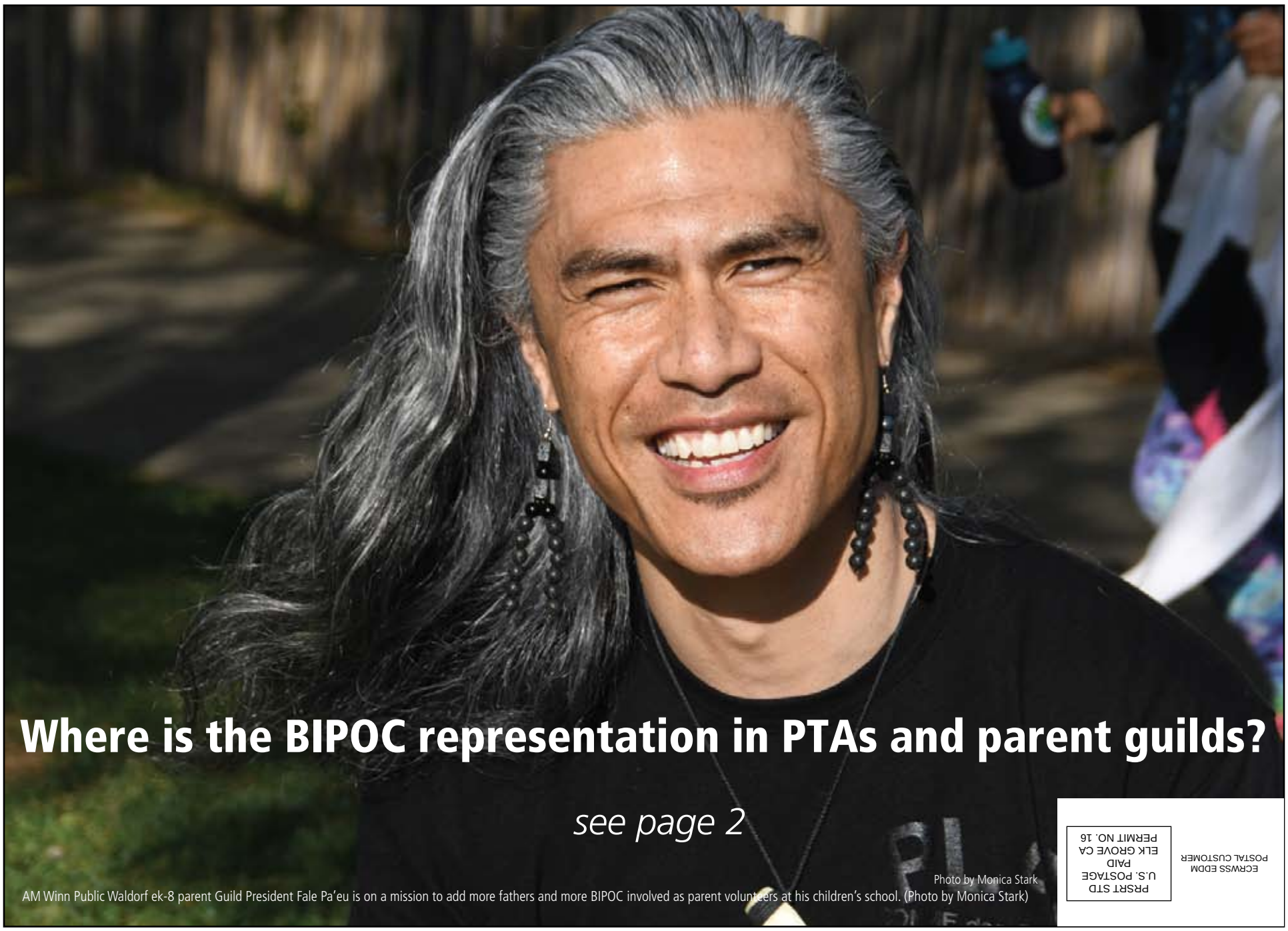
April 21, 2022 | www.valcomnews.com

East Sacramento News

— BRINGING YOU COMMUNITY NEWS FOR 30 YEARS —



Where is the BIPOC representation in PTAs and parent guilds?

see page 2

Photo by Monica Stark

AM Winn Public Waldorf ek-8 parent Guild President Fale Pa'eu is on a mission to add more fathers and more BIPOC involved as parent volunteers at his children's school. (Photo by Monica Stark)

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Where is the BIPOC representation in PTAs and parent guilds?

By Monica Stark

The stereotypical parent-teacher association stacked with white upper-middle-class stay-at-home moms out in the suburbs is changing in one Sacramento-area school.

At the parent meetings at his children's school, a local father of four, Fale Pa'eu, who, of Samoan descent from New Zealand, felt instances of not-belonging, and knew that had to change -- that the parent guild should encourage more Black, Indigenous, (and) People of Color, and that there should be more fathers involved with their children's school.

