



Tony Jetland

MARCH 2017

The Diablo Gazette

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The Kiteman of Martinez

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What's New with Diablo Gazette

The dragon you see on the cover is a kite. This dual line kite can be seen flying from time to time in the park at the Martinez Marina. When it's flying, it can be seen for 1/2 mile or farther away. Piloted by Martinez resident, now known as the "Kite man of Martinez", Tony Jetland. (What a great name.) Jetland and his kites are well known across the world. Do you want to see it fly? Scan this QR code, it is truly a spectacle. More on this on page 7.

On page 19, I really enjoy the lampoon that illustrator JT contributed to the Diablo Gazette after learning about the Secret Service challenges of protecting President Trump and family - the subject of this month's Insider article. I may be even more amazed that it only took him all of 30 minutes to draw this cartoon without the aid of photographs. Brilliant.

JT is from Concord, and is a student at San Francisco Art Academy. He graduated from the Clayton Valley Charter High School a product of its Arts Academy. I hope to see more of his work in future editions. What do you think? Email me (and him) a note at diabogazette@gmail.com.

The Diablo Gazette was recently invited to DVC to present to the Journalism students. It brought back great memories from my college days. I appreciate their interest in the Diablo Gazette and hope a few of them get

involved with us. We are more than happy to help them with their Journalism studies and launch their careers.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page and the website www.diablogazette.com for more stories and updates throughout the month. Thanks to all our contributors, to you for reading the Diablo Gazette, and for the compliments many are sending in. Our contributing writers and I appreciate it.

David King



Beware Curiosity Malware

People are naturally curious and will investigate nearly any claim or promise that they encounter and that's a good thing, right? Well, according to Albert Einstein, "The important thing is not to stop questioning... Never lose a holy curiosity." I think most people are curious, it's in their nature.

According to lifehack.org, a wellness website, "Curiosity is an important trait of a genius. I don't think you can find an intellectual giant who is not a curious person. Thomas Edison, Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Richard Feynman, they are all curious characters. Richard Feynman was especially known for his adventures which came from his curiosity."

Curiosity is important for various reasons, among them, it helps keep your mind active and observant of new ideas. It opens worlds of possibilities and it brings excitement to your life. It's that last thing I want to focus on, excitement into your life.

Wouldn't it be exciting to be infected with a virus like Ransomware? Yeah, you click on something and presto everything you ever cared about is lost. Gone. Poof. Talk about excitement will 'ya?

While I tend to agree with my ol' buddy Albert, we just call him Al for short; I'm not so sure his philosophy would stand up to the Internet challenge.

I have another quote I use for surfing the net, "Curiosity killed the cat" is a proverb used to warn of the dangers of unnecessary investigation or experimentation".

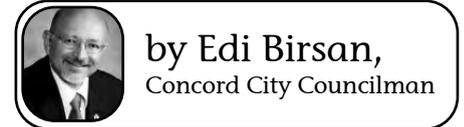
You see, being curious can be a good thing, but tuck that thought away when you surf the Internet because the makers of bad, nasty, dark, demented viri expect you to be curious. Want to avoid being hacked? Then, NEVER, click on a pop-up. Just NEVER. Never, never, never click on a pop-up ad, article, fake info, warning message you are infected, or whatever. It's worth repeating: Never.



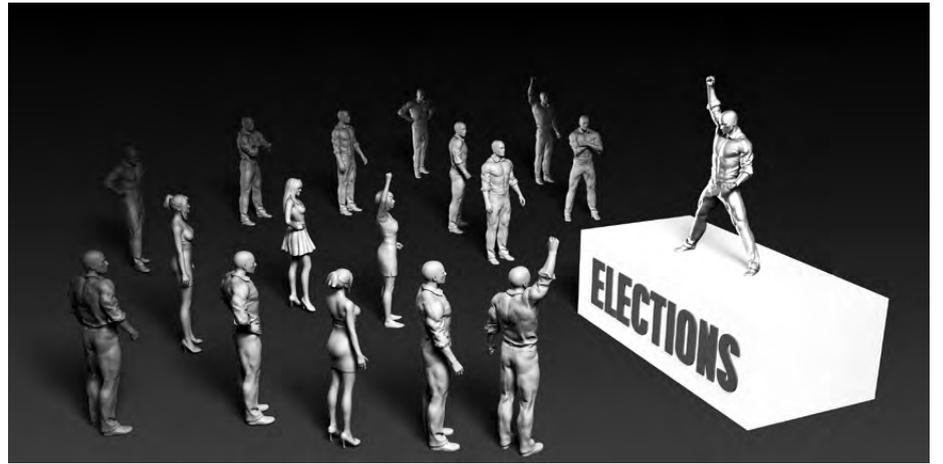
The makers of Curiosity Malware are not nice people. They are the real deplorables. Oh, you say you have an antivirus. Ha, to these deplorables that's nothing more than hot knife through warm butter, i.e. you're an easy mark. All, save one, of the

Anti-Virus programs will not protect you from Cyber Crime. Why? They can't control your fingers if you choose to click on goofy claims that this message is from your doctor, lawyer, you just won the lotto ... oh, hey you're infected - just click here.

Are you still curious? Then, find out about the one-and-only system that will protect you against yourself. Hint, see our ad on page 9.



Demand the Answers, Give Me Your Goals



Recently the Concord City Council had the task of replacing Tim Grayson's seat on the Council due to his victory run for Assembly. The Council received 33 applications with some general standard questions on it which would be followed by an interview by the whole Council asking one question each and then voting. Questions like what are the three biggest challenges for the city do not tell you what they are going to do. Everyone is for more jobs, less crime, better schools, more housing, better government transparency and free non-fattening [sic] chocolate banana splits (with a cherry on top). Sadly, this is more interaction than a great majority of our voters have in making their choice for elected office.

I hold that this is not a best practice. I prepared a list of about 100 questions, very specific calling for a yes/no answer on real things like:

1. Should we have a directly elected mayor?
2. Should we open police substations?
3. Should we have prayer before City Council meetings?
4. Should we limit rent increases to once a year at no more than 10%?

Over my colleagues' objections I mailed the questions out, and about half the participants answered. This is exactly the sort of demand that the voters should be doing for each of the candidates when they run for office. Instead at the local level we see a large segment of our voters going into the booth to vote with only knowing the person's name and his ballot designation, and about 50% of those that turn out to vote in the Presidential election do not vote in the City Council races or the 'down ballot' contests.

What I would like us to see is that there is a large check list of specific issues and choices so that people know where the candidates stand and can compare.

You may not agree with all positions, but they may give you a better understanding of who matches your choices. It is also a good exercise for the candidates to understand what they are going to be asked to decide.

Newspapers have a role in informing the public and deal in facts. Comparison pieces on issues needs to be a demand by the public to get past any bias that the editorial boards may have.

You the voting public have the right to demand answers, and I want you to also understand that you have a DUTY to do that. Be an informed voter, not a casual voter.

MAKE YOUR GOALS THE CITY'S GOALS

In early April, the City Council will hold a "retreat" on making a list of goals for the city for the next year. This is maybe the only time the City Council operates with an open agenda and we can toss in anything we want...or so I thought. I remember going into one of these meetings with a list of 40 things to do and was told to pick 3, and then each of them were blown off.

I have a cynical dislike for lofty vague goals like 'reduce crime' (like anyone would ever want to keep crime where it is?) or to be more efficient or more transparent. I like goals with specific actions attached such as: Political Reform by having defined rotation of Mayor, Economic enhancement by cutting all fees for the next 100 secondary units built, or give all new businesses equal credits to their business tax to be applied to city permit fees.

However, what do you the residents want as our goals? And please give a specific item whenever you are tempted to wave a general flag such as 'greater community spirit.

Send you suggestions to: Edi.Birsan@CityOfConcord.org and get them in FAST.

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Ristorante Mediterranean Opens in Pleasanton Hill

By Richard Eber



To a casual observer one might ask why an immigrant from the Adana region of Turkey, who obtained a degree in electrical Engineering from USC, would be interested in operating a new restaurant. You can ask Matt Eker.



Eker manages the Ristorante Mediterranean which is located across from Sun Valley Mall on Contra Costa Blvd in the spot previously occupied by Café Bravo. Eker, who enthusiastically discusses this regional cuisine which extends from Italy to the Middle East, says he has always been into food so operating a restaurant is a natural progression for him. "Being happy in life, is what really matters", he says.

In putting the menu together for the Ristorante Mediterranean, Eker incorporated recipes from his native Turkey to go along with Italian and Greek standards put forth by Executive Chef Wolfgang Weber. This is first reflected in appetizers which has a hummus plate,

Tzatziki, and a delectable baked goat cheese covered with roasted pistachios. In true California style, they offer other starters ranging from fried calamari to grilled chicken wings to appeal to different tastes.



In addition to traditional salad fare, Ristorante Mediterranean offers a Burrata Cheese Salad which is served with tomatoes and a subtle olive oil and balsamic dressing. All these dishes are made to order. Eker proudly states, "Our restaurant does not serve fast food. We want our patrons to have an authentic dining experience that cannot be found elsewhere."

Typical of this is their house made French fries which are served with lunch wraps which include lamb, beef, and gyro and meat ball varieties. These special seasoned fries are made in the twice-cooked European style which contrasts to the much blander American version. The difference is in their crunchy texture, and immense flavor.

The menu offers a variety of Mediterranean moderately priced main courses as well.

House made Gyro, special Turkish meat balls (Kofta), and of course lamb are prominent. Along with these Mediterranean dishes, Chef Weber also offers such diverse dishes as Veal

Scaloppini, a scallop plate served with saffron carrot cream sauce, and pan seared salmon, to name a few.

They also offer homemade pasta dishes which include the Turkish delicacy Manti which are tiny dumplings filled with seasoned Kofta and served with a garlic yogurt sauce. Sounds strange but this dish work very well and lends itself to sharing among diners.

Save room for room dessert.

Ristorante Mediterranean offers an excellent choice of house made crème Brule, tiramisu, and cakes that one expects to enjoy at gourmet eateries. However, the prize goes to their Turkish version of Baklava which incorporates cream, walnuts, pistachios, made with a simple syrup. It is the best I have ever tasted. It is subtle without being sickly sweet.

For a unique beverage experience, they offer a strange Turkish drink called Shalgam which consists of fermented red carrot, turnip, and pickle juices. It is suggested diners should ask for a sample before putting in a full order. You might prefer the more traditional, a tasty yogurt drink which goes well with Mediterranean foods as does an excellent Black Turkish Tea.



A good way to experience this new restaurant is by sampling their lunch buffet which offers seven unique dishes each week day from Monday thru Friday. They also provide a special children's menu and serve brunch on Sundays. In addition, Ristorante Mediterranean has a banquet room where large events can be held. They are open every day except Monday.



The hipster atmosphere is sharp and classy with live piano music on Friday and Saturdays. Reservations are recommended, and be sure to use the discount offer on the front page of the Diablo Gazette.

