

# VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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June 2024

## Accessory dwelling units sprouting up in Curtis Park backyards

By Andrea Rosen

Have you noticed new dwellings in some Curtis Park backyards? These tiny homes are accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and the city of Sacramento is encouraging folks throughout the city to build them.

As of Jan. 1, 2022, new state laws mandating local changes to support the development of ADUs forced the city of Sacramento to change its local ordinance governing these units. The state required local jurisdictions to permit ADUs on parcels zoned for single-family and duplexes. The city responded with a short-term ordinance change, which eventually morphed into more generous standards. One element of the city's attempt to address a severe housing shortage, ADUs have taken off locally, including in Curtis Park. While gradual, these efforts are starting to show results. City ADU



The Hill family's ADU on Sixth Avenue provides a 350-square-foot cottage for guests.

data are not organized by neighborhood, but a rough count suggests that in Curtis Park, six ADUs were completed in 2023 and six in 2022. Many



Jonathan Thurston built an ADU on his Montgomery Way property for his mother, Judy Cummings, with a shared patio. Photos by Will Carlton

others have been permitted or submitted but are yet to be built.

To support homeowners in building ADUs, the city established an ADU

Resource Center ([adu.cityofsacramento.org/](http://adu.cityofsacramento.org/)) and created pre-approved

See ADU, Page 4

★ JUNE 2ND, 2024 ★

**SIERRA2.ORG/CURTIS-FEST**

FROM THE SIERRA CURTIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Activist Mark Helmar leaves rich legacy in neighborhood

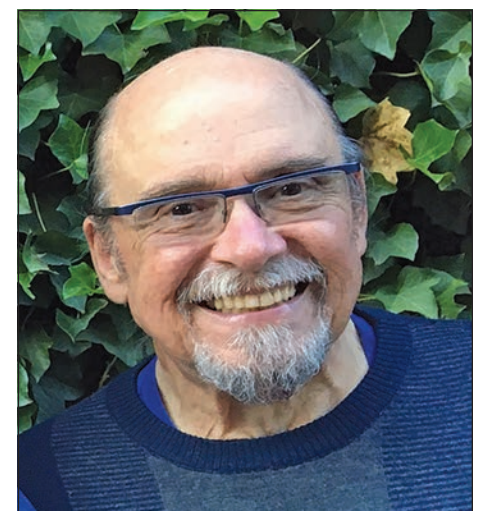
It's hard to imagine the world without Mark Helmar. A neighborhood activist and friend to many, Mark, 75, died unexpectedly on May 10.

For a half-century, Mark was devoted to making the neighborhood the best it could be. He helped develop the neighborhood association in 1979.

After attending St. Pius X Seminary in Galt and graduating from Sacramento State, he married Sharon Morse in 1970. They settled into their first Curtis Park home in 1976 and raised two sons, Jason and Jacob, who reside with their families in Sacramento.

Throughout the years, it became a Helmar tradition that new neighbors could count on a dinner invitation. The couple was known for hospitality and made many friends throughout Curtis Park.

When the abandoned Sierra School was being revived into a community center, Mark was on the volunteer construction crew that built raised seating in the former school auditorium to



Mark Helmar

convert it into the 300-seat 24th Street Theatre.

Dedicated to the success of the Sierra 2 Center, the Helmars agreed to have their home on the first Curtis Park Home Tour fundraiser in 1986, and their current home on the home tour 30 years later.

See Helmar, Page 4

Meet the GRADUATES

Page 8-9

Home Tour recap

Page 2





The fun-loving tropical tiki hut garage conversion on Third Avenue was a hit on the home and garden tour.



This craftsman bungalow on Marshall Way featured lots of light and flowing space.

Photos by Rudy Calpo

## Home & Garden Tour a great success

By Lori Harder

The Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour welcomed 660 people on April 27, a beautiful spring day. The tour included four diverse historic homes, a Crocker Village estate and a “Tiki Hut” created in an original 1927 garage. In addition, two front yard landscapes and a colorful 1964 Field and Stream vintage trailer were displayed. Sacramento Art Deco Society volunteers in vintage dress and the

Capitol A’s Model-A touring cars were also on the festive scene.

At the north end of the park, Midtown Jazz played live music, and tour-goers enjoyed lunch provided by food trucks. An adjacent picnic area under the trees was set up by Alison De Anda of Harvest Rental Company. A plant sale to benefit Gateway Garden added to the festivities. The weather was perfect.

On the home tour, pianist Robert Olson played piano in a room historically designed for music. Arborist Dan

Pskowski was on hand under the shade of 1928 redwood trees to answer questions and share information about tree care. Beekeeper Carole Garrett of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association, bees in tow, showed people the bees at work, and answered all kinds of bee and beekeeping questions. Plant Foundry Nursery provided a front patio display.

The event raised approximately \$14,500, helping fund SCNA programs and Sierra 2 Center operations.

