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SAC STATE CHOIRS TO PRESENT CONCERT AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

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Sac State choirs to present concert at Sacred Heart Church

Sac State's choirs present "Cathedral Grandeur" at their next concert, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Sacred Heart Church, 39th and J streets. Program includes works for Chamber Choir by Mozart, conducted by graduate student Timothy Mascarinas. The Women's Chorus has music by Handel & Haydn, and the University Chorus has music by Stanford & Runestad. Tickets are \$10 general, \$7 seniors and \$5 students, at the University Ticket Office, www.csu.edu/hornettickets, or 278-4323. For more information, contact: 278-5191.



Photo courtesy of Sacramento State
Shown here is Sac State's Chamber Choir, which will be performing at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, March 7.

Judah art and music festival set for March 19

Get out your paddle – it's time to bid! The Theodore Judah Art & Music Festival, which showcases the school's prestigious art, drama and music programs, is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 5:30 p.m., at Kit Carson Middle School, 5301 N Street in Sacramento. This event is free and open to the public.

This annual fundraiser presents artwork created by the students auctioned off by a live auctioneer. There are also individual student-created pieces for sale. The festival is fun and spirited as parents try to out-

bid one another for these interesting and memorable pieces of art.

This year, the fundraiser is expected to generate \$12,000, which will fund working artists that will host technical workshops in the classrooms this fall, as well as writing workshops for the older students. Monies also provide bulletin boards hung around the school's campus, which showcases students' ongoing art projects. For more information about the Art & Music Festival, visit the official Theodore Judah website at <http://www.theodorejudah elementary.org>.

SPECIAL ELECTION to be held on April 7 for City Council District 6

The Sacramento City Council called a special municipal election to be held on Tuesday, April 7 for the purpose of electing a city council member in District 6. As provided in the city charter, the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes on this date shall be elected to fill the vacant office, no run-off election shall occur.

In order to run for elective office in the city of Sacramento, a candidate must be 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the State of California. Candidates for council district seats must be a resident and registered voter within District 6 for no less than 30 days prior to filing nomination papers.

District 6 neighborhoods include: Elmhurst, Tahoe Park, Avondale, College/Glen, Colonial Village, Colonial Manor, Glen Elder, Granite Regional Park, Southeast Village and Tallac Village.

The nomination period has closed and Eric Guerra and Bruce Pomer are the candidates.

The Avondale Glen Elders Neighborhood Association (AGENA) and the Southeast Village Neighborhood Association (SEVNA) will host a "Meet the Candidates Meeting" Wednesday, March 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. The meeting will be held at the George Sim Community Center, 6207 Logan St. Community members, parents, students and businesses are encouraged to attend and participate.

According to a press release for the event, the purpose of the Meet the Candidates Meeting "is to stimulate the community's participation in the Special Election for Sacramento City Council District 6 seat scheduled for April 7, 2015; and provide community education. This is a non-partisan event and is open to all community members."

The entire meeting will only feature those candidates seeking office for Sacramento City Council District 6 seat. Find out how City Council Candidates Eric Guerra and Bruce Pomer will address our neighborhoods' concerns.

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Janey Way Memories: Old Friends



By **MARTY RELLES**
marty@valcomnews.com

Earlier this month I shared lunch with a couple of my oldest friends: Dave Jurin, Tom Watson and Luigi Talini.

We drove all the way out to Walnut Grove on the Delta to eat at Guisti's, a landmark in that area. Dave and I arrived first, so we waited in the bar for the others to show up. Soon, Tom sidled in and the bartender pointed us to a seat in the restaurant. A few minutes later Luigi arrived and joined us at our table. He had come all the way from his home in the Bay Area to join in the festivities.

I have known these guys since the 1950s when we attended St. Mary's School together, so it didn't take long for us to start telling old, well-worn stories.

Tom spun out the story of when he and Vince Angel took Candace Doddridge and Colleen Kelly into the crawl space under St. Mary's church to "steal some kisses." They used church candles to light their way.

Unfortunately, they were caught in the act by the inquisitive Father Russo who ushered them out into the garden area beside the church where he admonished them for taking lit candles down there saying: "You could have started a fire." Fortunately, Mother Carmela let the kids off easy for that offense.

After that, Luigi told us how he ultimately got involved with his families nursery business on 56th Street and Folsom Boulevard. After high school, he went to work for the old Cal-Western Life Company on 21st and L streets. Then, after working there for seven years, he walked into the boss's office one day and quit.

That weekend, he had a talk with his dad saying that he needed to take a job at the nursery. His dad responded, "I don't want you to work here." Dad, ultimately gave in though, and let Luigi work at the nursery. The rest is history. Now, Luigi owns and runs the family nursery as well as operating his own landscape company in Walnut Creek. Life has a way of taking turns we don't expect.

Dave Jurin told us a story with a twist of its own. When he returned from a tour of duty in Viet Nam in the 1960s he tried attending City College. That didn't work out for him. So, he went into the culinary business. He worked for years first as a cook, then a sous chef at places like the Sterling Hotel and the Del Paso Country Club.

However, when he hit his 40s, he returned to college and ultimately graduated from Sacramento State College with a degree in primary education. He planned to teach, but that career did not pan out for him, so he went to work with the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance as an eligibility analyst. Life took yet another unexpected turn.

These days our lives have come full circle. Tom and I are retired. Dave is contemplating retirement later this year. Luigi soldiers on, running his business enterprises. Who knows when he will throw in the towel?

Now we are just old friends, telling our stories and sharing some laughs. "There is no friend, like an old friend."

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Stunning Tudor Revival!

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath Tudor combines traditional elegance and modern conveniences. Fully remodeled in 2010, this 1926 sq. ft home presents a formal Living room and formal Dining area, and a spacious Family room that looks onto the expansive backyard, and an updated Kitchen. Other amenities include a spacious Master suite, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, updated electrical, plumbing, and HVAC (2010), dual pane windows throughout, and a workshop at the garage.

\$689,950



Sweet East Sac Home!

Situated near East Sac restaurants, shops and parks, this 3 bedroom 2 bath home offers inviting charm! This 1296 square foot home presents a formal Living room with fireplace, a formal Dining area, and a Kitchen that presents granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. The backyard presents a spacious area with planter boxes, patio, and a new fence. Other amenities include hardwood floors, an indoor laundry area, fresh exterior paint, and both a carport and garage.

\$419,950



Sprawling East Sac Home!

Located within close proximity to East Sac restaurants, coffee houses, and shops, this 2502 square foot home presents room to room! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath property presents a formal Living room with a fireplace, and an adjoining Dining area. The Great Room is the focal point of this property: offering an updated Kitchen with a gas range, granite countertops, and an eating bar that looks on to the expansive Family Room. Other amenities include hardwood floors, dual pane windows throughout, newer HVAC and plumbing, and a 2.5 car garage.

