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— OVER THE FENCE —

Charles Phoenix brings his retro slide show to the California Auto Museum

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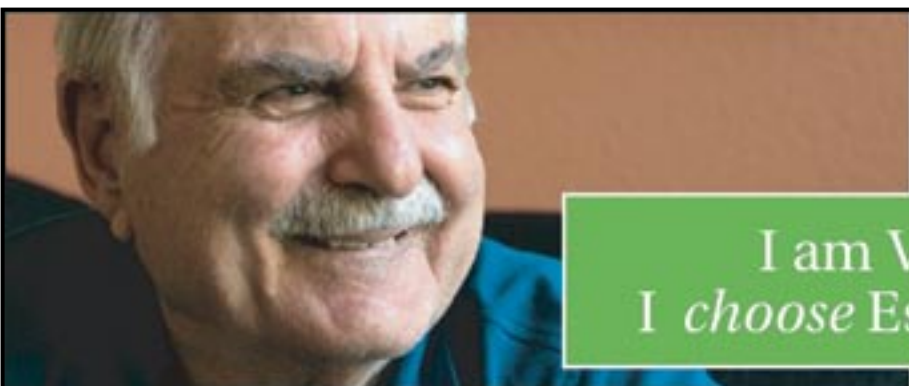


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2709 Riverside Blvd.
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CA 95818
t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

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Lance Armstrong

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Over the Fence



with Greg Brown greg@valcomnews.com

Charles Phoenix brings his retro slide show to the California Auto Museum

Charles Phoenix has been called the Ambassador of Americana, The King Of Kitsch, The Ringmaster of Retro. Who is Charles Phoenix? He's all that and more.

Phoenix is best known for his comedic retro slide shows which showcase his collection of vintage film slides capturing mid-century Americana and culture. He does it all with enthusiasm, humor and style.

Charles had been thrift shopping since he was 14. Growing up in Ontario, California, he loved vintage stuff. "I kinda got started with a vintage eye because I grew up on a used car lot."

That's when he started buying vintage clothes, "It was much more interesting to dress in things you got at a thrift store than at the department store."

In 1992, Charles was thrift store shopping in Pasadena when he found a box of old slides on the shelf marked "Trip Across the U.S. 1957." It was filled with Kodachrome color slides of a family's vacation at numerous roadside landmarks. He held a few up and each one was "like looking through a window in time," he said.

He's been collecting slides ever since. Charles Phoenix will be bringing his colorful comedy slide show to the California Auto Museum for a special night of neon, retro, and all



Tower Theatre will be a highlight of Charles Phoenix's presentation.

things mid-century modern. The event is hosted and sponsored by SacMod (Sacramento Modern). Welcome to Sacramentoland!

Charles told me over the phone from Los Angeles, "I'm going to be celebrating our capital city like it's a Big Theme Park!"

Phoenix added, "Everywhere I go I'm looking for the vintage, the retro, the old-school, the throwback, the classic, the kitschy, call it what you will. I'm looking for the places in every town that are unique to that town."

And Charles has a long list of classic Sacramento spots he'll be visiting and highlighting in his Sacramentoland slide show on Friday, Oct. 16. He'll arrive four days before the show to explore some of Sacramento's landmark gems.

A real "one of a kind unique in the whole wide world gem is Pancake Circus," Phoenix said.

Charles told me, "I love time warps because in this corporate world that we live in

Over the Fence:

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time warps are unique, and they're special, and I love them, I look for them." Pancake Circus is a prime example of a time warp with the classic googie architecture, neon sign, and circus clown themed interior.

Phoenix puts some of our local landmarks up on a pedestal and has "kooky good time fun along the way."

Then he asked me "Have you ever been to Sam's Hof Brau?"

I said, "Of course, Charles. C'mon now." (I'm a freak for Sam's.) The neon sign.

The dancing Germans on the wall, the meat carvers with the big white chef hats. That's Sacramento!

Charles excitedly said, "That place rocks my world! It's so honest to goodness and it's fresh. They roast the meat right there; it's not some frozen freezer bag treat or whatever."

Plus, the ambiance of it. Charles loves the big murals and the paintings, and of course, the outside neon sparkly signage.

"I mean. Where. Do. We. Begin?" Charles asked.

The last time Charles was there at 3 in the afternoon he said, "The place was jammed."

And it always is. Because Sam's Hof Brau is a Sacramento institution that should be treasured. And it will be treasured and enamored at the Sacramentoland slide show.

Another local legendary landmark Charles will be

touting and treasuring is Iceland Skating Rink in North Sacramento. (Editor's Note: Opening day for the rink is set for Nov. 20.)

Iceland is "homespun and family run." That's what Charles Phoenix loves about it, as well as the iconic neon sign along Del Paso Boulevard.

Against all odds Iceland has come back after a devastating fire. Phoenix said, "That is community spirit. It's the same family since the beginning, so I wish I had the opportunity to actually have crowns from the Party Store, place them on their heads and tell them, 'You're Americana royalty.'"

No word on if Iceland owner Terrie Kerth and her family will take Charles up on the crown wearing, but they definitely should be commended for keeping Iceland alive.

Charles Phoenix will be running loose all over Sacramento going from local treasure to local treasure including Fairytale Town in Land Park. Phoenix excitedly said, "That place is SO unique, SO one of a kind, SO special, SO charming, SO whimsical, SO playful, SO colorful. I'll be telling the story of that place."

He'll also be visiting Sacramento Sweets in Old Sacramento. They have been making handmade peanut brittle since 1964. Charles told me, "It's rare to find a peanut brittle kitchen. I've been all over the United States and I've never been to a peanut brittle kitchen." And of course, it's homespun and family run.

Other Sacramento landmarks Charles will be tour-

ing are the iconic Tower Theatre, Crest Theatre, as well as the Tower Records jitterbug neon sign above the Tower Café. "A national treasure," Charles added.

Gunther's Ice Cream shop, with its Juggling Joe neon sign, as well as Vic's, too. (There will be an ice cream social after the presentation.)

He also discovers things along the way like odd buildings, or some crazy incredible car on the driveway. "There's always stuff along the way," he told me.

I asked Charles what he looks for when he's exploring

a city and he said, "I'm looking for greatness. I'm looking for uniqueness. I'm trying to preserve our culture. I'm putting things up on a pedestal that might be fading in the background a little bit, but they shouldn't be because they're special."

There will also be an ice cream social party after the show. Meet Charles following the performance, while enjoying an ice cream cone or cup from Vic's Ice Cream, courtesy of Sacramento Modern.

Admittance to the exhibits in the California Auto Mu-

seum, performance and ice cream all are included with ticket purchase.

If you go:

What: Sacramentoland slide show presented by Charles Phoenix

When: Friday, Oct. 16; doors open at 7 p.m. Show between 8 and 9 p.m. Ice cream social party 'til 10:30 p.m.

