

formerly the MountainViews-Observer

Saturday, April 11, 2009 Volume 3 No. 15



The Wistaria in bloom at the gates of Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat with Father Pat
Photo By Chris Bertrand

An Easter Message For Difficult Times

In the Gospel of St John we read the words made famous by preachers from of old (even those standing at the sidelines or in the bleachers during fast and furious football games) that summarize for us all the meaning of this special time of the year: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (Jn 3:16.)

These few words summarize what all Christians have come to know and believe in the depth of their very hearts. Imagine, even as we live at a time when our confidence in political leaders, financial moguls, and other powerful men and women, is weakened by disillusionment and misdeeds, we can still turn to the most basic and absolutely most trustworthy words found in all of Sacred Scripture: God loves us unconditionally; God

loves us so much that He is faithful to his promise and sends a Savior who, by His death and resurrection, wins for us all new life and a reason to live with hope.

Sometimes I wonder, though, what difference do these inspired words from the Bible really make in our daily lives? Because of what I believe, am I really a person who chooses to hope and trust in spite of disappointment and great discouragement? Am I still ready and willing to forgive another even though they may have betrayed me or done me or my loved ones harm? Do I embrace each day as a new gift from God filled with endless possibilities to serve and to love others, or do I simply retreat to lesser areas of my life for the sake of security?

If I can say yes to these questions because in my heart I know that God so loved me that He sent His Son to give his life for me, then the death of Jesus on the Cross was not in vain! In fact, if this great moment of divine love changes my heart bit by bit each day, then I really do know what Easter is all about and am ready to shout Alleluia and make it sound like more than just a greeting on a Hallmark card or a poster at a football game! Indeed, I am ready to live Easter courageously in a spirit of joy, gratitude, and hope! I wish you and all your loved ones a very blessed and joyous Easter.

Fr. Pat Brennan, CP
Director, Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

Thank You Mr. Brown

James Brown, Founder of Brown's Furniture in 1962 is honored almost 47 years to the day later - By Bill Coburn

Twenty years after selling his business and forty-seven years nearly to the day after opening his furniture business in Sierra Madre, James David Brown returned with his family to Brown's Furniture and Interiors on Thursday to be recognized by the City of Sierra Madre and the Chamber of Commerce. Brown returned with his wife, two of his daughters, in-laws and several grandchildren and was moved by the reception he received. Brown's Furniture, which opened on April 6th, 1962 is now operating under a different name, a couple doors down from where it was located when he sold it, and a couple blocks away from its original location in what is now Highlander Market, but Brown was still flooded with memories after coming back from his retirement home in Utah.

The seventy-eight year old Brown, one of four children, was born in Mar Vista, and later moved to Santa Monica, where he attended high school, lettering in three sports. Former world heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey offered to sponsor him to any college he selected. "After these great honors," says Brown, "I chose to apply for a mission (with the Church of the Latter Day Saints), and England was my first choice, as



Brown and his wife Ann in their younger days. Courtesy of daughter Jennifer Bennett

Chamber of Commerce also presented Brown with a framed certificate "recognizing your contribution to the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce and to the Community of Sierra Madre over nearly three decades..."

Brown, who lived on Michillinda Avenue in Sierra Madre for about 10 years, moved to Rodeo Road in Arcadia for another ten, and then spent some



Friends and Associates join James D. Brown and his wife Ann in front of Brown's Interiors and Furniture, the modern day extension of Brown's Furniture, which Brown opened April 6, 1962. Brown's nearly thirty years in business in Sierra Madre was recognized by the City and the Chamber of Commerce nearly twenty years after he sold the business. Photo by Bill Coburn



Garden Tour

April 19, 2009
10:30 am – 4:30 pm

Showcasing exquisite gardens in Pasadena and San Marino

Tickets can be purchased at

Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

In person, by mail, or phone
626-355-8350

\$25 pre-sale • \$30 day of tour

Creative Arts Group Presents

Art of the Garden

Creative Arts Group is proud to present four exemplary gardens showcasing the work of our most talented landscape architects and designers. We wish to thank homeowners Rary Simmons, James and Jeanette Mamakos, Anthony and Teresa Clougherty and Mark and Amanda Holdsworth. For tickets and more information visit Creative Arts Group at 108 N. Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre or call (626) 355-8350.

Creative Arts Group Garden Tour:

HOLDSWORTH GARDEN

Grand wrought-iron gates mark the entry to this French Normandy home built in 1929 and designed by noted Architect Robert Ainsworth. A circular driveway passes by Azaleas and Crape Myrtle trees as it approaches the front entrance. The front yard is defined by manicured hedges that weave patterns through the lawn. Twin Camphor trees stand as sentinels to the home. The home is divided by an arched breezeway that leads to the rear of the house. The west front façade is embellished with a wall fountain, trellis, and a row of topiary shrubs in pots add a formal accent to the landscape.

To the east of the house stairs lead down to a stone and brick grotto, a place of respite outside the media room located in the basement. In the rear yard a brick patio enclosed by the house on three sides is shaded by a spreading live oak. Additional shade is provided by a wisteria covered wrought iron trellis. Steps from the terrace lead down to a large rectangle of lawn anchored at the far side by a brick wall faced with evergreen pear trees and boxwood enclosed beds of Daylilies, Agapanthus, delphiniums and foxgloves. A garden gate through the brick wall leads past towering Blackwood Acacias to a hidden rose garden, a swimming pool at the rear of the property, and an elevated entertaining patio overlooking the pool.



my Grandfather...had served there. My desire was granted, and I traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, where I was set apart as a missionary by President Kimball."

While in Manchester, England, he, along with Elder Raymond Gardner, started the first branch of the Church there in Wythershaw at the Royal Oaks Elementary School with eight members. After returning to the states, he was drafted into the army during the Korean War. On Christmas leave from Ft. Ord, he returned to Westwood, where his family now lived, and met the woman who one year later would become his wife, Ann. The couple had six children, five daughters and a son. The eldest, Debra Nemrow and the youngest, Jennifer Bennett, accompanied Brown upon his return to Sierra Madre Thursday.

During his twenty-eight years in business in Sierra Madre, Brown served as Vice President and also as President of the Sierra Madre Community Hospital, with the Sierra Madre Redevelopment Committee, and on the Advisory Board of Lloyd's Bank in Sierra Madre for about four years.

A brief reception was held at Brown's Furniture and Interior for Brown, who, despite his healthy appearance, is in failing health, battling cancer. Susan McConnell presented Brown with a framed proclamation from the City, signed by all five members of the City Council, acknowledging his "dedicated service to the community of Sierra Madre." Both Brown and his wife were visibly moved at the presentation. The



The invitation mailed out prior to the opening of Brown's Furniture in 1962

time on Fifth Avenue in Arcadia. After selling the business, he and Ann sold their Arcadia home and moved to St. George, Utah, where they lived for ten years before moving to their present residence in Bloomington, UT.

Mr. Brown stated that he was touched by the actions of the City and the Chamber of Commerce in recognizing his long-time contributions to the City, and reminisced with his family, former associates, and members of the Chamber about his time in Sierra Madre, discussing an era when the now defunct Sierra Madre News was located in Kersting Court, the old lumber yard was on East Montecito. He also recalled fondly long-time customers and friends such as horse trainers Charlie Whittingham (and wife Peggy) and D. Wayne Lukas, who lived in the area during their many years of association with Santa Anita Race Track.

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Baby, is Hot outside!
Chill at Niko's with
a smoothie!



Baby, is Cold Outside! Warm
up at Niko's with
a latte!



900 Valley View Ave ☞ Open Monday through Saturday ☞ Corner of N. Michillinda and W. Montecito ☞ Phone: 626-510-6151

Read The Paper Online At: www.mtnviewsnews.com

Calendar & Arts

Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s
Tues: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s
Wed: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s
Thur: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s
Fri: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

"TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS" VISITS THE MIDEAST

Join Don and Janet Heins at Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers on Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m., as they take you on a fascinating trek through the cities and desert sands of the Arab Middle East in their multimedia program, *Through the Suez Canal to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan*. You'll explore Petra, the mysterious "Rose Red City," stop at the Dead Sea, and survey the land Moses and the Israelites traversed on their journey to the Promised Land. Their presentation will also feature a close look at the peoples, culture, and music of these ancient lands, and a special adventure-of-lifetime encounter with two Bedouin tribes.

Travelers and Collectors is held on the second Friday of the month and runs from February through May. All programs start 7:30 p.m. and are held in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information and a schedule of upcoming programs, contact The Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, (626) 355-7186, or visit www.cityofsierramadre.org. Travelers and Collectors is sponsored by The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

WACKY, WOOLY, WILDLIFE AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

Chinchillas, iguanas, and hedgehogs, oh my! On Monday, April 13, at 3:30 p.m., The Wildlife Company will kick off National Library Week at the Sierra Madre Public Library with "Habitats and Adaptations," a 45-minute interactive program for youth. Volunteers from the audience will have an opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of small, tame, exotic creatures. Experienced trainers will showcase various animal "ambassadors" from across the globe, and describe how they adapt to survive in an ever-changing world. For more information contact Meegan Tosh at (626) 355-4672, or visit the Library's website at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Sierra Madre Congregational Church presents...

Palm Sunday Communion Concert



Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5 at 4pm

Come, hear the modern oratorio that tells the passion of God's love for all people.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service - Thursday, April 9 at 7PM.

Good Friday COMMUNITY SERVICE - Friday, April 10 at 7 PM

at Bethany Church of Sierra Madre with SMCC Pastor Paul Beck

Easter Sunday COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE - April 12

at 6:30 AM in Memorial Park

Easter Sunday Memorial Services - 8, 9:30 and 11:15 AM

170 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre 626-355-3566

www.mtnviewsnews.com

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU," UNLESS IT'S THE LAUGHS

SHELDON BULL DIRECTS PRIZE WINNING COMEDY AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

WHAT: "You Can't Take It With You." The classic American comedy.

WHO: Written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. Directed by Sheldon Bull. Produced by Ward Calaway and Christine Soldate for Sierra Madre Playhouse.

WHERE: Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Abundant free parking behind theatre.

WHEN: April 24- June 6, 2009. Fri. and Sat. at 8, Sun. at 2:30. Dark on April 26. Friday, April 24 Opening Night performance is preceded by Champagne reception and light buffet at 7:15 p.m.

ADMISSION: \$20. Seniors (65+) and students (13-17), \$17. Children 12 and under, \$12.

RESERVATIONS: (626) 355-4318.

ONLINE TICKETING: www.sierramadreplayhouse.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 April Fool's Day & Farmer's Market	2 Senior Commission Meeting 3:00 pm Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm		
		7 Rhythm and Rhyme 2nd Annual Jazz and Poetry Festival	8 Farmer's Market	9 Barks & Books at Sierra Madre Library Children are invited to read to gentle and friendly dog visitors.		
		14 City Council Meeting Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	15 Farmer's Market	16 Third Thursday Book Club		18 Legendary Bingo at the Rec Center Doors Open 6:30
			22 Farmer's Market			
		28 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	29 Farmer's Market			

EASTER SUNDAY
april 12th

April
2009

CELEBRITY DOG TRAINER TO APPEAR AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

Would you like your pet to be a well-balanced, well-mannered member of your family, but you've got a "Marley" on your hands instead? Then you won't want to miss celebrity dog trainer and canine behavioral counselor Brian Lee, when he appears at the Sierra Madre Public Library on Saturday, April 25, at 3:00 p.m. This event, which is free to the public, will be held outside on the Library's patio. Mr. Lee welcomes the family dog to attend, but owners will be asked to remove any disruptive pet.

Lee is the founder of "Way of the Dog," a positive approach to behavior modification that builds a relationship with one's pet based on enthusiasm and respect rather than fear. He has helped more than 8,000 dogs and their owners deal with just about every behavior challenge a dog can present—from frustrating puppy mischief to dangerous aggression. He's often been the "last stop" for dog owners exasperated by their pet's misbehavior. In this program he will share tips from his 24 years of experience dealing with canine behavior issues, answer questions, and offer hands-on advice for your puppy problems.

Lee has appeared on numerous Animal Planet programs, and helped create A&E's "America's Top Dog," which featured Cesar Milan, "The Dog Whisperer," as a judge. His many celebrity clients include Janet Jackson, Reese Witherspoon, Liza Minnelli, and Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme.

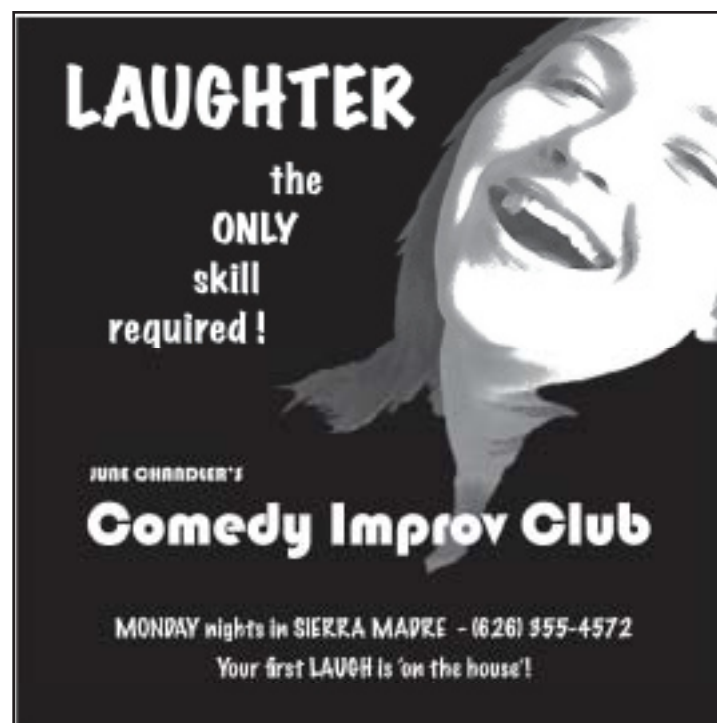
The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, CA 91024. For more information please call (626) 355-7186, or visit www.cityofsierramadre.org. Event sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Foothill
Computer Services
20+ years in Sierra Madre
PC Computer Repairs
& Electronics Consulting
Dave Felt 355-8315

Bailey Canyon Park Spring Cleanup Saturday, April 18, 2009 8:00AM- Noon

The Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC) could use your help! Put on your work gloves and join us at Bailey Canyon Park (at the top of Grove), we'll be pulling weeds, clearing out dead brush and improving paths. In addition to light snacks and beverages, we offer you; fresh air, exercise and enjoyable teamwork experience. Hope to see you there!