\$469,950



Charming East Sac Cottage!

Nestled on a quintessential tree-lined street in the heart of East Sacramento, this 2 bedroom, 1 bath home presents darling charm! This home, located near parks and restaurants, presents a formal Living room with a fireplace, a formal Dining room, and an updated Kitchen that mirrors the darling character of the home. Other amenities include hardwood floors, indoor laundry room, and a two-car garage.

\$419,950



Darling East Sac Home! (SOLD)

Located near McKinley Park, East Sac restaurants and shops, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath darling cottage presents charming character! This 1,464 square foot home presents formal Living and Dining rooms, and an updated Kitchen. Other amenities include hardwood floors, newer HVAC (2014), partial dual pane windows and plantation shutters, and a two-car garage.

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San Francisco Giants president, CEO entertains local Rotary Club

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

San Francisco Giants President and CEO Larry Baer was the guest speaker at last week's Rotary Club of Sacramento luncheon at the Red Lion Hotel in the historic Woodlake area.

In speaking to about 300 people in a packed room of the hotel on Feb. 3, Larry mainly shared details about the Giants' marketing success, and the organization's drive to maintain a "culture of stability and professionalism."

Early in his speech, Larry commented about the move to have the Sacramento River Cats become a Triple-A affiliate of the Giants.

"(River Cats CEO and majority owner) Susan Savage put out the interest in bringing the Giants to Sacramento," Larry said. "It was a very easy call for us to come to an area that has been so supportive of the Giants over the years. We're starting year one with the River Cats (in April) and we couldn't be more thrilled."

Larry said that he has a special connection to the capital city that predates the Giants' association with the River Cats.

"My father (Vernon B. Baer) was actually raised in Sacramento (by Walter H. and Estelle Mae Baer) and was in the (February 1941) graduating class of McClatchy High School," Larry said. "My dad would talk about going to Pacific Coast League (baseball) games. It was (teams such as) the San Francisco Seals and the Oakland Oaks, and it was the Sacramento Solons. So, those were great days."

Larry mentioned that his experiences with the Giants organization began in the 1980s when he began working with then-Giants owner Bob Lurie as the franchise's marketing director.

After leaving the Giants to attend Harvard Business School, Larry returned to the organization and became involved with Larry McGowan in the establishment of the ownership

group that kept the team from moving to Tampa, Fla. in 1992.

Larry said that with the construction of Pacific Bell Park – today's AT&T Park – eight years later, the Giants are secure in San Francisco for "a long, long time."

Among the most important moves for the Giants was the hiring of former Major League Baseball All-Star outfielder Dusty Baker to serve as the team's manager, Larry explained.

"We wanted to get somebody that could really provide leadership for the organization, as well as be somebody that could resurrect the franchise, because in 1992, the team had lost 90 games," Larry said. "And all roads seemed to lead to the individual who was the Giants batting coach at the time, in 1992. And that was Sacramento's own, Dusty Baker."

"I think that the beauty and magic of Dusty was he really knew how to manage those 25 guys. He was our



Photo by Lance Armstrong
San Francisco Giants President and CEO Larry Baer shows off his 2014 World Series ring.

manager for 10 years. We could not have done better with anybody (else) during the first decade of our ownership as a team (than with Baker)."

Larry, who replaced Bill Neukom as the Giants' CEO on Jan. 1, 2012, said that the Giants organization emphasizes keeping its ballpark "100 percent customer friendly," having a vibrant surrounding neighborhood

around the park, and winning baseball games.

And in regard to the latter point, the Giants are certainly doing extremely well in that category, as they won three World Series in five years, including last year's series against the Kansas City Royals.

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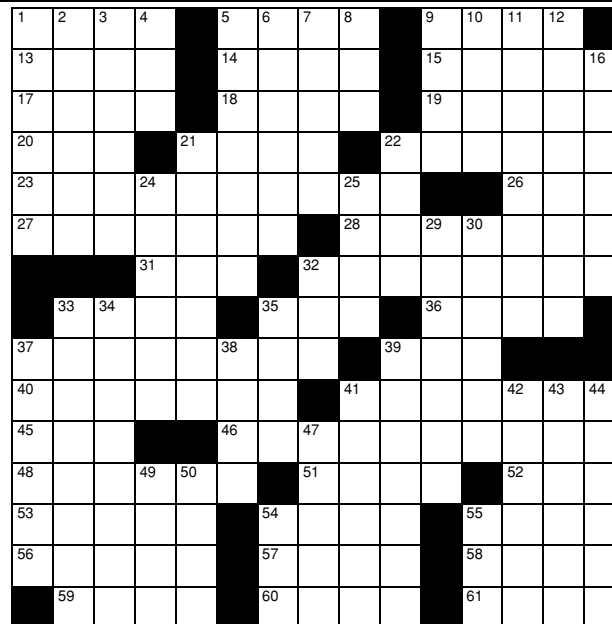
To participate on this page, call (916) 429-9901 for information

The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Recital piece
- 5 Pinochle play
- 9 Hunter's quarry
- 13 Hotel on the Vegas Strip
- 14 Wheel shaft
- 15 Bronson film, "Honor _____ Thieves"
- 17 Chain segment
- 18 Attempt
- 19 Spotted steed
- 20 Whole bunch
- 21 Flower part
- 22 Dick Tracy's hat
- 23 Body of voters
- 26 Skin art, slangily
- 27 Coach again
- 28 Buttercup's kin
- 31 Cut short
- 32 Military stockpile
- 33 Try for a part
- 35 Chart topper



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- 36 Quaker pronoun
- 37 Orlando paper
- 39 Debate side
- 40 Kind of gland
- 41 Strong praise
- 45 Roswell sighting
- 46 Trump series, with "The"
- 48 Radio show format
- 51 Monthly payment
- 52 Take a load off
- 53 Showy display
- 54 Crash site?
- 55 Great amount
- 56 "Somewhere in Time" actor

- 7 Andean beast
- 8 Cotillion VIP
- 9 Rubberneck
- 10 Surrounded by
- 11 Orator's no-no
- 12 Front door, e.g.
- 16 Vandyke's kin
- 21 Stunt double, e.g.
- 22 _____ for oneself
- 24 Whip up
- 25 Bakery buy
- 29 Contest hopeful
- 30 Elephant driver
- 32 Painter's medium
- 33 Visibly embarrassed

DOWN

- 1 Certain brook trout
- 2 Baltimore slugger
- 3 Old World finch
- 4 Furniture wood
- 5 Bone near the ear
- 6 Hospital worker

- 34 Course taker
- 35 Fab Four flick
- 37 Cup holder
- 38 Indian flat bread
- 39 Comprehensive
- 41 Lean toward
- 42 Neglect
- 43 December dangler
- 44 Restraining rope
- 47 Clearly show
- 49 Cleanse
- 50 Twosome
- 54 Dead or Red
- 55 Day or night starter

See solution, page 17

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East Sacramento robotics teams make the neighborhood proud

Students at David Lubin and Caleb Greenwood Excel at Robotics Competition

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at David Lubin and Caleb Greenwood Elementary Schools participated in the FIRST® LEGO League (FLL) Capital District Championship tournament at Inderkum High School on Jan. 24. Forty-eight teams from all over Northern California competed after advancing out of qualifying tournaments held in the fall.