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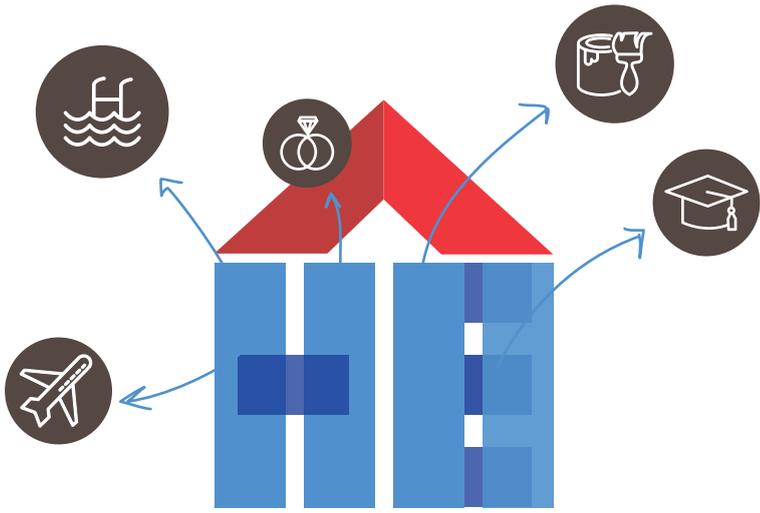
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Snowshoeing in Truckee

After four years of draught conditions, we're finally seeing the return of significant snowfall in the mountains of Northern California. I'll leave the specific details on the actual amount of snowfall, the water content and the like to the statisticians, historians, and prognosticators, but I can tell you from a layman's perspective that there's a boatload of snow in Truckee. There's so much snow in fact that many two-story homes are dwarfed in size compared to the snow surrounding them. To celebrate the return of winter and heavy snowfall, my wife and I decided to spend



a weekend in Truckee and experience the outdoors with some snowshoeing.

Our day started with an overcast sky and cold and balmy weather, but we were not deterred as we strapped on our gear consisting largely of ill-fitting snowshoes, borrowed by our Airbnb owners, and several layers of clothing.

Snowshoeing is much like hiking, but with a hint of bull-leggedness due to the awkward snowshoes that protrude and surround your otherwise capable feet. As we began to figure it out and settle into a rhythm, the conditions changed from a relatively flat and icy surface to an incline with a soft, forgiving landing. Two steps



forward and one step back came to mind as we sank into the powdery snow with each step forward.

On this day, we followed a course set aside for snowshoeing, however with recent snowfall there was little evidence of a formal pathway to follow, only the occasional small tree sign pointing the way and helping to navigate the remote trail.

As I slowly made my way up the ridge of a mountain, I was briefly lost in thought, reminded of Roald Amundsen, the great Norwegian explorer who discovered the South Pole in 1911. I wondered what it would have been like to spend so many months in the quiet and calm solitude with only the sound of your breathing and your footsteps to hear. My

Lake Tahoe Snow Report			
Feb 2017	Base	New	Lifts
Squaw Valley	241'	--'	24
Alpine Meadows	235'	--'	13
Sugar Bowl	138- 226'	--'	7
Diamond Peak	96- 144'	--'	4
Tahoe XC	65'	--'	0
Tahoe Donner	160- 185'	--'	4

stride and thoughts were quickly broken when my wife called out, "hey, you're off the trail again and you're going to get lost". She was right of course, I have a long-standing history of getting lost, missing turns, repeating myself, and the like. It's a great shortcoming for a would-be adventure explorer to be directionally challenged.

We stopped to take some photos and enjoy the scenery before reaching the summit of the trail and beginning our return trip to the lodge.

Snowshoeing is just one of the many outdoor events you can do while experiencing all the recent snowfall. It's a relatively low impact activity and it's a lot of fun. I suppose you could spend the next several months digging a house out from underneath all the snow, but that doesn't sound nearly as much fun to me.



How to Make Buyers Fall in Love with Your Home

When a buyer decides to make an offer on your home, they usually make the decision with their heart, not their head. Buying a home is an emotional decision, and smart sellers will leverage this information to make the quickest sale for the highest price. Here are our best tips for how to make buyers fall in love with your home.

Take great photos for your online listing. In today's real estate market, most buyers begin their home search [online](#). For this reason, it's essential that you have great photos for your listing. Put yourself in the buyer's shoes. What kind of photos would you like to see of a potential new house? Make sure photos are well lit, rooms are clean and all your home's qualities are emphasized. I hire a professional photographer for all my listings to ensure your listing has the best photographs possible as well as a virtual tour.

Give the exterior a facelift. Once a buyer has browsed through the online listings, they'll determine which houses they'd like to see in person. But just because they found something they like in the listing, doesn't mean that feeling will automatically transfer when they show up to your front door. [First impressions count](#). You only have a few seconds when the buyer arrives at your house to make it look inviting. They will assume what they see on the outside will be reflected inside. Take time to give the exterior of your home a facelift so that it has the best possible curb appeal. Clean up the yard, trim trees and bushes, plant annual color, power wash the outside and give the front door a fresh coat of paint.

Clean, de-clutter and de-personalize the interior. To make buyers fall in love with your home, you must make it easy for them to imagine living there. That can be difficult if there's a giant framed photo of your grandmother staring at them, or worse, sports paraphernalia from an opposing team. Give your home a thorough cleaning and remove clutter, including

bulky furniture. Take down all family photos and store all personal items. Your home should feel fresh, clean, spacious and neutral.



Appeal to a buyer's senses. In order to work on a buyer's emotions, you must [appeal to their senses](#). Fill the air with good scents, like fresh flowers, baking cookies or brewing coffee. Set out some light snacks and drinks. Play some soothing, ambient music. Use fabrics with a variety of colors and soft textures for beds, couches, curtains and tablecloths. You want to make your home feel warm and inviting and leave potential buyers feeling relaxed and happy.

Price it right. One of the most important details that will move a buyer from "like" to "love" is offering your home at just the right price. Do your homework and research [comps](#) in the neighborhood. Talk with your real estate agent about how to best price your home to sell – not too low, not too high. You want to hit it right at the sweet spot, which an experienced agent can help you do.

Follow these tips to make buyers fall in love with your home for sale and you'll be on your way to closing day. [Compliments of Virtual Results. http://virtualresults.net/make-buyers-fall-love-home/.](http://virtualresults.net/make-buyers-fall-love-home/)

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Workshop Set for Concord Navel Weapons Reuse Plan

The first of three workshops on the Concord Community Reuse Plan for the former Concord Naval Weapons Station will be held Saturday, March 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle. The public is invited to attend.

In 2012, the City Council adopted the Reuse Project Area Plan for the 5,000-acre base, reflecting several years of community visioning and planning. More than 65 percent of the project will become a regional park. Over the next 20 years, the remaining area will be developed in phases.

Lennar/FivePoint has been selected for Phase 1 of the project, and will begin work on a Specific Plan. The Specific Plan will provide detailed guidance on topics such as design and layout of buildings, roadways, and community facilities.

The workshop will be hosted by members of the Community Advisory Committee, an advisory body appointed by the City Council to provide input and

encourage public participation during the development of the Specific Plan. Workshop leaders will seek community input about issues important to residents and neighbors as the master developer begins to design the Specific Plan and Infrastructure Master Plan.

"We invite residents to join us for this first discussion of the Specific Plan," says Guy Bjerke, Director of Community Reuse Planning. "It's important that we hear from the community as we move forward with more detailed planning for the development of the base."

Two additional community workshops have been scheduled for June and September. More details will be announced closer to the dates of the workshops and residents will be notified with a postcard announcement.

For more information, visit the Reuse Project website at www.concordreuseproject.org or contact the Reuse Project office at (925) 671-3001.

Uptick in Lice infestations, Not to Worry

There has been an uptick in lice infestations reported in the Contra Costa County area recently. But not to worry if you or members of your family are affected.

"There is a certain stigma about head lice, and people seem to be ashamed and embarrassed about having it," says Jaime Maaske, manager of Comb It Out Lice Removal Salon. "When it comes to head lice, prevention is the key." Here are a few tips that will help.

Keep your hair up off your shoulders. Repel products such as rosemary or tea tree oil can do wonders.

Head lice are contagious, and more commonly found in children between the ages of 3-11.

Educating your children about the risks of close contact and the sharing of brushes, hats, helmets, and hair ties. Although personal space is still something children are learning to

grasp, even close contact exposure such as taking selfies with an infected friend can be a hazard.

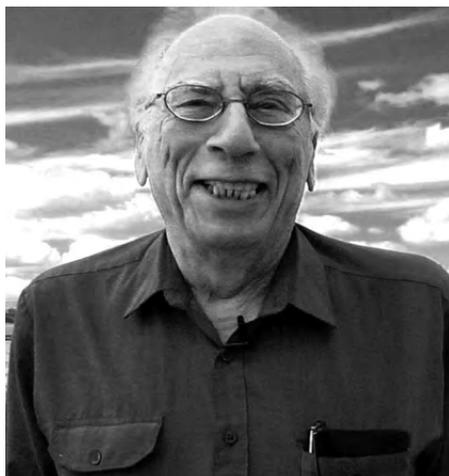
If you do find yourself infested it's important to stay calm. Notify anyone you've had close contact with and any school or programs you are involved in.

Avoid harsh over the counter products for they do not always work. Call a local lice specialist for safer alternatives and treatments.

Comb It Out is one of very few salons that offer treatment in Northern California. Founders Sofia Deleuse and Pamela Fukui are hard working mothers who understand how hard it is to deal with lice in your child's hair. "People come from all over the Bay Area and as far as Tahoe for treatment."

Fortunately for us, they are in Concord at 4375 Clayton Road, Suite J.

Bay Area Documentary Team Strikes a Chord with Folk Fans



Izzy Young

Tamsin Orion and Rebecca Seeman of Tamzina Films are the co-producers currently on the final stages of the documentary "Folklore Center Blues: The Life of Izzy Young". It so happens former Diablo Gazette's graphics wizard, from Walnut Creek Shane Louis is part of the social media crew for the East Bay production company.

With most of the footage having been gathered, Tamzina Films launched an online crowdfunding campaign with Indiegogo early February to help finance the post-production phase including archival research, animation, editing, color-grading, and distribution of the film. They raised \$15,485- short of their goal of around \$40,000.

Tamsin Orion is founder and principal of Tamzina Films. She holds an M.A. in Documentary Filmmaking from Stanford University. Her films have won Telly, Cine Golden Eagle and NEMN awards and have been screened at film festivals worldwide.

Rebecca Seeman is a musician who grew up playing folk guitar. She never lost her love of folk music and popular culture and is a good friend of Izzy Young. Rebecca and Tamsin met at the Burning Man Festival in the Nevada desert. Tamsin was intrigued by Rebecca's stories about her friend Izzy Young, who waxed profane about his experiences with the great figures of folk, old time music, blues, jazz, and other arts in New York. Their journey with Izzy begins at the Folklore Centrum in Stockholm, where he has lived since 1973.

The documentary film explores how Izzy Young, the son of Jewish Polish immigrants, opened the Folklore Center in Greenwich Village and became a central figure of the 1960s American folk music revival.

Young became the go-to man for musicians and songwriters starting careers in New York City during the 1960's folk music revival. He produced the first New York concerts of Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Emmylou Harris, Tim Buckley, and many others.

Dylan wrote many of his early songs on Izzy's typewriter in the back room of the Folklore Center and absorbed Young's extensive library of books on folk music. He also gave Young one of the early interviews in which he spun tales of his fictional circus past. Young and the Folklore Center helped introduce urban youth to blues legends of the South, fueling the budding rock-n-roll scene. The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress recently purchased Young's journals and notebooks that

chronicle every detail of the folk music scene during this vital and turbulent time in American history. Folklore Center Blues features rare interviews and musical footage including one of Pete Seeger's final interviews before he passed away in 2014. Tamzina Films also interviewed folk music icons like David Grisman, Steve Earle, and John Sebastian.

The crew uncovered Folklore Center concert recordings that have not been heard in 50 years, including Elizabeth



Rebecca and Tamsin filming Pete Seeger in his log cabin in the Hudson River Valley



Izzy, Rebecca & Tamsin, on location at the Korrö Folkmusikfestival in Southern Sweden

Cotten singing her original song "Freight Train."

