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Janey Way Memories:

Thursday Mornings at La Bou



By **MARTY RELLES**
marty@valcomnews.com

I retired from service with the State of California in 2002 after nearly 31 years on the job. I was just 55 years old.

I hadn't planned on retiring that early, but after having cardiac bypass surgery in September of the previous year, I decided it was time to call it quits.

So here I was, still a pretty young man, with no job, and nothing in particular to do. I had to fill up my calendar. That proved easier than I thought.

First, I joined a retired men's club, the Sons in Retirement, Branch 117. I played golf every Monday morning with that group.

Then, I started spending more time with friends and family. In that regard, my mom encouraged me to join her and her Ya Ya sisters (my aunts and their friends) on Thursday mornings at Muffin's Etc. on 57th and H Street.

To tell you the truth, I was a little uncomfortable with that. These ladies were all about 30 years older than me. I asked myself, "Was I ready for this?"

However, finally I made myself go and it has proven to be a long-lasting and worthwhile endeavor.

I can't tell you how much fun and how enlightening this union has been. These ladies have lived long and rich lives. They have wonderful stories to tell. They grew up in the Great Depression and survived World War II. They witnessed the first American astronauts landing on the moon. And, they are just a whole lot of fun to be around.

Take my aunt Alice Goldie, for example. She graduated from Sacramento High School, like

just about everyone in that era, and then enrolled at U.C. Berkeley where she earned her degree in primary education. After college she married, had three children and went on to have a fulfilling career as a teacher.

In addition to her academic excellence, Aunt Alice was a great athlete. Fernando Marsala a well-respected Sacramento contractor once told me that "your aunt Allie was the best athlete at Fruitridge Elementary School." In fact, she has garnered many athletic awards in her life, including gold medals at the U. S. Senior Olympics. We have spent many hours at our Thursday coffee cloches talking about her academic and athletic accomplishments.

The fact is that all of my aunts have enriched my life by sharing their experiences with me at these Thursday morning get-togethers.

Aunt Katie, for example, had a career working for the state of California, ultimately landing at the State Library. She told me once that she had a supervisor who was notorious for walking up from behind his female staff and touching them inappropriately. "Back then," she said, "there wasn't much you could do." Aunt Kay is hardly a feminist, but she has often told me, she is very appreciative for what those strong women did for her sex.

My other aunts have all achieved success in their own right as teachers, business women and house wives.

These days we meet at La Bou on Howe Avenue.

Sadly a couple of my aunts have passed away in the interim, and my cousins, Peggy, Bob, Norma, Pam and Alan have joined the group. Now, we are becoming the older generation of our family.

But the time I have spent on Thursday's at La Bou with my aunts is yet another enriching Janey Way memory.

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Borrow Musical Instruments at MusicLandria.com

by DEAN HAAKENSEN

We used to share most all of our things all of the time. Back before we became whatever it is America has become, paranoid and constantly consuming, compelled to each own one of a thing that we may use only once and then store in a dark corner. I bet we were happier then. We see this in less consumptive communities and cultures today, and all the studies and movements are reflecting that we want to share, and it's most efficient and socio-psychologically satisfying when we do. We see shared Zipcars, Portland's Car2Go, AIRBNB style home sharing, Cooperative Housing... and the timeless institution of the Library. Sacramento Library has its "Library of Things" at the Arcade Branch (a small selection of musical instruments, hopefully to have Tools soon). AND NOW, more conveniently located in the downtown, we have the region's largest public library of musical instruments in Buddy Hale and Rachel Freund's Library of MusicLandria.

A few years back, Buddy Hale frequented Berkeley Public Library's "Tool Lending Library". Being a musician (currently drummer for local project "Deep Pools" fka Cove, while his year-long partner, in love and MusicLandria, Rachel Freund, is a clarinetist), the brain-seed had been planted to apply that successful lending model to "musical instruments and other music-related resources". Buddy moved to Sacramento in 2014, found Rachel and their 11th and S downtown apartment that currently houses MusicLandria, and enrolled at CSUS. Says Hale, "I decided to make MusicLandria my thesis and the focus of my time at school. Studying business with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship has

been a fantastic way for me to apply my class projects and assignments to the growth and development of MusicLandria."

The MusicLandria Mission contains the best of what we want our community libraries to offer: Providing Instruments at your disposal (some prohibitively expensive, ensuring poor and rich alike can come together to ROCK) and "Musical History Preservation" of non-mainstream musical technologies (analog synth instruments, folk instruments, etc.), providing things with which to Musically Educate and Inspire. They have held several "Musical Instrument Petting Zoos" at ArtBeast and The Crocker Museum (and recent fundraisers for homeless-children-aiding Tubman House), where kids of all ages engage and are inspired by musical instruments they may have never touched otherwise. When I stopped by the Library to donate an Auto-Harp ("which I can go back and check out anytime" I kept reminding myself), I noticed a new looking Theremin... people go their whole lives not knowing what a Theremin is. It's apropos the naming of MusicLandria references Ancient Egypt's Library of Alexandria, erected to house history and grow boundlessly (a branch of which was open to commoners, unheard of 2200 years ago).

Bring MusicLandria your unused instruments! - they'll store them, and you can check them back out anytime. Luthier/instrument-repair donated services would prove valuable to anything returned broken (although local genius Drew Walker reports an amplifier he recently borrowed was clean and in perfect working order). And MusicLandria will inevitably need a non-residence shopfront, so any angel investors or donors of



Photo by Dean Haakenson

warehouse or storage space would be greatly appreciated. Get your Library card and/or donate anything you like at www.MusicLandria.com, or contact Buddy@musiclandria.com.

