

What's happening

Saturday

■ Get crafty at the **Fairy Garden workshop** beginning at 2 p.m. at the Stephens Branch Library, 315 E 14th St. Create fun fairy arts and crafts with materials supplied by the library or bring your own trinkets and decorations.

Monday, Jan. 9

■ Lisa Damour, author of **"Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood,"** is the featured speaker in the next Davis Parent University lecture series. Damour will discuss teenage behavior, the transitions adolescents go through and how parents can form happier, healthier relationships with their teens beginning at 7 p.m. at the Brunelle Performance Hall, 315 W 14th St. The event is free and open to the public and tickets can be reserved at <http://lisadamour.dpu.brownpapertickets.com>

Thursday, Jan. 12

■ Today is the deadline to nominate a deserving teen for a **Golden Heart Award**. Awards are given in two categories — for contributing meaningful service to the community or for overcoming significant challenges in life. Nomination forms are online at <http://www.cityofdavis.org> (search Golden Heart Awards) and can be emailed to cdyer@cityofdavis.org. Awards will be presented at City Hall in February.

Jan. 16-17

■ Auditions for **"Jack and the Beanstalk,"** presented by Davis Musical Theatre Company's Young Performers Theater, will be at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, and Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Jean Henderson Performing Arts Center, 607 Pena Drive in Davis, with select call-backs on Wednesday, Jan. 18. There are many roles for boys and girls, ages 7-17, plus 18-year-olds still in high school. Auditions require singing, acting and dancing at the director's discretion, and auditioners must bring sheet music of a song they are prepared to sing (not a song from the show). For additional information, visit dmtdc.org or call 530-756-3682.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

■ The Davis High School PTA presents a **Gap Year Fair** for students to learn more about gap-year options. The fair will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Center, 203 E 14th St., with speakers presenting in the theater from 6 to 6:45 p.m. and the fair taking in the multipurpose room from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free but space is limited. Reserve a spot at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/usa-gap-year-fair-2017-davis-ca-registration-28152618239?aff=Davis2017USAGYF>

Jingle all the way



SUE COCKRELL/ENTERPRISE PHOTOS

Students from Peregrine School listen to Sacramento poet Peter Blueberry during a visit last week to Carlton Senior Living in Davis. Students got to know the residents, helped decorate the tree, crafted paper gingerbread houses and sipped hot chocolate.



Carlton resident Mabel Sizemore, left, gets acquainted with Peregrine student Alice King. The 2-to-4-year-old students make a yearly holiday visit to Carlton. "Cross-age exchanges are a win-win for all," the school said in a release. "But grandparents and grandchildren do not always live in the same community. In this case, both groups benefit from contact with cross-generational people who might read a story with them or help them to cut out cookie dough." At left, the visitors take part in one of Carlton's Zumba classes.

Admissions got simpler in 2016

As 2016 comes to a close and I reflect back on the year, I feel optimistic. Although the college admission process is far from ideal, there have been several promising developments this year — some small and some large — that, I hope, herald a kinder, more gentler college application cycle in the future.

Here are some of the reasons I am thankful:

■ **Simplified process for accommodations for standardized tests:** In years past when I worked with students who had special needs or learning challenges, we had to follow a labyrinthine process to get approval for their accommodations for standardized tests. No longer is this the case for the SAT.

Starting in January, "the vast majority of students who are approved for and using testing accommodations at their school through a current Individualized Education Program or 504 Plan will have those same accommodations automatically approved for taking the SAT, PSAT10, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT Subject Tests and AP exams." Finally!

■ **Better-quality free test prep through Khan Academy:** Prepping for standardized tests are hard enough, but to top it off, it also can be expensive.

With the revamp of the SAT this past March, the College Board also launched a free test prep arrangement with Khan Academy.

As the website states, "For the first time ever, the creators



of the SAT have given Khan Academy exclusive access and advice to build a personalized practice program for anyone, anywhere." It's about time!

