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Land Park News

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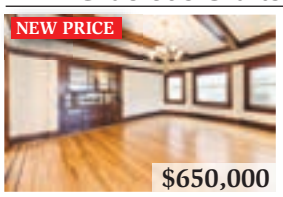
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Faces and Places:

Valentine's Day at Balshor Florist

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY

Love was in the air at Balshor Florist on Wednesday, Feb. 14, as customers selected from a variety of red rose bouquets and colorful flower baskets.













Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

We had to bring 36 valentines, all the same general size and style, and had to write, "Dear _____, Happy Valentine's." Then we had to print our name. This seemed far too cold and uniform. I wanted to give a special, fancy Valentine to my best friend, Jane, and another to a boy named Larry who fascinated because he had had an operation on his arm and wore a sling. He was now the most notable boy in our class at Sacred Heart School, the outstanding kid in the little kid's play yard (grades 1-3).

There was no pre-school or kindergarten at Sacred Heart, so the First Grade was where we first learned about rank, human striving, fame and glory. For example, I saw that Larry's arm had catapulted him above the top strata of kids and saw further that he was sometimes stressed and uncertain in his eminence. But girls hugged Larry and made a fuss over him, and boys also hugged him, especially when the girls or a nun was looking. Everybody helped Larry take off his jacket and carry things. "Gently, children, gently," Sister Daniel, our adored teacher would caution.

I knew I had to hug Larry to establish status but was immobilized by awkwardness. Though I knew the answer, I asked Jane, "Did you hug Larry yet?"

"Not yet," she said.

A girl named Alice said, "If you don't hug Larry and act real nice to him, it's a sin."

Jane did not like sin and was alarmed to discover that so many things fell under its shadowy purview. She said she was going to hug Larry the very next day. Valentine's Day. I said I would too, though I didn't fully mean it.

That night I filled out my cards. I printed Jane and Larry's name extra hard and drew little flowers next to them. Flowers were the only thing I could draw and they were stark in the extreme. My mother explained the reasons for everybody, friend or foe, getting a similar card from a package: it was so that no one would be left out. "Imagine being left out," she said. "What if somebody got no valentines and everybody else got a lot? Or what if some children got a special puffy valentine and others just a plain one, or none at all? None at all. Imagine that." This was something to think about. My mother could turn you into a bleeding-heart do-gooder in 30 seconds. I ended up drawing thirty-four more flowers next to the names of classmates.

The next day at morning recess recess Larry stood in the yard like a dazed little king. Kids ran to him, gently hugged him and said, "Happy Valentine's Day, Larry." Jane and I approached together, slowly, pretending we were looking elsewhere. I told Jane to go now and get it over with, but she, of course, said, "No, you first." So I went. There was Larry, emerging from the hug of the most famous girl in class, Sandra with shiny blond curls. When Sandra skipped away I reached out, put my hand on his good shoulder, thrust my other arm weirdly at his back. I was stiff and still, and except for the arms, too far from him. So I jumped seven inches and entered the hug. I said, "Happy days, Larry," because in the excitement I forgot to say, Valentine's. I stepped back quickly.

"Thank you," he said. "Happy Valentine's Day."

Before I could reply Jane flung herself at him, clutched his good arm and, eyes squeezed shut, shouted, "Happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy Valentine's Day, Larry." She was so loud heads turned, and she herself turned a brilliant, pulsing red. But she had done it. She had defied her timid nature and hugged, and screeched, in public. She stayed red for an hour. Such was her shyness and dread of sin. The bell rang and everybody got in line.

As he neared the line two top tier kids, a boy and a girl, went to Larry and said loudly, "Happy Valentine's." I didn't have the word for it then, but there was something showy and mechanical about their offering and I thought maybe Larry felt it. I wondered if he felt bad about the coerced hugs from Jane and me.

After lunch we rose, one row at a time, and distributed our valentines to the rest of the class. I had added an extra flower for Jane, this new one in ink. When I came to her I said, "This is a good Valentine's Day because the hugs are over with."

Jane said, "I love everybody but most of all Baby Jesus and the Blessed Mother."

Sometimes her religious excitement wearied me, even at six, even on Valentine's.

When I came to Larry he looked at the card and said, "Why did you make a flower on it?"

A boy behind him, Patrick, who had already gotten his, said, "My flower looks like a stick."

"Mine is pretty," shy Jane blurted loyally.

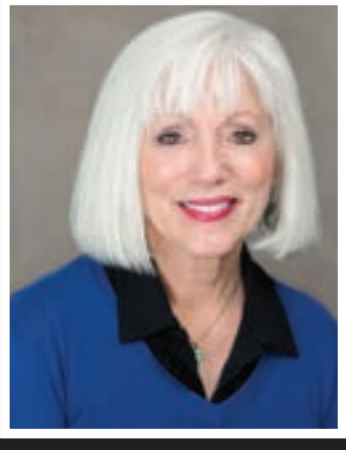
Sister Daniel was suddenly behind me. She looked at Larry and Patrick's cards, held Larry's up for the class. "Do you know what this is, boys and girls? This little flower?" She paused, waited. Then her glorious smile. "It's the personal touch." She explained that when you added your own drawing or note to a card, "even a plain little flower," you added something special of yourself as a person. That was the personal touch, and it was a good thing. And if you went to the extra work of adding a personal touch you were showing a warm heart.

The room was quiet, all eyes on the beloved, radiant Sister Daniel.

That's how I became the new Larry. For the rest of the day kids thanked me for the flower and said it was pretty or beautiful or the best flower they ever got on a Valentine's card. Jane whispered, "Everyone knows about you now," and I said she was still my best friend and I would still talk to her forever.

After the card exchange Sister Daniel told us that Saint Valentine was a kind and prayerful bishop who gave up his life for God and the Church. When Jane heard this she looked suddenly suffused with glowing holiness, an irritating preoccupation that, I thought, took away from my new renown. But when school was over she walked part way home with me and Lynn O'Neil, a second grader, and she told Lynn about the flowers and the personal touch. This was nice. Fame was nice, even for a day.

My mother had heart-shaped baking pans and we always had chocolate-heart cake on Valentine's night. Everybody in the First Grade had made elaborate cards for their parents and when I presented mine, my mother put her hand over her heart and said, "This. Is a thing of beauty." She put it up on the wall, and it stayed there for years, the first in her long train of crooked hearts, hearts with ruffles, smiling hearts, flowers like sticks, fancy flowers, rainbows, puckered lips, stars and printed, bent, overlarge words of love.



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Sacramento Central YMCA volunteer hosts 12-hour Pedal For The Y

Pedal For The Y aims to raise $10,000





Isaac Gonzalez, a Sacramento Central YMCA Advisory Board Member, has challenged himself to raise $10,000 on his 37th birthday on Friday, Feb. 23 by riding a stationary bicycle for 12-straight hours in the lobby of the Sacramento YMCA from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Gonzalez raised more than $9,000 during his birthday bike-a-thon at the Y in 2017 and is determined to inspire others to participate while also honoring his late father, Isaac Gonzalez, Sr., who passed away just hours after Pedal for the Y.

Pedal for the Y is part of a larger community-wide effort to raise funds for the YMCA's Y-Assist Program. Y-Assist provides critical funds to children, adults and seniors in the community who would not otherwise be able to participate in the YMCA's many beneficial programs such as camp, childcare, membership, swim lessons, and youth sports.

"Making sure that all Sacramento residents have the opportunity to live their healthiest life is very important to me, personally," says Gonzalez. "Sadly, my father died only hours after I completed my birthday bike ride challenge in 2017. He was only 63-years-old and suffered a fatal heart attack. I'm absolutely sure that if he grew up in a community with a strong Y presence, like we have here in Sacramento, that he would still be with us today. I want to make sure that seniors, children, and everyone in between has access to our vital collection of programs so that they can be happy and healthy."

Additionally, various Sacramento Central YMCA community members will bike alongside Gonzalez in support and to raise additional funds for Y-Assist. There is still time for interested members in the community to register for those who wish to ride with Isaac. Before February 16th, riders can register as an individual, or as a relay team, at https://www.ymcasuperiorcal.org/forms/pedal-for-the-y-registration/

Footage will live stream from the YMCA of Superior California's Facebook and Twitter accounts (@YMCASuperiorCal) throughout the day while donations will be tracked in real-time on a thermometer in the lobby, and on Isaac's donation page.

YMCA members, staff, volunteers and Y-Assist recipients will cheer all of the participants on. Donations in support of Gonzalez and his goal can be made online at http://www.ymcasuperiorcal.org/donations/Isaac-Gonzalez-2018

If you go:

What: Sacramento Central YMCA 12-HOUR Pedal For The Y
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Kennedy music department to hold concert to aid sexual assault victims

By CHRISTOPHER WONG
Front Ensemble Section Leader

The John F. Kennedy High School music department is holding its annual benefit concert on Thursday, March 1, at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium as a means of giving back to the community. Performing groups include the school's concert band, jazz band, choir, and percussion ensemble.

