

## Blossoming talent: One man's path from lawyer to artist

Leaving his law career behind, photographer Richard Turner embarks on a new life

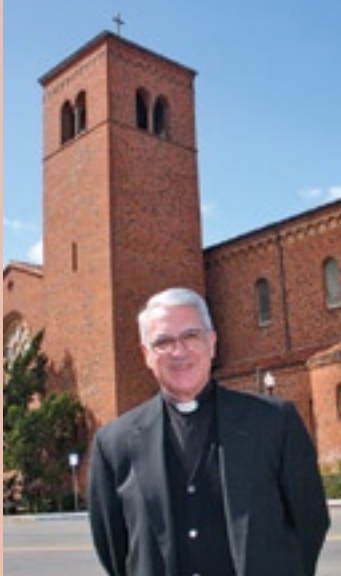
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Marty Relles presents  
'Janey Way Memories'

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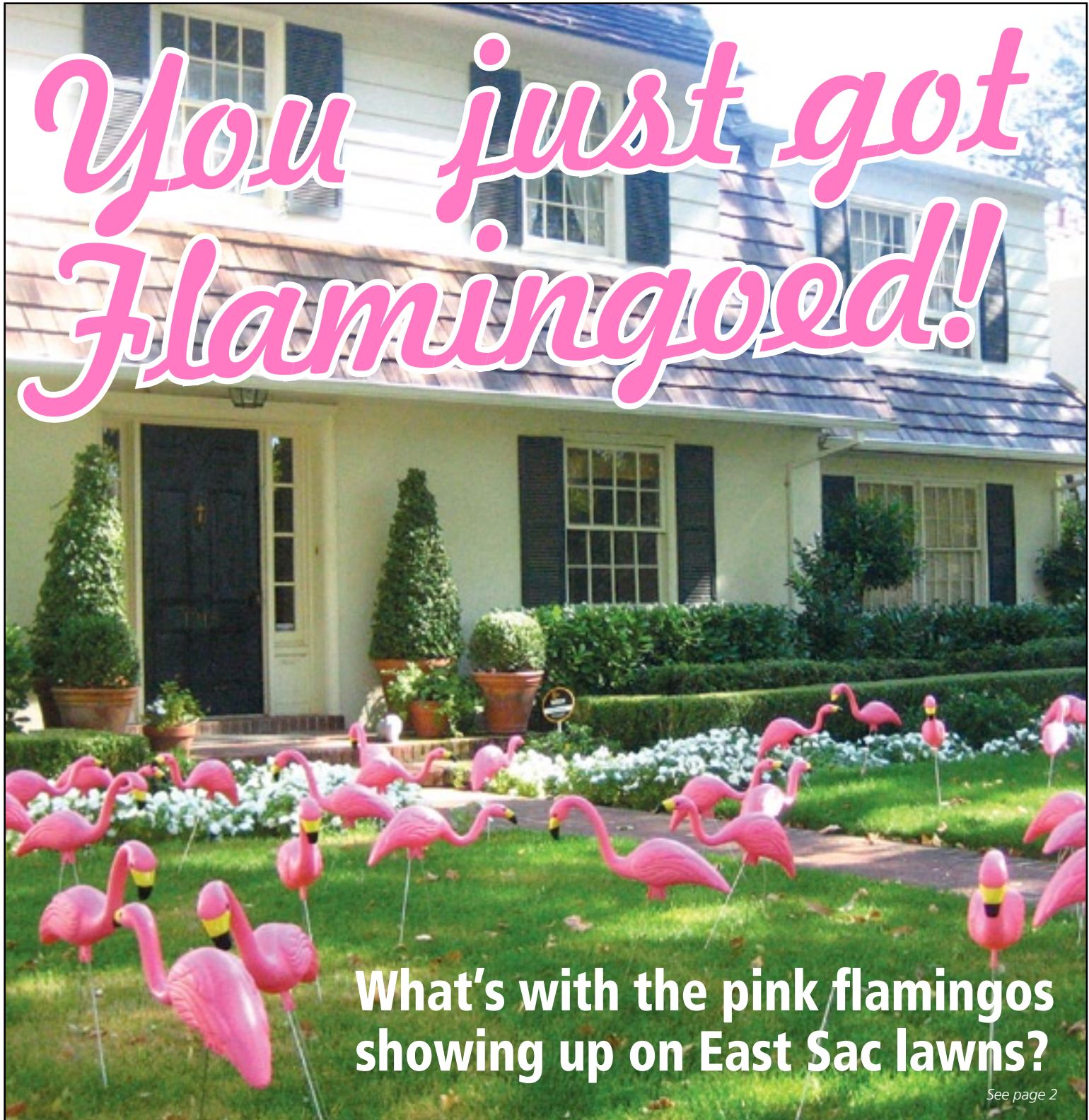
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# What's with the pink flamingos on East Sac lawns You've been 'flamingoed,' my friend

By **BENN HODAPP**  
East Sacramento News Writer  
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There are myriad ways to show respect or admiration for someone on their birthday or anniversary or any number of other celebratory events. You can throw extravagant parties, buy expensive baubles and exchange heartfelt words. Then again, you could just throw a bunch of garish pink flamingoes on that special someone's front lawn under cover of darkness and save yourself a whole lot of effort and money.

That is (sort of) the idea behind a Sacramento-based company that runs on the Internet at [www.getflamingoed.com](http://www.getflamingoed.com). For lack of a better explanation, [getflamingoed.com](http://getflamingoed.com) is a way to both honor and prank someone at the same time.

Stephanie Allen and Stuart Campbell, the couple who co-founded the idea, put their idea into action in a rather indirect fashion.

"We were having dinner, chatting with family and someone mentioned that they had heard of something like this back east where someone had something done to their yard," Allen said. "Then we



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Allen and Stuart Campbell  
Getting "flamingoed" is the idea behind a Sacramento-based company that runs on the Internet at [www.getflamingoed.com](http://www.getflamingoed.com).

talked about how hilarious it would be for someone to do something like that here."

Time went by and the idea remained only an idea. Before long, however, the two realized that it might as well be they who blaze the trail.

"Soon after that we ordered 100 flamingoes and away we went," she said.

For an installation and removal fee (flamingoes are removed after 24 hours) of \$25 with an additional one dollar per flamingo, you too can show your love and admira-

tion for someone in this most peculiar of ways. You can also add a personalized sign to be placed among the plastic birds.

But, why flamingoes?

"Flamingoes are just so gaudy and classic," Allen said. "It just made sense."

In October, they did their first job. The first few were all neighborhood folks around McKinley Park. They knew they were on to something when everyone who fell vic-

See Flamingos, page 3

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# Flamingos: 'Neighbors stopped by all day... everyone enjoyed it'

Continued from page 2

tim to a "flamingoing" found it absurd to the point of hilarity.

"People had great reactions," Allen said. "We tried it out on some friends first."

Since those initial reactions, nothing has changed.

"Not a single person we've done it to has had a negative reaction," she said. "How can you not laugh at that?"

Allen explained that the time they decide to "flamingo" someone's yard is based on that person's schedule and that no one has caught them strategically placing the pink fowl.

The service is available to those outside the downtown area, but a \$25 charge is added depending on how far they have to travel. This is not the couple's main source of income after all. Allen and Campbell own a vegetarian food cart on I and 8th streets called Happy Go Lucky that takes up the majority of their time.

But one such occasion when the duo did travel outside of downtown Sacramento happened to be on Carmichael's Susan Way.

Most people remember landmark birthdays like 21, 30, 40, 50, etc. But Carmichael's Laura Lyon will most assuredly remember her 47th for a good long while.

