

EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

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Celebrating Christmas the East Sac way



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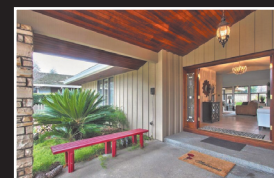
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Cover by:
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Monica Stark
Stephen Crowley

One-act version of the Nutcracker to be performed at "The Center"

Crockett-Deane Ballet Company, in conjunction with the Deane Dance Center will present its annual holiday shows December 16-December 18 at the The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred in Sacramento. Friday evening, December 16 at 8 pm, a special preview of selected scenes from the Nutcracker will be presented. Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 18 at 2 pm, the original production of "Christmas Angels," as well as a one-act narrated version of the Nutcracker will be presented. "Christmas Angels" tells the familiar story of Christmas, set to traditional Christmas carols. The Nutcracker is especially suited for families, with its narration, beautiful music and many fun and lively characters. The production features beautiful choreography, wonderful sets and costumes, and many talented dancers. The role of the Snow Queen will be danced by Gabriela Smith. Dancing the role of the Sugar Plumb Fairy will be Quinn Francis. Virginia Rattan will



take on the role of Marie (often referred to as "Clara" in some productions). Tickets are \$10-\$15 and are available at the door or deanedancecenter.com; 453-0226. The Center is located at 2300 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento.



This is a very special time of year. Please do your best to spread the love and spirit of the Christmas Season.

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Schola Cantorum: From Heaven on High Christmas Performances

Music for the Christmas season - Celebrating Schola's 25th Anniversary

Sacred Heart's Schola Cantorum and Conductor Donald Kendrick will present a Christmas Concert in Sacred Heart Church, 39th at J Street in Sacramento, on Saturday, December 17th at 8 PM and on Sunday, December 18th at 2 PM.

Schola's 25th anniversary Christmas program entitled From Heaven On High will feature new and traditional carols from many centuries, beginning with chant in darkness. The choir will also sing new arrangements of carols by American composers that will feature Beverly Wesner-Hoehn, Harp, Cindy Behmer, Oboe, and Ryan Enright, Organ. The performance includes works by Culloton, Wilberg, Paulus, Warland, Willcocks, Stopford and Rutter. Schola has five Christmas CD's and additional CDs featuring music for the liturgical year. The CDs will be available at the concert.

Schola Cantorum has appeared in concert throughout the West Coast and in England, Spain, Italy, Canada and Austria. In 2007 Schola performed in the Vatican for the Pope and they returned to Italy in 2013 to sing in St. Peter's in Rome. Schola will celebrate its 25th anniversary with an international tour to Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Prague in June 2017.

Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 8 PM

Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 2 PM

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LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

By JAN DALSKÉ
East Sacramento News

As soon as I heard my parents talking in their bedroom, I decided to get up and use the hall bathroom that the kids shared. I wanted them to know that I was awake too. Mom went to check on the babies, and dad headed for the kitchen to get the coffee started. He added coffee grounds and water to a small metal pot and put it on the gas stove to get it boiling. I joined him in the kitchen. I did not get to spend much time with my dad because he worked during the week, and his weekends were occupied with doing chores around the house. When his boys got older they would probably him. Rodney was just seven and Timothy would

be five the end of the month. They were too little to help him with the work he had left to do in the backyard. Since it was Saturday dad did not have to rush off to work.

He was finishing up the fencing and still needed to build a gate. Then, he planned to level out the back yard and plant grass. Mom had asked him what he had decided to plant in the flower beds. He knew what kind of flowers she liked and he winked at her and told her that she would like what he planted. Soon we would have a really nice yard to play in. Dad had promised us a swing set with a slide. I couldn't wait to see what he would bring home. It was really fun to have our

own house, and to plan what our backyard would look like. We would have to take turns on the swings and slide. But, pretty soon, we would not have to walk to the school to use the swings there. Now if I could just figure out where I could draw a hopscotch and what I could draw it with.

I was daydreaming and looking at my cereal bowl when Rodney and Timothy tumbled out of their bedroom and ran down the hallway. Mom had told them many times not to run in the house. I guess they always forgot. They sat down at the table and started pouring cold cereal into their bowls. They loved Cheerios and would rather have cold cereal than oatmeal. I wish we could have different kinds of cereal, but we ate what dad bought us at the grocery store.

Linda finally joined us. Mom was in the nursery with the two little ones. It was another day at the Dalske house. There was never any peace

and quiet. I planned to ask my mother if I could go for a walk around the block alone after the breakfast dishes were done. I had plans that did not include my two little sisters. After a few minutes, she said okay, but I would have to get my chores done first. I already knew that.

I felt so free. None of my brothers or sisters were bothering me. I skipped down to the corner and turned right. I had a plan. I had met a girl named Sue at school. She told me that her mother, whose name was Fern, was a Brownie leader. She asked me if I wanted to join what she called their "troop". I was just old enough. The meetings were held at her house. I would need a uniform and a hat. I hoped that they did not cost too much as my mom did not have much money to spend on uniforms and hats.

Sue was an only child. I wondered what that must be like. She had her own room and lots of toys. She had a cat,

and a bicycle. And, she was a Brownie. I got the information that my mom would need to read and the paper that she had to sign. I would also need something called "dues" for every meeting. I was not sure that my mother would let me become a Brownie. I headed back home and was enjoying my walk when a girl in a house on the same street shouted my name.

She looked familiar. Her name was Cathy and she lived in the house behind our house. I had seen her in her backyard when my dad was working on the fence between our backyards. She asked me where I was going. I told her that I was at Sue's house and that I was going to ask my mother if I could become a Brownie. She gave me a hug and told me that she had already joined the group. What a day! I had two new girlfriends and I was going to be a Brownie. But, first, I had to get my mother's permission.