While in previous years the concert fundraised for national organizations, this year the concert looks to make a difference at home by raising money for WEAVE, a Sacramento organization that fights to end sex trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic abuse and also gives aid to survivors of those crimes.

"The reason why we put on a concert like this is...to do something nice for the community that doesn't necessarily benefit us. We do so many things for ourselves, constantly raising money. We would like to do something to help other people," Jeremy Hammond, one of the Kennedy band directors shared. He hopes to fill the auditorium and raise at least $2,000 for WEAVE.

Bryan Stroh, also band director and choir director, said that student leadership made the decision on which charity receives the funds raised from the concert.

Kennedy senior and clarinet section leader Lucy Salazar originally made the proposal to donate to WEAVE. "...especially with what happened with our soccer coach, we wanna come together as a community to fight people like that," explained Salazar. Since the issue of sex trafficking affects Kennedy students locally, the other student leadership members overwhelmingly voted for WEAVE.

Also new this year, the band is inviting special guests from the community to help fundraise.

"We want to make sure that while [our community representatives] supporting us in our efforts to get to D.C., we are supporting our own community and taking care of what we can at home," Stroh expressed.

Tubist Rachel Lei believes the community should go to show solidarity in support of stopping sex abuse.

"Why wouldn't you go to a concert that's helping end that issue?" she remarked.

If enough people attend, meeting the $2,000 goal will be easy. "While we might not be able to each donate to WEAVE Sacramento, we are able to work together and create a synergistic program that allows us to support our local WEAVE chapter," Stroh assured.

Admission to the concert is just five dollars.

For more information contact Jeremy Hammond, band director at 1 (916) 832-8657 email: jeremy-hammond@scusd.edu or Bryan Stroh, band director, choir director by email at bryan-stroh@scusd.edu

Local authors support charities



Two local authors have stories to tell while raising funds to support multiple charities. Darlene Virtue Smith is a longtime resident of the Land Park area who recently published her first book entitled "An Interception." (Available on-line via Amazon or mcavepublishing.com or locally at J. Crawford's Book Store.) It tells the story of a paraplegic who introduces an old friend to a little-known service provided to persons handicapped with mobility difficulties. All proceeds from the sale of her book are donated to Helping Hands Monkey Helpers. (www.monkeyhelpers.org) This remarkable organization has provided trained service capuchin monkeys to the disabled since 1979. Unlike other service animals, these monkeys can turn book pages, scratch itches, retrieve dropped objects, insert straws into bottles, turn on and off switches and even reposition limbs on a wheelchair. Another difference with these monkeys is they normally live 30-40 years which means a lifetime of help and companionship to many of the recipients.

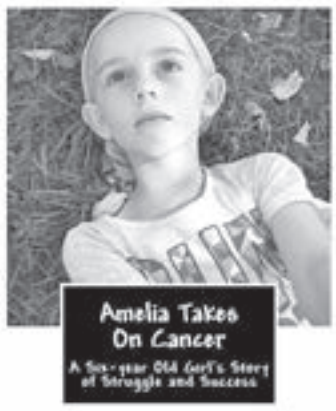
Darlene has been encouraged by the reception her novella has gotten with readers. She is pleased that the buyers have enjoyed the story of a grandfather and his grandson learning life lessons when becoming involved with a man who found a new purpose in life with a Helping Hands Monkey. She has augmented the story by also publishing a children's book entitled "Sleep Tight" that is associated with the novella's plot. All proceeds of that book are also donated to Helping Hands Monkey Helpers.

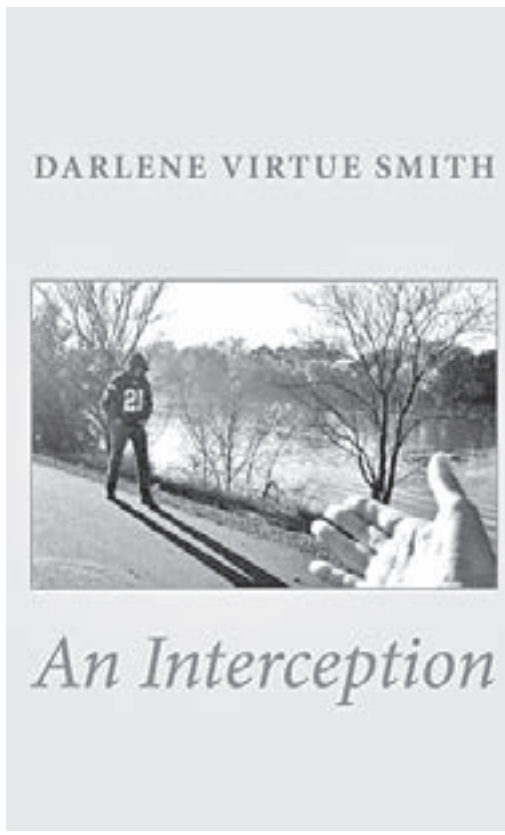
Darlene was assisted in getting her books into print by another local author, Robert Bartron. He established M.Cave Publishing Services to assist local authors in seeing their efforts get into print. His services are provided at a nominal charge with only one proviso: some or all of any profits earned by the books must be donated to charity.

An example of Robert's charity commitment can be found in the short book he wrote and published titled "Amelia Takes On Cancer." This book tells the true story of his six-year old granddaughter's struggle and success in overcoming kidney cancer. The book was published to help raise money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research. It also is intended as a guide to help children newly diagnosed with cancer to anticipate what might lie ahead in their lives. It is a feel-good story of hope and faith that has solicited much positive feedback and raised hundreds of dollars for St. Baldrick's.

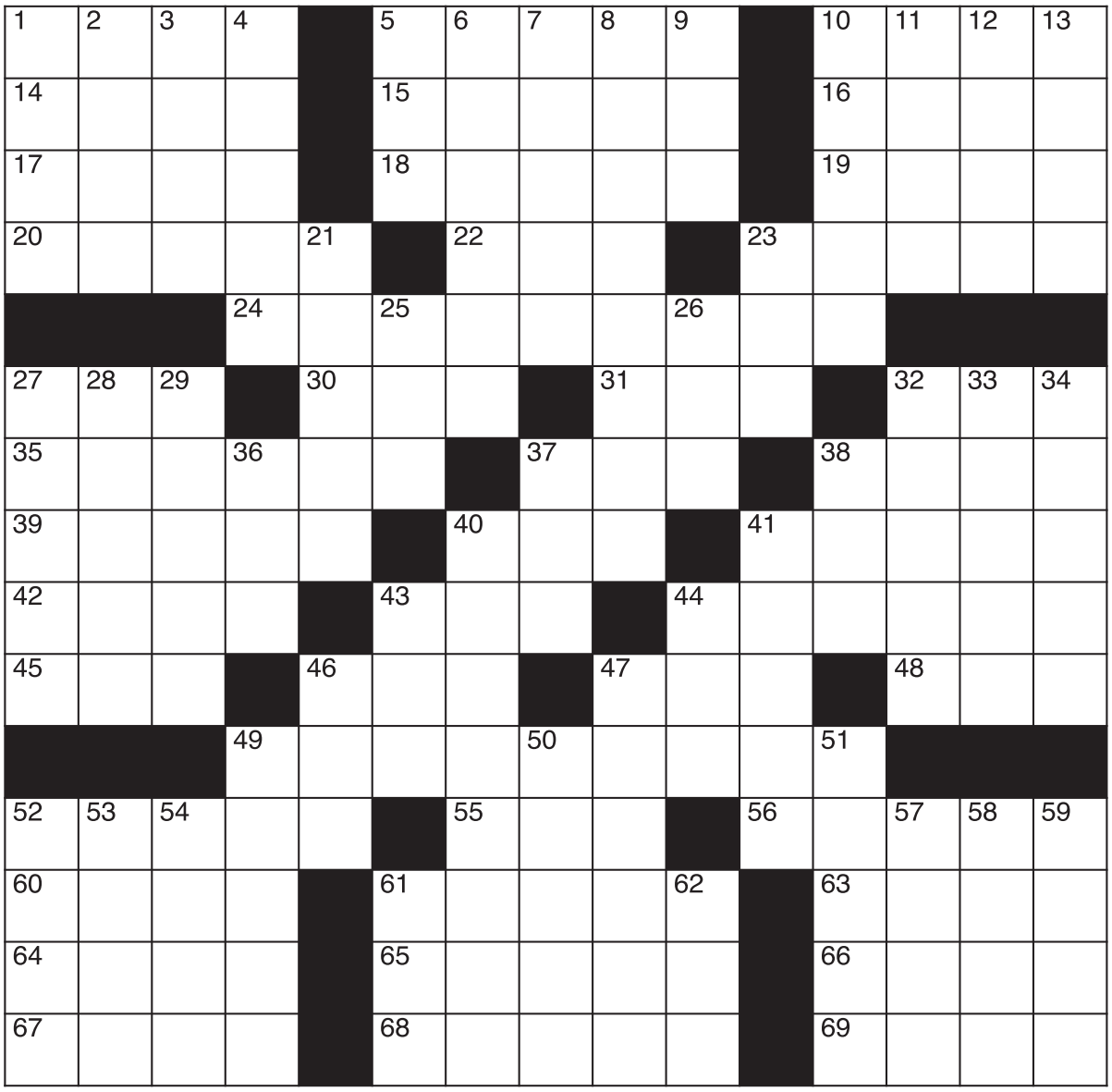
Robert also has another dozen titles in print that he has produced over the last eight years. He has written in genres from a western to military crime thrillers to even a romance novel. One major work of historical fiction titled "River People" is based entirely in Clarksburg, California. All of the profits from these books are also donated to various charities, mostly associated with childhood cancer research. Like most people, he truly has a broken heart whenever he sees "one of those bald-headed children."

