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'Janey Way Memories'
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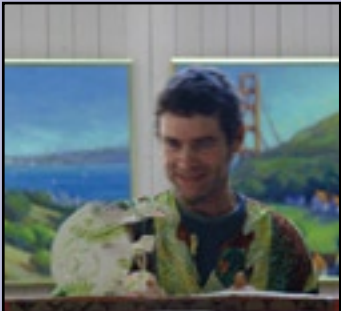
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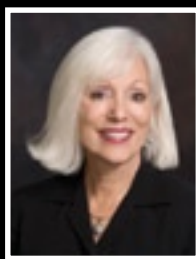
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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Ancient art form makes a comeback in Northern California

By ELIZABETH VALENTE
Land Park News writer
elizabeth@valcomnews.com

With Broadway turning out shows like *The Lion King*, *Avenue Q* and *Shrek the Musical*, it's no wonder puppet masters are once again being called upon for fun and inexpensive entertainment. At least, that is what Sean Powers, a storyteller, musician and puppeteer believes.

For more than a decade, the 46-year-old Humboldt resident has been performing and telling a wide variety of traditional and original stories from around the world using shadow and stick puppets, while at times playing musical instruments. He has performed at over 60 different schools, libraries and theatres throughout northern California.

No strings attached

According to Wikipedia, puppet shows are considered to be one of the first forms of live dramatic entertainment, believed to have originated 30,000 years BC.



Photo courtesy, Sean Powers

Shadow puppet master Sean Powers shows students the puppets and tools he uses to create live puppet theater to school students. Puppetry is thought to be one of the oldest entertainment artforms in the world, dating back many millenia.

But after television was introduced, their popularity steadily declined.

Shadow puppetry is not your typical wooden puppet on a string – don't think Pinocchio or Lamb Chop the sock pocket. Powers uses light, paper, tape, sticks and shadow to illustrate his stories.

"When you say, 'puppets' people immediately think of a sock on your hand," he said. "My show lacks socks, but it does involve a number

of gadgets used for sound effects."

Like a one-man band, Powers wears a self-made headpiece of instruments, including a variety of whistles to help bring the puppets and the story itself to life.

Teacher workshops

Powers, a former illustrator, started performing puppetry at his daughter's school

See Powers, page 5

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Powers: Shadow puppet master to perform at Luna Café on March 18

Continued from page 4

more than a decade ago and has never stopped.

"Teachers and parents from schools, libraries, and festivals, are all asking for this form of entertainment," Powers explained. "Everyone played with shadow as a kid, with a curtain and a flashlight, it captures your imagination. I use it to incorporate local and current events, folktales, and humor."

However, due to the effects of the economic recession and shrinking state and local education budgets, many schools have cut back on arts education. That is why Powers provides workshops for teachers about shadow puppetry because it's an inexpensive form of entertainment.

"I use cereal boxes, bamboo sticks, hole-punch, scissors and tape," he said. "The style I do is pretty cheap. I want teachers, parents and kids to know there are other ways of learning and interpreting information than just books, and this is another way."

Performances

His dolls and characters prove to reach a level of comfort with children, according to teachers.

"Kids say things to puppets that they wouldn't say

"Teachers and parents from schools, libraries, and festivals, are all asking for this form of entertainment. Everyone played with shadow as a kid, with a curtain and a flashlight, it captures your imagination. I use it to incorporate local and current events, folktales, and humor."

-Sean Powers

to anyone else," Powers added.

According to Barbara McVeigh, a teacher from Marine Home School Community, "His performances are magical. He ignites that imagination and beauty of shadow puppetry. The kids in the audience reacted well to the story because I think the puppets really just give that extra magical twist to it."

Powers has performed in Japan and throughout Northern California. This summer he will travel to Washington and Oregon to do shows.

Upcoming performance

Powers performs original and folktale stories such as *The Bloom Tree* from China, *The Cat Drum* from Africa and on Friday, March 18, Powers will present the shadow puppet play *Why Rat Is First* at Sacramento's Luna Café and Juice Bar located between 16th Street and Capitol Avenue. The performance begins at 8 p.m.

"It's a traditional folk tale telling how Rat became the first in the Chinese zodiac," Powers said. "It's going to be a fun family event."

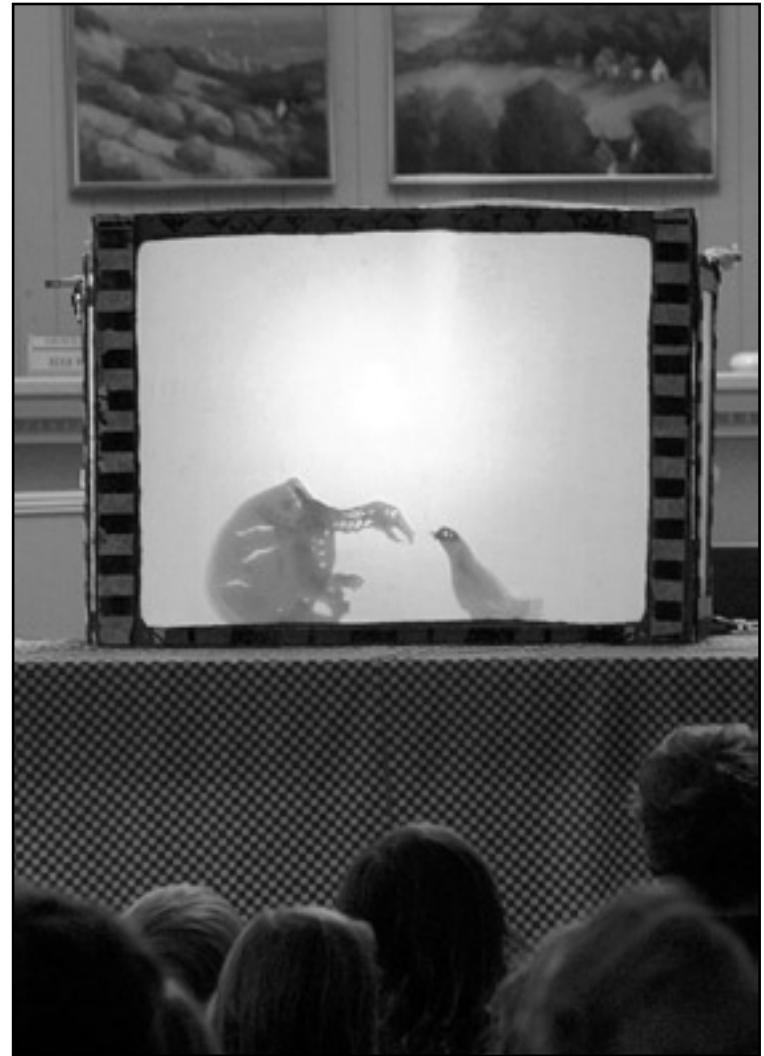


Photo courtesy, Sean Powers

Students relate to puppets on a deep level, according to shadow puppet master Sean Powers.

