

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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April 2023

Don't miss the 33rd Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour Saturday, April 22

By Lori Harder

It's time to celebrate spring and share our long-established neighborhood with the region during the home and garden tour Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is an important fundraiser with proceeds benefiting Sierra 2 Center operations and SCNA programs. Sponsors include SMUD, Steffan Brown and Cook Realty whose support is critical to the entire community.

Classic Model A automobiles will roll down our streets and park in front of the homes on tour.

Architectural styles reflect the various trends that shaped Curtis Park's history circa 1910-1940. A 1910 Bungalow on tour



welcomes visitors with its wide front porch and big windows and conveys a grounded, back-to-nature ideal, including a dining room enveloped in rich woodwork.

The 1920s brought revival styles to the neighborhood based on architecture from earlier eras. Homes on tour include a classic Spanish style house with arches and balcony (see separate story in this issue), a sprawling Mediterranean style home with tiered tile rooflines and courtyard, and an English



Photo by Rudy Calpo

See Tour, Page 9 The Moncrief home featured on the Home & Garden Tour.

Proud Boys Protest Drag queen event

By Lily M. Harris and Rachel Castro

A joyful Drag Queen Story Time event in Curtis Park was disrupted Sunday, March 12 when a small group of apparent Proud Boys gathered on Franklin Boulevard to protest the activities taking place across the street.

The protest, which was met with a much larger group of anti-fascist counter protesters including NorCal Resist and pridesariot.sac, drew Sacramento police officers to the scene, which ended without further incident.

The event was the second of its kind hosted by Poppy + Pot, a new retail art space at 2908 Franklin Blvd. The story time is meant to "expose [kids] to amazing queer role models" and "teach our kids the power of self-love and building community," according to a Poppy + Pot Instagram post.

Families came out in full force, with standing room only in the small floral and ceramics shop owned by wife and husband Da'Reen and Kevin Reichenberg.

Mercury Rising, a Sacramento Drag Queen dressed in a sweeping, floor-length, red velvet gown and black platform heels, read *Red*, by Michael Hall. The book is about a crayon with "a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue."



Photo by Chris A. Harris

When Mercury Rising asked the audience about the theme of the story, a few children raised their hands and answered that "Red" should just be who he wanted to be.

Days before the event, Poppy + Pot owners learned that a "White Lives Matter California" Twitter account had shared the flier for the event on Twitter, and that the Proud Boys planned to protest the story time. After considering canceling the event, the owners opted to move

See Story Time, Page 8

SCNA awaits dog park action plan

Unofficial dog park at Sierra 2 prompts city, neighborhood work

By Jim Miller

The future of the unofficial dog park at Sierra 2 Green will be shaped by separate, ongoing efforts of the city and a committee of Curtis Park residents.

City parks staff began work on an "action plan" shortly after a Feb. 9 meeting to release the results of a city-sponsored survey on dog park views. The action plan will cover problems, solutions, possible funding sources, and other details about the possibility of creating a city dog park at Sierra 2 or Curtis Park, while continuing to gather public input, city parks spokeswoman Gabby Miller said.

An ad hoc committee of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, meanwhile, drafted a report that sought to identify and document pros and cons, risks and benefits, of converting the Sierra 2 Park into an official city-wide dog park. The committee's Sierra 2 dog park pros and cons appear in this issue of *Viewpoint*.

The work comes as the 5.57-acre park continues to be a popular venue for dog owners to bring their furry companions to run and play, unleashed. The city set up temporary dog park fencing to allow unleashed dogs

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Women and the Railroad
Curtis Park resident Shirley Burman publishes "Sisters of the Iron Road"
Page 5



Hawks in the Park
Now's the time to spot a red-shouldered hawk in the neighborhood
Page 11

Park

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in the park's northern end, although the lawn on the fence's south side is a popular spot for unleashed dogs, as well.

As of press time, however, the pop-up fence was on the ground, a casualty of the strong winds and heavy rain in mid-March.

In a note on its website, the city's Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment Department said the ground had to dry out before the fence could be re-erected. In the meantime, the department asked "for cooperation and voluntary compliance with the city's park rules to ensure safety for all users."

Councilman Rick Jennings, who represents most of the Curtis Park community, including Sierra 2, said in a statement that resolving the dog park situation was "a priority" for his office.

"I believe that there is a safe and effective way in which all park users can coexist in Sierra 2 Park, from youth sports clubs and recreational park users to families and dog owners and their pets," Jennings said. The city shouldn't make "anything permanent" until community concerns are addressed, he said.

A draft of the city's action plan is scheduled for release within 45-60 days of the Feb. 9 meeting. It had not emerged as of *Viewpoint's* deadline.

Miller, the parks department spokeswoman, said the plan will take an approach similar to the plans prepared for other park-related projects around the city. Those include the work focused



Photo by Dorsey Griffith

Fallen pop-up fencing for temporary dog park on the Sierra 2 Green. City parks officials say the fence will be re-erected when the ground has dried out and requests all users to comply with existing city park rules.

on the naming of Ray Eames Park in Curtis Park Village, as well as the plan to guide various improvements at Del Paso Regional Park.

"At this time both Sierra 2 and Curtis Park are being considered for a formal dog park based on survey results," Miller said. "The survey is only one tool the city plans to use to gain insight on the communities' needs. Future community opportunities include attending neighborhood association meetings to solicit input."

The draft likely will come after the release of the report from the neighborhood association's ad hoc committee.

Established in early March, the ad hoc panel's creation responded to some people's concerns about the city survey. In particular, the city survey included

questions about where a dog park should be located in the Curtis Park community but did not ask if respondents thought the community needed a dog park.

The committee's members have sought input from the park's disparate user groups, from dog owners and soccer team representatives to playground visitors, as well as park neighbors and others, chairman Erik Fay said. Other ad hoc committee members are fellow SCNA board members Matthew Royal, Kirsten Smith and Bruce Pierini.

The panel didn't make any recommendations. SCNA, Fay said, "has been envisioning the city taking the lead on resolving the concerns of all Sierra 2 Park users. We have envisioned that since March 2022 at our first meeting with a city parks commissioner and concerned

soccer team representatives."

The unofficial dog park at the Sierra 2 Green has become a dog-owner favorite in recent years. Its growing popularity coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and more residents working from home, the development of Crocker Village, and dog owners from outside the Curtis Park area learning about Sierra 2 from online sources.

That led to more complaints and disagreements. Critics say unleashed dogs pose a risk to children in the playground and deprive other park users. Dog owners say the concerns are overblown, and that establishing a city dog park at Sierra 2 would help address a city-wide shortage.