We thank those who generously

prepared and opened their homes and gardens. “It was a great day all around, from welcoming in old friends and new acquaintances to witnessing the wonderful creativity of the other homeowners whose houses were on the tour,” said Dorsey Griffith, who opened her Tudor Revival to tour goers.

The tour would not have been possible without generous, community-minded homeowners and over 70 volunteers. Special thanks to sponsor Steffan Brown.

## Valerie Burrows retires from Sierra 2 after 20 years of service

By Diana Sunseri

Valerie Burrows’ greatest hope for the Sierra 2 Center is for it “to continue to be loved and thrive” – a lovely sentiment from a staffer who retired May 2 after 20 years of serving the Curtis Park community.

During that time, Burrows worked with more than 45 staff members, many board members and hundreds of facility renters as the Sierra 2’s facility administrator and theater manager. “One of the best parts of working at Sierra 2 was meeting new people every day,” she said. “I liked making people feel comfortable... and helping them.

“That was especially important with instructors looking for a rental location to start their new businesses,” added Burrows, who, among other things, provided marketing tips, helped them create flyers and shared the knowledge she also acquired during her tenure on how to promote classes and activities on social media. “I wanted them to succeed as much as they did.”



Valerie Burrows

Photo courtesy of Val Burrows

Emily Perez began renting space for her private music business and the Sacramento Pop Choir at the end of 2019, unaware that a global pandemic would soon shut down gatherings; singing was a particularly high-risk activity.

“Everyone at Sierra 2, and especially

Val, helped us survive,” she said. “It was a lot of two steps forward, one step back, but Val helped us figure out how to get things done.” The choir she launched with 30 people has grown to 125, “even though we had to rebuild twice. I don’t know if we would have made it if we were not at a place like Sierra 2 because of the flexibility they allowed us. I’ll really miss Val. I’m so grateful for everything she did for us.”

As an administrator, Burrows was known as a friendly, caring person who loved the theater venue, remembered how her rental clients liked things and got stuff done. “We developed wonderful friendships over the years, and I’ll really miss my clients,” she said. Maybe now that I’m not busy managing their rentals I’ll be able to participate in some of their activities.”

“I always thought of her as the heart and soul of Sierra 2,” said former staffer Sharon Martarano, who lives on 23rd Street. “The tenants loved her as did all of the various theater groups that used the venue.”

Given some recent departures, Burrows was the last of the center’s employees with deep institutional knowledge. But her retirement also creates opportunities for new people to bring fresh perspectives and ideas, she pointed out.

“That was certainly true 20 years ago when I started,” Burrows said. “It was such a different place back then. The growth has been huge.” She believes the experience, enthusiasm and positive demeanor of her replacement, Jaclyn Teofilo, will serve Jaclyn and Sierra 2 Center well.

In retirement, Burrows plans to travel whenever she wants, spend more time with friends and double down on family-history research to “hopefully solve the mysteries of the brick walls I’ve had for the last 40 years.”

She’ll never forget the welcoming nature of the community. “I always felt like I was part of the Curtis Park neighborhood,” she said. “I’ve made some lifelong friendships...”

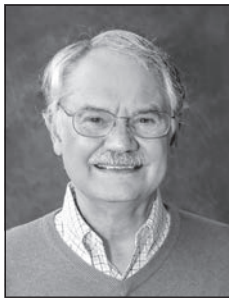
“Leaving Sierra 2 is bittersweet,” she added. “It was a hard decision, but one that feels right at this time.”

## Summer activities, Sierra 2 staff changes abound

The SCNA Home & Garden Tour last month was a wonderful success. Kudos to organizers Lori Harder and Janice Calpo as well as the homeowners who graciously opened their abodes, gardeners who shared gardens, docents and other volunteers who gave their time. Thanks also to realtor Steffan Brown for his benevolent sponsorship of the event. And, of course, thanks to all who attended. We were blessed with fine weather that day. I really enjoyed walking through the neighborhood, meeting up with neighbors and seeing the sights.

The Big Day of Giving yielded about \$35,000 in generous contributions. A huge thank you to the more than 120 contributors who gave in support of

### JOHN BAILEY SCNA Board President



Sierra 2 and SCNA. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many strong supporters.

Spring is a time of change, and changes are in the wind at the Sierra 2 office. Valerie Burrows is retiring after 20 years of service. Val has been a stalwart in providing excellent customer service to tenants and renters and keeping the office running smoothly. We deeply appreciate Val's service.

Jaclyn Teofilo is on board – having assumed many of Val's duties – and is off to a fine start. Please stop by and meet her. I think she will be a great asset to Sierra 2 operations.

Three other changes have occurred: After five years of service, Stacy Gray is leaving to seek other opportunities. Stacy has coordinated one-time bookings and has been a reliable and valued staff member. She will be missed.

After seven years with SCNA, Marketing Director Heather Hogan is pursuing other career opportunities. She helped recruit a successor, Erin Gottis. We are fortunate to have Erin as part of the team and for the smooth transition.

