

# EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

November 21, 2013

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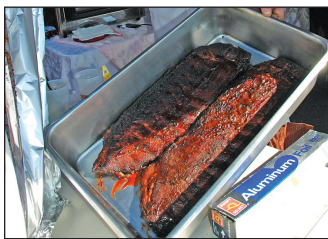


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# 'Cap'n Mitch' reminisces about his pre-TV cartoon host years

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

*Editor's Note: This is part one in a series about Mitch Agruss and other kiddie show hosts, who brought joy to many young television viewers in the Sacramento Valley.*

Although many years have passed since Mitch Agruss served as a popular, local TV cartoon host, he remains a legendary figure to thousands of people.

Mitch, who turned 90 years old last summer, won the hearts of children and others in East Sacramento and throughout the valley with his endearing presentations as Cap'n Mitch, and Cap'n Delta, "Skipper of the Valley Queen."

In agreeing to be interviewed for this publication about his cartoon host days, Mitch also expressed a desire to speak about the oftentimes lesser known parts of his career.

"The people in this television market remember me for the hosting of the children's cartoon shows, and that's it," Mitch said. "But that was, in Sacramento, from 1961 to



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Mitch Agruss, aka Cap'n Mitch and Cap'n Delta, entertained thousands of children in East Sacramento and beyond with his role as a local TV cartoon host.

1989. From 1941 to 1961, I was back East. I was graduating from drama school, I was in New York, I was doing Broadway shows, I was doing off-Broadway shows, I was (working) in the live television era."

While motioning toward a stack of old books sitting on a table in his home, Mitch said, "Those are 'Theatre World' books, in which either my name appears or my pictures are in from plays that I've done in New York," Mitch said.

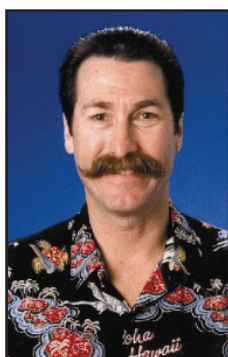
And in pointing out a particular page in one of the

books, Mitch added, "That's the page in which I appear in the same play with Katharine Hepburn."

In that play, Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," Hepburn played Beatrice and Mitch appeared in the role of Conrade.

A preview for that play, which was held at the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Stratford, Conn. from June 22 through Sept. 8, 1957, included the following words: "Mitchell Agruss appeared on

See Cap'n Mitch, page 3



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# Cap'n Mitch:

Continued from page 2

Broadway in 'King Lear' with the late Louis Calhern (1895-1956), and in 'At War with the Army.' He played in the off-Broadway productions of 'The Clandestine Marriage,' 'The White Devil,' 'The Care-free Tree' and 'The Duchess of Malfi,' appeared in all three festival productions last summer, and at the Phoenix (an off-Broadway theater in New York City) this winter."

In further reminiscing about his early work in live theater, Mitch said, "It's wonderful to realize that there was a time when I did those things."

Mitch, who was born in Barnes Hospital (now Barnes-Jewish Hospital) in St. Louis, Mo., was the son of Nat and Rose Agruss. The family's history in the United States began with Nat and Rose's parents, who immigrated to America from Eastern Europe in the 1890s.

The Agrusses, Mitch noted, resided in "a very tightknit Jewish community in St. Louis, orthodox at the time."

Mitch said that his interest in theater began while he was attending Clayton High School in Clayton, Mo.

"I got interested in theater when I was in high school, because I had a very encouraging teacher, mentor (named Blandford Jennings)," Mitch said. "(Jennings) encouraged me and was instrumental in having me go to the State University of Iowa (which is commonly known today as the University of Iowa) between my junior and senior years of high school to a special theater class to see how I took to it. He recommended and referred me – since I didn't know the first thing about it and where to go to college – to what was then called Carnegie Institute of Technology. It's now called Carnegie Mellon University. (The institution, which is located in Pittsburgh, Pa.,) has one of the country's premier drama departments."

In 1941, following his freshman year at Carnegie Tech, Mitch returned to his St. Louis home, where he received a telephone call from a classmate named Garry Davis.

The classmate – whose father was Meyer Davis (1893-1976), who led one of the nation's all-time notable dance bands – told him that he was at Bucks County Playhouse



Photo courtesy of Mitch Arguss

Mitch Arguss and a group of Cub Scouts are shown on the set of Arguss's television show, "Cap'n Delta, Skipper of the Valley Queen."

in New Hope, Pa. and should join him working on the crew building sets and providing other contributions for the summer stock shows.

Mitch told his classmate that he could not afford to en-

gage himself in that project. But Mitch quickly learned that the work was not unpaid labor, and instead would earn him \$15 per week.

Soon after that conversation, Mitch borrowed money

for train fare from his parents and headed to meet his friend in New Hope.

Mitch was surprised to learn that Bucks County

See Cap'n Mitch, page 4



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Resting within walking distance to McKinley Park and East Sac restaurants, coffee houses, and shops, this 2 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow offers the charm of Home Sweet Home. This home presents a formal Living room, a spacious Kitchen with an eat-in area, and an updated bathroom. Ideal for entertaining, the intimate backyard has been recently updated to include a natural gas fireplace, new landscaping, and a new fence. Other amenities include hardwood floors, indoor laundry, and an inviting front porch.

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## Cap'n Mitch:

Continued from page 3

Playhouse was one of the nation's most celebrated summer straw-hat circuit theaters of that era.

"All the big names worked there," Mitch recalled. "It was in the middle of Pennsylvania Dutch country, where so many famous theater people have their summer homes. And I was just an 18-year-old kid stepping off a train and walking into the most glamorous world any young theater person could be interested in. The people that were there were all fantastic. All summer long, I met so many people and I became one of the pets of the company. The theater moved because of (World War II) gas rationing into the ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, so I spent (the summer of 1942) working there. Each time I got a little bit better parts to play, as well as being a crew person, building sets and running the shows and stuff like that. My best part was in 'Elizabeth the Queen,' with a (British actress) named Flora Robson (1902-1984)."