Cost: \$29
Event sponsor and host is Sacramento Modern.

On the web: sacmod.org, www.charlesphoenix.com

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Valley Broadcast Legends, Talents of California History

by LEIGH STEPHENS

Valley Broadcast Legends (VBL) is a social club for those who have or had careers in radio and television. Members laugh at the "Legends" part saying it's tongue and cheek. The club was founded at the West Sacramento Pheasant Club in 2001, and began as a sibling of the Bay Area Broadcast Legends. It now has nearly 100 members.

Jim Drennan is the club president who retired in 1994 after 33 years in journalism in Madera, Reno, and Sacramento where he worked at KXTV and KCRA. The Legends meet every other month at the Pheasant Club for a program related to broadcasting.

Following are profiles of four noted and multi-talented Legends who have decades of broadcast work in California.

Vic Biondi is a familiar, telegenic face in the Sacramento market. He has more than 40 years of broadcast experience in television news reporting, news writing, and public affairs. Starting in 1982, he worked as the Executive Director of the California Broadcasters Association for 13 years.

Vic says he started at KTVU in Oakland as a production assistant. His news career included KCRA in Sacramento and KNBC



Vic Biondi

Burbank as chief of the company's news bureau in the State Capitol. He covered state government and politics for 11 years.

In 1997-98, Biondi was hired as Media Coordinator for the trials of the notorious Unibomber in Sacramento and in Laramie, Wyoming. He managed local and state government relations, the bud-

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Broadcast:

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get, and the media centers. He also handled television pool production and court credentialing for local and network TV and print news organizations covering the trial.

He says, "Working on the Unabomber trial was a totally different experience for me. As a representative of print and broadcast media to the Federal Court, I had to keep the media and the Court happy."

Adding to his impressive resume, Biondi was chosen to be the Coordinating Producer of the California gubernatorial broadcast debates in 1998, 2002, and 2003, when he managed and oversaw all phases of the media coverage and video production.

Segueing into the writing and publishing field, Vic works with his wife Shirley Biagi who is a retired professor of Journalism and Communications from CSUS. Shirley's mass media university textbook, *Media Impact* (Cengage Learning/Wadsworth Publishers) has become the key book nationwide for communications students.

Dana Michaels became a radio personality in Los Angeles, San Francisco,

Anchorage, and Lake Tahoe from 1975-1995, also working in the industry as a news director and program director. In Sacramento she lit the radio airways on Country 105 FM, which became KNCI, KROY, and Cool KHYL. College studies in broadcast, music, drama and film production prepared Dana for freelance voice work and TV production work.

Dana says, "I wanted a singing and acting career and spent five years in Hollywood fighting the beauty bias...I guess I have a radio face. I gave up to become a newscaster and disc jockey. Being a jock was more fun than being a newscaster...my favorite format was '60's rock & roll oldies."

Michaels is now a Marketing Specialist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. She says her transition to state work was easy because of her past experience in public relations. When moving from radio, Dana says her challenge was leaving the freedom of radio talk to having to accept some of the absurd rules of the state bureaucracy.

A renaissance woman, she is a rhythm guitarist for the Scottish Fiddlers who do shows for the Scottish Games where she was

part of the marketing team for a number of years. She also belongs to several Sacramento musical groups.

A musical buddy says, "Dana is an accomplished guitarist, has a beautiful alto voice, and knows every song in the world!"

If the above careers were not enough, Dana has completed her first novel which is in draft form. She says it's about a 54-year-old American woman and a 42-year-old English actor who thinks she's his age and pursues her despite their different worlds and the 5,000 miles apart.

Steve Swatt spent 23 years at KCRA where as a political reporter he covered major ballot propositions, presidential and gubernatorial campaigns in California during the administrations of Governors Reagan, Brown, Deukmejian, and Wilson. He covered more than 5,000 stories and for years was the only television reporter at the Capitol.

"There has been significant change at the California Capitol since I started in the 1970s when older legislators viewed television with suspicion," Swatt says, "We couldn't film the Senate floor debates if one of the 40 members objected. We put up a big stink and the



Vic Biondi, Dana Michaels, and Steve Swatt

legislature finally changed its policy."

He says two major changes occurred in the Legislature:

In 1980, Democrats Leo McCarthy and Howard Ber-

man fought a bitter year-long race for Assembly Speaker. The result was a divisive scramble among Democrats to raise big money. Steve says this started the political

fundraising arms race that continues today.

Then term limits became the law in 1990, which diffused political power because of short-term leaders, although it has resulted in a spike in minority and women legislators.

Swatt left television to become Managing Partner of

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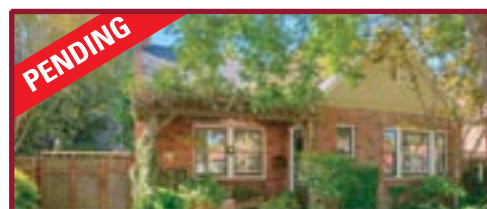


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COLDWELL BANKER



Thom's Cyclery played early role in city's bicycle history

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is the second article in a series dedicated to the history of various past and present local bicycle shops.

Sacramento has been home to many bicycle shops during its long history. And one of the most memorable of those shops was Thom's Cyclery.

When Thom's opened its doors to the public in 1927, there had been a relatively low number of businesses in the capital city that had sold bicycles, let alone dedicated an entire inventory to this form of transportation.

The 1927 city directory lists the following local bicycle dealers: Frank J. Murray/Crawford/Rambler at 508 J St., William H. Harrison, Jr. at 1013 13th St., L&M Cyclery at 1215 4th St., Lang-

ley Repair Shop at 1015 5th St., Sanyo Bicycle Co. at 522 L St., Roy Thompson at 2714 Sacramento Blvd. (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) and John W. Williams at 2975 35th St.

Due to the timing of Thom's 1927 opening, it was not until the following year when the business was referred to in a city directory.

That 1928 directory mentions the business as then operating at 4432 4th Ave., under the operation of its founder, Hobart Denzil "Tom" Thom.

By the following year, Tom, who was born in Texas on Aug. 24, 1896, was running his business at 2544 Sacramento Blvd.

The 1930 U.S. Census for Sacramento mentions the then-33-year-old Tom, his Oregon-born wife, the then-29-year-old Martha, and their children and their ages, as follows: Lorraine, 11, Marie, 9, Adrian, 7, and Audrey, 6.

Tom became a widower on Sept. 5, 1933 with the death of Martha, who was then about 33 years old.

By the following year, the bicycle shop had been relocated to 3403 2nd Ave.

In about 1935, Tom expanded his bicycle shop, which as a result had the address of 3401-3403 2nd Ave.

