May 18, 2023

East Sacramento News

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Hundreds of volunteers participate in Rock the Block home repairs

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Hundreds of volunteers participate in Rock the Block home repairs

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com



Volunteers from Rudolph & Sletten install drought-tolerant landscaping, on May 5.

More than 500 volunteers joined together on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6 to assist in much-needed home repairs for low-income homeowners in Oak Park during the sixth edition of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento's (HHGS) Rock the Block.

This large crew, which repaired 16 homes and assisted in eight community beautification projects in 36 hours, labored through a dry weather Friday, followed by a Saturday, which had rainfall for a lot of the day.

The annual event brings together volunteers and residents to support home repairs and community projects in the underserved Oak Park neighborhood as part of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento's mission to serve.

HHGS is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization that is "dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions."

In what has become a tradition for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, Rock the Block made its debut in 2018 when HHGS partnered with the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Sacramento Class of 2018.

On Oct. 19 and 20 of that year, about 250 volunteers gathered in Oak Park to repair more than a dozen homes and make improvements to various public spaces.

COVID-19 played a role in how of Rock the Block was conducted in 2020 and 2021, noted Leah Miller, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento.

"Instead of being over one weekend when we had Rock

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Photos courtesy of HHGS

Volunteers from UC Davis Health are shown at work, on May 5, on one of many homes being worked on as part of Rock the Block.



Oak Park homeowner Sophia stands in front of her home, which is one of the 24 projects volunteers are working on as part of "Rock the Block."

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Cover by:
Charles Vincent

Rock the Block

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the Block, (the event) was kind of a little more spread out over several months, because we couldn't have volunteers on the job sites in the way that we had during pre-pandemic or post-pandemic," she said.

"So, we had a lot of our own Habitat site supervisors and some volunteers who are more of our regular volunteers doing repairs in a longer period of time."

Miller told this paper that altogether, this program has invested about $1 million into improving the Oak Park community.

"We've done about 70 home repairs (in) the last six years and about 25 community projects," she said. "That's not including the projects we're doing this weekend."

This year's event was made possible by presenting investor, the city of Sacramento, Sacramento Impact Partners and more than 30 sponsors and community partners who collectively contributed about $260,000 to make this year's Oak Park neighborhood revitalization and anti-displacement home repair initiative and investment possible.

The city of Sacramento contributed $500,000, which is being evenly distributed within a four-year period for this volunteering event.

Miller described Rock the Block's current approach.

"Were doing more critical repairs that are those repairs kind of defined as those that help people stay in their already affordable homes with programs like roof replacements, window replacements, energy efficiency upgrades, siding repair, some stuff we're doing around some plumbing stuff, things like that, in addition to those drought-tolerant landscaping pieces and painting homes," she said.

Miller added that on a much smaller scale, some final Rock the Block work would likely be performed during the following weekend.

"We did see a little bit of a drop in the number of (Rock the Block) volunteers (in Oak Park this year), so we'll be probably coming back with volunteers over the next week to wrap up anything that didn't get (done) this weekend," she said.

For additional information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento's Rock the Block project in Oak Park, visit the website, www.HabitatGreaterSacramento.org, and select "Homeownership & Repairs," then click on the option of "Rock the Block Oak Park."



Thomas and his family are shown in front of their Oak Park home, which is one of the many critical home repair projects that are part of Rock the Block.



Volunteers from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District work on the installation of a new fence on May 6.



Volunteers from Blue Shield of California are pictured at one of the Rock the Block sites on May 5.



A group from the more than 500 Rock the Block community volunteers who participated in both days of Rock the Block pause for a photograph on May 5.

Crest Theatre to show Sac State student film featuring Triona Watson

Watson was the life partner of Hank Harrison of Grateful Dead fame

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

Catriona "Triona" Watson will mark a major accomplishment off her "bucket list" this month, as she will appear in the new, short film, "Intuition," which will debut at the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento on Thursday, May 18.

While she does not have a household name in the world of cinema or in any other manner, Watson does have some notoriety through association.

Her longtime life partner, Hank Harrison, who died last year, was an author of multiple books, and a former manager of The Warlocks – a band that would later become famously known as the Grateful Dead.

Harrison was also the father of Courtney Love, frontwoman of the popular 1990s alternative/grunge rock band, Hole. Love was additionally well known as the former wife of the same era's legendary alternative/grunge rocker Kurt Cobain, who was the frontman of the band, Nirvana.

In a recent interview with this paper, Watson mentioned that her longtime desire to appear on the big screen dates back to her childhood in Scotland.

