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returns next month See lineup page 11



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Janey Way Memories:

"What Goes Around, Comes Around"



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



The week before last, I had lunch with a group of guys who once lived on Janey Way. We met to celebrate a visit from an old friend, Jim Costamagna. Like us, Jim grew up on Janey Way, running around in the pit (the vacated sand and gravel site behind the houses on the east side of our neighborhood), competing in touch football games on the street in front of our houses, and playing the hubcap trick over on M Street. We had a lot of fun and many adventures back then.

Eventually though, we all grew up. Some went to college, and others joined the military. Jim took a different path; he moved away.

He settled first in Denver, Colorado. Later, he headed north to Montana where he landed in the small college town of Missoula. He stuck there. He took a job with the Montana Department of Forestry, met his future wife Debbie, bought a piece of property, built his own home, and settled down to raise a family.

They raised two boys in Missoula. One suffered from severe seizures early on and still lives with the family. The other boy Justin, ultimately graduated from college in Missoula, and then moved away, much like his father had done so many years ago.

He went first to take a job in Australia. When that job ran its course, he moved to Florida, before landing in Sacramento, of all places. Here, he took a job with the State of California and settled into a career in public service.

Soon, he met a girl, and now they are engaged. They plan to marry next year.

Justin just purchased a home in West Sacramento and it looks like they are here to stay.

That is why Jim came to visit. The old home builder came home to help his son make improvements to the house he had just purchased.

So, there we sat at a restaurant in West Sacramento, having lunch and telling old stories from our childhood. I leaned over to ask Jim if he might visit Sacramento more frequently now that his son lived here. He told me they planned to do just that, most likely during the cold Montana winters. "The 50 degree temperatures here in Sacramento seem a lot better than the sub-zero Montana winter lows," he told me with a smile on his face.

I thought to myself, "Isn't it funny. Jim moved away to Montana so many years ago. Now his son moves back here. What goes around comes around."

Now, our friend, Jim Costamagna, has returned to his rightful place in the Janey Way Gang.

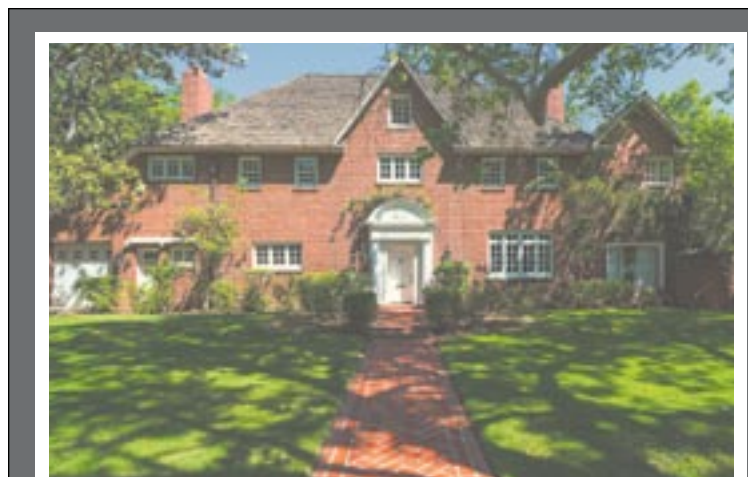
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Iconic Georgian Colonial!

For the first time since 1940, this 5800 square foot brick Georgian Colonial, located in the heart of the revered East Sacramento's Fab 40's neighborhood, is offered for sale. This 6 bedroom, 5.5 bath home, resting on .42 acre, presents a spacious formal Living room with a marble fireplace, a formal Dining room that looks onto the expansive backyard, and a Kitchen with many original features including a Butler's pantry and adjoining Breakfast room. The backyard beckons the opportunity to entertain: a tile pool, the large fountain, lush flower beds and lawn area.

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- June 20: Mumbo Gumbo (McKinley Park)
- June 27: The Count (Glenn Hall Park)



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\$289,950



Remarkably Charming Colonial!

This 4 bed, 3.5 bath Dutch Colonial boasts formal Living & Dining rooms, & a spacious den w/ built-in bookshelves, a fireplace, & French doors that lead to the backyard. The kitchen has been updated to include modern amenities: Dacor 48" dual fuel Epicure series range, granite countertops, and a bright eat-in area that offers ample storage. Other amenities include 2 Master Suites, Loewen windows, new sewer line, hardwood floors, and a two-car garage.

\$1,000,000



Incredibly Charming Tudor!

Nestled on a highly sought-after street, this 4 bed, 2 bath East Sac Tudor boasts exceptional charm! This 2240 sq. ft. home presents a formal welcoming Living room with a fireplace and exposed beams, a formal Dining room, and an updated Kitchen with a gas range and Breakfast Nook. The spacious Master bedroom offers an adjoining room that presents incredible potential. Other amenities include a tranquil backyard, hardwood floors and indoor laundry.

\$829,950



Live in Land Park!

Nestled on a tree-lined street and looking onto William Land Park, this 1554 sq. ft. cottage presents endearing character! This 2 bed, 1 bath home offers a spacious formal Living room with an office nook and cozy fireplace, a formal Dining room, and a Kitchen with an eat-in area. Other amenities include hardwood floors, spacious backyard, and is within close proximity to the Sacramento Zoo, Fairytale Town, and Land Park restaurants.

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On the Curbs: Local produce and homemade cooking fills the air

By MICHAEL SAELTZER

Sunil Hans and Mike Compton were personally available at one of their recent regular Friday afternoon tasting events. Featured was Sunil's mother's homemade Indian food, fresh samani, and delicious non-dairy cheeses made from nuts. What brought Sunil and Mike to the occasion was a special announcement. It is true, the store will be expanding its footprint by extending square footage to the east along the Meister Way side of the store.

The addition is planned to take place in August and will make room for a full deli, meat counter, and small coffee shop / bakery. Fresh juices and other items may also be available.

There were a number of members from the local

neighborhood associations present mingling with the usual customers. The mood was very relaxed and open. The owners helped to explain what their vision is, namely to expand the store in a manner consistent with the original structure and to maintain close ties to the community throughout the process.

Feedback from all attendees during the hour I was present was very positive and Sunil and Mike received many compliments regarding the upgrades they are making to the store.

Be sure to check out the East Sacramento Farmers Market, which is every Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the east end of McKinley Park where the Shepard Garden and Arts Center is located. A special thank

you to Ann Vuletich Clark, the executive director of East Sacramento Farmers Market, for bringing this to our community for the second year in a row. Puppies, children and smiles abound and the weather has been gorgeous.

Live music is a part of the scene and you can find updates, a list of the vendors, and other details on the website at www.east-sacfarmersmarket.com. If you or someone you know of would like to play at the market (good outdoor background types of music), please feel free to call 402-3261 for more information.

As summer approaches and more of us spend time outside, let's remember to help keep our neighborhood safe. Be sure to join your local neighborhood watch group or start one yourself. The City of Sacramento's Police website is an excellent resource to find out how to start a new neighborhood watch



Photo by Stephen Crowley
Shown here are nectarines from last year's East Sacramento Farmers' Market. The weekly market supports local vendors as well as vendors hailing from as far south as Salinas. The East Sacramento Farmers' Market is a year-round Saturday morning market at 35th Street and Park Way in McKinley Park. Market hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. From pralines to flowers and produce, the farmers' market exemplifies some of the best around from various types of businesses.

group. You can find that online at portal.cityofsacramento.org/Police.

If you are interested, starting on June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at One Speed Pizza (4818 Folsom Blvd.) and continuing every fourth Monday of the month, a group of neighbors and po-

lice officers will be meeting to talk crime prevention. Each meeting will have a different topic. The topic in June will be crime prevention through environmental design.