A 1935 advertisement for the shop includes the following words: "Everything for the

bicycle, guaranteed new and rebuilt bicycles. Expert repair service. 3401-03 2nd Av (sic). Tel. Main 9953.

Working as a salesman for the business at that time was John Thom, who then resided with his wife, Mary, and other members of his family in living quarters above the shop.

City directories continue to list the address of the business as 3401-3403 through 1938.

This address, however, was simplified to 3401 2nd Ave. by the following year.

For many years, the store, which sold new and used Schwinn bicycles, other brands of bicycles, tricycles and accessories, was known for stocking many bicycles in a small space.

An advertisement that was published in The Sacramento Bee on Dec. 11, 1960, for instance, ran a photograph of the inside of the store with the following words: "This is the interior of our store!!!! It's jammed!! If we haven't got it - stop looking - no one has."

The advertisement concluded with the words: "Buy your bicycle from people that know bikes!"

During the creation of this article, two area residents, who grew up in Oak Park, shared their memories of Thom's Cyclery.

The first of these men was 83-year-old Mike Lateano, who recalled purchas-

ing a bicycle from Tom in about 1944.

"When I was about 12 years old, I bought a used bicycle from (Tom)," said Lateano, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1950. "I told him I didn't have much money. I was mowing lawns and such. I saw this bike. It had a light on it on the front part, and that's what attracted me. I remember, I asked him, 'How much is it? I don't have very much (money). I mow lawns around the area here and do stuff. He said something like 12 bucks. And I said, 'Oh, I don't have that.' And he said, 'How much do you have?' I told him \$9, and he said, 'OK, I'll take \$9. But let me work on it a little bit.' I think he kind of oiled up the sprockets and all that."

After being asked to provide any other details that he recalled about that bicycle, Lateano said, "It was a used, older bike, but it was in good shape. I never had a problem with it. When I got that bike, it was during the war years. The Second World War was on. I remember that. I would say that was in 1944, probably. And there weren't many cars driving around, because everybody had their gas rationed. People didn't just take joy rides. If you had a car, you used it to go to work mainly and that was it."

Lateano, who regularly rode his bike to Leland Stanford Junior High School, which was located at 3545 Sacramento Blvd., spoke about some of the other places that he would ride to on his bike.

"We would ride our bikes downtown, we would go over to where the college is now - Sac State," Lateano said. "It used to be peach orchards over there. We would ride over there, grab a few peaches in the summertime and go down to the river and swim in the American River. So, you would take your bicycle all over in those days. It was either that or you walked. I couldn't afford the streetcar. It was 8 cents to go downtown."

Also sharing his memories about Thom's Cyclery for this article was 1954 C.K. McClatchy High School graduate Bill Werry.

Bill, 79, said that he first went into that business in about 1945.

In recalling the bicycles that he rode during his childhood, Bill said, "My sister, (Marcella), was 10 years older than I was, so she kind of quit riding a bike. She had a girls' bike and I had to ride her bike for a couple of years until (he acquired his own bicycle).

"My first brand new bike, my dad, (Marshall Werry, who was a local carpenter), bought it for me at Lyon-Darwin Hardware in Oak Park (at 2901 35th St.), like catty corner from Steen's old bar (at 3445 4th Ave.)," Bill said. "Then I would go to Thom's. I remember Tom. He was always in there, and one of his daughters was always in there a lot. I would go in there and I'd buy handle bars, seats, handle grips and all that kind of stuff. I never did buy a brand new bicycle or anything from him, because I had a bike and it was just a matter of maintaining it."

"Back in the day, when I was a kid, Schwinn was the Cadillac of bicycles. But then there was a bike called the Blue Ribbon, which was also a very good bike. And my bike was kind of a clone of the Blue Ribbon. It was called the Rollfast. It pretty

Thom's:

Continued from page 6



Thom's Cyclery was located at this site at 2nd Avenue and 34th Street for seven decades.

much echoed Blue Ribbon in the way they painted it and everything else."

In returning to the main topic of the interview - Thom's Cyclery - Bill said, "As I recall, (the business's building, which was mostly constructed in 1896) had the old, oiled wood floor. It was kind of rickety and all that, but (Tom) had a lot of good stuff in there."

"I don't think he had a lot of stuff hanging on wires or ropes or anything. He just had rows of bikes in there and lots of (parts). If you needed something, that's the place you went."

"As I recall, the back part of the store was kind of shuttered from the front, and I think that's where they did all their repair work back where you didn't have access to viewing."

It was the only bike shop in and around Oak Park, and whatever you needed, you could get it at Thom's Cyclery. And they always gave you good service and treated you right. And I don't know any other store that the kids in the area went to. They all gravitated to (Thom's). That was kind of the only game in town."

Bill also shared details about the business's founder, saying, "I can still see Tom. He was kind of a skinny guy, frail, skinny face, wore dark, horned rim glasses. It seems like he was a nice guy and he just tended the business and he was polite. He wasn't a grouch or anything. You went in there and you needed something and he would take care of you. As I recall, he was pretty straight forward. He wasn't real outgoing or loud or charismatic or any of that sort of stuff. He was just a good, old guy. I mean, he just went about his business. If you needed handlebars, he sold you handlebars."

Tom, who married Ona Deliah McFarland (1911-

2001) in 1944, retired in about 1970 and died at the age of 83 on March 2, 1980.

In Tom's obituary, which was published in The Sacramento Union three days later, it was noted that at the time of his death, Tom had 22 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Thom's Cyclery, which during its latter years was owned by Verland Thom, remained in business at the same 2nd Avenue location until about 2006.

Thom's was replaced by Broadway Bicycles, which was in operation by March 2007 and remained in business for roughly a year.

The building has since experienced periods of vacancy.

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More than 350 tickets sold for annual CKM Hall of Fame dinner

By JIM COOMBS

More than 350 have already signed up for the 4th annual C.K. McClatchy Sports Hall of Fame dinner to be held Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Asian Sports Foundation facility just off Laguna Boulevard. Twenty-nine athletes, two coaches, and two teams will be inducted as part of this year's class. For information, go to: restotheroar.org.

Heading this year's class is Harvey Tahara, the winningest basketball coach in Lion history, with both boys and girls section title teams. His daughter Cristin, a four-year starter and all-city basketball guard, will also be honored.

Tahara coached men's and women's basketball at McClatchy for 28 years with 18 section playoff teams and section titles in 1993 (boys) and 2007 (girls). He would win

more games than any coach in McClatchy history. He also coached golf for 23 years.

Also being honored is Bob Sandoval, who took over the football program in the early 1980s and had multiple championships and the best won/lost record as a McClatchy football coach.

Other athletes include baseballers Larry Kelley, Val Lewis, and Randy Brown and nationally renowned high jump champion Joe Radan. Kelly would lead the city in scoring as a B basketball player and was all-city in baseball.

