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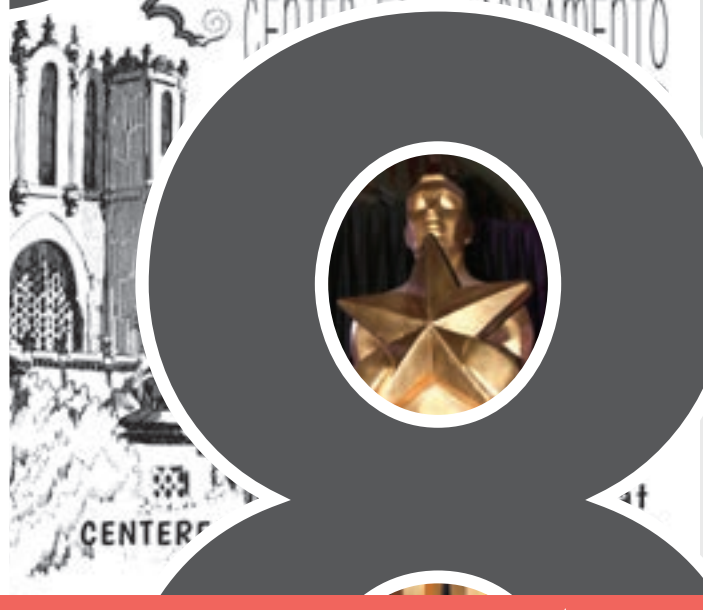
BEST OF 2018













YEAR IN REVIEW





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Sacramento Potters:
A story of art forged by fire





By Bia Riaz
bia@valcomnews.com

The heavy scent of wet earth permeates the studio air. Her fingers move with purpose and precision, guiding forming and preparing a humble vessel for transformation. A new vision, thoughts, conversations, contemplations, and finally, a form emerges, forged by fire.

Many years ago Penny Leff, resident of Tahoe Park, and her partner Roberta Almirez, started playing with clay. The shared a vision for creating functional pottery pieces to bringing warmth and art to everyday items and formed Penra Pottery. Last year at The Sacramento Potters Group (SPG) Annual Seconds sale, Penny had the opportunity to meet several of the artists and members of the group, now known as, Art By Fire. "They are an amazing and welcoming group of potters and mixed media artists. There are more than thirty of us mixed media artists, all drawn together creating items that involve fire in production," shared Penny.

"The annual Seconds show is a very special sale featuring slightly imperfect pieces of pottery, glass, metal and clay at very affordable prices. It's also a great way to meet all the local artists from in and around Sacramento and Northern California, and get to know more about SPG. That's exactly how I became involved with Art By Fire last year, " added Penny.

On SPG's newly designed website, John C. Reiger, founding member, recalls the early days of SPG as casual gatherings of Northern California potters and "mud-slingers" at picnics and garden shows at Country Club Plaza from the mid to late 70s. "Over the years the group has seen many clay people come and go. Activity levels have varied, membership has grown and shrunken, leadership has passed from hand to hand, even the name has been altered, but the community of clay workers has persisted," shared John.

SPG: Art by Fire has over 74 members creating art using fire. The annual seconds show has become a very popular event drawing crowds from near and far. They do advise getting there early!

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Best of 2018 East Sacramento News

(Editor's Note: Thanks to the talented team of writers at Valley Community Newspapers, I am proud to present the Best of 2018 for the East Sacramento News. -Monica Stark)

Burr's ice cream parlor owner shuts doors, settles into retirement



By Lance Armstrong

The community of East Sacramento lost one of its iconic businesses with the recent closure of Burr's Fountain.

Operating the business at 4920 Folsom Blvd. for nearly 30 years, Jim Burr finally decided to hang up his ice cream scoops for the final time and retire.

Burr, a 1959 graduate of C.K. McClatchy High School, established himself as an ice cream man early in his life, taking a position at another one of Sacramento's institutions: Vic's Ice Cream, in Land Park.

He eventually spent 27 years working for Ash Rutledge, owner of that business.

With his veteran knowledge in the ice cream business, Burr, a native of Minnesota, decided to head out on his own and establish Burr's Fountain.

In a wise business move, Burr moved into a spot that had housed ice cream parlors for about a decade.

Previously the home of Zarrett's Pharmacy from 1955 to about 1971, the site became home to Vicki Marie's Ice Creamery in 1976.

By 1987, the future site of Burr's Fountain was operating as the second location of Vic's Ice Cream. At that time in Vic's history, the business was 40 years old – having been established on Riverside Boulevard by Vic Zito and Ash Rutledge in 1947.

Following about a year as the site of another ice cream parlor – Leary's – the Folsom Boulevard building became home to Burr's Fountain in 1989.

After experiencing a slow beginning with his business, Burr built a continuously growing clientele.

He was also known for giving free ice cream to young customers who achieved good grades on their report cards.

Burr humbly acknowledged the success of his business in 2009, during an interview with the East Sacramento News.

"We've been here since 1989, so we must be doing something right," he said.

As a 1950s-style ice cream parlor, Burr's offered more than ice cream. Also included on the menu were milkshakes, hot dogs and a variety of sandwiches.

Nonetheless, it was ice cream that drew most people to Burr's throughout its history.

Now a vacant structure, the old Burr's site awaits the next chapter in its history.

Although there is speculation that the business might continue under new ownership in the future, no official announcement has been made.

What is known at this point is Burr's Fountain made a very positive, lasting impression on the community, and many people are disappointed and saddened by its closure

East Sacramento's Burnett Miller remembered

By Lance Armstrong

Burnett Miller, a longtime resident of East Sacramento and a member of a local pioneering family, left an indelible mark in the capital city.

The former Sacramento mayor, businessman, philanthropist, preservationist, art collector and world traveler died on Oct. 14 at the age of 95.

Miller began his life as a descendent of the founders of one of Sacramento's oldest existing businesses, Burnett & Sons. The lumber and millwork business – which Miller would eventually own and operate – was established as Telegraph Mill in 1869 by his great-great grandfather, Philetus Burnett, and his great-grandfather, Henry Burnett.

Miller's local family history is even richer, as Philetus came to Sacramento City in 1849.

By 1917, the Burnett family's longtime history in East Sacramento began through Miller's grandfather, George Burnett, who purchased a home in the neighborhood that would eventually become known as the Fabulous Forties.

After graduating from C.K. McClatchy High School in June 1941 and attending the University of Santa Clara (now Santa Clara University), Miller was called to active duty through his ROTC unit.

While serving his country in the Army, Miller fought and was injured in the Battle of the Bulge, and was involved in liberating a concentration camp in Austria. He received both the Purple Heart and Silver Star medals.

Miller's service in World War II later drew the attention of the historical documentary filmmaker Ken Burns. He included an interview with Miller in his 2007 documentary, "The War."