Executive Director Kent Anderson, who joined SCNA last November, has resigned. He informed us that the po-

sition was not what he had envisioned. We are saddened that this did not prove to be a good fit. Kent has many strengths and is certain to land in a spot where he will thrive. We wish him all the best.

We are actively seeking a new executive director. The job description is on our website, [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org). Please take a look and share with anyone you think would be a good fit. We aim to interview candidates during early June and hope to have a new hire in place early in July.

Your neighborhood association celebrates the summer months with a series of free concerts in Curtis Park. You can learn about these events elsewhere in *Viewpoint*. I look forward to seeing you there.

## Board Notes

### Personnel Changes at Sierra 2

Kent Anderson tendered his resignation as SCNA executive director. His last day was May 30. Heather Hogan, SCNA's marketing director, also resigned but suggested Erin Gottis as her replacement. After a series of interviews, Anderson, with the support of the Personnel Committee, hired Gottis, who started on April 29. Hogan is assisting in training Gottis.

Anderson also is recruiting someone to replace Stacy Gray, who resigned on April 22. Given Anderson's departure, the Personnel Committee has arranged for

at least one committee member to participate in interviews and act as a point of contact after Anderson's departure. The Personnel Committee also is reviewing and updating the executive director's job description, which is posted on the Sierra 2 website.

### Home Tour a Hit but Ticket Sales Down

This year's home tour featured five homes and three gardens. One home was featured in Inside Sacramento, and Good Day Sacramento ran a story on the event itself. Despite the media exposure and great weather, ticket sales for the event were down from 750 last year to 660 this year.

### Kids' Event on Sep. 8

After the success of the Pajama Parade, plans are in the works for another kid's event on Sep. 8. Alysse Macaluso secured Jillian Van Ness of Grow Resilient Families to perform. The Development Committee is looking for sponsors and donations for the event.

### Viewpoint Fundraising Event Postponed

The *Viewpoint* Committee has postponed a speaker event featuring Mary Ellen Burns and Darrell Corti, originally slated for June. Given the personnel transitions at Sierra 2 and scheduling issues, the committee thought it best to postpone the event until the fall. Tickets for the event

will help defray increased *Viewpoint* production costs.

### Bylaws Committee to Host Second Invitational Meeting

The Bylaws Committee continues to solicit input from board members and others regarding revisions to the SCNA bylaws. The committee met with former SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle in April. They also extended a second invitation to all board members to meet with them in May. The committee will then prepare a first draft of the recommended changes to present to the board.

The next board meeting is June 5 at 6:30 p.m.

– Submitted by Lily M. Harris

## Summer events in store for District 7 residents

As the warm embrace of summer draws near, I am thrilled to announce a vibrant array of community art, music and other events to brighten your days and create lasting memories. The District 7 event calendar is packed with activities tailored to all ages and interests, ensuring everyone can participate.

Crafted with care by your District 7 City Council office and esteemed community groups like the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and the Land Park Community Association, each event promises fun for all.

### RICK JENNINGS City Council Member District 7



We encourage you to mark your calendars and join us in celebrating the spirit of community and togetherness. Let's make this summer one to remember, filled with laughter, friendship and endless possibilities. These events are

not just opportunities for entertainment but chances to strengthen the bonds that unite us as neighbors and friends.

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to our community, we invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of summer and the tapestry of our community. Plus, a huge thank you to the community groups offering events in the district this summer.

For a full list of planned community activities, visit the District 7 website at [cityofsacramento.gov/mayor-council/district-7/District7-News-And-Events](http://cityofsacramento.gov/mayor-council/district-7/District7-News-And-Events).

## Upcoming SCNA Events

**Curtis Fest:** Sunday, June 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Music in the Park:** Last Sundays, June 30, July 28 and Aug. 25 from 6-8 p.m.

**Kids' Music in the Park:** Sunday, Sept. 8 from 9:30-10:15 a.m.

**Fall Fundraiser:** Saturday, Oct. 5, 4-7 p.m.

**Angel Tree:** Early November to mid-December

**SCNA Membership Meeting:** November or December (TBD)

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advertise in *Viewpoint*.  
Call Erin Gottis: 916-452-3005 x 200  
or [erin@sierra2.org](mailto:erin@sierra2.org)

## ADU

*Continued from page 1*

plans that offer fast-track approval absent deviations from size or setbacks. Approximately 20 building permit applications have been submitted using the city's pre-approved plans. The city is also putting on ADU fairs and sending out thousands of postcards to raise awareness of these resources.

### Detached ADU

ADUs can be garage conversions, detached units or attached to the main house. On Fifth Avenue, the Thorne family was desperate to create additional living space to address the limitations of a four-person household with a single bathroom. Fortunate to have an oversized lot and garage needing demolition, they decided to build both a detached ADU and new garage.

At 1,050 square feet (400 downstairs and 650 upstairs), the unit is not much smaller than many original Curtis Park homes. Once completed, the ADU will provide the flexibility the family needs now that both parents work from home. They look forward to having plenty of room between the two homes to accommodate visiting family, friends and their two children.