Lewis was an all-city second baseman on a championship team his senior year and led the city in hitting with a .413 average. He coached youth baseball for 20 years and founded the Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League.

Brown was a left-handed pitcher but could play all

nine positions as he could also throw right-handed. He would play five years as a professional. Radan was the first person in Sacramento to high jump seven feet and break records at Sac City and Sacramento State. He would jump for the U.S. national team with a best jump of 7'3 3/4.

Section two-mile champion Henry Sanchez and multi-sport stars Mark Honeycutt, Kevin Chappell, Chuck Polite, and Mickey Johnson Lebeck are other old timers being inducted this year.

Honeycutt, all-city in football and city batting champion in baseball, would go on to coach high school baseball for 25 years in El Dorado County. Polite was all-metro, all-city, and participated in the state track meet his senior year. He changed his first name to Idress, meaning "well learned."

Johnson-Lebeck played on three championship baseball teams. He would play NAIA baseball in college and he led the nation with 52 stolen bases. He also led the team in batting average, most home runs, and most runs driven in. He is a very successful Folsom businessman.

Sanchez would go into the service after high school and return to work in Sacramento.

Chappell, all-metro in football and basketball just retired as warden of San Quentin Prison in the Bay Area.

Players from the 1980s include Lynn Strobner (basketball, volleyball), Craig Blackman (football), Harry



Harvey Tahara, the winningest basketball coach in Lion history.

Hendrix (basketball), Marc Sprenger (wrestling), Leonard Nelson (football, basketball), and Mel "Bull" Ah Yun (football, golf). Other outstanding Lion football line-

See HOF, page 9

HOF:

Continued from page 8

men chosen were Craig Blackman and Eric Harper.

Strobner, one of the first scholarship athletes at Sacramento State, has been a fire fighter, stand-up comedian, and owns a small business. She credits McClatchy teacher Pat Honstein for being a mentor and lifelong friend.

Blackman, a first-team all-metro played Ivy League football at Columbia University and captain his senior year. Hendrix, star center for the league champion Lions in 1986, would go on to play at San Diego State and later earn a master's degree. He is the Chief of Pharmacy Health Benefits for the California Department of Health Care.

Nelson, an optimist all star in football, intercepted 22 passes his senior year. He would play at ARC and Sacramento State and 10 more years of professional football in the CFL and Arena Football League.

Au Yun was all-city in football and would go on to Chico where he would play. He has a BA in sociology and a BS in restaurant management and an MBA (IT emphasis).

This year's class emphasizes players and teams from 1990-95. Three sport stars Pedro Lewis, Malcolm Seabrons-Floyd, Raj Wallace, and Xavier Salazar starred on early '90s championship teams.

Lewis, one of the best athletes to ever attend McClatchy, was all-city in football and basketball while leading the

Lions to Metro League championships his senior year. He would later star as a running back at Sacramento State.

Seabrons-Floyd, an outstanding basketball and football player for championship Lion teams, lettered four years at Fresno State as a wide receiver. He was a star on teams that went to three bowl games in four years. He is presently a teacher and coach at CKM.

Wallace was an outstanding guard in basketball, an all-metro star in soccer and a top baseball player. Harper was an all-city lineman as a junior and senior and played at Nevada Reno. He recently earned a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and lives in Dallas.

Salazar won the SA Pepper award as outstanding male athlete in 1994. He was an outstanding quarterback and an All American junior college player at Sacramento City College. He played at Tulane on a 12-0 team that won the Liberty Bowl.

Jennifer Kerns (soccer, tennis), Robin Jury Dobbel (all-city softball), and Tanisha Kemp (all-Metro in basketball and softball) along with Tahara make up female inductees from the '90s.

Kerns played four years of tennis and soccer for the Lions and was all-Metro in soccer two years and Metro singles champion in tennis her senior year. She was the star on the CKM tennis team chosen this year as one of our honored teams. At Stanford, she played rugby and was an All-American her senior year.

Cristin Tahara was a two-sport star, volleyball and basketball, all-metro, all-city, and optimist all-star. She played three years of basketball at San Francisco State. She is presently the assistant principal at Sutter Middle School.

Robin Jury-Dobbel pitched every game from 1991-94 (92 games) and led the Lions to the TOC in 1994. She played four years at Sac State, mostly at second base committing only 13 errors in 1,120 innings. She graduated in criminal justice with honors and worked in the Governor's office from 1999-2003.

Tanisha Kemp was one of the best female athletes to attend CKM. In basketball she held five team records while playing for a section qualifying senior team. In softball, she was an Optimist all-star. She played four years of softball at Morgan State and was a four-time All MEAC and a two-time All-American. She has been a teacher since 2001.

Outstanding basketball stars being inducted include Andre Speech, Marlon Johnson, and Brian Hamilton. All three went on to have very successful college careers.

Speech was twice MVP for the Lion basketball team and all-Metro, all-city, and all-state. He presently works for Nike, coaches high school basketball, and also an AAU team. He credits coach Tahara with teaching him the basics of basketball.

Marlon Johnson was one of the great CKM basketball players. He helped lead the

Lions to section championship in 1993 and was the "Sacramento player of the year." Coach Tahara said, "Marlon was the most exciting and gifted player I ever coached." He would go on play at Bakersfield State and win a Division 2 national championship.

Brian Hamilton, according to coach Tahara, was one of the best point guards ever to play at McClatchy. He scored the most points in one season

(691), had the third most assists in a season (424), and the second most steals in a season (317). He led the Lions to a section championship his senior year. He is presently an outstanding coach at Natomas High School.

Teams honored will be the 1993 section champion basketball team and the 1990 girls tennis team. More about them in the next edition of the Land Park News.

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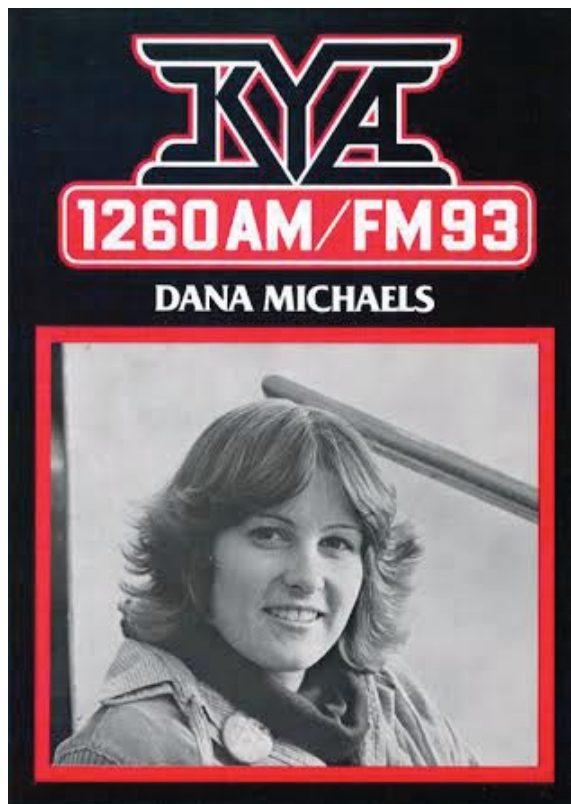
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Source: Trendgraphix



Dana Michaels

Legends:

Continued from page 5

Nelson Communications Group, one of the state's premier public relations firms, which has now merged with Porter Novelli International.