Folk music is still relevant today, with Lady Gaga singing part of the folk protest song, "This Land is Your Land" during the 2017 Super Bowl halftime show. The song was originally written by Woody Guthrie and popularized by Pete Seeger who sang the entire song with Bruce Springsteen at President Obama's second inauguration in 2014.

At almost 89-years-old, Young still produces concerts at the Folklore Centrum in Stockholm, Sweden, where he moved in 1973.

We look forward to seeing this film.



The Kite-Man of Martinez



By David King
 Visit the park at Martinez Marina and you may be fortunate to see some of the world's most amazing kites. Some are huuuge! And that's not Trump hyperbole. Tony Jetland, 55, is the Kiteman of Martinez and a world class kite flier. He owns over 300 kites, some which are custom made from master kite makers from around the world. Jetland is a general contractor in Martinez. That's his real job, but as for kites, "This is an obsession, a passion for me," he states. He has flown kites all his life. He moved to California about 18 years ago from Minnesota. Once his kids had grown and moved out on their own, his kite flying enthusiasm elevated to the next level, dual line kites from Prism Kite

Technology. These stunt and sport kites had revolutionized kite flying. He is registered with the America Kitefliers Association, whose members are deemed pilots. According to them,



they some of the nicest people you could meet. This group of like-minded people share the joys of kiting and look forward to meeting up to as many festivals their schedule permits. "I met amazing people from all over the world, that became some of my closest friends," Jetland says. About 15 years ago, he began attending the Berkeley Kite Festival as a representative of Prism and would teach people how to fly the dual line kites. "People have to be taught how to fly dual line, or they will get frustrated and give up," he says. He's been going every year since. This is a large event with 35,000



plus in attendance at Caesar Chavez Park by the Berkeley Marina. "It is an amazing family event to go to." Five years ago, Prism started sending him to Treasure Island Kite Festival and Sport Kite Competition in Florida, and to Wildwoods International Kite Festival in New Jersey. Soon, other organizers and festival producers of and events started

to pay his travels to fly his kites at their event. Two years ago, I decided I wanted to get into the big show kites. The dragon, trilobites, pterodactyls, pigs, elephants, 30-foot penguin. His kites are a major attraction for these events where other marketing efforts fail to draw, his spectacular kites can be seen from almost a 1/2 mile away, attracting the curious to see what's going on. For example, "When I fly at the Martinez Marina, they can be seen as far away as the Amtrak station," he says. How big are they. The trilobite is 1168 square feet of kite. "I have a bathroom and closet smaller than that in my house," he quips. Dory is 33 feet long, custom made and is the only one in the world. "I buy a lot of kites directly from a company in China, and they are paying for me to go there to fly kites in their festivals. When I return the following week, I go to St. Louis and then on to

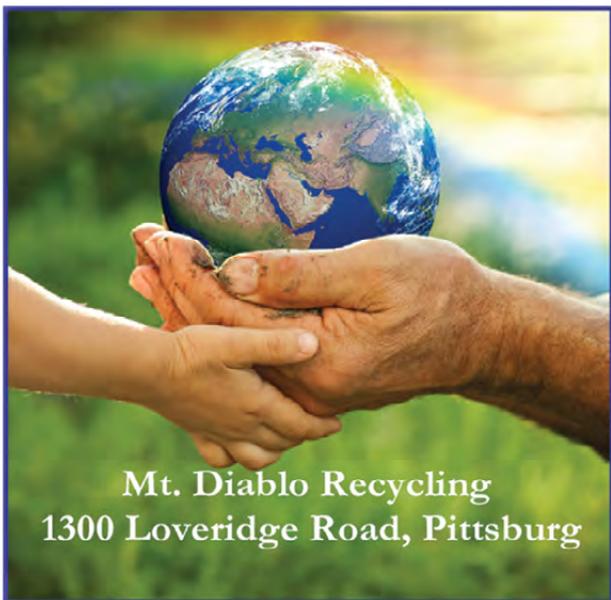


Continue on Pg. 10.

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Resident Tales

Mellard and Millicent Mallard



by Marge Crawford

I was living in a condominium in Hamilton, Ohio, when, one fine spring day, a pair of Mallard ducks appeared in my yard. They kept poking about under the Azalea bushes that grew against the

wall of the garage. Soon they became frequent overnight guests, huddled down in their favorite spot. In the morning, the drake would stagger out and stare at the rising sun as if bewitched. Then he would

shake his head, wiggle his wings and waddle away to the nearby pond.

That drake and his little brown wife became my friends. When I came out each morning to sweep the front steps we

would exchange a greeting – Me: “Good morning”; and they would murmur sounds back at me, so I decided that I should name them, out of all-due respect. They became, in my mind, Mellard and Millicent Mallard (Mel and Mill). Then they began nest building.

After widening a natural depression under the bush, they proceeded to line it with dead leaves, grasses, sticks, fluff from various plants and down from under Mill’s breast feathers. Mill then settled into the nest and began to lay eggs. Over a period of time, one or two new eggs would appear each day or two. When she left the nest for her morning walk-about, she would cover them so cleverly that I had to peer hard to see them. Finally, six beautiful eggs were there just waiting for Mill to start her non-stop sitting time. What a trying time that turned out to be for my poor little Mallard friend!

One morning I heard Mill quacking hysterically, so I rushed out to see what was happening. She was confronting a big, grey CAT and was trying to shoo him away from her nest! I grabbed my broom and ran toward that cat. He turned tail and ran off. Mill began to calm down a bit, nodded her thanks to me and took off, waddling toward the pond. Not long after, Mel and Mill waddled along back to the nest, she, quacking at Mel a mile a minute, he, completely silent. He looked appropriately chastised for not staying close to home to defend his family. Then they both took off flying, reconnoitering to see where the cat might be. When they spotted him, they flew lower and quacked at him loudly, chasing him all the way to the ravine behind the housing plan!

So, it came time for Mill to sit all day and night; a marathon of sitting. But one morning I came out to find her off the nest, flat on the grass, lying on her stomach and chest, her wings spread wide, her neck stretched out and her head resting beak first, her eyes closed! I thought that she was dead! However, later she was up, back on the nest. I guess that was her much deserved “7th inning stretch” that I had observed earlier in the day.

The next day, there were two little ducklings peering at me from beneath Mill’s wings. Each day, one or more other ducklings appeared. Finally, the nest stood empty, except for shell remnants here and there. And I feared a bit that the cat might have succeeded in his quest for a duckling, but I knew all was well when I walked to the pond and witnessed Millicent Mallard swimming on the pond with six little ducklings paddling after her, all in a row, learning how to nibble water plants as Mellard Mallard proudly paddled nearby.



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Annual Autism Walk Returns to Concord

The 4th annual Autism Awareness Walk will be held in Concord on Saturday April 22nd from 9:30am – 12:00pm, rain or shine.

Walk with individuals with Autism and other community members to help raise awareness about the increasing prevalence of autism and the need for increased support services for individuals in our community.

This event is co-sponsored by the Adaptive Learning Center (ALC) and the Transition Options Program (TOPS) through Mt. Diablo Adult Education. Both organizations provide support and services for individuals with neuro-developmental disabilities, Asperger's and High Functioning Autism.

A \$25 registration fee, \$15.00 for individuals with disabilities, includes a custom t-shirt designed by an individual with autism. The route is just under two miles and begins at the Loma Vista Adult Center, 1266 San Carlos Ave, Concord. It includes a mid-point stop for refreshments at the Adaptive Learning Center Community Garden.

For the past 28 years, ALC programs and support enable their clients to live and work independently in the community through education, structured activities, vocational and independent living support.

Donna Feingold, Executive Director of ALC, commented, "Autism is so prevalent in our society that almost everyone is touched by it. The walk is a great way to create more awareness and celebrate the value and uniqueness of the individuals we serve."

The Transition Options Program (TOPS) at Loma Vista Adult Center is a one-of-a-kind program providing education and support to adults with Asperger's, High Functioning Autism and other related disorders. Students receive education and support in successfully navigating life's on-going transitions including, higher education, independent living, employment and the establishment of fulfilling adult social relationships.

"The walk is such a great community event that not only increases awareness, but also provides inspiration and hope for individuals with autism and their families," said Karen Lingenfelter-Carman, Program Coordinator of the TOPS Program.

For more information, please contact info@alc-ca.org or call ALC at 925.827.3863. Participants can sign up through EventBrite.

Happy 100th Birthday Gloria Weingarten

By Micah



Gloria Weingarten.

In February, Gloria Weingarten celebrated her 100th birthday at the Concord Royale. I was given the privilege of attending thanks to the kind staff and the Jordan family. One should always get to know their local Centenarians, so I accepted. Here is what 100 years of living looks like.

Gloria was born on February 10, 1917 as the eldest child of Max and Helen Weingarten. Her sister Maxine and her brother Morris were born in 1921 and 1929 during which her family lived in



Concord Mayor Laura Hoffmeister and Linda Karp of Blossoms for Barbara present Gloria Weingarten with flowers and a City Proclamation.

New York city. When Gloria was 15 her family moved to Paris where they lived for one year.

It was during a trip with a friend to California in 1937 where she first met her husband Henry Jordan who was also from New York. They were married in 1938 and made their home in Los Angeles.

As the United States were on the brink of war in 1941, Gloria and Henry became parents. Their son, Mark William was born on April 17th 1941 and 3 years later, another, James Richard joined the family on January 1st of 1944.

In 1948, Gloria and her sons returned to New York to live with Max and Helen after Henry's death and raised her boys on Long Island while working a variety of occupations in pharmacies.

There had always been a long running desire to return to California for Gloria, so in 1969 she moved back to Los Angeles.

Gloria has seen much of the world. Her passion for travel has taken her some of her most adored places one can imagine including Bali, Thailand, Ireland, France, and Jordan, and Egypt as well as many U.S. national parks.

Gloria has always had a passion for animals, gardening, and the outdoors. In Palm Springs, she volunteered at the Ariel Tramway and the Living Desert. As for pets, she favors cats and turtles and enjoys feeding humming birds with the multitude of feeders she leaves out for them.

She also paints and participates in raking art classes.

After her second husband Don passed in 2001, Gloria continued to live in southern California for many years until she moved to Walnut Creek to be closer to her family. Last February, Gloria moved to the Concord Royale.

I was thrilled to be allowed to witness her milestone birthday and see her surrounded by a loving family that spanned multiple generations. Happy 100th Birthday Gloria Weingarten.

Photos by Micah



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From Drought to Draught

8th Annual Spring Brews Fest on April 1



The Brewing Network's Spring Brews Fest is back for its 8th year at Todos Santos Park in Concord on Saturday, April 1st from noon to 4pm. This used to be the Winter Brew Fest held in January, normally a rainy month for this area. But with years of drought, January weather was adequate. Last year, the event was postponed until April due to El Nino forecasts. It was the right decision.

This year, with heavy rains continuing into March, it is likely that by April 1, we will all be ready to get outside for a great day in the park.

This event has become one of the most popular craft beer festivals in the Bay Area. With a lineup of the best craft beer in California, it's no surprise. The brewery list is still building but several leading brands have pledged their participation. The current list of breweries includes:

21st Amendment Brewery, Drake's Brewing Co., Alesmith, Ale Industries, Almanac Beer Co., Baelthane Brewing Co., Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits, Bear Republic Brewing Co., Berryessa Brewing Co., Black Diamond Brewery, Cali Craft Brewing Co., Cellarmaker

Brewing Co., Cleophuws Quealy Beer Company, Danville Brewing Company, Dust Bowl Brewing Company, Eagle Rock Brewery, Eight Bridges Brewing, E.J. Phair Brewing Company, Epidemic Ales, Faction Brewing, Farm Creek Brewing Company, Firestone Walker Brewing Co., Flat Tail Brewing, Gillman Brewing Company, Half Moon Bay Brewing Company, Heretic Brewing Company, High Water Brewing, Lagunitas Brewing Co, Lost Coast Brewery, Magnolia Gastropub & Brewery, Mraz Brewing Company, North Coast Brewing Company, Pizza Port, Brewing Co., The Rare Barrel, Russian River Brewing Company, Santa Clara Valley, Brewing Sierra Nevada, Societe Brewing Company, Sonoma Springs Brewing, Company, Speakeasy Ales & Lagers, Temescal Brewing, Triple Rock Brewery and Alehouse, Working Man Brewing Company.