"My mom called me and asked if I was going to be around

on (my birthday)," Lyon said. "I told her that I wouldn't be home until the afternoon and she said that something would be happening in the morning."

When Lyon returned home from a birthday outing she arrived to the sight of 57 pink flamingoes dominating the scenery of the peaceful street. Lyon said she doesn't know why there were 57 flamingoes to commemorate her 47th birthday, but she wasn't going to ask questions. Her house was king of the block for the rest of the day.

"Everybody thought it was so funny," Lyon said. "Neighbors stopped by all day and everyone enjoyed it."

She said that it helped that everyone on her street has a good sense of humor, but like Allen she wonders who wouldn't find it funny.

Lyon's mother found out about the service through one of her close friends. That friend happens to be Stuart's father. He mentioned it to her at some point and the idea to flamingo her daughter was set in motion.

"My mom is pretty funny, but this was totally out of character for her," she said. "Had she not known (Stuart's) father I don't think it would have occurred to her to do this."

But as the victim of the prank/present, did she find it funny enough to do to someone else?

"I definitely think I could do it to someone," she said. "I wouldn't want to do it to someone who lives in a place that has strict rules and regulations, but I can think of some people I would consider doing it to."

While the act of flamingoing someone is pretty funny and indeed innovative, Lyon's daughter summed up what she thought when she first saw the pink flock adorning her yard.

"Whoa, that's pretty weird," 7-year-old Gracie said.

Most people would probably agree with that sentiment. It is pretty weird. Luckily for most of us, we have some pretty weird friends who could do with an inundation of flamingoes.

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"We were having dinner, chatting with family and someone mentioned that they had heard of something like this back east where someone had something done to their yard," Stephanie Allen said. "Then we talked about how hilarious it would be for someone to do something like that here."



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East Sacramento News Photo/Susan Laird

Day of Giving volunteers gave a day of their lives to make a difference at Hubert H. Bancroft Elementary School in Sacramento. Here, Rob Feickert tills the soil in preparation for the restoration of a native habitat.

## Faces and places

# 'Day of Giving' benefits local school

By **SUSAN LAIRD**  
East Sacramento News Writer  
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There is a story told in business circles about a man who walked down to the beach one morning. As he approached the bubbly edge of the surf, he suddenly saw thousands and thousands of sea stars – "starfish" – that had washed on shore overnight. The tide was going out, and the entire colony was going die in the sun.

He started to grab sea stars and throw them back into the ocean.

Another man came up to him and asked, "Why are you doing this? You can't possibly save them all, even if you work all morning. There are too many to make a difference."

"It makes a huge difference to this one," the man replied as he tossed yet another sea star back into the ocean.

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## Janey Way Memories



# Poker at the Ducrays' House



By **MARTY RELLES**  
East Sacramento News Columnist  
marty@valcomnews.com

We had lots of fun growing up on Janey Way. We built forts in the pit. We played touch football on the street. We played basketball at St. Mary's Elementary School. And yes, we played poker at the Ducrays' house. The stakes were small – nickels, dimes, quarters – but we contested every hand to the end.

One summer day we had a big game going with eight or nine players. With this number playing, pots grew very big. Naturally, in our enthusiasm, we made quite a bit of noise. This must have perturbed the Ducrays' neighbor, Old Joe, a sort of Oscar the Grouch. He called the police to complain. Eventually, a police cruiser rolled up in front of the Ducrays' house. An officer stepped out and walked slowly up to the front door. When he knocked on the door, we quickly grabbed our cash and put it away. One of the Ducray boys answered the door. The officer poked his head in the door, saw the cards on the table, and said, "Can you boys keep it quiet in here?"

*The officer poked his head in the door, saw the cards on the table, and said, "Can you boys keep it quiet in here?"*

We all nodded our heads "yes," so the officer turned around, returned to his patrol car and drove away. Looking out the front window, we saw Old Joe standing on his lawn trying to figure out what had just happened. We continued playing our games and as kids lost their stake, they moved outside to the Ducrays' front lawn.

Soon all of us stood on the lawn, wondering what to do next. Old Joe came out on his front porch. He exchanged words with us, still apparently miffed that the officer had not put an end to our game. We bantered back at him. Eventually, we grew bored and went on our merry ways. Over the years, we had many run-ins with Old Joe. He didn't like us and we didn't like him. That was that.

After more than fifty years, the Janey Way Gang still gets together once in a while for a hotly contested game of poker. We play Texas Hold'em with a \$20 buy-in. We always bring lots of food and have a nice meal and some good conversation first. We retell stories of poker games and the other fun we had growing up on Janey Way. Then we play the game. Sometimes we win, sometimes we lose, but after all this time, this poker game is more about long held friendships than winning at cards.

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## Rachel Wins Big



Rachel Avila played a significant role in her Tee Ball team win on Sunday, Jan. 17. Being a good teammate and strong hitter, Rachel hit a homerun in the third inning and scored in two runs. Mom, Dad, Grandpa Richard and Grandma Margo are so proud.

## Sam Casio is Student of the Month



Sam Casio was selected as Student of the Month for January at New Haven Elementary School. A second grader in Mrs. Hinton's class, Sam hopes to one day become a doctor like his father. Mom and Dad love you so much.

Know your neighbor

# Sacred Heart Church is rich with architectural, spiritual, social history

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
East Sacramento News Writer  
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Among East Sacramento's most renowned architectural structures is the Sacred Heart Church at 3860 J St., where for eight decades, many local residents have come to gain spiritual guidance, while making many lifelong friends along the way.

Just last week, for instance, longtime Sacred Heart Church members Carolyn Granucci and Bev Geremia met with the East Sacramento News to discuss their many memories

of the church, its influence in their lives and the friendships they have made during this time.

Geremia expressed her gratitude for the local Catholic church, its parish school and the many people, including Granucci, who she has made longtime friends with through her membership in the church.

"I've definitely made a lot of friendships over the years and our family has made a lot of friendships (through the church)," Geremia said. "Many of my children's best friends are from their days at Sacred Heart School and

through the church. It's just that kind of a place."

Granucci echoed Geremia's words and added that although many of her closest childhood friends from Sacred Heart School, as well as the church, moved away from Sacramento many years ago, various reunions have proven that these friendships remain extremely strong.

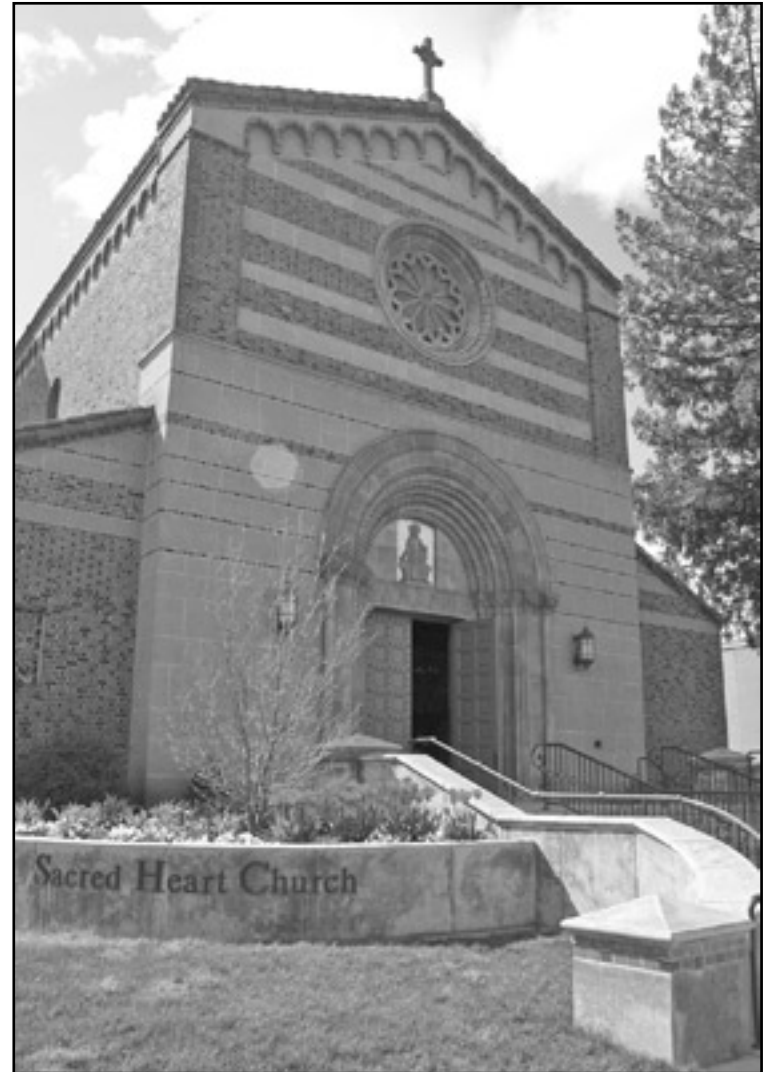
"We can go many years without seeing each other and then when we get together, we pick up right where we left off, like we were never apart," said Granucci, a lifelong member of the church who attended Sacred Heart School from 1944 to 1953.