He is the author of the award-winning novel, *Fair, Balanced and Dead*, a newsroom political mystery. Demonstrating his commitment to public service, he donated book proceeds to nonprofits in Northern California including journalism scholarships, housing for the homeless, and women's centers.

Steve is also the lead author of the book, *Game Changers*, written with wife Susie Swatt, Jeff Raimundo, and Rebecca LaVally. *Game Changers* examines twelve elections that shaped California. It is a political histo-

ry viewed through the prism of a dozen watershed elections. The book received the California Historical Society Book Award in 2014 and is scheduled for release this fall.

Swatt now hosts public affairs programs for Comcast *Newsmakers* and Time Warner Cable's *Sacramento Report*, interviewing state and local elected leaders.

Working at KCRA with Steve, good friend Vic Biondi laughingly says, "I always thought of Steve as my Jimmy Olsen."

The "Valley Broadcast Legends Newsletter" editor is Joyce Krieg who has years of experience in radio and writing. She worked for flower-power Earth Radio 102 in the early 1970s and then joined KFBK "NewsTalk" as reporter and promotions manager. Joyce worked at KFBK from 1978 to 1993.

She says, "I always tell people that my greatest claim to both fame and shame while on the management team was to discover Rush Limbaugh."

Since retiring from radio, she has written three award-winning and successful mystery novels, *Slip Cue*, *Riding Gain*, and *Murder Off Mike*. She won an "Agatha" nomination for *Murder Off Mike*. St. Martin's Minotaur is her publisher.

Joyce is currently working on a young adult paranormal trilogy and a new series of mystery/thrillers dealing with the secret history of Silicon Valley.

She says, "I've always loved mysteries since discovering Nancy Drew as a child."

Leigh Stephens is a retired CSUS Professor of Journalism and Communications and the author of more than 500 articles and several books.



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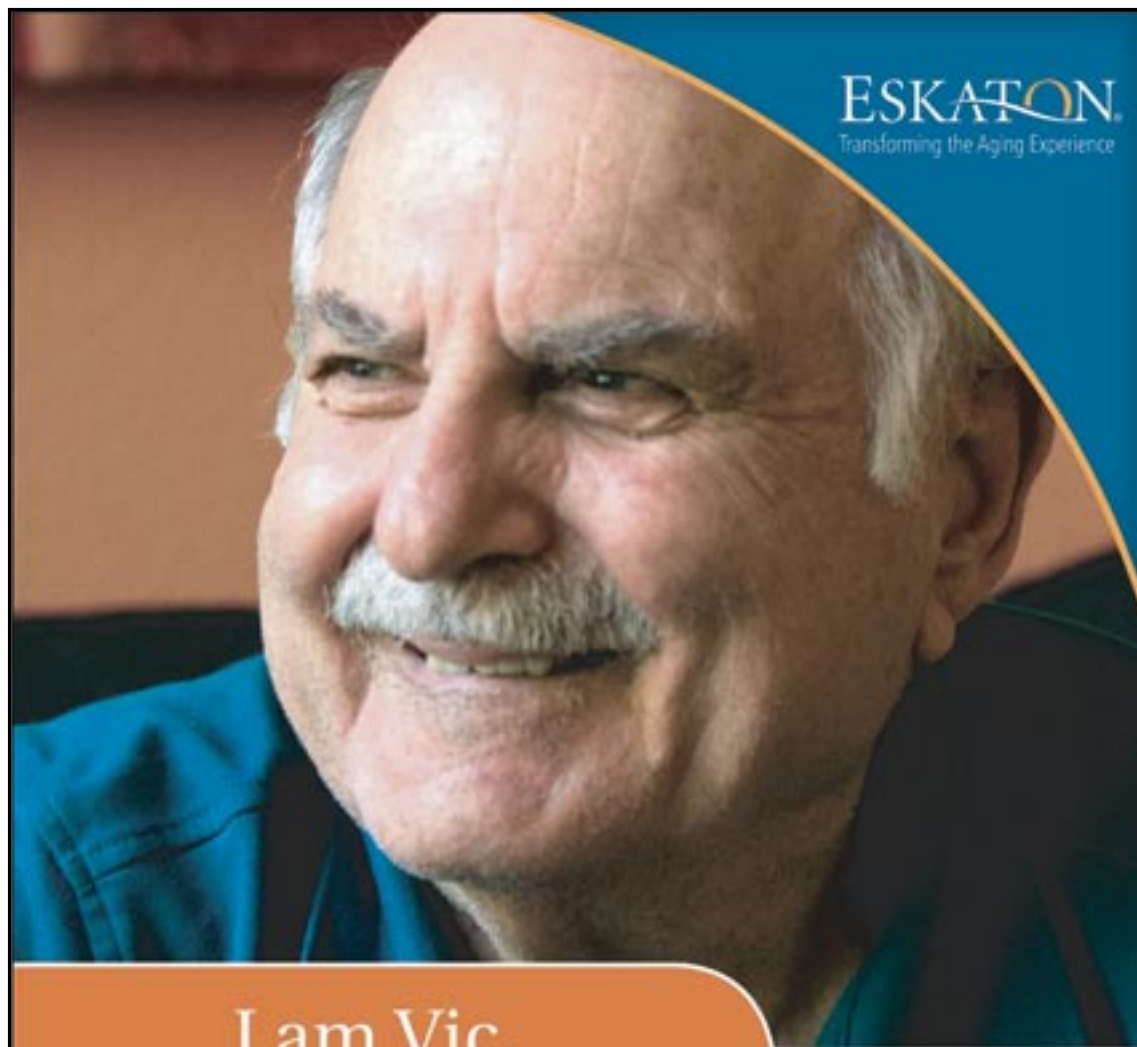
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24th Annual LGBT Film Fest Oct. 8-10 Celebrates Cultural, Gender Diversity

By BONNIE OSBORN

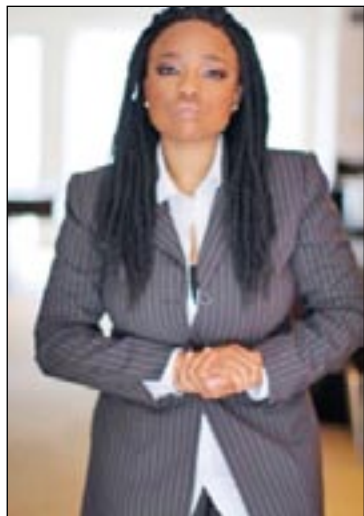
Now in its 24th year, the Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival will return Oct. 8-10 to Sacramento's historic Crest Theatre with a robust schedule of feature-length and short films spotlighting the rich ethnic, cultural and gender diversity within the LGBT community.

