

Tahoe book a finalist for national award

Tahoe Writers Works literary publication “EDGE, Volume 5” was recently recognized as a finalist in the 2012-13 Next Generation Indie Book Awards in the best anthology category.

The Next Generation Indie Book Awards is the largest not-for-profit book awards program for indie authors and independent publishers. In its fifth year of operation, the Next Generation Indie Book Awards was established to recognize and honor the most exceptional independently published books in 60 different categories, for the year, and is presented by Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group in cooperation with Marilyn Allen of Allen O’Shea Literary Agency.



Tahoe Writers Works is a group of writers, poets and other individuals who are interested in the art of writing. In addition to monthly meetings and writing workshops, TWW writes and direct numerous theater performances including the “Murder Mystery Radio Theatre” and hosts “A Celebration of Writers Around the Lake”. TWW has published its literary publication, EDGE, for the past five years, and this is the second national award that it has won.

For more information, call (530) 577. 2005 or go online.

Murder mystery play coming to the South Shore

Are you good at solving murders?

If yes, then you will want to participate in the interactive “Great Gadfly Murder Mystery” at the Valhalla Grand Hall.

J. J. Gadfly is Lake Tahoe’s most foremost and respected philanthropist, whose cultural and environmental endeavors are almost as legendary as his lavish weekend soirees. So why do so many people seem to want to do him in? Why, indeed would Strom Makeabuckman, Gadfly’s business rival in Chicago, become so livid toward Gadfly? Why would the lovely golf champion, Borden Withitall, have a personal grudge to settle with Gadfly? And why is the mysterious Mr. Kliffhanger, who showed up one Christmas morning, at the fabulous Gadfly lakeshore mansion and never seemed to have left, now muttering odd comments like, “plotting revenge?”



Could one of these people commit murder? Find out Aug. 11. Photo/Provided

Learn the answers to these and other questions when the Tahoe

Tallac Association and Tahoe Writers Works, in conjunction with the Great Gatsby Festival, unveil the world premiere of "The Great Gadfly Murder Mystery". Doors open at 7pm Aug. 11 for this one-night show. Cost is \$60 for adults, \$50 for children under 12, and includes a buffet dinner and complimentary beverage.

For tickets and information, call (530) 541.4975 or go online.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

Eve is a very sweet, but shy short-haired cat who is scared at the shelter. She is about 5-years-old and doesn't mind other well mannered animals.



She has been an indoor cat.

Eve is spayed, microchipped, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go online to see photos and description of all pets at the shelter.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz

Friends' tips, radio still drive musical choices

By Sam Ward, USA TODAY

The digital revolution may not be as revolutionary as believed, according to a music survey that found listeners more in tune with friends' tips and radio than blogs and social networking.

The Nielsen study shows that file sharing, legal and illicit, is not a primary source of discovering and acquiring music, and that only 10 percent of fans share music on social network sites. Those uploading music: 8 percent.

Positive recommendations from friends are most likely to influence music purchases for 57 percent of respondents, compared to the 27 percent who prefer music blogs and chat rooms.

Data were collected from 3,000 online surveys for the Nielsen Music 360 Study, a comprehensive look at U.S. consumer interaction with music: where it's consumed, through which devices, apps and services, digital vs. physical preferences, the process of discovery, buying decisions, retailer choices, concert attendance and more.

Read the whole story

Confiscated items from travelers go to highest bidder

By Ravali Reddy, Sacramento Bee

Have you ever wondered what happened to the items you have had to surrender at airport security over the years?

There's a chance your confiscated belongings found a new owner Saturday at the state property auction in Natomas run by the California Department of General Services.

The auction featured hundreds of items that have been confiscated by the national Transportation Security Administration and the California Highway Patrol, along with surplus equipment from various state agencies. Items ranging from computers and cellphones to office furniture and jewelry were made available to the public.

"Most of the crowd consists of small businesses and resellers," said Monica Hassan, a spokeswoman for General Services. "We're expecting to see somewhere between 300 and 600 people come through the auction."

Read the whole story

Do you have a calendar dog?

Lake Tahoe pets are invited to star in a calendar project to benefit local Tahoe pets in need. Pets are eligible to become a 2013 Tahoe Pet Calendar Cover Pet, Pet of the Month or be part of a Tahoe Pets on Parade montage.

Photo submission deadline is Aug. 31.

This is sponsored by the Lake Tahoe Humane Society and Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Information, photo tips, entry rules and a submission form are available online or by dropping by the office at 1221 Emerald Bay Road.

