

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

OUR 173RD YEAR

PIONEER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

SPRING EDITION



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President Katie Brown**

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& Samya Haddad Mellor**

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Photos by Gabriel Diaz



**James Lansing
(1826-1882)**

Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter



Officers

President.....Katie Brown
Vice President.....Barbara Collopy
Secretary.....Michael Shepard
Treasurer.....Thom Gilbert

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Term ending March 2027

Jonathan Hunt
Jennifer Basye Sander

Term ending March 2028

Roger Bilstad Molly Wiese
Elizabeth McClatchy
Emily Browne Wheeler

Term ending March 2029

Gary Bazlen Elizabeth Lake
Samya Haddad Mellor

Administrator

Shelley Ford

Newsletter Editor

Michael Shepard

Cover Image: Portrait of James Lansing (1826-1882). In the late afternoon of April 10, 1882, a single gunshot echoed through a Sacramento alley and claimed the life of one of the city's most respected pioneers. James Lansing had spent more than three decades serving the community as a police officer, sheriff, volunteer fireman, civic leader, and finally proprietor of the International Hotel on K Street, known to nearly everyone in Sacramento.

Photo courtesy of Janice Marie Foote, Lansing's great-great-granddaughter

Sacramento Pioneer Association Pioneer Newsletter™

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President's Message

Dear Members,

I am still reflecting on our very successful and well-attended Annual Meeting held March 5 at the Del Paso Country Club. Thank you to Director Molly Wiese and Administrator Shelley Ford for their thoughtful planning and work in making the evening such a success. Members enjoyed a lively cocktail hour catching up with friends while listening to two talented classical guitar students perform.

We were also pleased to welcome several new members since our last newsletter: James and Colette Rhoads, and Raymond and Martha Gates.

Vice President Barbara Collopy introduced our four scholarship recipients - outstanding seniors who will graduate this spring from the Sacramento City Unified School District. Our annual Joan Kibbey Taylor Award was presented to Giada Bhan of West Campus High School. Additional scholarships were awarded to Luke Auman of John F. Kennedy High School, Elsa Swanson of C. K. McClatchy High School, and Shiader Xiong of Luther Burbank High School. Hearing about these students' accomplishments and aspirations left me confident that our future is in very capable hands.

I would like to thank outgoing board members Peter Noack and Anthony Dick for their service to the association. We also welcome new board members Elizabeth Lake and Samya Haddad Mellor, with terms through March 2029, and Gary Bazlen, who has renewed his board service through March 2029.

During the meeting, I had the privilege of presenting our Pioneer of the Year Award to Jennifer Bayse Sander. Since 2023, Jennifer has enthusiastically planned many memorable events, from commemorating James W. Marshall's discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill to our picnic at Sutter's Fort and several festive holiday galas. Her creativity and dedication make her truly deserving of this recognition.

I am also pleased to share that our Pioneer Hall tenant, Crème Coffee, opened on February 22 and has been busy ever since. Please stop by to meet the mother-daughter team, Inga and Gina, enjoy a cup of coffee, and see our historic building looking its best.

Finally, watch for an upcoming invitation for a day excursion to Calistoga, planned by Director Emily Wheeler and member Eric Hanson. The day will include a historical tour, lunch, and wine tasting.

I have greatly enjoyed my first year as president and working alongside such an enthusiastic Board of Directors. We are accomplishing a great deal for our association while having fun along the way, and I look forward to many more engaging, history-focused events with our members.

Warm regards,

Katie Brown



Calistoga Excursion

The Sacramento Pioneer Association invites you to an exclusive day trip, including a coach tour and wine tasting, to HISTORIC CALISTOGA Friday, April 24, 2026.

Members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association are cordially invited to a curated exploration of Calistoga's rich heritage. Our sightseeing itinerary features a driving tour of "Brannan's Folly," a visit to the Sharpsteen Museum's Donner Party exhibit, and a patio BBQ lunch overlooking Winan's Vault at Buster's Southern Barbecue.

The highlights of our journey will include a walking tour of the historic downtown ending at the 1860s railroad depot. We will make a champagne toast and engage in an informative discussion regarding the Robert Louis Stevenson Public Art Project. This endeavor will bring the spirit of the legendary storyteller to life through a permanent bronze sculpture seated on a bench at the depot, creating a new landmark honoring Stevenson's deep ties to the area.

We will finish the afternoon with wine tastings at Castello di Amorosa and Freemark Abbey.