The Festival kicks off Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m. with the unofficial "Men's Night" screening, featuring "Caged," about a homophobic Dutch teen who learns his running partner is gay; "I Do (Aceito)," a comic short about a gay marriage proposal that nearly goes awry; and feature-length "Beautiful Something," which follows the interwoven stories of four men on a hot night out in Philly.

Friday, Oct. 9, is the unofficial "Women's Night," screening "The Hollow," a true-crime story of two female hikers attacked on the Appalachian Trail; "Nancy From East Side Clover," which documents the true story of a butch lesbian Chicana who was arrested more than 20 times in 1950s L.A.; and comic feature film "S & M Sally," about a lesbian couple who test their relationship by joining a BDSM sex club.

Also Friday at 10:30 p.m., "Late Night With Todd," dedicated to the late Festival President Todd Lohse, will offer the adults-only films "Been Too Long at the Fair," and "Seed Money," a documentary about gay porn mogul and gay rights activist Chuck Holmes.

New in 2015 will be "transFUSION," a Saturday, Oct. 10, 2:30 p.m. matinee program of films that explore transgender and gender identity issues within different cultures. A short documentary "The Same Difference" examines the prejudice and discrimination practiced within a group of lesbians. "Kumu Hina - A Place in the Middle" is viewed through the eyes of a Na-



Nneka Onuorah

tive Hawaiian woman who is both transgender and an honored community leader and teacher, or *kumu*. "Passing" profiles three transmen of color and how they navigate life as black men from inside the closet.

The festival winds up with its traditional Saturday Night shorts program, which includes "11 Life Lessons from an Awesome Old Dyke"; "Stealth," about a boy living as a girl; and "Queer Habits," a profile of activist cross-dressers the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, who have hosted bingo in Guerneville for more than 13 years, with proceeds benefiting local schools.

Several writers, directors and actors from featured films will be in attendance throughout the weekend, including "Beautiful Something" director Joe Graham (Thursday); "Seed Money" director Mike Stabile (Friday late night); "S&M Sally" director, writer and actor Michelle Ehlen (Friday); "Nancy From East Side Clover" director Gregorio Davila (Friday); and "The Same Difference" director Nneka Onuorah (Saturday transFUSION at 2:30 p.m.). Director Jason Looney and actors Justin Martindale, Jeremy Kinser and Drew Droege of "Not Looking," the season opener of the web-based gay comedy series of

See Film Fest, page 13

Film fest:

Continued from page 12

the same name will be in attendance at the Saturday Night Shorts program.

The \$55 VIP pass includes all three days of the festival, early seating, and complimentary pre-show hors d'oeuvres and beverages, provided by food and beverage sponsors House Bar and Grill (Thursday), Hot Italian (Friday), hot new downtown eatery Empress Tavern (Saturday), Hoppy Brewing Company and Barefoot Wine & Bubbly. Tickets are available for individual screenings (\$10 to \$15 per program). Tickets can be purchased at Crest Theatre box office, ticketfly.com, siglff.org and ticketleap.com.

SIGLFF President Michael Dennis has announced the launch of a new program to provide grants to support local students and artists in fulfilling their dreams. To help SIGLFF kick off its new fund, Brand G (www.brandgvacations), which specializes in exotic vacation cruises targeted to the growing LGBT travel market, has donated a 10-day Costa Rica, Cartagena & Panama Canal Cruise for two, scheduled for December 2-11, 2015. The cruise will be auctioned off, along with art works from the Kennedy Gallery Art Center, at SIGLFF's silent auction, beginning Thursday night, Oct. 8, with the final bid taken at 7:45 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10.



Writer and director Michelle Ehlen.



Beautiful Something director Joseph Graham.

SIGLFF sponsors include Wells Fargo, Lasher Elk Grove Subaru, SMUD, One Realty Group, OnQ Financial, Portofino Room, Trapeze, Faces, HP, Outword, Sacramento Convention &

Visitors Bureau, Lumens Light + Living, Badlands, Davis Pride and Stephanie Slagel State Farm Insurance. SIGLFF's festival partner is Mendocino Film Festival, and SIGLFF is funded in

part by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with support from the City and County of Sacramento.

For more information about SIGLFF 2015, visit SIGLFF.org.

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Drought alters schedule for leaf season collection

The impact of the prolonged drought on Sacramento trees could mean an earlier than normal leaf drop for some tree species. In response to the early leaf drop, the city plans to modify its leaf season pickup schedule for 2015. Residents can legally put out leaf piles starting Oct. 19. Collection will begin the week of Oct. 19 and will end on its normal date of Jan. 31, 2016. Until Oct. 19, residents must use only their yard waste container for leaf collection. Piles out early may be tagged as illegal dumping and fines are possible.

Continue using yard waste containers

More than 27,000 Tons of yard waste is collected during leaf season and over half of the tonnage is from weekly container service. Residents are being reminded to fill the container first then pile. Container service will always occur weekly and on residents regularly scheduled collection days.

Claw schedule

It can take crews on average up to two weeks to complete one leaf sweep of the city, depending on leaf volume and weather conditions. In the early part of the season collection may be more frequent. All streets will have at least one collection occur between October 19 and Oct. 30.

From Oct. 23 to Jan. 31, 2016, residents can get an estimate of when the next pile collection will occur in their neighborhood by visiting www.sacreycle.org. The schedule will show the last pickup and an estimate of the next collection date. The schedule is updated daily based on volume of yard waste from the previous day, weather conditions and equipment availability. Check back frequently since dates do change often.

Drought impact on trees

According to Joe Benassini, the City of Sacramento's Urban Forester, drought can cause premature leaf abscission (drop) depending on species and other factors. "However it is also difficult to distinguish between leaf drop due to drought, versus heat response, versus other problems," states Benassini. "There will likely be an increase in early leaf fall to some degree but not overwhelming. There are still many perfectly healthy trees that will drop normally, so the season will not be shorter."

Household junk collection to go on hiatus – appliance & E-waste continues year round

The same crews and equipment used for the Household Junk Pickup program are deployed for leaf collection during November, December and January. The Household Junk Pickup will be limited the last two weeks of October and will go on its planned hiatus in November. The program will resume in February. Appliance & E-waste collection occurs years round and appointments are available during leaf season.