"We're building an ADU to add all of the things our 1908 home is missing – an extra bathroom, more storage, a garage with an EV charger and a cozy spot for friends and family to stay," said Miles Thorne. "It's exactly what we need to make this our forever home."

Jonathan Thurston of Sixth Avenue is overjoyed with the cozy, but fully functional detached ADU he built specifically for his mother,

Judy Cummings. She was living in a large four-bedroom house near the UC Davis Medical Center. Knowing the ADU would provide her with a safe, comfortable and modern living space in a great neighborhood, she felt ready to sell her home to a young family looking for a house near their workplaces. Like many Curtis Park properties, the garage was overdue for removal. Demolition freed up space for a well-designed, single-story, one-bedroom ADU without losing its communal piazza. They enjoy sharing time in the lovely outdoor shared space between the two dwellings.

Thurston placed a great deal of emphasis on design to ensure his backyard dwelling echoed certain neighborhood aesthetics. For example, a living room window features a curved arch surrounded by a brick design which makes this tiny home, though new, fit seamlessly into an older neighborhood. The neighbor's adjacent garage wall facing their backyard is graced by a mural painted by their artist neighbor, Diana Sunseri. The ability to keep family close but separate gives them peace of mind.

The Hill family loves their home on Sixth Avenue with a view of the park. Following a full house remodel, they realized they could use an additional bathroom and space for family and other guests and decided an ADU was their solution. Their garage, which had been damaged by fire, was demolished and replaced with the ADU. Built in 2016, this 350-square-foot, one-bedroom unit complements the house design with matching rooflines, windows and other architectural features. High ceilings in the living room/kitchen provide a spacious feel. Brian Hill was still able to maintain an attached

workshop for woodworking. The small footprint of the new building left plenty of backyard for the family to enjoy with a patio and pool.

"We feel very lucky to have this place available for our family and friends to enjoy when visiting us," said Karen.

### Attached ADU

The Schweigart family relocated from Oakland and bought a small house on Second Avenue. Their house remodel included a master bedroom addition on a second story with a one-bedroom attached ADU beneath. The ADU has a separate entrance, shared laundry and backyard, and provides a steady rental income. The clever layout ensures privacy for both parties.

### Under Construction

Kat McOmie's corner house on 23rd Street and Second Avenue also had an unused, dysfunctional garage. Longing to convert the space into something livable, she submitted plans to build a tiny detached ADU that would fit on her small corner lot. The process has raised new issues, such as correcting her sewer main connection, resulting in delays and additional expense. Though not quite ready to pour the foundation, she looks forward to a small (less than 500 square feet), single-story, one-bedroom unit with a petite patio at the rear. She hasn't yet decided if she will rent it or eventually move into it herself when she travels in her retirement.

For those interested in perusing the state database, which includes city data, use this link:

[experience.arcgis.com/experience/ffad407c934b411899692a28d323d5bc/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ffad407c934b411899692a28d323d5bc/)

## Helmar

*Continued from page 1*

He was elected president of SCNA in 1984. His term focused on a couple of Western Pacific railyard issues: the bright-light and noise problems from loading operations late at night and early morning, and the start of the decades-long process of cleaning up the toxic waste left behind when railyard operations ceased.

Mark was on the neighbor volunteer team that built a children's wood play structure on the Sierra 2 Green in 1985, since replaced by a metal structure.

For the 40th anniversary issue of *Viewpoint* in 2019, Mark looked back at SCNA's accomplishments – and for-

ward. "Today SCNA continues to build upon the legacy of community service and improvement started four decades ago," he wrote. "Traffic problems and tree issues will always need attention. And providing thoughtful input to the city on matters such as the build-out of Crocker Village or the siting of a homeless shelter will continue to be the hallmark of SCNA."

Mark loved music and was a talented guitar player. Over the years, he performed with his band Sidetracked at such venues as the Davis Farmer's Market, Fiddletown Festival and private events.

He also enjoyed playing bridge, having learned the game as a child, and most recently made new bridge buddies in the bridge group at Sierra 2.

Mark worked for the California Department of Health Care Services as chief of the Office of Long-Term Care. Before retiring, he directed the program, All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, testifying in other states and Washington, D.C.

He leaves his devoted wife, family, friends and neighbors who loved him. Mark touched the hearts of many people on his life journey. With his loving, gentle, yet funny sarcasm, he will be missed forever.

A celebration of his life will be held July 21 at Sierra 2 Center.

Contributions may be made in his name to Catholic Social Services and Habitat for Humanity.

– Carol Blackman

# POINT OF VIEW

## Confessions of a Home & Garden Tour host

By Dorsey Griffith

When Home & Garden Tour organizers approached me with a sense of urgency bordering on panic asking to put my home on tour, I waffled. How would I get the house – and garden, in particular – to a point where I'd be proud to show it off, even for a good cause?

Apparently, many homeowners consider participating in the annual fundraiser for SCNA and Sierra 2 but rarely pull the trigger. This year, one volunteer had a tree crash onto her house and had to cancel. The organizers told me that if I didn't do it, they wouldn't have enough homes and would have to cancel this year's event – a huge financial loss.

