



Local libraries stand against the global crisis

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California Arts Council Increases Support of East Bay Choir

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One hundred years, and still counting

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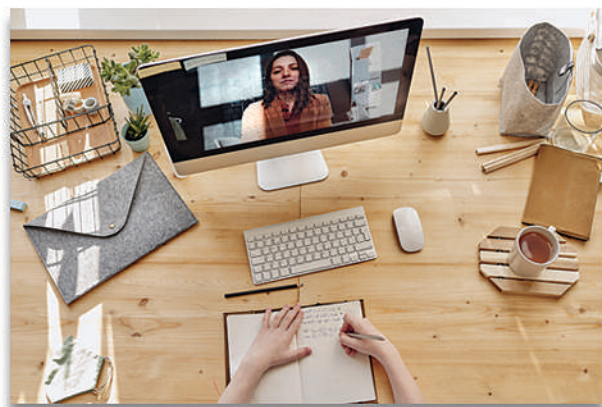
Distance Learning: a new ball game for schools

BY JUI SADEKAR

Local school districts have transitioned to remote classwork for the remainder of the school year according to guidelines from the California Department of Education. When the growing coronavirus pandemic compelled schools to halt in-person classes in March, some faculty were caught off guard, while others had anticipated going virtual.

Teachers are now using Zoom, Google Classroom, or other learning platforms to conduct classes. Some instructors are also recording their lessons online, so they are available for students who are ill or miss a class.

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For the purpose of this guidance, "distance learning" means instruction in which the student and instructor are in different locations. Distance learning includes the use of:

- Video or audio instruction
- Instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology
- It may also include the use of print materials incorporating assignments that require written or oral feedback.

Elementary Weekly Lesson Time
Weekly lesson time refers to time students spend on activities that are planned and supported by teachers. The weekly lesson time per grade span is the following:

- 5 hours per week** for students in PK, TK and K
- 10 hours per week** for students in grades 1-3
- 13 hours per week** for students in grades 4-6

Secondary Weekly Lesson Time
Weekly lesson time refers to time students spend on activities that are planned and supported by teachers. The secondary weekly lesson time is the following:

- 3-4 hours per class per week**

During our initial phase of this plan, we ask parents to be mindful that their child's abilities regarding online learning may vary. The district recommends that teachers approach this innovative lesson delivery gradually, taking into account the individual technical abilities, academic needs, and social-emotional health of each student as we all learn more about distance learning.

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Thinking outside the box for virtual classes and ensuring availability of technology are not the only challenges for schools. Issuing grades for the rest of the semester is another task.

Sheltering in an UNSAFE PLACE

BY STEPHANIE GERTSCH
PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAVE

For months we've been told to "shelter in place" – stay in our homes and restrict contact with the outside world – to protect ourselves and others during the ongoing pandemic. However, to survivors of domestic violence, their homes are not places of safety and wellbeing. Now they are cut off from resources and networks in a high-stress time.

"It's important to understand that joblessness does not cause domestic violence. The stress of a pandemic does not cause domestic violence," says Kate Hart, Director of Programs at SAVE in Fremont. "But it can exacerbate a situation in which violence is already happening." SAVE (Safe Alternatives to Violent Situations) helps survivors through a variety of services such as a hotline, counseling, shelter, and long-term housing.

Many survivors still live with their abuser, whether a partner or family member. Says Hart, "Survivors are good at seeing when things are escalating and when maybe it's a good time to go hang out at mom's house for the weekend or a couple of hours." Even a job can be a means of escape. However, now many workers are furloughed and

discouraged from seeing people outside of their household, leaving survivors with fewer ways to de-escalate.

Liz Varela is Executive Director of Building Futures, a San Leandro-based nonprofit that advocates for both the homeless and DV survivors. She says it's critical to stay aware of survivors during shelter in place. "Speaking up for survivors of domestic violence is really important because they're invisible to us right now. We know it's happening, we know they're there, but they're invisible."

When the state and counties issued the shelter in place order in mid-March, organizations like SAVE and



Mother's Day gift delivery to clients_SAVE Staff Shailla



Essential item donations from New Life Fremont

Building Futures had to adapt practically overnight. "I am amazingly proud of our staff and how quickly we were able to move to remote services," Hart says. "We provide crisis services, so we are used to moving quickly, thinking on our feet, pulling together resources on a shoestring [budget], and making things happen. When the order came down, we were able to set up remote operations for our empowerment center within a couple of days."

