

## LOCAL VIEWS

# Eating to heart's delight at a historical dinner in park

**Sharron and Carl Cookson** were the guests of honor Wednesday at History San Jose's Valley of Heart's Delight fundraiser, which celebrates the people who help preserve the region's past.

The weather was perfect, as more than 300 people enjoyed an outdoor dinner beneath the light tower at History Park.

Carl Cookson, who built a solid reputation during more than 40 years in the title insurance business, said he became interested in preserving the valley's history because he knew so little about his own family history. That quest led to the Cooksons helping to found the Heritage Circle, a group of committed History San Jose donors that includes families with longtime valley ties and others with a strong love of the region's past.

By the way, Cookson has managed to survive some of his own historical landmarks. He was born at the old O'Connor Hospital on San Carlos Street, which eventually moved, replaced by a Sears. The site is now home to the Midtown Safeway.

"You know you're getting a little on the shady side when things get torn down a couple of times while you're still around," quipped Sharron Cookson, who came to San Jose with her husband more than 50 years ago.

**BROWN WORKS FOR THEM:** United Way Silicon Valley honored UPS with its Spirit of the Valley Award at



## AROUND TOWN

SAL PIZARRO

its annual campaign appreciation reception, held Thursday at the Decathlon Club in Santa Clara.

UPS drivers have been busy this year, helping to serve food at Sacred Heart Community Service

and build planter boxes at SJB Child Development Center. They've also committed to participating in United Way's Day of Action on Tuesday.

United Way also paid tribute to the David and Lucile Packard Foundation with its Community Champion Award. The foundation recently provided the agency with a \$530,000 grant to create the Nonprofit Effectiveness Fund, designed to help out nonprofit agencies during the economic downturn.

**MORE ROOM TO GROOVE:** Palo Alto's World Music Day celebration drew about 10,000 people last year, so for this Sunday's third annual event, the city has decided to close University Avenue between Cowper and High streets.

That should give everyone a lot more breathing room during the free festivities, which take place from 3 to 7:30 p.m. Get more information on the professional and amateur musical groups performing at [www.pamusicday.org](http://www.pamusicday.org).

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