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December 1, 2011

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See page 20

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See page 26

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, PAGES 24-25 • KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR, PAGE 19 • FACES AND PLACES, PAGE 26

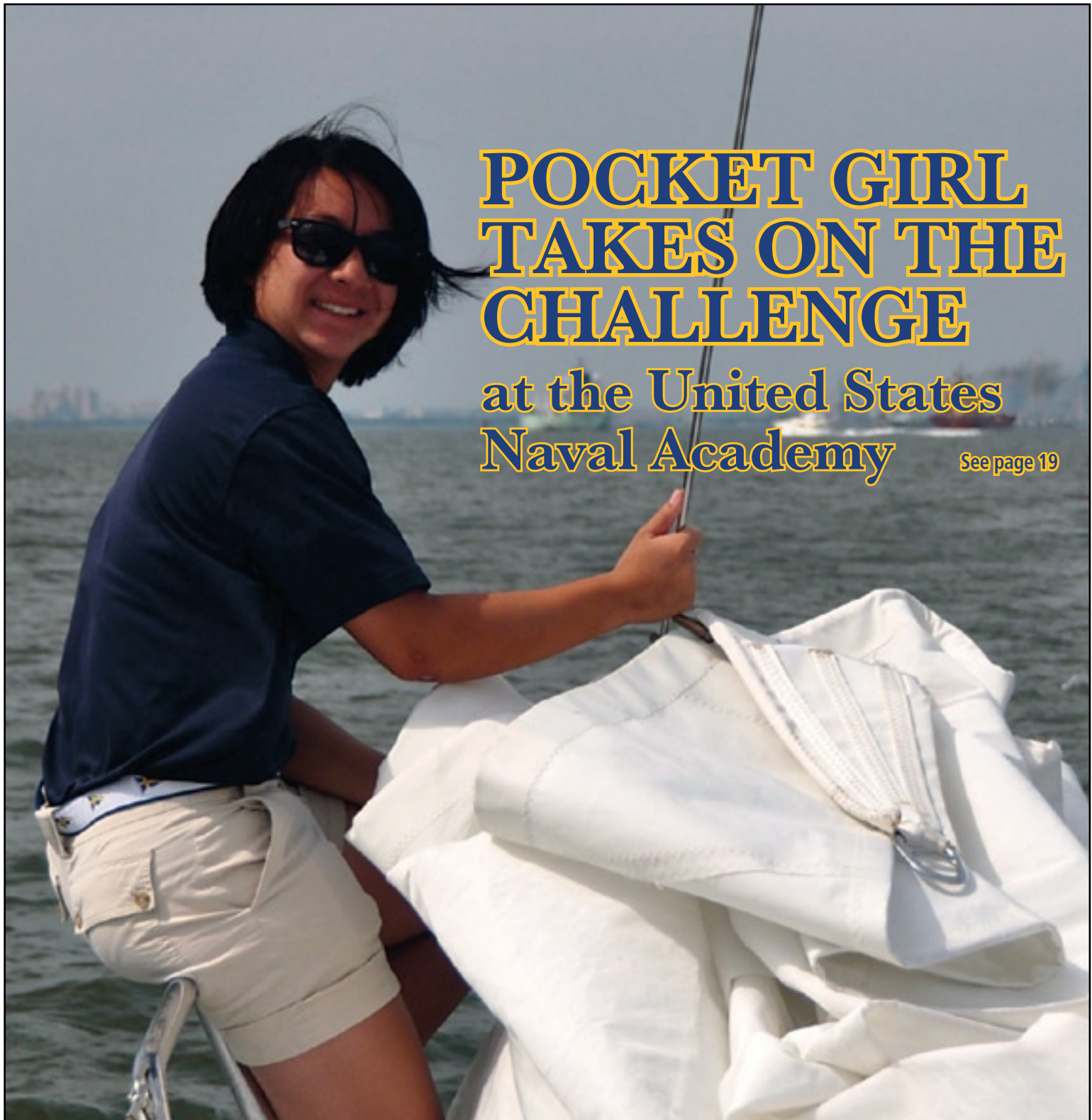
## Inside This Edition



The Pocket's wine maker: Manuel Nevis  
See page 6



Vanishing restoration art continues in South Sac  
See page 10



**POCKET GIRL  
TAKES ON THE  
CHALLENGE**  
at the United States  
Naval Academy  
See page 19



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# Sacramento Youth Symphony to perform free holiday concert

Special to Pocket News

The Sacramento Public Library invites families to celebrate the winter season at a free holiday concert with the Sacramento Youth Symphony Academic Orchestra on Dec. 4 at 1 p.m.

The 85-member ensemble will perform in the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria at the Central Library, located at 828 I Street in Sacramento.

The musicians will be under the direction of Angelo Moreno, Academic

Orchestra conductor. The orchestra will play a variety of classical and holiday selections, including the beautiful Ralph Vaughan Williams' adaptation of *Greensleeves*. The Saltarello Flute Ensemble and the Clarion Clarinet Quartet will also be featured during the program.

For more information, contact the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

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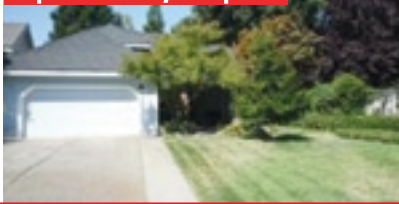
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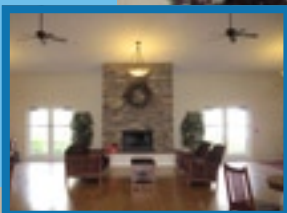
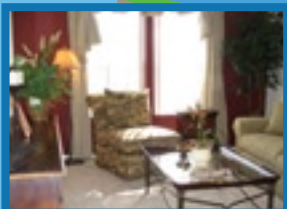
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# No excuse to be bored: Family fun in the Sacramento area

By MARC MALONEY  
Pocket News writer  
mmaloney@valcomnews.com

With the holiday season upon us, it's time to start thinking about ways to keep the family and kids entertained during those long breaks from school. Luckily, the Sacramento region offers a full slate of family- and kid-friendly events, attractions and places that can help fend off that inevitable declaration of "I'm bored!" that you know you'll hear once all the new toys have been opened and played with.

## Fairytale Town

Located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Fairytale Town ([www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org)) is one of Sacramento's best-known family attractions. Since opening in 1959, the 2.5-acre play park and outdoor children's museum that brings fairytales and nursery rhymes to life has welcomed millions of guests. More than 25 bright and colorful playsets give young children a backdrop to act out their favorite stories, to encourage creative discovery, and to exercise their minds and bodies on child-friendly slides throughout the grounds.

Saturday, Dec. 10 will be a winter wonderland at Fairytale Town, with a hands-on celebration of holiday arts and crafts from around the world. Santa's workshop will be open with Santa on hand, with photos with Santa available for \$5.

Regular winter hours at Fairytale Town are Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., weather permitting.

## Skating

Ice and rolling skating are two ways to burn off some of those holiday calories; both are offered at multiple spots around the Sacramento region. Ice skaters can lace up their skates at the downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, located at St. Rose of Lima Park at 7th and K streets, and at Skatetown Roseville, 1009 Orlando Ave. in Roseville.