All residents can make up to two appointments for junk pickup and two appointments for appliance e-waste in a calendar year. More information is available at www.sacreycle.org.

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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)

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Chinese Community Church 32nd Annual
FALL FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD FESTIVAL

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Saturday, November 7
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4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael
916-972-0336

Sacramento Suburban Kiwanis presents
24th Annual Beajobais Plus Wine Tasting and Silent Art Auction
Sunday, November 8, 2015, 4-7pm

Held at Carmichael Presbyterian Church
5645 Marconi Ave., Carmichael
For tickets call: (916) 973-7337

Award winning wine - live music - silent art
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More information at www.craftytreasures.com

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

CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

Non-Profit Organization is Seeking Local Host Families for High School Exchange Students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with your community high school, is looking for local families to host boys and girls between the ages of 15 to 18 from a variety of countries: Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Japan, to name a few.

ASSE students are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture while they practice their English. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families. Host families welcome these students into their family, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, acci-

dent and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected based on academics and personality, and host families can choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

To become an ASSE Host Family or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, please call 1-800-733-2773 or go to www.host.asse.com to begin your host family application. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today!

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.

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.

OCTOBER

"Souls of the City" Events & Activities Presented by the Sacramento History Museum

Now-Nov. 1: In honor of "Day of the Dead" activities celebrated each year in Mexico and in major cities around the world, Sol Collective and the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation have teamed up to present a series of community workshops and special activities that showcase the traditions and/or demonstrate how to create some of the special items used in "Day of the Dead" celebrations. The effort culminates with a Dia De Los Muertos celebration on November 1. For more, visit www.sachistorymuseum.org. The museum is located at 101 I St.

See more Calendar, page 18




Desirable Midtown Location • U Street
This beautiful home built in 1936 has 1284sq ft of living space plus a basement. Tons of charm and detail, original woodwork including framed windows & door frames, Oak hardwood floors with inlay design, original built-in desk, cabinets and hutch.

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FREE Children's SONSHINE FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 31st
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Carnival Games, Craft Activities, Big Slide, Refreshments, Prizes And Much More!

Children are welcome to wear their costumes if so desired. (Costume parade starts at 1:00 P.M. and is not a contest.)

Greenhaven Lutheran Church
475 Florin Road at Gloria Drive • 428-8449

Season 53

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- Pre-Concert Lecture by Maestro Baldini at 6:45 PM
- Alfvén, Midsommarvaka (Swedish Rhapsody No. 1)
- Mozart & Verdi Opera Arias – with Carrie Hennessey
- In quali eccessi, O Numi!... Mi tradi quell'alma ingrata – from Don Giovanni
- E Susanna non vien... Dove sono – from Le nozze di Figaro
- Tu che le vanità – from Don Carlos
- Sibelius, Symphony No. 4

Free Family Concert
Sunday, October 25th

- 1 PM: Instrument Petting Zoo
- 2 PM Performance

Camellia Junior Orchestra and Cadets
 Sacramento City College PAC

3835 Freeport Blvd.
 Both events will be held at the Sacramento City College Performing Arts Center
www.CamelliaSymphony.org or 916.929.6655

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Opening Night Tickets Start at \$12!

OCT. 22 – 25

SLEEP TRAIN ARENA

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CALENDAR

"Hole" Lotta Love charity golf tournament

Oct. 9: Whether you love the game of golf, or just hate the mere mention of its name, the main focus of this golf tournament is to have fun! The good news is that participating in this event, you will have fun AND you will help raise money for a good cause. One hundred percent of the proceeds raised at this event go to CASA Sacramento. Come out and enjoy the many added course activities throughout the day while supporting CASA and the foster youth served. The tournament is in the format of a four-person scramble and will be held at Teal Bend Golf Club (7200 Garden

Hwy). The event schedule is as follows: 11 a.m. is registration; 11:30 a.m., putting contest; 1 p.m. shotgun start and a 6:30 p.m. awards dinner/auction and raffle. Reserve your spot today or sponsor the event. Contact Tom at 773-1938 or email: tom.cicchini@raymondjames.com.

Last McKinley Park Food Truck Mania of the season

Oct. 9: Join SactoMoFo and Councilmember Jeff Harris every 2nd Friday at McKinley Park for Food Truck Mania! There will be a beer garden sponsored by the Front Street Animal Shelter, lots of gourmet food trucks, great live music, and plenty of kid-friendly entertainment from 5 o 8 p.m.

Ghost Tours at the Sacramento History Museum

Oct. 9, 10: Visitors to Old Sacramento can journey back in time to hear ghostly tales and spooky stories as they walk through the history-rich streets and re-live 19th century lore. Entertaining yet knowledgeable tour guides will take daring and inquisitive guests through Old Sacramento's infamous locales to experience a bit of the dark side of California's history. For more, go to www.sachistorymuseum.org, 101 I St.

Fire Station 17 Open House

Oct. 10: Fire Station 17, located at 1311 Bell Ave., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

25th Annual Curtis Park Wine Tasting, Silent Auction & Beer Garden Event

Oct. 10: From 4 to 7 p.m.: The tradition continues at the 2015 Curtis Park Wine Tasting, Silent Auction & Beer Garden Event. Building on the success of 24 previous years, this event showcases more than 50 wineries, 20 restaurants and hand-picked craft brews by owner & operator of Curtis Park's own Pangaea Bier Cafe. The Wine Tasting, Silent Auction & Beer Garden Event is the biggest event of its kind in Curtis Park. Event proceeds benefit SCNA, Bret Harte Elementary School and McClatchy High School. Bring your friends

with you, or come meet some new ones. This year we're turning 25 and we're celebrating in a VERY big way. Event highlights include: Raw Oysters on the Half Shell (Scott's Seafood on the River), Dad's Kitchen, Freeport Presbyterian Church, Lucca Restaurant & Bar, Localis (apart of the Broderick Restaurant family), Sugar Plum Vegan Bakery, Tower Café, Tapa the World, Taylor's Kitchen. Sponsors: Cook Realty, McDonald Plumbing, Joseph F. Eschleman, Black Pine Communities, Melissa Heede (Remax). The Sierra 2 Center is located at 2791 24th St. For tickets, visit www.Sierra2.org.

CROP Hunger Walk

Oct. 11: Northminster Presbyterian Church reminds every one of the upcoming CROP Hunger Walk. CROP (Christians Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations and groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. Admission to the walk and raffle is just a can food donation! Funds raised from the walk (ending hunger one step at a time) benefit local food banks, Church World Service and other international humanitarian agencies. One quarter of money raised stays local benefiting 4 local food closets. New this year, the walk will be starting on the West Steps of the California State Capitol, 1315 10th St. The walk is three miles, around the State Capitol and Old Sacramento (making a difference around the block and around the world!) Registration is at 1 p.m. Walk begins at 1:30 p.m. For more information call Craig Chaimers at 429-1521 or Kathy Ross at 468-2828.