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Remarkably Charming Tudor!
This 3 bed, 2 bath (plus an office) Tudor has been rebuilt with incredible domestic comforts. This home boasts a formal Living room with built-ins and a cozy fireplace, an inviting formal Dining room, and a well-appointed Kitchen complete.
\$729,950

Charming East Sac Cottage!
This darling 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage is dripping with charm! This 1148 square foot home presents a formal Living room with a cozy fireplace, a formal Dining room, and an inviting Kitchen with an eat-in area. The backyard presents the opportunity to entertain with a patio area.
\$439,950

Exquisite Land Park Spanish Colonial!
This elegant Spanish Colonial home has been impressively renovated while preserving the original character. This 4 bedroom, 3 bath property boasts formal Living and Dining rooms with hand-carved beams, and a Gourmet Kitchen that opens to a Great Room.
\$1,499,950



Faces and Places:

Sutter Medical Center hosted trick or treat for peds patients

Photos courtesy

Sutter Children's Center, Sacramento patients strolled through the Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center to collect Halloween treats on Friday, Oct. 30, as

staff set up trick-or-treat stations so the children wouldn't miss out on the annual tradition while they are in the hospital. Staff handed out non-food treats to patients.

Fabulous Forties holiday event returns

42nd annual Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour set for Dec. 4-6

One of Northern California's most loved walking holiday home tours returns this December, with five elegantly decorated homes in East Sacramento's historic Fabulous Forties neighborhood open for viewing. For 42 years, this popular tour has grown over the years to include over 5,000 patrons. The homes showcase elaborate renovations while preserving historic design, custom interior decoration and creative holiday décor that is sure to ignite the spirit of the season. Homes on the tour this year range in style from a contemporary Prairie-style home to a classic Colonial. The tour includes a holiday Boutique and Café located at Sacred Heart Parish School at 39th and H Streets. This year's talented interior and floral designers will include: Kerrie Kelly Design Lab, Haus Home and



Gift, Zina Sheya Designs, and Design Alchemy. Tour tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on Dec. 4. Organizers predict another sell-out this year and suggest advance purchases when possible. Please check the website for ticket retail-

er locations or to purchase tickets online! www.sacredhearthousetour.com.

Hours for the tour are as follows: Friday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free holiday concert set for Dec. 7

Enjoy music from Mozart to Gershwin with a little Sousa in between at Sacramento Concert Band's free Holiday Concert on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave. in Carmichael. The Sacramento Concert Band, a community band under the direction of Grant Parker, is embarking on its 48th season. After intermission and a raffle for homemade teddy bears and wall hangings, jump into the holiday spirit when you hear season favorites such as "Fantasy on a Bell Carol," "The Christmas Song" (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), and "Sleigh Ride." The concert is free of charge, but donations to feed the hungry will be accepted.

in age from 27 to 88. The band was formed in 1969 and is known for the quality of its performances and for playing a wide variety of music. Some of the musicians have been with the band since it was formed.

Conductor Grant Parker is chair of the music department at Cosumnes River College where he teaches music theory, history, and musicianship. He has conducted the Sacramento Concert Band since 1990 and says that, "Nothing pleases the musicians more than having a large enthusiastic audience."

The playlist for the concert includes: "The Symphonic Gershwin," "King Cotton," "The Marriage of Figaro," "The Magnificent Seven," and "Yosemite Autumn." Holiday music will feature: "A Fireside Christmas," "Bethlehem Triptych," "It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas," "Fantasy on a Bell Carol," "Sleigh Ride," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and "The Christmas Song".

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McKinley Pond meeting sparked heated conversation

By the East Sacramento News

On October 19th a crowded, contentious public meeting about the McKinley Park Pond's survival and safety pitted some citizen-volunteers against City Councilmember Jeff Harris and City Staff. At issue was the City's rehabilitation plan for the four-foot deep local landmark, a plan that consisted of using bottom aeration and putting in a pond lining. This approach would also deepen the pond to almost ten feet. Some neighbors oppose this, calling it a "cheap fix" that won't last long.

Once nurtured, McKinley Pond now struggles to survive. Green, sludge-like water, diseased and injured wildlife, decaying foliage, debris jettisoned by picnickers, even human toileting, have

turned a serene landmark into a sick eyesore. During the economic slowdown the City claimed it lacked sufficient funds to address the problem. The pond made headlines October 5th when Judy McClaver, a pond restoration proponent and volunteer, discovered the body of Elliot Pratt, a fifty seven year old victim of a possible drowning.

McClaver began working on her own three years ago to rescue and restore the pond. In time others joined her and they labored to clear festering garbage, remove bamboo, groom plants and educate the public about the dangers of feeding bread to ducks (it creates wing deformities in ducklings, malnourishment in adults and increases bird excrement in and around pond). Many also feared that children might accidentally fall into the contaminated water. During the meeting Harris stated that he doubted most of the reported happenings at the pond, which included kids falling into the pond and toileting. But Firefighter Chris Harvey said he had skated on it himself as a child and once fallen in.



Shown here are McKinley Pond fence ideas that Judy McClaver provided.

Also at issue was a proposed 3-foot-fence that McClaver and supporters believed would protect children, deter adults from using it to toilet and keep detritus from blowing in. Displaying a drawing of the low fence, McClaver noted that it was open, did not obscure the

view of the pond, and was designed to be eventually covered by plantings while allowing wildlife access to the pond. She asserted that it could become a green, living guardian of the facility while plants would help filter water runoff from the park. She also stated that if a fence had surrounded the pond Pratt might not have wandered or fallen in. "You don't know that," Harris countered.

Contractor Cory Severson of Pacific Aquaspace presented no designs or drawings to help the audience make visual sense of what he presented as the City's potential proposal. Harris was challenged for lack of preparation. However, Harris' goal for the meeting was not to present the plan, but to gather information and opinions from the community about the pond's future.

See Pond, page 7

Some mention was made of removing the islands in the pond. One audience member stated that the big island was put in in the mid-eighties for waterfowl resting and safe haven and should not be removed especially given the pond is with in a migratory flyway.

