

Growing goodwill worldwide, one flower at a time

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Out and about with Jeneka Sanford Sacramento region's new dog park is 'ruff' place for pets

By JENEKA SANFORD
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
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If you need a good laugh, or just some comic relief, you may not have to go as far as you think. The local characters at the new mid-town dog park (on the edge of East Sacramento), located just north of 28th and B streets at Sutter's Landing, has all the characters you'll ever need for some doggone good times.

There's all of the regulars: Raider - the digger; Finn - the runner; my dog, Coconut - the obsessed ball chaser; Murphy - the ball stealer; Stanley - the peacemaker; Dixie - the best buddy; Max - the grunter; and Talker - you guessed it - the talker. And this is just the tip of the iceberg as to the dazzling personalities you'll find there on any given day.

Friends of man's best friend

When we met our new friend Dixie, a black standard poodle, we learned that she was the new face of Wag Hotels, a chain of high-class pet care facilities. With the help of her wonderful family, she'd just entered the contest on a whim, and won it. So when we would run into Dixie and her cool mom, Alison, they would tell us of the latest news on Dixie's exciting social life. She'd be invited to the costume parties at Wag, or just spend a weekend there while her parents were gone and get spoiled.

"Wow, what a life," Coconut and I would say telepathically to each other.

Dixie and Alison were our best friends at the dog park, but not too long ago, they moved to Oakland. (We hear it's great there. We are hoping to get to go and visit them soon.)

Another pair of friends we recently made at the park, Jillian and Sookie, gave us a few pointers on some of the dog park's other, less-known uses. Jillian said she would bring guys to the park when she was single to see how the suiter interacted with dogs. If he was dog friendly (not just friendly to dogs but the dogs liked him, too), then he would pass the test. If not, well, you catch my drift.

Dog day afternoons

The Sutter's Landing dog park is relatively new to the area. It opened on May 23, 2009 and boasts three acres of land, doggy drinking fountains, and a couple of shade umbrellas. The small dog and big dog play areas are separated, but share a com-



Photo by Robert Ossa
Lexi, a female boxer, drinks from a canine water fountain at the Sutter's Landing dog park.

mon fence. There is no grass, which the city chose to do to save money on watering. The park is built on top of the old city dump, and according to the plans (which were proudly displayed when the park opened), it was quite an engineering feat to ensure clean ground water for the dogs. The decomposed granite and recycled mulch groundcover, which makes up most of the dog park, seems to work out pretty well. Besides not having grass, the only other downside is the fact that the trees planted there are still very small, and in the summer, it can be unbearably hot, with no shade to speak of except from the umbrellas.

Nevertheless, the park can be fun for dogs and their human friends alike. Although the point of going to the dog park is definitely for the sake of your dog, it seems to be a nice opportunity for people to relax, too. There's nothing else to do there except watch your dog romp around and have fun, so it serves as a nice way to decompress after a long day at work. We are often there at dusk, and it is a beautiful time of day there. The sun is setting, and the entire downtown skyline is visible. By Sacramento standards, it's a pretty nice view. Ask any dog and their barks will tell you: "Life is good at the dog park."

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Growing goodwill worldwide, one flower at a time

By **BENN HODAPP**
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
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A rose can mean any number of things to any number of people. It can symbolize love, friendship, appreciation and myriad other feelings. But what does it mean to have the best rose garden in the United States? The capitol rose garden in Sacramento hopes to find out come July.

But before the bells and whistles of competition, knowing what this rose garden is about is more important.

Odds are you've been there and seen the garden. It is a Sacramento landmark. But why is it there? Certainly many are glad that it is, but what is the real reason behind it?

If you were to ask people on the streets of Sacramento why the rose garden is part of the grounds of the Capitol Building, many would answer that it's a war memorial. Others might say that it's there just because it's pretty. Both good answers, but the message this garden conveys is on an even grander scale.

The full name of the garden is actually the State Capitol World Peace Rose Garden.

Why world peace? Simple, according to Sylvia Villalobos, former Sacramento resident and co-creator and President of International World Peace Rose Gardens.

"There's nothing more meaningful than peace and love," she said. "We wanted to try to unite people from all nations and religions."

T.J. David, Pocket area resident and co-creator and chief financial officer of the afore-

mentioned group, talked about how these roses came to be in our own backyard.

"We got the concept in 1995," he said. "We wanted to create a garden for the community that would honor the diversity of California and the world."

The dedication of the garden took place in May of 2003, showing that the process was an arduous one.

The first step was to get permission to revitalize the pre-existing rose garden on the capitol lot. The idea was put before both houses of the state legislature, and was eventually passed by the senate and the assembly. Then it was a matter of coming up with fundraising programs and pitching presentations to a number of local groups.

This all took time. Not to mention the fact that the plan was delayed further after a truck slammed into the capitol building back in 2001. Before the dedication, the roses were transplanted from a location where they had been growing for two years prior in 50-pound pots. David said that the total weight of the transplanted roses weighed an astounding 16 and three quarter tons.

Villalobos called the whole ordeal "a million dollar project."

The peace garden project

The garden is one of five world peace rose gardens in the world. The first of which was The Gandhi World Peace Memorial in Pacific Palisades, California in 1984. Since then there have been gardens erected in Atlanta, Ga.; Mexico City, Mexico; Assisi, Italy and the one here in



Photo courtesy Sylvia Villalobos and TJ David, co-creators of the International World Peace Rose Gardens, stand among the roses at the State Capitol World Peace Rose Garden.

Sacramento. There are proposals in place for gardens in Vietnam, Brazil and China as well, according to Villalobos.

Throughout the Sacramento garden, there are messages of peace from children all over the area. Thirty-four local schools participated. There are also benches that were sponsored by different groups around Sacramento including the Muslim, gay/lesbian and Hmong communities.

All of the peace gardens are spectacular in their own right, but ask David or Villalobos what they think is the best-looking rose garden in the world and they'll tell you it's the one just down the street.

"We believe ours is tops," Villalobos said. "It is elegant,

well-maintained and has meaning to the community."

"Some gardens may be larger than ours, but none of them have our amenities," David said of Sacramento's half-acre spread. "It's like no other garden in the world. It's architecturally stunning."

Sacramento's garden has 165 different varieties of rose, according to David, and at any one time there can be as many as 700 blooms.

The contest

The chance for the Sacramento garden to prove it grows the best blossom comes in the form of a contest put on by All-America Rose Selections (AARS), an organization that annually names official roses

of the year. This year, however, a new contest has arisen to name the best rose garden in the United States.

