VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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A century of traditions: John and Jayne Mangel open their longtime residence for the Home & Garden Tour on April 26

By Susan MacCulloch

Jayne and John Mangels have called their Curtis Park residence home for the past 50 years. The classic Colonial Revival style house, built in 1914, is set back on a low-pitched hill and fronted by a deep lawn dotted with mature camellia trees and other established vegetation. Adjacent to the house, above garage bay walls made of solid concrete, is an Asilomar-style hall, a gathering place for over a century.

The Mangels' years of hospitality here are a natural continuum of the cordiality of the home's earliest residents. Jayne's creative holiday displays, especially her Halloween vignettes, have delighted passersby over the years.

When the Mangels moved to Sacramento in the mid-1970s, they wanted a traditional home with character, and found it in the classic Colonial Revival style house in the West Curtis Oaks subdivision. The home's style is marked by a prominent, side-gabled second story, with a long, shed dormer window looking out above the swooping eaves. The colonnaded front porch is lined with French doors and windows that provide a view for all seasons. The love and care of the home is apparent, connecting life today with its history.

See Mangel, Page 8

The Mangels' house and adjoining hall overlook a deep, lot-size front yard that hosts elaborate holiday scenes, especially at Halloween.
Courtesy the Mangel family

Join the Spring Egg Hunt and Parade

Hop on over and join your neighbors for the Spring Egg Hunt and Parade starting at 9:30 a.m. on April 19.

Festivities kick off with a pajama sidewalk parade around Sierra 2 Center and end at the Sierra 2 Green, where participants will join an egg hunt at 10 a.m. Different age groups will have their own hunting area. Kids can also enjoy crafts and face painting stations, as well as photos with the Bunny.

Details:

9 a.m. – Gather at the Castro Way Parking Lot to line up for the parade.

9:30 a.m. – The sidewalk parade begins for parents and their children.

10 a.m. – Paradegoers arrive at the Sierra 2 Green and find their designated hunt area.

Lined up at the egg hunt start in 2024.
Photo by Bruce Pierini

10 a.m. to noon – Kids enjoy the egg hunt, crafts, face painting and visits with the Bunny.

Coffee and donuts will be available for the adults.

A modest $20 per family fee will offset event costs.

Register today: secure.qgiv.com/for/scnaevents/event/paradeandegghunt/.

Hey Daisy Studio opens on 24th Street for cool gifts and creative crafting

Page 5

How does your garden grow? Bret Harte students learning new skills

Page 12

Petrovich seeks to amend housing plan to build more single-family homes

By Patti Roberts

Developer Paul Petrovich is asking to amend a city-approved plan that includes two parcels that were slated for multi-family housing in Crocker Village. One is at 10th Avenue and Crocker Drive, and the second is on Veterans First Drive, where it butts up against the railroad tracks.

According to City Planner Danny Abbes, Petrovich's proposal is for 61 single-unit dwellings, with 30 of those units located on a site north of the senior housing complex, instead of the current, approved Curtis Park Village Planned Unit Development, which was designated for multi-family housing.

The city approved the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Guidelines for the parcels 15 years ago, and the present plan includes a multi-level apartment complex with 130 units.

"The city believes higher density multi-family apartment buildings will result in lower housing costs for people with low incomes," Petrovich told *Viewpoint*. "For me, the cost to build apartments here and expect that low rents will be offered isn't commercially viable."

Petrovich requests an amendment to eliminate the multi-family housing element and allow him to build houses like those in Crocker Village. A flyer distributed to Crocker Village residents from Petrovich called the approved plan "social engineering by zoning," adding that he has already met the density requirements for the development. He argued that even people who don't live adjacent to the multi-family buildings "would be impacted with lower property values and a degradation of the quality of the overall living environment.

"The city comes up with this economically infeasible concept of a three-story concrete parking lot with five stories of apartments built on top of it," Petrovich told *Viewpoint*. "I

See Petrovich, Page 8

Join SCNA for the 35th Home and Garden Tour Saturday, April 26

By Lori Harder

The SCNA event known as "the happiest day in the neighborhood" is fast approaching. The Curtis Park Home and Garden Tour, an important community fundraising event, is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 26.

A great lineup of neighborhood homes is in store: a picturesque Colonial Revival house set back on a low hill alongside an Asilomar-style great hall where the community has gathered for 100 years; a charming bungalow with its friendly full front porch, big windows and architectural references to nature and craftsmanship; a classic, sweeping Tudor with a curated display of local art; another Tudor just off the park with a modern kitchen in classic style whose owners are woodworkers. Visitors will enjoy strolling through a garden that covers a full adjoining lot and is bursting with flowers lovingly tended by its long-time caretakers.

The variety of homes on tour reflects those that characterize Curtis Park, all built in the era in which the historic neighborhood was established.

The tour encompasses a two-mile loop. Bicycle racks will be provided for riders.

Classic Model A automobiles will once again parade through our streets, adding to the historic feel of the day.

Tourgoers can enjoy a picnic at tables set up at the north end of Curtis Park, along with live music, food trucks, restrooms and handwashing facilities.

SCNA members receive a discount on their tickets. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at 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 will receive instructions on how to purchase their discount tickets.

Volunteers are needed to monitor the homes and gardens and set up or take down equipment in the park. Volunteers can take the tour for just $10. If you can help, contact Lori Harder at lorikoi@sbcglobal.net, or lorikoi95818@gmail.com or call/text 916-801-7189.

See SCNA's website and social media for updates.

John Mathews bench dedication set for May 4

John Mathews
Photo by John Mathews

After several months of fundraising and planning, the park bench in tribute to long-time SCNA board member and neighborhood activist John Mathews will become a reality.