The calendar theme is pets at Tahoe.

The submission fee is \$20 per entry. Every paid entry – whether selected or not – receives a free calendar upon publication. All proceeds benefit local Tahoe animals in need. The Lake Tahoe Humane Society and S.P.C.A. has been serving the pets and people of the Greater Lake Tahoe Basin for 45 years. All proceeds from the Tahoe Pet Calendar Project will stay in Tahoe.

Science day to educate youths about Lake Tahoe

Children are invited to spend Aug. 11 with scientists learning about the unique ecology, function, restoration and preservation of Lake Tahoe.

The 13th annual Children's Environmental Science Day is a free event sponsored by the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

More than 40 interactive science activities hosted by organizations around the region will be available for children ages 6 and up. The day will include interactive science demonstrations by UC Davis scientists, local agency and nonprofit organization staff, and AmeriCorps members. Hands-on activities are designed for the whole family.

Children's Environmental Science Day will be at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences in Incline Village on the Sierra Nevada College campus at 291 Country Club Drive from 1-4pm.

Tahoe residents work on New Yorker's Burning Man artwork

A team of 50 craftsmen from across the country, including people in Lake Tahoe, is creating The Life Cube, an interactive public art installation at Burning Man.

Scott Cohen will begin on-site construction in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada in mid-August.

“I am overwhelmed with their support – donations of time, materials, tools, and other resources to help make my dream a reality,” Cohen said in an email to *Lake Tahoe News* of the support he has received.

Only a few art projects are authorized for burning at the end of the weeklong festival. The Life Cube will be one of them.

Cohen said he conceived The Life Cube as an aesthetic interpretation of his own belief that if you write down your goals, wishes and milestones, you will have a better chance of achieving them.

“The Life Cube’s art installation offers a stimulating and thoughtful place for people to meet and reflect on what they want in life, and encourages them to post their messages and deposit their written goals and aspirations into slots in the Cube,” the New York artist said. “TLC burns at week’s end in a cathartic fire ceremony committing all the wishes to ash and flame.”

The burning will be at midnight Sept. 1.

London’s vibrancy spills forth on every streetcorner

By Susan Wood

LONDON – It’s only fitting England’s largest city hosts the

204 nations that make up the family of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

London is a city of vast diversity – given its multicultural atmosphere. The many languages and ethnicities heard and seen on the streets and in the “tube” are as varied as a visitor’s choices of things to do, food to eat, beverages to consume, neighborhoods to scour and places to stay.

Among them, the Shepherd’s Bush neighborhood is what’s termed the West End, where theater is king, the BBC broadcasts, a menagerie of city blocks of Georgian architecture stand and even the history includes a different Olympic time.



Kensington Palace's gardens are full of color. The gardens are free to roam, while there is a fee to tour the palace. Photos/Kathryn Reed

As the only city to host the Games three times, London’s first was staged in Shepherd’s Bush’s “White City” in 1908. Britain ended up winning 56 medals. White City eventually became home to greyhound racing on the speedway.

Today, a modern, hip neighborhood thrives – as reflected by the four-star K West Hotel & Spa on Richmond Way. The decade-old boutique hotel may be all glass at its front entrance, but

it's all eco-friendly green in principle – a gold member of the government-sanctioned Green Tourism Business Scheme among its four notable associations. Little touches can be noticed in the spacious executive double room – including two types of trash cans for waste, dimming recessed lighting and a perfectly-fitting narrow bathtub so there's no waste of water for those who bathe as sport. And the towels are nicely oversized for drying off.

Downstairs, a luxurious, full spa awaits a robe-clad guest who wants to make the most of the water lounging experience for an additional 25 pounds a day. (Check the exchange rate to budget accordingly because the dollar is most often worth much less.)

Steps away from a massaging foot bath is the hydrotherapy hot pool that is equipped with metal chaise lounges to accommodate anyone of any height. (It's much more comfortable than it sounds.) Across from it, the "water fountain" works on the shoulder muscles. If the spa visitor becomes overheated from the steam room or sauna, a unique Snow Paradise room with the simulated white stuff can bring the body temperature down. It's hard to do more than a minute. For longer-lasting relief, a collage of treatments is available for an additional fee.

From the lobby, the K West Lounge is fun and inviting – especially with bartender Carlos at the helm. He goes out of his way to make sure the guest gets what she wants. Upstairs, the Kanteen restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner at reasonable prices. (Recommended: sweet potato fries and a raspberry crème brulee in the evening with Wimbledon on the "tele" make a good room picnic until starting the next day with a filling full English breakfast in the Kanteen restaurant.) A guest can either opt for a hot breakfast there or the continental version served in the lounge downstairs for an extra room charge.

