

VIEWPOINT

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September 2019

Meily Lee of Third Avenue was a contestant with her daughters on “Family Food Fight” that premiered June 20 on ABC.

Photo/
Joan Cusick



Commission recommends naming park for Ray Eames

By Dennis Cusick

What's in a name? And, who cares whether a park is named Curtis or Land, McKinley or Roosevelt?

A lot of people, it turns out, when the question is whether to name the proposed park in Crocker Village after designer Ray Eames, World War II veteran Donald Rivett, both Curtis Park natives, or after the family of developer Paul Petrovich.

Hundreds of people voted in surveys in May that narrowed the choice from 16 suggested names to the final three. Dozens attended a parks commission meeting Aug. 1 at City Hall, in which two grandchildren of Eames, a daughter of Rivett, and Paul Petrovich made pitches for their family names.

“Nothing would make her happier,” said Eames Demetrios of his grandmother, “than to know people were having a picnic in a park named after her a couple blocks from her home on Portola Way.”

Carol Rivett Robinson said naming the park after her father, a former city Parks Department employee, “would be a fitting tribute to a man who loved Curtis Park and Sacramento.”

Developer Paul Petrovich said, “My family is here in the third row in support” of naming the park Petrovich Family Park. Petrovich's first choice was to name the park after his father, another

Please see Park, Page 12

ABC cooking show has 3rd Avenue resident smiling

By Judy Scheible

If Meily Lee could call her shots, she would own a restaurant and cook to make people happy. Reality, however, has the Third Avenue resident selling insurance to lawyers. But she recently got to show off her substantial cooking skills on national television.

It started when her two daughters recruited her to join them in auditioning for a cooking show contest. They were among 6,000 teams trying to get on ABC's “Family Food Fight.” Meily told Viewpoint she joined her daughters for the fun of it. They went to Pasadena and cooked in front of the

cameras. Two months later, they heard they were one of the teams chosen for the show.

“Family Food Fight,” which premiered June 20 on ABC, pits families against each other, with one family eliminated each week in a competition for a \$100,000 prize. Meily can't stop smiling when she talks about the competition, and how it felt to cook under time pressure with her daughters. They would arrive at the studio and be told what meal to make (breakfast, lunch or dinner) with the ingredients provided. They had 45 minutes to cook and present their meal.

“It was real time,” Meily said.

“There was no replay.”

Meily's team made it to the fifth of eight episodes. In their final episode, Meily's team had to make sausages. Her technique, drawn from her Chinese background, involved slamming the meat on the counter to infuse the spices.

Being eliminated didn't matter to Meily. She loved the experience. “Cooking is my passion. It brings family and friends together. I host parties all the time. We enjoy ourselves,” she said while sitting next to her longtime partner, Doug Satterfield. “He's my sous-chef,” she said with a big grin.

Lower speed limit aims to keep students safe

Viewpoint Staff

New speed-limit signs are up on Franklin Boulevard and the side streets that border Bret Harte Elementary School and the private Franklin Park School.

The new speed limit is 15 mph when children are present. The change was authorized by the City Council on June 4. Councilmembers voted to lower the limit after several months of traffic analysis.

Bret Harte and Franklin Park are among the first schools to get the new signage. Installation of 368 new

signs near schools throughout the city is expected to take up to nine months, according to the city's press release.

The lowered speed limit is part of the city's Vision Zero program. In 2016, Sacramento had the highest traffic-related fatalities of any city in the state, according to collision rankings compiled by the state Office of Traffic Safety. That report cited high speeds as the leading cause of traffic-related injuries and fatalities. It found Sacramento had the most speed-related traffic fatalities and the most collisions in which a pedestrian under the age of 15 was killed or severely injured.



Photo/Judy Scheible

Bret Harte's defenders say school improving, test scores rising

By Susan MacCulloch

Bret Harte Elementary School's language arts test scores have increased 8% and math scores 3%, while chronic absenteeism has declined 5%, Principal James Tucker told a community forum held Aug. 13 in response to negative publicity in the Sacramento Bee about the school's overall test scores.

Tucker, who is starting his fourth year as principal, stressed the importance of language arts because math tests are all word problems. Tucker indicated this is why Bret Harte's math test scores are low. Hence, teachers will focus on language arts to help improve math scores.

Tucker also mentioned new programs and tools to enhance student achievement, including the Benchmark advanced curriculum, a focus on small-group instruction, and a computer for each student beginning this academic year.

Approximately 60 people attended the forum at Bret Harte.

Speakers included city school board member Lisa Murawski, school board President Jessie Ryan and Councilmember Jay Schenirer. Schools Superintendent Jorge Aguilar attended the forum but did not speak.

Tucker credited program incentives initiated by the school's attendance clerk for the reduced absenteeism.

PTA President Daniel Savala, who has two children attending Bret Harte, said they thrive because of Principal Tucker and the teachers. Savala praised the after-school program for extra help, the sports programs and Reading Partners.

Karen Hill, a Curtis Park neighbor, is coordinator of Bret Harte's Garden Council, which is starting its fourth year. The Garden Council helps



Photos/Joan Cusick

With two children attending Bret Harte, PTA president Daniel Savala praised the after-school program for extra help, the sports programs and Reading Partners.

incorporate food literacy into the school's curriculum with students planting and harvesting some of the food they eat.

"Bret Harte and Curtis Park go hand in hand," said Hill, who attended Bret Harte as a child. "As residents, we believe Curtis Park supports our school."

The audience participated in a "community visioning, input and sharing activity." Divided into four groups, the audience cycled through different whiteboard stations to brainstorm, write comments, questions and suggestions about enrollment barriers, what makes Bret Harte special, and why Oak Park



At the community forum on Aug. 13, Principal James Tucker reported that Bret Harte's language arts test scores have increased 8% and math scores 3%, while chronic absenteeism has declined 5%.

isn't mentioned.