A great free phone app to use to learn about crime in your area is called RAIDS online. You can set the program to send you email updates every day, week, month or whenever. You get to view a map which you can set to highlight certain crimes such as burglaries, burglaries from autos, assaults, and drug offenses. It's an excellent example of how technology can empower citizens to become aware of what is going on around them.

Michael Saeltzer is the president of East Sacramento Preservation and a neighborhood real estate agent. He can be reached at 402-3261.

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Wednesday, August 26 (Dinner)
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The Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Barnyard baby
5 Brazilian port
10 Botch up
14 In ___ of flowers...
15 Thrill
16 Simpson sibling
17 Lump in one's throat
19 "You said it!"
20 Portray
21 Old-style window opener
23 Fancy party
25 "Vamoosel!"
26 Agent of change
30 Highly decorative
34 Taper off
35 Terrier type
37 Go a few rounds
38 Hotel amenity
39 Search party
40 Fill up
41 Do a voice-over
42 Monopoly piece
43 Show-off
44 Confound
46 Danger signal
48 Crafts partner
50 Carryall bag
51 Talk radio callers
55 Assign new actors
59 Wholly absorbed
60 Newspaper ad unit
62 Evangelist Roberts
63 Greet the day
64 Celestial body

DOWN

1 Iron follower
2 White House staffer
3 Ballet move
4 Debug?
5 As Felix Unger would
6 Chalet backdrop, perhaps
7 Soldier's lullaby
8 Mythical strongman
9 Potential shipwreck spot
10 Perfume bottle
11 Fancy ride, briefly
12 Computer operator
13 Boston or Chicago, e.g.
18 Justice symbol
22 Triceratops feature
24 Knotted neckwear
26 St. Louis team, familiarly
27 More or less
28 Certain housecat
29 Police weapon
31 Put down
32 Bellhop, often
33 Make an effort
36 Archipelago part
39 Like Byron's words
40 Grammatical slip
42 Bring on board
43 Eucharist plate
45 Yankees legend
47 Projecting window
49 Siesta sound
51 Stage item
52 Fabled loser
53 October birthstone
54 Lose traction
56 Pay to play
57 Peruse
58 Drive-___
61 Kind of tax

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See solution, page 16

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East Sacramento area was once home to Pureta Sausage Co.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a series about sausage factories that operated in Sacramento.

The largest sausage manufacturer in the capital city was the East Sacramento area's highly successful Pureta Sausage Co.

Prior to reaching that status, Pureta was a much smaller operation.

The business was established in a 40-foot by 80-foot building at 316 31st St. (now Alhambra Blvd.) by Alfred Zehnder, Joseph Reichmuth and Herman Zimmermann in 1926.

All of those men resided in different areas of the city, with Zehnder living at 2004 E St., Reichmuth at 4477 G St., and Zimmermann at 3031 D St.



The Pureta Sausage Co. at Alhambra Boulevard and D Street is shown in this early 1930s photograph.

Pureta Cash Market, which was owned by the same people who owned the Pureta Sausage Co., was also located at 3031 D St.

The market began operating at that address after spending its initial three years at 322 Alhambra Blvd. The store continued to operate at its Alhambra Boulevard address until about 1938.

The Pureta plant initially included 10 employees and two delivery trucks.

Pureta was one of the four Sacramento sausage manufacturers mentioned in an article in the Sept. 26, 1931 edition of The Sacramento Bee.

The city's other sausage manufacturers at that time were Claus & Kraus at 1700 I St., Made-Rite Sausage Co. at 3352 or 3353 2nd Ave., and the Western Meat Co. at 806 6th St.

Those plants were mentioned in the 1931 article as then making between 1.5 million and 2 million pounds of sausages per year.

Another portion of the 1931 article notes: "With the slaughtering and meat packing business, the capital city's third ranking industry in the value of output, the sausage division has been enjoying a remarkable growth in the past two or three years."

Pureta underwent address changes from 316 Alhambra Blvd. to 320 Alhambra Blvd. in about 1933, and to its final address of 324 Alhambra Blvd. in about 1936.

The 1937 city directory describes Pureta as "wholesale dealers in fresh meats, mfrs. of high-grade sausage and meat products."

By 1940, the plant was jointly owned by Zehnder, the com-

pany's president and general manager, and five other Sacramentans, George E. Wurster, A.C. Jacobs, Joseph F. Enos, Anton Holly and Frank Linggi, Jr. The latter three men resided in East Sacramento.

At that time in its history, notes an article in the Feb. 23, 1940 edition of The Sacramento Union, Pureta's Sacramento plant was recognized as "one of the most modern (plants) of its kind on the Pacific Coast."

Pureta had then grown to a company with 110 employees, 27 refrigerated trucks, five cars for salesmen, and branches in Redding, Chico, Modesto, Oakland and Santa Rosa.

With its growth, Pureta had expanded to offer its products throughout the state.

Beyond its obvious product, the Pureta Sausage Co. processed meat products such as

frankfurters, bologna, salami, smoked bratwurst, liverwurst and head cheese.

In regard to frankfurters, the 1940 Union article mentions that the total number of that product produced by the company each year could line, end to end, a distance of 1,800 miles.

One of Pureta's most popular products was its skinless frankfurter, which was introduced by the company in 1937.

In an attempt to further describe Sacramento's extensive Pureta operations, the 1940 Union article notes: "The plant itself contains much more than might be guessed just by looking at its (sic) red brick exterior. With its massive refrigerator rooms, elaborate sausage kitchen, in which like other departments only stainless

See Sausage, page 7

Sausage:

Continued from page 6

steel comes in contact with the meat, rows of smoke houses (sic) and meat grinders, it easily lives up to its name as a leader in the business."

Although it was no Winchester Mystery House, Pureta was very much in the practice of having structural additions made to its Sacramento plant.

Construction on three additions of the local plant was completed during Pureta's first five years in business.

The Sacramento building had grown to twice its original size by 1940.

Additionally, a second story was added to that structure for offices, employee residences, and a garage for its steam plant and storage.

On July 28, 1941, operations began in Pureta's seventh addition to that plant, a \$75,000 building with 13,000 square feet of floor space.

New machinery in that manufacturing department, notes an article in the July 20, 1941 edition of The Union, could handle 2,000 pounds of bulk meat in 10 minutes and 96,000 pounds of meat per working day. The meat was ground into sausage or 71 other kinds of meat products.

The business had by then increased its workforce to about 140 employees and also expanded its truck fleet to 33 vehicles operating in the Central and Northern California areas.

By 1957, Pureta was employing as many as 200 people during its peak seasons.

It was also at that time that the company had 50 trucks and during an average month, handled about 2 million pounds of meat.

An article in the March 18, 1957 edition of The Union recognizes Pureta as the manufacturers of "sausages, frankfurters, sandwich meats, bacon, ham and similar products, and wholesale meats to distributors in this area."

Another expansion of Pureta's Sacramento plant is mentioned in the Nov. 15, 1959 edition of The Union.

Under a photograph of preformed walls being lifted into place at the site is a caption, which notes that the company's refrigerated storage and processing facilities would be



increased by more than one-third of its size.

The caption also mentions that Pureta then had branches in Chico, Yreka, Fresno, Modesto, Vallejo, San Jose and Santa Rosa, and was distributing its products in Northern California, Nevada and southern Oregon.

Pureta's continued success was evident in 1963, as the company then expanded into the San Francisco area.

Leo Ricketts, Pureta sales manager at that time, was quoted in the May 24, 1963 edition of The Bee as saying, "This (expansion) represents a milestone for the firm, as it will provide a new outlet for our products, which will help us maintain and possibly increase the employment level in our Sacramento plant (which then employed 225 workers)."