A bench dedication will be held for neighborhood residents and friends at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 4 in the parklet northeast of Curtis Park. May 4 was John's birthday. Councilmember Rick Jennings will be present to help with the dedication.

"The realization of the bench is thanks to all the generous donations made by neighbors and friends," said Nicoletta Anselmo, John's wife.

The bench will be located under a small cluster of trees where John and his beloved dog Carina of 16 years often walked together. Carina passed just a few months before John's death.

The plaque on the bench will read: "In honor of John Mathews and his dog Carina. Tireless Curtis Park activist."

No RSVP is required to attend. Everyone is welcome.

– Kathy Les

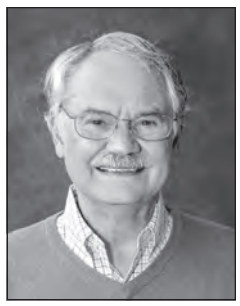
SIERRA CURTIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

Spring Egg Hunt/Parade - April 19
Home & Garden Tour - April 26
Big Day of Giving - May 1
17th Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale - May 17
Curtis Fest - June 1
Music in the Park -
Last Sundays of June 29, July 27 & August 24
Sip, Savor & Support
Wine tasting event reimagined
October 5
Pie & Pajamas - November 23
Giving Tuesday - December 2
Membership Meeting - December 10

Your SCNA board is doing great things and welcomes your help

Spring in Curtis Park is a beautiful time. The daffodils, azaleas and camellias are in full bloom. Spring is a time of renewal and so it is with our board. We welcomed our new board in February with a "Director Orientation" that included a recap of the history of SCNA and Sierra 2, a review of our bylaws, and an informative presentation on nonprofit governance, fiduciary duties and responsibilities. Armed with this background and knowledge, our directors indicated their willingness to dig in and help SCNA be the best it can be. Already, they are bringing robust energy, engaging in productive committee work, utilizing their networks and bringing new ideas and perspectives. It is exciting to witness their enthusiasm, and we are fortunate to have them.

John Bailey
SCNA Board President



One of my childhood bedtime stories was that of "The Little Red Hen." The story takes place on a farm where Little Red finds some wheat and decides to make some bread. She asks her barnyard companions, a duckling, a piglet and a kitten, to help her plant the seed, harvest the wheat, mill the flour and bake the bread. At each step, her friends say, "I won't help you make the bread, but I will help you eat the bread!" At the end of the story, Little Red eats all the bread and does not share with those who were unhelpful. The takeaway for me was a duty to help around the house for the good of the family. And to help your neighbors. This ethos easily segued into "doing a good turn daily" in boy scouting and giving back to one's community as I grew into adulthood.

In the coming months, the "Red Hens" of your neighborhood association will be providing free Music in the Park events, a free monthly neighborhood newspaper, exciting new activities for seniors, another Home and Garden Tour of elegant Curtis Park homes and gardens, Curtis Fest – our annual exhibit of local artisans accompanied by food and music — and lots more. In the background, SCNA will be monitoring activities at City Hall and engaging in various advocacy issues.

Would you like to "help make the bread?" One way is to become a member of SCNA. Dues are nominal and help support activities of which you already benefit. Another way is to volunteer. SCNA is developing a registry of volunteers that will include information as to your interests and availability. The Home Tour on April 26 needs volunteers. Responding to the upcoming neighborhood survey is another way to help. Watch for information on how to participate in the survey in the May issue of *Viewpoint*. Financial support is always appreciated as well. Please support SCNA during the Big Day of Giving on May 1 with as much generosity as possible.

Board Notes

Governance Committee Formed

President **John Bailey** moved that the board establish a Governance Committee with the purpose of 1) reviewing and clarifying board attendance policies, including partial-meeting attendance, 2) developing a plan for board attrition to reach 15 members per the updated bylaws voted on in December, and 3) updating the "Roles & Responsibilities" documents and addressing any needed governance policies. The committee members are **Kathy Les** (Chair), **Matthew Royal, Andrew Meditz** and John Bailey. The motion was seconded by **David Gonsalves** and was unanimous minus one abstention.

Appointment to Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC)

Board member **Michael Oates** already chairs the Clean & Quiet Yard Care Committee, which functions as a subcommittee of NCC, and, at his request, the board unanimously approved his appointment to the NCC.

Roof Repair Bids

Roof damage caused by storms last month requires repair. A temporary tarp has been installed to prevent leaks until repairs begin. Two bids have been received, and a third is pending.

New Phone System

Installation is scheduled for March 18 to replace the outdated landline system. Consolidated Communications will provide improved call routing and direct lines for staff. This should make it easier for callers to reach the right person.

Historic Preservation Status

SCNA Executive Director **Danielle Whitmore** shared that the city's Office of Historic Preservation is helping to draft an application for the building to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When the city's approval date is confirmed, updates will be provided.

Getting Caught Up on Financial Statements

Finance Committee Chair John Bailey reported that a draft of this year's Form 990 will be reviewed at this month's Finance Committee meeting. Our internal bookkeeping transition has slowed reporting. Financial statements (July–December 2024) show a year-to-date $25k loss (vs. $6k surplus the previous year). The net difference is approximately $31k. Losses are attributed partly to vacant rental spaces, e.g., Castro Cottage. The Finance Committee will finalize the Form 990 and work with staff on strategies to address the projected shortfall.

Zero Carbon HVAC Project

Facilities Chair **Gerre Buehler** reported that, while there have been some delays due to coordinating with tenants' schedules and additional fire code smoke detector requirements, the HVAC installations in the studios are progressing.