An Oak Park parent questioned why Curtis Park parents are not sending their kids to Bret Harte. Tucker responded that he held 35 tours for prospective parents, many from Curtis Park.

School board President Ryan emphasized that Bret Harte serves both Curtis Park and Oak Park students. "It's a bridge across communities," Ryan said.

During the recession years, Bret Harte was on the school closure list, but the district wants the school to succeed. The reason for the emphasis on growing enrollment is two-fold: First,

many students in the attendance area are enrolled in other schools; second, Bret Harte is currently under-enrolled, meaning it has a higher capacity than it is serving. Current enrollment is 280 students with one class for each grade level.

The school wants parents to see instruction first-hand. Speakers suggested parents of prospective students should base decisions not just on test scores. Look at a school's social aspect and consistency. Many teachers and staff have worked at Bret Harte for years.

Planned follow-up work includes continuing the focus on growing academic achievement, seeking ways to partner with the community to increase volunteerism on campus, investigating opportunities for the district to promote Bret Harte to prospective families, and possibly holding a community-wide event to share information about the school.

"Bret Harte and Curtis Park go hand in hand," said Karen Hill, who attended Bret Harte as a child. "As residents, we believe Curtis Park supports our school."

New iReady program helps school assess students' individual needs

By Adrianna Gonzalez

Bret Harte Elementary School is introducing an online program called iReady, a diagnostic and instructional tool that will help assess students' individual needs and monitor their progress throughout the year.

The program is designed to provide students with lessons that are aligned with the Common Core standards.



The iReady curriculum focuses on reading comprehension and mathematics. Students will log on to iReady 45 minutes per week per subject, in addition to 90 minutes of small-group instruction.

Teachers and students are given real-time feedback as students progress through the curriculum. Teachers will be able to assign standards to each child based on skill level and mastery of the subject during group instruction time.

iReady components include assessments three times per year,

individualized instruction based on assessments, assistance to teachers in determining which students need additional support, and distribution of report cards to parents. The purpose of the diagnostic assessments is not to give a student a score or grade, but to determine where more support is needed.

The iReady curriculum is designed to help teachers better plan their day and week with data-driven reports, giving teachers insight into their class and helping students to advance

throughout the year. iReady can be accessed from home, so parents can be involved as well.

A Dominguez Dream grant enabled the purchase of iReady for the whole school. For further information, please contact Principal James Tucker at 916 277-6261.

Upcoming school-related activities include the Garden Workday on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and the Garden Council meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the Parent Room.

What makes a school great? Our little gem offers answers

By Alison Ledgerwood

I went to the Aug. 13 community forum of parents, teachers, neighbors and alumni at Bret Harte Elementary School. I went because I live in the community. I went because my 2-year-old will attend this school in three years. This is our school.

Here's what I saw at the meeting – parents who love their kids and care deeply about their school, top-notch teachers who care deeply about their students, community members from Oak Park and Curtis Park who care deeply about their neighborhood school.

I saw a principal who is in constant motion. He brings in the best research-based strategies to support and improve the academic success of his students. He supports his teachers and staff. He walks the halls and stops by classrooms and meets with parents and chats with the kids. He cares deeply about every single person in the school.

This is our school, but this is not the school



POINT OF VIEW

described in a Sacramento Bee article in July that got widespread attention for claiming our elementary school was failing. That article was so focused on telling a sensational story about test scores that it forgot to look at metrics that capture what parents actually want to know.

Parents want test scores to tell us about the quality of a school: How good is it for my child? And,

how much does this school need in terms of resources? Test scores can be useful for understanding which schools need additional investment and resources. But they are pretty much useless for assessing school quality.

Study after study shows test scores are mostly predicted by out-of-school factors, like income and parental education level. That means they basically measure what resources students have before they enter school. Parents don't want to know how many resources their child already has. Parents want to know whether a school will provide their child with additional resources. Will this school support my kids, keep them safe, help

them thrive, nourish their growth?

Test scores tell us none of that. What does? Things like teacher quality and dedication and retention (Bret Harte teachers are excellent and have been there for an average of more than 15 years). Things like parental and community involvement. Things like the quality of interactions between teachers and students and among peers. Things like providing each student with the resources they need to succeed.

Bret Harte has all of these elements. If we want it to thrive, then we need investment, not fearmongering.

So let's get involved. Go to a PTA meeting. Join the Garden Council. Attend a School Site Council meeting. Meet the parents and teachers and principal and listen to them.

You'll hear that they love Bret Harte. You'll hear them talk about what the school needs to do even more for its kids. You'll see a little gem of an elementary school nestled between two neighborhoods, reaching across them, ready to thrive.

Alison Ledgerwood is a Curtis Park resident and a professor and chancellor's fellow in the Department of Psychology at UC Davis.



WANTED: Viewpoint Area 1 Distributor

Viewpoint is looking for someone to replace the Area 1 main distributor, who says he needs a break after almost five years of volunteering.

Each month (except January and August) the distributor receives 415 copies of *Viewpoint* to divide and distribute to 12 block distributors. Area 1 covers Second Avenue to Portola Way between 21st and 24th streets.

If this is something you could do, call *Viewpoint* distribution manager Gerre Buehler at 916 451-9610.

Notes from Aug. 7 meeting

Funds needed to offset budget deficit

The SCNA board voted at its Aug. 7 meeting to pass the budget, which the Finance Committee had recommended accepting as submitted. Ideas are being discussed to cover the budget deficit.

Several Sierra 2 staff members and SCNA board members attended the interviews for a new development director, who will take the lead on coordinating events and developing connections with the business community and neighbors.

The annual Wine Tasting will have lots of wine, beer and restaurant samplings. Sponsorships are available at all levels.

The park in Crocker Village will soon have a name.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the SCNA board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.

The finalists went before the Parks Commission, which voted Aug. 1 to recommend naming the park in honor of Ray Eames, a noted artist and designer who grew up in Curtis Park and attended Sierra Elementary School. The recommendation goes before City Council for ratification

in late September (*see story, Page 2*).

