

California Kids!

JULY 2009

LOOK INSIDE!

- Meet your favorite authors
- All kinds of kid-friendly places to go and things to do
- Use your imagination making fun crafts

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Spend the night at the Zoo

Family Overnight Safaris make for a great, safe, mini-vacation - without the drive! Explore the Zoo in a whole new light—moonlight. Discover which animals take over the night shift, and see what happens when the Zoo comes alive at night. Experience this new side of the Zoo with your family without the rush of the daytime crowds. Meet some of the animals up close and personal. Then, as night falls, camp out under the stars just yards away from slumbering red pandas and dozing flamingos.

The overnight program begins with a buffet spaghetti dinner, followed by an evening of fun including special animal enrichment feedings, zoo games, storytelling and camp songs. Wake up to the calls of the flamingos, the roar of a lion, singing birds, chattering monkeys and a tasty pancake breakfast. Make this a memorable experience for everyone in your family or small group.

Sacramento Zoo Family Overnight Safaris make for a great, safe, mini-vacation – without the drive! Pre-registration is required—adults \$60 and children (ages 4-17) \$56; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Your safari embarks at 5:30 p.m. on: July 10, July 18, July 24, August 1, August 7, or August 14; and ends at 9 a.m. the following morning.



Sign up for this once in a lifetime extraordinary family experience at www.saczoo.com or call (916) 808-5889.

This Sacramento treasure inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., general admission is \$9; children ages 3-12 are \$6.50 and two and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus No. 6. For information, call 916-808-5888 or visit www.saczoo.com.

California Kids! Family Fun Guide

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Sacramento Zoo
25th Annual
Ice Cream Safari
All-you-can-eat Baskin Robbins Ice Cream
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Saturday, July 25
4:00 to 8:00 pm

Face Painting 🦒 Live Entertainment 🦒 Giraffe

Admission: Adults \$17, Kids \$13

Twilight Tuesdays

Live Music 🎵 Cold Drinks 🎵 Good Food

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| | | |
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| July 7 A night across the pond: British Night The Jingles Featuring Sacramento British Car Club and MG Club 92.1 K HITS | July 21 Travel in Time: 60's and 70's Car Show The Q Boils 92.1 K HITS | July 28 Journey to Asia Second Wind For nightly dinner specials go to our website. Adults \$9.00, kids 3 and up \$6.50. Sacramento Zoo members are free. |
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Pear Fair

The 37th Annual Pear Fair will be Sunday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Sacramento River Delta town of Courtland, located just 20 minutes south of Sacramento, off Hwy 160. The Pear Fair features: Live Music –Jay Rolerz (10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), Take 2 Party Band (1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.) & Mariachi Los Gallos (4:00p.m.-6:00p.m.), a parade, fun run, children’s area with plenty of activities, arts and crafts, classic car show, and a variety of food.

For more information, please visit the Pear Fair web site at www.pearfair.com



The Great Race

THE GREAT RACE®, presented by Eppie’s Great Race Foundation, will celebrate its 36th YEAR, Saturday, July 18, as the THE WORLD’S OLDEST TRIATHLON®! This race features a unique run-bike-paddle competition with many divisions for both iron-persons or relay teams.

The race is held along the beautiful American River Parkway, between Rancho Cordova and Sacramento. The three legs of the race consist of a 5.82 mile run, 12.5 mile cycle and a 6.35 mile paddle.

Start time is 7:58 a.m. near the Guy West Bridge at California State University Sacramento Parking Lot 4. Late registration is 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., with start time at 10 a.m.

Runners will go one mile north along the levee bike path, and return one mile on the same route to the starting area. The cyclists will bike 5.75 miles on the American River Bike Trail to the finish in William Pond Park. It is a short walk from there across River Bend Park’s Richey Footbridge to the finish area of The Great Race®.

For more information or to volunteer, call (916) 381-0255 or visit <http://www.thegreatrace.org>.



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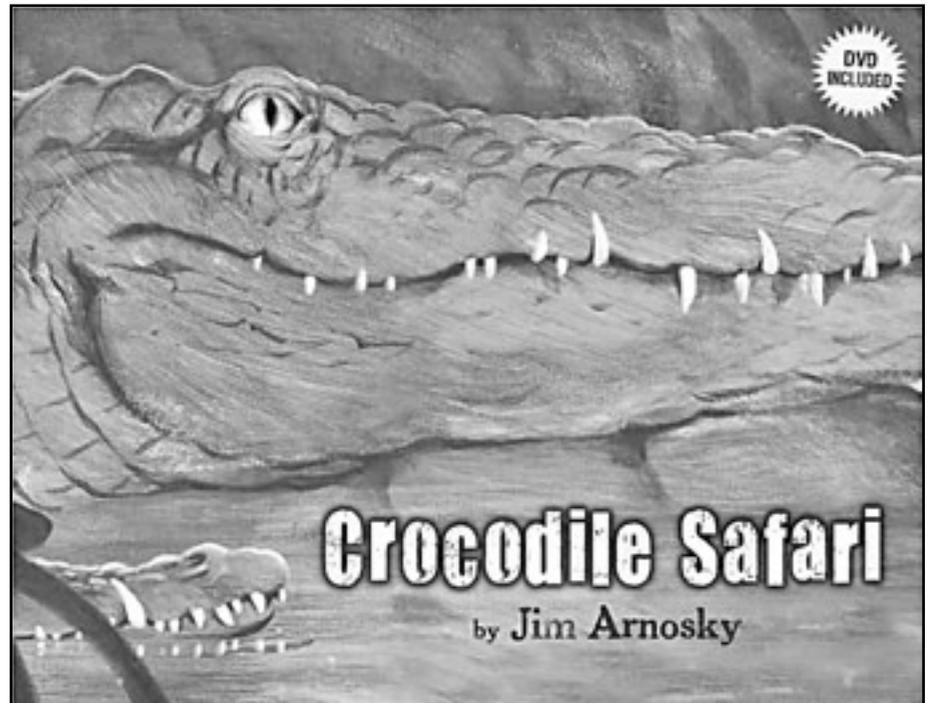
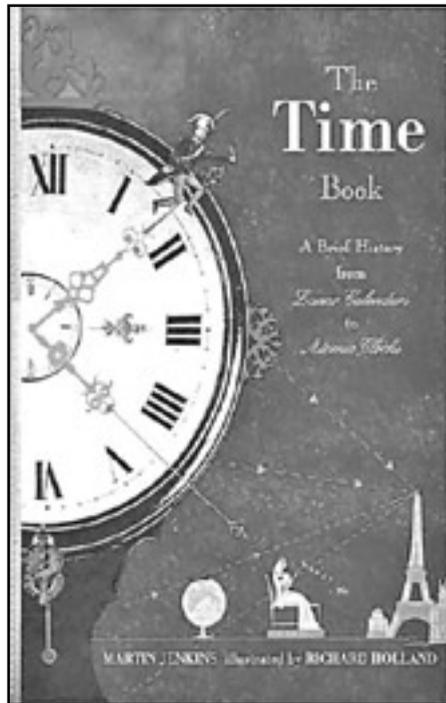
Bring us your child’s report card with a ‘D’ average grade and this coupon from Cal Kids, and Robinson’s Taekwondo will show your child how to be healthy and get better grades. We’ll train your child for three months for free. Each child will be enrolled for six months, but parents can opt out without cost after three months if they are not satisfied or their child’s grades don’t improve. If they choose to stay enrolled they receive the final three months at half price.

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Each parent will agree to bring the student to class at one of the 18 Robinsons Taekwondo locations in the Sacramento region and they will receive a copy of Wayne Knipe’s best seller, “Better Grades, Easier” to help them in tutoring their child. PROGRAM ENDS SEPT. 30, 2009.

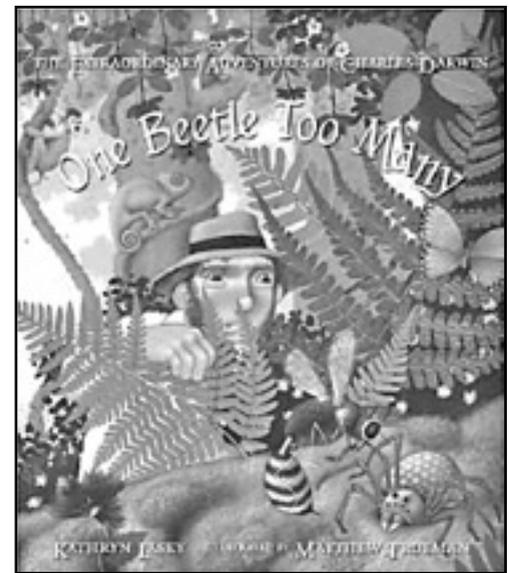
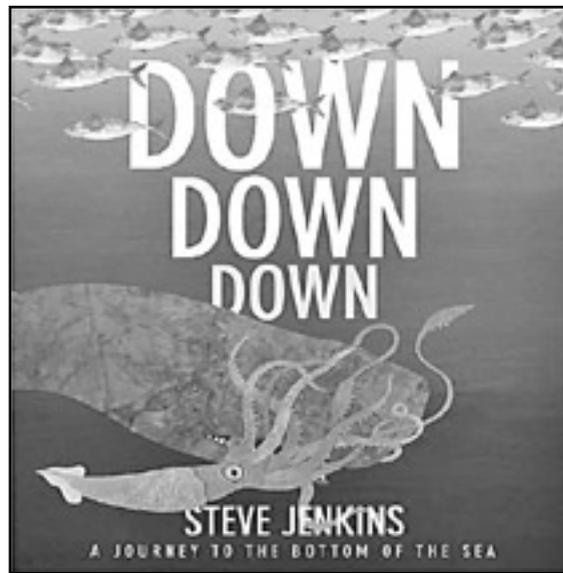
FREE AT ALL 18 LOCATIONS! Visit www.robinsonstk.com for a school near you.

