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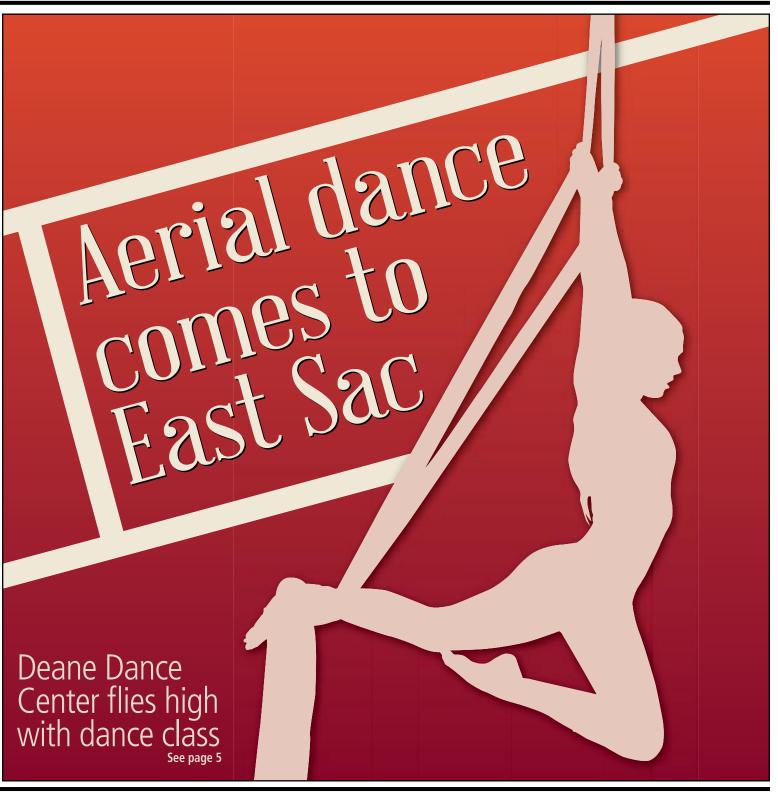
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JANEY WAY MEMORIES, PAGE 2 • COMMUNITY CALENDAR, PAGES 18-19









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JANEY WAY MEMORIES

The first time we cut our own Christmas tree

By MARTIN RELLES

One December night at dinner, in the late 1950s, dad said, "this year we are going to drive to the Sierras and cut our own Christmas tree," and we did. Early in the morning, on the next Saturday, my sister Patricia, and my brothers Terry, John and I jumped into the car with dad and headed up to the Sierra Nevada mountains.

We drove through Roseville, then Loomis, then Auburn and Colfax until we passed the snow line, and eventually turned off the road. There, we drove until we reached a place where dad thought we would likely find a Christmas tree. Then he parked the car, and we all got out. Off we walked into the woods, through the knee-high snow, in search of a tree. Wow! This seemed a lot tougher than we thought it would be. Most of the trees were too tall, and the smaller ones seemed a little ornaments. We finished the job with lots scrawny and bare.

Eventually, though, we found the perfect tree. So dad pulled out a saw, and cut cial was that we cut it ourselves. it down. Then Terry and I dragged the beautiful tree through the snow back to perfect Christmas tree. Then dad tried to have not forgotten that experience. put the tree in the back of the car. Woops, saw again, and dad cut enough off so it two girls up to the mountains to cut their fit properly in the open rear compartment Christmas tee. Now, they will experience of our station wagon. Dad had to leave the same joy we experienced with dad, so make room for the seven foot tree, but it Way holiday experience.

fit. Then off we went in the direction of home. We didn't get far though.

As we headed back toward the highway, we passed a forest ranger. He turned around quickly, and pulled our car over. The ranger explained that we could not take a tree from the national forest without a permit. Dad explained that we had no permit, but said that he was a Sacramento police man and understood that if we had violated the rules of the national forest we would have to suffer the consequences. When the ranger heard that, he softened his position. He said, "that's okay Officer Relles, but in the future, you need to see us first to obtain a permit. Then, he fastened a tag to our tree which allowed us to transport it out of the forest. After that, we headed off, directly for home.

When we arrived home, dad filled the Christmas tree stand with water and secured it. Then we proceeded to decorate our beautiful fresh cut tree with lights and of silver tinsel. It seemed the most beautiful tree we ever had. What made it so spe-

Later in life, I took my children up to cut fresh Christmas trees in the Sierras. our car. That took some effort in the deep We usually went to a tree farm in Apple snow, but soon we reached the car with a Hill. That seemed every bit as special as smile on our faces. We did it. We found the the one dad cut for us in the 1950s. They

Just last week, while I traveled abroad, the tree was a little to big. Out came the my daughter and her husband took their the rear hatch of the car slightly ajar to many years ago: yet another merry Janey



Kennedy's Collectibles, always a pleasure

in business this long.

The store carries a selec-

By MONICA STARK

Forty-one years ago, Mary Kennedy asked her daughters if they would like to open an antique shop. After they are happy to have stayed the market, Kennedy's all, back then, trinkets and collectibles started coming to her parents' farm home in tion of items from Christ-Oregon, filling up the place. mas plates and ornaments Then and there, on daughter Tricia's 19th birthday it was decided to open a business in Antique Row. After all, they had the goods and the passion for collecting to get started. Since then, Mary and Tricia have kept the dream of sharing their love of antiques alive even though they've had to downsize over the years.

With Tricia working for the State full time, Mary has had the duty of greeting customers inside their little shop. Always a smile on her face and a story to tell, Mary graces the little corner shop, Kennedy's Collectibles. By "corner" they don't mean on the corner of the street. No, the shop is inside the 57th St. Antique Mall, at 875 57th St. Tucked toward the back of the mall, you will find Mary and she will tell you how much she loves some of the items in her store.

"Sometimes I take things up to the desk and I have to tell it goodbye ... It could be those two pieces back there ... I like those," she said pointing at an old vase and basket, which dates back to the late 1800s or early 1900s. "If they go up to the desk, I will probably have to give them a hug and a kiss."

When the two started the business, they began with their own shop across the street from where they currently are, and were there for a number of years before moving to Town and Country Village on the corner of Fulton and Marconi. With all the moving, over time they specialized more in newer products, but when they moved back to Antique Row, antiques took center stage once again.