The Downtown Ice Rink is open daily through Jan. 16, 2012. Hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Holiday hours of 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. will be offered on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. The rink is closed Christmas Day. Admission is \$8 for a two-hour session, and skate rental is \$2. A full calendar of special events, like Disco night, Ugly Sweater Day, and a Luau, can be found at <http://downtownsac.org/events/westfield-downtown-plaza-ice-rink>.

Skatetown Roseville offers two NHL-sized indoor ice rinks, learn-to-skate classes, hockey league play, ice skating coaching, and more. A full list of dates and times, information about admission and rental costs, and holiday hours is available online at [www.skatetown-roseville.com](http://www.skatetown-roseville.com).

If roller skating is more your style, Foothill Skate Inn, located at 4700 Auburn Blvd., is

your spot. The facility's typical weekly winter schedule includes open skating sessions on Sunday afternoons between 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday nights from 6:30 p.m. until 10 p.m., Wednesday family skate nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday evenings between 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and again from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. every Saturday night. See [www.foothillskateinn.com](http://www.foothillskateinn.com) for more information.

## Animal adventures

Animal lovers have plenty of holiday options at the area's various zoos, nature centers, and parks.

Another Land Park staple, the Sacramento Zoo, is located at 3930 South Land Park Drive. The zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with the exceptions of Christmas Day, when the zoo is closed, and Christmas Eve, when it is open from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and admission is free.

Several special events are planned at the zoo throughout the holidays. Zoo visitors who bring a non-perishable food item or a new, unwrapped toy when they visit the Zoo by Dec. 24 will receive \$1 off zoo admission. Food donations benefit the Sacramento Food Bank and families in need; toy donations benefit Toys for Tots.

On weekends in December, zoo visitors will be able to buy handcrafted wreaths and zoo-grown mistletoe to benefit the American Association of Zookeepers, and on Saturday, Dec. 10, the zoo's animals will open their holiday presents. On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, the zoo will be open from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for a special pajama party, with free admission and zoo staff wearing their finest jammies.

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park in Carmichael offers quiet trails, wildlife viewing opportunities, and interactive exhibits for the entire family. For more details, visit <http://www.sacnaturecenter.net/>.

The December schedule includes a special holiday shopping event scheduled from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, with all profits from this annual sale benefitting the center's educational programs. Shoppers can help nature education programs and pick up bargains for the nature lovers and kids on their lists.

A birding basics program will begin at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 4. At 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, guests are invited to explore the river's edge, which provides habitat for beavers, otters, herons, and other wildlife. Cold-blooded creatures will be the featured attraction at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, and at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve, visitors can hear a Native American story about the coyote and get a close-up look at a coyote pelt, skull and mounted specimen. Finally, at 10:30 a.m. on New Year's Eve, visitors can meet the center's newest animal resident, a young great horned owl, and learn how these impressive birds earned the fearsome nickname "Flying Tiger."

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From poverty to riches:

# Pocket man established the historic Eagle Winery

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

*Editor's Note: This is part one of a two-part history series regarding Manuel Silva Nevis and his local wineries.*

Historically, one of the industries that stands out in the Sacramento area is wine manufacturing. Among the city's wine manufacturing businesses were the Eagle, California and Pioneer wineries, which were associated with Manuel Silva Nevis.

## The Eagle Winery

At the age of 33, Nevis became the first proprietor of the Eagle Winery, which opened in 1881. Nevis was an immigrant from the island of Pico in the Azores Is-

lands of Portugal. He lived in the town of Freeport in the historic postal area of today's Clarksburg in Yolo County. He resided at 1830 21st St. during the latter part of his life.

The Eagle Winery was established on the south half of the block bounded by 18th, 19th, O and P streets.

According to the Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society, many Portuguese people who were residing in the Pocket area during this era made their own wine for general consumption.

## Festa wine demands

But when it came to needing large lots of wine for the Holy Ghost Festas at the original St. Joseph Church on the Freeport/Clarksburg side of the river, they relied on wine from Sacramento –

including wine produced at the Eagle Winery.

The main structure of the winery was a two-story, 66-foot by 120-foot, brick building with a corrugated iron roof and a basement. It was built by Nova Scotia native Nicholas Harvie, a notable local carpenter and contractor, at a cost of \$9,000.

A Harvie-built sherry room with brick floors, concrete ceilings and walls and steam pipes throughout was located to the south of the main building.

## Enter the father-in-law

Nevis' father-in-law, Joseph S. Miller financed the construction of the winery. Miller was reputed to be the first Portuguese person to settle in the Freeport/Clarksburg area.



Photo courtesy, Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society  
MANUEL SILVA NEVIS resided in this 21st Street, Queen Anne-style house during the latter part of his life. The house, which was built in 1898, is presently home to the H.R. Edgar Institute.

Miller was born Joseph Souza Nevis in São Jorge in the Azores Islands. He acquired the surname, Mello, when he was bonded to a John or Antonio Mello at the age of 13. Later, he changed it to Miller.

Like many immigrants in 1849, Miller heard news about the California Gold Rush, purchased mining equipment and headed out in search of riches.

This endeavor proved to be unsuccessful, but his early time in California led to other Portuguese, including members of his family, join-

ing him in the Golden State. Among these Portuguese people were some of the earliest residents of the Pocket area.

Miller was a prominent landowner in the Freeport area and was a member of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers – those who arrived in California prior to 1850. The society also included James W. Marshall, who is recognized for discovering the gold that led to the great California Gold Rush, James McClatchy, the

See Eagle Winery, page 7



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# Eagle Winery: Local Portuguese community's need for festa wine grew the business

Continued from page 6

second editor of *The Sacramento Bee*, and James Lansing, a former Sacramento chief of police, sheriff and county assessor.

Miller married an Italian immigrant, Josephine Therese Paravagna, who gave birth to Manuel Silva Nevis' wife, Emma Nevis, on Aug. 3, 1865.

## Desirable wine, brandy

During Nevis' second year of operating the Eagle Winery, he placed an advertisement in *The Sacramento Union*, which noted that his winery had acquired "a very enviable reputation" and that his product was increasingly in demand.

The advertisement also described the winery as having various brands of wine and grape brandy that were offered at prices that would "defy competition." Furthermore, the winery offered free deliveries to customers in any part of the city.

## Failed expansion

The success of the Eagle Winery, which used wine grapes from Sacramento, Yolo and El Dorado counties, led to the June 5, 1884 establishment of a branch of the business at 420 J St.

An advertisement published in *The Union* regarding the opening of the branch noted that "Mr. Nevis' knowledge and experience in the making of wine, in both this and other countries, places him in possession of advantages enjoyed by but few men engaged in the wine industries of California."

To the disappointment of Nevis, the branch closed about five weeks later, because he felt a need to devote his working time exclusively to his main winery site.

## State Fair recognition

The following year, the winery, which at the time offered port, sherry, white wine, Riesling, claret, zinfandel, Angelica and grape brandy, achieved additional notoriety when it was awarded a State Fair gold



A PIECE OF POCKET AREA HERITAGE. The Manuel Silva Nevis house at 1822 21st St. is shown in this recent photograph. The house, which formerly had the address of 1830 21st Street, was relocated a short distance from the corner of 21st and R streets in 1907.

medal for "Best Display of Wines."

## Enter the cousins

Nevis remained the sole owner of the business until 1888, at which time he sold a two-thirds interest in the winery to his cousins, Manuel Joaquim Azevedo and Joaquim Leal Azevedo, who were immigrants from the Azores island of Faial.