"It was something I was wanting to do since I was a kid," said Watson, who immigrated to the United States in 1980. "There were a lot of things I wanted to do as a kid that I was never able to do."

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Photo by Lance Armstrong

Triona Watson is greeted by a gnome at the box office of the Crest Theatre, where the film, "Intuition," will be shown on May 18.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Catriona "Triona" Watson plays the role of Loretta in the new, short film, "Intuition," which will be shown at the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento on May 18.

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BIG ARENA EVENTS!
Monster Trucks
Thursday, May 25, 2023, 7 pm
4 x 4 Truck Pull
Friday, May 26, 2023, 7 pm
Stars & Stripes Rode
Saturday, May 27, 2023, 7 pm
Destruction Derby
Monday, May 29, 2023, 2 pm

Theatre

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But as an adult, with that dream still alive, she was quick to accept an offer to take a lead role in a California State, University, Sacramento student film.

Watson, who lives in the city of Galt, on the southern edge of Sacramento County, explained how she was presented with the opportunity to work with students in the creation of this film, which was written, directed, produced and filmed by students as an ungraded final project for the semester.

"I subscribe to a group in Sacramento called Sacramento Casting, and every now and again, they will send me roles," she said. "I've done a couple of ads before, but I've never done a speaking role. And so, this one came up and I thought, 'Oh, that sounds great.'

So, I sent in my resume. I videotaped my audition, which is the way everybody does auditions now. And then a couple of weeks later, I got the message, saying, 'Hey, we picked you.' I was thrilled."

The filming of "Intuition" occurred during about a four-week period in a private residence in Carmichael.

Watson mentioned that she plays the role of Loretta, who is far from a kind woman.

"I play an elderly serial killer who has already killed people," she said. "(She) killed two girls in Nevada, and I've moved on to Sacramento and I'm rooming with these two girls. I eventually poison them the same way I poisoned the girls in Nevada, and (then) I move on to Oregon."

Asked why her character poi-

See THEATRE on page 6



In a scene from "Intuition," Loretta moves into a Sacramento home with the assistance of her grandson.



Loretta shows her sinister look for the film, "Intuition."



While peering through a window, Loretta glowers at her young roommates as they leave in a car.



Photo courtesy of CSUS

Loretta presents a gift of a mouse wearing a tutu to Bev in a scene from the California State University, Sacramento student film, "Intuition."



Photos by CSUS

Loretta sets up the final meal for her new roommates in Oregon in the film, "Intuition."

Welcome to 1813 Capitol Ave!





Luxury loft is located in a modern 4 unit building in Midtown's vibrant Handle District . Gallery style entry to the open floor luxurious master bath, custom-built cabinetry & dual plank hardwood flooring. One of the highlights of the renovation is a stunning chef's kitchen that offers custom DADA Italian cabinetry, leather finish natural quartzite counters, Unique to this loft is a private 15'X16' rooftop terrace. This unit also has two convenient on-site garage parking spaces.

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Theatre

Continued from page 5

sons other characters in the film, Watson noted that there is no motive mentioned in the script.

"Oh, I'm just a nasty person," she said with a chuckle.

Watson mentioned that the film's young female roommates, played by Syd Barron (Bev) and Citlalli Velazquez (Zoe), do not help their own causes with Loretta.

"They're not really nice to (Loretta) at all," she said. "They're pretty mean to her."

One of the girls has a worse relationship with Loretta, Watson noted.

"Eventually, (Loretta) appears to try to make up with the second girl (who has grown) suspicious of her, and she says, 'Well, let me cook dinner for you,'" she said.

Watson added that Loretta is also a bit crazy.

"At one point, she gives (one of the girls) a gift of a mouse in a tutu," she said. "That's sort of weird in itself.

"Anyway, (Loretta) smokes and she coughs, and you can tell (or) I'm hoping that you can tell by her expressions that she's really crazy."

The last scene in the film shows Loretta setting up a meal at a table for her new roommates in Oregon.

In addition to having a leading role in the film, Velazquez is the film's producer.

Sam Williams-Hemenway is the writer and director.

Others who were involved with the film are Braeden Harris (Loretta's grandson), Ryan Robertson (art department), Hugh Wilson (director of photography and camera department), Julius Beretta (sound department), and Osiris & Taylor (electricity and grips).