Tricia said they've tended to sell popular products even if they wouldn't collect them for their own collection. "Be-

cause it is a business, you to antique vases and dolls have to have what people are by names like Precious looking for. We had to make Moments, Jim Shore, Lori changes," Tricia said, not- Mitchell and Disney.
ing that even though they've Tricia said when Thom-

downsized over the years, as Kinkade first came on sold a lot of his plates. "Norman Rockwell's

See Collectibles, page 17



Mary Kennedy with daughter Tricia.



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Deane Dance Center flies high with aerial dance class

By CORRIE PELC

Dancing on the floor is one thing. Dancing in the air is quite another.

˙ Iust ask Osiris Plata – a Fair Oaks resident that has been practicing aerial dance for the past five years, and is currently the aerial dance instructor at Deane Dance Center in East Sacramento.

arts where using tools like the trapeze and aerial hoops are suspended in air and allows for movement in "different planes." "It's become a really amazing medium for people to understand movement in a different plane, in the vertical plane, and just explore that possibility," she adds.

Plata teaches mainly uses fabric – sometimes referred to as summer to teach the aerial tissue or silks – that the dancer clings to while performing work with fabric. It's since be-

come very popular because band, Don Schwennesen, it's a very flexible medium they decided to begin offerand there's a lot of possibili- ing an aerial dance class afties and potential if you un- ter a dancer friend in Los derstand movement," Plata explains.

Up and Away

Coming from a background in gymnastics, acrobatics and surfing, Plata says she was drawn to aerial dance due to a compulsion to try being in the area," she explains. According to Plata, aerial air. I had seen it a few times, dance stems from the circus so I was very interested," she

Plata was lucky to find an aerial dance performer living in Fair Oaks who became her teacher. For the past five years, she learned and practiced aerial dance on her own set of silks she has outside as she enjoys practicing in nature. Now an instructor her-The type of aerial dance self, Plata was brought on by the Deane Dance Center this dance class.

According to Allyson in the air. "Cirque de Soleil re- Deane, co-owner and coally were the pioneers of the artistic director of Deane Dance Center with her hus-

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Angeles recommended it due to the popularity of similar classes in his area. "We looked into it and there wasn't much around here, so we thought wouldn't it be great if we got one of the first programs going in the

Deane says the Center which is celebrating its 18th anniversary this year - has been offering an aerial dance class for over a year, and believes offering such a unique



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CATERPILLAR

Got Shoes?

Local shoe drive for the homeless assisted by East Sacramento businesses

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Jan Wilson, a local homeless advocate who is known by many people as "the extra fifth generation Sacramentan,

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layer of clothing lady," has re- launched a drive to collect difcently received the support of several East Sacramento busi-

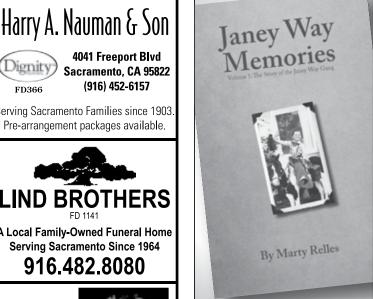
Last week, Wilson, who is a gently used socks.

nesses, which have agreed to assist with this new project include: Allstate Insurance at 4765 J St., Socal's Tavern at 5200 Folsom Blvd., Club Raven at 3246 J St., Guitar Workshop at 3248 J St. and Kerrie Kellie Design Lab at

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approached these businesses with her hope that they would assist her in a new project.

Wilson, who has dedicated herself to collecting and distributing cast-off clothing and blankets for the homeless for nearly 12 years, has ferent sizes of unwanted, viable men's, women's and children's shoes and all sizes of

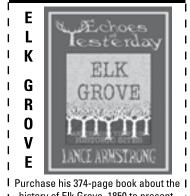
The East Sacramento busi-3252 J St.

ect is St. Philomene Catholic Church at 2428 Bell St., the XO Lounge at 1400 Broadway, Brownie's Lounge at 5858 South Land Park Drive and the Pocket Club at 5043

With the exception of Guitar Workshop and Kerrie es at 1321 North C St., Union Kellie Design Lab, which are promoting Wilson's project, all of these aforementioned ter for women and children at businesses, as well as St. 4410 Power Inn Road. Philomene Catholic Church,

tions from the public," Wilson said. "I know a lot of homeless people, some of them I went to school with. We all need to assist one another in this world. Collections for this project will I am very blessed in life and I be received through Dec. 31. want to give back and this is In a meeting with the East the way that I can." Although Wilson receives Sacramento News last week, Wilson explained how she no monetary compensations for assisting the homeless, she said that she is rewarded for





history of Elk Grove, 1850 to present, for only **\$25**. This award-winning book includes more than 1,200 historic and modern photographs.

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"After being approached by

so many panhandlers and not

having enough money to help

them all, I decided to use my

God-given talents as a promot-

er and organizer to glean dona-

her efforts in other ways.

"The rewards for me do-

ing this are two-fold," Wil-

son said. "First is the knowl-

edge that someone has some

relief from the cold and now

they know that people out there care. And the other is

the raising of the social con-

scious among the people that

have supported my efforts

throughout the years. I love

it when they tell me that they

literally gave the coat off of

their back to someone in need

or when a bartender lets me

know that the 'person in need'

came by to pick up a pair of tennies and the bartender

says it gave them the 'warm

fuzzies. Bartenders never say

Bill Farrell, owner of Socal's

'warm fuzzies."

Sacramento homeless advocate Jan Wilson recently launched a project to collect unwanted, viable men's, women's and children's shoes and all sizes of gently used socks for local homeless.

are serving as shoe collection drop-off points.

The shoe collection project will assist the homeless through the homeless survival private charity Loaves & Fish-

became involved in assisting Sacramento's homeless.



Echoes of Yesterday

Tavern, said that he decided to become involved with Wilson's project after he was approached by one of his friends.

"There's a mutual friend (Deb McGee, daytime bartender of

See Shoes, page 7



Jan Wilson shows the condition of a pair of shoes that had been worn by a local homeless man until she provided him with

Shoes: Donation drop offs through out Sacramento

willing to step up and try to do some good work and she wanted to know if we could use my location as a drop-off point," Farrell said.