Unlimited tasting from over 50 craft breweries, live music and great food. Tickets are now on sale for \$40 pre-sale but it will be \$50 at the gate. This includes unlimited pours and a commemorative glass. Designated Drivers are just \$5; however, this is a 21 and over only event so all attendees must be of legal drinking age. There are no refunds after March 15th. The event will take place rain or shine and there will be no refunds due to inclement weather. If your refund request falls under special circumstances, please contact the organizer directly.

Live music, food, and unlimited pours, mark your calendars and save yourself \$10 by ordering your tickets early.





Martinez Marina Swap Meet

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Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In back of the Bait & Tackle Store / In front of the Yacht Club
This event is FREE so whether you have some items to sell or you're looking for a bargain come down to Martinez Marina and Join Us.

**Contact: Harbor Master Office - 7 North Court Street *
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Set Up at 7:30am



Continued from Pg. 7.

The Kite-Man of Martinez

Ocean Shores Washington. "But the one he's looking forward to the most is in mid-July. "I will be going to Kitty Hawk North Carolina for the 39th Annual Wright Kite Festival. I'm flying the dragon on the same ground and over the same markers as Orville and Wilbur Wright's 1903 first flight... and I can't wait," he says.

When is the best time to fly your kite? "It depends on the rains, but the best winds are spring and summer. Winds are consistent from April to about September. April is when most of the Festivals start kicking in," he says.

As for the Diablo area, the Berkeley Kite festival is at the end of July and the San Ramon Wind and Wine Festival is on Memorial Day weekend. Enjoy the photos, but better yet, make plans to attend one of these spectacular local events and meet the Kiteman from Martinez.



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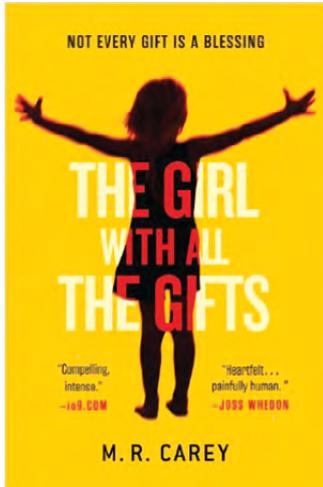


Program Coordinator, Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club
www.jillhedgecock.com

The Girl with All the Gifts

Fans of the hit television show “The Walking Dead” will absolutely love “The Girl with All the Gifts” by M. R. Carey (2014, hardcover, 416 pages, \$24.33). This dystopian, post-apocalyptic thriller is the story of a ten-year-old girl, Melanie, whose life consists of an underground bunker, a diet of grubs, weekly chemical showers, and a classroom where lessons are taught by several different teachers. Her favorite instructor, Miss Helen Justineau, has a soft spot for Melanie who loves this woman as if she were her mother. Justineau’s approach to interacting with her students conflicts with Dr. Caroline Caldwell’s scientific view.

When their institution is attacked by a renegade group called Junkers, Justineau and Caldwell end up in the same getaway vehicle. The two women along with Sergeant Parks and his greenhorn recruit, Gallagher, rescue Melanie and are then forced to flee the safety of their compound and enter the world of the “Hungries.” Thus, their journey begins to Beacon, their home base city. But when their Humvee breaks down, they are forced to continue on foot through what used to be hamlets and small towns in the English countryside, but now holds a dangerous horde of Hungries. Their trek lands them in London, where readers get to glimpse what the prior human inhabitants left behind—a reminder perhaps, about what is really important



in our lives. Similar to the “The Walking Dead”, the cast of characters in the novel adds a layer of intrigue that makes it difficult to put this book down. The conflicts and discord between these people, and Melanie’s continuous bravery in the face of horrific events, are what carry the story which might otherwise descend into gratuitous violence. Each member of the party, particularly Sergeant Parks’, willingness to listen to differing viewpoints as they try to reconnect with what is left of civilization, is a testament to human survival.

The book is definitely not for the squeamish. There are gruesome battle scenes and the descriptions of the Hungries can be downright bone-chilling. But if you are a tension junkie, covet a page turner, and believe a satisfying, but unexpected, ending is the holy grail, then “The Girl with All the Gifts” is the book for you. M.R. Carey (a pen name) is a British writer of fiction and comic books.

He has written for both DC and Marvel, including X-Men and Fantastic Four. This novel grew out of a short story called “Iphigenia in Aulis” that Carey wrote for a U.S. Anthology. He wrote the novel and movie script in tandem. The movie was released in limited distribution in U.S. theaters in October 2016 and was available through On Demand as of February 2017.



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by Jason Rugaard www.moviemavericks.com

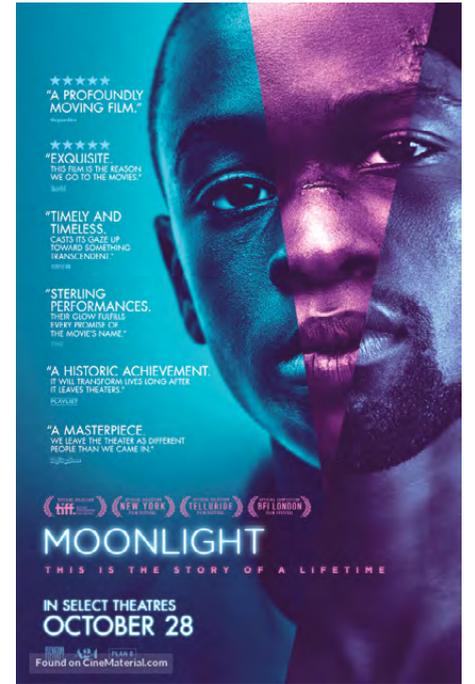
Moonlight ★★★★★

Moonlight will be unfairly categorized as the 2016 urban version of *Brokeback Mountain*, but the designation just doesn’t fit. This is a uniquely designed film that contains beauty, anger, regret, and love into a tragedy about self-discovery. No amount of hyperbole will convince close-minded people to give the film a chance. Those willing to submit themselves to this seductively told story will be moved and challenged by the masterful work from director Barry Jenkins.

Chiron is a young boy who is constantly taunted by the neighborhood kids for being different. One day while fleeing from a beating at the hands of bullies Chiron meets Blue (Mahershala Ali), a local drug dealer with a soft spot for the undersized little boy. The two form a bond and Blue becomes an unofficial father figure to the introspective Chiron. Things are complicated by the fact that Blue sells crack to Chiron’s abusive sexually promiscuous mother (Naomie Harris).

Then the story re-introduces us to Chiron (Ashton Sanders) at age 16. Now in high-school, he’s still teased for his effeminate behavior and unaggressive nature. His only friend is Kevin, a seemingly straight arrow, who turns out to be keeping the same secret inside. The two have a sexual encounter that becomes the turning point in both of their lives.

Later we meet Chiron (Trevante Rhodes) as a grown and hardened man of 25. Heavily muscled and adorned in flashy jewelry the weak boy has developed into an intimidating presence. Under the moniker “Black” he is a street hustler just like his father figure all those years ago. Then one day he receives a call from



Kevin and a decades’ worth of emotions come rushing back.

The haunting score from composer Nicholas Britell gives the film an eerie, remorseful vibe that colludes with the visual imagery and the story’s overall theme. Much was made of Boyhood and the performance of its young star, but that is amateurish in comparison to the outstanding work from all three actors who portray Chiron in various stages of maturation. *Moonlight* is a quietly affecting piece of art. It’s a moody, tale of desperation, deception, and forgiveness.

Director: Barry Jenkins
Stars: Trevante Rhodes, Naomie Harris, Mahershala Ali

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'Blossoms for Barbara' 6th Annual Hospice Valentines Event



Clayton Valley Garden Club 'Blossoms for Barbara' Committee with plants

The Clayton Valley Garden Club, delivered **1,265 gifts of love and compassion** for Valentine's Day. All the festively decorated flowering plants were presented to those under hospice care, shut-in patients in assisted living and convalescent locations, battered Woman's Shelters, a Veterans Hospice, and the elderly and shut-in recipients of Meals on Wheels in the Contra Costa area.

Club member Linda Karp created this event in loving memory of her mother Barbara Manss. Linda wanted to bring a little joy to those who were dying, and their families which were dealing with the horrible grief of losing someone they loved. Together with donations from the Clayton Business and Community Association, hospice agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals - in these past six years the hearts of 4,345 recipients have been touched. No one ever anticipated the

happiness it would also bring the care givers, nurses, ministers, counselors, and volunteers who were helping to deliver the flowers.

Over 25 club members volunteered to assist with this event. They hand made over 1,500 heart tags. They received and prepared 1,265 plants, loaded the trucks, and delivered the plants while in the rain.

Volunteers worked many days, picking up donated plants, driving their own trucks for delivery, and personally delivering some plants. Many people from the community volunteer their time to support the event including Micah, photographer, and Rico from the Contra Costa Crisis Center.

This event makes such a wonderful impact throughout the community. Letters of appreciation continue to be received from the recipient organizations, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the recipients themselves and their families. 'Blossoms for Barbara' has received a first-place award for outstanding community impact from the California Garden Clubs, Inc.

The hope is to continue to touch even more hearts and gift even more flowering plants to those so much in need of a little love and kindness. It's hard to believe how much love and joy one little flowering plant can bring.

Donations toward this annual event can be mailed to Clayton Valley Garden Club, c/o Blossoms for Barbara, P.O. Box 633, Clayton, CA 94517.

ROSES ARE RED
VIOLETS ARE BLUE
'BLOSSOMS FOR BARBARA'
CAN HAPPEN
'CAUSE OF NICE PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
WE FIND THESE PEOPLE
IN A DIFFICULT PLACE
AND MAY THIS LITTLE FLOWER
PUT A SMILE ON THEIR FACE.

-- BY JERRY SMITH



legalbriefs

by Douglas A. Prutton, Attorney
Email: Doug@PruttonLaw.com

Hugs Good? Not so Fast!



Cathy Cuddly entered the lawyer's office, firmly shook his hand, and delivered the following:

"I have worked as a county correctional officer for many years and I am sick and tired of the sheriff hugging me. It's sexual harassment and I want justice!"

The lawyer, knowing that courts throw out many sexual harassment claims that are not serious enough, had a few questions for Cathy.

"How long have you worked with the sheriff, Cathy?"

"About 12 years," she responded.

"And how many times do you think he has hugged you over those 12 years?"

"At least 100 times," Cathy said.

"How would you describe the hugs?" the lawyer inquired further.

"Chest to breast," she described.

"Did you see the sheriff hug other people?"

"Well, I saw him hug many other female employees, but he always shook hands with the men."

The lawyer explained to Cathy that for sexual harassment to be illegal the conduct must have been unwelcome and "sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of employment and create an abusive working environment."

Courts recognize that "ordinary workplace socializing," like flirting and occasional hugs and kisses, may not amount to sexual harassment, but the focus must be on the "cumulative effect of the conduct at issue to determine whether it was sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the workplace." Where the harassment is by a supervisor, as opposed to a co-employee, it is more likely that the work environment is abusive as "a supervisor's power and authority invests his or her harassing conduct with a particularly threatening character."