Development Committee Springing Forward with Spring Events

Development Chair **Noah Soliday Bench** reported selling out for the Mad Hatter Tea Party event (March 16).

- The Egg Hunt (April 15) parade route has been changed to circle Sierra 2, and a preparatory cleanup day may be coordinated through the Clean & Quiet Yard Care Committee.
- Home Tour (April 26) tickets are available online, and event logistics are secured.
- Big Day of Giving (May 1) planning is beginning.
- Neighborhood Yard Sale (May 17) registration details are forthcoming.

Senior Luncheon Success

Senior Center Chair **Patrick Baxter** reported via the executive director that the Senior Luncheon was a success. The committee has been informed of a bequest supporting Senior Center programs such as the luncheon, and they will continue an ongoing search for additional sponsors and partnerships. Additional Senior Center program expansions are in the works.

Viewpoint Fundraising Goal Nets New Events

Viewpoint Committee Chair Kathy Les has set a goal of raising $5k to support *Viewpoint*. The committee is discussing hosting a Community Conversation later this spring focusing on changing national/regional issues and a film festival this winter.

Neighborhood Cleanup Event by Clean & Quiet Yard Care Committee

Committee Chair Michael Oates reported planning a neighborhood cleanup event to focus on medians and planters on 25th and 26th streets. Ten volunteers have signed up, and the committee is pursuing potential partnerships with local garden centers or hardware stores for plant donations.

Community Clean & Quiet Yard Care

The committee's priorities are events, planning/assessment and advocacy. To encourage residents to switch to electric-powered yard equipment, upcoming neighborhood events will feature demonstrations.

Engaging with the City and Neighbors

New business brought at the end of the meeting followed a trend of increasing collaboration with Sacramento City Councilmembers **Caity Maple** and **Rick Jennings**, with the Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) to share neighborhood initiatives, and with the Mayor's Listening Tour. A neighborhood survey to gather feedback on concerns and priorities from people living in Curtis Park will come out soon.

Next Board Meeting

The next SCNA Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on April 2.

– Submitted by Matthew Royal, Board Secretary

VIEWPOINT

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Advertise in *Viewpoint*
Call Kinsley Earl: 916-452-3005 x 202
kinsley@sierra2.org

Trees in Curtis Park

A new threat to our urban forest

By Daniel Pskowski

There is a new threat to Sacramento's trees: insurance companies. I have inspected trees for three homeowners who received notices from their insurance companies that all the tree branches overhanging their home need to be removed or their policies will not be renewed or will be cancelled.

Jordan Broadhead bought a house on Second Avenue last fall. The coast live oak growing in the front yard was a main selling point. His cat loves sitting by the window, watching squirrels in the tree that also bury acorns in the yard. His insurance company informed him that all foliage needs to be cut back 5 to 6 feet away from his house. Since this oak is close to the house, pruning that much of the tree would harm its health and aesthetics.

Requests for branch removal by insurance companies are becoming a nationwide trend. Recent articles in *Moneywise* and *Time* magazines report that insurers are increasingly using drone images and satellite photos for home inspections instead of visiting properties in person. They consider aerial images a valuable resource for spotting issues that might otherwise go unnoticed. Insurance companies often view overhanging branches as a potential liability. Extreme weather conditions brought on by climate change also have resulted in an unprecedented number of costly claims for insurance companies.

Removing overhanging branches may not eliminate potential damage to the home caused by extreme weather events. Branches from other parts of the canopy can fail in windy conditions and still strike the home. Additionally, if a substantial number of limbs are removed, branch failure is more likely because the removal changes the wind dynamics, and previously buffered branches are now more directly exposed to the wind.

Branches that extend over the roof provide important energy-saving cooling during blistering summer heat. The shade also extends the roof's life. Shaded exterior walls reduce the need for repainting.

What can you do when put on notice by an insurance company? I suggest homeowners have an ISA-certified arborist inspect the tree to evaluate the tree's structure, health and any pruning requirements. The arborist also will determine if the tree was planted in the right place. The arborist also can assess any impacts that branch removal may have on the tree's health and structure. An arborist report may be required if you want to protect your tree.

Second Avenue homeowner Jordan Broadhead looks at the tree his insurance company wants him to cut back 5 to 6 feet from his house.

Photos by Daniel Pskowksi

The coast live oak next to this Second Avenue home was a main draw for Jordan Broadhead when he purchased the house last fall. The red line indicates how much of the tree would have to be removed to meet the insurance company's requirements.

Next, find out if your tree qualifies as a private protected tree per city ordinance. If so, contact Urban Forestry. Pruning permits are required for removing branches greater than 2 inches in diameter. As a former Sacramento city arborist, I would deny the permit if the pruning did not follow the best management practices.

Another option is to request an insurance rider or insurance policy endorsement. These are add-ons to a policy that change the terms or provide additional coverage for damage caused by tree branches. Seek the advice of an insurance professional before doing so. Don't get caught in a situation where another tree in your yard or a neighbor's tree causes damage during a storm, only to learn you are not covered.

What if a homeowner follows the ISA-certified arborists' recommendation and does not comply with the insurance company's pruning request? Finding another insurance company will be challenging, and the homeowner may be forced to obtain coverage from the state's insurer of last resort, the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan, aka the California FAIR Plan. The FAIR Plan insures homes but has higher premiums than traditional insurance and only covers up to $3 million in damages for residential properties. Hopefully, Jordan Broadhead on Second Avenue will not have to resort to this to preserve his coast live oak.

Dan Pskowski is a retired Sacramento City arborist and urban forester. He is an ISA-certied arborist. Questions? danielpskowski@gmail.com

Welcome to the neighborhood, Hey Daisy Studio

By Gerre Buehler

If you're looking for a cute gift or a new crafting option, the new shop and studio at 3444 24th Street, Hey Daisy Studio, may fit the bill.