Farrell, who was quick to allow a shoe collection drop-off point to be located at his business, said. "There's definitely a need (to collect shoes for the homeless). It's great when people step up to do that work. (Wilson is) willing to step up and do the good work, and it's always great to help out the people who are willing to do the yeamon's work. It helps all of

Farrell is no newcomer to helping others in need, as his business is already a drop-off point for used sporting goods for St. John's Shelter.

Amanda Malmstrom, agency manager at Allstate Insur- to do that. In order for us to 30-GIVER (304-4837).

for Wilson's project.

"We're lucky to be a part of (the project), because we, on her shoe collection project, as well, are interested in helping people who are less fortunate than we are, and I think it's a great thing to do," Malmstrom said. Dave Lynch, owner of the

Guitar Workshop, said that he enjoys assisting projects to give people a "hand up" in keep collecting these items

in their life is going to need a hand up and it could be any one of us," Lynch said. "I would only hope that someone would I am the conductor." Wilson offer that to me the way that I would offer it to them. If I could give someone a hand up, not a hand out, then we want collection project, call (916)

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the XO Lounge) that we know ance, said that Allstate In-survive, we need to survive as that mentioned that Jan was surance is also proud to be a team, not as just individuserving as a drop-off location als doing our thing. It's really a group effort."

Although Wilson has taken she has no plan to relinquish her role as "the extra layer of clothing lady."

"After nearly 12 years of assisting the homeless by providing them with extra layers of clothing and blankets, I have no choice, but to due to the fact that people "Everyone at some point are always asking me if I'm still collecting clothes and I can't say, 'No.", It's the equivalent of a runaway train and

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Dance: Aerial dancing can be for anyone

class helps broaden their offerings to think that is really comforting for their dance students. "The more things a parent and younger children." that dance students or anyone can take in a dance studio – the more forms of dance - the more knowledgeable they ing, followed by demonstrations step into the air," she says. "It's reare (and) the more choices they have and practice of different tech- ally about being open to experiencof a direction to go in," she says.

In the Air

While most people know what to expect when taking a ballet or tap class, what can you expect when taking an aerial dance class?

Plata says each aerial dance class caps at nine participants. In the room are three sets of fabrics with mats underneath. She says the fabrics have been professionally rigged at a "conservative height" to ensure it becomes a little more indepenstudent safety. "It allows me to teach the ages that I teach without having too much of a temptation to go way too high in the ceiling," she explains. "That really keeps it,

Each class begins with a few minutes of warm up and stretchniques, such as climbing the fabrics and dismounting safely. Then Plata says she begins to slowly transition students from the floor to the fabrics as they take turns practicing tricks and movements in the air. "We go step-bystep on how to perform one, and everybody takes turns," she adds. As they progress in their ability, something like this," she adds. dent, but the class is structured in that way."

Towards the end of the class, Pla-

movement a little more," followed start in that discipline, which by a closing.

Swing, Swing, Swing

So who is aerial dance for – can anyone take it?

Plata says yes. "I've seen all kinds of people practice it, and I think every person has a different journey of what it is to overcome gravity or what it is to gather your focus and ing being upside down, work with your balance, and not think of the floor as your home. You create your home in space in a different plane."

As for ages, Plata says the class is open to ages 9 through adult. "There's a parent and a child taking classes and they've been in the class a few times togeth-"I see everybody and stay with er - it's really sweet that parents them while they're on the fabrics. can actually join their children in

And what can someone learn through taking an aerial dance class?

ta has the students participate in a arts related, students learn foin my view, a safer environment. I on the fabrics "just to fortify the work ethic. "A lot of life lessons visit www.deanedancecenter.com.

(are) in so many things - the sports, the arts," she adds.

Plata feels it's a very empowering practice that allows students to enjoy their peers in a non-competitive environment. "The circus arts are about being yourself and not necessarily winning - it's a really great atmosphere," she adds.

And in regards to fitness, Plata says students work on flexibility and strength. "It's a very articulate strength because you are working with your own weight, with your own body, and that's the resistance that you're given," she explains.

Deane agrees and says aerial dance is great for fitness training. "I have tried it and the core strength it takes and the arm strength, it's just an amazing vehicle for getting in shape for any age," she adds.

Aerial dance classes are currently held on Sundays from 2:30-4:15 p.m. and 4:30-6:15 p.m. at the Deane Dance Deane says just like anything Center, 3385 Lanatt Street, in Sacramento. For more information and to group activity or playful swinging cus and follow-through, as well as sign up for a class, call 453-0226 or

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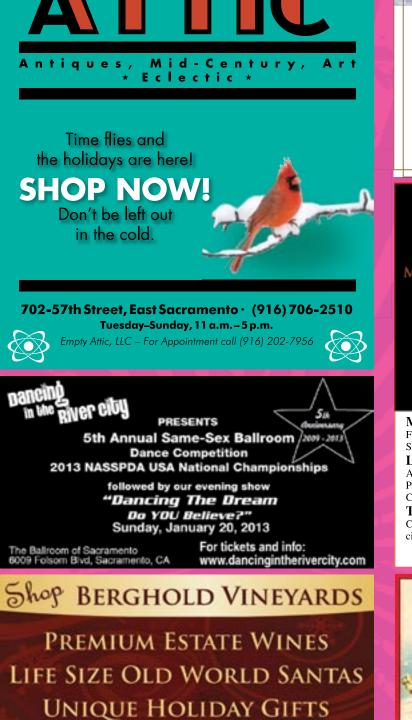
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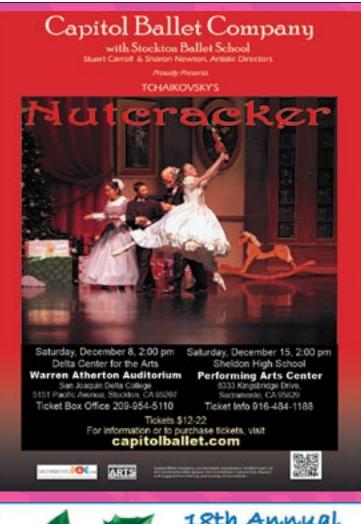
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Sutter breastmilk donation drive to aid Sacramento babies in need

By CORRIE PELC

On Monday, December 10. Sutter Close to Home Medical Plaza/Sacramento in East Sacramento will be the location for a breastmilk donation drive to educate mothers about breastmilk donating and help get interested mothers registered as donors.

