

# EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

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# Merry Christmas

See a collection of photos from this year's "Inaugural East Sac Light Up Bike Parade" See page 19

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E-mail stories & photos to: editor@valcomnews.com

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# Judah jog-a-thon raises \$29,000 for its music program

The Theodore Judah Elementary Jog-a-Thon, in East Sacramento, raised \$29,000 for the school's prestigious music program, surpassing the event's goal of \$18,000.

"The Jog-a-Thon was an amazing success," said Jill Gardiner, who has been producing the event on behalf of Judah for the last seven years. "Thank you to our staff, parents, volunteers and community members who came out by the dozen to help make it run smoothly. It was the best year ever."

The event, which was held Nov. 14, is Judah's second largest fundraiser. Money raised will be used to employ a school music teacher and provide weekly instruction to students, including music appreciation, history, singing and rhythm, as well as a strong progressive note reading system.

"We see the effects of our music instruction as it enhances our students' creativity and critical thinking abilities," said Corrie Buckmaster Celeste. "This year's proceeds will also fund 100 ukuleles, which will expand musical instruction on string instruments to all 6th grade students."

New this year, the Jog-a-Thon implemented a sponsorship program which included title sponsor Pettit Gilwee of Lyon Real Estate, as well as businesses sponsors: Compton's Market, Run to Feed the Hungry event producer Rich Hanna, Shields



Theodore Judah Elementary surpassed its jog-a-thon fundraising goal of \$18,000 and generated \$29,000 for the school music program. Shown here are fifth graders Cash Johnson and Tavis Turner who are celebrating with popsicles after the run.

Electric, Law Office of Stephanie Glorioso Epolite, Firefly Art, East Sac Barber Shop, East Sac Give Back and Full Bleed Screen Apparel Printing.

The school also incorporated an online pledge platform so students' friends and families could donate money electronically.

For more information about the Theodore Judah Jog-a-Thon and its music program, click to the Theodore Judah Elementary PTA website at [www.theodorejudahpta.org](http://www.theodorejudahpta.org).

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# I Have Moved

A seasoned real estate professional, Rich Cazneaux has been a consistent top producer within the Northern California-Tahoe region. Rich spent the first 10 years of his real estate career at Coldwell Banker where he steadily ranked in the Top 1%. In December 2014, Rich joined Keller Williams to capitalize on their vast growth, cutting-edge technology, and innovative approach to real estate.

Rich extends his sincerest gratitude to Coldwell Banker for their support throughout his tenure with the Sacramento Metro Office. Furthermore, Rich would like to thank Mike Lippi, his manager and friend, for his leadership and unparalleled loyalty throughout the years. Rich is motivated to combine both his invaluable Coldwell Banker experience and his Keller Williams affiliation to provide an unparalleled customer service experience supported by unrivaled technology, ground-breaking marketing resources, and a responsive team. Rich has great knowledge of the Sacramento Real Estate Market. His primary concentration includes East Sacramento, River Park, Elmhurst, Midtown, Land Park, Curtis Park, Tahoe Park, Sierra Oaks, Arden Park, respectfully. Because Rich has personal experience with numerous remodels, updates and home additions, he is able to offer an excellent Trade list that includes contractors, home inspectors, home stagers, lenders and escrow officers.

As a team, Keller Williams and Rich Cazneaux will offer the most powerful marketing resources to you so that your Real Estate transition will be easy and seamless.



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**Charismatic River Park Cottage!**

Resting on a comfortably charming street, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage offers a formal living room with a fireplace and a formal Dining area that looks onto the updated Kitchen. Other amenities include a two-car garage, hardwood floors, and fresh interior paint.

**\$423,950**



**Elmhurst Garden Bungalow!**

Home Sweet Home! This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home offers combined Living and Dining areas, and an updated open Kitchen with a large island. Other amenities include dual pane windows, hardwood floors, and a workshop inside the garage.

**\$295,000**



**Sweet East Sac Cottage!**

Located near East Sac establishments and parks, this 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage boasts cozy charm! This home offers a formal living room, a formal Dining room, and a galley Kitchen with a gas range, dishwasher and ample storage. Other amenities include a spacious Backyard, hardwood floors, and an indoor laundry room.

**\$379,950**

**Enchanting 42nd Street!**

Nestled in the heart of East Sacramento, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features elegantly traditional Living and Dining rooms, and an updated Kitchen. This home hosts an impressive master suite with a sitting area, gas fireplace, multiple closets, and a remodeled bathroom. Other amenities include original hardwood floors, newer roof, and an inviting backyard.

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Janey Way Memories:

# You can't go back



By MARTY RELLES  
marty@valcomnews.com

They say you can't go back, and I believe that is true. My wife Barbara and I recently returned from a 10-day whirlwind trip to Europe.

We spent three days in Budapest, Hungary, and five

days in Prague, Czech Republic. We also took a 2-day side trip to Gunzburg, Germany, my U.S. Army duty station more than 40 years ago. Wow, what blast from the past. The side-trip turned into quite an adventure.

We took the train from Prague to Regensburg, Germany, near the Czech border. Unfortunately, our train was late so we missed our connection, causing a one-hour delay. So, we wandered into the station to have a coffee. Unfortunately, we had no euros, so we asked a waitress where we could find an ATM. She shook her head no. So, we sat out to find a machine. Fortunately, a nice fellow who had been sitting at the counter followed us, and pointed us downstairs. So we went down, acquired some cash, then had coffee. Overall, our experience in the Regensburg train station was not friendly.

Finally our train came, and we headed off to Gunzburg. What a trip. We caught one of those trains that stop frequently. We must have hit 15 stops between Regensburg and Gunzburg. By the time we arrived, night had fallen.

There, we disembarked at the station, and headed into town. Even in the dark, I could see how much Gunzburg had

changed. When I lived there in 1969, Gunzburg was a farm town with a train station (Bahnhof) on one side, farms on the other side and the Markplatz, or central plaza, in the middle. At the end of the Markplatz, stood a hundreds-year-old clock tower with an arch through its middle where cars drove through. The clock tower still stands proudly at the end of the square, but not much else remains, as it was 40 years ago.

The Markplatz has seemingly been reconstructed, turned into an out-door mall, smaller, but not unlike our K Street. Virtually all the businesses that once stood there have been replaced by up-scale shops, even a cell-phone store. None of that existed in 1969. Worse, my old haunt, the Lowenbrau Steube (a sort of bar and grill) has long since disappeared. Even the street it stood on had been replaced by walkways covered with paving stones.