Like many people, Mitch put his dreams on hold to serve his country during the war.

After joining the Army Air Corps and serving in California, he spent the last two-thirds of his three years of military service in Biloxi, Miss.

In 1946, Mitch was honorably discharged from his service and he once again attended Carnegie Tech, where he graduated a year later.

He then returned to Bucks County Playhouse, where he became the assistant stage manager.

Mitch said that it was during that time that he also obtained his Actors' Equity card and began obtaining better roles in plays.

"I did a myriad of plays with very, very nice parts with more and more important people," Mitch said. So, my summers were full. I worked with people who are maybe not well known now, but they certainly were well known then. Luise Rainer (1910-present) and Shirley Booth (1898-1992) and Moss Hart (1904-1961) and George Kauffman (1889-1961) and Harpo Marx (1888-

1964), and Thornton Wilder (1897-1975) of all people. The summers were full and I was married there, as well, to (Katharine Thompson) who I had met in school."

In 1948, Mitch and Katharine moved to New York, and Mitch began working in the aforementioned Broadway play, "At War with the Army," which was later made into a Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis film.

Agruss said that he was offered a role in that film, but added, "Whatever they wanted to pay me, I couldn't afford to go from New York to California to do it."

In reminiscing about that time in his life, Agruss said, "It's amazing for a kid in New York (in) his first year to hit Broadway and be right there in the center of activity at the Booth Theatre, which is like the heartbeat of New York's Broadway theater scene. That show had moderate success. We were there for about three or four months, then we toured in Chicago and here and there. We did something called the subway circuit in theaters. For months we did this in Brooklyn and the Bronx, in Queens and New Jersey and all around."



## Who's reading our paper?

Break time! The River Cats mascot Dinger took a time out during his busy schedule to catch up on some East Sacramento News stories.

Janey Way Memories:

# My most memorable Janey Way Thanksgiving



By MARTY RELLES  
marty@valcomnews.com

With Thanksgiving coming next week, I harken back to the many wonderful Thanksgiving celebrations I experienced on Janey Way. One in particular stands out.

In October of 1971, I returned home after a 2-year hitch in the U. S. Army. After such a long time away, the old neighborhood never looked better to me. It seemed remarkably unchanged.

I looked forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday because my sister Pat and brother Terry

were coming, and I had not seen them for years. Pat had moved away years earlier to Wisconsin where her husband attended graduate school. Her sons Dylan and Brenden were born there in 1971.

My brother Terry left Janey Way in 1968 to serve a tour of duty in Viet Nam. Thankfully, he returned unscathed and I could not wait to see him.

When the holiday finally arrived, it did not disappoint. Terry flew in from Denver Colorado the day before, and we stayed up late that night, playing Scrabble and sharing our stories.

Still, we arose early on Thanksgiving Day to drink coffee and watch Mom prepare the Thanks-

giving feast. Terry, an aspiring chef, tried to give Mom pointers on cooking turkey. She would not have it. "I have been doing this for years, Terry," she said, "There is nothing you can tell me." With that, Terry and I adjourned to the living room to watch the Oklahoma/Nebraska football game.

A little after noon, my sister arrived with her new baby boys. They looked so cute, with big blue eyes and plenty of energy. I was amazed. Her son Dylan looked so much like my father. Dad picked the boys up and bounced them on his knee. He seemed so proud of them.

Pat, Terry and I spent the rest of the afternoon sharing stories of our recent adventures. Pat

told us of the frigid mid-west winters. Terry described the humidity and the danger in Viet Nam. We were so happy he came home safely. I told them of the snow white Christmas' in Germany where I served. We had a great time. Then mom called us to dinner at 4:00p.m. sharp.

We settled around the big dining room table to say grace, then dad poured champagne and made a toast. "To my children who have returned home at last, salute."

Our family has shared many wonderful Thanksgivings since that day, but I have never forgotten that one.

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Tallac Village Shopping Center:

# Available but imperfect

By **BILL LAWS** and **MONICA STARK**  
 editor@valcomnews.com

Tallac Village neighbor Anne Mahan has been living in her Cabrillo Way home since the 1980s. She has fond memories taking her daughter to the children's library on 60th Street at 14th Avenue. Now a home, owned by Sacramento City College professor Don Button, the library is a fleeting memory of an era of when the Tallac Village Shopping Center had more to offer the community. At the time, the City of Sacramento leased from the center's owners.

Besides the children's library, where Mahan would

take her daughter for story-time, there was a movie rental store called Movie Time at the center, which is now a nail salon. During the course of this brief interview, Mahan was climbing on top of her roof on the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 17, hanging Christmas lights meanwhile her daughter, who now rents a home across the street, called from across the way saying she too, recalls Movie Time. "Mary (the owner) was really nice ... And they used to have a popcorn machine," she said.

With the fated Blockbuster video competition, Movie Time went out of business, as have many other shops in the center.

Driving along 14th Avenue, one could read the sign of current tenants, but as neighbor Billy Hawkins noted as he was reading the paper outside of the Village Express donut shop: "The sign is out of date. They're just gone." A regular at the donut shop, Hawkins, like many others, say the shopping center has

Early morning snackers salute the camera at Village Express pastry shop.



Photo by Bill Laws

been steadily going downhill ever since Compton's Market left as the grocery store and shopping center anchor.

"(The shopping center) was perfect when Compton's was there," he said. "There was also a used baby store, which was really well run. There was a real estate office, a knitting store, a barbershop; a dental lab moved in. The laundry mat was foreclosed on," Hawkins added.