Pa'eu took the leap in 2021 throwing his name in the hat to chair the Guild, which he describes as "basically a place or a space where we can pull up right between parents and teachers."

A Title 1 school with more than 50 percent of its students qualifying for free lunch, AM Winn Public Waldorf-Inspired ek-8, according to EdData has a 57 out of 70 on the Ethnic Diversity Index (the lowest is zero, which would equate to the entire school being the same race). Meanwhile, most of the people on the board fit the racial and gender stereotype of PTAs.

Also lacking in PTAs and parent guilds is equal representation between mothers and fathers. Pa'eu said that for him as a father, he has had the feeling in the past that he "wasn't doing enough" to support his children's education and that fathers, in general essentially need to step up and be on the forefront, including volunteering in the classroom or on the playground to support yard duties. "The general idea of society is that fathers work and the mothers nurture those kids... Even if you just have one father figure volunteering on the playground, when a child sees that, that's a huge impact," he said.



Photo by Monica Stark

From the left, sitting on the stool, Ela; standing in the back, Tayli; sitting on her dad Fale's lap, Natanielu; and sitting on the ground with the golf club, Kortlnd. The children attend AM Winn Public Waldorf, ek-8. Fale Pa'eu is the parent Guild Chair and is on a mission to get more BIPOC fathers involved in their children's education and school life.

So, sitting in the Zoom room back in December 2021 waiting for the monthly "guild" meeting to begin, Pa'eu had some reservations about whether he was going to move forward in discussing his mission to all the members.

He took the leap and with unanimous support from the executive committee, various members jumped into the meeting also expressing their gratitude for his bravery in being a game-changer.

Expressing her support for Pa'eu's vision, Guild Co-Chair Chardonnay Provine said in a statement: "By actively making an effort to listen to and help diverse parents feel welcome to get involved

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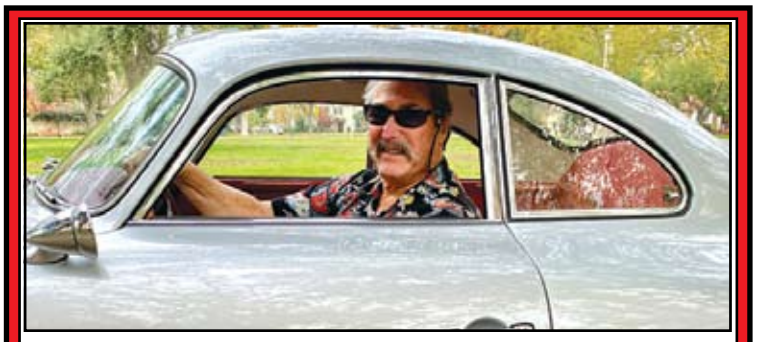
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1109 Markham Way
Sacramento,
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t: (916) 429-9901
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BIPOC:

Continued from page 2

and share their voices, we hope to create an environment of inclusion. We are building a community where all are welcome and valued. We do this for the betterment of all - children and adults alike."

Waiting for the school bell to ring, Pa'eu goes around after school introduces himself, says, "Hi, my name is Fale. I have four kids here." For him, it's about building relationships and specifically targeting other BIPOC dads. "It's a huge impact having a father of color approach a father of color because we feel an instant connection," he said.

Announcing the importance and the need of BIPOC representation on social media without any action is not enough. He decided to be the impetus for that conversation at his school, starting as local as it gets. In a pre-Covid era, that might include a handshake. "It's a very, very slow, slow process, a very slow process," he said. "The conversation (includes) starting to talk to each teacher and each grade. And I'm currently doing that."

They're already scouting families in their classrooms that feel that Pa'eu could approach. "So it's just taking small steps and communicating to the people that will also make a strong impact."

AM Winn's Parent Guild Secretary Cyd Skow Jaghory says the work that Pa'eu is doing informs the type of work that the Guild does as well--actively removing barriers to full participation from all families. That's the thought behind promoting things like the school's WINNing Together Volunteer Fund, she wrote in a statement.

"We need programs to address various needs without stigma. I'd love it if we can keep thinking along these lines, whether it's fundraising for warm sweatshirts that all students receive at the beginning of the cold season and that stay at school so that no child is without proper apparel or offering a formal mentorship and support program connecting new families to existing families. And hopefully, as a more diverse set of parents attend meetings, the community will continue to shape this agenda in meaningful ways," Jagory wrote.

Jagory extends Pa'eu's vision to other marginalized groups within our community (LGBTQ+, for example); even small things like asking parents to default to sharing their pronouns at meetings challenge the status quo of "cis default."

Pa'eu currently is working with the school to support efforts of bringing back a LGBTQ+ club for students.

"There is a lot more that we can do, I know. But small, meaningful, sustained challenges to status quo thinking can make a difference," Jagory wrote.

It didn't need to go any deeper than that for him to want to be a changemaker and take up this position and open doors to people of color to join groups like the guild. "I hope that I helped them feel differently. When I think about my own experiences, of course, it does. It does for minorities and it's only because I have in most cases been given that opportunity."