Regular attendance is mandatory or Robinson’s can cancel the agreement with parents.



The Book Report: Nonfiction Books - Learn a Little

By Connie Goldsmith



Summer's in full swing, but school's not far off. Help your young learner prepare for the classroom by reading a good nonfiction book together. Today's nonfiction books are lively, well-written, and chock-full of colorful photos and art. The history of time, the secret of deep-sea life, and the science behind food: these are some of the many nonfiction books available to entertain and educate your children.

"Food Science," by Jeanne Miller. (Lerner). This book is one of a series for kids who say they don't like science. But everyone loves food, and when a writer skillfully mixes food and science, you end up with a tasty tidbit that young readers are sure to savor. Easy to read and filled with interesting details, the book discusses why food tastes like it does and what cooking does to food. The chapter on "Slow Food" introduces the green concept of eating food grown close to home, and the value of crop diversity. The closing chapter describes foods of the future: how genetic modification and the new science called nutrigenomics may one day revolutionize how we'll eat. With bright photos and snappy text, this book will appeal to anyone who enjoys eating!

"The Time Book: a brief history from lunar calendars to atomic clocks," by Martin Jenkins, art by Richard Holland. (Can-

dlewick). What is time and how is it measured? Animals have internal clocks: they know when to hibernate and when to migrate. Early man noted changes in the sun and moon and seasons, and developed ways to track time – first the months and years with calendars – then the hours and minutes with clocks. But why divide a year into 365 days instead of 200, or an hour into 60 minutes instead of 50? Some of the answers are surprising and have more to do with politics than science. The lovely mixed-media collages are sophisticated, rendered largely in blue and sepia tones and filled with quirky details. But the question remains: why does time fly when we're having fun and drag when we're not?

"Crocodile Safari," by Jim Arnosky. (Scholastic). Who knew that Florida is home to both alligators and crocodiles? What's the difference between them? This well-known author/artist takes you along on his canoe trips through the salty mangrove swamps favored by these ancient reptiles. Read the diary notes describing how the writer found each elusive creature. He spots two crocs lounging on trashed rowboats in a creek near a trailer park. Another day, he spots four crocs in a pile on a hot mud bank. One lunges at his boat, while another slides by, eyeing the

occupants. The dramatic, yet artful acrylic paintings show other swamp denizens: manatees, snakes, and birds. Take a couple of hours one afternoon to peruse this interesting book (and its accompanying DVD) with your own budding young scientist.

"Down, Down, Down: a journey to the bottom of the sea," by Steve Jenkins. (Houghton Mifflin). This Caldecott Honor winner takes us on a fascinating trip from the ocean's surface to the 7-mile deep Marianas Trench. Half the earth's surface is covered by water a mile or more deep, but most of it remains a mystery. A column on each page shows exactly where we are: the sunlit zone at 300 feet; the twilight zone at 2,000 feet; the dark zone at 10,000 feet, and down, down, down 13,000 feet to the primordial ooze of the abyssal plain. The visit to the hydrothermal vents shows us life forms that depend not on the sun for sustenance, but on bacteria that feed on volcanic sulfur. Jenkin's trademark paper collages perfectly depict the amazing fish and animal life, some of whom look like creatures from another world sporting great fanged teeth and sporting their own lights.

"One Beetle Too Many: the extraordinary adventures of Charles Darwin," by Kath-

ryn Lasky, art by Matthew Trueman. (Candlewick). 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of Darwin's revolutionary book, *"The Origin of Species."* The story touches on Darwin's early life in a free-wheeling household where children were never told, "Don't touch!" He was just 22 years old in 1831 when he landed a job as naturalist on the *Beagle*, a survey vessel charged with mapping the South American coastline. It didn't take long for the young man to discover and understand the meaning of seashells embedded in mountain tops and the significance of huge bones of extinct animals. Darwin's theory that Earth is constantly changing and life always evolving, flew against religious beliefs of the time and set the scientific community spinning. Skillfully blending watercolors, pencils, and inks, the art captures Darwin's fascination with life around him, making this a compelling introduction to this important scientist's life.

Connie Goldsmith lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her latest nonfiction juvenile books, *"Cutting Edge Medicine,"* *"Meningitis,"* and *"Superbugs Strike Back: when antibiotics fail,"* can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.



Attracting Backyard Visitors

American Humane Association

Food

It's easy to attract birds to your yard, but there are some tricks.

Feeders

Different feeders attract different birds. A ground feeder attracts blue jays and doves. A tabletop feeder attracts sparrows and finches, as does a tube feeder, which also attracts cardinals and chickadees. And tree-trunk feeders lure woodpeckers. For the birds' safety, place your feeders out of the reach of cats.

Black oil sunflower seeds will attract a wide variety of birds. Suet—a hard, white dry fat (available in supermarkets and pet-supply stores)—is tasty to woodpeckers and black birds. Nuts—peanuts, pecans, and walnuts—are a special treat for your feathered guests. Crack open the shells and chop up the insides before putting them in your feeder. Better yet, smear a few teaspoonfuls of peanut butter on a pinecone, roll it in seeds, and hang it up for the birds to enjoy.

Water

Sometimes birds (and squirrels) have a hard time finding water. A shallow pan of water available is helpful. And you'll get the amusement of watching the birds bathe.

Once birds learn to depend on you for food and water, it's important to keep providing for them. And in return, you'll be rewarded with the antics, songs, and colors of visiting guests in your yard all year long.

First Pitch for Baseball Academy coming July 19

The Dusty Baker Baseball Camp opens this year on July 19, in Rancho Cordova. Dave Stewart, Shawon Dunston, Jim Barr are among the twelve former major leaguers and veteran group of top-flight coaches providing instruction to students age groups; 9-12, 13-15 and 15-20 at the Sacramento area site. Approximately 5800 of the 7900 previous academy participants have moved on to high school, college or professional baseball.

For information, call Bruce Carmichael at 1 (530) 644-3067, or e-mail: bcarmichael@sbcglobal.net. Visit the camp website at www.dustybakerbaseballcamp.com

Session One, Ages 9-12 – Sunday, July 26 to Friday, July 31
 Session Two, Ages 13-15 – Sunday, July 26 to Friday, July 31
 Advanced Session, Ages 15-19 – Sunday, July 19 to Friday, July 24

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Program, work alongside their assigned Educational Advisor to develop a curriculum, instruct their children, and keep records.

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For more information call the school or visit our Web site.



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Summertime Birding!

Summer's here! Time to go outside and enjoy nature! Whether you are alone or with friends and family, enjoying the outdoors with birds is always a lot of fun! Here's a list of birds that you might be able to find outside your own home! Look carefully; words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards and upside-down. Have a great summer!

H T Z B V D F G K B W O L L A W S
 F U J H U N L W O K W R T Y D W A
 A L M Q C M A X Q L U H A J A N N
 L K A M H H M C U R Z J M N G B D
 C V R T I O I G A T E A G L E K P
 O B T X C N N K I U N B Q C L O I
 N M I N K B G O L M V J K A H N P
 T J N I A T O B L U E B I R D V E
 N Q R B D C O R I O L E L D B C R
 A K X O E U R M G R H C N I F O G
 S B W R E N T O T J D E H N T N T
 A T H Z D V Q L W B U Z Z A R D V
 E L G N L A R K J H G D N L J O Q
 H N E V A R O L M T V U L T U R E
 P V W A R B L E R Q W O R R A P S

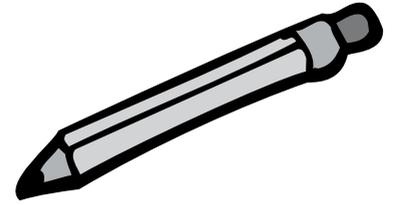
Bluebird
 Blue Jay
 Buzzard
 cardinal
 chickadee
 condor
 crow
 Eagle
 Falcon

Finch
 Flamingo
 Hawk
 Hummingbird
 Lark
 Martin
 oriole
 owl
 Pheasant

Quail
 Raven
 Robin
 Sandpiper
 Sparrow
 Swallow
 Swan
 Vulture
 warbler



MAKE IT YOURSELF!



Sun handprint craft

Bring a little sunshine into your home with this super easy sun handprint craft for summer! And as it involves some painting, some tracing, some cutting and some sticking, it proves a particularly popular craft for kids!

You will need:

Paper plate Yellow paint Black marker Yellow, orange and gold construction paper Scissors Glue



Instructions:

Start by painting the paper plate and leave to dry.