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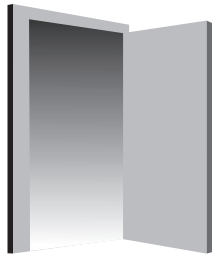
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Door — to — Door

with PAT LYNCH

The word, uptight, had not yet come into vogue but it must be retroactively applied to Mrs. Freligh (not her real name) who seemed to experience her highest sense of human utility when reprimanding others, especially kids. She was a noted personage in our parish. In winter she wore a fox shoulder wrap for attending the long, fancy 11 a.m. High Mass where the Monsignor officiated. Once, compelled to go to this Mass, I fidgeted in the pew behind her and stared at the fox head with its glassy open eyes. Imagine being a fox draped around Mrs. Freligh's neck. What a fate. Finally Mrs. Freligh turned around and delivered a glare that froze me. Another time when my friend Mark and I were cutting across her lawn, she grabbed us by our arms. "You trample the grass like animals," she said. March-

ing us to the sidewalk, she released Mark but continued to squeeze my arm and said that people didn't appreciate noisy girls who ran around telling knock-knock jokes. Then she said in a whisper much like a hiss, "That boy's not Catholic. You should have Catholic friends." But my mother said I could continue to play with Mark, although I had to remain polite to Mrs. Freligh, and not make faces behind her back.

Mark was two years younger and couldn't yet read or write. I was in the second grade and had already composed a three-page Christmas list, so I helped him write his. One afternoon we sat on my front porch and I printed out his wishes with a red pencil, red for Christmas. It was cold and when we talked condensed air puffed from our mouths in white bursts. I put

the pencil in my mouth, held it like a cigarette, and pretended to blow out smoke. Mark took a crayon from the pencil box and did the same thing. So there we were, sitting quietly, writing, smoking.

Mrs. Freligh came up our walkway. She asked what we were doing. Christmas lists, we said. She glowered down and said Christmas was for Baby Jesus, not Santa Claus and presents. Those things were for pagans. She gave Mark a long look, at once curious and condemning. "Do you know who Jesus is?" she said. She didn't wait for an answer. "Jesus Christ is the Son of God," she said, then rang the doorbell. When my mother opened the door Mrs. Freligh said, "They're playing some sort of cigarette game out here," then went in to talk.

She told our mother that the Monsignor was coming to her house for dinner, 6 p.m. sharp on December 12th, and she would like the street to be pleasant and quiet for that event. The Monsignor was a big catch for the Frelighs. He was short, had thick white hair and an air of invincible authority. He was the top priest in the parish and every

Sunday Mrs. Freligh was foremost among the people who clustered around him on the church steps after Mass. Now he was going to be on our very block. "She could hardly contain herself," my mother later told my father. You'd think the Pope was coming." She said she told Mrs. Freligh not to worry because children wouldn't be running noisily around at 6 p.m., when it was dark outside.

Mrs. Freligh almost daily chastised the kids of 42nd Street, but this year was especially bad because she was so worked up over the Monsignor's visit. Once, when we played a shrieking game of Red Rover, Red Rover, she strode into the street and told us through clenched teeth to be quiet before we woke the dead. I wondered if we could wake her fox with its dead, startled eyes. "Play quietly," she said. "Can't any of you ever just play quietly?"

As the dinner party neared Mrs. Freligh got more and more excited—no, enthralled, -and told my mother that Mr. Freligh was buying a special whiskey for the occasion. The Frelighs didn't drink but were determined to serve their guest

the best. They hired gardeners to trim their hedges. A lady named Pearl came to mop and vacuum. None of us, not even our parents, had ever been inside the Freligh's house, but we knew it had to be tidy and splendid. I wondered what the Frelighs and the Monsignor would talk about during their grand dinner: probably how much racket people made, how Christmas was becoming a pagan festival of greed.

The next Sunday when the Frelighs were at Mass Mark snuck onto their porch and peered through a space in their curtains. Their living room furniture was covered with crinkly, shiny, see-through wrapping. "Come see," he said, and I did. It was just as he said. Everything wrapped. Maybe they had bought all new furniture. But no, we would have seen the big truck from Brueners. We snuck around the back. Mark boosted me up to the kitchen window. The sink fixtures were unwrapped but spotless, no dirty dishes. It was like nobody lived there.