Robert's books are available in print and e-book formats on Amazon or in print at mcavepublishing.com and J. Crawford's Book Store.





CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Unpleasant substance
5. Oil group
10. One-time Yankees rookie sensation
14. Ireland
15. Less easily found
16. Southeast Nigeria people
17. Bridgeline Digital stock designation
18. Play loudly
19. Elegantly fashionable
20. Open sore
22. Frozen water
23. Sacred Islamic site
24. "Kokomo" rockers
27. Follows sigma
30. Cease to exist
31. Cool
32. Doctors' group
35. Less attractive
37. Swiss river
38. Greek sophist
39. Grandmothers
40. Afflict
41. Russian pancake of buckwheat flour and yeast
42. Actress __ Rachel Wood
43. Not bright
44. Western Asia peninsula
45. Baseball speedster Gordon
46. Golf score
47. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
48. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
49. Songs to one's lover
52. Cattle's mammary gland
55. Having ten
56. Fencing sword
60. Scarlett's home
61. Hold valuables
63. Italian Seaport
64. Cain and __
65. Bad places to live
66. Large, wading bird
67. Witches
68. Cover with drops
69. Props up the head

CLUES DOWN

1. Philippine province
2. Shallow channel
3. Type of acid
4. Cygnus' brightest star
5. One who buys and sells securities (abbr.)
6. Ill will
7. Plant of the goosefoot family
8. Intellectual
9. Mineral
10. Shiny silicate minerals
11. Ottoman civilian title
12. What you wear when eating BBQ (2 words)
13. Soul and calypso song
21. Advises
23. "The Spanish Tragedy" playwright
25. Surrounds the earth
26. Paddle
27. Adjusted
28. Succulent plant
29. Forearm bones
32. Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague
33. Type of mental illness
34. One from Asia
36. 007's creator
37. Direct toward
38. Pie _ __ mode
40. Large terrier
41. Hillsides
43. Patriotic women (abbr.)
44. Connects words
46. For each
47. Flower cluster
49. Closes a deal
50. Arabian desert
51. Vaccine against poliomyelitis
52. American state
53. Religion practiced in China
54. Type of sediment
57. Hall of Famer Ruth
58. "Layla" singer Clapton
59. Gamble
61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
62. Midway between south and southwest



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Tamika L'Ecluse hits up campaign trail in Oak Park and Land Park areas, held campaign kickoff at Sol Collective

By JOE PERFECTO



Photos by Joe Perfecto

Tamika L'Ecluse kicked off her campaign for city council at Sol Collective in Land Park on Jan. 12.

The four Sacramento City Council Districts up for grabs this year—1, 3, 5 and 7—comprise about half of the city's 100 square miles and encompass 56 neighborhoods (plus portions of three others) that span a wide gamut. Of the eight total districts forming the patchwork quilt of what Harvard University crowned "America's Most Diverse City," District 5 ranks roughly in the middle of the pack with regard to the number of neighborhoods it covers compared to the others, accounting for 19-and-change out of 171, and occupies somewhere around a fifth of the city's footprint. Yet despite the relatively modest size, a more disparate demographic profile is likely not often found in administrative regions of any scale; the district's constituents plot a scattershot pattern across the upper-to-lower social stratification graph, as all three sections of Oak Park and 60% of South Land Park are among the communities in which they reside (by way of illustration, the posh properties of Land Park and the modest hovels of the depressed areas east of Highway 99, while only a few miles apart, are separated by a socioeconomic chasm). The district's constituency is a collage of ne'er-do-wells and well-to-do, artists and accountants, students and shopkeepers, professionals and proletariat, and a variety of ethnic enclaves. In turn, the needs and interests of the various communities span a rainbow of hues.

District 5 is, in sum, a portrait of diversity, a study in contrasts—and for a City Council seatholder, possibly the most difficult chunk of Sacramento to properly represent. Key to that task is an intimate knowledge of the district's lay of the land—its physical, economic and social dynamics aspects. For an area of such multiplicity, ideally a candidate is someone who's gained an understanding of the various perspectives represented in the constituency through the kinship of shared experience, someone who knows *di*versity through *ad*versity, someone who knows where the inequities—and iniquities—lie and how to effect movement toward balance.

Tamika L'Ecluse, a community activist who has served in a number of volunteer and professional capacities including bartender and Montessori teacher, believes she is that someone. L'Ecluse launched her campaign for the District 5 seat Jan. 12 at the Sol Collective in Land Park on 21st St.

In the months since her 2016 transition from a 13-year stint teaching toddlers at McKinley Montessori to a position in staff development and teaching parenting classes at the California Montessori Project, her energies have been divided between family, work and local activism that dates back more than 20 years. The latter saw a five-year hiatus in the 2000s that ended when she began attending Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) meetings in 2008; through her OPNA involvement—eventually in the role of president—L'Ecluse broadened and deepened her knowledge of the issues that Oak Park and similar areas face, which led to a 2014 run for the City Charter Commission and now for the City Council seat that represents that community. Through years as a teacher she gained a comprehensive familiarity with the relatively privileged home life her Montessori students enjoyed and the advantages it would provide later in life, which stood in stark contrast to the milieu of the children in her home neighborhood of Oak Park. A desire to apply her skills to the betterment of those underprivileged youth drove her shift to the parenting education role and moved her to serve as a project manager for the Greater Sacramento Urban League.

The non-profit Sol Collective center, which describes itself as providing youth-focused artistic, cultural and educational programming designed to "empower youth through art, activism, music and media experience," was a fitting venue for the launch party as the candidate's support base includes many members of the activist, arts and education communities with whom she formed associations via her assorted careers. "Most of you know me from many different eras and chapters of your life," L'Ecluse said to a gathering of dozens of supporters. "I've worked in various industries, from grocery to insurance to food and beverage service—which is from where I know a lot of you—to early childhood education, which is from where I know the youngest of you."

The diversity of her adult life evolved from earlier years steeped in it. "I was raised in a single-parent household in economically-challenged neighborhoods all over Sacramento, from Foothill Farms to Del Paso Heights to South Natomas to Midtown—when it was like Skid Row—and Oak Park," L'Ecluse told her supporters. "I remember playing outside on Greenholme Drive; I went there last Saturday and there were memorials across the street from each other, and they told me the stories about the people who were shot."

L'Ecluse learned about the value of money early on. "There were times we had to make hard choices to keep a roof over our heads," she said. "I remember when I was 11 and I was sent to go live with another family because my mom had a tour of duty in Kadena, Japan and I had to work in the school kitchen just to be able to eat lunch. I remember selling candy; at the bus stop there was a little store right behind, and we would get those little five-cent 'Now And Laters' and I would sell them at school to be able to put money in that little yellow envelope to get to the bus driver so I had a ride to school."

The lessons continued once she left her North Highlands home at age 17 and ventured into the world of work. "I know what it's like to work from the bottom up. I know what it's like to live from paycheck to paycheck. I know what it's like to be without health insurance and rely on the community clinic and Planned Parenthood for my reproductive rights to be protected and my needs to be met. I know what it's like to spend two-thirds of my paycheck on rent every month. I *know* what that's like." L'Ecluse pointed out the value this knowledge would afford her as the representative of her district. "With these experiences I know that I have that perspective, a different perspective that's missing from our leadership." Her background, she said, would enable her to bring "a progressive eye and a fresh voice to city hall."

See Campaign, page 8

Campaign:

Continued from page 7

L'Ecluse, who expressed a desire to talk with each voter in the district, said she aims to ensure her "fresh voice" would be representative of the constituency via a policy of open communication; the four pillars of her platform, she explained, were developed based on just such discussions. Further, the diversity that makes the district so challenging to represent is to L'Ecluse a great asset, in that "communication and diversity of thought can bring about the necessary discussions and positive changes we need to continue growing."