The "America's Best Rose Garden Contest" is an online contest that is open for voting now through July 1. There are 134 accredited gardens in the country; 14 of which reside in California according to Villalobos.

"It's a contest about beauty, but also about meaning," Villalobos said.

If you think Sacramento's garden deserves to win it you can go to www.worldpeace-rosesgardens.org and follow the directions therein. For more information about Sacramento's garden, go to the above Web site of call 1-800-205-1223.



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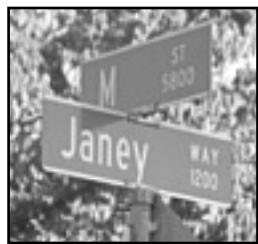
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The Mayor of Janey Way



By **MARTY RELLES**
Arden-Carmichael News Columnist
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The Viani family lived on the west side of Janey Way in the direction of the National Guard Armory: Lou Sr. (Big Lou), his wife Tina, Lou Jr. (Little Lou) and daughters Diana and Anna. Big Lou served in World War II under General George Patton. He participated in the invasion of Italy where he survived tough fighting in Sicily and then the Italian peninsula. Then he returned home and settled on Janey Way with his wife.

The Vianis had their first child, a boy they named Louis Jr., in 1947, the year I came into the world. When my family moved to Janey Way in 1952, Lou Jr. became my best friend. We played sports, we played in the pit (the vacated sand and gravel site located behind the houses on the east side of Janey Way) and we also spent a lot of time at the Viani house. Big Lou was in the process of landscaping his backyard and Little Lou and I watched, helped sometimes, and mostly just played. We also spent a lot of time inside the Viani house. They had one of those collections of Time/Life books called the "History of World War II." The books featured stark photos depicting the horrors of war. Pictures of war dead, demolished buildings and blank-faced looking soldiers festooned the pages. When Big Lou saw us buried in these volumes, he told of his experiences in the war. "Never gulp water from a canteen," said Big Lou, "you can choke that way," or "General Patton was the greatest general because he used the tactics of the great warrior Hannibal." Little Lou and I listened intently. Then, like all children, we went outside with our toy guns and pretended to be soldiers, not fully understanding the horrible reality of war.

In addition to these volumes about the war, Big Lou also had souvenirs from the war, including postcards showing the great sites in Italy such as St. Peter's Cathedral, the Trevi Fountain and coliseum. He also had a postcard showing Michelangelo's statue of Moses. It featured a dent just below the knee that supposedly resulted when the artist struck the sculpture and said, "Speak to me." That made an impression on me, and I said to myself, "Someday I will see it and all the other sights in Italy." Later in life, I did visit Italy and see these things.

People called Big Lou the "Mayor of Janey Way" because he seemed intimately involved in every activity that took place in our neighborhood. When he passed you on the street, he always stopped to converse and share the latest gossip from the neighborhood. All the neighbors knew and liked Big Lou. He seemed larger than life and always donned a smile and a story to share. He worked every Wednesday night calling numbers for bingo at St. Mary's church. He and my dad cooked at the church dinners, an all-day event. Every Christmas, Big Lou and Little Lou erected the nativity scene inside St. Mary's Church. Weeks before Christmas, they began this task, and during that time, the scene remained covered with sheets. On Christmas Day, the sheets disappeared, revealing a memorable depiction of the birth of Christ. We looked forward to that moment with great anticipation every year.

Big Lou, the last remaining father on Janey Way, has fallen on ill health lately; his family has placed him in a care facility. Some day soon he will pass. When that happens, a shudder will be felt across Janey Way like on the day the last shovel of dirt filled the pit and ended our childhood.

Moon, animals populate Sacramento State play

Special to the Arden-Carmichael News

A howling, dancing moon and talking animals help a woman learn more about her life and marriage in *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot*, playing at Sacramento State's Playwrights' Theatre. Performances are 8 p.m., April 22-24 and April 30-May 1; 2 p.m. April 25 and May 2; and 6:30 p.m. April 28-29.

Written by award-winning playwright Jose Rivera and directed by Theatre and Dance Department Professor Manuel Pickett, the play tells the story of Gabriella, a woman living in Barstow while her soldier-husband Benito serves in the Gulf War.

During a dream state, Gabriella dances with the moon while her cat strikes up a relationship with a wild coyote. "All these elements come to life and start teaching her about what she needs to do with her life," Pickett says.

References to Salvador Dali embodies magic realism, in which the world takes

on a different perspective. "Those who believe this don't see reality as strictly visual, but also spiritual, taking on different forms," Pickett says.

Sophomore Roshawnda Bettencourt plays Gabriella. "She's a very complex, confused character trying to figure out what she wants in life and if she still loves her husband," Bettencourt says, adding that the magic realism allows the cast to "take something so real, bring it to the stage, play with it and have some fun with it."

The play contains strong language and adult subject matter.

Tickets are \$8 general admission for the 6:30 p.m. performances. All other performances are \$10 for students, seniors and Sacramento State employees and \$12 general admission. Tickets are available at the University Ticket Office, (916) 278-4323 or www.tickets.com.

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Know your neighbor

Serritella's Italian Food and Pizza is a 42-year Carmichael tradition

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
lance@valcomnews.com

It is often considered a very good accomplishment when a business can survive its first year, but in the case of Carmichael's Serritella's Italian Food and Pizza, this business has done much more than survive its first year in business. It is currently in its fourth decade of successful operation.

Linda Melody of the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce said that she is impressed by the longevity of this local business, which is located at 6346 Fair Oaks Blvd., at the intersection where Marconi Avenue becomes Palm Drive.

"Considering that Carmichael just celebrated its 100th anniversary, it's quite an accomplishment for (Serritella's) to have been around this

long," Melody said. "They've been around for nearly half of Carmichael's history."

Deep dish, deep roots

The roots of the business extend to when Doug McRae had the building constructed – a feat that was completed on March 5, 1962.

Marilyn McRae, whose husband Doug passed away in 1993, said that the McRae family continues to own the building.

Sacramento suburban directories show that the first business to occupy the 6346 Fair Oaks Blvd. space was the Washburn Burton Realty Co., which is listed as being in operation at this site in 1963 and 1964. The business may have moved into the site in 1962, yet due to its timing was not included in the 1962 directory.



Robert Contreras and Bonnie Prophet have owned Serritella's Italian Food and Pizza since May 13, 2006.

Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong

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Continuing, the directories show that Gerald Gallo operated his business, Adriano Delicatessen, from the same address for the following three years.

Although the 1968 through 1973 directories list Albert Rio as owning the Red Devil Pizzeria at this site from 1968 to 1973, Marilyn said that Rio actually opened the restaurant as Serritella's Red Devil Pizzeria.