In the meantime, trace around your child's hand onto the three colours of construction paper. You will need about 12 handprints. A mixture of colours looks great but you could just use yellow if you prefer. Cut out the handprints.

Use the black marker to draw a cheerful face on your sun. If you are using a permanent marker, you should supervise this bit carefully!

Now turn the sun over and stick the handprints around the edge to form the rays.

Kids can be junior Magellans with this Summer game

Here's an activity you can do together with your children, what ever their ages. You can do the construction part if they are little ones, and they can play with the finished products. If they are older, provide them with the necessary materials and instructions and let them go at it on their own.

When you are taking your afternoon nature walk, watch for empty walnut shells. The birds tend to drop them and the squirrels try to hide them. Try to collect as many as you can for this easy afternoon craft—making walnut boats!

To create these little boats, you need to carefully split the shell in half. (You want the shell to be as perfect as you can, so split it carefully.) After you split the shell, remove the walnut pieces and enjoy a tasty snack. Next, place the end of a piece of string in the bottom of the shell and press some modeling clay or playdough on it to hold it in place. The string is for the "captain" of the boat to guide it once it's "launched."

Next, cut a tiny sail from a scrap of paper and weave a toothpick through it. Stick the toothpick into the clay, holding the string. To complete the project, attach a button or shower curtain ring on the other end of the string for the child to hold onto to guide his or her boat.

Place the walnut shell boat in the bathtub or a washtub or kiddie pool outside and have fun sailing. If more than one child is playing the game, suggest they make a race or sea a battle of it by blowing on their boats to propel them.

Butterfly wings

These butterfly wings are an easy kids craft for the summer or anytime you are studying butterflies - and they are fun to wear, too!

You will need:

Tissue paper in various different colors
2 laminating sheets and laminator
Craft foam
Glue
Ribbon
Hole punch

You will need to:

Cut out two butterfly wings from tissue paper.

Open up the laminating sheets and lay your wings inside.

Cut shapes from the tissue paper and use to decorate the wings. Close the top layer of the laminating sheets. Very carefully turn the wings over, trying not to disturb the pattern you have made. Open the laminating sheets the other way up and decorate the other sides of your wings.

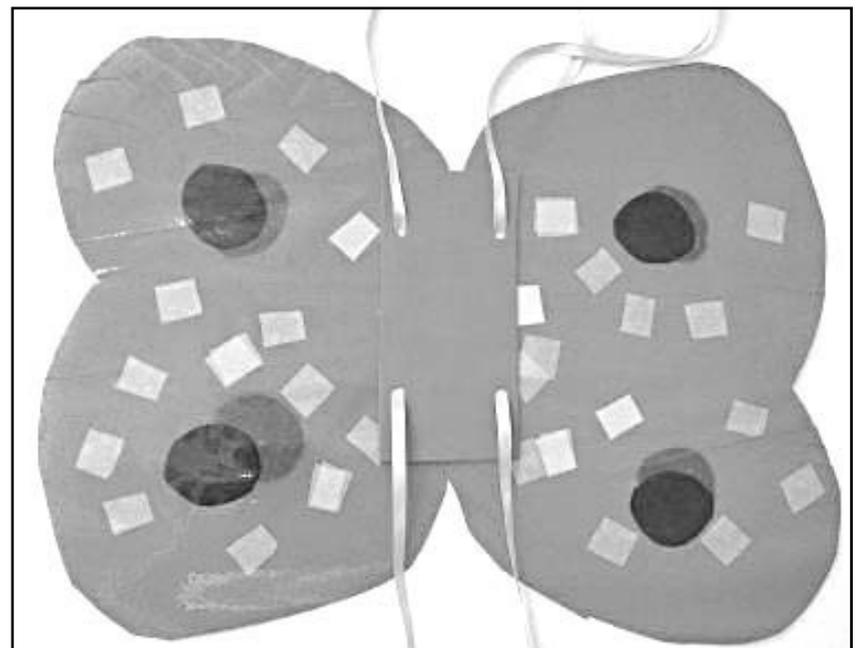
Close the laminating sheets and carefully feed your sheets through the laminator. Please note that laminators can get very hot so young children will need an adult to do this bit.

Trim around the edge of your wings. Make sure that you do not cut right to the edge of the tissue paper.

Arrange your wings in a butterfly shape.

Cut a large rectangle of craft foam. Punch out two holes near the top and two at the bottom. Thread through two lengths of ribbon.

Glue the foam rectangle into the middle of the butterfly shape and leave to dry.



Tie the ribbon around the shoulders to wear.

Crafts courtesy of: www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



Who Wrote That?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring Jarrett J. Krosoczka By Patricia M. Newman

As a sixth grader, Jarrett J. Krosoczka remembers enrolling in private art classes because the public school budget for art instruction was slashed in his Worcester, Massachusetts elementary school. He experimented with cartooning, animation and comic books. "Every week, I so looked forward to going to class," Krosoczka says (pronounced crow-ZAUS-ka). In ninth grade, his grandparents gave him a video camera. "I put together skits with friends. When we had to do a report for school, I almost always convinced my teacher to let me do a video." In a high school English class, Krosoczka and a group of classmates created an animated cartoon of Stephen King's *Misery*. "I drew the pictures, and other kids colored them in and did the voices," he says.

Early on Krosoczka realized that his comics, animations and videos had a narrative quality. When one of his high school teachers introduced him to picture books, Krosoczka saw their potential permanence as an art form. "My interest in picture books grew and grew until it took over," he says.

At Rhode Island School of Design Krosoczka studied all facets of illustration and design, but also enrolled in creative writing classes each semester, remembering his goal to create picture books. In his junior year, he began submitting manuscripts and post cards with samples of his art to publishers. After two years of rejection, an editor expressed interest in meeting him. A short time later, he received his first picture book contract for *Good Night, Monkey Boy*.

Although *Good Night, Monkey Boy* was Krosoczka's first published book, *My Buddy, Slug* was the first book he created and submitted for publication. "I reread my early version of *Slug*," he says. "It's no wonder why it wasn't published." After revising, he pitched the story to his editor and it sold.

"*Baghead* kick-started my career," Krosoczka says. "It received so much attention in



Photo courtesy Steve DePino

publications like *Newsweek* and the *New York Times*." The initial concept for the book came from a still life that he drew as a junior in high school. "We had to draw a paper bag as an academic study," he says. Allowed to use only white chalk and charcoal, Krosoczka included his trademark humor and drew a face cut into his paper bag.

Krosoczka's books are a blend of circumstances that intrude onto his psyche. *Punk Farm* began as a series of farm animal sketches. "When I shared the story idea with my editor, she wasn't into it," he says, so he detoured to other book ideas. "I always wanted to be a rock star when I was a kid," he says. "I had a book about rock stardom in mind for about a year." The farm animals and the rock star idea merged at the Hole in the Wall Gang summer camp where Krosoczka volunteered. To motivate his campers, Krosoczka played loud rock music every day. The kids formed a lip sync band that, in one week, experienced all the turmoil of bruised egos that real bands experience. "A band is so much funnier than a rock star,"

he remembers thinking to himself at the time and if the band members were animals, he knew he could play their personalities off one another to make his story funny and fresh. Although Krosoczka pitched *Punk Farm* as a single title, he says, "When I finished the last painting, I knew I wasn't finished with the story." *Punk Farm on Tour* debuted in 2007, but Krosoczka expects that he will write at least one more *Punk Farm* story.

Krosoczka uses acrylic paints when illustrating his picture books, but in his new *Lunch Lady* series of graphic novels, he reverts to the comic book style of his youth and a limited color palette that he viewed as a challenge. He immediately knew "lunch lady glove yellow" would accompany shades of black and white. The series developed from a blend of different circumstances. He visited his former elementary school during a school visit for *Good Night, Monkey Boy*, and saw the same lunch lady that served him more than ten years

ago. "She told me about her grandkids," he says. "It never crossed my mind that she had a life outside of the lunch room." Krosoczka's first version of *Lunch Lady* was a picture book that he later revised as a chapter book and then a script for a television series. "The script helped me realize how the characters would exist over a longer period of time," he says. During this time, Krosoczka submitted a piece for Jon Scieszka's *Guys Write* for *Guys Read* and he began to reflect on his art and writing as a child. "I went through my mother's attic," he says, "and I remembered how much fun I had making comic books."



Krosoczka works from his home outside of Northampton, Massachusetts in his studio that was once a garage. A disciplined worker, he keeps regular hours, but takes some family time in the late morning for his wife and baby. His dog, Ralph Maccio (named for his wife's first crush) keeps him company. He says, "I'm a boy who loved to draw who made a career out of it."

Next month: Jeri Chase Ferris

Patricia Newman is the author of *Jingle the Brass* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). Her newest book, *Nugget on the Flight Deck* (Walker), will be released in October 2009. Visit her website at www.patriciamnewman.com.



**MORE ABOUT
JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA**

**HOW TO CONTACT JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA
WEBSITE: WWW.STUDIOJJK.COM**

**SELECTIONS FROM
JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA'S LIBRARY**

- *Lunch Lady and the League of Librarians*, Knopf, 2009.
- *Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute*, Knopf, 2009.
- *Punk Farm on Tour*, Knopf, 2007.
- *My Buddy, Slug*, Knopf, 2006.
- *Giddy Up, Cowgirl*, Viking, 2006.
- *Punk Farm*, Knopf, 2005.
- *Max for President*, Knopf, 2004.
- *Baghead*, Knopf, 2002.
- *Good Night, Monkey Boy*, Knopf, 2001.

