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The Long Shadow



By Dr. Jim Haas

The shadow of Roy Cohn.

Cohn has cast a shadow over America since the 1950s, and we're living under it still. He was a lawyer who played a key role in Wisconsin Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy's infamous crusade against people he claimed were Communists or Communist sympathizers—"fellow travelers" in the lingo of the time—in government, the entertainment industry, education, and other influential positions.

McCarthy (left in picture with Cohn) rose to prominence because of a 1950 speech in which he claimed to have a paper with the names of 205 Communist Party members working in the State Department. Curiously, he gave a speech in another state the next day claiming his list had 57 names. Soon, it was four. Whatever the number, he revealed no names and no evidence, but his claims fell on fertile ground in the press and among those Americans afraid of recent Communist successes: the Soviet Berlin blockade in 1948 and the Communist conquest of mainland China and first Soviet atomic bomb in 1949.

Some saw these as part of an international Communist conspiracy along with American labor unions, FDR's New Deal programs like Social Security, and the United Nations. Far-right extremists even imagined that fluoridated water and vaccines were plots to brainwash

Americans. Sound familiar? By the late '40s, federal, state, and local governments had begun requiring employees to take loyalty oaths, a practice followed by some private employers. Behind the hysteria was a Republican Party goal: to get even for being out of power during Roosevelt's long presidency followed by Harry Truman's. Accusing leftists, Democrats, and even progressive Republicans of disloyalty seemed a sure way to regain their lost power.

Enter Roy Cohn, a young assistant U.S. attorney making a name for himself with his aggressive, often unethical, prosecutions of Soviet moles, senior members of the American Communist Party, and Soviet nuclear spies. His success led McCarthy to hire him as his chief counsel in 1951.

McCarthy, famously alcoholic, and Cohn, a bully famously loose with facts, spent much of the next three years with a Senate subcommittee investigating—in private sessions with no accountability—State Department programs like the Voice of America for Commie influence. State Department libraries removed 40 suspect books including *The Selected Works of Thomas Jefferson*. Not to be outdone, the House Un-American Activities Committee pursued artists, scientists, entertainers, and other suspected leftists. Hundreds of famous people lost their jobs or had careers altered including Lucille Ball, Albert Einstein, Leonard Bernstein, Charlie Chaplin, Langston Hughes, and Robert Oppenheimer (anti-communist propaganda pictured).

Then McCarthy went too far, accusing Army Five-Star General George C. Marshall of treason. The 1954 Army-McCarthy hearings on TV exposed the Senator as a fraud, long on suspicions but short on evidence. The Senate formally censured him; worse, the press ignored him. He faded away, leaving his name attached to one of the ugliest periods in

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American history: "McCarthyism."

Roy Cohn moved to New York City where he built a reputation as a "fixer" getting people like Aristotle Onassis, various Mafia leaders, and Donald Trump out of legal trouble. He taught young Trump how to navigate business and legal issues: never show weakness; never apologize; never explain; attack, never defend; intimidate to demand loyalty. Sound familiar? In the 1980s, Pulitzer Prize winner Murray Kempton, considered New York's greatest columnist, wrote of Trump, "the man demeans anything he touches."

Cohn was indicted several times for blackmail, bribery, and other crimes. Finally, a panel of the New York State Supreme Court disbarred him for misappropriation of clients' funds, lying on a bar application, and falsifying a will. He died in 1986 of AIDS. He owed millions in unpaid taxes, so the IRS seized nearly all his assets, but Cohn's shadow survives in the malignant lessons he taught a future president.