The lawyer concluded by explaining to Cathy that he did not think the court would throw her case out, that it would be presented to a jury, if it did not settle, and that the jury would have to determine if the "hugs, in the kind, number, frequency, and persistence" described by Cathy created a hostile environment. He said that evidence that the sheriff hugged other women would be relevant since courts have concluded that "the sexual harassment of others ... is relevant and probative of a defendant's general attitude of disrespect toward his female employees, and his sexual objectification of them."

The facts in this article come from the case of *Zetwick v. County of Yolo*, decided by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on February 23, 2017. It is worth noting that the defendants in that case dispute Cathy's account of what happened. They dispute the number of times the sheriff hugged Cathy, they dispute Cathy's account that the sheriff did not hug men, and they contend that the hugs lasted only a couple of seconds and were the kind one might give a friend or relative. The lower court judge actually threw the case out, concluding that the hugs did not amount to sexual harassment, but the appeals court reversed this decision and sent the case back to the judge concluding that it was an issue for the jury to decide.

Concord Hires Assistant City Manager

Kathleen Salguero Trepa has been chosen to fill the position of Concord's Assistant City Manager which began Monday, March 6. Concord has not had an Assistant City Manager since 2014.

Trepa will oversee the Human Resources, Finance, and Information Technology departments, lead the City Manager's office with support for the City Council and City Clerk's office in addition to taking on special projects and assisting with the day-to-day operations of the City.

"We are very happy to welcome Kathleen to the City of Concord," said City Manager Valerie Barone. "Her experience in a broad range of municipal program areas, from general government to operations, makes her a good fit for this position and for Concord as we

continue to address the City Council's four areas of priority focus: long term fiscal stability and economic vitality, public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and organizational health and employee success."

Trepa most recently served as Deputy City Manager for the City of Goleta. Previously, she served as Director of Community Services (Public Works) in Claremont for three years, and six years at the City of San Marcos as a public works manager.

Trepa has also worked in the private sector as president of a family-owned business, Designers Group International, a nationally recognized display manufacturer for international watch brands.

Trepa holds a BA in History from Boston University where she graduated

Magna Cum Laude, served an internship in the U.S. Congress, and is proficient in Spanish.



Photo: Claremont Courier photography

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Growing Goodness in the Garden



“The fragrance of flowers spreads only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions.” Chanakya.

I have been thinking about this quote a lot lately. Isn't the quote lovely? And true? In recent weeks, I have watched goodness grow in the Gardens.

As you well know, the Gardens at Heather Farm has a spectacular and celebrated rose garden. During the blooming season, it is truly a special place to be. Our garden staff dedicates the first part of the year to tending to the Cowden Rose Garden. However, even with the right care, a rose bush eventually needs replacing. When you have a collection like ours, with over a thousand roses, not only is this a lot of work, but it can be financially overwhelming, also.

Recently, the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation awarded the Gardens at Heather Farm a grant to fund the replacement of many roses in our collection. As a fiscal sponsor of the Cowden Rose Garden, the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation has enriched our community through their support of this local treasure. And little did they know, they were also planting a seed of goodness in the garden.

When searching for replacements, we contacted Regan's Nursery in Fremont. In addition to helping locate the specific varieties needed, the kind people at Regan's also offered a large donation of roses. Thanks to the combined goodness of our two partners, our rose collection has received a fantastic upgrade this year.

Pruning of the roses this winter became a challenge due to the rains. Fortunately, we have an outstanding

team of volunteers who are as dedicated as they are fun. They danced around the rain to make sure the roses were pruned in time for Spring. Our volunteers are the true flowers in our garden. And every day they are out working, visitors to the garden stop to thank them, compliment their work, and contribute the goodness in the garden.

Gardening is a labor of love. It has been shown to have therapeutic benefits. It is a lot easier to see the goodness around you when you are doing something you love. Get out and garden! The winter blues can be a challenge. Heck, life itself is a struggle for many. So keep in mind the above quote. Spread goodness; it will grow. And always remember to garden downwind of the flowers.

If you would like to become a garden volunteer and learn other ways you can make a difference in our work, visit www.gardenshf.org.

Keep on growing!



from the principal's desk

by John McMorris, CVCHS

Fair Helps Students Narrow College Choice

There's no doubt that college fairs and parent information nights are excellent resources for CVCHS families as they plan for their high school experience and prepare to embark on the college selection process.

This semester, admission representatives from colleges throughout the country have visited CVCHS to share important information with our students – from majors offered to life on campus to financial aid and scholarships. While so much is available on the Internet, students do far better when standing face-to-face with a college representative to address topics unique to their own circumstances. College fairs go a long way towards helping CVCHS students narrow a college that is the best fit for them.

On February 9, our College and Career Center hosted an evening event which included TCU, Colorado Mesa, Marysville of St. Louis, and Arizona State. Parents and students of all grades listened to a presentation emphasizing

greater college access by increasing their options with out-of-state opportunities.

It's hard to imagine that over one million California students will be graduating from high school and community colleges this year alone. Just consider the demand and competition on the admission process to California's 107 colleges and universities. That's why our counselors encourage students to explore all options.

That same evening, CVCHS hosted our 10th and 11th Grade Parent Night. The Guidance Department shared information on course selection, college entrance requirements, high school graduation requirements,

Naviance (College & Career Program), peer tutoring, and important testing information.

CVCHS takes great pride preparing our students for college and career readiness. As principal, I am grateful to our entire team of dedicated counselors and teachers who make these efforts happen each year.



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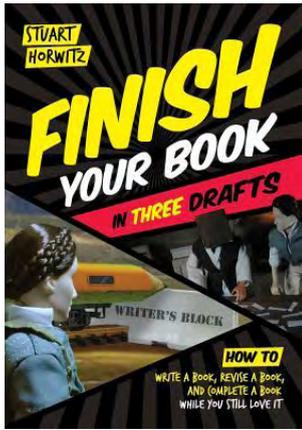
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Finishing the Book You've Always Planned to Write

By Jill Hedgecock
Program Coordinator,
Mount Diablo Branch of the
California Writers Club

Is 2017 the year that you're going to finally find time to tackle that bucket list goal of writing a book? It can seem like a daunting task, but what if you could do it in three drafts regardless of whether you're writing fiction, a memoir, or some other form of nonfiction? Stuart



Horowitz, the founder and principal of Book Architecture, a firm of independent editors based in Providence and Boston, believes that's all you need is:

- The messy draft: which is all about getting it down.
- The method draft which is all about making sense.
- The polished draft: which is all about making it good.

On Saturday March 10th, there will be a rare opportunity to hear Rhode Island writing coach, Stuart Horowitz, teach a three-hour workshop where he will describe the approach needed for each draft and what actions to take between drafts to complete your writing project. Sign-in begins at 8:30 am at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Workshop 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Full lunch included, served from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. \$40 members, \$50 guests. Reservations required. Deadline: noon, Wednesday March 8, 2017. To reserve, contact Robin at cwrobin.gigoux@yahoo.com, leave a

message at 925-933-9670, or sign up via PayPal on the Mt. Diablo website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/next-program/>

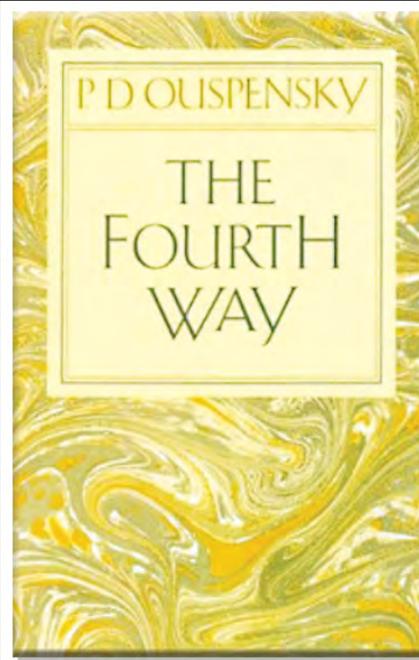


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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS

Pancake Breakfast - Supporting Veterans of foreign Wars – 2nd and 4th Sundays includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, beverage. 8 – 11 a.m. Willow Pass Road, Concord \$5, \$3 Children under 12. <http://www.vfwpost1525.org>

Concord Senior Club - Sunday Family Breakfast Dec.

18, 9-10:45 a.m., 2727 Parkside Circle. Everyone is welcome. Adults \$4; Ages 3-11 \$2; under 2 Free. Pancakes or Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs, ham, fruit, pastry, coffee, juice and service w/ a smile!

April 22

The 4th Annual Autism Awareness Walk

will be held in Concord from 9:30am – 12:00pm, rain or shine. \$25 registration fee, \$15.00 for individuals with disabilities, includes custom t-shirt designed by an individual with autism. Two miles. Route begins at the Loma Vista Adult Center, 1266 San Carlos Ave, Concord. It includes a mid-point stop for refreshments. For more information, info@alc-ca.org or call ALC at [925.827.3863](tel:925.827.3863). Participants can sign up through EventBrite.

OUTDOORS:

Concord: Todos Santos Park OFF the Grid Mondays. Full lineup available at <http://offthegridsf.com>.

April 1

8th Annual Spring Brews Fest

at Todos Santos Park in Concord. Saturday, from 12 - 4pm. Proceeds benefit the Todos Santos Business Association Arts Foundation which raises funds for local youth music programs, as well as the free summer concert series in Todos Santos Park.

April 22

Bay Area Craft Beer Festival 12n-4PM over 50 breweries, live music and more. Waterfront Park in Martinez.

Club/Support Group News and Events

March 10

Finishing the Book You've Always Planned to Write.

A three-hour workshop by Rhode Island writing coach, Stuart Horowitz where he will describe the approach needed for each draft and what actions to take between drafts to complete your writing project. Sign-in begins at 8:30 am at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Workshop 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Full lunch included, served from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. \$40 members, \$50 guests. Reservations required. Deadline: noon, Wednesday March 8. Contact Robin at cwrobin.gigoux@yahoo.com, call 925-933-9670, or sign up via PayPal on the Mt. Diablo website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/next-program/>

March 10

"Harvest" at Gardens at Heather Farms.

San Francisco authors Stefani Bittner and Alethea Harampolis of the new book "Harvest: Un-

expected Projects Using 47 Extraordinary Garden Plants" will be showcasing their DIY, garden-based approach to making beauty products, cocktails, pantry items, flower arrangements and more from things grown in your backyard. Camellia Room at The Gardens at Heather Farm 30-minute lecture, followed by project demonstrations, book signing and reception. Reserve your spot online, \$5.00 for GHF Members, \$15 General Public. For more information: <https://gardenshf.org/harvest-authors-unveil-new-book-perform-demo-march-10th/>

March 11

Forum: US-Russia Relations, Where Are We Headed?

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center and the Center for Citizen Initiatives present a special forum on Us – Russia relations. Where are we headed? Keynote speaker: ray McGovern, former CIA analyst and Presidential briefer. Panelists include: Andrei Tsygankov, Professor SFSU; Sharon Tennison, Founder, Center for Citizen Initiatives; Bernard Casey, former President Kiev Chamber of Commerce; Marjorie Cohn, former President of National Lawyers Guild; Normon Solomon, journalist media critic, and activist. 1PM-5PM. Tickets \$12 pre-registered, \$15 at door. Students \$5. Peace Center members \$10. Free parking. Walk form Bart. Orinda Community /Center, 28 Orinda Way.

March 16

Concord Historical Society's

annual meeting. Presentations on Mt. Diablo in 1760 by Glenn Anaiscourt, and Concord Then and Now. The dinner meeting is at 6 pm March 16 at Oakhurst Country Club. Cost is \$45 per person. Prepayment is required by March 10. Phone Louise Turrin [925/685-2497](tel:925/685-2497). Non-members are welcome.