Both Azevedo cousins arrived in the United States in the 1850s.

Manuel, after sailing as part of a whaling fleet out of Boston for two years, mined for gold for five years in Butte County. Through his success in mining, he was able to purchase property in Freeport – where he would eventually farm for 12 years.

Joaquim arrived in the Sacramento area in 1852. He also farmed in Freeport.

The Azevedos returned to Portugal, but made their way back to America to engage in the wine making business in the Sacramento area.

## Azevedo-owned

Shortly after becoming the majority owners of the Eagle Winery, the Azevedos purchased Nevis' one-third share of the business in 1889. At that time, about 20 different kinds of wines were manufactured at the winery.

## Self-made success

According to the Aug. 20, 1888 edition of *The Union*, Manuel Silva Nevis, in the time since he established the Eagle Winery "without a cent in his pocket," earned \$200,000 through the winery and increased his business's annual wine production from 35,000 gallons in its first year to 150,000 gallons in 1887.

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# 'Community News in Your Hands' for 20 years

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

As it is that time of year when families get together to give thanks to the many things that they appreciate in life, Valley Community Newspapers (VCN), publishers of Arden-Carmichael News, East Sacramento News, Land Park News, Pocket News, and California Kids! would like to give thanks for having the opportunity to serve local communities for the past 20 years and looks forward to many more.

This year, VCN celebrates its 20-year anniversary, which has thus given the business's ownership and staff an obvious reason to reflect upon its history.

Although VCN's newspapers were established by Ken Mandler, who is best known as the founder and former, long-time proprietor of the Capitol Weekly newspaper, the business underwent an ownership change only four years later.

It was then that George Macko and Steve Chanecka purchased the business, which at the time was located in the South Hills Shopping Center at 5962 South Land Park Drive and consisted of the *The East Sacramento News*, *The Land Park News*, *The Pocket News*, *The Arden News*, *The Carmichael News* and *The Laguna Times*.

Under Macko and Chanecka's ownership, the name, Valley Community Newspapers, Inc. was introduced, the Arden and Carmichael papers were combined to create the *Arden-Carmichael News* and *The Laguna Times* was discontinued.

In 1999, VCN acquired *California Kids!* a monthly family oriented publication, filled with events, activities, arts and science, puzzles, book reviews, etc., all geared for the family. The three main writers, Connie Goldsmith, Carmel



East Sacramento News photo, Susan Laird  
COMMUNITY NEWS...in your hands. Valley Community Newspapers, publishers of Arden-Carmichael News, East Sacramento News, The Pocket News, The Land Park News and California Kids! is two decades old...and still going strong.

See VCN, page 9

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# VCN: Stories come from every walk of life in the neighborhood

Continued from page 8

Mooney, and Patricia Newman have been writing for California Kids from its beginning.

In 2000, Macko bought out Chane-ka's interest in the business. The office was relocated to 394 Florin Road in 2001 and has been located at its current address of 2709 Riverside Boulevard since February 2006.

Macko said that an ongoing philosophy at VCN has been to provide low cost advertising, quality customer service and community news.

"We have one basic philosophy and that has always been: we want to be a low cost provider to businesses, so they can afford to advertise," he said.

VCN's advertising philosophy has also helped it survive in a time when newspapers have been struggling and many papers have even ceased existing.

Also beneficial in the longevity of VCN is the fact that the company has never focused on two struggling elements of newspapers – subscriptions and classified advertisements.

Macko has observed that the economy has begun to improve, thus resulting in a better outlook for his newspapers.

Susan Laird, VCN's editor, said that one of the keys to success at VCN is the importance the publications place on the local community.

"Our readership and advertising base continues to be strong, because we focus on the local community," she said. "And while the industry may be adapting to new formats, the thing our readers care about – a focus on local, community news – that will never change."

## Love of 'telling the story'

Macko explained, "Over the years we have had a lot of fun covering stories

from the communities. Today we have a group of writers and photographers that have that same energy and joy of writing and capturing the moments as our past veteran writers, who wrote because they just loved writing."

Macko said, "For years we ran 'Kay's Corner,' by Kneeland Lobner, a true gentleman and friend, sharing his memories of growing up in the East Sacramento area. Now we have Marty Relles' column, 'Janey Way Memories,' which captures his youthful adventures. A very popular column and the only column piece we run.

"Dwayne Spilsbury would uncover interesting stories in the Arden Carmichael/East Sacramento area. We really enjoyed working with him. Roy Watanabe brought humor and history to our Land Park paper, as did Kay White, for many years. Now we look forward to Lance's history stories, a real favorite with our readers.

## Commitment to readers

"Our papers are not filled with columns. We run stories. Stories about people in the community, volunteers, people giving back to their communities," Macko said. "We spotlight youth and their achievements, unique hobbies, family businesses, historical facts on the areas and residents, etc."

Members of the community often drop by the newspaper office on Riverside Boulevard.

"Our stories bring people to our office wanting copies for their families," Macko said. "Our stories cause people to pick up the phone and call us with a 'thank you.' We have calls all the time with suggestions for story leads – people can just walk in and visit, no layers here. You've got a story idea – just call or come in."

*"Over the years we have had a lot of fun covering stories from the communities. Today we have a group of writers and photographers that have that same energy and joy of writing and capturing the moments as our past veteran writers, who wrote because they just loved writing."*

**–George Macko**

Story ideas come from everywhere, and every walk of life, according to Macko.

"Usually one story leads to the next. People will read it and call and say, 'Hey, I remember that place – and there would be another memory, another interesting fact to print,'" he said.

## Commitment to business community

"The majority of our advertisers have been with us since the beginning," Macko said. "We appreciate them – everyday. And they continue to get the best customer service from our outstanding sales team."

In his efforts to operate a successful business, Macko said that he is fortunate to have a quality staff. And he always runs the company with this thought: "I want you to enjoy coming to work and like what you do."

Macko believes the success of VCN is due to a combination of his loyal advertisers, the readers who contribute all the wonderful articles, and the VCN family – his employees.

## A family that cares

"A successful company has longevity with its employees. Turnover is

rare," Macko explained. "Recently, we had an opening for a sales representative due to an employee who had to move out of state. But the VCN 'family' has been a part of our journey for years, some ranging 20 years, 16, 15, 11 years with the company. Even our distribution drivers have been with us for years as our drop locations continue to expand. It's a great place to work. As one employee put it, 'Our collective positive attitude, sense of humor, and concern for our advertisers' success makes coming to work every day a real joy.' That sums it up perfectly.

"Our Production Dept does quality work – professional through and through," he continued. "They not only design the ads (and we do not charge for changes), layout the papers (two a week/nine a month) but they also designed our website, www.valcomnews.com, and keep it current for our readers. You can read all our papers online. Great place for advertisers, too."

The VCN team generates nine papers a month, with additional special sectional inserts. From the popular *Real Estate Quarterly*, *Senior Lifestyles*, *Home & Garden*, *Valley Shopper*, to just name a few.

"It's a busy place," Macko said. "We're looking forward to 2012."

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Pocket News photo, Sally King

ARTISTS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. Left to right, Bill Clausen and John Combs bring cherished, heirloom and collectible furniture pieces back to life at B&T Upholstery Repair. From re-covering dining room chairs, to complex projects...these men can do it all.