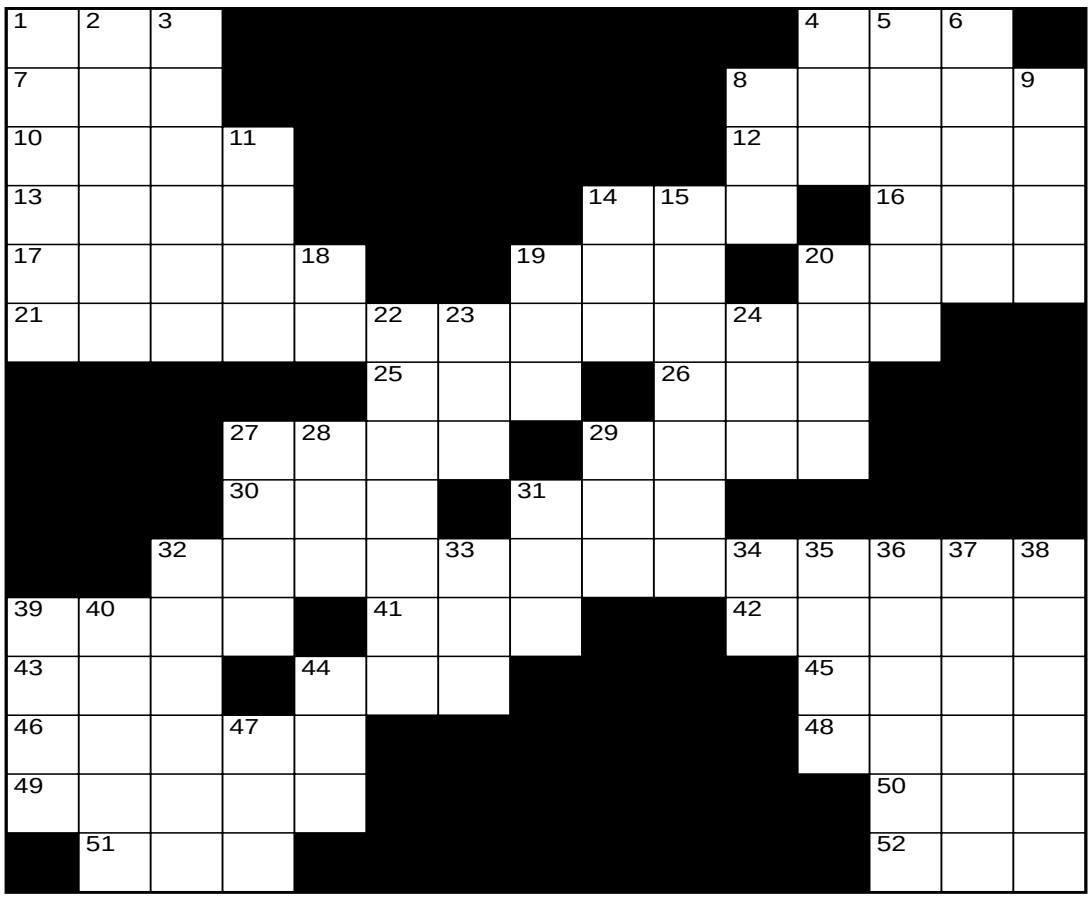
While "Intuition" will be presented as a private screening for the university, the public is nonetheless welcome to attend this special, 6:30 p.m. showing on May 18 at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Admission is free.

Following the film's screening, Watson and others involved in the film's production will make an appearance on the Crest's stage.

Those who are unable to attend the special showing of "Intuition" will still be able to view the film, Watson noted.

"They have told me that it will be on YouTube, eventually," she said. "Yeah, but not until after the screening, of course."

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
4. Chinese philosophical principle
7. Branch
8. Jewish spiritual leader
10. Slang for requests
12. "So Human An Animal" author
13. Rocker Billy
14. British Air Aces
16. Type of tree
17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary
19. State attorneys
20. Goddess of fertility
21. Localities
25. Beloved singer Charles
26. Clue
27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
29. Helsinki neighborhood
30. Farm resident
31. Ocean
32. Where ballplayers work
39. Unable to hear
41. Cool!
42. Cape Verde capital
43. One point north of due east
44. Kilo yard (abbr.)
45. Middle Eastern nation
46. It yields Manila hemp
48. People operate it (abbr.)
49. Regenerate
50. Not healthy
51. Chinese sword
52. Mild expression of surprise

CLUES DOWN
1. Unit of angle
2. Headgear to control a horse
3. Clots
4. Follows sigma
5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
6. Greek units of weight
8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
9. Systems, doctrines, theories
11. Stony waste matter
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. Hostile to others
18. U.S. State
19. Not wet
20. Something one thinks up
22. Where beer is made
23. Clumsy person
24. Belonging to us
27. Canadian flyers
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Snakelike fish
31. Unhappy
32. Fruit
33. Not good
34. Zero degrees Celsius
35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
36. Crawls into the head (folklore)
37. Legally responsible
38. Move in a playful way
39. Regarded with deep affection
40. Partner to flowed
44. Native American tribe
47. Head honcho

Women's fitness festival coming to downtown Sacramento June 4

Gather your mothers, daughters, sisters and friends and register today for the Kaiser Permanente Women's Fitness Festival.