I took the bait, not sure whether I'd get to the finish line in time, but willing to give it a go. SCNA board members call the tour "the happiest day of the year" and, while I'd add "exhausting" to that phrase, I agree. The effort I put in was more than worth any hassles.

I bought my Eighth Avenue house 30 years ago when I couldn't imagine opening it to hundreds of people, most of whom I've never met. We loved the neighborhood, but the house was dingy, dated and configured poorly for our growing family. My husband was handy and made a lot of improvements. We expanded the tiny upstairs to include a master suite and office, remodeled the kitchen and designed a natural stone-studded backyard. After my son moved out in 2018, I embarked on a major downstairs remodel to bring in sunlight and make more space for art. The results were life-changing – especially during the pandemic, and I transitioned to working permanently from home.

Tour prep was daunting, but deadlines motivate me, and there was nothing I did to prepare for the tour that I wouldn't want to do anyway. Once I got started, the dominoes fell.

An ongoing attic project now included a garage and garden shed cleanout. Patio pavers were replenished with decomposed granite and sealed. Pruning and weeding led to new planting. The front yard was reseeded, dirty windows cleaned and household clutter hidden.

There were setbacks. A guy hired to power-wash



Eighth Avenue Tudor Revival

Photo by Rudy Calpo

the patios pushed mounds of decomposed granite into every garden bed and unprotected surface in the yard, leaving a sandy mess; the gas line to my fireplace had to be moved to accommodate new woodwork; broken sprinklers suddenly needed fixing. Yet everything came together thanks to event organizers and other volunteers including Kathy Les, (cut flowers); Tony Bizjak and Bob Shallit (woodwork); Dennis Gunvalson and Bob Hamas (gardening); and the Plant Foundry's Greg Howes, (outdoor furnishings for display).

On tour day, the docents showed up at 9:45 a.m., and by 10 a.m. tourgoers streamed inside. I lingered a bit, meeting curious visitors before setting off on the rest of the tour. A week later, I found a beautiful cut-paper collage of my house made by Sacramento artist Marion Spera with a lovely note on my front stoop. The unexpected gift made me cry.

The board members were right. The tour was tiring,

but I'm glad I was a part of the neighborhood's happiest day of the year.

*Dorsey Griffith lives on Eighth Avenue.*

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Questions? Please contact groups directly.

**ART**

**Glass Acts Mosaics Collective**  
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Tuesdays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11  
glassactmosaics.org

**MUSIC**

**Beginning Taiko Drumming**  
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Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1  
kristyoshiro.com/taiko-classes

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Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Studio 1  
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mindfulbeat.com

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Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2  
Sifu Mary Melliza: 916-802-3144

**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  
Class schedules:  
tworiversdancecenter.com and rivercitytaps.com

**FITNESS**

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

**WW Studio Workshop**  
Thursdays/Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Room 10  
Sat., 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Room 10  
800-374-9191, weightwatchers.com

**OTHER**

**Camellia Society of Sacramento Meetings**  
Last Sunday of the month, 2-5 p.m. Room 12  
916-371-2174

**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  
**June 10** – "Tom Lake," by Ann Patchett

**Nonfiction Book Club**  
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon Room 12  
**June 20** – "Human Compatible," by Stuart Russell

**Life History Writing**  
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

**Open Art Studio**  
Bring in your art or craft project to work on while socializing.  
Fridays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11

**CARDS & GAMES**  
**Pinochle**  
Fridays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

**Mahjong**  
Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon, Room 12

**Fun Bridge (contract)**  
Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

**Women's Friendship Group**  
Meet new friends and discover new hobbies.  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11

**ZUMBA GOLD**  
Zumba Gold is canceled until further notice.

**EDUCATION**  
**My Story Project**  
2nd Monday, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

**SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM**  
Punch cards \$80/10 classes; \$45/5 classes or \$10 drop-in (purchase in the Sierra 2 office)

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

**STRENGTH AND BALANCE**  
Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

**GENTLE YOGA**  
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-noon, Studio 1

**LINE DANCE CLASS**  
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**PORTRAITS 2**

Sunday, June 2

1-3 p.m.

\$30

In this class, you will continue to draw portraits of people of various ages and types from photographs, or students may work on personal photos. "Drawing the Face" classes, "Portraits 1" or prior art experience are required.

This informal, educational class is a great way to develop your artistic confidence and to meet others with similar interests in a welcoming environment. Local artist and teacher, Marie Taylor, is the instructor.

**INTRO TO DRAWING**

Saturday, June 8: IN VOGUE

10 a.m.-noon

\$30

Art Deco was one of the most popular art movements of the early 20th century. In its day, its styling was everywhere, from its dramatic architecture to the curves of fashion and the sculpted bobbed haircuts.

This month we're capturing the essence of the era with In Vogue. Suitable for colored pencil and/or art markers, "students will render an image from a 1929 Vogue Magazine cover. It reflects the color, line and sophistication of the times. When completed, the picture can be framed or given as a gift.