Marilyn, a Sacramento native who graduated from McClatchy High School in 1948, added that she does not know why the name Serritella's was selected, but speculates that it could have been a last name of one of Rio's relatives or simply a name that Rio randomly selected because he liked the

sound of it, as well as its Italian origin.

Beginning in 1974 and continuing into the 1980s, directories listed the same address as being the home of Serritella's Red Devil Italian Cuisine.

Rio, who had a wife named Emma, owned the restaurant until 1986 and eventually moved to Chicago, was known for entertaining his guests at various times by singing Italian opera.

The restaurant's next owner was Jackie Valentino, who operated the business until 1993.

The following owners of the business were Ann Kelly Cooms (1993-2000) and John Koukoulas and Sean Hellwig (2000-2006).

Now to Serritella's

The current owners, Robert Contreras and Bonnie Prophet, who gave the restaurant its modified name, Serritella's Italian Food and Pizza, purchased the business on May 13, 2006, when their now-4-year-old daughter, Isabella, was only 6 weeks old. The couple also has two sons, Andre, 16, and Ty, 8.

Bonnie, who grew up in the Tahoe Park area of the city, said that running the restaurant today is certainly much different than operating the business during its earlier years.

"When Serritella's opened, it only consisted of the mid-

See Serritella's, page 7

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Serritella's: 'I make every (pizza) the same as the last'

Continued from page 6

dle section of the restaurant, but (a pair of) expansions has greatly increased the size of the restaurant," Bonnie said.

In about 1988, Valentino expanded into the left or north side of the building, which formerly housed a paint store, a dress shop and lastly a bakery.

The second expansion occurred in about 1993 to the right or south side of the building after Hyler's Custom Dry Cleaning at 6342 Fair Oaks Blvd. went out of business. This area now includes the restaurant's popular bar, which since its initial year has been operated by bartender Steve Lyle.

Bonnie said that much hard work was performed to make Serritella's, which originally only served pizzas, into the full-fledged restaurant that it is today.

"We have worked very hard here to keep up the traditions of Serritella's," Bonnie said. "We pride ourselves in using fresh, quality ingredients to create our many popular offerings."

Robert added that maintaining the traditions of Serritella's is very rewarding.

"It's very gratifying to have served our customers who have come here over the years and who tell us how good (the food) is and that it's as good as they remember," Robert said. "To carry the name is really what it's about. The best thing I've ever been told is (Serritella's food) is the best (Italian food) they ever had. A lot of people say that they've come from the East Coast and that our food compares to a lot of Italian restaurants on the East Coast."

Tasty tradition

Carmichael resident Janet Jones said that although her lunch at Serritella's last week marked her first visit to the restaurant, she is already a fan of this eatery.

"I moved to Carmichael in 2000 and I've been meaning to come here for a long time and I'm glad that I did," Jones said. "We were greeted really friendly and the atmosphere and food is great here. And it's a great place for vegetarians (like herself). I like the pizza and how they use

fresh basil and I also like the cheese raviolis. Even though it's my first time here, I will definitely be coming back."

In regard to the pizzas, Deb Palin, Serritella's pizza chef since 1994, said that quality and consistency are essential elements of every pizza made at the restaurant.

"I make every (pizza) the same as the last and I try to make all the pizzas exactly the way I would like to have them served to me," Palin said. "Quality is extremely important and whatever (pizza) anybody wants - as long as we have the product in the restaurant - I will make a pizza out of it, whether it's zucchini or eggplant or whatever."

Serritella's specialty pizzas, which range in price from \$14.99 to \$21.99, include the most popular Red Devil Combination with pepperoni, salami, sausage, mushrooms, olives, green peppers and onions, the North Beach with clams, onions, garlic, tomatoes, oregano and parmesan cheese, and the Devil's Delight with gorgonzola and parmesan cheeses, pancetta and tomatoes.

And for those who prefer a create-your-own pizza, the pizza kitchen features a selection of about 20 toppings.

But unlike the days of the pizza-only Serritella's, the restaurant is rich with other Italian offerings such as pasta, chicken and veal dishes, steak, soups and salads.

The restaurant features 25 non-pizza entrees on its menu, including a variety of Bonnie's favorites, which include scaloppini ala marsala (\$16.99 with chicken, \$18.99 with veal), parmigiana (\$15.99 with chicken, \$17.99 with veal), chicken portabella (\$16.99) and lasagna (\$15.99).

Appetizers include prosciutto-wrapped shrimp (\$11.99), gnocci (\$8.99), polenta (\$6.99) and Serritella's bread sticks (50 cents each), which are served with garlic butter and peanut butter.

Robert and Bonnie said that Serritella's is also a great place to just relax at the bar with a nice glass of wine such



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong
(Clockwise, left to right) Christian Moore, Jacob Scheiperpeter, Joshua Moore and Janet Jones enjoy a lunch last week at Serritella's Italian Food and Pizza.

as a cabernet, merlot or chardonnay.

Visiting Serritella's

Serritella's is open Mondays through Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m., Fridays from 5 to 9:30 p.m., Saturdays from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Sundays from

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A blossoming career: East Sac Florist growing, blooming

By ELIZABETH KALFSBEEK
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
reporter@valcomnews.com

Philip Rice made a name for himself as a premier florist at Jaki's Garden in Colusa, and after 10 years in the industry has recently opened his own shop in Sacramento, East Sac Florist.

"I love Sacramento," Rice said who was born and raised in Colusa County. "I do miss the people of Colusa County, but am so excited to meet new people from the Sacramento area," Rice said. "I am finding East Sacramento to feel like a small town. I can already tell the community is very loyal;

even after a few weeks in business, I am seeing lots of repeat business."

Rice arranges everyday floral designs and also provides wedding and event design planning, interior decorating, holiday decorating and floral art. His work has earned him the title of "Designer of the Year" by the Cali-

fornia State Floral Association in 2008-2009.

For the last two years, he has shared his floral design abilities with Fiesta Parade Floats, which took first place – the Sweepstakes Trophy – in the Tournament of Roses Parade each year.

Most recently, he was appointed as an advisor for the California Certified Florist Program and has served as vice president of the Northern California/Nevada Teleflora educational unit.

"I work hard to understand the customer and what they want," Rice said. "I don't do recipes. Everything I make or design is unique."

A growing field

Rice found his calling as a floral designer at age four when he competed in the Colusa County Fair and took home a blue ribbon. He was also on the FFA Floriculture team in high school when he landed himself a job at Jaki's Garden.