Ultimately, within his term as Guild Chair, he'd like to see greater representation within the Guild's leadership team as well, as Jagory further explained.

Talking candidly about the racism he experienced in the workplace during Donald Trump's first year as president, Pa'eu shared that his vision came to be after thinking about his own children and not wanting anything like that ever happening to them.

Regarding the racist experience, Pa'eu, who holds a green card, said that a customer said, "I'm a Trump supporter and I could have you deported."

In response he told her "she wasn't being a nice person" and he asked what made her act that way. "She was extremely arrogant. She said to me that she is lucky you can't sue me. She's already saying she has a privilege of power."

At first, HR took it as a freedom-of-speech incident and suggested that Pa'eu continue to work with the customer, but he held his ground and said, ""No, that's hate speech.' She's attacking me because of the way I look."

The person, he said, similarly targeted two other people at his work. And, despite his efforts to squash the racism, it was with the help of his wife at the time, who happens to be white, that the racist customer was served with a no trespass.

His wife at the time through an email had to express her feelings about being a white person and also having biracial children, he said.

With her help, after six months of fighting, HR issued a trespass notice.

He has plans on getting dual U.S. citizenship; he currently holds New Zealand citizenship as his birthright and plans on passing down the opportunity for dual citizenship to his children (who were born in the U.S.).

Born and raised in a suburb of Auckland, New Zealand, called Ōrākei, Pa'eu remembers visiting the indigenous Māori tribal meeting house growing up. "We would always go up for certain activities…the meeting house basically speaks of the genealogy. (The Māori) had to fight for their land back (from the Commonwealth)."

Moving to America from New Zealand, he said he was a "huge minority" and that he had to remind his mother that indigenous Polynesians, like the Samoans and the Māori, "had their roots" before the Christians came.

Pa'eu said: "And, we seem to forget that; we seem to forget we were colonized by Christians. The Treaty of Waitangi (New Zealand's founding document) was The Crown making the treaty. The treaty wasn't for the indigenous people. It was totally for (The Crown)."

Whenever he has the opportunity to address a big crowd now, he feels the importance of addressing the indigenous people here, and he has hopes of meeting people from local tribes.

"I think the positive thing about it is that people now feel comfortable talking. My experience with the person telling me I don't belong here happened before George Floyd. There's a lot of people who experienced this, and after George Floyd, are ready to stand their ground," he said.



ARC's Brianna Huynh Named to All-USA Academic Team

Huynh Recognized for Intellectual Achievement, Leadership, Community and Campus Engagement

American River College student Brianna Huynh is one of 20 college students named to the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Academic Team and will receive a $5,000 scholarship. Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. More than 2,200 students were nominated for this award.

At ARC Brianna is Associated Student Body Director of Finance, Phi Theta Kappa President, Women in STEM Club Treasurer, Pacific Islander Southeast Asian Club President, Student Senate for California Community Colleges STEM Caucus Vice-Chair, Design Hub intern, Beacon tutor, MESA student and a member of the track team.

Brianna was also named a Phi Theta Kappa 2022 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar and will receive a $2,250 scholarship. The selection was based on the score earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition. Nominations were evaluated on academic achievement, leadership, service, and significant endeavors. Brianna received the highest score in California.

Brianna will be recognized during the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) convention in May. The All-USA Academic Team is sponsored by Cengage, with additional support provided by Phi Theta Kappa and AACC.

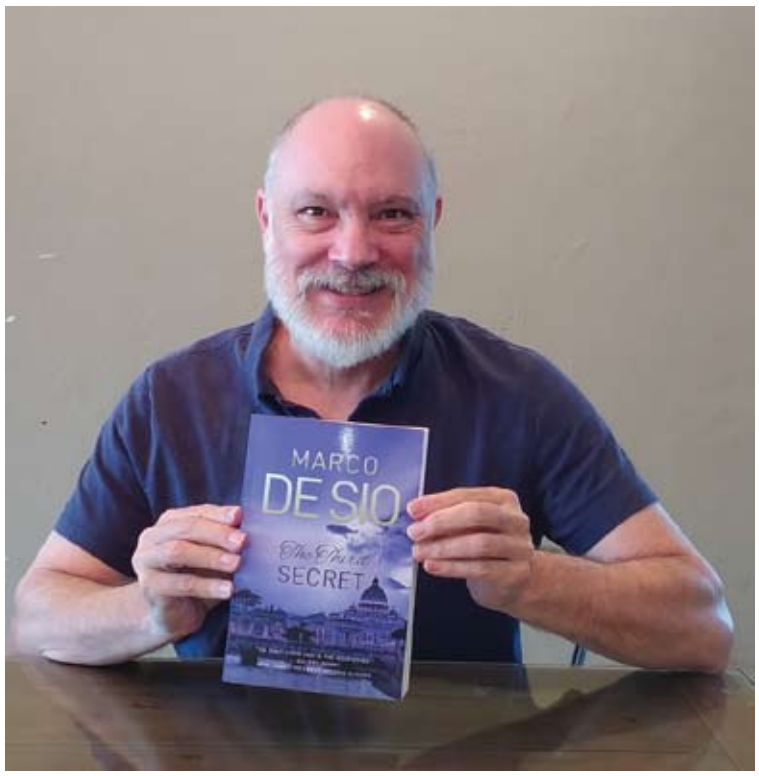
Each college may nominate two students for showing intellectual rigor and demonstrating academic achievement, leadership, and civic growth. The program also recognizes students who extend their community college education to better themselves, their schools, and their surrounding communities.





