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Local Resident Delivers Original Hampton Score to Ben-Gurion University

Submitted by Andrew Lavin



GU President Prof. Rivka Carmi, left, receives the original score of jazz legend Lionel Hampton's "King David Suite" April 22 from Maurice "Mo" Levich, Lafayette's Generations in Jazz Foundation co-founder and musical director of The Big Band of Rossmoor. Photo provided

The original score of the "King David Suite," composed by jazz legend Lionel Hampton as a tribute to his friend David Ben-Gurion and commemorating the emergence of Israel, was donated to the Ben-Gurion Archives on the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Sede Boqer campus April 22.

The King David Suite, composed by Hampton in the 1953 with orchestration by Big Band of Rossmoor composer and arranger Frank Como, is a "third stream" work combining jazz and classical elements in a symphony that was performed by orchestras in 19 countries. Efforts are under way to perform the work again.

The only score was thought to be lost in a 1997 fire that completely gutted Hampton's New York apartment. It was rediscovered only a few years ago in the possession of Hampton's arranger, Como, with Hampton's original notes and comments.

Como's original King David score was presented to BGU President Rivka Carmi in her office by his band-mate Maurice "Mo" Levich, Lafayette's Generations in Jazz co-founder and musical director of The Big Band of Rossmoor, which performs big band jazz with members ranging in ages from the teens to the high 90s.

"I'm extremely excited and honored on behalf of Frank Como to bring this historic piece of music to the Ben-Gurion Archives where people can see and study it," says Levich. "The music lives on as a survivor of time and fire and we hope that the reformed Lionel Hampton Big Band, featuring vibraphonist Jason Marsalis, will move forward to perform it with symphonies in the future."

To listen to the music and see more pictures, visit thebigbandofrossmoor.org.

Los Perales Students 'Walk and Roll' to School

Submitted by Merrylee Landau



Students line up for a bike safety check at Los Perales Elementary School April 29. From left: Matt Sharp, Rachel Erickson, Colby Webster, James Erickson, Teagan Phipps, Brandon Lorie and Colleen Phipps Photo Merrylee Landau

Walk and Roll Wednesday is coming to the Los Perales Elementary School Moraga neighborhood this month and Los Perales students have been busy learning about bicycle and pedestrian safety. Lieutenant Jon King of the Moraga Police Department presented an assembly on April 20 to the first- through fifth-graders, emphasizing the Safe Routes to School Four E's Activities (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement

and Evaluation). On April 29 Sharp Bicycle of Lafayette provided a bike safety check and helmet inspection on campus. Now the students are ready to 'walk and roll.' On May 13, 20 and 27, students, parents and teachers are encouraged to get out of their cars and either walk or ride their bike to school. If you happen to be in this neighborhood on one of these days, please slow down and share the road!

Maker Faire Inspires and Excites Wagner Ranch Students

By Sonya Grover and Sharon Murphy



Dr. Andrew Anagnost, right, with daughter Eloise on the far left, her little sister, Giselle, and Amelia Chen watch a car powered with rubber bands race away from them. Dr. Anagnost, Autodesk's senior VP of industry strategy and marketing, is one of the parents on Wagner Ranch's technology committee. Photo provided

Besides the occasional whoosh of stomp rockets and the accompanying outbursts of delight, little broke the quiet concentration of 150 students intent on creating, crafting, building, and, yes, learning at an Autodesk-sponsored Maker Faire held at Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda.

Originally founded in the Bay Area by Make magazine and now held all over the world, Maker Faires celebrate technology and engineering, as well as arts, crafts, hobbies, and really any kind of do-it-yourself project. They bring together tech enthusiasts, crafters, teachers, artists, engineers and families to explore and play. The Wagner Ranch fourth and fifth graders were thrilled with their experience.

Echoing the kids' enthusiasm, Wagner Ranch's principal, Adam Seville, commented, "This is what the future of education can look like. The maker movement is a growing and exciting trend in education. It's an opportunity to connect some of our most fundamental human traits – the inspiration to build, create and make – with some of our most current and growing technologies. To see students so authentically engaged in the process of creating, designing and experimenting is very exciting."

Held the same week as Earth Day, Autodesk's Wagner Ranch Maker Faire launched a futuristic theme, "2030 Challenge: Sea, Space, and

Land." Challenging students to think about emerging trends and the future state of the world, this Maker Faire posed questions such as "How will sea life adapt to a changing environment?" and "What housing, food, and transportation might be needed to live on Mars in 2030?" Autodesk's goal was to introduce students not only to complex questions about the earth's future, but also to inspire interest in design and digital fabrication processes and innovation.

At various stations in the school's gym, students made sea creatures with 123D Sculpt+, created space colonies in TinkerCAD (a 3D design tool) to export into Minecraft, assembled all-terrain Mars rovers using cardboard and rubber bands, designed art with Sketchbook Express to create iron-on decals for reusable tote bags, crafted solar jars using light-sensitive solar cells and Mason jars, built rockets for the ever-popular stomp rocket design challenge, and much more.

"My favorite thing was seeing the 3D printers working," said Thomas Nelson, a fourth grader. "The melting plastic was awesome. We even got to see how to fix a 3D printer by changing what the computer says to it." Abby Ruppert, another fourth grader, was intrigued with rocket design. "The rockets were cool. You have to seal up every hole so the air doesn't get in. We launched them. We stomped on the bottles and the rockets

went up!"

Thomas Nelson was inspired by his experience. "I learned how to make a model submarine on a 3D printer. I want to be an engineer and design stuff to build. Hopefully, I'll get to use a 3D printer." Abby Ruppert too took away the main lesson of the day noting, "It was cool figuring out how people make things. I want to try it!"

This local Maker Faire grew out of discussions held by the school's Technology Committee. Consisting of four parents, two teachers, the principal and the Parents' Club co-presidents, the committee formed last year to assist in crafting a technology strategy for the school and district. Their strategy includes the purchase and maintenance of various devices (iPads and laptops), as well as brainstorming ways to promote and integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) learning in the classroom and beyond, such as planning parent education nights and founding after-school coding clubs. All Orinda elementary school technology purchases are funded by the various Parents' Clubs. The state and district provide no funds to purchase computers, tablets, and other devices.

Over 20 Autodesk employees assisted with this event and many parent volunteers were also on hand to help with the projects. Orinda United School District's superintendent, Dr. Joe Jaconnette, also took part in the event, as well as OUSD's technology coach, Patsy Templeton, and technology director, Raymond Mar.

John Skidgel, head of Wagner Ranch's Technology Committee, commented, "Several years from now when some of these kids embark on careers in design and engineering, they'll have this event to remember as an eye opener. It's our hope that events such as this will inspire our kids to start tomorrow's Apple, Tesla or Google."

If you'd like to experience a similar event but on a much larger scale, you can attend the 10th Annual Bay Area Maker Faire – the "Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth" – May 16 and 17 at the San Mateo County Event Center. Tickets for entry are required.

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