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American Red Cross to celebrate 130 years of service

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

The American Red Cross, the world-renowned, disaster relief, volunteer-led organization with a Sacramento chapter since 1898, is about to celebrate a special anniversary.

It was on May 21, 1881, thus nearly 130 years ago, that the ARC was founded by Clara Barton.

Furthermore, on a national level, this is currently a very notable time for the organization.

This month is Red Cross Month, a recognition that has been a tradition since President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was serving as the honorary chairman of the organization, first declared March as a special month for the organization in 1943.

Since then, United States presidents have continued to proclaim March as Red Cross Month on an annual basis.

As a fundraising campaign with a goal of collecting \$125 million, the original Red Cross Month received an overwhelming response as the goal was reached in less than six weeks.

Further proving that the public did not recognize Red Cross Month as a drive with an expiration date, funds con-

tinued to be donated to the organization. By June 1943, the drive had resulted in donations totaling about \$146 million.

Because of this initial success, Red Cross Month became a tradition that has assisted the Red Cross in fulfilling its mission, which reads as follows: "The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies."

Furthermore, the ARC described its role as an organization that "shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families."

With a long history of responding to the nation's needs, the ARC, which is strictly a charitable, non-government agency that relies on the volunteer support of the American public to perform its services, has grown with the times.



American Red Cross Capital Region Chapter members gather together at the chapter's headquarters near Cal Expo.

Land Park News photo, Lance Armstrong

For all the good that the ARC does to assist others in needs, none of the many services of the organization would have been possible without the work of its founder.

And for this reason, it is important in any overview of the ARC's history to highlight Clara Barton.

Born Clarissa Harlowe Barton in Oxford, Mass. on Christmas Day in 1821, Bar-

ton can be considered a holiday gift for countless people who have benefitted from the services of the ARC since its founding.

But in order to have a better understanding of how long Barton maintained a deep interest in assisting others in need, it is necessary to know that Barton was active in helping such people long before she founded the ARC.

With the beginning of the Civil War, little time passed before Barton was dedicating her time to helping soldiers in her home state.

Initially, Barton cooked for soldiers and also ripped sheets into towels and handkerchiefs for them.

But her efforts did not stop there, as Barton was

See Red Cross, page 7



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Red Cross: March is American Red Cross month

Continued from page 6

dedicated to bringing comfort to the sick and the wounded from the battlefield, and fought for permission to bring food, medicine and supplies to soldiers on the frontlines.

Through these efforts, she received the nickname, the "Angel of the Battlefield."

Following the war, Barton was commissioned by President Abraham Lincoln to search for missing Union soldiers and she also initiated a movement to have a national cemetery constructed for Union soldiers who died in the Andersonville prison – the Confederate prison of war camp, which was officially known as Camp Sumter – in Andersonville, Ga.

Barton's goodwill nature and experience in helping those in need led to her founding of the American Association of the Red Cross – the name was later shortened to the American Red Cross – which evolved to become known as the nation's premier emergency response organization.

In understanding that disasters result in human suffering, Barton, who served as the Red Cross' first president, recognized a need for a volunteer organization that would be available during emergencies.

Barton, as well as the Red Cross symbol, became synonymous with the fact that comfort would be offered by the organization to those who suffered due to disasters.

The first American Red Cross chapter was organized at the Lutheran Church of Dansville, N.Y.

Among the early service of the Red Cross was its assistance to victims of the Ohio and Mississippi floods of 1884.

It was also during the same year that Barton served as a delegate to the International Peace Congress in Geneva, Switzerland.

Five years later, the *Sacramento Record-Union* printed the following quote regarding Barton: "The sublime life of this plain, simple, unpretentious and self-sacrificing woman is one of the grandest monuments to charity and merciful kindness the world has witnessed."

In 1898, the Red Cross played a very significant role in the Spanish-American War, as the organization assisted refugees and prisoners of war.

Since its early beginnings, the ARC has expanded to other cities across the nation, and today the organization, which also provides assistance in other countries, has many chapters throughout the nation.

Sacramento's chapter, which was previously known as the Sacramento Sierra Chapter and is presently known as the Capital Region Chapter, was established in 1898.

The founding of the Sacramento chapter was very timely, considering that only seven years after its organization, the chapter was assisting in the relief efforts of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

The Red Cross' local and national response to this disaster prompted President The-



Photo courtesy of the American Red Cross
Clara Barton, who was also known as the "Angel of the Battlefield," founded the American Red Cross in 1881.



Photo courtesy of the American Red Cross
An American Red Cross worker speaks to an injured soldier in a field hospital in Vietnam.

odore Roosevelt to describe the Red Cross as "the national organization best fitted to undertake the outpouring of the nation's aide."

The ARC also provided assistance during the 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic and World Wars I and II.

Leftover ARC funds from the Great War were utilized to create the "Baby Clinic," which became part of the Sacramento Health Clinic in 1927.

During World War II, the Sacramento chapter was a 24 hours per day operation, and overall, Sacramento contributed \$468,037 to the National War Relief Effort.

The Sacramento chapter responded to five American River floods and the Yuba City-Marysville floods during the 1950s, and during the Vietnam War, ARC programs were expanded to assist the military and their families.

In more recent times, the ARC's Sacramento chapter has continued to provide local and national assistance, including its aide to Hurricane Katrina.

Trista Jensen, communications and marketing director for the Capital Region Chapter, said that as a representative of the American Red Cross, she is pleased that the organization has been able to successfully operate with consistency for the past 130 years.

"I think what's remarkable about the American Red Cross is that we are still doing the things that we started doing 130 years ago," Jensen said. "We started serving people in the battlefield, responding to disasters and helping people in their greatest time of need. Whether that's a house fire across the street, a hurricane across the country or a major disease

breakout across the world, we're still responding in the same manner that we were 130 years ago."

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A train trip to San Francisco



By **MARTY RELLES**
Land Park News columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

In the Spring of 1956, my first year at St. Mary's School, the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento offered a special field trip to its students: a train ride to San Francisco to see Cinerama, the first super wide-screen film technology.

The Cinerama theatre in San Francisco presented one new film each year. That year it showed *Around the World in Eighty Days* with David Niven, Spanish actor Cantinflas and Shirley McClain. The film garnered five Academy Awards that year. We could hardly wait to see it on the big screen.

However, the best part of the trip proved to be the ride there on the train.

Mom took me and my six year old brother Terry on this excursion. We

awakened early that morning in order to get to the train station for 8 a.m. boarding.

