



A Publication of  
Solano Park, UC  
Davis

# THE PARK MESSENGER

February 2017

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## UC Davis Biodiversity Museum Day Submitted by Audrey Bergmann, RA

Biodiversity Museum Day is a free, educational event for the community on **February 18, 2017**. Parking and exhibits are free. Food is available on campus and in nearby Downtown Davis. See the map on their website at <http://biodiversitymuseumday.ucdavis.edu/> for easy directions to all the venues.

The sixth annual Biodiversity Museum Day at UC Davis features twelve collections showcasing natural history, biodiversity, and the cultural-ecological interface. Collection access is free and open to visitors of all ages. Campus collections are within walking distance, except for the Raptor Center and Häagen Dazs Bee Haven, which are accessible by car. Signs and volunteers will be present to direct visitors, and you can also download a map here at their website.

If it looks like a rainy day, worry not; there is so much to do regardless of the weather. If weather is unfavorable, you can still enjoy the simple pleasure of a warm greenhouse with the patter of rain on the glass, or you can lose yourself in the microscopic worlds of nematodes, yeasts, and pressed plants. Whatever the weather, come learn and enjoy!

### Solano Park Office Hours:

Monday—Friday  
9:00am—12:00pm  
1:00pm—4:00pm

### Special points of interest:

- February 20 is a University Holiday, all campus offices will be closed.

## UC DAVIS BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM DAY • 18 Feb 2017

Explore the diversity of life · all ages welcome · free parking & admission

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



12 noon - 4 p.m.



visit our  
website  
for details:

[biodiversitymuseumday.ucdavis.edu](http://biodiversitymuseumday.ucdavis.edu)

## Outdoor Adventures

Submitted by Corey Coates, RA

One of my favorite things on campus is Outdoor Adventures. It is one of the best and cheapest ways to enjoy outdoor activities. Outdoor Adventures offers hiking, camping, backpacking, whitewater rafting and kayaking trips to spectacular natural areas in California and beyond. In addition, Outdoor Adventures offers comprehensive Wilderness First Aid and First Responder courses. I would strongly encourage you to visit Outdoor Adventures to talk with the staff, browse through books and maps, sign up for trips, and rent outdoor equipment at reasonable prices. Their gear rental is the cheapest in town and great for a weekend in the snow or a backpacking trip. Discover a love of the outdoors with a memorable experience from Outdoor Adventures. All participants must be UC Davis students or community members 18 years or older.



## Children's International Storytelling Program

Submitted by Ann Gunion

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017, 2 – 3 p.m. (doors open at 1:45)  
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE DAVIS, 10 COLLEGE PARK, DAVIS, CA 95616  
530-753-5007 [www.internationalhousedavis](http://www.internationalhousedavis)

ED LEWIS Shares Stories, Songs and Dances

Ed Lewis is a retired Early Childhood Professor who has performed in preschools and elementary Schools for 35 years. He specializes in Storytelling, Puppetry, Singing, Dancing, and using Rhythm Instruments. He has performed in schools throughout the world including Spain, Brazil, Mexico, Korea, and England as well throughout the United States.

This performance will include interactive stories, songs, and dances. Puppets will teach you new songs and everyone will choose a rhythm instrument to join "O! Ed Lewis's Band".

The International House Children's International Storytelling Program is designed for children in the 4 – 9 year range but can be enjoyed who love to listen to stories.

Admission is free for I-House members. Others pay \$2 per person, \$5 per family Children must be accompanied by an adult.



# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE DAVIS

*Promoting international understanding since 1981*

# Linux Operating System

## Submitted by David Gomes, RA

If you need a safer and faster operating system you may be interested in using an Operating System (OS) based on Linux. If so, you could contact David (dgomes@ucdavis.edu) and we will organize an Install Party next month! Here is a short article explaining why Linux system is more secure than other OS, by www.pcworld.org [http://www.pcworld.com/article/202452/why\\_linux\\_is\\_more\\_secure\\_than\\_windows.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/202452/why_linux_is_more_secure_than_windows.html) :

"Security through obscurity" may be a catchy phrase, but it's not the only thing that's catching among Windows and Mac users.