Watch for the flyer in your email inbox.

A Shot in the Alley: The Death of James Lansing

By Michael Shepard

A shot rang out late in the afternoon on the south side of K Street between Third and Fourth Streets. A stray bullet struck an innocent bystander. What began as a quarrel between two railroad shop employees had turned violent. The gunman fled onto Fourth Street, then turned onto L and ran toward Third. He sprinted into the alley behind the International Hotel as angry citizens gave chase. The hotel's proprietor, James Lansing, heard the commotion from the courtyard behind the hotel. He stepped into the alley. Lansing did not know the fleeing man or why he ran, but as the stranger rushed past, Lansing started after him, ahead of the pursuing crowd. The fugitive stopped. He turned. He raised his pistol and fired. The bullet struck James Lansing in the abdomen. Lansing staggered back and uttered "I am shot."

The International Hotel on K Street stood among Sacramento's best-known lodging houses. James Lansing, widely known as a pioneer and public servant, had purchased the thirty-four-room property three years earlier for \$25,000, refurbished the interior, and reopened it to the public. The *Sacramento Daily Union* announced the new ownership on December 6, 1879, introducing a hotelkeeper whose name already appeared often in the city's newspapers:

Who is there in Sacramento county - or we may say in the State - who does not know "Jim" Lansing? He has resided continuously in this city and county since 1849, and held public positions too numerous to mention, but today appears in a new role, that of Boniface. The International Hotel, which he recently purchased and has fitted up in excellent style, everything being fresh and new, has all the requisite facilities, and there is no doubt that it will be kept in such a manner as to make it very popular with the landlord's many friends and the traveling public generally.

Little information survives concerning Lansing's earliest years, but he came from New York. Born in 1826 in Lansingburgh on the Hudson River (later incorporated into Troy), he traced his ancestry to Abraham Jacob Lansing, who purchased the land in 1763 that became the settlement.

Like thousands drawn by the discovery of gold, Lansing headed west in 1849 at the age of twenty-three. On July 1 he departed New York aboard the

side-wheeled steamer *SS Crescent City* bound for Chagres, Panama. Like many Forty-Niners he crossed the Isthmus before securing passage north to San Francisco. Though the vessel that carried him to California remains unidentified, his later membership in the Sacramento Pioneer Association confirms he arrived before January 1, 1850.

While never an officer or director of the Pioneer Association, Lansing participated regularly in its activities. His name appears among the committee appointed to organize the Pioneers' celebration of the twelfth anniversary of California statehood on September 9, 1862. The gathering occurred during a difficult period in the Civil War. A notice in the *Sacramento Daily Union* reminded participants of the national crisis:

Twelve years ago the members of the Association, as the children of the Great Republic, assembled on the Pacific coast in the eager search for gold. They hailed with joy, after a long and bitter struggle in Congress, the acknowledgement of their adopted home as a sovereign State, and its admission to the Union... After twelve years of unprecedented prosperity, they now assemble to celebrate the anniversary of that admission, and find the Capital of that great nation besieged by a mighty army, and in imminent danger of destruction... the perils and self-sacrifices of their brethren in the East will not be forgotten by Sacramento Pioneers.

The following year Lansing again served on a Pioneer committee, helping organize a Fourth of July celebration in 1863.

In 1869, with the war over and the transcontinental railroad completed, the Pioneers found a new opportunity to revisit the East, which most had not seen since 1849. Lansing joined fellow members on a "Grand Excursion from Sacramento to New York" arranged by the Central Pacific Railroad Company for members of pioneer societies throughout the state. Participants traveled in Pullman and Woodruff Silver Palace cars along the Great Overland Route. The Central Pacific company offered special fares, half the usual rate, amounting to \$112.50 in coin or \$150 in currency.

The excursion left Sacramento on September 15 and would reach New York seven days later, pending overnight stopovers in Chicago and Philadelphia. Wives of the Pioneers could join the journey on the same terms as their husbands, although it remains uncertain whether Lansing's wife, Mary, accompanied him.

Travelers could return west within a specified

period and several Sacramento excursionists returned together. The *Marysville Appeal* reported their arrival on November 7, 1869: “James McClatchy, President of the Sacramento Pioneers, Captain William Siddons, James Lansing, ex-Sheriff, Hon. Newton Booth, A. Leonard and other Pioneer excursionists arrived today. They were received with salvos from the famous ‘Union Boy’ gun, and hearty congratulations from hundreds of friends who congregated at the depot to welcome them home.”