In those days, we rarely traveled to San Francisco by car and had never taken a train. So, to say we were excited would understate our enthusiasm that morning.

Dad dropped us off at the train station on 19th and J Street downtown, where the Spaghetti Factory restaurant now stands, and we immediately boarded the long train.

At 8:30am, on the dot, we slowly proceeded forward and exited town.

After finding our seats, the first order of business was breakfast. So Mom walked us down to the dining car. Understand, I came from a family of six, of modest means, so eating out anywhere constituted a big treat.

After enjoying a small – but delicious – breakfast as we meandered up the Sacramento Valley, we walked over to the special observation car: a double-deck car with an atrium-like

window for sight-seeing on its upper deck. Imagine two boys, six and nine, seeing the beautiful Sacramento Valley from the train as it traveled through small towns like Davis, Fairfield, Martinez, Concord and Walnut Creek.

One by one, we passed each of these hamlets and eventually arrived at the Oakland Ferry terminal, where we off-loaded and boarded the ferry to San Francisco.

The ferry went under the Bay Bridge, then over to the San Francisco ferry terminal. That alone proved a wonderful experience for two young boys. Eventually, we arrived in San Francisco, boarded buses and rode to the theatre.

The film lived up to its expectations. It showed incredible footage of sights from around the world, including Paris, Cairo and the great pyramids, India, Hong Kong and London. The super wide screen presentation showed these sights in a way you could only

see them if you actually visited these wonders of the world. We left the theatre in buzz of excitement.

Then, we boarded the buses, returned to the ferry terminal, went back across the Bay to Oakland and got back on the train for our return trip home. Two and a half hours later, totally exhausted and completely satisfied, we arrived back in Sacramento.

There, Dad awaited to take the tired troops home for dinner and good night's sleep.

The memories of that trip over fifty years ago remain vivid to me, even today. For me, it spawned a lifetime love for riding on trains. In the interim, I have taken many train trips including riding the Orient Express in Europe and the overnight trip from Sacramento to Portland with my daughters, Brea and Vanessa. It also gave me a love for travel I have never lost.

Now that train trip to San Francisco is just another magical Janey Way memory.

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Folsom Symphony flexes its 'Russian Power/Russian Passion'

By SUSAN LAIRD
Land Park News editor
susan@valcomnews.com

The Folsom Symphony will perform its fourth concert of the season – and its second at the new Three Stages facility on the Folsom Lake College campus – on March 26. Focusing on two very popular works by two Russian composers, “Russian Power/Russian Passion” promises to be colorful, lyrical and exciting.

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 – 1975) composed his “Symphony No. 5, Opus 47 in D Minor” with fear and trepidation – literally. As a Soviet Russian composer, his work was under constant scrutiny by the Soviet government to conform to “communist ideals.” As an artist, this was a difficult task – he was, in fact, denounced twice during his career. In Stalinist Russia, a denounced artist could vanish during the night. Many of Shostakovich’s friends did vanish, never to be seen again.

The Symphony No. 5 was composed as a “comeback” work after a period of denouncement, to show his loyalty to the party. Shostakovich also wanted to be true to himself as an artist. Remarkably, he succeeded, winning both popular and Communist Party approval for the work.

It was first performed on Nov. 21, 1937 in Leningrad by the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra.

Remember those friends who had vanished? Everyone in Russia knew someone who had been denounced, executed, exiled or “vanished” from society. It was a horrific time. What the public so related to in Shostakovich’s symphony was this: leitmotifs (musical themes) of the Russian Orthodox liturgy and requiem for the dead. Audiences recognized these tones, and actually wept during the first performances. It was an opportunity for public, physical release of their grief and fear – in short, a relief, if even for three-quarters of an hour. The standing ovation lasted well over half an hour at the inaugural performance.

Such is the power of music to release passionate feeling.

The second performance of the evening is “Scheherazade, Opus 35” by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908), composed in 1888. Based on “The Book of One Thousand and One Nights (The Arabian Nights),” this is the composer’s most popular work.

“The Sultan Schariar, convinced that all women are false and faithless, vowed to put to death each of his wives

after the first nuptial night. But the Sultana Scheherazade saved her life by entertaining her lord with fascinating tales, told *seriatim* (in series), for a thousand and one nights. The Sultan, consumed with curiosity, postponed from day to day the execution of his wife, and finally repudiated his bloody vow entirely,” Rimsky-Korsakov wrote in his introduction to the score.

This work is lyrical and filled with leitmotifs for each character. The Sultan is literally a “heavy” in the opening notes of the work. The four stories of the Sultana Scheherazade are easily visualized in this lyric work: “The Sea and Sinbad’s Ship,” “The Kalendar Prince,” “The Young Prince and the Young Princess,” and “Festival at Baghdad/The Sea/The Ship Breaks Against a Cliff Surmounted by a Bronze Horseman.”

This music is extremely sensual, as Scheherazade wins the heart of her husband and their leitmotifs soar into consummate ecstasy.

Racy stuff for those modest Victorians – powerful Russian passion, indeed.

The “Russian Power/Russian Passion” concert will be performed one evening only, on Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Order tickets soon,



Photo public domain
The Folsom Symphony will perform the “Symphony No. 5, Opus 47 in D Minor” by Soviet Russian composer Dmitri Dmitriyevich Shostakovich (1906 – 1975) during its “Russian Power/Russian Passion” concert on March 26.

as the Folsom Symphony is swiftly becoming one of the more popular organizations in the region. Stage One at the Folsom Lake College Performing Arts Complex is located at 10 College Parkway (just off East Bidwell Street) in Folsom.

Single tickets are \$22 to \$42. To purchase, call (916) 357-6718 or visit www.folsomsymphony.com.

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Diane and Wes

Doggie Daycare 101

By AMANDA SCHATH
Land Park News guest columnist

Have you ever found yourself standing at the dog park covered in muddy paw prints, thinking about the grocery list? Or how about running errands and thinking, "Poor Buster....He's going to be bouncing off walls later."

With professional doggie daycare, you and your four legged family members will undoubtedly see huge benefits.



Photo courtesy

Canine members of the family need daily mental stimulation and exercise as much as their human pack members. Doggie daycare can be a solution for poochie ennui.

Why Doggie Daycare?

- ✦ Exercise and play stimulate the mind and body. Yes, even dogs need this as much as we do.
- ✦ A tired-out pup is far more manageable for the family lifestyle.
- ✦ Doggie behavioral issues are generally caused by boredom, anxiety and loneliness...All of which can cause damages to your home and stress for both you and your dog.
- ✦ Canines are routine based; daycare gives them a 'job' to do and a fun one at that.
- ✦ When you just don't have the time or energy to burn your dog's energy.
- ✦ New encounters will help keep your pet well socialized and promote better public manners.

What to look for in a great Doggie Day-care Program?