March 18

Scan-a-thon!

10:00am – 3:00pm. Contra Costa County History Center. 724 Escobar St., Martinez. Have your family documents, photos, and negatives scanned into digital copies that will preserve them forever. Large newspaper-size scanner will be available along with trained staff. Certain restrictions may apply. Visit www.cocohistory.com for full details. \$10 suggested donation to the History Center.

Workshop Set for Concord

Community Reuse Plan-

The first of three workshops on the Concord Community Reuse Plan for the former Concord Naval Weapons Station will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle. The workshop will be hosted by the Community Advisory Committee and will seek input about issues important to residents and neighbors as the master developer begins to design the Specific Plan and Infrastructure Master Plan. For more information, visit the Reuse Project website at www.concordreuseproject.org or contact the Reuse Project office at (925) 671-3001.

FAMILY EVENTS

Galindo Home and Gardens Holiday Tours

- 1721 Amador Avenue, Concord. Visit the fully-restored 1856 Victorian home of Francisco Galindo, one of Concord's founding fathers, and his wife, Maria Dolores Manuela (Pacheco) Galindo. This includes

the 1875 addition by Francisco Galindo's son, Juan "John" Galindo. Concord Historical Society is opening the historic Galindo Home, decorated with holiday charm, for special tours on December 10 and 11, and December 17 and 18 from 1 to 4 pm, plus Wednesday December 14 from 6 to 8 pm. No reservations needed. Fee \$3 for adults and children over 12. Light refreshments. One of only a few Victorian ranch houses in the country. By 1880, the structure was reconfigured in the Queen Anne style, with bay windows, sweeping steps, and a broad porch. Visitors can tour the 10 rooms, including two parlors and a formal dining room, and see 15 original pieces of Eastlake furniture. Go to concordhistorical.org for more information.

Home & Garden/Farmers' Markets Concord

Tuesdays, 10am to 2pm, year-round, rain or shine, Todos Santos Plaza.

Martinez

Sundays, 10am to 2pm, year-round, Main St. and Estudillo. Walnut Creek Diablo Valley Farmers Market Saturday 9a.m. - 1 p.m. Shadelands Business Park, N. Wigett Lane and Mitchell Dr.

Contra Costa Certified

Farmers Market

Sundays 9 am - 1 pm, Year Round, North Locust St between Giamona and Lacassie St. (925) 431-8361 <http://www.cccfm.org>

Diablo Valley Lines Model

Train Show. Fares: Adults-\$3; Senior-\$2 (age 60+); Children-\$2 (age 6-12); under 6 years enjoy for free, and boy will they. Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. For more DVL information: www.wcmrs.org.

March 18 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Saturday); March 19 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Sunday); March 31 8p.m. – 10 p.m. (Friday)

April 28-29

22nd Annual Clayton Art and Wine Festival

May 19

Clayton Valley 2017 Hall of

Fame Ceremony

Shadelands Art Center in Walnut Creek. 5 PM no host wine and beer social. Dinner at 6:30. Induction presentation at 7pm. Dinner tickets may be purchased after Monday March 13 at www.claytonvalley.org web store or send check to CVHS Hall of Fame, PO Box 502, Clayton, CA 94517. (*Children's tickets can only be purchased via US Mail, they are not available on "web store". Ticket prices or \$50 adults, \$25 for kids 12 and younger.

VISUAL ARTS/THEATRE/ MUSIC

The San Francisco Dunge-

on -- Live actors in full Barbary Coast period costume and make-up engage make this a one-of-a-kind attraction on Fisherman's Wharf. (No, it's not a sex club.) The San Francisco Dungeon is a 60-minute walkthrough experience that explores San Francisco's dark and sinful past from the pre-Gold Rush era to Alcatraz (1849-1907). Full of laughs and screams. The stories are based on real San Francisco history and legends. Shows run continuously from Sunday - Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10

a.m. to 10 p.m. Fisherman's Wharf at 145 Jefferson Street, San Francisco. Admission starts at \$22 for adults, with lower rates for SF Bay Area residents, youth, seniors, students, teachers and the disabled. For more information, visit: www.thedungeons.com/sanfrancisco.

The Jazz Room

March 15 The Kelly Park Big Band; 8

p.m. **March 29** Kari Ikonen Virtuoso Pianist from Helsinki, Finland in concert with local jazz instrumentalists 8pm

May 7 Mads Tolling and Mads Men, enjoy the two-time Grammy Award winner play the 60's. 5 p.m.

July 7 Jeff Denson Quartet 8 p.m. All shows at Village Theatre, 233 Front Street Danville. Adults \$25 Students \$15 door \$30, \$20 Art Gallery and Wine Bar opens at 7:15 For Tickets: www.villagetheatreshows.com

March 10, 11, & 18

"The Salesman" winner of the 2017 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film will be shown at the Walnut Creek Library on Fri. March 10 at 7:30; at 4:30 and 7:30. on Sat., March 11 and on Sat., March 18 at 7:30. A limited number of general admission tickets are available for \$12 on a first come, first served basis. Arrive 30 minutes before the performance. Mountain Shadow Film Society.

March 18

Concert: Members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, oboist/English Hornist Janet Popesco Archibald and cellist Emil Miland, along with Skyline College faculty accompanist Margaret Fondbertasse formed the "Lowell Trio" with the mantra 'Classical Music is All Around Us'. The Lowell Trio perform classical works both familiar and unusual with programs that often explore the many connections between classical music, folk, jazz, and pop. 7:30 PM. at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church. 1578 Kirker Pass Rd. Clayton. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

March 9-25 "Moon

Over Buffalo" – by Ken Ludwig.

This Hilarious comedy with madcap misadventures presented by Clayton Theatre Company centers on Charlotte and George Hay, an acting couple, not exactly the Lunts, while on tour in Buffalo in 1968 with their repertory company. This backstage farce by the author of "Lend Me a Tenor" brought Carol Burnett back to Broadway. Starring, George Hay - Chip Renner as George Hay and Teresa Gros-serode as Teresa Hay. Also appearing: Peggy Scalise, Tamara Filener, Bill Dietz, Nathalie Archangel, James Bradley, Jr., and Ron Craven. Directed by La Tonya Watts. Endeavor Hall, 6008 Center St. Clayton. Tickets: \$15 -\$25. 925-222-9106 www.claytontheatrecompany.com

March 23Diablo Ballet

will celebrate its 23rd Anniversary with a special one-night only performance featuring "Carnival of the Imagination" and a World Premiere film at 6:30pm, at the Leshler Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$33-59. For tickets, call 925-943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or www.diabloballet.org.

For a complete list of local clubs and meeting dates, go to diablogazette.com.

SHELLIE AWARDS



Let's give a shout out and congratulations to our local thespians who won an award recently at the 38th Annual Shellie Awards held at the Leshar Center for the Arts. Shellie Awards recognize outstanding achievement in the performing arts in the Central Contra Costa/Diablo Valley region.

Patterned after Broadway's Tony awards, the Shellies honor over 120 individuals and their work in musical and non-musical theatrical productions that took place between September 1 and August 31. Companies participating are: Brentwood Theater Company, Center REPeritory Company, Clayton Theatre Company, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, OMG, I Love that Show! Productions,

Onstage Theatre, Pittsburg Community Theatre, Town Hall Theatre Company and the Vagabond Players. Accompanied by a live band, selections are performed from each nominated musical and non-musical.

And the winners are:

BEST OF MUSICAL

Actress: Lynda Divito for "Gypsy" by Contra Costa Musical Theatre

Actor: Mark Farrell for "Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical" by Center REPeritory Company

Supporting Actress: Jill Gould for "The Full Monty" by Contra Costa Musical Theatre

Supporting Actor: R. Martin Newton for "The Full Monty" by Contra Costa Musical Theatre

Scenic Designer: Nina Bell for "Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical"

Costumer: Liz Martin for "Gypsy" by Contra Costa Musical Theatre

Lighting Director: Valerie Pope for "Pageant" by OMG, I Love that Show! Productions

Director: (tie) Dyan McBride for "Rock of Ages" by Center REPeritory Company and Jennifer Perry for "Gypsy" by Contra Costa Musical Theatre

Production: "Gypsy" by Contra Costa Musical Theatre

Scenic Designer: Diane McRice for "Bloody Murder" by Onstage Repertory Theatre

Costumer: Victoria Livingston-Hall for "Born Yesterday" by Center REPeritory Company

Lighting Director: Don Stone for "Rumors" by Clayton Theatre Company

Director: Joel Roster for "Angels in America: Perestroika" by Town Hall Theatre Company

Production: "Born Yesterday" by Center REPeritory Company

Best Choreographer: Staci Arriaga for "The Who's Tommy" by OMG, I Love that Show! Productions

Best Musical Director: Brandon Adams & Steve Blum for "Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical" by Center REPeritory Company

Outstanding Contribution Awards: Steve Kinsella of Brentwood Theater Company, Cara Bent of Clayton Theatre Company, Steven Mergogey-Conti of Pittsburg Community Theatre, Ms. Ben Walker of The Vagabond Players, Inc

PLAY

Best Actress: Sharon Rietkerk for "Born Yesterday" by Center REPeritory Company

Best Actor: Jeffrey Draper for "Angels in America: Perestroika" by Town Hall Theatre Company

Supporting Actress: Charlotte Kinsella for "Brighton Beach Memoirs" by Brentwood Theater Company

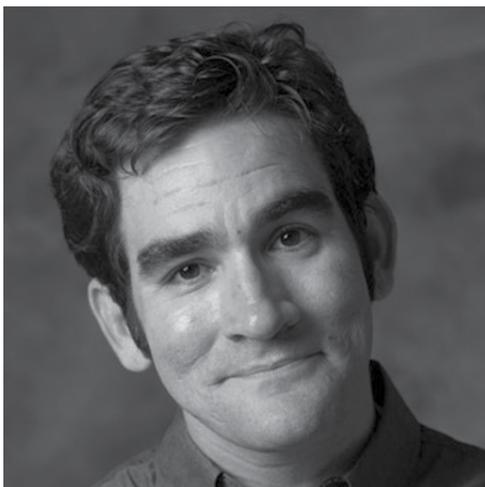
Supporting Actor: Jason Kuykendall for "Born Yesterday" by Center REPeritory Company



Sharon Rietkerk and Actor Jason Kuykendall for "Born Yesterday"



Jill Gould and R. Martin Newton for "The Full Monty"



Director Joel Roster



Linda Divito



Steve Kinsella and Charlotte Kinsella



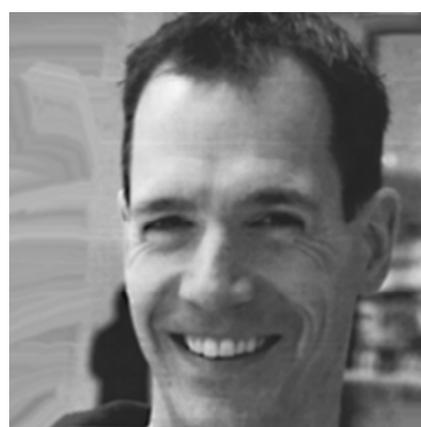
Don Stone



Cara Bent, La Tonya Watts, Don Stone and Roxanne Pardi of Clayton Theatre Company celebrate a successful haul at the Awards Ceremony.