The SCNA board has not taken a formal position on whether Sierra 2 should be a city dog park.

Under the city code, all dogs outside of designated fenced areas must be on a leash. Miller, the parks department spokeswoman, said the city is taking an education-first approach to dog owners who violate the rule.

"Park safety staff will continue to educate visitors of the park on safe park use," Miller said in an email. "If reports are received and park rangers are available, they will continue to visit the park to support these efforts."

Parks staff also will be posting signs at the park "to avoid any uncertainty about current rules," Jennings said in a statement.

"Safety is our number-one priority and an area of concern that we do not take lightly," he said, adding that his office has "clearly heard the areas of concern around off-leash dogs outside of the temporary dog park enclosure."

Sierra 2 Dog Park Pros and Cons

By Erik Fay, Matthew Royal, Kirsten Smith, Bruce Pierini

SCNA President Bill Hoover created an ad hoc committee on March 2 to identify and document the pros and cons of converting the city's Sierra 2 Park to an official dog park. The committee communicated with and collected infor-

mation from a wide variety of sources, including: the co-chair of DogsX, Sierra 2 executive director, the City of Sacramento Department of Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment, the city's 311 log of complaints regarding dogs at the park and

Curtis Park neighbors who live close to Sierra 2 park. The ad hoc committee hopes its work will help the community and all park users gain additional understanding of potential benefits and risks of converting the site to a dog park.

Sierra 2 Dog Park Pros

During the pandemic, dog ownership surged; 54% of households now include a dog, according to a 2022 APPA national pet owners survey. It's no wonder dog owners began using Sierra 2 Green Park all day instead of just during limited morning and evening hours.

For many, getting outside with their dog to mingle with neighbors in the open air was their only social interaction. Several residents have described it as a "lifeline." The foot traffic created by the park helps keep our neighbor-

hood safe. The park creates a strong community, sparks friendships among neighbors and deters use by homeless campers and substance users.

Having a dog park in our neighborhood provides mental health benefits, relieving stress and promoting companionship.

Young dogs, especially, need socialization with other dogs. Dog parks are free and encourage healthy, outdoor physical activity for everyone. Sierra 2

See Pros, Page 3

Sierra 2 Dog Park Cons

At first glance, a dog park sounds like a neighborhood amenity, but there are many significant problems in converting Sierra 2 Park into a permanent dog park.

Park user exclusions

Sierra 2 Park is dedicated for use as a soccer field, basketball court and children's playground. A dog park would necessarily exclude other users, posing potential legal liability (L) including:

- Sierra 2 events like the Easter Egg Hunt

- Sports such as volleyball, badminton, lawn bowling and bocce ball

- Family picnics
- Vendor fairs, open markets, neighborhood competitions and other social gatherings

Impact on SCNA operations

- Sierra 2 has tenant-paid and client-dedicated parking, which may be taken by official dog park users, frustrating tenants and clients who may leave if they lose their parking. Illegal

See Cons, Page 3

Pros

Continued from page 2

Green Park’s flat, grassy terrain is accessible, ensuring that everyone in our community can enjoy the park. Realtors consider dog parks community amenities that increase home values and attract homebuyers.

A 311 call log from the past four years shows that complaints about off-leash dog activity have increased, but there have been no reports of dog attacks against people or other dogs. An official dog park would allow proper fencing to safely separate the children’s playgrounds from the dog area. Enhancements could include accessible walkways, seating and even dog play equipment. Dog parks can be aesthetically pleasing if they are designed well.

Potential issues with mud, grass damage and bacteria can be addressed through responsible park

maintenance. According to O’Dell Engineering in Modesto, hardier grasses such as red fescue, perennial rye and horizontal creeping grasses are common and effective in dog parks when maintained correctly. Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine recommends areas subjected to dog urine be rinsed within 24 hours to avoid damage.

The City of Sacramento has 223 parks, totaling nearly 4,300 acres. Included are 127 soccer fields, 213 play structures, 138 group picnic areas and 17 swimming pools, but only 14 dog parks. None is walking distance from our neighborhood. For most, the nearest dog park is two miles away.

Sierra 2 Green is a vibrant park that enriches the community mentally, physically, and economically. Conversion to an official dog park would secure those benefits and create a safe and fun environment for future generations.

Cons

Continued from page 2

parking is occurring regularly now.*

- Barking dogs and dog fights could jeopardize Sierra 2 tenant contracts for activities requiring tranquility such as yoga, meditation and dance.

- Unleashed dogs right next to Great Beginnings playground may endanger that contract.

- Sierra 2 bathrooms, maintained by Sierra 2 staff, may be used by dog owners, increasing janitorial costs.

Health and safety issues

- A dog park is incompatible with the two children’s playgrounds on site.

- People who fear dogs, especially large and unleashed, will avoid the area.

- Dog bites can injure other dogs and people (L).

- Bacteria remain on the ground long after dog feces are cleaned up. Standing water with feces would make shallow ponds a potential contaminant and health hazard.**

Impact on the Neighborhood

- 49 complaints about dogs at Sierra 2 have been made to the city in the past three years.

*** (L)

- Off-leash dog noises and dog feces on lawns already are a nuisance for neighbors. (L)

- Parking and traffic problems have increased along streets near the dog park.

- Property value depreciation of adjacent homes is likely.

Environmental damage and aesthetic impact (L)

- Weekly use by dozens of dogs will destroy the turf (as it has at Partner Park Dog Park). The result will be a mudhole in winter and a dustbowl in summer.

- Three layers of high iron fencing and separate entry gates would be necessary for adequate containment, and become a neighborhood eyesore.

*Conversation with Terri Shettle, Sierra 2 executive director, March 14, 2023

** ”The Poop Problem: What To Do With 10 Million Tons of Dog Waste?” by Susan Freinkel, LiveScience, April 9, 2014

*** City of Sacramento 311 log, May 5, 2020 to March 6, 2023

Board Notes

Home & Garden Tour

Lori Harder, co-chair of the 2023 Home & Garden Tour, updated the board on plans for the event, which aims to net at least \$15,000. The event includes five homes, classic cars, music, food trucks and vendors. Harder asked board members to volunteer with tasks and publicity. A reception will follow at the Sierra 2 Garden Room and courtyard for homeowners, board members, volunteers and sponsors. Light food will be served. SMUD will sponsor this year’s Home & Garden Tour, Curtis Fest and Music in the Park.