"The main intent of the drive is to get moms to come up and be able to register on the spot," adds Heather Conway, president of the Breastfeeding Coalition of Greater Sacramento, who is running the donation drive.

The drive benefits the Mothers' Milk Bank in San Jose, which according to the Bank's Outreach Specialist Emily Katz, is one of only 13 nonprofit, public-serving milk banks in the country and has been providing milk banking services to infants and children in 73 hospitals across 13 states for the past 38 years.

However, Katz says Mothers' Milk Bank is currently experiencing a shortage in donated breastmilk due to more people – including the medical system – learning about breastmilk and its benefits for infants, and the donor pool not keep-

ing pace with an increase in demand.

"Over the past year, the number of families seeking milk has greatly accelerated, and the number of generous moms not kept pace," she says. "A milk drive like this is the perfect way to get the word

out to lots of moms who could be potential donors of milk all at the same time."

According to Katz, in 2011 alone, Mothers' Milk Bank provided over 350,000 ounces of donor milk to infants and children who mothers could not do so on their own. "For some, this is the only source of nutrition that allows them to grow and develop without allergic symptoms that they may otherwise get with formula," she adds.

One of those hospitals is Sutter Medical Center in East Sacramento. According to Kate Risingsun, RN, IBCLC, Regional Lactation Services & parent education manager at Sutter Medical Center, the Center spends a few thousands of dollars on purchasing donated milk from the Bank each year for their NICU. "It's now need for NICU babies to have mother's vulnerable infants. milk, and if that is not available from their own mother for all kinds of reasons, we breastmilk he needed. "It makes it so ture baby nine times. "So even a few ouncpurchase banked milk for them because it's the most important food and protection that they can have," she explains.

When Andrea Sandoval of Yuba City was having her baby at Sutter Medicál Center in August, she ended up depending on banked breastmilk for her baby for six weeks when her own supply was coming into the pipeline of donors has not enough to support her baby's needs.

Sandoval says she was thankful there was an option to get her baby the



considered to be an important clinical Mothers' Milk Bank staff screen, test and pasteurize milk to meet growing demand among families of

that they're used to the breastmilk and not get used to formula," she explains. "The breastmilk is much healthier, so it's definitely beneficial for the baby."

Risingsun says Sutter is happy to support Mothers' Milk Bank as they know many times they struggle to meet the demands for donor milk. And they also encourage mothers at Sutter to donate if they can, even if its only a few ounces as she says 3 ounces of donated milk will feed a prema-

es of donated milk goes a really long way to help a NICU baby," Risingsun adds.

How It Works

So how does donating breastmilk

Katz says for mothers interested in donating milk, it's a three-step process that includes a pre-screening interview,

See Breastmilk, page 17





Faces and Places:

Run to Feed the Hungry

Photos by Steve Harriman

About 28,000 people participated in the 19th annual "Run to Feed the Hungry" for Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. Elite runners, average joggers and walkers participated in the 5K and 10K events. Last year, 26,825 people participated on the event's first rainy day. This year, over 28,000 participants ran on a beautiful Thanksgiving Day. The event raises funds to support six Food Bank programs.















California International Marathon

Photos by Bill Condray

Elite runners braved the rain and wind at this year's California International Marathon, which was held on Sunday, Dec. 2. The race started at Folsom Lake and ended at the state Capitol. The CIM is Boston Marathon qualifier and an Olympic Marathon Trials qualifier. See runcim.org for results and more





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Designer Serene Lusano and craftsman Alan LaGuardia are the couple behind Sacramento's Blockhouse Modern, In 2010, the couple took a collective love of housewares to create the company dedicated to restoring and re-purposing all things 1950's, 60's, and beyond.

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East Sacramento toy drives make it easy to give back this holiday season

Economically things are tough for everyone, and while many may wish they could donate to those in need as much as they have done so in the past, it may be very hard to do so this

Luckily there are a number of toy drives being held throughout December in the East Sacramento area where just a small donation can have a big impact.

Cook Realty in East Sacramento will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for all ages for Toys for Troops. Manager Mark Warmack says holding the drive helps

involved and helping those in need. "We've been very fortunate in our profession and we just want to give something back to military families in the community," he adds.

Here's a look at some of the local toy drives that would appreciate your help this holiday season.

East Sacramento

Toys for Troops Toy Drive WHEN: Through Jan. 1 WHAT: New, unwrapped toys for all ages. WHERE: Cook Realty, 4305 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento QUESTIONS: Mark Warmack at 451-6702

them feel good about being Sacramento Ghostbusters Toy Drive WHEN: Sunday, Dec. 9

WHAT: Toys collected donated to Toys for Tots. Bring a toy and receive \$1 off admission to Sac-Con.

WHERE: Sac-Con, Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street, www.toyproject.org Sacramento

QUESTIONS: Jason Dube, 716-0310, scattered_cat@ yahoo.com

General Sacramento Area

Sacramento Sheriff's Tov Project

WHEN: Donations accepted all year long WHAT: New, unwrapped

> WHERE: Visit www. gosalarmy.org for a list of participating Walmart stores.

tions at the main office, 10117

Mills Station Road, Ste. C,

in Sacramento, or any Sher-

iff's Department. Visit www.

toyproject.org for more loca-

WHEN: Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-5

WHAT: Donate new toys

in Salvation Army's Christ-

mas Assistance programs.

Once the donation recepta-

cles are full, The Salvation

tions to their local units and

iday season as part of their

support to local families in

Army will bring the dona-

distribute the gifts this hol-

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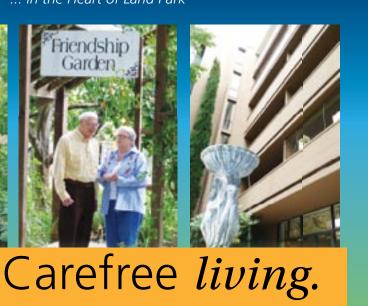
QUESTIONS: 563-3731

Great Toy Drive WHEN: Until Dec. 15 WHAT: Join KTXL FOX 40, Big O Tires, 107.9 THE END and KHOP 95.1 in collecting new, unwrapped toys for Shriners Hospital for Children of Northern Cali-

WHERE: Donations can be dropped off at various Big O Tire locations – visit FOX40. com/toys for a full list. **QUESTIONS:** gsaunders@

tribune.com

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WHEN: Dec. 16, race starts

WHAT: The 6th annual Fleet Feet Holiday Classic is a free 5K run/walk. Since there's no entry fee, QUESTIONS: 361-4571 or race participants are encourage to donate a new, unwrapped toy at the event to benefit The Salvation Army Toy Drive.