Following his service in the war, Miller finished his college studies at Georgetown University.

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Miller:

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Photo courtesy of Miller family
Burnett Miller is shown during his time as mayor of Sacramento in 1982.

Miller's early involvement in politics included assisting in Adlai Stevenson's presidential campaign in 1960.

His interest in serving his city led to his service as a member of the Sacramento City Council from 1971 to 1977. He returned to the council in 1982, when he filled the mayoral seat that was vacated by Phil Isenberg, who had become a state Assemblyman.

Among Miller's greatest contributions came through philanthropy and preservation.

His philanthropic efforts included fundraising for the Sacramento History Center, the Crocker Art Museum, and the Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento.

An annual fundraiser for the Sacramento Poetry Center was held at the Miller residence.

As another indication of his love for the arts, Miller was a founding member of the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley, in 1969.

Miller also left his mark in Old Sacramento, as he assisted in the restoration of several historic structures in that area, and played a significant role in the establishment of the Sacramento History Museum in Old Sacramento.

One of Miller's favorite events occurred each year on the day after Christmas.

Miller and his second wife, Mimi, who he married more than a half-century ago, opened their home on that day for a social gathering celebrating Boxing Day, a holiday that originated in the United Kingdom.

At various times, the Millers housed exchange students. Mimi estimated that about 10 students from foreign countries lived in their home.

As a man who remained active during his life, Miller regularly played tennis at the Sutter Lawn Tennis Club. One of his favorite tennis partners was another notable Sacramentan, the internationally renowned artist, Wayne Thiebaud.

Peter Broumas, business manager at Sutter Lawn, expressed sadness with the passing of Miller.

"I met Burnett in 1998 when I was the general manager of the club," he said. "He was a special man in my life. I will miss seeing and talking with him."

Broumas added that Miller was a beloved member of the club.

"It was his club, a hideaway from the business of everyday life," he said.

"Every day at 11 (a.m.), Burnett came dressed in his tennis whites to socialize and play tennis with longtime friends. The group was known as 'The Old Guard.'

"Burnett was highly respected by all and a faithful member of the club. His passing has truly left a void at Sutter Lawn. He will be missed and remembered."

Eight-seven-year-old Dick Gann, another one of Miller's former tennis partners, described Miller as a very talented tennis player with a great sense of humor.

"You can't believe how fast he was on a tennis court," he said. "He moved like a deer. And his sense of humor was great, because we said a lot of back and forth stuff while we were playing tennis, and the comments he made when he made his shot about how good or how bad it was. He was just a very interesting person.

"We're all going to miss him. He was well liked. I don't think he had an enemy in the world."

Mimi, who traveled to about 60 countries with her husband, said she believes that Miller had a very fulfilling life.

"I think he would want to be remembered as somebody who contributed to a life well spent," she said. "And he did that."

Sacramento native Phil Angelides, who served as state treasurer from 1999 to 2007 and ran for governor in 2006, said that he met Miller in 1961, when his family joined Sutter Lawn.

"This is a family friendship, relationship that goes back decades," he said.

Although Angelides challenged Miller for his council seat in 1973, he recalled being complimented by Miller at that time.

"What I remember that year is him telling people, 'Hey, it's great that Phil's getting involved. It's terrific.' And telling his kids, it's good to see young people involved."

Angelides added that had he not run against Miller, he believes he would have cast a vote for him in 1973.

"I would have voted for him by election day in 1973, because of what I saw during that campaign, absolutely," he said. "He was obviously a terrific guy and I saw that by the way he conducted himself."

Despite being much younger than Miller, Angelides recognized the councilman as a man of style with his plaid suits and sideburns, and love for modern art.

"He was the hipster vanguard of the older generation," he said.

Angelides summarized Miller as one who lived life to its fullest.

"What a wonderful life," he said. "In his passing, all of us are sad, but we marvel at how full and wonderful of a life he led."

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Celebrating Lady Bird and Greta's inspiration to young women today



Photo by Stephen Crowley
In celebration of Greta Gerwig's Oscar nominations, volunteers at her alma mater, St. Francis High School, laid the red carpet and decked out the gymnasium on the night of the Academy Awards.

By Monica Stark

It was like being at the Oscars itself, but, the setting: the St. Francis High School gym. Transformed into a scene made fit for a lovely Academy Award night gala, SFHS students and alum were there for the celebration of former student Greta Gerwig, whose film Lady Bird was up for five Oscar nominations on Sunday, March 4, 2018.

SFHS faculty, staff and students enjoyed posing with a real Oscar, which was on loan from incoming freshman grandparents Tina and Mike Moylan. Tina's father won this Oscar in 1953 for Screenplay for the Titanic and they were all cheering on Greta Gerwig for her Best Original Screenplay nomination.

Guests lined the red carpet in thrift store gowns or hand-me-downs – a tribute to Lady Bird's two visits to Thrift Town for special occasions. At the end of the red carpet was a blown-up photo of the Fab Forties "Blue House", which in the film is a locale of fantasy for Lady Bird who lives on the "other side of the tracks."

Used as a backdrop for photos and guest interviews, the image set the stage for sophomore Peyton Spellacy, a campus Troubie TV reporter, to ask attendees on camera what their favorite part of the movie was and what they were wearing. Peyton said she saw the movie the first week it was out and as a Troubie, her pride for the film and Greta soars beyond the school walls. Though movie posters line the walls at St. Francis, the movie and the filmmaker are "bigger than Lady Bird."

"It's a connection that we have with the movie and Greta, that although may not seem like it, our community is so close and it just brings us even closer," Peyton said. Her message to Greta: "Can I have an interview with you? I have my own YouTube channel. She is one of the most inspiring people. I'd just say: Thank you so much for paving the way for women in Hollywood and in media, and theater. She is so inspiring. She inspires me to do what I do today."

A good friend of Greta's, St. Francis High School drama teacher Kiera Anderson MC'd the gala and she said leading up to Oscar's night, the atmosphere at the school has been "so exciting."

"It's a dream come true for us to watch Greta achieve what she's achieved."

Anderson said the school decided to do the event as soon as Greta got nominated for the Golden Globe, knowing that Oscar nominations were on the horizon. "We had to come together as a community to support her."

Support her they did and the efforts did not go unnoticed as Greta thanked her hometown and St. Francis when she arrived on the red carpet at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. "I love Sacramento so much, and I have to say if anyone is watching in Sacramento, I love you guys. Can I just do that? I love you, and I love St. Francis, everyone there."

Of all the characters in Lady Bird, Christine McPherson - Lady Bird- is the least like Greta, Anderson said. "Greta was a very good student, a championship fencer, a very talented dancer, a very talented actress. Greta was very involved in school." From performing in all the St. Francis plays as well as many Jesuit performances, the well-rounded thespian got an early start, playing Clara in the Nutcracker.