Among the many employees of Pureta were John Hen-

ry Glettig (1896-1959) and Fred Otto "Freddie" Grosklos (1934-2015).

Glettig, who became employed as a sausage maker for the Tastee Sausage Co. at 915 17th St. in about 1936, was working for Pureta as a sausage maker by 1942.

In July 1959, Glettig retired from Pureta due to health issues, and died about four months later.

Grosklos, who was born in Holtenau, Germany, immigrated to Sacramento in 1953.

During the same year, Grosklos acquired work at Pureta as a meat cutter, a job which he maintained for about 15 years. He next operated Freddie's Gourmet in West Sacramento from 1969 to 1991.

Pureta, which was last under the direction of its general manager, William J. Snyder, remained in business at its original location until about 1969.

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Chrysanthemum Society gears up for annual rooted cutting sale

The Sacramento Chrysanthemum Society annual spring Chrysanthemum sale will be held at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3300 McKinley Blvd. on Friday, May 29 from 1 to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, May 30 from 9 to 4:30 p.m.

This is a popular event and eager shoppers arrive early for best selection and varieties. The members have grown a great selection of many of the popular varieties, including the exotic spiders, quills and the very large exhibition bloom types. The plants are not in bloom and are identified by cultivar name and color and in most cases with a picture of the flower when in bloom. Club members will be available to assist with your selections. The stat-

ed goal of the Sacramento Chrysanthemum Society is to promote interest in the plant and assist people in the growing of the plant to successfully create beautiful blooms.

There will be approximately 1,200 plants on sale at this rooted cutting sale. Again, these will not be plants that are in bloom, but there will be pictures of the blooms that the plants will be producing.

In the Chrysanthemum family, there are 13 classifications and within each of them there are many different cultivars.

For the general public, they are usually most interested in class 11-spider mums and class 1 and 5, incurve type mums.

The primrose supreme is a class 1 incurve. Lava



Class 10 Honey



Primrose Mt. Shasta

is a spider mum and Feeling Green is a pompom. Another popular variety that is Class 10-quill. (See photo of the flower titled "Honey.")

Describing the magnitude of the process of producing the large exhibition blooms, Sharon Peterson, secretary of the Sacramento Chrysanthemum Society, said: "The big exhibition blooms don't just 'happen.' The plants produce lovely bouquets of multiple blooms that are very long lasting when used as cut flowers. A bouquet of mums will last for several weeks and stay fresh with just an occasional water change. But the large 'exhibition' blooms are accomplished with several steps as the plant grows. These are the blooms that are on display at our annual show. Every year the show is held at Shepard Garden and Art Center. This year's dates are Nov. 7 and 8."



Feeling green in the garden



Lava

A time to rag on:

East Sacramento-based Ragtime musicians discuss love of the music at upcoming Sacramento Music Festival

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Whether you like modern rock, Dixieland jazz, country, gospel, ragtime or bluegrass, the 42nd edition of the Sacramento Music Festival continues down the path of musical diversity for 2015. Some of the bands for this year's festival include Tower of Power, Everclear, Eve 6, Shawn Mullins, Gloria and the Latin-tinged rock and roll group, Malo.

In addition to contemporary bands, fans of the Music Festival's jazz roots can enjoy the sounds of artists like Sister Swing, the Dixie Company, Vivian Lee and Stephanie Trick. Popular acts Mumbo Gumbo, Tom Rigney & Flambeau and Wonderbread 5 will also be returning, rounding out a diverse lineup of close to 300 sets of music performed throughout the holiday weekend.

Other acts include the Nickel Slots, Joy & Madness, Mick Martin & the Blues Rockers, Lisa Haley & the Zydecats, Miggs, Brodie Stewart, Deke Dickerson, Kyle Rowland, the Royal Society Orchestra, Howell Devine, Spangler and Latin Touch, to name a few.

Members of the Sacramento Ragtime Society and West Coast Ragtime Society, McKinley Park neighborhood residents Bub and Petra Sullivan,

are amongst a group of musicians gearing up for the Ragtime Corner at this year's Sacramento Music Festival from May 22-24 in Old Sacramento. A part of the festival since 1985, this is the first year that the Ragtime Corner will have shows in each of the three venues - John Q's in the Holiday Inn, Golden Eagle at the Firehouse and the Paddle Wheel Saloon on the Delta Queen.

The first Ragtime Corner was in the original Laughs Unlimited in Old Sacramento and since then, they've been at other venues, mostly at the Hyatt Hotel.

Bub, a mandolin player and singer at events (and a pianist and guitarist at home), described his enjoyment of playing for the Sacramento Ragtime Society and the Sacramento Music Festival to the East Sacramento News as follows: "I enjoy sharing this music I love with other people, some of whom may have never heard much real Ragtime, which ranges from exciting up-tempo adventures to gorgeous slower pieces that remind me of the beauty in the world and the marvelous composers who can capture it in music. It is my hope we performers can do the music justice so the listeners get a decent taste of this."

He finds it impossible to pick just one favorite piece to perform. "I feel so lucky to be playing and singing so many wonderful tunes with good musicians. And singing harmonies (with Steve Drivon currently) brings me some major joy," he said. Bub's favorite ragtime performers are Mimi Blais (from Montreal) and Morton Gunnar Larson (from Norway). Mimi because of her technical facility and power, her emotive delivery, and her incessant sense of humor. Morton because of his smooth mastery of the piano, his attention to detail, and his total care of each piece he delivers with such dazzle and grace.



Shown here are members of the Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble, shown from left to right: Bub Sullivan, Elliott Adams, Susan Desper, Steve Drivon; (front row) Robyn Drivon, and Petra Sullivan.

Living out in the suburbs surrounded by orchards and horses, Orangevale pianist Nick Arteaga tends to favor the earlier folksy rags like Maple Leaf, Ticked to Death or The Smiler because they're more "raggy" and they remind him of country life. Scott Joplin's Maple Leaf rag is the first rag Nick really learned to play well as a teenager. "I just think it's a perfect piece of music just like a Bach fugue or a Beethoven sonata," he says.

Asked who his favorite ragtime musician is, Nick said that is something he cannot answer because it's always changing. "Of course, Scott Joplin, James Scott and Joseph Lamb, the so called 'big three' of ragtime have always been at the top of my list as composers. I think there's even more quality ragtime compositions being composed and per-

formed today than back in the original era. Reginald Robinson, Tom Brier and David Thomas Roberts have all been my favorite composers/performers of ragtime at one time or another. Since I'm a composer, more so than a pianist, it's the ragtime composers who interest me the most," he says.

Nick has been performing at the Sacramento Ragtime Society meetings regularly since late 2011. "Most of the time, but not all the time, I'm the youngest performer there," Nick says. Nick's favorite thing about performing at the meetings and the festivals is learning and performing new music that the audience is likely unfamiliar with and seeing what kind of reaction the audience gets. "Often times it's the opposite of what I expect. Besides my own music I play music that's only tangentially related to ragtime such as Mexican, Cuban or Brazilian syncopated music from that period. I often search online university archives for strange forgotten music that piques my interest and it's a joy to be able to perform for an audience that appreciates it," he said.

For more information about the Ragtime Corner, call: 457-3324 and about the Sacramento Music Festival, more generally, visit <http://sacmusicfest.com/>.

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From faerie to mermaid

Sacramentan adds interesting career to entertainment repertoire

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

At one point in her life Ashley "Blossom" Rastad was selling cell phones and water to make money performing jobs she described as "soul sucking." On a whim, the young woman looked on Craigslist and found a posting which asked: Do you want to be a faerie princess for a job? And before she knew it Ashley was working five shows her first weekend with a company called Happily Ever Laughter, a life changing work experience that began just after the interview with proprietor, Laecce Gershenson who goes by the faerie name, Fae Diddle Diddle.