More recently with the closure of liquor stores in Oak Park, Hawkins said, he has seen an increase of people hanging around Tallac either to go to the Bottle Shop liquor store or The Family Grocery, which many have likened to a convenience store with a lot of alcohol.

Yet, the shopping center's location may be one of the most approachable retail complexes in Sacramento.

Traffic on 14th Avenue is not as congested as on Broadway or Stockton Boulevard, which border the Tahoe Park neighborhood. Early morning joggers can be seen running across the street for a coffee or donut. High school students walking down 14th Avenue from Hiram Johnson High School often stop by the

See Tallac, page 7

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# Tallac:

Continued from page 6

liquor store or grocery store for a soft drink and snack.

Fran Mertens, semi-retired owner of Belvedere Auto Repair off Power Inn Road regularly spends part of his morning sitting outside of the donut shop enjoying his daily coffee with cream. Other patrons say he has been coming to the shop for more than 10 years.

Despite the center's accessibility, however, Tallac Village has not been a perfect fit for local shoppers or even those leasing business space. In fact, one tenant interviewed for a previous article expressed a belief that the center provides too little advertising for individual businesses.

And another, Curves owner Karen Landry, said her business' visibility from 14th Avenue is blocked by other shops in front of it.

"No one knows I'm inside here," Landry said. "The mar-quees are so hard to see. I'm having a hard time with that. But the community knows I'm here ... I feel like we're short-changed because we're in the middle of the complex."

Paying \$1,400 for rent to lease the space, Landry said she believes her landlord may lower the rent to attract more tenants, however, if a new owner buys the shopping center and raises the rent, she might not be able to afford it.

"The shape the shopping center is in would affect us a lot. If they think they will up the rent, everybody is going to leave," she said.

It's a tough balance as loyal customers and the community wants the place to look more attractive, have better landscaping and more security.

Most notable is the drab condition of the buildings themselves. Structures need paint. A few of the roofs need new shingles or repairs.

Despite the negatives, Button said the center has actually become safer than it was nearly a decade ago when rowdy crowds gathered around the long-standing liquor lounge. "There was even one shooting at the bar," he said. In response to this particular problem, Button said that a large group of neighbors met at the pizza parlor to show their displeasure of the general public



Photo by Bill Laws

The old library, now neighbor Don Button's house, stands vigil over Tallac Village.

nuisance that was common in the area of the bar.

"Today the place is less noisy but a bit run down," said Button. "It could also use a little uniqueness. The grocery store is now a glorified liquor store."

When asked what could be done to improve things, Burton suggests that the center might be "too big... maybe it needs to be split up." In Sacramento, there is a precedent for downsizing retail centers. Town and Country Shopping Center, which once was a war-

ren of small lanes and passages, has been "opened up" with fewer shops and larger parking lots. There is much more sunlight. Though it has lost most of its high-end boutiques such as a saddle shop and a Pendleton clothing outlet, this center near Interstate 80 retains a Trader Joe's specialty grocery as well as a bank and a lively Starbucks Coffee shop.

Suggested Landry: "We need a name drop in here. This grocery store needs to be made to boom. It would draw

people back to the center. That would pick it up. This place needs paint. Let's start with the basics."

Another concerned resident, Jodi Cassell, stresses the Tallac Village needs, above all else, a better grocery store. The goods found at the current grocer, Your Family Market, are "limited" and "not of good quality," she says. She further explains that, "if there was a valuable grocery store,

See Tallac, page 8

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# Tallac:

Continued from page 7

that would bring people in and promote the use of other businesses in the complex."

Or as Mahan put it: "A grocery store with chicken and broccoli would be nice. It doesn't have to be fancy, but it would be nice to have a grocery store that sells chicken."

Things seem to be on the verge of change at the center. The broker who has been charged by center owner Ahn Trinh to sell the retail center is Shan Padayachee, the owner of the grocery store. "I am thinking of putting in a bid myself to buy the complex," says Shan who was interviewed for a series of reports on Tallac Village. "I have some ideas for some changes here."

Except for some improvements to the parking lot, Shan is hesitant to specify what changes he has in mind.

Some neighbors, though, are skeptical about Shan's role in the improvement of the shopping center. His decision to limit the goods and services at the grocery store is

certainly a sticking point. One concerned Tahoe park resident, Laura Thomas, said: "I don't think that the current owner is a very good example of what the neighborhood needs or wants," adding that "what this under-served area needs is a grocery store, a real neighborhood grocery store that stocks fresh local products -- something like Nugget or Compton's would be wonderful. Sprouts or Fresh and Easy would be great too, but I don't see them going into that small of a space," Thomas said.

She feels that with a good grocery store as an anchor tenant, the complex would easily be able to attract other interesting tenants such as "restaurants, maybe a bank branch and a coffee house."

Many feel Tallac Village needs to be purchased by someone with vision and capital that can turn it into a viable shopping center. Once improvements were made and a decent grocery store went in, it seems that other businesses would follow, such as restaurants, maybe a bank branch, a coffee house.

On a high traffic street coupled with a neighborhood that cares about community, there is a potential for improvement, as Cassell, for example, said: "This little shopping center is a great location. It's a shame to see it turn into such a blight." Button firmly states his belief that "the neighborhood could support a major store" if investment was available and new development led in that direction.

Shan Padayachee, on his broker's web site, is also optimistic. He stresses, somewhat ironically considering the current status of his store, that the Your Family Grocery has a history of being a full-service grocery retailer. He also claims that 14 of the 19 business offices in Tallac Village are currently filled by tenants.