One of the first people to see the film at the New York Film Festival, Anderson flew cross country with her brother, Conor Mickiewicz, who inspired the character Danny O'Neill, Lady Bird's love interest until she sees him kissing a boy in a bathroom stall.

Adorned in one of her grandmother's 1960s vintage dresses at the gala, Anderson gave out awards to anyone who "went all out" in either a thrift store prom dress or who really go into the spirit of the evening.

Anderson's grandmother -- Joan O'Neill -- played "the grandma" in Lady Bird, a role, she described as not really acting. Helping the titular character fold the napkins inside the Blue House, Joan O'Neill, who sat in the VIP section at the gala, was initially hesitant to be in the film. After insistence from Greta, she agreed, adding that her role didn't have a speaking part and that she used to fold napkins with Greta back in the day. This "Mayor of 44th Street" spent a lot of time during the holidays with Greta and whom Anderson describes as a natural in the role.

In an interview with this publication, Joan O'Neill said being in the movie was just "normal because I really am (Greta's) grandmother and I didn't have any lines to learn. So, it was easy just playing myself."

Though related "not by blood, but by love", Joan O'Neill is a "very proud grandmother."

"I am just so glad that it happened while I'm here on Earth to watch, instead of watching from the best seat in the house. I'm very, very proud of her. I'll tell you something: She's humble. If this is Greta talking to you, nothing on the outside would get in the way. She'd just focus and it would all come from her heart."

Stories of inspiration continue to be told and Greta, thank you for leaving a legacy of pride for your hometown.

Councilman responds to criticisms of water vault project

By Lance Armstrong

The city's proposal to build a massive, underground water storage tank underneath a section of McKinley Park continues to draw interest from East Sacramento residents.

Designed in response to the longtime issue of flooding in the area, the water vault would be located on the east side of the park, between 33rd Street, the rose garden, the barbecue and picnic area and the horseshoe pit area.

The project, which would be funded by rate payer dollars, is described by the city as a temporary storage facility that would capture wastewater during large storms.

It would then allow that water to slowly enter a combined sewer system, in which storm drainage flows into the sewer.

The underground structure would have the capability to store as much as 6 million gallons of combined wastewater.

Although the proposed tank would require a 20-foot-deep hole to be dug in the park, if built, the vault would not be left exposed. It would instead be covered with a soil cap and covered with lawn.

The city states that the park would be returned to its everyday use as a valued section of the park.

If constructed, this project would also include adding improvements to the park such as revamping the

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Councilman:

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walking/jogging trail and heating the pool to make it a year-round facility.

Among the proponents of the vault project proposal is Sacramento City Council Member Jeff Harris, who represents District 3, which includes McKinley Park.

The council member described the vault as solving a "very big problem, which is flooding and sanitary sewer outflows."

Harris mentioned that pressures to approach the area's flooding and sanitary sewer outflows began about two decades ago.

"(Back then), the state water board said, 'If you guys don't get on top of your sanitary sewer outflows, we can stop you from building anything in the city,'" he said.

"At that time, the council – about 15, 20 years ago – came up with a plan to do various projects and show improvements in our sewer system and our storm drainage issues, such that we were not in violation of the (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit."

Beyond supporting the plan to meet that requirement through having the water vault built, Harris expressed his desire to show people of his district that the McKinley Park area would not flood, and would have sanitary sewer outflows.

As for the location of the proposed vault, Harris said it is the ideal spot.

"It's situated here, because this is the low spot," he said. "This is where the real problem exists. (Plus) wherever you do a big storm water cache, they need some ground to do it. You can tear up a mile of road and put it under that or you can find a wide open space like we've got here, which is much cheaper and easier to effect."

While the water vault proposal has its supporters, there are also those who oppose the project.

East Sacramento resident Will Green, who is part of an opposition group seeking to "halt the valt," stated why he is against the project.

"They can call it euphemistically a water tank, but sewers don't belong in parks," he said.

"The problem here is a combined, old system. The city has been told in the 1970s and again in the 1990s by two totally different contractors that the problem is an antiquated system. The solution is to split the system."

Green said that he has trouble believing that splitting these two systems would cost more than $2 billion, as the city states.

Cost aside, Green said that by not splitting the system, the city is using a "Band-Aid approach."

"I have to live by what is morally and ethically right by me," he said. "When I see something that's being done wrong to my taxpayer dollars and being done wrong for a recreational park, then I need to take a stand."

Green added that he does not like the idea of a very popular public park being disrupted by a project that would close a portion of that park and "bring noise, construction and pollution."

Ann Broderick, who has lived across from the park for more than 40 years, also spoke against the water vault, and in support of separating the currently combined sewer system.

"Most of the other cities are doing it by decades – all the cities on the East Coast," she said. "They're forking out the money to do it right. That's all they have to do is every year you do a couple streets or whatever and you separate the system."

Another East Sacramento resident Chris Drouin said that he feels that the vault project is being "rammed down our throats as neighbors."

Drouin said that he spoke to about 50 of his neighbors, of whom he noted 80 percent of them are opposed to the water vault proposal.

A card distributed by the opposition group notes: "Bad odors aren't controlled by the current storm drains. Why should we believe that (the) Dept. of Utilities will control the odors from this sewer/water vault any better than we experience now?"

East Sacramento residents who support a water vault for the park include Marsha Black, who stated that the project is misunderstood by some people in the community.

"They think it's a sewer system and it's not," she said. "It's separate from the sewer system. It's just going to collect all the excess water that now floods into the streets.

"(Overflow water) doesn't sit there (in the vault) forever. It drains out in a couple days and then it's empty again until the next flood. I just don't understand what the opposition is about."

Harris also commented on citizens who state that the water vault is the equivalent of a very large sewage tank.

"I know that there are some protestors that think that it's a sewage tank," he said. "It's not; it's a storm water cache. Will there be some sewage in it? Yes, because there was sewage on the street, as well.

"But the fears of nauseous gases and stuff, I think we've demonstrated very well that those are not issues."

Harris added that the city conducted a tour of three other city water vaults.

"(Those vaults) have been very successful and right in the neighborhoods," he said. "No odors, no issues, no sound, no problems."

The council member noted that about 10 people attended the tour, and that they entered the event with skepticism, but left convinced that the proposed water vault had no major problems in its approach.

As a preventative measure against potential odors being emitted from the proposed vault, its design includes an underground odor control facility.

Harris also addressed the issue of separating the combined sewer system.

"It would cost well over $2 billion, take 20 years and tear up almost every street in this city," he said. "There's no way it's ever going to happen. We would have to triple everybody's utility bills, just to get enough revenue to bond against to do it."

Harris said that the cost of the proposed vault project has increased.