David Lubin's team, The RoboRaptors, made an excellent showing at the regional competition, winning a first place Project Research Award for their virtual reality game designed to improve the way children with autism learn social skills. They also won a second place Robot Game Award after programming and building a robot to complete missions on a game table to earn points.

Caleb Greenwood's team, The Cougar Circuit Breakerz, won the Core Values award, which emphasizes teamwork and



Photo courtesy

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at David Lubin and Caleb Greenwood Elementary Schools participated in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Capital District Championship tournament at Inderkum High School on Jan. 24. Sporting green T-shirts and tutus are Caleb Greenwood students: Lilly, Audrey, and Ada. Behind them are David Lubin students: Jonathan, Caden, Eli, Jacob, Jackson, Olivia, Sophia, and Emily.

independent thinking. Kelly Cordero proudly led her Caleb Greenwood team to recognition.

FLL is a national non-profit organization devoted to helping young people develop a passion for science, technology, and engineering. This is David Lubin's second year operating the robotics program, and first year under the guidance and supervision of parent-

coaches Jessica and Thomas McLaughlin.

Cordero, an art teacher at Caleb Greenwood, worked to find grants to support the funding of the FLL at local elementary schools, including Caleb Greenwood, David Lubin, and Theodore Judah. These SCUSD elementary schools are excited to continue this inspiring and challenging program again next year.



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More than 100 homes to be built at Sutter Memorial Hospital site

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is the second article in a series pertaining to East Sacramento's Sutter Memorial Hospital, which is scheduled to close this spring.

East Sacramento's Sutter Memorial Hospital, which was originally known as Sutter Maternity Hospital, is scheduled to move its services to midtown Sacramento this spring. And as a result, the old hospital site at 5151 F St. will no longer be home to a medical facility for the first time in 77 years.

The purpose of the closure of Sutter Memorial is to consolidate jobs and services in a single location in new, modernized facilities.

Considering that nearly 350,000 people have been born at Sutter Memorial, there are undoubtedly many people in the community who are saddened by the loss of this hospital for nostalgic reasons.

But beyond nostalgia and a departure from that hospital's scenic campus, the closure of Sutter Memorial represents many positives.

For instance, prior to making plans for that closure,

Sutter Health had the Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center built at 2825 Capitol Ave.

And as mentioned in the previous article of this series, that facility – which will offer “the highest level of neonatal and pediatric intensive care services, pediatric cardiac care, pediatric neurosurgery services, pediatric cancer services and high-risk and conventional maternity services” – was built to last for the entire 21st century.

Furthermore, with the relocation of Sutter Memorial services to the midtown campus, the process of establishing the Sutter Medical Center as one of the most advanced medical facilities in the country will be completed.

The upcoming closure of Sutter Memorial has spurred a variety of questions from the general public regarding the East Sacramento hospital's 20-acre site.

Among those question is “What will the Sutter Memorial property be used for in the future?”

In commenting about that future, Keri Thomas, regional director of community and govern-



The Sutter Memorial Hospital site in East Sacramento is scheduled to become home to a residential area, which will include more than 100 homes.

ment relations for Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region, said, “The closure of Sutter Memorial presents a unique opportunity to redevelop the site in a manner which complements and reconnects the existing neighborhood.”

An approved project for the site is being called the Sutter Park Neighborhood

plan. That plan features 100 to 125 homes.

The project received all discretionary entitlements in April 2014.

A Sutter Park Neighborhood document notes that the design plans include “a mixture of classic architectural styles, from traditional park homes to row homes, to cottages to mixed-use

housing on top of retail,” as well as “secondary units over garages (to) provide opportunities for flexible, multi-generational living.”

The project is a partnership between Sutter Health and StoneBridge Properties, which is a subsidiary of the historic

See Sutter, page 9

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Sutter:

Continued from page 8

Sacramento family-owned firm, Teichert Land Co.

In being that both Sutter Health and Teichert have longtime traditions in the capital city, it was important to those businesses to study the history and neighborhoods of East Sacramento in the process of establishing a plan that was suitable and more widely accepted for the old Sutter Memorial site.

The aforementioned Sutter Park Neighborhood document notes: "These homes will have the charming, period look of their East Sac brethren – reflecting the diversity of architecture found throughout the community. Utilizing the lat-

est advances in building technology and sustainable design, Sutter Park Neighborhood homes will be green, healthy and efficient, consuming just a fraction of the energy of older structures."

Other features of the project include a plan to connect new streets with already existing streets in the area, and place a park at the heart of the project's housing.

Thomas notes that Sutter Health is presently focusing on completing its expanded midtown campus and moving its services from Sutter Memorial.

And as for actual physical work on the future project at the Sutter Memorial site, Thomas added, "The demolition should take approximately six months (to

complete), with about three to four months of external demolition – the type people notice and hear. Remediation is likely three to nine months, depending on what is needed."

Thomas also commented that before the demolition of Sutter Memorial can commence, additional steps need to be taken.

"Sutter still needs to complete a Phase 2 environmental study to confirm remediation requirements, develop a remediation plan, and then remediate prior to demolition," Thomas said.

Further updates regarding the Sutter Memorial site's demolition and the establishment of the Sutter Park Neighborhood will be presented in various future editions of the East Sacramento News.

Attention Realtors!

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California Kids is an events and activities guide for active families and is published once a month by Valley Community Newspapers, publishers of the Arden Carmichael News, East Sacramento News, Land Park News and the Pocket News. View at: www.valcomnews.com

California Kids targets active families who get out and enjoy all the community has to offer. It also serves as a guide to families that are thinking of relocating to a new area. A perfect publication for real estate listings.