The office phone was rerouted to someone working from home. Case managers were already working with clients online, and counseling groups switched to Zoom. As of May, about 75 percent of their services are remote. Obviously, the shelter is one service that can't go online. Right now, it is minimally staffed and complying with CDC cleaning recommendations.

One service everyone misses is the Empowerment Center, where clients could drop in to chat, use the kitchen or computers, or pick up personal care items. Now SAVE is finding ways to replicate that sense of community online. Project Light, a support group for people who have experienced abuse in the past, is now meeting via Zoom. Hart says, "Every week, when we do our check in, those women are like 'I'm so glad I have this. It's the highlight of my week to get together with you guys!'"

SAVE has also ramped up outreach services through PSAs on their Facebook page, with information geared toward friends as well as to survivors themselves. For friends of survivors there are

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Masked helpers donate essential items to SAVE



24-Hour Hotline
Call 911 if you are in immediate danger.
If you need support, call SAVE's 24-hour hotline at 510-794-6055. Trained advocates are available to help you day or night.

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Sheltering in an UNSAFE PLACE

no magic words or formulas. The most important thing is to show that you are there for them, research what resources are available, and let the survivor make their own decisions about their wellbeing.

People wondering if their situation "counts" as abuse or domestic violence should trust their intuition. "If your gut feeling is telling you that this person that you're with is not safe or is causing you harm, listen to that," advises Hart. "At the center of all domestic violence situations is power and control. Domestic violence itself is one partner trying to exert power and control over the other person."

While SAVE has temporary housing and employment programs, leaving the abuser is not a requirement or expectation for their clients. "The goal is always to move the person toward safety, whatever that looks like for that person," says Hart. "We want every phone call, every interaction to end with that survivor being a little more safe than they were when they called us." Additionally, their services are for anyone who identifies as a survivor, even if the abuse happened years ago.

SAVE and Building Futures both expect their DV advocacy to ramp up even as the pandemic slows down. Everyone is piecing their life back together, and survivors are starting this process at a disadvantage because they already lack resources and social networks. As part of the cycle of control, abusers discourage their victims from holding employment and undermine their relationships (or seek out people who have fewer connections to begin with).

"Most of us have at least a friend or a family member who is a source of emotional or even practical support," says Hart. She recalls how her mother pitched in with free daycare after the birth of her son. "A lot of the folks we work with don't have those networks. They're not in the PTA. They're not part of a neighborhood where the moms help each other out. They may not have good family ties anymore."

Liz Varela of Building Futures expects more people to reach out to services when shelter-in-place ends, and she hopes local governments will respond with support. "The state and the county have done an incredible job with homelessness. We need

to see the same response when it comes to domestic violence."

During the challenge of COVID-19, programs like SAVE and Building Futures have developed new outreach strategies. Hart was surprised at the enthusiastic response to Zoom support groups, as she saw not only current clients transition, but new clients sign up for the first time. "We're hopeful that we can come out of this with some new and different ideas for ways we can do things," says Hart. "We probably won't stop having virtual groups, because we can tap into a whole population of folks who might've had a hard time getting to us."

Hart is especially thankful for the Facebook PSAs, saying, "I'm so proud of how the staff spoke. I kept thinking, 'I can't reach the probably 10,000 survivors who might need us, but I can reach 10,000 people and those people could continue to post those messages.'"

Let's make supporting survivors go viral.