Upcoming

- *Lunch Lady and the Author Visit Vendetta*, Knopf, December 2009.
- *Lunch Lady #4* [the title is still a secret], Knopf, Summer 2010.



Holland America's Maasdam offers Another Side to Multi-generational and Family Reunion Travel

By Carmel L. Mooney

With family cruising being one of the fastest growing segments of cruising, Holland America Line serves more than 25,000 kids and their families aboard its more than a dozen ships, per year. Family reunion cruising is a popular segment of family cruising because of the nature of cruising and its ability to offer all ages activities, dining and accommodations that marry well together in an environment where each individual family member's needs and desires are met individually and collectively.

One of the strengths of Holland America and particularly the MS Maasdam is that children make up a fairly small portion of the overall capacity of cruisers so when parents and grandparents want some down time away from the kids, they get just that, throughout most of the ship. However kids get the best of both worlds as

they take advantage of the excellent opportunities for younger kids, tweens, and teens afforded by Club HAL. And families can swim and play together in one of the ship's swimming pools, enjoy a live show together, or even take in a movie, yet when the closest of families need some time apart, the grown ups can take a dance class, visit the casino, indulge in spa treatments, or enjoy a high tea or computer class with the peace of mind that the kids are safe and well supervised.

Teens are treated with extra special hospitality as Holland America Line has created The Loft---a teens only lounge resembling a New York artist's loft but with music, games, videos, and a passageway to the Oasis featuring a waterfall, pool, and juice bar.

Younger kids enjoy Club HAL's art, tie-dyeing t-shirts, candy bar bingo, pajama parties, deck sports, and golf.

Babysitting is available late at night for after hours adult fun,



Teens can visit The Loft and enjoy music, games and videos while younger set can enjoy Club HAL's art activities.



and special accommodations can be made for infants.

Grand parents particularly enjoy the casino, library, walking tracks, and quieter decks for reading, and other leisure activities.

Unlike many other lines Holland America's Club HAL and teen program directors and counselors are truly a cut above the rest, as they are all permanent full time employees and all are required to have college degrees with more than half of their education's emphasis on educational studies. Most Club HAL staff have education in child development and recreational or leisure related studies. And what's more, the ratio of Club HAL staff is tailored to the number of children and teens aboard each sailing.

When it comes to affordability, Holland America Line has family reunions covered in all aspects including discounts and upgrades for multi-cabin bookings, family photos, fountain soda cards and souvenir cups for the entire family, special dining arrangements, and more. Even if regular dining isn't enough where specialties like Chicken Satay, Chili-rubbed Tuna Brochette, Oatmeal crushed flounder, and Chocolate Decadence Cake are common fare, families can have a special dining reunion at the Pinnacle Grill. There offerings like Lobster Bisque, Dungeness Crab Cakes, Broiled King Salmon, Surf and Turf Land and Sea, Lobster Macaroni and Cheese, Filet Steak Diane, Warm Grand Marnier Chocolate Volcano Cake, Pinnacle Crème Brulee, Velvet soufflés, and cheesecakes are nightly enticements.

Holland America Line offers many special activities and classes

unique to its line and in 2009 they have added a very popular new Microsoft Digital Workshop quickly becoming the most popular activity for all ages and generations on their ships.

"We are thrilled that passengers of Holland America Line are finding value in the Microsoft Digital Workshops," said Chip Wood, group manager, Consumer Segment Marketing, Microsoft Corporation. "Providing guests with a comfortable environment where they can learn how to create, edit, and share digital memories is a fun, and unique way for Windows to enhance the cruise experience."

These complimentary "tech-spert" led workshops enable all level of photographers to take better photos, make movies, edit and create scrapbooks, and share digital memories through emails, blogs, and social networking. You'll find the classes frequented by both seniors and teenagers, which offers a wonderful opportunity to learn together and perfect skills of all levels.

Although Holland America Line, the world's leading premiere cruise line sails to all seven continents and more than 320 ports of call, one favorite for families is the Southern Caribbean roundtrip sailing from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. This exciting sailing will thrill all ages with so many wonderful shore excursions. Kids will love the green monkeys in St. Kitts, the Champagne snorkeling in Dominica, and bioluminescent kayaking with dinoflagellates in Puerto Rico. Mom and dad will love shopping and golfing with the grandparents in places like Barbados, Half Moon Cay, and St. Maarten. The combination of exotic wildlife, excellent

shopping, pristine and safe beaches, and astounding history make this itinerary a wonder for families where each age group of the family can find something memorable and enjoyable to encounter at each and every port with such a vast array of diverse options. Whether its zip lining through a jungle for the teenagers or wading in the warm West Indies oceans with the grandparents, everyone will be satisfied.

What kid isn't thrilled to snorkel where Pirates of the Caribbean was filmed in a geo thermal champagne snorkel spot? And kids will think of Tinkerbell when their bodies are aglow from the phenomenon of night kayaking through of trillions of dinoflagellates glowing in the Laguna Grande of Puerto Rico, one of only four places in the world where this can be encountered as a family. It is nothing less than thrilling and unforgettable, and something all generations can enjoy together.

On the way to or from your family sailing from Ft. Lauderdale stay at the newly remodeled Westin Ft. Lauderdale with its gorgeous three acre lagoon where hospitality, service and outstanding food are a refreshing every day occurrence and the amenities cater to all ages beautifully.

Cruising is the ultimate family experience and Holland America has the corner on pleasing each and every generation for a family cruise that's unforgettable.

www.hollandamerica.com

Carmel Mooney can be heard each Sunday afternoon on KJAY 1430 AM in Sacramento talking about Holland America and other wonderful travel opportunities for families.

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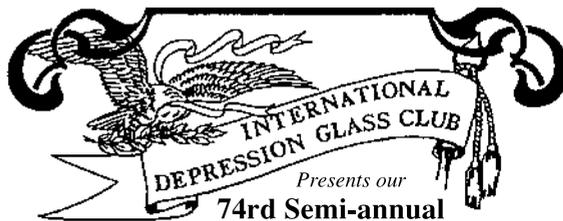
Have fun coloring! www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

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The Monterey Bay Aquarium is located in Monterey at the west end of historic Cannery Row, just minutes from Carmel and Pebble Beach. Monterey is approximately 125 miles (208 km) south of San Francisco and 360 miles (600 km) north of Los Angeles.



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California Kids! is an events and activities guide for active families and is published once a month by Valley Community Newspapers, which also publish the *Arden-Carmichael News*, *East Sacramento News*, *Land Park News* and *Pocket News*. We have been in business for more than 15 years.

California Kids! reaches those parents most likely to purchase products and services by targeting active families who get out and enjoy all that the community has to offer.



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Hiring entertainment for a child's birthday party is almost always the easiest option, especially for younger children. They are more likely to hold the children's attention and behavior should be better as a result.

A magician is a classic entertainment idea for a party. A good magician will keep the attention of the children, amaze them, thrill them and have them giggling too! And a good magician will leave them with something to talk about as well.

Most kids love animals of all kinds. The kids may be allowed to interact with the animals or reptiles as well as learn something about them. Perhaps they will even be able to handle a snake or a spider or ride a pony! Again, make sure that you have checked with parents in advance and that you are aware of potential allergic reactions.

Other entertainment ideas:

- Juggler • Clown • Story-teller • Puppet show • Trampolines • Climbing wall
- Bouncy castle, bouncy slide etc • Cooking party (bring in a local pizza or pasta cook)
- Arts and crafts (a crafty teacher may be prepared to guide the children in making masks, wall hangings or other special projects which they can take home at the end of the party)
- Dancer - find a young dancer who will teach your budding pop stars a dance routine, then take a video and send the kids their own copy after the party
- Make-up / nails / hair - little girls love the "makeover" party concept
- Dressing up - pay a teacher or other experienced person to bring in a collection of dressing up clothes, make-up etc
- Face-painting
- Acting - perhaps you can find an out-of-work actor to lead the kids in an improvisation or help them put together a short play which they can perform to the parents at collecting time

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School Bus craft

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Keeping Kids Busy!

You will need:

Box (try a box from a fridge pack of soda cans), yellow

paint, white paper, black paper, glue, pens.

Instructions:

Paint the box yellow and leave to dry. Cut out two rectangles of white paper, about half the height of the box and a bit shorter than the length. Draw a line of peoples' faces on each one. Glue

these to the sides of the box as the windows. Cut a rectangle for the front window and draw on the driver. Stick this to the front of your bus. Cut out another small rectangle for the back window and glue it on to the back of the bus.

Cut 4 circles for wheels from black paper. Also from black paper cut a rectangle to be your radiator at the front of the bus. Glue these to the bus.

Finish off by drawing the door, headlights, number plates and writing school along each side with coloring pens.

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Keeping Kids Busy!

One thing you can count on during the first days of school is the inevitable question of "What did you do over the summer?" Here are a few creative ways to describe your summer experiences.