Perhaps the next step for the community and owner Ahn Trinh is to form a development group. Similar to the business group formed during the recent campaign to keep the Sacramento Kings basketball team in the capital city, a Tahoe Park development group could do many

things. It could be a network for both new tenants and for seeking possible ownership bids. As important, it could work with Sacramento's Planning Department to develop preliminary ideas for broad improvements that could be of future interest in both the short and long term.

At present, this first step might be light years away or it might be on the verge of happening if concerned neighbors become committed activists. Isaac Gonzalez, President of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, says that the Association stands ready to assist owner Trinh in performing a needs assessment to gauge consumer interest and expectations.

Ten years ago, neighbors made Tallac Village a safer and more approachable shopping mall. Perhaps, in partnership with other stakeholders and owners, they can make it a more appreciated shopping mall.

Summing up, Landry said: "The Center is historical. It has flavor. It's a wonderful little area but it needs to be cleaned up."

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Faces and Places:

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Photos by GREG BROWN  
greg@valcomnews.com

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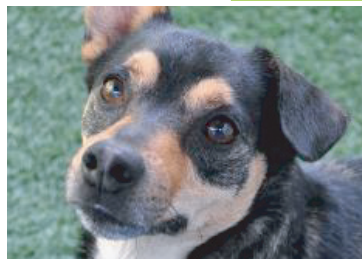
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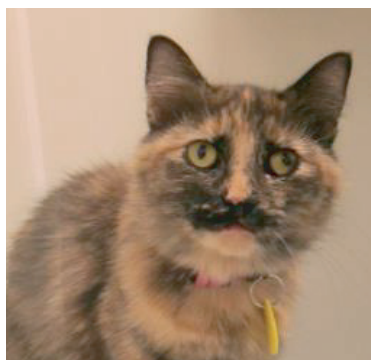
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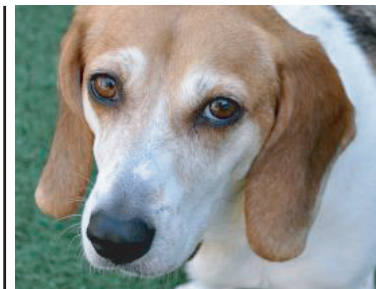
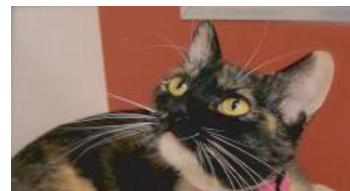
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The 10- and 5- kilometer run/walk will be held on Nov. 28, rain or shine. The 10-K starts at 8:35 a.m., followed by the 5-K at 9 a.m. The race starts on J Street just west of the entrance to the Sacramento State Uni-

versity campus and runs through the beautiful tree lined streets of East Sacramento. The parking plan for 2013 features bike parking and is now available.

Visit [www.runtofeedthehungry.com](http://www.runtofeedthehungry.com) for more information on the details of the event.

The fees are as follows:

	Adults	15 & Under
Preregister	\$35	\$20
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Team Members	\$50	\$50
Race day Registration	\$40	\$20



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# Tahoe Park resident releases children's book with environmental purpose

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

"Al the Green Rain Train" by Tahoe Park resident Alfred Guajardo takes the youngest readers on a learning adventure to rain swept landscapes, showing the beauty of rainbows a little water and sun can create as well as how devastating a torrential down-pour can be on homes.

Asked why he chose a train as the force that brings rain to the land, Guajardo said: "Not knowing that 'Al the Green Rain Train' was going to be born, I was just taking a walk before it started raining. Then it started to rain, and I said: 'My buddy -- the rain.' Walking a little more, I said: 'My buddy -- the rain train,' which worked out because the train makes clouds and rain instead of smoke and soot. It makes sense to me."

A self-proclaimed environmentalist, Guajardo said he believes each person should do his or her part like recycling

and conserving water. "We have to do something positive to help our already fragile Mother Earth. We should also stress to our younger generation how important our environment is, and I also believe that Earth Day is every day."

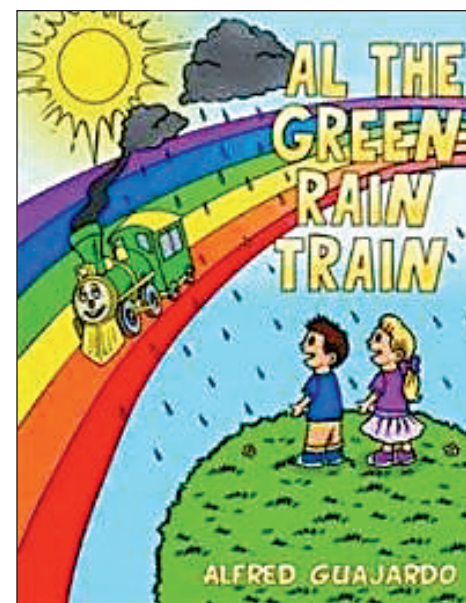
In an interview with this publication, Guajardo commented on the reason he named the train Al. "At first, it was the 'Rain Train' and with the book being environmental, I changed it to 'The Green Rain Train,' and as I kept putting the book together, I thought it would be nice if the train had a name. And my name is Alfred, so I thought Al would work."

One foggy night when the author was at his brother- and sister-in-laws' country home, sitting around a campfire, reciting poetry, his niece Selena and nephew Juan-Manuel Guajardo asked him if he could write a poem that they both understand. "I said, 'sure,' and, well one thing led to another, and I ended up writing a children's

picture book that they both understand," he said.

Getting "Al the Green Rain Train" published was an interesting and challenging odyssey, Guajardo said, but with the help of local librarians and his family, he was able to navigate the Internet and find his publisher, Authorhouse.