Cara Bent



Jeff Draper



Mark Farrell



parentfootprints
by Dr. Dan Peters
www.DrDanPeters.com



5 Ways to Being an Aware Parent

Parenting is not about getting it “right” and there is no way to be a “perfect” parent. I say this as someone who has spent a lot of time trying to do the “right” thing “perfectly.” Sound familiar? There is no manual for your child or how to best parent him or her. In my years of practice here are a few things I have learned about being an aware parent and thus, a better parent:

Know where you came from. How did your parents raise you? What was it like when you grew up at home? Did you like it, some of it, or none of it? How does how you were raised impact the way you raise your children? We all have our pasts, there is no way around it. Being *aware* about our past experiences and how they impact us today as individuals and parents is key to *choosing* how you want to raise your own children.

Be aware of what you expect from your child. Do you have expectations about your child’s behavior, grades, or work ethic? Of course, you do but you may not be fully aware of it. Our expectations for our children are always in the background, or foreground, in a parenting situation. Where did those expectations come from? Is that what was expected of you? Are you doing the opposite of what was done to you? There is no right or wrong, the key

is to be *aware* of what your expectations are for you child so you can *choose* your parenting behavior in line with your values.

you care about? Is your child like you or different? We all have expectations for how we think our child should be and how we want them to be – it is normal.

reactions. Do you yell at your child to stop yelling? Do you use foul language and tell your child to stop cussing? Do you react to your child because you are tired or had a difficult day? If you have done any of the above, you are in the majority. Being human can be hard and managing our emotions can be one of our biggest challenges. Regardless of whether we are tired or had a tough day it is important that we dig deep and manage our emotions as we react to our children. We need to be *aware* of how we feeling, and how we are showing our feelings to our children. Take a breath, or two, and show your children how to remain calm in challenging situations.

Be the person you want your child to become. Are you consumed by your role as a parent? Do you have little time for you own interests? Have you lost touch with your friends and people you care about? Do you have dreams that you have yet to fulfill, but want to? We are the models of what an adult looks like for our children. We often lose sight that being engaged in our own life is one of the most important elements of showing our children what we want for them. We need to take inventory and be *aware* of what is lacking in our life and where focusing on ourselves will improve our own lives because this focus and commitment will also have an important impact on our child.



Learn about who your child is and what is important to him/her. What does your child care about? What don’t they care about? Do you have interests and activities in common? Does your child show disinterest in what

The question is whether we are *accepting* our children for who they are so they can find their path. The key is to be *aware* of who they are and what we are showing them about who they are.

Manage your own emotions and



farmerfresh
by Debra Morris, Pacific Coast Farmers Market
<http://www.pcfma.org/concord>

The Purple Yam

The new darling of the foodie world, the purple yam is traditionally an Asian favorite. Since 2006, when it was rediscovered by gastronomes searching for a new product to wow customers with, it has been used in the finest restaurants and made into a variety of unusual desserts in the form of purple cakes, ice cream, and cookies.



This colorful yam is full of antioxidants because of its deep color, minerals like potassium, and vitamins that include A and C. It also has a large amount of dietary fiber. Look for yams that are firm and with no mold. Store as you would potatoes in a cool dark location. Do not store in the refrigerator because this could lead to mold. Moisture is the enemy!

Asian growers now offer them at local farmers’ markets. Because of its slightly sweet flavor profile it is utilized in many desserts and sweets, but can also be used as you would a regular orange sweet potato. Recipes that include both sweet and savory treatments are very good with this tuber.

You can find purple yams and other great Asian specialty produce from KYK Farms of Fresno at the Tuesday Concord Farmers’ Market. Select a few and then try these simple ways to use them. You’ll love the purple color of the finished product!

Purple yam cupcakes: Add puréed purple yam to your vanilla cupcake or muffin recipe.

Purple yam ice cream: Get out the ice cream maker and add cooked and puréed purple yams to your recipe instead of other fruit and you’ll have a lovely lavender ice cream!

Purple yam pie: Switch out the regular old orange sweet potato for the purple yam and you’ll have a purple sweet potato pie!

Roasted Purple Yam: Peel, cube and toss with olive oil, salt, pepper, and rosemary. Bake 400°F for 35 minutes.

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FrugElegance
by Carol and Randi
The FruGirls www.frugelegance.com

Hummingbird Cake

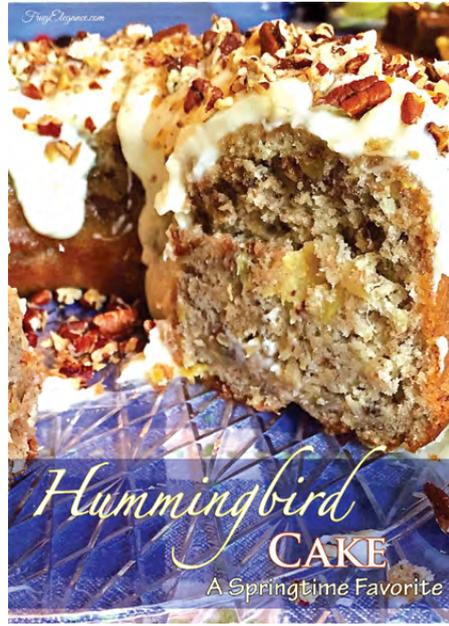
It has been a pretty cold and (much needed) rainy winter here in the Bay Area. Are you thinking about Spring yet? We are ready for the sun, the warmth, the blooming flowers and trees. March 20th is the official start but we, the FruGirls, are already planning our favorite Spring home decor and recipes.

This is one of our favorite springtime recipes, our Hummingbird Cake recipe. It's perfect for holidays, special occasions, or any day. We found this recipe a long time ago on Southern Living and we believe it's the best Hummingbird recipe we have ever tried.

- Ingredients for cake batter:
- 1/2 - 1 cup chopped pecans (amount depends on your preference, we love lots of pecans)
 - 3 cups all-purpose flour
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
 - 1-3/4 cups mashed ripe bananas (about 4 large)
 - 1 (8 oz.) can crushed pineapple (do NOT drain)
 - 3/4 cup canola oil
 - 1-1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- (Glaze ingredients listed under step #4)

Directions:
Prepare Cake Batter: Preheat oven to 350°. Bake pecans in a single layer in a shallow pan 8-10 minutes or until toasted & fragrant, stirring halfway through. Stir together flour & next 4 ingredients in a large bowl & stir in eggs & next 4 ingredients, stirring until fully moistened. Sprinkle 1 cup toasted pecans into a greased & floured 14-cup Bundt pan & then spoon batter over pecans. Bake at 350° for 1 hour to 1 hour & 10 mins or until a long wooden pick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool cake on a wire rack 15 minutes, then remove

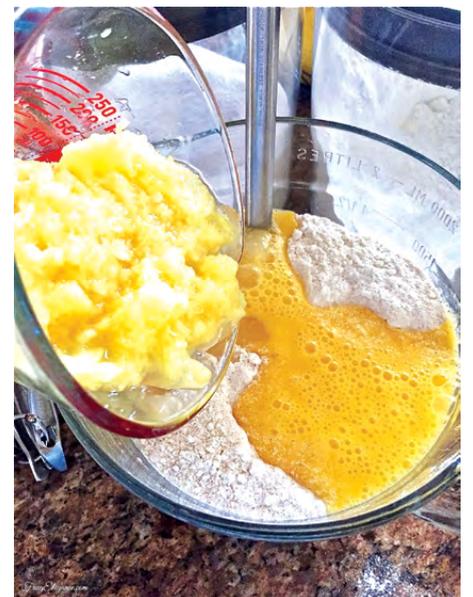


from pan to wire rack to cool completely (approx. 2 hours).

Prepare Glaze: Process 4 oz. cream cheese- cubed and softened, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, and 1 tablespoon milk in a food processor until well blended. Add another 1 tablespoon milk, 1 tsp at a time, processing until smooth. Immediately, spoon or glaze over cooled cake, and sprinkle remaining 1/2 cup toasted pecans on top. **Please note that when making this, we made 1-1/2 times the frosting. This amount just doesn't seem enough & we LOVE the frosting glaze! YUM!

The original recipe is made in layers but this time we are making a Bundt style hummingbird cake. We've also made hummingbird cupcakes too. To see our layer style Hummingbird Cake, many other favorite recipes and FrugElegance home decor, come on over to www.FrugElegance.com

Carol and Randi, the FruGirls, are local home decorators and stagers. You can also find them blogging about it plus many other ways to live an elegant life for less. FrugElegance is where frugal and elegance come together.



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Secret Service Insider
Stories from a Former Agent

Protecting the Trumps: Logistics for the First Family



Editor's Note: Most of our understanding of Secret Service work comes from Hollywood. Few of us have ever met a Secret Service Agent, or maybe you have and don't know it. "Inside the Secret Service" is about life as a Secret Service agent. Our contributor is still a Federal Agent but with a different agency, therefore we have chosen not to reveal his name. These life experiences come from a Concord resident who spent several years as a Secret Service agent. This is his story....

Although still a federal agent, I have been out of the Secret Service for several years now. Yet I still get a lot of questions from friends whenever incidents involving the Service are in the news. The question I have received most often since the election has been in regards to the First Family and how the Secret Service can protect them effectively given the fact that the only family member currently residing in the White House is President Trump. The First Lady and son, Barron, are living in Trump Tower in New York City, pending the completion of his school year. The other Trump kids, to include grandkids (who also receive round-the-clock Secret Service protection) have their own residences.

There has been much criticism recently in social media regarding the cost to taxpayers associated with protecting the Trump family in two different locations; Washington D.C. and New York. Those concerned need not look too far back in

Presidential history to see that this is not a situation exclusive to the Trumps. The Fords, Reagans, Bushes (41 and 43), and Clintons, all had kids under Secret Service protection who resided outside the White House, because of college or marriage. So how does the Secret Service manage to protect such large and spread-out families? Well, quite simply, they just do. It's what the Secret Service does.

As I've previously written, the Service has a dual mission; protection and investigations. But when it comes down to it, dignitary protection is what the Service is known for throughout the world. It is the single most important role agents in the Service have. It is the one element of the job that absolutely must be planned out and executed correctly each and every time. Compromise is not an option. All resources which are deemed necessary for the proper execution of the protective mission, regardless of costs, personnel logistics, or equipment availability, are provided, period. Because of the ever changing geographical and logistical fields of protective operations, the Secret Service by necessity is one of the most flexible and swiftly moving agencies in the government. That flexibility and swiftness comes at the expense of the agents.

Agents frequently find themselves traveling cross country or overseas with little advance notice, often missing holidays or other special occasions with family and friends. Furthermore, the intended and verbally confirmed career paths of agents are often altered by

the Service, generally due to changes in protection requirements. This can result in an agent being transferred to a geographical location that he or she does not desire. As one can imagine, these changes and uncertainties can be very trying on agents and their families. But, all agents know this coming into the job. They are very patriotic and understand the importance of the Secret Service mission. They commit themselves to a career that is challenging and spontaneous. Agents realize their future will be dictated by the "needs of the Service."

Protection of the President and First Family falls under the Presidential Protective Division (PPD). This is usually an agent's most sought after assignment. PPD assignments are usually four to five years. The normal progression (if there is such a thing in the Secret Service) on PPD is that agents new to the detail are generally first assigned directly to the president as shift agents (the agents you see with the president, surrounding him when he is in public, on rope lines working crowds, etc.). After a year to year-and-a-half, agents are then reassigned to a "satellite" detail within PPD. This is also a year to year-and-a-half assignment. There are several satellite details such as, First Lady Detail, First Kids (and grandkids, in the case of the Trumps), Motorcades, Logistics, to name a few. After completion of their satellite details, agents usually spend their last year or so back on the President's Detail.