Fortunately, we found our hotel located right on the Markplatz, then walked

right up the street to have a wonderful, traditional German dinner with wienerschnitzel, kartofel salad (potato salad), and a hearty German beer.

We left Gunzburg the next day, after taking a picture of me standing in the Markplatz. I doubt that I will ever return there again.

It is true, you can't go back. Things will never be the same, not even in little Gunzburg, Germany.



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# PUZZLE PLUS

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## The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Letter opener?
- 5 Throw in the towel
- 9 Like many a wrestler
- 14 Scottish lake
- 15 Emphatic agreement
- 16 Aerie builder
- 17 Mark's replacement
- 18 Leeway
- 20 Concert venue
- 22 Half of a Charlie Brown exclamation
- 23 Actor's prompt
- 24 Contest participant
- 26 Frond-bearing plant
- 27 Hole in one
- 30 A, for one
- 31 Trash holder
- 32 Penitent
- 34 One way to break bad news
- 37 Part of ATM
- 38 Tropical malady
- 39 Meditation instruction
- 40 Devil-may-care
- 41 Vague amount
- 42 "People" newsmaker
- 43 Cow's chow
- 44 Tony Shalhoub series
- 46 Makeshift ballfield
- 48 Leaf lifter
- 49 Desert feature

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
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48				49				50		51	52	53
54				55				56		57		
58								59		60		
61								62		63		

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- 50 Fingerprint part
- 54 What some brides keep
- 57 Blue-green hue
- 58 Subtraction sign
- 59 Declare
- 60 Pentax part
- 61 Specialized lingo
- 62 Sweat spot
- 63 Advantage

### DOWN

- 1 Pet peeve?
- 2 Sullen look
- 3 160 square rods
- 4 It may be cradled
- 5 Crow's cry
- 6 Leave home, in a way
- 7 Put down
- 8 Gas guzzler
- 9 Complaint, slangily
- 10 Bud holder?
- 11 Self-absorbed
- 12 Gravy ingredient
- 13 Mideast nation
- 19 Give the go-ahead
- 21 With fury
- 25 Astrological aspect
- 26 Important test
- 27 High point
- 28 Gently persuade
- 29 Captivating
- 31 Dwell on
- 33 Part of TGIF
- 34 Auctioneer's aid
- 35 In \_\_\_ of (instead of)
- 36 Football unit
- 38 Seagoer's woe
- 40 Peso part
- 42 Short snooze
- 44 "\_\_\_ mial"
- 45 Where the elated walk
- 46 Early riser?
- 47 Boxer's quest
- 49 Second to none
- 51 Monopoly card
- 52 Turf roamers
- 53 Choice word
- 55 Hall & Oates, e.g.
- 56 Before, poetically

See Solution, page 17

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# Taking deliveries:

Sacramentan hand delivers clothing items and more to homeless through out downtown and near Sac State

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

About eight or nine years ago, Regina King lived on the streets of Sacramento suffering from alcoholism, drug abuse and humiliation. Today, Regina, is married to Gina Backovich, has a 17-month-old son named Rex and is one semester into completing a masters degree in speech pathology from California State University, Sacramento. What changed from that dark time was the realization of who she wanted to be. Cognizant of resources around her, Regina was driven after a couple months of living on the streets to check

into a county rehabilitation program.

But what she experienced while homeless was deep.

"There's something dehumanizing. Either people don't see you or they move away from you or they fear you. And sometimes there's reason for that and often there's not. There's definitely a sense of dehumanization."

That affect on her has been a motivating factor for her efforts over the last few years to put out a call on social media for essential winter items like warm clothing, socks, and toiletries – items that she picks up from people directly and hand delivers them to the homeless she sees during her side-street commute to and from school. By February in years past, she's taken to donating what she hasn't been able to hand deliver to the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services.

To kick off her homeless supply drive event, she puts out a call on Facebook to her friends and for them to let their friends know she is collecting warm items for



Regina King and her 17-month-old son Rex stand outside of their Sacramento home. Regina is starting up her annual homeless supply drive. She is currently collecting cold weather items and hygiene products.

the winter. Then she takes it right back out into the community, not anywhere specific. "It's just a matter of walking around Midtown, Downtown and whenever I just see somebody it's just me leaving it with their stuff or asking if they need anything. I keep a stack of blankets."

With a sense of humor, Regina joked when asked more about the process. "There's no organization, whatsoever, none at

all. It's like, hey, you have something? I'll put it in my trunk. It's really, really, very basic."

Usually, she parks her car, scopes out the people and then hands them items she thinks they might need. "I try to judge by size and gender and try to figure what they would prefer. Like today, it's been raining and I received a big plastic poncho and I don't even know who I left it with. It was just a person wandering around over near Panera (Bread) on Howe (Avenue) and I saw where she put all her stuff."

Unlike previous years when she's put notice out in October, this year she's just getting started. As of the interview with this publication last Thursday, she had only received the aforementioned poncho and two small food packets.

Regina proceeds with the deliveries without judgment, without agenda, except that of having a bit of a human interaction. "To have human interaction and human touch is really a big deal," she said. For that reason, it's important to her to hand deliver items as opposed to donating them to the food bank initially. Further explaining that, she said, "one of the things about homelessness is that people get really turned off by smell or lack of cleanliness and I like to be able to touch people, touch somebody's hand or look into someone's eyes – just human connectedness; it's incredibly important to me."

Asked about the response from homeless individuals she gets upon delivery, Regina

See Supply Drive, page 7

# Supply Drive:

Continued from page 6

said it has been mixed. Elaborating on her experiences, she said: "I've had a lot of people who are really distrusting and people have gotten really upset with me for coming up to them. But I've gotten to hear a lot of stories of how people got on the streets and I've gotten a lot of people who are silent. It's across the board."

Regina's efforts started in 2009 with one of her friends and has been going strong for nearly four years. "I think when I started it was just a friend who asked me, hey, do you want to help me with this? And then as time has gone on, I've noticed myself complaining about going from my heated house to the rain, to my heated car, into the rain, into the heated building at work or at school and complaining about that. And I'll catch myself doing that. I have more than I could ever need. And I just think so many of us have so much. We go through our closets every year. I've had more jackets than I could ever know what to do with and there's people out there really in need."

Regina, a former volunteer at a residential treatment center for women coming off of drugs and alcohol, used to cook for the residents. The amount of gratitude she witnessed face-to-face "was such a big deal and I think I've been searching for that ever since. For the love of humanity, for the love of people. I think we live in a nation where homelessness shouldn't even be an issue, so the fact that it is, breaks my heart and I feel like it's something I can do and there's a lot of things I feel like I am helpless about. And, this, I feel is something."