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ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Emergency Service Available **355-3496**



140 E. Montecito, Sierra Madre

State Contractor Lic. # 111308



What's the Name of the Game? Saturday, April 18th, 2009

Doors open at 6:30 - Bingo starts at 7:30



Legendary Bingo
Featuring the Fabulous Belle Aire

A night of bingo you won't soon forget

Wild or Mild –
This Is Not Your
Grandmother's
BINGO!

All donations help us build the float

\$20 Donation at the Door
GREAT PRIZES!

Pizza, Wine & Beer Available

Sierra Madre
Recreation Center
611 East
Sierra Madre Blvd.

Between Baldwin and Santa Anita Ave.

For more information, visit SierraMadreRoseFloat.com

Sierra Madre Kiwanis Clean and Beautify Foothill Unity Center



April 7, 2009 — Grungy windows, dead flowers, untrimmed palm tree and weeds are no longer the first thing one sees when they come to Foothill Unity Center - thanks to the hard work of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club. Service club members spent most of the day planting bright spring flowers, washing windows, weeding and trimming at the Center. “What an improvement – now our clients – who are already dealing with the downs of the economy – have a much more cheerful site to welcome them.

“The economy has had a huge impact on the number of people seeking our services,” says Executive Director Joan Whitenack, “we have seen the number soar to over 50% more than the prior year.” The Center helps qualified low-income families from eleven local cities (Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena).

How You Can Help

Economic woes have driven donations down and there have been fewer food drives. Many local groups are conducting food and money drives to help bridge the gap. “Monetary donations help us the most, because we’re able to buy items at lower prices,” says Whitenack. “But we’re grateful for food donations anytime.”

The Center is also looking for volunteers to help with many of their services. Volunteers are especially needed to help with the “Letter

Carrier’s Food Drive” on the afternoon of May 9th. Letter Carriers from many local post offices will be collecting food for Foothill Unity Center. Volunteers are needed to sort and pack the food and help load and unload trucks.

Coming up soon, is the Center’s only major fundraiser of the year – the Golden Plate Awards Gala which will be on Saturday, June 6th. Sponsor and advertiser opportunities are available.

About Foothill Unity Center

Foothill Unity Center provides a range of services unparalleled not only in the San Gabriel Valley, but across Los Angeles County. Operating with a small staff and a corps of dedicated volunteers, the nonprofit, nondenominational organization distributed more than three million pounds of food to 3,183 unduplicated very low-income families last year. It also provides clothing, limited motel vouchers, and referrals to the homeless and people in crisis. Clients meet stringent income guidelines and are recertified annually. While the Center receives some grant monies, a large part of its funding comes from donations by local people, organizations and businesses. On its last tax return, 95.8% of every dollar received went to support client programs.

For more information, please call Joan or Betty at (626) 358-3486. Send donations to Foothill Unity Center, 415 W. Chestnut, Monrovia, CA 91016.

Duarte CSI: Duarte.

A new series in the “CSI Crime Scene Investigation” television franchise? No, but the City of Duarte was the site of recent filming of an episode of the popular long-running CBS network series. Commuters heading home along Duarte’s Huntington Dr. may have caught a brief glimpse of CSI star Laurence Fishburne on a motorcycle as he was preparing for a scene. The parking lots behind Cabrera’s Mexican Cuisine and the Route 66 Roadhouse stood-in for a Nevada location where dozens of bikers were in one scene and a car exploded in another scene. The episode, entitled “Hog Heaven,” is expected to air on May 7.



(Photo credit: Jim Kirchner)

More Monrovia

T Phillips to Open Old Town Monrovia Bar and Grill, Filling Long Vacant Building

A long vacant Old Town Monrovia building is about to become a new pub and restaurant. T Phillips, a bar and grill with locations in Glendora and La Verne, has signed a Disposition and Development Agreement with the Monrovia Redevelopment Agency to buy and occupy the building at 601 S. Myrtle Avenue, at the southwest corner of Colorado Boulevard.

The agreement was approved by the Monrovia City Council Tuesday, April 7. The building has been vacant since the mid-1990s when it was home to a learning center for three years. Prior to that it had been vacant since the Social Security Administration closed its offices there in the 1970s. Several restaurants and pubs, a fresh fish market and most recently Vroman’s Book Store of Pasadena had planned to occupy the building, but none of the deals ever concluded.

Vroman’s abandoned announced plans to move to the Myrtle Avenue site late last year because of the economic downturn. The building was acquired by the Monrovia Redevelopment Agency in September, 2006 in a move to take it off the private market after so many failed attempts to selling or leasing it.

The building had deteriorated over the years and was having a negative impact on the Old Town district.

With Agency investment, the buildings was renovated and underwent extensive exterior rehabilitation.

The Agency had two objectives in buying, repairing and ultimately selling the property - to replace a visually blighted structure with an attractive centerpiece for Old Town, and to



541 S. Myrtle

attract a business use that would anchor the south end of Myrtle, much as the Krikorian Premiere Theatre has done for the north end of Old Town’s main street.

Under the terms of the agreement, T Phillips will buy the site from the Agency for \$1.5 million. The Agency will fund the purchase price, which will be repaid in full, with interest, no later than seven years from the sale date.

Although T Phillips is paying fair market value for the site, the Agency is making substantial contributions toward interior improvements - about \$250,000 worth. In return, T Phillips will sign an operating covenant that will require that the site remain a restaurant for at least 10 years.

Once in operation, T Phillips is expected to make a significantly positive impact on Old Town, increasing foot traffic, especially during weekend and evening hours.



Around Monrovia

by Pat Ostrye

MAYOR ROB GOES TO WASHINGTON AND A LIBRARY DREAM COMES TRUE

It was a busy and hectic time, recently, for Mayor Rob Hammond and City Manager Scott Ochoa as they made their way to Washington, D.C., joining other municipal lawmakers around the country, trying to retrieve part of their scheduled \$3million that the federal government threatened to pocket during this Great Recession. As I understand it, after three days of bargaining back and forth concerning the merits of earmarks and other debatable money items, the Monrovia contingency managed to return home with a promise of at least \$263,000 going back into the budget coffers.

On to less tedious thoughts, such as vacations! Here’s what Alice Atkins, Deputy City Clerk of Monrovia, has to say on that subject: “It’s April and even in this economy, business is picking up for Passport Agencies and Acceptance Facilities as people plan for their summer travel. Effective June 1st, 2009, passport requirements will change, impacting many Americans. The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will require that U.S. citizens provide a valid passport book, passport card or other travel document that denotes identity and citizenship, to enter the U.S. upon returning from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda. . . Since 2007, a Passport is required for all international travel by air. . . The cost for a new passport is \$100 for ages 16 and older, \$85 for children under 16, just \$15 for photos. The agents at Monrovia City Hall will even assist with renewals and name changes.” The number is 626-932-5598

Now, to that Library Dream Come True! It was a beautiful Spring day last Saturday, April 4th, as over 1500 residents, families and visitors who lived in Monrovia once upon a

time and/or spent their early school days in Monrovia, gathered for the dedication of the new Monrovia Public Library. It was a day for reminiscing with old school mates about their very young days in the old Carnegie Library and to get caught up on those years in-between. The Carnegie Library was Monrovia’s first library, built on land now known as Library Park, purchased with a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie and opened to the public in 1908. It was foolishly demolished in 1957 by a Council with no sense of history, to make way for a new modern concept which was razed in 2007.

This new 28,000 square-foot magnificent edifice was completed ahead of the scheduled time and under budget, both: feats extraordinary! What’s more, the City Council decided to return the left-over \$280,000 to the taxpayers, by cutting next year’s bond-retirement tax by \$18 per household. One has to see this wonderful finished product in person to appreciate its magnificence. Washington D.C. has nothing on Monrovia! ‘Twas a grand day! FYI, the new library has adult, teen and children’s areas, a community room, a heritage room, literacy center and new, expanded technology. The doors open for business on Monrovia Day, May 16th.

Hats off to April Soash, Director of Community Services, and Monica Greening, Library Division Manager, who moved the entire library over to the Youth Center two years ago and, between now and May 16th, have the “tremungus” job of moving it all back. After touring through the entire building and seeing hundreds of empty shelves to be filled, I can’t imagine it’s possible. (mailto:postrye@netzero.com)

Arcadia

Classical Kaleidoscope Concert at Your Arcadia Library

The fourth and final concert in the Arcadia Public Library’s Classical Kaleidoscope Concerts for 2008-2009 will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at 7 p.m. in the Cay Mortenson Auditorium. This concert is entitled “Autumnal Inspiration: Brahms’ Monumental Clarinet Quintet” and will feature Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Principal Clarinetist Michele Zukovsky and the Galileo Quartet. Playing in the Galileo Quartet are violinist Lorenz Gamma, violinist Paul Stein, violist Carrie Dennis, and cellist Maksim Velichkin. In addition to the Brahms’ Clarinet Quintet, music will also include Beethoven’s String Quartet in D Major, opus 18, no. 3 and two waltzes by Dvořák.

Coffee, provided courtesy of Starbucks, and light refreshments will be served. Funded



by the Arcadia Public Library Foundation, this concert is free and no reservations are necessary.

SIERRA MADRE’S FARMERS MARKET!

Wednesday 3-7pm

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms. Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you’ll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free. Free public parking on Mariposa.



Church of the Ascension

the Episcopal church in Sierra Madre—Your Village Church.
A place to meet and serve God and your neighbor.

Holy Week And Easter Services April 5 - April 12

Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:15 am

Monday of Holy Week Holy Eucharist 7 pm

Tuesday of Holy Week Holy Eucharist 7 pm

Wednesday of Holy week

Holy Eucharist noon

Tenebrae 7 pm

Mauindy Thursday

Holy Eucharist 7 am

Footwashing and Eucharist 7 pm

Good Friday

Stations of the cross noon

The passion Liturgy 7 pm

Easter Sunday

The Great Vigil and Eucharist 6 am

Children’s egg hunt 8:45 am

Baptism and Festival Eucharist 10:15 am

Corner of Baldwin and Laurel

(626) 355-1133 * www.ascensionsierramadre.com

Design Guidelines Will Be Topic Of Community Workshop

A draft of the city of Pasadena's new design guidelines will be the topic of a workshop hosted by the Design Commission on Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m. at Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.

Pasadena residents, property owners and others are encouraged to give their opinions on the draft during the workshop.

The guidelines, for neighborhood commercial and multifamily residential zoning districts, were developed by city staff and other experts using community input from public meetings in September 2008.

Documents, a map of affected areas and the opportunity to post comments online are available at www.cityofpasadena.net/guidelines.

Comments may also be emailed to kevinjohnson@cityofpasadena.net, faxed to (626) 396-7259 or sent to the Planning and Development Department at 175 N. Garfield Ave., Pasadena CA 91101.

Another community meeting will be scheduled in June to receive public input before the final draft is presented to the Pasadena City Council this summer.

For more information call (626) 744-7806.

Pet of The Week



What a sweetheart! Precious, an adorable, two year old Chihuahua mix is looking for a loving home. She can be shy at first and would be best in a quiet home where she will have time to settle in to the new environment. She loves to sit in laps and would be great in an apartment or condo that allows pets. Come visit with this little doll today!

The regular dog adoption fee is \$110, which includes medical care prior to adoption, spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and a follow-up visit with a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A247163 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org

Parks Get \$162,800 in Bathroom Upgrades

By Dean Lee

What looked at first to be a simple approval by the city council Monday night quickly took a tumble as Councilmember Margaret McAustin questioned the cost of architectural fees for the design of two new bathrooms as part of both the approved Central Park and Memorial Park Master Plans.

McAustin said she thought the city had come up with a prototype bathroom to be used keeping down the cost. "Maybe you could help me understand why we are

doing that," she asked staff. McAustin acted frustrated at the answer which including, that the park was on a grad and that smaller building can cost more to construct than larger ones. A motion by Councilmember Steve Madison to approve the money passed although McAustin abstained and Councilmember Sid Tyler voted against also questioning the cost.

Staff said the cost of any new bathrooms would come down in the future saying that it was evident in the cost difference between the two bathrooms.

"I see that," McAustin

said as she started to laugh. "\$20,000 in architectural and engineering for Central Park bathroom and \$63,000 for Memorial Park."

She added, "I understand Memorial Park's special as every park is special but that just seems completely out of whack to me."

She was also not satisfied with the idea some of the money would be going to outreach and community effort. That was not stated as such in the staff report she commented.

"It should state what it's for," she said. "If we are spending that much money on architectural

and engineering for one bathroom than something is wrong."

Tyler also questioned the low bid cost something staff said they could not disclose, "That is somewhat proprietary," they said.

"What does the public know?" he asked. "We're looking at a great big deficit in this city. Presumably we would think low bid would be important."

Staff assured the council that the top three bidders were comparable to each other in scope of work. And although the exact amounts were not given they were said to be within three percent.

Pasadena Convention Center Expansion Completed

By Teresa Baxter

Despite a weather forecast predicting rain and overcast cast skies, the sun shone brightly for the much anticipated grand opening of the recently completed \$150 million Pasadena Convention Center expansion project held last Friday.

Several local dignitaries were on hand for the ceremonial ribbon cutting, with Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard leading the festivities along with Thomas Seifert, chairman of the Pasadena Center Operating Company.

"The forecast for today was not exactly the day that it turned out to be," said Bogaard. "So at City



Hall we pulled a switch to give us one of our beautiful days."

