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River Park neighbors celebrate Independence Day

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Photos by Stephen Crowley

Valley Community Newspapers ad representatives Melissa Andrews and Linda Pohl enjoy the sunshine outside of the new office, located at 1109 Markham Way.

Valley Community Newspapers moves down the street to Markham Way

Earlier this spring, Valley Community Newspapers publisher David Herburger decided to close the Riverside Boulevard office but before the doors were shut and after just a couple of months, commercial real estate mogul Dave Macko (son of George Macko, former publisher) provided a quaint office at 1109 Markham Way for longtime VCN ad representatives Linda Pohl and Melissa Andrews. We always knew Linda had a creative side. She proudly painted the business sign that hangs from the eaves and brought a patio set for chats with clients and friends.

While is the office is considerably smaller, the staff remains tiny but mighty. To reach Linda or Melissa, the phone number remains the same, 429-9901, as do business hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions on story submissions, call the editorial desk at 267-8992 or email editor@valcomnews.com.

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Bloomsday in East Sac:

Locals celebrate the legacy of Irish author James Joyce

By PAT LYNCH

Kayla Aarons and Hannah Phillips-Ryan braved a June heat wave to walk, in Edwardian costumes, up the sunbaked path to the McKinley Library Grand Hall. They'd come to celebrate the anniversary of something that did not occur in reality—the June 16, 1904, first date of Irish writer James Joyce and his wife-to-be, Nora Barnacle. This date, depicted in Joyce's famous novel, Ulysses, is celebrated world-wide, chiefly in Ireland, but also in many cities in the U.S.

Aarons had her period-precise outfit made by costumers in Los Angeles, but Phillips-Ryan made her own. "The only thing I didn't make are the shoes," she said, extending a soft gray leather boot that Aarons agreed would be acceptable as Edwardian.

When asked about the event both said they enjoyed historical re-enactments and observations of notable literary events. "I kind of hate to admit how time has flown, but I was at the Joyce Center in Dublin twenty years ago," Aarons said.

The Joyce celebration in Sacramento was the brainchild of Sacramento Librarian Stephenee Bennette Borelli and her colleague, Anita Dash. Dash told Borelli that she took June 16 off work "because it's Bloomsday." Borelli didn't know what Bloomsday was, but after hearing Dash describe its origin and purpose, decided to join the celebration. "I thought it would be a great fit for the Library, especially since I had hoped to have a Ulysses reading group at some point."

Borelli and Dash said that though the timing of their present event coincided with several June graduations and was also affected by a heat wave, they nevertheless garnered an audience of fifty people to hear Irish music, listen to a spirited evocation of Ulysses as literature, and enjoy a reading of Molly Bloom's famed soliloquy.

The much appreciated music was supplied by locals, Bob Wren and Catherine Fagiolo. Wren, who in 2000 directed Sacrament City College World Music Ensemble, plays violin and mandolin and says (and showed) that he is fondest of Irish traditional music. Vocalist Fagiolo, an Adjunct Professor of Music at American River College charmed the audience with a rendition of "Love's Old Sweet Song."

If you wonder still why all this diverse talent assembled for Bloomsday, Gregory Dobbins explained it all. An Associate Professor of English at U. C. Davis, Dobbins captivated the crowd with his compelling and witty explication of Ulysses, a book that he says "changed my life." He discussed the novel's scandalous reputation and the thunderous denunciations its erotic passages received from pulpits in the English speaking world. There was, as well, the issue of its supposedly "unreadable" narrative style. The book was so controversial that no English speaking publisher would touch it. So a non-English speaking publisher, unable to read the offending parts, published the book. But this publisher's proof-reader's, also non-English speaking, let multiple language mistakes slip by, therefore, Dobbins claimed, the "alleged un-readability" of Ulysses became a book "literally unavailable to read."





Photos by Stephen Crowley

Shown here are photos from the James Joyce Bloomsday celebration which was held at the Clunie Center on Friday, June 16.

When errors were addressed and it finally made its way across the sea, the "New York Society for the Suppression of Vice" denounced it (possibly enticing some readers who might otherwise have neglected it).