- ✦ How long have they been in business?
- ✦ Do they take a positive approach to discipline?
- ✦ What certifications do the staff members have?

- ✦ Do they perform professional behavioral screenings?
- ✦ What are the vaccine requirements?
- ✦ Do they use pet safe cleaning products that kill communicable doggie diseases?
- ✦ Do they have a medical emergency plan?
- ✦ Do they offer a tour of the facility?
- ✦ Do they provide feedback about your dog's day?

Who Benefits?

All pet friendly dogs benefit, even those you wouldn't consider social butterflies. Look for a facility that provides care based on an individual's needs and wants. Plus, owners should expect to see great improvements overtime in areas like energy level, attention span, social conduct and indoor manners.

Amanda Schath is the coordinator for The Pet Inn, which is affiliated with the Mueller Pet Medical Center. For more information, call (916) 428-9213 or visit www.thepetinn.net.

Nurse practitioners and a healthier you

NAPSA – Given the rising cost of traditional healthcare, a growing number of Americans say they are now practicing what they refer to as "well care." The focus is on prevention and making healthy choices that will benefit the body now and later.

Many healthcare professionals are working with patients to build personalized wellness programs. In addition to providing primary, acute and specialty care, one group of healthcare professionals, nurse practitioners, spend time counseling patients on the many benefits of leading a healthier lifestyle.

According to Kay Todd of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Foundation, "Nurse practitioners work with their patients to determine a personalized wellness regimen, one that suits age, activity level, health issues, even food allergies. They are well-trained healthcare professionals who can help consumers make educated decisions about leading a healthier lifestyle."

For example, many nurse practitioners can help you incorporate the proper dietary supplements to help ensure that you are filling nutrient gaps in your diet. In fact, a recent study from the "Life...supplemented" program found that 95 percent of nurse practitioners personally take dietary supplements, including multivitamins, vitamin D and calcium.

"Nurse practitioners are uniquely positioned to help patients incorporate dietary supplements into their wellness routines, because they realize the important role that supplements play in offering patients the opportunity to proactively improve their health," said Duffy MacKay, N.D., vice president, scientific and regulatory affairs, Council for Responsible Nutrition. "If consumers engage in proactive health measures today, it can help them avoid potential health problems down the line."

Both Ms. Todd and Dr. MacKay advise individuals to talk to a nurse practitioner or other healthcare professional to create a well rounded health routine of a healthy diet, appropriate dietary supplements, routine exercise, and regular visits with a healthcare practitioner.

To learn more, visit the website of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners at www.aanp.org or visit the Council for Responsible Nutrition at www.crnusa.org.



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Apply now for North Central Region spring turkey hunts

Special to Land Park News

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is now accepting applications for spring wild turkey hunts in the North Central Region, and deadlines are approaching.

These hunts are being offered at Spenceville, Oroville, Daugherty Hill and Gray Lodge wildlife areas. A special hunt opportunity is also available at the Cosumnes River Preserve, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management.

DFG will accept applications through April 5, but hunters should check the rolling deadlines for each available hunt. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday at least two weeks before the hunt date. The application and details are on the DFG website at <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/GameBirdHeritageHunts/Default.aspx>, where hunters can create a DFG web account to be used for all online special hunt applications.

Drawings will be held immediately following the application deadlines. Results will be available online and successful applicants will receive maps and specific hunt information and/or permits in the mail. Any vacancies after the drawing will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The 2011 spring turkey hunting regulations summary is on the DFG website at www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations/.

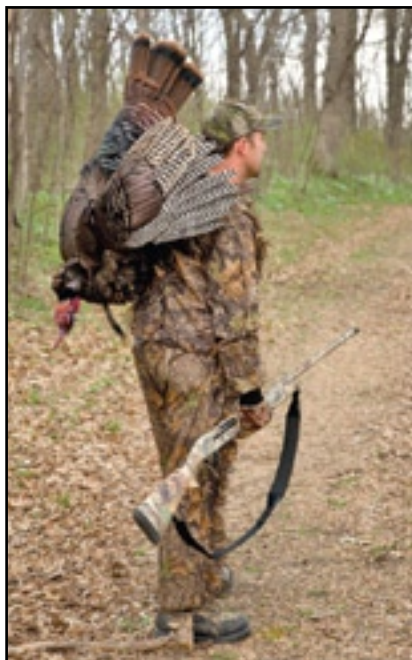


Photo istockphoto

Special spring turkey hunts are being offered in Northern California. Applications for spring turkey hunting are being accepted through April 5.

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 Tuesday, May 10 - June 14 1:00-3:30 pm
 Learn to manage your health- diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or other conditions.
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 Thursday, April 7 - May 26 1:00-2:30 pm

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To register or for more information, please call
 (916) 393-9026 x322 or go to accsv.org
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Spaghetti fundraiser benefits Boy Scouts

Have a delicious dinner and help the local Boy Scouts on Friday, March 11. A delicious spaghetti dinner will be served with all the fixin's: Caesar salad, spaghetti and sausage with meat sauce and dessert. Tickets are just \$10 per person. Funds will go to provide needed camping equipment for Boy Scout Troop 259. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, located at 6446 Riverside Blvd. in Sacramento. For more information, contact Russ Hudson at russhudson@sbcglobal.net or (916) 899-1391.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Outward Supper Club Night at Taylor's Kitchen

Taylor's Kitchen ~ Tuesday, April 5th, 6 PM

Taylor's Kitchen is hosting the Outward Magazine Supper Club for the evening. Chef Rob Lind has created a fabulous menu featuring 3 course Prix Fixe Dinner. Diners have a choice of entree and dessert created by Pastry Chef Jodie Chavious. \$40 per person not including tax and gratuity.

Butchering 101 - Meat Basics Spring Grilling Ideas

Taylor's Kitchen ~ Saturday, April 16th, 10 AM

The original class is back, this time focusing on Spring Grilling Ideas. This comprehensive class will cover the basics of various meats found in a Butcher shop. Cut types, and preparation styles of Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, and Seafood will be covered by Taylor's Market butcher Danny Johnson. A light lunch will be served, \$40 per person.

Butchering 101 - Grilling Tips and Ideas From A to Z

Taylor's Kitchen ~ Saturday, May 21st, 10 AM

This comprehensive class will cover grilling tips and ideas of various meats found in a Butcher shop. Cut types, and preparation styles of Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, and Seafood for grilling will be covered by Taylor's Market butcher Danny Johnson. A light lunch will be served, \$40 per person.