Local whistleblower, former little league coach releases new novel

By Monica Stark



Sacramento resident, former journalist, and government whistleblower, Mark DeSio, released a new novel titled "The Third Secret", which follows the life of "Big Al", an Italian immigrant who has close associations with Mafia gangsters and harbors a secret that was disclosed to three children in 1917.

Readers follow the revelations of Big Al's secret through the lens of investigative reporter John Tate in the late 2000s who gets help from Big Al's son Giuseppe, a former American diplomat; and, a priest who said he had a divine encounter as a child.

"Real or fiction? The reader must decide," Author Mark De Sio says about "The Third Secret" and the 1917 prophecy. "With the events going on in the world today, especially in Ukraine, 'The Third Secret' is very timely."

The book begs the question, as Russia pushes war, were we warned 105 years ago? And is also begs the question, how much of this book is autobiographical?

Regarding the latter, DeSio says, "it's a lot of it, and it's also a lot of Indiana Jones." In the book, Tate believes in finding relics of the past and reluctantly gets anonymous letters that he's reluctantly pulled into. He'd rather not be, but he's got this ethical sense about him. He just can't turn away, and the more he looks, the more he gets involved. "Yeah, it's a lot like me where I felt a reporter has an obligation to be a truthteller. And this person is a truth-teller. And he just even though he wants to say screw it, you know, he keeps going down that path," DeSio said. Tate wins the Pulitzer Prize but becomes an alcoholic.

All under the umbrella of fiction writing, the process of completing the book in some respect, was a challenge for the seasoned journalist. "It was a challenge because I didn't want to come across as some kind of job like a conspiracy theorist," DeSio said. "So I wanted to make it light entertaining, but not come across like a whack job, which a lot of people so it was challenging. So I tried to take the truth and put my own spin on the truth."

While published by a Christian publisher, DeSio says it's more like the DaVinci Code with its Catholic backdrop in the mystery genre. The actual secret doesn't really matter, though it's a reporter on the trail to find it. The more important aspect, DeSio said, relates to reader response as the truth behind what the reporter uncovers is questionable. DeSio puts the reader on edge, asking "Well, is the secret true? Or is it not true?"

Growing up exposed to the Catholic Church and in an Italian family with known mafia members, DeSio had a fisherman uncle who tried to organize labor down at the docks in New York, and the mafia ran him out, basically all the way to California. "He ran for his life, and then another uncle, who kind of like in the book, was using a business as a front for basically doing the lottery. He had a mattress shop. And it wasn't really he wasn't really selling mattresses," DeSio said.

Prior to working on this book, DeSio was the communications director for the California Board of Equalization. The board's chair had the agency audited and DeSio uncovered corruption at the BOE, including nepotism and controversial hirings. This led to a dismantling of the BOE and he lost his job, though about three years later in 2020 he was able to recoup lost wages after battling it out in court. He has struggled to find work because, as he explains, no one wants to hire a whistleblower.

His valiant efforts did, however, earn him the honorable James Madison Freedom of Information Award last year.

The reporter bug never escaped DeSio, and has been considering a retirement job as a small-town newspaper editor outside of Sacramento.

Some Sacramentans may know DeSio from his many years coaching little league and basketball. "It was so much fun," he says about those athletic years. "And I still run into these kids. Now they're like, you know, in their 20s and they're like 'Hey, Coach.'"

Published by Covenant Books of North Carolina, The Third Secret is the first of three books in a series planned by author Mark De Sio. He penned the first volume under his Italian name, Marco De Sio. "The Third Secret" became available in paperback at Barnes and Noble on April Fool's Day. The link to the book on Amazon is https://lnkd.in/ekpvidRu



The Unicorn Fountain ballet to feature Sacramento dancers

Sac Civic Ballet and the Deane Dance Center will be performing its Spring ballet, The Unicorn Fountain, on Saturday, May 7 at 7pm and Sunday, May 8 at 2pm at Davis Veterans Memorial Theater, 203 E. 14th Street, Davis, California. The dancers recently went to a Regional Dance America festival in Reno, Nevada where they were selected to dance scenes from this well-received ballet.



