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sal pizarro

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Pizarro: Arts Council Silicon Valley honors those at the top

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Pizarro: Birthday bash for Latino arts patron

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Pizarro: Arts Council Silicon Valley honors those at the top

By Sal Pizarro Mercury News Posted: 05/09/2010 12:00:00 AM PDT

Recognizing that it's a tough time to head an arts organization, Arts Council Silicon Valley said a big "thank you" by honoring more than 60 leaders at its Silicon Valley Arts and Business Awards on Friday.

The biennial event — commonly known as the ABBYs — drew a lunchtime crowd of nearly 900 to the San Jose Fairmont Hotel.

Siobhan Kenney, who runs community affairs for Applied Materials, and Michelle Mann, head of the Adobe Foundation, were presented Spirit of the Arts awards for the continued support they've shown for Silicon Valley's creative community.

Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone, who was one of the Arts Council's founders, received a well-deserved lifetime achievement award.

Stone even used the moment to chide San Jose's city council for seeking to solve its budget problems by cutting arts funding — an area he puts on par with parks and libraries.

"I wish more politicians were willing to be outspoken advocates of the arts," he said.

BENEFIT: Cancer survivor and bestselling author Kelly Corrigan will speak at "Celebrate More Birthdays," a Thursday event at Campbell Heritage Theatre that benefits the American Cancer Society and O'Connor Hospital.

The event's title was inspired by the American Cancer Society's slogan, "The Official Sponsor of Birthdays."

"We are also inspired

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by three special friends who are currently fighting cancer," event co-chair Nancy Shearer-Schroeder said. "Two of these people are only in middle school. That is why part of our event proceeds will fund a scholarship through the American Cancer Society."

Tickets to the 6:30 p.m. event, which includes a dessert reception, are \$30-\$40. Go to www.ci.campbell.ca.us/heritagetheatre/box office.htm.

NAME-CALLING: After receiving just a few entries early on, Mayor Chuck Reed's contest to name San Jose City Hall's three falcon chicks ended up with nearly 150 submissions.

Five female names and 10 male names made it to the finals. Now it's up to the public to vote.

Voting at the San Jose Peregrine Falcon Alliance website (www.sanjoseperegrines.org) is open through 5 p.m. Thursday.

SILVER SCREEN STARS: If you were among the legions who saw "Iron Man 2" this weekend, then you've seen the work of graduates from San Jose State University's animation/illustration program.

Believe it or not, program alums have contributed to more than 60 movies in the past 15 years, not to mention other pop culture standards like "The Simpsons" and even games on Facebook.

This year's graduating class has its BFA Senior Show in the San Jose State Art Building this week, with an opening reception Tuesday at 6 p.m.

SPACE COWBOYS: I did a double take when I saw that Hospice of the Valley, which offers end-of-life care, had chosen "Into the Future" as the theme for its annual Western Gala on Friday.

Cowboy hats and space suits seemed an odd match, but it turns out the agency is using the gala to leap into its own future: the completion of its 2015 strategic vision plan.

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