The event will be held on June 4 on 9th Street, between L Street and Capitol Mall. This is a one-of-a-kind, all-women's event that includes medals and a beautiful race T-shirt for 5K and 10K finishers.

Participants of the Princess ½-Mile Fun Run receive a medal.

After the event, there will be a breakfast and celebration with friends in the mimosa garden. Complimentary health screenings will be available at the Kaiser Permanente Thrive Pavilion.

To register, visit www.RaceRoster.com, and search for the "Kaiser Permanente Women's Fitness Festival."

Sacramento County Fair to be held at Cal Expo May 25-29

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

The fun, food and many attractions of the Sacramento County Fair will return to Cal Expo for five days, beginning Thursday, May 25.

As usual, the fair will feature midway rides, comfort foods, agricultural displays, the livestock show and auction, traditional competitions, and a variety of entertainment.

This year's fair promises to be bigger and better than ever, with the theme of "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow."

One of the new midway rides will be the Ali Baba, a giant magic carpet, which will whisk riders 50 feet in the air, and give them a downward sensation similar to the feeling one receives while sky diving.

Among the unique entertainers at this year's fair will be the Extreme Dogs, which will present what is recognized as "North America's Premier Stunt Dog Show."

This attraction, which is free with fair admission, will offer guests the opportunity to view an extreme sports production that is designed to "excite and amaze pet lovers from all walks of life."

These canine athletes have performed throughout the nation, including at major professional sporting event halftime shows, theme parks, performing arts venues, and festivals.

Also coming to the fair will be the All-Alaskan Racing Pigs and the All-American Duck Races.

Sacramento County Fair CEO Matthew Cranford commented on these popular, crowd-pleasing races.

"We are thrilled to have both the All-Alaskan Racing Pigs and All-American Duck Races at our fair this year," he said. "Their shows are always a hit with our guests, and we can't wait to see them in action."



Monster Truck Mayhem will be presented in the fairground's arena on May 25.



The fair will have a variety of food vending stands.

Guests of the fair can also experience a jungle adventure at the exhibit, A Walk on the Wild Side, which will feature exotic wild animal-viewing opportunities. Animals will include reptiles and jungle cats.

Cranford called A Walk on the Wild Side "an experience like no other."

"Families will have a chance to interact with and learn from exotic animals that they might not otherwise have a chance to see," he said. "A Walk on the Wild Side is a wonderful organization, and we are proud to partner with them again this year, as the mission of the fair is to not only provide wholesome family-friendly fun to kids of all ages, but also provide our guests with unforgettable

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Photos courtesy of Sacramento County Fair
The Sacramento County Fair's midway will include more than 30 carnival rides.



Stars and Stripes Invitational Bull Riding will be held at the fair on May 27.



The Sunflower Saddle Ranch will present youngsters, 4 to 12 years old, with various rural-life educational opportunities.

County Fair

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learning opportunities."

Also sure to draw a lot of attention will be the Sunflower Saddle Ranch, which will present youngsters, 4 to 12 years old, with various rural-life educational opportunities, including competing in a high-intensity, pedal-powered tractor pull.

Another feature at this year's fair will be free concerts.

The lineup will begin with Fan Halen, a Van Halen tribute band, on May 25.

Also hitting the stage will be the Lennon Award-winning hip-hop duo, Banded Future (May 26), The Fabulous Yachtsmen (May 27), the Maya Latin Roots Band (May 28), and Navy Band Northwest (May 29).

Special arena events will include Monster Truck Mayhem (May 25), 4x4 Truck Pull (May 26), Stars and Stripes Invitation Bull Riding (May 27) and Mayhem Destruction Derby (May 29).

The regular price for the arena events will be $25 for those 4 years old and older. Children, 3 years old and younger, will be admitted for free.

The cost of general, single-day admission tickets for fair guests will be $12 for adults, 17 years old and older, and $10 for youth, 12 to 16 years old. Children, 11 years old and younger, will be admitted for free.