The expression is intended to suggest that proprietary software is more secure by virtue of its closed nature. If hackers can't see the code, then it's harder for them to create exploits for it--or so the thinking goes.

Unfortunately, for Windows and Mac users, that's just not true--as evidenced by the never-ending parade of patches coming out of Redmond. In fact, one of Linux's many advantages over Windows and Mac is that it is more secure--much more. For small businesses and other organizations without a dedicated staff of security experts, that benefit can be particularly critical.

Five key factors underlie Linux's superior security:

### 1. Privileges

Linux systems are by no means infallible, but one of their key advantages lies in the way account privileges are assigned. In Windows and Mac, users are generally given administrator access by default, which means they pretty much have access to everything on the system, even its most crucial parts. So, then, do viruses. It's like giving terrorists high-level government positions.

With Linux, on the other hand, users do not usually have such "root" privileges; rather, they're typically given lower-level accounts. What that means is that even if a Linux system is compromised, the virus won't have the root access it would need to do damage systemwide; more likely, just the user's local files and programs would be affected. That can make the difference between a minor annoyance and a major catastrophe in any business setting.

### 2. Social Engineering

Viruses and worms often spread by convincing computer users to do something they shouldn't, like open attachments that carry viruses and worms. This is called social engineering, and it's all too easy on Windows and Mac systems. Just send out an e-mail with a malicious attachment and a subject line like, "Check out these adorable puppies!"--or the porn equivalent--and some proportion of users is bound to click without thinking. The result? An open door for the attached malware, with potentially disastrous consequences organizationwide.

Thanks to the fact that most Linux users don't have root access, however, it's much harder to accomplish any real damage on a Linux system by getting them to do something foolish. Before any real damage could occur, a Linux user would have to read the e-mail, save the attachment, give it executable permissions and then run the executable. Not very likely, in other words.

## (Article continued from page 3)

### 3. The Monoculture Effect

However, you want to argue the exact numbers, there's no doubt that Microsoft Windows and Macintosh OS X still dominates most of the computing world. In the realm of e-mail, so too do Outlook and Outlook Express. And therein lies a problem: It's essentially a monoculture, which is no better in technology than it is in the natural world. Just as genetic diversity is a good thing in the natural world because it minimizes the deleterious effects of a deadly virus, so a diversity of computing environments helps protect users.

Fortunately, a diversity of environments is yet another benefit that Linux offers. There is Ubuntu, there's Debian, there's Gentoo, and there are many other distributions. There are also many shells, many packaging systems, and many mail clients; Linux even runs on many architectures beyond just Intel. So, whereas a virus can be targeted squarely at Windows and Mac users, since they all use pretty much the same technology, reaching more than a small fraction of Linux users is much more difficult. Who wouldn't want to give their company that extra layer of assurance?

### 4. Audience Size

Hand-in-hand with this monoculture effect comes the not particularly surprising fact that the majority of viruses target Windows, and the desktops in your organization are no exception. Millions of people all using the same software make an attractive target for malicious attacks.

### 5. How Many Eyeballs

Linus' Law"--named for Linus Torvalds, the creator of Linux--holds that, "given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow." What that means is that the larger the group of developers and testers working on a set of code, the more likely any flaws will be caught and fixed quickly. This, in other words, is essentially the polar opposite of the "security through obscurity" argument.

With Windows and Mac, it's a limited set of paid developers who are trying to find problems in the code. They adhere to their own set timetables, and they don't generally tell anyone about the problems until they've already created a solution, leaving the door open to exploits until that happens. Not a very comforting thought for the businesses that depend on that technology.

In the Linux world, on the other hand, countless users can see the code at any time, making it more likely that someone will find a flaw sooner rather than later. Not only that, but users can even fix problems themselves. Microsoft may tout its large team of paid developers, but it's unlikely that team can compare with a global base of Linux user-developers around the globe. Security can only benefit through all those extra "eyeballs."