According to John Kearns, the director of communication for the Convention & Visitors Bureau, the expansion nearly doubles the original space to provide a total of 108,000 square feet of flexible meeting

and exhibit space and the 25,000-square-foot Grand Ballroom can be divided into 10 separate meeting rooms.

The design for the project was conceived by Fentress Architects. Fentress has extensive experience in designing buildings surrounded by historical structures. Using Italian

Beijing Delegation Faces Protest at Huntington Library

By Ann Noonan

To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Sister City agreement between Beijing's Xichen District and Pasadena, a 31-person delegation - led by Xichen's Governor Zhang Jiandong - recently visited Southern California. On April 5th, Zhang Jiandong signed a cultural and educational exchange agreement with Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard at a private ceremony in the Huntington Library. Chinese Consul General Zhang Yun also attended the signing ceremony. Meanwhile, a number of human rights groups held a protest outside the building, adding tension to the meeting.

Among these human rights groups were Hong Kong Forum, Visual Artists Guild, Asia-Pacific Human Rights Foundation, Chinese Democratic Alliance, Social Democratic Party of China and Anti-Political-Persecution Alliance of China.

The chair of Visual Artists Guild, Ann Lau, said that sister cities should encourage real communication and that the Pasadena Sister City Committee should advocate for the release of eight prisoners of conscience including Huang Qi, Hu Jia and Chen Guangcheng. In reply to the privacy of this meeting, Lau replied "If the Mayor does not want the public to know about what he is doing, then he must be ashamed of it. If he is ashamed of it,

then why do it? We highly recommend that the Mayor redeem himself by talking to China's officials in the future in a dialogue about the concern of the American people about human rights abuses in China."

William Mei, Executive Director of Asia-Pacific Human Rights Foundation participated in the protest. He said, "When China and U.S. cities become sister cities, they should support each other. Being sister cities does not nullify the fact that China is still a totalitarian regime, and China's government is still arresting dissidents, including many who lives in Beijing. We would like to express Pasadena people's concern about China's human rights...if we can help China's people on politics and human rights, it will greatly benefit China." He also said that no matter, big or small, any kind of protest and demonstration would have an impact on China's officials. It will allow them to see that dictatorship is not welcome anywhere, and people everywhere would want freedom and democracy.

Liu Yinquan, the Secretary-General of Social Democratic Party of China, brought his two young sons along with him to the protest outside the Huntington Library. He said their peaceful presence is to convey a clear message, "The Chinese communist party must immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners, prisoners of belief and prisoners of conscience.



Arresting these people for unaccountable reasons is a great violation of human rights. The Chinese communist party is doing this for the sake of its own interest and one-party rule. But it caused great damage to China's image in the world and to the stability, fair and normal development of China's society. Therefore, the Chinese communist party's behavior has become the main obstacle to China's development. "

The meeting took place at the Friends' Hall of Huntington Library. It was restricted only to people who presented RSVP. Cathy Wei, the Chairman of the China Sub-Committee of Pasadena Sister Cities told reporters before the meeting began, "I think the protest is appropriate. If the purpose of forming sister cities is about the communication of culture, economics and education, like the Mayor said, then allowing the students and the cultural sector on both sides to understand what is true democracy will help people learn more about each other, and find the point of support to achieve the most balance." Bill Bogaard told reporters that as mayor of Pasadena, he had not given high priority to solving human rights abuses either in this country or other countries, "We have a lots of issues to face in Pasadena, and the question of human

rights is important to me but I haven't put it on the agenda for my discussion with sister cities," he said.

The protest drew attention from people passing by. One of them, Mr. Yang, a banker who lives in the neighborhood, listened carefully to Ann Lau who explained the story of each prisoner of conscience as described on the display board. He immediately asked, "What can I do to help?"

He said that as a Chinese American, he cares about what's happening in China, "Everything is interconnected now because we are in a global economy. What happens in China impacts America. If they (prisoners of conscience) are put in prison unfairly, then it does impact America because as Americans we need to stand for justice and equality when there is inequality in the world."

While discussing the unlikelihood of China's communist party evolving into a democracy if it believes democracy can overthrow itself, he said, "I think China's government is operating from fear. When you're operating from fear, you get blinded by a lot of what's going on. But the danger there is when you get blinded by fear you don't allow innovation to occur. You don't allow better idea to occur to help the country progress."

Meetings Scheduled For 2010 Operating Budget

As the City Council prepares for final adoption in June of the city manager's recommended operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010, the Pasadena community is encouraged to provide opinions about potential service impacts and other issues.

Pasadena is facing many fiscal challenges, most notably a structural deficit in the city's general fund - expenditures exceeding revenues as a result of increasing operating costs exacerbated by the recession.

A series of public meetings, conducted jointly by the City Council and its Finance Committee, has been scheduled in the Council Chamber, room 5249 at Pasadena City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave., and community input is welcomed.

* Monday, April 13, at 4 p.m. - Opening statements, five-year revenue and expense reports, capital budget review, review of proposed budgets for Police Department and Fire Department.

* Thursday, April 23, at 4 p.m. - Review of proposed budgets for City Council, City Attorney/Prosecutor, Human Services and Recreation Department, Human Resources Department

* Monday, April 27, at 3 p.m. - Review of proposed budgets for Planning and Development Department, Housing Department, Public Works Department

* Monday, May 11, at 4 p.m. - Review of proposed budgets for Transportation Department, Pasadena Water and Power, Public Health Department, Rose Bowl Operating Company, Pasadena Center Operating Company

* Monday, May 18, at 4 p.m. - Review of proposed budgets for City Clerk, Library/Information Services Department, Finance Department; budget wrap-up; review of year-end fund balance projection

* Monday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. - Proposed adoption of FY-2010 Operating Budget

Members of the City Council's Finance Committee are Sid Tyler, Victor Gordo, Steve Haderlein and Chris Holden. City Manager Michael J. Beck, Finance Director Andrew Green and department directors will be at the meetings to make presentations and answer questions.

For more information visit www.cityofpasadena.net/budget or call (626) 744-4336.



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

How Does Your Garden Grow Part III

By Pat Birdsall

Stopping Pests and Diseases- Pests and diseases are ongoing problems for most vegetable gardeners. Although specific problems may require special solutions, there are some general principles you can follow.

Deer and rabbits: Use chicken-wire fencing to deter rabbits. Make sure the bottom of the fence extends about 6 inches under the soil to stop rabbits from digging underneath it. The fence needs to extend at least 8 feet above the ground to prevent deer from jumping over it. Be sure any fencing you install is easy to remove when you need to tend the plants.

Spring insects: Row covers, which are lightweight sheets of translucent plastic, protect young crops against many common insects. Row covers are also helpful to prevent damage from light frosts.

Fungal diseases: Reduce fungal diseases by watering the soil, not the leaves of plants. If you use a sprinkler, do it early in the day so the leaves will dry by nightfall.> If a plant falls prey to a disease, remove it promptly and throw it in the trash; don't add sick plants to your compost pile. >Grow varieties that are listed as disease resistant. Garden catalogs and Websites should tell you which varieties offer the most protection.>Make it a habit to change the location of your plants each year. In other words, if you grew tomatoes in the northwest corner of your garden this year, put them in the northeast corner next year. This reduces the chances that pests will gain permanent foothold in your garden.

Summer insects: Pick larger insects and caterpillars by hand. Once you get over the "yuck!" factor, this is a safe and effective way to deal with limited infestations.> Or use insecticidal soap sprays to control harmful bugs. Most garden centers carry these products. Whatever pest control chemicals you use, read the label carefully and follow the directions to the letter.

Harvesting- This is what it's all about, so don't be shy about picking your produce! Many vegetables can be harvested at several stages. Leaf lettuce, for example, can be picked as young as you like; snip some leaves and it will continue to grow to full size. Summer squash (zucchini) and cucumbers can be harvested when the fruit is just a few inches long, or allowed to grow to full size. The general rule: if it looks good enough to eat, it probably is. Give it a try. With many vegetables, the more you pick, the more the plant will produce. www.bhg.com.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

Brought to you by:
Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC)
P.O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085
Your thoughts and comments are welcome...

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, March 29th, to Saturday April 4th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 231 calls for service.

Sunday, March 29th:

4:00 PM – Identity Theft, 00 block Vista Circle. A bank notified a victim that someone changed a password on his account and used his personal information to open two new accounts. The suspect(s) tried to transfer money from the victim's account into the new fraudulent accounts. The bank's notification to the victim prevented the loss of funds.

Tuesday, March 31st:

11:40 AM – Arrest, Misuse of Dealer Special Plates, 600 block West Highland Ave. An officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation and arrested him for having an expired driver's license and for misusing the dealer special plates on the car.

Wednesday, April 1st:

8:16 AM – Arrest, Business License Required, West Grandview Ave. and Jameson Court. Two men were arrested for soliciting without a business license and transported to SMPD Jail for booking. They were released on written promises to appear.

11:57 AM – Arrest, Suspended/Revoked Driver's License, 300 block West Orange Grove Ave. An officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation. The driver was arrested for driving on a suspended/revoked driver's license and released on a written promise to appear.

12:41 PM – Annoying telephone calls, 100 Block East Sierra Madre Blvd. The victim reported receiving annoying telephone calls.

4:07 PM – Forgery, Chase Bank, 25 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A woman tried to cash a \$3,000.00 forged check using fraudulent identification. The suspect escaped before police arrived on scene.

8:23 PM – Arrest, Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance, Santa Anita Ave and Virginia Rd, Arcadia. An officer stopped a motorist for an equipment violation and found that she was under the influence of a controlled substance. The driver was arrested and transported to Pasadena police jail for remand.

Thursday, April 2nd:

3:15 PM – Arrest, Suspended/Revoked Driver's License. Officers detained a motorist for blocking the fire department's driveway. The motorist was arrested for having a suspended driver's license. He was released on a written promise to appear.

Friday, April 3rd:

1:58 PM – Arrest, Attempt Grand Theft Auto, 00 block East Montecito Ave. Officers responded to a call of a man breaking into a parked car. Officers stopped a man matching the description near the scene. A witness identified the man as the suspect and officers arrested him. A subsequent viewing of a security video camera revealed the man in custody did not match the actual suspect. The man was released at the Sierra Madre PD.

8:27 PM – Arrest, Reckless Driving, Possession of an Unloaded Shotgun, 300 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer stopped a speeding motorist and found him to be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. The officer found an unloaded shotgun in the car and arrested the suspect for driving under the influence of alcohol and illegally carrying a shotgun in a car. The officer took the suspect to the Pasadena police jail for remand.

Saturday, April 4th:

7:32 PM – Arrest, Suspended/Revoked Driver's License, 200 Block East Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation and found that his driver's license was suspended/revoked. The motorist was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, March 29, through Saturday, April 4, the Police Department responded to 1,037 calls for service of which 136 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, March 29:

Around 2:21 a.m., units responded to Huntington and Santa Clara regarding a hit-and-run injury traffic collision. A suspect driver may have ran a red light and collided into another vehicle; however, the driver failed to make proper notification and left the scene. Officers followed friction marks on the roadway, which led them to the suspect vehicle. A male driver was found sitting in the vehicle with substantial damage, and officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath. A record check indicated that the 22-year-old Hispanic had a suspended license, and a field sobriety test revealed that he was operating the vehicle while under the influence. The driver was taken into custody for DUI with bodily injury, hit-and-run resulting in injury, and suspended/revoked driver's license.

Monday, March 30:

Around 7:50 p.m., units were dispatched to the 1200 block of South Sixth in reference to a possible hazardous materials investigation. The residents claimed that they had found a jar in the backyard containing a white substance. When the jar was opened, they became dizzy and nauseous. The residents were evacuated and transported to the hospital for evaluation. Fire personnel from various cities and a Hazmat Team responded to contain the area and analyze the substance. It was later determined that the substance was not a hazardous material. However, during the investigation, statements from residents described a hazardous living condition in a neighbor's backyard. Because of the multiple code and hazard violations, the renter was told to relocate. The County Hazmat officials noted the violations and will forward their observations to the County Health Department.

Tuesday, March 31:

Shortly after 9:00 a.m., officers responded to the 1800 block of Louise regarding a fraud investigation. Unknown suspect(s) made counterfeit checks using the victim's checking account information and made several payments without her knowledge or authorization.

Officers responded to the 200 block of Hacienda around 8:30 p.m. regarding an attempted murder. Investigation revealed that a male suspect purchased a baseball bat on March 30 and went to

his parents' home. He waited for several hours for his parents, but they did not return so he stored the bat in the garage. On March 31 around 8:00 p.m., he returned to his parents' home, retrieved the bat, and struck his father in the head with the bat. When his mother tried to intervene, he struck her in the head, arm, and stomach with the bat. Both victims sustained serious traumatic injuries and were transported to the hospital for the medical treatment. A 24-year-old Asian was located and arrested without incident.

Wednesday, April 1:

Around 8:58 a.m., a caller advised that he had received a text message from his ex-girlfriend advising that she had taken a large amount of sleeping pills in an attempt to kill herself after their breakup. Officers responded to the 300 block of West Las Flores and located the 20-year-old female Asian. She was transported to the hospital for treatment and was placed on a 72-hour psychological hold.

Thursday, April 2:

Shortly after 3:00 a.m., officers were dispatched to AMH in reference to a battery that occurred at The Station Bar, 1218 South Baldwin. A male victim advised that he was at the location with his girlfriend around 11:30 p.m. when a male suspect entered the bar. The victim wanted to talk to the suspect about another altercation that occurred on March 27. However, the two of them ended up in a physical fight. Bar patrons separated the two and the suspect was escorted out of the bar.

Friday, April 3:

Shortly before midnight, officers responded to the 00 block of West Pamela regarding a disturbance at a party. A 20-year-old male Asian suspect was contacted, and a consensual search of his person revealed a baggie containing Ecstasy tablets. The man was arrested at the scene for possession of a controlled substance.