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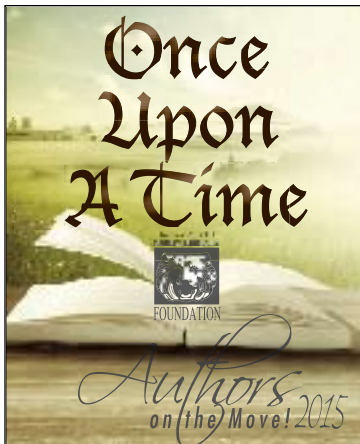
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Faces and Places: **Sacramento Ballet presented Peter Pan at the Clunie Clubhouse**

Photos by **STEPHEN CROWLEY**
stephen@valcomnews.com

Dozens of children enjoyed Peter, Wendy, Tinker Bell and the Lost Boys in excerpts of this world premiere by Sacramento Ballet's Ron Cunningham. Attendees got a first look at some of the show's dances and a sneak peek of behind-the-scenes demonstrations of this new ballet performance.

DANCING STEAMPUNK STYLE

SACRAMENTO AREA DANCE CLASSES TEACH WALTZES, POLKA AND MORE

By TIFFANY REVELLE

Not everyone knows what steampunk is, but the look is easy to spot: Victorian- or Edwardian-era ruffles, feathers, corsets, top hats, embellished mustaches and monocles meet the bold colors, patterns and general edginess of modern-day punk, accented generously with gears, timepieces, and accessories inspired by steam engines, the American Wild West and Jules Vernian time machines.

Now take that look and set it in motion to the one-two-three time of a Victorian-era waltz. A good-sized portion of Sacramento's own steampunk community has taken to the dance floor to bring back to life the dance styles from the turn of the century – an era of nobility, high morality and ingenuity that inspires much of today's steampunk culture, both for costume and for everyday life.

Sound interesting? Such dance classes – which teach historical dance styles including traditional waltzes, Congress of Vienna and Polka, among others – aren't offered to just anyone who walks into the VIP Dance Academy, across the street from the Society's annual bazaar and swap meet. But they are available, starting in January, to members of the Sacramento Steampunk Society.

"A lot of our members go to events – balls and conventions," explained Society member Gina von Damm-Bogart, who partnered with dance instructor and studio owner Barnaly Pande to make roughly semi-monthly ballroom dance classes happen for Society members.

The events she's talking about include the annual Edwardian Ball in San Francisco, which captured the interest of several local members and spurred local demand for instruction

in the historical dances, much like the Period Events & Entertainment Recreation Society provides in the Bay Area. For those who don't know, the Edwardian Ball is described on its website, <http://edwardianball.com>, as "An elegant and whimsical extravaganza of costumery, carnival, music, acrobatics, ballroom dancing and fashion; an outrageous celebration of an unforgettable era while honoring Edward Gorey, the prolific master of ominous storytelling."

It's walking, dancing, breathing artistry, in other words.

"So I thought this would be a good thing for members who don't know how to dance, or for members to brush up on their skills," von Damm-Bogart said.

The period dance classes are available only to Sacramento Steampunk Society members and for a \$10 fee, but it's easy enough to get sucked in and join, she said.

"When I first started going to the club, it was like I found my tribe," according to von Damm-Bogart.

Anyone can join, and membership is free. The interested, the dubious and the indifferent alike can see what the local steampunk community is all about at the Society's third annual Steampunk Emporium between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Feb. 21, inside Great Escape Games on Howe Avenue. The greater arts and crafts community has also been invited to attend, and more than 40 vendors will have clothing, costumes, art, books and gadgets for sale.

"It's the idea of crossing the Victorian time frame with science fiction," with a "twist of moving forward," said Society member Jennifer Brown, describing the steampunk culture in general and what an attendee might find on display at the swap meet. "So



Photos by Art Koch Studios; <https://www.flickr.com/photos/allaboutlight/>

Costumed revelers showcase their turn-of-the-century dance steps and period attire with a modern twist at the 2015 Edwardian Ball, held in San Francisco last month.

you might not have a ray gun, but you might have a steam-powered ray gun."

One man brings a time machine he made of parts, pieces and controls from all kinds of erstwhile machinery, according to Brown. The four-foot-wide gadget will be available for photo ops with attendees at the machine's controls.

"We like to take used things and things that would otherwise be considered junk and turn them into something that can be used," she said.

While Brown admits "steampunk can be a little overwhelming for people to jump into right away," she and von Damm-Bogart are confident the welcoming steampunk community will draw more interest. And if that doesn't do it, the hand-made-to-order pizza will, according to Brown.

Of the Sacramento Steampunk Society's roughly 2,500 Northern California members, about 100 members are active locally in events, according to von Damm-Bogart. She said of those, about 30 members attended the first dance lesson in January.

They were treated not only to instruction in dancing traditional waltzes, the Peabody (a foxtrot-like ballroom dance to ragtime music) and East Coast Swing, but to a spread of hand-made finger sandwiches, truffles and cakes reminis-

cent of a "vintage society" tea service that turned the lesson into a social, according to von Damm-Bogart.

The Society is hoping to generate enough interest in the dance classes to make them a more regular event. The next dance class and social is expected in March, where members will learn the Viennese waltz and work on their swing steps. Members who attend can wear street clothes or "steampunk-lite" attire – including long skirts, hats and the like, to get an idea of how their costumes will move on the dance floor.

The Sacramento Steampunk Society's monthly meetings are open to the public. They include time for planning upcoming events and time set aside for makers to teach each other how to do anything from taking sepia-tone photographs to costume design to sword play.

For more information on the group and its upcoming events, find its Facebook page by searching "Sacramento Steampunk Society."

If You Go:

What: Steampunk Emporium and Swap Meet, bazaar and craft fair
When: Feb. 21, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Great Escape Games, 1250 Howe Avenue, Suite 3A

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Chef Evan shares his culinary excellence at Healing Arts Festival

Chef Evan Elsberry, local celebrity chef will be offering his culinary delights at the Healing Arts Festival March 8 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Chef Evan is a regular guest on Good Day Sacramento and KCRA. He is owner of Evan's Kitchen located at 855 57th Ave. His whole career has been in the restaurant industry, Chef Evan loves what he does and was happy for the opportunity to cook for those attending the Healing Arts Festival.

From Chef Evan's bio, "Chef Evan began his career under the tutelage of long time restaurateur and mentor Frank Parisi at the Silver Palace Cafe in Old Sacramento in 1981... When Evan decided he was ready for a more formal education but a fine culinary school seemed out of reach, he moved to San Francisco to learn his craft in the kitchens of two of San Francisco's finest restaurants in North Beach and Fisherman's Wharf. In 1986 Evan returned to Sacramento to perfect the art of sautee' at the Clarion Hotel under Chef Don Rey. In 1990 Evan helped open Andiamo! as one of the original chefs. After stints at America Live and The Delta King, Evan was offered the Head Chef position at Morton's of Chicago. He departed soon after because, although it was an amazing opportunity, the Head Chef at Mor-



Evan Elsberry.

ton's did not cook. . . Evan opened his first restaurant, The Family Room in 2004. Evan's Kitchen followed in 2006. . . Evan has won several cooking competitions including the first State Fair competition in 2004 and the 2011 Sacramento Celebrity Chef Challenge."