The many stories of close friendships and spiritual ties among the church's parishioners date back to the establishment of the church in 1931.

### Parish people

In 1922, noting that there was a need for a permanent parish church in East Sacramento, Bishop Patrick Keane, who served as the third Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento from 1922 to 1928, purchased the property where the church would later be built.

Following the Oct. 6, 1929 death of the parish's first pastor, the Rev. Philip Brady, Bishop Robert J. Armstrong appointed the Rev. Michael L. Lyons to serve as Brady's suc-



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

The Sacred Heart Church, which was designed in the fashion of a church in Ireland, was dedicated by Bishop Robert Armstrong on June 5, 1931.

cessor. Lyons began these duties on Sunday, Dec. 1, 1929.

The following year, Lyons, who decided that the time was right for the construction of permanent parish buildings in East Sacramento, consulted Armstrong, who recommend-

ed that a church and priest offices be constructed on the 39th and J streets property that Keane had purchased.

Although the topic of constructing a parish school in

See Sacred Heart, page 7

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# Sacred Heart: 'This sacred space is so much more than great architectural beauty'

Continued from page 6

East Sacramento was also discussed around this time, the idea was temporarily abandoned due to the inability to secure teachers.

The parish was fortunate to have the talented architect Harry J. Devine, among its members during its early years.

Devine, who had previously designed other churches in Northern California, was commissioned to create the plans for the new church and the offices and residence of the priests.

By November 1930, the plans were completed and William C. Keating was selected as the project's general contractor.

Despite their quality, fine craftsmanship and many details, the new, \$139,000 church buildings were constructed in a considerably short period of time.

Within a month after the plans were completed, work began at the 39th and J streets site, which had previously been home to the two-story East Sacramento Public School building, which was later briefly used by Christian Brothers High School students and faculty during the construction of the high school's new campus at 21st and Y (now Broadway) streets.

## Expanding the faith

The cornerstone of the church was laid on Sunday, March 15, 1930 and about four months later, the priests' residence and offices were completed and being utilized by the priests, who had been living in a rented residence at 3801 H St.

To the delight of members of the parish, the lead, front page headline of the Sunday, Sept. 13, 1931 edition of The Register, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Sacramento, read: "New Sacramento church to be dedicated Sunday (Sept. 13)."

During this special, dedication day, Bishop Armstrong blessed the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which had been known as St. Stephen's Church at its original site.

The name, St. Stephen's Church, was used by the parish

for its temporary church structure on the 39th and I streets property that had been purchased by Brady, who had believed it would be too expensive to have parish buildings constructed at the 39th and J streets site.

This name change resulted through a petition requesting that the church be dedicated to the "Sacred Heart."

The petition was signed by about 500 parishioners and presented by the Women of the Altar Society of St. Stephen's.

Permission to change the church's name was later granted by Bishop Armstrong.

The small, square, temporary church building, which held its first Mass on Feb. 7, 1926, had received its name upon the request of Ellen Bowden, who provided funds for the development of the church and whose father and brother were both named Stephen.

## Classic design

The Sacred Heart Church, which was designed in the fashion of a church in Ireland, is known for its brick architecture, decorative terra cotta, high, domed ceiling and many other details, which include 22 stained glass windows, 16 paintings, which include a series depicting the crucifixion of Christ, five large statues and 12 chandeliers.

Seven of the stained glass windows were imported from Ireland in the spring of 1932.

The church also includes a pair of altars, 72 wooden pews and 10 large marble pillars, which support a dozen archways on the south end of the church.

Early events in the church included the first wedding – the marriage of Mary O'Brien to Adam Charles Goetz – on Sept. 18, 1931 and the first confirmation on March 30, 1932.

In 1934, with the assistance of the Sisters of Mercy, Lyons helped develop the parish's Sacred Heart School, which initially served first through fourth grade students. By the fall of 1936, the school included eight grades.

The school, which is located at 3933 I St., began with 60 students, who met in four temporary classrooms within the old St. Stephens Church building.

A "permanent" school was built in 1945 and has since lost its "permanent" status, as a new Sacred Heart School is being constructed across the street from the current school. The new school is scheduled to open in September.

The church's current pastor, Monsignor Robert P. Walton, said that the church's elementary school is an integral part of the parish's history.

"It's difficult to separate the church's history from the school's history," Walton said. "Sacred Heart Church is synonymous with the parish school."

Jeanne Winnick Brennan, a spokesperson for Sacred Heart Church, said that the opening of the new school is a great accomplishment in today's world.

"The school is so rooted in this community that it is get-

ting a new (school site and buildings) and that's an unusual situation when many schools are closing," Brennan said. "So, that's a lot to be thankful for."

The forthcoming school opening will undoubtedly begin one more important chapter in the parish's extensive history, which began 84 years ago.

This history includes the celebration of the Sacred Heart Church's 75th anniversary in 2006.

During this celebration's Feast of Sacred Heart Mass, Monsignor Walton summarized the church's importance to many people in the community in a very fitting fashion.

"This sacred space is so much more than great architectural beauty, magnificent, stained glass windows, inspiring space and liturgical appointments. It is filled with living memories of people...who have called Sacred Heart Church their spiritual home, and for many of you, for most of your lives."

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# St. Francis Troubadour Theater Arts rock on in 'Starmites'

By **SUSAN LAIRD**  
East Sacramento News Writer  
susan@valcomnews.com

St. Francis High School brings an unusual, Tony Award-nominated musical to the Sacramento area this week, with the debut of its production of "Starmites." So much so that the creator of the musical will fly out from New York to teach the students at a special seminar and will attend one of the performances.

"Starmites" is not a musical about cosmic insects...but it certainly is outside of the realm of "average" musical theater.

The plot centers around an introverted, shy teenage girl named Eleanor, who creates a fantasy world from the characters in her science fiction comic book collection. In Eleanor's quest to help good conquer evil are the Starmites – a teenaged band of space youths dedicated to fighting the deadly forces of the Universe.

This is quite a fantasy, with numerous musical genres to match. In fact, it is difficult to describe the genre of "Starmites" – "space opera" might be

close, but that really wouldn't be accurate.