Harris called on Joann Sales for her question. Sales rose and said that people had come to the meeting to hear what Judy McClaver had to say. This sparked applause and McClaver told the assemblage that she was the person who had been maintaining the park pond for the past three years. She detailed its dire status and her repeated problems with a slow moving or obstructive City bureaucracy.

One member of the public, Martin Palomar, inquired

Pond:

Continued from page 6

about water testing results. The contractor hired for the renovation plan said the testing was not yet completed. But McClaver said that the City tested for fecal coliform bacteria two and a half years ago, and the results showed a fecal-bacterial contamination eight times above the acceptable level. At that time the pond also tested positive for orthophosphates (a colorless, solid tribasic acid used in the manufacture of fertilizers) and the pond was declared a human health hazard. Three other city ponds tested did not even come close to McKinley's results.

When questioned after the meeting McClaver told a Channel 13 interviewer that she thought Harris had come to the meeting predetermined to reject her information and input. She said also that Harris stated that a three-foot fence would cost about \$40,000 and a 6-foot-fence about \$100,000. He then took a poll regarding a fence presenting no description of what a fence would look like at the beginning of the meeting, before presentations had been made and before all sides had been heard. The attendees were



It was a full house at the pond meeting.

left to imagine a chain-link or wrought iron bars. No input on a design was even asked for. East Sacramento Improvement Association said their board was against it on an aesthetics basis without looking at McClaver's fence visual or noting any safety issues.

On Nov. 1 Harris told an East Sacramento Preservation board member that he will hold another comprehensive public meeting and will present visuals and a full explanation of the City's proposed plan. "The community can weigh in," he said.

Days later Judy McClaver was suddenly, without explanation, denied use of the City rowboat she had been using for three years for pond work without any

issues. Harris said the interim park manager (She is a Director) and the city attorney decided that it was a liability to allow a private citizen to use the city's (non motorized) vehicle without a city official present who is trained in water safety. "This sudden denial of boat use to a citizen who has used it for years doing the City's work is ironic," said East Sacramento Preservation president, Janet Maira.

The next public meeting, a positive, inclusive move on Harris' part, will likely be well attended. East Sacramentans have grown increasingly aware that their pond is failing, and many will want to participate in its rescue. Meeting date to be determined.

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Ann Menebroker, East Sac Poet

By CORKY OAKES

Tucked away in East Sacramento, a poet quietly works her craft. Ann Menebroker, long-time resident of East Sacramento, says she began writing poetry "probably" in her teens. Her contributions to the Sacramento poetry world and beyond indicate she never looked back.

In the late 1950s, with a two-year course in poetry composition under her belt, Menebroker joined the California Federation of Chaparral Poets. With Joyce Odam, another established Sacramento writer, she helped start a local chapter, The El Camino Poets. This was followed by joining The Sacramento Poetry Center, originally known as The

Poet Tree. Menebroker recalls, "We were always struggling for money to keep going, through grants, membership dues, and such. Poetry is the low guy on the totem pole of the arts. We were grateful for whatever we received."

Menebroker's style has been described as "no apologies asked" and the "anti-love" poet. "Mostly I'm talking about experience in living." The overriding quality in her poetry is one of presence to the slightest detail, regardless of seeming insignificance. With a droll sense of humor and slight impishness, that presence brings the reader directly into her experience.

Menebroker has written over 20 collections, numerous



Ann Menebroker.

broad-sides and has been published in small magazine publications of poetry. She has participated in many projects including anthologies, marathon poetry readings and collaborations. The first collaborative effort was published in 1985, titled *Landing Signals*. It accepted "poets who were born here or had lived in Sacramento at some point and contributed to the poetry scene." Menebroker is quick to share credit with many other members and supporters of the Sacramento poetry scene, including former Mayor Anne Rudin who designated October 26th as Sacramento Poetry Day.

In a one-time venture, *Watching From The Sky* was published in 1988 by Menebroker and fellow-editor Martha Ann Blackman under their own publishing name Pinyon Pine Press. Menebroker explained that the small anthology "contained work directed against war, and caring for environmental issues. We dedicated the anthology to Grandmothers for Peace, an organization begun in Sacramento by Barbara Wiedner, in 1983."

"One of the most exciting anthologies I appeared in was *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* because one of my grand kids was impressed with my

Al's in Locke

An old river restaurant
with ketchup on the table
order up rare or medium steaks

the anchored house boats
and sailing boats spill out
their cocktail people, who
look for a "Mexican taxi"
to get to Al's

I'm driving a pale blue ford
pick-up truck, full of deeply
tanned bodies, all laughing
and pressing together

the fish are so far below the river
you could swear they didn't
exist, or even the town itself

just the people, oiled and hungry
© Ann Menebroker, Rattlesnake Press

poetry." Also featured was Tupac Shakur, her grandchild's favorite musician. "I was lucky to be part of it, for as I understand it, it was about ready to go to print when someone presented my name and I squeezed in with one poem. I had no idea who would be included in it. It was incredible!"

Menebroker tells of participating in The Tough Old Broads reading in June, in 2014, that made her "soar." The reading was held at the Verge Center for the Arts in downtown Sacramento. "Usually I'm an anxious reader, but on that occasion, all of that was swept away due to the audience, which I felt was suddenly part of my family; remarkable, satisfying in every way. I read with Viola Weinberg, one of the two poets laureate, the first, for Sacramento; Kathryn Hohlwein, a retired professor from CSUS; and Victoria Dalkey, well known as the art

correspondent for the Sacramento Bee."

Although she doesn't have any projects pending, a 16-poem portfolio was recently published by Sore Dove Press, Soheyl Dahi, the publisher, out of San Francisco. A minimal amount of the portfolio was printed. The title is "The Fish Who Swallowed the Stars."

What is a poet's greatest challenge? "Personally, I think the most significant challenge for a poet is to remain true to his or her own style and need in writing...to be aware of what goes on around you. To be open to other points of view, and to be okay with getting a little crazy around the edges. My greatest joy is in the friendships I've had over all of these years with the poets, not just here, but across the country and outside of it. These people became an important part of my life, a direction and goal, a harmony that kept me from a lot of sour notes. I love them."