Saturday, April 4:

Units responded to First Avenue School, 301 South First, regarding a strong-arm robbery that occurred shortly after 4:00 p.m. The victim advised that he left his iPhone on a bench while he was playing basketball. Two male Asians sat near his phone and later he saw one of them take the phone. He confronted the suspect and tried to retrieve his phone, but the suspect punched him in the face and scratched his arm. The suspects then fled in a Toyota Camry and witnesses noted the license plate number. Officers subsequently responded to the 300 block of West LeRoy and arrested the 18-year-old suspect.

A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

Rose Fafach

Rose Fafach -Rosie the Riveter

Sierra Madreans probably aren't aware that there's a real Rosie the Riveter living here. Rose Fafach actually helped build B-17 bombers during World War II. During that war several decades ago males were inducted into the Armed Forces, leaving traditional male jobs vacant. Therefore, for the first time women moved into those jobs out of necessity.

Rose Fafach was one of those women and, interestingly enough, with the name of Rose, she could have been the model for Rosie the Riveter. There was even a popular song in the 1940s named "Rosie, the Riveter."

The former Michigan native was married in 1950 to Delchi Fafach and the family with three children moved to Sierra Madre in 1959. Rose's husband was a pizza maker and soon became a partner in Roma Gardens on Green Street in Pasadena.

Rose always worked, ultimately as a tie cutter at a business in Sierra Madre, and when the business moved to Monrovia, she continued. Then her husband became food service manager at Ramona Convent. All this time Rose continued working.

After her husband's death in 1986, the Sierra Madre woman joined the workforce at Penrod's Nursery School and stayed there until her retirement 10 years later.

Did she stop working then? No. She had

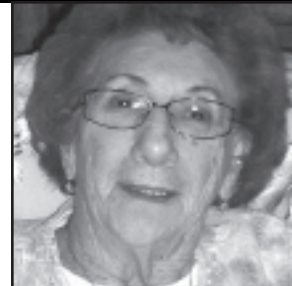
been volunteering with the Senior Club in Sierra Madre and just continued, answering the phone at the desk, actually replacing two paid city employees. She served on the Commission on Aging, Inc. for four years. Then worked with Karl Teigler (who was Senior Club chairman at the time) to offer bus excursions which became -- and still are -- extremely popular.

Rose was voted Sierra Madre's "Older American of the Year" in 1996 and became Senior Club president. During her tenure she started the popular 50/50 drawing.

And what has Rose done lately? She helps with the blood pressure clinic at the Senior Center and is now in charge of Bingo every Tuesday and Saturday. She's tickled to report that some days there are as many as 20 participating in Center Bingo activities.

"They know me," she says of those who come to the Senior Center. "It's nice to be able to help people...And it keeps me out of trouble."

Rose has seven grandchildren and is also a great-grandmother.



Carmen Gonzales, CNA / Med Tech
Marjorie Thorndyke, Resident
Judy Thorndyke, Executive Director

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Green Valley expo



FREE ADMISSION

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9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Victory Park Community Center

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For more info: www.lookinggreen.org 626.200.6277

Dark of the Moon Performed at La Salle



Director David P. Needles and his energetic student cast recently performed *Dark Of The Moon* by Howard Richardson & William Berney. *Dark of the Moon* is traditionally the last three days of the lunar cycle, immediately preceding the New Moon, and the time when the night sky is notably absent the presence of the Moon.

The La Salle cast power through the play's strange rhythms with conviction, vision, and talent. The result was a dark, troublesome, moving love story. There was lots of song, though it isn't a musical. There was a wedding, and humor, but it isn't a comedy, and there's a revival meeting at which a most "un-Christian" thing occurs.

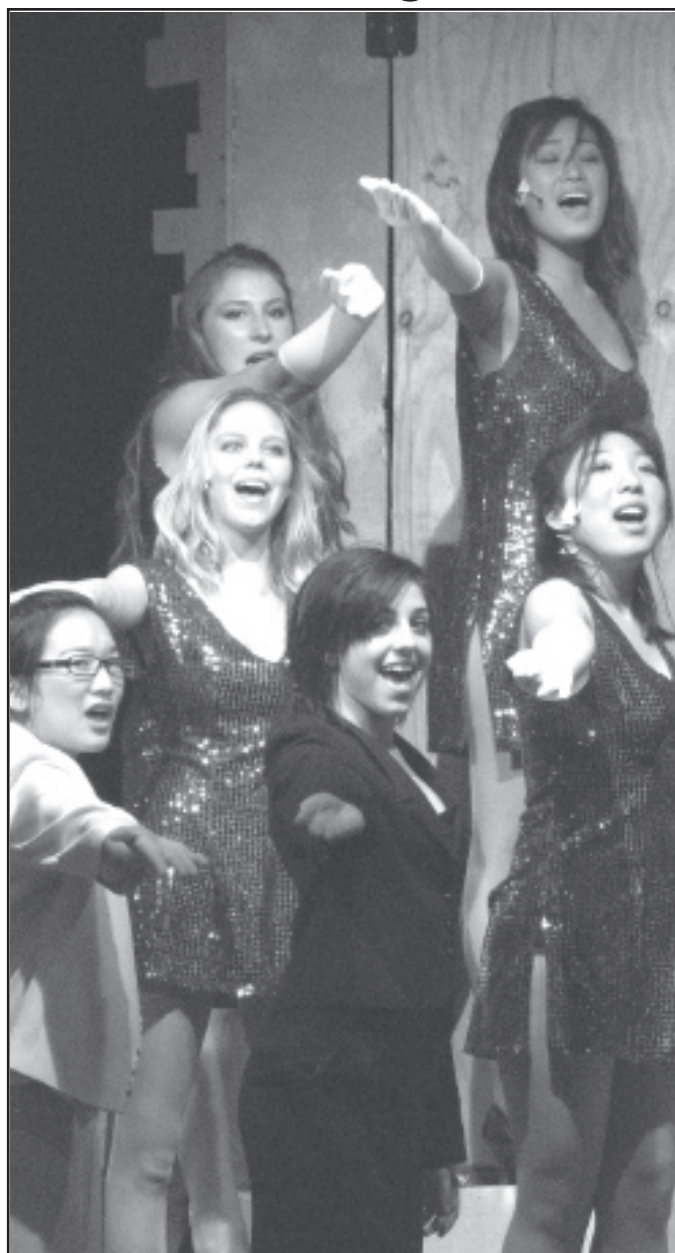
Mention *Dark of the Moon*, and the memories of many theatergoers are likely to hark back to college or high school productions of the hillbilly tale about the witch-boy who begs to be made human after having his way with the mortal Barbara Allen atop Bald Moun-

tain. The hitch is that she must remain faithful to him for a full year. The play is a most peculiar work that engages the audience on a musical, mystical folk level. The story takes place in two worlds. "Up the mountain," the realm of witches and conjurers, intersects now and again with the valley where the regular folk live. Like fictional picturesque country peoples everywhere, these superstitious Smoky Mountain humans love to sing and dance.

Members of the cast included seniors Carel Otte, Courtney Little, Luke Hilland, Izzie Hansen. Juniors in the cast were Jasen Vita, Grace Stanton and Lily Zaldivar. The entire cast is comprised of over 30 students from all grade levels.

The Visual and Performing arts department produces a fall musical, winter play, spring play and summer theatre experience. Check the La Salle website for more performance photographs.

Arcadia High Schools ADD: Little Shop of Horrors



Just what are those "Please do not feed the plants" or "Wanted" notices posted all around our campus? Are they advertisements for a new club or merely entertaining notices to remind us to always throw away our trash? No, in fact, these advertisements were for ADD's latest production, titled "Little Shop of Horrors." Senior Torie Jee said that all the notices have been "confusing people, but it's creating a buzz and building up the hype around our play." Catch a performance of this show in the Little Theater from Mar. 24-28 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for \$12 at the door or for \$10 at lunch. This production would "really get the school talking," said senior Iris Guo.

This production is "AHS' first musical in over 20 years," said ADD director, Mr. Steven Volpe. "Little Shop of Horrors" portrays the story of three characters, clumsy, nerdy Seymore, grouchy Mr. Mushnik, and the beautiful, ditzzy Audrey, through a whole array of dancing and singing. Set in the poverty-stricken city of urban Skid Row, a struggling florist shop transforms into an overnight sensation when Seymore discovers a new plant species. Seymore continues to feed the plant, which he names Audrey II, all the while wishing to win the real Audrey's love. However, not much is known about this mysterious plant. Soon Audrey II turns into a grumpy, rude, R&B-singing carnivore—a phenomenal creature who can shower Seymore with fame and fortune in exchange for satisfying its ever-rising appetite.

Rehearsals, needed to perfect this production, were held from 3-6:00 p.m. every weekday since the beginning of February. There are also Saturday and Sunday rehearsals that usually span from 4-6 hours. Practices are "split up into acting rehearsals, singing rehearsals, and dance rehearsals," said Iris. For personal character preparations, junior Andrew McDaniels said that he would "[basically] sing and dance everywhere." Iris, who plays one of the doo op girls, agrees, saying that "I [sometimes] find myself singing the songs when I am walking through the halls, doing homework or just sitting in class. I can not get the 'Little Shop of Horrors' songs out of my head."

Commenting on her own part as Audrey, senior Shae Palic says that she was "honored to get [the] part. Audrey is a ditzzy girl with an extremely high voice and a big blond wig, so my part is [extremely] fun." Senior Elias Koutantos, who plays the part of Mr. Mushnik, said that "this is the best production ever. This production [has] a \$1000 rented plant, a huge rotating stage, wonderful dance numbers, entertaining music, teachers being eaten by a plant, and comedy." Andrew McDaniels adds to this, saying that the Audrey II is "10 feet tall" and that its use will be "eating people, including teachers. Every night we are feeding a different teacher to the plant." "We all put so much work into this, and we hope [that] everyone appreciates it," said Shae.

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Starting March 1 and running through June you can whiten your smile and join Temple City Dental Care in making a difference for USC Coach Pete Carroll's A Better LA and helping the community to inspire kids to play and dream without fear.

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No Child Left Behind Forum Held

By Teresa Baxter

Alice Petrossian, chief academic officer of the Pasadena Unified School District, and Terry Dutton, an assessment consultant specializing in measuring academic performance, took part in a forum regarding the current status of the No Child Left Behind Act at the Pasadena League of Women Voters meeting held last Thursday.

Marge Wyatt, a league member and former PUSD board president provided an introduction that highlighted the recommendations and goals that both organizations had assembled as a

comprehensive plan. "The plan involves developing a comprehensive measure to reduce truancy and prevent dropouts, while establishing effective, innovative alternative education programs," said Wyatt. "PUSD is implementing plans at the middle schools and Muir High School which includes methods to incorporate the league's recommendation that every student needs a knowledgeable person that advises the student on what is needed for graduation and encourages the student to complete those requirements."

Recently, Petrossian had an opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with the Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan and the leadership of President Obama's administration. Prior to the meeting it was believed

that the No Child Left Behind legislation would remain intact but the current administration foresees that educational goals will change within one year.

Petrossian shared that the groundwork for new policies was recently addressed in a speech given by Obama to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, in which he called on "states that are setting their standards far below where they ought to be to stop low-balling expectations for our kids." In the speech, The President implored the nation's governors and state education chiefs to develop standards and assessments that don't simply measure whether a student can fill in a bubble on a test, but whether they possess 21st century skills—like problem solving, critical thinking, entrepreneurship and creativity.

Toddler Treks at Descano Gardens

Descanso Gardens is the perfect place for children ages 2-4 to explore the natural world with all their senses. In these six-week series, children will hear stories, do crafts and take a walk in the Gardens – all revolving on a specific weekly theme.

Chose either Thursday or Friday sessions; start times are either 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. Each class is one hour long.

Everyone should wear sensible shoes and outdoor clothing. Early registration is recommended.

Cost: Adult/child pair, \$85 (\$75 members) plus \$50 for each additional child. Reservations required. Walk-in space is not available. To register, call (818) 949-7980.

Calendar Listings:
Toddler Treks with Acorn Bear, 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays or Fridays, April 16-May 21, Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada. Children ages 2 to 4 will enjoy exploring the world through stories, crafts and a walk in the Gardens. \$85 (\$75 members) for adult/child pair; \$50 for each additional child. Reservations required. Walk-in space not available. (818) 949-7980, www.descansogardens.org.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdall

Arroyo Pacific Academy

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Joanne Testa Cross
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsllions.org

Carden of the Foothills School

429 Wildrose Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 626/358-9414
626/358-5164 fax office@cardenofthefoothills.com

The Gooden School

192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2000, email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759 Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School

725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Dr. Derick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981 website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028 Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
Website: www.pusd@pusd.us

A MOTHER'S DAY TEA WITH LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club and Sierra Madre Public Library invite you to don your finery and join us for an elegant afternoon as we celebrate the women in our lives who have helped shape our world. Travel back in time to a bygone era when mothers and daughters—as well as fathers and sons—upheld the time-honored traditions of Afternoon Tea.

Nineteenth-century history will come alive as Valerie Weich presents a one-hour program, performing as Louisa May Alcott, the beloved author of the literary classics *Little Women* and *Little Men*. She will transport you to the Civil War era, when slavery, poverty, and women's rights were the dominating issues of the day. Afterwards, as you sip and savor teatime delicacies, you'll enjoy the relaxing sounds of American period music, performed by Senara, a group noted for its skill on the hammered dulcimer and harp.

This event is not just for the ladies—gentlemen both young and "of a certain age"

are encouraged to attend. It's the perfect way to celebrate Mother's Day with your mom, grandma, or any special woman who's been like a mother to you. The tea will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m., at the Sierra Madre Woman's Clubhouse, 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

The cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children under 17. Although youngsters are welcome, the Louisa May Alcott program is best recommended for children ages 10 and up. Tickets may be purchased at the Library and Woman's Club. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For more information, please contact Polly Bonnett at 626-355-7186, or Rosemary Morabito at 818-415-6189, or visit www.cityofsierramadre.org. This event is co-sponsored by The Woman's Club and Library. Proceeds will benefit Woman's Club charities.