The newspaper referred to Lansing as an ex-sheriff, a title earned after years of service in law enforcement. He first sought office in 1852 when he ran unsuccessfully for constable, but within a year the Sacramento City Council appointed him a police officer to fill a vacancy.

During the next fifteen years, Lansing’s name appeared regularly in *Sacramento Daily Union* police reports. Over time he served as police lieutenant, chief of police, marshal, and sheriff. He twice ran for sheriff against fellow Pioneer James McClatchy.

Alongside his police duties, Lansing joined Sacramento’s volunteer fire department as a member of Confidence Engine Company No. 1. In 1854 he served on the committee organizing the company’s first annual ball and later that year was elected treasurer. By 1863 he served as financial secretary, and in 1866 presided as president of the Sacramento Fire Department Board of Delegates.

Lansing also belonged to several fraternal organizations including the Odd Fellows, the Exempt Firemen’s Association, the Order of Chosen Friends, and the Knights of Pythias. He continued public service as Justice of the Peace for Sutter Township in 1871 and later as Sacramento County Assessor from 1875 to 1879.

During these years, he also entered the hotel trade. In August 1864, Lansing partnered with William Swimley as proprietor of Sacramento’s Union Hotel on Second Street between J and K Streets, a building formerly owned by Pioneer J. P. Dyer that still stands today in Old Sacramento. The partners renovated the establishment and operated it on the “European plan,” offering furnished rooms with or without board alongside the Cincinnati Restaurant and a billiard saloon.

After several years in the hotel trade, Lansing sought a larger venture. His opportunity came in 1879 with the purchase of the International Hotel on K Street, between Third and Fourth Streets, a well-known lodging house established in 1856 by the Eisenmenger family. Lansing refurbished the rooms and reopened the hotel to travelers and residents alike.

After decades confronting the city’s recurring threats of crime, fire, and civic disorder, Lansing appeared to have settled into a stable life with his wife Mary and their five children: four daughters and a son. That stability did not last.

On the afternoon of April 10, 1882, Siberian immigrant Simon Raten fired the pistol that mortally wounded James Lansing. Friends carried the injured hotelkeeper inside while physicians hurried to attend him. Examination revealed the bullet had passed through vital organs, and the doctors soon pronounced the wound fatal. Before his death Lansing gave a brief statement describing the incident. He explained that he had stepped into the alley and tried to halt the fleeing man. The shot followed almost immediately. Lansing said he did not know the assailant and had simply attempted to prevent his escape.

News of the shooting spread quickly. Friends and fellow members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association gathered at the hotel as Lansing’s condition worsened. He lingered through the night, dying nearly twenty-four hours after the shooting. Fire station bells tolled across the city announcing his death, and the flag at Pioneer Hall flew at half-staff.

After more than thirty years in Sacramento, Lansing was widely known through his public service and business life. Anger quickly followed grief. Crowds gathered near the city jail on Front Street where authorities held Raten, and some openly discussed seizing the prisoner.

Officials anticipated the danger. Guards surrounded the jail while militia units and members of the National Guard stood ready, even positioning a Gatling gun to command the approaches. The show of force discouraged mob violence and ensured the prisoner remained in custody for trial.

Funeral services held at the International Hotel drew a large gathering of citizens. In his address, the minister reflected the community’s shock. “An honored citizen has been struck down by the hand of violence.” He attempted to find a lesson in the senseless killing. “Society is responsible for giving more attention to supplying men and boys with knowledge and skill of weapons that may be used for mischief, rather than true wisdom and proper training to make them good and useful citizens. Society has done far more to make men powerful than to make them good. It puts pistols in their hands, not conscience in their manhood, and the fruits must follow.” The murder of James Lansing remained senseless and tragic. No moral lesson offered from the pulpit could lessen the grief felt throughout Sacramento.