"When we first talked about it, it was around $30 million," he said. "When we started the engineering was two years ago and prices for construction have really gone crazy, because there's a shortage of labor and because of the president and the tariffs. Steel is high, concrete is high."

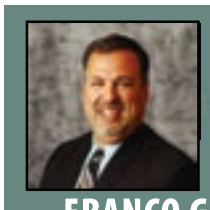
Responding to a request for an updated water vault cost estimate, Brett Grant, this proposed project's supervising engineer, said last week that it would cost "upwards of $34 million."

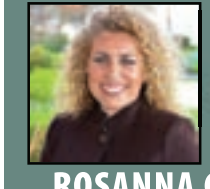
If approved, the water vault could begin as early as next spring. In that case, it is projected that the project would be completed in August 2020.

Harris stated that although having a construction project in the park would cause certain inconveniences, he stressed that the project would be temporary and occur in only a relatively small percentage of the park.

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Water:

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As for protestors who state their intention to "save McKinley Park," Harris said that the vault would not destroy any part of the park.

"People have said to me, 'Why would you destroy our most beloved park in the system?'" he said. "This doesn't destroy anything in my mind. It makes the neighborhood better. When it's done, it will look very similar to what you see (now). What you're going to see is a grassy field."

Harris summarized some of the criticisms he has heard about the project.

"People, I feel, build up in their minds worse case scenarios," he said. "Our job is to use facts and say, 'Look, here's what the engineering is, here's how it will be built, here's how it actually works.'"

Eclectic Phoenix & Arabeth art exhibit in East Sac at Lion's Roar Dharma Center

By Monica Stark

Kicking off its new arts program, Lion's Roar Dharma Center presented "The Art of Phoenix & Arabeth" on Oct. 12 and 13. The works on display included Buddhist dharma designs, fantastic and visionary works, plus body art and tattoo designs.

For nearly 50 years Phoenix & Arabeth has produced works in diverse media, including acrylic paintings, ink and pencil drawings, collage and digital works. Phoenix & Arabeth's favorite themes (such as the Earth, ancient cultures and deities, dance, tattoos, shamans, mermaids, UFOs and the human figure) are all represented here.

Over recent months Phoenix has created the blue buddhas on the front exterior of LRDC, and has been painting a Buddhist mural in the temple vestibule. The occasion of this exhibit will also be the first public viewing opportunity of this new entry-way mural.

Phoenix & Arabeth have published over a dozen books, which encompass original art, ancient Egyptian culture, tattoo history, and henna craft. He is currently working on a memoir about his long colorful sojourn in the arts scene throughout California.

Phoenix, the mythic firebird who periodically is consumed by its own flames, only to be reborn from the ashes, and Arabeth, a visionary name for the Muse of Inspiration, combined gives meaning to the artist's pen name. That said, most who know his work just call him plain Phoenix.

Lion's Roar Dharma Center is a Vajrayana Buddhist temple in the tradition of the Dalai Lama. Regular services, teachings and meditations are offered to the public. Special rituals and empowerment ceremonies are occasionally performed by Tibetan and Mongolian teachers and monks from Asia.

When Phoenix found out that Lama Jinpa, a long time friend from the Tibetan Buddhist realm, had acquired a new temple building in East Sacramento, the artist decided to visit last summer. "Observing that the building had entirely white walls, I suggested that it really needed the traditional colors of the five Buddha families of the Vajrayana. He agreed, and I started coming occasionally last winter to work on decorating the temple more appropriately," Phoenix said.

Intended to help people transition from the ordinary reality of our stress-laden world, the mural, Phoenix said invites visitors to "stop and breathe, decompress a moment before they enter the peaceful, spiritual realm of the temple." In a meeting of minds, he envisioned with Lama Jinpa and the Geshe Daamchoe, his Mongolian teaching associate, the main mural image to be a traditional Tibetan style Enlightenment Stupa (Chorten in Tibetan). From that core concept, Phoenix chose to add the four Asian power animals of the four directions (snow lion, Garuda, dragon and tiger) in the four corners, as he built a deep landscape that invokes the layers of mountain ranges of the Himalayas. Having been working on it since the beginning of 2018 about one week a month, Phoenix utilized the help of a Sangha member named Peter who helped construct the central stupa in 3D, to his design with sheetrock and plaster.

The inventor of the term "fantastic realism" Phoenix says it's to describe the imagery he's most often moved

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Pheonix:

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to create. "It's not exactly realism, surrealism, symbolism or fantasy, but has elements of all of those, and then some."

At an early age, drawn to the art pages in an encyclopedia, Phoenix discovered Symbolist and other realist painters of mythology from the Victorian era, then, in college, he uncovered the Art Nouveau artists, still a favorite influence. "Mayfield Parrish was also of interest. Mucha and Bouguereau were masters of the human form, whose works I did and still admire, and try to emulate to what minor extent I am able," he says.

Taken by ancient Egyptian art, and the realism of the Greeks, Phoenix eventually undertook a global study of all the ancient cultures, primitive art, rock art and tattooing. "I really wanted to know the full range and palette of human art creativity, to know the existing parameters and perhaps how to break out of them," he says. Since Tibetan art was an early influence, from about 1970, and a form that Phoenix has continued to study ever since, he says, "it seems very appropriate to be adding some of my knowledge and craft to the temple and Sangha that Lama Jinpa has created here, where I trust it will take on a life of its own as an integral part of this physical temple mandala."

As LRDC begins a series of art and music programming under its new arts project, you can receive more information, by calling 916-492-9007 or by visiting http://www.phoenix-arabeth.com. The Lion's Roar Dharma Center is located at 3240 B St. in East Sacramento.



East Sac's The Other Side of Track 7 opened in July

By Joe Perfecto

Track 7 Brewing Co. extended its railway (raleway?) eastward with the July 11 soft opening of "The Other Side," the latest addition to East Sacramento's growing brew scene. Located at the former site of Les Baux cafe at 5040 Folsom Blvd., the brewpub in several ways offers a departure from the customary Track 7 experience.

Notably missing is any sign of brewing equipment; all beers are produced at the other two locations. The 2,000-square-foot taproom, which ranks between the others in size, is supplemented by a 750-square-foot outdoor patio space that can accommodate 75-80 patrons. Roughly 25 feet wide by 80 feet deep, the space is slightly less open than the Natomas site but more open than Curtis Park, and features a mix of two-place, four-place and communal seating in the taproom, with a row of wooden picnic tables on the patio.

"The Other Side" also marks the brewery's restaurateuring debut, leaving behind the ease and economy of the rotating food truck system its two other locations—and many of the latest wave of taprooms—employ.

Service is fast-casual, a hybrid style that offers patrons an experience that falls between fast-food and casual sit-down dining. Orders are placed at the counter, but waitstaff attend to customers throughout their stay. "We're going to try to redefine what fast casual is," said general manager Tracy Losch. "We're very committed to providing service throughout, and I don't think that's something found in fast casual."