"When I first met (Fae); it was overwhelming; she offered me the job immediately. She literally lives in the redwood forest in Santa Cruz over a little bridge and across a tiny farm. (Asking herself) Is this real? Do they really live this way?" Ashley came to the realization that, yes, Fae really does live like that and, "if she can do it, I can do it." She doesn't have to sell water, even if that meant giving her a "skewed out-of-this-world experience."

Ashley's faerie name, "Blossom" was born out of the young woman having a "high up there" voice, mixed in with "a little bit of a rebellious" attitude. There has been a saying amongst the faeries at Happily Ever Laughter: "What would Blossom do?" Having interesting rebuttals to different situations with parents and children she's acquired over the years, Ashley's experience grew as time went on. Making children's parties magical with face painting, puppet and magic shows, Happily Ever Laughter has faeries in Sacramento, the Bay Area, the Monterey area, and Los Angeles. Ashley has had children completely taken aback by her presence. They "fall completely down the rabbit hole," complaining that the faeries "didn't turn tiny and fly away" and demanding the secrets of becoming a faerie. "We need to know how to turn into faeries. We don't know if we need to put salt on our legs." So Ashley and the other Happily Ever Laughter faeries made them faerie care packages and told their parents to "just send them our way when they are 18. People get super immersed."

Asking the best questions, such as, "Where do you live? And where do you come from?" children have received some of the best answers from Ashley. "I come from the strawberry forest and have been living on a slug for a couple of weeks; it's a sticky situation."

Happily Ever Laughter makes costumes and supplies all the training. When Ashley started about five years ago, the faeries were all independent contractors and has more recently turned into a Limited Liability Company that has been providing its faeries with health insurance coverage.

Besides kiddie parties and community events, Ashley said the company (which is headquartered in the home office in the Santa Cruz Mountains) has thrown fancy parties, including one for Tori Spelling in Los Angeles, parties for Google, and Hornblower Christmas and St. Patrick's Day cruises. Working for Happily Ever Laughter, she said was like working for the most real and caring people. "It was all a little family. It's a thing I fell into and never wanted leave."

But as time goes on, as it always does, we continue to age and Ashley kept on living the faerie life until she felt like a "fairytale grandma faerie." Having trained different faeries, she's seen them come and go. "There are a lot of faerie drop outs," who she says live from one adventure to the next. All the incoming faeries are about 18-22 years old and at age 30, Ashley is now venturing out on her own, independently offering parties for children. She has recently posted on the Land Park and South Land Park neighborhood Facebook page, advertising herself as a magical face painting and balloon twisting fairy.

Becoming a mermaid

Taking on a fun new challenge, Ashley has added mermaid performances to her entertainment repertoire. "This mermaid thing is so different. You can't breathe and you can't really see." But she's been learning to move her body like a fish and her training has paid off. Now a mermaid at Dive Bar, located at 1016 K St., Ashley described the culture of the work ethic amongst the mermaids as follows: "The girls who do training at Dive Bar are committed to the characteristics (of mermaid fantasy)." Donning a 30-pound silicon fin and swimming around the Dive Bar tank for 25 minutes out of 60 for two to three hours, Ashley said she slept "so well" the night of her debut swim, which was held on Wednesday, May 6. Before she was chosen to be one of the next mermaids, she remembers feeling mesmerized after watching them swim



Photo by Amy Slockbower

Land Park resident Ashley "Blossom" Rastad discusses in an interview with the Land Park News about what it's like being a mermaid as well as a faerie for children's parties.

around. Amongst her long term goals, Ashley said is to "make it to Vegas (and perform) in an underwater aquarium."

Ashley will be amongst other Dive Bar mermaids for a special swim event on Friday, May 29 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel pool (1209 L St.), in which children can enjoy some splashy fun with the mermaids. Register your child at mermaid@rachelsmithillustration.com

Moonrise Boutique

Ashley's love for the fantastic extends beyond entertaining for the young and young at heart and her ability to make make believe real took on a new venture in October 2014 when she opened up Moonrise Boutique, a small boutique in the Midtown Collective (1914 P St.), which she advertises as "the perfect place to find that one-of-a-kind special something. Moonrise was born out of what I like and the community seems to be responding," she said.

With 20 local consignors that bring different pieces of art, jewelry, faerie wings, mermaid seashells, mermaid pants, Moonrise shoppers can get what they need in order to transform into a mermaid or faerie.

The Midtown Collective is also home to Firefly, a boutique that carries bohemian and fun clothing items and accessories. Firefly also happens to be the business owned by Ashley's good friend, Danielle Vincent.

A woman behind First Festival

Besides working in close quarters at the Midtown Collective, Ashley and Danielle are putting on a daylong festival (noon to 10 p.m.) on Saturday, May 23 at River Walk Park in West Sacramento, called First Festival. Advanced tickets are \$15, or \$20 at the door. Kick off summer with hand-made treasures, locally made jewelry, local fashion and food. The event will also offer food trucks, live music from local musicians, vendors, dancing, face painting (of course), a contained beer garden and more.

Despite their original goal of wanting it to be a free festival paid for by sponsorships, Ashley is sure it will be successful. "We wanted it to be a free festival. We wanted to bring in sponsorships, but we haven't gotten any because we look the way we do; it's really frustrating. (Businesses) 100 percent dismissed us. No one wants to believe we can pull this off, even though Danielle has done Pops in the Park (as the city of Sacramento District 3 representative for constituent affairs)." Recently Ashley and Danielle have been going to the Friday Concerts in the Park to flier for First Festival and Ashley said the response has been wonderful with people saying they've already purchased their ticket. It's crazy."

Loved by children and adults alike for her unique style and fun personality, Ashley Blossom is definitely someone to watch as her career continues to grow. To book Ashley for your child's birthday party, email moonrisetreasure@gmail.com.

Jeff Harris continues the Pops in the Park tradition

Here's a sneak peek at the talent coming to East Sacramento at the annual Pops in the Park music series. This free concert series happens every Saturday in June at different parks in District 3. Come on out for great music, wonderful food, and tasty beer and wine which all support local neighborhood programs. So, please join council member Jeff Harris as he continues the tradition of Pops in the Park. For more information, call 808-7003.

New to the district 3 office, Jennifer West, Harris' executive assistant, said that organizing this year's Pops in the Park has been relatively easy. "Jeff's the best guy to work for. And everything was extremely organized (from Sue Brown and Steve Cohn's tenure). We didn't have to reinvent the wheel and (Sue) has been accessible to me. We're not changing too much. It's just business as usual. It's going to be great summer." Additionally to Pops in the Park, Harris' office is continuing the Screen on the Green with two showings of "Big Hero Six" -- one in South Natomas on Friday, Aug. 28 and one at Glenn Hall Park on Saturday, Aug. 29.

The schedule is as follows:

- Tom Rigney & Flambeau will be at East Portal Park (1120 Rodeo Way) on Saturday, June 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- The John Skinner Band will be at Bertha Henschel Park (160 45th St.) on Saturday, June 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Mumbo Gumbo will be at McKinley Park (601 Alhambra Blvd.) on Saturday, June 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- The Count will be at Glenn Hall Park (5415 Sandburg Dr.) on Saturday, June 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Now about the bands:

Tom Rigney and Flambeau

Tom Rigney, the fiery, electrifying violinist/composer, joins forces with some of the finest musicians on the San Francisco roots music scene to form Tom Rigney and Flambeau, a band that will tear the roof off of any place that has one and raise the spirits of everyone around. Rigney, now in his second decade at the helm of Flambeau, has in re-

cent years become one of the premier blues and roots music violinists in the world. Flambeau showcases his passionate, virtuoso fiddling, his commanding stage presence, his range, depth, and originality as a composer, and of course, those notorious red boots! His bandmates are veterans of the great bands of Charles Brown, Queen Ida, Clifton Chenier, and many others, and together they generate enough heat and energy to ignite a dance floor or lift an audience to its feet.