Community Concerns

Bill Hoover reported that Councilmember Rick Jennings’ staff will brief the executive committee soon in response to Hoover’s letter requesting clarification about the city’s process in siting a neighborhood dog park. Hoover noted his letter reiterated unanswered questions raised previously by Neighborhood Concerns Committee members at two meetings held last year with the city, off-leash dog proponents and soccer advocates.

A discussion about the dog park

and related issues ensued. Board members Christian Muller and Kirsten Smith questioned the tone, intent, timing and propriety of the letter sent on SCNA letterhead. Hoover noted that his letter was sent in accord with a 2012 board memorandum that requires board approval only for external communications that represent or convey a position or policy.

Members Miles Thorne and Matthew Royal concluded that based on concerns that SCNA has not been included in critical meetings with the city despite repeated attempts to contact them, communication between the city and SCNA has been a problem, and it is important that all stakeholders be notified of future meetings.

A resident invited to speak whose home is adjacent to the park reported additional noise and commotion, daily unleashed dog use outside the pop-up fence, and dogs running through the children’s playground. She said the city is not responding to 311 calls.

Some members noted that not all residents were able to respond to the city survey or felt the survey did not accurately reflect their concerns. Some thought the either/or choice offered

was limited. Bruce Pierini recommended creating an additional survey to inform residents about what a dog park would entail before soliciting respondents’ opinions.

Board Secretary Mimi Budd said that many cities follow a process to site a dog park that includes a committee of members with divergent views. Consensus is reached by applying specific standards to parcels under consideration to determine the most appropriate location. The city has not yet explained the process they are following regarding Sierra 2 Park.

Hoover addressed an email sent to members of the board suggesting a “gag order” be imposed on the dog park issue. Muller elaborated, suggesting that SCNA not raise issues relating to the dog park on Next Door or in private communications. He said he is concerned that any perception that SCNA does not support the dog park could jeopardize fundraising for Sierra 2. In response, Hoover said SCNA has an obligation to represent the neighborhood and ensure that the city is adhering to process and doing a thorough job.

Members expressed support for establishing an ad hoc committee on dog park issues. A Viewpoint article,

including pros and cons of converting Sierra 2 Park to a permanently designated dog park, will aim to better inform and engage neighbors. Hoover said he will appoint an ad hoc committee to address dog park issues to be tasked with specific assignments.

Erik Fay reported on the presentation by the city Department of Public Works’ senior engineers Megan Johnson and Phillip Bulliett to the Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) about the Broadway Project. The project will focus on sidewalk and roadway changes, perhaps including changing freeway access from Broadway to X Street. Construction on the project is set to begin in June and be completed sometime in spring of 2024.

A hearing will be held March 23 on the appeal of the proposed removal of the valley oak tree at 2319 Fifth Avenue in Crocker Village. Board members are encouraged to attend.

The homeowner on Montgomery Way and East Curtis Drive has fulfilled the terms of her legal settlement with the city of the hot tub permitting matter, and the project is moving forward. NCC has received reports of

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VIEWPOINT

Executive Editor
Dorsey Griffith

Assistant Editors
Lily M. Harris, Susan MacCulloch

Production Manager
Bonnie Rodriguez

April contributors
Gerre Buehler, Mimi Budd, Shirley Burman, Valerie Burrows, Gerre Buehler, Will Carlton, Joan Cusick, Erik Fay, Mindy Giles, Lauren Gothard, Lori Harder, Chris A. Harris, Lily M. Harris, Heather Hogan, Bill Hoover, Rick Jennings, Kathy Les, Caity Maple, Jim Miller, Dan Murphy, Bruce Pierini, Patti Roberts, Andrea Rosen, Jarely Rangel, Matthew Royal, Lindsey Sin and Kirsten Smith.

Proofreaders
Lily M. Harris, Susan MacCulloch

Ad Manager
Fran Coletti

Distribution Manager
Gerre Buehler

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Call Fran Coletti: 916 452-3005 x210
or fran@sierra2.org

President's message

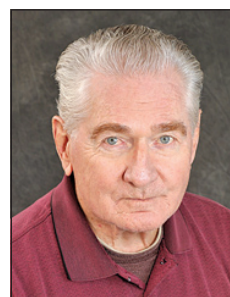
Jam-packed season of events and fundraisers planned

At the time of writing this column the stream of atmospheric rivers did not appear quite ready to end its assault. Hopefully, by the time this issue arrives at your doorstep that will have changed, and we will be experiencing more spring-like weather.

This is especially true since SCNA's Annual Home & Garden Tour (April 22) is back and just around the corner. It promises to be a fun event, so get your tickets early. More information can be found in this issue of *Viewpoint*.

The next major event on the SCNA calendar is the Big Day of Giving (BDOG) in May. Without question it is our biggest fundraiser. This year our goal is \$50,000. During the COVID-19 lockdowns the BDOG results clearly demonstrated the loyalty to and support of Sierra 2 Center by Curtis Park residents and friends. Though we are not in quite the dire straits we once were, we are still in recovery mode, which

BILL HOOVER SCNA Board President



makes long-term planning difficult.

One of the biggest draws on our funds has been facility repair costs. In this fiscal year alone, we have experienced repair and maintenance expenses exceeding \$170,000. Last fiscal year these costs were at least \$50,000.

The good news is that Sierra 2 Center is humming with increased activities and bookings that we hope will help us end this fiscal year in the black. However, funds received now for bookings and rentals are largely deposits for future events and not readily available to cover ongoing

expenses. Some theater bookings may be several months in the future and represent an expectation of future monies subject to fulfillment of contracts. Additionally, with increased business comes the need for greater Sierra 2 staff support that will necessarily increase administrative costs. Then there is obvious impact of inflation and increased costs across the board. This could certainly impact tenant lease negotiations when contracts are up for renewal at the end of June.

So once again, I am asking for your support in helping us reach our \$50,000 goal. I am acutely aware that our current economic climate has not been favorable to any of us and realize that giving this year may be difficult or impossible for some of you. To the extent that you are able, any donation would be sincerely appreciated. In an effort to lead by example, each board member is expected to contribute and tasked to raise \$1,000.

Introducing Kendra Macias Reed

Councilmember Rick Jennings invited Kendra Macias Reed, a District 7 commission appointee, to submit a guest column for April.

KENDRA MACIAS REED

District 7 commission appointee



My name is Kendra Macias Reed, and I have the honor to serve you as our District 7 appointee to the Sacramento Planning & Design Commission.

For those who don't know me, I have served as your District 5 planning commissioner under former Councilmember Jay Schenirer since 2019. My husband, two children and I moved into Crocker Village last year after living in the wonderful community of Z'berg Park for six years.

We are thrilled to be living in this beautiful, walkable community close to some of our favorite local restaurants and amenities. You might catch me at Café Dantorels multiple times during the week!