The SCNA board meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Aug. 7 in Room 12 of the Sierra 2 Center. In attendance were **Andi Liebenbaum**, president; and board members **Kimberley Bond**, **Andrew Booth**, **Steffan Brown**, **Lori Harder**, **Kat Haro**, **Eric Johnson**, **Jonathan LaTurner**, **Alex Moos** and **Kate Van Buren**.

— *Kate Van Buren, board secretary*

VIEWPOINT

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Please send news about babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events, plus letters to the editor and essays to denniscusick52@gmail.com.

Learn from world-class butcher at Sept. 16 Taylor's fundraiser

By Bruce Pierini

The closest thing most of us have come to butchering an animal is cutting up a chicken for dinner. Paul Carras of Taylor's Market aims to change that – at least for those interested in seeing the ins and outs of selecting and cutting up parts of a whole hog or lamb.

Question: What is a "pork rib-eye cap" and why does it sell for \$8.99?

Answer: It's a muscle that peels off from the rib end of the loin and it has lots of flavor. It's also called "a lifter." These are the kinds of questions Carras will explain at the Sept. 16 Butchering Demonstration at Taylor's Kitchen. Carras, Taylor's meat department manager, will break down half a pork carcass and one entire lamb.

Attendees will learn about the various cuts of pork and lamb and the flavor and texture profile of each one. Suggestions for broiling, grilling, braising, roasting or frying will be offered along with pourings of wine and beer and a charcuterie board and cheese plate.

The demonstration is a fundraiser for Butchers of America, the team to which Carras and Taylor's owner and head butcher, Danny Johnson belong. Last year, the team competed in the World Butchers' Challenge in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Next September, Sacramento will host teams from up to 12 countries from Europe, South America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand competing at the 2020 World Butcher's Challenge at Golden One Arena.

Why Taylor's? "We have a butcher shop, grocery store and restaurant where we can practice and have everything

available to do our best cutting, slicing, grinding and cooking," Carras says.

Why the U.S.? According to Carras, "Danny pushed for Sacramento as the first American host city for World Butcher's Challenge. I was born and raised two blocks from Taylor's Market and have pride in my hometown and

All proceeds will help team members from Iowa and Davis defray transportation costs for monthly practice as a team at Taylor's.

want to showcase our team's talents."

For Carras and his teammates, butchering has a never-ending learning curve. "At these international competitions, it's very cool to see how other national team make their cuts, display and cook their meat," he says. "Sometimes the cuts and methods of cooking are quite different than ours. Most butchers come from butcher shops but some also come from working farms and slaughterhouses. It's great to learn from butchers in other countries."

The Sept. 16 Butchering Demonstration begins at 5 p.m. All proceeds will help team members from Iowa and Davis defray transportation costs for monthly practice as a team at Taylor's.

To register for the butchering demonstration, call Taylor's Market at 916 443-6881 and ask for Carras or Johnson in the meat department. The cost is \$75 per person, with a maximum of 30 participants.



Photo/Bruce Pierini

Lifting heavy meats and working long hours keep Paul Carras, manager of Taylor's Market meat department, physically fit.

Taylor's butcher gets pleasure from unusual cuts of meat

By Bruce Pierini

Paul Carras was raised in Land Park, only two blocks from where he is now manager of the renowned Taylor's Market meat department. "I began at Taylor's as a clean-up kid when I was 16," he said. "At 18, they put a knife in my hand."

"I fell in love with butchering in college, half-way to my B.A. in communications" at Sacramento State University. He doesn't consider it really hard work, but it is physically demanding. "You have to be healthy and physically fit because of the long hours and lifting heavy objects." He has invested in good pairs of clogs and wears compression stockings to avoid a sore back and muscles. "Sometimes at holidays I work 15-hour days."

Carras is a home cook who

He has invested in good pairs of clogs and wears compression stockings to avoid a sore back and muscles.

continually tries out various recipes with the lamb, pork, beef, rabbit and poultry for which Taylor's is famous. His go-to recipe: "35-day, dry-aged, double-cut, frenched beef rib-eye. I salt and pepper heavily, sear both sides and finish in the oven or on indirect heat on the BBQ."

Some of the fun of being a butcher, Carras says, is when people come in and ask for a cut of meat found elsewhere, such as Argentina or Texas. "Someone comes in and asks for a cut the way their grandmother used to do, and so I do it."

SCNA urges neighbors to keep sidewalks clear

SCNA is joining with the city in urging neighbors to keep public sidewalks clear and passable, as overgrown plants and low-hanging tree limbs are creating obstructions for pedestrians, especially people using walkers and baby buggies.



The city code requires that tree limbs be at least 8 feet above any sidewalk.

If something requires immediate attention, such as a downed limb blocking a street or sidewalk, send an email to 311@cityofsacramento.org or call 311.

— John Mathews

Viewpoint wants your story ideas

Viewpoint appreciates neighbors who submit news about their babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events. This includes letters to the editor and opinions.

Send your ideas to denniscusick52@gmail.com with Viewpoint in the subject field or call the Sierra 2 office at 916 452-3005.

Deadline for Viewpoint copy is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

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SIERRA 2DAY



Wine Tasting celebrates 29 years of community support

By Terri Shettle
Sierra 2 Executive Director

The 29th annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Sierra 2 Center.

More than 50 wineries, breweries, newly added distilleries and restaurants/caterers will offer a wide variety of tastings. Among returning vendors are Urban Roots, La Famiglia Catering, Seasons 52, Masullo Pizza and Match Book Winery.

The VIP Experience returns this year, with entry one hour early at 3 p.m. for access to all vendors and private, intimate tastes. Included are a special cocktail pour from J.J. Pfister Distillery along with special bites from Seasons 52 and Dawson's at the Hyatt, and special pours from Urban Roots Brewery & Smokehouse. The VIP Experience also includes early access to a limited number of Neighbor Hosted Dinners and a special raffle.