"I felt like a rowboat in the ocean, and all I had was an email address as far as being computer literate, but thanks to Sacramento's public library system, which includes the Central library and Colonial Heights, (as well as help from the) Tahoe Colonial Collaborative, my sister-in-law Irma Guajardo, and my buddy Ernie Valencia, all would help me right my ship, and send me in the right direction, with the right information. Yes, I am a true believer in Sacramento's public library system, where a beginner or novice can start, and complete their project with helping hands, and get answers when needed. I also found out that Sacramento's librarians are awesome."



Officially released, Jan. 9, 2012, Guajardo said he loves giving away copies at different events like Chalk It Up. "I feel good when I see a smile on one's face like a child or even a parent's face. It gives me a natural, emotional and spiritual feeling that cannot be bought or taken," he said.

His book suppliers include: amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Books a Million, Authorhouse, Google Books, Fishpond.com, junglelee.com, eBay.com.

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Photos by Monica Stark

A group of about 20 young children ages 3 to 6 presented Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary with a check of \$115 on Thursday, Oct. 17 after making money selling lemonade from a stand at East Portal Park for just one hour a few days beforehand. The children all attend a Virtues Class taught by Elmhurst resident Melody Fananapazir and as a part of the curriculum, they have to act on what they learn. After they handed over the check, they were quite eager to learn about and play with the cats at the shelter.

Teaching virtues:

## Classes and service projects abound in East Sacramento

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

Learning about human virtues can be a lifelong journey, one that has begun at quite an early age right here in your neighborhood.

A group of about 20 young children ages 3 to 6 presented Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary with a check of \$115 on Thursday, Oct. 17. Selling lemonade from their stand at East Portal Park for just one hour a few days beforehand, the children learned first hand how their good deeds help others in need. The children all attend a Virtues Class taught by Elmhurst resident Melody Fananapazir and as a part of the curriculum, they have to act on what they learn. So after they handed over the check, they were quite eager to learn about and play with the cats at the shelter.

Leading a tour of the facility, a volunteer started fielding questions from the little ones right away.

"Do you know what name they had before they came to the shelter?" one child asked.

"Sometimes we don't know what names they had, so we give them names," she said. "One of them came into the shelter named Lance, but I changed his name to Lou because he looks like a cow. He's black and white. He's so sweet and he eats too much food," the volunteer said.

As the children walked through the different cage free cat rooms, they learned the names, personalities, how to gently pet them and the importance of using hand sanitizer when entering and leaving each room.

After many pets, hugs and kisses to the cats, the children made felt toys for them as parting gifts for their new feline friends.

Four-year-old Ayla said she enjoyed petting the kitties, noting, that, "Grandma Linda has a kitty named TJ." Asked about what she liked about working at the lemonade stand, Ayla said: "cupcakes!" to which her mom An-

gie Keefe piped in to help with the interview, asking "What about the cats?"

A light bulb went off in Ayla's head: "Oh yeah!" she said.

The Virtues Classes are like a Sunday school held at someone's home and under the guidance of the Baha'i faith, yet, anyone from any religion can come and learn about thankfulness, helpfulness, and compassion.

Even though the lessons are Baha'i, coming from a Catholic background, Keefe said from the virtue standpoint, "it connects to how anybody would be, or should be."

To Keefe, her daughter's ability to understand the connected nature of the class with all of its three main elements – learning about a virtue, performing an act of service, and then connecting it all by visiting a shelter – is amazing for her young age.

Keefe found out about the Virtues Classes through a friend of a friend. "It's been good. We've been talking about something like this and Melody has the whole set up. I just come and do what I can to help."

Fananapazir started the curriculum 12 years ago when she was living on the East Coast. Here now for about three months, Fananapazir said she loves living in Sacramento and it has been one of the easiest transitions her family has made. "We have been having a real positive time. My husband can walk to work (at the UC Davis Medical Center). The weather is really nice. It's a great fit for our family," she said.

"I just find that it's great to see the support of all of these families. They are supportive and open and easy to get to know. They're down to earth and it's nice to start these friendships with everyone. It all happened really naturally," Fananapazir said.

For those interested in the Virtues Classes, email Fananapazir at [melodyaf@hotmail.com](mailto:melodyaf@hotmail.com).

## Tickets now on sale for the 40th Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour

One of Northern California's most loved holiday home tours returns this December with five elegantly decorated homes in East Sacramento's historic Fabulous Forties neighborhood.

For 40 years, this popular tour has grown to include nearly 5,000 patrons from throughout northern and central California. The homes showcase elaborate renovation while preserving historic detail, custom interior design and creative holiday decor that is sure to ignite the spirit of the season. The homes range in style from a Stately Brick Tudor to a newly remodeled California cottage.

The home tour begins on 38th Street between M and Stockton Streets and winds its way through East Sacramento, ending on 47th Street. You may start at either end for an enjoyable, self-guided walking tour, which takes approximately two hours to complete.

When you complete the home tour, don't miss the boutique and cafe located at Sacred Heart Parish School. Delicious food, lovely gifts and holiday decorations are available for purchase.

You may use your ticket for a one-time admittance to each house any time during the home tour weekend. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event. Children over the age of one must have a ticket. Advance tickets can be purchased online or at a number of fine local retailers until Dec. 5. The Holiday Home Tour is a fundraiser that benefits Sacred Heart Parish School, and is organized by the parents of Sacred Heart School. On home tour days, tickets can be purchased at Sacred Heart School, 856 39th St. Cash or checks are accepted. They may also be purchased on the tour at the house located on 45th Street.