Mark and I snuck another look two days before the

See Door-to-Door, page 10

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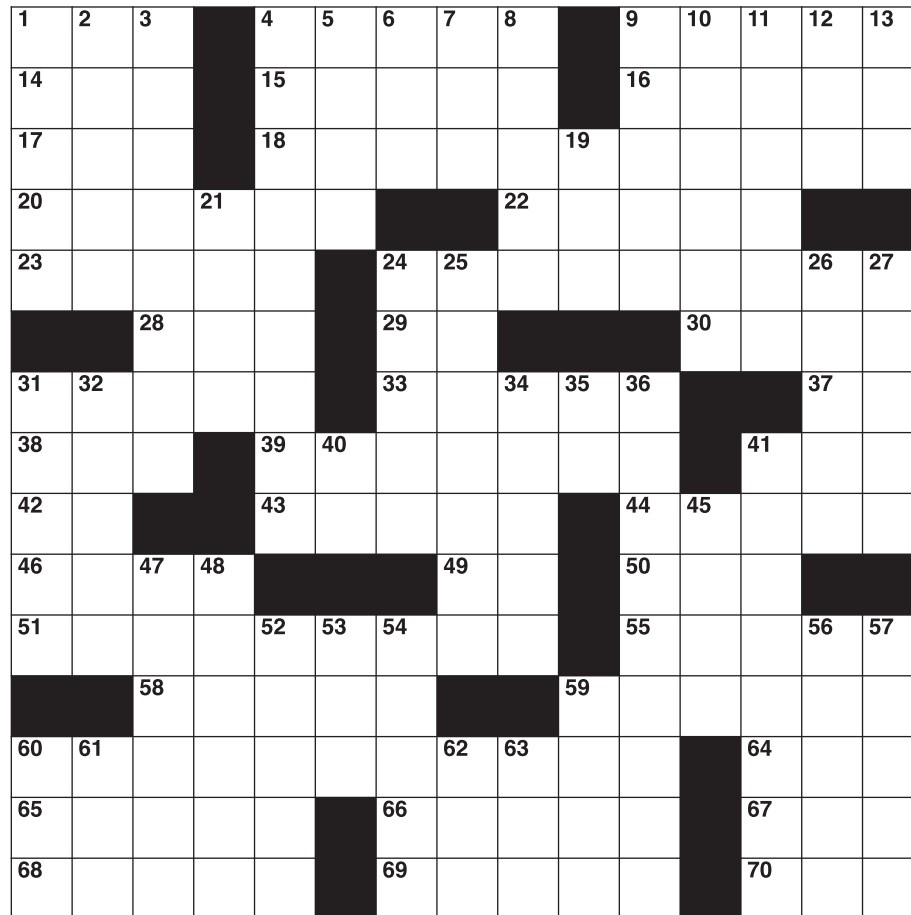
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- No (Scottish)
- Heroic tales
- A way to tend
- Not or
- Where rockers play
- Dutch name for Ypres
- Ingested
- A resident of California
- Unfounded rumor
- Oats
- Type of women's coat
- Life forms
- Every
- Alternating current
- Withered
- "Gymnopedies" composer
- Plate glasses
- Musical artist ___ DeBarge
- Before

DOWN

- Arrange in steps of size
- Electron cloud model
- Morning
- Leonard ___, famed Swiss mathematician
- Capital city of Buenos Aires province
- Snouts
- Of I
- Swiss river
- Perplexes
- Made angry
- Precious stone
- Type of envelope
- One who believes in reason and knowledge
- Monitors brain activity (abbr.)
- Get ___ of
- Actress Zellweger
- Spinal muscular

ACROSS

- "Inferno" author
- Puts together in time
- Silvery-white metal
- Civil Rights group
- Early Slavic society
- Mammals that lack incisors and canines
- Blasphemy
- Israeli city
- Put this in your hair
- Black tropical American cuckoo
- Month in the Islamic calendar
- Begets
- Court game
- Painkiller
- New Zealand parrot
- Suffix

DOWN

- Egg cells
- Another name for Thor
- About pontiff
- The academic world
- Raise
- Civil rights city in Alabama
- Encompasses
- Helmet
- Nostrils
- Lovable Spielberg alien
- Divides
- Ruthenium
- Preceding all others in time
- Past participle of lie
- Fastener
- Overindulged
- Ancient lyric poem
- Ardent supporter
- Iranian village and Islamic pilgrim attire

DOWN

- A fragrant resin obtained from tropical trees
- Semitic fertility god
- Millisecond
- Cool!
- "Take on Me" singers
- ESPN sportscaster Bob
- Accommodating place

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Breakfast with Santa & Santa's Workshop at St. Mary Elementary School

Photos by MONICA STARK

On Sunday, Dec. 4, families and friends at St. Mary's Parish and Elementary School (1351 58th St.) enjoyed Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Workshop. At the workshop, folks made beautiful presents, enjoyed delicious food and drinks, and took photos with Santa. The best part was you didn't have to travel all the way to the North Pole to enjoy this amazing day!





Corrine Cook

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Citizen Cohn: Former Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn discusses recently-released memoir

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Facing surgery to remove a brain tumor, former Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn wrote this memoir chronicling his life's story, from his grandfather's daring escape from the Russian Army in Ukraine during World War I and Cohn's childhood growing up in mid-century Missouri, to his adult life in Northern California, where he raised a family and began a long career as an attorney for the nation's most progressive electric utility and a civic leader for "America's Most Livable City." Cohn was one of the longest serving City Council members in the history of Sacramento, dating back to the California Capital's founding during the Gold Rush in 1849. Cohn's memoir shines a light on how local politics was played, for better or worse, during some of the Capital's most controversial battles over the last 25 years, including the saga of the Sacramento Kings NBA basketball team and the building of a new Downtown arena. Cohn's memoir also tells the inside story of some of the Council's toughest decisions to change the City's development pattern from its post-war suburban, automobile-oriented past to a more sustainable vision of Sacra-



Steve Cohn

mento as "America's Most Livable City."

-From the back cover of "Citizen Cohn: Memoir of Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn"

Even after 20 years of public service on the Sacramento City Council, Steve Cohn always looked at his tenure as an act of community service, and certainly not as a career. When the city council first started getting stipends, they were so slight that council members were pretty much all volunteers. When Josh Pane (1989-1994) decided not to run for re-election, Cohn hadn't given any thought to run for council but a number of neighborhood activists approached him to step up.

"It was kind of a time when neighborhood activists were starting to get more into politics," Cohn recalled. It was

when he helped lead the opposition to the Centrage project, a 3 million-square-foot development, which included 30,000 cars in and out of the current McKinley Village site. Because of the impact that project would have had on the neighborhood, Cohn said it wasn't that hard to put together a coalition of those concerned for that amount of traffic funneled in.