Hey Daisy, which held its grand opening on March 2, occupies the space owner April Lynn Agan once shared with The Bloom Room, which has since moved. More than 100 people attended the opening.

Agan, who trained in gerontology and field ecology, started her online business MadebyAprilLynn in 2020 during the pandemic. Her success led to pop-ups throughout Sacramento, then a table at the Saturday Midtown Farmers Market.

Agan said her vision for Hey Daisy is to "create a fun community space that is casual where you can unwind and be creative, a place you can bring a friend and have a good time. I also want to use the space to highlight other creatives in the community."

The space is divided into two rooms. One offers a delightful array of stickers, drinkware, stationery and accessories. Many of these items are Agan's own creations and carry a daisy theme. Also for sale are items from other creatives, such as earrings, embroidery kits, and DIY stuffed toys. The other room is used for classes and workshops.

Hey Daisy owner April Lynn Agan in her new studio space on 24th Street. Photo by Dorsey Griffith

Kat Ammann of MyCraftedStudio following the Hey Daisy's grand opening event. Photo by Dorsey Griffith

At its grand opening, Hey Daisy Studio offered a Springtime Flower Earring class that sold out with 20 participants. The class was conducted by Kat Ammann of MyCraftedStudio on Instagram.

Future offerings include making pocket notebooks on April 13 and, later this year, a workshop for making perfume bars, as well as regular crafter nights. Agan envisions the free crafter nights as an opportunity "to bring your own project and meet up with other crafters." The crafter nights will be held bi-monthly from 6 to 8 p.m. on Fridays; sessions are scheduled for April 4 and 18.

Hey Daisy Studio is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Register now for the annual Curtis Park neighborhood yard sale

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association will hold its 17th annual Neighborhood Yard Sale from approximately 8 a.m. to 1. p.m. on Saturday, May 17.

This year, participants will be asked to pay a modest fee – $5 for SCNA members and $10 for non-members. The fee will help SCNA offset the cost of marketing and outreach, including organic and paid advertising.

When registering, provide your address and list of sale items, which will be included on a neighborhood map to help customers locate your sale. The map will appear in *Viewpoint*, on the Sierra 2 website and be promoted online. In addition, we will provide four way-finding signs that you can download, print and put up to promote your yard sale.

More than 70 homes participate in this event every year. Join us as we "green up" and give folks the opportunity to unearth great finds. Remember, one person's discards are another person's treasures.

Register your yard sale online at secure.qgiv.com/for/scnaevents/event/yardsale/.

--Noah Soliday Bench

Tell us about your home's 100th birthday

Is your Curtis Park home having a centennial birthday in 2025? How will you celebrate? *Viewpoint* wants to hear about and share your plans for your home's 100th year. Please send a note with details to *Viewpoint* Editor Dorsey Griffith at Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

SIERRA 2 CENTER
SIERRA CURTIS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Questions? Please contact groups directly.

MUSIC

Beginning Taiko Drumming
4-week class
No experience necessary.
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/home

Intermediate Taiko Drumming
4-week class
Previous taiko experience required.
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/home

MARTIAL ARTS

Yi family Tai Chi/Qi Gong, Shaolin Martial Arts
Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
lohan36@sbcglobal.net

Eagle Claw Kung Fu
Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 2
Wednesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
Sifu Mary Melliza: 916-802-3144

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

ADULT DANCE

Dancing with Heidi
Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Children's Ballet I, ages 6-9 (no experience required)
Wednesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.
Adult/Teen Basic Ballet (some experience required)
Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m.
Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning (no experience required)
dancingwithheidi@gmail.com

Dance for Parkinson's
Free class. Sponsored by Pamela Trokanski Dance Theater
Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 1
Rcarlson404@yahoo.com

Two Rivers Dance Center/ River City Taps
Mondays-Thursdays/Saturdays
Class schedules:
tworiversdancecenter.com and rivercitytaps.com

ART

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

SIERRA 2 CENTER
FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY
Senior Center

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

LEISURE

Monthly Luncheon – Free
Friday, April 25, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 12

Movie Monday Matinee
Monday, April 28, 1-3 p.m.
Room 12
April Movie: TBD

Book Club
Monday, April 14, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
April – "Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel" by Bonnie Garmin

Nonfiction Book Club
Thursday, April 17, 11 a.m.-noon
Room 12
April – "Demon of Unrest" by Erick Larsen

Women's Friendship Group
Meet new friends and discover new hobbies.
Wednesdays, April 9 and April 23
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11

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

AUTOBIOGRAPHY GROUPS

My Story Project
Monday, April 14, 1-3 p.m.
Room 12

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

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
NEW – Fridays, 1-3 p.m. Room 9

SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

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

NEW: CHAIR YOGA with Jen Brinsky
Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. Room 12

STRENGTH AND BALANCE
Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2 (new location)

LINE DANCE CLASS
Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 2

TAI CHI CHUAN
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3 (new location)

AT SIERRA 2 CENTER
the LEARNERY
Cultivating Curious Minds

TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS
sierra2.org/thelearnery

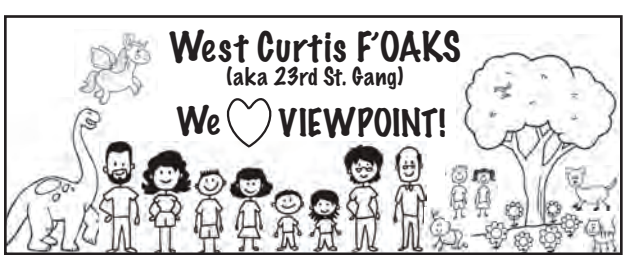
Mixed Media Art with Larry Ramos
Wednesdays, April 2, 16
5:30-7:30 p.m.
$35 per class
Express your feelings beyond words on paper using the OSM (Awesome) method with award-winning artist Larry Ramos, an art instructor of over 20 years.
April 2: Magical Beings/ Invent in Mixed Media
April 16: Japanese Art/ Cubist Sculptures