The candidate emphasized the need for inclusionary dialogue that invites the participation of all district residents in identifying issues of importance and possible approaches to addressing them; such dialogue is a core component of what L'Ecluse terms "investing in our human infrastructure," one of her platform's facets. "Our human infrastructure includes our houseless, our families, our children, our elderly, our working class," she said. "[Investment] means providing opportunities not just to survive but to thrive. It means economic development that residents can enjoy within their communities. It means vocational and skills training to enter the workforce and successfully build personal wealth. It means putting people before big money and politics. It means working with other systems of our state and local governments to ensure we are creating and enforcing the policies that provide opportunities for communities to grow equitably for the benefit of everyone. It means working with our unions, our health systems, small business development, education systems, housing advocates, to give people a hand up—not just a handout. It means providing spaces and outlets for talent and creativity to flow from our artists and musicians." These are "hard conversations," L'Ecluse said, that require all stakeholders to "pull up a chair to the decision-making table for people who feel disenfranchised, unheard and underrepresented; everyone needs to be [a] part."

"I'm dedicated to fostering opportunities for *all* children in *all* of our neighborhoods to succeed, by focusing on a whole family approach," she said. "When we talk about caring for youth, it's not just the youth—we have to uplift that entire family and the entire community...the youth, the family and the community are a system that requires understanding of the delicate balance of resources needed to ensure we invest in tomorrow."

On the issue of housing—another component of her platform—L'Ecluse didn't pull punches when discussing the current crunch. "*I'm* gonna say it—if the mayor doesn't—that we are in a state of emergency," she said. "We have seen an increase of people experiencing homelessness as well as individuals and families at risk of losing their safe and secure housing. Opportunities to afford living in our beautiful city are becoming rapidly more difficult for our vulnerable populations. And at a two-percent vacancy rate, we are long overdue for real housing reform for renters and for community members of low and limited income. Since the inclusionary housing ordinance was no longer required in 2015, new developments requiring housing units for low and very low-income families have grossly decreased. I want to work on redesigning the ordinance [to] require at least 15-20% low-income housing for all new developments throughout the city depending on size and number of dwelling units."

L'Ecluse also addressed the placement of new units and rising rents. "Limiting inclusionary housing to areas such as Natomas, Oak Park and Meadowview only perpetuates economic and racial segregation. Increased planning for infill mixed-use developments and rent stabilization should be part of the conversation as well. I want to know if we are allowing growth that meets zoning limits. We also need to stop rent gouging by placing limits on rental increases. My goal is to stabilize costs for renters that don't hinder growth and new development within the city. Rent stabilization should follow local inflation rates and benefit all. People should be able to make a living wage and afford to live a life of quality in Sacramento."

Another idea L'Ecluse stated she would pursue is a housing or community land trust fund supported by non-residential development. "Trust funds would be earmarked for supporting permanent housing programs and services," she said. "The services would support economic development opportunities for residents, support affordable housing programs and increase resident-driven projects on vacant parcels throughout the city."

The candidate commented on the recent surge in construction and the resulting layers of complexity it adds to the evolving balancing act involved in decisions surrounding Oak Park development. "Today, Sacramento is facing a wave of gentrification and Oak Park is an area where the effects have been felt/seen greatly. I believe that bridging the community and working to create economic opportunities for residents to invest in their communities will be a key role in leadership."

Public health and safety comprise another component of the platform. L'Ecluse discussed the effects of residents' physical location on longevity. "[In] 95817—Oak Park—the average life expectancy is 77 years; 95819—River Park—85 years; South Land Park [95822]—81 years; 95838—Del Paso Heights—75 years. And this is not an accident. There are data showing that children who come from communities of color are least likely to read at the developmental level of third grade, and less likely to continue on to higher education. There are additional data showing incarceration rates are connected to third-grade reading level, and [these rates are] disproportionately [higher among] those same populations. We must work on reforming those policies contributing to these numbers."

L'Ecluse also asserted that residents' quality of life is negatively impacted by the current state of relations between non-affluent communities and local government. "We need to work on rebuilding trust between public officials and the communities they protect and serve," she said. "We need more transparency and accountability in the recruitment, the retention and the training of our public officers. I plan to continue the work that has begun to improve relationships [between] our city departments and community members."

Relations with law enforcement were specifically addressed. "We need to work together to ensure our community policing commission is empowered to help enforce policies that are fair, non-biased and lawful," L'Ecluse said. "I want to work with our law enforcement agencies to design a model more in line with the old community policing and POP programs. I want to prioritize safety for all residents by working with the multiple departments and agencies to be sure

See L'Ecluse, page 9

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L'Ecluse:

Continued from page 8

we are providing appropriate public safety protections for all neighborhoods. How we respond to safety challenges can be approached many ways but it will take educating and engaging the community on what that should be. Our message needs to be consistent and clear, with our policies reflecting those values."

The fourth element of L'Ecluse's platform focuses on a transportation infrastructure she sees as decades behind current needs. "Mobility between communities has barely improved in the past 40 years," she said. "But the more people can navigate between these areas, the more they can invest [in] and enjoy those resources and the economic growth of areas within and beyond downtown." She advocates expanding the implementation of safe bike lanes, ADA-compliant routes and better street and intersection design. "Children and families should be able to go to and from school without having to take an extra 10 minutes to avoid dangerous crossings and roadways." L'Ecluse indicated that if anything, transit resources have actually worsened in underserved areas. "When I was a kid we used to say it takes two buses and a train to get anywhere in Sacramento," she said. "Now it takes two buses, a train, you walk a mile, you pass a discontinued bus stop and then you go stand in a place where there is no place for you to sit or no shelter above your head, and wait."

While all these issues may apply to varying degrees district-wide, it is in communities such as Oak Park where the most work must be done, where the challenges are greatest and have been for decades. In some regards the current milieu is not too different from that faced in the late 1970s and early 1980s by District 5 representatives Callie Carney and her successor, Dan Thompson, who were among the Council's first Black members. L'Ecluse reflected on their contributions. "I think one of their greatest accomplishments [was] creating a pathway for African American representation in local government. Carney and Thompson organized with other leaders in the community by setting an example of the impact and necessity of grassroots organizing for social and political justice."

L'Ecluse touched upon the importance of the concept of *ownership* among a constituency, both in terms of responsibility and empowerment, as a driving force in effecting change. "Carney and Thompson worked to instill a social, civic and political responsibility among adults and youth," she said. "They were successful in activating discussions and empowering residents to stand up against forces working to divide communities. Organization and mobilization are still methods of activism that work today. I want to continue their legacy of working with residents, business and organizations to ensure we are creating a sustainable infrastructure while valuing our diverse populations and traditions."

In the three-and-a-half decades since the period in which Carney and Thompson built their legacy, the district seat has had four occupants. L'Ecluse was asked to comment on the last of these, two-term incumbent Jay Schenirer, who has also served as vice mayor and mayor pro tem. "I believe our councilmember has concern for the thousands of families and individuals experiencing homelessness, but as a whole, we haven't been consistent in delivering policies that protect our most vulnerable residents," she said. "I also think that as leaders, it's important to put personal politics aside so our process is respectful, fair, and unbiased. My hope is to create better transparency and trust moving forward by leading with integrity and focusing on solutions."

To date the candidate's outreach efforts have included two



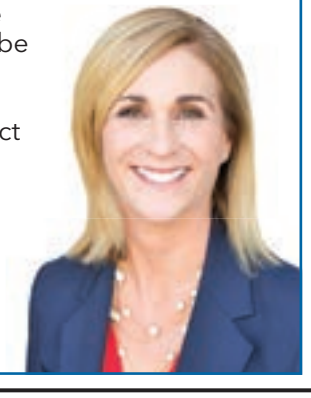
community roundtables—one in Oak Park and one in South Land Park—two fundraisers and a second launch party; an International Women's Day Candidate Mixer will occur March 8. Appearances at schools and neighborhood association meetings are also planned. Through the combination of such events, use of the Web, Facebook, Twitter and E-mail and a little stumping door to door with her weekend canvassers, L'Ecluse hopes to maximize the chances that come early June, she will have attained among the lion's share of the district's voters not only recognition of her name, but of the face that goes with it, as well as a sense of common ground.

Voters can visit https://www.tamikalecluse.com to learn more about the candidate, consult an events calendar and become involved in the campaign.



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Mochi Madness event celebrated Japanese American New Year tradition

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com
Photos by GEORGE YOUNG

A fun, taste-tempting Japanese American New Year's tradition welcomed friends and families at Florin's "Mochi Madness X" hand-pounding workshop, treat tasting, and New Year's potluck. Sponsored by the Buddhist Church of Florin and Florin JACL, the event featured mochi, the sweet rice cake treats popular in Asian countries. Mochi symbolizes strength and a prosperous New Year. Treats this year included hot ozoni and zenzai sweet red bean soup. Members of the public made it"old school" like families on the farm - pounding with huge wooden mallets (kine) in a stone mortar (usu) after cooking in wooden steamers (seiro). Ready to pound, shape,t make, and taste, attendees learned how to make mochi and other traditional dishes.