Photo/Joan Cusick

More than 50 wineries, breweries, distilleries, restaurants and caterers will participate in the Oct. 12 event at the Sierra 2 Center.

The silent auction is a huge part of this event's fundraising, featuring items such as Gunther's Create the Flavor of the Month Ice Cream, wine, restaurant

certificates, art and more. New this year will be a live painting by local artist Lizzy Maihlo, whose work includes illustrations, paintings and drawings.

Hosts are sought for the popular Neighbor Hosted Dinners. A murder-mystery dinner and progressive dinners are being offered this year. These dinners are as fun to host as they are to attend and are a great source of funding for SCNA. For more information, contact Cheri Davis at cheribobeari@gmail.com.

Wine Tasting & Silent Auction general admission advance tickets are \$45 for SCNA members, \$50 for nonmembers through Oct. 9, and \$100 for the VIP Experience (advance only). General admission tickets after Oct. 9 and at the door are \$60 for everyone. Tickets are available at sierra2.org or at the Sierra 2 Center office.

This is an adults-only event. No children of any age will be allowed access.

Proceeds benefit the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community, SCNA, and local schools –Bret Harte Elementary School's 6th Grade Science Camp and McClatchy High School's HISP and Debate groups.

Folk legend David Bromberg to perform with quintet at 24th Street Theatre Sept. 19

By Dennis Cusick

Singer, guitarist and songwriter David Bromberg, once described as "folk music's closest equivalent to Woody Allen," will perform at 24th Street Theatre on Sept. 19, the next-to-last concert of his nine-date Western tour.

Bromberg is a multi-instrumentalist, proficient on fiddle, acoustic, electric and pedal-steel guitar, mandolin and dobro. He travels with a five-piece band including another guitarist, bass, fiddle and drums.

Bromberg came to national attention in the early 1970s after he recorded a seven-minute version of "Mr. Bojangles" for his album "Demon in Disguise."

He has been a sideman for many artists, notably Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson and Ringo Starr. As a songwriter, he collaborated with former Beatle George Harrison in writing the song "The Holdup." Harrison played on one of Bromberg's albums.

After a club date in 1981, *New York Times* critic Stephen Holden said Bromberg "is a 'personality'

singer who makes everything he performs – bluegrass, folk, blues, etc. – an extension of his stock character – the nebbishy though lovable loser."

Bromberg gave up performing in the early 1980s to study violin-making in Chicago, and went on to operate a violin sales and repair shop with his wife in Wilmington, Del. He took about two decades off from recording before releasing "Try Me One More Time" in 2007.

Two years ago, in an interview with the Library of Congress, he was asked the difference between a fiddle and a violin. "About \$10,000," he replied, before explaining that there really is no difference.

Bromberg's Western tour starts Sept. 6 in Fort Collins, Colo., and concludes Sept. 20 in San Luis Obispo.

General admission tickets for the Sept. 19 show at the 24th Street Theatre are \$40.

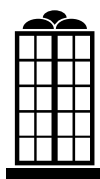


A New York critic called David Bromberg's often-comic persona a "nebbishy though lovable loser."

They are available online at <http://www.swell-productions.com/shows/dbq.html>. Doors open at 6 p.m. with show time at 7 p.m.

Nashville-based singer and guitarist Jordan Tice will open the show.

SEPTEMBER 2019



SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

CHILDREN

Capital City Music Together
Children 5 and under.
For schedule: Jennie Ribadeneira,
916 990-3222. capitalcitymusictogether.com



SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Sacramento Native American Believers Fellowship
Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 10
Lee Aviles, 916 203-6461

Good Shepherd Parish

Sundays, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 12
Contact: Mother Elizabeth English
916 502-6773, GoodShepherdCommunity.org

Empowerment Theological Seminary
Mondays, 6-9:55 p.m., Room 9, 916 308-7646
empowermenttheologicalseminary.com

True Life Ministries

Sundays, 2:45-4:15 p.m., Room 9
Pastor Grant Harper: 916 382-2885

OTHER

Cochlear Community Meetings
6-8 p.m. Aug. 15, Nov. 7 Curtis Hall
cochlear.com/US/events

Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation
1st Sunday of the month, 1-4 p.m. Curtis Hall
knowthyselfassoul.org

DANCE

Adult Ballet
Two Rivers Dance Center
Saturdays, Studio 2
10:15 a.m., Ballet 1. 12:30 p.m., Ballet Basics
richard@tworiversdancecenter.com

NEW!

Intro to Adult Ballet
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Studio 1
richard@tworiversdancecenter.com

Irish Folk Dancing

1st and 3rd Mondays, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1
Liam Irish, 530 677-5549

Polynesian Dance

Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Studio 2
alohatyra@aol.com

River City Taps – Adult Tap Dance

See website for class schedules. Studio 1 & 3
www.rivercitytaps.com
richard@rivercitytaps.com

Auntie Amy's Hula

Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., Studio 1
Amy Cornellier, 916 792-5561

Kalanjali: Dance of India

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Room 11
510 526-2183, katherine.kalanjali@gmail.com

Tartan Hearts

Scottish Highland Dance
Sundays, 9-11 a.m., Studio 3
tartanhearts@gmail.com
facebook.com/TartanHeartsDance

Moodment Dance

Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Studio 2
moodmentdance.com

AfroRhythmx Dance Class

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Studio 1
225 263-1707

MUSIC

Nashville Songwriters Association
2nd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 12
Free • Gabrielle Kennedy: 916 476-5073

Japanese Taiko Drumming

Tuesdays, Studio 1 • Youth Ages 7+, 6-7 p.m.
Beginning Ages 9+, 7-8 p.m.
Intermediate, 8-9 p.m.
Kristy Oshiro, kristyoshiro.com



MARTIAL ARTS

Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento
Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 12:30-2 p.m., 916 441-7215

Sacramento Sword School

Martial Sword Arts of Europe
Thursdays, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Studio 2
Maestro Eric Myers: 916 276-2247