Introduction to Drawing is a series of informal monthly workshops that present the basics of drawing, composition and color. Designed for ages 16 and up, the class offers step-by-step instruction and is ideal for beginners or those wishing to refresh their drawing skills. Local artist and teacher Marie Taylor is the instructor.

**VIBRANT EXPRESSIONS PAINTING**

Thursday, June 13: ORANGE

Monthly: 2nd Thursdays

6-7:30 p.m.

\$35

Optional paint kit: \$25

This exciting new class explores our intuitive personal connections with the colors of the rainbow. This class is not your typical color theory and mixing class. It is an artistic adventure in which you will immerse yourself in the emotional and cultural dimensions of color, discovering how each hue can evoke feelings and tell stories.

**ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING WORKSHOP**

Saturday, June 29

1-3 p.m.

\$30

Under the guidance of experienced instructor Cara Gregor, you will learn various techniques and approaches to painting. The class will cover topics such as composition, color theory and the use of

light and shadow to create depth and dimension in your artwork. Through a series of fun and interactive exercises, you will gain confidence in your artistic abilities while unleashing your creativity in a nurturing and supportive environment.

Join us in this inspiring painting class where mistakes are embraced as opportunities for growth, and where the process itself becomes the masterpiece. Discover the joy of putting paint to paper and unlock your inner artist. No matter your skill level, you are sure to leave this class with a newfound appreciation for the world of art and a collection of unique and personal creations.

Sign up today and let the transformative power of painting ignite your passion and creativity! No drawing or prior painting experience is required. This class is offered in a friendly and welcoming environment for people at all artistic levels, those new to abstract intuitive painting and who have taken the class before.

**Submit your creations for Park Arts**

*Viewpoint* wants to feature your creative work on its occasional Park Arts page. Submit short written pieces or reproducible photos of your creative work to [Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com](mailto:Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com). Works should be accompanied by the creator's name, email address, phone number and short bio. Submissions will be curated and run as space permits.

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 June 30  
 July 28  
 August 25  
 In Curtis Park from 6PM to 8PM

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# Congratulations

## CURTIS PARK GRADUATES

### HIGH SCHOOL



**Colette Combrink**, daughter of Scott and Karen Combrink of Fourth Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School's humanities and international studies and visual and performing arts programs. She will attend UC Santa Cruz or Sacramento City College's psychology/art program in the fall.



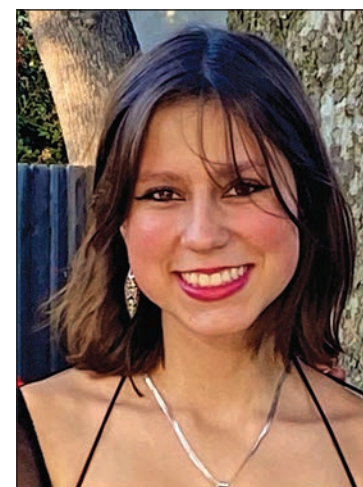
**Maren Cooper**, daughter of Michaela and Peter Cooper of Sixth Avenue, graduated from Sacramento Waldorf School. She will attend Sacramento City College with an eventual transfer to a UC campus.



**Ava Durnell**, daughter of Jennifer and Matt Durnell of Castro Way, graduated from Christian Brothers High School in the scholars program. She will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study child development in anticipation of a career in education.



**Audrey Hamilton**, daughter of Stephanie Brodsky and Michael Hamilton of Eleventh Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School. She will attend the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.



**Mia Johnson**, daughter of David and Shelly Johnson of Fourth Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School. She will attend CSU San Marcos to major in political science.



**Sofia Jordana**, daughter of Melanie and Richard Jordana of Baldwin Street in Crocker Village and previously of Third Avenue, graduated from Christian Brothers High School. She will attend UC Davis to study chemical engineering.



**Daphne Ellen Lee**, daughter of Elizabeth and Jarett Lee of Third Avenue, graduated from St. Francis High School. She will attend the University of Oregon to study chemistry.



**Lois Legowik**, daughter of Ron Legowik of Franklin Boulevard, and Rayna and Greg Mitchell of Eleventh Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School. She will attend UC Davis in the fall.



**Josh Muilenburg**, son of Erin O'Neal of Marshall Way, graduated from Christian Brothers High School.



**Callan O'Brien**, son of Susan and Kevin O'Brien of Markham Way, graduated from West Campus High School. He will attend UC San Diego to study applied mathematics.



# Congratulations

## CURTIS PARK GRADUATES

### COLLEGE



**Ellinor Arzbaecher**, daughter of Cecilia and Bill Arzbaecher of Fifth Avenue, graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor of science in conservation and resource studies. She will be the director of curriculum for a youth-led environmental education nonprofit.



**Camille Combrink**, daughter of Scott and Karen Combrink of Fourth Avenue, graduated from CSU San Jose with a bachelor of arts in history, summa cum laude. She will pursue a master's degree in library and information science at UCLA.