Event chairperson Judy Fukuman explained the difference between cooking mochi the traditional way – using an "usu" (a stone or wooden mortar) and pounding with mallets– versus that of operating modern mochi making machines. The machines actually cook sweet rice and grind it to make mochi, after which it is taken out of the machine and is formed and shaped into small round cakes.

"In researching the origins and history of making mochi in Japan from the newworldencyclopedia.org website, mochi is traditionally made in a ceremony called 'mochitsuki,'" she explained.

Though eaten year round, mochi is a traditional food for the Japanese New Year. It states that the origin of mochi is unknown and may have come from China. It states that in Japan during the Heian period (794-1185), mochi became a New Year treat and were used as offerings for religious ceremonies.

Fukuman learned that many Japanese American families have continued the tradition of making mochi here in the United States, however, in Japan, the people buy their mochi at the market. Her family has traditionally made mochi every year beginning with her grandparents who immigrated from Japan.

Ten years ago, the Florin Japanese American Citizens League (Florin JACL), led by Andy Noguchai and his wife Twila Tomita, organized and planned its very first "Mochi

See Mochi Madness, page 12

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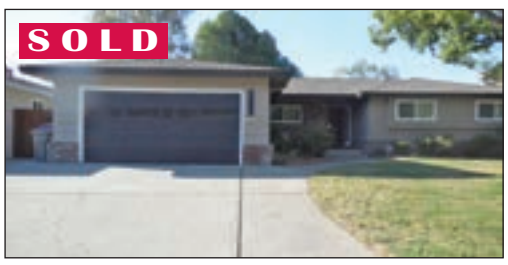
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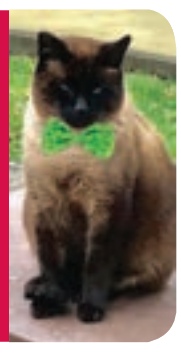
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Mochi Madness:

Continued from page 10

Madness" event jointly with the Buddhist Church of Florin with the purpose of "bringing families and friends together and strengthening community in a vibrant cultural celebration."

"The event is enjoyed by everyone, young and old alike, to participate and partake in the tasty mochi treats. We have continued the tradition because of its popularity and the January 7, 2018, event was our 10th Annual Mochi Madness," Fukuman said.

The third year into chairing the event, Fukuman said she feels this is a very important event for the Florin JACL and the Buddhist Church of Florin.

"The camaraderie and friendships developed over the years to share this fine art of making mochi and sharing it with others in the community is very rewarding and gratifying. We hope to continue this tradition as long as the Florin JACL, the church and the community supports this event," she said.

This year, Mochi Madness had between 125-150 people in attendance, some of whom are church congregants who came over after to participate in the event. In the past, Fukuman said as many as 200 people have participated due to publicity in local newspapers and television.

With volunteers and participants of all ages from youth to seniors in their 90s, helping to make Mochi Madness a huge success, some have helped transport the heavy mochi-making and cooking equipment to and from the church, while others have made the traditional New Year soup (ozoni) and side dishes and condiments to complement the mochi, as others pound and form the mochi, serving the tasty treats in various ways. And of course there's the set-up the potluck luncheon, and cleanup.

In summation of her favorite aspect of Mochi Madness and the community the longtime event has drawn together, Fukuman says, "It is gratifying to see people of all ages from toddler age to teens and seniors, too, pounding and forming the mochi."



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February opening announced for "Power Up: Corita Kent's Heavenly Pop"

Vivid exhibition bridges aspects of Corita Kent's life as a nun, artist, and activist

An exhibition of 29 prints that chronicle Corita Kent's most productive period during the mid-1960s, when her forceful imagery and message — and her unexpected calling as a nun — led to her greatest popularity will be on display at the Crocker Art Museum from Feb. 25 to May 13. All but two works featured in this exhibition are from the Crocker's permanent collection.

Said Lial Jones, the Museum's director and CEO, "We are delighted to have such remarkable depth of Corita Kent's work in our permanent collection, and to be able to show it in this exhibition. Her messages of peace and love are as timeless and vibrant as her art. We are proud to introduce new audiences to her work."

Corita Kent (1918–1986) was an extraordinary printmaker whose bold, graphic images signaled the new spirit of the 1960s. At a time of great change, the nun, artist, and activist developed a unique, spiritually uplifting version of Pop art known for its poetic visual statements.

Born in Iowa as Frances Elizabeth Kent, Corita moved to Hollywood at the age of five, where she entered the Catholic school system. At 18, she took her vows and chose the name of Sister Mary Corita in the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a Catholic religious teaching institute for women. In 1947, after graduating from Immaculate Heart College, she returned as assistant faculty, and helped make the art department one of the most advanced in the country.

As an artist, her boldly colored prints began with unpretentious, expressionistic religious imagery and soon turned to abstraction and text. A pivotal moment in her artistic evolution came in 1962, when she first encountered the Pop Art of Andy Warhol. Corita, was deeply inspired by the experience, and as her career unfolded during a time of great cultural and religious upheaval, she felt she had found the perfect vehicle for her message of joy. Corita began to seek inspiration from the commercial art world, and in 1963, she began to introduce elements from advertising and signage into her prints. Though she had been influenced by many besides Warhol — writers, poets, and her designer/architect friends Charles and Ray Eames among them — Corita's art, like Warhol's, became an icon of a new age.

"For Corita, this form of artistic expression was a way to celebrate all of God's creation," said Crocker Art Museum curator William Breazeale. "As we view her work, we see that she explored the intersection of religion and daily life, as she found the holy in the everyday, and the everyday in the holy."

A particularly significant year, 1965, marked the close of the Second Vatican Council, which sought to create a new relationship between the Catholic church and the contemporary world. As Corita had for decades, many within the church came to view Christian life in a modern way. During this same year, Corita produced the silkscreen life, in which she combined the graphic simplicity of LIFE magazine with a quote from a German theologian and a slogan for Lark cigarettes. His words contribute to the many levels of meaning in the print. Corita shows that LIFE magazine, daily life, and eternal life are all part of our world.

Corita's search for God's message led her to unusual places: the words of Pope John XXIII, A. A. Milne, Albert Camus, and Joan Baez, for example. As her silkscreens attracted more attention, her fame mushroomed. In 1967, she appeared on the cover of Newsweek, and released one of her most popular works, feelin' groovy. The print combines traffic signs with quotes from the work of emerging poet Edward Field and musicians Simon and Garfunkel. The imagery, the quotes, and the title (which is the refrain from the Simon and Garfunkel song by the same name) belong to the secular, popular world of mid-1960s America. Yet read within a religious context, as the printmaker intended, they become a powerful metaphor for the human soul in peril, and trust in God as the hope for salvation.

At least as important as her printmaking was Corita's teaching and activism, including an unrelenting protest against the Vietnam War. Her teaching was at least as revolutionary. A few of her art department rules:

In 1968, at the height of her fame, Corita's radical re-interpretations of traditional religious iconography irritated the conservative Cardinal McIntyre of the Los Angeles diocese. Disturbed by this, Corita asked to be released from her vows as a nun and left the church that same year.

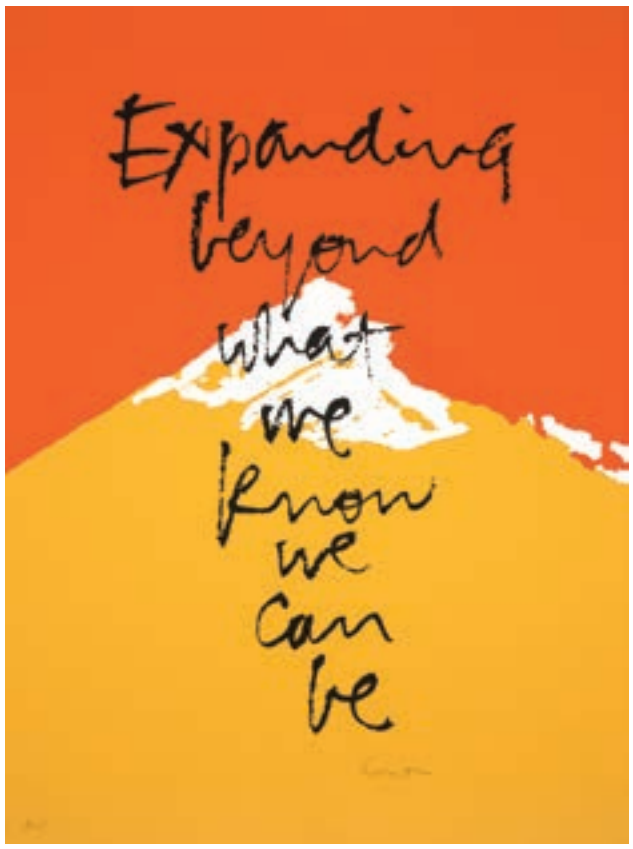
After her following move to Boston, Corita continued her work as an artist in a quieter way, though still spreading her messages of joy. She continued to make prints and watercolors until she died of cancer in 1986.