"I love how much fun the show is and Starmites has a great score," said Cheryl Watson, arts/performing arts department chair and theater director at St. Francis High. "It's a Sci-Fi musical along the lines of 'Little Shop of Horrors' and 'The Rocky Horror Show' but a lot sweeter in places. We like to mix up what we do with our productions and I can honestly say this is the first show we've done in this genre. It's a rock-based musical with influences of many genres including, Gospel, Tribal, Pop and traditional Broadway ballads. It's got everything."

"Starmites" made its New York debut off Broadway in 1987. Composer Barry Keating wrote the music and lyrics. It received six Tony Award nominations, including one for Best Musical. There is also a "Starmites" book written by Keating and Stuart Ross.

"St. Francis students Katelyn Rothleder, Morgan Henry, Annie Guthrie, and Camille Totah are the leads



Photo courtesy  
"Starmites" opens on March 11 with a special \$25 per ticket gala evening at 7:30 p.m. Regular performances are at 7:30 p.m. on March 12, 13, 19 and 20.

See Starmites, page 9

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# Starmites: 'Theatre is a collaborative art form'

Continued from page 8

in 'Starmites,'" Watson said. "Also, we have a wonderful group of supporting characters with major importance to the script."

The St. Francis Theater Arts program is known for its efforts to connect young artists with the subjects they are portraying. This opportunity is extended to male cast members who attend other high schools, since St. Francis High is an all-girls college prep school. This production's male thespians hail from Jesuit and Oakmont high schools. For example, students met with survivors of the Nazi Holocaust to gain an understanding of the horrors of World War II while preparing to perform "Playing for Time" a few years ago.

This year, Keating is flying out from New York City to meet the students and to attend a performance of the musical. It will be a unique opportunity for the students to learn from and engage a New York composer and director one-on-one. Thespians and theater technicians ("techies") will participate.

"The techies work as hard as the actors in making the magic happen," Watson said.

In addition to his work with "Starmites," Keating composed the score and co-wrote the book and lyrics to a gos-

pel/hip-hop/rock adaptation of "The Jungle Book" that was staged at the New Victory Theater on 42nd Street in New York City in 1997. The critically acclaimed musical toured nationally and was praised for its "innovate style and charm." He wrote a book, music and lyrics for Jim Henson's "Muppet Babies' Magic Box," and a cabaret, "Hollywood Opera." He directed Penn & Teller's first stage show and Jim Steinman's "Neverland."

Keating is an honors graduate of Amherst College and is the author of four children's books for Jim Henson and the Muppets.

St. Francis High School has a good reputation in the theater community, and often wins regional awards (Ellys). When asked what kind of pressure students feel to perform in any production, Watson said that the focus is never on winning an award.

"Actually there is no pressure," she said. "We never choose, nor do I direct, a show for awards. Our arts council looks for a varied experience for our actors and theatre technicians in selecting each production. Hopefully, our students and staff can stretch themselves. For example, in the past two years,

we presented a drama by Arthur Miller, an original musical written by faculty member David Blanchard and Thom Green, a comedy by Shakespeare and now a Sci-Fi space rock musical. Quite a large range of style and content. Of course I am proud of the awards, but I'm most happy about the opportunities and experiences provided to our students. The faculty members involved in the productions are professional artists in their individual disciplines and in choosing our shows we like to challenge ourselves. Theatre is a collaborative art form and it is wonderful to collaborate with our students and each other."

"Starmites" opens on March 11 with a special \$25 per ticket gala evening at 7:30 p.m. Regular performances are at 7:30 p.m. on March 12, 13, 19 and 20. Tickets for performances on March 12, 13, 19 and 20 are \$10 for students under age 19 and \$15 for adults. There will also be a matinee on March 20 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets to performances at St. Francis High School sell out quickly. St. Francis High School is located at 5900 Elvas Ave. in Sacramento. For more information and to order tickets, visit [www.ticketguys.com/stfrancis](http://www.ticketguys.com/stfrancis).

## Life after 50

# Age: More than a state of mind

By DARBY PATTERSON  
East Sacramento News Columnist  
[darby@valcomnews.com](mailto:darby@valcomnews.com)

If you are over the age of 50 it's likely that you've been told the following; "Age is just a state of mind." I certainly was told that by my daughter when she was in her early 30s – like anyone in their 30s is an expert on age?

The truth about this assertion is a mixed bag of "yes" and "no." The state of one's mind certainly does affect how we feel. There are measurable differences in the health and well being of people who have positive vs. negative attitudes – at any age. When people are laughing, happy, energetic and optimistic the release of endorphins in the body increases. According to a paper presented to the American Physiological Society last year, stress hormones such as cortisol, epinephrine and dopac are reduced by as much as 70 percent under the influence of laughter. When these stressors are diminished, the immune system appears to benefit - leading to improved health.

It's important to note that regular aerobic exercise offers similar benefits. Clearly, being active, upbeat and involved with life offers benefits that support the "state of mind" theory. On the other hand, aging is also a purely physical state. Undeniable things happen with the passing years. After the age of 60 we get shorter – women lose more height than men. We gain weight in midlife and lose it in later years. Without compensating exercise, muscle strength diminishes, and both men and women can experience bone loss in the form of osteoporosis.

We also lose aerobic capacity over the decades. A 2005 study by a coalition of university researchers showed accelerated decline after the age of 40 – more profound in men than in women. However, according to UC geriatrician Michael McCloud, MD, physically active older people can actually have "greater aerobic capacity than young sedentary ones." That's good news because this is an area over which we have some control.

A bodily state that accompanies aging becomes most apparent in the skin. We get those wrinkles that are often more disturbing to females of the species than to men (who generally think they're gorgeous no matter what). I, for one, certainly never look down at myself in a reflective surface because I see a Shar Pei staring back. Interestingly, if we cared about the effect of time upon the epidermis and dermis while we were young, this is yet another aspect of aging which we may control. About 90 percent of damage to skin comes from the sun and not from the biological clock. It's time to tell our granddaughters about this!

There is a growing body of information about the real dynamics of aging and much of it comes from a study launched in 1958. The Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging followed more than 1,400 volunteers and examined multiple aspects of aging. The study continues to this day – providing valuable information never before available. Among the findings are some general conclusions that provide us with encouragement and a measure of hope for a healthy future: There is no master clock; chronological age isn't a good predictor of performance; there is significant individual variation, and lifestyle decisions (such as smoking, drinking alcohol in excess, a sedentary lifestyle and diet choices) have an observable influence on occurrence of disease, among other conclusions. According to Dr. McCloud, with normal aging, we should be able to live independently at least until the age of 100! That's because, outside of serious diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's, there is a lot that's within our control. The good doctor is fond of say "hardly anyone dies of old age."

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# Faces and places: 'I could not believe the impact we were able to make'

Continued from page 5

Prudential Realty celebrated its first annual Giving Day on March 6. The Giving Day was held in honor of Ed Krafchow, the company's founder. Some 40 offices throughout Northern California and Northern Nevada each selected a "hands on" service project to benefit their local community and to make a difference.

The Sierra Oaks branch of Prudential California Realty selected third grade teacher Kristi Phillips' educational/natural habitat preserve project at Hubert H. Bancroft Elementary School in Sacramento as the beneficiary for this inaugural event.

"This is part of a three-phase restoration of a quarter acre back to its natural habitat," Phillips explained. "The first phase involved building nesting boxes for birds. The Audubon Society came out and gave a talk to the fifth graders, gave a bird walk and then donated the bird boxes and installation. The second phase involves restoring this area where the (Prudential Realty) volunteers are taking out the grass and preparing it for planting with drought-tolerant, California native species. The future third phase will be an 'A through Z' garden for kindergarten and first grade students."

Realtors and staff members of the Sierra Oaks office raked, cut sod, tilled the soil and planted. They also repainted parking lines on the sidewalk entrance to the school.