Mumbo Gumbo

For over 25 years, Mumbo Gumbo had been one of N. California's top groups, releasing nine original-music CDs and collecting numerous "Sammie" and "Best of Sacramento" awards. The 7-piece band tours the Western United States, bringing their "genre-bending Americana" music to their many fans. Their big musical stew contains elements of soul, zydeco, folk, blues, rock, Cajun, Caribbean, and country all mixed into their uniquely festive roots-music sound.

The Count

The Count is a classic rock band from Sacramento with Jim Caselli on drums, Mike Caselli on keyboards, Bruce Leino on bass guitar and vocals, Sean McAuliffe on guitar and keyboards, Ed Nelson on vocals, George Stratton on guitar and vocals. The Count is a tribute to music. Playing a unique blend of Rock and R&B with the occasional twist thrown in for good measure, The Count strives to take their audience on a journey where every note played counts.

The John Skinner Band

John Skinner's musicians have entertained in Northern California for several decades. The combo offers hit songs from the 1950s; professional horn players allow smooth transitions from swing to rock. New-Zealand-born Susan Skinner is our featured singer with other band members also chiming in on vocals. Rick Baker is the lead trumpet player and leader. The Skinner ensemble has delighted park audiences all over Northern California; enlivened thou-



Photo courtesy of Mumbo Gumbo

Shown here from left to right are members of Mumbo Gumbo: Reggy Marks, Jon Wood, Steve Stizzo, Chris Webster, Rick Lotter, Tracy Walton, Mike Palmer.



Photo courtesy

Shown here are members of Tom Rigney and Flambeau: Caroline Dahl, Brent Rampone, Tom Rigney, Danny Caron and Steve Parks.



Picture courtesy of the John Skinner Band

Shown from left to right are members of the John Skinner Band: Matt McFarlane, Shelly Denny, Tom Hannickel, Susan Skinner, John Skinner, Roger Gosline, Bob Allen.



Photo by Angie Cardeña

Shown here from left to right are members of the Count: Mike Caselli, Bruce Leino, Ed Nelson, George Stratton, Jim Caselli, Sean McAuliffe.

sands of galas, shows and weddings. Many Sacramentans remember summer Fridays at Town & Country Village. In the 1980s, Skinner's 14-piece group played there for seven years. This band has also backed many stars. These in-

clude Johnny Mathis, Anne Murray, Smokey Robinson, Don Rickles, Bobby Rydell, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Paul Anka and Donna Summer.

John Skinner provides Three popular Skinner CDs

are available. Two recordings each contain 74 minutes of music from the combo. The big band CD has 60 minutes of danceable tunes. Susan offers her own CD of eight original songs, recorded with John Skinner musicians.



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Local play "Dinners With Augie" to benefit neighborhood area nonprofits

"Dinners With Augie" is the story of Arthur Valentine. After suffering a heart attack, Arthur must confront his own mortality. With the help of his doctor, Tom Mauro, and nurse Danielle Signorello, he makes an amazing discovery about life — the unshakable bonds between past and present. Starring Jeff Webster as Arthur, Dustin Miller as Dr. Mauro and Yuri Tajiri as Nurse Dani, the play is produced by Blue Panther and Dog-Father Productions and directed by E.M. Hodge.

This year's production of "Dinners With Augie" benefits three charities: Front Street Animal Shelter, Team Will and East Sac Give Back. Tickets are \$20 but organizers are offering a pre-show price of \$15 for the first 200.

Visit <http://dinnerswithaugie.com/2015/> to purchase tickets for June 3, 4 or 5 at 7 p.m. at Antiquite Maison, or for the June 7 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. productions at The Jean Runyon Little Theater.

Organizers thank sponsors Grateful Dog Day-care, Coldwell Banker Realtors Jeanine Roza and Sindy Kirsh, Legacy Law Group,

the Dental Practice of Jerome J. Daby, and Mr and Mrs. R.S. Suter for making this event possible.

The Antiquite Maison is a premier location for private or corporate events in midtown and the historic Jean Runyon Theater, built in 1927, is part of the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.

The author would like to send a special thank you to the Sacramento Playwright's Collaborative for their support and encouragement.

Playwright Scott Charles did a question and answer with the East Sacramento News.

Q: Tell me more about the plot of "Dinners with Augie."

A: Augie was an Irish Terrier belonging to Arthur and his wife Diane many decades ago when they were first married. Augie is present in spirit. At the start of the play we see Arthur as an elderly man, a widower, reminiscing about his past. He has a heart attack, goes to the hospital, and makes an emotional connection with his Dr. and nurse. While he is in the hospital he has a series of dreams that help him understand

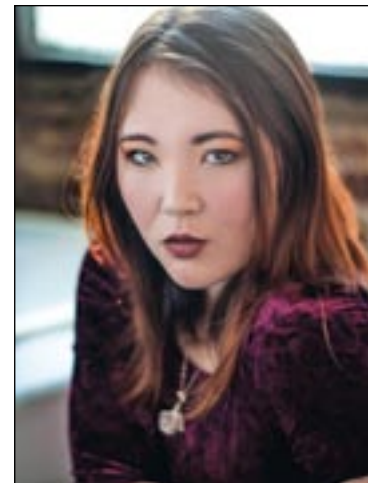


Jeffrey Webster

his life, and what the next stage will be.

Q: Can you start at the beginning about how "Dinners with Augie" came to be and can you tell me your role in it?

A: My wife's parents had an Irish Terrier when she was younger, and she really loved that dog. So we got an Irish Terrier. This was 7 years ago and since we got him in August we decided to name him Augie (short for Augustus.) Augie is my first dog, and it was a big step for me because for the first time in my life I had to be responsible for the welfare of someone or something other than myself. So it was (and is) an opportunity for growth. So I wrote



Yuri Tajiri

the play based on that idea of how a dog can be a way to express positive emotions and compassion.

Q: Tell me about the backgrounds of the actors.

A: (Editor's Note: See below for biographies about the actors.) Jeff Webster was involved from the start — he actually did the reading. Then he played the part in 2011 world premier. He lives in Arizona with his wife Sue, but agreed to come back to play the part again. We're lucky to have him. Dustin Miller and Yuri Tajiri are local actors who I am meeting for the first time.

Q: Can you tell me how the three charities were chosen?

A: Team Will and East Sac Give Back are located in my neighborhood. These are small charities that are doing great work and I wanted to help them raise money and build awareness. Front Street Animal Shelter does so much good work, and of course there is the connection to dogs.

Biographies

Jeffrey Webster — Arthur Valentine

Jeff is thrilled to be back in Sacramento reprising



Dustin Miller

one of his favorite roles as Arthur Valentine. He first played Arthur when "Dinners with Augie" premiered in 2011. Since moving to the desert Southwest in 2013, Jeff has continued his shameless attempts at soliciting applause in plays such as "Lend me a Tenor", "Moon Over Buffalo" and "Run for your Wife". Most recently, he could be seen in Fox Television's "Legends and Lies", portraying New Mexico Governor Lew Wallace. Jeff thanks Scott Charles for this opportunity to help raise funds for three deserving organizations, and dedicates this performance to Susan, his understanding and supportive wife of 46 years.