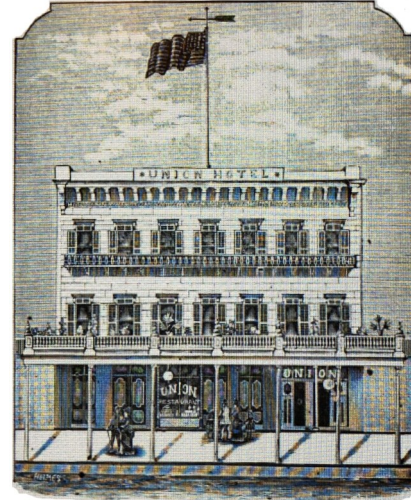
J. P. Dyer & the Union Hotel

Joseph Palmer Dyer held a diversity of occupations: Forty-Niner, purveyor of coal, director of the Sacramento Pioneer Association, mayor of Sacramento, San Francisco stockbroker and in the year 1855, hotelier. An exciting bit of news appeared in the *Sacramento Daily Union* on March 3, 1855, regarding city improvement, which read, "The 'Verandah,' adjoining the Orleans Hotel, was purchased yesterday by Mr. J. P. Dyer, as was also a lot on K street with a frontage of twenty feet, forming an L with the former. It is in contemplation, we understand, to erect forthwith on the latter a three-story building, to add another story to the former, and connect both as one establishment. We hope that those who have surplus funds in hand, will follow suit, and invest in permanent Improvements."

By December 1855, J. P. Dyer completed his building on Second Street and promptly advertised his new business in the December 17th issue of the *Sacramento Daily Union*: "Union Hotel, Erected on the old site of the Verandah, Second street, between J and K. A location highly desirable from its central

position for business men, as also for the travelling community, being within a square of the landing point of all the steamers, and the stages for every part of the interior leave the front of the Hotel."

J. P. Dyer's Union Hotel, later operated by Lansing & Swimley, remains a landmark building of Old Sacramento and still stands on Second Street next to the Orleans Hotel.



Do You Know Someone Who Appreciates Sacramento History?
Tell Them About the **Sacramento Pioneer Association,**

Where Shared History Creates Lasting Bonds



Scan to join

<https://sacramentopioneer.org/membership-application/>

Join a fellowship of history enthusiasts celebrating the Gold Rush spirit. Connect with others through exclusive events, engaging historical talks, and hands-on preservation projects.

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1854 • Preserving Sacramento History For Future Generations
P. O. Box 292398, Sacramento, CA 95829 • (916) 447-7411

Remembering Gary Kurutz

Gary F. Kurutz (1948–2025), a distinguished historian, librarian, and Sacramento Pioneer, devoted more than four decades to preserving and sharing the history of California and the American West. He passed away peacefully at home on December 9, 2025.

In 2017, Gary retired as Principal Librarian Emeritus of Special Collections at the California State Library, a position he had held since 1980. He built and stewarded some of the most significant and culturally diverse research collections documenting the West, guided by his oft-quoted conviction that “History is what is saved.” He also served for twenty years as Executive Director of the California State Library Foundation where he promoted library education, preservation, and architectural restoration, including advising on the restoration of the historic Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building in Sacramento.

Gary believed that books and artifacts were the “gold of the mind,” and he furthered this notion through exhibitions, lectures, published articles, and bibliographies. Among his many publications were his comprehensive bibliographies *The California Gold Rush: A Descriptive Bibliography of Books and*

Pamphlets Covering the Years 1848–1853 (1997) and *The Klondike & Alaska Gold Rushes: A Descriptive Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets Covering the Years 1896–1905* (2021), the latter receiving Honorable Mention from the Bibliographical Society of America.

On August 21, 2017, during a solar eclipse, Gary participated in the dedication of a granite cenotaph in the Sacramento Pioneer Association’s Pioneer Grove honoring Alfred A. Hart, photographer for the Central Pacific Railroad. The monument, commissioned by Mead B. Kibbey, was ceremoniously unveiled by Gary in his capacity as Executive Director of the California State Library Foundation and as Mead’s close friend. Following the event, the Pioneer Association Board of Directors passed a resolution to recognize Alfred A. Hart as a posthumous Honorary Member. In 2021, Gary authored an article in the *California State Library Foundation Bulletin* describing the extraordinary gift of 684 original California and Nevada stereographs, including many produced by photographer Alfred A. Hart, donated by Mead and Nancy Kibbey to the State Library.

Gary Kurutz and wife KD regularly attended the Sacramento Pioneer Association’s annual dinner meetings. Their absence at this year’s event was sadly noted by many members.



In Pioneer Grove, on August 21, 2017, the Alfred A. Hart cenotaph was ceremoniously unveiled from its red satin covering by Executive Director of the California State Library Foundation, Gary Kurutz. The monument takes the form of a Steno wet-plate camera like the one used by Hart.