The Healing Arts Festival is a metaphysical and holistic festival full of a variety of healing modalities, metaphysical and holistic products and services, free presentations, and an environment to explore new thought and ancient traditions. The event is a free event open to public on March 8th, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Center located at 6151 H St.

For more information about the Healing Arts Festival, check out their website at www.healingarts-festival.com. For more information about Chef Evan, check out his website at www.chefevan.com.

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East Sacramento resident encourages young professionals to help community

Joseph Ramos of East Sacramento is a self-professed pop culture enthusiast and loves attending trivia nights at restaurants around town. But on Feb. 25, he will don the role of "Trivia Master" at United Way Young Leaders Society's Brews and Brains trivia night fundraiser, where Sacramento-area young professionals can enjoy trivia and beer while raising money to increase access to healthy drinking water at Sacramento elementary schools.

"We wanted to do something fresh and fun, so this is really exciting," Ramos said. "I love useless and useful information, so it was really fun to write the questions."

The event will take place 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Feb. 25 at Yolo Brewing Company in West Sacramento. Guests will enjoy rounds of trivia and beer, food from Fusion Eatz food truck, networking, music and more. Tickets are \$20 and guests must be age 21 or older. Trivia questions will range from health, literature and pop

culture to history, sports and current events.

Ramos, who serves on the United Way Young Leaders Society Leadership Council, is passionate about the fundraising side of the event, as well. The event raises funds for United Way Young Leaders Society's Hydration Station Initiative, which will fund the purchase and installation of hydration stations in target schools, provide every student at the school with a reusable water bottle, and educate students on the importance of drinking water and using water resources wisely during the California drought.

Thirty-two percent of youth in the region are overweight or obese so United Way California Capital Region and its partners are working to reduce the number of overweight people in the region by 20 percent. To assist in reaching this goal, the United Way Young Leaders Society is focusing on ensuring students have access to water as a healthy beverage, and educa-

tion about why water is such a valuable resource to protect. The group's goal is to raise \$25,000 for the project in 2015.

"Clean water is so important," Ramos said. "We visited a school where kids were drinking water from a bucket. Not only should every child have access to clean drinking water, but this initiative can create a mini culture that drinking water can replace unhealthy drinks like soda."

Ramos, who has worked his entire career in nonprofit, currently works as the special events coordinator for Shriner's Hospital for Children, just five minutes from where he lives. He also participates in community theatre and will be in a production of "In The Heights" starting Feb. 20 at Grange Center for Performing Arts in East Sacramento through the Green Valley Theatre Company.

Yet Ramos considers the United Way Young Leaders Society his chosen way to give back. The United Way

Young Leaders Society is a diverse group of young professionals ages 21-40 that is focused on philanthropy and service in the greater Sacramento region. Members are committed to investing in health and education opportunities for students by volunteering their time, mobilizing social networks and raising money for a specific community impact project.

"I enjoy a great social activity and going out, but if I'm going to throw my name and money toward something, I want it to be about giving back," Ramos said. "That's what United Way Young Leaders Society is: young people wanting to volunteer. Sure, there's networking too, but its primary purpose is giving back and this is the only group that could meet that need for me."

Though Ramos works for a nonprofit and enjoys performing with a nonprofit theatre company, he still felt a void in needing to do more to help his community.

"I'm a philanthropist at heart," Ramos said.

"I grew up in programs and had mentors. I enjoy community work. It's my path, so if I'm not doing something important with my time, then I get restless. I believe that's our responsibility as a younger generation."

To purchase tickets to United Way Young Leaders Society's Brews and Brains event, visit www.yourlocalunitedway.org/young-leaders-society.

For more than 90 years, United Way California Capital Region has brought together nonprofits, businesses, donors, volunteers, community leaders and more to meet the community's greatest needs, give immediate aid and find lasting solutions for future generations. United Way mobilizes members of the community to be first responders in repairing the education level, financial stability and health of everyone in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties through donation and volunteer opportunities. To donate or volunteer, visit www.yourlocalunitedway.org.

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Lionsgate brings us "Mortdecai", featuring Johnny Depp as Lord Mortdecai, a British Lord and fop who is many things: art expert, rouge, bouncer, and lover of women, mostly his wife, who is played in the picture by Gweneth Paltrow.

A Goya painting with connections to the Nazi's hidden treasures is lost in a swirling mist of intrigue. The British intelligence, Mi5, enlists Mortdecai to find the stolen painting which drifts between violent Russian collectors, an international terrorist and a wealthy California art collector played by Jeff Goldblum.

His Lordship fancies his new mustache, much to the displeasure of this wife who finds

it the cherry-on-the-cake of ridiculousness. What ensues is an attempt by director David Koepp to recreate the magic and plastic lighter than air world of Blake Edwards comedies of the 1960s or the nutty "Carry On" series. Johnny Depp is clearly channeling the famous British actor Terry Thomas here. Paul Bettany as Mortecai's man and Gweneth Paltrow are the best in the picture and the unusual casting of Ewan McGregor as the Mi5 agent who has a passion for Paltrow has moments of humor. This is not a very good movie overall, but I found it amusing and without any expectation for greatness, enjoyed the screen shenanigans and the parody of the stiff upper lip British world that only exists in satirical movies. Absent something to do, this is an acceptable way to pass a carefree afternoon.

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<p>Young Actors Stage presents Disney's MULAN Jr</p> <p>2/27 at 7 - 2/28 at 1,4, & 7 3/1 at 1 & 4</p> <p>24th Street Theater 2791 24th Street, Sacto</p> <p>Tickets online or at the door. \$10 Adults; \$7 Children</p> <p>YoungActorsStage.com</p>	<p>Save the Date!!! SPRING CRAFT FAIRE</p> <p>Saturday, March 21, 2015 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Mission Oaks Community Center 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael</p> <p>972-0336</p>	<p>ALL SAINTS CONCERTS presents DUO HARPSICHORDISTS</p> <p>Faythe Vollrath & Stephen Gamboa</p> <p>FEBRUARY 22, 2015 4:00 PM</p> <p>Suggested Donation is \$15 Child Care Provided</p> <p>2076 Sutterville Road Overflow Parking across Sutterville Rd. at City College</p> 	<p>Spring Arts & Crafts Fling Artists & Crafters Welcome!</p> <p>Saturday, March 28, 2015 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Elks Lodge No. 6 6446 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95831</p>
<p>Cabrillo Civic Club #5 ANNUAL CRAB FEED MARCH 7, 2015</p> <p>\$45 per Person - Dinner 7 p.m.</p> <p>Cabrillo Clubhouse 4605 Karbet Way, Sacramento</p> <p>*Advance Ticket Sales Only NO tickets will be sold at the door RESERVATIONS: DeAnna Gesdahl 916-760-7474</p>	<p>CALL AND PLACE YOUR EVENT TODAY!</p> <p>(916) 429-9901</p>		

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Low Impact Fitness at Tahoe Park:

Enjoy a low impact workout outdoors at Tahoe Park. Neighbors come together for fun and exercise every Monday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Examples include: jogging-in-place, jumping jacks, fingertip-to-toe jacks. Donations of \$1-\$2 are requested to pay for the online service, Meetup.org, which this group is a part of. This is a meet-up for neighbors to provide guidance and encouragement for each other. There is no professional trainers and all injury is at your own risk. Meet by the pool house, 3501 59th St., 95820.