Flip Books

Create a moving picture of your summer fun with a flip book. Start out with a Post-It pad or a pocket-

sized spiral notebook. Draw the first picture on the last sheet of paper and work your way to the first page by changing the picture little by little. For instance, if you learned how to surf over the summer, you might start with a picture of you lying on a surfboard in calm waters. The next picture could show the waters growing a little choppy. The following drawings could be of you slowly turning, then standing on the board as the wave grows larger, and so on.

Summer collage

Illustrate your summer happenings with a collage. Simply use glue to cover a poster board or even several small postcard-sized papers with magazine cutouts, sections of road maps, photographs, movie and concert ticket stubs, restaurant menus, train schedules, and any other mementos from your summer.

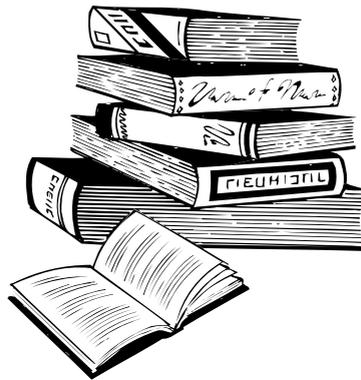
Map It

Instead of just telling the class where you went and what you did, pinpoint your summer destinations and activities on a map. If you stayed close to home, use a local road map. If you were able to travel to several cities and states, use a countrywide map. Glue magazine cutouts of activities, or actual photos of your fun onto the map. For example, if you went to a dude ranch in Dal-

las, glue a picture of a horse onto the map in Dallas. If you visited Mount Rushmore, glue a photo of your family onto the map in South Dakota. The same goes for rock climbing, swimming, snorkeling, and anything else you had a chance to enjoy over the summer months.

Seashell Memories

Capture every fun moment of summer vacation on seashells. If you didn't get a chance to go to the beach, most craft and hobby stores sell bags of seashells. Use acrylic paint and a clean paintbrush to paint pictures inside the shells. You might feature shells with an octopus in the ocean, a colorful clown from a friend's birthday party, an airplane in the clouds, and the night sky filled with stars and a bright crescent moon.



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June 13th & 14th - Silberin' Snakes
Summer is the perfect time to start spotting snakes. Visit with the Northern CA Herpetological Society & with Pete our Corn Snake. Make a snake kite to take home.

June 20th & 21st - Endangered Species
Various Endangered species will be on temporary display. Through Endangered Eyes author Rachel A. Dillon, will be signing & reading her book.

June 19th - Challenger Community Mission
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June 27th & 28th - Summer Sun Fun
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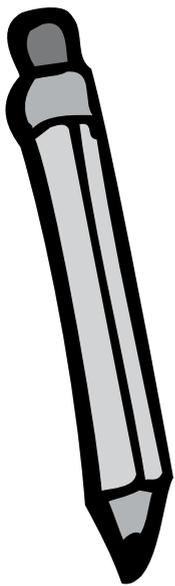
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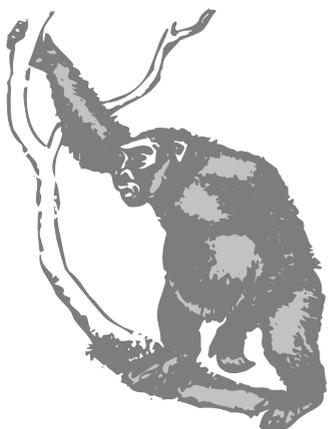
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Zoo Family dinner nights

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Calendar of Events

July 18, Ancestry Online, 10:15 a.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento. More genealogical information is being made available online all the time. Learn about the web sites that will enable you to start researching our family's history at a free workshop at the Central Library. Registration is required, call (916) 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

July 22, Magic Show, 4 p.m., 6132 66th Avenue, Sacramento. Join the fun at the Southgate Library for "Real Magic!" with magician Jon Lopez. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 19, Nature Area Tour, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join a staff member from the Effie Yeaw Center for a guided tour through the lovely 77-acre nature preserve and learn about the flora, fauna and history of the area. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

July 7, Library Music Program, 6:30 p.m., 1000 Caroline Avenue, Galt. Join the fun at the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library for "Catgut Strings and Rattlesnake Tales," with fiddler Dave Rainwater. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 11 and 12, Butterfly Bash, 12:30 to 3 p.m., 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to the Discovery Museum Science and Space Center for a Butterfly Bash. Butterfly activities are scheduled. Multiple insect cases are on display highlighting local and exotic species of butterflies. Take a close up look at butterfly wings using microscopes. If you would like, take a walk or enjoy the butterfly garden and the 14 acres surrounding the museum. Make a butterfly ring to take home. For more information, call (916) 575-3942 or visit www.thediscovery.org.

Magic Shows

July 7, Magic, 4 p.m., 7340 24th Street, Sacramento. The family is sure to enjoy "African American Inventors and Dreamers," with magician Forrest Barnes at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 23, Magic, 4 p.m., 4235 Antelope Road, Antelope. Come to the North Highlands-Antelope Library for "Magic with a Message," with Magic Dan. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 25, Magic, 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., 11601 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks. Join the fun at the Fair Oaks Library for "Creative Trash Show," with magician Trevor Wyatt. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 28, Magic, 6:30 p.m., 1000 Caroline Avenue, Galt. Bring the family to the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library for "The Magic of Creativity," with magician Dale Lorzo. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 8, Magic Show, 2 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Bring the kids to the Carmichael Library for Caddwynn the Magician's "Creative Imagination." For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 28, Magic, 6:30 p.m., 1000 Caroline Avenue, Galt. Bring the family to the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library for "The Magic of Creativity," with magician Dale Lorzo. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Special Events

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Sat 10-5

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July 8, Magic Show, 6:30 p.m., 2112 22nd Street, Sacramento. Bring the kids to the Ella K. McClatchy Library for "Mimo's Giant Magic Book," with Professor Mimo.

Nature Events

July 8, Magic Show, 4 p.m., 8820 Greenback Lane, Suite L, Orangevale. Enjoy the fun at the Orangevale Library for "Creative Magic!" with magician Richard Kowaleski. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 5, Natural History Hike, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo

July 5, Skeletal Sunday, 12:30 to 3p.m., 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to the Discovery Museum Science and Space Center to visit the Bone Zone exhibit. There is a large spectrum of skull and skeletons exhibited, as well as bone health fun. Play in the Healthy Bones Diner, Funny Bones Theater and the Doctor's Office. Remember the day by making a cut and past paper skeleton. For more information call (916) 575-3942 or visit www.thediscovery.org.

July 15, Magic, 6:30 p.m., 2112 22nd Street, Sacramento. Families are invited to the Ella K. McClatchy Library for "Creative Trash Show," with magician Trevor Wyatt. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.



Old Sacramento Street Scenes

Old Sacramento presents free and low cost family-friendly and historically educational entertainment every Saturday and Sunday June through August.

Attractions: Saturday, July 4

Musical Mark Twain: Gordy Ohlinger, Eagle Theatre, 11:00-4:00.....free
 Croquet game and picnic, 1849 Scene, 11:00-3:00free
 Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30free
 Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free
 Shakespeare Lite, Waterfront Park, 4:00-6:00.....free
 Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am...\$
 Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$
 Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00-4:00\$

Attractions: Sunday, July 5

Musical Mark Twain: Gordy Ohlinger, Eagle Theatre, 11:00-4:00.....free
 Storytelling, Waterfront Park, 11:00-2:00.....free
 Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30free
 Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free
 Shootout: Blue Canyon Gang, Waterfront Park, 4:00-6:00.....free
 Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am...\$
 Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$
 Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am-4:00 pm\$

Attractions: Saturday, July 11

Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30free
 19th Century Dancing, Eagle Theatre, 12:00-3:00free
 Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free
 Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am...\$
 Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$
 Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am-4:00 pm\$

Attractions: Sunday, July 12

Storytelling, Waterfront Park, 11:00-2:00.....free
 Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30free
 Shootout: Blue Canyon Gang, Waterfront Park, 4:00-6:00.....free
 Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free
 Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am...\$
 Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$
 Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am-4:00 pm\$

Attractions: July 18, 19, 25, 26 to come

*activities may be subject to change

July 22, Magic Show, 4 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Enjoy "The

For a complete summer schedule and more information visit:
www.sachistorymuseum.org or call 916-442-7644



Calendar of Events

July 15, Music Program, 4 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Bring the kids to "Be Creative @ Your Library: Be a Star!" with musician Gary Lapow at the Arden-Dimick Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 15, Face Painting, 3:30 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Enjoy the fun at the Elk Grove Library for "Creative Face Painting," with Blanca Rose. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 16, Music Program, 3:30 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Bring the kids to the McKinley Library for "Music in a Multi-cultural World," with musician Pam Donkin. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 22, Movie, 3:30 p.m., 10055 Franklin High Road, Elk Grove. Bring the family to the Franklin Community Library for "Kid Movie Matinee," with the library staff. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 22, Music Program, 6:30 p.m., 2112 22nd Street, Sacramento. Bring the kids to the Ella K. McClatchy Library for "Musical Madness: Musical Instruments, Singing and Storytelling," with musician Francie Dillion.