As executive director of the Franklin Neighborhood Development Corporation and deputy director of the Franklin Boulevard Business District, I have a

vested interest in ensuring our community remains bike-, pedestrian- and business-friendly to all of our District 7 and Sacramento residents. In addition to my work with the Franklin Boulevard Business District, my husband and I have co-owned and operate a residential remodeling and construction company since 2014. My background is in urban studies and planning, and I have a passion for promoting placemaking and walkability in our neighborhoods, and on our urban corridors.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns during my second term on the commission, which runs from now until December 2026. You can reach me at kreed.pdc@gmail.com.

Notes

Continued from page 3

amplified music in the park requiring a permit and has asked the city to attend a meeting to explain how these complaints are handled.

Budd reported that the Racial Justice Committee meets March 8. Basim Elkarra, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a civil rights and advocacy organization, will present at the committee's April 12 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Terri Shettle reported for Treasurer

John Bailey. Revenues are rebounding with rentals back to peak level, strong events and growing sponsorships. Bookings may exceed those of 2019, the best year prior to the pandemic. Most tenants have indicated an intent to renew on July 1. Progress is being made on the lease renewal.

Sierra 2 News

Gerre Buehler reported that Facilities Committee members met with Jackie Beecham, director of the Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment, to discuss SCNA's letter requesting preliminary approval to explore converting Sierra 2 to a solar-powered system. SCNA requires clarification

from the city before moving forward given the substantial commitment of time and money involved. The city will respond to SCNA within two months about the solar option approval request.

She noted that the return to robust operations and increased workload at Sierra 2 will likely require increased staffing next year to supplement staff lost during COVID.

Shettle reported that the merger of the Society for the Blind with Sacramento Braille Transcribers will be completed by the April 27 opening of the refurbished office. All are welcome to attend.

The next meeting will be April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

— Submitted by Mimi Budd

Calling all Curtis Park Artists

Do you write poetry?
Create clay objects or
pottery? Paint or make
cartoons? Submit
photos of your artwork
and a brief statement
about yourself and your
creative inspiration to
Dorsey.griffith@gmail.
com. All submissions will
be considered for our
newly created, periodic
arts page.

Curtis Park photographer honors railroad women in new book

By Patti Roberts

Sitting in her Fifth Avenue home, Shirley Burman flips through her recently published book “Sisters of the Iron Road” – a beautiful and well-researched history of women working in the railroads.

The book captures stories, photographs, illustrations and newspaper articles featuring women who dedicated themselves to a profession not always welcoming of them. During the Civil War, young women were trained as railroad telegraph operators, and Burman traces them through the years in which women stepped in to fill men’s positions during World Wars I and II, only to be pushed out when the soldiers returned home. The book also covers the slow emergence of opportunities for women in railroads over the last 60 years.

The “80-something” photographer said she first delved into women’s history while working for the California State Railroad Museum in 1979, having been hired the previous year to document restoration of the railroad’s rolling stock in the new museum and photograph the construction site.

In 1983, she photographed a reception being held for photographer Richard Steinheimer and artist Rod Aszman. Burman met Steinheimer, a preeminent railroad photographer who was exhibiting his own work at the museum. Burman and Steinheimer clicked, married a year and a half later, and started their own business. The pair traveled throughout the country on commercial railroad photo assignments. Burman also used the time to photograph women and visit local museums, always with the women’s project on her mind.

By 1989, she had pulled together enough information and images for her first lecture and slideshow held at the Oakland Museum. Two years later she built a traveling exhibit called “Women



Photo by Shirley Burman and Judith Scott
Shirley Burman holding her recently published “Sisters of the Iron Road.”

and the American Railroad.”

“It was first exhibited at the California State Railroad Museum and then in museums and libraries across the country until 2004,” said Burman. “In 1995, we realized I had the images, stories and the interest to make it into a fascinating book.”

Burman selected images from her large collection of contemporary women’s photographs in various railroad professions, including ironworkers, engineers, repair shop workers, station agents, conductors and track crews.

“It’s always so exciting to find out the stories behind the historical photos or items,” Burman said. “Research is the most interesting part.”

She began writing around 1996, with Steinheimer editing, but he was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s in 2000, and her book was put on the shelf for 11 years while she was his full-time caregiver. Following her husband’s death in 2011, she took time off for a few years and then began again to pull her book project together.

After years of writing, researching, and being a railroad history detective, Burman finally began the final stages in 2019 with a designer and a couple of editors. The self-published book went to



Photographer Shirley Burman captures the image of Doris Ford, 1981, a freight car wheels inspector at the Southern Pacific Yard in Roseville.

a local to printer in the summer of 2022 and the shipment of “Sisters of the Iron Road” arrived on her doorstep in time for Christmas.

Burman always had an interest in photography and was first inspired watching her grandparents use a large box camera. She got her own camera, a

Kodak Brownie Hawkeye, at age 12.

Sisters of the Iron Road, a 290-page book, is a testament to Burman’s love of photography and women’s history. The book is available online through the California Railroad Museum’s website: www.californiarailroadmuseum/store under “Railroad Books.”

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Due to health concerns related to the spread of the coronavirus variants, events listed here may change. Questions? Please contact groups directly.

ART
Glass Acts Mosaics Collective
All skill levels welcome.
Tuesdays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11
Glassactmosaics.org

MUSIC
Beginning Taiko Drumming
3-week class
No experience necessary.
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1; \$45

Intermediate Taiko Drumming
3-week class
Previous taiko experience required.
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Studio 1; \$75
Register: kristyoshiro@gmail.com

MARTIAL ARTS
Yi family Tai Chi/Qi Gong, Shaolin Martial Arts
Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

Eagle Claw Kung Fu
Monday, 6-7 p.m.
Wednesday, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
Sifu Mary Melliza: 916-802-3144
Eagleclawsacramento.com

ADULT DANCE
Dancing with Heidi
Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m. Children's Ballet I - ages 6-9 (no experience required)
Wednesdays 6-7:30 p.m. Adult/Teen Basic Ballet (some experience required)
Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 p.m. Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning (no experience required)
dancingwithheidi@gmail.com



Two Rivers Dance Center/ River City Taps
Mondays-Thursdays/Saturdays
For times, richard@tworiversdance-center.com

FITNESS
Zumba with Pakko
Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3
pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

WW Studio Workshop
Th/Fri/Sat, 8:30-10 a.m. Room 10
800-374-9191, weightwatchers.com

Tai Chi Fundamentals
Sundays, 11-noon
Studio 1
Mindfulbeat.com

OTHER
Puppy kindergarten and social class
Puppies ages 8-12 weeks
Mondays, 5:15-6:45 p.m. Room 10
www.midtownmutts.com
916-600-3259

City Life Church
Sunday worship service: 10 a.m.
Room 10
916-538-9292



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Activities are free, except where noted. (Donations appreciated)
Room 12 • 916 455-6339. For more information: Sierra2.org.