Yuri Tajiri — Danielle (Dani) Signorello

Yuri is looking forward to playing the role of Dani in "Dinners with Augie". Previous roles include the Narrator in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" for the Green Valley Theatre Company, Linda in "Evil Dead the Musical for Sutter Street Theatre and Grumio in "The Taming of the Shrew for The Alternative Arts Collective. Yuri holds a BA in Theatre Arts

See Dinners, page 14

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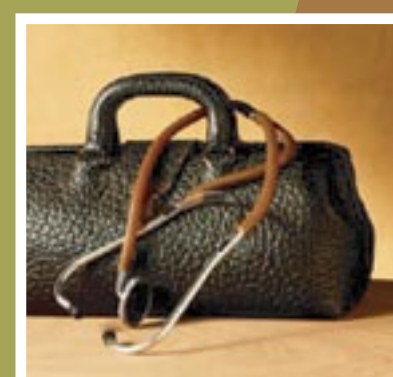
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Dinners:

Continued from page 12

from CSU Sacramento and is a freelance photographer when not onstage. She hopes this play will move you as it has moved her.

Dustin Miller – Dr. Thomas (Tommy) Mauro

Dustin is a trained actor out of Sacramento and has several on camera credits such as appearing on Discovery Channel I.D., Feature film and Sundance Grand Prize Winner "Fruitvale Station", feature film "Garden of Eden" starring Eric Roberts as well as a commercial for CISCO Systems and several short films in and around the Sacramento region. He has also appeared in theatre in such productions as "An Act of the Imagination" and "Down the Road". Dustin is continually working on his craft as an actor and has been consistently working on films one after another with no sign of slowing down.

Elise Hodge – Director

Elise is the owner of EMH Productions which is dedicated to putting time and energy into many facets of the creative world for actors, community theatre for those wishing to pursue acting or have a creative outlet, as well as facilitating network-

ing opportunities to writers, directors and producers for theatre, TV and Film. We all know how difficult it can be to market our talents successfully. This is an arena to take charge of your career and do just that. Elise has produced, directed, acted and written for the stage, TV and film, splitting her time equally between Los Angeles and Sacramento, receiving awards along the way for her efforts. She has been a member of the 68 Cent Crew Theatre Company in LA for the last 10 years, just completed casting her first feature film, her second full length play "Fragile Things" and is in various stages of production on 4 web series. She is happy and excited to be working with this talented group of actors and production team as the director and thanks Scott Charles especially for trusting her with his words.

Erin Dimond – Stage Manager

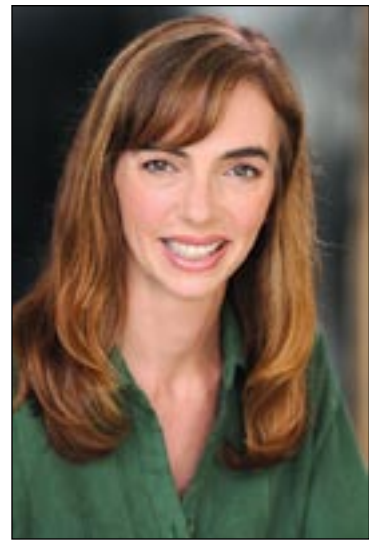
Erin has been a highly active member of the local theatre scene for 12 years now and "Dinners with Augie" will be her 30th show as a stage manager. She is thrilled to be breaking her theatre hiatus with this impactful show, talented cast and dynamic director. Having dabbled in a little of all



Elise Hodge



Erin Dimond



Laura Lundy Paine

the different theatre jobs Erin really enjoys being behind the scenes. Feeling a deep sense of community and arts activism keeps her passion and drive for this life going strong. Erin also sits on the SARTA (Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance) board and helps to plan multiple networking opportunities and theatre recognition events throughout the year. She hopes that you take away from this show a better understanding of yourself and how we interact and affect another life.

Laura Lundy Paine – Producer

Laura LundyPaineLaura Lundy-Paine is the Found-

er & Managing Director of Blue Panther. Blue Panther produced a staged reading of Scott Charles's new plays The Call-Girl's Dilemma and Chamber of Love in January at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles. The Call-Girl's Dilemma has been workshopped and is being developed into a full-length play scheduled for a January 2016 production in Los Angeles. Upcoming Blue Panther projects include Ten Minute Mania in downtown Oakland, October 2015, and a New York premiere by Bay Area playwright William Bivins in Spring, 2016.

Laura is also the Artistic Director for Virago Theatre Company (2005-present), where she pro-

duced and directed Threepenny Opera, Candide, A Taste of Honey, and Sonia Flew, along with the world premieres of A Bed of My Own, The Afterlife of the Mind, Beekeeper, Zombie Vixens from Hell-The Musical, and Ransom, Texas in San Francisco (2014) & Los Angeles (2015). In 2013-2014 Laura produced and starred in the World Premiere of George Pfirmann's AROUSAL paired with Harold Pinter's The Lover, and brought the show to San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York for highly successful runs in all three cities.

Other credits include directing the critically acclaimed 20th anniversary Bay Area production of Angels in America: Millennium Approaches for Theatre Shark, Sight Unseen for Lunacy Stageworks (Portland, Oregon), the world premiere of Anatomy at The Next Stage, the staged reading of original musical Wink by Maureen Bagues at Theatre Rhinoceros, and Shivaree for Paula Productions (Portland). Laura received her training at Pomona College and through the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and has been a professional working producer/director/actor for 25 years.

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Matias Bombal's Hollywood

The Age of Adeline

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

LIONSGATE and Lakeshore Entertainment bring us "The Age of Adeline" in which Adeline Bowman, (Blake Lively), remains 29 years of age for almost a century through a mystery trick of fate during an automo-

bile accident on an unusually snowy night in Sonoma, California in 1933.

In this romantic fantasy that spans the best years of the last century to the present, the eternally young Adeline is constantly running from her agelessness.

That is until she descends one New Years Eve in an elevator with a handsome phi-

lanthropist played by Michiel Huisman. Twenty-seven floors later, and with some persistence from him, she agrees, with trepidation, to come over for a date.

Romance blossoms, yet she remains guarded with her secret, which is in danger of being exposed unexpectedly when Harrison Ford, playing the father of Huisman, happens to have known and loved Adeline in the 1960s and is certain that it is she, much to the concern of his wife, played by actress Kathy Baker.

If you take your own sweetie to this movie, you'll have wonderful results for this is a lively 107 years of romantic fantasy, handsomely made. The beginning of the movie unravels in a beautiful and clever way and is marvelously imagined and carried out.

The only matter that seemed a bit forced was the closing voice over narration in storyteller fashion, which is

the way the movie opens. The narration, by Hugh Ross, was okay, somewhat reminiscent of "The Hudsucker Proxy" but was a bit much at the end. This movie was directed by Lee Toland Krieger.

Hot Pursuit

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Warner Bros. releases an M-G-M and New Line Cinema comedy which teams Reese Witherspoon and beautiful Sofia Vergara. This is in no way connected to the John Cusack movie of 1987 of the same name. his is more in the vein of a "Dukes of Hazzard" meets "Cannonball Run" and features Witherspoon as a tomboy cop assigned to protect the widow of a drug lord and bring her to trial as an informant.

Off to a shaky start, they must drive a long way to Dallas. The two are at opposite ends in every imaginable way, yet must bond together as

they are chased by crooked cops and mad gunmen.

The director of this movie, Anne Fletcher, makes a Hitchcock cameo as a police dispatcher in one early scene. She's worked as an actress before turning to directing. Perhaps she should have stayed an actress.

This movie is unfunny. The chemistry between the two principals never develops, and no matter how charming Ms. Vergara may be, and she is that, she is the only redeeming aspect in this movie, which fails on many levels. Gaps in continuity and the prolonging what would have made a better television episode of 30 minutes is dragged out to 87 minutes. The preview audience laughed in many spots, however, to me, the entire production seemed trite and forced. Ms. Witherspoon has proved herself an excellent actress and comedienne in other movies, however, here her performance lacks the true ability of her talent, and seemed like she was playing dress-up for a TV skit.