"I spent the day removing weeds and grass to allow for the planned construction of a nature area on the site," said Realtor Glenn Fantazia. "It was hard work – I have blisters along with aches and pains to prove it – but very satisfying. I enjoyed working alongside colleagues as well as teachers and other school personnel to give something back to the community. It was a very worthwhile day and I hope the kids and neighbors enjoy the end product we helped jumpstart."

"It's incredible how people are willing to help for a good cause even in a tough economical time like this," said Doug Reynolds, who is a part of a Future Leaders of Real Estate group and was assigned to run the Prudential project out of the Sierra Oaks office. "As far as the actual day, our branch manager Mark Paul and I kind of broke up the projects: I was in charge of all of the ground clearing, tilling and mulching. We had some others working the painting and more doing the barbequing for the volunteers."

Reynolds found the project simply by driving by it. He had recently moved into the neighborhood and saw that the school looked like it could use a hand. A call to the school principal started the ball rolling, and coordinating the Prudential volunteers with the on-going project quickly fell into place.

The Bancroft School Project is also receiving some support from a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Schoolyard Habitat Program (SYH). The program connects kids with nature by helping teachers and students create native wildlife habitat on their school grounds. Through the Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can provide technical support and guidance to educators, administrators, students, and community members who wish to create an effective, sustainable outdoor classroom and wildlife habitat on their school grounds, according to Karleen Vollherbst, who is with the program.

"SYH projects give every student a chance to observe, learn from, and experience nature and enhance their connection to the outdoors," Vollherbst said. "Teachers use SYH projects to provide learning experiences that align with Federal and state education goals, and as an integrating context for improving skills in core curriculum subjects such as science, math, reading and language arts. Schoolyard habitat projects provide an opportunity to bring all age groups together to work on project implementation and maintenance. They are a beautiful place not only for the school, but also for friends and neighbors."

Despite a few aching muscles, the Prudential volunteers said they received

as great a gift as the one they gave to the school.

"I couldn't believe how quickly everyone wanted to get started," Reynolds said. "Each volunteer was so open to helping with wherever it was needed. Just being around everyone working together for such a great cause was an infectious environment. Everybody was looking out for each other; telling jokes and stories to pass the time. Whenever a hurdle would arise we would all work together to find the best solution. During the day I was mostly focused on getting as much work done as possible but once we finally wrapped up, I took a step back to see what had been done I could not believe the impact we were able to make in such a short amount of time. The natural habitat preserve area is ready for its next phase of the project. The front of the school had a complete transformation by painting the curbs. It felt amazing to realize that you were a small part in such a huge change for a great cause."

"We would never have gotten this far, this fast," Phillips said of the volunteers and their help. "This is phenomenal. We are so excited to get this much done."

"It was a very large project to take on over the past two months," Reynolds said. "But the feeling of giving will be with me for a much longer time."



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# A change of scenery: Man's journey from lawyer to artist

By **BENN HODAPP**  
East Sacramento News Writer  
benn@valcomnews.com

"I never got to appreciate what I saw before."

That is how Carmichael resident and photographer Richard Turner sums up his life before photography. It's not that he never went anywhere interesting; he detailed a

seven-day span in which he traveled to a half dozen European countries for business during his 41 years as a lawyer. It's not that he was unable to see, it's that his job did not allow him to see.

"I didn't want any more calls or faxes or anything else," Turner said of a decision he made in 1998. "I told my wife I'd be back in a month. I drove through Ida-

ho and Montana and took a camera along."

Turner wasn't experienced with photography when he left, nor had he ever had much interest during his years consumed with the legal process.

"I considered myself a pretty creative lawyer," he said slyly. "But I didn't know I had any artistic ability at all."

When he came back, he showed his pictures to a professional photographer, but the reception he got was not favorable. He was told that the pictures he had taken were terrible. Instead of letting this news get him down, he took to heart what he was told and

See Artist, page 13

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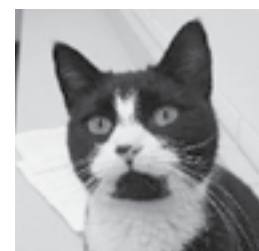
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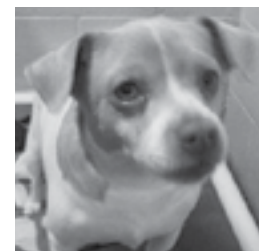
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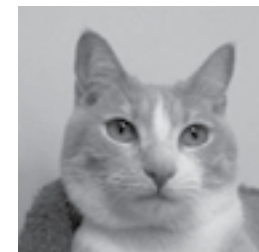
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\* For additional information on adoptions, call the SPCA at 383-7387. Adoptions occur daily and it is not guaranteed the above featured animals are still available. If they are not, the SPCA has many other loving pets available to suit you and your family. The SPCA is located at 6201 Florin-Perkins Road.

# Artist: 'Pursue your passion. Good things will happen...'

Continued from page 12

dove deep into the art of photography.

At the conclusion of a three-month trial in 2005, Turner retired from practicing law (although he remains licensed to this day). His newfound freedom allowed him to finally see everything that surrounded him. And what caught his eye in the most profound way was nature.

"I can hardly even walk by a flower without stopping to look at it now," he said.

To say that photography and nature changed his life is one thing, but hearing his words on life after being in the law profession truly shows what a different path his life has taken.

"I learned that I don't want to miss the beauty of the world by being too busy," he said.

He had seen just about everything he could possibly see in law over those 41 years, but the life that he enjoys now never really got to play a part.

Turner said that 90 percent of his photography work is of nature. He specializes in high-impact color on flowers. To date he has sold 35,000 greeting cards that are sold all over Northern California including at the Crocker Art Museum. And while selling pieces is always a welcome event, it is the art itself that captivates him.

"Sharing (my photos) with people makes me happy," he said.

It would seem as though his photos make other people happy as well. Some of Turner's work now hangs in Mercy San Juan Hospital in Sacramento. Thirty-five photographers from all over Northern California entered a contest to see whose pieces would be chosen to adorn the walls. Currently there are 12 Turner original works on permanent display in the lobby as well as the connection between wings.

His colorful and vibrant works were considered ideal to put in a place for patients and their family members. Included is a five-by-three-foot Peace rose on canvas, which hangs on the wall across from the elevators.

## Special exhibit

Turner is also the co-chair of the Animal House Exhibit, which is showing now at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center at 5330-B Gibbons Dr. in Sacramento. It is an animal-themed show that is held once a year and covers a number of different types of art from photography to painting to sculpture to mixed media as well as a youth category.

This year, there were 210 entrants vying for the 100 available slots. According to Turner, the event boasts nationally renowned jurors and there is \$3,000 in cash prizes at stake. On Saturday, March 13, the event will hold its reception.

There will be painting demonstrations beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, the Sacramento SPCA will be in attendance with dogs and cats that will be up for adoption at 3 p.m., and the reception itself starts at 5:30 and runs until 8:30 p.m. The reception concludes the show for this year.



Photo courtesy Richard Turner

"I can hardly even walk by a flower without stopping to look at it now," said photographer Richard Turner.

The show is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open all day Saturday.

Turner is also starting a concert series at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center in which he will collaborate with both visual and performing artists to create what he calls "Art Song" by combining images with music. The series will hope-

fully be up and running by October of this year.

He will also have his works at the Sacramento Art Festival in October at the Sacramento Convention Center as well as at the Blue Wing Gallery in Woodland in May 2011.

Being an artist can be a tough thing if it is what you do for a living. But Turner has a message

for the struggling artist who wonders if it's worth it.

"Pursue your passion. Good things will happen if you do," he said. "Good things always happen. It might be money, it might not. But something good will happen."