So, in terms of politics other than being in campaigns for various people running for office it really was the Centrage fight that was his introduction to local politics that possibly would have continued if it wasn't for a freak accident when he fell from the ladder of his Truckee cabin. Taking a few days off from the "campaign grind" during the general election runoff for California State Assembly in 2014, Cohn leaned "too far" and "too forcefully" trying to finish cutting off a dead branch of a large Jeffrey pine tree. As he writes on his blog, stevecohnsacramento.com/blog, the extension ladder "suddenly twisted and fell, sending me sprawling 15 feet to the ground, fracturing my pelvis and tailbone among other things. After two months of excruciating pain and rehab, I was able to start walking precincts again (limping more accurately) by Labor Day, but it wasn't enough

to resuscitate my foundering campaign. I don't know if the result would have been different without the accident, but I ended up losing two critical months of campaigning. Many people, especially labor and corporate donors, stopped believing I could win, which became a self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead of closing a manageable five percent gap from the June primary, I ended up losing by 17 percent in the November general."

The accident led to the revelation of a benign brain tumor that his doctor advised to be removed. During the recovery, he reflected on his time in local politics and began writing. His blog is updated frequently and in October he released the self-published "Citizen Cohn: Memoir of Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn." On Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m., he will hold a book signing at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd.

The book, broken into eight parts, begins with his grandparent's migration from Ukraine and Lithuania to America and then chronicles his life by decades. There's "The Fifties" and his black and white memories living in mid-century Missouri; "The Sixties" and his formative years; "The Seventies" including the "Yale Years," "falling in love in France and Tahoe,"

law school and moving to the West Coast Capital; followed by "The Eighties": becoming grownups and starting careers and a family; "The Nineties" and the victory over Centrage and his first run for office; "The New Millennium": hate crimes, Heather Fargo's two terms, Kevin Johnson rocking the political establishment, the Sacramento Kings Arena Saga, the 2014 Assembly Campaign, the fall, and the end of Cohn's Tenure.

In the book, Cohn dedicates an entire chapter to the arena saga, as he explained in an interview with this publication: "I was there for every element, which I opposed ... until Mayor Johnson got into the act (and) was able to come up

See Cohn, page 11

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Faces and Places:

Bike Party held "The Grinch Who Saved Christmas Ride & Toy Drive"

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

On the evening of Friday, Dec. 2, members of Bike Party Sacramento rode through East Sac decked out in Christmas lights. At this particular ride, folks brought new and unwrapped toys which they delivered to Shriners Hospital for Children. The ride began streetside of 2850 49th St. and continued through out the neighborhood.



Matias Bombal's Hollywood

ALLIED

The MPAA has rated this R

Paramount Pictures has had a good year with movies that echo that studio's past greatness. Their new release "Allied" is yet another example of the studio returning with force as a provider of outstanding movies. Directed by Robert Zemeckis, a man who has had many movie hits, "Allied" stars Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard and is set in 1942.

The story begins in North Africa, where Pitt, playing Max Vatan, a Canadian Air Force intelligence officer assisting the RAF, encounters a female French Resistance officer, Cotillard, playing Marianne Beausejour. Whilst on a deadly secret mission playing a happily married husband and wife they find themselves attracted to each other, but must not act on those feelings during the mission, which involves "removing" a high ranking Nazi officer in Casablanca.

Max and Marianne make their way back to England as he waits for another assignment. Much to the strong resistance of his superior officer, Frank Heslop, played by Jared Harris, the two are married and have a lovely baby daughter. The baby's birth is of one of the most spectacular of scenes, it happens during the London blitz. She begins, only to be carted out of the hospital and into the streets under the light of incendiary tracer bullets, searchlights beaming across the sky and falling bombs. Although this movie is in wide-screen, it captures the feel of classic Hollywood with many moments that remind you of great classic films, yet does not get campy in any way with its tip of the hat to tinseltown.

Doubt manifests in the movie's third act where Max gets the very bad news that it may be possible that his wife and mother of their new born baby may be a spy working with the Nazis. His difficulty believing the possibility and how the idea begins to slowly poison him brings out one of Brad Pitt's best performances in years;

stoic, in love and forced with impossible choices that make espionage seem like child's play by comparison. Jared Harris, one of my favorite actors working today, who you may remember from "Mad Men" has a role that reminded me much of Trevor Howard in "The Third Man". He is outstanding here.

The beautiful Miss Cotillard is stunning in this period setting. Don't think of this as a World War II film as much as a World War II drama, in the vein of the classic M-G-M wartime films like William Wyler's "Mrs. Miniver" with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. Perhaps with a little more spice, such as in one of the most inventive of love making scenes; the principals are inside a car in a sandstorm; it was a memorable way to handle and cleverly photograph such a moment, my kudos to Don Burgess, the cinematographer in realizing such a scene with cleverness and good taste. "Allied" offers a great production, photography and performances. Don't miss it! It's the way movies used to be.

RULES DON'T APPLY

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Set in Hollywood in 1958, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation brings us "Rules Don't Apply" director Warren Beatty's labor of love in which a young starlet has been placed under contract by movie mogul and aviation giant Howard Hughes. The small-town beauty queen, a devout Baptist virgin, Marla Mabry, played by Lily Collins, arrives in the movie capital with her mother Lucy Mabry in tow. She's played by the radiant Annette Benning.

As was typical in Hollywood of that era, starlets under contract received a weekly salary, but often had to wait and wait before they were asked to do anything at all, always hoping for the phone to ring to report to the studio for a screen test or wardrobe fitting. Miss Mabry has been assigned two drivers, working in shifts to take her where she desires and to work if so



Moana sets to sea with demigod Maui in Disney's "Moana" Photo: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

called; Levar Mathis, played by Matthew Broderick and Frank Forbes, played by Alden Ehrenreich.