Photo by Linda Yun

On the left, Ana Konovaloff, the Unicorn; on the right, Jaynica Dacuycuy

The Unicorn Fountain is choreographed by Don Schwennesen. He and his wife, Allyson Deane, directors of Sac Civic Ballet, are both former dancers at San Francisco Ballet Company. Ms. Deane is the daughter of Barbara Crockett, who founded the Sac Civic pre-professional ballet company, as well as the Sacramento Ballet Company. The story of the Unicorn Fountain revolves around a village harvest festival, a visiting prince, a competition, and the luck a rainbow and Unicorn bring to the harvest, with some drama along the way. The cast is large, and the stunning costumes are colorful and bright. The music is especially beautiful, bringing the story together.

The Unicorn is being danced by local Land Park high school junior, Ana Konovaloff. Other lead roles are Grace Hanson of East Sacramento as Dahlia, Jaynica Dacuycuy as Charity, and David Bier as Prince Fredrick.

The ballet is suitable for all ages. Tickets are available at the door or go to deanedancecenter.com. For any information, call 916-453-0226



Community Briefs

Sunday Farmers Market

Carmichael Farmers' Market is a Certified Farmers' Market at Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave. Open every Sunday, year-round, rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the market offers freshly picked, seasonal produce grown by small family farms in the region! There is a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, honey, eggs, meat, herbs, olive oil, cheese, and olives. Most of the farmers grow their crops "naturally" and some are Certified Organic. Come get to know your farmers and learn about their farming practices. Enjoy the many craft food vendors offering hummus, yogurt, veggie dips, sauerkraut, salsa, fish, rubs, pies, cookies, bread, scones, and more! The market is a great place to shop and stock up while enjoying the many food trucks and craft corner! Crafters offer jewelry, hand-knitted hats and scarfs, baskets, wind chimes, art, and so much more.

La Sierra Community Center Pickleball

La Sierra Community Center offers indoor pickleball. The Johnson Gym has 5 indoor courts for drop-in play. If you have never tried pickleball come see what the craze is all about but beware, you will get hooked. Masks are required at all times in our gyms, regardless of vaccination status. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. La Sierra Community Center: Johnson Gymnasium is located at 5325 Engle Road. There are five indoor courts. Fees are $6 for a day-pass or $40 for a 10 day punch card.

Passes and Punch Cards can be purchased at the recreation office of the La Sierra Community Center, which is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volleyball Leagues

The Carmichael Recreation and Park District offers volleyball leagues at the La Sierra Community Center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday evenings. Skill levels and format varies by league. In accordance with the Sacramento County Department of Health, 2021, masks are required at all times in the gyms, regardless of vaccination status. Registration for the spring leagues begins February 17th and closes March 8th at 10 a.m. Leagues start the week of March 21. Fees $250 for residents, $260 for non-residents.

Carmichael Senior Softball – Coed Slow Pitch League

Senior Softball is a great way to be active and social. The Carmichael Recreation and Park District offers morning leagues on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Both leagues feature competitive play in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. The main objective each morning is to enjoy the game of softball in a park setting under the sunshine and blue skies. Call the Recreation Office if you are interested in more information:(916) 483-7826.