LEISURE
BOOK CLUB
2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 12
April 10 – “The Thursday Murder Club: A Novel,” by Richard Osman

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon.
Room 12
April 20 – “Land,” by Simon Winchester

LIFE HISTORY WRITING
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.
Room 12

OPEN ART STUDIO
Fridays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11

CARDS & GAMES
GAME DAY
Tuesdays, 2-3:30 p.m. Room 12

PINOCHLE
Fridays, noon-3 p.m. Room 12

MAHJONG
Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon. Room 12

FUN BRIDGE (Contract)
Thursdays (except 2nd Thursday)
1-3 p.m. Room 12
WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Meet new friends and discover new hobbies. 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 12

EDUCATION
MY STORY PROJECT
2nd Monday, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

FITNESS
GENTLE YOGA
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon.
Studio 3
Pat Shaw, 916-856-0136

WELLNESS PROGRAM
Punch cards \$80/10 classes;
\$40/5 classes or \$10 drop-in
(purchase in the Sierra 2 office)

TAI CHI CHUAN
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

STRENGTH AND BALANCE
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Permit-ready plans for accessory dwelling units now available

By Andrea Rosen

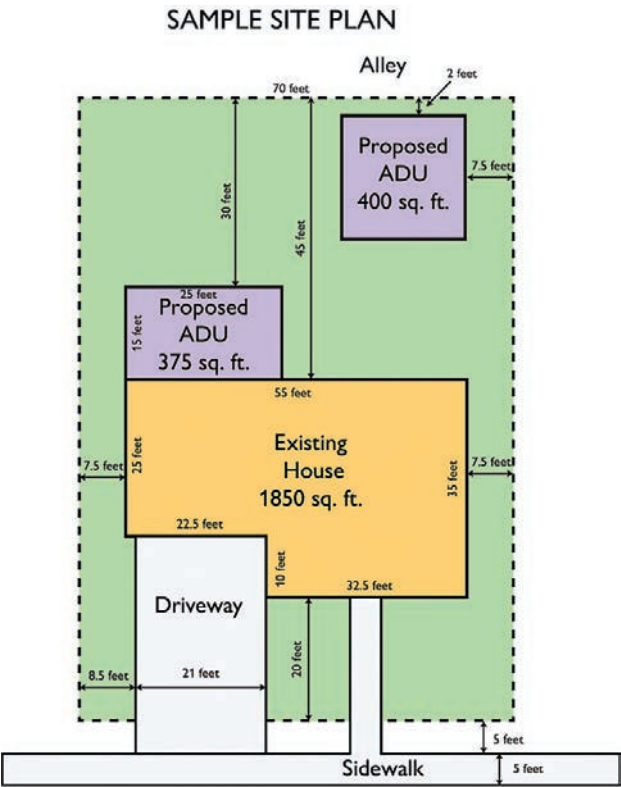
For the first time, the City of Sacramento is offering an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Resource Center. It is an online one-stop resource for information about ADUs in Sacramento. An ADU is defined as an additional home on a property. The resource center is intended to make it easier for people who want to add another home on their property in the form of an ADU. It offers a step-by-step guide to help a homeowner select the right type and size of ADU for their property and develop a site plan to submit to the city for approval.

ADUs are not new. The Curtis Park neighborhood historically has had many parcels with more than one home. Sacramento now allows one or two ADUs to be added to a duplex or triplex property, in addition to single family residences, assuming the lot is big enough to satisfy setback and lot coverage limitations. There are different types of ADUs: attached, detached and garage conversions.

ADUs have been allowed in Sacramento for a long time, but in response to recent state laws, Sacramento has eased certain requirements that tended to make building ADUs more difficult. Also called granny flats, second units or in-law units, some people build ADUs to provide additional living spaces for guests or caregivers. Some residents build ADUs as part of their plan to “age in place” and have a living space to offer caregivers. Some want to add ADUs to generate income, while others feel safer having another person living on their property.

“Our goal is to provide a product that will make ADU ownership and construction more accessible to all homeowners in Sacramento,” said Garrett Norman, senior city planner. “The plans remove the need to hire a design professional or navigate complex building codes and will help streamline building permit approvals. They were designed to be easily constructible for the do-it-yourself homeowner with easy-to-find building materials to further help reduce costs.”

The resource center provides pre-approved, permit-ready detached ADU plans. Permit-ready ADU plans



include a studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom unit. The permit-ready ADU plans for detached ADUs can be used by any resident at no charge. The city has partnered with Symbium Build, a building software platform, and the pre-approved plans are uploaded to their website to help with site planning. These free plans meet the 2022 Residential Building Code requirements and are all electric. Applicants need to submit a site plan to show where the ADU will be placed on the property. Modifications to the permit-ready plans are not allowed, which means that all height and setback requirements required by the plans must be met with no deviations.

If you would like to share your story of planning or building an ADU in or around Curtis Park, please contact the editor at Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com for possible inclusion in a future article.

For further information, please see <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Resources/Accessory-Dwelling-Units>.

Story Time

Continued from page 1

forward. That spurred a group to gather outside Poppy + Pot to deter conflict and keep the participants, including many young children, safe.

About 20 minutes after the reading, a small group of Proud Boys in their signature bumble bee colors appeared across from the shop on the other side of Franklin. The much larger group that had gathered outside the shop in anticipation of the Proud Boys could be heard chanting, “Go home Proud Boys.” After roughly 15 minutes, during which Sacramento police continued patrolling the street, the Proud Boys left. Observers noted that it was unclear what they had hoped to accomplish, and that whatever message they intended to spread was easily drowned out by the vocal counter-protesters.

The children seemed largely unaware of any conflict, rapt in the reading and performance by Mercury Rising.

After the event, parents Sarah Peterson and Tonni Lynn-Steele had lunch at neighboring Hop Gardens. They said they’d attended the event to teach their kids that “representation matters so much,” and that “to connect to others and the community makes us feel less alone.”

Noting the disproportionate number of counter-protesters, Peterson said, “Sometimes, we forget that, and feel overwhelmed by the hate, but there are more people protecting us than there were coming up to be mean, right? And that gives us a lot of hope.”