Local electricians win antique medals and firearms in Witherell's military auction

Jeff and Jarren Stone, father and son who own Sacramento-based Stone's Electric, came away from Witherell's recent live and online auction with many of their coveted items.

Jarren Stone got a 101st Airborne World War II medal grouping that went for \$350. "World War II was a big war," said Stone. "All of these countries came together to defeat evil. Even civilians—like women—were building planes. When an item is named like this is, I can look the person up."

Stone also bought a collection of three purple hearts and a bronze star from World War I.

In their spare time, Stone and his father sell nautical, old industrial and Western items like wagon wheels at the Alameda Port Antiques Faire.

He won't be selling these. "These are for my personal collection that my grandfather, who was in Korea, started."

Jeff Stone bought two rifles from World War II.

The team was up against online people from countries around the globe, including Russia and China, bidding for British, American and Soviet medals, European and South American orders of knighthood, swords and knives from around the world, uniforms of the U.S., Britain and other countries, insignia from all periods of U.S. history, helmets and headgear of the U.S. and other

countries, antique and modern firearms, historic photographs, letters and documents from the 18th and 19th century.

During the auction, items were projected on a large screen for the live audience.

Brian Witherell, Witherell's chief operating officer, handled the bids.

Two assistants monitored the online bids.

Fox Business Network also filmed a segment on Molitor's collection for a new episode of "Strange Inheritance" during the auction.

The new series should start running in the spring.

"This collection had hundreds of artifacts with amazing stories to them," said Brian Witherell, who also is an Antiques Roadshow appraiser. "We were delighted to have been selected to handle this important sale and to be part of the Fox series."

A maintenance contractor for the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development before he died, Molitor spent every weekend and holiday for 40 years at garage sales, flea markets and on eBay buying unique military items of historic interest.

"He always looked for things on Sunday, a day when people don't pay as much attention to auctions," said wife Barbara Molitor, who was present at the live auction.

"To him, the game was part of the fun, that and holding items in his hands with stories about the people."

An original Civil War era officer's "Chasseur" style kepi was one of the highlights of the auction. From the New York Zouaves regiment, Molitor got the kepi relatively cheaply because the bidding was on Super Bowl Sunday when most collectors were watching the game.

A lot of 17 sets of various epaulettes included a single child or young cadet's uniform epaulet of gold embroidered brush with a brass button, a number of pre-Civil War epaulettes, a Lord Lieutenant of Ireland with a Victorian button and more.

A photo, letters, medals and other personal effects of the brothers Job and Mark Hathaway, of the 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and the 47th Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry, respectively, was touching find for a lucky bidder.

Job Hathaway later became a settler and police sergeant in the Nebraska Territory. His brother, Mark, was captain of the 47th Regiment.

Sixty percent of the winning bids for the 276 lots were online.

Founded in 1969, Witherell's does appraisals and auctions of objects of value—from decorative arts and design to antiques and fine art.

Witherell's places items globally through private sales, online auctions and the annual Witherell's Old West Antiques Show in May.

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Sutter's Fort volunteers gear up for a day and night filled of reenactments

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Step back in time. The Donner Party is trapped in the mountains. The Mexican War is on. The name of Sutter's Fort is Fort Sacramento. Edward Burn, rather than Sutter, is in charge. Local history lovers can experience reenactments of these events on Nov. 21 as they mingle with docents in period attire who will demonstrate what daily life was like in 1846.

Fort visitors will have special interactive opportunities that include talking with the blacksmith, bartering with the clerk in the trade store and more. Fort visitors are also encouraged to bring a camera to take memorable photos while seated in the covered wagon.

Steve Beck, director of educational planning at Sutter's Fort, spoke with the East Sacramento News about more of the details that will be happening inside fort walls throughout the day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, stating "it will be a Williamsburg-type production."

Eileen Hook, coordinator of this daytime program, will be portraying a fictional or "composite character" she's created named Mrs. Talbott, a clerk in the trade store whose husband has been hired by a merchant to represent him at there at the store. She will be bartering about how much shoppers owe at the store and what they want to buy. Speaking in first person as she and the other docents will be doing on Nov. 21, Eileen, as Mrs. Talbott, joked: "We only deal in gold and silver coin. We don't take plastic or paper."

The first-person program Eileen believes is the best way to convey what life was like in California before the Gold Rush. "It's one thing to go to the fort and talk to a docent who tells you about trips out West. It's more believable if they are talking about their trip West. We have composite characters because we don't know the names of everyone at the fort. Capt. Sutter will be there of course."

Sutter's daily log, which he called the New Helvetia Diary, Eileen explained might have an entry about the arrival of 20 from the East, but it won't list the names. Someone might be referred as "Mister So and So and his wife. We don't know if that included wife or the



Photos courtesy of Jacqueline Ball

Shown here are photos from the Sutter's Fort candlelight tours of years passed. This year's tour is set for Saturday, Nov. 21.

wife and 10 kids. Women weren't always listed in the diary. It was a very 19th century mindset. They weren't as important as the men.

"As program becomes successful, we'll add real people, but for now, we are a cast of nameless people of the past."

The last remaining original cast member, Eileen took her first role as Eliza Gregson when she was 24 years old. But Eliza was 24 and pregnant and, we'll as Eileen says, "I can no longer pass as 24." After five years as Eliza, Eileen created Mrs. Talbott, a character that she could grow with.

A once popular annual event, Beck said as people have retired, fewer and fewer were skilled and the fort didn't have enough trained personnel to keep it going. But after a yearlong training, including seven training sessions that covered dress of the day, history, interpretive techniques, volunteer docents are ready for the return of hopefully an annual event. If the day is successful, we will probably do a few more of them. "It was a popular thing at Sutter's Fort, but it became stale and we had no performers. Those two things led to its demise."