Solution to Crossword:

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CALENDAR

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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.

Free yoga in Tahoe Park

Free yoga in Tahoe Park every Sunday at 9 a.m. (starting April 12) at 59th Street at 11th Avenue. Please bring a mat, towel, and a water bottle. This is an all-levels class and everyone is welcome.

Preschool storytime at Ella K. McClatchy Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. there will be time for books, songs, stories and fun. Miss Lindsey and her guitar always make this story time a fun event. Everyone is welcome to "stay and play" after with the library's toys. Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St.

Advanced ESL Class at Ella K. McClatchy Library (Adult)

This advanced English as a Second Language class is taught by Toni Chapralis to enhance conversational skills. All teens and adults are welcome to join this weekly class held on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Ella K. McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

E-Reader Help at Ella K. McClatchy Library (Technology Instruction)

E-reader help is available every week on Thursdays from 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your device with you. Sign up at the service desk or stop by for the first available appointment. Ella K. McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

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.

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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

Continued on page 19

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Explore new creative interests at the Hart Senior Center

Art classes

Hart Senior Center will launch a new series of beginner weaving lessons, with longtime textile artist and weaving instructor, Ann Robinson. Lessons will introduce students to terminology, looms, equipment, and weaving techniques. Classes will be held Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. starting June 8 and meet for six lessons. Registration fee is \$25 and includes all materials.

Additionally, local artist Marie Taylor will demonstrate the design process of 45 degree/square-based mandalas in this four-part course. These unique geometric designs can be framed as art or applied to stationery, fabric, ceramics and more. Classes will be held Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. beginning June 9 and will meet for four lessons. Registration fee: \$25 for four lessons. Optional materials fee \$5 will include all supplies needed for class.

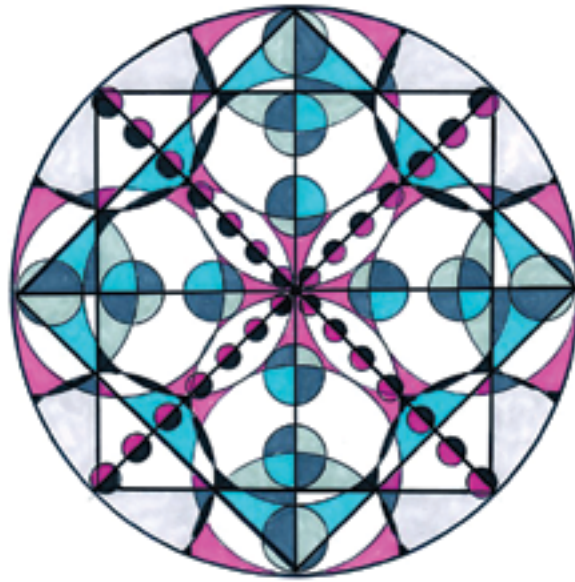
Space is limited for both classes. Adults age 50 plus can sign up for Learn the Loom: Weaving Lessons with Ann Robinson or Make Your Own Mandalas with Marie Taylor by visiting the Hart Senior Center front desk at 915 27th Street in Midtown Sacramento or calling (916) 808-5462. Learn more about the classes and view links to samples of the instructors' artistic work by visiting the Art Classes page of the Hart Senior Center website: <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/hartcenter>.

On Ann's website, www.annrobinsonstextiles.com/ann-robinson, the artist states that after many years of teaching and advising students on campuses including the University of Wisconsin and Stanford, budget cuts left her without a classroom. "Finally, I could focus full time on my inherent artistic interests - dyeing and weaving yarn," she says.

Today she designs and weaves one-of-a-kind textiles using traditional looms, respecting and preserving an ancient form of art. She has three looms in my home studio and use only natural fibers, primarily plant fibers (cotton, tencel [wood], bamboo, soy, linen, hemp) and silk. "The weaving process is itself an art, and I weave not to create a picture but rather to express a feeling through color and structure. I hand-dye the yarn in a variety of color combinations and then choose a structure of repeating patterns, resulting in a visual rhythm that is evident in each piece," she states.

Ann has been teaching the weaving process since early 2009 and presently offers classes at the University of California, Davis. Previously, she had established the weaving curriculum at Women's Wisdom, an art therapy program offered through the Sacramento Food Bank until it closed in July 2012.

Meanwhile, Marie has always been drawn to the beauty, order and serenity of mandalas. "Whether viewing a simple Zen circle or the tapestry-like complexity of the Tibetan and Hindu paintings, the mandala draws first my eye and then my soul into its heart," she says on her website, <http://marietaylorink.com/mandala-art/>.



In regard to the process of designing mandalas, Marie said she never plans the design of a mandala before beginning. "I suspend my everyday mind and invite my intuition to lead. I use smooth Bristol paper and start the mandala by drawing a circle with a protractor and then marking off the circle in 30 and/or 45 degree segments," she says.

Once the points are placed on the outer rim of the circle, she adds lines to create squares, triangles or other geometric figures. These are then divided and subdivided into smaller and smaller areas. Sometimes she uses a circle or ellipse template to add new layers of detail and richness to the design. Every line is chosen without thought - although once a degree/line is selected, it is repeated to sustain a symmetrical motif.

When it comes to selecting colors for mandalas (once the basic design lines of the mandala are inked in), the colors are added with Prismamarkers or colored pencil. She selects the colors randomly and then intuitively selects one of the areas of the pattern to color in. She then colors in other matching areas to maintain symmetry.

"The only thought involved is a desire to vary the light and dark, value/intensity of the colors so that a rhythm emerges in the color application. After all colors are applied, the black lines are again traced with a heavier line for more definition and impact.

Rather than thinking about what lines to link or designs to create, rather than deciding which colors to select or which areas to leave empty, she said she steps back from decision-making. "As long as I can suspend my judgmental thinking mind there is no such thing as a wrong choice. The designs and colors choices that emerge reflect my consciousness at the time of creating the mandala. Rather than seeking perfection in outcome, I enjoy the process of participating," she says.

In regard to reflecting upon completed mandalas, Marie said after completing a mandala she hangs it on her wall to view and looks at it often. "The design that I might have thought weak or the colors I might

have questioned, over the period of a few hours, seem to internally transform. Almost inevitably, a mandala seems to turn in upon itself, find coherence and 'bloom' in some mysterious way," she says.

"The unique process of creation as well as the inner energies of an individual mandala guarantees that each one is one of a kind. In fact, I have been unable to duplicate either the design or the color choices of a mandala in a new work."

To see examples, here's a link to the You Tube mandala movie with about 100 mandalas - takes about 10 minutes to watch. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSpj-PKNfU&feature=youtu.be>

Register today for City of Sacramento's Technology Program for Adults Age 50 Plus

The Summer 2015 session of TechConnections, a comprehensive technology literacy program designed specifically for Sacramento's residents age 50 plus is scheduled to begin June 8th. Offerings range from one-on-one assistance sessions to six-part classes and start on various dates through August.

Continuing registrations for offerings at the Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., will be taken weekdays at the senior center until all classes are full. Registration for offerings at the South Natomas Community Center will take place during the community center's regular business hours.

Summer 2015 classes include: Computer Basics, Introduction to Windows 8.1 and Beyond, Internet and Beyond, Introduction to Excel, Introduction to Word and more. TechConnections will also offer Facebook and MacBook classes during the summer session.

Class descriptions, dates, times, and locations are available in the "TechConnections Summer 2015 Class Catalog" on the City of Sacramento's Older Adult Services website: <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/techconnections>. For additional inquiries or information, contact 808-5462.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 17

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 <http://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.

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.