After the Olympics in September, K West rooms run from 127 pounds a night for a junior double to 177 pounds for an

executive double or 268 for a suite.

With cushy seats and rectangular, rock fireplace in the lounge as well as piped-in jazz and mood-enhancing colored lighting throughout the hotel, the comfortable, relaxing K West offers subtle and blatant amenities that make a guest's stay so comfortable one may not want to leave if not for the city of London calling.

Stepping out for the day highlights the new and the old

When venturing outside with the chirping birds, K West Hotel is an ideal launching pad for inviting walks around Shepherd's Bush or hopping the London Underground metro to see the varied sites.

The West End touts some of the best theatrical performances in the world. For one, there's the captivating "War Horse" that started in the National Theater and moved over to New London Theatre. Walking through the Piccadilly Circus neighborhood is a carnival experience. Pedestrians jam the sidewalks, lights are flashing at night and the place is electric with activity. There and farther east to Covent Garden where the pub crawl is the scene, street performers try their hand at entertaining pedestrians with either gravity-defying feats or statuesque displays.

At a slower pace, a meandering stroll from Shepherd's Bush down the bustling, shop-lined Bayswater Road and historic High Street of Kensington can lead a walker to the ornate Kensington Palace and colorful Gardens, where the late Princess Diana lived with her sons William and Harry. About a 15-minute walk from the palace, a visitor can see where she is honored at the Diana Memorial Fountain on the corner of Hyde Park. It's a circular wading pool that brings out all ages.

Kensington Palace tours cost 12 pounds. (For about 150 pounds, the London Pass with transportation card gives a visitor access to more than 50 attractions and six days of riding the

Underground.)

The palace built in 1605 and restored a year ago features the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection, a Queen Victoria story told through quotes from room to room and a film of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebration of 1897. Queen Elizabeth II's ceremony was set last June, a few weeks before the Olympic Games.

A quick hop and connecting change on the Underground from one of two Shepherd's Bush stations (Hammersmith and City or Central lines) within walking distance from K West Hotel can place a London visitor in the heart of Olympic Park, where Blue Badge Tour guides provided a thorough history and view of the park and surrounding structures in the East London area of Stratford. (Crossing the city only takes between 45 minutes to one hour and is convenient to use.)

From the far east side, visitors have ample choices to backtrack on a sightseeing day – by train from the multitude of stations, bus or ideally on foot to take it all in.

A bridge-to-bridge pedestrian tour on your own over the windy River Thames is highly recommended given their different personalities and views.

The gothic Tower Bridge, one of the most famous in the world, has donned giant Olympic rings for the host city's special occasion. A tour, which is included on the London Pass, costs 8 pounds without and includes a trip to the Victorian engine room that's so immaculate one could almost eat off the hardware. Either way, it's well worth the trip down London's memory lane and a high-level walkway featuring displays of other famous bridges of the world and past Olympic Games from one end of the bridge to the other.

Across the way, standing on the London Bridge provides a world-class view east to the Tower of London fortress housing the heavily-guarded Crown Jewels and west to Shakespeare's

Globe Theatre and Southwark Bridge. Each bridge characterizes a different personality of this exciting city along the River Thames. The waterfront walkways are alive and electric with visitors hitting the famous attractions.

Due southwest of the Tower Bridge is grand central for government – the House of Parliament with Big Ben alongside. The complex may be one of the most recognizable landmarks in London, but it's Westminster Abbey across the street that is a must for sightseers wanting to immerse themselves into the heart of London.

Its history is unsurpassed in terms of grandeur and importance. One can almost feel an apple drop when standing in front of Sir Isaac Newton's memorial. The working church's acoustics are like no other with its high, majestic ceiling and walls adorned with stained glass and soaring vaults to demonstrate its glory to God. The church was designed in the shape of a cross. (No photographs can be taken, but the audio tour provides a long-lasting visual.) Tours cost 8 pounds without the London Pass.

A longer walk over the Westminster Bridge can transport a visitor from the 10th century to the modern age of the London Eye. The ride, which crosses between a Ferris wheel and a gondola, provides the best 360-degree views of the city at 443 feet up. In London, its height is only surpassed by the city's newest skyline addition – the modern-looking, pointed Shard, which opened at more than 1,000-feet high just prior to the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

An Olympic first

A short, direct tube ride due south of Shepherd's Bush gets a visitor to Wimbledon, home of one of the four tennis grand slams. The All England Club is hosting the venue in the Olympic Games for the first time – something 2012 French Open winner and clay king Rafael Nadal was quoted in the Wimbledon

museum as saying “is fitting for the best tennis club in the world” to host. Many tennis greats from Serena Williams and Roger Federer to Maria Sharapova and hometown hero Andy Murray have shown up for the Games.