Carmichael Elks Lodge Updates

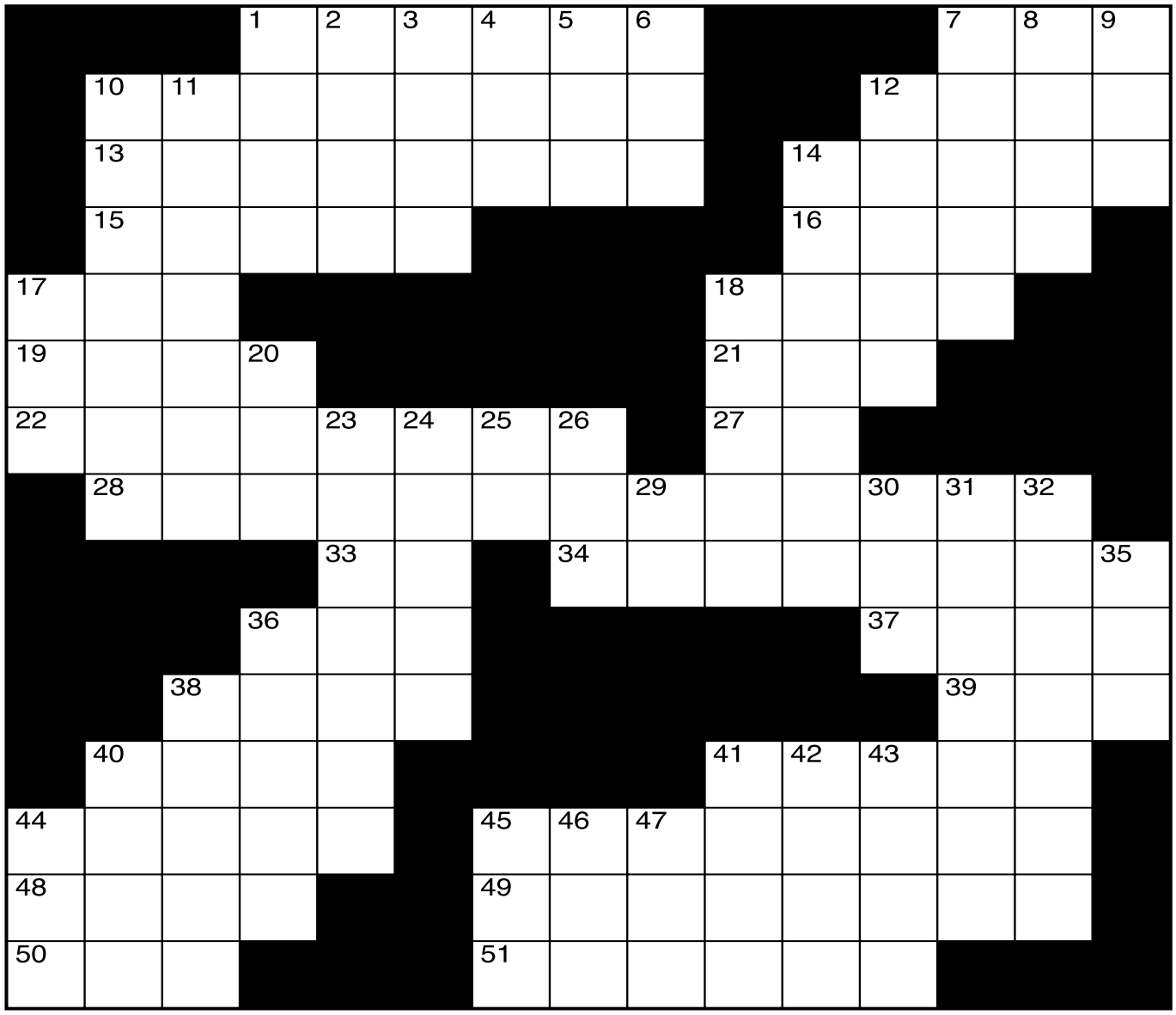
The Carmichael Elks Lodge is located at 5631 Cypress Ave. For more information, call 916-489-2103.

The Carmichael Elks Lodge #2103 presents the 2022 Classic Car & Motorcycle Show

(1975 and older) on May 7, 2022: Located on 5631 Cypress Ave. in Carmichael, this event attracts spectators from all over the area to enjoy lots of custom and classic cars, a motorcycle display, awards, entertainment, food and more. If you are interested in being in the show or being a vendor, https://carmichaelelks2103.org/ for an application. Registration is $20; vendor fees are $20. A no-host bar would be available.

Continued on Page 8

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. A woman of refinement
7. Body part
10. One who imitates
12. Tropical Asian starlings
13. A type of delivery
14. W. Australian capital
15. Many wombs
16. Wings
17. Expression of amusement
18. Brews
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
21. Mild expression
22. Solitary
27. Distance to top
28. The rebirth of a soul in a new body
33. Police who investigate police (abbr.)
34. Begrudged
36. Popular sports league
37. Autonomous republic of Russia
38. Double-headed drum
39. Type of light bulb
40. Czech River
41. Male servants (Span.)
44. Previously
45. Minor
48. Metrical foot
49. Days that follow Mondays
50. Small European viper
51. News shows have one

CLUES DOWN

1. Inspiration
2. Resembling wings
3. Form of Persian
4. Consumed
5. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
6. Sea eagle
7. Jaguarundis
8. Poker stake
9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
10. South American nation
11. A colorless, odorless gas
12. Disturbance
14. Artist's tool
17. Polish peninsula
18. Ottoman military leaders
20. Bird-like dinosaur
23. Drinking glass
24. Central Florida city
25. One's mother
26. To do it is human
29. Atomic #10
30. Used to write
31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear
32. Adversaries
35. Have already done
36. One of conspicuous wealth
38. It flies over sporting events
40. Geological times
41. Net
42. Musical phrase
43. Chadic dialect
44. Private Internet Access (abbr.)
45. Lizard genus
46. Woman of the church
47. Having ten

Continued from Page 6

The Kentucky Derby will be shown in the ballroom from 3 to 5 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Library Updates

Virtual Piñata Making Workshop with Patty Botello - Día 2022

April 30 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Sacramento Public Library is excited to welcome back artist and piñata maker Patty Botello for our 2022 Día de los niños / Día de los libros series.

We will be creating a mini fruit piñata sculpture using various piñata making techniques. This workshop will also focus on using recyclable items like cardboard and newspaper and giving these ordinary objects a new purpose.

Piñata making kits available at your local library branch while supplies last. This event will be hosted on zoom and streamed live to Youtube.

Register here to attend Zoom workshop: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIld-ihpzksHtL5cZ7aPt5zfDHdeeX_l8nF.