After high school, Rice commuted from Shasta College in Redding three days per week to continue working at Jaki's. Growing up in the rural community, Rice has been inspired by his surroundings – "the abstract beauty of natural refuges, contrasting with the clean, strong lines of agricultural tapestry" – which are influential in his designs.



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Elizabeth Kalfsbeek
Though the economy is weak, Philip Rice, the proprietor of East Sac Florist, felt confident enough in his ability to serve people well to start his own business.

"My designs are usually natural in flavor with a contemporary twist," he said. "I enjoy the Northern California landscape, agriculture and colors."

Though the economy is weak, Rice felt confident enough in his ability to serve people well to start his own business.

"I believe that if you offer a great product at a reasonable price with good service, you can succeed," he said. "I also know that what I offer is a luxury item. That is why I started small. Luxuries are often cut first in a down economy, but I am finding that brides still want dream weddings, and people still want beautiful spaces in which to reside. My services are still in demand."

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Now open for business: Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe

By **BENN HODAPP**
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
benn@valcomnews.com

There are several reasons people choose to go vegan. Some are driven to it due to food allergies; others do it to stay away from processed foods; and some just think it's wrong to use animals as a food source. Thanks to a new vegan cafe started by a Carmichael native, there might be many more vegans in our neighborhood.

The Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe opened as a rousing success on March 14 during Second Saturday festivities. Co-owner Khyem Amri said that the line was out the door with folks ready to try all manner of baked goods and other vegan delicacies.

During the nearly two weeks since it opened at 2315 K St. in midtown, business has been good for Amri and his wife Melissa Wilhelm. Together, they hope to bring a new flavor to Sacramento cuisine culture.

The idea, however, did not materialize overnight.

Khyem and Melissa met in a farmer's market in Brentwood three and a half years ago. Melissa, who is the head chef and baker at the Sugar Plum, was there selling some of her vegan delights. Khyem still remembers his initial reaction to seeing Melissa that day.

"I had just gotten out of a relationship, so I tried to ignore what I was feeling when I saw her," Amri said. "But I couldn't ignore the fireworks."

He helped Melissa develop her business, which was a vegan food company called Jivana Vegan. They were a natural fit as far as business went, as Melissa did all the food preparation while Khyem drove the attention-getting portion that got people to stop at their booth. Eventually they went on to sell their products in a much more lucrative Los Angeles farmers' market where they soon quadrupled their profits.

Sugar Plum in Sacramento

One of the early signs that they might have a chance at starting a restaurant was when one of Melissa's gluten-

"There are a lot of excited vegans around Sacramento"

free carrot cakes took a silver medal in a culinary competition – impressive considering it was the only vegan entry. While still in Los Angeles, Melissa became pregnant with the couple's first child. The business went on hiatus and the two thought about where they wanted to raise their son. Amri, who grew up in Sacramento and graduated from El Camino High School in 1999, suggested moving back up north.

Both have held a number of jobs since the birth of their child, but a fortuitous meeting set in motion what would one day become the Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe.

Melissa spoke at a meeting for the Sacramento Vegetarian Society and was immediately approached by an investor. They found a place in midtown that could accommodate all they needed and six months later, they were moving in.

The two-story Victorian house-turned-business was formerly a restaurant that featured Mediterranean cuisine. A temporary sign hangs above the entrance, making it difficult to know the café is there unless you knew beforehand.

"I think people are finding us pretty well," Wilhelm said. "We're working on a permanent sign to put out front."

Since the opening, there has been little rest for either

of them, but both are quick to acknowledge that being too busy is better than not being busy enough.

Moving back up to Sacramento allowed the couple to be close to Amri's family and they saw it as an ideal place to raise a child. But they also saw it as an opportunity to open up a place in an area brimming with vegans, vegetarians and quality-conscious foodies. In fact, the Sugar Plum is the first vegan bakery in Sacramento.

So far, it looks like the cafe might have found a permanent home.

"There are a lot of excited vegans around Sacramento," Wilhelm said. "There have been a lot of curious people coming in because they want to try a healthier way to eat."

Wilhelm went over a number of things having to do with veganism and why it may be a good idea for people to consider it as an alternative.

"Everything is fresh and organic," she said. "There are no preservatives or pesticides, so obviously that is good for your health."

The menu

While you may notice that everything on display in the front of the store is of the dessert variety, the cafe does have a lunch and dinner menu featuring panini sandwiches, salads and nachos. They also re-

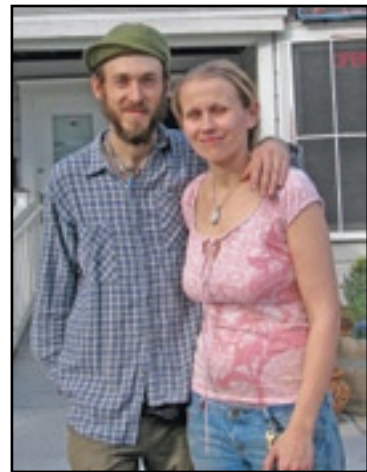
cently featured a Portobello mushroom meatloaf.

The most popular lunch/dinner item is the nachos, according to Wilhelm. It consists of corn chips topped with black beans, olives, vegan meat alternatives, vegan cheese, avocados, salsa and vegan sour cream. A plate of them will cost you \$11, but will comfortably serve three.

As far as the dessert menu is concerned, the Sugar Plum has your sweet tooth covered. The cafe features 12 different types of dessert items ranging from cinnamon rolls to cookies, cupcakes and muffins, all made fresh daily.

Visiting the Sugar Plum

The Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe is located at 2315 K St. Business hours for the café are Mondays, closed; Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Benn Hodapp
During the nearly two weeks since the Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe opened at 2315 K St. in midtown, business has been good for co-owners Khyem Amri and Melissa Wilhelm.

a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call (916) 706-3302 or visit sugarplumvegan.com. Free wifi Internet access is available.

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Raley's history includes its 1992 purchase of Bel Air Markets

Local communities share part in Raley's 75th anniversary

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
lance@valcomnews.com

The Raley's supermarkets chain is celebrating a very special anniversary, as this year marks 75 years since the chain's first store opened.

Since its founder Tom Raley opened this first location on Main Street in Placerville on Feb. 16, 1935, Raley's has grown extensively and is a rich part of Sacramento area communities.

Recognized as the state's 11th largest private company by Forbes magazine, Raley's owns and operates 133 stores: 85 Raley's, 21 Bel Air Markets, 22 Nob Hill Foods supermarkets and five Food Source stores.

These stores include Raley's stores at 4850 Freeport Blvd. in Sacramento and 5159 Fair Oaks Blvd. and 4005 Manzanita Ave. in Carmichael, and Bel Air stores at 7465 Rush River Drive and 1301 Florin Road in Sacramento.