For more about Turner and his work, visit his Web site at [www.rturnerphotography.com](http://www.rturnerphotography.com).

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# Shamrock Club puts the spirit in city's St. Patrick's Day Parade

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
East Sacramento News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

As Sacramento once again came alive with a variety of activities to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, one local organization believes in making the celebration of Irish heritage and traditions a yearlong activity.

This organization, The Shamrock Club of Sacramento, is dedicated to its mission of "fostering and preserving the traditions of Ireland for the people of the greater Sacramento region."

The club is also very well connected with the Arden, Carmichael and Land Park areas of Sacramento, explained Chris Brown, a South Land Park resident, who grew up within a lion's roar of the Sacramento Zoo.

"We have about 15 members from the Arden and Carmichael areas and about a dozen more from the Land Park area," Brown said. "Our many valued members span from Grass Valley to Lodi and areas throughout Sacramento. We couldn't expand our club into the future without our founding and new members. But we also have plenty of room for

more members who have interests in things Irish."

Shamrock Club member Jane Lamborn, a 25-year resident of Carmichael, said that the club is a very enjoyable and educational organization.

"I joined the club three or four years ago and it's just a lot of fun," Lamborn said. "It's a great group of people. They have that quick wit when you're with the group and they're friendly and open and welcoming. They promote Irish culture and Irish history, so you get a chance to learn about it, to enjoy it and they're just a great group of people."

Lamborn added that much of her interest in the club derived from the fact that her mother is half-Irish and her stepfather is 100 percent Irish and that she enjoys learning about Irish music and dance.

"They (her mother and stepfather) traveled extensively in Ireland, they lived there for a short period of time and growing up with her, I really learned about Ireland and that background," Lamborn said. "I discovered the club when I went to the Scottish games in Woodland and they were there with some of their members playing music and I

stopped to listen to the music and learned about the club. A lot of the enjoyment in learning (through the club) is with music and dance, so you've got bagpipes, fiddles, flutes, drums and they really promote music, which I particularly enjoy and that caught my attention."

## Putting on the parade

As the capital city's only Irish club, the Shamrock Club worked with the Old Sacramento Business Association to bring the city's 14th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to Old Sacramento on Saturday, March 13. Other sponsors of the event were the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation, Fanny Ann's Saloon and radio station, Mix 96.

The family-friendly event, which was designed to celebrate the diversity and richness of the community, featured Irish dancers, costumed marchers, floats, military regiments, school bands, police and fire representatives and various cultural organizations.

Participants in this year's parade included the White Hackle Pipe Band, the Sacramento Fire Department Pipes and Drums corps, the Ophir Prison Marching Band, Irish



Photo courtesy of The Shamrock Club of Sacramento  
Shamrock Club President Chris Brown, right, and Vice President CJ Kennedy are among about 100 members of their club, which was formed as Sacramento's only Irish club in 2005.

dancers in Celtic costumes, tartan-clad Highlanders and Gold Rush re-enactors.

The Shamrock Club, which selected Kitty O'Neal of radio station KFBK 1530 AM as the parade's grand marshal, encouraged parade participants to "Go Green by Wearing Green."

Lamborn said that the parade is a fun celebration of Irish history and culture.

"It's a chance to experience Irish music and dance, to see the people in the community

who participate in those activities and to learn a little bit about it," Lamborn said.

## Hearts in Ireland

Emphasizing that Irish heritage is mostly recognized one day per year in the United States, Shamrock Club Vice President CJ Kennedy said, "Everybody wants to turn Irish on St. Patrick's Day, but we're active preserving the

See Shamrock, page 15

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# Shamrock: 'We're gathering more and more kindred spirits,' Brown said

Continued from page 14

heritage of Ireland the whole year round."

Kennedy, who comes from both Irish and Scottish heritage and is very knowledgeable about Irish history, added that although the club takes its position as an Irish heritage preservation group seriously, its members never forget that they belong to a social club.

"We want to be known as a well-known, nonpolitical and nonreligious club in Sacramento and the Northern California region that is serious about Irish heritage, but we also want to just kick up our heels and have a good time, too."

In addition to meeting on the second Wednesday of every month, the group also makes sure to work the attendance of live performances of Irish music and various Irish-related field trips into its schedule.

Activities of the club have included social nights at de Vere's, the Fox and Goose and the Streets of London pubs in Sacramento, an annual Christmas party and a trip to the United Irish Cultural Museum in San Francisco.

Upcoming club events will include Celtic Heritage Night at the Sacramento River Cats game on July 1 and a "Half-

way to St. Patrick's Day" party in September.

The organization, which has met in Sacramento at SMUD and de Vere's Irish Pub, began in 2005 through the efforts of its founder Chris Brown and about 15 other founding members.

Brown, who is serving in his fifth term as the club's president, said that his idea to establish the club derived from his love for his own Irish heritage and the fact that Sacramento was without an Irish club.

"There was an Irish club in Sacramento that failed and there was a point in time that there was no Irish club (in Sacramento)," said Brown, who is a member of fourth and fifth generation Irish families in Sacramento. "So, we founded the Shamrock Club in late 2005 and built it from the ground up."

## Historic and honored

Unlike many Irish clubs, which were established in and around the political difficulties in Ireland, the Sacramento club, Brown explained, took a different route in its formation.

"A lot of the Irish clubs 10 to 15 years ago were sort of formed (in connection) to the



Photo courtesy of The Shamrock Club of Sacramento  
The White Hackle Pipe Band were among the performers in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Old Sacramento.

troubles in Ireland," Brown said. "We're just not fostering any of that political stuff and in essence, Ireland is at peace right now and it's doing well with peace."

Sacramento's Shamrock Club, which is affiliated with about seven Shamrock Clubs throughout the nation, patterned itself after The Shamrock Club of Columbus, Ohio.

And because of its growth, Sacramento's club, which consists of about 100 members, reached a level and ability to assist a group in New Jersey in its

efforts to form a Shamrock Club.

Brown, who graduated from Bishop Armstrong High School in 1965, said that the Sacramento club is on a course to grow extensively during the next two years.

"We have survived the test of time and we're into our sixth year and we have been continually growing," Brown said. "We're gathering more and more kindred spirits, but not just kindred spirits, but people who are willing to take an active part in ensuring the longevity and the

expansion of the Shamrock Club."

Brown said that 80 percent of Sacramento's Shamrock Club members are of Irish heritage and the remaining 20 percent of the club members "just enjoy things Celtic and want to be a part of the group."

"It's just a fun group of people," Brown added.

For more information regarding The Shamrock Club of Sacramento, including how to become a member, call Brown at (916) 447-6511 or visit the Web site [www.shamrocksac.com](http://www.shamrocksac.com).

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# CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit  
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## GET IN THE CALENDAR

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.

## MARCH

### Gardening Classes

Classes are four hours (10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a 30 minute break for lunch included in fee) on either of the days given and are held at the house, address below. Cost per person, per class is \$40 or both classes for \$70. Reservations should be sent, with payment, to: Robert Hamm, 1689 Vallarta Circle, Sacramento CA 95834. First come first served, as all classes have limited availability. For more info email me or call. Gardening in Sacramento – A class for people new to Sacramento Gardening – Tuesday, March 16 or Saturday, March 20; second class is Plant Propagation for Home Gardeners on Tuesday, March 30 or Saturday, April 3.

### March Benefit Plant Sales

Plant sales at the Gifted Gardener through March 2010: March 13-14, and March 27-28. All of the sales will be in the covered parking area on 18th St, behind the store at 18th and J Streets. Sales rain or shine. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Jo Anne Marquardt art show

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento presents an exhibition of

the artwork of Land Park resident Jo Anne Marquardt Jan. 22 to Mar. 21, 2010 at the USS Auditorium located at 2425 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Jan. 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. This event is free. For more information visit www.uuss.org.