For information about upcoming events, Contact Taylor's Market 916-443-6881



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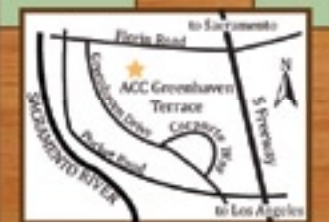
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March 15 @ 2:00pm

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Home Instead is an in-home care agency that helps families keep their loved ones in their homes as they grow older. The caregivers provide home care to clients and their families, who desire assistance with activities of daily living that used to be simple. Buck Shaw will cover topics featured in a book, "Stages in Senior Care", written by the Home Instead founders, Paul and Lori Hogan. Featuring more than 30 sources from the most credible healthcare organizations, universities and non profit organizations. The book thoroughly explains each and every aspect of senior care, including the array of available care choices.

Refreshments & Appetizers will be provided.

Please RSVP by March 10, 2011 or contact us for more info @ (916) 392-3510



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Assistance League of Sacramento seeks to add to membership

SACRAMENTO – If you like history, thrift shops, school-based activities have acting skills, want to help children and adults and enjoy giving back to our community, then consider learning more about the Assistance League of Sacramento. The League will hold an information meeting about the good work it does in the community on April 3.

“Come join an incredible group of volunteers, who are dedicated to making a difference in our community, and share your time, talent and treasure with our membership of over 230 volunteers,” said Liz Stenstrom, president of Assistance League of Sacramento.

The Assistance League of Sacramento is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. It is one of 120 chapters of the Assistance League nationally.

The benefit to attending the annual informational meeting is so inter-

ested parties can become familiar with the League’s philanthropic program, fundraising activities and membership commitments. The Assistance League of Sacramento sponsors nine philanthropic programs which provide services to the citizens of both Sacramento

and Yolo Counties. The nine programs are: Bears, Clothes for Careers, Dockets & History in a Trunk, Eyes Right, Kids on the Block™, Operation School Bell®, Scholarship Program, Senior Friendship and Waste Not.

The League’s slogan is, “Caring & Commit-

ment in Action.” There are groups for those who time to volunteer during the day, and for those who have time available in the evening.

The informational meeting and new member open enrollment will be held on Sunday, April 3, at the Carmi-

chael Park Clubhouse, located at 5750 Grant Avenue in Carmichael. League members will be on hand to answer questions.

For information, call (916) 488-0828 or email alsacmail@gmail.com. Also visit www.SacramentoAssistanceLeague.org.

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Margaret Crocker's goodwill toward city celebrated 125 years ago

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a two-part series regarding Margaret Crocker.

It is certainly not every day that a community celebrates one of its residents with elaborate gifts and a special ceremony that draws thousands upon thousands of people. But such was the case 125 years ago, when a special ceremony attended by about 30,000 people was held for Margaret Crocker.

Arranged by city citizens and officials, a festival of flowers was held on the afternoon and evening of May 6, 1885 to honor Margaret Crocker, the widow of Edwin Bryant Crocker, who assembled a grand collection of art pieces that would later be used in forming what is known today as the Crocker Art Museum.

On its own merit, Margaret's decision to gift the art gallery to the city of Sacramento and the California Museum Association "in trust for the public" would have been more than a sufficient cause to celebrate this gracious citizen.



Land Park News photo, Lance Armstrong

The Bell Conservatory, which was located in the approximate location where the Sacramento Works Center now sits at 915 Broadway, is overlooked from the portion of the cemetery property that was donated by Margaret Crocker on June 25, 1880.

But the donation of the gallery, which Margaret would make official during the festival, represented only part of her many contributions to Sacramento.

Right here in the Land Park area, for instance, Margaret donated a large tract of land by deed on June 25, 1880 for the purpose of expanding the acreage of the city cemetery.

Bell Conservatory/Bell Florist

Two years earlier, Margaret had a large greenhouse struc-

ture, which was known as the Bell Conservatory, constructed north of the city cemetery for the purpose of supplying flowers that could be sold to those who desired to decorate the graves of their relatives.

And for those who desired to do the same, but could not afford to purchase flowers, the Bell Conservatory, which was located on property bounded by 9th, 10th, W and Y (present day Broadway) streets, originally donated flowers to such citizens.

Built for \$38,000 and featuring colored glass that was ordered through Tiffany's in New York and shipped from Belgium, the Bell Conservatory, which specialized in cut flowers and garden and greenhouse plants, was operated by the Geisreiter family during the majority of its existence.

On Oct. 30, 1884, *The Sacramento Daily Record-Union* announced that Margaret was having a 54-foot by 85-foot structure, which would mainly be used for cultivating high quality roses, constructed on the conservatory grounds.

According to city directories, John McCallum served as the superintendent of the Bell Conservatory during at least the mid-1880s, and by the late 1880s, nurseryman, farmer and Illinois native Michael Joel Dillman, who resided at 1420 O St., was managing the business.



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See Flowers, page 19

Margaret Crocker's contributions included donations in the Land Park area

Continued from page 18

Dillman and German immigrant Eugene Geisreiter, who shared an office at 607 J St., later partnered in the ownership of the Bell Conservatory.

By at least 1900, however, Dillman was living at 2025 M Street (today's Capitol Avenue) and was serving as the vice president and manager of the Capital Telephone and Telegraph Co. at 918-920 5th St.

It was around this time that the Geisreiter family began its full proprietorship of the Bell Conservatory, which had the longtime slogan of "floral designs shipped to all points."

Like McCallum, the Geisreiter family resided on the grounds of the Bell Conservatory, which was under the sole proprietorship of Eugene Geisreiter from about 1900 to his death in 1930.

Eugene Geisreiter's son, Hubert Eugene "Bert" Geisreiter (1905-1987), who lived on the conservatory grounds with his wife Elsa (Jurgens) Geisreiter, who was the sister of the local band leader Dick Jurgens, owned the business from 1931 to 1956.

According to the March 23, 1934 edition of *The Sacramento Bee*, one of the old Bell Conservatory buildings was replaced by a brick, white-washed structure, which was accompanied by the garden grounds and hothouses.

An open house for the business's new display rooms and floral shop was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25, 1934.

Bert Geisreiter's son, Richard E. "Dick" Geisreiter, who was raised at 10th and X streets and graduated from McClatchy High School in 1946, said that he believes that the original conservatory building was torn down in the mid-1950s.

A Safeway grocery store building, which now houses the Sacramento Works Career Center at 915 Broadway, was constructed in about 1958 in the approximate location of the 1885 conservatory structure.

In about 1947, Bell Conservatory was renamed Bell Florist and was moved to a new location within the same block.

In about 1961, the florist relocated to 4420 Del Rio Road, where it would operate for about four more years. And a few years following this closure, Dick Geisreiter moved to Mendocino.

In addition to his connection to the Bell Conservatory and Bell Florist, Bert Geisreiter was also known for his involvement in local politics.

A last moment candidate for mayor, Bert Geisreiter eventually served as the city's mayor from 1950 to 1951 and altogether, he served for nine years on the city council.