July 23, Bubble Program, 2 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive,

Sacramento. Join the fun at the Belle Cooleage Library for "Journey to Bubble Land," with Rebecca Nile, the Bubble Lady. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 26, Maidu Summer Village Tour, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. The Maidu people have lived in this area since long before Europeans came to California. Join a naturalist to view cultural artifacts and craftwork, then take a tour of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's replica Maidu village. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

July 26, Dance Class, 1 p.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento. Kids are invited to the Central Library for "Kids' Latin Dance Class," with Spotlight Dance and Fitness. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 29, Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m., 2112 22nd Street, Sacramento. Join the fun at the Ella K. McClatchy Library ice cream social with Burr's Fountain. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 29, Music and Dance, 4 p.m., 2109 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento. Join the fun at the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library for "Dance, Drums, and, Moving

Body Parts," with Angela James and Friends. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Storytellers & Puppetry

July 8, Storytelling, 4 p.m., 920 Grand Avenue, Sacramento. Bring the kids to the Del Paso Heights Library for "Musical Madness: Musical Instruments, Singing and Storytelling," with Francie Dillion. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 8, Puppet Show, 4 p.m., 2109 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento. Families are invited to the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library for "Be a Creative Monkey," with Jungle Joe of California Puppets. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 9, Marionettes, 3:30 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Enjoy the fun at the McKinley Library for "The Vaudeville Follies" with the Fratello Marionettes. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 9, Puppet Show, 3 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacra-

mento. Join the fun at the Arcade Library for "Tale of the Dragon's Tail" with Puppet Art Puppet Theater. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 9, Puppet Show, 2 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Join the fun at the Belle Cooleage Library for "The A B Cs of Instant Puppetry" Caterpillar Puppets. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 15, Puppet Show, 2 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Bring the kids to the Carmichael Library for "Let's Create a Story," with Tony Borders' Puppets. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 16, Puppets, 4 p.m., 4235 Antelope Road, Antelope. Enjoy the fun at the North Highlands-Antelope Library for "Be a Creative Monkey," with Jungle Joe of California Puppets. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 16, Storytelling, 2 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. The family is invited to the Belle Cooleage Library for "Musical Madness: Musical Instruments, Singing and Storytelling" with Francie Dillion. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 22, Puppet Show, 4 p.m., 2109 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento. Join the fun at the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library for "The Fantastic Mr. Fox," by Roald Dahl Puppet Show with Mr. Tim and Ms. Martha. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

July 29, Puppet Show, 4 p.m., 920 Grand Avenue, Sacramento. Bring the family to the Del Paso Heights Library for "Be a Creative Monkey with Jungle Joe" of California Puppets. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

First Mondays of each month, Dog Program, 6:30 p.m., 9845 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento. Join the fun the first Monday of each month at the Rancho Cordova Library for "Reading with Dogs," with Lend a Heart Pet Therapy. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m., 8962 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. This program is being offered at the Elk Grove Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m., 2500 New Market Drive, Sacramento. This program is being offered at the North Natomas Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Wednesdays, Library Programs, 11 a.m., 6132 66th Avenue, Sacramento. The Southgate Library will have free programs for children ages 3-5, ranging from 30-60 minutes. Events will feature storytelling, nursery rhymes, and sing-alongs. Registration may be required; check with library branch staff. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Thursdays, Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m., 10055 Franklin High Road, Elk Grove. Children are invited to the Franklin Community Library for "Preschool Storytime." For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

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Where's Winston?



**KNAPPTIME
STORYPRESS**

A children's story by
Artie Knapp

The cold wind blew past the geese with the weight of a freight train and the sting of a hundred bumble bees. It was a strong reminder of why they were migrating south for the winter. As the geese did their final stretches in preparation for the long flight that lay ahead, Ralph, the flock's flight commander, proceeded to do a final roll call.

"Alright, Troop 408, you know the drill - it's time to get underway. When I call out your name, a simple yes, or here, will suffice."

As Ralph went down the list alphabetically on his clipboard, he dreaded reaching the letter C. Every year Ralph's younger brother Carl pleaded to lead the flock. And after years of nagging, Carl had finally been given the chance to lead the troop a few years before. It was one of the worst decisions the flock had ever made.

"Come on, Ralph. You're never going to let me live that down," said Carl.

"Carl, you were supposed to fly to Florida. Instead, we spent the winter in Albuquerque."

"Alright, so I got a little off track. Why didn't anyone say anything?"

"Oh believe me, we all wanted to," said Ralph. "The moment you made that sharp turn past Louisville, well, everyone knew then we were in big trouble. But the flock agreed to honor the code of silence."

"The code of what?" asked Carl.

"You've got to be kidding. Surely you haven't forgotten one of our most sacred pacts, Carl," said Ralph.

"Of course I haven't. A nest must be guarded at all times."

"The other one, Carl," said Ralph.

"I have no idea what you're talking about."

"Carl, the code of silence is an agreement that a flock honors when following one goose.

The moment a leader is selected everyone agrees to follow them no matter what. From rooftops, to telephone wires, to circling in the air when you feel like your wings are going to snap, it doesn't matter - you follow the leader. You don't question them or their flight plan. You seem to forget, but that's why we followed you all the way to Albuquerque."

"Okay, so one little mistake and I am forever banned from leading the flock again. That's not fair, Ralph."

Ralph slowly waved his clipboard in front of Carl and asked him to name its color.

"Nice try, Ralph. That's a trick question. There is no clipboard," said Carl.

Ralph leaned in toward Carl, and gently tapped the clipboard against his beak.

"Carl, please get glasses like we discussed. One of these days you're going to fly right into a building."

As Carl pouted about not leading the flock, Ralph continued down the line. He was about to check off the last name on his list, when he realized that a goose was missing.

"Where's Winston?" asked Ralph.

At first, no one said a word. But then Betty, who was standing on the other end of the line said, "I know where Winston is."

"Do you mind telling me where?" asked Ralph.

"Well, I promised him I wouldn't say anything."

"Betty, as I stand here before you, icicles are forming on my beak. Please tell me where Winston is so that we may get underway," pleaded Ralph.

"Alright, follow me," said Betty reluctantly.

Betty flew off the hilltop and the other geese followed suit. After flying over a waterfall and taking a few turns here and there, the flock landed in an open field. The field was surrounded by large pine trees that lined a long and winding river.

"Okay, Betty. Where's Winston?" asked Ralph.

"It's not much further," said Betty.

Betty led the flock down the riverbank and then up a hill

where an old wooded shed lay buried in brush.

"Winston, are you in there?" asked Betty.

A large noise from within the shed rattled its foundation.

"Betty, is that you?"

"Yes, it's her, Winston," said Ralph shaking his head. "Why aren't you packed and ready to go?"

Winston stuck his head out of the shed and was surprised to see the entire flock staring at him.

"What's everyone doing here, Betty? I told you not to tell anyone where I was at."

"I'm sorry, Winston. But the flock doesn't want to leave without you."

As Winston stepped outside he was carrying something in his arms. It was a little Cardinal who had fallen out of her nest.

"Winston, what are you doing?" asked Ralph.

"I'm taking care of this little bird. She injured her wing and can't fly."

"I can see that, but you're not a doctor, Winston."

"I know, Ralph. But the entire staff at the Birdville Medical Clinic has already flown south for the winter. They left yesterday. Nobody else is around to help. I can't just leave her here."

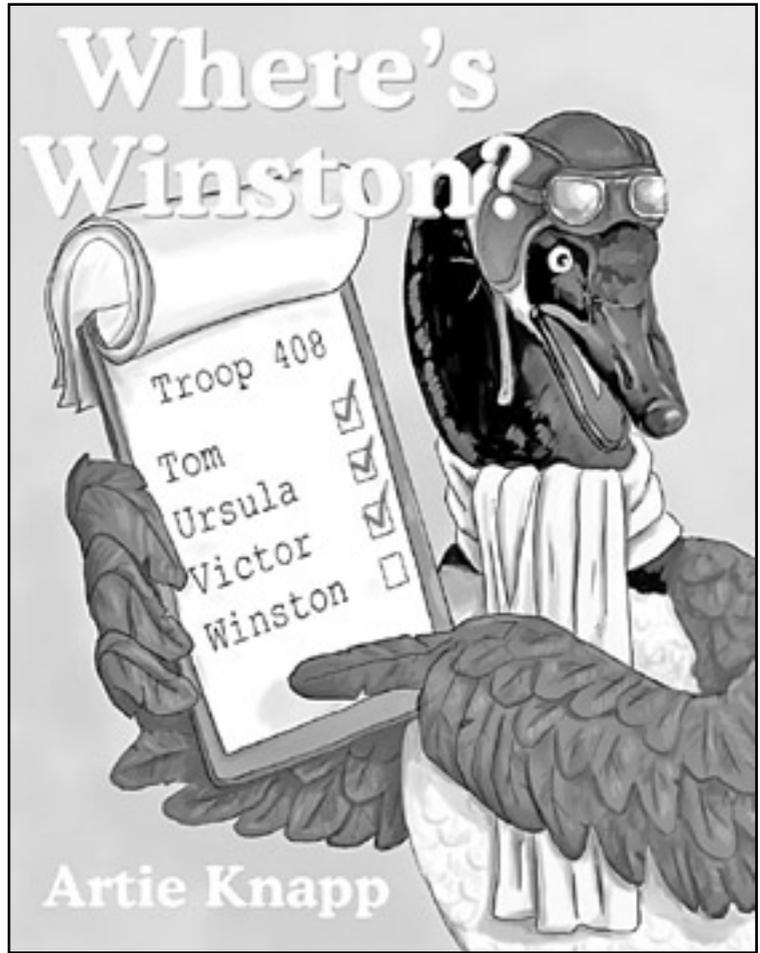
"Look, Winston, I sympathize for the little bird. I really do," said Ralph patting the little Cardinal's head. "But we've got to go. We can't stay here for the winter."