About Patty Botello: "Growing up as a kid in Los Angeles there were fruit vendor carts at gas stations, freeway exits and at every corner in downtown LA. I remember the excitement of seeing the frutero and begging my dad to stop the car so we could get fruit. My sister and I would watch in awe as the fruit vendor sliced the fruit for our order like a fruit ninja. My dad would always chat with the vendor about how business was for them that day, ask them where they were born and how life as a vendor was for them. I think those questions came naturally to him as a fellow immigrant. My dad would thank the vendor by name after we received our fruit pouches and always overpay and tell them to keep the change. It's that nostalgia that makes me want to help to tell the story of our local fruit vendors so that we might also get to know them by name and know their stories and struggles."

Patty Botello was born in Los Ángeles, California. At the age of three, she learned how Piñatas were created from her next-door neighbor and babysitter. She studied art at San Jose State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts, Concentration in Studio Practice. While being immersed in studio art classes she fell in love with the creation of three-dimensional art. Before graduating, she began Fuzzy Lollipop, a small online business in 2009 where she sells her piñata sculptures.

Genealogy: Splitsville: Divorce Records and the Hidden Gold Within

Saturday, April 23: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Not all marriages have ended in happily ever after. Don't despair though! Searching for a divorce record should be part of your research plan. An overview of the records and examples of how to locate divorce records will be presented. Learn how to analyze the information and the importance of these records for genealogical research.

This program will take place on Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting by clicking on the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkdOCvqzwpGNLkyY4TvAdmDGV_0wyq3oEp

For more information, contact Stephanie K. West at (916) 264-2920; contact@saclibrary.org

A History of Sacramento's Cycling Community

Saturday, April 23, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Sacramento's pioneer bicyclists rode without helmets, bike lanes, or spandex. They included record-breaking members of the Capitol City Wheelman, an early bicycling group. Learn how bicyclists helped spur the development of the modern highway system, forced overdue changes in women's clothing, and led progress in the emerging motorcycle industry. Presented by historian Eric Bradner and the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Committee.

This will be a Zoom event and is facilitated by the Sacramento Room:

https://zoom.us/j/91207735949?pwd=QStXYzRqSU1DR2V3MlFuVkJONExOdz09

Meeting ID: 912 0773 5949

Passcode: bike

Presenter: Eric Bradner

James Scott; (916) 264-2795 jscott@saclibrary.org

Virtual Children's Programming

Enjoy virtual storytimes featuring popular childrens' books and activities to grow your child's vocabulary. Follow us on Facebook(Opens in a new window) and catch our live storytimes(Opens in a new window) every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Play and Rhyme

Join librarians on Facebook every Thursday at 10:30 a.m., starting July 8, for Virtual Play and Rhyme! This program unites playful elements of storytime with play activities and prompts that encourage families to move, bond, learn, and play. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to bring developmentally appropriate early learning ideas home. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Dial-A-Story

Call to hear children's stories read in English and Spanish. Stories are available 24/7 and change every few days. Call (916) 441-1234 or (866) 241-7490. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Library AF Book Club

Enjoy monthly book club discussions for young adult readers (and those young at heart), including lively pop-culture banter and enjoyable, non-traditional topics. This virtual book club will meet on Zoom on the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Dial-A-Tale

Every three days, we upload a new reading in which a passage from essays, short stories, excerpts and poetry are read by library staff. Call (916) 575-4590. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Mystery Book Club

Join the newest virtual book club, Mystery Book Club. Read and discuss all things mystery titles the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. on Zoom. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Between the Covers: A Romance Book Club

Join us on Zoom to discuss a delightfully diverse collection of romance novels on the second Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. We'll also be discussing what romance novels are making you happy while staying safe at home. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Forever Young Book Club

Join the official Sacramento chapter of the FYABC, where we celebrate reading teen books as adults. This virtual book club meets on the last Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Grownups Unite! Book Club

Looking to join a *new* book club that reads comics and graphic novels for adults? Join us on Zoom the third Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Library AF Book Club

Enjoy monthly book club discussions for young adult readers (and those young at heart), including lively pop-culture banter and enjoyable, non-traditional topics. This virtual book club will meet on Zoom on the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Puzzle Solutions

			M	A	D	A	M	E				E	A	R
	E	M	U	L	A	T	O	R			M	Y	N	A
	C	E	S	A	R	E	A	N		P	E	R	T	H
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E	D	A	M						G	E	E			
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		B	A	T	A							L	E	D
	E	L	B	E					M	O	Z	O	S	
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City Theatre highlights forgotten WWII heroes in "Decision Height"

City Theatre at Sacramento City College completes its 2021-22 season with the smart, emotional, and witty World War II production Decision Height by Meredith Dayna Levy. Lori Ann DeLappe-Grondin will direct the play about the often-overlooked heroes of the Women Airforce Service Pilots. The production opens Thursday, April 28, and plays through Saturday, May 7. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on April 28, 29, 30, May 4, 5 and 6 and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1 and Saturday, May 7. Performances will be held in the Art Court Theatre of the Performing Arts Center on the Sacramento City College campus at 3835 Freeport Blvd. in Sacramento. Ticket prices for are $15 General Admission; $10 students, seniors, SARTA members, veterans/military personnel, and Persons with Disabilities. There will be a special discounted-ticket performance on Wednesday, May 4 with all tickets $5. Following the Sunday, May 1 performance there will be a post-show discussion with the cast and director. Tickets may be purchased online or in-person one hour before the performance begins. All details and tickets are available online at CityTheatre.net.