Monthly tours of Sacramento Children's Home

Find out about the Sacramento Children's Home mission, programs, and how you can get involved on the fourth Thursday of each month, starting at 10:30 a.m., 2750 Sutterville Road. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.kidshome.org/tour-sch.

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.

David Lubin Elementary tours

David Lubin Elementary School, located in East Sacramento, is hosting Kindergarten tours every Tuesday and Friday at 9 a.m. David Lubin is located at 3535 M St. A highly committed and caring staff, a strong emphasis on academic rigor and a warm family environment allows David Lubin Elementary School to provide the high quality educational experience for which we are known. For more information, call 277-6271 or visit www.davidlubin.scusd.edu

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! Food trucks at Carmichael Park. Every first Thursday of the month from 5 to 8 p.m. (July will be held on July 10) food trucks hit Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Road.

The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave., Carmichael. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.capitolaire.org or call (888) 877-9806. Men who love to sing are welcome! Men come from Elk Grove, Davis, El Dorado Hills, Roseville or the greater Sacramento area. The group is 40 men who love to sing and wants to encourage more men to join along.

Audition applications for Sacramento Youth Symphony's 2015-2016 season:

If you play brass, woodwinds, percussion, or strings then we invite you to join the award-winning Sacramento Youth Symphony, the Sacramento area's premier youth organization for musicians (ages 6-21)! We have orchestras and ensembles for every level, from beginning through advanced. Online applications are available at www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org. Full merit-based scholarships available for select instruments! Call Robert at 916-731-5777 for details.

FEBRUARY

Drum and Dance for Joy with Fenix Drum & Dance Company at McKinley Library

Feb. 20: Celebrate Black History Month with the Fenix Drum and Dance Company as they tell stories and teach traditional African dances around a drum circle. All members of the audience are encouraged to join in the drum circle, use one of the percussion instruments provided and participate in learning dances! Celebration starts at 3:30 p.m. at the McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Ila Neb Fashion Show: Annual fundraiser for Shriners Hospital for Children

Feb. 21: The Northern California Court of the Ladies Oriental Shrine, Ila NEB Court #51 (Ben Ali backwards) will be holding a fashion show with the theme, "Fashion Memories" at Shriners Hospi-

tal, 2425 Stockton Blvd. The show will feature vintage clothing modeled by ladies of St. Marks United Methodist Church. The social begins at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will consist of chicken salad, croissant, salad, cheesecake dessert, tea, coffee, and lemonade. This will begin at noon, followed by the fashion show. There will be an opportunity table available for purchase of tickets for a drawing of donated items. All donations are appreciated. The cost of the luncheon is \$25. All profits go to Shriners Hospital. Reservations are sent to Dorothy "Dot" Duggan, 1200 Gary Way, Carmichael or by calling 359-4273 or e-mailing 1duggan151@surewest.net. Make checks payable to Ila Neb Court #51. Your check will be your reservation and receipt. There is parking available behind the hospital. The location of the fashion show is on the first floor near the entrance lobby.

U R America the Beautiful Carmichael Emblems Annual fundraiser fashion show

Feb. 21: The fashion show which is \$20 and includes a lunch and gift drawing will be held at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5621 Cypress Ave. Fashions are by the Dress Barn and Karol's Gift Shop (The Red Hat Specialty Shop of Old Sacramento). All guests and members are invited to wear their Red Hats and join in the festivities. There will be two special money cake drawings for the ladies wearing "Red Hats." Doors open at 11 a.m. for cocktails and shopping. There will be a

variety of vendors present featuring clothing and miscellaneous items for the members of the "Red Hat" organization, as well as vendors with an assortment of jewelry, home décor items, handmade scarves, etc. Proceeds go to help support the club's many charities, including Loaves and Fishes, Mustard Seed School, and the Ronald McDonald House. Tables may be reserved for you and your guests. Contact chairman Judy at 715-3119.

Library LEGO Party (School Age (6-12))

Feb. 21: The library provides the LEGOs; you provide the imagination! And participants (ages 5-12) can register for a chance to win a LEGO Tow Truck set! Fun starts at 11 a.m. at the Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Blvd.

Sutter's Fort to Present "Hands on History: By Land and By Sea"

Feb. 21: Continuing a popular series of interactive and fun "Hands on History" activities each month, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) will present a special "Hands on History: By Land and By Sea" event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to Sutter's Fort SHP costs \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and is free for children 5 and under. For more information, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

Calendar continued, page 18

Solution to Crossword:

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Check out the
Home Improvement Guide
in the *East Sacramento News*.
To place an ad,

call Melissa at 429-9901.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 17

One-on-One Technology Help McKinley Library

Feb. 21: Are you curious about ebooks but not sure how to get started? Is your tablet or ereader a mystery? Do you need basic computer help such as creating e-mail accounts and using the internet? Come by the McKinley Library and meet with a Technology Assistant! Sessions are first come, first served and last 30 minutes. Tech help starts at 10 a.m. 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Racism and Education Then and Now

Feb. 22: The Sacramento Area Black Caucus cordially invites the public to a FREE praiseworthy and commemorative event for "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" (BHM) from 2 to 4 p.m. venue and location – the laudable Women's Civic Improvement Center (WCIC), 3555 3rd Ave. – is an organization with over 70 years of service in the historical Oak Park Community. The kick-off of the BHM program starts at 2 p.m. with refreshments and 15 minutes of networking opportunities. Seats are on a first come basis. Call now to ensure your FREE reservation seat at 627-8650 or email dlynem@yahoo.com, and fayek@springmail.com.