Speaking about one donor who heard about Regina's efforts through mutual friends on social media, Regina said, "She lived in Rosemont. I went to her house and she was wheelchair bound and she just shared her story of having had real tough times before and she wanted to do what she could to help, so she gave me boxes of hotel shampoos, and just hygiene stuff. It was amazing. So I've gotten to meet really great people, too."

Gina Backovich, who works full time and helps with the household has been a great support to her wife's efforts to

help the homeless population. Describing Gina's efforts, Regina joked, "The garage is her domain and I get to take it over for a few months, so it's really, very sweet of her. But I try to turn things around as soon as I get them." On a more serious note, Regina added, "She also comes with me. Last year, we filled the back of her truck with these flashlights (that her sister-in-law donated), and batteries and coats and we made lunch. My wife and a friend and her three kids – we parked the truck near Loaves and Fishes and let people come and she just did it. She's so personable. She really gets to talk with people. She loves it. She's really great."

Originally from San Jose, Regina did spend some of her formative years in Sacramento, however. "I spent a few years here from when I was 10 until I was 15. My parents were split, so I stayed with my mom for a few years up here and then went back to live

with my dad. And then I don't know, somehow I just kept ending up back in Sacramento. So, I moved back here seven years ago and here I stay. I settled down, had a family."

## TO HELP:

**WHAT:** Donations for the homeless: Blankets, jackets, coats, sweatshirts, socks ("a big deal, especially in the rain"), and hygiene products like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, combs, nonperishable foods (anything that could be "packed up and handed out easily – water bottles, stuff like that.")

**HOW:** Regina will come to you (within reasonable distances from South Land Park). She can be reached at 470-2092 or find her public event on Facebook called "Homeless Supply Drive" hosted by Regina King.

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**janet gatejen** Happy Holidays  
**Happy Holidays**

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# Valley Community Newspapers' sales manager leaves

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

Valley Community Newspapers' sales manager Patricia (Patty) Colmer, of Sacramento, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 2 after a tough, eight-month battle with cancer. Patty was a loving wife, aunt, great aunt, auntie, second mother, friend and sister. Born on Oct. 31, 1945, Patty has been very close to all her friends and relatives to the point where quite a few friends think of her more as a sister than a friend. She was the most giving person you could ever meet. She gave until she couldn't anymore. As her husband of 23 years, Bruce Colmer said, she was, "Giving, giving, giving. You couldn't give her something without knowing she was going to give you something in return." Patty was the kind of person you could confide in; she was a true friend and a fun one at that. Patty had a zest for life. She was so entertaining herself and always brightened up your day. She and her husband Bruce spent every waking moment together on adventures big and small. They traveled to the ocean, the Yucatan, and spent a lot of time riding on his Harley Davidson together. Patty even had special clothing for the rides. Patty liked glider flying and she's up there gliding around right now. She was an avid skier and enjoyed life to its fullest. She loved the golf tournaments up by Lake Tahoe.

Patty and her mother Lola Chan were as close as sisters. Patty would visit her mother every Friday. They'd go to lunch and go sight-seeing together. Until the past year, Patty would do all the driving. With Bruce, they drove down to Long Beach, stopping to visit Patty's great-nieces Silk and Quinn, and her great-nephew Bode, whom she adored tremendously.

On the many trips together, Patty photographed landscapes, plants and animals, and from her photographs, she created many gifts for people, including beautiful cards, pendants, photo canvases and even glass cutting boards. Patty was well known throughout the area for her photography and art works. She showed some of her work at local craft fairs, such as the Holiday Craft Fair and Book Sale at the Maidu Community Center in Roseville and the annual Christmas craft fair at the Elks Lodge, No. 6, where she was a long-time member.

Patty once wrote, "My passion is using color, texture and lighting to capture the simple, often overlooked finer things that life has to offer."

Her adventurous and giving spirit lives on in those she is survived by, including, of course, Bruce, mother Lola Chan, and brothers Sam Chan Jr. (Nachi) and Dan Chan (DeeAnn). Patricia was aunt to Aki Chan, Kenji Chan, Lyle Chan, Katie Chan, Russell Colmer, Alyssa Trebil, Maura Hanrahan and Gordy Hanrahan.

Patty graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School in 1964 where she was a cheerleader and from where she won an art scholarship. She became a graphic artist for Pacific Bell in the late 1960s. During her long career in the magazine and newspaper business, she published and co-owned Sacramento Magazine, worked for the Sacramento Union, the Press Tribune, the Washington Post and the Sacramento Bee, where she became the publications manager for Discover Magazine. Patty was the sales manager for Valley Community Newspapers for the past 12 years.

Per Patty's wishes, she will be buried under an oak tree because she loved oak trees. Funeral services will be held on Friday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. at Sylvan Cemetery, 7401 Auburn Blvd., in Citrus Heights, 95610. If you would like to make a donation in honor of Patty, please make it to the charity of your choice.



Photo by Stephen Crowley  
Patty Colmer, Valley Community Newspapers' sales manager, passed away Dec. 2. Here, she is shown with her husband Bruce Colmer at a Sacramento River Cats game.