Watercolor Art with Larry Ramos
Wednesdays, April 9, 23, 30
5:30-6:30 p.m.
$35 per class
Express your feelings beyond words on paper using the OSM (Awesome) method, with award-winning artist Larry Ramos, an art instructor of over 20 years.
April 9: Macaw/ Layering
April 23: Squirrel/ Dry Brush
April 30: Crow/Japanese Brush Techniques

Watercolor Art with Larry Ramos
Saturdays, April 5, 12
2-4 p.m.
$35 per class
Express your feelings beyond words on paper using the OSM (Awesome) method with award-winning artist Larry Ramos, an art instructor of over 20 years.
April 5: Ancient Tree/Resist Technique
April 12: Rooster/Line Technique

Creative Tools Breakdown
Tuesday, April 8
6-8 p.m.
$35
Optional $25 painting kit
This class introduces a "toolbox" of creative techniques you can explore and apply, empowering you to add fresh elements and textures to your work with confidence. Not only will these tools help enrich your paintings, but they'll also make the creative process more fun and adventurous. Each class includes instruction, guidance and time to experiment with different creative tools used in intuitive painting.
April tool: Stencils

ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING WORKSHOP
Saturday April 26
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
$35
Optional paint kit: $25
Explore the wonderful world of art, where the focus is not solely on the result but the joy and fulfillment of the creative process. This class welcomes individuals from all levels of painting expertise. Discover the power of self-expression and the therapeutic nature of painting. Under the guidance of instructor Cara Gregor, the class will cover composition, color theory and the use of light and shadow to create depth and dimension in your artwork. The supplies list is on the Sierra 2 website.



Crafters at work on fiber art projects at the March 8 Cozy Craft night. Photo by Sierra 2 staff

Cozy Craft Night draws crafters with a shared love of fiber arts

By Sierra 2 Staff

Crafters from all over Sacramento gathered on March 8 for a relaxing and fun-filled evening at Sierra 2 Center. The Cozy Craft night invited artist-knitters, crocheters, embroiderers and sewers to bring their projects, settle in and enjoy the classic film "The Devil Wears Prada." With a mix of creative energy and cinematic inspiration, the night was a perfect way to unwind, connect and stitch together fabric and friendships.

The evening was so successful that SCNA is planning a similar event in May; watch for details later this month.

Attendees found a warm, inviting space with a soft hum of conversation and rhythmic clicking of hooks and needles at work. The variety of crafts added to the creative atmosphere, with crafters of all ages and genders finding a comfortable spot to work and chat. The event became an opportunity to learn, share and bond over a shared love of fiber arts.

Small spontaneous teaching groups emerged as more experienced crafters offered guidance to beginners. A few newcomers got hands-on lessons from seasoned crocheters, an example of how crafts can foster a sense of community and collaboration. Of course, no movie night is complete without snacks, and SCNA made sure to provide plenty of popcorn.

The event also introduced many attendees to Sierra 2 Center and its various arts and cultural offerings. Visiting guests expressed their interest in future workshops and events, while others appreciated the welcoming space and meeting like-minded creatives.

We look forward to gathering crafters again for an evening of stitching, socializing and cinematic fun. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just getting started, everyone is welcome to bring their projects, share skills and enjoy a cozy night of creativity.

LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

Here's your handy guide

The Two Sarahs

THE SIDE DOOR

2900 Franklin Blvd.
thesidedoor.net • All shows 7 p.m.
Tickets: $25-$30. Advance tickets available.

Saturday, April 5: Seth Walker, seductive-voiced Asheville, North Carolinian blends all the southern strains of blues, gospel, Americana and folk rock
Friday, April 18: Laurie Lewis & Nina Gerber, a grand guitar duo with many national folk and bluegrass awards. Two-time IBMA "Vocalist of the Year" winner, Lewis won a Grammy for her work on "True Life Blues: the Songs of Bill Monroe"
Saturday, April 26: The Real Sarahs & Jessica Malone, exquisite vocal harmony singing from the two Sarahs and Malone's beautiful arrangements of memorable confessional lyrics – think The Roches, Judy Collins
Friday, May 2: Darol Anger & Mr. Sun, dazzling, all-star, American String Band quartet. Violinist Anger is a member of the original "nuclear" generation of pickers who extended bluegrass, jazz, and classical music to find their common ground; Mr. Sun is the latest iteration in that legacy

OLD SOUL COFFEE

3434 Broadway Ave.
oldsoulco.com/cafes/40-acres-in-oak-park
Sundays, 4-6 p.m. FREE.
"Sunday Jazz @ Old Soul" 40 Acres curated by noted guitarist Ross Hammond. Different creative groups every week in a warm neighborhood setting
April 6: Inertia Quartet
April 13: TBA
April 20: Easter (no show)
April 27: Maximum Quintet

THE GUILD THEATER

2828 35th St.
sthope.org/guild-theater-home
2nd Wednesdays: "Amateur Night @ The Guild" hosted by Tristan Johnson, 7 p.m.
First Thursdays: "POHOP: Poetry and Hip-Hop Night" hosted by J. Nash & C West, 7 p.m.

TWO RIVERS CIDER CO.