First link in the chain

The road to Raley's establishment is one with long roots beginning in Lead Hill (Boone County) Arkansas – Tom Raley's birthplace.

Raised in a family of seven boys and seven girls, Tom Raley was taught to have good virtues, as the son of a Baptist minister and farmer, named Reglus Raley.

Following his high school years, Tom Raley earned a business degree from a business college in Missouri before moving to Los Angeles, where he worked for an ice and cold storage firm.

Eventually working for a Safeway grocery store in Los Angeles before transferring to a San Francisco store, Tom Raley was later offered, but declined an opportunity to serve as the district manager of San Francisco Safeway stores.

In 1934, despite being a Depression year, Tom Raley opted to instead establish his own grocery store.

In a 1972 interview with The Sacramento Bee, Tom Raley described the challenges he faced in opening his first store, which had a price tag of \$9,000.

"I wanted to build a store in Placerville and I had only \$120," Tom Raley told The Bee. "I needed credit, so I listed the chairman of the board of Safeway as a reference. Suddenly everybody was willing to help me."

Opening his Placerville store with only two assistants – a clerk and a butcher – Tom Raley experienced much success with his store, which led to his additional success in Sacramento.

His good fortunes with the Placerville store ended when it was destroyed by fire in 1942.



Raley's supermarket at 4850 Freeport Blvd. is shown in this c. 1958 photograph.

Photo courtesy of Raley's Archives

Less than a decade after opening his first Sacramento store, Tom Raley was at the helm of a chain of eight stores, including a store at 1700 Capitol Ave., where Compton's and Rick's Uptown markets were later located.

And this was definitely only the beginning of Raley's growth, as the chain continued to expand throughout the years, making possible Tom Raley's goal of establishing 50 stores by Raley's 50th anniversary in 1985.

Starting the superstores

The aforementioned Freeport Boulevard store was established in 1958, which was the very year that Raley's made history by opening the nation's first grocery store-drug store combination, which was known as a superstore.

Raley's was obviously proud of its superstores, as is indicative of an advertisement, which appeared in the Dec. 7, 1977 edition of The Sacramento Union.

"If there's no Raley's Superstore near you...move," the advertisement read.

The advertisement also invited The Union's readers to the day's opening of the 5159 Fair Oaks Blvd., at Walnut Avenue, location in Carmichael.

The Fair Oaks Boulevard store became Raley's 10th superstore.

Raley's also once had a presence in East Sacramento with its former store at 2815 L St., near Sutter's Fort.

Although it never materialized, during the late 1980s, plans were made for a 99,000-square-foot shopping center, which was to be known as Pocket Landing and anchored by a 61,000-square-foot Raley's Supercenter at the northeast corner of Pocket Road and Greenhaven Drive.

Raley's acquired Bel Air

In 1992, Raley's acquired Bel Air Markets from the Wong family and like Raley's, Bel Air also has a very rich history, which has left a positive

impression on many people throughout the region.

The roots of the store began in the 1930s, when Chinese immigrant Gim Wong, who came to America in 1916 and eventually helped found his family's supermarket, Bel Air, began selling produce that he grew on his 5-acre farm in Penryn, about 30 miles east of Sacramento. Assisting him with his business was his wife, Lee Shee and their children.

After establishing his produce-selling business on his farm, he eventually opened his own store in Penryn. And moving to Sacramento in the late 1940s, he opened a grocery store at 28th and P streets.

The Wong family's establishment of their first Bel Air Market at 6231 Fruitridge Road was, according to the business's corporate history, "still a novel concept at that time."

The same can also be said of Raley's during its early years as a supermarket.

Even by the early 1960s, the concept of the supermarket remained somewhat in its infancy.

In 1961, for instance, The Bee published an article that in today's world can be considered amusing to reflect upon.

The article explains that the Department of Agriculture created a pamphlet covering the topic of "why the American housewife's supermarket bill seems so high."

The pamphlet responds to this inquiry, noting that "she buys better food, spends less time in the kitchen and buys cigarettes, (lipstick, toilet articles), face lotion and even clothes" at the supermarket.

Committed to its mission of offering superior products and top-notch customer service, Bel Air capitalized on its success and had expanded to a chain of six stores within its first decade.

Today, the now-much larger Bel Air chain, which was formerly led for 40 years by its president, George Wong, has stores as far east as Cameron Park and as far north as Yuba City.

Among these stores, the Arden Way store opened on Aug. 14, 1958, the Florin Road store opened on Aug. 8, 1966 and the Rush River Drive store opened on Nov. 16, 1988.

The local store

Other highlights in Raley's history include the opening of its first Food Source warehouse format store in Folsom in 1994 and its purchase of the Nob Hill Foods chain in 1998.

Tom Raley passed away at the age of 88 on Dec. 27, 1991 and the company is now owned by his daughter, Joyce Raley Teel, who also serves as a co-chair of the Raley's board of directors. Her husband, James E. Teel, is the other co-chair.

Tom Raley's only grandson, Michael J. Teel, serves as Raley's president and CEO, while each of his four sisters, Claudia Doerhoff, Diane Perry, Laurie Struck and Lisa Davidson, serve on the board of directors.

Today, Raley's, which has its headquarters in West Sacramento and about 13,500 employees, continues to add to its legacy.

Raley's spokeswoman Amy Davis said that Raley's is proud of its 75-year commitment to providing quality products and services for its customers.

"We are thrilled to celebrate Raley's 75th anniversary with the community," Davis said. "It's been an honor to serve the greater Sacramento area since 1935. Although our offerings and services have evolved over the years to meet the needs of today's consumers – including a recipe database on raleys.com, accounts on Twitter and an iPhone app for customers on-the-go – the foundation of customer service built by our founder, Tom Raley, remains constant as we welcome a new generation of customers through our store doors. As a regional, family-operated company, we look forward to serving you and your families for many years to come."

Bowling memories relived monthly by local senior ladies

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
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Sacramento was once a bowling haven consisting of many more bowling alleys and bowling leagues competing throughout the city than there are today. And although bowling has declined in popularity since this time, a group of local ladies refuses to have these memories fade away.

Meeting monthly at randomly selected Sacramento area restaurants, the group, which is comprised of former, local women's bowling league members ranging from 75 to 94 years old, reminisces about their bowling memories, while celebrating one or more of its members' birthdays.

Gathering last week at the Elephant Bar restaurant, just south of the Arden Fair Mall, the women, some of who began bowling in leagues in the late 1940s, shared some of these memories for the readers of this newspaper.