Pocket News photo, Sally King

THIS HEIRLOOM antique chair will be handed down to future generations, thanks to professional restoration efforts and reupholstering.

## 'Vanishing art' very much alive at South Sacramento upholstery shop

By SALLY KING  
Pocket News writer  
sally@valcomnews.com

Bill Clausen, owner of B&T Upholstery Repair in South Sacramento, has reupholstered furniture for over 46 years. The B stands for Bill and the T for his wife, Terri.

"I became interested in reupholstering furniture when I was 11-years-old," Clausen said. "I used to hang out at an upholstery shop located on 21st Street and 2nd Avenue."

It started with cutting class Clausen said he hung out there because his friend lived above the shop. Clausen's last class of the day was woodshop and he didn't

like the class. One day Clausen caught his shop teacher drinking, so he made a deal with him, that he wouldn't tell anyone what he saw as long as he could skip the class. The teacher agreed, so Clausen spent his afternoons watching the shop owner through the window while waiting for his friend to come home.

### Leading to a career

After six months of watching through the window, the shop owner asked him what he was doing. When Clausen told him, the owner asked him if he wanted to work there, sweeping and cleaning up. Clausen agreed and he worked at the shop for seven

years, learning how to reupholster furniture.

Shop owner Richard Combs younger brother John, now works for Clausen.

### Quality reupholstering for quality furniture

There is no limit to the types of furniture that can be reupholstered. Clausen offers his years of knowledge to customers, whether they are novices or veterans in the restoration of furniture.

B&T Upholstery Repair offers free estimates, pickup and delivery. Clausen lets his clients know if their furniture is worth being reupholstered. He said most of the time it costs more to reupholster a

piece than to buy new, which is the one big misconception most people have. He believes if the furniture is quality, it is worth the price of reupholstering.

### Recliners are popular

He receives many requests to reupholster old recliners. His clients like the older style.

He also reupholsters art deco and modernist period furniture for collectors. In some cases, Clausen explained, people want the same exact style and color of the original piece of furniture.

Another reason folks consider reupholstering is the sentimental value of a piece of furniture being passed down in the family.

"Sometimes I have to rebuild the piece to make it good enough to reupholster," Clausen said. "It usually turns out better than the original piece."

Jim Burrus, owner of Garland Fabrics, has known Clausen since 1956.

"His work is superior," Burrus said. "We have a good relationship and trade customers back and forth all the time."

Clausen said he only uses the best foam and it has a five-year guarantee. He also reupholsters a lot of antique furniture. He has a list of referrals customers can use for wood refinishing and painting.

### Redesign advantages

Clausen said in this economy, people often would rather pay to have a piece of fur-

niture repaired, rather than to buy new. An advantage to reupholstering a piece of furniture, Clausen explained, is an unlimited choice of fabrics. He also restyles furniture. He can shorten, add height, or restyle the arms on chairs and sofas.

### A vanishing art

Clausen said he views his work as a dying art. There are many rules and regulations he must follow and thinks that is why there are not as many people in the industry today.

Bob Locke, a Sacramento resident, said he owns a unique three-piece sofa set he bought 35 years ago. He had Clausen reupholster it because one of the pieces had mold developing on it.

"Bill was gracious, knowledgeable and accessible," Locke said. "I am very pleased with his work. The sofa originally stood close to the floor and Bill added two to three inch legs under the sofa, so it isn't so hard on my knees to get up."

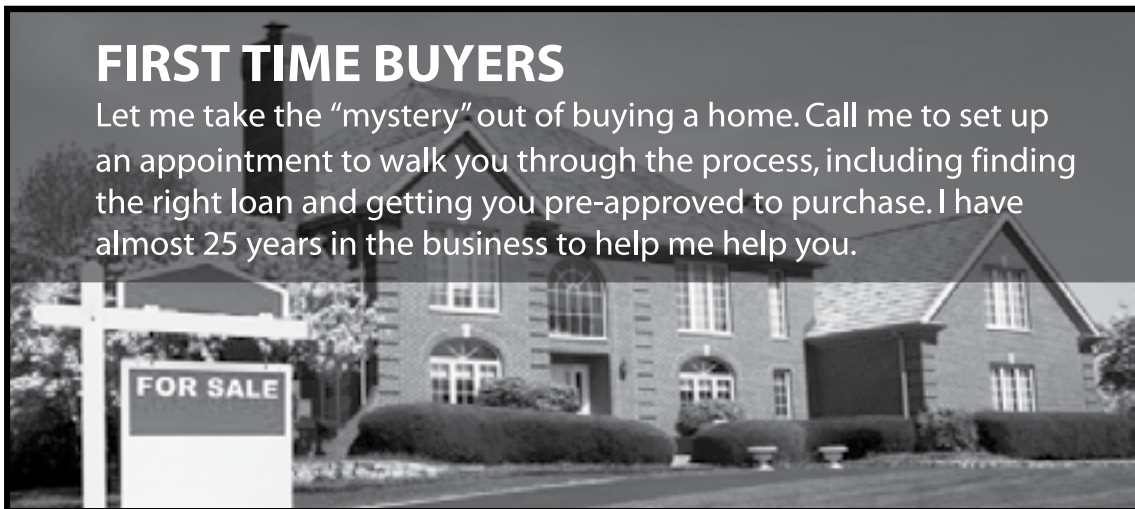
Clausen has many customers in the Bay Area, Reno and Tahoe. He said most of his art deco clients live in the Bay Area.

Upholstery may be a "dying art," but Clausen said he is booked through the end of the year "and that is really good."

B&T Upholstery Repair is located at 1600-B Kitchner Road, off Freepoint Boulevard, near Executive Airport. Call (916) 392-1959 for more information.

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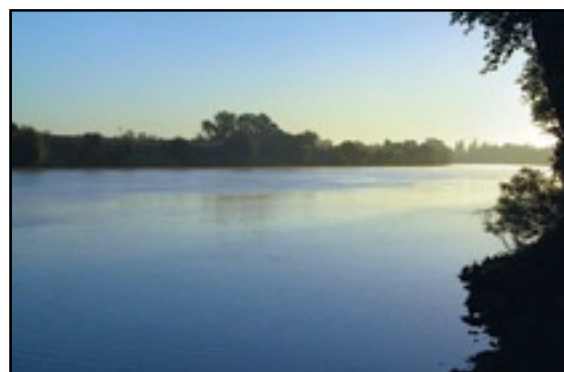
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# 'A Joyful Celebration' with the Folsom Symphony

By **SUSAN LAIRD**  
Pocket News editor  
susan@valcomnews.com

This is the time of the year when the Sacramento area community celebrates.

Many things are celebrated. Family faith. Successful harvests. Another year of living. And as a community, Sacramentans look forward throughout the holiday season to a better New Year.

For many, the season simply would not be complete without attending the Folsom Symphony's annual holiday concert, "A Joyful Celebration," on Dec. 10 or Dec. 11.

The music is spectacular each year, thanks to the talents of Sacramento's Maestro Michael Neumann and the members of the symphony, who hail from every neighborhood in the region. And the community members who attend the event make it extra special.

Before the symphony, during the intermission and afterward...you won't find a nicer, more genteel, more polite group of folks. Many are from Folsom and El Dorado Hills. Many more are from Sacramento and the surrounding area.