4311 Attawa Ave.
tworiverscider.com/events
(Closed Monday-Thursday for the winter season)
Open for great beverages and good food, plus these free events:
Fridays: "Local Sounds" acoustic showcase hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.
Saturdays: "Jazz Jam" 3-6:30 p.m. by hosted Kent Lacin and Friends
"Group Line Dancing," 2-3 p.m. (2nd & 4th Saturdays)
Sundays: Open Acoustic Jam, 1-4 p.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)
Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.

– Mindy Giles

Support live music!
#SaveOurStages!

Mangel

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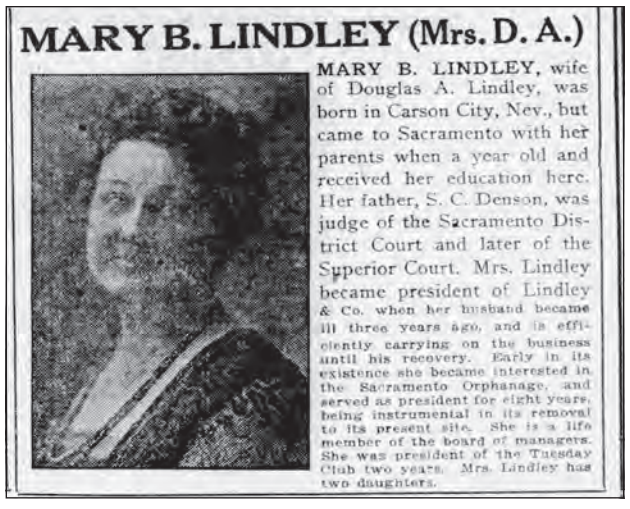
The Mangels bought the home in 1975 and lived there for three years before John's Air Force career transferred him out of state. In the intervening years, they rented out their home and the large space above the garage until returning permanently in 1997. John Mangel retired from the Air Force with the rank of colonel. He now works weekdays with his brother at the Mangels' Ranch in Suisun Valley.

When the couple's children went to college, Jayne Mangel gravitated toward carpentry. She bribed some local craftsmen on the base in Louisiana, where they were stationed, with homemade cookies to get them to teach her. Today, one of the tall garage bays serves as her dedicated wood workshop. Among the items Jayne has built over the years are the tables and sideboard in the "Asilomar room" above the garage and a table in the main house kitchen.

The Mangels began working on the house in earnest upon their return in 1997. They were hands-on in restoring its original luster and adapting the small kitchen into a larger combined space. Jayne's woodworking skills were useful in many of the projects, and John's military buddies were always ready to lend them a hand. Now, with the house the way they want it,



MARY B. LINDLEY (Mrs. D. A.)

MARY B. LINDLEY, wife of Douglas A. Lindley, was born in Carson City, Nev., but came to Sacramento with her parents when a year old and received her education here. Her father, S. C. Denson, was judge of the Sacramento District Court and later of the Superior Court. Mrs. Lindley became president of Lindley & Co. when her husband became ill three years ago, and is efficiently carrying on the business until his recovery. Early in its existence she became interested in the Sacramento Orphanage, and served as president for eight years, being instrumental in its removal to its present site. She is a life member of the board of managers. She was president of the Tuesday Club two years. Mrs. Lindley has two daughters.

Historic Sacramento Union article about Mary Lindley.

Courtesy the Mangel family

The Asilomar-style upstairs hall has hosted neighbors and community members since 1915. Photo by Rudy Calpo

Jayne's favorite room is her light-filled, expanded kitchen. John loves the living and dining rooms.

The original building permit for the home was issued in 1914, and the garage and upstairs hall permit in 1915. The structure above the garage contained a billiard parlor and dance floor, piano and fireplace. The garage featured a gas pump, not uncommon for the well-to-do at the time. The upstairs space was a regular West Curtis Oaks Improvement Association meeting space.

John reviewed old newspaper articles to learn about the home's prior owners. The first residents were the owners' daughter and son-in-law, who moved away to become pear growers at the family ranch in Tehama County.

The builders and subsequent residents were Mary B. and Douglas Lindley of the Lindley family pioneering grocery companies that date back to 1849. Mary became the first woman to serve on the Sacramento City Council. As president of the Sacramento Orphan's Home (later the Sacramento Children's Home), she was instrumental in the move to its present location on Sutterville Road. Mary often entertained, hosting women's club meetings, family dinners and an annual Halloween open house party in the "grand hall" above the garage.

Jayne continues the seasonal tradition of witches and ghosts engaging in sports in the home's front yard, from volleyball to tug-of-war and tennis.

The Lindley family owned the home until 1969. Its subsequent owners leased it to the Sacramento Welfare Rights Organization (WRO) as a shelter for down-on-their-luck people.

The Mangels found the original 1914 building permit behind the wall of one bathroom. They, in turn, placed a time capsule in the kitchen wall behind the refrigerator containing photos, a newspaper and a history synopsis. "Finders keepers," said Jayne. "We want to be good stewards of the property."

Janice Calpo and Jill Rupp contributed to this article.

Petrovich

Continued from page 1

am adamantly against it. I want to change it to only single-family homes that match the others in Crocker Village."

Abbe said Petrovich's amendment request is under review by city departments, agencies and the public. City staff are preparing a report for the Planning and Design Commission and the public that will be available a week before a hearing.

The Planning and Design Commission public hearing is scheduled for 5 p.m. on April 24 at City Hall, 915 I St.