Dobbins asked the big question: why is this book worth reading? Because, he answered, "Ulysses is fundamentally an act of love." Joyce exhibited "more artistry than any other writer," and, "as Joyce writes about ordinary experience it becomes profound." The profound nature of ordinary experience: this alone might inspire one to pull Ulysses from bucket list and place it next in line. Dobbins closed the deal by saying he dates things this way: BPU and APU (Before and After the Publication of Ulysses.

Nothing much could follow Dobbins' passionate, knowing and humorous presentation, but City Librarian Borelli stepped forth to give a reading of Molly Bloom's famed soliloquy. Unfortunately this writer had to leave, but later contacted a friend who had remained. "She was fabulous," the friend said. "She really reached people. The whole thing was great. I'm going to read Ulysses."

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From every porch USA to the Geery, local playwright brings topics of gentrification to the intimate midtown stage

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com



A comedy about gentrification, The Porch, written by local playwright and journalist Karen Devaney examines diversity, self-acceptance, and various ethnicities while the neighborhood undergoes dramatic change -- all of which are topics for gossip as characters in the play tell their stories to a New York Times reporter. The main backdrop -- Chela's porch.

It's a Friday evening in the summer. Women gather with their cocktails. It's warm, there are the sounds of cars, fans, and a sense of chaos in the air. A modern "Comedy of Errors", The Porch combines hilarious characters that could represent any urban area in the country. The oldest of the group announces she sold her house and is moving to Italy with her sweetheart. The neighbors are dumbfounded. As they spin their imaginations, the speculations morph and the women convince themselves that Chela must be dying. Moving to Italy with her phantom lover must be on her bucket list. Meanwhile, the New York Times is doing a piece on neighborhoods throughout the country that are undergoing urban renovations. When the reporter comes to interview the group, bizarre events happen and truths are revealed.

The Porch will have a formal reading July 14, at 7 p.m. at the Geery Theater in Midtown. Hoping that the audience comes away from the theater entertained and thinking about communities, choices in life, neighborliness, life and diversity, Devaney said The Porch is intended to spark a conversation about women's roles, gentrification, change and how they happen whether we want them to or not. "I love when women get together and converse about everything from sex to jobs, to memories," Devaney said. "I love the human interaction and the storytelling that goes on in everyday conversation, those little recollections that shape us and then let go of those stories that don't serve us any longer. Chela is brave and it has taken a lot to get her to the place where she is ready to spread her wings. I also like to write about culture and breaking stereotypes, which is where Cindy comes in. Then of course, there are plenty of stereotypical behavior, but the play explores the context or the reason behind these behaviors. Lastly, I write that women have more voice."

From The Porch to her other writings -- fiction, nonfiction, or children's books, inclusiveness is the main theme because diversity has always been the playwright's reality. Born outside of Philly, Devaney then moved to the greater Washington D.C. area, where she had friends from China, Japan, Africa, and Peru. "Our little posse was a miniature United Nations," she said. "I had babysitters from India and they would bring me food I had never tasted before. This play is inspired also by ageism—women of all ages can and do dream of love, adventure, and living life on their terms. Chela, the main character, does just that."

Living in Oak Park now, Karen undoubtedly was inspired by her street to write this play. "The street is as sweet and innocent as they come. All of my neighbors are like family at this point. I have been in Sac for three years now and met people that are sincere, rough around the edges but marshmallows inside, lesbians, ex-thugs, mixed couples, and people that are loving, caring, and fun to be around."

When she was a child, porch hangers were huge, she recalls. "The old and the young gathering to soak in the cool evening breezes, drink and solve the world's problems or gossip. Kids run up and down the street etc. The music man is definitely Oak Park inspired, but then George, the can collector comes from any place in the USA nowadays."

Purposefully written without a specific locale -- there's no city named, no neighborhood -- Devaney invites actors and directors from anywhere to put the play on and make it their own.

While some of the characters, like Cindy a young single Vietnamese lesbian, are based on people she has known in her life, others are based

See The Porch, page 5



The Porch:

Continued from page 4

loosely on people there on 10th Street, or at least a piece of them, she explains. Each character has bits and parts of her family, acquaintances, colleagues, life.

One of the topics of the day -- the demolition of JJs, a family bar and restaurant, for the development of a 5-star restaurant. About JJ's, Devaney said the establishment represents the warm fuzzy memories of the past that grow the older they get.