The main gates will open each day at 10 a.m. and the carnival gates will open at 11 a.m.

Cal Expo is located at 1600 Exposition Blvd. in the Arden area of Sacramento.

For additional information about this year's Sacramento County Fair, including more detailed schedule information and pre-sale discounts, visit the website, www.SacFair.com.

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or by calling the Chautauqua box office at 916.489.7529

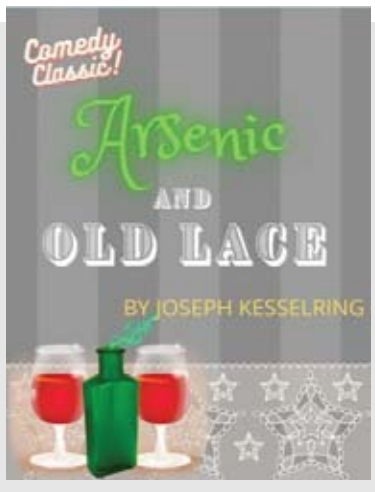

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Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Zoo
This newly born Sumatran orangutan baby is the Sacramento Zoo's newest resident.

Sumatran orangutan born at Sacramento Zoo

The Sacramento Zoo announced on May 8 that a critically endangered Sumatran orangutan was born at the zoo – the first orangutan birth at this zoo since 1981.

Indah, the zoo's 19-year-old Sumatran orangutan, gave birth to a healthy male infant on the evening of May 1. Both mother and infant are doing well.

Italian Center announces May event schedule

The Italian Center, 6821 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael, has released its schedule of upcoming events, including the following film showings:

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM, "ROAD TO THE LEMON GROVE"

Comedy film
Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

An old-school Sicilian father tries to negotiate his way into heaven, but the only way in is to get his reluctant son to travel back to Sicily, reunite his feuding family, and help them find love in places they never imagined.

A heart-warming journey from the backbone of America to the soul of Italy. Stars Burt Young, Nick Mancuso and Rosella Brescia. In English (2020).

Admission is $10. Refreshments included. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"ITALY'S MYSTERY MOUNTAINS"

Film documentary
Sunday, May 21, 1:30 p.m.

This film explores the fascinating geologic story of Italy, the land known for its fabulous art, fantastic food and music, and la dolce vita. What's less well known about Italy is the diversity of its ecology, the continuously erupting volcanoes, the violent earthquakes and the rising mountains.



Photo courtesy of Italian Center
In the film, "La Bella Vita – Familia, Tradizione e Surf," Chris del Moro connects with the Italian surfing community and their pride in surfing Italian style.

"LA BELLA VITA – FAMILIA, TRADIZIONE E SURF"

Sunday, May 28, 1:30 p.m.

In this film, surfer Chris del Moro travels back to his ancestral homeland to explore the modern surf culture of the Tuscan riviera in Marina di Pisa, Italy.

For additional information about these events, visit the website, www.ItalianCenter.net.

Puzzle Solutions

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Camellia Show to move to new site for 100th anniversary

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

Photo courtesy of the Lance Armstrong Collection

The Sacramento Camellia Show, one of the city's longest-running events, will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year in a different venue: the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

That facility, which features 9,900 square feet of event space, is located at 6151 H St., just north of California State University, Sacramento.

With demands for a larger venue to present their centennial show, officers of the Camellia Society of Sacramento began a search that resulted in their plans to relocate from the smaller, 6,700-square-foot event space at Sacramento Elk Lodge No. 6.

The show was first held at the lodge in 2020, after the society ended its longtime annual arrangement with the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.

Shortly after presenting its show at the lodge in that year, the COVID-19 stay-at-home order was issued. The pandemic also led to the cancellation of the society's 2021 show.

Julie Vierra, the society's president, spoke about her organization's decision to depart from the Elks lodge.

"The board and our group, we just decided we wanted to make (the show) bigger and better," she said. "We wanted the flower arrangers in the same room with us. Also, our (Camellia) Photo Contest (which was held from 2010 to 2017) is coming back.

"We were pretty packed in there, between the flowers and the (show) button contest, the Matsuyama (sister city) people, and the raffle and everything. We kind of outgrew (the lodge) this year."

Vierra added that the society is already experiencing a lot of positive pressure to create a show for 2024 that is worthy of its centennial.

The society is currently seeking artwork from artists for its button contest.

Although those entering the contest do not need to reside in Sacramento, they must not be professional artists.