Poppy + Pot plans to host a third Drag Queen Story Time in April, with the date, time and guest performer to be announced on their Instagram page @poppyandpot.



2023 Events Calendar

- Home & Garden Tour:** Saturday, April 22
- Big Day of Giving:** Thursday, May 4
- Neighborhood Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 20
- Curtis Fest Artisan Fair:** Sunday, June 4
- Music in the Park:** Sundays, June 25, July 30, and August 27
- Fall Fundraising Event:** Saturday, October 14
- Angel Tree:** Mid-November – Mid-December
- Annual Membership Meeting** – December 6

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Tour

Continued from page 1

Tudor cottage with steep gables and casement windows. The final home on tour reflects the 1930s machine age. Its Stream-line Moderne style is clean and sleek, like trains and steamships, with interiors from contemporary to classic. Outside, are a variety of inviting entertainment spaces, cottage gardens and a swimming pool.

The tour encompasses a loop of one and a half miles. Bicycle racks will be provided for those who opt to cycle the route. Watch for plein air artists at work.

Take advantage and meet up in the park! Several activities are scheduled throughout the day at the north end of Curtis Park. In addition to live music by Midtown Jazz, there will be food and coffee/tea for sale. Information displays, picnic tables and chairs will be provided, as well as restroom and handwashing facilities. A demonstration and talk will be given on repairing original or historic windows. Talks on tree care and beekeeping also are scheduled. See SCNA's website and social media for updates.

See what's growing at the Bret Harte School Garden. A special feature this year is a garden tour with volunteer guides. The garden is substantial, including vegetable beds, an orchard and perennial borders. It is a classroom lab where all activities related to the garden are part of the school's curriculum and tie into the California standards of learning. Students from all grade levels prepare the soil, plant, and harvest and eat peas, lettuce, potatoes, apples, oranges, mandarins, lemons and persimmons. Any excess from the harvests is usually donated to the River City Food Bank.

Also, on the perimeter of the school, at the corner of Ninth Avenue and Franklin Blvd. is the Bret Harte California Native Garden. This is a demonstration garden with signs labeling the nearly 50 plant varieties.

The gardens are managed by the Bret Harte PTA Garden Committee, formed in 2016. It is funded by grants, cash and in-kind donations. The council consists of area neighbors, PTA members and school staff.

If you are not an SCNA member, a tour ticket discount is a great reason to join. Tickets can be purchased online in advance at www.Sierra2.org or at the Sierra 2 Community Center. Advance tickets are \$25 (\$20 for SCNA members), and day-of-tour tickets are \$30 (\$25 for SCNA members). On the day of the tour, tickets can be purchased at the north end of Curtis Park at 26th Street and Donner Way. Docents and volunteers are asked to purchase their discount tickets in advance at the Sierra 2 Center, call Sierra 2, or purchase on tour day. Pick up your tour program and map in the park on April 22.

Special Demonstrations Northwest corner of Curtis Park

- Historic Window Repair and Weatherization
- Tree Care: Ask an Arborist
- Meet the Bees: Sacramento Beekeepers

Spanish revival home honors its historic past

By Janice Calpo and Susan MacCulloch

Rich in historical authenticity, a 25th Street Heilbron Oaks home is one of five featured on this year's Home & Garden Tour. Karol and Jack Moncrief have lived in this architectural gem since 1988. They purchased the house from the Dean family, who had lived there since the 1930s.

The Moncriefs' chapter in the nearly 100-year-old home, which included two children born and raised there, continues. Extended family and friends continue to share good times and memories in its presence.

Heilbron Oaks is a Curtis Park subdivision plotted and established in 1923. The subdivision is now celebrating 100 years since its founding.

Like many revival styles of the time, "few of the large homes adhere strictly to the true architectural types, the homes being modified to meet local conditions and variations of design," a Sacramento Bee article noted in 1930. Yet, the same article mentioned that the Moncrief house "closely approaches the Spanish treatment." Built in 1928, its continued presence connects us with prior generations who fostered a sense of place.

Architectural features true to historic Spanish style in the Moncrief home include graceful, round arches lining a front porch arcade, with a wooden balcony above accessed through double doors. From the porch below, the balcony – with its rich wood soffit with hand-carved corbels – feels as historic as the house but was built more recently by a wood crafts-



Photo by Rudy Calpo

Cozy interior living room of the Moncrief revival home on the Home & Garden Tour.

man who understood the home's historic character.

Adjacent to the porch is the dining room, with a big arched window facing front, topped by a second story overhang with a carved wooden window box. Upon entering, the warmth of the rounded plaster fireplace, arched niches, rustic woodwork and windows on all sides reflect the care of its owners. Many original fixtures, especially the wall sconces, illuminate the space with a warm glow.

The Moncriefs agree on so many things they love about life in

this house, especially sitting by the cozy fireplace and spending time on their front balcony, overlooking the neighborhood they love.

Although the Moncriefs adapted some of the rooms with modern features, like the kitchen and upstairs bathroom, they mostly retained the original spaces and floor plan. The kitchen remains relatively small, but Jack says it is still a favorite place for company to gather as meals are being prepared. Unlike the new concept of an open kitchen-dining arrangement, the separation keeps the formal dining room focused on the meal, with the utilitarian area out of view.

The kitchen's gourmet stove is enhanced by a backsplash that features an original tile from the Alhambra in Spain, one that Jack purchased there during a renovation fundraiser.

Other treasures around the house, including a Hedy Lemar lamp and antique wood furnishings, add to the home's personality and charm.

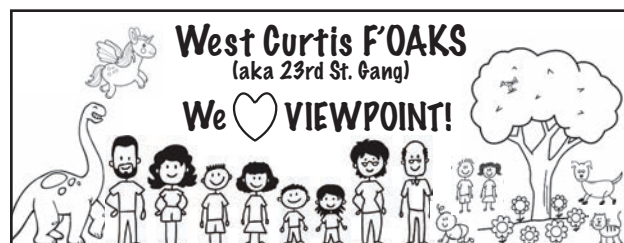
A feature on the history of Heilbron Oaks will appear in a future issue of *Viewpoint*.

Curtis Park subdivision walking tour brochures available

Walking tour brochures of seven distinct Curtis Park subdivisions, developed by the former SCNA Heritage Committee between 2008-2014, are still available for \$1 each at the Sierra 2 office during business hours.

Heilbron Oaks, St. Francis Oaks, West Curtis Oaks, South Curtis Oaks Hills, South Curtis Oaks and South Curtis Oaks subdivisions 4, 5 and 6 are available; the Curtis Oaks brochure has sold out.