Then in the evening hours, fort guests are invited to participate in special candlelight tours departing every 10 minutes between 6:30

and 8 p.m. With all modern lights turned off and the fort lit by candlelight, guides will lead small groups of visitors into the fort's more intimate rooms for intriguing glimpses into the private lives of those who uprooted their families for a better life in early California.

"We go through a lot of candles. We turn off all voice boxes; we will turn off all fort lighting like it was in the 1840s. This happens rain or shine, and we adjust accordingly," explained Beck.

Guests get to follow the guides into the rooms so they are close to the action and in spaces that are not open to the public on a daily basis.

Guests are invited to eavesdrop on inhabitants of fort rooms as they gossip about their neighbors and comment on the current events of 1846. At the end of the tour, guests can enjoy a piece of pie and hot beverage while discussing which 1846 story was the highlight of their night.

"People who do come to the evening performance, we'll have hot chocolate, pie, and a prize," Beck said. "(The prizes) are cool Sutter's Fort bandanas that have been made especially for this event. They will be sold later at the gift shop. We've given out tin cups in the past. (The bandanas) have John Sutter's brand

on it ... It will be cool. I saw the mock up and I gave it my whole support. I thought it was a great idea."

The coordinator of the evening event is longtime docent Jacqueline Ball who is retired from state parks and has been involved with volunteer efforts at Sutter's Fort since 1987. "I've written scripts ever since. This year I started coordinating it. (Eileen is the previous coordinator.) I am not taking on any roles this year, so I can observe. A ton of effort is going into this program. We are excited to be bringing it back as a special nighttime opportunity at the fort. The fort takes on a wonderful ambiance with candlelight. It is one of my favorite events all year."

The fort closed on July 12 and on Aug. 13 half of the fort opened, as Beck explained, "the east side was open for a while, then it shifted. Both sides should be reopening very soon." Despite the fact the entire fort hasn't been open completely to the public, Beck said the fort sold out its annual Haunted Fort event.

The daytime living history is a separate program from the evening candlelight tours. Reservations are recommended for the evening program. The www.suttersfort.org address has a link to the brownpaper-tickets.com sales site. Any reserved tour slots will be sold at the door.

McKinley Library events

The hours for McKinley Library are as follows: Sunday and Monday: Closed; Tuesday: noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday: 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Minecraft Gaming (Teen)
Friday, Nov. 20 at 3:30 p.m.: Like building and creating new worlds in Minecraft? Come join us for an afternoon of Minecraft gaming! Each player will be given their own computer to build new creations and in creative, survival, or hardcore mode. Players of any level of experience are welcome to join.

One-on-One Technology Help
Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10 a.m.: Are you curious about ebooks but not sure how to get started? Is your tablet or ereader a mystery? Do you need basic computer help such as creating e-mail accounts and using the internet? Come by the McKinley Library and meet with a Technology Assistant! Sessions are first-come, first-served and last 30 minutes.

Sacramento Ballet's The Nutcracker (Family/All Ages)
Saturday, Nov. 21 at noon: Come enjoy a FREE preview of the Sacramento Ballet's The Nutcracker right here at your own library! All are welcome to the Clunie Auditorium for the ballet. Children are then invited to stay for a free ballet lesson, taught by the Sacramento Ballet Company.

Knitting Circle (Adult)
Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.: Anyone interested in knitting—even an absolute beginner—is invited to join the McKinley Library Knitting Circle. Participants can learn to

knit, get help on current projects or general advice from expert knitters. There might even be some great conversations too. Don't forget to bring your knitting needles and yarn!

Baby Storytime (Early Childhood (0-5))
Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 10:30 a.m.: Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs and rhymes and meet other babies in the neighborhood.

One-on-One Technology Help
Saturday, Nov. 28 at 10 a.m.: Are you curious about ebooks but not sure how to get started? Is your tablet or ereader a mystery? Do you need basic computer help such as creating e-mail accounts and using the internet? Come by the McKinley Library and meet with a Technology Assistant! Sessions are first-come, first-served and last 30 minutes.

Read to a Dog (School Age (6-12))
Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 3:30 p.m.: Read to a Dog is a fun and proven method for boosting a child's reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog and adult volunteer. Children may bring their own books to read to a furry friend or they may borrow a book from the library's collection.

Knitting
Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.: Anyone interested in knitting—even an absolute beginner—is invited to join the McKinley Library Knitting Circle. Participants can learn to knit get help on current projects or general advice from ex-

pert knitters. There might even be some great conversations too. Don't forget to bring your knitting needles and yarn!

Baby Storytime @ McKinley (Early Childhood (0-5))
Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m.: Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs and rhymes and meet other babies in the neighborhood.

Writing with the Great 20th Century American Poets @ McKinley (Adult)
Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.: This week's class -- Edward Estlin Cummings & Theodore Roethke: Writing Differently. With special guest lecturers Carlos Alcalá and Bob Stanley. On first and third Wednesdays in October, November and December enjoy a free class on the early 20th century American poets. Par-

ticipants listen to a brief talk (often by a visiting guest speaker) on the topic or author in question. Students then read the work in class and discuss the poetry. All have the option to write their own poems from the inspiration of the literature. Gentle critiques are offered by instructor Frank Graham. Participants are encouraged to give positive critiques to each other if they care to share their work.

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Little Hats, Big Hearts looking for newborn and preemie knit hats
Now until Jan. 15, 2016: Calling knitters, crocheters and loom knitters of all ages. The American Heart Association Sacramento Chapter is calling for handmade little red hats in preemie and newborn sizes. Hats need to be completed and delivered to the Sacramento Chapter Office located at 2007 O St., 95811 no later than Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. "Little Hats, Big Hearts" is a nationwide campaign of the AHA, bringing awareness to the babies who are born with heart ailments and heart defects. All hats received will be distributed locally in February 2016 as part of Go Red Month. This event is also being hosted on Facebook as "Little Hats, Big Hearts" for Elk Grove and Sacramento. Enjoy being part of this special project. Participants in Elk Grove will have designated drop-off locations to be announced in the Elk Grove Citizen and Facebook. For more information, contact Teresita Valadez at teresitagabriela@yahoo.com.