Crème Coffee

A new tenant, Crème Coffee, has opened its doors at Pioneer Hall, welcoming customers to enjoy coffee and conversation within the historic building owned by the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

The café began serving the public in February 2026, bringing a European-inspired coffeehouse to the ground floor of historic Pioneer Hall, a building constructed in 1868. The space previously housed French pastry shop Le Macaron, but its new occupants have reimagined it as a warm, inviting neighborhood café.

Crème Coffee is the creation of a mother-daughter team, Inga and Gina Arakelyan, who envisioned a café inspired by the relaxed café culture of Paris where visitors can pause from the pace of downtown life and enjoy carefully prepared coffees and teas in a comfortable setting.

The menu centers on espresso-based drinks and brewed coffee made from locally roasted beans, along with matcha beverages and teas. Light fare, including locally baked pastries, avocado toast, salads, and other café bites, complements the drink menu. The emphasis, according to the owners, is on quality ingredients, thoughtful presentation, and a welcoming atmosphere for customers.

Inside, the café has been arranged into several seating areas to suit different visitors. The front portion of the shop enjoys abundant natural light and provides a pleasant place for casual meetings or reading. The central café offers additional seating, while a more private area in the rear includes a round table that can accommodate small groups. The décor features a light palette with marble and walnut accents, creating a calm, elegant setting within the historic structure.

Crème Coffee describes its mission simply: to offer “a small moment of luxury” in every cup and to serve as a gathering place where friends, colleagues, and neighbors can meet.

Members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association are encouraged to stop by, meet the new proprietors, and welcome them to Pioneer Hall. Whether for a morning cappuccino, an afternoon espresso break, or a quiet place to meet friends, Crème Coffee offers a convenient and inviting new amenity for those visiting downtown.

Crème Coffee
1011 7th Street, Sacramento
Open daily, 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



PIONEER APPAREL

A large assortment of shirts, hats, aprons, bags, etc., all finely embroidered with the **Sacramento Pioneer Association** emblem, may be procured by visiting

<http://www.companycasuals.com/sacramentopioneer/start.jsp>



**Sacramento Pioneer Association
Annual Meeting
March 5, 2026
Del Paso Country Club
Sacramento, California**

President Katie Brown, serving as chief officer of the Sacramento Pioneer Association, called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:01 p.m. Secretary Michael Shepard presented the minutes from the previous meeting, dated February 20, 2026. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes received multiple seconds, and the membership approved the motion unanimously.

In accordance with the Association's bylaws, President Brown appointed this year's Nominating Committee, chaired by Lori Gualco. She then yielded the floor to Ms. Gualco to conduct the annual election of officers and directors. The membership unanimously approved the following slate of nominees:

Officers (terms ending March 2027)

- President: Katie Brown
- Vice President: Barbara Collopy
- Secretary: Michael Shepard
- Treasurer: Thom Gilbert

Director (term ending March 2029)

- Gary Bazlen
- Samya Haddad Mellor
- Elizabeth Lake

With no further business before the Association, President Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Pioneer of the Year

One of the great honors of serving as President of the Sacramento Pioneer Association is presenting our *Pioneer of the Year Award*. This recognition is reserved for a member who has gone above and beyond in service to our organization - someone whose time, creativity, and enthusiasm have strengthened our Association in meaningful ways.

This year's recipient is serving a second term on our Board. This individual is deeply connected - not only to our membership, but to the people, places, and pulse of our city. This person is constantly thinking of new and engaging ways for us to gather, learn, and celebrate our shared history. And then, as if that weren't enough, somehow finds the perfect historic setting to bring it all to life.

Who could forget when we gathered downtown at the Clayton Club to commemorate the 175th anniversary of James W. Marshall's discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill on January 24, 1848? Or the packed house at the Clunie Community Center when Sacramento historian Mary Ellen Burns delighted us with her presentation, *From A-Z: An Eclectic History of Food and Drink?*

She took the lead on our beautiful Holiday Galas at the Julia Morgan House and twice at the historic Sutter Club - each event thoughtfully planned and warmly attended.

Our annual picnics have flourished under her leadership as well - from the gathering at the East Portal Bocce Club, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Corti Brothers along with the history of the Bocce Club and spirited play - to our picnic at Sutter's Fort, where we raised a glass of Ruhstaller Beer in honor of Sacramento's brewing roots dating back to 1865.

Most recently, we gathered in Walnut Grove at the historic John Stanford Brown House, graciously hosted by Rusty and Julie Areias - yet another memorable day of fellowship and history.