"In these works Corita's creative spirit and her deep faith combine in art that is eye-catching and bright, but at the same time imbued with profound meaning," said Breazeale. "Her art, and her message of joy and justice, are well-suited to our times."

This exhibition is organized by William Breazeale, curator at the Crocker Art Museum, with guest curator Michael Duncan.



Corita Kent, come off it, 1966. Serigraph, 29 7/8 x 36 1/4 inches. Crocker Art Museum, Gift of the Collection of Ernest A. Long III, 2016.



Corita Kent, expanding #1, 1978. Serigraph, 22 x 16 1/2 inches. Crocker Art Museum, Gift of the Collection of Ernest A. Long III, 2016.

Public program highlights

Women, Art, and History: E. Charlton Fortune, Corita Kent, and Faith Ringgold in Context
Three Sundays, Feb. 25 to March 11 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Crocker will host three exhibitions, each devoted to an important American female artist: E. Charlton Fortune, Corita Kent, and Faith Ringgold. Because the dates of these shows overlap, they offer a unique opportunity to explore in depth the subject of women in 20th-century art history. From Fortune's picturesque Impressionism to Kent's spiritually-infused Pop and Ringgold's socially-engaged quilts, we will explore the unique contributions these women and their sister artists have made to the history of American art.

Homeschool Day: Art of Stenciling

March 13 from noon to 2 p.m.

Inspired by the silkscreen prints of Corita Kent, students will study the principles of design through stenciling.

Art of Parenting: Screen-Time Savvy

March 18, 2 to 4 p.m.

Inspired by the bold imagery and messages infused in Power Up: Corita Kent's Heavenly Pop, the Crocker's free Art of Parenting series returns with a dynamic discussion on digital electronics, media literacy, and child development. How much screen time is too much for young brains? Does the type of engagement matter? Experts will offer helpful tools for making decisions around your child's use of digital media, presenting different perspectives.

Public Notification

City of
SACRAMENTO
Department of Utilities

Construction Coming Soon

The City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities and its construction contractors will soon begin construction on water meters, water mains, and water service lines in the area.

Visit **www.MetersMatter.org** to learn more about the project and to find out what may be happening in and around your neighborhood.

This work may result in:
- Traffic delays
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This work addresses the State's mandate for water meters to be installed on all water services.

Thank you for your cooperation on this very important project.

Contact us for more information:
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2018 Spring Thing Event Scheduled for California Middle School

By JAN DALSKE

If you want to have a fun evening and support your local middle school at the same time, now is your chance to do just that. You are invited to attend the 9th Annual SPRING THING at California Middle School on Saturday, March 10th. It will take place from 6:30 to 9:30 pm in the Social Hall at Congregation B'nai Israel located at 3600 Riverside Blvd in Sacramento. Tickets can be purchased in advance by visiting www.calmiddle.org , or at the door on the night of the event.

The families and friends of the California Middle School's PTSA, in partnership with the Land Park Schools Foundation, is proud to present this event. All are invited to attend this evening of great food, drink, and fun. The event features a sampling of small plates prepared by Sacramento chefs, from the neighborhood's finest restaurants, a generous array of local wine for tasting, beer from local breweries, and music. Don't miss this great opportunity to mingle with your neighbors for an evening of fun which will benefit the students that attend California Middle School.

The Evening Gala has improved over the years as it receives additional support from several of our areas best local restaurants, breweries and wineries. Music will be provided. Come and enjoy our Silent Auction with many exciting gift baskets, as well. A fabulous Live Auction will feature many items you will want to own. Everyone over 21 is welcome. This event is sure to put the "FUN" back in FUNdraiser!

The Student Art Action will offer you a variety of choices to bid on. There will be Balloon Poppers offered as Grab Bags for your selection, and many wonderful Raffle Prizes. This evening of fun is truly a "FUN"d raiser. This annual event makes it possible for the California Middle School to secure the funding needed for many of their school programs. Without your help many of the programs they offer would not be available for our local children. The money raised at this event will go towards the field trip scholarship program, after-school tutoring, athletics, arts, enrichment programs, and field trips as well as other extracurricular activities.

With no additional funding, the programs they need will be either cut, or fees will be required for them to continue. Some of the programs that need funding are the afterschool tutoring, scholarships for field trips, afterschool sports programs and uniforms, and most important, the supplemental supplies for the classrooms.

You can purchase your tickets to this event or your Sponsorship Tickets online, by going to: https://lpsf.schoolauction.net/2018auction You can also donate an item or gift card for the silent or live auctions. If you are unable to attend the event but would like to make a monetary donation you can do that online. The CAL Middle School Office will accept cash or check donations. Clearly mark the envelope "Spring Thing Donation". Plenty of parking for both vehicles and bicycles is available.

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Black newspapers date back more than a century ago in Sacramento

By LANCE ARMSTRONG



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Joe Stinson, the longtime director of advertising for The Sacramento Observer, holds a copy of the paper.

With Black History Month currently being celebrated, it is a good to present the history of black newspapers in Sacramento.

It was in 1906 when J. Gordon McPherson, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, at the northwest corner of 6th and P streets, founded Sacramento's first black newspaper: The Forum.

McPherson served as that paper's managing editor and Dr. Robert J. Fletcher was the publication's associate editor.

That newspaper is mentioned in the Feb. 28, 1906 edition of The Sacramento Union as follows: "The movement to publish a paper in the interests of the colored people of the Sacramento Valley, under the name of The Forum, with J. Gordon McPherson as managing editor, was indorsed (sic)."

A summary of that paper, in the April 5, 1906 edition of The Union, notes that it is "the intention of the editors to be impartial, to ask a fair chance for all to earn a livelihood, to contend for the respect and protection of womanhood, to urge members of the race to start bank accounts and to become property owners and to qualify themselves in every way as self-respecting, law-abiding citizens."

Although that paper, which was intended to be a semi-monthly publication, did not survive beyond its first edition, its establishment would lead to the founding of other black newspapers in Sacramento.

Another black newspaper is mentioned in the March 13, 1914 edition of The Union as follows: "The first issue of The Western Review, a bright, clean weekly published in the interests of the Negro race, made its appearance in Sacramento yesterday. It is edited by (the) Rev. John M. Collins. The advertising columns are well-filled with matter representing some of the leading business firms."

Collins was also associated with the Shiloh Baptist Church, as he replaced McPherson as that church's pastor in June 1906.

The Rev. Charles Satchel founded the Shiloh Baptist Church as the Siloam Baptist Church in 1856. Satchel also served as San Francisco's first black minister.

In its February 1919 issue, Western Advertising magazine recognized The Review as a monthly publication and the "only paper published by a Negro in the capital city."

Research for this article shows that The Review existed until sometime in the early 1920s.

The next black newspaper established in Sacramento was the Sacramento Outlook.

On the front page of that paper's September 9, 1960 edition are the words: "Sacramento Outlook established August 1942."

The Rev. John Turley Muse founded that small, weekly publication, and served as its publisher and editor.

Muse's pastorate in California began in 1920 at the Second Baptist Church of Woodland.

He came to the capital city in 1934 to serve as pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, and he became the pastor of the then-newly formed Trinity Baptist Church, at 1025 9th Street (later 2425 10th Street), in 1947.

An article in the Oct. 23, 1952 edition of The Bee refers to the Outlook as the "only Negro newspaper in Sacramento and Yolo counties."

Another Bee article, published on Aug. 10, 1962, mentions that the Outlook was sold by the retiring Muse to six Sacramentans: William H. Lee; Geno Gladden; Douglas R. Greer, Lucy Amerson, C.R. Johnson and Fleming R. Waller. The purchase price was $2,500.

At the time of that sale, the Outlook had an estimated circulation of 300. The paper was distributed through mail subscriptions.

The Outlook was discontinued after a short time under its new ownership, following complaints that the paper received regarding its inclusion of sports news in this mainly religious publication.

Lee, Gladden and John Cole established a new black newspaper, The Sacramento Observer, later that year.

The Observer was first published on Thanksgiving Day in 1962.

In an article that was published in The Observer in 1998, Georgella Gladden, who was Geno's wife, said that paper was originally produced in "three different living rooms." The publication later established a permanent home at 2408 21st St.

The goals of the new paper were "to fill the gap in the communication for the Sacramento Negro community; to exert leadership; to tell the youth of the race of the accomplishments of the Negro; to create a sense of identity."

Geno died at the age of 32 on Sept. 25, 1964, and Lee bought out Cole's share of The Observer six months later, and thus became that paper's sole owner.

In 1965, the Sacramento Junior Chamber of Commerce named Lee as "Sacramento's Outstanding Young Man of the Year."

