

trivial tasks of day to day," Hayes said.

It's the season for giving. This Christmas, I look forward to taking the opportunity to connect with my community and to support Mother Lode artists. Nurture your own senses, nurture your neighbors and their independent pursuits and, in doing so, nurture our community as a whole.

"Art and love are the same thing: It's the process of seeing yourself in things that are not you," wrote American author Chuck Klosterman.

Find your family and friends in artwork, find yourself, find connections and gather the ones you love even closer.

Contact Kayla Eason at kayla2214@hotmail.com

Terry Stickles
Strunk's
Bella Art Design
jewelry can also
be found at
Gallery
Calaveras in
San Andreas.



The castle's shadows crawl over the walls

For years the term "dreaming casually" has fascinated writer, researcher and poet J'aime Rubio, and this December, one vision in her lexicon of dreams finally becomes reality when she shares a labor of love with the public.

On Nov. 7, Sierra Lodestar published a story called, "They Keep Digging: The Sleuths of Hidden History," which mentioned that Rubio, one of the subjects, was very close to releasing her cutting-edge investigation into the history of Ione's Preston Castle. The issue has only been out a few weeks and I've already received a number of emails from readers asking if I know more details about the



J'aime Rubio

Courtesy photo

upcoming book: "What's its full title?" "Where can I buy it?" "Is there going to be a release party?"

Well, it just so happens that I knew the answers to those questions and was evidently remiss in not mentioning them in the story. The full title of the book is, "Behind the Walls: A Historical Exposé of Preston School of Industry." It will be sold nationally online. More to the point, there is going to be a live-book release party for it from 4 to 6 p.m. Dec. 8 at the center for all things hip, happening and literary in Amador County, Clark's Corner.

According to Rubio, the first 10 guests to walk in actually receive a free copy of the book. At 5 p.m.,

she'll do a public reading.

Having just written a feature on Rubio's dogged determination to find the truths that surround Preston's storied and sometimes tortured past, I won't belabor the point again of how interesting her new book is, other than to say that – along with John Lafferty's centennial book – it's likely to be one of the main sources for studying the factual legacy of Preston from here on out.

One person who has been extremely impressed with the work Rubio has put into "Behind the Walls" is Ione author and writing mentor, Kathy Boyd Fellure.

"J'aime has been working so hard on this project," Kathy recently told me. "I think readers are going to be really impressed by how well it turned out."

Members of the Preston Castle Foundation have also expressed gratitude for the investigative work Rubio has done on her blog, "Dreaming Casually," and look forward to the new revelations in her book.

For more than four years, Clark's Corner has been a steadfast anchor of Amador County's literary scene, and on Dec. 8 it will host yet another milestone evening within that movement – helping to keep the

Scott Thomas
Anderson



Amador
in Action

"Behind the
Walls" book
release

.....
WHEN: 4 to 6 p.m.
Dec. 8

.....
WHERE: Clark's
Corner, 12 W. Main
St., Ione

.....
COST: Free to attend

.....
MORE INFO:
274-2233

Gold Country's landscape of prose and poetry glittering onward.

Contact Scott Thomas Anderson at standerson@sierralodestar.com.

Dickens Fair

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