For more information, contact Kate Towson at kate@womens-empowerment.org or 669-2307.

The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society (STJS) monthly music event
Every second Sunday of the month, STJS has music at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., from noon to 5 p.m. Each month STJS has a different band, there is three different rooms to listen to music. Nominal fee for members is \$8; non-member price is \$10.

Nar-Anon meeting for families and friends
The group meets to learn about drug abuse, share problems, encourage the addict to seek help, replace despair with hope, improve the family attitude, help regain your self-confidence. For more information, call the First United Methodist Church at 446-5025, ext. 101. Meetings are Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 2100 J St.

Rotary Club South meeting
The Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets at noon for lunch every Thursday at Iron Grill, located at 2422 13th St. (Broadway and 13th Street). Rotary is one of the largest service organizations in the world dedicated to community service both locally, and internationally. Please call JR Springer at 425-9195 for additional information.

Santas needed to fill holiday stockings for formerly homeless women and children
Local residents can bring smiles to formerly homeless women and children this holiday season by contributing to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Stocking Drive. The group is seeking 250 stockings and specific fillers for local infants and toddlers, children, teens and adult women. For the list of items needed, visit www.womens-empowerment.org. Those interested also can donate \$30 to have a volunteer elf fill a stocking or donate Target gift cards. Items are needed by Dec. 8 and can be dropped off at 1590 North A Street, Sacramento.

Beginning tai chi gong
These exercises use the principle of chi flowing properly throughout the body to maintain the equilibrium of yin and yang. Regular practice of these forms will develop better balance and flexibility, gain strength, promote deep relaxation, and improve health. This beginning class will also learn the 24 Yang Style Tai Chi and Yi Jing, a traditional Health Qi Gong. Pre-registration

and prepayment required or \$7 drop-in fee at the door. Class will be held on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 pm at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accs.org.

Widow persons monthly buffet and social
Widowed Persons Association of California, Newcomers' Buffet and Social is open to any and all widows and widowers, the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The buffet will be held in the private dining room at the Plaza Hof Brau, corner of El Camino and Watt Avenue, cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu. There is no charge to attend the social other than the meal chosen. For more information, call 916-972-9722. Widowed Persons Association of California, Sunday Support, is open to any and all widows or widowers, every Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the meeting room of the WPAC office, 2628 El Camino Avenue, Ste. D-18. Enter from the back parking lot. For more information, call 916-972-9722. Saturday, Nov. 7, Widowed Persons Association of California Workshop, "Coping with the Holidays," 2 to 4 p.m., the doors open at 1:30 p.m. A second session will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. The workshops will take place at 2628 El Camino Ave., Ste. D-18. Enter from the back parking lot. For more information or to register, call 972-9722.

NOVEMBER

Skin care products safety
Nov. 20: Ever wonder what ingredients are in your cosmetic products and the effect on your skin? This will be an introduction to some of the common chemicals found in cosmetic products that are of concern to the public. If you would like, please bring a product label from a cosmetic or skin care product you use to the workshop for discussion. Free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 2 to 2:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accs.org.

Relles Florist DIY Class
Nov. 21: Fall table centerpiece for adults and children - Bring your own container. Learn how to make an Autumn-themed table centerpiece in your own bowl or ceramic container. \$35 each for adults and children are \$10 each. Limited class size, must register in advance. www.rellesflorist.com; sales@rellesflorist.com; 916-441-1478; 2400 J St.

Native American Film Festival
Nov. 21: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in honor of Native American Heritage Month, the State Indian Museum is proud to present a very special Native American Film Festival! Informative, contemporary - and sometimes controversial - Native films will be shown throughout the day. The films explore topics of importance to Native people throughout American and include these titles: Original Patriots, California's Lost Tribes, The Cherokee Word for Water, Shouting Secrets and A Good Way to Die. While special activities are free, regular Museum admission applies (\$5 for adults; \$3 for youths ages 6 to 17 and free for kids five and under). For more information about these events and activities or the State Indian Museum in general, please call 916-324-8112 or visit www.parks.ca.gov/indian-museum or www.chcfoundation.org.

Indian Arts & Crafts Holiday Fair
Nov. 27-28: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., guests will enjoy shopping for unique, hand-crafted items such as jewelry, basketry, hand-painted gourds, dolls, holiday ornaments and much more. This is the perfect chance to meet and support talented native artisans from all over California while also learning more about Native American culture. While special activities are free, regular Museum admission applies (\$5 for adults; \$3 for youths ages 6 to 17 and free for kids five and under). For more information about these events and activities or the State Indian Museum in general, please call 916-324-8112 or visit www.parks.ca.gov/indian-museum or www.chcfoundation.org.

Relles Florist DIY Class
Nov. 28: Christmas Wreath including your own decorations. Learn how to make a Christmas-themed Door Wreath that can include your own decorations. \$50 each person. Limited class size, must register in advance. www.rellesflorist.com; sales@rellesflorist.com; 916-441-1478; 2400 J St

Crocker holiday artisan market
Nov. 27-29: The Creative Arts League of Sacramento is partnering with the Crocker Art Museum in bringing attendees an opportunity to

shop for distinctive, one-of-a-kind, high-end modern gifts at the annual three day Crocker Holiday Artisan Market. This one-of-a-kind holiday market will be in East Sacramento at the Scottish Rite Center. Free parking will be available for attendees as well as six rooms to shop from. Vendors will be showcasing and selling functional pieces such as unique glass works, textiles, ceramics, paper, painting, sculptures, jewelry, fiber arts, metallurgy and woodworking. More than 100 artists and their original works have been carefully juried into this special event to provide attendees with an exciting, varied and elegant shopping experience that is only presented in the Sacramento region. This event is family friendly offering holiday festivities such as picture opportunities with a Victorian Santa, holiday music from local musicians, food from Ambrosia Cafe, gift-wrapping as well as the opportunity to meet and engage with each designer and artist. Scottish Rite Center is located at 6151 H St. Hours for the sale are Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost for Crocker and CALS members is \$3; non-member adults are \$6. Students and seniors (over 65) are \$3. Parking is free.