WHERE: Drop off dona- Fleet Feet Holiday Classic

at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Sutter's Landing Park (28th and A Streets), to children who take part Sacramento

QUESTIONS: 441-1751

2012 CHiPS for Kids WHEN: Until Dec. 19 WHAT: Join KCRA 3 and the California Highway Patrol by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to a participating location.

WHERE: Visit www.kcra. com for a full list of drop-off locations.

QUESTIONS: Quintero, Public Information Officer, El Protector, CHP Valley Division at 731-6516

Soft Toy Drive at IKEA West Sacramento

WHEN: Until Dec. 29 WHAT: Donate a new soft toy to the UC Davis Children's Hospital. And for every soft toy purchased and donated at IKEA West Sacramento, the store will donate \$1 to UNICEF.

WHERE: Donations accepted at the donation bin at the store's exit.

QUESTIONS: 371-4532

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Holidays

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Collectibles: A store with a story

plates were popular for a long time too, but the younger generation doesn't relate to him anymore. That's just how things go. Things go in cycles and his stuff hasn't been that popular anymore," Tricia said.

Ask them to tell you the back-story behind artists they carry, Mary will tell you about their lives before and after they've reached commercial popularity. For instance, she loves the story behind Precious Moments artist Sam Butcher. "He lived up near Redding," she said. "He had five children and no money. But he had talent. Once he started doing his Precious Moments, believe me, they sold. And now he has a resort in Missouri ... It's just beautiful."

She said over the years, they've had many repeat customers who have brought new customers with word of mouth advertising. With Christmas around the soon because it's been rather slow lately.



Photos by Monica Stark

Asked what it's like to work together, Mary said: "We found out that she's boss at one time and I'm boss at the next time." And Tricia added: "We've corner, they hope business will pick up managed to stay pretty civil with each

Breastmilk: Drive helps babies in need

followed by an intake packet that needs to be filled out. The packet includes an extensive medical history and a call to a prospective donor's doctor. Then if a mother passes both of those, they are then referred to a lab for a blood test.

The Sacramento donation drive helps move this process along, Katz says, as prospective donors can come in for a prescreening interview and fill out the medical history. Plus interested mothers will have the opportunity to ask questions of staff from the Mothers' Milk Bank.

Once a mother is cleared to become a milk donor, Katz says they are given pre-paid, pre-labeled shipping coolers to ship frozen milk directly to the Bank. Then the donated milk is tested and pasteurized, "and then get it right back out the door to a family who is urgently waiting for it," she adds.

However, soon milk donors in Sacramento will have the option to drop off their donation at one of the depots being set up by the Breastfeeding Coalition. Conway says the first such depot is scheduled to open at the Sutter Medical Lactation Station in East Sacramento by December 10, with more planned to option in the area. She says donor mothers can bring either fresh or frozen milk donations to the depot, which is then collected by depot staff and shipped to the Bank.

"Moms can have the opportunity to bring in 2 ounces or 200 ounces – it doesn't matter because the depots will collect it and when they get enough of it, they'll send it to the milk bank," Conway adds.

Spreading the Word

Conway hopes the donation drive will help spread the word about breastmilk donation, and "get moms approved so that even if they don't have the milk in their freezer now but some day would like to donate, they can already be approved and they can bring their milk in when they have it."

Katz agrees, and adds it gives mothers in Sacramento an opportunity to help those infants who are most at risk in their community. "Sacramento is such a wonderfully charitable-minded and generous community for many years, ... we're very excited that Sacramento is stepping up to explore this new realm of giving and generosity," she says.

And as a mother who depended on donated breastmilk for her own baby, Sandoval stresses the importance of letting mothers there is a need and a way they can help. "It really helps people like me who really wanted to breastfeed their baby, but couldn't – it really helps out," she says.

The Breastmilk Donation Drive will take place Monday, December 10 from 10am-3pm at the Sutter Medical Plaza/Sacramento, 1625 Stockton Blvd. Donors do not have to bring a milk donation with them to the drive, but they can if they wish to. For information, call 916-261-5683, or visit sacbreastfeeding.org or www.sanjosemilkbank.com.

- EVENT LISTING SECTION -

Advertise your craft fairs, holiday bazaars, school fundraises, church events, etc. in your Community Newspapers. Call (916) 429-9901 for rates.

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Info: carla.halligan@gmail.com All proceeds benefit the children at Sierra Oaks School

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CALENDAR

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Send your event announcement for consideration to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

ONGOING:

Need An End-of-Year Write Off?

The Casa Garden Restaurant was established in 1974 to provide financial support to the children of the Sacramento Children's Home. Today they're fulfilling the same mission, and in the same place! But, 38 years later, they are in need of capital improvements such as painting, new carpets, and kitchen fixtures. Consider making a charitable donation to the Casa Garden Restaurant before the end of the year and help them with improvements and help with your taxes. Please note "capital improvements" on your check so your donation is applied correctly. Checks should be sent to: Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd. Sacramento, 95820

The Camellia Symphony now accepts vehicle donations

If you have a vehicle you'd like to donate to support CSO, call 320-0476 to get the process started. Not only is a vehicle donation a great way to support classical music in your nity, but it may also provide you with a tax deduction. http://www.camelliasym phony.org/sponsor/vehicle-donation/

Soroptimist Letter from Santa

Soroptimist International of Greater Sacramento is an organization of business and professional women who work locally and internationally to improve the lives of women and children. This year we are writing personal letters from Santa to children, By requesting a letter from Santa, you will be

making a child that you know happy, and you will be contributing to improving the ives of children in the Sacramento area. All proceeds from Santa's letters are used to support Sacramento area women and chillren through 501(c)3 organizations. Orler forms from http://sacramentosoroptimists.org; for questions (or to request a form be sent via email), please email us at HolidavSIGS@gmail.com. Each letter sent to a child is \$5. Requests must be received by SIGS by Dec. 10, to ensure delivery be-

Old Sacramento Theatre of Lights

Theatre of Lights continues through the hol iday season with two 20-minute light shows at 6:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday until Dec. 23 with special Monday shows at 6:15 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The Christmas Eve show will only be at 6:15 p.m. New Year's Eve will feature Theatre of Lights as an imortant piece of the overall fireworks spectacular with shows running later in the evening at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m

Old Sacramento Underground Tours - Extended Holiday Tour Schedule!