### Short Story Contest

Open to ages 16 and older. \$5 entry fee. Please make checks payable to Friends of the Elk Grove Library. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Saturday, April 3, 2010. Entries may be fiction or non-fiction and not longer than 1,000 words. Manuscript must be typed and double-spaced. Final word count to be written at the top of the title page. Name, address, phone number, email address and story title to be written on a 3x5 card and attached to the entry. Do not put your name on the manuscript. Winners will receive cash awards. First place-\$100 Second place-\$75 Third place-\$50. Awards will be presented at the Elk Grove Library Writer's Workshop, April 17, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Submissions will not be returned. Mail or bring your manuscript to Elk Grove Library Short Story Contest, 8900 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624.

## MARCH 18

### Candidate Night at the Didion Gym

Do you know who is running for District Seven City Council? Join your neighbors and other community members from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thurs. March 18, 2010 at the Didion/Lewis Park Recreational Center to meet the three candidates and hear their views on community and citywide issues. Candidate are: Ryan Chin; Dir. Strategic Communications Sac State; Darrell Fong; Ret. Police Capt. Sac PD; and Robbie Waters; Incumbent. The Didion/Lewis Park Recreational Center is located at 6490 Harmon Dr., Sacramento, CA 95831.

## Voetberg Family Band to perform

Enjoy a special evening with the Voetberg Family Band in a free family concert at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 18, in the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, at the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento. Based in Centralia, Washington, the Voetberg family members will perform their unique music with bluegrass, gospel, country, folk, jazz and Celtic influences. The Voetberg's 10 children, from ages from eight to 25, have garnered many awards including 10 Washington state fiddle championships, eight Washington State Music Teachers Association awards for outstanding keyboard and vocal performance, 20 regional fiddle championships, 10 top-five placements at the National Fiddle Competition, and the title of 2007 National Young Adult Fiddle Champion. For more information, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org.

## MARCH 20

### 10th Annual Vendor Sale

10th annual vendor sale is March 20 from Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, located at 3330 McKinley Boulevard in McKinley Park. The Perennial Plant Club is once again sponsoring an extraordinary collection of specialty nurseries, many from just outside the immediate Sacramento area to help you get a jump-start on this year's gardening season. They will also offer used books and magazines for sale at bargain prices and this year will have Timber Press Books available at discount prices. Proceeds from this event will help fund our work supporting community gardens and local horticulture projects.

### Greenhaven Lutheran Church Annual Crab Feed

The Annual Crab and Pasta Feed (all you can eat) will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, in the parish hall. The Crab and Pasta Feed is the major fundraiser for the youth gathering in New Orleans. Tickets are \$40 per person. The event includes a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Tickets are available by contacting the church at (916) 428-8449 or Stephanie Lack at steph\_lack01@yahoo.com or by phone at (916) 201-3898. Come hungry!

## MARCH 21

### Sacramento Symphonic Winds Concert

Event is Sunday, March 21, 2010 from 3-4:30 p.m. La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael. \$5 per person, seniors and kids under 12 FREE. Plenty of FREE parking.

### City College concert

The Sacramento City College World Music Ensemble, directed by Bob Wren, will present Middle Eastern music and dance, featuring the Ottoman Traders Middle Eastern Dance Troupe accompanied by the World Music Ensemble on Sunday, March 21, 2010 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Davis Art Center, 1919 F Street, Davis 95616. Admission is free.

### Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

**Fundraiser**  
Wine tasting and auction fundraiser to be held at Evan's Kitchen, 57th Antique Row, 855 57th St., from 4 to 7 p.m. Appetizers, live music, silent auction items, as well as raffle prizes benefiting Discovery Montessori Preschool, an East Sacramento non-profit educational preschool. Tickets are \$30 at the door. For more information, call 739-1462 or email dmontessori@sbcglobal.net.

## MARCH 22

### Free grief support

Beginning Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m. Parkside Community Church will convene a 6-week series providing participants the opportunity to work through their grief in a supportive and caring environment. Led by Joe Lumello, a licensed therapist specializing in grief support, attendees will be equipped to heal their grief over the death of a loved one, loss of a job, or dissolution of a relationship. The group will meet in the church library and is open to the community. For more information, please contact the church office at 421-0492. Parkside Community Church is located at 5700 South Land Park Drive (on the corner of 35th Ave and S. Land Park Drive—across from Vic's Market). Parkside is an open and affirming congregation.

## MARCH 24

### Embroiderer's Guild of America

Embroiderer's Guild of America, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, 2010, SMUD Building, 6301 S Street. Christine Anderson will

discuss Embroidery Designs applied to Garments. Visitors welcome. (916)961-3558.

### Library hosts Digital Library Festival

No matter if it is a holiday or late at night when libraries are closed, there are numerous services Sacramento Public Library card holders may access online 24/7. A Digital Library Festival is planned from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, on 9th Street, between I and J streets, Sacramento (in front of the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria at the Central Library). Several booths will provide useful information of online library programs and services, as well as community resources, that include finding jobs, improving one's health and wellness, tracing a family's genealogy, grade- and subject-specific homework help for 3rd to 12th grade students, self-help law resources, small business assistance, self-paced language learning courses and test tutorials, how to invest money wisely, library volunteer and support opportunities, and more.

## MARCH 27

### Land Park Egg Hunt

Held Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. near Riverside Boulevard between 12th and 13th avenues. Ages 0-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-plus. Presented by the LPCA and the city of Sacramento, the hunt begins at 10 a.m. sharp. Bring your own basket. Enjoy music, games, face painting and photos with the Easter Bunny. Free admission. Awards for best hats at 9:30 a.m.

## MARCH 27-28

### Chamber Music Society event

The Chamber Music Society of Sacramento invites you to a concert featuring the return of Philip Myers, horn soloist with the New York Philharmonic, and Gwendolyn Mock, a popular pianist. Performances will include a Beethoven Horn Sonata, a duo for violin and piano by St. Saens, and Horn Trios by Syde-man and Brahms. Saturday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. at Bet Haverim Synagogue in Davis; Sunday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Sac State Capistrano Hall's music recital auditorium, off State University Drive West in Sacramento. Tickets \$20-24. Details at www.cmssacto.org.

### Spring Sale at McKinley Park

Held March 27-28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shepard Garden and Arts Center at McKinley Park. An extraordinary variety of plants for sale in time for Spring planting. Lots of hand-crafted accessories for the garden. Wonderful hand-crafted gift items. "Recycled" books and tools for the garden. Food and beverages will be available.

### Benefit Plant Sale

The first week of spring and The Benefit Plant Sale benefiting the kids of Sunburst Projects living with HIV/AIDS will be on March 27th & 28th, 10am to 4 pm both days in the covered parking area on 18th St, behind the Gifted Gardener at 18th and W. A huge assortment of perennials will be available including many new, unusual and hard to find varieties. Several new 2010 introductions will be available. For further information contact Mr. Hamm at 916-943-6183

## APRIL

**German Language and Cultural Classes**  
German Language and Cultural classes for adults and children offered at Central United Methodist Church 5265 H Street (H & 53rd) spring sessions beginning April 5, 2010. For information call 916 488-7922 or www.irmgardschlenker.com.

## Celebrate Holy Week at TRINITY CATHEDRAL



2620 Capitol Avenue • Sacramento, CA  
916-446-2513 • www.trinitycathedral.org

Tenebrae..... March 30, 7:30pm  
Maundy Thursday..... April 1, 5:45pm  
Good Friday Meditations.... April 2, Noon-3pm  
Good Friday Liturgy ..... April 2, 7:30pm

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER .... April 3, 7:30pm  
EASTER SUNDAY ..... April 4, 7:30am, 9am, 11:15am,  
12:45pm with Easter Brunch after each service

SACRAMENTO  
SYMPHONIC WINDS

Dr. Les Lehr, Music Director

"Circus of Solos!"