All audience members will be required to follow college COVID protocols by providing a photo ID and proof of vaccination before entering the theater. The college strongly recommends wearing masks while indoors.

THE PLAY

From the winner of the 2013 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, comes a story about friendship and the complex though the essential role of women in wartime. Virginia Hascall has left her home and fiancée to become a Women Airforce Service Pilot and do her part to help defeat the Axis powers in the Second World War. Through triumph and tragedy, she and her sisters in flight suits learn as much about themselves as they do about airplanes. As the war rages over there, the women form a sisterhood that cannot be broken, and Virginia must make a decision that will change her life forever. With a cast of nine vibrant female characters, Decision Height offers a look into an underrecognized subset of American heroes and revises history into herstory.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Meredith Dayna Levy is a cisgendered lesbian playwright based in Roanoke, Va. She writes plays rooted in lived experience and emotional truth and aims to make space through her work for dynamic, challenging women (both on stage and off). Her full-length historical drama Decision Height garnered regional and national attention by receiving several awards through the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival, including the Harold and Mimi Steinberg National Student Playwriting Award. Her whimsical London Underground comedy, Coupler, and lyrical one-woman show, She Made Space, have both won regional Kennedy Center honors. Her queer political epic, The Hills, was named a finalist for the 2020 season of the National Playwright's Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. Levy earned her MFA with the Hollins Playwright's Lab and is a proud Dramatist Guild member since 2012.

THE PRODUCTION

Decision Height will be directed by Lori Ann DeLappe-Grondin (She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time). The cast will feature McKenna Anderson, Mariah Coburn, Taylor Elizabeth, Lauren Ormond, Sarah Palmero, Kathleen Poe, Shannon Poe, Racine Strong, and Johnna Wood. The artistic team will include Shawn Weinsheink (scenic design), Nicole Sivell (costume design), Isaiah Leeper (lighting design) and Scott Bailey (sound design).

ABOUT CITY THEATRE

City Theatre is the performing arts program at Sacramento City College, part of the Los Rios Community College District, in Sacramento, California. City Theatre's season consists of four Mainstage productions, two Storytime children's productions, and the elementary school touring troupe known as The Pennywhistle Players, though all children-related theatre is currently on hiatus. During the summer, City Theatre produces the annual Sacramento Shakespeare Festival. The company welcomes all members of the community to audition and participate in their award-winning productions.

IF YOU GO:

WHAT: City Theatre presents "Decision Height" by Meredith Dayna Levy and directed by Lori Ann DeLappe-Grondin.

WHERE: In-person: Performing Arts Center/Art Court Theatre, Sacramento City College, 3835 Freeport Blvd.

WHEN: April 28-May 7, 2022

Opening Night: Thursday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Performance Times: April 28, 29, 30 and May 4, 5, 6 at 7:30 p.m. with May 1 and 7 at 2 p.m.

TICKET PURCHASES:

Ticket Pricing: $15 general and $10 student, seniors, military/veterans, & people with disabilities

All tickets $5 on Wednesday, May 4. Available at www.CityTheatre.net or at the box office one hour before the performance

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS:

Audience members will be required to show proof of vaccination and bring a photo ID matching the name on their vaccine record. Masks are recommended while indoors.

WHO:

Playwright: Meredith Dayna Levy

Director: Lori Ann DeLappe-Grondin

Cast: McKenna Anderson, Mariah Coburn, Taylor Elizabeth, Lauren Ormond, Sarah Palmero, Kathleen Poe, Shannon Poe, Racine Strong, and Johnna Wood

Scenic Design: Shawn Weinsheink

Costume Design: Nicole Sivell

Lighting Design: Isaiah Leeper

Sound Design: Scott Bailey

Dramaturg: Jessica Sager

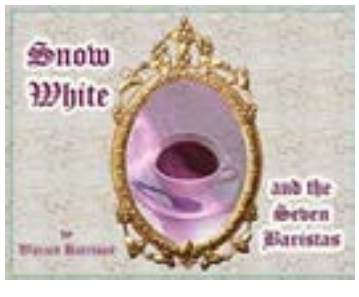
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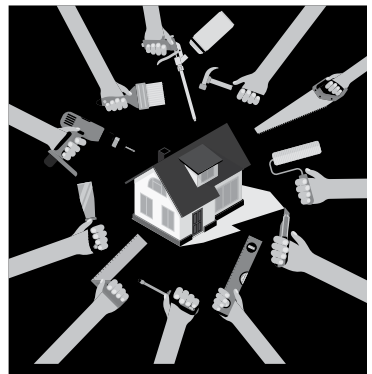
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