Richard E. "Dick" Geisreiter operated the florist from about the mid or late 1950s to the closure of the business.

Despite the absence of the old Bell Conservatory and later Bell Florist, a link to these businesses still exists through the Dixon Florist, which was founded in the city of Dixon in 1962 by Joe Williams, a former Bell Florist employee.

The Marguerite Home

Another one of Margaret Crocker's local contributions was the Marguerite Home at 1617 7th St.

On the evening of her 60th birthday on Feb. 25, 1884, Margaret formerly opened the home for "aged gentlewomen" of limited means.

A previous effort to build such a home on a quarter block of land at 9th and W streets had been unsuccessful, which led to Margaret's work to purchase the north side of Q Street, between 7th and 8th streets, and have the Marguerite Home established at the site.

The plans for the Marguerite Home were drawn by



Photo courtesy, Crocker Art Museum

Margaret Crocker made many contributions to Sacramento, including a section of property for an expansion of the city cemetery and the Bell Conservatory, a large greenhouse structure, which was located across from the cemetery on property bounded by 9th, 10th, W and Y (present day Broadway) streets.



Land Park News photo, Lance Armstrong

Margaret Crocker (1822-1901) is buried alongside her husband, Edwin Bryant Crocker, in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery at 10th Street and Broadway.

Nathaniel Goodell, who had gained much notoriety in Sacramento during the previous decade for his work as the architect of Albert Gallatin's mansion, which later became the Governor's Mansion at 1526 H St., and the renovation of Leland Stanford's mansion at 800 N St.

Goodell designed the 24-bedroom, well-furnished Marguerite home as a remodeling project using a two-story house that was already present on the property when Margaret acquired it.

The entire project, which was completed at a cost of

\$130,000, was under the supervision of Michael Joel Dillman's father, W.P. Dillman.

Features of the home included a parlor and reception room, a kitchen, a linen room, a sewing room and a fireplace in every room.

A brick building that was already present on the property was restructured as a laundry room with storerooms.

The remaining portion of the property was laid out

with walks, trees, flowers and shrubbery.

The Festival

As the day finally arrived when residents of the city and beyond gathered to pay tribute to Margaret Crocker for her many contributions, the free-of-charge floral festival would prove to be one of the grandest events in the city's history.

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'A Grand Night for Singing' opens third season of Cosmopolitan Cabaret

By SUSAN LAIRD
Land Park News editor
susan@valcomnews.com

Sacramento's Cosmopolitan Cabaret opened its third season with "A Grand Night for Singing," featuring songs from all eleven musicals of Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II. The Tony-nominated musical will run through May 8.

"A Grand Night" made its debut in New York City in 1993, where it was presented cabaret-style. It was nominated for two Tony Awards (Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical) and ran for 52 performances.

Cabaret in the United States has a rich history, dating back to the Jazz Age. In New York City, lovers of music could enjoy an adult beverage and dinner while stars of radio, screen and Broadway entertained on stage.

It was most popular in the '40s and '50s. Cabaret began to decline as a popular art form in the 1960s with the advent of the modern rock concert and popular variety shows on television, such as the Dean Martin Show.

While still appreciated by older generations, it is the present day younger generation of actors that is embracing cabaret as an artform for expression.

This Sacramento production of "A Grand Night for Singing" by California

Musical Theatre features an experienced, highly talented cast of five: Ryan Drummond, Justin Michael Duval, Lisa Ferris, Jill Van Velzer and Melissa WolfKlain.

The music of Rogers and Hammerstein sparkles throughout this production. Featuring songs from the famous duo's most famous musicals as well as their lesser-known productions, one will get a good taste of musical genres from 1943 to 1959.

This wide variety is also one of the challenges of this musical. "A Grand Night" is a choreographed musical showcase of tunes, as opposed to a musical with a story to tell. Divided into two acts, the first focused on "young love" and the second on "married/star-crossed love," this musical can sometimes feel like a precious child's lanyard necklace – one where each bead is colorful and unique...but where nothing matches. Audiences may find this confusing at first.

That aside, the music is excellent and the cast does a great job with the singing and choreography. Chris Schlager shines as the pianist/accompanist. There are many light moments and good humor throughout. One really doesn't mind the lack of plot near the conclusion when the entire audience goes silent for Drummond's stellar rendition of "This Nearly Was Mine." There wasn't a dry eye in the theater.