In response to The Observer's loss of $56,000 in 1968, Lee began to place more emphasis on journalism than his successful real estate business, which he established about five years earlier.

On Aug. 17, 1969, The Observer formally dedicated its new offices in the 3,500-square-foot, former Oak Park Station post office building at 3540 4th Ave. An announcement of that event in that day's edition of The Bee notes that The Observer had previously been operating at 2410 I St.

Three years later, with improved success of the paper, the circulation reached 22,500.

However, The Observer would experience further financial struggles, and, in 1988, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

During its history, The Observer launched publications in San Francisco, Solano County and Reno, and had a Los Angeles entertainment publication. At its height, The Observer's combined circulation was 125,000.

The business was no longer producing papers for other cities by 1990, and by 1995, The Sacramento Observer was running with improved success and had a circulation of 49,000 in Sacramento and Stockton.

In about 1997, The Observer relocated to its then-new and now current site at 2330 Alhambra Blvd.

Recognized as one of the nation's leading black newspapers, The Observer has received hundreds of national, state and local awards, including the prestigious John B. Russwurm Trophy for Journalism Excellence, which it was awarded six times.

Many Observer employees have contributed to the success of this publication.

One such employee, Joe Stinson, the director of advertising, first worked for the paper in 1968, and has been working full-time for this company since January 1976.

As a family-owned business, The Observer has been headed by the Lee family since its inception.

William H. Lee remains The Observer's publisher, and Larry Lee, serves as the paper's president and general manager.

What's happening, Land Park?

THURSDAY, FEB. 22

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR PHONE SERVICE: Knowing about your phone service options can save you money, help you avoid telephone fraud and ensure that you get the service that is right for you. Learn about discounted local home service park communityand types of telephone fraud. If you have questions about your current services, bring copies of your phone or PG&E bills. We will also review various utility assistance program available. Pre-registration required. Free of Charge. Class will be held on Thursday February 22, 2018 from 2:30-3:30p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

UNDY RUN IN WILLIAM LAND PARK: Don't be surprised if you see people running around William Land Park in their "undies" on Saturday, Feb. 24. The Colorectal Cancer Alliance is sponsoring the 7th Annual Sacramento Undy Run Walk to help raise awareness of colorectal cancer. The event is a fun twist on a serious subject, as people are often reluctant or embarrassed to talk about colorectal cancer. The Sacramento Undy Run Walk participants are encouraged to wear their "family-friendly" undies for this fun run. In addition to raising awareness of colorectal cancer, the Undy Run/Walk also honors all those who have lost a loved one to this disease and concludes with a special survivor ceremony honoring all those who have battled the disease. Event details: 7:30 a.m. race packet pick-up and on-site registration; 9 a.m.: 5K begins; 9:10 a.m.: mile fun run begins. Registration fees: 5K Adult (14 and older) - $35 Advance/ $40 Race Day; 5K Youth (6-13) - $30 Advance / $35 Race Day; 1 Mile fun run (all ages, Children 5 and younger are free) - $30 Advance / $35 Race Day; survivors register for free. E-mail specialevents@ccalliance.org for the registration code.

CKM TRACK AND FIELD PRESENTS FIRST RED AND WHITE MEET: McClatchy track and field invites you to the inaugural Red and White Meet. Come and help break in the brand new track and field facility. It will be free to come and watch. There will be food trucks and music as well as McClatchy gear for sale. There will also be an OPEN 3,200-meter (2 mile) run for all those who wish to run. This will also be professionally timed. Cost of running $10 entry fee, $5 for ages 12 and younger. Checks payable to Restore the Roar. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Rohit at rosharma53@yahoo.com

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

SOLISTIC: SINGING CIRCLE WITH MUSICLANDRIA AT SOL COLLECTIVE: Find your voice in this circle. Library Of MusicLandria is overjoyed to bring their monthly singing circle to Sol Collective from 2 to 4 p.m. The singing circle allows every participant to access the healing and restorative power of music. How does it work? Our leaders make up simple vocal melodies, giving a different part to each section of the circle. The parts change over time. Together, we create evolving, improvised choral music, and lots of good vibrations! Why does it work? It just feels good to sing with other members of your community. It also feels good to listen to other voices. Add to this the specialness of a musical composition that is created on the spot and then disappears! It's a great way to be in the moment. Cost $10-20 suggested donation/no one turned away for lack of funds! Your RSVP is appreciated! Please contact rachel@musiclandria.com to RSVP or if you have any questions. Sol Collective, 2574 21st St, Sacramento, California 95818.

MONDAY, FEB. 26

CHOOSING AND TRAINING HELPERS FOR YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: Choosing someone to help with your daily needs and finances in life is a big decision. At this legal workshop, we willl discuss how to choose an agent to make health care and financial decisions for you and the duties and responsibilities that they will have. A licensed professional fiduciary will join in the discussion. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $3 required. $5 drop-in fee at the door. Class will be held on Monday February 26, 2018 from 3:00-4:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

DIABETES ACADEMY EDUCATIONAL SERIES: Second workshop in a series of three workshops dealing with diabetes. This workshop will focus on lifestyle modification, stages of changes and setting smart goal on diabetes. Pre-registration required. Free of Charge. Class will be held on Tuesday February 27, 2018 from 4:00-5:30p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR WOMEN: This informative workshop highlights the unique financial challenges women face and provides a forum to share their insights and wisdoms in small groups. Through case studies of women at major stages in their lives and their common financial challenges, the workshop offers strategies for establishing and maintaining financial security. Pre-registration required. Free of Charge. Workshop will be held on Wednesday February 28, 2018 from 6:30-8:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

BOOKS BEFORE BEDTIME CELEBRATING DR. SEUSS: "Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you." And there was no one quite like Dr. Seuss! Join Fairytale Town to celebrate Theodore Seuss Geisel's 114th birthday with Seuss-themed hands-on activities around the park. From 6 to 8 p.m., you are welcome to come dressed in your pajamas and enjoy fun literacy based activities, readings from your favorite children's books, bilingual storytime, poetry, arts and crafts and more! And "If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good." Books Before Bedtime is free with paid park admission. Receive 50% off one admission with a donation of one new or gently used children's book for Reading Partners, a Sacramento non-profit literacy organization. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive.

'ANIMALS ON TAP': RED PANDA BEER TO BE RELEASED AT NEW HELVETIA: Local craft breweries are partnering with the nonprofit Sacramento Zoo to help you drink local beer with a purpose. Breweries are taking inspiration from zoo residents when developing new beers that will raise money and community awareness about the Sacramento Zoo and its conservation efforts. Brewers will take into account an animal's characteristics, eating habits, native habitat and more when concocting the limited batch beers. In addition to quenching your thirst, a portion of the proceeds from the special-edition beers will go to the Sacramento Zoo and to conservation in the wild. One animal-themed beer will be released per quarter and will include a launch party honoring the species at New Helvetia Brewing Co. from 4 to 9 p.m. Red Panda Beer is best described as a Session Red IPA. Like its namesake the red panda, this beer is small but packs a sharp bite. New Helvetia is located at 1730 Broadway.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

CEMETERY TOUR – MAUSOLEUMS: The Old City Cemetery Committee presents a behind-the-scenes tour of the cemetery's mausoleums on Saturday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. The OCCC will dust off the keys and open the doors of the cemetery's mausoleums. They nvite you for a rare glimpse of the architecture, the stories and the secrets that lie inside these magnificent monuments to Sacramento's golden age. The cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. There is free street parking on surrounding streets. Tours are free; however, donations are appreciated and benefit cemetery preservation. For more information, call 916-448-0811. The mission of the OCCC is to join hands with the community to restore, beautify, preserve, and protect the Historic City Cemetery, while maintaining access by descendants of the deceased, and to provide educational services to all visitors to the Historic City Cemetery of Sacramento.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3-SUNDAY, MARCH 4

PUPPET SHOW: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. S: Join magician and ventriloquist Tony Borders and his puppets in a special birthday party for America's favorite rhyme doctor, Dr. Seuss at Fairytale Town! You will meet Snortin' the Elephant, a kooky kangaroo, a magical monkey, and a cat with a magical hat. Enjoy the fun in Happy Birthday, Dr. S! Tickets are a $1 for members and $2 for nonmembers, in addition to paid park admission. Tickets can be purchased at the Fairytale Town Box Office or at the entrance to the Children's Theater 15 minutes prior to show time. All performances take place in Fairytale Town's indoor Children's Theater. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive. Show times are at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. Run time is about 20 minutes.