The cuisine similarly occupies a position between typical mass-produced fast food offerings, whose ingredients and preparation are typically unhealthful, and the often more wholesome fare generally found in a traditional informal dining environment—by providing healthy, fresh, carefully-crafted versions of a subset of items generally found on the menus characteristic of both those eatery categories. "We've got a wonderful rotisserie meal [and] other main dish options for people who want a restaurant experience, or if you want to have poutine fries or an appetizer with a couple of beers, we have that too," said brewmaster/co-owner Ryan Graham. Although this approach has gained ground in many areas, fast casual is new to the city's east side. "East Sacramento up until this point has been really void of this type of presence within the culinary market; there's high end restaurants and then there's really quick service," Graham said.

Designing the brewpub's food side involved many months of deliberation and fine tuning. "It's something the owners have been dreaming about doing for a long time," said assistant general manager Michael McGregor. The result is a menu that, while modest at present, comprises a distinctive range of comfort foods that feature locally-sourced ingredients. Integration with the brand's beers was a central focus. "The chefs have done a really good job putting together a menu that's different from a lot of other places," McGregor said. "It's not typical bar food—it's gourmet." Among the offerings developed by executive chef Oliver Ridgeway (Grange Restaurant & Bar) and head chef Noah Mansfield (Hook & Ladder, Mother) are many that incorporate the brand's ales, such as the Panic Burger, beer batter fish and chips, Panic Fries, sea salt fries with malt aioli, stout onion dip, Panic mustard, beer brats made with Bee Line honey blond ale by nearby V. Miller, Nukin' Futz porter chocolate cake and a malted barley cheesecake. Planned items include a Soulman Stout onion dip and Nukin' Futz chocolate pudding.

Appetizers include fried cheese curds with smoked chili ketchup, fries, a sausage sampler and a small jar of pickles that incorporates veggies, chili and egg (the pickles, along with burger buns and ketchup, are made in-house); there's a daily soup, three salads and sides such as heirloom tomatoes, jalapeño slaw, rice succotash and mac 'n' beer cheese (winner of the Sac Mac + Brew Review's macaroni and cheese competition during Beer Week 2018); plates include a pork sandwich, a chicken pita and the T7B burger; and patrons looking for a sugar fix can choose from a beer float, cheesecake, chocolate cake and a trifle. For vegheads, the Double Take Burger features an all-vegan patty, spicy remoulade, pickles and lettuce with a side of fries. As head chef Mansfield spent a year working with vegetarian dishes at Mother, more such items are planned, such as a seasoned, brined roasted cauliflower heads dish.

The signature item, though, is the Mary's Chicken rotisserie dish, which is tied into the brewpub's name and theme. (It has to do with the age-old question of why the chicken crossed the road, and Track 7's answer is—at least for the 5000 block of Folsom Blvd.—to get here. Not the best move for that chicken, all things considered….) "The rotisserie element of the restaurant is really the main focus," said executive chef Ridgeway. "We want people to make it a community meal where you can order it at the table, and it will come in pieces with condiments and different flatbreads." A half or whole chicken can be ordered. The other rotisserie dishes presently offered are pork shoulder and whole roast cauliflower with flatbread.

On the beer side, nine of the 12 taps dispense the standard gamut of Track 7 brews, with one tap dedicated to a rotating specialty ale and two reserved for guest ciders. During the soft opening, Idaho 7 oat extra pale ale was on the rotating tap, to be followed by L+H in VT NE-style pale

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ale and Chasing Rainbows kettle sour. Brightcider from 2 Towns Ciderhouse and Hibiscus Saison from Common Cider Company were also pouring. Just as at the other locations, growlers, can releases and the pint club are available.

The soft opening brought in more than 200 locals who kept the joint jumpin' throughout the first day, which was to be expected given the area's pent-up demand. "The response has been huge; the community's really excited about us, and we're really excited to be here as well," said McGregor. "The entire time we've been getting this building together we had people coming by and asking when we're opening. The community's been so nice and supportive."

As of the July 16 official opening, hours are 11a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The schedule will be adjusted to suit customer preference. A weekend brunch should commence in the near future. In keeping with the current trend and East Sacramento demographics, The Other Side is kid- and dog-friendly (while kids have the run of the place, only service dogs are allowed inside).

Track 7 is also working on establishing a fourth location a bit farther afield in Roseville; details about this venture and all other brewery happenings are available at https://track7brewing.com, https://www.instagram.com/track7brewing/, https://www.facebook.com/Track7Brewing/ and https://twitter.com/Track7Brewing.

Sutter Middle School students participated in nationwide, 17-minute school walkout

By Pat Lynch

Kids dressed in black spilled from Sutter Middle School classrooms and trudged into the rain, lined up along the chain-linked fence on Alhambra and J Streets. They waved signs. They cheered when passing cars honked support. This was Sutter's participation in the nationwide, seventeen-minute school walkout commemorating the seventeen murdered victims of the Florida school mass shooting.

A visibly moved School Board Trustee, Ellen Cochrane, watched as the kids kept coming, talking quietly, defying the rain. She gestured at the students along the fence. "This is beautiful. It's our First Amendment, happening right here. These kids are leading the country."

Teachers and administrative staff patrolled the demonstration while kids held their signs up for passersby.

Student organizer Nina Grefrath said, "I wanted to support the nation-wide protest. We should protect kids, not guns." When asked how hard it was to actually make a school-wide protest happen, she said, "It wasn't hard to get the kids involved. The faculty was harder. But we talked with the faculty and spread the word." She paused, looked at a sign that said, Your Silence is Compliance. "This is true," she said.

Amy Torrico, standing nearby, said starkly, "Is seventeen not enough?"

Naomi Piper-Pell said, "A lot of people are worried about getting hurt." (This was hard to hear. When this reporter went to school she worried about Algebra and detention, not getting shot.)

Piper-Pell went on. "We've lost too many people."

Nearly all the students seemed to identify viscerally with the Florida kids. "If it could happen to them it could happen to anyone," one boy said as he walked by.

Anjalie Mendoza said, "I'm here because of the seventeen kids and teachers who died. I get that he (the killer) had problems, but he shouldn't have killed others." Kids around her nodded.

When the seventeen minutes were up, the mass of students, under the watchful eyes of the principal, teachers and staff, headed back to their classrooms. Campus monitor Edward Thomas carefully watched the exodus. When asked how the Florida killings affected him, he replied, "I think about it all the time. Things have got to change."

Principal, Cristin Tahara-Martin, said the demonstration was the students' idea, and there was "no penalty" attached to kids who participated or those who didn't. It was entirely voluntary. "History teachers talked to all classes," she said. The administration ended up planning "with twenty kids, one from each core. More than that would have been"—here she made a gesture indicating chaos.