Free admission day and canned food drive at Fairytale Town
Friday, Nov. 27: From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the day after Thanksgiving, Fairytale Town offers free admission to families who bring a canned food item for donation to the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services - Holiday Spirit of Giving Food Drive. The day also includes free arts and crafts activities and a puppet show. Puppet show tickets are \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive.

See more Calendar, page 15

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Matias Bombal's Hollywood

By MATÍAS BOMBAL

THE 33
The MPAA has rated this PG-13. Warner Bros. take us to Chile with "The 33," a dramatization of the harrowing real life events of 2010 when miners were trapped for 69 days underground. The movie's writers condensed stories of the 33 miners to fewer individuals in order to make this story, with so many players, make sense for movie audiences.

On what started as a typical day in the hot Atacama desert in the north of Chile, 33 miners appeared for work on Aug. 5, 2010, descending into Copiapó's mina San José, a copper and gold mine that had been harvested for 121 years. Shortly after they reached their workplace, a remarkable 2,300 feet underground and approximately three miles from the mine's entrance, the mine's engineer, Don Lucho (Lou Diamond Phillips), has great concern about the recent shifting of the earth underground and the safety of the miners in his charge.

He has cause to be. The mine begins to shake like an earthquake, and two truckloads of miners hurry to a re-enforced refuge area as hav-

oc strikes. All usual routes in and out of the mine are sealed by falling rock in all directions as the mine collapses in several places. A check of long ladder escape tunnels only reveal that the ladders were never completed. They are trapped underground, alive.

Miner Mario Sepúlveda (Antonio Banderas) comes to terms with the fate of he and his comrades in a most human way, telling them that the biggest slab of stone that has just sealed their fate is nothing less than the heart of the mountain, and it has broken.

Three miles away, up on the surface, the families and wives of the miners begin to gather, demanding the mine owners tell them what has happened to their men. They have less than satisfactory results in getting information, so they begin to camp at the mine site and wait... and wait... and wait. News of the disaster reaches the then president of Chile, Sebastian Piñera (Bob Gunton). The president dispatches the Minister of Mines, Laurence Golborne (Rodrigo Santoro), to travel 425 miles north of Santiago to Copiapó in the Atacama desert. Once at the site, he realizes that the men are still alive and trapped underground.

Golborne calls on the best resources and equipment that may be found at once. Andre Sougarett, played by the always interesting Gabriel Byrne, paints a colossal picture of a situation that does not bode well for future hope; The miners are in a five meter wide space. Above them, a massive rock, 700,000 tons of diorite, or, twice the mass of the Empire State Building has trapped them, and the only way to get to them is to drill through it. Even in the best case scenario, there is less than a one percent chance in finding them. Not a pretty prospect, further complicated by the lack of ability to communicate with the trapped men. To make things much worse, something must be done below to prevent total panic and anarchy as the men organize themselves to meet their fate. It begins with determining what little food is available, and rationing it.

Antonio Banderas is the driving force of the actors trapped below. Lou Diamond Phillips turns in a great performance for the part he plays. Mexican director Patricia Riggen has created an interesting contrast, taken from life itself, between what goes on in the depths as well as on the surface of two equally barren worlds separated by the solid mass of earth. Riggen insisted that the actors work hard to reproduce the sound of English and Spanish spoken with a typically melodious Chilean accent. There, the actors had a great challenge, and most did not quite achieve it. However, this is a matter that may be forgiven as we understand that this is a dramatization for a theatrical purpose. The same forgiveness may be extended further due to the



fact that most of the performers were not native to Chile. Again, this is acceptable in this narrative, for the job of the actor, no matter where they themselves originated, is to make us believe they are what they are playing.

The mine sequences were actually filmed and recreated in a salt mine in Nemocon, Columbia. However, some scenes were actually filmed in Copiapó and in Santiago at the presidential palace, La Moneda. The best and most realistic portrayal in the cast comes from Juliette Binoche as María Segovia, a passionate wife of a miner stuck below. She is the driving force of action on the surface, motivating many to do what is right in the face of horror. Rodrigo Santoro is excellent in his portrayal of the Minister of Mines, and completely believable as an actual Chilean, yet the actor himself is from Brazil. You also see a return to the screen for James Brolin, playing a drill operator, Jeff Hart, that does his best to get to the bottom of the mine.

Many actual newscasts of the event are shown or slightly manipulated to include the cast of the film, and recently retired television giant Don Francisco of "Sábado Gigante" recreates his actual involvement at the event for the movie, appearing as himself. There is a stirring version of the Chilean folk song "Gracias a la Vida" sung by Cote

de Pablo, one of the few actual Chilean actresses in the picture. The song had been written in 1966 by Chilean painter and musician Violeta Parra, who also sang it on record. The rest of the appropriate musical score is enjoyed with a touch of sadness as it is the very last score for the great film composer, James Horner, who died this year in an airplane crash. The picture closes with a special dedication to him.

Although the relations of those on the ground and those under it are well handled by the director, she missed an important opportunity to share an additional aspect of this real story that I find most compelling about that actual occurrence. It was the outpouring of affection and concern of the entire nation of Chile, along its gigantic length of 2,672 miles for the miners and this situation. This is mentioned in passing in the dialogue of the president, but where were the scenes of a nation rallying to support the miners and the outpouring of love and concern that swept the entire country? These are the observations of your movie reviewer, a dual citizen of Chile and the United States. Beyond that, I found the movie to be moving, entertaining, and worth seeing. Primarily because the drama is a human drama, and that is universally understood. Viva Chile!