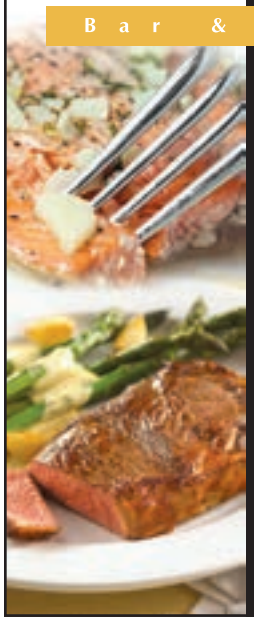
MONDAY, MARCH 5

ESTATE PLANNING MYTH BUSTERS: Is it a myth or fact that if something happens to you, your spouse or children automatically have the ability to make financial and/or medical decisions on your behalf? Come to this legal workshop to find out the answer and to tackle other common estate planning myths. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $3 required. $5 drop-in. Workshop will be held on Monday March 5, 2018 from 3:00-4:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 126, www.cmoua@accsv.orgs.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

SOLISTIC: MOVEMENT + MEDICINE // SPRING EQUINOX GATHERING: Join Lola Venado and Navi Gill for an evening of movement and medicine in honor of and preparation for the Vernal Equinox from 6 to 8 p.m.. Breath work, yoga, guided meditation, and botanical medicine to help facilitate clarity, clear stagnation, and open the body and spirit to receive the blessings of the coming light will be explored. Finding your balance, and integrating both our shadow and light. You'll leave with your own handcrafted herbal creation to help support you in the upcoming season. Please dress comfortably, and bring a yoga mat if you have one, there are some available onsite. All other materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Please RSVP at lolavenado.com/connect to reserve your spot. Suggested Donation of $20-$35, cash or card. Lola Venado is a Sacramento folk herbalist, energy worker, writer, speaker, and community gatherer: lolavenado.com Navi Gill is a holistic wellness educator, Ayurvedic therapist, bodyworker, lifestyle consultant, and a certified yoga teacher and life skills coach: navigillwellness.com. Sol Collective is located at 2574 21st St., Sacramento, California 95818.

See more What's Happening, page 19



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TUESDAY, MARCH 8

BLACKENED TILAPIA: Let us introduce you to a delicious meal that is healthy and nutritious. We are collaborating with Healthy Start of Elk Grove to offer a meal of blackened (spicy) tilapia served chickpeas, avocado and a seasonal vegetable. Enjoy a delicious banana split for dessert. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $16 required. Class will be held on Tuesday March 8, 2018 from 11:00-1:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 126, www.cmoua@accsv.orgs.

MONDAY, MARCH 12

GIRL SCOUT DAY AT FAIRYTALE TOWN: From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., show your Girl Scout pride on Girl Scout's 106th birthday! Wear your uniform when you visit Fairytale Town and receive one free child admission with one paid adult admission! Weekday admission is $4.75 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Members and children ages 1 and under are free. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive. Event is weather permitting.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

LAND PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING: Wednesday, March 21st, 6:30pm- Annual Membership Meeting and Board Elections. Elected public officials will also be present to provide updates to the community. LPCA members are encouraged to attend and vote. The location for this meeting is the California Middle School Auditorium (1600 Vallejo Way). The full agenda will be posted at least a week before the meeting at www.landpark.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

GLOBAL LOCAL MERCADO-SPRING EDITION AT SOL COLLECTIVE: Just in time for the Spring Season!- Handmade artisan goods, music and food from noon to 5 p.m.! Sol Collective invites you to the annual Global Local Mercado season! The mercado is meant to highlight handmade, arts & cultural goods by local and global vendors. Also featuring curated vintage and natural beauty products. The vision of the Global Local Mercado is to support economic development, cultural preservation of Global and Local artisans and to make arts & cultural goods accessible to the community at large. Our store embodies the work of global to local artisans focused on sustaining and sharing culture through art, clothing and accessories. Our purpose is to introduce their efforts through the Global Local Mercado. Sol Collective is located at 2574 21st St, Sacramento, California 95818.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31-SUNDAY, APRIL 1

SPRING EGGSTRAVAGANZA AT FAIRYTALE TOWN: Join Fairytale Town for an egg-citing weekend featuring egg hunts, prizes, spring themed arts and crafts and more from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily egg hunts will be held at 12, 1, 2, and 3 PM, promptly. Hunt areas are separated by age groups as follows: ages 0 – 3 on the Mother Goose Stage Lawn, ages 4 – 6 in Pooh Corner, and ages 7 – 12 on the lawn behind King Arthur's Castle. After the egg hunt, make your way to Mr. McGregor's Garden to redeem your eggs for a prize! Kids can choose from a variety of new prizes based on the number of eggs they collect. Puppet Art Theater Company will also be on hand performing Bunny Boot Camp in the Children's Theater. Tickets are $1 for members and $2 for nonmembers. Show times are at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 PM. Puppet show tickets can be purchased at the entrance to the Children's Theater 15 minutes prior to show time. Plus, visit with Peter Cottontail on the Mother Goose Stage. Get a printed photo for $5, or take your own photo. And make spring-themed crafts, including bunny ears. Spring Eggstravaganza is a special ticketed event. Event is weather permitting.
Tickets will go on sale now. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive.

41ST ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW SPONSORED BY SEKIYU KAI: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Buddhist Church 2401 Riverside Blvd. Demonstrations both days at 2:00pm by Yuzo Maruyama, followed by a benefit raffle. The event will include trees and bonsai materials for sale and the food vendor Haole Pig BBQ. Admission and parking are free. For information, email BonsaiSekiyuKai@gmail.com

SATURDAY, MAY 12

CKM WRESTLING CLASSIC CAR SHOW: Help support C.K. McClatchy's wrestling team. As most of you know there isn't a very big budget for high school sports teams are left to fundraise as much as possible. There will be a bike and classic car show at McClatchy High School from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 3066 Freeport Blvd. If you are interested in entering your car or motorcycle please contact me as spaces will be limited. If you belong to a club bring the crew. This is also a great opportunity to bring the family and check out the beauties. There will be prize raffles.

SATURDAY, AUG. 25

RACE FOR THE ARTS IN WILLIAM LAND PARK: Grab your running shoes, friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and join the fun! Race for the Arts is for everyone the serious runners (5K timed by B-tag) and for the casual runner/walker. Run, walk, jog or jeté along the racecourse in Sacramento's shady William Land Park. Entertainment throughout the racecourse and a FREE Arts Festival – What's not to love? Come out for the Race and stay for the Free Arts Festival with food, hands-on booths and plenty of entertainment. Race for the Arts raises funds and awareness for ALL California nonprofit visual, performing, cultural, literary and culinary arts organizations, and school music, drama, literary, art and culinary arts programs. They receive 100 percent of pledges designated to them. 7 a.m., registration (or register at http://www.RacefortheArts.com); 8:10 a.m. Kids Fun Runs; 8:35 a.m., 5K Run/Walk; William Land Park, Sacramento (across from Sacramento Zoo and next to Fairytale Town). Cost: $15 - $35 (cost varies, depending on age and date of entry). A 20 percent discount for teams of 10 or more. Registration includes event T-shirt, refreshments, and exclusively designed socks by Trumpette. FREE Arts Festival. Information, visit www.raceforthearts.com

ONGOING

SOL KIDS DAY! EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: From 2 to 4 p.m., families are welcome to enjoy a day of cultural arts, crafts, and music., Sol Kids Day provides different hands-on arts and health activities every Second Sunday like nature creation labs, healthy snack assembly stations, yoga for kids and everyone's favorite, slime-making. Engaging performances for kids include hip hop theatre production, beat-making workshops, and guest appearances from some local unicorns and magicians. Sol Kids Day also hosts a gently used toy/clothing exchange every month as well! Sliding scale donations. No one ever turned away for lack of funds. Funded in part by the Cultural Arts Award Program of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with support from the City and County of Sacramento. Sol Collective is located at 2574 21st St, Sacramento, California 95818.

LOW-COST VACCINATION CLINICS AT THE SSPCA: Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for vaccines; no appointments necessary. Vaccines include:
1) DAPP vaccine ($20) — DAPP stands for Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus. While important for dogs of every age, puppies are susceptible to the Parovirus.
2) Bordetella ($20) -- often referred to as the kennel cough vaccine, this helps protect against a strain of bacteria that can cause kennel cough. Many boarding kennels and groomers require this vaccine for services,
3) FVRCP vaccination ($20) prevents three potentially deadly airborne viruses: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia in cats,
4) Rabies shot ($6) -- this vaccine is required by animal control or to license your dog. The first vaccine is valid for one year, subsequent vaccines if given on time will last 3 years.
If you are 65 or older, vaccinations are free! The Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is located at 6201 Florin Perkins Road, Sacramento.

LADIES GOLF CLUB IN LAND PARK: Did you know there is a women's golf club that regularly plays at William Land Park? Women can discover the joys of golf, build new social relationships and get fit the fun way by joining the William Land Women's Golf Club. This 9-hole group meets Thursday mornings. It's open to women of all ages and golf abilities. Questions....or want more information....please call 916-422-0831 or email gretjen@comcast.net

MUSIC AND MOTION AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY: Rowena Alverto brings exercise classes for seniors with a combination of yoga, tai chi, zumba, for seniors on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. $5. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

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