

Cultural Events and Activities

The San Jose Neighborhood Today

Today's San Jose looks substantially different than it did to the first families who lived in the neighborhood. Physical improvements to the Barrio began in the early 1960's. In 1962 the first neighborhood streets were paved; then, in the early 1970's residents of Pine Street raised money to install curbs. Josefa Rodriguez recounts, "Richard Zavala did the work, and each resident paid [his share]. After it was done, people who lived on San Jose Street said it was so nice that they used our street." Throughout the 1970's and 1980's the City of Georgetown began street and utilities improvements, including fire hydrants and park facilities.

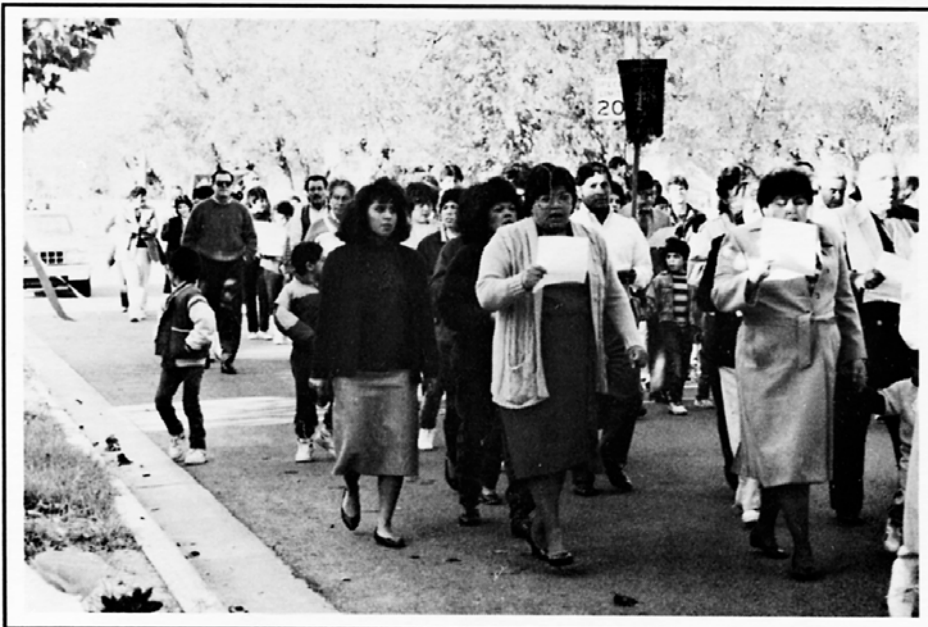
The people of San Jose are now a thriving community whose residents include professionals, business owners, city officials, and many others. These residents continue the pride and spirit of unity begun by the area's founders by sponsoring two unique annual events and one community organization:

The San Jose Fiesta is an annual two-day festival held each Labor Day weekend in San Gabriel Park. The fiesta celebrates Georgetown's Hispanic culture with traditional music, games, and Mexican and Spanish foods. Each year a festival queen is elected, with money raised by the contestants going toward scholarships for community students and other service projects. Hundreds of people from all over Texas attend this gala occasion each year.

The San Jose Stations of the Cross Procession takes place each Good Friday. This somber, reflective parade travels from San Jose Park, throughout the neighborhood, to the shrine of San Jose—the community's patron saint.

The San Jose Shrine, originally dedicated by Father Joseph Pawlicki in 1953 and rededicated in 1988, contains the original statue of San Jose surrounded by flowers and other adornments. In 1988, for the redication of the shrine, neighbors decorated their yards and homes in honor of the saint. People of all ages participated and enjoyed watching the procession, insuring that it will

remain a community tradition for years to come.



*The Stations of the Cross Procession
(Courtesy of Linda Miranda Cisneros)*

Gathering at the Shrine of San Jose dedication in November 1988. (Courtesy of Linda Miranda Cisneros)



San Jose Fiesta Queen of Queens Joyce Davila (center) raised a record \$1,000 for scholarships at the 1988 Fiesta. (Courtesy of Linda Miranda Cisneros)



The Los Unidos Club was formed in 1979 as a forum to serve, explore, and preserve San Jose's Hispanic culture. The club's many service projects have included planting trees, installing fences, and raising money to build picnic tables and restroom facilities for the San Jose Park. Los Unidos founded the San Jose Fiesta in 1980 and continues to sponsor it yearly, as well as organizing scholarship fund raisers for students in the community.

Los Unidos continues to be a positive and active force in Georgetown. The members,

according to Linda Cisneros, "are committed to serving the community in various ways and to staying in touch with our heritage." The club provides a vital link between the Hispanic community and other city groups which is beneficial to all. As Pedro Zamora comments, "It used to be that [Hispanics] didn't get involved in the city ... there was no room for us. But the young people are doing much more, and it makes us proud."

The San Jose Fiesta, the Stations of the Cross Procession, and membership in the Los Unidos Club are open to all interested area residents.