Unified Chinese Martial Arts

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 p.m.
Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.
Studio 2
Shifu Byron, lohan36@sbcglobal.net

T'ai Chi Ch'uan

Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. Studio 1
Bradford Louie, bwlouie@yahoo.com

Hung-Gar Gung Fu

Sundays, 5:30-7 p.m., Studio 2
Sifumarez@gmail.com, (916) 764-8749

FITNESS

Zumba with Toya & Linda
Mondays/Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Studio 2
LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Bellyfit®

Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Sundays, 4-5 p.m. Studio 1
randirobinson@mac.com

Dancehall PowerUp

Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m., Studio 3
LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Zumba

Fridays, 6-7 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m.-noon,
Studio 2
Abraham Contreras, pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

Weight Watchers

Thursdays, 8:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m.
Saturdays, 9 a.m. Room 10. 800 374-9191

Stilettos with KG – Ages 18+

Wednesdays, 8:45 p.m., Studio 3
krystal, kgstilettos@gmail.com

ART

Glass Mosaic Classes

Tuesdays, Noon-3 p.m. Room 11
karensarp51@gmail.com



YOGA

Iyengar Yoga

Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3
Gladys Callander: 916 743-0246

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TAKE THE MIC FOR RECOVERY

Sept. 12, 6-8 p.m. Free
Info: 916 875-2050

Sacramento County Alcohol and Drug Services presents this free entertaining event to educate the community, celebrate recovery and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders. Motivational speaker and entertainer Kevin Bracy will be the special guest and MC. The show will feature musicians, singers, comedians and spoken word. The event will also include resource vendors and networking in the Garden Room from 5:30-6 p.m.



ZIMEI CONCERT: AN ELEGANT MUSICAL FEAST

Sept. 14, Doors: 5:30 p.m./Show: 6 p.m.
Tickets: General: \$25; 12 and under: \$15.
 Eventbrite.com **Info:** zccaa.org

Zimei is an artist, musician and image consultant. She immigrated to the U.S. as an "Extraordinary Ability Alien" in 2010. Since then, she has shared her passion for art, culture and music through the Zimei Chinese Culture & Art Academy. She has won many art awards and is involved in national and international artistic activities. She also received the title "World Outstanding Chinese Artist" in 2017. Honor Kung Fu Academy, Alice Latin Dance Crew and Happy Ladies Dance Group will also perform.



DAVID BROMBERG CONCERT (see story, Page 5)

Sept. 19, Doors: 6 p.m./Show: 7 p.m.
Tickets: General: \$40. Eventbrite.com **Info:** 916 447-6508

SAC DANCE LIVE

Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
Tickets: Advance: \$20 Door: \$25
Info: sacdancelab.com

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Sept. 9: The March by E.L. Doctorow
Oct. 14: Ask Again, Yes by Mary Beth Keane

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

3rd Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sept. 19: The Distance Between Us by Rayna Grave
Oct. 17: The Kelloggs by Howard Markel

FILM CLUB

3rd Tuesday, 1:30-4 p.m.
Sept. 19: "Silver Streak" (1976)

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

2nd & 4th Wednesdays,
 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Room 11

LIFE HISTORY WRITING

Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

OPEN ART STUDIO

Fridays, (except the last Friday)
 Noon-3 p.m., in Room 11

BEGINNING DRUMMING

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 1
 Fee: \$7 per class or \$25 for the month

EDUCATION

MY STORY PROJECT
 2nd Monday, 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.

ANDROID PHONE TRAINING

Wednesday, Sept. 18. Fee: Free
 9-11 a.m. in Room 9
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SENIOR SELF DEFENSE

Thursday, Sept. 26, 1:30pm in Studio 2
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FITNESS

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Wednesdays, 10-11:15 a.m.
 Fees: \$10/drop-in; \$30/4 classes; \$60/8 classes

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3rd Mondays, 12:30-2 p.m., Room 12

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Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
 11 a.m.-noon Studio 3
 Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., Room 12

PILATES WITH LAUREN

Tuesdays/Fridays,
 11 a.m.-noon
 in Studio 2



FEEL GOOD YOGA

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
 Room 12

STRENGTH AND BALANCE

Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Room 12
 & Thursdays in Room 11

ZUMBA TONING W/ KELLY

Wednesdays & Fridays, 10-11 a.m., Studio 3

CARDS & GAMES

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Children's High Tea

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Sunday, Sept. 22, 1-3 p.m.

Garden Room, Fee: \$50 for one adult and one child; \$40 additional adult; \$15 additional child

Beginning 3 Spanish

Beginning 3 is a new class for those continuing from Beginning 2 class and for anyone who feels they are "in-between" grammar and conversation classes. The class will help participants get a grasp on pronouns, practice the difference between the past tenses, and venture into other vexing issues. This is a fun and comfortable course to build confidence in speaking.

Tuesdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 22

Room 12, 6-7:20 p.m.

Fee: \$100

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Conversational Spanish

This class focuses on practicing everyday conversation, expanding verb tenses, grammar and vocabulary, and cultural enrichment. The course is tailored to the level and needs of the students, so many continuing students take this class multiple times to continue growing their skills and proficiency.

Wednesdays, Sept. 18-Oct. 23

Room 9, 6-7:20 p.m.

Fee: \$100

Foodscapes 101

Andi MacDonald, a retired chef with 20 years' experience as a master gardener, will discuss how to transform your yard into a lush foodscape. Designing a yard with edibles allows you to eat fresh and local, use less water and fertilizer, and boost your home's curb appeal. You'll learn how to get started, from creating a plan to plant selection, soil tilth, and effective pest and disease management.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Room 12, 10-11:30 a.m.