By Sharon Hoover

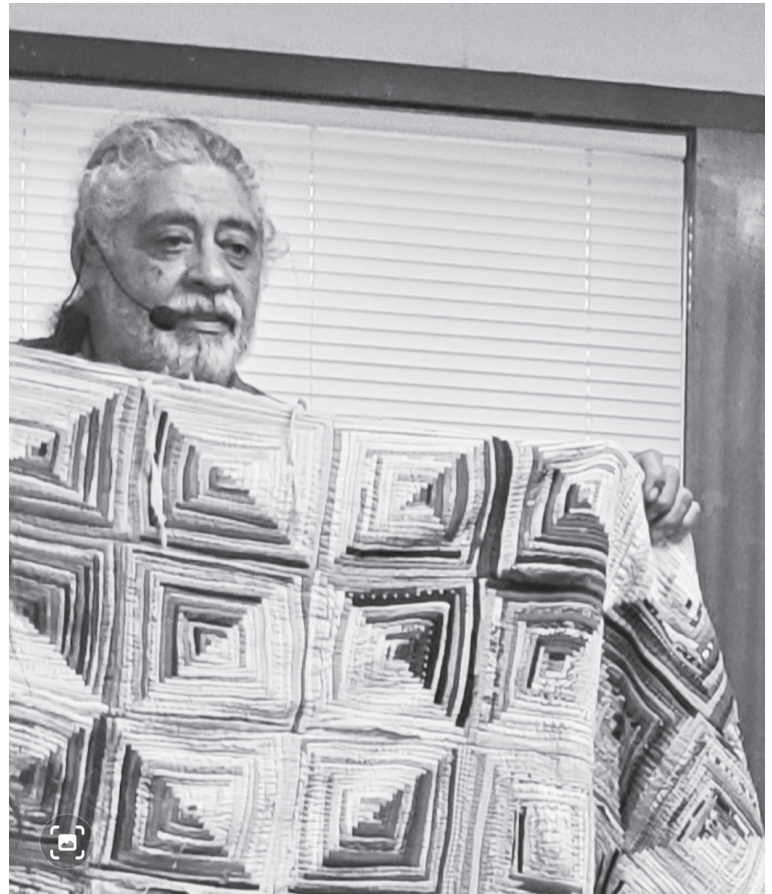
Happy October! As Spanish History Month winds down, join Jose Faus as he presents “They Changed My Name” on October 15 at 11am-1pm in the lower level of the Jewel Event building at Kansas City Kansas Community College. This presentation brings together the dynamics of immigration to the lens of visual art and poetry. It showcases an interactive experience of a personal journey from the heart of Colombia to the heart

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

of the United States, exploring the conundrum of belonging in unfamiliar surroundings straddling the two different cultures and narratives. Jose is an independent teacher, artist and founder of the Latino Writers Collective in Kansas City. This is a free event and was presented at the Turner Neighborhood Center in September and received rave reviews by my colleagues. Unfortunately, I had to miss it because of a previous engagement. I won't miss this one.

I have a few announcements from the Shepherd Center of KCK. The “Adventures in Learning” luncheon series this month will be October 17 at Grace Lutheran/Mason Memorial Methodist Church, 3333 Wood Ave, KCK. Fellowship, snacks, and health checks at 10am; Bee Griddine, Licensed Health Insurance Broker will discuss Medicare options at 11am. Enjoy soups prepared by Shepherd Center Board members in their annual Soup Making Contest at 12pm. The noon program speaker is Mary Pollack who will discuss Juvenile Intake and Assessment. RSVP 913 281-8908 or melissab@scck.org.

Shepherd's Center is holding a Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser at White Church Christian Church, 2200 N. 85th KCK on Saturday October 18, from 8am-11am. On the menu, pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$8.00 and available at the door, online



or purchased from any Shepherd Center Board member. <http://bit.ly/4n4480j>. Call 913-281-8908 for more info.

Celebrate Rosedale Archfest 2025 on October 19 from 2pm-6pm at 1401 Southwest Blvd and Whitmore Park. Live music, local food, family friendly activities and vibrant community atmosphere.

Turner Library has two Halloween activities coming up at

the Turner Community Garden. The Graphic Novel Club meets on October 16 at 3:30pm. “Decorate a Sugar Skull” on October 17 at 2pm. On October 18, the library will host a “Glow in the Dark Slime Buffet” at Turner Recreation Center at 11 & 12 pm. Registration is required for all three events.

That's it for now. Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.



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Stock Market Insights

Stocks in October: Shutdown Uncertainty vs. Q4 Seasonal Gains

Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®, is the CEO and executive wealth advisor at Fervent Wealth Management.

As a kid, October was the month for opportunity. It's when walnuts fell from the tree, and my Poppy and I would pick them up and haul them in feed sacks to sell. It was work in the beginning, but it gave us some extra spending

money at the end. That might be exactly how October will unfold in the stock market: a little work at the beginning, but some reward in the end.

The S&P 500's average return in October over the last decade has been approximately 2%. Since 1950, October has had a positive return nearly 60% of the time. All in all, October is

somewhat of a middle-of-the-road market month. Unless, of course, there is uncertainty. Cue a government shutdown!

The US government shut down on October 1, 2025, as lawmakers failed to find a way to work together. Since 1976, there have been 21 government shutdowns,

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Market Insights...

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with the most recent one in 2018, which lasted a record 35 days. The stock markets hate uncertainty, and while the average shutdown lasts only eight days, a shutdown is a concern for investors.