"People tend to forget what something used to be. For example, there was a park near where I was born, we always called it 'Grammie's Park' because it was near where my grandmother lived. It held lovely recollections of a more innocent time in my life. Now, there are condos there and nowhere for children to play. I feel strongly about old and new working together, rather than trampling on historic value, incorporate it. I wish they would wake up the old bakery on the corner of 33rd and bring it back to life. It would keep the OP (Oak Park) character of yesteryear and provide quality to the neighborhood. It is sad though, there is much potential here in OP, but still too much violence that is tolerated. Sprucing up a neighborhood should be beneficial to everyone, crime needs to go away and if that means clamping down on drug houses and prostitution—do it! Children should be able to walk home from school without fear. JJ's is also in part, a representation of when people cared about others, less corporation, less rich snooty folks, more sincerity. Let's bring that back."

"In the play, JJs is based off of a fun place in Philly, Stogey Joes, where on Sunday afternoons the place is packed out with people of all ages drinking, eating and singing along with the deejay who plays all old crooner music like Sinatra and Dean Martin. "In the winter they crank up the fire, and in the summer the doors are open. It is a family run place with hip hop on Friday and Saturday night, but by day, it's kids and families. If you knew the bartenders, like we did, you could run a tab and pay later. JJ's is a staple of the neighborhood and like Stogey's it needs work, but the food and the folks are authentic and characters in their own unique way. It represents all that is not corporate or standard."

Devaney began her writing journey as a young child as she listened to family stories of her Irish and Italian relatives. "My father was a master storyteller and most nights he would tell us bedtime tales. I fell in love with Skippy the dog, Ralph the pig, Chief the horse. He had been in an orphanage until he was 7 and my grandmother remarried and brought him home. To me, it is so interesting how a person's experiences that are generational ... shape their psyche. I grew up outside of Philly and then D.C. had a large loving family that was far from perfect and usually broke. But we were rich in other ways, story, tradition, food, gatherings."

Devaney wants to go to a full production in the fall and to get this play out into the world with performances in San Francisco and New York City, but for now, she will continue to explore options here in Sacramento. "One of the actresses has an LA director boyfriend who is going to assist me in directing," she added.

The Geery Theater is located at 2130 L St. Tickets are $10.



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Faces and Places:

Summer reading kickoff with Jordan the Science Wizard

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

Summer reading kicked off this year on Friday, June 9 at McKinley Library with Jordan the Science Wizard who demonstrated super cool chemistry experiments, making materials ooze, melt, bubble, smoke, and foam. Sign up for the Summer Reading challenge at saclibrary.beanstack.org/reader365







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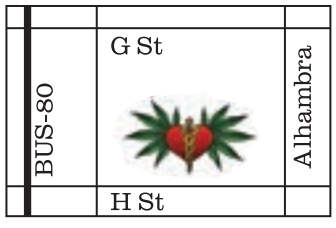
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River Park neighbors celebrate Independence Day

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The annual Firecracker Parade brought hundreds of neighbors together for the annual festival and parade featuring classic cars, followed by children and families on bicycles and neighborhood groups like the River Park Garden Club. Starting at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School and ending at Glenn Hall Park, the down-home event is quite the tradition. Here is a selection of photos from the morning event.

















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Sophia Hedy Susac
Sophia Juliana DeRose Swinscoe
Samantha Jane Taber
Betsy Gail Tanner
Michaela Christine Jill Thompson
Savannah Danielle Tijerino-Santos
Jordaine Dang Tran
Sarah Nicole Travis
Megan Ann Tretter
Jacqueline Jean Vail
Alexandria Hope Vela
Danielle Annalise Velez
Ana Ines Verschoor
Madeleine Olivia Vine
Sabrina Hana Voeller
Cecilia Piedra Walsh
Hannah Layne Warren
Lauren Jean Washburn
Kayla Marie Wehner
Sarah Anne Westover
Hannah Diane Westwood
Clare Moody Whetzel
Juliette Christine Williams
Kelsea Roselle Williams
Meridith Ellen Wong
Macy Jean Wood
Natalie Grace Woodruff
Sarah Elizabeth Wrinkle
Marie Ogilby Ybarra
Katarina Sun-Hi Yo
Gabrielle Nicole Zegers

Statement from President

St. Francis Catholic High School's Class of 2017 is a wonderful group of 244 young women who have made a difference in our community and will continue to make a difference in our world. They have shared their many gifts in the areas of ministry, academics, leadership, arts, and athletics. Their commitment to our four pillars of faith, excellence, leadership and service shined forth in all that they did, and have left a lasting impression on our school. Congratulations to the SFHS Class of 2017 and may all your dreams come true!