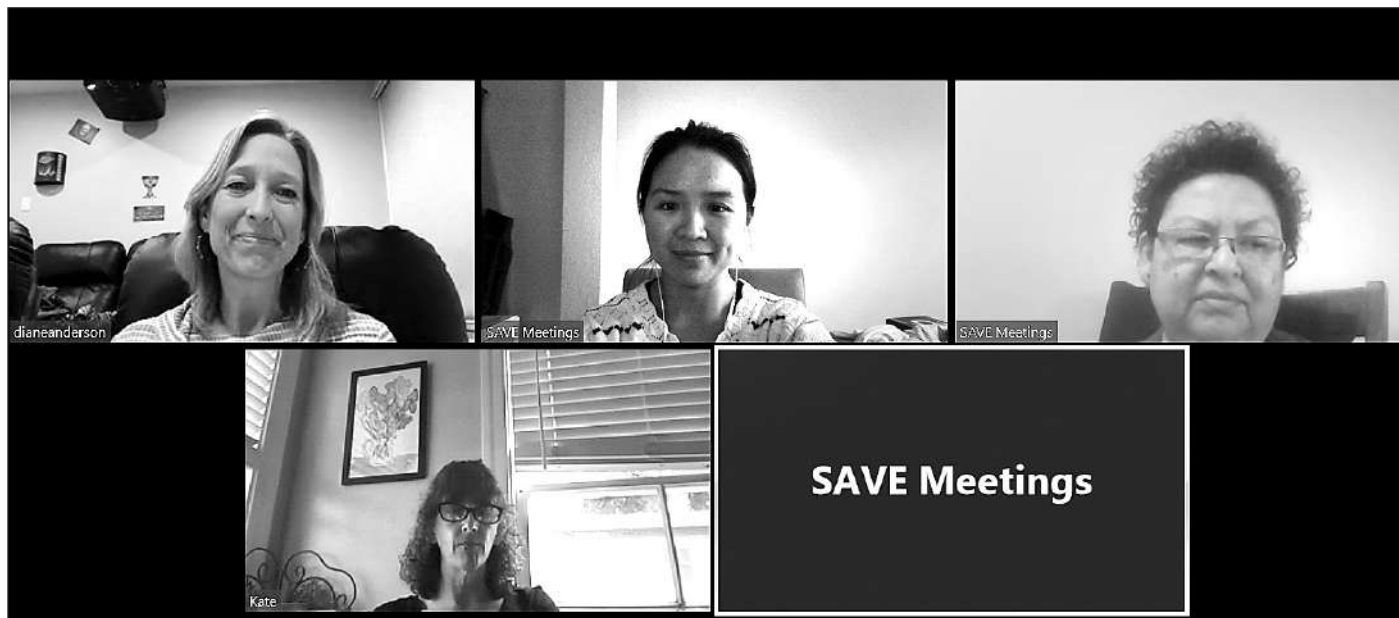
Building Futures
1-866-A-WAY-OUT
<https://bfwc.org/>

SAVE
510-794-6055
<https://save-dv.org>



Mother's Day gift delivery to clients_SAVE Staff Chao

Work from Home.bmp:
SAVE staff meet via Zoom



Curbside pickup can begin Friday at retailers including Southland Mall

SUBMITTED BY
HAYWARD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Alameda County joined the rest of the Bay Area Monday in moving to phase two of the state's reopening guidelines when the health officer announced that curbside retail pickup could begin Friday, May 22.

Southland Mall GM Todd Falduti reported to the Hayward Chamber of Commerce that while the mall interior will not yet be accessible, several stores said they could be ready for curbside retail pickup by that date.

"It's a step in the right direction," he said. After working with mall retailers on the new regulations, Falduti's marketing team expects to be able to have messages on the mall website, on its electronic marquee, and to the chamber for release, detailing which stores will be open and the curbside pick-up process.

The Southland Mall team has already begun work on social distancing measures for when the entire facility can be accessed by the public, which is not permitted in this new order. Signage will keep patrons six feet apart and the food court has been re-arranged so diners will sit at the appropriate distance from each other.

A Cinemark spokesperson told the chamber that the theater complexes at the mall and in downtown Hayward may not open until July 1, and then would probably show popular features such as Disney films until first-run movies are scheduled in August.

The updated directive was issued Monday by public health officers in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties and the city of Berkeley. It puts those jurisdictions in the second of four phases of the state's recovery plan.

In addition to curbside pickup, businesses connected to retailers with manufacturing, logistics and warehousing may also open. However, stores are prohibited from moving their products outside for display or sale, and customers must order and pay for products online or over the phone. The regulations only apply to retail stores with an adjacent sidewalk or pedestrian walkway, street or parking lot.

View the list of open stores at Southland here: <https://www.southlandmall.com/en.html>.

Zero contact curbside pickup and bike shop services

SUBMITTED BY
COURTNEY ROSE

As cities and states around the country look to reopen businesses, REI is offering curbside pickup and bike shop services at its Fremont store. Customers can place an order through REI.com or the REI shopping app and an employee wearing gloves and a mask will load items in the customer's vehicle once they arrive outside the store.

In addition, customers can call their local store to schedule an appointment for maintenance or repair services, securely drop off their bike outside the store, and an REI technician will service the bike, notifying customers by phone when it's ready. REI recommends checking local guidelines before heading outside.

For more information about REI's curbside services, visit <https://www.rei.com/h/curbside-pickup>. To schedule a bike shop

service appointment, call Fremont REI Bike Shop at (510) 651-0305.

REI Curbside Services
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<https://www.rei.com/h/curbside-pickup>



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