

Turning blank spaces into wonder walls

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There's been an outbreak of mural-mania on the Peninsula.

In recent months, Jewish institutions in Foster City, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale have created outdoor murals — two at Jewish day schools and one at a Jewish Community Center.

All three are easy on the eyes.

The biggest is the Grow Justice mural at the Peninsula JCC in Foster City. Measuring 12 feet tall by a whopping 127 feet long, the mural adorns an outdoor wall along the JCC's new Justice Garden, making it one of the most visible spots on the campus. "We really wanted to add a new vitality and to



Under the direction of artist-in-residence Jay Wolf Schlossberg-Cohen and ceramicist E. Blaise DePaolo, the project got underway last July. Hundreds of amateur muralists of all ages completed it over a two-week period in October. On Oct. 20, the JCC threw a coming out party for the mural. More than 150 people attended, marveling at the colorful meditation on the Jewish value of tzedek, or justice.

"We had seven Jewish text-based design workshops in July," Gordon said. "You can't just draw 'justice,' so we divided it up into four sections." The section topics are environmental stewardship, human rights, fighting poverty and food justice. "We realize we have a real learning opportunity now," Gordon added. "So many d'var Torah [Bible lessons] are in this work of art."



The Grow Justice mural at the Peninsula JCC in Foster City is 12 feet high and 127 feet long.



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