From January 2023 through December 2025, the Sacramento Pioneer Association has benefited tremendously from the time, imagination, and joyful energy of one extraordinary member.

Jennifer Basye Sander, thank you for your leadership, your creativity, and your unwavering dedication to our Association.

You are truly deserving of this honor.

It is my great pleasure to present you with the Sacramento Pioneer Association's Pioneer of the Year Award.

Congratulations, Jennifer.

President Katie Brown

2026 Scholarship Recipients

Each February, the Sacramento Pioneer Association awards scholarships to outstanding Sacramento City Unified School District seniors who will be attending a four-year university in the fall. This year's recipients exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to community service.

Joan Kibbey Taylor Award

Giada Bhan - West Campus High School

Giada graduates as valedictorian with the highest GPA ever recorded at West Campus, ranking 1st out of 223 with a 4.7353. As School Site Council President, she created a textbook reimbursement program for low-income dual-enrollment students, and she leads the *West Campus Chronicle* as Editor-in-Chief. She also served on the Girl Scouts Advisory Board, helping organize a 100-person STEM event for young girls. Her service includes volunteering and conducting research at Helping Hands Community Clinic, where she co-published an accessible PTSD-awareness pamphlet for refugee patients. As president of Strive for Strength, she helps host an annual 400-person mental-health event. A National Merit Semifinalist and AP Scholar with Distinction, Giada completed 73 college credits with a 4.0 GPA, earning the President's Highest Honors and an IGETC transfer degree. She teaches dance, speaks four languages, and was accepted to Stanford. Her AP Art portfolio explores the "invisible realities" of neurological disorders, reflecting her goal of becoming a neurologist who listens deeply to her patients.

Shiader Xiong - Luther Burbank High School

Shiader holds a 4.2 GPA and ranks 21st out of 357 at Luther Burbank, where he serves as an officer in several campus clubs and contributes as the school's photographer, documenting athletic events and Senior Night. He is an honor roll student and an active participant in the Visual and Performing Arts program. As the son of a Hmong family, Shiader moves between the traditions of his heritage and the expectations of life in the United States. With an older brother in the Marines and a sister in college, he hopes this scholarship will give his parents "peace of mind" and honor the sacrifices they made in pursuit of the American dream.

Luke Auman - John F. Kennedy High School

Luke ranks 4th in a class of 411 with a 4.31 GPA and pairs academic excellence with standout leadership. When the marching band lost its directors, he helped train eleven freshmen and keep the program afloat. He also competes in wrestling and helped revive Speech and Debate. A dedicated volunteer, Luke assisted with building renovations at Alcoholics Anonymous and serves at Elk's Lodge events. His academic honors include recognition from the national College Board, membership in Phi Theta Kappa, and Sacramento City College's President's Highest Honors. Through dual enrollment, he will graduate early with both his diploma and an AA in Political Science. Shaped by the diversity of his Title I schools, Luke plans a career in public service focused on protecting California's people and natural heritage.

Elsa Swanson - C.K. McClatchy High School

Elsa holds a 4.1 GPA and ranks 61st out of 590, balancing strong academics with participation on the tennis and dive teams. She volunteers as a reporter and photographer for the *Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin*, contributes to the SCUSD Food and Clothing Pantry, and serves as one of five Ambassadors for Pro-Youth, presenting policy recommendations directly to the superintendent. An honor roll student and member of the Visual and Performing Arts program, Elsa specializes in 3D sculpture; her senior project centers on her one-eyed adopted cat, Kenny. A fourth-generation Sacramentan, she draws inspiration from the city's intimate connection to its own history. She plans to pursue a dual degree in psychology and comparative literature, with a possible minor in art. Already admitted to several universities, she awaits decisions from the UC system, Tulane, Bryn Mawr, and NYU.

Sacramento Pioneer Association 2026 Annual Dinner Meeting Awards



Tom & Vice President Barb Collopy - President Katie & Toran Brown



2026 Pioneer of the Year
Jennifer Basye



Giada Bhan

Photographs by
Gabriel Diaz



Elsa Swanson

Scholarships



Luke Auman



Sacramento Pioneer Association
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

2026

April

Sunday, April 5

Happy Easter!

Friday, April 24

Calistoga, Napa County, coach tour and wine tasting excursion

September

Date to be announced

Annual Summer Picnic

December

Date to be announced

Annual Holiday Party

March 2026