Members in attendance were Peggy Gamba of the East Sacramento/midtown Sacramento area, Amy Kanemoto of Greenhaven,

Louise Martin and Jean (Nakatan) Yego of Land Park, Bev Russell of Carmichael, Merle (Hendrix) Cale, Lillie (Rollerson) Reed and Inky Davis of south Sacramento, Rena Barsanti of Rancho Cordova and Kay Hill of North Highlands.

Scattered about the Sacramento area in earlier years were such bowling alleys as the Alhambra Bowl at 1221 Alhambra Blvd., Alpine Alley at 2326 Florin Road, Capital Bowl at 1415 L St., Sacramento Bowl at 915 6th St., El Camino Bowl at 1194 El Camino Ave., El Rancho Bowl at 900 West Capitol Ave., Land Park Bowl at 5850 Freeport Blvd., North Sacramento Bowl at 1721 Del Paso Blvd., South Bowl at 5005 Stockton Blvd., and Town and Country Bowl at 2032 Fulton Ave.

A full listing of historic bowling alleys would certainly be much longer, as other bowling alleys were also located in the area.

Nonetheless, one would be hard pressed to mention a single bowling alley that has existed from the late 1940s to present that at least one person in the group could not describe.



Land Park News Photo/Lance Armstrong
Members of a group of Sacramento area residents, who meet monthly to share their memories about earlier years of women's bowling in the capital area, gather outside a local eatery. They are pictured left to right: Lillie Reed, Bev Russell, Kay Hill, Rena Barsanti, Louise Martin, Peggy Gamba, Amy Kanemoto, Inky Davis, Jean Yego and Merle Cale.

For instance, Cale, 94, said that her favorite place to bowl was the Alhambra Bowl, which was located just north of Folsom Boulevard and included a large cocktail lounge.

"Alhambra Bowl was a really big, nice place with 16 lanes and there was a guy sitting up there (above the pins) and the pins were set up manually," Cale said. "I bowled there from

1945 to 1969 and the owner was a man, named John Bascou. I was our team's captain and we won the championship as the Barristers (team) in 1947. Three sisters and two sister-in-laws completed the team."

Gamba, who bowled in Sacramento and other cities from 1948

See Bowling, page 15

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Bowling: 'I really looked forward to those (bowling) nights'

Continued from page 14

to 1984, explained that participating in bowling tournaments was only a part of the reason that she enjoyed bowling.

"I bowled in many places in Sacramento such as Alhambra, Capital Bowl, Sacramento Bowl and Town and Country and I had great times going to the nationals, but it was just nice to get together with friends," Gamba said. "I really looked forward to those (bowling) nights and meeting the ladies and their husbands. And sometimes we would go out to dinner with them afterward. We just had a great time."

Perfect games, perfect friends

It is evident that the camaraderie shared by many of the bowlers at the time is something that continues today through this monthly group.

But the friendly environment that bowling created should not be confused with how competitive the tournaments were during this time.

Inquiring about these ladies' best, all-time scores is a good way to find out how serious they took these matches.

"My best was a 697 (in a three-game series) and a 297 in a single game," said Reed, whose husband Ray also bowled in Sacramento. "I also bowled in 22 national tournaments."

Other bowlers in the group also bowled single games in the high 290s, with even others bowling in the 280s.

Commenting about her single game high of 286, Yego said, "I could just never get to 300."

But bowling a perfect 300 game was something that was quite elusive for most bowlers.

One of the group's members said that a bit of Sacramento history was made when Doreen Lowry became the first female to bowl 300 in a single game at Alhambra Bowl.

Within the group, three members of the Sacramento Women's Bowling Association's Hall of Fame – Barsanti, Russell and Hill – sat at the restaurant's table. A former member of the group, the late Betty Allum, was also named to the same Hall of Fame.

Barsanti, a 1946 graduate of Sacramento High School, who was also named to the California Women's Bowling Association's Hall of Fame, related her finest moments in bowling.

"My finest moment as an individual was (winning) the California Women's Bowling Association's Queens Championship Tournament (in 1973)," Barsanti said. "The California Queen was a (double elimination, four-game match) singles event. I was also the California Queen runner-up in 1970. As a team member, four times we took the Classic Division."

Bowling for a good time

During these early years of bowling in Sacramento, local female bowlers were oftentimes members of the Women's International Bowling Congress, while male bowlers often bowled in leagues of the American Bowling Congress.

But joining these organizations was not an option for non-Caucasians prior to the 1950s, explained Yego, whose father, Soichi Nakatani, was born in Japan in 1889 and came to Sacramento in 1907, and whose mother, Mary (Takagi) Nakatani, was born in San Francisco in 1903 and came to Sacramento in 1928.

"My husband was able to bowl in 1948, because he was in the service, but it wasn't until the 1950s that Asian people could be members in men's and women's bowling associations in Sacramento and we couldn't bowl in tournaments," said Yego, who was celebrating her 80th birthday with the group.

Reed, who chuckled when the topic arose of being the youngest member of the group at 75 years old, said that black bowlers were held from the association's league until 1954.

"I didn't start bowling until 1968, but my husband talked about how tough it was bowling (during these segregated times)," Reed said. "He was eventually president of the Sacramento Bowling Association in the 1980s. He was also on the board of directors and I was on the board of directors, too."

Commenting about these days of segregation, Russell said, "Nowadays you don't think of people not being able to do something because of their skin color. We definitely live in better times for that."

Hill said that newspapers played a large part in publicity.

"The local newspapers would print the league scores," Hill said. "The fun-

ny part was The Bee would not print the names of our sponsors, but The Union would. (The Bee) would not put the sponsors' names, because they said they were advertisements. They would just put our names and our scores, but they wouldn't put the name of the team we played on."

Also publicizing local bowling during the 1960s and 1970s was the Sacramento Bowling News, which was headed by its owner and editor, Bobbie Johnson.

Describing Johnson as a "lifesaver," Reed added, "She used to hold contests for the best bowlers and different things. We really missed that paper when it had to fold."

Longing for the lanes

When asked why she believes bowling has lost much of its popularity in Sacramento, Barsanti said, "I think part of it is there are so many more things for people to do (in Sacramento). When we started in the late 1940s or early 1950s, there wasn't a lot going on (in the city) and World War II had just ended. We were in that (era) when we didn't have to do a lot of really exciting things to be entertained. We found that recreational sports were a great way out and a great coming together."

But although these days are long gone and most of the members of the group no longer bowl, there is one thing that the members refuse to give up and that is their fond memories of bowling in a golden age in Sacramento.