Tickets are available at the following retailers and at the Sacred Heart School office 456-1576:

Collected Works, 4524 Freeport Blvd., 737-8188  
Pottery World, 4419 Granite Dr, Rocklin, 624-8080  
Hoshall's Salon & Spa, 6608 Folsom-Auburn Blvd. No. 4, 987-1995  
Haus Home Decor and Specialty Gift, 5601 H St., 448-4100  
East Sacramento Hardware, 4800 Folsom Blvd., 457-7558, accepts credit cards  
Calico Corner, 5255 Sunrise Blvd., Fair Oaks, 962-0281  
Beyond the Garden Gate, 1015 Olive Drive, Davis, 530-756-6698  
Talini's Garden Center & Nursery, 5601 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, 451-8150  
Emigh Hardware, 3555 El Camino Ave., 482-1900  
Emigh Casual Living, 3535 El Camino Ave., 486-9500  
Pink House, 1462 33rd St., 737-7465  
Pottery World, 1006 White Rock Rd, El Dorado Hills, 358-8788  
Summer Porch, 3254 J St., 444-2900

For general questions, please email us at [shhometour@gmail.com](mailto:shhometour@gmail.com)

If you go:

**What:** 40th Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour  
**When:** Friday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Where:** Homes through out the Fabulous Forties neighborhood  
**Cost:** Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event. Buy online at [www.sacredheartmetour.com](http://www.sacredheartmetour.com) or at local shops. (See list above.)

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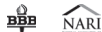
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### Nutcracker in One Act

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Saturday, December 14, 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, 2 p.m.

The Center at 2300 Sierra Blvd.

Tickets at the door and  
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3385 Lanatt Street (916) 453-0226

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### An "Old-Fashioned" HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, December 7th

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Waterford Cove Clubhouse, 7650 Windbridge Drive, Sacramento  
(Corner of Windbridge & Rush River Drive)

There's something for all ages, homemade candy and sweets, orna-  
ments, dolls, hand bags, NFL lap quilts, jewelry and much more.  
Including a Holiday Gift raffle.

### 35th Annual "Holiday Show of Hands" CRAFT FAIRE

Friday, Dec. 6th, 5-9 p.m. (\$3)

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Unique, Handcrafted Gifts,  
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St. John the Evangelist  
5701 Locust Avenue, Carmichael

### Sacramento SPCA Annual Fall

Book Sale & Holiday Boutique  
November 14-17

Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Country Club Plaza

2310 Watt Avenue, Sacramento 95825

(916) 504-2842

[www.sspca.org/holidaybook](http://www.sspca.org/holidaybook)

All proceeds benefit the Sacramento SPCA

### CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL

Pocket/Greenhaven Banquet

Steak and Prawns Dinner

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013

Cocktails 5:30 p.m.- Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Portuguese Hall

6776 Pocket Road

Tickets call Dave @ 916 427-6961

### 17th Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser

Bella Vista High School  
Football Boosters

Saturday, February 1, 2014

5 - 11 p.m.

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## CALL AND PLACE YOUR EVENT TODAY!

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# CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: [editor@valcomnews.com](mailto:editor@valcomnews.com) at least two weeks prior to publication.

**Editor's note:** City Councilmember Kevin McCarty told the East Sacramento News the city council has likely postponed the vote for the controversial student housing project, Campus Crest, to Jan. 14. It was previously scheduled for the Dec. 10 meeting.

## ONGOING:

### BloodSource and East Sacramentans geared up to save lives:

The East Sacramento Rotary Club is sponsoring the month-long blood drive as a way to help ensure a safe and plentiful blood supply during the upcoming holidays. Bob Deering, East Sacramento Rotary Club states, "Rotary is passionate about helping our community. Blood donation is just one of the ways we support families, neighbors, co-workers and others who find themselves in challenging medical situations that necessitate blood. Whether it's cancer treatments, accident injuries, heart surgeries or childbirth complications, this is something that affects young and old, usually suddenly and unexpectedly. Working with BloodSource to ensure a safe and plentiful blood supply is very important and we hope our community will join with us to make a difference." The two closest BloodSource Donor Centers in the East Sacramento area are the Sierra Oaks Donor Center (3099 Fair Oaks Blvd.) and Midtown Donor Center (1608 Q St.) Use Donor Club No. 6564 when you register (wherever you donate with BloodSource!) and let's see what East Sacramentans can do! Blood donors receive MyBloodSource Rewards that can be redeemed for fantastic items. For information or to schedule an appointment, please visit [bloodsource.org](http://bloodsource.org), call 866-822-5663 or contact Shirley at 453-3027.

### AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers for tax assistance/preparation and

leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at [No-CalTaxAide@Outlook.com](mailto:No-CalTaxAide@Outlook.com) or visit website at: [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide)

### Attn. students: Submit now for water efficiency video contest

High school students can win cash prizes and the chance to view their video on the Raley Field Jumbotron by entering the 2014 Water Spots Video Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media in Education (MIE) program, challenges teens to create compelling and original 25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on a select water efficiency topic. The 2014 water efficiency theme is: Don't be a gutter flooder: Prevent overspray and runoff. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. Finalist videos will be displayed on the Raley Field Jumbotron screen and winners announced at a Sacramento River Cats game in April 2014. Winning students and their teachers will also get cash prizes. The grand prize winner's spot may become part of RWA's 2014 television ad campaign. Submissions due Feb. 28. Visit [www.BeWaterSmart.info](http://www.BeWaterSmart.info) for more information and tips on using water more efficiently and to submit entries or get more information about contest rules, judging and prizes, visit [www.sacbee.com/water-spots](http://www.sacbee.com/water-spots)

### The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: [www.capitolaires.org](http://www.capitolaires.org), call 888-0877-9806, or email [info@capitolaires.org](mailto:info@capitolaires.org)

### Elks Lodge No. 6 Toys for Tots drive going on now

The Lodge has officially kicked off the annual Toys for Tots drive. They are collecting new, unwrapped toys for military families in need of our help. Donation barrels are stationed around the Lodge. The final drop off date is Saturday, Dec. 7. This year, more than ever, military families need help. If you are uncertain about what to donate, you can make a donation to the Lodge Christmas Bicycle Fund (by check or cash to the Lodge office).