This event sets the tone for the rest of the season for many.

Maestro Neumann selects the musical works for each concert – up to two years in advance. Each year he includes a balance of classical and popular works.

"I have chosen some music that I feel the audience will really enjoy," Maestro Neumann said. "Much of it will be somewhat familiar to many people. The concert will be rather 'light' in its feel, which I think is very appropriate for a holiday concert."

Featured works will include: "Dance of the Comedians" by Bedřich Smetana, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Johann Sebastian Bach, the "Nutcracker Suite" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, plus additional works by Bach, Paul Dukas and Edward Grieg.

Look for delightful imitations of birds as the Folsom Symphony performs "Gli uccelli" by Ottorino Respighi.

The familiar sound of sleigh bells will bring smiles to many as Leroy Anderson's famous "Sleigh Ride" is performed.

"I am looking forward to working together with soloist Susan Lamb Cook who will be playing a wonderful piece, the Tchaikovsky 'Variations on a Rococo Theme,'" Maestro Neumann added. "So, I hope many people attend this upbeat and joyful



Photo public domain  
Johann Sebastian Bach

event, and support our wonderful orchestra."

One of the fun parts of this concert is when Maestro Neumann conducts the symphony and the entire audience in traditional sing-along Christmas carols. Smiles and good cheer abound.

This experience is a confirmation that hope lives – right in the hearts of one's neighbors.

And that is something worth celebrating.

"A Joyful Celebration" will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. Three Stages is located at 10 College Parkway (just off East Bidwell Street) in Folsom. Parking is free.

Single tickets are \$25 to \$55. Season tickets, as well as reduced cost tickets for students and seniors are available. To purchase, call (916) 608-6888 or visit [www.folsomsymphony.com](http://www.folsomsymphony.com).

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# Sacramento Choral Society presents 'Home for the Holidays'

Special to Pocket News

The Sacramento Choral Society will present its annual holiday concert at the UC Davis Mondavi Center on Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11.

"Home for the Holidays" is always a sell-out, community standing-room-only performance that members of the Sacramento region look forward to year after year.

This year, expect the holiday tradition to continue with radiant music by the Sacramento Choral Society, directed by Donald Kendrick. Works by Williams, Rutter, Anderson, Bradford, Bass and Wilhousky will be performed.

There will be new and familiar choral orchestral holiday songs for audience members to enjoy, as well as a candle light procession to banish the darkness.

An audience sing-along is a traditional highlight of this concert.

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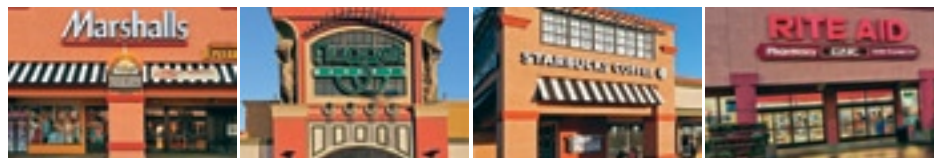
Single tickets are \$35 to \$55. Discounts available for children and students with valid ID. For information, call the Mondavi Box Office at (866) 754-2787 or visit [www.sacramentochoral.com](http://www.sacramentochoral.com).

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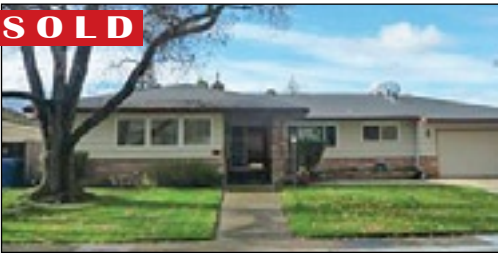


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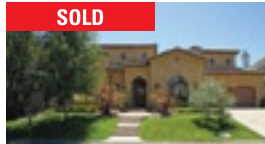
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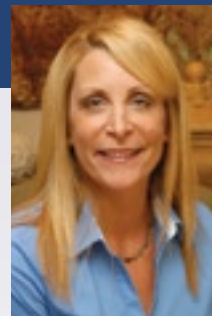


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# Celebrate Holiday Magic at the Sacramento Zoo

The holidays are here and it's time to enjoy the season! Bundle up the family for Holiday Magic at the Sacramento Zoo on Saturday, December 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Throughout the day, special gifts will be delivered to the animals. See them pounce, tear and stomp into their one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. Zoo keepers will be on hand to let you in on interesting animal facts and answer any questions you have.

## Schedule of Enrichments

- 10:30 a.m. - All enrichments will happen at the animals's exhibits
- 11 a.m. - Orangutan: fabric stockings and presents with edible treats
- 11:30 a.m. - Bongo & Red River Hog: pumpkin bowls with produce
- Noon - Black and White Ruffed Lemur: cardboard gingerbread house
- 12:30 p.m. - Sumatran Tiger: wrapped boxes with spices and ice
- 1 p.m. - Hyena: frozen snowman
- 1:30 p.m. - Ground Hornbill: holiday piñata with crickets
- 2 p.m. - Lion: wrapped boxes and piñata with spices and ice
- 2:30 p.m. - River Otters: frozen ornaments with treats inside
- 3 p.m. - Kangaroo & Emu: Christmas tree with edible ornaments
- Giraffe: edible wreaths, Christmas tree and piñata

**Visitors' tip:** keep an eye out for off-schedule enrichments throughout the day

Bring a new, unwrapped toy or non-perishable food item and receive a \$1 off your Zoo admission. The U.S. Marine Corps and 101.9 The Wolf will be taking your toy donations for Toys for Tots and food donations go the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services.

Searching for some great holiday gift ideas? Sacramento Zoo has something for everyone on your holiday list, including Zoo memberships, Zoo Parent packages and unique items in the Zoofari Market.

A Sacramento Zoo membership makes a great gift; for only \$80, families (2 adults and their minor children) receive FREE admission to the Zoo for one year, many other discounts, and free or discounted admission to more than 100 zoos nationwide.

A Zoo Parent package fits everyone! Give a gift of a snow leopard, orangutan, or any other animal at the Zoo. We'll keep them here, of course, but for \$50, your special someone will receive a certificate of adoption, animal fact sheet, bumper sticker and an invitation to our annual Zoo Parents' Picnic.

Zoofari Market's doors open to a world of monkeys, snakes, jaguars and many more exciting and unique items. Unusual wildlife items are a specialty of Zoofari Market. There are glass animals, jewelry, puzzles and stuffed anteaters. Children will love snow leopard and tiger masks, giraffe hats, books about zoo babies as well as zoo games.

Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to over 450 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of over 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park, the Zoo is wholly managed by the non-profit Sacramento Zoological Society. This Sacramento treasure inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., general admission is \$11; children ages 2 to 11 are \$7 and one and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus #6. For information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit [saczoo.org](http://saczoo.org).



Photo courtesy Sacramento Zoo



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# A Simple Emigrant Christmas

On Saturday, December 10, step back in time to holidays past with festive, hands-on activities such as stringing popcorn and cranberries, candle dipping and crafting paper cut-out ornaments when Sutter's Fort State Historic Park presents "Hands on History: A Simple Emigrant Christmas." Friends and families are encouraged to visit the Fort, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., to enjoy docents in period attire as they interpret and demonstrate a variety of early holiday traditions and cultural activities similar to what early emigrants did in the 1840s. For instance, docents will help demonstrate and share holiday traditions from Germany, Scandinavia, Mexican California, England, and Russia. In fact, Sutter's Fort was one of California's early gathering places where people from around the world passed through the gates and shared differing holiday traditions, many of which are still celebrated today. Don't miss the special "A Simple Emigrant Christmas" for one day only this December.