There was no chaos. Sutter Middle School permitted and participated in a meaningful exercise in Constitutional liberty; its students rose to the opportunity.

Said SCUSD Chief of Continuous Improvement and Accountability Officer, Vincent Harris, "This was a righteous protest."

That it was: well organized, scrupulously supervised, and most important, heartfelt.

Alhambra Theatre featured in big-screen production

By Lance Armstrong

Once recognized as the "showplace of Sacramento," East Sacramento's Alhambra Theatre captured the hearts of many area residents. And although more than four decades have passed since this movie palace met the wrecking ball, its memory is about to become more vivid.

Through the work of local filmmakers Matías Bombal and Chad E. Williams, the Alhambra – a venue where many classic films were shown throughout its nearly 45-year existence – hit the big screen itself.



Courtesy of Matias Bombal

Local movie makers Matias Bombal and Chad Williams made a documentary about the Alhambra Theatre, which premiered on Feb. 21, 2018 at the Tower Theatre.

In their attempt to capture the storied memories of the Alhambra Theatre, which majestically stood on a block of land at J and K streets on the eastern side of Alhambra Boulevard, Bombal and Williams produced a 55-minute documentary film, titled "Alhambra: Sacramento's Palace of Fantasy."

The film will made its public debut at the Tower Theatre, 2508 Land Park Drive, on Feb. 21, 2018 with two showings.

A finely weaved mix of vintage films, photographs, interviews and information

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Alhambra:

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gathered through research, this documentary does everything it can to showcase the former glory of this celebrated theater.

Designed by Sacramento architect Leonard F. Starks and Edward Flanders, the Alhambra Theatre was rich with elegance.

It was constructed in the likeness of the famous, luxurious Moorish palace and fortress, known as The Alhambra, which was built near Granada, Spain in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Beyond its alluring exterior and gardens entrance, this cinema palace had an attractive interior that included a ceiling with a colorful dome-like effect, long beams leading to an ornamented proscenium arch, perforated grillwork, many rows of fancy seats divided by a large center aisle, a balcony, a 75-foot stage, elegant lighting, drapes, tapestries and a large gold velour curtain with an image of the historic Alhambra of Spain.

Certainly, Bombal and Williams did not rebuild the theater in its old, physical form, but the footage taken from old television newsreels should give audiences of this new production the feeling that they are both inside the Alhambra and meandering outside in its spacious, beautiful gardens.

Williams, 46, described the uniqueness of the Alhambra Theatre, which opened on Sept. 24, 1927.

"What strikes me about it is most theaters are part of a city block," he said. "They are a building within a larger building in some cases. (The Alhambra), on its own and at the time, was kind of in the middle of nothing.

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East Sacramento senior set to dance in her last Nutcracker for local Sac Civic Ballet

By Judy Kent

On Dec. 15 and 16 at The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred, local dancer Ginny Rattan danced in her final Christmas performances for East Sacramento ballet company, Sac Civic Ballet and the Deane Dance Center. Born here in East Sacramento and dancing at Deane Dance Center since she was 3 years old, Ginny has quite the ballet resume.

For the past five years, Ginny has been part of the Sac Civic Ballet Company founded by legendary Barbara Crockett and directed by Allyson Deane and Don Schwennesen. The pre-professional company, an honors company of the Regional Dance America, performs its own one-act, narrated version of the "Nutcracker," along with its original ballet, "Christmas Angels" every December. It also produces a spring ballet production each year, with past shows including such shows as "Giselle" and "Swan Lake," and this spring's new production, based on "The Girl of the Golden West." Ginny has had many memorable performances in all of these shows, and many more ballets too numerable to list. She loves the Nutcracker and this year will be performing the role of the "Rose." In past years she has especially loved dancing the part of "Marie," known as Clara in some productions.



Photo courtesy

Ginny Rattan as The Rose in Nutcracker Suite

Participation in the local ballet's productions is a family affair. Ginny's father, Pat Rattan, has performed several of the adult roles over the years, including Marie's father in the Nutcracker's party scene. This year he added the role of Herr Siberhaus, as well. Ginny's mother, Debbie, has been a vital component to every production. She has been head chaperone, has been in charge of the company's annual trips to the Regional Dance Festivals, and has played a lead role in coordinating and sewing costumes. Little sister, Meg, also danced at Deane Dance Center for many years. Ginny's dance training has taken her beyond the local experience. For the past four summers, Ginny has attended several prestigious ballet summer intensive programs, including Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet, and the University of Utah. In addition, Ginny has competed at the Youth America Grand Prix ballet competition semi-finals five times. Ginny has also been able to share her love of dance with the younger generation by teaching Kinderballet classes at the Deane Dance Center.

In addition to showcases and demonstrations around the community, Ginny has had the privilege of performing several times at the widely popular annual Christmas concert at Fremont Presbyterian Church. Ginny is a well-rounded young lady. In addition to the time she puts into dance and school, she is very active in her youth group at Fremont Presbyterian. She serves on the leadership team and volunteers her time in children's ministry. She spent her spring break last year on a mission trip to Mexico serving a local community through construction projects, medical care, and a children's program. Home-schooled in her younger years, Ginny is currently a senior at Rio Americano High School. An excellent student, she will graduate this coming June. She is planning on attending

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college to pursue a career in exercise physiology/athletic training, where she hopes to put her dance experience to good use helping other athletes set and achieve goals and stay in top performance condition.

No doubt, Ginny Rattan, will share her love of ballet wherever she ends up.

East Sac Goldendoodle lands on Ellen Degeneres website; looking to become therapy dog at Shriner's

By Monica Stark

Local realtors Jeanine Roza and Sindy Kirsch are moms to Rockit, a 2-year-old Goldendoodle who they dream of becoming a therapy dog at Shriner's Hospital for Children and with the Lend-A-Heart animal assisted program. Even though Rockit doesn't have his official therapy dog certificate yet, he has been a therapy dog in many ways and soon to be an official one, Roza says.

"Rockit is our happy place and brings us so much joy and all we want to do is share it and him," Roza says. She tells the story of how he landed a spot on the Ellen Degeneres website when he was just a wee puppy who was taken by a hammock in the yard. Without any prompting, the little pup got into the hammock and Roza started filming and uploaded a clip to EllenTube thinking the talk show host might get a kick out of it. "One night, Sindy and I received a text from a friend asking, 'Did you upload a video to Ellen?' We said, 'Yes, why?' She said, 'Well, Ellen just personally tweeted that this was her kind go hammock and it's Rockit!' Sure enough, Rockit was on the first page of Ellen's website as a hot video and later selected as part of her favorites compilation later that year and ended up getting 53,000 likes."