Mountain Views News

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Mountain Views News

Mission Statement

The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens.

We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



By Hail Hamilton

How Is Unemployment Calculated?

U. S. unemployment bolted from 8.1 to 8.5 % in March, the highest since 1994, as employers axed 694,000 more workers and pushed the nation's jobless ranks to 13.2 million. Many experts predict that the hard times will get even harder, with a painful 10 percent jobless rate by July.

Over the past 12 months, the number of unemployed persons has grown by about 5.3 million, and the unemployment rate has risen by 3.4%, with 3.3 million more Americans losing their jobs in the last 5 months.

The current rate would be even higher — 15.6 % or 25 million—if it included laid-off workers who have given up looking for new jobs, working part-time, or underemployed working 40 hours a week but still not earning enough to bring their incomes above the poverty line or have had to settle for part-time work because they can't do any better.

But do you ever wonder exactly how the government arrives at these numbers?

According to popular opinion, these numbers would seem to be derived from the number of individuals who file claims for unemployment insurance benefits under either State or Federal programs. This actually, not quite accurate; however, due to the fact that these numbers would not include those individuals who are without jobs but whose benefits have run out or who were not eligible for some reason for benefits.

The unemployment rate figures which are published on a monthly basis are actually derived from a monthly survey of 60,000 households in the United States known as the Current Population Survey. The survey is conducted by the Census Bureau on behalf of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

While 60,000 households may not seem like a lot in comparison to the millions of households in the United States, the survey is intended to be a representative of the complete population of the U.S. A sample of the

more than 3,000 counties across the nation is selected toward this purpose, comprising both rural and urban areas as well as various geographic regions. 25% of the households in the sample are changed on a monthly basis for the specific purpose that no household in the sample will be interviewed more than four times consecutively. After a household is rotated out of the survey, it is not interviewed again for 8 months.

Questions are posed to the individuals surveyed regarding whether individuals in the home have a job or if they are laid off. Other questions query whether the persons are available for work and the techniques they have used to look for work in the preceding month. These questions are posed because only those individuals who do not have a job, have actively look for work in the past four weeks and who are currently available to work are considered to be unemployed.

This information is then compared as a percentage to the number of people in the labor force. It should be noted that the labor force is considered to be all individuals who are age 16 and older who either have a job or who are actively looking for a job. Individuals who do not have a job and who are not actively looking for work are not included in the labor force.

The information that is collected in the survey is adjusted to account for independent population estimates across the entire nation. These adjustments take into account factors such as state of residence, sex, age and race. Despite the adjustments; however, it is important to note that because the survey is not a complete count, the results of the sample cannot be expected to be the same as if a survey of the entire population were taken. The margin of error between the sample and the actual unemployment rate; however, is believed to minimal.

The data that is collected is then released on the first Friday of each month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a national unemployment rate. Again, as of April 3, 13.2 million Americans or 8.5% of all individuals age 16 or older who do not have a job and are still looking for work are unemployed.



Stuart Tolchin On.. LIFE BEING A SPORTSFAN

Some of my most personal and cherished memories revolve around being a sports fan. In the early 1950's, before we owned a television, I would sit next to our giant console radio and listen to the Chicago Cub games. I would take out my baseball cards and place the individual players into position on the carpet. When the Cubs came to bat I would place players into an imaginary batter's box and move them around as they got on base. The Cubs were consistently dismal failures but it made no difference to true fans like 7 year- old me.

Being so attached to the local sports team allowed me to feel attached to something as if I, too, was a member of a team. My dad and I had something to talk about and, looking back on it, this sports talk was a special sort of bond that excluded my mom and grandmother. Thirty years ago when my father was in a coma resulting from a heart attack I stayed in his room overnight with him for a couple of nights. I remember, during this difficult numbing period, that I spent a lot of time reading aloud to my father the statistics from the games of the day before. Probably he couldn't hear me, but reading the box scores seemed to have a calming effect on him as indicated by his vital signs. Maybe his numbers were a reflection of my increased calmness as I read the box scores. There I was in a strange situation—alone with my dying and unconscious father in a hospital room for hours at a time and yet looking at the familiar box scores made it possible to pretend, at least for a while, that everything was going to be all right.

You know I still read the sports section first

thing every morning. Maybe I read it so that I can still pretend that everything is all right; or, maybe everything is all right as long as I keep reading the sportspage. Well, I think I have made a big mistake. I have just finished reading A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF SPORTS in the United States by Dave Zirin and the experience I am left with is to feel foolish and betrayed. What I have learned is that the team owners have managed to turn their industry from one based on selling tickets to one based on extracting public subsidies. The book explains that one of the great crimes of American government is to allow the funneling of public moneys into the pockets of a handful of very wealthy individuals as a substitute for anything resembling an urban policy. As streetlights are turned off, and firehouses are closed and classrooms are held in stairwells public financed construction of multi-million dollars stadiums continue.

If not entertaining the book is at least enlightening. After reading the book it's hard to feel the same way about sports. I am the first to admit the need to be diverted, distracted and entertained but must we be robbed at the same time. One simple question. Why can't the municipalities actually own the team so that when we root for our team it actually would be OUR TEAM. Whatever moneys were made would go to benefit the city rather than to benefit individual, often undeserving, owners. Perhaps if the teams were municipally owned individual players would feel pride in allowing their salaries to be realistically limited in order to benefit the entire community. In any case, it sure would make reading the sports page easier.

Letters to the Editor

Appreciate Our Landmarks

Many Sierra Madreans appreciated Bill Peters's article titled "While You're in Sierra Madre for the Wistaria Festival on March 15th, Check out SM's Architectural Heritage" in the Feb. 14th issue of the MountainViews-Observer.

We value our older homes and appreciate the support of anyone who shares our love and respect for landmark homes and places of business. We have an active, dedicated historical preservation organization in town, which seeks the ongoing support of our City Council and Planning Commission in preserving architectural landmarks.

Historic buildings have enhanced the charm and allure of Sierra Madre, and the owners of these structures have spent much time, effort and money preserving them.

Shirley A. Rosenkranz, Landmark Homeowner

Laughing To Keep From Crying

The article written by Gregory Wellborn would be laughable if it were not so tragic. He writes about the House bill "which taxes bonuses of innocent employees of selected financial firms." Does he think these bonuses were given to the janitorial staff? Does he not realize many of these individual bonuses were more than he may see in his entire lifetime?

In case anyone doesn't know, the action was provoked by ridiculous bonuses to AIG executives after they took US government bailout money and treated themselves to a nice resort getaway. The company the US government owns a huge majority stake in now, thanks to the greed and incompetence of the very people that drove it into the ground. Their actions are now affecting the lives of actual innocent people across the globe. Where is Wellborn's outrage about that?

As for the "conservative" budget presented to Congress that "seeks to apply our country's primary founding principles", it failed overwhelmingly with both parties rejecting it for the joke it was. I doubt our founding fathers could have even imagined what a mess AIG and their ilk could have inflicted on our country. It would be wonderful to have this "individual freedom and government restraint". Wall Street and the financial firms have proved to us that this goal is illusive at best and that Ronald Reagan

was great at delivering lines from his speech writers.

Clarisse Krylo

Puzzling?

Dear Ms. Henderson;
After reading the news, I enjoy doing the puzzles in the papers. In the Times, it's figuring out the crossword puzzle. In the Mountain Views News, it's trying to figure out what columnist Gregory J. Wellborn is talking about.

I was puzzled in his April 4 column by his mention of legislation "proposed" by Barney Frank (D-Mass) regarding executive compensation at firms receiving federal bailout funds. I could find no record of such legislation from Congressman Frank. Perhaps Mr. Wellborn was referring to HR 1664, introduced by Alan Grayson (D-Fla).

This bill is an amendment to last year's "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act". It prohibits "unreasonable and excessive" compensation at firms that received a "capital investment" from taxpayers under the act, "while that capital investment remains outstanding". It further provides that bonuses be based on the "performance of the individual", and the firm's "ability to pay or begin to repay the United States for any capital investment received".

Another puzzle is trying to figure how this represents a threat to "the very fabric of American commerce and culture", unless Mr. Wellborn is referring to the Wall Street "culture" that presumes an entitlement to billions in taxpayer bailouts with no accountability, with millions in bonuses going to those responsible for getting us into this mess.

Most puzzling is Mr. Wellborn's extolling of the current Republican budget proposal, with its assumption that a further redistribution of the nation's wealth from the poor and middle class to the small percentage at the very top might have a different outcome than the economic disasters produced when "trickle-down" was practiced under the Reagan and Bush (not to mention Herbert Hoover) administrations.

There's an old saying which provides a one-word definition for one who repeatedly tries the same thing and expects a different outcome each time. I'll leave that for Mr. Wellborn to puzzle over himself. Sincerely,

Howard W. Hays

Looking For Rich? Pg. 11
More Letters - Pg. 8

Like Sheep Among Wolves



Gregory J. Wellborn

Recent news stories about multiple murder rampages in Pittsburgh, Alabama and California and the escalating drug violence in Mexico all share a common theme. They are all being shamelessly used to call for stricter gun control laws and assault weapon bans. In many instances, the victims' families hadn't even held the funeral before their loss was exploited by those who want to build the emotional case for further restricting gun ownership.

The pathetically sad reality is that those who call for eliminating gun ownership bear some responsibility for the innocent deaths we have all witnessed on the evening news. If we really want to reduce these tragic murders, we need to increase the number of law-abiding citizens who own guns.

As comforting as it might feel to believe that eliminating gun ownership would eliminate these needless tragedies, it's a fantasy. The truth lies in the opposite direction: gun ownership decreases violent crime rates in general and specifically decreases the incidence of rape and murder. The evidence, which is sourced at the end of this article, may be disconcerting for some to acknowledge, but it is overwhelming in its consistency as the following overview demonstrates.

Analysis of data from all 3,054 counties in the United States over an 18 year period showed that criminals are deterred by the knowledge that their intended victim may be armed. As the number of gun permits increased, the number of violent crimes decreased. For each additional year that concealed hand guns were allowed, the murder rate declined by 3%, the rape rate decreased by 2%, and robberies declined by 2%.

If we look overseas, the truth of these statistics is further supported. Just recently, we read about a shooting spree in Stuttgart Germany which left 9 students and 3 teachers dead. What wasn't affectively reported was that this crime was simply the last in a series of such rampages which have racked that country over the last 7 years, and Germany has some of the strictest gun control laws in Europe – much stricter even than the ones that are being proposed in the U.S. Other countries in Europe have experienced similar multiple-victims shootings, and they have all occurred in places where guns were banned.

This fact doesn't get media attention because it doesn't fit the preconceived notion about gun ownership and gun violence. The mainstream media simply believes, and thus reports on stories that seem to support, the notion that gun ownership causes gun violence. This and several other sub-theories constitute the intellectual background of the vast majority of reporters working for big-city dailies and the major networks.

One such theory holds that most people are killed by someone they know, so restricting gun ownership would decrease these deaths. The oft-cited statistic is that 58% of murder victims are killed by relatives or acquaintances. The problem is that police statistics include gang-related killings and prostitution killings in the "acquaintance" category. I suppose that's technically correct, but it's awfully distorting. Separating out those murders, we find that less than 10% of murders are carried out by previously law-abiding citizens.

Another theory advanced is that restricting guns will decrease the number of children who are accidentally killed. In all honesty, there may be some truth to that, but only to the extent that restricting bicycles, swimming pools or fireplaces and candles would decrease the number of children accidentally killed by using those products. The statistics clearly show that the death rate from guns is considerably smaller than the death rates from drowning, bicycles or fires. Children are also 14.5 times more likely to die from car accidents than from handguns. If death alone is the criteria, then we're going to have to ban a whole lot of things that are overwhelmingly safe and helpful. While any death is regrettable, we have to be realistic in acknowledging that accidents will always happen. The rate of death relative to the primary benefits offered by any activity is the appropriate metric by which to make these decisions.

Perhaps another under-reported story will help to illustrate in a less statistically laden way. In February 2007, a deranged man went to the Trolley Square Mall in Utah and began shooting. 6 people were killed and 4 wounded before a shopper, who had a license to carry a concealed weapon, raced from one end of the mall to the other and killed the murderer. Despite the long distance from one end of the mall to the other, the citizen hero was able to prevent further carnage before the police even arrived. Had the gunman not been stopped, he had enough ammunition – and potential targets – to kill 5 to 6 times as many people.

There are plenty of cases every year where gun permit holders stop what would otherwise have become multiple-victim shooting sprees. These stories just don't receive much coverage, so there's no way for them to impact our emotions. The distorted press coverage creates a misleading sense that gun ownership is the cause of gun deaths, but the facts just don't support this view.

If we put our emotions aside and look at this issue rationally, it is very clear that the best way to pursue the very worthy goal of reducing murder and other violent crimes is to increase the number of guns owned and carried by law-abiding citizens. The inescapable affect of reducing the number of guns in our society is the same as herding a bunch of sheep amongst a pack of wolves. We know the nature of wolves just as we know the nature of criminals. To ignore either is stupid and makes us complicit in the crimes that are committed. Criminals are deterred by higher penalties and especially by the likelihood that they may be injured or killed.

It is time to stop ceding the moral high ground to those who shamelessly use every multiple killing to prey on our emotions. We all grieve the senseless loss in life. But if we want to actually do something about it and have a real impact in our communities, it's time we arm the sheep. The most moral act we can take is to allow potential victims to defend themselves. Anything else is unconscionable.

[Sources of clear hard facts: John Lott's book, The Bias Against Guns]

Gregory J. Wellborn is an independent opinion columnist. He writes and speaks frequently on political, economic and social issues. His columns have appeared in publications such as The Los Angeles Daily News, The Orange County Register, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. He can be reached at gwellborn@mtnviewsnews.com.