Frank's background is similar to Marla's, he, a Methodist with a girlfriend back home set on marrying him. During their many drives they get to know each other and she chats on and on whilst he becomes interested, but of course, fully knowing that he'll lose his job if an impropriety occurs.

This movie is beautifully lit as films of that era were, defining the look of what we now consider classic films. I find it the most beautifully photographed movie I have seen this year. This is the sensational work of cinematographer Caleb Deschanel, who was delighted that Beatty wanted much in darkness.

This is a highly entertaining picture and the years of planning have paid off in a fun and wonderful movie experience you will truly enjoy. Warren Beatty plays Howard Hughes and in the great tradition of showmanship, does not appear on screen until the movie is well on its way. Even then, it is in the dark, as he brings the complex Hughes to life.

Beatty is in the remarkable place to have lived this era in his youngest days as a contract player himself at the very end of the Golden Age of the movies, its tumultuous changes of the 1960s through to the present. He gives us a phenomenal cast of actors that enrich any movie they appear in, including Paul Sorvino, Candice Bergen, Martin Sheen, Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, Oliver Platt and the ever-working Alec Baldwin, who had also appeared in a similar role as an airline executive locking horns with Howard Hughes in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" in 2004. A nice

touch in the movie is a new song, which gives the movie its title, "Rules Don't Apply" written by Lorraine Feather and Eddie Arkin. Go see the movie! It's absolutely beautiful, I loved it!

MOANA

The MPAA has rated this PG

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures offers their winter-time big feature with a princess. In this case, the Disney Princess is not actually a princess, but the daughter of the chief of her south sea island tribe, who longs to travel by sea. Her feckless father, shocked by past danger at sea will not let her go, but the lure is too strong in young Moana Waialiki (voiced by Auli'i Cravalho).

Adventure she must, so with guidance from an elder, slightly tetchy tribeswoman she sets out to sea to find the demigod Maui (Voiced by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson). She's in luck, they meet and he guides her, when not extolling his own virtues, by giving her tips so that she may become an excellent wayfinder. They encounter monsters and many tribulations, completing the classic hero (in this case heroine) cycle.

Simply put, the film is too long for adults and children at almost 2 hours running time. The jokes for adults and the consistently brilliant animation of Disney make you watch to the end, but the characters are not as likable as past Disney favorites. The musical score and pop tunes, penned by the team of Broadway's sensation, "Hamilton", seem repetitive and uninspired. Director Ron Clements seems not to know when to end the story. Unless you have a child begging you to go, save your money. Here's hoping Disney's next is better.

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

The MPAA has rated this R

Amy Adams thrills and is thrilled in Nocturnal Animals. Photo:Credit: Merrick Morton/Focus Features

Focus Features releases Tom Ford's latest directorial offering with "Nocturnal Animals" for which he also adapted the screenplay from Austin Wright's novel, "Tony and Susan". This movie is not for children or those sensitive to violence. However, it is one of the most stylish and elegant movies in the way it moves between three story lines; That of Susan Morrow's present day life as an art gallery owner with a trophy husband, both at loose ends and broke; Her ex-husbands recently sent novel, a ghastly tale of roadside abduction, rape and murder that grips Susan's attention whilst she sees herself and her ex in the novel's story line; the reuniting of Susan and her ex after she finishes reading the novel, to close unfinished business of many years.

Susan Morrow is played by Amy Adams, fresh from her success in "Arrival". She is excellent in this thriller. Her ex-husband, Tom Hastings is played by Jake Gyllenhaal, who is also "Edward Sheffield" in the novel's story-line. Michael Shannon steals the picture as Bobby Andes in the novel's dramatization. He is so consistently fascinating to watch. Fantastic editing and cinematographer's Seamus McGarvey's lighting design is so different in each storyline, but perfectly fitting in bringing mood and contrast to the story as it unfolds in sections before your eyes. Not for everyone, but outstanding gripping thrills and stylishly told.

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Door-to-Door

Continued from page 4

dinner. The furniture was unwrapped, the hardwood floors gleaming. A large manger scene took up the entire top of the now unwrapped coffee table.

The great day came. My mother told us to play at a distance from the Frelighs and to behave ourselves. Around four o'clock Mr. Freligh emerged and drove away. He scowled as he passed us. He was a plump, critical man, ever on alert for delinquency. Last Halloween he had turned off the porch-light and sat by the door, waiting to catch someone doing something wrong. He'd told Mrs. Apperson that trick-or-treating was invented by Irish hooligans.

He returned in twenty minutes with a bag and Mrs. Freligh opened the door for him and took the bag. She wore a new blue dress, diamond earrings and a look of luminous consequence. It would be dark soon so Mark and I went to my house and sat on the porch. Mark wanted to stay to witness the six o'clock arrival of the Monsignor. He wondered if the Monsignor would be driven up in a special car. Would there be guards? Would they salute? Bow? It was too bad to have to tell him no, the Monsignor would drive and would wear the same black suit and Roman collar they all wore. But I promised to take him to Mass some time—there he'd get plenty of bowing and razzle-dazzle--long satin capes, ringing bells, the smell of incense, and loud incantations in a strange dead language.

Mr. Freligh came out on the porch, looked up and down the street, looked at his watch, went back inside. He didn't see us whispering in the dark. I ran in to the kitchen clock. 6:15. I could tell time now and was always eager to announce it. I told my mother the Monsignor was fifteen minutes late and ran out. Mark said while I was inside Mrs. Freligh had looked out her door. By now the Freligh house was all lit up, candles burning in both front windows. If you listened closely you could hear *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem* softly emanating from their living room. We continued to watch, huddled

together because it was colder now as well as dark.