Even though the First Family is large and spread out, the protection philosophy doesn't change. Only the increased number of agents and the geography changes. Because First Lady Trump's Detail is now operating out of New York City, all protective personnel (which includes shift agents, counter surveillance teams, counter sniper teams, hazmat teams, etc.), other specialized resources, and hard assets (i.e. such as armored vehicles, other essential vehicles Secret Service vehicles, ballistic equipment, etc.) assigned to her detail have also been transferred to New York. The agents on Mrs. Trump's Detail (and Barron's) who reside in the D.C metropolitan area have relocated and are on temporary assignment to New York until the First Lady and Barron move into the White House. Obviously, this is very trying for those agents whose families remain back

in D.C.

To offset or mitigate the need for large numbers of PPD agents to be temporarily assigned from D.C. to off-site satellite details, the Service will supplement those details with agents from the field. For example, when Chelsea Clinton attended Stanford University, many agents assigned to the San Francisco and San Jose area, who were planning to transfer to PPD in D.C., were instead assigned directly to the satellite detail of Chelsea Clinton at Stanford, greatly reducing the need to transfer many D.C. based PPD agents to Northern California. After these agents completed their satellite detail at Stanford, they were then transferred to D.C. to complete their PPD assignments.

This same methodology is currently being utilized in New York as well. The New York City Field Office is the largest Field Office in the Secret Service. Many agents from that office who were eligible to transfer to PPD in D.C. have instead been assigned to either the First Lady or Barron Trump satellite details. Again, reducing the need to transfer several agents from D.C. to New York.

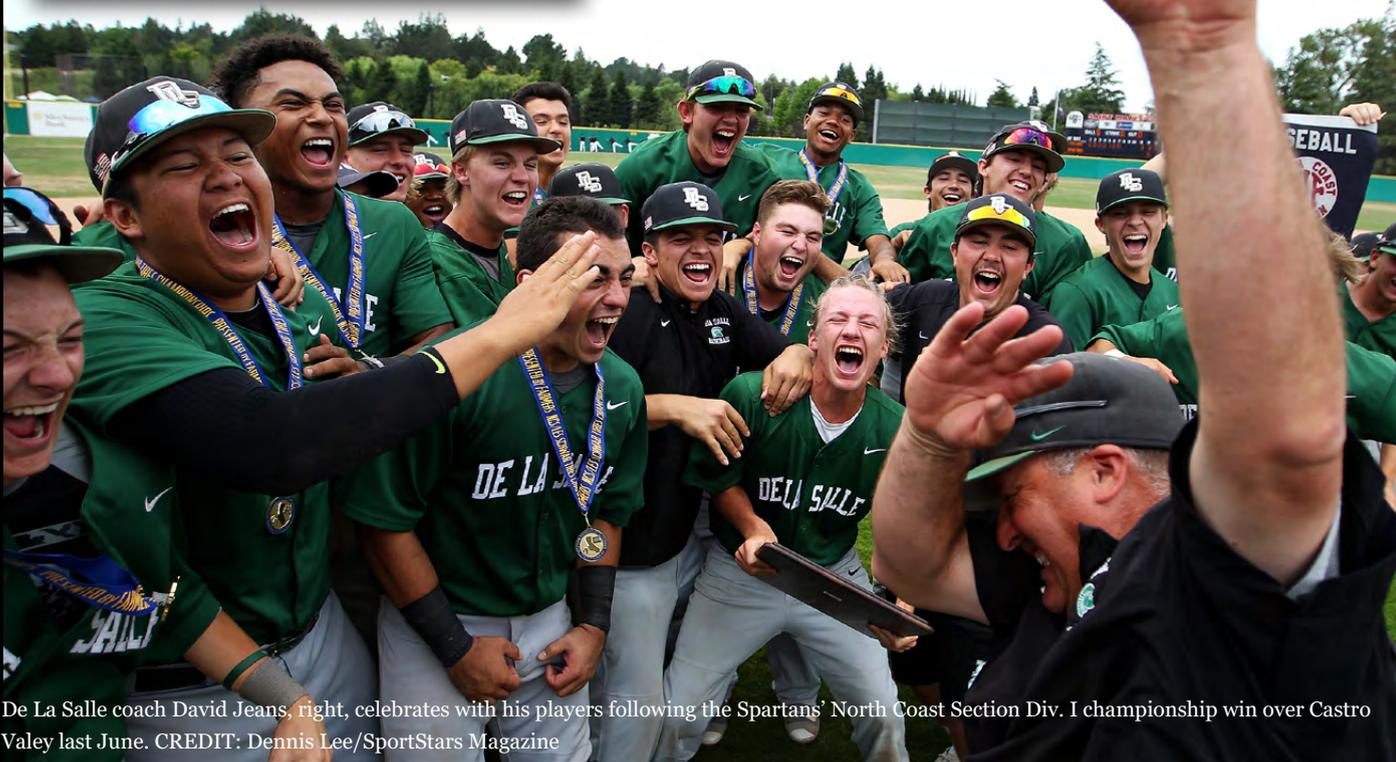
The same was done when Former President and First Lady Clinton moved to Chappaqua, New York. The bulk of their detail was comprised of New York City Field Office agents, many of whom had been verbally promised reassignment to either PPD or the Vice Presidential Protective Detail (VPPD) in Washington. Instead, the "needs of the Service" took precedence over the wants of the agents, and these agents ended up assigned to the Clintons.

Logistically and financially this makes sense, but it does detour the career path of many agents who were planning, and looking forward, to PPD or VPPD detail assignments in Washington.

This is the nature of the job. The Secret Service mission is very unique. Agents know prior to being hired that the job requires much travel and relocation throughout ones career. They also know that desired career paths are never guaranteed. The needs of the Service dictate when and where an agent will be transferred. These decisions are driven by the unique and ever changing protective requirements of the Secret Service. As agents, we role with the punches and complete the mission.



Trump Family is Impacting the Secret Service Force.



De La Salle coach David Jeans, right, celebrates with his players following the Spartans' North Coast Section Div. I championship win over Castro Valley last June. CREDIT: Dennis Lee/SportStars Magazine

2017 NorCal Preseason Baseball Top 20

by Chace Bryson

With De La Salle, College Park, Acalanes, and Heritage making the Top 10, it promises to be an exciting season locally. For the NorCal Preseason Softball Top 20 as well as the Top 20 Players To Watch for both baseball and softball, pick up the March issue of SportStars Magazine or visit SportStarsMag.com.

1. De La Salle-Concord (25-3)

Some of the most competitive games on the Spartans schedule each year are the intrasquad games played at Saturday morning practices. It's in those games where De La Salle builds its program depth and allowed for an Oregon-committed pitcher like Cullen Kafka to bide his time behind other seniors for his year to the mound every other game. Kafka (2-1, 1.50 ERA and 2 saves in 18.2 IP as a junior) should lead another talented Spartans pitching staff that will also include Mason LeGate (0 ER in 4 appearances last season).

Senior outfielder Ryan Cole will spearhead the offensive attack for the defending North Coast Section Division I champions. Cole led the 2016 Spartans in both hits (37) and runs (32). He batted .425 with 10 doubles and 22 RBI. Senior first baseman Gabe Giosso returns after leading the team with 26 RBI last season. He .366 over 71 at bats. The offense will also see the returns of junior Trace Tammaro (.262, 21 RBI, 5 HR) and senior Michael Curran (.300, 19 runs, 11 RBI). Senior Nick Santiago had just 26 at bats last season, but hit a home run and had three RBI in the Spartans' season-opening win over No. 6 Bellarmine-San Jose on Feb. 24.

De La Salle's daunting nonleague slate includes games against No. 4 Elk Grove (at Raley Field in Sacramento), No. 18 Serra-San Mateo, and No. 19 St. Mary's-Stockton before a SoCal swing that will include games against powerhouses Mater Dei-Santa Ana and Orange Lutheran-Orange.

2. St. Francis-Mountain View (26-8)

The Lancers may have graduated some top-level talent after 2016, but there's still quite a bit in the cupboard for the two-time defending Central Coast Section Open Division champions. Senior

infielder and UCLA-signee, R.J. Teijeiro (.368, 35 hits, 20 RBI in 2016) and fellow senior Emilio Nogales (.313, 21 hits, 11 RBI) will lead the offense. Senior lefty Brandon Oliver (3-1, 0.64 ERA) should lead a pitching staff that will also include Dominic DiCosimo (3-0, 0.94).

3. Oak Ridge (24-7)

The Trojans reached the Sac-Joaquin Section Division I North finals in 2016 and return nine players, including the bulk of their pitching staff. Seniors Trenton Denholm (UC Irvine signee) and John Cross (Kansas) combined for 16 wins and 143 strikeouts in 120 innings. Outfielders Patrick Smith (.324) and Cameron Allie (.322) will be called upon to lead the offense as Oak Ridge seeks its first section title.

4. Elk Grove (24-9)

The perennial power and two-time defending SJS Division I champions will look to reload with some experienced returners mixed with new faces. USC-commit Riley Lamb turned heads with a fastball in the low 90s at the Area Code Games over the summer, and Tanner Carlson is the latest of head coach Jeff Carlson's sons expected to make an impact.

5. Valley Christian-San Jose (16-15)

Six of the Warriors top seven hitters from 2016 return, and that includes All-State junior Patrick Wicklander. The Dallas Baptist-commit is more known for his arm than his bat, however. He went 8-3 with a 0.59 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 83.1 innings in 2016.

6. Bellarmine-San Jose (21-11)

The senior trio Todd Jackson (.367, 33 hits, 15 RBI), Connor Mack (.298, 22 R, 28 hits, 14 RBI) and Laurence Palmer (.333, 25 hits, 11 RBI) should give plenty of offense to up-and-coming junior hurlers Wes Harper and Joe Ammirato.

7. College Park-Pleasant Hill (19-8)

Christian Encarnacion-Strand (.409, 25 runs, 38 hits, 27 RBI, 7 HR) leads a stellar cast of returning players. Ian MacIver (7-3, 1.41 ERA, 2 saves) leads the Falcons on the bump.

8. Granite Bay (15-13)

Cal Poly-bound Darren Nelson was tied for the team lead with 20 RBI, but was recruited for his pitching prowess (7-2, 0.50 ERA). Senior INF Kenny LeBeau led all Granite Bay hitters with a .442 average, 38 hits, and 20 RBI.

9. Acalanes-Lafayette (26-2)
It won't be easy for the Dons to top last year's dominance, but a lot of key talent returns, including UCSB-bound ace Josh Candau (9-1, 1.23 ERA).

10. Heritage-Brentwood (21-5)
A good amount of Division I talent graduated, but the Patriots are still in good hands. Noah Daubin (.411, 16 runs, 30 hits) and Jake Cosgrove (.269, 15 runs, 16 RBI) lead the way.

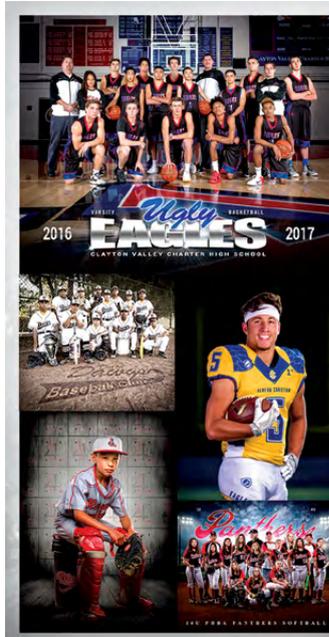
- 11. Casa Grande-Petaluma (21-6)
- 12. Jesuit-Carmichael (22-9)
- 13. Archbishop Mitty (15-13)
- 14. Tracy (26-9)
- 15. Castro Valley (17-10)
- 16. Davis (21-8)
- 17. Vacaville (15-13)
- 18. Serra-San Mateo (25-6-1)
- 19. St. Mary's-Stockton (19-13)
- 20. Monte Vista-Danville (16-10)

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