NEWS

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Atari Party Honors Sunnyvale's Gaming Heritage

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – In a nod to Sunnyvale's video gaming history, the Sunnyvale Library is hosting an Atari Party on Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by the Digital Game Museum and Friends of the Sunnyvale Library. Attendees will be able to play hundreds of Atari games using original consoles and hear from pioneers in the industry. At 11 a.m., former Atari engineer Dan Kramer will talk about how he championed the creation of the Trak-Ball Controllers for the Atari 2600 as well as exhibit some prototype items from the early 1980s. At 2 p.m., PONG creator Al Alcorn will talk about the early days at Atari and his creation of the iconic video game. Bill Kendrick, founder of the Atari Party event, and his team of volunteers are providing the gaming equipment.

Atari had both corporate and manufacturing offices in Sunnyvale and produced the PONG consoles, the paddle controllers and some early console systems in the city. The first PONG game was installed in 1972 in Sunnyvale at Andy Capp's Tavern which is now Rooster T. Feathers, a comedy club. The coin-operated game was instantly popular and is widely acknowledged as the game that launched the video game industry.

The Sunnyvale Library is located at 665 W. Olive Ave. across from the Sunnyvale City Hall. Parking is free and VTA line 54 serves the Library. More information on Library programs and activities is available at *www.SunnyvaleLibrary.org* or by calling (408) 730-7300, TDD (408) 730-7501.

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