The artwork selected for the 2024 button will also be used for the event's T-shirts, hats and other promotional items.

Also planned for next year's show will be the arrival of artist David Peterson and his small group of artists who will draw pictures at the event. Those pictures will later be judged in various categories for awards.

Vierra mentioned that the show's board is considering inviting former Camellia Festival queens and princesses to participate in the event.

"(They) can maybe come down and hobnob with everybody," she said.

About 70 people enter camellias each year in the capital city's Camellia Show, and with a larger venue for 2024, there will be plenty of space to add to that number.

Presented every March, the Sacramento Camellia Show is the last remaining remnant of the Sacramento Camellia Festival, which was held every March from 1955 to 1993.

Prior to the establishment of that festival, Sacramento's first Camellia Show was held at David Lubin School (now David Lubin Elementary School) at 3700 K St.

Continuing the Sacramento Camellia Show each year is not an easy task, Vierra noted.

"It's really important and it's getting harder and harder every year, because not a lot of young kids garden," she said. "This year, we picked up four new members and they're all younger than we are. So, we're so excited. And they're excited.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Camellia Society of Sacramento members gather at Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 on April 23 for their last luncheon of the camellia show season.

"One couple actually came down to the Nor Cal meeting to put their camellias in. So, we've got them hooked, you know? (One of them said), 'We didn't realize how easy this is and how much fun it is and how much fun you people are.'

"We're hoping we can pull in some more people that love to garden, because I don't have just camellias in my yard. I have roses, hydrangeas, iris(es). I've got everything growing in my yard. So, it's a garden thing, and we just hope more people come down and realize how much fun it is to compete and get to meet some of the members, because we are a fun group."

Asked what she thought about celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Sacramento Camellia Show, Vierra responded, "We'll never do it again."

"That's why we wanted to make it bigger and better this coming year," she said. "It's a once in a lifetime thing. Not a lot of garden clubs last this long. And because it's Sacramento, it's a special place. The (official) flower of (the city of) Sacramento is the camellia, and we just want to make it fun and have more people."

Next year's show is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3.

For additional information about the Camellia Society of Sacramento and their show, visit the website, www.CamelliaSocietyofSacramento.org, call (916) 371-2174, or write to j4sfgiants@sbcglobal.net.

Hilton Als, Ann Bannon to speak at Central Library

The Sacramento Public Library will continue its Enter the Chat speaker series, with speeches by Hilton Als and Ann Bannon.

All of the series' speeches will be presented at the Central Library's Library Galleria at 828 I St.

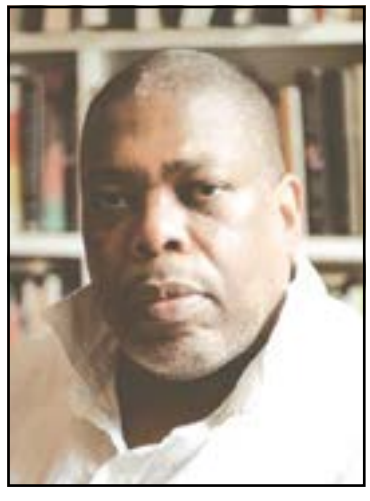

Photo by Rivkah Gevinson

Pulitzer Prize-winning essayist and author Hilton Als is among the featured speakers of the Sacramento Public Library's Enter the Chat speaker series. He will speak at the Central Library's Library Galleria on May 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Hilton Als
May 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Hilton Als, Pulitzer Prize-winning essayist and author and Joan Didion super fan, will chat with Sacramento-based curator Faith J. McKinnie about Als' most recent work on Joan Didion and her lasting impact.



Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

Ann Bannon will speak at the Central Library on June 22.

Ann Bannon
June 22, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Ann Bannon, Sacramento-based award-winning author and pioneer in gay and lesbian fiction, will chat about LGBTQIA literature, how her work has endured for more than 60 years, and her thoughts on recent censorship challenges in schools and libraries.

For additional information about this speaker series, visit www.SacLibrary.org/EntersTheChat.

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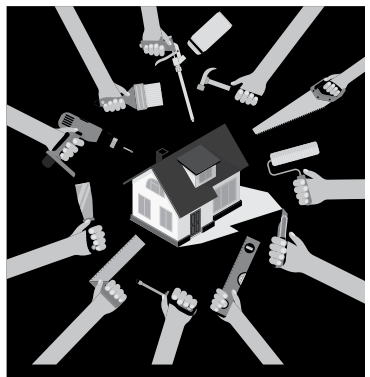

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