Ghost Tours at the Sacramento History Museum

Oct. 16 and 17: Visitors to Old Sacramento can journey back in time to hear ghostly tales and spooky stories as they walk through the history-rich streets and re-live 19th century lore. Entertaining yet knowledgeable tour guides will take daring and inquisitive guests through Old Sacramento's infamous locales to experience a bit of the dark side of California's history. For more, go to www.sachistorymuseum.org, 101 I St.

Matías Bombal's Hollywood

The Walk

The MPAA has rated this PG

Sony Pictures Releasing and TriStar bring us "The Walk", a masterpiece in 3-D movie-making that may be one of the best uses of 3-D since the process was first introduced to the movies in the early 1950s. Seen as an IMAX presentation in an IMAX Theatre only heightens the sensation of this movie. I have never been a fan of the third dimension gimmick, but I was charmed, delighted and thrilled with how it was used here, feelings I'd not felt since childhood at the movies.

"The Walk" is the true story of Philippe Petit and his startling bit of derring-do that captivated the world when he crossed the distance between the twin towers of New York City's World Trade Center on a taunt wire. Robert Zemeckis, who directs, also wrote the screenplay with Christopher Brown based on Petit's book "To Reach The Clouds". Zemeckis made his mark with classics like "1941", "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" and the "Back to the Future" series. Here, he's crafted something quite special.

The picture opens with Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Petit, standing next to the flame of the statue of liberty, with the New York skyline of

1974 behind him, in a realm that seems like total fantasy. There, he begins to relate his life story up to the time that would culminate in his adventurous act. We are taken to Paris of his youth where he was fascinated by high wire acts, and we see him in his teens as a street performer where he draws a circle in chalk. Within it, he performs juggling acts on a unicycle, to the amazement of bystanders. Here, the 3-D camera moves above him, as the juggling pins fly out to the audience in a loving tribute to 3-D's carnival barker past, reminiscent of the famous paddle ball sequence from 1953's "House of Wax".

Whilst Petit is wowing the Parisian street traffic, he steals the audience from a young street musician, Annie (Charlotte Le Bon), playing her guitar. They meet afterward and a romance blossoms, giving the forward Petit a chance to share his dream of walking a wire stretched across the top of the highest twin buildings on the globe at that time.

Winsome Charlotte Le Bon you may remember from last year's "The Hundred Foot Journey". She radiates her lovely charm beautifully in this stylish movie. Encouraged further by her support, Petit seeks advice from his mentor, "Papa" Rudy, of a famous circus family of high wire artists. Sir Ben Kingsley is the colorful sage of an

undetermined ethnicity that has schooled Petit many years.

Petit has gathered some accomplices and they set off to New York City, where they prepare for the big day. Utilizing costumes and bravura, Petit scopes out the towers where construction is still being finished as many tenants are moving in. He finds his first chance to sneak up to the top of the tower that he will eventually walk from, and

here the camera movement begins to fly like a bird in a manner that prevails through the entire movie, which makes it an event in 3-D and IMAX.

This is an example of one of those rare movies where the preview of coming attractions does not do it justice. The "trailer" for this picture shows the expected scenes with great effects and wow factor, yet the story is much more charming, fun and stylish than you'd ever guess by the blockbuster build-up. This movie is an experience you'll not soon forget, and moreover, great fun. It celebrates the highest am-

bitions of human possibility. The music score by Alan Silvestri is perfect, and some great period jazz recordings of that era come to life in the soundtrack.

As I left the Esquire IMAX theatre, I felt like I used to as a kid, having had a great adventure at the movie matinee of my youth. To me, this is what the magic of the movies is all about! This may be the most magical of movies to employ all of the trickery that we love from the cinema to our greatest satisfaction. This is not to be missed. See it in IMAX!

Steffan Brown
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PENDING

CURTIS PARK BRICK HOME

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home will steal your heart. Exposed beam ceiling in living room, filled with natural light, updated kitchen, cozy den with built-ins. Master bath and a 1/4 basement. And a Zen Studio and loft in the enchanting backyard. \$549,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483
KAREN SANNDSTROM 803-0530



ELEGANT LAND PARK

3 bedroom 2 bath, you will love the classic features such as coved ceilings, beautiful wood floors, and arched doorways. Spacious layout with a separate living room and family room, formal dining room, remodeled kitchen with nook, lovely brick patio! \$690,000

ERIN STUMPF 342-1372



COZY NEW ORLEANS FLAIR

Cozy alcoves, leaded glass built-ins and a whimsical staircase showcase this 3 or 4 bedroom home steeped in character and charm! 3 bedrooms plus bonus den/study, renovated bathroom and kitchen with stainless steel appliances and DCS gas range. Easy walking distance to park, local eateries and Sierra 2. \$484,888

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288



SOLD

HIDDEN AWAY SOUTH LAND PARK

Such a sweet home waiting for you and your lifetime adventures. Original owner home - you can feel the love. 3 bedrooms, spacious rooms, corner lot and convenient location. Quietly hidden away in a South Land Park neighborhood close to Sutterville School, shopping and easy access to downtown Sacramento. \$315,000

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



PENDING

SOUTH LAND PARK CUL-DE-SAC

Located on a spacious lot on a convenient cul-de-sac in South Land Park. Big lot (.36 acre) with big backyard, 3 bedrooms 2 baths with newer roof and dual pane windows. 2-car garage, covered patio, close to shopping and easy freeway access. Nicely maintained! \$385,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483



SOLD

NESTLED IN CURTIS PARK

Just a short skip from the Park, this darling 2 bedroom cottage delights at every turn. From the built-in cabinetry and tray ceilings, to the vintage Wedgewood and cozy breakfast nook, this home oozes charm. On-demand hot water and upgraded electrical panel. \$399,000

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288



PENDING

HANDYMAN SPECIAL

Spacious 1739 square foot home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths located near Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club. Living room fireplace, separate family room and breakfast nook. Inside laundry, 2-car garage. Tons of potential, bring your imagination and your toolbox. \$285,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483



PENDING

HIDDEN GEM!

This 4 bedroom 2½ bath will remind you of a European villa with a beautiful backyard garden! Fantastic kitchen plus casual and formal eating areas. A master suite, family room and home office. A pleasure to see and a treasure to own. \$737,500

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



PENDING

LITTLE POCKET HOME

Bring your imagination, loads of potential! Fantastic location, huge lot and 3-car garage that includes a drive through! Trees galore including Fuji Apple, Persimmon, Grapefruit, Pomegranate and so much more! 3 bedroom home was altered to accommodate wheelchair and handicapped. \$350,000

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