Theresa Rodgers, President



Betsy Tanner

Salutatorian Betsy Tanner

Bio:

Betsy is an amazing young woman, one of deep faith, joy and passion for her class. She was a Kairos Director, Christian Service Leader, St. Francis Ambassador and Camp ReCreation Counselor. She has delighted St. Francis with her gift of dance, performing in the SF Dance Company for three years and serving as a liturgical dancer. Her leadership, gifts in dance, and sincere heart have earned her the love and respect of her peers. Betsy will be heading to Creighton University in fall to study Business.



Kayla Wehner

Valedictorian Kayla Wehner

Bio:

Kayla Wehner is in the top 5% of her graduating class. She played water polo, was on the swim team all four years and was a member of Model United Nations all four years as well. She is a youth group leader at her church and participated in many mission trips to Central America where she served those most in need. Kayla recently received the United States Navy ROTC Scholarship for the University of Southern California where she hopes to study international relations and foreign affairs.

Sisters in Crime program at McClatchy Library shares murder mystery writing techniques

By LEIGH STEPHENS

She walked up the steps of the library, hoping to learn how to murder somebody. A chill ran through her body. Did murder lurk in her heart? Oh, yes!

She walked into the library meeting room, expecting to find people with evil smirks on their faces, spine-tingling auras, and dressed in flowing black garb.

Sitting at the front table were three sweet, little old ladies with colorful books in front of them. Before them in the expectant audience were men and women with ages ranging from college age to retirement – a coven of writers, seeking clues for completing their murder mysteries.

The panel coordinator greeted her, "Are you here for murder?"



Dorothy Place

Four members of Sacramento Sisters in Crime gathered at the Eleanor K. McClatchy Library at the end of May to share their techniques and tips for writing Murder. This was one of the events celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of Sisters in Crime.

The Sacramento organization has recently published *Capitol Crimes Anthology 2017*, which is a yearly collection of short mystery stories written by Sisters in Crime members.

Panel coordinator **Virginia Kidd** is the co-author of the book, *Cop Talk, Essential Communications Skills for Community Policing,* written with former Sacramento Police Captain Rick Braziel.

The retired CSUS professor has also authored scores of short stories and plays. She taught in the Journalism and Communications Studies Department.

Virginia says her five cats help her in her writing – walking across computer keys, moving papers and telepathically sending her ideas.

While talking about her start as a writer, "I remember putting on a play that I wrote for my fourth grade teacher. She allowed us to perform it."

When asked about her start in mystery writing, she said, "I always loved Nancy Drew. As an adult, I started by writing articles, and then I started a mystery novel with the mistaken notion that it would be easy. My current mystery in-progress is about a character who is at a conference. Her nature-loving roommate rescues a trashed jade plant, unaware that the pot holding the plant is a smuggled historical artifact. The two have just stumbled into a smuggling ring.

"To write mysteries you have to be logical and imaginative at the same time. You have to conform to a genre pattern, but also be original. Classic whodunit mysteries must show clues and hide them at the same time."

The first panelist and veteran writer **Michele Drier** is the current president of Sacramento Sisters in Crime. She is the author of the Amy Hobbs mystery series including *Edited for Death* and *Labeled for Death*. She also is the author of the *Kandesky Vampire Chronicles*. Her newest book is a psychological thriller: *Ashes of Memories*.

A fifth generation Californian she says, "I was born in Santa Cruz to a pioneer family and now live in the Central Valley with cats, skunks, opossums and wild turkeys. My maternal grandmother belonged to a writing club in San Francisco in the early part of the 20th century. She wrote poems and jingles, one of which won her a travel trailer during the Depression."

Michele continues, "Most murder victims end up bashed in the head by a blunt-force instrument. Motivation often ends up being about sex or money. When I start a mystery, I ask 'What if?' What would happen if…?

"Writing the middle part of a mystery is the hardest for me.