"I'm sorry, Ralph. But I won't leave her. And besides, there's plenty of food. It just won't be what I normally eat."

As Ralph began to speak he briefly interrupted himself by letting out a loud sneeze.

"Alright everyone, as much as I disagree with Winston's decision, we have to get underway without him," said Ralph rubbing his beak.

Ralph could hardly continue as another sneezing fit took hold of him. It had become apparent that due to Ralph's condition, someone else would have to lead the flock. But that presented a problem in itself. You see, the



members of Troop 408 were either past their prime and didn't want to lead, or they were way too young to take on such a huge responsibility.

"Ralph, you're in no condition to lead the flock. I'll have to do it," said Carl enthusiastically.

The thought of Carl leading the flock pained him, but Ralph knew that there wasn't anyone else ready to lead. And Ralph's cold was growing worse by the hour.

As Ralph reluctantly announced that Carl would be leading the flock, the members of Troop 408 consoled one another. They shouted at Winston that he should be the one to lead them.

But Winston wouldn't budge. It wasn't that he looked forward to the long winter ahead; he just knew taking care of his little friend was the right thing to do.

The geese then flew out of sight, leaving Winston and the little Cardinal all alone. Winston smiled at the little Cardinal and told her that everything would be fine. But deep down, Winston was feeling very lonely and hurt that nobody had offered to stay with them.

The next week felt like a month to Winston, and the week after that felt even longer. But then one day while searching for food by the riverbed, Winston looked up and Troop 408 was heading in his direction. He had never felt so happy.

"I knew they would come back," said Winston aloud. "I just knew it."

One by one the geese landed by the snow-covered riverbed.

"Thank you! Thank you so much for coming back," said Winston.

But none of the geese said a word. They were out of breath and visibly upset. Winston soon discovered that the flock had no intention of coming back. You see, when a flock of geese honor a code of silence they follow their leader no matter what. And Carl's loop around Atlanta cost them dearly, as he led the flock right back where they started from.

Two significant things happened that winter: A baby Cardinal grew up to be a healthy bird, and the members of Troop 408 vowed to never honor one of their most sacred pacts again.

American Writer Artie Knapp was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1973. A library bearing his name is featured on the internationally acclaimed Kids site Candlelightstories.com. His Children's Literature has appeared in such publications as Humpty Dumpty's Magazine, Alphabet-Soup.net, Kiddyhouse, Kids Turn Central and The Pakistan Television Corporation among others. Knapp is a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and graduated from Ohio University. He lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with his wife, Priya. To learn more about Artie Knapp visit his web-site www.artieknapp.com.



Youth Skate Park at Max Baer Park

A new Youth Skate Park is now open within Max Baer Park. Whether your son or daughter needs to practice doing Nollies, 50-50 Grinds, Primos, or other skateboarding tricks, the Youth Skate Park is the ideal place for them to practice. Max Baer Park is located at 7851 35th Avenue, Sacramento.



“Three years ago, Max Baer Park’s playground was destroyed by arson. Community members not only came together to rebuild the playground, they worked closely with my Office to transform the entire park into a safe place for the residents of southeast Sacramento,” said Councilmember McCarty. “The new youth skate park and the many other park improvements will attract more children, youth, and families to Max Baer Park.”

The 4,332 square-foot Skate Park’s features include: Quarter Pipes, Boxes, Flat Ledges, Angled Ledges, Grind Rails, Wedges, Wedge Corners, and a Skateable Table and Stairs.

Apart from the Youth Skate Park, other notable enhancements have been made to Max Baer Park: a full basketball court, concrete walkways, sheltered group picnic areas, comfortable seating, landscaping, and a fenced outdoor plaza with removable tables and chairs.

July Child and Family Events

DROP IN FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Fabulous Campfires.

Friday, July 10, 8 to 9 p.m. Fee: \$5/ person or \$14/family of four.

Enjoy an evening with family and friends around a campfire. Listen to Native stories under the stars and roast marshmallows for a sweet ending to the perfect family gathering. No reservations required.

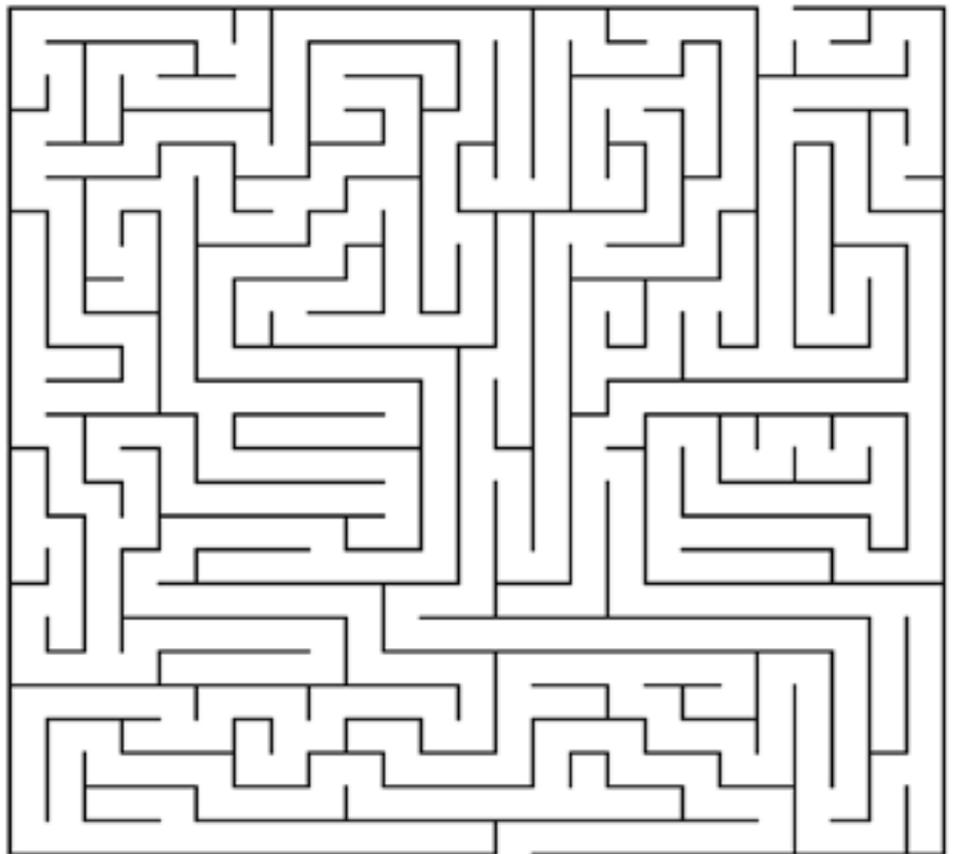
Native American Stories.

Saturday, July 11, from 11:30 to noon and 2:30 to 3 p.m. All ages.

Enjoy Native American stories told by Nisenan Maidu Rick Adams. Free with paid admission to museum.

Maidu Interpretive Center: Indian Museum and Nature Learning Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Second Saturday of each month, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guided Tours of Maidu Historic Site are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. and Second Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 pm. The Maidu Interpretive Center is located at 1960 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville. For more information, call (916) 774-5934 or visit www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum.

We are all going on a summer holiday - don't get left behind! Find your way to the car quickly!

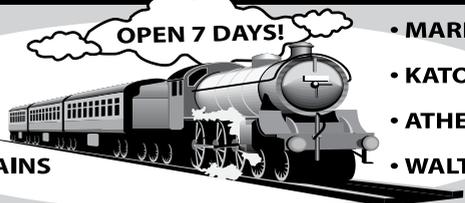


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This class is designed for parents of children birth to 36 months. Parents will learn everything they need to know to begin using the Baby Signs® Program at home. Expectant parents and professionals are welcome.

To register for classes, call 966-1036 or sign onto www.fairoakspark.org.

For more info: 916-205-8151 • www.babysignsprogram.com/bybabytender



Where to find listings when state and national park campgrounds are full

California Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds

If you check Recreation.gov for campsites or cabins at your favorite state or national park in California this summer and find that everything is taken, don't lose hope.

Private campgrounds and RV resorts are located near the entrances to the most visited parks in California, including Yosemite, Sequoia, Lassen and Redwood national parks. And many of them have available campsites and cabins during the summer. All you have to do is log on to www.camp-california.com and you'll find plenty of camping options just outside your favorite park.

Consider **Yosemite Pines RV and Family Lodging in Groveland**, one of many pri-

vate campgrounds located just outside of Yosemite National Park. And even if Yosemite Pines or other campgrounds in the vicinity are sold out during the days you want to visit the Yosemite area, it pays to keep calling back, there may be cancellations.