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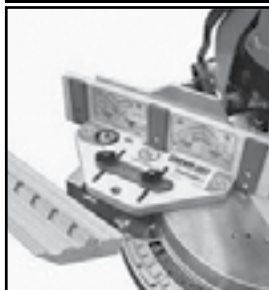
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Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost. There is no guarantee that events submitted will appear in the calendar. To ensure placement within the newspaper, please call 429.9901 to place an advertisement.

APRIL

The Savvy Caregiver

Based on research by experts, this new 6-week course from the Alzheimer's Association will provide clinical-level training for family caregivers. The program provides over 12-hours of face-to-face training with dementia experts, a caregiver manual and CD-ROM. Six consecutive Tuesdays: April 6, 13, 20 and May 4, 11, and 18. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., ACC Park City, 7375 Park City Dr. For a limited time, this \$75 course is being offered for free. Transportation and respite expenses can be covered by a grant. Please inquire. Pre-registration required by April 1. To register, please call Denise Davis at 916-930-9080 or e-mail at Denise.Davis@alznorcal.org.

APRIL 8

Computer club meeting

The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 1:00 PM to

3:00 PM at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Computer Networking", presented by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc. Adam will lead a problem solving clinic immediately following the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our website at www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

APRIL 8-11

Brundibar, a Holocaust-Era Opera

On April 8-11, 2010, the Sacramento Children's Chorus with support from the Sacramento Opera will perform Brundibar, the internationally acclaimed 1938 children's opera. Musical accompaniment will be provided by the Sacramento Youth Symphony. The production will be held at the Hiram Johnson High School theatre, 6879 14th Ave., with four public performances and two matinee performances to accommodate school field trips. The final Sunday public performance will be held on Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah), April 11, 2010. The opera will be sung in English and accompanied by English super tides. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

APRIL 9

Cultural Events Fair

The Cultural Events Fair takes place at McClatchy High School located on Freepoint Boulevard on April 9 from 3:15 to 5:15 pm. It is a fair offered to students in the HISP Program (Humanities and International Studies program) as a way to learn about different cultures outside the classroom. There are workshops held all over the campus. They include Sushi making, Painting in Pastels, Photography, Fencing, Drumming, Acupuncture, Belly

Dancing to name a few. There are between 14 and 16 workshops. Most presenters are business and professional people from the area and they do both lectures, labs and hands-on. Usually they bring colorful and interesting props such as real fencing gear, food ingredients, posters, costumes etc. The event is highly spirited and positive and very well received among the students, parents and teachers.

APRIL 10

Carmichael Geranium Society April Meeting

Carmichael Geranium Society April Meeting is Friday April 9, 10 a.m. to noon at the Carmichael Community Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave. We will have an overview of how to use Geraniums in culinary recipes - visitors welcome. We will also make final plans for our May 1 annual Show and Plant Sale.

Sewing Garage Sale

Held Saturday, April 10, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., North Highlands Community Center, 6040 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Sponsor: Sacramento Chapter, American Sewing Guild. Admission: Free, open to the public. Highlights: The sale includes hundreds of yards of quality and bargain fabric sold at \$1 to a few dollars per yard. Also for sale are sewing notions and equipment, craft items, sewing patterns, books and magazines. Sewing items may be donated to the sale or made available for sale - see the contact information below. Coffee and baked goods will be available for purchase. For more information contact: Ellen Alexander, (530) 432-5477, 1dande2@comcast.net.

"Art for MS"

The event is from 5 to 9 p.m. at Fe Gallery, 1100 65th St. Please join former mayor Heather Fargo for "Art for MS" a Silent Art Auction and Raffle to benefit for Multiple Sclerosis at Fe Gallery, 1100 65th Street, Sacramento. Your support will bring awareness to our community and make a difference to those living with Multiple sclerosis. Enjoy demonstrations of blacksmithing, glass blowing, portrait drawing, best in the show awards and much more. Please join us for this worthy and enjoyable event. Call 916.456.4455 or visit www.fegallery.com

<<http://www.fegallery.com/>> for more information and updates about "Art for MS."

Free E-waste Collection

A fundraiser for The Didion Forum, the event is Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Genevieve Didion K-8 School, West Parking Lot, 6490 Harmon Dr. They will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, small kitchen equipment (blenders, toasters, etc.), cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines. Simply arrive between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. the day of the event! They will unload your E-Waste for you and generate money for our school. Questions? Contact, Tim Gergen, Forum Vice President, at tgergen@yahoo.com.

Rummage Sale and Pancake Breakfast

Held at Sutterville Elementary School, 4967 Monterey Way, the Rummage Sale is 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the Pancake Breakfast is 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A preview story would also be great (if news is slow). Your hook could be the school district's budget crisis. Our PTA is doing all it can to raise money, because we know even more services are going to be cut. We already pay for a music teacher and an art teacher at our school along with various assemblies. Thanks so much! If you need more information, you can reach me at therobbiebug@sbcglobal.net or 456-4331.

Jensen Garden Workday

Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden hold garden work days one Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next workday is Saturday, April 10, 2010. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. Come join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. Next workdays in 2010 are 5/8, 6/5, 7/10, 8/7, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4. The Jensen Garden is located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. For more info: Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 ext23 or email tracy@carmichaelpark.com.

Jensen Botanical Garden Plant Sale

The Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden will hold a plant sale, Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Jensen Garden

located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. Ferns, succulents among many other plants available. All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Jensen Botanical Garden. Come early for the best selection to get your spring planting off to a great start! For more info: Virginia Sturdevant (916) 488-2006.

E-waste recycling event in Pocket

Free e-waste collection fundraiser for The Didion Forum. Event is Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. at Genevieve Didion K-8 School, the West Parking Lot, 6490 Harmon Dr. Simply arrive between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. the day of the event! We will unload your E-Waste for you and generate money for the school. They will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, small kitchen equipment (blenders, toasters, etc.), cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines.

APRIL 10-11

Benefit plant sale to send kids to camp

The Benefit Plant Sale on April 10th & 11th will benefit Sunburst Projects Camp program, giving kids with HIV/AIDS a chance to go to camp and get away from the day to day stresses of dealing with the disease. The Plant Sale will be Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the covered parking area on 18th St, behind The Gifted Gardener at 18th & J Streets. One of the largest selections of perennials of the year will be at the sale, with such hard to find items as Aconitum (Monkshood), Wood Poppy, Astilbe, Agastache, and over 200 other varieties available, including a number of 2010 introductions (Echinacea and Crocopsis varieties) not yet in local nurseries. Donations for the kids will also be accepted, with cash receipts available for tax purposes. For more information on Sunburst, go to www.sunburstprojects.org or call Jennifer at (916) 440-0889 ext 301. For more info on the plant sales, call Mr. Hamm, the sale organizer at (916) 943-6183 or email him at gardennotes@sbcglobal.net.