I find that most murderers are people whose community has let them down…people in their lives who should support them."

Drier talked about the current trend of self-publication. Major name book publishers are incredibly hard to break into. The major publishers publish only one in 50,000 books submitted. It has become easier for writers to publish and market their own book. It's important to promote yourself as a writer by having readings in local bookstores, using social media like Facebook and Twitter, and networking with other writers.

Second panelist **Linda Townsdin** talked about

See Author, page 11





Author:

Continued from page 10

the importance of setting. She says, "I am the author of the *Spirit Lake Mystery Series*, inspired by my wonderful childhood in Northern Minnesota."

Linda grew up near the Ojibwa Native American tribe and uses the rich memories and extensive research to make her mysteries come alive. She has worked for a national criminal justice organization, which gives authenticity when writing her mysteries.

"I love all the parts of writing," she says. "Before I write, I use all kinds of research: books, videos, etc. It's important to constantly read. It's essential that you keep writing. It's so rewarding when people come up to me and say, 'I loved your book'!"

Her recent books are *Focused on Murder* (2014), *Close Up on Murder* (2015), and *Blow Up on Murder* (2017).

Blow Up on Murder features Britt Johansson, a former Pulitzer prize-winning *Los Angeles Times* photographer. While working in Northern Minnesota, she stumbles across an international crime ring that ultimately pits Britt and her brother against a psychopathic killer.

According to reviews, "Her hometown of Spirit Lake is the perfect location for all kinds of dirty deeds: easy entry points along the vast wilderness of the United States/Canadian border, an Indian reservation that's off limits to most law enforcement, and a dangerously mistaken perception that nothing happens in small towns."

The third panelist **Dorothy M. Place** repeats her co-panelists, "A writer must read to write!"

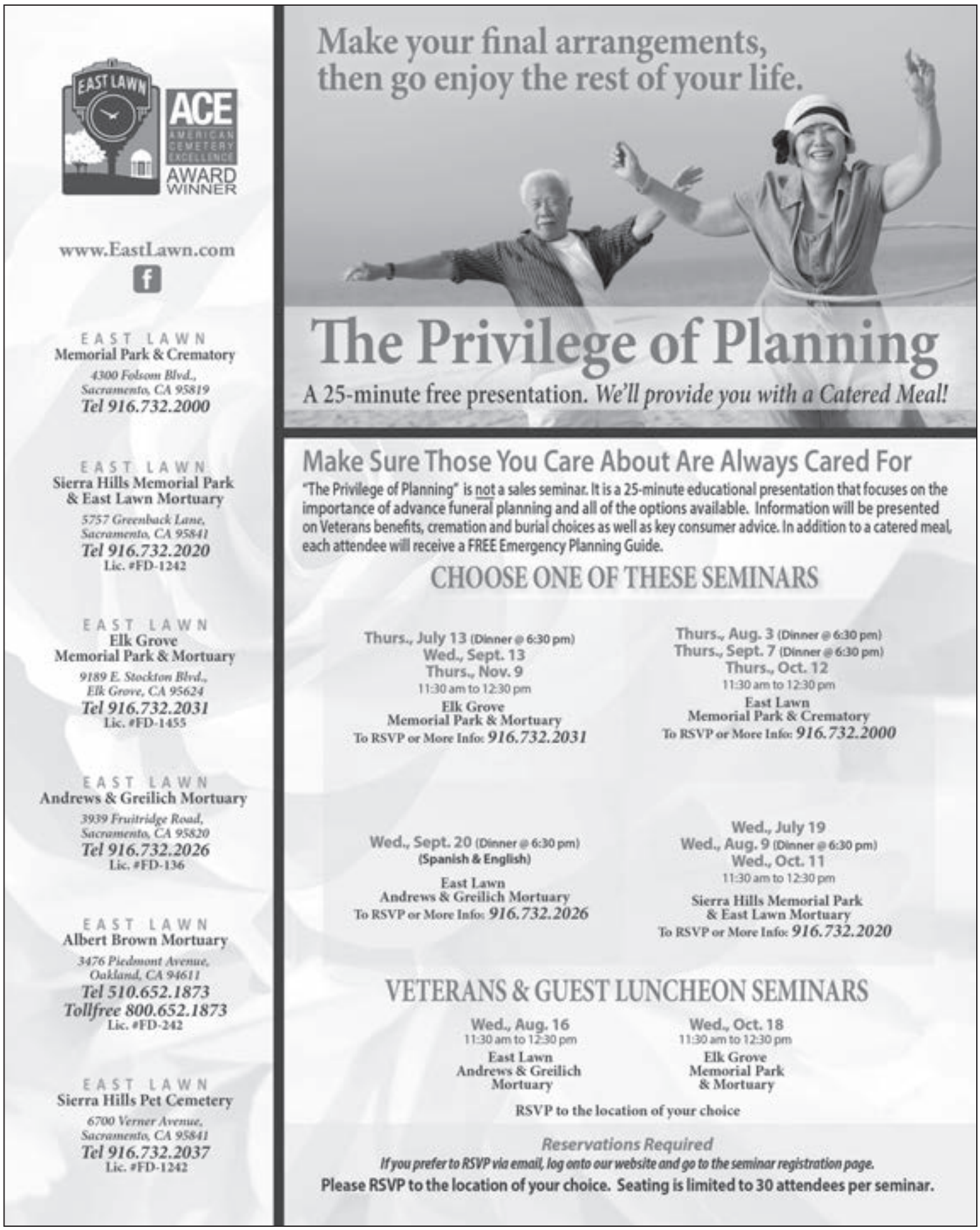
Dorothy says she started writing after her retirement. She got the idea for her suspense thriller, *The Heart to Kill*, from Euripides' play Medea. It is the sad story of a woman who sacrificed everything for her husband. She was discarded by her husband and threatened with exile. To seek revenge, she murdered their two sons. The Greek chorus asks, 'How does she have the heart to kill her own flesh and blood'?"