Named after Jeanine's father Richard Roza, whose nickname was Rockit, and who as a matter-of-fact was a huge dog lover himself, Rockit the Goldendoodle, became his personal therapy dog. "When my dad was battling lung cancer Sindy and I decided to add a furry baby to our home. When we told my dad that we were going to get a puppy, he was fixated on what we were going to call him. He would call, text, or email long lists of names. He was fixated on the name and so excited to participate. Well participate he did along with my mom, brother, nephew Chase who has cerebral palsy and loves dogs, Sindy's daughter Rachel and her fiancé Daniel."

The entire crew traveled hours to meet a litter of Goldendoodles. Notifying the breeder in advance about the co-dependent dog picking group, Jeanine said the breeder was wonderful and welcomed them with open arms. "We placed a chair in the middle of the room with puppies dancing around (Richard's) feet. The puppies were all adorable, but there was one little guy that stole our heart. We put the puppy in my dad's arms and his face beamed with happiness and love. He asked, 'So what are you going to name him?' We then placed a leather collar with the name Rockit burned into it with a tag with a rocket ship on it. He welled up and tears of happiness streamed down his face and the family crew and breeder burst into tears too. He said, 'with that name he is going to be one good dog!'"

So, from day one, Rockit was a personal therapy dog to Richard Rozas and Chase. Richard's cancer was inoperable and the hope was that Rockit could accompany him to his chemo treatments and spread sunshine. Unfortunately, Richard passed away shortly before Rockit's first birthday. "However, he will continue on and be a light of love for those out there facing similar challenges or just need some furry sunshine. We would be honored," Roza said.

Rockit has attended training at Albree Dog Training in Tahoe Park with Alan and

see Goldendoodle page 12



Photo by Jeanine Roza

Local realtors Jeanine Roza and Sindy Kirsch are moms to Rockit, a 2-year-old Goldendoodle who they dream of becoming a therapy dog at Shriner's Hospital for Children and with the Lend-A-Heart animal assisted program.

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Goldendoodle:

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Renee Miller. "We had been hearing so much great feedback about their training and once we experienced their positive feedback training we knew we had the perfect fit for Rockit and us, too." Alan paid somehome visits so they could proactively gain some training tips for Rockit in their own home. Immediately, Rockit responded to the positive reinforcement combined and the furry group training of all sizes provided the excellent social experience he needed at his age. "Socializing was fun for us too. Hanging out with fellow dog lovers is our ultimate happy place."

The dog moms' dream is to give back and the ultimate goal is for Rockit to be a therapy dog in some capacity, for them all to be a part of a "furry giveback team."

When Alan came their home for private training, they shared with him that they would love to visit senior centers, hospitals, and libraries where children can read to dogs, etc. Even at such a young age Rockit has had the disposition that is required for interacting with people in various situations. They even call him their "Zen Puppy."

Rockit facts

Furry dog moms: Jeanine Roza and Sindy Kirsch

How long have they had him: He has been their furry baby since 10 weeks old.

Favorite Vet Hospital: Sacramento Animal Hospital on 57th and H streets

Instagram: TailingRockit

On Ellen: https://www.ellentube.com/video/ham-mock-time-has-gone-to-the-dogs.html

Neighborhood meeting discussed East Sac traffic safety

By Sally King

The East Sacramento Preservation Meeting was held at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26, at McClaskey Adult Center, 5241 J St.

Board member Ellen Cochrane, chaired the meeting. Cochrane introduced the attending board members and went over the agenda, which included three guest speakers.

The first speaker was Jennifer Donlon Wyant, the Vision Zero Program Manager. Wyant gave a presentation on the Vision Zero Program. Wyant explained, "Vision Zero is a philosophy that traffic safety is paramount and there are no accidents. Accidents can be prevented through engineering, education and enforcement."

The city council adopted Vision Zero about a year and half ago based on data that had been put together showing the number of traffic fatalities and injuries. Wyant said they discovered that between 2009 and 2013, the number of killed or severely injured folks increased. The number of accidents for pedestrians and bikers had also increased.

Wyant pointed out, last year Sacramento had more traffic fatalities than homicides. There were 46 traffic fatalities and 39 homicides. Wyant emphasized these accidents are preventable. Based on the data, the areas where the highest number of incidents occurred were H Street, J Street, Folsom Boulevard and Broadway. Wyant said speed and impaired driving are the two main causes for major accidents.

Sacramento is the second worse city in California for accidents caused by impaired driving. The Vision Zero plan includes: first, update street design standards to be more up-to-date with our best traffic safety practices, and developing designs for the hot top five corridors where people are dying or suffering major injuries from accidents most often. Second, the plan supports state level, automated speed enforcement. Other states have automated speed enforcement because there are not enough traffic officers on the road to enforce the speed limit. At this time automated speed enforcement is not legal in California. This is something Sacramento would like to pilot to see if it works. Wyant re-emphasized in order to lower traffic accidents, we need engineering, education and enforcement. As part of the Vision Zero awareness, Wyant handed out free 'Drive Slowly' yard signs to those who wanted one. Wyant feels that even though the signs probably won't slow drivers down, they are a great conversation starter, a way for folks to think about driving safely.

"Traffic safety is home grown. We want it to be about us, not government telling people want to do, but us working together as a community," Wyant said.

Wyant informed folks that Vision Zero recently applied for a $9 million state grant. If it is approved, five key surroundings will receive improved pedestrian crossings and other structural improvements. Wyant said they are also including a study on safety around schools.







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Great exposure in these four upscale neighborhoods:
Arden-Carmichael, East Sacramento, Land Park & Pocket/Greenhaven.



Contact Melissa at 916-429-9901

What's happening East Sacramento?

FRIDAY, JAN. 4

TWEEN COMICS CLUB – Join us for this free, fun program. We will have snacks, discuss a comic book, do a craft, and have a trivia contest with the chance to win a prize! This month's book: Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol. Copies of this month's book will be available at the front desk in December. Recommended for ages 9-13. Friday, January 4 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

LEGO MANIA! – Like building with LEGO bricks? Join us for our monthly free-play afternoon! LEGO and DUPLO LEGO bricks will be provided for this free, family program. Friday, January 11 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18

ELECTRIC GREETING CARDS - Join this free hands-on SMUD workshop and learn how to make electronic greeting cards with LED lights! Create fun, light-up cards and learn the concepts of drawing schematics, parallel and series circuits and basic electronics. Recommended for ages 8 – 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Friday, January 18 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

2019

JAN. 1

NEW YEAR'S GATHERING: Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutter's Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

COMMUNITY VISITATION DAYS AT THEODORE JUDAH: STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.: There is no need to RSVP if you are planning to attend one a community visitation day. Please enter campus through the main entrance on McKinley Blvd. and report to the library to sign in. Please arrange for child care for younger siblings as is feasible. For families who are not able to attend on one of the community visitation days, the school also offers tours on Fridays beginning at 9am. Tours last approximately 30 minutes. If you are planning to attend a Friday tour, RSVP in advance by calling the school office at 395-4790 so the school knows to expect you. Please arrange child care for younger siblings as is feasible. When entering campus for a Friday tour, please come through the main entrance on McKinley Blvd. and report directly to the office to sign in. Mr. Holding, the principal, will join you to conduct the tour. 3919 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, California 95819. Getting ready for kindergarten? Come visit Theodore Judah School during one of our community visitation days. Arrive at 8:30 am and meet Principal Holding and tour the school. Best to leave the kiddos at home. Orientation and tour will begin at 8:30 am and end at approx 11:30 am. For more information: https://www.theodorejudahelementary.org/post/school-tour-information.