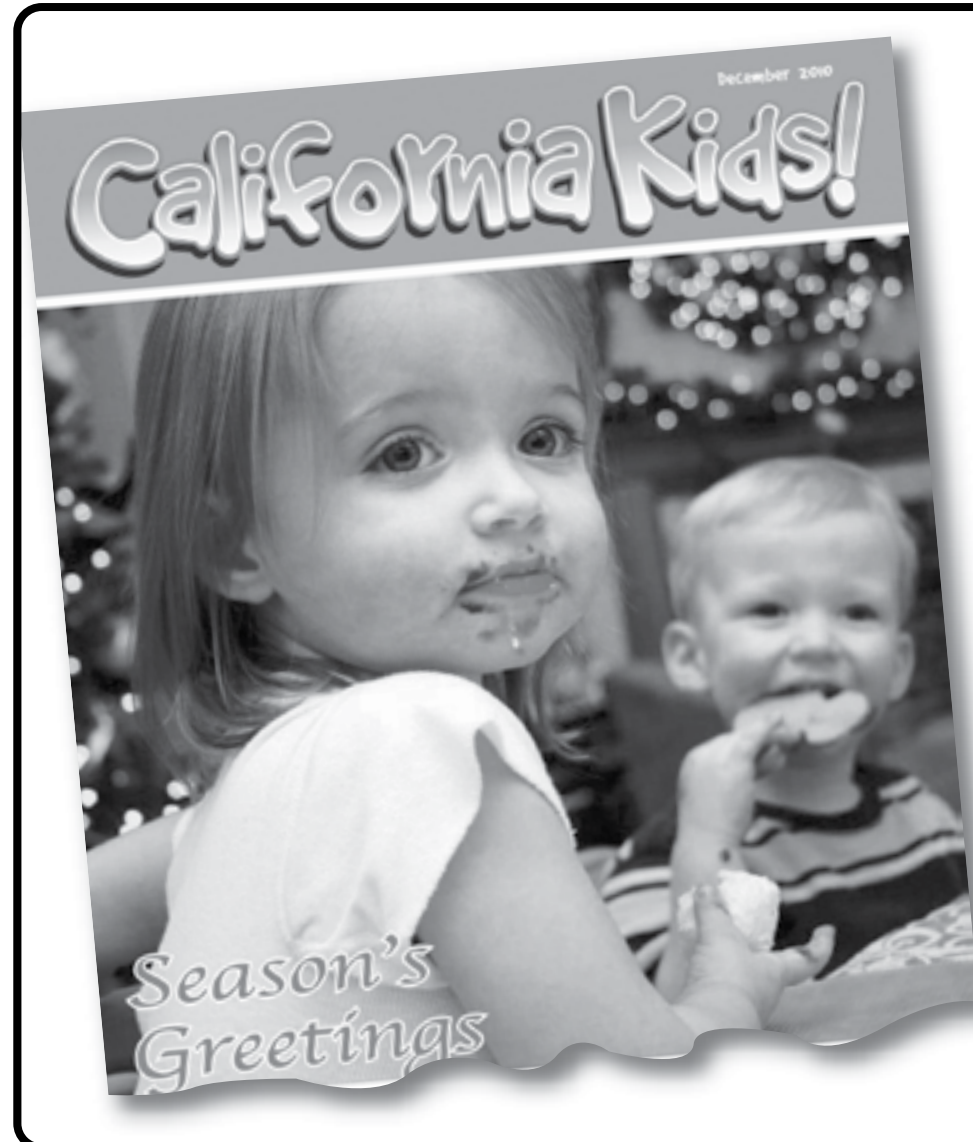


Photo courtesy of California Musical Theatre, Charr Crail
Left to right, Justin Michael Duval, Jill Van Velzer, Ryan Drummond, Lisa Ferris and Melissa WolfKlain in the 2011 California Musical Theatre production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "A Grand Night for Singing" at The Cosmopolitan Cabaret. Performances run through May 8.

"A Grand Night for Singing" runs through May 8. The Cosmopolitan Cabaret is located at 1000 K Street in Downtown Sacramento. Ticket prices range from \$33 to \$43 per person, depending on the day and type of seating (table seating or tiered seating).

Show days and times are Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Thursday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Satur-

day at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. The box office at the Cosmopolitan Cabaret opens two hours before each show. For advance tickets, visit the Wells Fargo Pavilion Box Office or call (916) 557-1999. Parking is conveniently at the Capitol Parking Garage located next door at 10th and L streets. For more information, visit www.CosmopolitanCabaret.com.



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Steer clear of identity theft at tax filing time

Special to Land Park News

Many consumers look forward to income tax season in anticipation of a hefty return, but imagine this scenario: You've prepared all your tax documents online and are expecting a \$3,500 refund. After e-filing, you find out that your return has been rejected – someone else has already filed using your name and Social Security number.

Thousands of Americans will go through a similar experience this year, as income tax season is a prime time for identity thieves to file fraudulent tax returns and receive your refund before you even file. According to the Federal Trade Commission, stolen tax return related identity theft is booming and has increased over 200 percent, from 11,010 complaints in 2005 to 33,774 in 2009.

"We understand the various income tax return related threats that this time of year poses to consumers and we believe that by taking a few simple steps to reduce our vulnerabilities can provide a more secure environment," said Mike Prusinski, senior vice president of corporate communications with LifeLock, a proactive identity theft protection company.

While there is no way to stop all identity theft, the

following advice can go a long way to help reduce your chances of enduring your own income tax nightmare:

Stop sharing

Consumers that have downloaded peer-to-peer file sharing networks onto their computers are at risk for identity theft if they keep tax documents on the same computers. Examples of peer-to-peer file sharing networks include popular programs such as LimeWire, FrostWire, BearShare and Kazaa. These types of file sharing networks allow users to share music, photos, as well as all other documents on their computers. While parents may not have downloaded these free programs onto home computers, be sure to check that no one else in the home has added these programs to the family computer. To help secure personal tax documents, peer-to-peer file sharing networks should be fully removed from personal computers.

Search for the 's'

When using online tax preparation software, be sure that the Web site is secure and that you see an <https://> in the URL. The "s" in the URL indicates that the server is secure and personal informa-

tion is encrypted and can be transmitted safely from your computer to the end point.

Take a trip

When filing income taxes by mail, help protect your personal information by taking your sealed IRS envelope to the post office instead of your personal mailbox. Identity thieves can't steal from your mailbox what isn't there.

Shred, shred, shred

Be on the safe side. Shred non-tax related documents with personal information (name, birth date, address, Social Security number) you would normally place in the trash/recycling. Keep hard copies of W-2 forms and tax returns in a locked drawer or safe.

Skip the 'phishing' trip

The IRS never initiates communications with taxpayers through email. Do not respond if you should receive an email from the IRS, instead forward it to phishing@irs.gov.

For additional tips on how to keep your personal information safe from identity thieves throughout the year, visit the Identity Theft Education Center at www.lifelock.com.



Photo courtesy

Those who e-file their tax returns have new worries: fraudsters who steal social security numbers and "file" taxes online in order to steal refunds from the IRS.

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CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

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

MARCH

Tai Chi

Daily, except Sundays: Meditation, breathing, forms and various styles of Tai Chi are taught. No experience necessary. Everyone welcome. Free. 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Reichmuth Park, 6135 Gloria Dr., Sac. (601) 559-5481

'The Vase and Beyond'

Daily, through April 10: "The Vase and Beyond: The Sidney Swidler Collection of the Contemporary Vessel." Comprised of some 800 vessels by 300 artists, this collection showcases the wide-ranging, innovative practice of contemporary ceramic artists with a gorgeous array of forms, techniques and glazes. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

'Inferno of the Innocents'

Daily, through April 24: Like a modern-day Goya, Gottfried Helnwein's monumental paintings and photographs address themes of inhumanity, violence, and the virtue of personal expression. With stark and probing psychological intensity, he critiques not only the past, but present-day veneers, jolting us from the comfort of complacency. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Antique Evaluation Day

March 10: The Art Service Group will sponsor an antique appraisal session with Lee Kavaljian and Randy Abbott focusing on evaluations of Asian art and artifacts. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Informal appraisals are \$10 per item or \$45 for five items. Appointments are available between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and reservations are required. For an appointment, call (916) 808-7752. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Art Mix: Gray Matter

March 10: Explore the themes of inhumanity, violence, and exploitation, as seen in the exhibition "Gottfried Helnwein: Inferno of the Innocents," while creating a community mural. Learn how to look at contemporary art with associate curator Diana L. Daniels, and get lost in the dark and dreamy sounds of Sister Crayon and The New Humans. Free with Museum admission. 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

'Cures for Copeless Disease' lecture

March 10: "Present Cures for Copeless Disease" presented by Dr. H. Gordon Ainsleigh, D.C. at this meeting of CA Citizens for Health Freedom. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. SMUD Auditorium (the old SMUD Building), 6201 S St., Sac. (916) 635-6724

Missing cat

Special to Land Park News



"Zen," an eight-month old "tuxedo" cat who lives in the Land Park area, is missing. His home near 27th Street and 2nd Avenue was destroyed in a fire last week. It is believed that he escaped the fire - his nickname is "Houdini."

