

A gathering place to create (and read)

Carol's Books so much more than a bookstore

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Carol's Books, which has had a presence on Del Paso Boulevard for 15 years, is more of an artists' salon than an independent bookstore, a gathering place where writers, musicians and filmmakers congregate to share and learn.

Of course, there are shelves of books – fiction, nonfiction and children's, mostly by African American authors, with audiobooks coming.

Far beyond that, owner Sharon Wright has brought together a large slice of Sacramento's creative community in what she calls "a safe place, a haven."

"So much amazing talent comes through these doors," she said. "They come here to learn, to share life experiences, to pass on knowledge, to gain skills. I believe the role of the neighborhood bookstore is a delicate balance between philanthropy and business. Our role is being able to maintain both those things."

It was the late trailblazer Carol McNeal who first opened Carol's Books in South

Sacramento in 1984, the first African American-centric bookstore in Sacramento and now the oldest. It was known as "a library of the black experience." When McNeal announced her retirement, Wright stepped in to buy the store and relocate it to Del Paso Boulevard.

Why Del Paso? "North Sacramento had a need for a changing narrative, and I felt that bringing a literary aspect would start to develop that," she explained. "Today this is an amazing community of people looking for entrepreneurial opportunities."

Carol's invariably fills up for its regularly scheduled events, which include comedy night, live music jams, book readings for adults and children, author appearances, and a round table where topics range from screenwriting and book reviews to politics and current events.

Wright has had a long relationship with the California Film Foundation, which regularly comes to Carol's to sponsor a variety of workshops and host guest speakers. Most recently, writer-producer



Sharon Wright has made Carol's Books into a haven for Sacramento writers, musicians and filmmakers.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

Mark S. Allen of ABC's TV show "Morning Blend" appeared to talk about the newly released horror movie "Apparition," which he helped write and produce.

Wright's "troupe" of local directors, actors and writers took first place in the California Film Foundation's 48 Hour Film Festival with their movie, "Perceptions." They've even filmed 12 episodes of a sitcom set in a bookstore called Pages. "I think we'll have that on YouTube," Wright said.

"What we do here is help create opportunities and serve as a platform for others to showcase their talent," she said. "It's about collaboration, but it all revolves around literacy."

For a schedule of Carol's Books events, go to www.instagram.com/carolsbooksstore/



CAROL'S BOOKS

1913 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento
916-600-0151.

Come discover the Boulevard or visit us online at delpasoboulevard.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

Salsa Nights
8 P.M. | \$7

Step onto the dance floor with confidence after these beginning and intermediate salsa lessons. Partners are not needed for this energizing experience led by Mike Del Campo; so, utilize one of the drink specials for a little courage and dance the night away!

📍 Stoney's Rockin Rodeo
1320 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Gaming Events Live
6 P.M. | FREE

Watch "Dragon Ball Z: Karakot" played live by a secret guest gamer! The live game will be streamed for viewers on a 20 x 10 ft digital LED wall. Attendees can also win Dragon Ball Z prizes, including a copy of the game! All ages are welcome, register on eventbrite.

📍 The Rink Studios
1031 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

Family Storytime
1 P.M. | FREE

Join the Sacramento Public Library for Family Storytime! The whole family is invited to partake in songs, rhymes, stories and fingerplay activities to build early literacy skills. Activities focus on ages 0-5.

📍 North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library
2109 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento

WANT YOUR EVENT ON DEL PASO BOULEVARD TO BE FEATURED HERE?

Submit it to our online calendar at <https://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/calendar#!/> and click "Add Event"