The brochures share some of the subdivisions' history, architecture, first owners and other historical nuggets, including the Heilbron Oaks home where famed author Joan Didion lived with her maternal grandparents during her high school and junior college years.



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Commissions – How, what and why?

The City of Sacramento has more than 30 boards and commissions that help inform our city government operations – but the process of applying, being appointed and staying informed can be daunting. For this month's column, I'll be talking a little about our commissions and their function. In the future, we'll be doing more in-depth dives on some of our District 5 commissioners.

Commissions exist for one key reason: to democratize our governmental process and ensure the voices of everyday Sacramento residents are reflected in the city's decision-making. The standing commissions we have in place, such as Planning and Design, Parks and Community

Enrichment or Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy, provide a method for residents with a passion for the subject to take concrete action. Most of the items we hear at the City Council have previously passed through commissions and were approved or modified before they arrive at the dais.

Each city council member can recommend commission appointments – this differs from year to year and depends on the occupancy status of each board seat. Several commissions have dedicated seats for representatives from each district, in addition to citywide mayoral appointments. My goal in recruiting and appointing commission members has been to ensure that a diverse and geographically

representative set of voices are being heard across commissions.

In the coming months, I'll be doing a deep dive on the eight appointments that I've made to our city commissions thus far, as well as a breakdown of what the commissions do, what that means for you, and how you can get involved. My current appointments are Kim Carter Martinez to the Police Review Commission, Lindsey King to the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission, Roynell Anderson to the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission, Dov Kadin to the Planning and Design Commission, Eunice Roh to the Active Transportation Commission, Marcus Wolf to the Measure U

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Commission, and Stormee Night Burgan and Patrick Leo Hsu to the Youth Commission.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office if there's anything we can do for you, or if you have any questions, issues, or ideas. Contact the team by calling 916-808-7005 or by emailing district5@cityofsacramento.org.

Thank you.

African American Experience project in Sacramento helps tell untold stories

By Kathy Les

Sacramento has a prime place in California history. Up until recently, this history has focused on Caucasian Gold Rush miners and early white settlers followed by the sweep of migration starting in the 1880s by Midwesterners and Europeans.

A new effort by the City of Sacramento aims to broaden what is known of Sacramento history in the Black community. Last month, SCNA's Racial Justice Committee hosted Carson Anderson, co-director of the African American Experience (AAE) project, who shared more about this ambitious effort.

Made possible with a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the AAE project is focused on identifying Black history through locations emblematic of the locus of Black strength and achievement.

"We seek to identify places sensitive to the Black experience so we can more actively promote historic preservation of properties in these communities," said Anderson, himself a former Sacramento Historic Preservation director.

"Very often anonymous-looking

buildings can contain a powerful story of African American power and descent," Anderson said.

The project is focusing on several key themes occurring from 1839-1980:

- Migration and settlement
- Business and commercial development
- Religion and spirituality
- Civic engagement, activism and the fight for civil rights
- Arts, culture and recreation

First, the AAE project seeks to hear stories directly from Sacramento's African American community through neighborhood meetings. Organizers hope Black residents will step forward with photos, videos, documents and research papers that help to uncover lesser-known stories of African American successes and struggles.

They already have learned a lot. Take the story of Virna Canson, an early consumer education advocate and treasurer-manager of the local NAACP Credit Union. She made housing finance and other loans available to minority families. She was the president of the Sacramento League of Women Voters in the 1950s and the Sacramento NAACP western regional office director in the 1970s.

Similarly, the AAE project uncovered the story of Daniel Blue, a Black pioneer, former slave and church administrator who launched the St. Andrews AME church in Blue's Sacramento home. When he died in 1884, he was featured with a front-page obituary, illustrative of his prominence at the time.

"For the most part, the Black community was ignored by the local newspapers unless involved in a crime," said Anderson.

In the aggregate, the AAE project is discovering the role of Black Sacramentans in the fight for civil rights. Anderson relayed stories of African Americans who waged court battles locally to help turn the tide on issues like slavery after it was outlawed, segregated education and discrimination in the courts when Blacks were not allowed to testify in their own defense.

If you know someone with stories to contribute to the AAE project, refer them to Carson Anderson at canderson@cityofsacramento.org. For more information, visit cityofsacramento.org and search for the African American Experience project. <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Urban-Design/Preservation/African-American-Experience-Project>

Basim Elkarra to speak on civil rights and the Muslim community

By Lily M. Harris

The Racial Justice Committee of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association will host a discussion April 12 at noon with Basim Elkarra, executive Director for the Council on American Islam Relations, or CAIR.

CAIR was founded in Washington D.C. in 1994, in response to anti-Muslim discrimination. CAIR has since become a national organization, with chapters in California which, like others throughout the country, strive to build a foundation for protecting the rights of American Muslims, promote an accurate image of Muslims and protect immigrants' civil rights.

Elkarra leads CAIR's efforts in the Sacramento Valley area to serve as a voice to its diverse and vibrant Muslim community. During the last 10 years at CAIR, Elkarra has worked with law enforcement, schools and health-care providers to ensure they receive diversity training about Islam and the Muslim community. He appears regularly in the media as a commentator on issues of civil rights, the Muslim community and foreign affairs.

If you would like to attend the RJC meeting on April 12, please contact Mimi Budd at mimibudd@comcast.net for a Zoom invite.

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Photo by Joan Cusick

Scott Klier at Broadway At Music Circus

Scott Klier takes helm of Broadway Sacramento

By Patti Roberts

For 70 years, the Lewis family has piloted Broadway At Music Circus. Russel Lewis co-founded the musical theater under the large circus tent, followed by his son Richard Lewis, the current Broadway Sacramento president and CEO.

When Richard Lewis makes his final stage exit this summer for a well-deserved retirement, Highland Avenue resident Scott Klier will take his place as Broadway Sacramento's new president and CEO. Broadway Sacramento incorporates both Broadway on Tour, which houses touring Broadway shows at the Safe Credit Union Performing Arts Center (13th and L Streets), and the Broadway At Music Circus summer series at the UC Davis Health Pavilion (15th and H Streets).

Klier is entering his 23rd season with Broadway At Music Circus, having served as an intern, production assistant, assistant stage manager, scenic designer, production manager and/or producer for more than 150 productions. *Viewpoint* profiled Klier last April.

"I owe my career to Richard Lewis," Klier said. "I was introduced to musical theater at Broadway At Music Circus, received my professional start under Richard's leadership, and have been mentored by him since."