Like the Olympics, Wimbledon tickets are expensive or hard to come by with a discount – bringing most of the tennis faithful fans to queue. The process requires standing in line in the wee morning hours with thousands of others. Once in the grounds, the lucky fans will find court seats.

All the work is worth the effort, despite the usual threat or reality of rain. New over the last few years has been the premier Centre Court retractable roof and giant Jumbotron screen set up on the front field for grounds spectators to watch the television broadcast.

Up-close and personal with television

A 15-minute walk from the K West hotel down Wood Lane invites a sightseer wanting the more unconventional tour to the grounds of the BBC, Britain’s primary television network watched by 20 million viewers. The tour lasts up to two hours and costs about 12 pounds.

The complex is shaped in a giant question mark, resembling an ideal motto for the proud, serious network, which tour guide Debbie said differs from CNN’s broadcasts that look like footage of “a disaster movie.” The television news operation alone employs more than 2,000 people and is divided between “planned” and “breaking” news. Guests of the tour get a brief view of the busy newsroom.

The BBC Weather Centre cranks out 140 forecasts every day; something a tour guest can try in front of a green screen. The tour is part learning, part interactive and involves waiting rooms and studios where Mariah Carey, the Metallica band and Madonna have sat to go on the air and well-known shows like “Absolutely Fabulous” have been taped.

The BBC will move to Manchester in the near future.

Moving across the city changes the scene

Three Underground station stops away from Shepherd's Bush off the Central Line opens up the world of London's largest of its Royal Parks – Hyde Park.

Just on its edge, K West's sister hotel – the four-star, traditional Lancaster London that started in 1967 – sits steps away from the Lancaster Gate station off the Central Line.

Location, location, location seems to be the mantra here. A guest could spend a whole day in Hyde Park. For three years, the park's lime trees have been pollinated by the hotel's 1 million bees that are kept in rooftop hives. Among others, the Lancaster's efforts have given it the eco-friendly reputation as the Green Hotel of the Year this year from the Considerate Hoteliers Association made up of its lodging peers. In October, the hotel will aptly host the London Honey Show, and at least 500 people are expected.

The 416-room Lancaster hotel serves the honey in its Island Grill, the floor level casual restaurant off the street that's one of two it runs along with a bar. The Thai eatery, named Nipa, is reasonably priced and boasts tasty dishes.

When the Lancaster London Hotel Company owner from Thailand comes to visit, he makes a point of stopping into the restaurant, according to spokeswoman Alison Hull, who added the city has been "transformed" since the arrival of the Olympic Games. Upstairs, the view rooms provide an awe-inspiring, picture-window-sized view of the London skyline and tree-lined park. The rooms start at 199 pounds in September following the Olympics.

(Note of caution: opening those windows may serve to save a guest from an inconsiderate one who decides to smoke at all hours of the night on a non-smoking floor. After three

complaints, security officers and staff elected to do nothing about it.)

Nonetheless, the view will draw a guest outside for the day.

First on the list, no visit to London would be complete without going to the queen's Buckingham Palace for the changing of the guard by her royal staff. The mid-morning spectacle of mass tourism and pomp and circumstance requires patience and height in a crowd.

But with a 25-minute stroll through one end of Hyde Park to the other, the photos alone are worth the 45-minute presentation. To the delight of the masses who fight tooth and nail for an ideal viewing spot, the guard marches in unison – some on horseback, others with swords and yet more with brass and others with big guns.

The brass guard band covered a song list from the Britain anthem to jazz and even a Billy Joel tune, "Moving Out," before the members did so.

"I can't believe they're playing jazz," one amazed man said in the crowd.

Upon the guard and crowd disbursing, the best of the estimated millions of photos shot can be grabbed. The return from the southeast corner of Hyde Park to Lancaster Gate on the northwest end can be made on foot with an unscheduled trip along the lovely Serpentine channel to watch the birds and boaters. (Recommended: take a stop at the Lido Lounge along the Serpentine for one of England's pub beers to slow things down on a sightseeing marathon.)