He has four white paws and is microchipped. Anyone with information about Zen is asked to contact his owner, Jaime Drake, at (530) 415-9513.

Food Addicts Anonymous

March 10, 17, 24, 31: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Jazz ensemble

March 10: Sacramento State's Jazz Ensembles will perform. 8 p.m. Admission: \$8 general, \$5 students & seniors. Capistrano Hall's Music Recital Hall, 6000 J St., Sac. (916) 278-4323 ticket office, www.tickets.com

Living Positive with Chronic Disease group

March 10, 17, 24, 31: Meet-up group for people living with chronic disease who honor how important a positive mindset is. If you want to complain - this isn't the group for you. The

group will discuss and support: best practices for managing your condition, communication strategies, ways to laugh, have fun, engage with life and more. Free. Meets Thursdays. 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Starbucks, 1401 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. Danae Horn (503) 319-4247

Rotary Club of East Sacramento

March 10, 17, 24, 31: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m., every Thurs. Salvation Army Dining Hall, 2550 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. www.rotary.org

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

March 10, 17, 24, 31: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.



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DATE: Saturday, 6:00 PM
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COST: \$40.00 per person
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- EVENT LISTING SECTION -

Advertise your craft fairs, holiday bazaars, school fundraisers, church events, etc. in your Community Newspapers.

Call (916) 429-9901 for rates.

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**MONEY MANAGEMENT
EVENT**
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6-8:30 p.m.
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Sutterville Heights Optimist Club
March 10, 17, 24, 31: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd., Sac. Cliff (916) 427-2698 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Toastmasters
March 10, 17, 24, 31: Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people with Toastmaster club Los Oradores. Una oportunidad unica para mejorar sus habilidades bilingues y superar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores de la organizacion de Toastmasters. Thursdays/Jueves, 6:45 p.m. 2118 K St., Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232, teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Volkssport walking
March 10: Come join the Sacramento Walking Sticks Volkssport Club! Monthly meetings held every second Thursday at 7 p.m. SMUD Headquarters Bldg., Conference Center, 6201 S St., Sac. Those who wish to walk before the meeting, meet at Starbucks, 1420 65t St., Sac. At 5 p.m. to walk a 3-mile walk to CSUS campus & back. Barbara Nuss (916) 283-4650 or (916) 691-7618 or nussb@surewest.net. Also www.SacramentoWalkingSticks.org

Big Band Dance
March 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29: Dance to the rhythms of the Big Band era. Every Tues. & Fri. \$5 admission. 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. (916) 972-0336

'Julia Leissl: Boxed In/By Choice'
March 11, 12: Art show of Sacramento artist Julia Leissl's clever, unique, satirical and sentimental dioramas of life in Sacramento and beyond. Mixed media. Free. Friday, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The Brickhouse Art Gallery, 2837 36th St., Sac. (916) 457-2502

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown
March 11, 18, 25: Come listen to an interesting guest speaker weekly; community service, serving the children of the world. Visitors welcome, first breakfast "on us." 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Fridays. 2875 50th St, UC Davis Med. Ctr., Sac. (916) 761-2124 www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com

Rotary Club of Point West
March 11, 18, 25: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Wy., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento
March 11, 18, 25: Soroptimist International of Sacramento South, a service club for business and professional women, meets Fridays. 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Barbara McDonald, (916) 363-6927

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser
March 11: Come enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner with all the fixin's: Caesar salad, spaghetti and sausage with meat sauce, dessert. \$10/person. Funds will go to provide needed camping equipment for Boy Scout Troop 259. 6:30 p.m. Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., Sac. Russ Hudson russhudson@sbcglobal.net (916) 899-1391

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Sacramento Walking Sticks to host spring wildflower walks at Mt. Diablo

Special to Land Park News

The Sacramento Walking Sticks, a walking club, invite the community to join them on two different wildflower walks on the northern slopes of Mt. Diablo over the weekend of March 19 - 20.

Neither of these walks goes to the top of Mt. Diablo, nor are they suited for strollers and wheelchairs. The family dog will need to stay home on this excursion because dogs not allowed on any trails in the California state parks.

The walks will begin at the Clayton Communi-

ty Park, located at 7411 Marsh Creed Rd in Clayton, CA. People can register for the walks between 9 a.m. to 12 noon on both days; walkers are expected to be finished by 4 p.m. Participants can walk for free. Those who want "volkswalk credit," they will pay \$3 per walk. Water and restrooms are at the registration point only since there are no amenities along the trails as the State Park is mostly undeveloped. Carry enough water to avoid dehydration.

Both walks require you to drive to a remote start and walk into the park unless you want to add an extra 2K (1.2 miles) onto each by walking instead.

The first walk goes up Donner Canyon Road at an easy grade and then joins a steep, narrow and slippery trail as it loops around an upper canyon with waterfalls. The 5K (3.1 miles) route is rated two; while the 10K (6.2 miles) route is rated a four.

The second walk will take people on a dirt trail across the lower reaches of the mountain to the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center (with water and restrooms), through a native plant garden and then up Mitchell Canyon Road. The 5K (3.1 miles) walk is rated a 2 while the 10K (6.2 miles) walk is rated a 2+.



Photo courtesy, Nancy Alex
The Sacramento Walking Sticks are the largest volkssport club in the nation. They invite the community to discover the joys of walking with a selection of hikes on Mt. Diablo in late March.

There will be carpooling opportunities from Sacramento for both days of the event. People are encouraged to bring sack lunches as there are many opportunities to stop along the routes and enjoy the views. The added bonus is after the walk(s), people can stroll the streets of the quaint town of Clayton with its fun shops and delicious restaurants. The beauty of volkswalking is that it takes people to a place they probably would never have thought to go on their own.

The Sacramento Walking Sticks walk in all kinds of weather. Come prepared by wearing layered clothes and carrying extra shoes and socks to put on after-

wards. Don't worry if you come alone as there will be small groups going out throughout the morning for all the routes.

The Walking Sticks are the largest volkssport club in the USA with over 500 members. The Walking Sticks offer numerous group walks. One need not be a member of the club to participate, but memberships are encouraged. Membership is \$5 for seniors 55+, \$8 for individuals and \$14 for families.

The Sacramento Walking Sticks meet the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the SMUD Headquarters Building Conference Center, 6201 S St. in Sacramento. Visit www.sacramentowalkingsticks.org.

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Faces and Places

It's a jungle out there...come visit the Sacramento Zoo

Photos by TOM PANIAGUA
Land Park News photographer
loneforestwolf@gmail.com

The animals at the Sacramento Zoo took advantage of a few days of sunshine to warm themselves and observe the ever-changing parade of human visitors.

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