Rick Jennings, the Center for Fathers and Families and B Street Theatre present: An "Evening of Comedy"

Feb. 23: Come enjoy a night of comedy while you help enhance the quality of life for local families and students through the great work of the Center for Fathers and Families. Seats are limited for this hilarious one night show. Tickets are \$50 each and VIP are \$100

each. For more information, contact Noelle at 568-3237, ext. 204. There will be complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres before the show. Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.fathersandfamilies.com/CFE/Evening_of_Comedy.html.

"The Loving Story" and "Freedom Riders" movie clips to be shown at Central Library

Feb. 24: From 6 to 7:30 p.m., join Beth Slutsky, Ph.D., who will screen film clips from "The Loving Story" and "Freedom Riders" and lead a discussion at the Central Library, 828 I St. Dr. Slutsky is a historian at University of California, Davis. The event is part of a nationwide, multi-year "Created Equal" program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This year's series also marks the 150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery in the United States.

Baby storytime at McKinley Library

Feb. 25: Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs, and rhymes, and meet other babies in the neighborhood. Fun starts at 10:30 a.m. Suitable for ages 0-5; 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Feb. 25: Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music featuring organist Ryan Enright. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

Storytime at Colonial Heights Library (Early Childhood (ages 0-5))

Feb. 25: Join us at the library for Wednesday morning storytimes for toddlers, preschoolers, and their caregivers! Each week we'll read three different stories, sing songs, do some activities, and meet afterward to play. Get ready to celebrate reading from your fingers to your toes! Fun starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Blvd.

Writing with the Great 19th Century American Poets (featuring African American Slavery Literature)

Feb. 25: In this module-based class, participants will hear a brief lecture about African American Slavery Literature, specifically from writers George Moses Horton & Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. They will read works by these poets together in class and write their own poems. Critiques are offered by the instructor and fellow classmates in a friendly and supportive workshop style environment. This is the fourth of six sessions. Each session is its own entity, so that a participant may choose to attend one class or all six (or any number in between) and never feel lost. Writers at any level are welcome. The classes are free and held in the lovely Reagan room of the Clunie Community Center at 601 Alhambra Blvd. All sessions are taught by editor and published poet Frank Dixon Graham and sponsored by the McKinley Library. Class will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Frank at Frank.Graham@Goddard.edu for more information.

Explore & More! at Colonial Heights Library (School Age (6-12))

Feb. 26: Looking for something fun to do after school? Join us for some homework help and fun with the Explore & More program, presented by the Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association! Each Thursday afternoon we'll have an hour of homework help, as well as an hour of arts, crafts, board games, Lego building, science experiments, and more! The program starts at 3:30 p.m. at Colonial Heights Library 4799 Stockton Blvd.

Toddler/ Pre-School Storytime at McKinley Library

Feb. 26: Song, fingerplays and stories especially for ages 18 months to 5 years fol-

lowed by playtime! Make new friends and play with toys. Storytime starts at 10:30 a.m. 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Lego Mania: Display Contest at McKinley Library

Feb. 27: Join us for our special display contest month of Lego Mania! If you like building with Legos come make your own Lego creation or use the Lego building books provided to make a Lego masterpiece. This month, you will also have the chance for your Lego creations to be displayed in the display case throughout the month of March! Lego Mania starts at 3:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Community read-in, kick-off reception for Sacramento Black Book Fair

Feb. 27: Hosted by Blue Nile Press and the Sacramento Black Book Fair (SBBF) Planning Committee, a community read-in, kick-off reception for Sacramento Black Book Fair will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Underground Books, 2814 35th St. The event will feature Mayor Kevin Johnson, Jessie Ryan, Trustee, Sacramento City Unified School District, Dr. Kathryn Jeffery, President, Sacramento City College, Syra Harris, Author, age 12 and Ranon Maddox, President, Greater Sacramento Urban League's Young Professionals. The Sacramento Black Book Fair will be held June 5-7. RSVP by Feb. 23 to faye@bluenilepress.com or 484-3749

One-on-One Technology Help McKinley Library

Feb. 28: Are you curious about ebooks but not sure how to get started? Is your tablet or ereader a mystery? Do you need basic computer help such as creating e-mail accounts and using the internet? Come by the McKinley Library and meet with a Technology Assistant! Sessions are first come, first served and last 30 minutes. Tech help starts at 10 a.m. 601 Alhambra Blvd.

MARCH

Fairytale Town announces the start of its spring, summer fall hours

March 1-Oct. 31: Beginning March 1, Fairytale Town will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the spring, summer and fall seasons, weather permitting. Weekday ad-

mission is \$4.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Weekend admission is \$5.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

Lunch and wine social at Casa Garden restaurant

March 3: There will be a lunch and wine social with sips offered by Sentinel Oak Vineyard and Cellars from Plymouth and Casa hors d'oeuvres at 11:30 a.m. [one seating only], Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road. Entree choices: Braised Beef with Feta or Asian Noodle Salad with Chicken and Vegetables; dessert: Strawberry Margarita Torte -- \$24 per person, includes tax and gratuity. Reservations a must. Call 452-2809 for more information. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

March 4: Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music featuring Kathy Canan's Baroque & Beyond recorder ensemble. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

Writing with the Great 19th Century American Poets (featuring Emerson and Thoreau: Nature and Transcendentalism)

March 4: In this module-based class, participants will hear a brief lecture about nature and transcendentalism, specifically from writers Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. They will read works by these writers together in class and write their own poems. Critiques are offered by the instructor and fellow classmates in a friendly and supportive workshop style environment. This is the fifth of six sessions. Writers at any level are welcome. The classes are free and held in the lovely Reagan room of the Clunie Community Center at 601 Alhambra Blvd. All sessions are taught by editor and published poet Frank Dixon Graham and sponsored by the McKinley Library. Class will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Frank at Frank.Graham@Goddard.edu for more information.



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PLEASE
Recycle
this paper

Jessie Ryan brings activist background to the school board

By KAREN DEVANEY

Editor's Note: This is the second part in a two-part series about newly elected school board member, Jessie Ryan.

After graduating high school, brimming with potential and a passion to pursue her mother's predictions, Jessie Ryan applied to local community colleges; the only higher education institutions she thought available to her at the time. After visiting various campuses, she decided on Sacramento City College as it was the one campus that "felt like a real college rather than an extension of high school" with opportunity dripping from the cornerstone of every building. Being unfamiliar with the inner workings of the financial aid machine, Ryan knew she needed a counselor's help to steer her through uncharted territory. For although her mother instilled in a desire for higher education; she knew nothing on the mechanics of making that a reality.

When she arrived at City College's counseling department, there were five offices four of which had no waiting line. Ryan noticed the fifth counselor had a student queue that wrapped around the building—predominantly Latina/o and African Americans. She decided that was the person she needed to wait for—and wait she did. Standing for three hours proved to be a monumental cornerstone for she met Lupe Gomez; a person who became a profound beacon.