In Dorothy's novel law student Sarah Wasser returns to her apartment and hears a telephone message that her best friend from high school, JoBeth, has just murdered her two children. Sarah secures a position on JoBeth's defense team and returns to her hometown in South Carolina.

Dorothy says, "After working on the novel for five years, I actually ended up in the same place as Euripides. Each time I read about a mother who has murdered her children, I ask myself how did she have the heart to kill?"

Born in Jersey City, Dorothy now lives and writes in Davis, California. She says she began creative writing as a hobby and then a second career a dozen years ago. Since 2005, ten of her short stories have been published in literary journals and magazines. Two of which were selected for awards from the Mendocino Coast Writers and the prestigious Estelle Frank Fellowship in 2010. She is working on a collection of short stories, *Living on the Edge*.

To contact Sisters in Crime; www.sistersincrime.org.






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What's happening East Sacramento?

FRIDAY, JULY 7

LEGO-MANIA: Like building with LEGO bricks? LEGO bricks and DUPLO LEGO bricks will be provided at McKinley Library from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Part of the READING BY DESIGN summer series.601 Alhambra Blvd.

THE CO-OP COMMUNITY KITCHEN FREE COOKING CLASS: You are invited to learn to prepare low-cost delicious meals at the Colonial Heights Library as part of the Co-op Community Kitchen, a program of The Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op. During the class you will: Participate in hands-on preparation of a healthy low-cost meal that you get to try during class and receive a recipe for; become more informed about foods to eat as well as foods to limit or avoid that will help you to maintain a healthy weight and overall diet; learn about ways to save and tips on how to make more informed choices when shopping; take home recipe ingredients used in class to make a delicious meal at home. *This program requires registration. Please call 916-264-2920 or email igrechkosey@saclibrary.org to register. The class goes from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and is held at the Colonial Heights Library, located at 4799 Stockton Blvd.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

SATURDAY MANDALA ART CLASS WITH MARIE TAYLOR: Local artist Marie Taylor will teach the Mandala 2 class based on the 30/60/90 degree structure at the Colonial Heights Library, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.. Mandalas are like snowflakes- no two are alike! These unique geometric designs can be framed as art or applied to stationery, fabric, ceramics and more. Only basic art supplies are used and no art experience or prior mandala class is necessary! The class is a four-week series so plan to attend all four sessions on Saturday, July 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 1 to 2:30 pm. Class size is limited to 10 participants. Sign-up is on a first-come basis so call the Colonial Heights Library today at 916-264-2920, or email the instructor at marietaylor.ink@gmail.com. This program is made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Colonial Heights Library. The Colonial Heights Library is located at 4799 Stockton Blvd.