La Sierra Concert Series 2009-2010

Sunday, March 21, 3pm

La Sierra Community Center, Smith Hall

5325 Engle Road, Carmichael

916-489-2576 • www.sacwinds.org for map

General Admission: \$5  
Child, Student, Senior (60+): FREE  
Tickets at the door

**Brundibar** CHILDREN'S OPERA  
*Voices of hope endure through the ages*

Featuring Sacramento Children's Chorus, Sacramento Youth Symphony Ensemble, and special guest, **Ela Stein Weissberger**

In partnership with the Sacramento Opera and with support from the Jewish Community Relations Council and Central Valley Holocaust Educator's Network

Sacramento Children's Chorus

April 8, 9 & 10, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.  
April 11, 2010, at 2:00 p.m.

Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium  
6879 14th Avenue, Sacramento 95820

TICKETS: \$15 general  
\$10 students

(916) 451-1111 | www.sacramentochildrenschorus.org

Funded in part by the Sacramento Cultural Arts Awards Program of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with support from the City and County of Sacramento.

# El Camino High School: Generations share their memories of campus life

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
East Sacramento News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

*Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part story series. Read the entire story online at www.valcomnews.com.*

## Changing and evolving

In September 1979, El Camino, which was then under the direction of Principal, Dr. Joseph Petterle, became known as El Camino Fundamental High School.

In an attempt to set higher standards for a school that had declining enrollment and a truancy rate of about 20 percent, El Camino underwent various changes as a fundamental school.

These changes included a closed campus with an atmosphere conducive to learning at all times, challenging curriculum with an emphasis on basic English and mathematic skills, college preparatory classes and a four-year educational plan for each student.

Another unique aspect of El Camino as a fundamental school is that it has no specific attendance area and is open to any student in the district.

With the school's commitment to providing an atmosphere conducive to learning, several projects have enhanced the campus, such as its more recent modernization project, which included new parking lot surfaces, new concrete near the A-wing, tree, grass and flower plantings, and the installation of new sprinklers, cameras, heat detec-

tors, clocks and an intercom system.

Unfortunately for El Camino, an earlier enhancement of the school occurred as a result of a tragedy.

A mysterious firebombing at the school in 1970 caused about \$25,000 in damages and resulted in an unexpected rebuilding and remodeling project that was paid for through district funds.

In addition to the passion for El Camino demonstrated by many of the school's alumni, many current El Camino students have developed much pride in their historic school.

Julio Escoto, 15, of the Class of 2012, for instance, said that he especially enjoys that the school offers various high level learning opportunities.

"The classes are great and they have good programs like the Back on Track afterschool program to help (students improve their grades)," said Escoto, whose uncle Tino Perez also attended the school. "We also have good sports teams."

## El Camino today

Sixteen-year-old Lorin Sukkary of the Class of 2011 said that she truly loves El Camino High.

"I just love El Camino," said Sukkary, who writes for the school's newspaper and is a member of the school's nationally-ranked dance team. "It's not necessarily a school where you have to pretend to be someone who you're not. It's a

place where the teachers will sit down with you and help you through anything, whether it's a school matter or a personal matter. It's like a second home to a lot of people. It's a really good place to go and it's a really good place to send your kids. I want to live (in the area) and teach here (at El Camino), just because I want to give generations further down the experience that I had here."

At the entrance to El Camino High is a sign, which reads: "Through these halls walk some of the finest people in the country - our students."

And with the school's six decades of developing many students, who have led successful lives in the local community, the na-



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong  
El Camino High School at 4300 El Camino Ave., at Eastern Avenue, opened in September 1950.

tion and beyond, it is difficult to dispute such a time-tested statement.

As El Camino High nears its milestone anniversary, the school ap-

pears on track for another 60 years of maintaining and establishing traditions and producing many more contributing members of society.

## Fine Old Neighborhoods, Fine Old Homes



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Offered at \$389,000

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# Windermere

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### TONS OF CHARACTER

Fantastic brick 3 bedroom 2 bath home located in the heart of East Sacramento! This home includes hardwood floors, a remodeled kitchen, a very spacious floor plan, vintage built-ins and an office or extra room. See [www.3959HStreet.IsNowForSale.com](http://www.3959HStreet.IsNowForSale.com) \$519,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



### NEAR MCKINLEY PARK

Hdwd floors w/mahogany inlay. Large updated country kitchen. Dual pane windows & French doors lead to wood deck & spa. Vintage light fixtures. Custom window coverings. Quiet tree-lined street near hospitals, schools & transportation. See [www.648-36thSt.com](http://www.648-36thSt.com) \$679,900

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### EAST SAC TUDOR

Pristine 2 bedroom 1 bath brick Tudor located on a fantastic street. Charming home combines vintage character with modern day amenities. Spacious floor plan offers hardwood floors w/walnut inlay, recessed lighting, large fireplace & more. See [www.1709-47thSt.com](http://www.1709-47thSt.com) \$449,000

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**DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495**



### RIVER PARK REMODEL

Fantastic 2 bedroom 1 bath River Park remodel with a very large lot. This spacious floor plan includes hardwood floors, remodeled gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets and a completely remodeled bathroom, central heat & air - Large patio that is great for entertaining. Simply a must see! See [www.6320DittmarWay.IsNowForSale.com](http://www.6320DittmarWay.IsNowForSale.com) \$310,000

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### SUPER LOCATION

One of the finest East Sacramento streets. Just painted on inside and beautiful random plank floors refinished. Extra large living room great for entertaining. Open family room. Home has great 1930's architectural features. See [www.478PicoWay.epropertysites.com](http://www.478PicoWay.epropertysites.com) \$499,000

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### FANTASTIC EAST SAC

Fantastic 5 bedroom 3 bath on a very large lot with a pool on one of the best streets in East Sacramento. This home features a large formal dining room, a spacious kitchen, a very large bedroom upstairs and a completely landscaped yard with wonderful fruit trees. See [www.1719-38thSt.com](http://www.1719-38thSt.com) \$599,000

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### CHARMING COTTAGE

3 bed, 2 bath w/master suite - French doors fill this home w/light. Spacious living room - formal dining room features original leaded glass hutch - remodeled kitchen w/granite counters - French doors open to a lovely patio. See [www.4127HSt.View24Hours.com](http://www.4127HSt.View24Hours.com) \$369,900

**CAROLE GOODIN 718-0875**

### EAST SAC DUPLEX

Fantastic duplex in the heart of East Sacramento. Perfect for owner occupancy. Each side has its own yard and a quaint porch. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath on each side. Right off of M Street!! See [www.windermereDunnigan.com](http://www.windermereDunnigan.com) \$319,000

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### PROPERTY TO DEVELOP

Build 7 Midtown single family town homes near McKinley Park! Tentative Subdivision Map approved to subdivide two lots (003-0153-007 & 008 extended to 7/20/12. Floor, site & elevation plans available. 2 attached units of 1,639sf; balconies; private yards. See [www.2816DStreet.com](http://www.2816DStreet.com) \$495,000

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### BUNGALOW

Charming 2 bed 1 bath located **PENDING** East Sacramento. Classic home offers a large front porch, spacious floor plan, hardwood floors, a large kitchen & very private backyard. Walk to the 33rd Street Bistro or coffee shops. See [www.3345NSt.com](http://www.3345NSt.com) \$339,000

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# Windermere

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