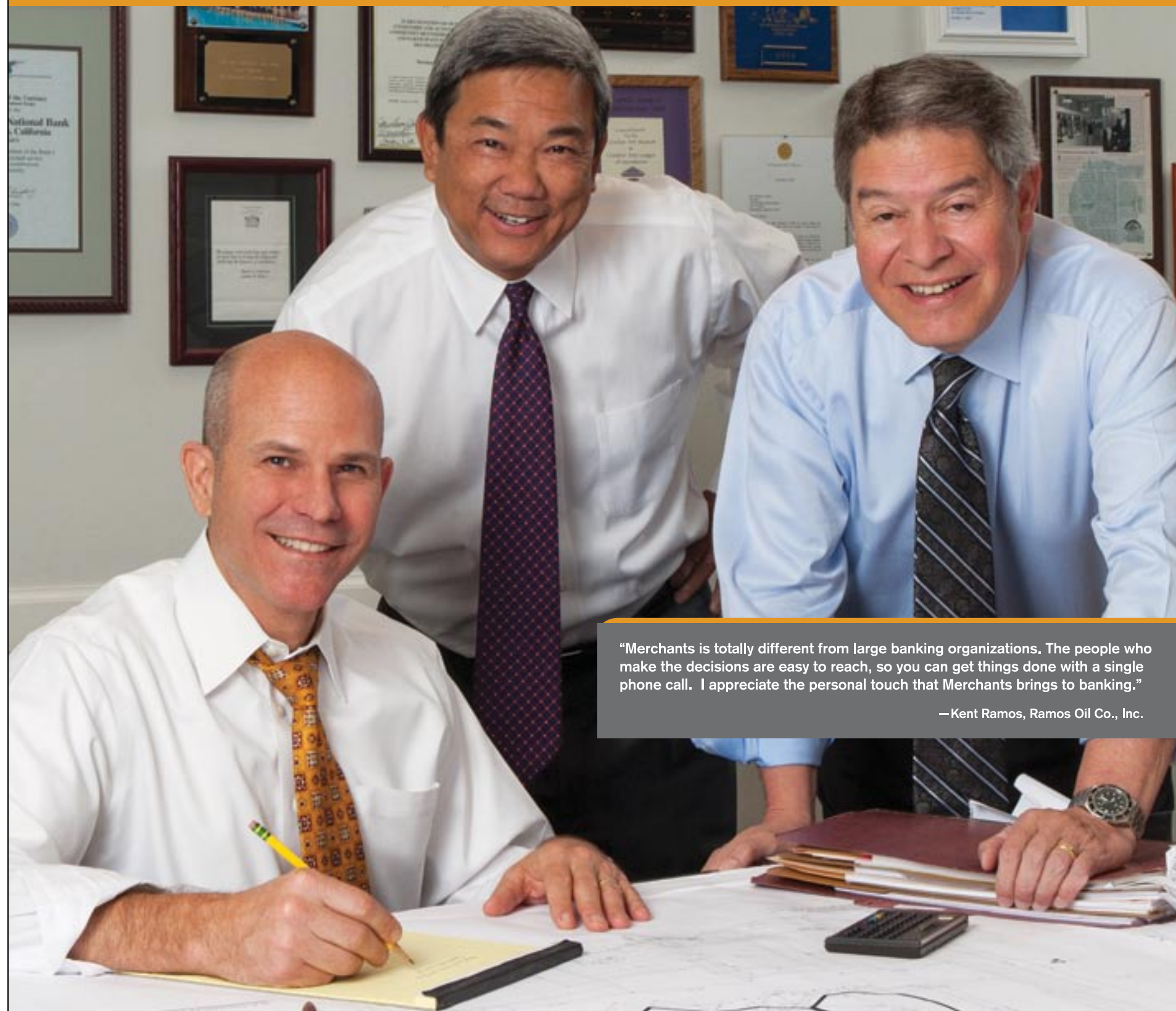
## "Wee People"

Editor's note: What follows is a poem written by Patty Colmer, found recently by her husband Bruce Colmer.

I have a guardian angel, his name is  
Henry O'Hare  
He watches my every move - He's  
oh-so aware.  
One night he came to me, a Ouija Board  
He was even with me on my Bunji cord  
Everything I do; I just can't shake him away  
In the pubs a singin' - He kneels and a prays.  
What am I to do with this wee man of a person.  
He always leaves me a cussin' & a cursin'  
He does bring me friendships beyond compare  
and luck in love, this Henry O'Hare  
I guess I'll keep this wee little man  
For he makes me know for who I am

To Henry O'Hare, the best to you always for you give me so much in many, many small ways

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# Local, notable artist studied art in his native state, abroad

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

*Editor's Note: This is part two in a series about local artist Adan Romo. An additional, final part of this series will appear in the next issue of this paper.*

Adan Romo has spent many years advancing to higher levels as an artist. And his notoriety in the art world began right here in Sacramento.

In speaking about his early introduction to art, Adan said that he was fortunate to have grown up around his father, Mexican born artist Jesus Romo. And Adan added that it was through his father that he became inspired to create public art.

"My father always loved art and did painting and sculpting, always around the house," Adan said. "He was a firefighter, as well, and with a firefighter's schedule, he was able to do artwork on the off days. He was with the city, and he rose to become battalion chief, but always with artwork as his other career. So, he was able to (create) the California Firefighters Memorial, which exists (in Capitol Park).

"And so, I was coming of age when he got that commission, and so I had always been drawing and kind of watching him at home and then once that kind of came about, that was a real kind of eye opener of how you can kind of create art for some kind of public good or public narrative. So, I was interested in creating artwork for the public sphere rather than art for what's (in) galleries and museums."

After being asked about his earliest artistic endeavors, Adan said, "I think like any other kid I was drawing and painting and doing stuff on scratch paper and making little things with Play-Doh, and then I was able to get little bits and pieces of my father's clay. It got more and more advanced the more time I spent on it, and with my father's

guidance, I had access to better tools and better resources. So, slowly but surely, my talent was nurtured and I got better and better at it."

Adan, who attended St. Mary School in East Sacramento, recalled "always drawing" in school, but nonetheless learning more about art at home.

"Art projects were something I was drawn more to (in school), but none of my teachers compared to my father in what he was able to teach me. So, it was always me bringing what I learned at home to school. And so, I think the students and teachers were always impressed with what I was doing. I even had a third grade teacher who held onto all of my drawings from that year.

"So, then I went to high school and it was more of the same. I was able to kind of blossom and do more artwork and get more recognition for it. As a matter of fact, St. Francis High School (where he presently teaches) used to have this huge art competition. As a kid, I entered in their art competition. At the time, you would submit (artwork) and the judges would look at your work blindly, (meaning) they wouldn't look at your name. So, I ended up winning first, second and third prizes for the three works that I (entered) in the competition. So, I was always being reinforced by those kinds of things."

Adan attended Christian Brothers High School for two years, then transferred to Jesuit High School, where he graduated in 1992. He furthered his education at the University of California, Berkeley, and majored in history and Italian.

In 2000, Adan became a teacher at St. Francis High School and developed the sculpting program there. He passed that class on to another teacher 12 years later and he now teaches digital film and Advanced Placement studio art, which is an advanced art class.



Photo by Lance Armstrong  
St. Francis High School teacher Adan Romo is an accomplished artist, who is best known for his public works of art.

It was also in 2000, when Adan received a grant to study art in a small town in Italy.

In recalling his time in Italy, Adan said, "I got a Rotary (Club) grant to go to Italy and there I specifically was learning how to sculpt marble in a small town on the coast of Tuscany.