Once again, none of this is to say that Linux is impervious; no operating system is. And there are definitely steps Linux users should take to make their systems as secure as possible, such as enabling a firewall, minimizing the use of root privileges, and keeping the system up to date. For extra peace of mind, there are also virus scanners available for Linux, including ClamAV. These are particularly good measures for small businesses, which likely have more at stake than individual users do.

It's also worth noting that security firm Secunia recently declared that Apple products have more security vulnerabilities than any others--including Microsoft's. Either way, however, when it comes to security, there's no doubt that Linux users have a lot less to worry about.

## Community Programs

### COMMUNITY POTLUCK DINNER & VALENTINES DAY COOKIES

Join us for a friendly dinner at the community center and enjoy some delicious Valentines Day cookies. We will provide rotisserie chicken to kick off the dinner. Cookie decorating will include sprinkles and different colors of frosting. Bring a dish to share with the group, and come relax with us. If you have any questions, please contact aabergmann@ucdavis.edu.



When: Sunday, February 5 at 6pm  
Where: Solano Park Community Center

### TRIP TO ROCKNASIUM

On Wednesday nights, at the Rocknasium, students are able to climb for \$5. If any residents are interested in taking advantage of this great deal,



we can meet at the community center at 7pm and walk over to the Rocknasium. Rock climbing is a lot of fun and a challenging workout. For more information, please contact Corey Coates, RA for Solano Park, by email at cncoates@ucdavis.edu.

When: Wednesday February 8 at 7pm  
Where: Meeting at the SPCC and walking to the Rocknasium

### DESSERT NIGHT

Valentine's Day is over, so let us recover with some healthy dessert options. Bring some of your favorite fruits to share with neighbors. We will have yogurt to pair with your fruit and will have warm drinks available as well. While eating we will also have a table available to make some beaded jewelry. Hope to see you there! For more information, please contact Corey Coates, RA for Solano Park, by email at cncoates@ucdavis.edu.



When: Wednesday February 15 from 7:30pm-9 pm  
Where: Solano Park Community Center

### COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

We will share a breakfast around hot chocolate and croissants to celebrate the Carnival! Kids will enjoy a craft shop for making paper masks and hats. At 11am, depending on the weather, we will go for a parade around Solano Park, so please bring pan and whistle to make some noise! If you have any questions, contact David at dgomes@ucdavis.edu.

When: Saturday, February 25 at 9am  
Where: Solano Park Community Center



## Monthly Maintenance Tips

### Submitted by Solano Park Maintenance

#### Apartment Heating Issues:

- If you have problems with your heater after hours (after 4pm or on weekends or holidays), please contact an RA for assistance. They will come to your apartment and re-light your heater or get you a portable heater to use until repairs can be made.
- Also, please make sure that you have nothing stored on top of your heater as this is a fire hazard.
- Try to keep toys and other items from going under the heater.

## Holidays and Anniversaries

### **February 2—Groundhog Day [USA]**

Old belief that if the sun shines on Candlemas Day, or if the groundhog sees his shadow when he emerges on this day, six weeks of winter will ensue.

### **February 4—Birth of Rosa Lee Parks [USA]**

US civil right leader who initiated a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, when she refused to relinquish her seat a white man.

### **February 8—Kitchen God Celebration [China, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, USA]**

This observation is a traditional farewell ceremony for T'sao Zang, Prince of the Oven. Many Chinese homes have a picture of the Kitchen God hanging above the stove; throughout the year, the Kitchen God watches over the household from his altar in the kitchen and observes the family activities. The twenty-third day of the twelfth lunar month is when the Kitchen God is sent back to heaven, where the following day, he will report on the behavior of

each family member to the Jade Emperor. The sending off ceremony is very important; sweet foods like sugar, preserved winter melon, and malt sugar candy are offered by family members to "bribe" T'sao Zang so that he may present a sweetened version of their deeds or misdeeds — dried grass and water are also offered to the horse that serves as the Kitchen God's transport. T'sao Zang is sent to heaven by burning his image; the smoke rising to the heavens represents his journey to the Jade Emperor. A new picture of him is then placed above the stove for the coming year.