Fresh summer berries at the Oak Park Farmers Market

Photos courtesy of the Food Literacy Center

Oak Park Farmers Market "Carrot Cash" coupons for kids

Oak Park Farmers Market kicks off its season starting April 5

By Kathy Les

The beloved Saturday farmers market located in Oak Park's McClatchy Park returns starting April 5 for another season of specialty produce, prepared foods and special activities. Market hours are from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Those who have attended in years past know the market is prized by Oak Park and Curtis Park residents. It's a place to meet and make new friends while also buying fresh and local spring and summer vegetables and other locally made items.

The Sacramento Food Literacy Center will again host and operate the Oak Park Farmers Market.

"We're proud to open our third season running the Oak Park Farmers Market," said Amber Stott, Food Literacy Center CEO.

"We're bringing the fun in healthy living to the community with gorgeous farm produce, family-friendly activities and kids' carrot cash to inspire everyone to eat their veggies," Stott added.

Kids attending the market with their parents can purchase their favorite produce with a $5 kids Carrot Cash coupon.

RHJ Farms will again be a mainstay at the market with their farm-fresh organic produce and delicious peak-season strawberries. Stuyt Dairy Farmstead Cheese also is returning with their Dutch-style cheeses crafted from raw cow's milk, including authentic curd cheese, white cheddar, fresh cheese spread and brie.

The weekly market also will feature free yoga, free product and recipe sampling, Brazilian Capoeira, a mobile library and the University of the Pacific health clinic, among other participants.

Bring your friends and family and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the Oak Park Farmers Market.

Mad Hatter event a whimsical success

SCNA's first-ever Mad Hatter Tea Party, held at Sierra 2 last month, hosted 44 well-dressed guests for teacup bingo, corn hole croquet, coloring and plenty of tea and sweets. The photo booth captured guests in their Mad Hatter attire. Pictured are Isabella Walls as Alice, Donald Worley as the Mad Hatter and Dustin Fitzgerald (Sierra 2 facility monitor) as the White Rabbit. Thankfully, no one got lost down a rabbit hole.

WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Seniors share their stories through writing program at Sierra 2 Senior Center

By Sierra 2 Staff

For over 20 years, the Sierra 2 Senior Center has hosted "My Life History Writing," a program dedicated to helping seniors document and share stories. The group provides a supportive space for participants to explore the art of written storytelling.

My Life History Writing was one of the first programs offered at the center. Initially run by Joe and Bubbles Miguel, the group is currently led by Susan Taylor. The writing group gives seniors a safe space to write and share stories about their lives. Participants choose what to write, which can span years of experience, or they can recount a single moment. The writers share their stories with their peers weekly to gain support and feedback.

Currently more than 10 older adults participate in the program. The sessions are open to all. New members who wish to join and contribute their stories are welcome.

The writers in My Life History Writing appreciate how their writing has improved. Working on their own stories "really helps you remember, and then it opens other doors," said participant Nina Levan. She also noted that listening to the other writers' stories is just as valuable because it can "open other areas of writing."

Participants also appreciate the group's structure and accountability. Stories are due every week, so it "motivates you to write," said Bill Carey. Levan agreed, saying, "It fosters creativity, and gives you a weekly goal."

Support comes from fellow writers. "When I finished reading my first story, everybody clapped," said Aurora Dominguez. She found their enthusiasm incredibly motivating. Dominguez added that a supportive environment helps foster the "emotional strength" needed to recount the more personal stories.

The social aspect of this group is also a draw; many of its members have attended for years. "It gets to be like family," said Carey.

Writers who miss a week or two can expect a phone call from fellow members, checking in to ensure everything is okay.

Dominguez first attended the group session "just to see what was going on." After listening to one writer's work, she was about to leave, when another writer stopped her. "You can't leave. I'm about to read my writing," he said. She stayed. "I'm glad I stayed. He was a good writer, and it was a good experience." She has been part of the group ever since.

Toni Hatfield stumbled across the group years ago and has been a loyal member ever since. She finds inspiration in the variety of writers. Over the years, published authors, poets and professors have joined.

The group's life experiences are broad, ranging from wartime experiences to life in a large family. Dominguez wanted to write about her extended family, including her grandfather, who owned a silver mine in Mexico and had 13 children.

Levan heard about the group through a stranger. "I was walking down 24th Street, and I ran into Lyle [Derrington], and – I'll never forget this – he said, 'Are you a senior?'" He told Nina about the program, and she has participated ever since.

My Life History Writing also connects and encourages participants to attend other center activities, such as Open Art and Pinochle, to deepen their connections. SCNA and Sierra 2 are proud to continue offering this program to local elders, fostering Curtis Park's community spirit and lifelong learning.

The Life History Writing program is from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesdays in Room 12.

Empower SCNA by giving on the Big Day of Giving, May 1

By Kathy Les

SCNA is excited to launch this year's Big Day of Giving (BDOG) to benefit the Sierra 2 Center for Arts and Community with a host of needs that include programming and building improvements. The goal this year is to raise $37,000 for:

- New signage for the 24th Street Theatre
- Expanded programming for the Sierra 2 Senior Center
- Music in the Park and Curtis Fest
- The Learnery arts and enrichment programs

SCNA has an active roster of upcoming events (see the listing elsewhere in this issue) and is continually branching out with new arts programming to better serve both Curtis Park residents and the larger arts community.

"We are excited to be back on our A-Game post-COVID with a wide array of events and experiences at Sierra 2," said Shannon Motley, SCNA Development Committee chair. "Join me and your fellow neighbors and give generously on May 1."

The cost of supplies and materials has risen, and some of SCNA's stalwart donors have been affected by federal budget cuts. BDOG will help make a difference.

From its beginnings as a neighborhood school to the vibrant arts and community center it is today, the Sierra 2 Center has stood as a testament to the power of community connection and perseverance. Together, Curtis Park neighbors continue to support this vital resource.