TUESDAY, JULY 11

ART AFTER WORK: RAIMONDS STAPRANS AND COLOR THEORY: The Crocker Art Museum Adult Education Coordinator Erin Dorn and Sacramento Public Library staff member Jamie Paiva invite you for a talk on California painter Raimonds Staprans - known for his gorgeous color work and rich layering of paint - followed by an art activity on color theory inspired by Staprans' paintings. This program is presented by the Sacramento Public Library. Free for everyone at the Sacramento Public Library, Central Branch, 828 I St. from 5:15 to 7 p.m."Art After Work" programs are free and open to the public and take place the second Tuesday of every month. Select programs are presented with a guest speaker from the Crocker. For more information, contact the Library at 264-2920 or contact@saclibrary.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 14

NATURE'S CRITTERS SHOW: Do you love snakes and frogs? Do you want to know more about turtles and bugs? McKinley Library hosts Nature's Critters, as they show reptiles, amphibians, insects, birds, and other wild animals, and let guests pet some of these amazing creatures. 601 Alhambra Blvd.

SATURDAY, JULY 15

FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY COOKING CLASS: Oak Park Sol invites you to a 1-hour FREE cooking class from 10 to 11 a.m. in the outdoor kitchen at Broadway Sol Community Garden. Food Literacy Center volunteers will lead you through a fun, hands-on class with two recipes featuring seasonal produce. These classes are designed for families (make sure to bring the kids!!), but are also great for individuals. Everyone is welcome! Oak Park Sol is located at 3733 Broadway.

SATURDAY MANDALA ART CLASS WITH MARIE TAYLOR: Local artist Marie Taylor will teach the Mandala 2 class based on the 30/60/90 degree structure at the Colonial Heights Library, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.. Mandalas are like snowflakes- no two are alike! These unique geometric designs can be framed as art or applied to stationery, fabric, ceramics and more. Only basic art supplies are used and no art experience or prior mandala class is necessary! The class is a four-week series so plan to attend all four sessions on Saturday, July 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 1 to 2:30 pm. Class size is limited to 10 participants. Sign-up is on a first-come basis so call the Colonial Heights Library today at 916-264-2920, or email the instructor at marietaylor.ink@gmail.com. This program is made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Colonial Heights Library. The Colonial Heights Library is located at 4799 Stockton Blvd.

SUNDAY, JULY 16

JOSH MOORE IN CONCERT: The Sacramento Guitar Society presents Josh Moore, a young classical guitarist. Joshua Moore is an amazing emerging guitarist. He has the uncanny ability to seek out rarely heard repertoire and also bring old guitar favorites to the audience. See him at 3 p.m. in the Clara Auditorium, 24th and O streets, Sacramento. A $10 donation is requested.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

MAGIC PUPPET ADVENTURE WITH TONY BORDERS: From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.,, McKinley Library hosts ventriloquist as he Tony Borders brings guests on a magic adventure with his puppet friends! This family show will amaze and entertain with puppets, cartooning, magic, and ventriloquism.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

TASTE OF EAST SACRAMENTO: More than 40 different vendors will be a part of the 9th Annual Taste of East Sacramento, a celebration of the wonderful restaurants, breweries and wine in East Sacramento, as presented by the East Sacramento Chamber of Commerce at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 616 Alhambra Blvd.from 6 to 9 p.m. Mix and mingle with friends and neighbors for this fun night in one of Sacramento's best neighborhoods. Tickets are $60 in advance or $70 at the door. Free bike valet will be provided at this 21 and older event. Tickets are available at www.tasteofeastsac.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

THE IGUANAS FROM NEW ORLEANS AT HARLOW'S: Harlows Restaurant & Night Club and Swell Productions invite you to experience the Iguanas, as they reflect the diversity of musical styles found in their home state by fusing blues, classic R&B, zydeco, Cajun, jazz, cumbia, Tex-Mex, and roots rock 'n' roll. What if Americana actually encompassed ALL of North America? You'd have the Franco Acadian inflections of Canada, as best exemplified by le accordion, blues and jazz, the only truly indigenous musics the US has ever produced, and the lilting grace and fiery passion of the music of Mexico. You'd also have New Orleans' premiere distillers of this continental musical melange, The Iguanas! http://iguanas.com/. The show is from 7 to 10 p.m. at Harlow's, 2708 J St.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