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visit: www.saccallie.org. Or call (916) 424-3661.

APRIL 11

30th Annual ZooZoom

It's a Party for the Planet at the 30th annual ZooZoom, Sunday, April 11th from 7:00 am to Noon at the Sacramento Zoo. Lace up your running shoes and take a brisk run or walk through the scenic, flat, tree-lined streets of William Land Park. The 5K, 10K and fun runs for children age 3 to 12 are sponsored by Fleet Feet and benefits the Sacramento Zoological Society. For race fees and information, please visit www.sacramento-zoozoom.com.

APRIL 13

Sharing the Journey Through Grief

This workshop will meet once a month on the second Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Each workshop will explore a different aspect of grief and loss. Presenter is Margo Hayes, MSW. Workshops are free of charge. Pre-registration required. Contact Lucy Chao at 916-393-9026 Ext. 322.

Gray Panthers meeting

Gary Passmore, the Executive Assistant to the state president of the Congress of California Seniors, will be the speaker at the April 13 meeting of the Sacramento Gray Panthers. His topic will be the affect the newly enacted health care law will have on California seniors. The Gray Panthers meeting will at 1 PM at the Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. (between I and J streets). The meeting is free and open to the public. For further information, call Margie Metzler, (916) 921-5008.

Asperger support group

On Tuesday April 13, 2010, and continuing monthly on the second Tuesday, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. a free sup-

port and education group will be held for women who are partnered with men who have Asperger Syndrome. The group will be co-led by psychotherapists Marilyn Perry, MFT, PhD, and Sally Watkins, LCSW, as part of the Sacramento Asperger Syndrome Information and Support groups that meet at the U.C. Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, 2825 50th St., Sacramento, CA 95817. More information is available by calling Sally Watkins, LCSW, (916) 939-8249.

APRIL 14

Genealogical Society meeting

Root Cellar - Sacramento Genealogical Society - membership meeting Wednesday April 14, 2010, 7pm - 8:30pm, Citrus Heights Community Clubhouse 6921 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights. Guest speaker Joel Weintraub will present "Getting Ready for the 1940 Census". Free, visitors welcome. Details about the speaker and Root Cellar at www.rootcellar.org or contact Sammie Hudgens (916) 481-4930.

APRIL 17

Holy Spirit Parish charity shred event

Holy Spirit Parish, 3159 Land Park Drive is having a Shred Event on Saturday April 17, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the church parking lot. This is an opportunity for the Sacramento Community to support the needy through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. \$10.00 a file box donation.

Sacramento & California History Tour

Let history entertain you on this Saturday morning tour at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery! Informative and entertaining, this tour led by Bill Mahan, retired educator and historian, is an opportunity to learn about Sacramento and California history while our beautiful garden cemetery is

in full bloom. The tour commences at 10 am from the Cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street. Visitors may park across the street from the 10th Street Gate and meet at the cemetery entrance. Held under the auspices of the City of Sacramento Division of History & Science, the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. presents this tour as a public service. For tour information, please call (916) 448-0811. Tours are free though donations for the restoration of the cemetery are gravely needed and greatly appreciated.

Open Garden

Experience the splendor of heritage roses in a unique 19th century setting! The Sacramento Historic Rose Garden will be in full bloom for the annual Open Garden Event, Saturday April 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Open Garden will feature free tours of the beautiful gardens located within the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 10th and Broadway, Sacramento, California. The sale of rooted rose cuttings and snacks and a raffle will raise funds for the maintenance of the gardens.

Artists open studio tour

Visit the studios of artists of the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. See how artists set up their work space and supplies. Artists will have their artworks on display and some will demonstrate how they work. Participating artists: Diana Holt, Phyllis Eymann, Marie Dixon, Jackie Keller, Joan McMurray, Rhonda Egan, Malihah Bartomomeo, Kathy Young Ross, Sheila Jacobs, Gretchen Ryan, Jack Warren, Skip Lee, Kenneth Potter, Diane Mattar, Paula Lloyd. Get a map for the studio tour at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, 5330-B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA, \$10 donation. All proceeds benefit the programs offered at the center. For information call Joan McMurray, 916-966-8910 or 916-971-3713.

APRIL 17

Benefit concert for Haiti

The Trubaek Quartet (Camille Getz, viola, Nicole Hwang, second violin, Rachel Baek, cello, and Ray Anthony Trujillo, first violin) will perform at a concert to benefit the Haitian earthquake relief effort. The concert, hosted by Camille Getz and Nicole Hwang, will be held at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3235 Pope Avenue, at 7:00 PM on April 17 with guest appearance by award-winning young musician Eunghee Cho. Tickets are \$20, Students \$10, limited seating. For tickets, call (916) 487-5192.

APRIL 18

Thrift Store Spring Boutique Sale

The SPCA's Thrift Store is holding a Spring Boutique Sale at The Marketplace at Birdcage as well. The Boutique, located at 5925 Birdcage Center Lane, will be open daily through April 18 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Boutique Sale features designer clothing and purses, real, costume and estate jewelry, pet-related items, collectibles and more. Proceeds from the Sacramento SPCA book sale and boutique will benefit the more than 12,000 abandoned, abused and unwanted animals cared for by the SPCA annually. For more information: Call the Sacramento SPCA special events office at (916) 383-7387, ext. 9102 or e-mail azablah@sspc.org.

Free shred event

Shred event is Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of Public Safety Center, 5770 Freepport Blvd. Recycle your unwanted computers, monitors, televisions, radios, printers, cell phones, scanners, DVD players, electrical cords, fax machines, VCRs, etc. They cannot accept: batteries, household appliances, or light bulbs. Donations accepted for Crime Alert Reward Program.

Free Writer's Workshop

The 7th annual writer's workshop at the Elk Grove Library will take place on April 17 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. This is a free workshop geared toward beginning writers from age 16 and up. Featured speakers this year are Bradley Buchanan, an associate professor of English at CSUS. Besides teaching creative writing and modern British Literature, Buchanan has published two books of poetry and is co-founder of Roan Press, a local publishing operation. Renee Morgan-Hampton is the author of Misrepresented, a mystery novel. A litigation paralegal, she is inspired to write novels drawing from her experiences in the law profession. Attendees are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and arrive early. Overflow parking is available behind the library on Elk Grove-Florin Rd in the Discovery church parking lot. To reserve a seat, call (916) 264-2920, register online at www.saclibrary.org or at the branch library located at 8900 Elk Grove Blvd. This event is sponsored by Elk Grove Friends of the Library.



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