SATURDAY, JAN. 12

SACRAMENTO POTTERS GROUP: ART BY FIRE'S ANNUAL SECONDS SALE: Shepard Garden and Art Center 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento; Saturday, January 12, 2019, 10am-2pm
A very special sale of less than perfect pottery, glass, metal & clay work at perfectly affordable prices! Treat yourself to an after-holiday present! Shop EARLY for best selection … www.artbyfire.org

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

DREAM VARIATIONS: A SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: The Sacramento Youth Symphony presents a major community concert event celebrating the ongoing contributions by African-Americans to our country's artistic landscape. Musical selections will include celebrated works by Duke Ellington, William Grant Still, Emmy Award-winning composer John Wineglass, and much more.
An impressive roster of special guests will join the orchestra on-stage for this special event. Some of our guests include: Emcee-Omari Tau; Speaker-Courtney Dempsey; Guest Artists-Jay Mason, Chase Spruill 4th, Indigo Moore, Julian Dixon, Leslie Sandefur, & Sheryl Counter. Tickets: General $25, Students/Children/Seniors $20. For more information, visit www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

SACCIRQUE PRESENTS: AFTER INFINITY: Is excited to bring together a wide variety of artistic media to showcase a new level of circus theatrics for our community at the HIstoric Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd. from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. What would you do if you outlived the collapse of the universe? Who would you be if you were there to experience the Big Bang that followed? Imagine this played out for an endless amount of time. After Infinity brings you 1 piece of a 6 part series exploring entropy as the key orchestrator of the collapse and rebirths of our universe. The characters of After Infinity struggle to discover that through the flow of creativity and unity, we may have a chance to stop the universes endless cycle. After Infinity is going to be a one of a kind experience. Expect to see fire dancing, acrobatics, aerial, never before seen props, and many soon to be announced innovative acts, brought together for a night of circus magic. Join us February 9th as we launch SacCirque into its first full size theatrical experience at the Historic Colonial Theatre!!!

ONGOING

WOMEN WITH GOOD SPIRITS·MONTHLY MEETING: Women With Good Spirits is a women's social group that meets once a month. A local non-profit or charity is invited to speak. Currently, monthly meetings are held at Selland's Market Café (915 Broadway, Sacramento) on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. There is a requested minimum donation of $5 -- 100% of the donations go to the non-profit or charity. Past groups have included the Sacramento Ballet, 916INK, Chako Pit Bull Rescue, Soil Born Farms, Front Street Animal Shelter. Questions, email Monica Stark at editor@valcomnews.com.

SACTOWN UNION BREWERY MONDAY OPEN MIC: Mondays from 630 to 10 p.m. at Sactown Union Brewery 1210 66th Street, Unit B, Sacramento, California 95819. Host Autumn Sky brings you a weekly open-mic night to express yourself and be apart of a unique, supportive community! Sign ups at 6:30 p.m., open mic begins at 7 p.m. and it's all ages until 8 p.m. A house guitar is provided (Autumn's own!) to play if bringing yours is difficult. There's beer, pizza next door that delivers to the open mic, and they welcome well behaved dogs. Comedy, DJing, spoken word, poetry, instrumental performance, songwriters, cover heroes and rappers are all welcome.

CORN - HOLE EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT SACTOWN UNION BREWERY: Be a part of the Sports Social Club. XOSO Sports Host Corn - Hole League Every Thursday Night from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Sactown Union Brewery, 1210 66th St. VISIT www.xososports.com to register. Because even adults need recess.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP: Every first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: Is your friend or family member in a domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking situation? This free, drop-in group is for you. Learn how to support your loved one, and receive some support yourself among people who are in the same situation. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

#METOO SUPPORT GROUP: Every third Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: This drop-in support group is free, confidential, open to all genders, and available to sexual assault survivors at any point in their healing. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ANNOUNCED: The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. The program offers 14 categories of scholarships ranging from $1,000 - $2,500 each with varying eligibility requirements. Categories include: agriculture, art, academic excellence, business, culinary/hospitality/event management, education, international relations, trade school, viticulture and enology. Applicants may apply for one scholarship category of their choice per year and will be evaluated based on academics, community service, quality of essay and recommendation. Top scholarship winners in select categories may be invited to compete for the $5,000 Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship Scholarships are not renewable; however, students may reapply each year as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is a collaboration between the Friends of the California State Fair, the California Exposition & State Fair, the California State Fair Agricultural Advisory Council, the Ironstone Concours Foundation, Blue Diamond Growers and Western Fairs Association. International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS), an independent scholarship management company, hosts the online application process and disburses awards for the program. The deadline to apply is March 2, 2018. Learn more at CAStateFair.org/scholarship. For questions about the Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program, please email scholarship@calexpo.com.

SAC UNIFIED POETRY SLAM: Jenny Lynn and Joe Montoya's Poetry Unplugged present The Sac Unified Poetry Slam every third Friday at Luna's, 1414 16th St., starting at 7:30 p.m. The show is unpredictable. The special guests and judges won't be known until they sign up. The slam is three rounds. This is a FREE show with purchase at the cafe, donations are encouraged to cover PSI venue dues and show staffing. $5 to slam (except youth 18 and under) winner takes the whole pot. Luna's Cafe will be serving the freshest juices and licuados in town, nothing frozen or concentrated. The menu also includes sandwiches, salads, our famous quesadilla, fresh-ground coffee, mochas, and other espresso drinks. A nice selection of beer and wine is also offered. Enjoy it all in the comfortable atmosphere of Luna's, one of this area's original cafe galleries. Supporting artists of all kinds for over 30 years.

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.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IS SEEKING LOCAL HOST FAMILIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE STUDENTS: ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with your community high school, is looking for local families to host boys and girls between the ages of 15 to 18 from a variety of countries: Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Japan, to name a few. ASSE students are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture while they practice their English. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families. Host families welcome these students into their family, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected based on academics and personality, and host families can choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests. To become an ASSE Host Family or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, please call the ASSE Western Regional Office at 1-800-733-2773 or go to www.host.asse.com to begin your host family application. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today!

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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