10th ANNUAL FAB 40s 5K RUN/WALK: This run benefits the Alzheimer's Association. The race website states, "We want to increase the understanding of Alzheimer's disease and its devastating affect on families. We feel the need to provide an opportunity for affected families to meet and interact with one another." The run starts at East Lawn Cemetery on Folsom Boulevard. Race day registration: 7-8:30 a.m., kids' ¼ mile (ages 5 and under): 8:05 a.m., kids' ½ mile (ages 6-11): 8:10 a.m., 5k run/walk City of Sacramento 5K Championship: 8:30 a.m. sharp! $32 for adults postmarked by July 10, $40 on race day; $37 if postmarked by July 28, ages 17 and under 5k will cost $25 at all times. $16 for all kid's fun run Participants at all times. For more information visit http://fab40s5k.org.

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

MISSION IMAGINATION: Are you ready to take the imagination challenge? Visitors will issue challenges, such as building a fort, putting on a puppet show, or making a gigantic ball of tape. Visitors will use building skills to create items in challenges, then imagination to make them come to life! Part of the Summer Reading by Design series. 3 to 5 p.m., 601 Alhambra Blvd.

FRIDAY, AUG. 11

KENN ADAMS ADVENTURE THEATER: McKinley Library hosts a space adventure in this fun, interactive show! With Kenn Adams' Adventure Theater, the audience is the star of the show, making sound effects, performing the roles, acting as scenery, and even deciding what comes next; 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 601 Alhambra Blvd.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

RIVER CITY PORCHFEST 2017: River City PorchFest 2017 invites you to join them from noon to 6 p.m. in the streets of Sacramento for a day of free music and fun. Hosted by the neighbors of Colonial Heights, Tahoe Park, and Oak Park, River City PorchFest 2017 is honored to be jamming in three of the area's most respected neighborhoods. Proceeds for this event will benefit local music programs in the Colonial Heights, Tahoe Park, and Oak Park area. The goal is to put musical interest and instruments in the hands of children who might not otherwise have the opportunity. Organizers "feel that music, along with the other performing arts are key to a healthy and growing local community. If you would like to get involved with River City PorchFest 2017 as a volunteer or have an idea to make (the) event better, please email rivercityporchfest@gmail.com."

ONGOING

MCKINLEY PARK FOOD TRUCK MANIA: SactoMoFo and Sacramento City Councilman Jeff Harris present Food Truck Mania from 5 to 8 p.m. at McKinley Park, 601 Alhambra Blvd. every second Friday of the month. The beer garden benefits Friends of Front Street Shelter.

TAHOE PARK FOOD TRUCK MANIA: SactoMoFo, Councilman Eric Guerra, Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna and the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association present Tahoe Park Food Truck Mania from 5 to 8 p.m. every fourth Friday of the month. The beer garden benefits Friends of Front Street Shelter.

JANE AUSTEN READING GROUP AT ELLA K. MCCLATCHY LIBRARY: This monthly group reads the works of Jane Austen and meets the third Saturday of each month in the Ella K. McClatchy library from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. All Austen fans are welcome. 2112 22nd St.

TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOS TAKE AT FE GALLERY IN JUNE AND JULY: Fe Gallery's "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" opens June 10 with an Artist Reception from 6 to 9 p.m. The show will feature art works by Jim Marxen, vibrant acrylics; Camilo Valencia, dust bowl vibe; Kevin Wilhite, vintage inspired; and the artistic team of Garrett Winiecke and Sean Bailey sculptures of reclaimed metals. There will be a blacksmith demonstration at about 7 p.m. The show runs through Aug. 3. Fe Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th St.

KNITTING CIRCLE AT MCKINLEY LIBRARY – Any adult interested in knitting — even an absolute beginner — is invited to join. Participants can learn to knit, or get help on current projects and advice from expert knitters. Don't forget to bring your knitting needles and yarn. Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

TEEN SPACE AT MCKINLEY LIBRARY – Looking for something fun to do after school? Need a place where you're free to hang out with your friends and have a snack? Come to the McKinley Library Teen Space, Wednesdays from 3p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.





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