Health and Wellness TAI CHI With Chuck Malone at Eskaton

Every Thursday starting at 2:30 p.m., enjoy Tai Chi with Chuck Malone at Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Blvd. Tai chi is often described as "meditation in motion," but it might well be called "meditation in motion." There is growing evidence that this mind-body practice, which originated in China as a martial art, has value in treating or preventing many health problems. And you can get started even if you aren't in top shape or the best of health. FREE for residents and their families - \$4 for guests. Call 441-1015 or email scott.okamoto@eskaton.org to reserve your space today!

MAY

What: Grinding Holes to Cattle Brands History Hike

May 23: The Sacramento Valley Conservancy's featured monthly history hike at Deer Creek Hills is the Grinding Holes to Cattle Brands, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come travel a new trail with Deer Creek Hills historian David Scharlach as he points out evidence of prior residence to Sacramento's largest open space preserve. Put your boots onto the soil where Native Americans hunted and chanted songs to the early hours, where European trappers took beaver, where Californios were rewarded for their services, where miners scoured the gulches for a bit of color and, finally, ranchers grazed their sheep and cattle. Good for all ages. Cost is \$10. Register online: www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp

Woodland and Pond Birding

May 23: The Sacramento Valley Conservancy invites you to participate to a docent guided Pond Birding at Deer Creek Hills from 7 to 11 a.m. Volunteer Birding Docents Thomas Baumann and Lisa Couper will guide and lead you on cattle paths at this open space preserve. You'll observe birding activity at stock ponds and seasonal creeks, as you take shelter along the edge of the oak woodland canopy. Late departing migratory birds can be seen and heard, as well as the activity of the year-round birds of Deer Creek Hills. Hushed tones, walking and stopping are the best ways to bird watch on this outing. Wear "quiet" warm, muted earth-tone colors, sturdy boots for uneven surfaces. Cotton or wool fabrics are considered "quiet" and work great! Birding scopes, binoculars and/or cameras, are highly recommended for any birding outing. The event is good for all ages. The cost is \$10. Register online: www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp

Auditions for Sacramento Youth Symphony's 2015-2016 season

May 23, 24, 30, 31: If you play brass, woodwinds, percussion, or strings then you're invited to join the award-winning Sacramento Youth Symphony, the Sacramento area's premier youth organization for musicians (ages 6-21)! SYSS has orchestras and ensembles for every level, from beginning through advanced. Online applications are available at www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org, and are due by late April. Auditions will be held on May 23 and 24 and May 30 and 31. Full merit-based scholarships available for select instruments (must apply before April 10)! Call Robert at 731-5777 for details.

Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 27: Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music featuring violinist Igor Veligan and pianist Natsuki Fukasawa. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

Fire Station 8 Open House

May 30: Fire Station 8, located at 5990 H St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

JUNE

Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock

June 4: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical

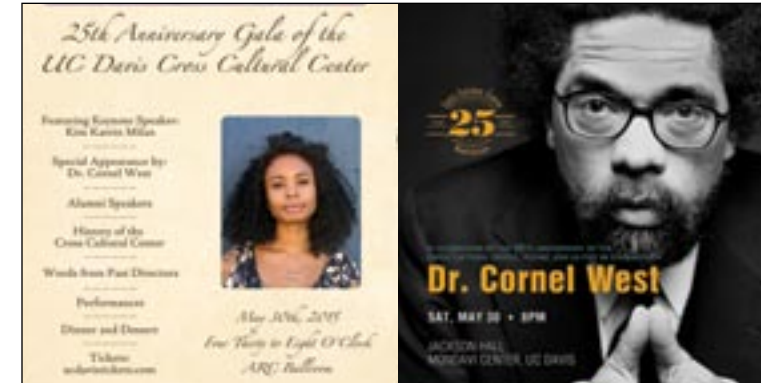
experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your own leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Fire Station 5 Open House

June 6: Fire Station 5, located at 731 Broadway, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

The Folsom Symphony presents: Sport Night at the Symphony

June 6 and 7: Narrated as a sports event, the symphony presents a Monday Night Football theme, featuring Bizet's "March of the Toreadors" (Carmen), Reinecke's "Casey at the Bat", themes from Rocky, Chariots of Fire, and Brian's Song, Williams' "Olympic Fanfare and Theme", Peter Schickele/PDQ Bach's hilarious version of the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway. The Saturday, June 6 show starts at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday, June 7 starts at 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.folsomsymphony.com or call 608-6888. Tickets range from \$20 to \$55 depending on location.





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Attention Realtors!

Advertise Your Property Listings in California Kids!

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.

Some of the drops include: schools, restaurants, doctors and dentists, libraries, museums, grocery stores, attorney offices, visitor centers, chamber of commerces, real estate offices, parks and recreation offices, coffee shops, book stores, churches, child care centers, pizza parlors, gymnastic centers, reaching those parents most likely to purchase products, use services, and search real estate listings.

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PENDING

DUPLEX WITH POSSIBILITIES

A wonderful rental property in East Sacramento in a fantastic location. Close to public transportation, great restaurants, shopping, churches, schools and much more. Hardwood floors, fireplace with built-ins on both sides, and inside laundry room. Live in one unit and rent the other. \$619,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



PENDING

MCKINLEY PARK CLOSE

Wonderful East Sacramento home, close to McKinley Park and ready for a new owner! 2 or 3 bedroom 2 bath with open floor plan, remodeled kitchen with breakfast room and hardwood floors throughout. Master suite has 2 closets and access to backyard! Great office could be 3rd bedroom. Backyard is darling! \$595,000

CARMAH HATCH 765-6210



PENDING

EAST SACRAMENTO TUDOR

Classic East Sac Tudor home. Lovingly updated kitchen and bathroom match the period of this 1928 home. Hardwood floors, marble counter tops and period hardware. Back yard is an oasis with decking, lovely yard and room to garden and entertain friends. Highly desirable ES street. \$595,000

**LEIGH RUTLEDGE 612-6911
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EAST SACRAMENTO ORIGINAL

3 or 4 bedrooms 2 baths, with so much potential for an investor or owner-occupant looking to move to East Sacramento at an affordable price. Home maintains much of its original character; spacious living room and dining area, large basement wired for home office. Home sits adjacent to Blues Alley. \$349,000

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288



EAST PORTAL PARK CORNER

Charm, charm, charm in this beautifully maintained 3 bedroom 2 bath home across from East Portal Park. Hardwood floors throughout, living room fireplace and mantle, formal dining room and unique dining bar! Big master bathroom addition, workshop and 2-car garage. Beautifully landscaped front and back.

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483



PENDING

FABULOUS HOME

4 bedroom, 2 bath single level home, 2900 sf. Bright and airy with skylights and spacious rooms. Refinished maple and random plank floors. Murphy bed in front bedroom. Plantation shutters, living room fireplace and 5 year old roof. New tile on 2 patios. Finished basement over 300 additional sf. \$799,900

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Conveniently located, close to shopping, restaurants and transportation, this lovely 3 bedroom, 1½ bath home has beautiful refinished hardwood floors, living room, dining room and spacious master bedroom! Central heat and air conditioning, covered patio and attached garage. Bring your decorating ideas. \$394,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379



RIVER PARK DUPLEX

Rental property located in desirable River Park, close to the American River Parkway. One unit updated with solid counter top in kitchen and bath, arched doorway and brick fireplace in living room - could be used as an owners unit. 2-car garage which opens to the backyard. \$419,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



PENDING

DARLING EAST SACRAMENTO HOME

Cute 2 bedroom 2 bath home meticulously maintained with many updates including master bath and dual pane windows. Living room fireplace and formal dining area. Guest bedroom French doors open to lovely and spacious backyard with raised deck. Just down the street from Bertha Henschel Park. \$449,000

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