Admission is \$6 per adult, \$4 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 years and under.

Sutter's Fort is located at 2701 L Street, Sacramento. For more information call (916) 445-4422 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort](http://www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort)

# Christmas memories

Get ready to experience lavishly re-created period décor, an impressive array of live holiday music and captivating storytellers during two upcoming special "Christmas Memories" events at the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park. Surrounded by docents in period costume, Mansion visitors will be transported back in time to the very place where thirteen of California's early governors and their families lived, spent Christmas seasons and shared holiday traditions. In fact, then-Governor Edmund G. Brown and his family were the last first-family to celebrate Christmas in the stately mansion. And, to add to the festive activities, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will make special visits to the Mansion to meet excited little ones and be available for holiday photographs.

Christmas Memories will be held December 3 and 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Governor's Mansion State Historic Park is located at 1526 H Street, Sacramento. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for youth (ages 6-17), children five and under are free. For more information, call (916) 323-5916 [www.parks.ca.gov/governorsmansion](http://www.parks.ca.gov/governorsmansion)



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Photo courtesy

THEY'RE NOT TOUGH... NO, NOT MUCH. Pocket resident Alexandra Chan, far left, plays on the USNA Softball Team.

## Know your neighbor Taking on the moral, physical and mental challenge: Pocket girl studies the history of war at the United States Naval Academy

By SALLY KING  
Pocket News writer  
sally@valcomnews.com

Alexandra Chan is slender and petite with short hair and dark eyes. On first impression, one might think that is someone who might enjoy ballet... not someone who competed in the Navy's Marine Sea Trials – a grueling 14-hour day of extreme physical endurance testing based on Marine Corps principles.

"I was elated to just finish it," Chan said. "It was hard."

### Pocket girl with love of history

Chan is attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Growing up in the Pocket area, she remembers always having an interest in the military. Her favorite subject is history and especially the history of war. As a young child, she watched the Wishbone series on television and her favorite episode was the "Red Badge of Courage," a story about the American Civil War.

Chan graduated from St. Francis High School in Sacramento. She approached her parents with the idea of attending military school during her sophomore year.

"I was nervous about telling my parents," Chan said. "But they were very supportive of my decision."

What sold her on joining the military was being able to attend one of the best schools in the country and not having to pay tuition...plus, she would be

servicing her country. (The value of a USNA education, if one were to pay for it outright, is nearly \$400,000 per student.)

Chan said a friend of hers, Shelby De La Mora, was the one who convinced her to join the Naval Academy. De La Mora, a senior at St. Francis, had already applied to Annapolis Naval School when Chan was a freshman.

Chan took her oath of office on July 1, 2010 and is a member of the USNA Class of 2014. She is working on a Bachelor of Science degree in history. Normally, history is listed as a liberal arts degree. The academy includes additional science and math classes in its program to make it a science degree. She loves her "History of Warfare" class and recently had the opportunity to use her knowledge of the conflict in Afghanistan at a leadership conference in Washington D.C.

"I have the best teachers," Chan said. "They always make themselves available."

### In shape...physically and morally

Chan enjoys the challenge of having to stay in topnotch shape and likes that morals are part of the education program. A plus are the close relationships she has made at the academy.

"We are taught we have to do the right thing," Chan said. "I have formed some close relationships because as a group we go through so much together."

Chan said she has many good role models in the other students and teachers.

Emani Decquir is a junior at the academy and is Chan's

mentor. Both young women had the same recruiting officer and he introduced them to each other.

"If Chan has a problem she knows she can come to me," Decquir said. "We both have the same type of personalities where we want to do our best."

### Pocket ball...in the Navy

The Pocket area has a strong tradition of girls' baseball. For seven years, Chan played Little League in the Pocket (for the Marlins, Cubs, Tigers and Reds teams), then played softball for St. Francis High School. Her love of the sport continues, and she is a member of the Navy Softball team.

### Challenging college app

"The process to get accepted into the Navy Academy is rigorous," Chan said. "I started the paperwork the end of my sophomore year."

There are several parts in the process.

The first part is filling out the paper work. Required are: the student's transcripts from high school, SAT scores, a personal statement, two letters of recommendation, plus a nomination from a senator, congressperson, or the vice president or president of the United States.

Congresswoman Doris Matsui wrote Chan's recommendation.

In addition, one must be medically cleared. Chan said this was her biggest hurdle because she must wear corrective lenses. After initially receiving an acceptance letter into the academy, she was medically denied be-



Photo courtesy, Alexandra Chan

ALEXANDRA CHAN, seen here with her parents, Shelleyanne Chang and Charles Chan of the Pocket area, is in her second year at the United States Naval Academy.

cause of her poor vision. Chan didn't let that stop her and with some persistence on her part, the academy reversed its decision.

Chan said the most challenging part of the program, so far, has been the Sea Trials.

### Navy traditions

Chan enjoys the traditions carried out in the military. She is required to attend every football game and the tradition is standing through the whole game.

Chan likes the diversity of the Naval Academy. When she finishes school, Chan said she will have many options available to her.

### A prestigious academy

An academy brochure explains the Naval Academy was founded in 1845 and is considered a prestigious four-year service academy that prepares midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to be professional officers in the naval service.

The Academy has more than 4,400 men and women from the United States and several foreign countries that make up the student body. Upon graduation, they serve at least five years as commissioned officers in either the Navy or Marine Corps.



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Pocket News photo, Lance Armstrong

THE REID HOUSE will be one of five Fabulous Forties residences featured during this year's edition of the Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour, which is a fundraiser for Sacred Heart Parish School.



Pocket News photo, Lance Armstrong

THE CHILDREN'S TABLE includes a festive and decorative carousel music box at its center.

Warm hearts, warm home:

# Reid House on Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

One of the city's popular holiday attractions, the Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour, is this weekend, Dec. 2 through 4. Among the houses on this year's tour of five elegantly decorated homes is the two-story, Georgian-style, 46th Street home of John and Carolyn Reid.

This stop along the tour is highlighted by the fact that Carolyn was of the two founding committee members of the tour, which began in 1973.

The house was built the late 1920s. Carolyn grew up in Seattle and moved into the house with John in 1966.

## Design by Twiggs

The Reid house is already visually appealing enough on its own to satisfy guests of the tour. However, Carolyn said that her home is becoming even more attractive with the assistance of Wes Green of Twiggs Floral Design.

"Wes is doing all of the interior decorations all by himself," Carolyn said. "I don't know what you want to call him, because he does everything from inside, outside to design, flowers – the most beautiful flowers. He does weddings, things for the Crocker (Art Museum) and lots of people in town."

## Welcome by an angel

Green's creativity can be quickly recognized by those entering the house, as it was his idea to place a large, gold-colored statue of an angel several feet past the front door for guests to immediately view.

Carolyn said that although the statue always sits at the top of the home's staircase, Green decided it would serve as a great way to greet the home's guests.