Fifteen more minutes, maybe twenty. The front door opened and Mrs. Freligh walked down to the sidewalk in her high heels. It looked like she was holding her hands together in front of her. She gazed down the street. In the distance headlights appeared and grew larger. Mrs. Freligh raised her right arm in a wave as the car neared. The lights got bigger, like yellow eyes, then passed her and turned left on 42nd and D. For a moment in the glare we saw her grimace, then drop her arm. We strained to see her face in the dark but when she stepped up under her porch-light she turned her head away. My mother came out and told Mark and me to come inside and eat. She watched Mrs. Freligh close her door. She said, "That poor thing."

It was strange to hear someone who was powerful--an adult, an enemy--called a poor thing, stranger still to feel sorry for Mrs. Freligh. But we did. Mark said tomorrow we should be nice and "real, real quiet." But I knew, without knowing how I knew, that the nicest thing we could do would be to act like we always acted and pretend we knew nothing.

It turned out that the Monsignor had forgotten the dinner and, worse, assigned a younger priest to call the Frelighs to apologize. My parents and their friends had an excited time talking about this. Our mother said the Frelighs were hurt and humiliated. Our father said they ought to take a few nips of the booze they bought for the Monsignor.

We continued to play noisily on the sidewalks, but for the rest of the Christmas break the Frelighs did not come out the door except to go to the 9 a.m. short Mass on Sunday. And when that happened she didn't look at any of us. Neither did he. It was odd to play freely, with no Mrs. Freligh on patrol. The Sunday before Christmas when they were again at church Mark and I snuck up on their porch. The crib scene was still up but the see-through wrapping was back on the living room furniture. It looked again like nobody lived there.

Cohn:

Continued from page 7

with a plan that really makes sense for taxpayers. The early (proposals)... were not real good deals for taxpayers, but I am a firm believer that the deal we ended up with, the partners we ended up with, really was a good deal." He writes about some of the issues the city had with the Maloofs, including one particular time at a council meeting.

"They kept saying they wanted to partner but they never said what they wanted to do, and I said, 'well, to me, a partnership is 50-50, so does that make sense?' They walked out of the council chambers. They thought that was somehow an insult to suggest that (was not a) true partnership. To me, that was the first time they revealed their true colors and it only got worse from there."

As no other Council member in Sacramento history had ever been elected to five consecutive four-year terms on the Council, in addition to his 20-year tenure – one of the longest tenures on the Council dating back to the Gold Rush in 1849 – Cohn has been reminded of this record. "I didn't know whether to take pride in my longevity and persistence or to gloss over it, reflecting that many of my fellow citizens now considered incumbency and political experience a liability," he writes on his blog.

Toward the end of his council tenure, he received an anonymous letter from a constituent. Handwritten, it was a poem that served as a thank-you to Cohn. Titled "The Bridge Builder" by Will Allen Dromgoogle, the poem reads, as follows (it's also included in the memoir):

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.



"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here; Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;

Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

Citizen Cohn: Memoirs of Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn

On Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Citizen-Cohn-Memoir-Sacramento-Councilman/dp/1539373479/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1481658968&sr=8-1&keywords=citizen+cohn%3A+steve+cohn

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Neighbors discuss what they want for Christmas

Rather than asking children this year what they want for Christmas, I thought it would be fun to ask some adults from the neighborhood if there was anything they'd want Santa to bring special to their homes.

"I could say I'd like my whole family together for Christmas. (They are) far apart mentally and physically." –Lanora H.

Likewise, Judy Loewe said she would love to see her daughter who lives in Colorado during the holidays, as it used to be a tradition the family would be together. "I miss the traditions. I would like to be at the ocean for Christmas, either Half Moon Bay, or Monterey or Carmel."

"A bass boat and a big diamond for her," Richard Torres said while gesturing his wife Dhel. "We have pretty much everything we need."

Similarly, Cliff Lindsey said he's got everything he needs. "I don't want for anything."

Then there's Derrick Taylor and Pat (no last name) who want a new set of Callaway golf clubs. Pat specifically added, he wants both the irons and the woods.

Richard Cherry said he wants peace on Earth for a change across the globe. I wish everybody would knock it off. (All the killing of) kids and civilians. They're the ones that pay the price for war." The Vietnam veteran said he would just like to one day turn on the news and not see car bombings and civilians being used as shields."

Kelly said she would like Trump to leave the country and to move to Moscow.

Repeating the question for emphasis, Colleen asked, "What do I want for Christmas?"

"Anything but Trump," she said.

Derek Froom said he would like a "free paycheck. That would be nice. One just for me. No bills."

Jerry Landroth-Brusato said she wants the Giants to win the World Series.

Compiled by Monica Stark

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THURSDAY, DEC. 15

THIRD THURSDAY POETRY – Bring your favorite poems (by a writer other than yourself) to read and discuss. Poets and poetry enthusiasts learn together in a relaxed setting in the historic Sacramento Room. Adult program hosted by the Sacramento Poetry Center. From noon to 1 p.m. Central Library Sacramento Room, 828 I St.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

PHT HOLIDAY PARTY: From 7 to 10 p.m., the Public House Theater will be celebrating with the neighborhood! Bring family and friends for some good beer, food, and dancing! Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and get \$2 bucks off a beer! They will have some great music from Hwy 50 West for some dancing!! Organizers would also like to encourage people to bring in some food (canned, boxed, non perishables) so they can adopt a family in need in our own neighborhood. PHT will purchase a turkey or ham for this family. Let's give them all the fixins!! Public House Theater, 5440 14th Ave.

