

BRIEFS

Party at the Gateway

The Alameda family will commemorate serving the South Bay community for 85 years with a celebration on Aug. 15 in the Saratoga Gateway Business District. The event will be hosted by several businesses in the Gateway, starting at Prospect on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road near Peet's and ending near the Pool Guys. There will be live music and food trucks.

Kathleen Alameda Durham, one of the founders of the Alameda Family Funeral & Cremation on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, will be in attendance.

The event is from noon to 4 p.m.

Lasers and 3D printing

The Saratoga Library will host a laser etching puzzle workshop for teens on Aug. 15.

The event will allow teens to create their own design and have it cut into puzzle pieces with a laser cutter. It will also be an opportunity to learn about 3D printing.

Teens can register for the workshop, which begins at 10 a.m., at the library.

Aegis Gallery hosts art show

The Aegis Gallery of Fine Art is holding a group art exhibit through Aug. 30 titled "Reflections."

The gallery is at 14531 Big Basin Way in Saratoga and open on Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, visit the gallery's website at aegisgallery.com.

STYLE

COVERING THE ARTS AND LOCAL FEATURES

Trinity Center presents 'Passionate Pursuit'

Musical tribute coming on Aug. 22

By MELISSA MCKENZIE

It's been 25 years since Anuradha Sridhar of Saratoga brought South Indian Classical music, or Carnatic Music, to the South Bay. What started from humble beginnings—sharing a 200-year-old tradition with a handful of students—has grown into a successful music school, instructing upwards of 40 students at any given time.

With every piece performed at its quarter-century celebration show later this month holding great significance and highlighting a milestone of the past 25 years, the Trinity Center for Music will commemorate its storied history with "Passionate Pursuit," a musical tribute honoring Guru Lagudi Srimathi Brahmanandam on Aug. 22 in San Jose.

"Passionate Pursuit" will not only be showcasing student and professional performances, but the concert will be a family affair. The performance's honoree, Brahmanandam, is a veteran violinist and Sridhar's teacher and mother. Sridhar's brother, Shriram Brahmanandam, a rhythm instructor at the Trinity Center for Music, will also join Sridhar on stage.

In addition, "We are having three guests of honor," says Sridhar. "Ambassador Vankatesan Ashok is the Consular general of the San Francisco Indian Embassy. Also, we have Mr. Michael Santoro, the founder and executive director of San Francisco World Music, with whom we have been associated since 2007. The third guest of honor is the legendary Bharathanatyam exponent Rhadha. She has produced the famous ballet, 'Jaya Jaya Devi,' composed by my uncle, Lalgudi Jayaraman, and has also been



FILE PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE SAKKESAD

Anuradha Sridhar tunes her Tambura. Sridhar, a tireless teacher, performer and ambassador for Carnatic music in the Bay Area, will bring 'Passionate Pursuit' to San Jose on Aug. 22.

associated with our music and tradition for many decades."

Approximately 20 musicians will share the stage to celebrate the school's achievement. The Trinity Center for Music is known for not only instructing vocal students on the meaning of the lyrics they're singing, but for only accepting serious students into its program. However, she points out that a student with desire and little natural talent is just as important as a student who possesses the ability to immediately perform.

"When we teach classical music, we need to know what value system they should adhere to and what should be altered for their benefit," she says. "When a child comes from a family without any musical back-

ground but is passionate and ready to work hard, we must develop a method of teaching him or her, too. By the time they finish school, music is so much a part of them that they can't quit it."

For Sridhar, continuing to teach at the Trinity Center for Music is about sharing her love of the art form and the traditions that have been passed throughout her family for generations. She also sees herself as a student, constantly learning from the interactions she has with people while embracing new ideas and adapting to current trends. She has also recently launched an online version of the school to reach students located in other states. Trinity Center's online learning program has been developed with a custom-

ized approach to learning based on her and her mother's evolving teaching methods.

"Trinity Center is known for its quality musical performances," says Sridhar. "This show will be a spectacular one of a kind performance of music and multimedia by the students and not to be missed by the lovers of Carnatic Music or those that would love to be introduced to this traditional music."

"Passionate Pursuit" is at the Center for Employment and Training Auditorium, 701 Vine St. in San Jose, on Aug. 22, 4 p.m. Tickets, \$15, are available by calling Usha at 408.896.9988, Geetha at 650.704.1720, Srikala at 408.582.8119 or Saroja at 408.219.4219.