"I worked in a studio that had been opened up for hundreds of years, learning the craft of sculpting marble that the Greeks invented, the Romans used, the Renaissance artists used and they're still practicing to this day. So, I learned that particular technique and then spent another portion of my year (in Italy) at the art academy in Rome.

"I was able to live in Rome and be able to study all the great works of art in all the museums and churches and galleries that they have there. It was a great opportunity to expose myself (to that art) and learn from all the masters. It was just an opportunity to go and study, kind of like an exchange program.

Although Adan did not earn a degree for his studies in Italy, he said that the amount of knowledge that he gained there far exceeded anything else that he had learned, because of the artwork that he had the opportunity to view.

"All these great Italian artists were passed away, but the great thing about Italy is the artwork still exists in the streets and in the churches," Adan said. "They don't put them in the museums. A lot of them are still where they were intended to be (located). So, you can walk up and touch a Michelangelo and study it and draw it in some of these churches. And that was kind of my school, just walking around. I hardly attended any classes in the academy in Rome, because there was so much to see in Rome and there was so much to learn just by looking at all the works."

After completing his studies in Italy, Adan returned to his position as a teacher at St. Francis High School.

# East Sac resident turns 99 years young

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

East Sacramento resident Mary C. Caplis celebrated her 99th birthday this week. And although many people could test their luck at guessing her age, most of them would guess wrong.

Certainly, Mary has the appearance of a much younger woman, and just about anyone who has attempted to keep pace with her during one of her brisk walks knows that when it comes to moving her feet, she has not slowed with age.

Last week, while taking one of her speedy walks, Mary came to a halt for a couple of hours to share a few details about her long and eventful life.

Mary, who was born in Missoula, Mont. on Dec. 15, 1915, was one of the five children of John James and Marie (Hoffman) Caplis. Her father was of Irish descent and her mother emigrated from Germany when she was about 16 years old.

After being asked to describe her father, Mary said, "He was a typical Irish (person), easy going. He was on the lazy side. I don't think my father ever picked up a shovel. I don't think he ever did anything around the house. He was very intelligent. In fact, he read through 'History of the World' by (John Clark) Ridpath by the time he was 12. He was always considered as a graduate from Stanford (University) or something, but he finished two years of high school, if he did that. He was an extemporaneous speaker, and spoke for a lot of the politics."

In discussing her father's political side, Mary said, "He served two terms in the legislature in Montana. He was really for Democratic. I'm Republican. My father was head of the home loans in Los Angeles under (President Franklin D.) Roosevelt, and he was kind of buddy, buddy with Senator (William Gibb) McAdoo."

Mary also spoke about her mother, saying, "My mother was a businesswoman. She came over and worked as a domestic until she learned the language. And then she moved to Montana and worked in a rooming house, and then she sold the rooming house and bought the hotel in Missoula. That's where she met my father.

"My mother was all business. She was very strict, typically German, very family oriented. We were always taught that it was a hell of a cruel, cold world out there and that we all better stick together. And right or wrong, whatever it (was) a person did, you (would) back them. It's your family and your kids and your brothers and sisters. So, we were all very loyal to one another. It was a different kind of era."

Mary said that she was 6 years old when she moved from Montana to Los Angeles with her mother and her siblings.

"My mother didn't like the climate in Montana," Mary said. "She just couldn't stand it, and she didn't like the politics. She said, 'In California, you can pick the oranges off the trees and it's gorgeous country.' She just took (her children to California). My father had to finish his (legislative) term, so he didn't get to California for another year, or maybe six months. See, my mother was a businesswoman that was going to go where she wanted to go."

Mary's mother died at the age of 73 on March 29, 1950, and by 1953, Mary, her father and



Photo by Lance Armstrong  
East Sacramento resident Mary C. Caplis celebrated her 99th birthday this week.

her sister, Anna May, were living together in a house they had purchased at 1414 40th St. in East Sacramento.

In recalling her discovery of that East Sacramento home, Mary said, "I spotted a house. I went down to see (an East Sacramento resident, who was related to her San Francisco friends, Milton and Frances Mecchi) and she said that the woman's husband died and she's anxious to move East and she's ready and real hot to go. And I (told Anna May), 'I think she'll negotiate a deal and it's three bedrooms in the right part of town.' And I (added), 'I don't know about father.' She said she would phone him and he would phone me, if he was interested. So he called me and I told him all about it and that I thought it was a good deal real estate-wise, and we could handle it (financially). So, we agreed (to live together). I moved in, two months later my sister makes it and six months later my father makes it."

John James died at the age of 69 on Sept. 21, 1957 and Mary and Anna May continued to reside in their East Sacramento home until about 1964.

During the previous year, Mary and Ann May had a two-story, seven-unit apartment building constructed at 2517 U St. at a cost of \$48,200. They resided in Apartment #1 and managed the apartments until 1970.

Mary said that she then moved with her sister to 1395 Los Padres Way, because they had grown "tired of people losing their keys and knocking on our door at 2 o'clock in the morning."

Anna May, who continued to reside with her sister for the remainder of her life, died at the age of 100 on May 12, 2013, and Mary returned to live in East Sacramento on Nov. 13, 2013.

In continuing to discuss details about her life, Mary said that her employment years in Sacramento included working for about two weeks at the Joseph Magnin Co. women's clothing store at 931 K St. and for 30 years at Setzer Forest Products at 2570 3rd St.

Mary recalled acquiring her job with Setzer through the unemployment agency.

"I went down to the unemployment (agency) and they went on and said (the Setzer job) wasn't this and that, but if I didn't mind (working) out in kind of the tules, there's a lumber company and they want a person and they don't care whether it's a man or a woman. It sounded like kind a rough situation, because I think there's a sawmill there. It's a box factory down at 5th (Street) and (just south) of Broadway. So, I thought, 'Well, maybe lumber might be a good thing, outdoors and everything. So, I just went out there and interviewed. Well, they wanted an invoice clerk. So, I talked with this man (at Setzer named Frederick M. Olmsted) and he was kind of enthusiastic."

Mary was offered the job and she was allowed to take a week to decide whether she would accept the offer.

And in recalling her acceptance of that position, Mary said, "There were a lot of things about (the job) that suited me, so I called (Olmsted) and I went back (to Setzer). So, he said, 'Can you start tomorrow?' and I said, 'A little soon. You've got to give me a few days. I've got to get organized.' So, I rented a room in a house somewhere on V Street (and would later reside at 2330 Capitol Ave.). Anyhow, I (soon) went to work (for Setzer). I started as the invoice clerk and worked quite a few years under different sales managers."

