

2017 *Very Special Person Award*



Dan Nitzan

It is with tremendous gratitude that we have nominated Dan Nitzan, a former Jordan parent, for this Award. Dan gave countless volunteer hours, energy, and passion into supporting the installation of the sound systems for the Terman and Jordan Middle School cafeteriums, JTV at Jordan, the new Paly Performing Arts Center, and the little theater at Gunn.

Dan Nitzan has a sound engineer background and his expertise has been invaluable in the process. Mainly, though, it is the generosity of his spirit and his commitment to youth that are so strongly felt. He helped with everything from assessing sound needs, sourcing materials and system components, overseeing aspects of installation, facilitating coordination between the district IT and operations teams and outside companies, communicating with the PTA Executive Boards, to trouble-shooting the system after installation and fine tuning the sound.

But his work doesn't stop there. All of this, he does as a "labor of love" because of his passion for supporting kids in pursuing their passions. In that light and just as important, if not more so, we nominate Dan for his role in mentoring our youth. Dan returns to the schools to mentor the Musical Theater students in sound and light production and sound and light engineering during musical performances. It is terrific to see the pride and joy on our students' faces as they work with a professional sound engineer to enhance their skills. He has inspired our youth in lasting ways. We cannot say enough how grateful we are for his tireless support. On behalf of our current students and families, and those for years to come, we cannot think of a more deserving person.

It is with tremendous thankfulness that we present Dan Nitzan with a PTA *Very Special Person Award*.

2017 Sally Siegel Award



Susan Usman

Susan Usman became involved in the school community when her children were at Ohlone and she never looked back. As she moved through Jordan, Paly, and onto PTA Council, it was clear that her strength lay in the protection and advocacy of all children. She has worked very hard over the years to give a voice to the children who can't or won't speak for themselves.

During Susan's time with the Palo Alto PTA Council, she focused a spotlight on two important issues: teen mental health (with Project Safety Net) and support for historically underrepresented minority students (with PTA Council Outreach).

Susan was instrumental in getting the CDC to conduct an epidemiologic investigation in Palo Alto.

With her work as VP Community Outreach and as the President, Susan set a standard for inclusion for all PTAC activities. Susan pushed for and reminded us constantly that we need translated materials and translators available at all PTAC community events.

These are just a few of the highlights of a full and rich career showing Susan's support for our community. It is with great respect and honor that we present Susan Usman with the *Sally Siegel Award*.

2017 Honorary Service Award



Judy Jaramillo Argumedo

Judy has served as the PAUSD Director of Academic Supports for six years, first starting in the district as a teacher at JLS in 2007.

During the ten years Judy has worked for PAUSD, she has used her talent and time to greatly expand services for Palo Alto's HUR (Historically Underrepresented) families.

Judy's work extends far beyond the requirements of her job; she has created new programs and community partnerships, such as:

- Summer Bridge: support for HUR 8th graders transitioning to high school;
- Rise Up: support for high school juniors/seniors navigating college applications, admissions, and transition – a program recognized by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence in Hispanic Education;

- Expanding the new teacher Equity training program to include classified employees, adding real-world experiences such as bus rides;
- Improving bus service to reduce ride times;
- Establish an Elementary Breakfast Program;
- Partnerships with Palantir Technologies, East Palo Alto Tennis & Tutoring, and the Peninsula College Fund.

Judy's work enables Palo Alto's schools and citizens to see, and address, many of the issues faced by our underprivileged neighbors. The Palo Alto community is grateful to Judy for her talent, energy, integrity, and compassion.

With deep appreciation we present Judy Jaramillo Argumedo the *Honorary Service Award*.

2017 School Volunteers: Continuing Service Awards

Our schools are blessed to have strong groups of volunteers. These volunteers put in countless hours, often work behind the scenes, and throw themselves into massive amounts of work for no other reason than it being a labor of love.

While we acknowledge and appreciate every volunteer in the District, the volunteers listed on this poster were nominated by someone

in their school for service above and beyond the call.

They are dedicated to their students, schools, and communities and it is for these reasons that the PTA Council is proud to honor the following individuals with a *Continuing Service Award*.



Greta Olbrich, *Barron Park*

Anne Sanchez-LaWer, *Barron Park*

Clara Dye, *Duveneck*

Maria Derrick, *El Carmelo*

Johanna Ehrlich, *Escondido*

Christine Klenow, *Escondido*

Elizabeth Olson, *Escondido*

Wei Feng, *Hoover*

Mary Falcon, *Nixon*

Kim Kuelker, *Nixon*

Emily Jaquette, *Palo Verde*

Kala Mehta, *Palo Verde*

Michelle Higgins, *Walter Hays*

Eva Dobrov, *Terman*

Pat Muffler, *Gunn*

Christine Chang, *Paly*

Colleen Nielsen, *Paly*

Palo Alto Council

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2017 “Very Special Persons” Team Award: Bike Safety & Accessibility

**Penny Ellson
Amy Love
Libby Lungren
Rosie Mesterhazy
Christy Moision
Jim Pflasterer
Peter Phillips
Toni Smith
Sylvia Star-Lack**

Many people in the Palo Alto community dedicate time and effort to insuring bicycle safety and accessibility for all of Palo Alto’s schools. Our honorees have gone above and

beyond in these efforts, by establishing and sustaining programs to promote walking, bicycling, and school commute safety:

Recycling donated bicycles, locks, lights, and helmets gifted to needy students

Toni Smith, Amy Love, Rosie Mesterhazy, Peter Phillips, Mike’s Bikes

Safe Routes to School Program

Reducing risk to students commuting to and from school, and encouraging families to choose healthy, active, sustainable alternatives to solo driving.

Penny Ellson (15 years), Libby Lundgren, Christy Moision, Jim Pflasterer, Peter Phillips, Sylvia Star-Lack



The goals of the Safe Routes to School partnership of the city, school district, and PTA are:

- *To provide comprehensive traffic safety skills education to every PAUSD student;*
- *To support focused enforcement of vehicle laws on school routes;*
- *To encourage families to choose healthy, active, sustainable commutes;*
- *To advocate engineering improvements that make school routes safer;*
- *To remove barriers to student choices for alternative commutes;*
- *To achieve one of the highest school bike use rates in the nation.*

The Palo Alto PTA is grateful to all the volunteers whose work has been transformative for Palo Alto and our community’s children and families, creating a community street environment that invites young people to move about freely and independently on foot, on bikes, on buses, and on shuttles.