Read more at <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>.

■ **Streamlined FAFSA process:** This is the first financial aid season where the FAFSA became available online in October (rather than January) and is now at the same time as the CSS Profile. It is much easier to just do both at once.

And, what an improvement that the FAFSA is now based on tax information from the prior year so that parents do not have to submit the FAFSA, and then go back and update it, after they file tax returns.

Another benefit from these changes is that, in theory at least, most schools will provide financial-aid packages sooner since they receive the FAFSA sooner. The idea is to provide families more time to analyze options, make smarter decisions and even apply to additional schools if need be.

■ **More test-optional schools:** An encouraging trend is that more and more four-year colleges and universities are adopting test-optional or test-flexible admissions policies. During the years I have been a college adviser I've

watched as many schools joined this bandwagon — American University, George Washington, and this year the University of Delaware and Austin College, to name a few.

According to analysis of U.S. News & World Report rankings, half of the top 100 national liberal arts colleges now have test-optional or test-flexible policies. Yes, students are more than just test scores.

Read more at <http://wapo.st/2gwUGDX>.

■ **New tuition discounts for Californians at out-of-state public universities:** Another promising trend that I hope catches on is that more out-of-state public colleges and universities (beyond the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program schools) are enticing California students with tuition discounts.

For instance, the University of Maine offers its Flagship Match program for students from nearby states and from California who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and SATs of at least 1120. These students are eligible for a tuition match such that they pay the equivalent of in-state tuition at their state flagship university. Not too shabby.

Read more at <http://bayareane.ws/2fA4QVo>.

■ **The Malia effect:** The interest in gap year programs has risen, in part perhaps because of Malia Obama's plans to postpone her freshman year of college in favor of such a program. I wholeheartedly support students in taking their time to find their path. In

Europe and Australia, taking a gap year is almost a rite of passage.

■ **Awareness and support for DACA students:** In the face of post-election uncertainty about the status of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students, I am heartened by the actions of colleges and universities that have stepped up their efforts to continue to welcome and support these students. I am relieved that Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has introduced legislation aimed at extending legal protections for previously undocumented immigrants who came here as children.

Read more at <http://politi.co/2g7Pd3L>.

■ **Getting to know the next generation of leaders, and the parents who support them:** One of the reasons I feel most thankful is that every year I meet hundreds of high school students who are wise, grounded and eager to contribute. I always say that I feel reassured about our future because I meet so many wonderful young adults.

I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and then let them lead the way. (I never thought I would quote Whitney Houston! It just came to mind.)

I wish you all the best in the new year.

— Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of *The Right College For You*. Her column is published monthly. Reach her at jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org or visit www.therightcollegeforyou.org

Author to speak at Parent University

By ANNE TERNUS-BELLAMY
Enterprise staff writer

Acclaimed author Lisa Damour will be the next featured speaker in the Davis Parent University lecture series.

Damour, author of "Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood," will speak on Monday, Jan. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Brunelle Performance Hall at Davis High School, 315 W. 14th St.

In her book, Damour draws on decades of experience and research to explain the transitions that girls go through, including parting with childhood, contending with adult authority, entering the romantic world and caring for herself.

In doing so, Damour provides parents with much-needed information on understanding their daughters, while also providing wise advice.

During her Davis appearance, Damour will discuss why confusing and dramatic teenage behavior is often predictable and normal; the seven developmental transitions that turn adolescents into adults; and how parents can form happier, healthier relationships with their teenagers.

The event is free and open to the public and tickets can be reserved now at <http://lisadamour.dpu.brownpapertickets.com>.

Submit questions in advance for Damour at <http://www.davisparentuniversity.com/upcoming-past-events>.



DAMOUR Speaks Jan. 9



For years people have been asking me for the 'girl equivalent of Raising Cain' and I haven't known exactly what to recommend. Now I do! —MICHAEL THOMPSON, Ph.D., co-author of RAISING CAIN