City of Sierra Madre
Public Hearing Notice

To: Citywide
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: HILLSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONE (HMZ) ORDINANCE UPDATE FINAL EIR

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California Law, that the City Council will consider and make a decision on the final EIR for the Hillside Management Zone Ordinance Update. The Hillside Management Zone Ordinance Update is a revision and clarification of the 1989 Hillside Management Zone Ordinance, which includes an amendment to the City of Sierra Madre Zoning Map and amendments to the Municipal Code text. Pursuant to the City of Sierra Madre Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, the City Council shall be the decision-making body for all EIRs. The draft EIR process is complete and the Planning Commission considered the final EIR on June 21, 2007 and made a recommendation to the City Council. On April 14, 2009, the City Council will consider and make a decision on the final EIR.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre
City Council meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2009

PLACE OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138.

By Order of the City Council
Danny Castro,
Director of Development Services

City of Sierra Madre
Public Hearing Notice

To: Property Owners within a 300-foot radius
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: PARCEL MAP 09-01
Applicant: Thomas & Ellen Hoffman and Dennis & Patricia Juett
Project Location: 131 East Orange Grove Avenue, in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider a request for a lot split for the property at 131 East Orange Grove Avenue. The applicant is proposing to split the existing 53,522- square-foot parcel into two (2) parcels measuring 31,486 square feet and 22,036 square feet.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
Thursday, April 16th, 2009
(Hearing begins at 7:00 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for Class 15 Categorical Exemption (Minor Land Division), pursuant to Section 15315 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 10-business-day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138.

By Order of the Planning Commission
Danny Castro,
Director of Development Services

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
ZOLTAN P. ZAHORECZ
CASE NO. BP115704

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ZOLTAN P. ZAHORECZ. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ANNE E. WU in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANNE E. WU be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 04/30/09 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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4/4, 4/11, 4/18/09
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Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,

Recently, I drove 26 miles to Sierra Madre just to take a nostalgic stroll though the town. I started on the east side taking note of every shop and trying to remember what used to be there. I stopped and read every poster on every widow. I mused over the theatre's brochures and then crossed over to the Congregational Church to enjoy it's old fashioned design. Then I turned northwards to see the Old North Church. The warm memories of the Jesus people I met there back in the the seventies made me feel good.

I continued my walk on the southside of the street. I saw the large newspaper stand and decided to buy a local paper to see if it had changed. I was in front of the losed coffee shop called Steamers at this time. So sorry, I missed out in going there. Then I came across the real estate office with many freebies in front of it and started adding these to my collection.

In all, I enjoyed my solitary visit there but did not get around to reading the papers until four days later. That's when I saw a picture of the Old North Church on the cover of your paper. It made me nervous at first, but as I read the article I was relieved to see that the story had been well written representing a fair and unbiased approach to the issue. This gained

much respect from me and I continued to read the rest of the paper. I was quite impressed that a free paper could have so many important things to say. You even had an article about salt water on Mars! If that wasn't enough of a pleasant surprise the opinion page sure was. The run down on Murphy's law was fun, but Where Are the Liberals? by Gregory Welborn was very satisfactorily written. He too impressed me with his fair and honest approach to politics. That is a rare thing these days. It was just so pleasant to see him take an approach that was creative and not an ego trip for one side against the other. I have grown so weary of the biased news on television and the yellow journalism on the internet. The more reasonable approach of the Mountain Views Observer greatly sparked further interest in your paper and I looked it up online. Again I noticed our high standards and that made me a contented reader.

Thank you for putting so much quality in a free paper. I am looking forward to reading your future editions online.

In all, my visit to Sierra Madre was quite profitable.

With gratitude,

Janet McSavaney

ELECT
BECKY SHEVLIN
FOR MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009

A new candidate with true commitment and leadership based on years of dedicated service and building valued relationships within our Monrovia Community.

MONROVIA RESIDENT and raising a family here since 1988; Legal Assistant for past 33 years and working in the Monrovia Old Town since 1996.

MONROVIA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATE

MONROVIA COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSIONER 11 years ongoing service - Chair 2 1/2 years - Sitting on numerous subcommittees including those relating to Master Planning, Art in Public Places, Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Station, Design Art Review Committee, and the Hillside Wilderness Preserve.

MONROVIA COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL 10 years ongoing service - Having served in all Executive Offices;

ongoing Calendar Coordinator, keeping the Community Coordinating Calendar Council which is made available to numerous groups and individuals throughout the City

MONROVIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 6 years ongoing service - Board of Directors 2003-2004; Executive Board 2005-2008; President 2007 - ASK CAMPAIGN - Ongoing commitment to all Chamber Committees including Ambassadors, BEACON (Business, Education and Community Outreach Network (current Secretary); Government Affairs (current Chair) and Membership Committee

MONROVIA READS BOARD MEMBER 6 years ongoing service; President since 1/2008 - Nonprofit literacy group; twice yearly reading in local classrooms; three major book distributions; support for Monrovia Library Literacy, PAT Tutoring, and City's Monrovia Reads and Plays Programming

FOOTHILL UNITY CENTER AUXILIARY Past President 2000

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Lisa Adams
Micah Adams
Sally Adams
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Dana Young
Alex Zucco



“My commitment and involvement is heart felt and based on my sincere desire to serve our entire community while also helping to make our City a great place to live, work, and play.”

Becky Shevlin

www.beckyshevlin.com | email contact@beckyshevlin.com | Telephone (626) 357-3324
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|--------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 WEDNESDAY | The Los Angeles Jazz Collective | |
| 2 THURSDAY | The Danny Guerrero Jazz Trio | |
| 3 FRIDAY | The Bryan Randall Smith Sound | |
| 4 SATURDAY | Lisa Finkle | |
| 5 SUNDAY | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM |
| 7 TUESDAY | Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM |
| 8 WEDNESDAY | Max Buda | |
| 9 THURSDAY | The Michael McDaniel Joint PRESENTS | |
| 10 FRIDAY | Jack Sheldon | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM |
| 11 SATURDAY | Nine + One Band featuring Harry Smallenburg on Vibes | |
| | 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM | |
| | After Hours Rock n Rolla with Brant Bjork & the Bros and Falso Jetson | |
| | 11:00 PM - 11:00 PM | |
| 12 SUNDAY | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM |
| 14 TUESDAY | Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM |
| 15 WEDNESDAY | The Fuzzy Logic Bopset | 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM |
| 16 THURSDAY | Gil Bernal Quartet | |
| 17 FRIDAY | Mercy & the Merckells | 9:00 PM - 9:00 PM |
| 19 SUNDAY | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM |
| 21 TUESDAY | Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM |
| 22 WEDNESDAY | Song Stems a collective of LA's female singer songwriters | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM |
| 23 THURSDAY | Polychrome Jazz Ensemble | |
| 24 FRIDAY | The Bennett Brindies Trio | |
| 26 SUNDAY | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM |
| 28 TUESDAY | Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM |
| 29 WEDNESDAY | The Jennifer Latham Trio | |



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Easter

If you have watched my Television show, The Chef Knows on KJLA TV or read my column here in the Observer, you know I love my BBQ food like a bear enjoys honey. I was wondering the other day, what happened to all the Tony Roma's? There used to be a few in the area and they serviced a loyal and sizable customer base. I was hearing the same music again this past week as I was in Arcadia for a meeting and happened upon a delightful restaurant called, The Fusion; it was once a Tony Roma's. I am about as big a fan of chain restaurants as I am of taxes. I will visit them (pay my taxes) but I like the freedom and the refreshing exhilaration of discovery. So when I walked into The Fusion and this culinary experiment, my blood began to flow with that youthful spring of a new love.

If Robin's BBQ in East Pasadena is the gold standard of Ribs, what did I come away with from Fusion? Prices are very competitive as the most expensive item on the menu is well marbled Rib Eye for (\$21.99), it does come with two sides. The menu is lined with Seafood, Pasta, Chicken and Ribs. It all comes down to the ribs though, don't you think?



Baby Back Ribs a full rack is (\$19.95), this heck of a deal. I must tell you these are baked ribs not BBQ'd, but still a heck of a deal. My recommendation is to order the All American Rib Sampler ... Ribs, Chicken, Grilled Sausage with Cole Slaw for (\$18.99). The ribs come with a secret sauce that is protected by a thick safe. I liked the ribs and give them a silver for performance. Bartender Tony makes a great

Margarita at the Bar.

For value, cleanliness, food and service I give the Fusion Restaurant 3 stars, worth the drive anywhere in the San Gabriel Valley.

Fusion Bar and Grill 333 E. Huntington Dr. Arcadia (626) 445-3595

I received a report from a reader Craig Harper, he gives two thumbs up to the San Dimas Wine Shop and Tasting Room. Craig tells me it has an intimate setting, including an outdoor patio. They do a weekly tasting of 5 or 6 wines that you can taste any hour they are open. Craig says, that what sets the San Dimas Winery apart is the education that

you receive while sipping wine!!! Well put Craig, and thanks for the tip.

San Dimas Wine Shop 225 W. Bonita Ave. San Dimas. (909) 971-9425

Happy Easter and make sure you count all the eggs this year, or as spring warms, so will a reminder of a forgotten prize!

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Breakfast Bowl:
Eggs, Cheese, Country Potatoes, Onions, Bell Peppers, Bacon Or Sausage & Medium Coffee or Juice \$6.50

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Chicken & Pesto Panini \$7.35
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Apple-Stuffed Pork Loin
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Roasted Asparagus
Hot Cross Buns OR
Butterflake Rolls

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A Crisis of Opportunity

by Susan Ann Darley

Media pundits and experts announce daily that a global economic tsunami has arrived and that more flooding is around the corner. Short-term and long-term damages are repeatedly analyzed and calculated. The reality is that we are in danger of drowning in trillions of dollars of national debt as the average person watches the tide rise high enough to wash away years of personal earnings and savings.

The effect of this economic disaster is the erosion of confidence and the proliferation of fear – the two enemies of a serene and prosperous life regardless of anyone's bank statement. When ruled by fear and self-confidence lags, the mindset becomes a catch-22, which focuses on lack instead of abundance.

During the devastating 2004 Asian Tsunami, the Onge tribe reportedly saved themselves by running to higher ground when they saw the sea recede prior to the tsunami. Using that as a metaphor, perhaps we should do the same in order to survive the economic mess we're in.

As the pundits and experts espouse personal opinions and their educated guesswork to explain this self-imposed tidal wave, bad news arrives daily at our door. Saturated, we move from thinking about toxic assets to toxic thinking.

Higher ground is definitely needed.

Scientists and metaphysicians alike support the concept that we are part of a universe that operates with perfect order - a higher order that we are connected to but rarely focus on at a conscious level.

Those who live their lives from "higher ground" are aware of their connection to universal order and reflect it in their lives through their thoughts, feelings and actions. Thoughts become organized leading to organization of personal affairs. Clarity leads to transparency and accountability. Solutions appear and wisdom is revealed.

Greed and vagueness, the faulty foundation which helped create this economic tsunami, operate from lower ground and are fueled by fear. But when we step up to higher ground and rise above the drama of life we leave behind our cluttered past, childish fears and behavior.

Easier said than done? Of-course. But if we are truly going to change the course of events, then we must be willing to change our consciousness.

Opportunity lies before us in the appearance of an unparalleled global crisis. The United States prides itself in being a world leader. However, in order to be an effective leader,

the United States must mature. We are a young nation and it appears we are struggling with our teenage years. A know-it-all attitude with traces of arrogance, recklessness and self-focus has helped to create the current crisis, which is needed in order to wake up and clean up the results of our immaturity.

Already we are beginning to collectively and personally taking a more careful look at our finances. With a closer assessment of our actions relating to money, we are admitting carelessness has been the culprit more often than not.

Most will think twice before signing mortgage documents without reading and understanding the contract and possible consequences. More people are waking up to the fact that easy credit is costly when it becomes a crutch for out-of-control spending or a co-dependent partner for day-to-day living expenses.

Lessons are good – when we learn. Wake-up calls are good – if we actually wake up. New behavior must override past destructive patterns. The corporate world is teetering on the brink of the canyon right now. What will it be – more of the same? Or a new consciousness that thinks beyond selfishly filling its own coffers to the detriment of others.

A shift in consciousness requires the willingness to change. It demands a dedicated vigilance in order to not repeat the old pattern. Move a wastebasket to another side of the room. How many times are you going to hit the floor with trash as your memory readjusts to its new location? Most likely a lot if you unconsciously toss a piece of paper and definitely less if you stay awake - consciously remembering the new change.

History repeats itself only if we fail the lesson. It's up to us chart a new course and success begins with each individual. Maturity begins with acceptance of self-responsibility. Blame and condemnation of others is seen for what it is – wasted energy.

The word crisis comes from the Greek word krisis, which means decide. Our nation is at a turning point. Our destiny lies within our choices. Your decision affects the whole. As you make your choices, the world is watching.



This and That Survival Tips in a Busy World

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

Nonprofit Boards That Don't Give, Won't Get



Raising funds is one of the most important roles played by a nonprofit board of directors. Agencies of all sizes recruit members in hopes of establishing the type of board that takes a leadership role in raising funds. It is important that each boardmember makes an annual pledge for some level of cash donation. A minimum amount is usually determined by a board vote and may be adjusted as times and situations change. Some boards ask that members personally "give" or take responsibility to "get" the minimum pledge from some other source, contact or fundraising activity.

Nonprofit boards with a track record of effectiveness in fundraising demonstrate an understanding of a basic premise, "A board that will not give is a board that will not get." A board filled with individuals unwilling or uneducated about the necessity of committing to some level of personal financial commitment is not empowered to encourage others to give at any significant level.

Organizations with development professionals on staff are better equipped to assist and support the board with systems and processes to follow through with their financial commitments. Preparing solicitation letters, accompanying members to pre-arranged meetings to request donations from prospects, or grooming members on how to contact and communicate with foundations

on behalf of the agency are some of the tasks routinely carried out by development personnel. One or more members routinely serve as chair or co-chairs for the board's development activities. They work with the executive director to determine annual fundraising plans, campaigns and fundraising events.