**Jan Mitchell Holley**, son of Mitch and Dawn Holley of Eighth Avenue, graduated from CSU Sacramento with a bachelor of arts in accounting. He is employed at Richardson & Co., LLP as an accountant.



**Maison Johnson**, son of David and Shelly Johnson of Fourth Avenue, graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a bachelor's degree in art and design: games and playable media. He will pursue a career as a concept artist in the video game sector of the media and entertainment industry.



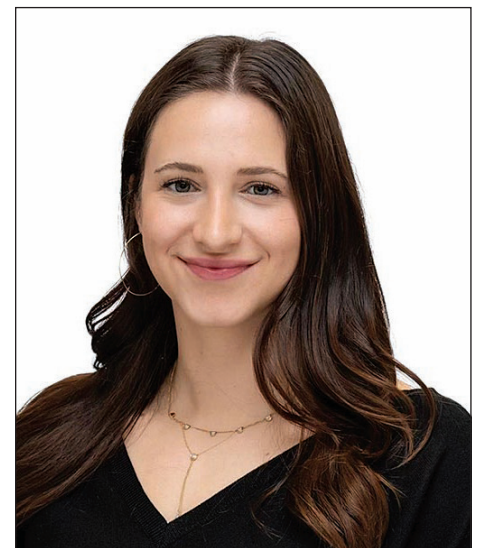
**Gabriel Landeros**, son of David and Rebecca Landeros of Franklin Boulevard, graduated from Emerson College with a bachelor of arts in media arts production.



**Kelly Sheffield**, daughter of Elizabeth and Mark Sheffield of Montgomery Way, graduated from Columbia University with a master's degree in social work. She will work as a medical social worker in New York City and plans to further her education in clinical bioethics.



**Piper Thrans**, daughter of Andrea Kincaid of Portola Way and Brent Thrans of Tahoe Vista, graduated from UCLA with a bachelor of arts in ethnomusicology. She is a singer-songwriter with plans to remain in Los Angeles and continue recording music and performing as a country artist, both solo and with her band.



**Cristina Zito**, daughter of Susanne Zito and her late husband Michael Zito of Sixth Avenue, graduated from UC Davis with a master's degree in sociology. Cristina completed her bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley in 2022 with a double major in sociology and gender and women's studies. She will complete her PhD in sociology at UC Davis.

# Music in the Park summer series features neighborhood favorites

By Mindy Giles

UnSupervised, the 10-piece band founded by former Curtis Park residents Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna (bass) and then-Yolo County Supervisor Mike McGowan (percussion), will kick off this summer's concert series on Sunday, June 30.

As they did last year, the band will bring funk, R&B and soul music favorites to the outdoor neighborhood party. UnSupervised's powerhouse lead vocalist is Brandi Jauregui. Jauregui is sure to show off her vocal chops on multi-generational cultural-touchstone classics by Marvin Gaye, Delbert McClinton, David Bowie, Sharon Jones, Tito Puente, Jill Scott and Patti LaBelle.

"Sacramento's most politically correct band" also includes Chris Ledesma (guitar) and Curtis Park resident Jose Hermocillo (trumpet), Robb Phillips (guitar), Jeff Townsend (drums) and national touring sensation Danny Sandoval (music director /tenor sax) and his son, Andres Sandoval (baritone sax). Alex Dedal (keys) will sub for group regular Jim Wendt.

The July 28 concert features another baby-boomer-band favorite, the 13-piece classic rock band, On Air. New this year will be the Jax Hammer Band on August 25, also performing classic rock and pop



UnSupervised

songs. (They say, "More cowbell!")

All concerts are free. Music is from 6-8 p.m. The

SCNA suggests that concert goers "bring a blanket and chairs, maybe a picnic, but no alcohol please."

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## Bargains hunters scored at the Curtis Park Yard Sale on May 20



Photos by Will Carlton

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Ray Eames Park in Crocker Village

Photo by Will Carlton

## Ray Eames Park, playfields likely months from opening

By Dennis Cusick

Although the half-acre Ray Eames Park and adjacent Petrovich Family Playfields in Crocker Village may appear to be complete, city staff anticipates it will take at least three months for the turf to be ready to use and for fences to come down.

“The city is not yet in control of the site,” wrote city parks spokesperson Gabby Miller in response to a *Viewpoint* query. “The developer is responsible for the construction of the park, according to the approved planning documents and turnkey agreement. The transfer of ownership to the city will occur once the park is complete/when the developer delivers the site.”

Miller said there is no official park opening date or planned ceremony information to share.

The city’s website describes the amenities of the park and playfields as including an adventure-area playground, adjacent turf area for free play, small group picnic area with three tables and a grill, seat wall with brick veneer, a 3-acre turf area for field play, large canopy of shade trees, evergreen screening trees and ornamental flowering trees, drinking fountain, bicycle parking and bollard lighting.