### Artisan holds Food Drive

Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riverside Blvd.

### Soroptimist International of Sacramento South meetings

A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

### Adopt a child for the holidays

Help Sunburst Projects bring joy to the lives of children living with HIV/AIDS. Contact Sunburst Projects at 1095 19th St. Suite 1A, Sacramento. 440-0889, ext. 301.

### Balance and mobility training to reduce falls class

Kelly Ward, Parkside Community Church's "Fall Prevention Lady" will be presenting a 4-week Beginning balance and mobility class on Monday and Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., starting Oct. 2 through Oct. 30 at Parkside Community Church at 5700 Land Park Drive. The one-hour classes will include warm up, balance and mobility training, muscle building exercises, flexibility, and range of motion exercises, followed by a cool down segment to review the day's lesson. Wear loose comfortable clothing and sneakers. Kelly Ward is a certified fall, balance and mobility instructor and a certified Senior Fitness Training, M.S. Therapeutic Aging. For questions, call 821-5715.

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# CALENDAR

**Christian Brothers High School Theatre presents, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'**  
On Nov. 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 7:00pm and Nov 17 and 24 at 2 p.m. Admission is: \$5-students, \$10-seniors, \$15-general admission. Location: New Helvetia Theatre, 1028 R St.

**Rotary Club of South Sacramento meeting**  
Nov. 21: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. Every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at Iron Steaks Restaurant, 2422 13th St, Sacramento, CA 95818.

## NOVEMBER

**Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven**  
Nov. 21: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

**Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown**  
Nov. 21: Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on first, second and third Fridays at 7:00 AM and Dinner meeting on fourth Thursday at 6:00 PM. Topical weekly speakers and first meal for visitors on us. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com, Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

## Bi-Polar Anonymous

Nov. 22: 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. (916) 889-5786.

## Free golf lessons offered at Bing Maloney Golf Complex

Nov. 24: Are you interested in starting to play golf, but not sure where to begin? Bing Maloney is offering Free Family Clinics for 2013. These clinics are family oriented for any level of golfer. Each clinic will be held on Sundays from 1 to 2:15 p.m. at the Bing Maloney Golf Course: 6801 Freeport Blvd. in Sacramento. Call 808-2283 for more information.

## Harvest Festival 2013

Nov. 22-24: Original art and craft show will be held at the annual Harvest Festival will be held at Cal Expo, Pavilion Hall, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento 95815. It is one of the largest indoor arts and craft shows on the West Coast, offering over 24,000 items that are all handmade in the country. Guests can browse original art, pottery, clothing, photography, jewelry, decor and more. Throughout the weekend there is live music and entertainment, a hands on KidZone, delicious food and prize drawings. The event runs Friday and Saturday from 10am-6pm and Sunday from 10am-5pm. Tickets are \$9 general admission, \$7 Seniors and kids 12 and Under are free. Plus, anyone who brings a non perishable food donation to support the Elk

Grove Food Bank Services will receive \$2 off admission. For tickets and additional details, please visit [www.harvestfestival.com](http://www.harvestfestival.com) or call 800-346-1212.

## Free Tree Pruning Clinic

Jan. 26: From 1 to 2:30 p.m., learn how to help your trees develop good structure and form. A variety of pruning tools will be presented and discussed. There will be a walkabout on library grounds to look at tree structure and pruning. For more information, visit [www.sactree.com/](http://www.sactree.com/) events. Belle Cooleage Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento, 95822

Nov. 26: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic.

## Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

Nov. 26: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in the Pavilions on Fair Oaks Blvd. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6:30 p.m., Ancil Hoffman Golf Club. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## East Sac Rotary

Nov. 27: Meets at 6 p.m., Evan's Kitchen, 855 57th St. Sacramento. [www.eastsacrotary.com](http://www.eastsacrotary.com).

## Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Nov. 28: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

## Rotary Club of South Sacramento meeting

Nov. 28: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. Every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at Iron Steaks Restaurant, 2422 13th St, Sacramento, CA 95818.

## Bi-Polar Anonymous

Nov. 29: 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. (916) 889-5786.

## Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Nov. 29: Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on first, second and third Fridays at 7:00 AM and Dinner meeting on fourth Thursday at 6:00 PM. Topical weekly speakers and first meal for visitors on us. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. [www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com](http://www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com), Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

## DECEMBER

## Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

Dec. 3: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in the Pavilions on Fair Oaks Blvd. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6:30 p.m., Ancil Hoffman Golf Club. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## Soroptimist International of Sacramento North meeting

Dec. 3: 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.


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**Music of Many Lands**

Celebrate the Holidays!

Saturday, December 7, 7:30 PM  
Sunday, December 8, 3:00 PM

A Christmas Festival	Anderson
Overture from La Forza del Destino	Verdi
The Hebrides	Mendelssohn
In the Steppes of Central Asia	Borodin
Marche Hongroise from The Damnation of Faust	Berlioz
Overture from Die Fledermaus	Strauss, Jr.
Romanian Rhapsody No. 1	Enescu



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**GIFT MAKING WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN**  
Saturday, December 7, 2013  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

CREATIVE GIFTS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS  
Bookmarks | Pet Treats | Snow Globes  
Decorated Ornaments | Coasters | Key Chains  
Glitter Candles | Cocoa Mix | AND MORE!

All crafts \$3 each - cash only, please  
The Candy Cane Café will be open for food and beverage purchases.