"Wes said, 'I want this to be a welcoming from the guardian angel as everyone comes through the house,'" Carolyn said.

Among the other rooms that Green has enhanced in the Reid home are the dining room and the breakfast room.

Working with the Reids' china, glassware, and other pieces, Green intermixed the pieces to dress the table, which will also have gold-beaded, metallic chargers and a white floral centerpiece in a silver bowl.

The table in the breakfast room has been set for children, since children often enjoy having their own space.

In celebration of the holiday season, the children's table is enhanced with

*“The home has a traditional elegance, so I just tried to keep with the theme of the elegance of the home.”*

Christmas decorations, including a festive and decorative carousel music box, which plays multiple holiday tunes, as the centerpiece.

Carolyn explained that Green's creativity and dedication has worked well in meeting her interior design expectations.

"We wanted to show how you can design, in different ways, different things in different rooms, and that you can change these things by changing a cup or a plate or whatever, so you have an opportunity to do two or three different things out of one set of dishes, so you're not just having one thing all the time," Carolyn said.

Green said he is honored to embellish the already elegant nature of the home.

"The Reids have been great clients, so when (Carolyn) came to me (to request assistance), I was excited and honored to be able to do the job for her," Green said. "The home has a traditional elegance, so I just tried to keep with the theme of the elegance of the home."

## Local art

In addition to Green's artistic designs and arrangements, art enthusiasts should find the Reid home to be an important destination spot for its display of local art.

Carolyn said that she and her husband are looking forward to presenting their art in a convenient, informational manner.

"We have art in all of our rooms and so we felt that it was really important to (showcase the art)," Carolyn said. "It's all local art (with few exceptions). What we have done is we've put little tabs on the bottom of every piece that tell them the title of the art and also who the artist was, so

See Warm Hearts, page 21



Pocket News photo, Lance Armstrong

LOCAL ART SHOW. With her husband, John Reid, Carolyn Reid presents one of her favorite paintings during a home tour preview of her residence.



Pocket News photo, Lance Armstrong

WORK IN PROGRESS. The Reids' dining room is shown part way through its preparation for the home tour.

## Warm hearts: Carolyn Reid one of the original founders of the home tour

Continued from page 20

they get an idea and a feeling of the beautiful work that we have artists doing in Sacramento. It's amazing. We've been collecting (local art) for 40 years."

### Homecoming memories

During this year's tour of the Reid home, a special moment will occur when former residents of the 46th Street house will tour their old home.

Shingle Springs resident Kathy Goldman, plans to visit the house with her sister, Joanne Fitzgerald, a 1963 Mira Loma High School graduate who lives in Soldatna, Alaska. She noted that her time living in the home was cut short, since her mother, Thelma Gray, moved her family out of the house following the death of her father, John E. Gray.

John E. Gray, who died at the age of 42, was an eye surgeon at Mercy Hospital.

Goldman, who graduated from Encina High School in 1961, shared some of her memories regarding her former Fabulous Forties home:

"We moved there in about 1951 and, for sure, we left in the summer of 1955. The two bedrooms at the top of the stairs to the right were my sister's and mine. My bedroom, the furthest to the right, had fluffy, white curtains and blue wallpaper with larger than life pink roses. Very fussy. My sister, the tomboy, had a more tailored room, green, yellow and brown. The bedroom at the top of the stairs, to the left, was converted to a study. Downstairs, the living room was really the 'living' room. There was no 'family' room. There were French doors in the back that opened onto a

patio. The dining room hosted many large dinner parties where the menu was usually wild duck hunted by my parents. The entry hall was big and we played there a lot. The kitchen was a large square and mostly white - white tile with red trim, white and red linoleum floor and a red Formica table in the middle. The maid's quarters next to the kitchen had two built-in twin beds, toe-to-toe, and a bath, home to an au pair. Between the kitchen and dining room was an odd little room, sort of a mini family room. The piano was there, where my sister and I had to practice a lot, and we could leave puzzles set up in there. We had no TV. A stairway led from the hallway down to the basement and it was creepy. It was a neighborhood with quite a few kids and summertime meant (playing the game) 'kick the can' in the middle of

that wide street (which once included PG&E streetcar tracks down its center)."

### Updates, upgrades

Changes to the house and property since that time include an additional room outside where the French doors were located, a guest house, an outside pool, the elimination of the maid quarters, as well as various remodeling upgrades.

Altogether, six rooms, including the guest house, will be featured on the tour.

Admission for the Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour is \$30 and proceeds will benefit Sacred Heart Parish School.

For additional information regarding this event, call (916) 556-5050 or visit [www.sacredheartthometour.com](http://www.sacredheartthometour.com).

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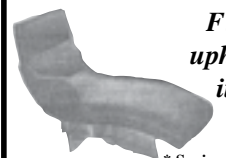
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# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

### 'Bingo: the Musical'

Through Jan. 8, 2012: Everybody gets to join in the fun at this musical. Call for times, prices. The Cosmopolitan Cabaret, 10th and K streets., Sac. (916) 557-1999 www.CosmopolitanCabaret.com

### Clayton Bailey's World of Wonders

Through Jan. 15, 2012: 180 works and complementary ephemera span 50 years of Bailey's prodigious production of genuine marvels. A ceramist, sculptor, and self-proclaimed "mad scientist," Bailey aims to surprise and delight with his art. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

### Florence and the Baroque

Through Feb. 12, 2012: Drawn from the largest private collection of Florentine Baroque

painting in the United States, this exhibition reveals the intense emotion, saturated color, and refined brushwork that characterized painting in 17th-century Florence. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org.

### The Art of Disegno: Italian Prints & Drawings

Through Feb. 12, 2012: This exhibition, from the collections of the Georgia Museum of Art and Giuliano Ceseri, explores the variety and beauty of Italian draftsmanship through drawings and prints from the 16th through 18th centuries. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org.

## DECEMBER

### Bilingual Toastmasters

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Una oportunidad unica para mejorar sus habilidades bilingues y superar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores Toastmasters. Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people in Spanish and English with Los Oradores. Every Thursday/Cada Jueves 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sutter Cancer Center 2800 L Street, Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232 teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

### Bingo!

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Enjoy a great local charity game of bingo every Thurs. night at 6:30 p.m. Benefits projects in the commu-

nity. Early bird for \$5, Regular game buy-in of \$20. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., Sac. (916) 422-6666

### Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, year round. 8 a.m.-noon. Florin Rd. & 65th St., Sac. www.california-grown.com

### Food Addicts Anonymous

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

### Living Positive with Chronic

#### Disease group

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Meet-up group for people living with chronic disease who honor how important a positive mindset is. If you want to complain - this isn't the group for you. The group will discuss and support: best practices for managing your condition, communication strategies, ways to laugh, have fun, engage with life and more. Free. Meets Thursdays. 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Starbucks, 1401 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. Danae Horn (503) 319-4247

### Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every

Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

### Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May-Sept. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 4th & K streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

### Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Golden Corral, 7700 W. Stockton Blvd., Sac. Charlie (916) 427-7136 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

### Annual holiday jewelry sale

Dec. 2: Treasures for crafters and vintage/costume jewelry lovers. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Benefits the Senior Center. Senior Center at Sierra 2, 2791 24th St., Sac. Mae (916) 455-6339

### Ballroom Dances

Dec. 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30: Enjoy dancing to a live band every Tuesday and Friday. 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. \$5/person. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael

### Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Come listen to an interesting guest speaker weekly; community service, serving the children of the world. Visitors welcome, first breakfast "on us." 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Fridays. 2875 50th St., UC Davis Med. Ctr., Sac. (916) 761-2124 www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com

### Rotary Club of Point West

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

### Soroptimists of Sacramento

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Soroptimist International of Sacramento South, a service club for business and professional women, meets Fridays. 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Barbara McDonald, (916) 363-6927

### 'A Holiday Show of Hands'

Dec. 3: St. John the Evangelist School will host its 33rd annual arts and crafts sale, featuring custom work by over 150 craftsmen and artists. Special features include a Fashion Pavilion and antiques & collectibles in the Antique Cottage. Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission free. 5701 Locust Ave., Carmichael. (916) 966-2179

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## SACRAMENTO CHILDREN'S CHORUS

### The Spirit of the Season HOLIDAY CONCERTS



December 3, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1300 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

December 4, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.  
Carmichael Seventh Day Adventist Church  
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TICKETS: \$30 Preferred \$15 General \$10 Students  
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# - EVENT LISTING SECTION -

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### Nutcracker Ballet

Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. & Dec. 4 at 2 p.m.  
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The Center at 2300 Sierra Blvd.  
\$15 adults; \$12 seniors/students,  
\$10 children. Tickets at the door  
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Lanatt St. (916) 453-0226

### 33rd Annual

#### "Holiday Show of Hands" CRAFT FAIR

Friday, Dec 2, 5 to 9 p.m (\$3)  
Saturday, Dec 3, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Unique, hand-crafted gifts, decorator items, collectibles,  
Hot lunch - Shuttle from Elks Club  
St. John the Evangelist School  
5701 Locust Avenue, Carmichael



**Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market**  
Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, year round. 8 a.m.-noon. Watt & El Camino, Butano Dr. parking lot, Sac. www.california-grown.com

**Food Addicts Anonymous**

Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Saturdays. 8 a.m. Mercy General Hospital North Auditorium, 4001 J St., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

**Holiday Boutique**

Dec. 3, 4: Beautifully hand-crafted gifts, one-stop Christmas shopping from many vendors and church crafters. Soup, bread and baked goods, lunch available for purchase. Free admission. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Parkside Community Church, 5700 South Land Park Dr., Sac. (916) 421-0492

**Jensen Garden workday**

Dec. 3: Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden workday. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Come join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael. Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 tracy@carmichaelpark.com

**Nutcracker Ballet**

Dec. 3, 4: Crockett-Deane Ballet Company and the Deane Dance Center Dancers will perform their annual holiday ballets, "Christmas Angels and the "Nutcracker" at "The Center at 2300" located at 2300 Sierra Blvd. \$15 adults; \$12 seniors and students; \$10 children. Sat. 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Tickets at the door and at Deane Dance Center, 3385 Lanatt St., Elk Grove (916) 453-0226

**Pancake Breakfast**

Dec. 3, Jan. 7: Two light, delicious, warm pancakes, a tasty patty of sausage, Log Cabin syrup, tea and coffee, all for only \$3/person! 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Every First Saturday of the Month. Benefits the Wednesday Club. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael

**POWERtalk International**

Dec. 3, 6, Jan. 3, 7: Want to improve your public speaking and presentation skills? POWERtalk International, a nonprofit public speaking organization, provides coaching in leadership skills, sales presentation, interviewing, confidence building and more. Meets First Tuesdays of the month 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and First Saturdays of the Month 12 noon-3 p.m. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Liz Richardson (916) 208-9163, erichardson1202@yahoo.com www.powertalkinternational.com

**Rose pruning class**

Dec. 3: Learn the art of rose pruning using techniques for various types of roses, with information on tools, gloves, fertilizer and more. Donations accepted. 10 a.m.-noon. Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, Sac. Parking located across the street from the 10th St. gate. (916) 264-7839 or (916) 448-0811

**Carmichael Farmer's Market**

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25: Carmichael Farmer's Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., every Sun. Year round, rain or shine. Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael. www.bemoneysmartusa.org

**Co-Dependents Anonymous**

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Sundays. 2 p.m. Heritage Oaks Hospital, 4300 Auburn Blvd., Rm.101, Sac (866) 794-9993.

**Community Sunday breakfast**

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25: Enjoy a delicious breakfast of eggs Benedict, corned beef hash, Joe's scramble, pancakes and more. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., every Sun. \$9. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. (at Florin Rd.), Sac. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. www.elks6.com

**State Parking Lot Farmer's Market**

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25: State Parking Lot Farmer's Market. Every Sunday, year round. 8 a.m.-noon. 8th & W streets, under Highway 50, Sac. www.california-grown.com

**Sunday Support for the Widowed**

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25: The Widowed Persons Assn. sponsors Sunday Support sessions which are held every Sunday, rain or shine - holidays included. 3 p.m.-5 p.m. 2628 El Camino Ave., Ste. D-18 (east of Fulton). Widows and widowers welcome. Barbara Stewart (916) 363-3482

**Hatha yoga**

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26: Align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation. 3 p.m.-4 p.m. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. (916)808-5462. Meets every Mon. Repeats Wed., Fri.

**Nicotine Anonymous**

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26: Nicotine Anonymous meeting. Meets every Monday, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 N St., Sac. Brandi Bowman (916) 984-3501

**Rotary Club of South Sacramento**

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 11:30 a.m., every Mon. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. www.rotary.org.

**Tai Chi & Chi Keung**

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26: Chinese exercise combines specific movements and relaxation. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. Meets every Mon. (916) 808-5462

**Toastmasters**

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26: Have fun while improving speaking & leadership skills. Klassy Talkers Toastmasters. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Mondays. Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Ann Owens (916) 601-4652 www.klassytalkers.freetoasthost.org



**Holiday Boutique at  
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**Handmade Crafts • Holiday Music  
Homemade Soup & Desserts  
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**Saturday, December 3rd  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 4th  
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Faces and places

# Rainy Run to Feed the Hungry

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY  
Pocket News photographer  
stephen@valcomnews.com

The first rain in 18 years failed to dampen the spirits of nearly 29,000 runners and walkers on Thanksgiving morning, who participated in the 18th annual "Run to Feed the Hungry" in East Sacramento. The event benefits the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. Over \$800,000 was raised to help feed hungry neighbors.



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www.saccds.org



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 Easy living in this attractive, well-maintained  
 2bd 2.5 bath halfplex home. Both bdrms are  
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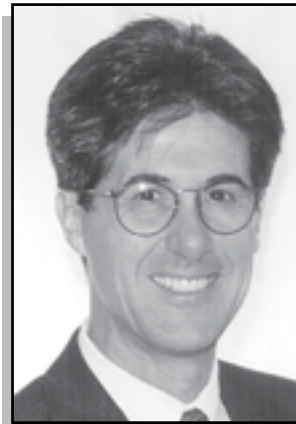
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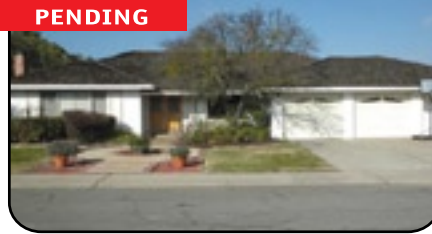
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