Raising funds to support programs is an ongoing challenge for all nonprofits, but many smaller organizations never invest the time needed to lay the foundation that would increase returns from their fundraising efforts. Most of their boardmembers sign on without any basic orientation regarding the agency's expectations of them as a donor. This results in a board that "does not give" and therefore "cannot get" funds from others on behalf of the organization.

The community is better served when nonprofits have expectations of the board as volunteer-donors. Nonprofits that operate without this expectation will need one or more boardmembers willing to take on this issue as a project. An outside consultant experienced in providing training to the group in this area is worth the investment. A board properly educated, equipped and supported as a fundraising body frees the staff to focus on programs and services, thereby increasing the overall quality and value of the agency to the community.

Surviving on the streets (and freeways) of Los Angeles



Rich Johnson

For many of us nestled against the San Gabriel Mountains, survival skills are, shall we say, different from those required in other parts of the world. This also includes other parts of Los Angeles. However, whether you are abiding in Bradbury or ducking for cover in South Central, you will eventually end up side by side on a local freeway or street frequented by all our cities social strata.

How fortunate for us that some anonymous person forwarded me a survival guide entitled, "How to Drive in L.A." I forward it on to all of you wishing you safe passage from here to there (wherever here or there may be.)

The morning rush hour is from 5am to noon. The evening rush hour is from noon to 7pm. Friday's rush hour starts on Thursday morning.

The minimum acceptable speed on most freeways is 85 mph. On the 105 or 110 you are expected to match speed with the highway number.

If you actually stop at a yellow light, you will be rear ended, cussed out, and possibly shot.

Road construction is permanent and continuous in all of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Detour barrels are moved around for your entertainment pleasure during the middle of the night to make

the next day's driving a bit more exciting.

Watch carefully for road hazards such as drunks, skunks, dogs, cats, barrels, cones, rubber-neckers, shredded tires, cell-phoners, deer, bear, coyotes and celebrities.

Map Quest does not work here – none of the roads are where they say they are, or go where they say they go. FYI, all the freeway on and off ramps are moved each night.

If someone actually has their turn signal on, wave them to the shoulder immediately to let them know it has been "accidentally activated."

If you are in the left lane and only driving 70 mph in a 65 mph zone, you are considered a road hazard and will be "flipped off" according. If you return the "flip" you'll be... well just don't do that.

Do not try to estimate travel time – just leave Monday afternoon for Tuesday appointments, by noon Thursday for Friday appointments. Leave right after church on Sunday for anything scheduled for Monday morning.

I do believe it is true if all the cars in the world were placed end to end, it would be Los Angeles. As Sierra Madre's own singer songwriter, Jane Fuller tells us in her song, "Ode to L.A.":

"The weather is nice, the people can play. But when the cars drive around, better get out of the way"

So be careful out there.

San Marino Community Church

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Community Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

April 12, 7am, Lacy Park

Youth Director Paul Blakesley preaches: "Tears Wiped Clean".

Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 12, 9:15 & 11:15am, Sanctuary

Rev. O'Grady preaches, "Not Intended for Death"

Full choir and brass at both services, childcare and Sunday School provided throughout the morning.

Science, Technology & Health

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

NASA and Microsoft to Make Universe of Data Available to the Public

NASA and Microsoft Corp. have announced plans to make planetary images and data available to the public via the Internet under a Space Act Agreement. Through this project, NASA and Microsoft jointly will develop the technology and infrastructure necessary to make the most interesting NASA content—including high-resolution scientific images and data from Mars and the Moon—explorable on WorldWide Telescope, Microsoft's online "virtual telescope" for exploring the universe.

Under the joint agreement, NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif., will process and host more than 100 terabytes of data (enough to fill 20,000 DVDs). WorldWide Telescope will incorporate the data later in 2009 and feature imagery from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, known as MRO. Launched in August 2005, MRO has been examining Mars with a high-resolution camera and five other instruments and has returned more data than all other Mars missions combined.

Also available will be images from a camera aboard NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, when publicly released starting this fall. Scheduled to launch this May, LRO will spend at least a year in a low polar orbit approximately 30 miles above the lunar surface collecting detailed information about the lunar environment.

"NASA is excited to collaborate with Microsoft to share its portfolio of planetary images with students and lifelong learners," said S. Pete Worden, director of Ames. "This is a compelling astronomical resource and will help inspire our next generation of astronomers."

The WorldWide Telescope is a Web 2.0 visualization environment that functions as a virtual telescope, bringing together imagery from ground- and space-based telescopes for a seamless, media-guided exploration of the universe. Through WorldWide Telescope and Microsoft technology, the public will be able to pan and zoom in on these images and the most interesting locations

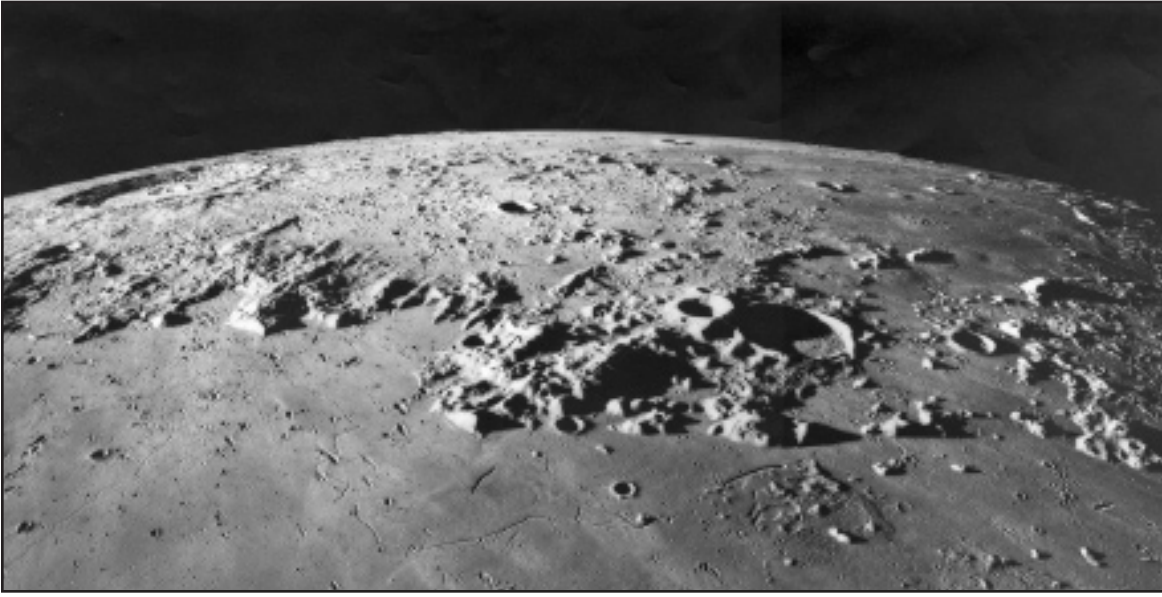
on Mars and the Moon without distorted views at the poles.

Attracting millions of users since its release last spring, WorldWide Telescope provides a base for teaching astronomy, scientific discovery, and computational science. Tours with narration, music, text, and graphics create interactive learning experiences that allow people to search, explore, and discover the universe in a new and unique manner. Additional information and a free download of WorldWide Telescope can be found at:

<http://www.worldwidetelescope.org>

To further integrate the planetary data into WorldWide Telescope, Ames is developing a suite of planetary data processing tools. These software tools convert historic and current space imagery data into a variety of formats and images of the Moon, Mars, and other planetary bodies readily available for easy browsing and use by the general public, enabling the creation of enhanced educational tools for students and teachers.

Microsoft Research collaborates openly with colleges and universities worldwide to enhance the teaching and learning



experience, inspire technological innovation, and broadly advance the field of computer science. More information can be found at: <http://research.microsoft.com> If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at beklund@mrvobserver.com



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

On Line

with P.J. Carpenter

Security Experts

reported this week that the US electrical power grid has been infiltrated by Cyberspies who have left behind software tools that could potentially give them full control over large sections of our national infrastructure. This discovery was made not by security departments of the various utilities involved but by US Intelligence officials engaged in monitoring illicit Internet traffic from well-known sources outside the country. The full extent of the breach and the exact nature and amount of data

Somebody's Watching Us: CyberSpies and National Security

taken during these incidents is not yet fully known but security experts have stated that these types of forays have been going on for years. Although it has not yet been determined if any of these activities have been sponsored by any foreign governments it has been thought that certain foreign entities have had an interest in mapping the layout and design of several of our vital utility infrastructures to include nuclear power facilities, electrical grids, aviation traffic control networks, municipal water treatment facilities and so on. If a player with bad intentions were to gain control over any part of one of these

systems the potential for damage and loss of life could be horrific.

Systems like the ones being scouted usually have some sort of backup or fail-safe mechanisms in place to prevent a total loss of command and control but these measures are rarely designed to replace full operation of a failed system. They are usually meant to bolster a failed part of a system while restorative steps are taken to get back up to full operation. Given the vast scope of a system like our electrical power grid it will take quite a bit of effort to ensure that these systems are made as secure as possible in

order to protect us from outside attacks.

The Obama Administration, following in the footsteps of the Bush Administration's "Cyber Initiative" which was instituted to stem the flood of intrusions into US Government and Military networks, has recently restated its commitment to developing and implementing and nation-wide cybersecurity initiative to protect Government, Business and Private networks from foreign intruders. Given what's at stake – and in this case it is truly a National Security issue – hopefully it will be just enough and just in time.



The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

SEEING YOU . . . AS OTHERS DO

We think that we know ourselves and perhaps we do, in that we know how we feel at any given moment. A good question to ask is “How do others see me?” This question came to my mind when my wife asked me, “Are you mad about something?” Huh? I was surprised as I was feeling quite content.

It seems that when my face is relaxed, the corners of my mouth tend to turn down. My wonderful wife knows me well and surprised me with this observation. I asked her what else I seem to project as I move happily through life. Boy, was I surprised! She commented that I need to work on my listening skills. That, in my enthusiasm, I tend to talk too much and end up cutting people short on the things that they want to say. I didn't realize that I do this.

It seems that I am an unreliable witness to my own existence. This seems to be true with most of us. It goes beyond our visions of our self as being slim or overweight; of seeing our self with a full head of hair instead of going bald. We can prove this by simply looking closely at a picture of ourselves and asking, “Is that how I look?” The picture seen is probably not how we visualize

ourselves.

Thinking about these things makes me wonder how my actions make me seen by others. Do I roll my eyes when something surprises me? Does my preoccupation with my busy day make me seem distant from those folk trying to talk with me? I really didn't mean to portray that.

My wife does say that when I smile and overcome my hyperactivity that I portray a very friendly guy who cares. I thought that I always do, but now I am thinking more about how I present to others. Perhaps this is simply a matter of awareness. As soon as I think about it, I find myself smiling at the mismatch of how I'm feeling and how I am seen by others. Perhaps simply realizing this is all it takes to put the smile back in place. Hey there, now my face and myself are in sync.

Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone-(626)335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net. This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors®, www.csa.us. Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

Relationship Between Arthritis and Diabetes to be Presented

“The Relationship Between Arthritis and Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes” will be presented by Glenn R. Ehresmann, M.D., Rheumatologist, on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 7:15 pm, in the CHEC building of the San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, 261 Junipero Sera Drive in San Gabriel. The program is presented by the San Gabriel Valley Unit of the American Diabetes Association, the longest running patient education program in the San Gabriel Valley. This is the eighth in a series of ten monthly continuing education programs for patients and their families, understanding that diabetes is a family condition. A support group precedes the featured presentation at 6:30 pm.

Doctor Ehresmann was named a Regents Scholar, California College of Medicine and University of California, Riverside. His Residency and Fellowship were at LAC/USC Medical Center. The Doctor has held several positions of exceptional responsibilities at Huntington Memorial Hospital from 1979 to 1991. Dr. Ehresmann is currently Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of Rehabilitation Services at USC. He Chairs Fellowship Committee, Southern California Arthritis Foundation. The doctor is involved in research projects and has lectured extensively. He has numerous Medical Society Memberships and Publications.

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Senior Stimulus Payments to Start in May ... again, from last week.

Retirees and other Social Security beneficiaries will get an extra \$250.00 per person from Uncle Sam, as part of the economic stimulus bill. The so-called senior payment--\$250.00 for individuals, \$500.00 for couples who both receive some Social Security benefit--will go to retirees, older veterans, SSI (Supplemental Security Income) beneficiaries, and people with disabilities. Recipients won't have to fill out a tax form nor do anything--unlike the stimulus rebate of 2008. The money will come the same way Social Security is received--either through direct deposit or a check in the mail.

Federal and state retirees who don't receive Social Security benefits also will qualify to receive the payment but may have to file 2009 tax returns to receive it.

For more information, check the SSA website.

~Helpful Hints~

To keep a cheesecake from cracking, bake it in a water bath. Wrap the bottom and outer sides of a springform pan with a double layer of aluminum foil before adding the filling. Place in a large, metal baking pan and place on center rack of preheated oven. Then pour hot water into the baking pan to come about halfway up the sides of the springform.

Another Recipe of the Month:

For Passover Apple Matzah Kugel

Ingredients:
* 4 Matzahs
* 1/2 tsp. salt
* 1/4 cup margarine
* 1/2 cup chopped nuts
* 1/2 cup raisins
* 3 eggs
* 1/2 cup sugar
* 1 tsp. cinnamon
* 2-3 apples, pared and chopped
* Additional margarine as needed

Directions:

Break matzah and soak until soft. Drain, but do not squeeze dry. Beat eggs with salt, sugar, margarine and cinnamon. Add matzah. Stir in chopped nuts and apples and raisins. Pour mixture into a greased casserole, dot with additional margarine. Bake in 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes.

POTATO LATKES

Ingredients:
* 2 1/2 lbs. white potatoes (6 medium)
* 1 cup raw onion
* 1/2 cup carrots
* 1/4 cup matzo meal
* 1 1/2 tsp. salt
* 1/4 tsp. pepper
* 4 egg whites
* pan spray

Directions: Peel and grate the potatoes and vegetables, put in a large bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Put 1/4 cup of the mixture into each cavity of the muffin tin that has been coated with pan spray. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 45 minutes and remove, flipping them onto a cookie sheet. Cook for 10 more minutes or until crisp.



Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays: 4/5 Blanca Martinez, 4/6 Ken Anhalt, 4/15 Julia Gottesman and 4/28 Dorothy White

For Your Funny Bone

My sister was busy getting ready to host our entire family for Easter. On her to-do list was a hair appointment for her daughter. “So, Katie,” said the stylist as the little girl got up in the chair, “who's coming to your house this weekend with big ears and floppy feet?” Katie replied, “I think it's my uncle Brian.” M. Eckerman-RD

Some Easter Groaners:

Q: How do bunnies stay in shape? A: Hareobics.

Q: What do you call 10 rabbits marching backwards? A: A receding hairline.

Q: What's the difference between a bunny and a lumberjack? A: One chews and hops, the other hews and chops.

Quote: *One of the things I like about jazz, kid, is I don't know what's going to happen next. Do you?*
~ Bix Beiderbecke~

Activities: Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

Lunch Program: Monday- Friday at the Intervale Café -12:00 Noon-Call (626) 355-0256 to make your daily reservation. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors (60+) and \$3.75 for visitors.

Monday: Free strength Training Class with volunteer Lisa Brandley 1:00-1:45

Tuesday: Bingo- 1:30PM- 3:30 PM .25c per card

Yoga- 5:30 PM- 7:00PM Instructor Andrea Walsh- \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over.)

The Santa Anita Bowling Green Club will be having beginning lawn bowling lessons each Saturday morning starting at 10 AM. Anyone interested come by the park before 10 AM. For information call Gene at 626-351-5327. FREE!

Monthly Excursions:

*For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

April 16th- Palm Springs Follies -SOLD OUT-If you have a ticket and have questions or if you would like to be on the waiting list if someone cancels, please call the Senior Desk at 626.355.7394.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic- Second Tuesday of each month 11:00 AM- Noon No appointment necessary
Financial Consulting- 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Please call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.
NEW!!! Senior Stretch and Balance- A free class designed by volunteer instructor Teryl

Willis, for seniors to refresh the joints, soothe the spine, and improve balance. Come and join in some simple and gentle exercises, a little light yoga, and a bit of easy tai chi.

When and Where: Wednesday, March 4th at 11:00 AM at the Hart Memorial Park House/ Senior Center. Call 626-355-7394 for more information.

NEW!!! Wii Wednesdays- 1:00PM at the Hart Park House/Senior Center- You've seen it on television, come try it for yourself! It's a "virtual" game that's fun for everyone. Come experience Wii bowling, golf, tennis, baseball and boxing The unique control wand imitates how you actually release the ball or swing the club. No previous experience or skill required. It's great exercise and fun to boot!

Meals-on-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors by volunteer drivers through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.) \$2.00 suggested donation per day. Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382 for more information.



MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS **ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.0256.**

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One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

By Chris Bertrand

The Tomato Doctor Is In! Steve Goto Brings Info, Humor and Heirlooms to the Arboretum



Chris Bertrand

My gardening cohort and neighbor shares the joys, labors and frustrations of our community plot in Sierra Madre. After a rather dismal failure last year, we decided to concentrate on tomatoes, tomatoes and more tomatoes in 2009. Neither of us can get enough of them. Just the mention of favorite tomatoes of years gone by brings vivid taste memories to mind. Marie thinks a big tasty tomato in one hand and a salt shaker in the other is all she needs for culinary delight. I remember hauling out the kitchen scale to weigh one of my mother's huge and delicious tomatoes back in

sale area, only a few were left, though all were beautiful healthy plants, of course. Four varieties, Limmony, Momotaro Black Zebra and Copia are now lovingly planted and thriving in my garden, aided, encouraged and fertilized by Goto's words of tomato wisdom.

Steve Goto came to organic tomato growing via an unusual route, banking; though the nurseryman's DNA and heritage does run through his blood. The financial industry's loss is certainly heirloom tomato production's gain, and he now knows this is his life's calling. Now

Heirloom tomatoes, those whose seeds have been passed down for generations, generally taste great, but don't travel well, and are, by commercial standards, rather ugly, with uneven shapes, bumps and ridges.

my Chicago childhood. Just before I bit into it and ate all the 2+ scrumptious pounds of it.

"Perfect timing," piped up Arboretum member and student, Amy Putnam. She said I just HAD to meet the tomato man, Steve Goto, lecturing the next day at the LA Arboretum in Arcadia. Apparently Goto has quite the following, with speaking and demonstration engagements from Oregon to San Diego. This LA crowd of avid tomato gardeners came not only for his knowledge and hard won insight laced with gardening humor, but for his heirloom tomato seedlings.

Those in the know bought their prized future tomato stock BEFORE the lecture. If I'd only known! By the time I ambled back to the plant

located in North County San Diego, he grows hundreds of the 5000 catalogued heirloom varieties of tomatoes, selecting about 125 of those varieties to sell each year.

When we traverse the vegetable aisle at the local Vons or Ralph's, most or all of the tomatoes are the commercial variety, with nearly perfect globular structure, tough, thick skins for traveling and marginal to nonexistent flavor. Heirloom tomatoes, those whose seeds have been passed down for generations, generally taste great, but don't travel well, and are, by commercial standards, rather ugly, with uneven shapes, bumps and ridges. These days, however, we've learned ugly is the new beautiful (and tasty) in the tomato world.



Steve Goto

I felt like I was at Tomato University, and could barely write fast enough, so I'll be relying on his lecture notes and full planting tips on his website, which you can access at www.GoTomato.us.com. A scant few of the highlights are well worth any tomato grower's time.

Plant tomatoes in at least 8 hours of full sun for the best results. Start by stripping the lower leaves then planting deep, with only the top few leaves above ground. Pinch off any flower buds at planting to divert the plant's energies to developing a strong root system. Stake right away with a 2" stake 8-10' tall, next to the stalk. Tie regularly under each fruit stem.

Spend the bucks for the Texas tomato cages or a heavy wire mesh cage from your local nursery or home improvement store. They're pricey, but will support the lateral branches and fruit properly and won't need replacing every year. Those "tomato" cages for 99 cents? They're really dahlia supports!

After tomatoes are established, check the plant's foliage in the cool of the early morning air. If the foliage is dropping at that time, it's the best time to water your plant. That's their signal they need water. Water slowly and deeply for 20-40 minutes. Pick before watering. Though this seems a no brainer, it is critical to keeping the taste and flavor concentrated and not watery.

Steve Goto and his organic heirloom tomatoes will be returning to the LA Arboretum on May 2 at 11 am for this year's LA Garden show celebrating a "Festival of Flavors." Also calendar his "Tomato Tasting" here on August 9 at 10 a.m. to help decide which you plan to plant the following year. For more information, visit www.arboretum.org, call 626-821-3222. For online tips



Steve Goto

and planting advice from Steve Goto, visit www.GoTomato.ca.us.

Have an interesting story idea for this column? Contact Chris at Chris@BertrandOnline.com

They came from two different origins, but found they shared One Common Philosophy.

Luther & Georgina TSINOGLOU
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The Delphiniums Are Coming!

There can't be a person alive, that doesn't love delphiniums! On seeing these tall, slender, elegant gems, the long endured winter seems long gone and optimism abounds with only thoughts of spring and warmth ahead. Some people are quite hesitant to purchase delphiniums believing them too delicate to handle. But before you walk by and leave them to the more courageous gardener, let me give you a little feed back on these perennials.

Delphiniums are prone to powdery mildew, leaf spots, snail and slug damage and Southern blight. That delphiniums are prone to these diseases, doesn't mean that "yours" will suffer this fate. What has to be done on planting is make sure you give them rich soil (which provides good drainage), don't plant them too close together (need good air circulation), sufficient water (let area dry out between waterings) and take care to "prevent" the above mentioned ailments. Removing diseased leaves also goes a long way!

You won't be disappointed, give them a chance!

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RICHMOND \$513,000
Don't Miss This One! 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 1000 sq. ft. home with new roof, super close to dining room & oak in kitchen, master suite with bath, 1000 sq. ft. lot.

BRENTWOOD \$325,000
Three level Town Home located in Brentwood, two master suites and 3 baths, hardwood floors, newer laminate wood flooring, central air, 1 block, close to garage with laundry area, third unit, quiet complex, great!

PASADENA \$644,500
Beautiful Three-Bedroom with Upper level, 1 1/2 baths or 2 bedrooms, Three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, spacious living room with fireplace, open living area, covered patio, view of the garden, 11th!

DUARTE \$138,500
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Alverno Jaguars Are 2009 CIF Soccer Champs!

Team Pulls Through Despite Devastating Loss

Photos and Story By Coach Ken Berry

The 2009 soccer season has just ended and if you have not heard, the Jaguar team has had an amazing season, with a 19-1-2 record. This is the ninth year that the soccer team is the Horizon League Champions and now has the honor of being the first Division 7 CIF Champions. This is only the third time in Alverno's history that a team has brought home a CIF championship, and the first time the win was in soccer. The team had championship years in softball in 1981 and 2004, the last under the coaching of Frankie Russo.



Alverno Jaguars - 2009 CIF Champs

How has this happened? It starts with a dedication and commitment of many people. The athletes have devoted their time after school to the many hours of practice and conditioning required to be a championship team. The team displayed an intense work ethic throughout the season working hard on conditioning days, giving that extra effort during drills and making the effort to become this cohesive championship team. Captains Ameenah Issa and Marina Lesse worked hard organizing the team during practices and on the field. The coaching staff is very proud of how hard this team has worked to become a powerful group of determined ladies who would not give up during any of the 23 games we played this season. They listened well to our directions, carried them out on the field, played hard and adapted to all situations becoming the best soccer team Alverno has ever seen.

It takes a whole team effort to become champions. The Jaguar team had 134 goals scored (see the (#/#) for goals/assists). This is the largest number of goals scored by any team that I have coached in my 9 years as Alverno soccer coach, and as far as I know, in the history of Alverno. It all starts with the defense. Freshman goalkeeper Chellee Parker (0/3) played every minute of all 23 games and only allowed a total of 10 goals to be scored against us. The defensive line of Lauren Sanchez, Gaby Vasquez (3/3), Karineh Minissian (2/3), Regina Cabrera, Mackenzie Winslow and Becca Iraheta (1/0) worked hard to minimize the goals that were scored against us. With a strong midfield of Maha Abdallah (18/12), Ameenah Issa (18/9), Marina Lesse (14/21), Briana Alvarado (11/8), Cassie Saavedra (18/8) and Courtney Conte (5/9) they not only helped the defense but also the offense. And last but not least our offensive line of Jessica Capra (19/7), Celina Minissian (23/16), Corrie Antillon (0/3) and Hana Lemseffer (2/0).



I am grateful to the dedication of my coaching staff that worked tirelessly to make this a winning year. Coach Semeen Issa brought her soccer expertise to the team and was at every practice helping to fine tune the team. Coach Steve Lesse helped with reporting scores, calling the newspapers to be sure there was an Alverno story in the papers, kept incredible statistics and gave valuable advice concerning our line-up. Coach Alfred Alvarado warmed up goalkeeper Chellee before games and could always be heard on the sidelines supporting the team. With a final note, we all experienced the sadness involving the passing of our long-time Athletic Director Frankie Russo. The team dedicated the last games and the championship to his memory. I know he is looking down at this incredible achievement and is smiling.

At CIF playoffs, Alverno students hold up a sign honoring AD Frank Russo, whose funeral was the day of the game. (Left)

CIF Soccer Coach of the Year Ken Berry (right) holds the championship plaque. CIF named Alverno senior Ameenah Issa Offensive Player of the Year. Senior Marina Lesse and sophomore Maha Abdallah were tapped for First Team, and frosh Cassie Saavedra and Celina Minissian were chosen for Second Team.





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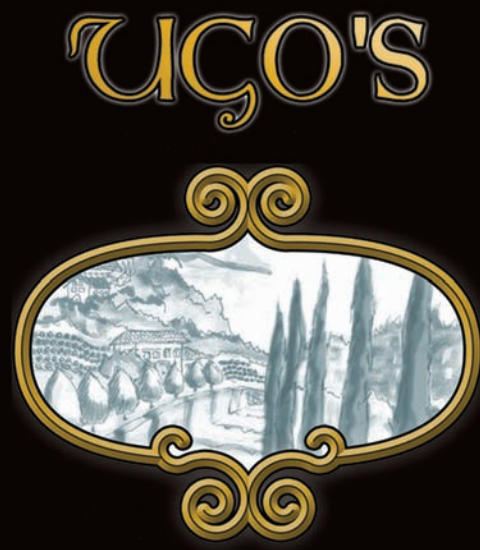
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La Salle's Austin Williams Signs with UC Irvine

Pasadena, CA - Senor Austin Williams received an athletic scholarship from the University of California at Irvine for Cross Country and Track. Austin says he chose Irvine, because of the coaching and he believes they stress good academics as fundamental to good athletics.

Austin, a 3-year letterman in football and a 4-year letterman in track was recruited by Maryland and UC Davis among others. Austin intends to pursue a career in Guidance and Counseling or Family Therapy.



Austin Williams '09 signs a letter of intent to UC, Irvine for Track and Cross Country. Track Coach Fred Riley left and his father are seated, while La Salle Principal, Patrick Bonacci, AFSC, left and Athletic Director, John Matheus stand behind Austin.

We all need hope.

There is one reason for hope that stands above all the others. Please join us at Bethany Church of Sierra Madre as we discover this hope together.



Sunday, April 5 - 7 pm - Palm Sunday - "A Reason for Hope"

Thursday, April 9 - 7 pm - Maundy Thursday - "Unknown Grace"

Friday, April 10, - 7 pm - Good Friday - Pastor Paul Beck, SMCC

Sunday, April 12 - 8 & 11 am - Easter Sunday - "How Hope Changes Everything"

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