Now through Dec. 9: Today, visitors have the unique opportunity to uncover the facts behind the legends that lie below historic buildings and sidewalks of Old Sacramento. For these hour-long guided walking tours, guests should check in at the Sacramento History Museum before descending below several historic Old Sacramento buildings. Sacranento History Museum, 101 I Street in Old Sacramento. \$15 for adults; \$12 for HOSF members; \$10 for children. 808-7059 or

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Visiting Angels

Chautauqua Children's Theatre presents its Christmas

production 'Reindeer Revolution' Playing every Saturday at noon and 2 p.m. Dec. 8 through Dec. 22. Tickets are \$7 all ages and can be purchased by calling 489-7529 or by emailing: tickets@cplayhouse. org 5235 Engle Rd. Ste. 110. Carmichael.

DECEMBER

California Waterfowl Pocket/ **Greenhaven banquet**

Dec. 6: In memory of Gene Andreuccett the banquet will have steak, prawns and wine Portuguese Hall 6676 Pocket Road, \$60 p/ p \$90 couple. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. Contact Jack Carmany at 427-6961.

'Scrooge

Dec. 7-Dec. 23: Rodger Hoopman's special holiday musical featuring Dickens' favorite character. \$19-\$21. Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Rd., Carmichael (916) 489-7529 www.cplavhouse.org

Crocker/Riverside Elementary PTA Scholastic Book Fair

Dec. 3-7: To help raise funds for school programs, the PTA will hold its annual Scholastic Book Fair. www.crockerriverside.org.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Dec. 7: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7 8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blyd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786

Galena Street East Presents 41st Annual 'Holiday Tapestry' Show

Dec. 7-8: Comprised of local Sacramento area performers from the ages of four to 18, Galena Street East, California's young performing ambassadors, will light up the stage and make history during the 41st Annual "Holiday Tapestry" Christmas show, entitled "Rejoice in The Rhythm of Nations," \$15 for general admission and \$12 for students. Tickets at www.galenastreeteast.org, or by calling 731-4090 or by emailing bertagninifam@hotmail.com. Group discounts available. The Friday show starts at 7 p.m. and there are two performances on Saturday, one at 1 p.m. and a second at 7 p.m. Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium, located at 6879 14th Ave.

St. Francis Christmas Music Concert 'Hallelujah Dec. 7-8: St. Francis Orchestra Sympho

ny, Jazz Ensemble, and Choirs will present their Christmas Music Concert, "Hallelujah." Highlights will include A Cappella Club singing "I'll be Home for Christmas, Jazz Ensemble with "A Jazzy Merry Christmas," various choirs singing "The First Noel" and "Carol from an Irish Cabin," and Orchestras entertaining the audience with "The Little Drummer Boy," culminating with a the full Symphony and all Choirs with an audience Sing-Along. Performances are Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available online and at the door. www.ticketguys.com/stfrancis. Tickets are \$5 for under 19 and \$10 for adults. Free parking.

Camellia Waldorf School's 24th **Annual Winter Faire**

Dec. 8: Come celebrate the magic of winter with heartwarming activities. Children will enjoy watching puppet shows, making crafts, and shopping in a special "childrenonly" store. Parents and friends can shop for unique and handcrafted gifts, as well as enjoy free live music and hearty and healthy food. We will host a Soup Competition, in addition to offering quesadillas and tamales, home-baked goods, mulled cider, organic gourmet coffee and more! Free admission with nominal charges for some activities. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Camellia Waldorf School, 5701 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento. 9427-5022. http://www.camelliawaldorf.org

Volunteer in the garden

Dec. 8: Jensen Garden, located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael, is holding a volunteer garden work day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring work gloves, hand pruners, lunch and a drink and join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. All skill levels are needed. Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 ext. 23 or email tracy@carmichaelpark.com.

The annual Sacramento State

Winter Jazz Festival Dec. 8: Annual festival happens in Capist rano Hall. Performances by middle school high school, and college jazz ensembles are scheduled 8 a.m.-6 p.m. The Wee Trio performs at noon, and the festival concludes with a performance by The Sacramento Jazz Orchestra, with alto saxophonist Dave Pietro. Tickets are \$10, available at the festival.

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918 24th Street (Between J & K Sts.) (916) 930-0600 www.PeraDice.com For more information, visit: www.csus.edu/ music/jazz/, or call (916)-278-7987.

Volkssport walking

Dec. 8: Come join the Sacramento Walking Sticks Volkssport Club! Monthly meet ings held every second Thursday at 7 p.m. SMUD Headquarters Bldg., Conference Center, 6201 S St., Sac. Those who wish to walk before the meeting, meet at Starbucks. 1420 65th St., Sac. At 5 p.m. to walk a 3mile walk to CSUS campus & back. Barbara Nuss (916) 283-4650 or (916) 691-7618 or nussb@surewest.net. Also www.SacramentoWalkingSticks.org

Camellia Symphony presents Messiah sing-along

Dec. 8: The Camellia Symphony Orchestra and the Music Society at Cathedral Square join together to present a holiday concert featuring Part I of Handel's beloved Messi ah Sing-Along at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament located at 1017 11th Street, Sacramento. \$10 per person, children 5 and under, free. General seating. Order online: camelliasymphony.org or 929-6655. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Sacramento Association of Black Social Workers Annual Pre-**Kwanzaa Celebration**

Dec. 8: Come celebrate Pre-Kwanzaa with the Sacramento Association of Black Social Workers. This event is free and all are welcome! There will be entertainment, food, and shopping for Kwanzaa gifts. The event will take place at Our World Cultural Center, 2251 Florin Rd., from 4-7 p.m. RSVP to Deborah Thomas at 420-1175 or Arobia Battle at 475-8053.