In 2019, the Sacramento City Council voted to name the planned park after internationally famous

designer Ray Eames, who grew up in the Curtis Park neighborhood. The city agreed to name the flood retention basin the Petrovich Family Playfields in its settlement last year of three lawsuits with Crocker Village developer Petrovich Development Co.

Company president Paul Petrovich declined to comment for this story.

## UOP opening clinic on Oak Park campus

The University of the Pacific (UOP) plans to open a 30,000-square-foot health clinic just across the freeway in Oak Park in July, according to *The Sacramento Business Journal*.

Located at 3333 Third Ave., the clinic will be in one of the buildings purchased last year from the Sacramento Food Bank.

The Oak Park clinic will be a collaborative effort of UOP’s schools of dentistry, pharmacy and health sciences, providing a teaching environment for students as well as community health care.

The services will be available to anyone who comes in, said Dr. William Sands, director of special projects for UOP’s Pacific Health Care Collaborative.

The university estimates it can provide low-cost services to approximately 20,000 medical patients and 10,000 dental patients per year at the clinic, which will have 10 medical exam rooms and 30 dental operatories, as well as classrooms and a simulation clinic for students.



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**Saturday, June 1:** Dave

Nachmanoff & The Usual Culprits with opener Heidi Bekebrede, entertaining Davis-based singer/guitarist/storyteller (15 years with Al Stewart!) with his new folk-rock band

**Friday, June 7:** Richard Smith, multi-award-winning British fingerpicker

**Saturday, June 8:** Lee Bob & The Truth, mystical, funky and always of the moment, with words that fit our times. Highly influential LA radio KCRW is playing their new single “Peace of Mind”

**Thursday, June 13:** Poi Rogers, Santa Cruz-based duo, performs original and vintage country and western swing, Hawaiian steel guitar ballads and cowboy tunes

**Friday, June 14:** Alice Wallace, confessional Nashville soul, singer-songwriter and a former Californian

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**June 2:** The Bad Sleep Well

**June 9:** Falcon’s House Band

**June 16:** Ross Hammond and Lem McEwen

**June 23:** Jon Raskin Trio

**June 30:** TBA

#### THE GUILD THEATER

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**Saturday, June 15:** 4th Annual Juneteenth Block Party @ 40 Acres, full lineup of high-energy entertainment including music, art and dance, as well as several local, black-owned street and food vendors and more.

**First Thursdays, 7p.m.**

The Guild Theater’s monthly Poetry and Hip-Hop Night, POHOP, is hosted by J. Nash.

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**Thursdays:** Black Yacht Club presents “The Acoustic Circus,” 1st Thursday, 7-9 p.m.  
“On the 2 & the 4,” jazz with Kent Lacin & Two Rivers Trio,” 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.

**Fridays:** “Local Sounds” acoustic showcase hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.

**Saturdays:** Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.

“Sactown Swings” 1st Saturday, 6-8 p.m.

— Mindy Giles

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Student volunteer serves bacon to pancake breakfast patron.



Parent volunteers prepare pancakes at Bret Harte pancake breakfast.

Photos by Janet Moody

## Pancake breakfast a success

Bret Harte Elementary's Pancake Breakfast returned to the neighborhood on Saturday, April 27 in conjunction with the Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour. An annual neighborhood staple in pre-pandemic years, families and staff were excited to bring it back to the school. This year's event was organized in less than eight weeks by Bret Harte grandparent Monica Hyde of Ninth Avenue. Her granddaughter and the rest of her classmates will be able to spend four days at Sly Park for the sixth-grade field trip next year, thanks to the money raised from the breakfast.

Volunteers, including students, families and staff, began setting up at the school at 6 a.m. and served more than 200 people from 8 to 10 a.m. Freshly made pancakes with syrup, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit and coffee were on the menu.

"Everyone loved the food, and the kids did an awesome job selling tickets," said Hyde. Students sold 188 tickets during the pre-sale and another 56 tickets at the door on the day of the breakfast. Some neighbors on the Home & Garden Tour stopped by, while others learned of the breakfast from Bret Harte students as they sold tickets door-to-door.



LAUREN GOTHARD and LINDSEY SIN

Along with donations from Bret Harte families, the greater Curtis Park community helped sponsor the event. Starbucks on Sutterville Road donated coffee. Safeway in Crocker Village donated a \$25 gift card, and District 7 Councilmember Rick Jennings donated a \$100 gift card to help purchase supplies. Between ticket sales and some generous donations, the event raised over \$2,400. The money will cover critical costs including for transportation, and ensure that every student can go on the trip. Hyde is especially grateful to the entire neighborhood for the support of Bret Harte students.

Sixth-grade teacher and Sly Park organizer Michael Rule served sausage and bacon during the breakfast. His favorite part of the event was having the opportunity to serve the community. He also enjoyed seeing families on campus on a Saturday morning.

"I loved seeing the kids playing on the playground and the atrium filled with the community getting to spend time with each other," he said.

A community rallying around its children was the perfect way to spend a Saturday, sticky faces and all.



School mascot (student Alex Johnson of Second Avenue) also likes pancakes.



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