Mary said that she was eventually called into the Setzer office and presented with the opportunity to become the company's first female sales manager.

"(During that meeting, Setzer Forest Products owners), Cal and Hardie Setzer said, 'The Proudfoot company (which had then-recently evaluated Setzer) has chosen you as the sales manager (for Setzer).' I said, 'As a lady, I'm chosen as a sales manager?' He said, 'They've chosen you and they told us that you should be able to step right in.' I thought,

See Caplis, page 13



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## Caplis:

Continued from page 11

'Hell, this isn't bad.' So, I accepted (the offer), of course."

Mary also later became president of Western Woodmen Box Association.

In commenting about that position to The Sacramento Bee in the 1970s, she said, "The important thing is not that I was the person elected (to an otherwise all-male member trade organization), but that it shows a woman can advance in areas that once were considered the province of men. It might encourage other women."

Long after Mary had retired from her position at Setzer, she attended the funeral of Hardie Setzer.

At the funeral, Mary was approached by Hardie's son, Scott Setzer, who complimented her regarding her work at his family's company.

In recalling that compliment, Mary said, "(Scott) said, 'Mary, I want you to know that while you were sales manager, we were never in the red. We were always in the black.'"

Toward the end of her interview for this article, Mary, who for many years of her life enjoyed cooking, fishing and golfing, presented a flyer for a golf tournament that was held in honor of her 99th birthday at the Bing Maloney Golf Complex at 6801 Freepoint Blvd. on Dec. 12 at 1 p.m.

After being asked to explain whether a healthy lifestyle attributed to her longevity, Mary responded with a comment that would cause many

mothers to cover the ears of their children.

"I smoked for 82 years," said Mary, who also had a brother, Frank, who lived to be 94 years old. "I got expelled from a Catholic high school for smoking. I started smoking at 12. My mother would give me a quarter for a good, hot lunch at school. It cost 10 cents for cigarettes and then I had 15 cents (remaining) and I could get an ice cream, and I had that for lunch."

Mary also mentioned that there were also times in her youth when she "drank excessively."

Since not all aspects of Mary's approach to personal health during portions of her life would serve as a model for others seeking longevity in their own lives, she was then asked to discuss her overall philosophy on life.

"Do what you can with the tools that you've got," Mary said. "I just feel that you have to have a principal. I think God gives you freewill and with your freewill you develop your principals. Unfortunately, a lot of this has to do with parenting for a few years, I think. But anyway, I think it's within yourself. I believe that you love alone, you live alone and you die alone, (and) that you and God will eventually work it out. In the meantime, all you're obliged to do is the best you can with the tools you have. I don't know whether it's essential to have a specific religion or not, but I do think you should believe in God and the hereafter. You've got to be honest with yourself, and as Shakespeare said and that way you can't be false to any man." (This) is true, if you're honest to yourself."

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# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

### Free Young Adult Bereavement Counseling:

The UC Davis Hospice Program and UC Davis Children's Hospital Bereavement Program will offer an eight-week Young Adult Bereavement Art Group for individuals 17 to 24 who are coping with the recent loss of a loved one. The sessions will be held on eight consecutive Monday evenings from Sept. 29 through Nov. 17. Each session will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the UC Davis Home Care Services Building, 3630 Business Dr., Suite F.

### Sacramento Zoo needs wheelchairs

The Sacramento Zoo is looking for a few "gently used" wheelchairs, 808-5888. Your wheelchair can be a tax deductible donation, and four zoo tickets will be offered as a thank you.

### Support group for alienated grandparents

Meeting is the last Friday of each month at 2717 Cottage Way, suite 4. Meeting is at noon. 761-9121.

### Tai Chi at Hart Senior Center

Focuses on low impact form of ancient Chinese exercise, combining slow movements with relaxation. Mondays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center, 915 27 St. Try it once for free! Stop by the Hart Senior Center front desk or contact 808-5462. Cost: \$23 for five classes.

### Zumba for Seniors at Hart Senior Center

Zumba for Seniors incorporates physical exercise and dance steps to the rhythms of Cumbia, Merengue, Mambo, Salsa, Samba, and much more. Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am and Fridays 3 to 4 p.m. at the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center, 915 27 St. Sacramento (27th and J streets). Try it once for free! For more information or to register, stop by the Hart Senior Center front desk or contact 808-5462. Cost: \$20 for five classes; \$40 for 10 classes.

### Active Yoga at Hart Senior Center

Increase your strength and flexibility, improve balance, and enhance the ability to relax and release stress. Classes are Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. For more information or to register, stop by the Hart Senior Center front desk or call 808-5462. Cost: \$35 for five classes or \$70 for 10 classes. Try the class once for free and see if Active Yoga is right for you.

### Singers with Hart

Experienced and beginning singers age 50 and above are welcome. New sessions start every nine weeks and are held at the Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street, Sacramento (27th and J streets). Pre-registration is required. For more information, visit the Hart Senior Center front desk or contact (916) 808-5462. Cost: \$15.

### Run with a Recruiter

Every Friday at 6 a.m., the public is invited to join the Sacramento Police Department. This provides a unique opportunity for potential police candidates and those in the hiring process to run together.

### Emotions Anonymous

Meets regularly Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Meeting information is available at www.emotionsanonymous.org. Free 12-step program/support group for those who desire to become well emotionally healthy. Acquire a new way of life, sharing experiences, and learning to live with unsolved emotional problems. Meets Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Parkside Community Church 5700 South Land Park Dr.; Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Sierra Arden Church of Christ, 890 Morse Ave (at Northrup), Room F-4. Thursday 7 – 8:30 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, 1615 Morse Ave. (at Arden Way) left of choir room. An optional newcomer orientation occurs on Saturdays from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Wellness Recovery Center, 9719 Lincoln Dr. Ste. 300. Also on Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., there will be a topic for discussion at WRC, 9719 Lincoln Dr., Ste. 300.

### Mahogany Urban Poetry Series

#### - Queen Sheba - poetry readings

Each Wednesday from 8-11 p.m. at Queen Sheba in Sacramento, local talent makes it way to the restaurant for weekly open-mic events. \$3-\$5. 1704 Broadway.