Fee: no cost (registration required)

Jungle Leaves: Acrylics Workshop

Learn to use the shape of your brush to create lush, tropical leaves, using vibrant colors and thick paint to create contrast, movement and texture in your painting. The class is great for beginning and intermediate painters. All materials are provided.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Room 11, 3-5:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40



Kids Paint: Lions

Kids ages 4 and up are invited to get creative by painting the king of the jungle, a furry lion, in this fun, follow-along art class. Painters have access to a variety of colors and can customize their paintings as they like.

All materials are included.

Saturday, Sept. 28

Room 11, 3-4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$20/painter



For more information and to see more listings, visit www.sierra2.org/thelearnery.

5 artists to exhibit works in photography studio

By Jill Estroff

Five artists will exhibit their work from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14-15, at photographer Donald Satterlee's photography studio at 2998 Franklin Blvd. during the first weekend of Sacramento Open Studios.

Joining studio host Satterlee will be ceramic artists Julie Clements and Sandy Fong Whetstone, watercolorist Michael Dunlavey, and painter Jill Estroff.

Curtis Park neighbors were treated to a look inside the building during last year's Sacramento Open Studios when Satterlee and three local artists displayed their works.

In 2007, Satterlee and his partners transformed the building at Franklin Boulevard and Fifth Avenue into a

photography studio. It had previously housed a heating and air conditioning business and a switchboard center. A gas station occupied the site at one time.

Weather permitting, an outdoor tent on the shady patio will augment the indoor studio space for a larger display of artwork.

The artists enjoy showing in local galleries but all relish the idea of displaying art closer to home for friends and neighbors to view their work in an intimate setting.

A preview of the artwork may be found at the artists' websites at right:



Photo/Donald Satterlee

Donald Satterlee is opening his studio at Fifth Avenue and Franklin Boulevard for the Sept. 14-15 exhibition.

www.satterleephotos.com
www.claypigeonceramics.com
www.jillestroff.com
www.dunlaveystudio.com
www.sandywhetstone.wixsite.com/mysite

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Senior Center survey indicates range of participants, interests

By Katie Byram

The Senior Center's programming team recently distributed a survey at the center and by email in an attempt to improve the center's programs.

Fifty unique responses were received from participants ages 57 to 96. Of those surveyed, only 24.4% reported that they live in Curtis Park, with participants from Elk Grove to Rancho Cordova. The bulk of respondents have attended classes for 1-5 years (36%), followed by 5-10 years (26%), and 10-plus years (21%). This data confirms that the center serves a wide range of people.

According to the survey, the most popular activities are common-interest groups – book clubs, Film Club and Women's Friendship Group (45.7%). Tied for second most popular is the Wellness Program and the monthly potluck (34.8%), suggesting the senior community enjoys food and fitness equally. Our games (bridge, pinocle and mahjong) were the next most popular (30%).

When asked for interest in future classes, the favorites were educational lectures, instructor-led art, technology, and dance classes, and different games. With this in mind, the center staff plans to add more art to the schedule, starting with a beginner-friendly pet portraits class with Learnery instructor Lizzy Mailho.

Special requests for a knitting and sewing group were made. A group will be added to the calendar if enough seniors sign up.

A lecture series and a rotating game group are also in the works.

The survey has reopened for more responses. Visit www.sierra2.org/seniorsurvey. Everyone age 50-plus who has participated in the Senior Center, or plans to, is invited to complete the survey.

The Senior Center is seeking people to lead a group or teach classes. New social groups need "point people" to convey information, welcome new members and keep the group on track. Also needed are seniors with skills to share, such as knitting and bridge instruction.

Mention any interest in these roles in the survey or email the program director, Katie Byram, at Katie@Sierra2.org.



John Dorst and Kirsten Smith of Florence Place harvest veggies regularly from their front and back yards for portions of almost all their meals.

Photo/Judy Scheible

Front, backyard gardens put vegetables on table

By Judy Scheible

John Dorst and Kirsten Smith eat a lot of vegetables but they rarely shop for them, even in winter. Instead, they step into the yard at their home on Florence Place in Curtis Park and pick whatever is ready for harvest. This summer that could be chard, sweet or Thai basil, tomatoes, lemon cucumber, Japanese eggplant, strawberries, beans, lettuces like arugula, and a few of the many peppers, including shishitos.

All these grow in raised bed boxes in their front and back yards. They have three bed boxes in the front and two in the back. Their lush garden with white PVC pipe arches draws plenty of attention from passersby, according to Kirsten. She often sees people staring at her garden while she's giving piano lessons.

Kirsten is a professional pianist who regularly performs classical music. She also teaches music at Sacramento State University. John is the business manager for a law firm in Granite Bay.

Kirsten said their garden grew out of the home's original landscape of rose, ivy and weeds. She bought the home in 1995, when she moved here from Arizona. Twelve years later, when she and John got together, they decided to turn the sunny portion of their yard into a vegetable garden.

John designed the boxes and built them from all-heart redwood. He buys the soil (organic

compost) from Lopez AG Service.

John and Kirsten work in the garden in spurts as their hectic schedules permit. However, twice a year they do the heavy lifting. It's the seasonal switch. John said it usually takes two weekends to pull out the old plants and get the next season started. They start some plants from seeds; others they replant from starts they purchase.

In between, the maintenance is minimal. "Everything grows with good dirt and a drip system," John said. "There's not a lot of weeding. Just rimming and harvesting." And good eating.

They eat everything they plant. Kirsten said at least portions of all their meals come from the garden, sometimes the whole meal. "We eat a vegetable-heavy diet," she said.

Kirsten said she's up for trying new things just to see how they taste: "I'm having a good time with it." She also is working on a green house in her back yard.

As for pests that also like vegetables, Kirsten said aphids and slugs are the main problems. "We had a new kind of aphid, black ones that ate our fava beans." As for slugs, she and John go hunting at 10 p.m. in the spring to pick them off the plants. Once in a while, they find a tomato worm.

John said they try to control other bugs by planting pollinating flowers that attract bees and good bugs that like to eat the bad bugs.