"There's no one more qualified to lead Broadway Sacramento – or more dedicated to the art of musical theater – than Scott Klier," Lewis said. "In the more than two decades he's been with the company, Scott has gained an intricate knowledge of every facet of its operation. He continually strives for perfection, something you can witness

at every performance on the Broadway At Music Circus stage."

Klier got involved in theater at Jesuit High School, interned summers at Music Circus while getting his degree at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and then high-tailed it to the bright lights of Broadway in New York. He had a 10-year stint stage managing on Broadway and then returned to his hometown in 2003 to serve as Broadway Sacramento's Production Manager, eventually elevated to artistic director and chief operating officer.

"As a Sacramento native, I've been able to experience and appreciate Broadway Sacramento for my entire life," said Klier. "I recognize the degree to which it's revered throughout the theater industry. I'm both humbled and thrilled to be able to contribute to Broadway Sacramento in this new capacity."



Photo by Gerre Buehler

Mark Rasmussen eagerly observes Erin O'Neal pour his Sazerac cocktail at the Mardi Gras Party hosted by Kelye Lotz and Peter Andrews of 24th Street on Feb. 28. Jonathan Ambrose considers trying the special concoction.

Listen for the "kee-er" of the red-shouldered hawk

By Dan Murphy

The most frequently reported hawk on eBird.org that you might see in Curtis Park is the red-shouldered hawk. The birds are very vocal from November to May while establishing breeding territory and courting. They often call while soaring in circles. The red-shouldered hawk is large, up to 2 feet long with a wingspan of up to 50 inches. The bird has striking coloration, with a red-brown breast with fine white striations, wings with black and white checks and a striped tail. The shoulders are washed with deep red. Males and females have similar plumage, and immature birds are browner than adults. Our Pacific coast subspecies is the reddest of them all, with the Latin name "elegans" meaning elegant. So, this hawk is highly visible when circling overhead and screaming "kee-er!"

Here in the west, red-shouldered hawks prefer riparian and oak woodlands but are also found in eucalyptus groves and suburban areas with nearby woodlots or parks. These hawks generally hunt from a perch, waiting for some type of prey to show itself then swooping to snatch it up from the surface. The red-shoulder's diet is broad, consisting of small mammals such as chipmunks, mice and voles, and also includes frogs and snakes. However, in certain areas and seasons the hawks eat birds, crayfish and insects. They are seldom successful at taking other birds.

Red-shouldered hawks are generally monogamous. Nest building or resto-



Photo by Dan Murphy

Red-shouldered hawk

ration takes about a month. They lay from three to five eggs, and the female does most of the incubation and brooding while her mate supplies her and her nestlings with most of their food. Once a red-shouldered hawk establishes a breeding territory it usually remains there for life. Great horned owls are known to prey on their nestlings.

Almost 60% of nestlings do not survive their first year, and mortality thereafter is about 30%. Their average survival is a little over two years, but the oldest record is held by a southern California female at 26 years. Red-shoulder fossils date back almost 400,000 years, and the species now is rated among those of least concern for substantial decline.

Most of the information for this article came from <https://birdsoftheworld.org/>.



Photo by Gerre Buehler

The Soliday Bench family welcomed daughter Lumi on Feb. 4. Dad Noah, big sister Zephyr, mom Ann with Lumi and Grandma Suki are all delighted with Lumi. The couple moved to their home on Marshall Way in Oct. 2019, and their daughter Zephyr was born in 2020. Ann says, "It's a lot easier the second time and not during a pandemic. We didn't realize when we bought our home that the Sierra 2 Green playground would become so important to the family." Noah added, "This time we can actually spend time with friends." Grandma Suki reports, "Lumi is adorable." Zephyr says that "Lumi is cute, but cries a lot."

Annual celebration engages community and encourages love of reading



**LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN**

Bret Harte Elementary held its annual Read Across America week in early March. The national celebration, started in 1997 by the National Education Association, takes place at schools and libraries across the country and features events that encourage children to grow their love of reading.

The school has participated in Read Across America since 2012, growing it from a one-day event to its current weeklong celebration. Student Support Center Director Elizabeth Sterba has been involved from the beginning. Traditional activities have included guest readers from the community, student spirit days and a book cover contest. New to this year's lineup was "STOP! DROP! AND READ!" in which the school office issued periodic announcements over the loudspeaker alerting students to stop what they were doing, drop everything and read.

Sterba's perennial goal is to get students excited about reading.

"We want students to see that reading isn't just something we do in school that is assigned but is a real-world skill that can take them places as adults," she said. To accomplish this, Sterba has built a network of community members such as city council members, school board trustees, Sacramento Kings executives, parents and neighbors from Curtis Park.

Viewpoint editor Susan MacCulloch of 26th Street volunteered to read to Mr. Yenovkian's fourth-grade class and to Ms. Saephanh's Special Day Class (SDC), which serves first- through third-grade students on the autism spectrum. MacCulloch read "The Day the Crayons Quit" to the fourth graders. Of the experience she said, "They were a lively group, but we had fun sharing this very funny story."

MacCulloch enjoyed reading "More Bears" to the SDC class and said she came away with admiration and respect for teachers who work with students with autism. Her favorite part of the reading celebration was engaging with the students.

Hal Thomas of Portola Way read excerpts from



Elizabeth Sterba, Patti Roberts, Sharon Frederick, Lauren Gothard

By Jarely Rangel

"One Thousand and One Arabian Nights" to Mr. Rule's sixth-grade class. He also read "Seeds and More Seeds" to Mr. Peterson's kindergarteners.

"The book was bought by my father for the family in 1960," said Thomas. The book poses questions such as: If I plant a stone will it grow? If I plant a marble will it grow? If I plant a seed, what happens?

Expressing a desire to read to students more regularly, he said, "I believe reading and storytelling are a basic human need."

Sterba points out that there's an added benefit to having the larger community show up for Bret Harte students. "Our students have a chance to meet people from a range of identities and professions, who take time to share their love of reading and help our students know just how valuable they are to everyone in our community," she said.

While all students enjoyed having guest readers

in their classroom, they also enjoyed the variety of books brought to class.

"My favorite part was that the readers read funny books," said Faith, third grader.

A student favorite in Mr. Fong's second- and third-grade class was "The Book with No Pictures."

The annual event isn't the only way to be a volunteer reader at Bret Harte. The school library is open two days a week and needs more volunteers. The reading program "916 INK" also is recruiting volunteers to work with students during the school day.

Thanks to the efforts of this year's volunteers, students connected with the joy of reading.

"Books can be a great teacher, a great escape, and a great friend," said Sterba.

Guest readers are always needed for this annual event. To be added to the contact list for next year's celebration, email Elizabeth Sterba at Elizabeth-

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