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sacramento Senator Lions club will host the 3rd Annual Dandelion Arts and Crafts

Dec. 5: Sacramento Senator Lions club will host the 3rd Annual Dandelion Arts and Crafts show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. All profits are used to support community projects. Event information at SenatorLionsEvents@gmail.com.

Sacramento Concert Band's free Holiday Concert:

Dec. 7: Enjoy music from Mozart to Gershwin with a little Sousa in between at Sacramento Concert Band's free Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave. in Carmichael. The Sacramento Concert Band, a community band under the direction of Grant Parker, is embarking on its 48th season. After intermission and a raffle for homemade ted-

dy bears and wall hangings, jump into the holiday spirit when you hear season favorites such as "Fantasy on a Bell Carol," "The Christmas Song" (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), and "Sleigh Ride." The concert is free of charge, but donations to feed the hungry will be accepted. For more information, please contact Grant Parker, Band Director, (916) 691-7632

Sam Brannan Middle School - Parent-Student Visitation Days

Dec. 8, 10; Jan. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14: All visits begin at 8:30 a.m. To schedule a visit please call 264-4350 x1001. All 6th grade students and their parents are invited to come explore the Sam Brannan campus, visit classrooms and meet our outstanding teachers and students. Plan to experience a day in the life of a Sam Brannan student. Come and see why Sam Brannan should be your choice for middle school! Sam Brannan Middle School is located at 5301 Elmer Way, 95822; Sambrannan@scusd.edu

Balance, mobility and coordination
Dec. 9: Learn a new way of thinking (the Alexander Technique) used to improve your balance, mobility, and coordination. This class is for English-speaking seniors who are able to sit, stand, and walk unassisted. Some floor work included. There will be hands-on guidance from the instructor. Dress comfortably. Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$54 required. No drop-in. Class will begin Wednesday, Oct. 7 through Dec. 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City. For more details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accs.org.

Capitol Pops holiday concert

Dec. 10: The Capitol Pops Concert Band wraps its 18th season with a free, open to the public holiday concert at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 5811 Walnut Ave., in Orangevale. Under the baton of Director Kurt Pearsall, CPB's one-hour performance will include traditional holiday favorites, seasonal musical hits and carols. Voice and instrumental soloists also will be featured in this family-friendly holiday event. Christ the King Lutheran Church is the band's rehearsal site. Attendees are invited to donate a new or gently used coat as part of the national One Warm Coat effort to provide coats to needy

individuals throughout North America. The San Francisco-based organization has been organizing coat drives since 1992, donating more than 4 million coats since then and currently supporting more than 3,000 coat drives each year. Financial contributions to the program also will be accepted. For more information on the Capitol Pops, visit www.capitolpops.org or its Facebook page, or call (916) 725-5214.

Jingle bell run/walk

Dec. 12: More than 750 people will bring holiday spirit to Sacramento on Saturday December 12th, when they "jingle all the way" to Crocker Park for the Arthritis Foundation's annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk event. This festive annual fundraiser aims to fight and cure arthritis, the nation's leading cause of disability. The annual holiday-themed event will start at 7:30 a.m. and will host walkers and runners alike donning their most festive apparel - everything from bells on shoelaces to full holiday costumes. This 5K is sure to spread smiles, holiday cheer and a winning spirit. Taking place in more than 100 cities across the country during the holiday season, the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis raises funds to support the Arthritis Founda-

tion's life-changing tools, resources, science and advocacy initiatives. To learn more and register for the Sacramento event, visit www.jbr.org/sacramento or contact the Arthritis Foundation at 916-368-5599. To learn more about the fight to conquer arthritis and the Jingle Bell Run/Walk, visit www.arthritis.org/JBR.

12th annual Nuts and Berries event to benefit Wildlife Care Association

Dec. 13: The Wildlife Care Association's most important fundraising event, and a real good party, are coming up on Sunday, Dec 13 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The event, the 12th annual Nuts and Berries at Lion's Gate Hotel, offers a special silent auction on holiday gift certificates starting at \$10 up to international travel and camera safari trips all to benefit wildlife care. There will be a silent auction, gift shop, hors d'oeuvres, educational presentations, raffle and a no-host bar. Get your photo taken with an ambassador animal. \$15 at the door; kids get in free. Everyone welcome. McClellan Park, 3410 Westover St. Advance tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2395941.

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— EVENT LISTING SECTION —

<p>Please Come... CRAFT FAIR Our 37th Year ~ Over 150 Crafters Friday, Dec. 4 5 - 9 p.m. (\$5.00 at door) Saturday, Dec. 5 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Free) Sunday, Dec. 6 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Free) St. John the Evangelist School 5701 Locust Avenue • Carmichael, CA 95608</p>	<p>2016 annual Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Sacramento Chapter, Crab and Spaghetti Feed; January 30, 2016, 6 p.m., Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, 95818. Doors open at 5 p.m. \$50, general ticket; \$10, ages 6 to 10; free, 5 and under. Please join us for all-you-can-eat food and fun with raffle prizes, games, and a performance by UC Davis's Bakuhatu Taiko Dan group. Contact Janice Luszcak (916) 903-6645 or janice.luszcak@gmail.com for tickets or information.</p>	<p>Crockett-Deane Ballet & Deane Dance Center present... Nutcracker & Christmas Angels Saturday, Dec. 12th, 2 & 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13th, 2 p.m. "The Center" 2300 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento \$15 Adults; \$12 Seniors/Students; \$10 Children (Saturday night add \$5 per ticket) (915) 453-0226 DeanDanceCenter.com</p>
<p>To the members of the 1966 class of C.K. McClatchy High School 50 year REUNION is in October 2016. We are looking for you, PLEASE contact us McClatchyreunion66@yahoo.com Facebook: McClatchy High school class of 1966</p>	<p>CALL AND PLACE YOUR EVENT TODAY! (916) 429-9901</p>	

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