LEGO MANIA! AT MCKINLEY LIBRARY – Like building with Legos? Join us for our monthly Lego free-play afternoon! Legos and Duplo Legos will be provided for school-aged children and their parents/caregivers. Dec. 16, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16-SUNDAY, DEC. 18

ONE-ACT PERFORMANCE OF THE NUTCRACKER TO BE PERFORMED AT "THE CENTER": Crockett-Deane Ballet Company, in conjunction with the Deane Dance Center will present its annual holiday shows December 16-December 18 at the The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred in Sacramento. Friday evening, December 16 at 8 pm, a special preview of selected scenes from the Nutcracker will be presented. Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 18 at 2 pm, the original production of "Christmas Angels," as well as a one-act narrated version of the Nutcracker will be presented. "Christmas Angels" tells the familiar story of Christmas, set to traditional Christmas carols. The Nutcracker is especially suited for families, with its narration, beautiful music and many fun and lively characters. The production fea-

tures beautiful choreography, wonderful sets and costumes, and many talented dancers. The role of the Snow Queen will be danced by Gabriela Smith. Dancing the role of the Sugar Plumb Fairy will be Quinn Francis. Virginia Rattan will take on the role of Marie (often referred to as "Clara" in some productions). Tickets are \$10-\$15 and are available at the door or deanedancecenter.com; 453-0226. The Center is located at 2300 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

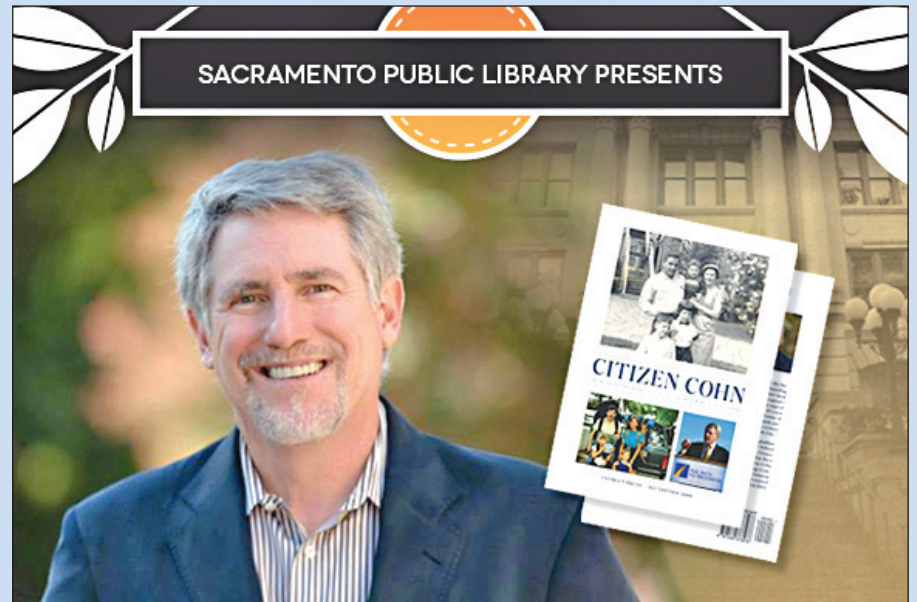
DECEMBER KIDICAL MASS HOT COCOA AND HOLIDAY LIGHT RIDE: Deck your bike in holiday cheer with lots of lights and, at 4 p.m., join Kidical Mass at the Coloma Community Center playground (4623 T St.) for hot cocoa before heading out.

STEVE COHN TO DISCUSS HIS RECENTLY PUBLISHED MEMOIR ABOUT HIS LIFE, JOURNEY AND LEGACY: "Facing surgery to remove a brain tumor, Steve Cohn wrote this memoir chronicling his life's story, from his grandfather's daring escape from the Russian Army in Ukraine during World War I and Cohn's childhood growing up in mid-century Missouri, to his adult life in Northern California, where he raised a family and began a long career as an attorney for the nation's most progressive electric utility and a civic leader for 'America's Most Livable City.' Cohn was one of the longest serving City Council members in the history of Sacramento." Copies of *Citizen Cohn: Memoir of Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn*, published on the I Street Press, will be available for purchase at the program. More information about the book is available at stevecohnsacramento.com. Dec. 17, Saturday, 2 p.m. – McKinley Library

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

A TAHOE PARK CHRISTMAS: For one hour from 7 to 8 p.m., Jacob's Well Church, 6240 14th Ave., will host singing carols, candlelight, and provide stockings for the kids. There will be a presentation by guest speaker Ken Hansen and then there will be a s'mores after-party! Facebook check-ins at A Tahoe Park Christmas will each generate a \$5 donation to Tahoe Elementary School! Visit <http://atahoeparkchristmas.com/> for more information.

