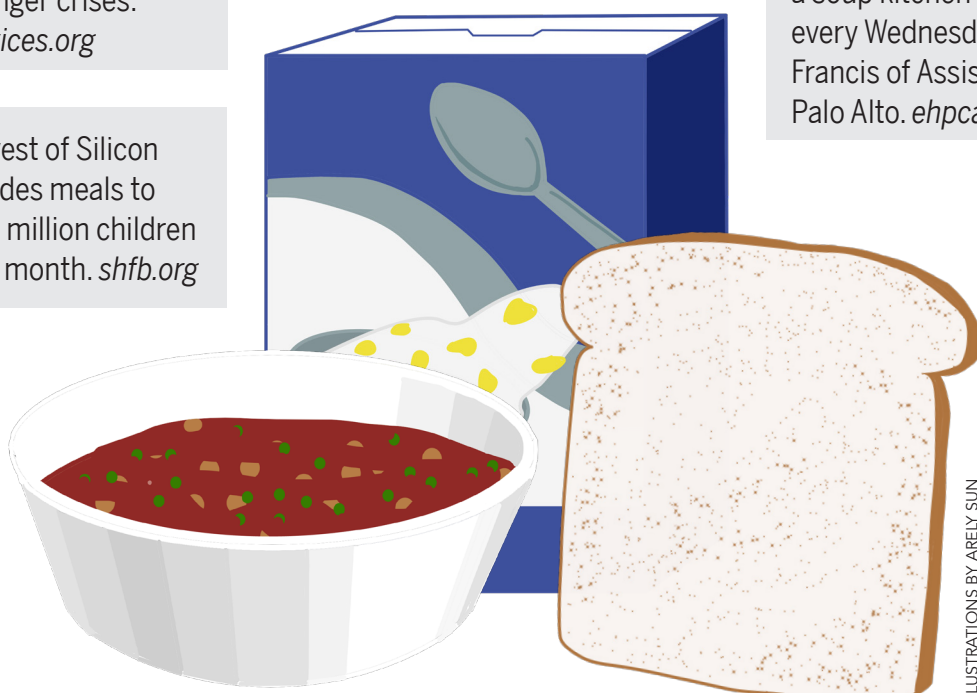
2 Sunnyvale Community Services, which provides food aid, emergency financial aid and a weekend school food program. [svcommunityservices.org](http://svcommunityservices.org)

4 Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, which provides meals to over a quarter of a million children and families every month. [shfb.org](http://shfb.org)

3 Ecumenical Hunger Program, a soup kitchen that serves dinner every Wednesday night at St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto. [ehpcares.org](http://ehpcares.org)

6 Martha's Kitchen, a soup kitchen and a central kitchen that prepares meals for other sites. [marthas-kitchen.org](http://marthas-kitchen.org)

5 JW House, a community home that offers shelter and food to families who are undergoing medical problems and need a place to stay. [jwhouse.org](http://jwhouse.org)



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