**SACRAMENTO COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**  
2636 LATHAM DRIVE  
Information at 916.481.8811  
[www.saccds.org](http://www.saccds.org)

**Dec. 3:** An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic.

**Sacramento City College Annual Holiday Art Sale**

**Dec 4, 5 & 6:** Buy unique handmade gifts and support the SCC Art Department and Kondos Gallery. Dec 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 6:45 p.m. Dec 6 from 10 a.m. to noon. Fischbacher Art Building: Kondos Gallery: room 123, 3835 Freepoint Blvd 95822. 916 558-2559 or [www.kondosgallery.org](http://www.kondosgallery.org) for information. Parking is \$1 (you get a parking slip from a vending station)

**East Sac Rotary**

**Dec. 4:** Meets at noon, Evan's Kitchen, 855 57th St. Sacramento. [www.eastsacrotyary.com](http://www.eastsacrotyary.com).

**Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven**

**Dec. 5:** Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

**Rotary Club of South Sacramento meeting**

**Dec. 5:** Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. Every Thursday from noon to

1 p.m. at Iron Steaks Restaurant, 2422 13th St, Sacramento, CA 95818.

**Bi-Polar Anonymous**

**Dec. 6:** 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. (916) 889-5786.

**Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown**

**Dec. 6:** Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on first, second and third Fridays at 7:00 AM and Dinner meeting on fourth Thursday at 6:00

PM. Topical weekly speakers and 'first meal for visitors on us'. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/ 50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. [www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com](http://www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com), Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

**Roseville Craft Fair**

**Dec. 7:** Photo greeting cards, photo glass cutting boards, photo aprons, photo giclee canvases, photo 8 x 10 matted prints and more from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Maidu Center, 1550 Maidu Dr.

**Santa's East Sac Adventure at Theodore Judah**

**Dec. 7:** Santa's East Sac Adventure at Theodore Judah Elementary will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take a picture with Santa for \$7 anytime during the event. Visit with Santa and his petting farm (\$3); get your picture taken and partake in a gingerbread house making workshop (\$15 per house) and holiday boutique featuring local businesses! Plus, there will be a jazz band playing at noon. Here is the link for buying tickets for the event: <http://goog.gl/z9CfLU>

*Thanksgiving Traditions...*

*A time to enjoy family and friends,  
Happy Thanksgiving!*



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### EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTY

The "Didion House" in Poverty Ridge! 4 bedrooms 2 full baths and 2 half baths with 3rd floor media room that features state-of-the-art equipment. Turn of the century woodwork and detailing; new kitchen and full basement. Beautifully updated while reserving the home's original quality and style! \$1,650,000

**SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395**



### STUNNING NEW HOME

4 or 5 bedrooms 3½ baths in the Fabulous 40's! Great for entertaining with formal living room and fireplace, dining room, large chef's kitchen with island and prep sink, breakfast bar and open great room with built-in's and wine fridge. 9' ceilings, 8' doors, lots of arches, open and bright; spacious yard! \$1,275,000

**NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379**



### REMODELED FABULOUS 40S

Lovely remodeled 4 bedroom and three bath home features high quality appliances and finishes in the gourmet kitchen; connected family room has French doors that open up to the backyard with Sago and Queen Anne palms. Plus a back gate into the Sutter Lawn Tennis Club. \$1,149,900

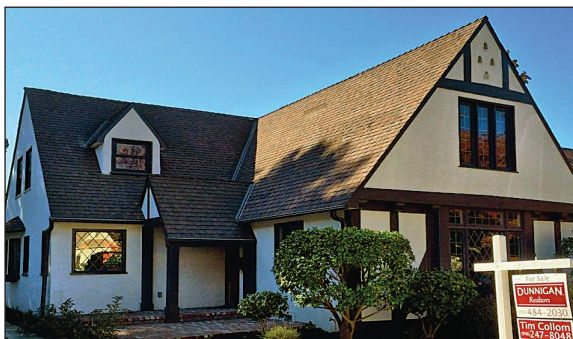
**BETH HARNEY 995-4120**



### MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE

One of East Sacramento's finest homes! Wake up to the tree tops filtering the morning sun or entertain in rooms that invite the outdoors in. Unique features, a spacious artist's studio, guest wing complete with kitchen and an apartment over the 3 car garage. \$1,299,000

**CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483**



### PHENOMENAL TUDOR

Spacious 4 bedroom 2 bath, home has been meticulously remodeled with all the charm of yesterday and all the modern amenities of today. Large living room with vaulted ceilings and exposed beams, a gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and marble countertops. On a large lot that backs up to Sutter Lawn tennis club. \$725,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



### MIKE PARIS BUILT HOME

Fabulous new home being built in the heart of East Sacramento!!! This 3 bedroom 2½ bath will have all the classic signatures of a Mike Paris home... high ceilings, large rooms, open floor plan, indoor/outdoor living, gourmet kitchen, and an old world style and charm. Drive by and look at the three homes already completed to get a true feel of the quality! \$765,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



### CHARMING BUNGALOW

2 bedroom home located on a quiet tree-lined street has been meticulously maintained! Spacious floor plan perfect for entertaining includes hardwood floors, central heat and air, a large dining room, and two good sized bedrooms. Walking distance to coffee shops, midtown and neighborhood restaurants. \$339,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



### NEW HOME ON SANTA YNEZ

Newly completed home by Dyer Trolio Homes right in the heart of East Sacramento. This craftsman bungalow exudes east coast charm, architectural detail throughout, and a simple, spacious, open floor plan. The details: 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2190sf, and a 1-car detached garage. \$699,000

**CHRIS BALESTERI 996-2244**



### BOULEVARD PARK

High water bungalow, 2 bedrooms 2 baths in historical preservation area! Two master bedrooms, Front parlor has bay window and glass pocket doors that open to living room with fireplace. Spacious kitchen has gas cooktop range, built-in microwave, and dishwasher. Inside laundry are and full basement. \$355,000

**CONNIE LANDSBERG 761-0411**

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