Some families actually prefer going to private campgrounds outside of national parks. Some campers come year after year to **Kaweah Park Resort in Three Rivers**, which is located seven miles outside of Sequoia National Park. The park has 83 campsites, including 51 dry campsites and 32 full-hookup sites.

Try **Hat Creek Resort in Old Station**, roughly 11 miles north of Lassen National Park. The park, which includes a motel, cabins and four yurts, is the only privately owned

campground on Hat Creek, a popular fishing stream with rainbow, brook and brown trout. The Pacific Crest Trail also skirts the edge of campground, which makes it a popular place for hikers.

In northwest California, **Kamp Klamath RV Park and Campground** is bordered on three sides by Redwood National Park and is close to five other state parks, and the campground is adding another 32 tent sites this year to accommodate an anticipated increase in campsite demand as the recession prompts families to search for more affordable vacation options.

Following is contact information for the campgrounds referenced:

- Hat Creek Resort, Joe Bertram, (530) 335-7121 or info@hatcreekresortrv.com
- Kamp Klamath RV Park and Campground, Aaron Funk, (707) 482-0227 or kampklamath@msn.com
- Kaweah Park Resort, Shel Brown, (559) 905-1605 or info@kaweahparkresort.com
- Yosemite Pines RV and Family Lodging, Mary Bertram, (209) 962-7690 or Yosemite@yosemitepinesrv.com

School's out for summer! Time to start a garden!

Ages 6-7

Kids this age are ready for their own small 4x4-foot patch where they can grow annual flowers and veggies. Let them choose the plants, but encourage choices that are easy and fast-growing. Give them wooden plant tags and pencils to make plant labels. Another fun project: building a scarecrow. Remember that "doing" is the important part, so relax your standards: crooked rows and a few weeds are ok; so is mixing and matching with abandon. As bees, butterflies and insects visit the plants, show kids that these too belong in the garden. Insects pollinate flowers and are food for birds and other animals; even pests are interesting to watch and learn from.

Great plants for kids

When starting plants from seed, choose big, easy to handle and quick-to-germinate seeds such as beans, radishes, sunflowers, dwarf nasturtiums and zinnia. Kids also love the tiny and the giant, so plant

miniature vegetables like grape tomatoes and dwarf sunflowers like 'Teddy Bear' or big plants like tall Russian sunflowers or pumpkins (one rambling pumpkin plant needs a six-foot-square area of ground). Also try unusual veggies - like purple carrots and beans, rainbow chard, heirloom tomatoes, or yellow scallop squash. Uniquely shaped flowers like snapdragons and bleeding hearts are fun to manipulate and dissect. Textured plants like soft lambs' ears, woolly thyme and plumed annual celosia beg to be touched, and strawflowers and purple cone-flowers are cool customers because they're so prickly.

Build a scarecrow

Collect adult-sized old clothing - an old plaid shirt, a vest or jacket, a pair of jeans, old gloves (for the hands), and boots or socks (for the feet). Use straw, leaves or rags as stuffing. For a frame, use two pieces of wood with one stake tall enough for the height of clothing and 1 foot extra to pound into ground. Cut the shorter stake the length of the shirt with arms stretched out. Nail the boards in a cross-like form. Stuff a pillowcase for the head first and tie up the round part with string, then pull the open-ended pillow fabric over the vertical stake and secure the string. For facial features, kids can use waterproof markers, or help them sew on buttons for eyes and nose. Fasten a straw hat with safety pins. Put the shirt onto the frame, do up the buttons and add the stuffing, tying the shirt's waist so stuffing stays in place. Pin or tie ends of pants and stuff. Use a belt through the loops to attach jeans to the stake and shirt. Use safety pins if necessary. Prop leg ends into boots or stuffed socks and pin stuffed gloves to ends of the shirt arms. Presto! You have a fun scarecrow decoration for the kids' garden.

For more fun ideas, visit: <http://family-fun.kaboose.com/gardening>

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Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide!

Fairytale Town Announces Line-Up for the Twilight Concert Series

Fairytale Town has expanded its popular Twilight Concert Series as part of its 50th Anniversary Year. This year's line-up features music from around the world, played by musicians from our own backyard. The Concerts are held every other Wednesday evening through August 19. Gates open at 5:30 and the concert begins at 6 p.m.

Salsambo spices things up on July 8 with the Latin beats of Salsa, Mambo and more. This ensemble provides its audience with an experience that is both entertaining and

contagious to music lovers and dancers alike.

Steinway Artist Lara Downes graces the stage with up and coming stars in classical music on July 22. Lara is strongly committed to introducing classical music to youth, and will have some accomplished students join her during her performance.

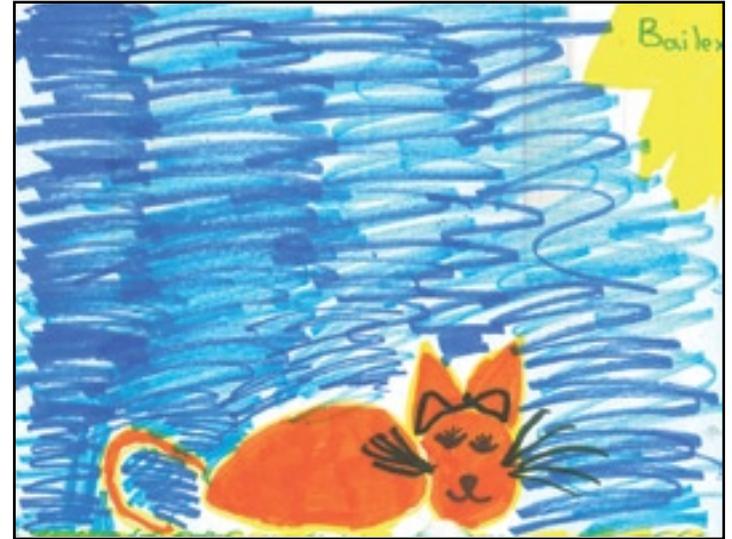
Hometown favorite Mumbo Gumbo performs on August 5. Mumbo Gumbo blends many genres, from rock to soul, afropop to lush balladry, zydeco to country, into a celebratory, danceable noise.

Closing out the series on August 19 is the Freilachmaker's Klezmer String Band. They have defined what may be called "the Sacramento sound" in klezmer and Sephardic Jewish music, using a

particularly infectious blend of strings and reeds, with vocals in Yiddish, Hebrew, Ladino and English.

"The Twilight concerts are a great night out," says executive director Kathy Fleming. "The Mother Goose Stage is one of the best outdoor music venues in town, and the bands performing here are top-notch. It's a great way for adults to revisit the park, and a wonderful way to introduce children to live music."

Tickets to the concerts are \$10; with free admission for children age 12 and under. Fairytale Town and Capital Public Radio members receive two-for-one discounts. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento, in William Land Park. For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit www.fairytaletown.org.



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with peanut butter and roll in graham cracker crumbs. YUM!

A Cool Drink for Summer!

Fruit Smoothie: 1 banana, 1/2 cup strawberries, halved, 1/2 cup pineapple chunks, 3/4 cup orange juice, 1 cup of ice cubes. Put all ingredients into blender. Puree until thick and smooth. Delicious!

Bunny Salad

For each child, place a crisp lettuce leaf on a plate. Place a canned pear half upside down on the lettuce. Make a bunny face using 2 raisins for eyes, a red cinnamon candy for a nose, and 2 blanched almonds for ears. (You could also use small carrot sticks.) Add a dip of cottage cheese for a fluffy tail.



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First 5 Sacramento Community Grants

Social relationships are essential to healthy child development. First 5 Sacramento offers **community grants** up to \$5,000 for small groups of parents or caregivers in Sacramento County who have ideas that bring people together and support on-going connections. The activities need to benefit children age five and under. Examples of grant-funded activities include:

- parenting networks
- playgroups
- art & reading activities
- neighborhood meet-ups

Applying for a Community Grant Is Easy!

- Visit www.First5Sacramento.net for more examples of activities. Download a grant application.
- Develop an **idea** with your group.
- Call First 5 Sacramento at 916-876-5865.
- Email: First5grants@saccounty.net

The community grants are provided through the Community Building Initiative (CBI) of the First 5 Sacramento Commission. The Commission uses Proposition 10 (tobacco tax) funds to support the healthy development of children age five and under.



Make the first five years count

From the moment they are born children grow and learn at an extraordinary pace. This makes the first five years of life some of the most important because they are the foundation for all years that follow.

In 1998, California voters approved Prop 10, The California Children and Families Act, which added a 50 cent tax on tobacco products to fund programs for children from the prenatal stage through age five. Prop 10 generates hundreds of millions of dollars every year to benefit California's youngest children. To administer and invest these funds locally each county is required to create a First 5 Children and Families Commission. The county commissions ensure that the tobacco tax funds are meeting the needs of the community. Funding

for each commission is based on each county's birth rate.

Working together with community partners, First 5 Sacramento has made a difference for Sacramento County's children for a decade. By devoting resources for children during their first five years, the need for other services later in life such as special education, foster care, or treatment for addiction and mental health are lessened. And in return children are healthier, do better in school and are better prepared for life right from the start.

For additional information about First 5 Sacramento call 876-5865 and visit the online Parents Resource Center at www.First5Sacramento.net for tips and resources.

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