### **February 12—Birth of Abraham Lincoln [1809]**

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States. Once regarded as the "Great Emancipator" for his forward strides in freeing the slaves, he was criticized a century later when the Civil Rights movement gained momentum for his caution in moving toward equal rights. If he is judged in the

historical context, however, it can be seen that he was far in advance of most liberal opinion. He was assassinated on 15 April 1865.

### **February 12 - Establishment of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-NAACP [U.S.A.]**

The oldest and largest civil rights organization in the US, the primary goal of the NAACP is the "elimination of all barriers to political, educational, social and economic equality" for Blacks and other racial minorities. (1909)

### **February 28—Kalevala Day [Finland]**

The Kalevala is Finland's national epic and is observed throughout the country with lectures, parades and recitations to honor Elias Lonnrot, a country doctor, folklorist and philologist who compiled the Kalevala in 1835. The Kalevala has greatly influenced the development of modern Finnish literature.



# Calendar of Events

## February 2017

\*\*All residents are welcome to attend all programs. All events held in the Community Center unless otherwise noted.\*\*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> <u>Potluck Dinner</u> SPCC @ 6pm	6	7	<b>8</b> <u>Trip to Rocknasium</u> SPCC @ 7pm	9	10	11
12	13	14	<b>15</b> <u>Dessert Night</u> SPCC @ 7:30pm	16	17	18
19	<b>20</b> University Holiday— Solano Park Office Closed	21	22	23	24	<b>25</b> <u>Community Breakfast</u> SPCC @ 9am
26	27	28				



**The Park at UC Davis**

Solano Park  
Phone: 530-752-3958  
Fax: 530-752-0484  
E-mail: [studenthousing@ucdavis.edu](mailto:studenthousing@ucdavis.edu)

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[http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/housing/apartments\\_orchard\\_solano.asp](http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/housing/apartments_orchard_solano.asp)

The **Park Messenger** is published by Student Housing, at the University of California, Davis. Our goal is to communicate with Park residents, campus departments and the community of Davis. We encourage reader suggestions, criticisms and articles. Let us hear from you.

Editor:  
Corey Coates

Assistant & Desktop Publishing:  
Andrea Gallegos

Contributors:  
Audrey Bergmann  
Corey Coates  
David Gomes  
Ann Gunion  
Peter Menard-Warwick

### The Park Messenger online:

[http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/current/park\\_messenger.asp](http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/current/park_messenger.asp)

## Did you know?

### Eligibility Requirements:

Student Housing requires all students to meet our eligibility requirements to continue living in Solano Park Apartments. Students must have full-time registered status during fall, winter and spring quarters/semesters. Full-time status is defined at 12 units for quarter students and 10 units for semester students. Students who do not meet the requirement are required to register for additional classes or submit a notice to move out. Please be aware of these requirements when you register. Please contact the Solano Park Office at 530-752-3958 if you have any questions.

### Large Item Dumping:

Unwanted personal items such as

couches, dressers, desks, and other furnishings left behind detract from the visual appearance of our complexes. In addition, our dumpster areas that have unwanted items, often blocks access for trash pick-up. Student Housing then has to pay for staff time, dump fees, and gas to remove these unwanted items. As a result, if any personal items are left at the dumpsters upon vacate, you will be billed for the full cost of removal/dumping.

**Cable TV:** Cable is provided via closed circuit therefore, other cable services cannot be added or requested in Solano Park.

**DSL:** DSL does not function in Solano Park. A free T1 connection is provided to all leaseholders in

Solano Park.

**Mailboxes:** Mailboxes are to be used only to receive mail for the tenant and other occupants listed on the current lease agreement.

**Safety Escort Service:** Need assistance while walking home at night? Call 752-1727 if you would like a safety escort while walking alone on campus at night. A Cal Aggie Host will meet you and escort you to your destination on campus.

We want our complex to remain a safe place to live. Report any suspicious activity to Campus Police.