Street Soldiers National Consortium Presents: Alive &

Free Sacramento Conference

Dec. 8: The Alive & Free Movement is an international movement that is promoting understanding of youth violence as a disease. This will be a day of inspirational learning from nationally recognized leaders in the movement to end youth violence. You will gain strategies, tools, and a network of peers committed to keeping our youth alive and free! The event will take place at Sac State from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Seating is limited and registration is required. To register and more information contact Jeri Marshall at (916) 768-3987.

Nubian Crafters 2nd Annual Holiday Expo

Dec. 8: Shop for African-American Christ mas & Kwanzaa Gifts, Decorations, Holiday Cards, 2013 Calendars, Accessories, Jewelery & More. There will also be refreshments and raffles! The event will take place at Brenda's Main Event Complex, 3514 Broadway, from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. For more information call 427-7715.

Elk Grove Nativity

Dec. 7-9: Come and explore hundreds of nativities collected from all over the world. Presented by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Free and open to the public, 6711 Seasons Dr., Elk Grove, Infor mation and a schedule of holiday events at www.elkgrovenativity.org

St. Nick's Breakfast and Craft Fair

Dec. 9: Crafts and breakfast from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Presentation School (next to Presentation Parish) 3100 Norris Ave., Sacramento, 813-9700

Bel Tempo Handbell Christmas Concert

Dec. 9: Start your holiday season with an afternoon of traditional holiday music from throughout the world as celebrated by Bel Tempo. Bel Tempo is a community handbell choir sponsored by Northminster Pres byterian Church and is directed by Mary Balkow. This year's concert, Christmas Joy benefits Francis House Center, Bel Tempo rings a five octave set of Schulmerich hand bells consisting of 62 bells which range in weight from 7 ozs. to 9 1/2 lbs. Audience members will have an opportunity to ring along with Bel Tempo on favorite holiday selections. Francis House is a triage center for those suffering from homelessness and poverty. Their mission is to provide relief, resources, and hope that transforms individuals and families from a struggle for survival to a plan for their success, 487-5192 or visnseronline.org. Show starts at 4 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, located at 3235 Pope Ave.

Third annual Jane Austen Tea Party at Sacramento's Central Library

Dec. 9: Jane Austen Birthday Tea at 1 p.m. at the Central Library 828 I St. Guests will celebrate the famed early-1800s British author with live harp music, a silent auction of Jane Austenthemed gifts, sweet and savory delights, and a English Country Dancing performance by the Sacramento Contra Dance Society, featuring the Quite Carried Away musicians. Doors open at 1 p.m., dining begins at 2 p.m., and dancing is at 3 p.m. Attendance in Regency Era (1790 to 1820) costume is welcome. Admission is free to members of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library or the Jane Austen Society, Nonmembers will pay \$15 at the door, with the option of becoming a member at that time. Registration is required by calling 264-2920 or visiting www.saclibrary.org.

Breastmilk donation drive at Sutter Medical Plaza

Dec. 10: Onsite donor registration (milk is welcome but not required on day of event). All donations go to the San Jose Milk Bank to benefit babies in need. 1625 Stockton Blvd. For information or to donate milk, 261-5683. Sacbreast feeding.org; www.sanjosemilkbank.com

CSUS String Project to hold free holiday concert

Dec. 10: Concert to start at 7 p.m. in Capistrano Hall's Music Recital Hall or the Sacramento State campus, 6000 J Street. The String Project provides group lessons in violin, cello and bass for local children in the fourth-grade on up, taught by Sac State students. The program includes selections from the "Nutcracker Suite," "French Folk Song," and the always

PLEASE Recy

popular "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." ission is free. 278-5191.

The Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) Christmas Potluck Dec. 10: Socialize with aspiring and pub-

lished authors between 7 and 9 p.m. at Crossroads Christian Church on 5501 Dewev Dr. in Fair Oaks. www.sactowriters.com.

Singalong

Dec. 10: Enjoy a lighthearted evening of Christmas and holiday songs sung by the chorus and the audience! Songbooks are handed out so you can singalong! 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 3901 Folsom Blvd. in East Sacramento. The are collecting clean, used or new warm tems to give to the homeless - blankets socks, sleeping bags, coats and more to deliver to the homeless. They are raffling off a homemade quilt.

Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichae

Dec. 11: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visis welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave. (916) 925 2787. Carmichael meets at 6 p.m., Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd www.rotary.org.

Soroptimist International of **Sacramento North meeting**

Dec. 11: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at the atria El Camino Gardens at 2426 Garfield, Carmichael. Call Sheila at 624-4643.

Rotary Club of Pocket/ Greenhaven

Dec. 12: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Wednesday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

Writing workshop planned at Arden-Dimick Library

Dec. 12: Free writing workshop at 6 p.m. at its Arden-Dimick branch, 891 Watt Ave Participants will use a story wheel to create thematic writing from memories of child hood to present day, personal and family stories. Author Janice Kelley will blend her expertise in oral storytelling with the ritten word to lead writing and storytelling workshops for both children and adults For more information, call 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Crochet Guild

Dec. 12: Crocheters of all levels of ability and all ages are invited to join the Sacramer to Crochet Guild. Learn new crochet techniques, exhibit at State Fair, do charity work. Mentoring program. Show and tell. Mini classes. Library and newsletter available. Club member of the Crochet Guild of America. Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Seniors: \$6/vr. Enter from park ing lot. Church of the Cross, 45th & H streets, Sac. Karolyn (916) 457-4044

Referrals Plus

Dec. 12: Referrals Plus, a women's networking group, helps women in business with con ions, resources, promotions and ideas We meet the 2nd Wed. of every month. 12:15 p.m. for meeting/luncheon in Greenhaven area. RSVP required. www.referralsplus.org

East Sac Rotary

Dec. 12: Meets at noon, Evan's Kitchen, 855 57th St. Sacramento. www.eastsacrotary.com.

Classical Revolution performs:

Dec. 13: Classical music in a comfortable setting, Bows and Arrows, 8 p.m., free of charge, 1815 19th St., Sacramento

Mission Oaks Computer Club Dec. 13: The meeting topic will be "ID

Theft Protection" presented by Sarah Dalton of the CA Office of Privacy Protection. A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. To be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, locat ed at 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA 366-1687 or website www.missionoakscor puterclub.org.