Gomez listened to Ryan's array of aspirations and interests in Women's Studies and African American History then put a plan in place that in conjunction with communications blended the two. In addition, after having Ryan take the Meyer Briggs test that revealed her capacity for politics, fostered her affinity for activism. Ryan began writing for the Pony Express, the college weekly newsletter, as well as the quarterly literary magazine. Gomez also was instrumental in getting political reporter internships with Dan Walters at the Sacramento Bee. It was during this time in 1996 that Ryan plunged into her political career campaigning against Prop 209.

Ryan felt akin to the disenfranchised—those struggling for equal footing in society. She was elated and honored when, because of her advocacy work, she was admitted to the Mezito club—a Latina/o organization. When unable to venture on a field trip to Mexico with her fellow members or who Jessie refers as "my brown skinned brothers and sisters", Gomez once again rose to the forefront and gave Ryan the money she needed. Like the rippling of the tides, seeing the inequities of Tijuana and

the lure of the Baja coast, this trip led to a deeper conviction towards politics and advocacy work. Spurred by Lupe's urgings that "I could do anything I wanted," Ryan decided to volunteer for the Democratic Convention, the summer before transferring to San Francisco State University.

At that time, community college students were relegated to welcoming people into the four-day convention. Noticing that there were plenty of others to do this job, Ryan with "unabashed gumption" and a stealthy dose of naïveté, slid over to the press area. Once there, she scored a liaison position escorting the candidates in before they were interviewed. Panic struck when she realized she would need a suit (which at the time she had none). Her mother took out a Macy's credit card and Ryan took on the job with gusto meeting and discoursing with famous politicians such as Senator Paul Wells and Barbara Boxer. Then, it was off to San Francisco State.

At SFSU, Ryan anchored a campus television program, presenting political debates while throwing herself into her studies. She seemed slated for a journalism degree, as she was an excellent speaker and reporter as well as an astute writer. And although she had job offers waiting for her, (after sending Broadcasting tapes out) she decided rather than reporting she preferred "to be part of affecting lasting change."

During her senior year, a profound speaker for AmeriCorps Vista inspired her to join and to work in Lodi where she worked with migrant farm workers writing grants for a digital storytelling project "which captured the history of the migrant workers specifically." That year, in 2000, Ryan was nominated for the Spirit of Service Award for her community service.

This led to her being hired for The Great Valley Center (an organization concerned with the social and economic welfare of the central valley from Redding to Bakersfield as a circuit writer. The other writer on staff was a young man named Arsenio Mataka. The two were to forge relationships in the communities they served and create leadership from within. There was one huge hurdle though—the language barrier. Ryan and Mataka (although he was raised by migrant parents his Spanish was minimal) were sent to Mexico for a summer immersion program to learn the language.

The two writers worked hard meeting with local farmers, politicians, and teachers and on the weekends explored the countryside. They learned not only Spanish but discovered one another as well. Like Jessie, Arsenio had come from a family of activists. His mother (while eight months pregnant) and fa-



Photos courtesy

Shown here is Jessie Ryan during her campaign.

ther marched with Cesar Chavez and his grandmother "was part of the Chicano Labor movement Central Valley Environmental Justice."

At the end of the summer more fluent in Spanish, the two headed back to California taking one last breathtaking adventure before they did. While bouncing down a rutted, one-lane road in route to a romantics' dream, Mulege, a village hemmed in by the Sea of Cortez on one side and an erect row of palm trees line a river; they were nearly hit by a semi-truck. Shaken, the two stumbled into, Mission Santa Maria where Arsenio made two wishes; to get home in one piece and to one day marry Jessie.

Beholden to Mission Santa Maria for granting both wishes, the couple returned for their wedding a few years later, to be married by Padre David in the company of beloved family and friends.

Ryan decided nonprofit work would utilize her passion for activism and decided to work for, Campaign for College Opportunity. The organization's mission is to ensure students in California have an opportunity to attend college with the caveat of staying school until graduation. A tireless worker, Jessie is now the executive Vice President of the Sacramento office. While toiling the ranks at work Ryan extended her advocacy to the home front putting her husband through law school. Arsenio is now the Assistant Secretary for the Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Department.

When this dynamic couple decided to embark on a family, it was a unified decision to become what Ryan refers to as a "transracial family." Both Jessie and Arsenio yearned to adopt, knowing that there are millions of children hungry for a home. Weeks prior to their anticipated baby girls' homecoming, the birth mother, an incarcerated African American woman who Jessie wrote to and vis-

ited frequently, changed her mind. Jessie and Arsenio were devastated.

A few days later, they received a call that a 7-month-old baby boy was being returned to his birth mother for the adoptive parents had changed their minds.

In mourning, initially Jessie refused to consider this option. "I was still grieving the loss of my daughter." Lo and behold, fate played her cards and Jessie changed her mind. As it happened both the birth mother and the baby were in San Diego at the time—the couple drove down and when they laid eyes on their son—dissolved into a pile of tears. Tristin Mateo, with his gorgeous brown skin and full head of hair (think Afro) was officially home. Both Jessie and Arsenio agreed on an open adoption that their son would never have to wonder about his birth mother.

A few months later, when they received another call by the same agency regarding the same birth mother who had an older child, Brooklyn. Living in homeless shelters, she wanted better for her toddler and asked if Jessie and Arsenio would be interested in adopting Tristin's older sister.

After a resounding yes—they began preparations. Jessie would talk to her soon-to-be daughter everyday—they would sing songs to one another; The Itsy Bitsy Spider and Doe a Deer were favorites. The couple also paid for the little girl to be in counseling to help with the transition. On the day, they brought Brooklyn home, "she leapt into my arms." Their seasoned social worker never cried such intense tears of joy.

Their family now complete, Ryan is sworn in to her newly elected post—and as true to her word as ever, ready to ensure not only her children but all of her district's children are guaranteed a better than average education. Out of poverty and a passion to make a difference, born to be an activist, Jessie Ryan, will do just that.



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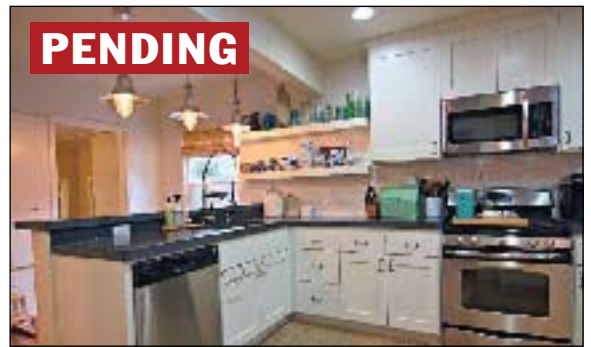
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