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Trees of Curtis Park

Plane trees don't require much pruning

By Dan Pskowski

Pruning trees is a science and an art. When done properly, pruning is one of the best things an arborist can do for a tree; poor pruning can be one of the worst things.

There are tree-care industry standards that discuss the removal of dead limbs, rubbing/crossing limbs, split limbs, structural pruning and the need to provide adequate clearance over sidewalks, streets, and structures.

Some tree species have unique pruning requirements, and one of those is the plane tree. Commonly called sycamores, plane trees are a dominant species in the Curtis Park neighborhood as well as the No. 1 tree species planted in cities around the world.

Mature plane trees don't require much pruning other than removal of dead limbs or those that are low over a roof, sidewalk or street. But I see mature plane trees being pruned unnecessarily; healthy limbs are thinned or shortened to reduce the likelihood of failure.

This type of pruning is only required for the true

sycamore, which is native to the East Coast. Why? The eastern sycamore has a propensity to shed limbs 4-6 inches in diameter and 15-25 feet long in the summer. Therefore, this particular species needs to have the long, lateral branches thinned and reduced in length to decrease the chance of limb failures.

The eastern sycamore has a few distinguishing characteristics – furrowed bark on the trunk, large leaves, and seed balls that are attached singularly. The true sycamore is also susceptible to sycamore anthracnose. This disease, which causes the leaves to fall off, occurs during the spring and is triggered every time it rains. Residents will call inquiring about why their tree is losing leaves but not those of the tree next door. It's because the neighbor has a plane tree, which isn't as susceptible to sycamore anthracnose.

Tree health is the concern when pruning a



The trunk distinguishes the plane tree, foreground, which has a smooth, light-colored trunk, from the Sycamore, which has a dark, furrowed trunk.

Photo/Dan Pskowski

plane tree as if it were a sycamore. When too much foliage is removed, the tree diverts its energy into the production of more leaves. Epicormic shoots arise from latent buds which sprout readily along the limbs. Dependent upon the mature tree's reserves, branch dieback may occur.

Doing what's best for the health of your mature plane tree will ultimately save you money. It's less costly to remove dead limbs and low branches than to have the entire canopy thinned unnecessarily.

In the District

City Council seeks remedies for high rents, homelessness

City Council recently acted to significantly impact the lives of some of the most vulnerable Sacramentans.

On Aug. 13, we passed the Tenant Protection and Relief Act, a form of rent control and stabilization, by a 7-1 vote with one abstention.

On Aug. 27, we directed staff to move forward and fund a 100-bed homeless shelter on X Street just west of Alhambra Boulevard.

Affordable housing, and the lack thereof, is a critical challenge in our community. Sacramento rents have increased faster than most California cities, with no ability to restrict rent gouging or provide protection against tenant eviction. In 2017, the Sacramento area experienced a national-high median rent increase of 8.2%. Many neighbors have been forced out of their homes, many into homelessness.

While I have not generally been

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District 5



an advocate for rent control, it is unacceptable when our community members spend 39, 40, or 50% of their income on rent. This forces choices between paying the rent vs. food, medicine and other necessities. It is also unacceptable when rent amounts and lease renewals are not stable and certain. The ordinance sunsets after five years and will help renters by limiting rent increases and adding various protections.

Constructing more housing, however, requires time, a luxury we do not have. The long-term answer is increasing the

supply of affordable housing. Between Measure U and new state dollars, we will move in that direction.

Council also took a major step forward to address homelessness, a problem of catastrophic proportions. This summer, Sacramento Steps Forward published the results of its 2019 count, which found a 19% increase in homelessness in the county.

A couple data points stand out:

First, while overall homelessness did increase, chronic homelessness decreased. This is the population the city has targeted with its services – including those at our Railroad Avenue shelter in North Sacramento, so that is one bright spot. We learned lessons from our experience at the Railroad Avenue shelter that will be applied as we open additional sites.

Second, 93% of the 550 individuals surveyed stated that they were either born or lived in Sacramento. This shows that

the overwhelming percentage of those Sacramentans experiencing homelessness are truly our neighbors and community members. The 100-bed shelter between Oak Park and Curtis Park will be an important part of the city's strategy to address this terrible situation. Guests will have access to comprehensive case management, mental health services, housing and employment assistance.

I am proud of the strong support I've received from our neighborhood for building this shelter. More details and a timeline for shelter development and opening will come in the next months.

To those who opposed either of these decisions, let's continue the conversation. I am always open to new ideas. To those who have been supportive, thank you.

In these difficult political times, I hope Sacramento can be a shining example of collaboration. Working together, we can meet the challenges.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Neighbor records original song in Nashville

By Susan MacCulloch

Lara Pucik Johnson is an environmental scientist by profession, but she is also a singer-songwriter. Thanks to a winning lottery ticket, Lara recorded an original song in March at a Nashville recording studio with session musicians.

Lara has composed songs for eight years, honing her craft by attending workshops at the Northern California Chapter of Nashville Songwriters Association International. Thanks to a calendar item she saw in *Viewpoint*, Lara became a member of NSAI. The chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month at Sierra 2, an easy walk from her 26th Street home.

An event at Sierra 2 last fall led to the Nashville trip. "Our local chapter of NSAI held a Saturday songwriting workshop looking at trends in the Billboard charts and what makes a country hit, featuring Larry Beard, who runs a recording studio in Nashville," said Lara. At each workshop around the country, Beard held a raffle for the opportunity to record a song in his studio. Lara won the raffle for the local chapter.

Before traveling to Nashville in March, Lara recorded her vocal accompanied by her guitar at the home studio of neighbor Rick Lotter of the band Mumbo Gumbo.

Lara and husband Eric planned their Nashville trip to coincide with NSAI's annual Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival. She attended a two-day songwriting conference, and the couple enjoyed songwriter circle evening performances – "people sitting on stools, taking turns singing their songs with an acoustic guitar and telling the story behind the song. It was magical!" said Lara.