Out the door for a short walk to the Knightsbridge neighborhood down Sloan Street may be just what a shopper is looking for. The exclusive boulevard is home to Harrods, a department store extravaganza. Window shopping alone can be a magical experience. Plus, there is a tribute to Princess Diana

and Dodi Fayed.

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Joy Rothschild – 1949-2012; an activist until the end

A life-long advocate for social change, Joy Rothschild never stopped fighting for what she believed in.

In her 63 years she inspired others to be part of the change she sought. She was not one who just talked a good game, but instead spent time and money supporting the issues that were important to her locally and nationally.

Joy passed away Aug. 2 after a courageous battle with cancer.



Joy Rothschild and her dog
AJ.

A native San Franciscan, she was born Jan. 13, 1949. Growing up in the Bay Area at a tumultuous time inspired Joy to speak her mind, get involved and become an activist.

In the late 1960s, Joy traveled to New Orleans where she worked for the rights of farm workers alongside Cesar Chavez.

She worked on the campaigns of John Burton, Sala Burton and Dianne Feinstein. One of her proudest accomplishments was working on Feinstein's 1984 mayoral recall campaign – in which more than 70 percent of the voters said yes to Feinstein.

Shortly after that campaign Joy moved to South Lake Tahoe with the intent of unionizing the culinary workers at the Stateline casinos. While that bid failed, what she gained was a love for Lake Tahoe. She called the area home ever since then.

In 1987, Joy began working as an instructional aide for Lake Tahoe Unified School District. While at Al Tahoe Elementary School she became involved in the classified union and served as its president for several years. In 1989, Joy transferred to South Tahoe Middle School where she worked as a "Challenge" class aide for grades 6-8. These were classes for youths who were smart, but not succeeding in school. Joy connected deeply with youth who were troubled, keeping in touch with many into adulthood.

"She was beloved by the kids for her compassion, humor, wit and kindness. She could get to the toughest kid. And she was so good at it," Cindy Cowen, a teacher at STMS who worked with Joy, said. "She could make the kids laugh, cry, and be better human beings."

Later Joy began working for the district's truancy program and then the McKinney Vento program for homeless students at the district.

Joy and Cowen put together an instructional book titled "It is Our Business" that is used in part today in LTUSD and Alpine

County.

She retired from the district in 2003.

Joy's desire to help troubled youth extended beyond LTUSD. For many years she was a volunteer with Court Appointed Special Advocates. She was also a staff member for CASA El Dorado County.

"Joy was an exceptional advocate for the most troubled youth who needed an honest, straightforward friend and advisor. She formed trusting relationships because she genuinely liked 'her' kids. Each youth that was touched by Joy, knew they had a friend for life," Wendy David, former CASA site manager, said.

Much like there are trail angels for people doing long hikes, Joy took that concept in a different direction. She regularly gave scholarships to Mount Tallac High School students. Not one to want public recognition for her deeds, she would write checks to various organizations that needed help without the direct beneficiaries knowing where the money came from. They include, but are not limited to, Tahoe Magic, Zawadisha Fund, and Ally Club at South Tahoe High School.

"She has been my anonymous Ally donor for the past several years, and it is because of her that I was able to do much of the wonderful work we have with Ally. She is the reason we attended the gay prom, the reason we had snacks each week, and the reason that I felt I was doing the most good possible," Bridey Heidel, Ally advisor and South Tahoe High School teacher, said. "Joy is also the reason I became a teacher. After seeing me substitute teach one day, she held my face and said, 'This is what you must do. It's what you were meant to do.' I never planned on being a teacher ... until that moment."

She helped women and children locally and afar. She made several excursions out of the country as volunteer-vacations where she worked to improve the lives of women and children in

those countries.

Joy participated in every local production of the "Vagina Monologues." This year she was honored as the Vagina Warrior for her dedication to making the lives of women better.

Joy at times was an active member in the local Democratic Club and always a passionate Democrat.

She loved to hike and cross country ski throughout Lake Tahoe.

Joy is survived by her father, Rocky Rothschild of San Francisco; sister Teri Rothschild of San Francisco; several cousins; and an abundance of friends; and her beloved dog AJ.

A celebration of life will be Aug. 14 at 5pm at the home of Wendy and Kerry David, 1300 Keller Road, South Lake Tahoe. Please bring a favorite dish or bottle of wine to share.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CASA El Dorado County, 1354 Johnson Blvd., Ste. 2, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; or South Lake Tahoe Cancer League, 1602 Cherry Hill Circle, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; or Zawadisha Fund: Micro loans for women, P.O. Box 6602, Tahoe City, CA 96145.