Salvation Army Band to be featured at River's Edge Senior Community

Dec. 13: The Salvation Army ensemble is made up of Salvation Army musicians from the Sacramento area. They play at many events throughout the year and especially at Christmas where they can be seen playing around the Red Kettle. Their main purpose is to support the weekly church services at The Salvation Army. Anyone interested in attending should contact the community at 921-5131 by Monday, Dec. 10. Refreshments will be served. Event starts 2 p.m. 601 Feature Dr.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Dec. 14: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7 8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106.

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Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes de Sacramento Announces Annual Holiday Ballet Folklorico

"Posada Navideña" Dec. 14: Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes de Sacramento presents a festival of vibrant sound and shimmering colors in this special Mexican Christmas production. Three Stages Performing Arts Center @ Folsom Lake College, 10 College Parkway, Folsom, beginning at 7:30 p.m. www.threestages.net.

Jesus' birthday party

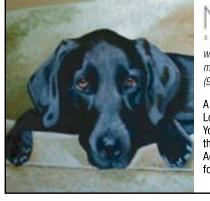
Dec. 14: Come join in for a free family fun event featuring a short Christmas skit. A Prime Time Christmas, and music by the Youth Praise Band. Afterward there will be fun games including pin the tail on the donkey, and a sharing of piña ta, cake and ice cream as we celebrate Ie sus' Birthday. If one is able, please bring an unwrapped toy for an underprivileged child. For more information, call (916) 487-5192 or visit northminsteronline.org Party starts at 7 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, located at 3235 Pope Ave.

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library presents technology petting zoo

Dec. 15: Thinking about buying a tablet or eReader for the holidays? The Sacramento Public Library can help you decide which one to purchase at its technology petting zoo at 1 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhave branch, 7335 Gloria Dr. There will be a full se lection of the latest gadgets to see and try out. Plus, library staff will show how to use them with the Sacramento Public Library's digital catalog of downloadable books. For more information, 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Celebration Arts Presents 'Waiting to be Invited'

Dec. 15: It's the summer of 1964 in Atlanta Four middle-aged black women, co-workers from a local doll factory, travel by city bus to a "whites only" eating establishment inside a downtown Atlanta department store. Their purpose is to "test" their newly acquired civil rights handed down by the Supreme Court outlawing segregation in eating establishments. The play will take place at the Cele bration Arts Theatre, 4469 D St. 455-2787 or www.celebrationarts.net. For tickets online visit: www.mycommunityevents.com



Melissa Andrews

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FABULOUS HOME

This beautiful home has been remodeled to the last detail. Every room's a showpiece: detailed custom moldings, hardwood floors with inlays, recessed lighting, whole house speaker systems, imported Italian tile throughout. 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths. Spacious master with 13' ceilings, fireplace & dual 90sqft closets has a private terrace overlooking the gorgeous back yard and pool. \$1,559,000

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



HISTORIC VICTORIAN

Inviting entryway, parlor, large dining room and kitchen with 1 bedroom and bath upstairs; downstairs includes family room, 2 bedrooms and a bath. Period details include beautiful stained glass and light fixtures, high ceilings and wood flooring. Large lot, mature trees and decomposed granite; 3-car garage with alley access. \$393.300

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LOVELY SARATOGA TOWNHOME

Located within easy walking distance to the Capitol, art galleries and great restaurants yet still quiet in the evenings. Beautifully remodeled 3 bedrooms 21/2 baths, newer paint and carpet, and spacious windows makes this a light and bright home. Enjoy your own patio, Roosevelt Park across the street and an attached garage with direct access. Quiet and well maintained complex. \$289,900

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379



PHENOMENAL EAST SACRAMENTO

4 bedrooms 4½ baths, nearly 5000 square feet, this home has it all. Inside you will see a gourmet kitchen, a formal dining room, a large living room and an open breakfast room. The home also features a family room, a sauna/steam room, a full gym, and a workshop. Outside is your own private sanctuary on a big lot with a newer pool and built in kitchen: perfect for entertaining \$1.895.000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

Cute as a button 3 bedroom home on a deep lot (.22 acres). Sunny kitchen, new 30 year comp roof, new bath 7 years ago includes spacious shower, new pedestal sink, new low flow Toto toilet. Dual pane windows, lathe and plaster walls. Walk to light rail, Corti's Market. See www.2730-59thSt.

CONNIE LANDSBERG 761-0411



FANTASTIC EAST SACRAMENTO

3 bedroom 2 bath located on a street that is one of East Sacramento's best kept secrets. Spacious home includes refinished hardwoods, gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and top of the line cabinets, open floor plan that is perfect for entertaining, dual pane windows, central heat and air, and remodeled bathrooms. \$379,000

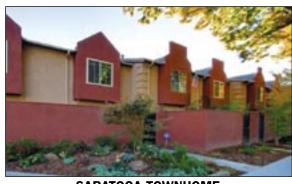
TIM COLLOM 247-8048



STATELY ELEGANCE

Built in 1911, this stunning 4 bedroom, 4 bath home sits on an oversized lot with a heated pool, lawn area and sports court. $Charm\ and\ craftsman ship\ from\ an\ era\ gone\ by,\ you'll\ enjoy\ leaded$ glass windows, well-kept hardwood floors, beautiful crown molding and more. Remodeled kitchen includes soap stone counters, custom glass faced cabinets and high end appliances. \$1,350,000

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



SARATOGA TOWNHOME

Wonderfully updated 2 bedroom 11/2 bath townhome! All new dual pane windows, French doors, built-in cabinets, kitchen with granite counters and Kenmore appliances, wood floors and designer paint. Walking distance to Downtown art galleries, great restaurants, the Capital and you still have quite evenings. Private and secure with an attached garage with direct access and your own patio. \$270,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379



FABULOUS EAST SACRAMENTO

Enjoy the modern amenities of a completely rebuilt home and old world charm of this fabulous East Sac street! 4 bedrooms 3½ baths, honed granite countertops and top end appliances in the spacious chefs kitchen, luxurious master suite has two walk-in closets, a huge shower and a pedestal soaking tub, and so much more. All brand new and waiting for you! \$999,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379

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