### Youth Connections Unlimited announces fundraising campaign

Did you know that one Sacramento organization can reduce recidivism for crimes committed by youths by up to 70 percent? Youth Connections Unlimited has been providing mentoring and other services to incarcerated and probationary youth for over ten years that gives youth tools for staying outside the juvenile justice system. YCU works with the Sacramento County Probation Department with a focus on re-entry mentoring and preventative programming with a commitment to the principles of Restorative Justice. The support youth get from YCU and its volunteers gives hope to Sacramento County youth, make communities safer and save taxpayers money. For more information, call David Taft at 835-1147 or visit www.sacycu.com

### Brain Gymnasium

Exercise your mind and have some fun at this on-going Brain Gymnasium class! Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 9:20 a.m. Thursdays. \$6 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

### Women with Good Spirits monthly meeting

Each second Tuesday of the month at Revolution Wines at 6:30 p.m., Women With

Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. The presenter will start their presentation promptly at 7:15 p.m. and will last 15-20 minutes with an open question and answer forum after. RSVP is appreciated as well as a \$5+ donation per person that will go directly to the non-profit presenting that month. 2831 S St. Visit www.womenwithgoodspirits.com or find the group on Facebook.

### The Community Housing and Services Coalition monthly meetings

Originally created by the Sacramento Community Services Planning Council, the Community Housing Coalition (CHC) was created as a vehicle to provide information and educate community leaders and decision makers regarding housing for low income, disabled and older adults. CHC monthly meetings are free and open to the public; they are held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Sacramento Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room at 7000 65th Street, Sacramento (the Sacramento County Voters Registrar Building). At each meeting a guest speaker is invited to attend and give a 30-minute presentation with 10 minutes for Q&A. Speakers are selected for their expertise and knowledge in their respective fields, and agencies/organizations. The speakers are encouraged to provide handouts, fliers, and other informational materials to the 15 to 30 attendees. If you have any questions, please contact either: Alex Eng at 424-1374; email xeng916@sbcglobal.net; or Cindy Gabriel at 916/732-6189; email cynthia.gabriel@smud.org.

### Your social security questions answered at Hart Senior Center

Meet with a Social Security Administration representative every third Thursday of each month at the Hart Senior Center and learn general information about Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (S.S.I.) as well as retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Make an appointment at the Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street (J and 27th streets) or call 808-5462. Cost: Free.

### Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on Fridays at 7 a.m. 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 St. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com. Meeting/ Membership info: 761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

### The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pil-

grim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: www.capitolaire.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaire.org

### 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 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m.

### Boys club of Natomas and Girls scout Troop 2563

Is sponsoring Blanket and Coat Drive for St. Johns Shelter, Sacramento will be at Raleys (on Natomas Blvd) on Wednesday and Thursday from 3-5 p.m.. They will be dropping off blankets and jackets on Dec. 12 at 5 p.m., but, they can drive and pick from locations near Natomas as well.

## DECEMBER

### zpizza Tap Room Lagunitas Takeover – 12 Beers of Christmas

Dec. 19: From 6 to 8 p.m., enjoy signature, artisan brick-fired pizzas, fresh salads and tasty appetizers along with discounts on all Lagunitas beers. There will be free zpizza appetizers while supplies last and free Lagunitas Mason jar for the first 60 people. 7600 Greenhaven Dr.

## JANUARY

### ACC presents: "Advanced wellness: Topics helpful to both veterans and non-veterans"

Jan. 13: The presentation will address public benefits, resources and how to access them, pre-planning for the future and how to prevent crisis, dealing with the Veteran Affairs Aid and Attendance Pension program. Free of charge; class will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr. Pre-registration is required. For detail, call 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org

### East Sacramento Preservation Speaker Series presents talk by historian Paula Peper

Jan. 14: Paula Peper, historian, author and US Forest ecologist at the Center for Urban Forest Research-retired will present: East Sacramento: From Swamp to Urban Forest, Jan. 14 from 6-7 p.m. Peper's presentation will provide a brief overview of the development of Sacramento and, particularly East Sacramento from pre-white settlement to becoming the central resource for Northern California orchard and vineyard development through the 1800s, and neighborhood establishment in the 1900s. Today's East Sacramento street trees attract many new homeowners to the community. She will share lessons learned from research on these trees, including successes and mistakes in management past and present. The presentation includes a free raffle of eight full-color, heirloom quality books from the Roots of the Past series on Sacramento park neighborhoods, trees and townships. Light refreshments will also be served.

### ACC presents "5 Wishes" classes

Jan. 15: This educational workshop discusses your rights and medical decisions. California and Federal laws give all competent adults, 18 years and older, the right to make their own health care decisions. Learn about a free legal document which gives your medical decisions a voice when you may not have the ability to express them. Free of charge; class will be held 1:00-2:00pm on January 15, 2015 at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr. Pre-registration is required. For detail, call 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org

### The Genealogical Association of Sacramento

Jan. 21: The Genealogical Association of Sacramento will present Cheryl Stapp as the speaker for the January meeting, which will meet in the Belle Cooledge Library at 5600 South Land Park Dr. The doors open at noon. Cheryl will talk about women and wagon trains. For any questions, call Melanie at 383-1221.

**– EVENT LISTING SECTION –**  
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Sunday, Dec. 21 – 2 p.m.

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DeaneDanceCenter.com

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On the Curbs:

# Sue Brown reminisces of long-time career, which dates back to the '80s

By MICHAEL SAELTZER

As we say our goodbyes and honor the many achievements of District 3 City Councilman Steve Cohn, the East Sacramento News pauses to also acknowledge the charming Sue Brown, who for years has served as his district director.

Sue is a warm familiar presence in our community, and has been for a very long time. She's been in Cohn's office ever since he was elected 20 years ago in 1994. But her career in public service predates even his election.

It was an honor when Sue took the time to have coffee, chat, and provide some reflections regarding her 24-and-a-half years of service, all this in the middle of her holidays, and during a time of great transition in her office.

Sue's career started back in the 1980s when she moved to

Sacramento from the Bay Area with her husband Randy who was attending UC Davis. Randy began working for the late Senator Robert G. Beverly, a Manhattan Beach Republican who represented the South Bay in the state Senate for 20 years.

At the time of Randy's initial career, the Senator was working with Josh Pane. Pane was elected to Sacramento City Council in 1989 and hired Sue in that year. Pane's District Director eventually left and Sue was promoted to the position in 1993. Cohn was elected in 1994.

As is often the case during times of transition, the newly elected official will prefer to put people into their staff positions that he or she is already comfortable working with, but Sue Brown's career trajectory is an exception to this regularity.