Lara's recording took place at Beird Music Group (beirdmusicgroup.com). "Larry just needed the recording of me singing my song with guitar. He charted it up, handed it to the band, and had me sing a 'scratch' vocal for them," recalls Lara. "Within 30 minutes, he and the five other musicians in the studio came up with the instrumental arrangement you hear on the track. Then it was my turn again in the vocal booth to record over it for real."

Back home, Lara performs in two seasonal concerts each year with Sacramento-based RSVP vocal ensemble (RSVPchoir.org), a group that raises funds for local nonprofits.

For information about the NSAI Sacramento chapter, visit <https://sierra2.org/event/nashville-songwriters-association-international-nsai/all/>.

Lara's recording of her original composition, "Maybe I'll cry," is at <https://soundcloud.com/lpucik/maybe-ill-cry>.



Photo/Judy Harper

Singing in her back yard is Lara Pucik Johnson of 26th Street.

Longtime Portola Way resident finds she can go home again



Longtime Curtis Park resident **Andrea Kincaid** has moved back to the neighborhood – just a block away from the Portola Way home where she lived for 30 years. Andrea spent the last four years in the Carmichael area, where daughter **Piper Thrans** went to high school. Piper is preparing to leave home for UCLA, so Andrea and her dogs **Daisy** and **Koska** have settled into their new home.

Photo/Joan Cusick



Recent grad; future film director

Heather Mewton, daughter of **Paul** and **Shannon Mewton** of Franklin Boulevard, graduated from California College of the Arts with a bachelor of fine arts degree in film. She plans to pursue a career as a film director/creative producer.

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Moodment Dance program connects mind and body

By Leslie Goodbody

What could possibly bring seven complete strangers from all parts of the Sacramento region to Sierra 2 every Saturday afternoon? Their love of dance and a strong desire to get dance back into their lives.

When Monica Justice created Moodment Dance, she did it to share the joy with everyone who is interested in connecting mind and body through dance. Justice says, "I've danced and performed all of my life, and I want to help others experience the joy and satisfaction that dancing has brought to me."

Creating Moodment Dance has been an awesome experience," Justice says. For Maria Rivas, "Getting back into dance was rediscovering myself. Dance was always something that lit up my heart."

Justice says Moodment Dance is

centered on the belief that joy, self-love and connected community are vital needs for a positive lifestyle. Moodment Dance believes in embodying positive messaging of the mind through fun dances and creative movement. All bodies are beautiful, regardless of shape, size, age, race, gender and mobility. Everyone can, and should, dance.

While the dancers have different backgrounds – with ages ranging from late 20s to mid-50s – all have similar stories, including a lifelong love of dance that got pushed aside when life got in the way.

Gia Toi Williams sees Moodment Dance as a place to "leave worries, anxieties and headaches behind, and just move and let your soul run." The dance class creates a welcoming, supportive and judgment-free environment, and Justice's choreography is really fun without being too challenging.

Rivas agrees: "Monica is really good about building confidence. She's an amazing instructor and is always so positive and full of kind energy." So far, the dancers have learned routines in African, jazz, hip hop and contemporary styles.

Moodment Dance made its public debut performance at the 10th annual Banana Festival in Land Park on Aug. 11 featuring dances in jazz, hip-hop, and lyrical styles. Justice is planning more performances in the Sacramento area.

Open dance classes happen every Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in Studio 2 at the



Photo/Stacy Crosby

Moodment Dancers performed in August at the Banana Festival in Land Park. The dancers included, from left, Debra Royer, Gia Toi Williams, Kimberly Munoz, Leslie Goodbody, Lena Card and Maria Rivas with instructor Monica Justice.

Sierra 2 Center. For questions, contact Justice at info@moodmentdance.com or www.moodmentdance.com. Private dance lessons are also available.

Park: Chairman sought up-or-down vote on Ray Eames

Continued from Page 1

World War II veteran, but city parks staff concluded that did not meet the naming criteria, which required a significant contribution to the community.

"I appreciate the other names that are being considered tonight, I really do," Petrovich said. He suggested parks in the existing Curtis Park neighborhood could be named after Eames and Rivett, but not in his Crocker Village development, where he felt he had earned the right to name the park.

In the end, the commissioners disagreed.

Chairman Joe Flores explained that the role of the commission is to make a recommendation to City Council, which

has the final say on the park's name. Flores noted that none of 10 previous commission recommendations for park names had been controversial, because all of the proposed names had been endorsed by the local councilmember. Not so this time, as Councilmember Jay Schenirer decided not to endorse any proposal.

Flores said that as he deliberated about the proper course in advance of the commission meeting, he considered questions from his wife: How many existing city parks were named after women? How many after men? How many after people of color? His research indicated seven parks were named for women, 15 for

people of color, and 42 for men.

Rather than have the commissioners vote among the three finalists, Flores proposed an up-or-down vote on naming the park for Ray Eames, the only finalist whose name is known not only in the neighborhood but nationally and even internationally, as a street in Switzerland is named after her. It is, said Flores, "an opportunity for a name to represent not just a neighborhood but the entire city."

The final tally was nine in favor of naming the park for Ray Eames, one opposed, with one abstention.

City Council is expected to make the final decision on the park name in late September.



Photo/John Mathews

Lucia Dewey Atwood and Eames Demetrios, two of Ray and Charles Eames' grandchildren, stand in front of Ray Eames' childhood home on Portola Way.

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FIVE ON FRANKLIN

IN CURTIS PARK

**SATURDAY, SEPT 14 & SUNDAY, SEPT 15
10 am to 5 pm
2998 FRANKLIN BOULEVARD**

Julie Clements, claypigeonceramics.com

**Sandy Fong Whetstone
sandywhetstone.wixsite.com/mysite**

Donald Satterlee, satterleephotos.com

Michael Dunlavey, dunlaveystudio.com

Jill Estroff, jillestroff.com

VISIT FIVE WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS FOR SAC OPEN STUDIOS AT THE CORNER OF 5TH AVENUE & FRANKLIN