Historically, markets aren't impacted much by a shutdown, for example, in 2013, when the

government was shut down for 16 days during the first part of October. The S&P 500 was up 3% during those 16 days, although on average, markets tend to be fairly flat during these bouts of political infighting.

Though we have the negativity of the shutdown, we do have the good tidings of October, which have nothing to do with pumpkin spice anything. Examining the market data further reminds us that October is a precursor to the even stronger market months of November and December. The month of October is the front door, you might say, to the last quarter of the year. October to December is the strongest three-month period of the year, with an average return of almost 2% since 1950 and over 6% the past five years.

Oh, but not everything is rosy. There is a chance we could have a pullback before the Santa Claus rally takes off. This shutdown, the Gaza ultimatum, the markets'

recent overbought conditions, and the September slump that never happened — any one of these could scare the market and cause stocks to slip. This could potentially set up an opportunity to buy the dip, especially as we enter a seasonally strong fourth quarter.

I am staying neutral on stocks, but I am especially watching the Gaza situation and how drastic lawmakers allow the shutdown to get. All that said, after a brief pullback, things are lining up favorably for stocks to have a nice fourth quarter.

Poppy and I didn't have these fancy cage rollers people use to pick up walnuts these days. We got down on the ground and swept the walnuts into buckets, then carried the buckets to the truck to dump them into the feed sacks. There was nothing fun or easy about it, but if one worked steadily and stayed at it, there was a profit to be gained. The stock market is no different. There is no

"set it and forget it," successful investors are those who have a proven process and aren't afraid to work.

Have a blessed week!

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Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week's tasty treat is a great dessert from the South. It calls for using a store bought, deep dish pie crust. And the filling is made with 3 medium sweet potatoes. It's perfect for an Autumn dinner. Don't wait to make it for Thanksgiving or Christmas, it's too good and it's simple to make. Please give this recipe a try:

SWEET POTATO PIE

2 c Sweet Potatoes cooked
1/2 c Butter
1 c Evaporated Milk
3 Eggs
1/2 c Brown Sugar
1 t Grated Orange rind
1 t Cinnamon
1/4 t Nutmeg
1/4 t Ginger
1/4 t Salt
1 t Vanilla
1 9" Deep dish Pie Crust

Set oven to 400° and line a cookie sheet with foil or parchment paper. Bake the sweet potatoes for 50-60 minutes or until fork tender. Leave

them to cool, then peel and remove the flesh. Prepare the pie crust by putting dry beans into the pie and cover the rim of the crust with foil. Blind bake the pie crust for 20 minutes. Remove from the oven and remove the beans. These beans can be reused, so store in a jar and label it as pie weights. Leave the rim covered. Lower oven temperature to 375°.

Beat the sweet potato in a mixer or process it in a food processor. Measure 2 cups and place in a mixing bowl. Add the orange rind, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. salt and the

Vanilla. Stir until well blended. Break the eggs into a bowl and then add the evaporated milk and beat lightly. Add the egg mixture to the sweet potatoes in a mixer and beat until well blended and smooth.

Pour the sweet potato mixture into the blind baked pie crust. If you like, sprinkle 1/2 c of chopped pecans. Bake for 15 minutes, at 375°, then reduce the oven temperature to 350° and continue to bake for 10-15 minutes, until the filling is set. Cool

to room temperature then refrigerate for 2 hours prior to serving. Garnish with whipped cream or Cool Whip topping.

Keep the pie chilled and covered with plastic wrap, if any of it is

left over. Or take it to a live alone neighbor or relative to enjoy. This pie has the taste of the great pies that Mom or Grandmother used to make and everyone looked forward to tasting in the Fall. Enjoy!

KCKCC to Host Open House on AET Program

Did you know that you can become an advanced manufacturing technician (AMT) with little or no cost in two years through Kansas City Kansas Community College's Automation Engineer Technology (AET) Program? More information about this exciting program is available at an upcoming open house from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center, 6565 State Ave. in Kansas City, Kan. The event is free and open to the public.

Through KCKCC's partnership with FAME (Federation of Advanced Manufacturing Education), students not only can be prepared for an in-demand career but finish debt free. KCKCC students will spend two days a week at the college and the other three days as a paid intern at local manufacturers. This is an "earn while you learn" program. The students will be learning the fundamentals of robotics, PLCs/VFDs, motor controls, AutoCAD, machining, welding and fluid power. The open house will give those interested an opportunity to learn about the program, visit the new AET lab and meet the second and third cohorts of AET FAME students.

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