Cohn choose to offer Sue a position and eventually Sue became his District Direc-

tor. She describes her responsibilities as all encompassing. They entailed sitting down and talking policy and vision directly with Cohn, or tending to the day-to-day work with constituents, neighborhood associations, business associations and project management. Cohn put it this way: "There is no way that I could have done my job as City Councilman without Sue Brown running the office." He added: "While I worked full-time at SMUD, Sue Brown handled the day-to-day district office duties, freeing me up to focus on the land use, transportation, public safety and environmental issues that I cared passionately about and to serve in leadership positions on regional boards dealing with rail and transit, regional planning, the arts, libraries, flood control and other important issues." Projects and events that Sue has been largely involved with include Screen on the Green, Pops in the Park, designing the Welcome to East Sacramento signs, the Rebuild McKinley Park Playground efforts, concerts, events, ribbon cuttings, park openings, and lots of writing and putting together newsletters.

As the Councilman's term comes to an end, Sue says that right now he has the opportunity to take a little step back and figure out what to do next. Transportation has been a huge priority for Steve, and Sue believes that he has a love and passion for that. She states confidently, "I don't think we have seen the last of Steve. He'll find something to do to make a difference."

When asked what she would describe as her biggest passion while serving as Deputy Director for so many years she says, "You know I think my most enjoyable moments have been partnering with neighborhood people to get things done, trying to find that balance between the neighbors and the businesses. For instance, in Midtown we worked really hard with everyone so the homeowners could have the quality of life



Photo courtesy

Along with former councilmember Steve Cohn, District Director Sue Brown, shown here, leaves city hall after 20 years.

they valued, and the businesses could continue to thrive."

Sue is also at a point where she is taking a step back to consider her future. She states, "For so many years my focus was on working and raising my kids so I did not have a lot of time for outside interests. So that's one thing I need to do too is figure out what things I can do for fun."

Many know that Sue and her husband are huge San Francisco Giants fans and often go to see the games. Perhaps others do not know that for some time now Sue and Randy have been playing bocce ball at East Portal Park. She laughs while making the point that this is pretty much for socializing more than anything and, "our team would show up for games but never practiced."

Also, this past year she decided to get a real estate license. Although she is not yet sure what direction she will take with that, she is considering commercial property management. She pauses and says, "I think I am taking that step back to figure it out. And I would like to spend some more time with my parents in San Francisco who still live in the same house I grew up in."

She and Randy have two grown daughters who attended or are attending college in Chi-

co. Their oldest daughter is 23 years old, and while in school, worked in the financial aid department full time. She just recently decided it may be a time to leave the beautiful town. She lives now in San Rafael, does project management for a large firm, and loves it. Their other daughter graduates in May from Chico and wants to go into nursing. She works two jobs and stays busy with her sorority.

At their home the Browns have one pet. Jake is a German Wirehaired Pointer, a pheasant hunting dog, who is 8 and getting a bit slower. He is also described as being "very spoiled" and having separation anxiety. The neighbor kids come over to sleep in the house when they leave, and Jake has his own special bed he sleeps in.

Over Thanksgiving Sue and Randy did the Run to Feed the Hungry and then went to San Ramon to celebrate with her brother and his wife who are both retired San Francisco police officers.

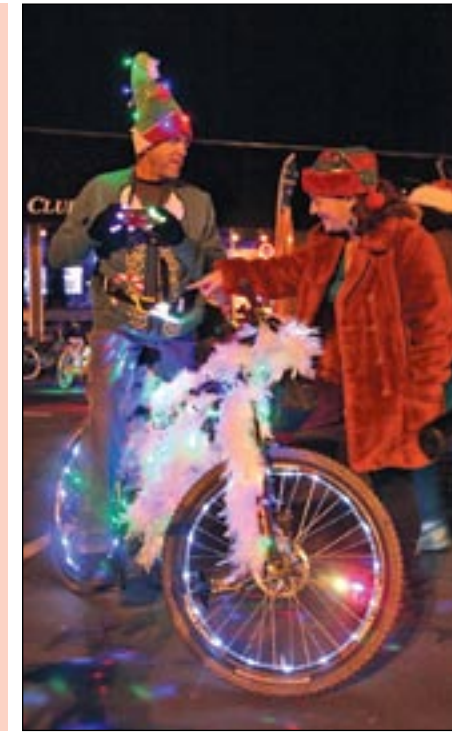
As for final reflections and parting thoughts Sue says, "Its bittersweet. I loved my job for many years. I feel like just having been a small part of all that Steve has been able to accomplish, I'm very proud of that. But I'm excited for the future. I feel like we are leaving on a high note."

Faces and Places:

## Inaugural East Sac Light Up Bike Parade

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY  
stephen@valcomnews.com

Holiday revelers got their bicycles tuned up, decorated and lit up for the Inaugural East Sac Light Up Bike Parade on Saturday, Dec. 13. Starting at Clubhouse 56, the group headed out to enjoy East Sac's holiday lights along M Street and the Fabulous Forties and a jolly time was had on that wintry evening.



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**PENDING**

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Lovely 3 bedroom home with remodeled bath, recently painted exterior! Kitchen has been remodeled with granite and the cabinets were replaced. Huge backyard features a beautiful swimming pool and great shade trees. 2-car garage. \$399,500

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**PENDING**

**CONVENIENT EAST SAC HOME**

This 3 bedroom 2 bath home is located minutes from downtown and is virtually in walking distance to everything East Sacramento has to offer. The large open floor plan is perfect for entertaining and family gatherings. Large master suite, fireplace, and a fully landscaped yard with a garden. \$345,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



**BEYOND CUTE**

Cozy bedroom loaded with charm, character and personality. Gleaming hardwood floors, light and bright kitchen that views a beautiful backyard, inside laundry room, redwood deck with arbor cover, large two car garage with additional storage! \$389,000

**RICHARD KITOWSKI 261-0811**



**T STREET PARKWAY**

Enjoy the Parkway as your front yard! This cute 2 bedroom cottage home has beautifully refinished hardwood floors, fresh paint throughout, dual paned windows and plantation blinds. Waiting for your landscaping touches. This home is priced to sell. \$395,000

**DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495**



**SOLD**

**HEART WARMING CHARACTER**

4 bedroom 3 bath former carriage barn tastefully expanded into a bright, spacious and accommodating family home. Gourmet kitchen, gated courtyard with its lovely gardens, sweet pool, cozy fire-pit and stone patio. Carmel feeling with all the modern amenities of today. \$829,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



**OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS**

Opportunity to live in East Sacramento and walk to all the great restaurants. Right off 51st Street, this 2 bedroom home sits on a quiet dead-end street. Large lot provides for a great yard. A comfortable sweet starter home or investment property. \$249,900

**JAMIE RICH 612-4000**

*for current home listings, please visit:*

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