BEST BETS



STEVE COHN TO DISCUSS HIS RECENTLY PUBLISHED MEMOIR ABOUT HIS LIFE, JOURNEY AND LEGACY: "Facing surgery to remove a brain tumor, Steve Cohn wrote this memoir chronicling his life's story, from his grandfather's daring escape from the Russian Army in Ukraine during World War I and Cohn's childhood growing up in mid-century Missouri, to his adult life in Northern California, where he raised a family and began a long career as an attorney for the nation's most progressive electric utility and a civic leader for 'America's Most Livable City.' Cohn was one of the longest serving City Council members in the history of Sacramento." Copies of *Citizen Cohn: Memoir of Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn*, published on the I Street Press, will be available for purchase at the program. More information about the book is available at stevecohnsacramento.com. Dec. 17, Saturday, 2 p.m. – McKinley Library

RECURRING

THURSDAY, DEC. 15-WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

ANGELS WE HAVE HEART ON HIGH: The Sacramento Master Singers present a wonderful musical tradition year after year. From the meditative candlelight processional to the exuberant spirituals, from the multicultural repertoire to the timeless carols, A Master Singers Christmas delivers the beauty and joy you've come to expect. The choir will also feature works ac-

companied by string quartet, including Buxtehude's *Das Neuegeborne Kindelein*, Brian Budd's *Love Came Down at Christmas*, and Dan Forrest's *The Shepherd's Carol*. Concerts will be held at St. Francis Church, 26th and K streets. Includes an American Sign Language interpreter. Showtimes are: Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., Dec. 17 at 8 p.m., Dec. 18 at 3 p.m., Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at <https://boxoffice.printtixusa.com/mastersingers/agenda>

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Call (916) 429-9901 for rates.

Crockett-Deane Ballet & Deane Dance Center present...

Nutcracker & Christmas Angels
Friday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m. - Preview
Saturday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.

"The Center" 2300 Sierra Blvd.
Preview only - \$7; adults \$15
\$12 Seniors/Students; \$10 Children

(916) 453-0226 • Tickets at door or
www.DeaneDanceCenter.com

CALL AND PLACE YOUR EVENT TODAY! (916) 429-9901

'TIS THE SEASON FOR TAMALE MAKING

Here are some tips from from a Sacramento favorite

By **MONICA STARK**
 editor@valcomnews.com

My mother grew up in Gonzales, a tiny migrant town south of Salinas. Every year, mi abuelita (my grandmother) Socorro Martinez would make tamales and sell them out of her home. Lines of people would crowd the sidewalk waiting to greet mi abuelita who took their orders in advance. From carnitas, to chicken, and of course the cinnamon and sugar varieties, the little town loved her cooking. Sadly, my mother didn't carry on the tradition but my uncle, Juan Martinez, still lives in the area, and over our "Second Thanksgiving" shared with me his reason for his tardiness to dinner:

"We were making tamales! I looked at the time - 2:30 p.m. - shoot. I didn't get to stick around for the tamales to get done, but here I am. We were all there working away. It was an assembly line. A lot of us worked in assembly lines before, so it's easy for us," he said, laughing in an "it's-so-funny-it's-sad kind-of-way."

Former farmworkers who became activists in order to give back and help "la causa" Juan (aka Johnny to me) and his friends get together to share their stories of "those days". They weren't quite good ol' days, but they were good ol' days. The trouble they'd get into! Johnny has always been my favorite uncle with his stories and humor -- always in attendance at Thanksgiving (whether it's Thanksgiving One or Two) and at Christmas. Tamale making is a favorite tradition, especially during Christmastime to share stories whilst slaving away with la familia, trying to get the masa just right. Because who likes a tamale that falls apart?

Because the traditions of tamale making weren't passed down to me, I have been curious: What makes a perfect tamale.

"You want to make sure you don't want to overcook them," says Lalo Tinoco of Lalo's Restaurant in Hollywood Park. "They will continue to cook even after you turn the fire off. It's kind of like an egg. When you are cooking an egg,



By Ray Bouknight

you want to take it off of the fire and heat because the heat that's already in it will continue to cook it. So you want to make sure you don't want to (keep them on the heat), because then they will be fully dry. Also, when we are cooking our tamales, we like to boil a little bit of rice and you add them in there and add it into the masa because it will not let your masa dry out. They won't stick to the husk. Everything you have to be a little curious."

At Lalo's they don't add mole or sauces on top of their tamales. "We want to make sure the filling is very flavorful so that you don't have to add extra condiments to it, so that you can enjoy the tamale for what it is. But one day, we put sour cream on top and said, 'wow, this is good, so we continue to do that.'"

Asked where the restaurant gets its masa, Lalo said, "If you

don't get your masa from La Esperanza, you should. They're the OGs (original gangster) of tamales." Lalo's parents Cecilia and Wenceslao Tinoco joined their powers in creating the perfect tamale recipe at the restaurant. "Every Hispanic family has a tamale recipe and hers has been very successful at the restaurant," Lalo said.

Tamale-making is a staple for the Tinocos, not just at Christmastime or Thanksgiving, but, as Lalo puts it: "Not even every holiday, but every birthday, every American holiday, every Hispanic holiday, every anniversary. It's always the family, the family of the family, people that work here, their family. We all get together. At Thanksgiving, we never ate turkey. We always ate tamales ... We always bought a 20-pound bag of masa and everyone joins together. One person does this. One person puts the husks together.

One person builds them. Then, you just wait till they're done and then dig in."

Lalo's is now taking orders for holiday parties up to a week in advance. But, they don't want to say no. "We'll make extra." Lalo's Restaurant is located at 5063 24th St. (down the street from Panama Pottery) in Hollywood Park.

Besides Lalo's, a personal favorite place to pick up tamales has been the cafeteria at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (711 T St.) across the street from Southside Park. Every Sunday from morning to evening, the cafeteria is open. Churchgoers and visitors (like myself) go in and order lunch, be it two carne asada tacos or a cheese and pepper tamale (a perfect combination for those who like some spice but not a lot, as the cheese brings down the heat). The kitchen is all-volunteer run and the proceeds benefit the church.

EAST SACRAMENTO BUSINESSES

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LUNCHEON

January 11th, Noon

Clunie Center

Speaker:

Gordon Fowler, 3fold Communications

MIXER

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