I was four when I immigrated to America from the Philippines. I grew up celebrating the 4th of July with a tiny flag in one hand, sparklers in the other. I felt wanted by the country that had taken me in. As I grew older, the direct link between my immigration story and America's colonization of the Philippines became apparent. My family's move to this country became more meaningful when I understood it to be an extension of the history of Filipinos who came before them.

As you read about highlighted artists in this July issue, you will see different perspectives of what it means to belong. You may consider your own story about how you became American, or how your ancestors immigrated here. We all have our own journey to belonging, with the exception of the indigenous people of this land. May we always recognize and acknowledge them.

So how will we be seen as people who belong, if we are all different? Herbert Hoover popularized the idea of American individualism, yet we cannot celebrate fully without community.

With July's fireworks long gone, we invite you to participate and revel with us in all our collective glory. Read on to find out more about the Mosaic Festival in Silicon Valley, coming soon on September 25th at the School of Arts & Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza. We hope to see you there!

With profound respect,

GLADY LEE
Editor
Preserving and Evolving Traditional Sitar

By Sydney Williams

Arjun Verma pays homage to the historical essence of the sitar as he meshes traditional with a more modern style of music in his newest album, Epiphanies.

READ MORE

Our America

By Ariel Neidermeier

Diversity is what you see. Belonging is what you do. Ariel Neidermeier explores the American story of several artists, finding that without a soulful recognition of what America is today, we cannot build an America for tomorrow that recognizes all of us.

READ MORE

EVENT UPDATES

JOIN THE MOSAIC FESTIVAL

September 25, 2021

Join the celebration of our mosaic of American cultures at the first annual MOSAIC FESTIVAL in Silicon Valley on September 25, 2021. The very first of its kind, the festival honors our community with a day of belonging, healing, and harmony through art.

Experience performances by artists around the Bay Area. Discover cultures through food in an eclectic curation of food trucks and small business vendors. Shake off the languishing of quarantine through movement, whether it's through walking, yoga, or dancing in place. Marvel at the art by local creators at an exhibit of their work that presents their perspective of the "American Mosaic." Most importantly, take part in our united effort to heal from the pandemics of COVID-19 and racism that attempted to erode who and what we truly are: a united mosaic of American communities, rooted in our love for our home - the gleaming, diverse, and culturally-rich Silicon Valley.

RSVP and you'll automatically be entered to win the raffle at our free event! Learn more about the festival, or maybe volunteer with us!
Upcoming Event: August 14th

MOSAIC AT SAN JOSE JAZZ SUMMERFEST

Mosaic will be collaborating with San Jose Jazz to present many incredible artists for this event. George Brooks and Indian classical music innovator Arjun Verma unite for a collaboration that transcends cultural and musical barriers. For this special concert they re-interpret material commissioned by San Jose Jazz and Mosaic America last year, joined by guitar virtuoso Gyan Riley and rising tabla star Nilan Chaudhuri. Sponsored by Realtor Valya Ragu, Top Producer for Legacy Real Estate Associates. Learn more about SummerFest!

MOSAIC RECOMMENDS

"American Nations" by Colin Woodard
An illuminating history of North America's eleven rival cultural regions that explodes the red state-blue state myth. North America was settled by people with distinct religious, political, and ethnographic characteristics, creating regional cultures that have been at odds with one another ever since.

Curry Pizza House
Eat at one of their many locations in the San Jose area.

Amazona Pizza
Delicious Pizza in Oakland!

Sweet Condesa
Filipino and Latin inspired desserts in San Ramon

Señor Sisig
Filipino Street Tacos in San Francisco

East Side Magazine
E-Zine amplifying East San Jose's deeply rooted history and cultural vibrancy. Mosaic was recently featured in "The Way is Formed by Walking," about the artists of "From Here."

Mosaic Theater, Washington D.C.
Unaffiliated with our Mosaic America, Mosaic Theater Company is committed to making transformational, socially-relevant art, to producing plays by authors on the front lines of conflict zones, and to building a fusion community to address some of the most pressing issues of our times.
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