Consider giving a minimum of $101 to honor the 101 years of our Curtis Park crown jewel and thriving neighborhood centerpiece.

Watch for BDOG lawn signs popping up around the neighborhood in support of this year's BDOG fundraising. You can make your contributions starting two weeks prior to May 1 at bigdayofgiving.org/donate/sierra2center or at sierra2.org. Checks and credit card payments also can be made in person from 10 a.m. to noon on May 1 at the 24th Street entrance to Sierra 2.

PARK ARTS

Tomales Bay, Marin County

Photos by Tom Monahan

Tom Monahan is a lifelong amateur photographer who has lived on Portola Way for 40 years. He is a member and volunteer at the Viewpoint Photographic Art Center in Sacramento and has also co-led photography classes for the Sac State Renaissance Society. Landscape is a favorite subject, but he also works – in color and black and white – on whatever strikes his fancy. Tom has participated in local group exhibits and occasionally helps to organize exhibits. He sometimes sells prints and especially likes donating his photos to support his favorite nonprofit causes. His email address is tmonahan1947@yahoo.com, and his website address is tommonahan.slickpic.com/gallery/.

– Carlos Alcala

Foothills of Amador County

Figure 8 Women's Workout Center has a new owner

By Annie Cook

Kelly Ramos worked as an accountant for Figure 8 Women Workout Center before buying the facility in early March when owner Alicia Stephens decided to step down.

A fitness enthusiast, Ramos, of Land Park, had kept the center's books for six years and was intimately acquainted with the demands of running a small, independent gym. She came to love what a women-only gym offered its members.

"I told Alicia that if she ever decided to sell the gym, I would like to be first in line," she said.

The transaction took place without the need for a "For Sale" sign or service interruption.

Figure 8, at the corner of 24th Street and Second Avenue, remains a nurturing place where women can exercise in a safe, welcoming and non-judgmental setting. During regular business hours, the gym is a social environment; when members use their 24-hour access card, it offers peaceful, solitary sessions.

Ramos will continue regular fitness options at the center and may add a cosmetology station and private Pilates studio.

To learn more or to make an appointment to visit the center, contact Ramos at 916-832-1097, visit the website at figure8ww.com or drop in during business hours at the center, 2355 Second Avenue, to speak with Ramos directly.

Kelly Ramos is the new owner of Figure 8 Fitness. Photo by Annie Cook

Bret Harte school garden welcomes more learners and visitors for spring

By Lindsey Sin and Lauren Gothard

LAUREN GOTHARD *and* LINDSEY SIN

The Bret Harte garden is a busy place this time of year, but this season is especially active. The PTA's Garden Committee and volunteers have ramped up hands-on learning, garden expansion and fundraising. In February, students from every class harvested sugar snap peas and herbs and planted seed potatoes.

"Students learned about how potatoes grow and what part of the world they're from. They will harvest them at the end of the school year to cook up for the annual French fry party," said committee co-chair and parent Anne Seiler.

Several new activities have been added this year, including harvesting lemons and oranges from the orchard to make lemonade and orange juice.

"The students loved everything about making lemonade and orange juice," Seiler said. "They loved picking the lemons, cutting the lemons and oranges, squeezing them, mixing and taste testing. We talked about the scientific method while experimenting with the perfect recipe and talked about the nutritional contents of lemons and oranges."

Parent volunteer Emily Grau helped expand the hands-on learning to the after-school program. On Friday afternoons, students have been watering plants, and harvesting and planting poppy and milkweed seeds. In addition to maintaining the garden, the club will offer crafts and activities such as nature journaling, flower crafts, bug hunts and science experiments.

"I love that we are able to offer this additional time in the garden to the kids," said Grau. "It's so fun to see them exploring and learning."

In addition to planting and harvesting and preparing produce, the garden committee also coordinated an assembly with Cliff Feldheim from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Feldheim taught students about Sacramento Valley birds. He showed students how to identify birds, their habitat needs, migration patterns and the importance of conservation. Students examined bones, feathers, eggs and nests during the presentation.

The committee's ongoing expansion plans will enable additional outdoor learning for the next school year and beyond. In late spring and early summer, volunteers will clear the ground, place weed blocks and begin hardscaping.

"Once the next school year starts, we plan to finish the hardscaping and install new fencing before planting native plants in the fall," said committee co-chair and parent Julissa Leal.

First grade student Dhruv Gupta enjoys a sugar snap pea from the garden. Photo by Janet Moody

Several grants and generous donations will cover the cost of the materials and plants needed for the summer and fall work. Bret Harte received a $1,200 Saul Wiseman Grant from the Sacramento Perennial Plant society for the third time. The Garden Committee has also received donations from Curtis Park neighbors, for which they are very grateful. Future funds raised will go toward the butterfly garden, expansion of the orchard, preparing the site for summer vegetables, and hiring a garden educator for the 2025-2026 school year. The committee also plans to apply for grants to take students to the Yolo Basin next fall to learn about local wetlands.

Neighbors can support the garden expansion at the upcoming Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. on April 26, the same day as the Curtis Park Home and Garden Tour, when the garden will be open to the community. Plant starters, homemade stepping-stones and native plant bookmarks will be available for sale.

Students working together harvesting lettuce. Photo by Lauren Gothard

Funds raised from the breakfast will cover the sixth-grade trip to Sly Park and the butterfly garden expansion. Tickets can be purchased in advance from Bret Harte students and online for $8. Tickets also may be purchased the day of the event for $10. Neighbors interested in helping with the garden are invited to attend upcoming garden workdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on April 12 and April 19.

Link for Pancake Breakfast tickets: brethartepta.betterworld.org/events/pancake-breakfast-2